

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Site No.: 66

UTM: \_\_\_\_\_

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

DISTRICT:  S  NR

IF NR SPECIFY:  Actual  Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>Elias Austin</i>		(Historic) <i>Austin, Elias</i>	
	2. TOWN CITY <i>Durham</i>		VILLAGE	COUNTY <i>Middlesex</i>
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) <i>111 Main St.</i>			
	4. OWNER(S) <i>Masfield, Elizabeth A.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
	5. USE (Present) <i>Residence</i>		(Historic) <i>Residence</i>	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN			
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING <i>Colonial/Greek Revival</i>			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>ca. 1745</i>
	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: <i>Sandstone Foundation</i>			
	DESCRIPTION	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 type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
11. NUMBER OF STORIES <i>2½</i>		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS <i>30' x 40' main block</i>		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated (Exterior) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated				
13. INTEGRITY (Location) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved WHEN? _____ (Alterations) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES EXPLAIN				
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <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				
<p>The Elias Austin House stands on the west side of Main Street in an historically residential section of Durham. A 1½-story barn with vertical flushboarding is northwest of the house.</p>				

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

DESCRIP (Continued)

The hip-roofed facade porch wraps around three sides of the house and is supported by slender, chamfered pillars with cut-and-sunk brackets. These give the impression of continuous flat ellipses between the posts. The central doorway is marked by entry pilasters with long, round medallions, and is flanked by four 6/6 sash windows. The second-story windows are 8/12 sash. All full-size windows of the house have louvred shutters. Greek Revival style, fluted, corner pilasters, with entasis, are present. Various additions have been made to the rear and to the north side.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Elias Austin House, built ca. 1745, is a 5-bay, gable-ridge-to-street Colonial period structure with some Greek Revival style touches. The 2½-story, central chimney, wooden, post-and-beam frame has an asphalt-shingled roof, a clap-board exterior, and a sandstone foundation. In 1743, Elias Austin bought this lot from Robert Fairchild for '153 pounds current money' (DLR 5:446). When Austin's will was executed in 1776, his home lot passed to his wife and sons. Among the latter was Moses Austin, who left Durham at the end of the eighteenth century. An early western pioneer, he eventually reached Texas in the 1820s, where he received a large land grant from the Mexican Government. He died soon afterwards, but his son, Stephen F. Austin, laid claim to his father's land and, in 1822, laid out the town of Austin, the present-day capitol city of the state of Texas. The Elias Austin House passed out of the family in 1783, and has since changed hands many times. This house served as Durham's post office from 1909 to 1935. This building is important as the original home and birthplace of Durham's perhaps most noted emigrant, Moses Austin.

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.

COMPILED BY PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER		DATE	
Peter Hall		6/83	
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE		
NE	6:30		
NAME		DATE	
J. McCord		8/83	
ORGANIZATION			
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust			
ADDRESS			
27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457			



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known.	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Developers	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Explanation _____