

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Site No. **64**

UTM: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

QUAD: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT:  S  NR IF NR SPECIFY:  Actual  Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) \_\_\_\_\_ (Historic) Cook, Jesse, House

2. TOWN CITY Durham VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 116 Main Street

4. OWNER(S) Freitag, Russell & Wendy  Public  Private

5. USE (Present) Residence (Historic) Residence

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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Federal/Greek Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1840

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

Clapboard  Asbestos Siding  Brick  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Wood Shingle  Asphalt Siding  Fieldstone

Board & Batten  Stucco  Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding  Concrete Type: \_\_\_\_\_  Cut stone Type: Sandstone Foundation

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 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 53'x28'

12. CONDITION (Structural)  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated (Exterior)  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location)  On original site  Moved WHEN? \_\_\_\_\_ (Alterations)  Yes  No IF YES EXPLAIN 5 sided bay on S side; 17'x22' rear addition to east (rear)

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

This house stands on a narrow 1.14 acre tree shaded lot in Durham's residential center.

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (Interior and/or Exterior)

DESCRIP (Continued)

- entry is framed by pilasters and narrow sidelights and is surmounted by a narrow, flat entablature

18 ARCHITECT BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This 2 story Federal/Greek Revival residence stands on a sandstone block foundation with its gable end facing the street. Its facade contains two 12x12 windows on the first story and two smaller 8x8s on the second. The main entry is set off to a one story shed-roofed projection which appears to be contemporary with the house itself. The entry is framed by pilasters and narrow sidelights and is surmounted by a narrow, flat entablature, with crown moulding and a keystone. The modesty and delicacy of the entry is characteristic of the Federal Style. The front door itself appears to be a twentieth century replacement. The house has been altered in minor ways over the years. A five-sided, Victorian-style bay was added to its south side during the late nineteenth century. A substantial one story rear addition which stands on a concrete block foundation dates from the mid-twentieth century. The original clapboards have been replaced with aluminum siding.

Although this house is credited with being an eighteenth-century structure, this is probably not the case. A house did stand on this site in the eighteenth century, which Jesse Cook built on land purchased from Elnathan Camp in 1769. Cook sold this structure in 1770 to Job Merwin. He sold it to Daniel Merwin, his son, in 1784 who, in turn, sold it in 1786 to Phineas Squire. In 1788, Squire sold the property to Samuel Fenn Parsons, who already owned the property to the north of this parcel. In 1822, when Parsons sold his five acres to Isaac Newton, the only dwelling on the lot was his own homestead--the Jesse Cook house had been dismantled or moved. The house is not mentioned in Newton's 1822 sale of the Parsons homestead to John White in 1822, nor does it appear on the 1827 Wadsworth map. Seth Seward purchased 40 rods of John

(CONTINUED)

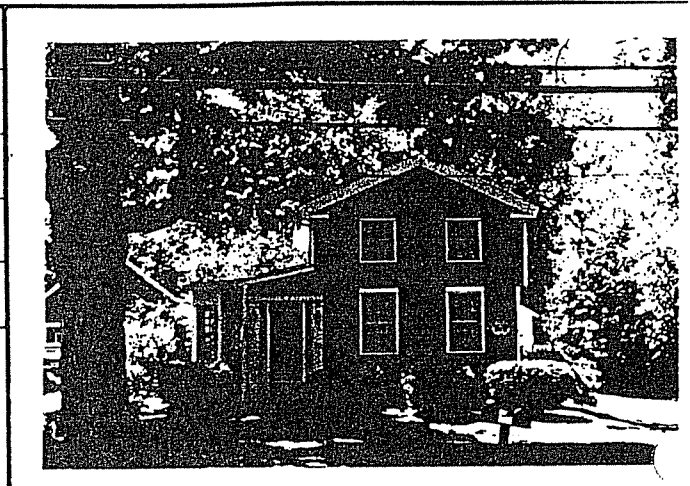
SOURCES

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

COMPILED BY

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
P.D. Hall	6/5/83
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
West Elevation	I:35
NAME	DATE
P.D. Hall	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 knowr.     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.:	
UTM: 18	/	6	4
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 8/83

THE JESSE COOK HOUSE, 116 Main Street, Durham

19. White's property in the 1840s and built the structure presently standing on it for his daughter, Nancy (Seward) Johnson (1802-1882), widow of David Johnson. In 1873, she sold the house to Dwight M. Seward, reserving to herself the right to occupy it until her death. Shortly after her demise, Dwight Seward sold the house to Joseph A. Rogers. In 1886, his estate gave a life lease on the house to his children, Lottie and Elias Rogers. In 1899-1900, the house passed to Lizzie L. Hull, who sold it to Curtis Atwell. The Atwell's occupied the house until 1947. In 1979 it passed to its present owners.

Architecturally this house is significant to the extent that it illustrates the transition from Federal to Greek Revival styles in a vernacular context. Historically, the modest structure, which originally stood at the northern end of Seth Seward's homelot, illustrates one of the modes by which families in nineteenth-century Durham looked after the interests of their dependent members.