

**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. 30
UTM:	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	
	Wadsworth, Col. James <span style="float: right;">Wadsworth, Col. James, House</span>	
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE COUNTY
	Durham	Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)	
Higganum Road & Madison Road (East)		
4. OWNER(S)		
Blakeslee, Wilma <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</span>		
5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>		
Residence <span style="float: right;">Residence</span>		
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING	
	Colonial	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	1708	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: Mortared Sandstone block foundation	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		
10. ROOF (Type)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
(Material)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		
2 1/2		
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
37 1/2 x 27		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No NE addition, 2 SE small additions		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn (1880+) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site		
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

This handsome Colonial-period house is situated on top of a small hill on the corner of Madison and Higganum Roads. It is hedged in on the north side by a strip of cornfield and by a sloping, open land to the east.

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

DESCRIP. (Continued)

The 5 bay facade is punctuated by a central Greek Revival doorway flanked by two plain pilasters having moulded capitals but no bases, and two three-vertical-pane sidelights. Topping the entry is a plain, thin architrave with a horizontal band of dentil moulding directly below the projecting crown-moulded cornice. Two six-over-six windows with a thin, projecting cornice are found on either side of the door, and five eight-over-two windows with plain frames are located immediately below the eave. Identical dentil moulding, found on the doorway, is repeated under the facade eave. The three additions include a single-story shed-roofed northeast corner addition, a 2 story gable-roofed balloon-framed south addition, and attached to this south addition is an east porch.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Col. James Wadsworth House, built in 1708, is a clapboarded, 2½ story, Colonial-period building which rests on a sandstone foundation. The post-and-beam frame is covered by a wood-shingled gable roof, ridge-to-Madison Road, and a small off-center east side chimney.

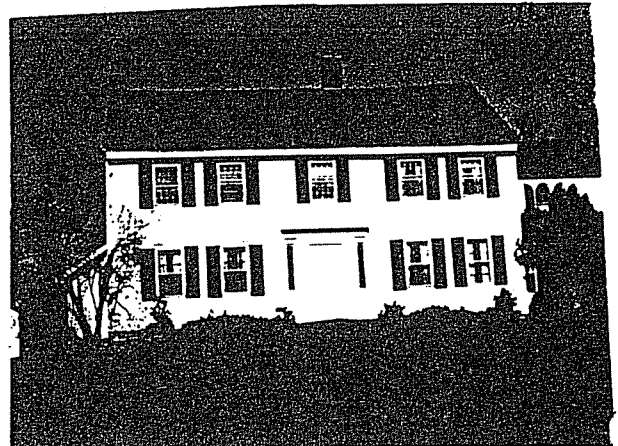
In 1707 Col. James Wadsworth purchased thirteen acres of land from Eunice and Joseph Talcott to build his home. It was completed the following year and is believed to originally have been a single-story center-chimney house. Between 1720 and 1750 the house was probably expanded to its present configuration: a 2 story center-chimney Colonial-period building. James Wadsworth's (1675-1756) father and grandfather came over from Northumberland area of England in about 1632, lived in Massachusetts, and finally settled in Farmington. James was born, raised, and educated as a lawyer in Farmington. In 1707 he and his wife, Ruth Noyes, moved to Durham. During his life in Durham, Wadsworth organized many political and judicial responsibilities; he was the Town Clerk (1707/8-1756) was the first Justice of the Peace (1710-1750), was elected as a representative to the Second Assembly (1710 and 1712-18), was Speaker of the House in the Colonial Legislature and in 1724-1752 became a judge of the Superior Court. In addition, Wadsworth became an important military figure. When the militia was organized in 1735, James was given the rank of Colonel and headed the Tenth Regiment. Four years later he was placed in charge of the first military unit. James Wadsworth and his wife had only one son, James.

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; 1974 Beers Atlas.

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
Alex Parades	4/84
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
E	10:30
NAME	DATE
I. Heublein	8/10/83
ORGANIZATION	
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
ADDRESS	
27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known  
  Highways  
  Vandallism  
  Developers  
  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal  
  Private  
  Deterloration  
  Zoning  
  Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

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59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
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TOWN NO.:

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UTM: 18/ / / / 30/ / /

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DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL  
POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 4/5/84

THE COL. JAMES WADSWORTH HOUSE, Higganum Road & Madison Road, Durham

The handsome Wadsworth House is a noteworthy building not only because of its distinguished architecture, but also because for 250 years it has been owned by the same family.