

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:	Site No. 79
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) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	
	Allen Tucker House <span style="float: right;">Walkley, Jonathan House</span>	
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE
	Durham	Middlesex
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)	
	98 Main Street	
	4. OWNER(S)	
	Allen & Ella Tucker <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private</span>	
	5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	
	residence <span style="float: right;">residence</span>	
DESCRIPTION	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	
	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	IF YES EXPLAIN: With permission	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING	
	Federal	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
	1783-1778	
	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 type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
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 checked="" 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		
2½		
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
Main block: 28X39 NE Cor. adit. 20X17		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span>		
<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) <span style="float: right;">WHEN?</span> <span style="float: right;">(Alterations)</span> <span style="float: right;">IF YES EXPLAIN</span>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <span style="float: right;">2½ story adit to NE corner.</span>		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed(2) <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 checked="" 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		
This Federal style residence stands on the east side of Durham's Main Street, close to the corner of Maiden Lane. It shares its 1.14 acre lot with the old Bennet Beecher shoe factory, 98 Main Street.		

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Ornamental posts of milled lumber are doubled and joined by pieces of cast iron molded in botanical patterns.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

Unknown

Unknown

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This Federal style residence stands with its gable end facing the street. Its facade is fronted by a hip-roofed porch which covers the west, north, and south sides of the main block. The porch is supported by ornamental posts dating from the late nineteenth century. These consist of thin plain piece of milled lumber, doubled and joined by pieces of cast iron molded in botanical patterns. The main entry is centered on the facade and is flanked windows, two 2X2s on the left and one 2X2 to the right. The fenestration in the rest of the main block consists of irregularly grouped 2X2s. To the rear of the main block is a 2 1/2 story gable roofed addition which follows the lines of the main structure. It stands on a poured concrete foundation and dates from the twentieth century. The house was severely damaged by fire in the late 1930s, at which time major alterations were made to the structure. These included changes in fenestration and in interior room arrangements. This house has been historically associated with the adjacent shoe shop at 96 Main Street. It was apparently built by Jonathan Walkley, a cooper, between 1773, when he purchased 42 rods of land from Job Camp, and 1778, when he sold the property "with a dwelling house and cooper's shop" to Beriah Chittenden. Chittenden sold the property in 1784 to Phineas Squire, who sold it to Timothy Shattuck in 1786. Shattuck was a poor businessman. (see continuation)

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

P.D. Hall

6/10/83

VIEW

NEGATIVE ON FILE

West elevation

III: 6

NAME

DATE

P.D. Hall

8/20/83

ORGANIZATION

Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS

27 Washington St. Middletown, CT. 06457



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None knowr.  
  Highways  
  Vandali sm  
  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 / - / - / - / - 7 / 9

QUAD:

DISTRICT: 8 NR: ACTUAL  
POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: 9/23/83 Jonathan Walkley House

He was deeply in debt. In March of 1787, Joseph Chedsey of Richmond, Mass. sued Shattuck to recover a debt. The Sheriff of New Haven County levied execution upon him, seizing the southeast corner of his house—"being a bedroom about eleven feet one way & about eight feet the other, together with the cellar under said room & also the chamber above said room." Soon Shattuck's other creditors closed in on him. In 1790, James Robinson, a Durham shoemaker, bought out the claims of Shattuck's creditors, moved into the house, and opened a shoe shop in the adjacent shop. On James Robinson's death in 1820, his heirs sold it to Durham merchant Daniel Bates, who sold it within a few months to Charles Miller. He sold it in 1831 to Timothy Baldwin, a merchant, who also owned the distillery which once stood at the corner of Brick and Maiden Lanes. He went bankrupt in 1834, at which time Seth Seward, one of his creditors, took title to the house and the adjacent shop. Seward sold the property to Bennet Beecher, a young shoemaker from Woodbridge, Connecticut, in 1837. Beecher operated a boot and shoe factory and lived in the house until 1884, when the Middletown Savings Bank foreclosed on his mortgage. The property changed hands frequently—and was probably used for rental purposes until 1901, when it was purchased by Wesley G. Tucker, father of the present owner.

This house is an interesting example of the transition from colonial period to the Federal style. Its historical significance derives from its association with Durham's nineteenth century shoe industry.