

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. 50
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic) Squires-Scranton House	
	2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 139 Main Street	
	4. OWNER(S) Francis, Robert F. & Josephine <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) (Historic) Antique Store/Dwelling Residence	

DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	during store hours
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial with Italianate alterations				
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1800				
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)				

DESCRIPTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard		<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brickfoundations in addition	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle		<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten (barn)		<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: sandstone foundation in main block	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM				

DESCRIPTION	<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)

DESCRIPTION	11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2½		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 75' x 42'			
	12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent		<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent
			<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
	13. INTEGRITY (Location) (Alterations)					

DESCRIPTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	WHEN?	IF YES EXPLAIN	
					see 19, para. 1	
	14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Barn		<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carriage house		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garden		

DESCRIPTION	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial		<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density
	16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS				
	Although located in Durham's commercial center, the spacious six-acre lot on which the Squires-Scranton House stands gives it a distinctly rural atmosphere. The yard contains a large garden and cattle are kept on the property.				

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

DESCRIP (Continued)

- eaves with wide projections which are supported by sets of sawn doubled brackets
- a painted string course connecting the pedimented lintels over the first story windows
- a hip-roofed portico, supported by pilasters and antae pilasters.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

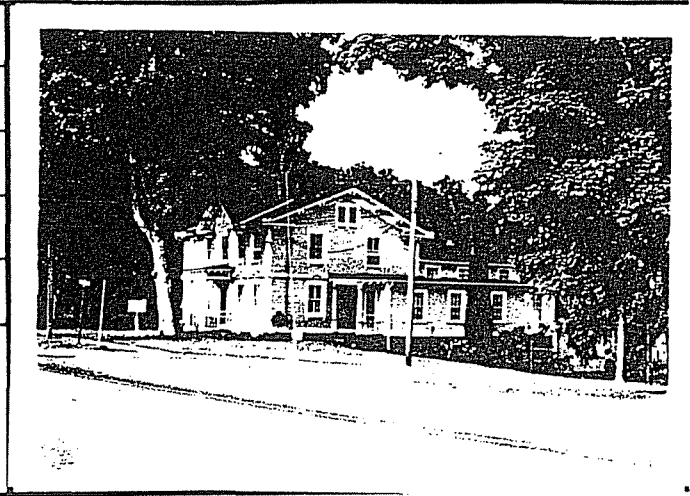
The Squires-Scranton House consists of a 32'x28' main block with additions to its north, west, and south sides. The main block, which dates from about 1800, was originally a five-bay central-chimney dwelling with a double overhang. About 1870 the original roof was reconstructed, eliminating one overhang and adding cross-gabled dormers on the east and west sides. The alterations, conceived in a Tuscan mode, produced eaves with wide projections which are supported by sets of sawn doubled brackets. The first-story overhang was concealed behind a painted string course which connects the pedimented lintels over the first-story windows. A hip-roofed portico, supported by pilasters and antae pilasters, undoubtedly dates from this time, as does the two-panelled Italianate-style front door. A 1½ story addition stands to the west side of this house, measuring 23'x16'. Probably built in the 1830s, it originally had three six-over-six windows on its south and north sides surmounted by three 9-pane "eyebrow" windows. Subsequent additions have altered this arrangement, including a single-story shed-roofed addition to its north side and an open porch to the south. To the rear of this stands a connected single-story shed. A five-sided single-story projecting pavilion has been added to the south side of the main block. To the rear of the house stands a 1½ story carriage house with post-and-beam framing and board and batten sheathing.

About 1800 the property was purchased by Phineas Squires who built a new five-bay house on the site. It was purchased in 1817 by James Rose, a farmer. When Rose died in 1839, it was sold to Abner Newton, Jr. who sold it in 1840 to Enos Rogers (SEE CONT. 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.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	Peter D. Hall	6/5/83
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	Northeast elev.	3:36 + 24
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE
	Peter D. Hall	7/27/83
	ORGANIZATION	
	Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
	ADDRESS	
	27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None knowr.
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____

Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanation _____

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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	/	5	0
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 7/27/83

SQUIRES-SCRANTON HOUSE, Durham

19 (cont'd)

a wealthy merchant. Rogers was one of the founders of the Merriam Manufacturing Company. His daughter Dorliska married Simeon S. Scranton in 18--. Scranton, although born in Durham of humble origins, became a wealthy Hartford-based publisher. When Rogers died the house passed to his daughter and son-in-law. The Scrantons were undoubtedly responsible for the grandiose restyling of the house--and the nature of their taste is further indicated by the house they built for their son William S. Scranton on the other side of Talcott Lane. On Simeon's death in 19-- the house passed to his son Charles, who sold it to John Southmayd in 1902. It remained in the Southmayd family until 1936 when it passed into the Francis family which presently owns it.

This house is the best preserved example of Italianate architecture in Durham and, because of the local importance of its owners, of particular historical significance.