

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. <u>15</u>
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) _____ (Historic) <u>Merwin, Daniel, House</u>	
	2 TOWN CITY <u>Durham</u>	VILLAGE _____
	3 STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) <u>131 Main Street (a.k.a. 133 Main Street)</u>	
	4 OWNER(S) <u>McLaughlin, James W. and Ona H.</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5 USE (Present) _____ (Historic) <u>Residence</u>	
	6 ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	7 STYLE OF BUILDING <u>Colonial</u>	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <u>c. 1740</u>	
	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: <u>Mortared sandstone foundation</u>	
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 <u>2½</u> APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS <u>40' 9" x 30' 9"</u>		
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) _____ 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 <u>Renovated 1969 - 1979</u>		
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 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"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16 INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

DESCRIPTION

This house stands on the west side of Main Street, close to the road. A two-story, gable-roofed garage is located southwest of the house. This structure has vertical flushboarding and arched windows in the gable ends. This property is located within Durham's local historic district.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

From 1969 to 1979 the Daniel Merwin House underwent renovation. Although some of the clapboards are original, both the wood-shingling and the irregularly-coursed sandstone central chimney are replacements. The eight-over-twelve sash and the beaded trim boards are also restorations. The plainly trimmed doorway is surmounted by a shed-roofed door-hood. The double-leaf door itself has a latch handle and beaded flush panels. A full-length shed-roofed addition has been made to the rear. It has six-over-six sash and a sandstone block foundation.

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1721, Daniel Merwin, Sr. of Milford purchased a six acre lot, dwelling house and barn "in the Maple Grove" from Nathan Camp, also of Milford. This lot was bounded on the east, north, and west by highways. The dwelling house faced Back Lane, now Maple Avenue, directly across from the home of Hezekiah Talcott. Sometime around 1740, Merwin, Sr. built a new house on four acres of the lot facing Main Street and gave the original house to his eldest son, Daniel Merwin, Jr. Durham land records note that in 1744, young Daniel received from his father the older house which faced west onto Back Lane (Maple Avenue). This house was sold by the heirs of Merwin, Jr. in 1773 to Giles Rose. It subsequently passed to Giles' son Samuel, then to his heirs and eventually was torn down or burned. Daniel Merwin, Sr. was 50 years old when he built this house on Main Street around 1740. Two slaves, Cuff and Kate lived with the Merwin family. Cuff and Kate had a daughter, Thankful, who was born December 24, 1749. Daniel, Sr. and his wife Sarah lived in the c. 1740 house until her death in 1764 and his death in 1766. The property was then willed to his two grandsons, Elnathan and Israel, the sons of Daniel Merwin, Jr. In 1773 Elnathan Merwin, then living in Haddam, sold to his brother his portion of their grandfather's estate, which included a dwelling house, barn and stone cider mill. By 1776, Israel Merwin, now living in Arlington, New York, sold the entire property to Jesse Atwell. It included five and three-quarters acres of land, house, barn and the stone cider mill. When Jesse Atwell died in 1781, the property passed on to his heirs and then to Phineas Squire in 1796. Squire built a new house on the northeast corner

SOURCES

Durham Land Records; Durham Vital Records; Middletown Probate Records; Fowler, William C., History of Durham (Durham: W.C. Fowler, 1866); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas; McLaughlin Research Paper.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER Peter Hall	DATE 6/83
VIEW W	NEGATIVE ON FILE 3:30

COMPILED BY

NAME Cunningham/Hart/McLaughlin	DATE 6/86
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
 Explanaton _____

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.:	53
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	B	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 6/86

of the property and sold the c.1740 house to Josiah Jewett in 1804. By 1817, Phineas Parmelee, a prominent shoe manufactuer, acquired the property. The house remained in the Parmelee family until the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

A well-preserved example of an early Colonial period dwelling in Durham, the Daniel Merwin House is historically significant for it s long association with the Merwin family.