

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. 173
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) Durham Historical Society		(Historic) Center School	
2. TOWN CITY Durham	VILLAGE	COUNTY Middlesex	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Town House Road and Maple Avenue			
4. OWNER(S) Durham Historical Society		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Private
5. USE (Present) Historical Society		(Historic) school	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING School house		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION ca. 1775	
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) sandstone rubble foundation
<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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 23' x 37'		
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) WHEN? Alterations? IF YES EXPLAIN			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) Sabbath Day House
<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 type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			
The Old Center School stands at the corner of Town House Road and Maple Avenue.			

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (INTERIOR AND OR EXTERIOR)

DESCRIPTIVE (Continued)

The Old Center School is a 2 story clapboarded 23' x 37' building which stands on a mortared sandstone rubble foundation. The facade contains two doors and two six-over-six windows framed with plain mouldings. The second story contains three six-over-six sash arranged in three bays. The gable ends contain two and three six-over-six sash, respectively. A small brick chimney emerges from the south side of the east end of the roof.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

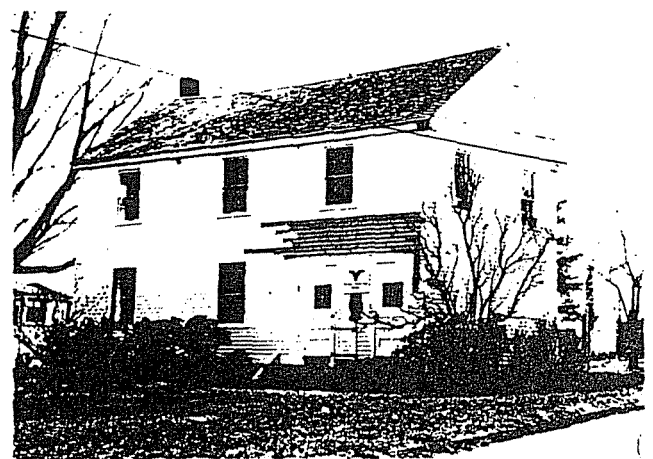
This structure stands on the site of Durham's earliest (1722) school house. The 1765 map shows a structure on the property--very likely a school. According to Fowler's History of Durham the present structure was built as a school house in 1775. It does not appear to have been used continuously for that purpose, however, for in 1791 the Durham School Committee leased the property (2 3/4 acres) to Samuel Camp, owner of the adjoining property, to use as a farm. By the 1820s, as the Wadsworth map shows, it was again being used as a school, a use which probably ceased in the 1830s with the erection of the district schools. In the 1960s the much deteriorated structure became the headquarters of the Durham Historical Society. In 1967 the Society purchased the last remaining "Sabbath Day House," a structure built for the convenience of church-going families from the town's periphery, and moved it to a site adjoining the old school. Both structures are currently undergoing restoration.

SOURCES

Durham Land Records; Durhan 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

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20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanation _____