

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. 43
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)* Merwin, Miles T., House

2. TOWN CITY Durham VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Maiden Lane, south side

4. OWNER(S) Alexis and Susan Carroll Public Private

5. USE (Present) *(Historic)* Residence Residence

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

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1848

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

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) flushboard

Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone

Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding Concrete Type: Cut stone Type: sandstone

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 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 29 x 24; 24 x 16; 13 x 14

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 garage addition

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 Indus-trial Rural High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

Located in a rural residential neighborhood, the Miles T. Merwin House is surrounded by open fields and woodland. The Regional District #13 High School is located to the southeast.

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

DESCRIPTOR (Continued)

Fully Greek Revival in character, the three-bay facade features a pedimented flushboarded gable end with an eight-paned rectangular window. The facade door, which exhibits a four-paned overlight and four-paned sidelights, is shielded by a large decorative portico. Two massive square posts rise into a segmental arch topped with a keystone. Capped with a flat roof, the portico displays a dentiled course trimming the eaves. Six-over-six sashes are featured throughout. A 2½ story ell projects from the south elevation. Annexed to the rear of the ell is a 1½ story extension with "eyebrow" windows. Additions include a modern garage.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Facing north onto Maiden Lane, this 2½ story Greek-Revival-style house was erected in 1848. Oriented gable-to-street, the facade is flushboarded. The rear and side elevations are clapboarded. Resting on a sandstone foundation, the post-and-beam frame is capped by an asphalt-shingled roof.

Miles Talcott Merwin (1822-1904) built this house in 1848, at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Ann Tyler of North Branford. The son of Miles Merwin, Jr. and Wealthy Sage, Miles T. was a successful farmer and lumberman. He and Henry Tucker each owned a half interest in the saw mill on Mill Pond. Each used the mill on alternating weeks and shipped their lumber all over the United States, even as far away as California. An ardent Republican, Miles T. was "noted for his firmness and courage in adversity, taking his part wherever it lay without regard to praise or blame" (C. G. Newton, Miles Merwin, 1909). His first wife Elizabeth bore him one son, Miles Tyler (b. 1849), before her death in 1849. In 1851 Merwin married Ellen A. Foote (1824-1889) of Branford. They raised six children: Ella, Walter, Benjamin, Emily, Ralph, and Agnes. In 1867 Merwin bought a large lot of land on Blue Mountain in Hamilton County, New York. It was here he built the original Blue Mountain House, a small summer hotel. His son Miles Tyler rebuilt the Blue Mountain House and ran a successful summer resort for many years. In 1900 he sold his Durham homestead to his three single daughters, Agnes, Ella, and Emily. All three Merwin daughters were employed as teachers and taught in Durham and Middletown. Agnes for a number of years taught in Springfield, Massachusetts. (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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 Caroline G., Miles Merwin, 1623-1697 and One Branch of His Descendants, 1909.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER P. D. Hall	DATE 6/83
	VIEW Southwest	NEGATIVE ON FILE 6:1
COMPILED BY	NAME E. R. Hart	DATE 5/84
	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 _____

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CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18	/	4	3
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 5/84

MILES T. MERWIN HOUSE, Durham

19 (cont'd)

Virtually unchanged since its construction, this fine example of the Greek Revival style is significant for its Association with Miles T. Merwin, a prosperous and influential citizen of Durham in the nineteenth century.