

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. 85
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)		Strong, Asahel, House		
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY		
	Durham		Middlesex		
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)				
	83 Main Street				
	4. OWNER(S)				
Foss, Samuel A. and Marjorie <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private					
DESCRIPTION	5. USE (Present)		(Historic)		
	Residence		Residence		
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	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		
	Nineteenth century Domestic		ca. 1830		
	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 type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Asbestos roofing		
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS			
2		26' x 32' main rectangle			
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	IF YES EXPLAIN	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
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 type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS					

The house stands on a deep, narrow, wooded lot on the west side of Main Street. The single outbuilding is a garage.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

A flat, crown-moulded cornice with a dentil course is located above the panelled, central facade door. Two 6/3 sash vertical windows flank this doorway. The full-length, hip-roofed, facade porch is supported by simple stick columns which rise from a stick balustrade to square, moulded capitals. The full windows of the second story are 2/2 sash. A small 3.3 is in the gable, which in turn has slight cornice returns. A single story lean-to has been added to the west side of the house. A gabled pavilion is attached to the southwest corner.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The Asahel Strong House, built ca. 1830, is a 2 story, 3 bay, nineteenth-century domestic vernacular building. Its wooden, post-and-beam frame rests on a mortared sandstone foundation and has an asbestos-covered gable-to-street roof, a central chimney and central hall, and an asbestos-sided exterior.

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1826, Asahel Strong received the southern half of a 'parsonage' lot from the First Ecclesiastical Society under the terms of a nine-hundred and ninety-nine year lease. The alienation of such parsonage lots is discussed in the entry for the Robinson-Andrews House, which stands immediately to the south of the Asahel Strong House. A mortgage deed, dated 1840, refers to a dwelling house on the north half of Strong's parsonage lot. The house remained in the Strong family until the 1850s. It has subsequently changed hands many times.

Asahel Strong was a prominent citizen of nineteenth-century Durham. He served often as a Justice of the Peace from 1823 to 1837. And from 1817 to 1832, he served five terms as a representative in the General Assembly.

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: Alex Parades DATE: 4/84

VIEW: W NEGATIVE ON FILE: 11:27A

COMPILED BY

NAME: J. McCord DATE: 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
- Other
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning
- Explanation