

**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. 86
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) <i>(Historic)</i> Robinson-Andrews House	
2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE COUNTY Middlesex
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) 81 Main Street	
4. OWNER(S) Ryan, Thomas B. & Barbra B. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) <i>(Historic)</i> Residence Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
IF YES, EXPLAIN	

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Greek Revival		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1840
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: 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 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 checked="" 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 2½	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS main block 27' x 30'6"; many additions	
12. CONDITION (Structural) <i>(Exterior)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" 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) WHEN? <i>(Alterations)</i> IF YES EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No see #17
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"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

The Robinson-Andrews House is on a shaded lot on the west side of Main Street and immediately north of the Church of the Epiphany.

DESCRIPT. (Continued)

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

Full corner pilasters rise to the full entablature where three eyebrow windows, corresponding to the three bays of the facade, perforate the frieze. The full-size two-over-two sash windows of the facade are each flanked by louvred shutters. The portico, added later in the Victorian period, is supported by two engaged front columns, square in sections, with chamfered edges, and by two rear antapilasters. The columns rise from simple, square, pedestal bases to capitals formed by sawn, cut brackets. These in turn support the soffit of the portico roof. Sawn scroll brackets with triangular cutouts support the solid front spandrel. The Greek Revival style front doorway, flanked by rectangular sidelights, has a cornice with decorative rectangular moulding over the six-panelled door.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1840, the Greek Revival style, 2 story Robinson-Andrews House has a side-hall plan, 3 bay facade, and an asphalt-shingled hip roof with central chimney. The building's wooden frame is sheathed in clapboarding and rests on a cut sandstone foundation. The Robinson-Andrews House lot was originally a part of one of the "parsonage" lots of Durham. These lots were intended for the support of the ministry and for public use. But in the early decades of the nineteenth century, members of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Durham, wishing to raise revenue, freed themselves of several parsonage tracts in the manner which Fowler describes:

"...some who came after the generous fathers of the Town, endeavored to obtain for themselves what had been given to the public. Encroachments...have been made by virtually selling, under the name of a lease for 999 years, the land which was granted for the support of the ministry. ...how much more beautiful would (Durham) have been, if the ideas of the first fathers of the Town had been carried out without any encroachments!" (Fowler, 1866, pp. 28-30).

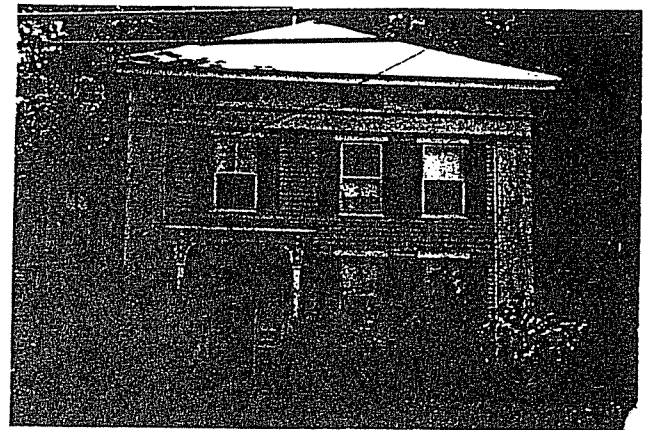
And so, in 1826, the Ecclesiastical Society of Durham concluded such a lease with Asahel Strong. In 1838, Strong conveyed the land (under the terms of a warranty deed) to Henry Robinson, a young farmer who later became quite prosperous (cf. 1850 Census). In 1844 Robinson sold the lot, with a dwelling house, to Dr. Chauncey Andrews. The house passed to the Tibbals family in the latter half of the nineteenth century, who may have been (cont'd)

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
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
east side	6:19
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
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanation _____

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			IF YES EXPLAIN	
			see #17	
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PHOTOGRAPHER: Peter Hall DATE: 6/83

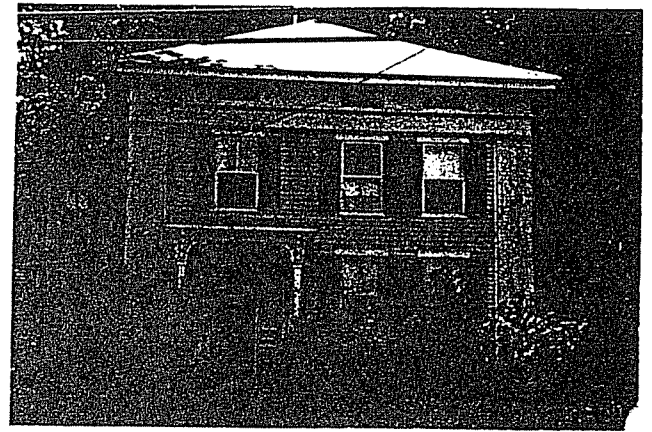
VIEW: east side NEGATIVE ON FILE: 6:19

COMPILED BY

NAME: J. McCord DATE: 8/83

ORGANIZATION: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS: 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457



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