

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. 69
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)		Childs, Mathewson House	
	2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
	Durham		Middlesex	
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)			
	109 Main Street			
	4. OWNER(S)			
	Hinman, Lewis E., Jr. & Alma M. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
	5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
	Residence		Residence / Medical facility	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
7. STYLE OF BUILDING			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Greek Revival			1844	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input checked="" 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: Sandstone Foundation		
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		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
2½		30' X 23' ; main block		
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
<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 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				

The Childs-Mathewson House, built in 1844, is in an historically residential part of Durham, in the north part of the Historic District and on the west side of Main Street.

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The side doorway is flanked by plain pilasters which rise to a polygonal pediment above. The 6/6 sash facade windows are shuttered. A curved-top frame 4/4 is in the facade gable; the latter has a full pediment. A full entablature runs around the entire house. A 2 story bay with 6/6 sash windows, a single-story flat-roofed garage, and a gabled dormer with one 6/6 sash window have been added to the north side. The house was remodeled around 1940.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Childs-Mathewson House, built in 1844, is a 2½ story, 3 bay, side-hall plan, Greek Revival style dwelling. Its double-chimney post-and-beam frame has a gable-to-street roof, asbestos-shingled siding, and a sandstone foundation. From 1841 to 1844 Clement M. Parsons sold several small contiguous plots (on the west side of Main Street) to Dr. Seth L. Childs, who had come from New York after studying medicine there. In 1845 Childs conveyed his entire lot, now with a dwelling house and buildings upon it, to Jonathan C. Fowler, who in the next year sold the house to Dr. Benjamin L. Fowler, a graduate of the Yale Medical School.

The house became the home and office of Dr. Rufus W. Mathewson in 1857. Mathewson, a widely respected New England physician, was born in Rhode Island. He studied medicine at Yale and in New York, and was known for his treatment of typhoid fever and scarlatina.

Near the end of the nineteenth century, the house and the medical practice passed to Rufus's son, Dr. Earl Mathewson. In addition to its distinction in the medical realm, the Mathewsons were also active entrepreneurs. They were among the organizers of the Durham Manufacturing Company and have continued their association with the firm to the present. This home was the historic residence and office of Durham's nineteenth-century physicians.

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 Hall	6/83
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	S&E side	6:29
	NAME	DATE
	J. McCord	8/83
	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

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning