

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 NEW 5 77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.	Site No. 29
UTM :	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)
 The Merwin-Southmayd House

2. TOWN CITY VILLAGE COUNTY
 Durham Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)
 Corner of Haddam Quarter Road and Oak Terrace

4. OWNER(S)
 George C. & Diana M. Neumann Public Private

5. USE (Present) (Historic)
 Residence Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN
 Yes No Yes No with permission

7. STYLE OF BUILDING DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
 Colonial Before 1737

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) _____

Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone sandstone foundation

Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding Concrete Type: _____ Cut stone Type: _____

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame Post and beam balloon Other (Specify) _____

Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel

10. ROOF (Type)

Gable Flat Mansard Monitor sawtooth

Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other (Specify) _____

(Material)

Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate

Asphalt shingle Built up Tile Other (Specify) _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS
 2½ /addition: 20 x 19; attached garage: 20 x 21
 main block: 33 x 38; rear addition: 6 x 20 x 10 x 5 x 16 x 25; NE corner/

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN ? (Alterations) IF YES EXPLAIN

On original site Moved Yes No /corner addition
 Additions to rear, to NE corner, and to N side N

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Barn Shed Garage Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____

Carriage house Shop Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Open land Wood-land Residential Scattered buildings visible from site

Commercial Industrial Rural High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

This house stands on a four-acre corner lot at the intersection of Haddam Quarter Road and Oak Terrace.

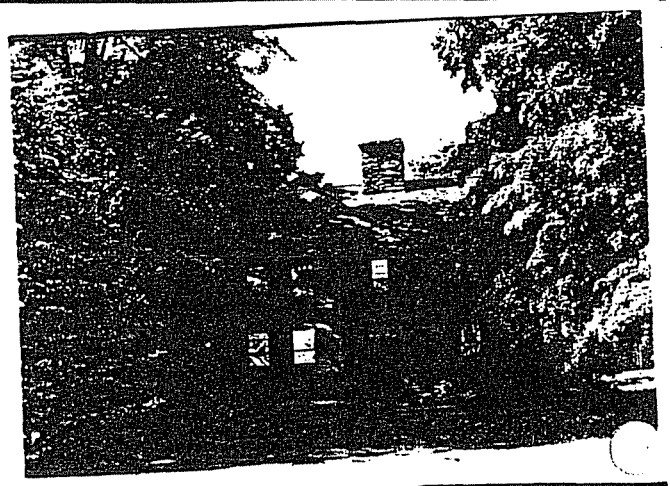
17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)
 This is an exceptionally handsome and well-preserved center chimney Colonial farmhouse. Its 5 bay facade contains flush-set twelve-over-eight windows and a 5 panel double leaf door with a multi-paned transom. Like most eighteenth-century farmhouses this structure has been added to over the years. These additions include an ell-shaped, shed-roof addition to the rear and a gable-roofed shed to the northeast corner. Both stand, like the house itself, on sandstone rubble foundations, suggesting that they date from the nineteenth century. The attached garage, which stands to the rear of this corner addition, was added in 1966. A dry-laid sandstone rubble-retaining wall stands to the front of the house, which is set into a rise in the land. A barn, framed of post-and-beam elements and sheathed with vertical flushboards--which appears to be contemporary with the corner addition--stands to the rear of the house.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE
 This house is first mentioned in the land records in 1737 when Abel and Joseph Beach sold it to Edmund Fairchild. He sold it in 1738 to Daniel Merwin, founder of the Merwin family in Durham. In 1743 he gave it to his son Miles (1719-1786) at the time of his marriage. Miles' youngest son, David Merwin (1763-), received it by inheritance in 1786 but sold it--at the time of his emigration to Durham, New York--to Elizabeth Austin (wife of Jesse Austin) and her son Elisha. In 1795 the Austin children gave their parents a life lease on the house.
 In 1830 the house was sold to Daniel Southmayd (1768-1838), who in turn sold it in 1837 to his son, Daniel Southmayd, Jr. (17 -1884). Daniel married Tamson Hickox the following year. It thus became one of the four houses in the Haddam Quarter to be associated with the Southmayd family, a clan that had spread from Middletown into Durham and Haddam. In 1884 the Southmayd Estate conveyed the property to Smith Crowell, a Durham innkeeper and farmer, who sold it in 1893 to Nehemiah Burr. After farming the land for three decades Burr sold the farm to Thomas Kampman of Bloomfield, Connecticut. After passing through several owners it became the property of its present occupants in 1975.
 Although not distinctive as a structure, this house is notable architecturally for its great age, handsome setting, and fine state of preservation. Its historical significance derives from its association with Durham's founding families, the Beaches, Fairchilds, and Merwins, as well as with the town's nineteenth-century agricultural leaders, the Southmayds and Nehemiah Burr.

SOURCES
 Durham Land Records; Durham Vital Records; Middletown Probate Records; Federal Census of 1820, 1850, 1880; Beers, J. B., History of Middlesex County, Connecticut (New York: J. B. Beers & Co., 1884); Durham History Committee, Durham, CT, 1866-1980: Century of Change (Durham: 1980); Fowler, William C., History of Durham (Durham: W. C. Fowler, 1866); Whited, Milton, Durham's Heritage (Durham: 1976); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; Newton, C. G., Miles Merwin (Durham: 1909).

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER P. D. Hall	DATE 6/1/83
	VIEW south & east elev.	NEGATIVE ON FILE I:1
COMPILED BY	NAME P. D. Hall	DATE 8/10/83
	ORGANIZATION Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
	ADDRESS 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Expropriation _____