

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. 136
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)	
Robinson, Andrew Jackson, House	
2. TOWN CITY	COUNTY
Durham	Middlesex
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location)	
Maple Avenue	
4. OWNER(S)	
Driscoll, Donald & Mary <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) (Historic)	
Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Domestic Vernacular/Greek Revival influence	1836
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	
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
1 1/2	26 x 22; 17 x 29
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location)	WHEN ?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
(Alterations) IF YES EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Shed roof, door	
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) house, fields	
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT	
<input checked="" 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	

Set on a small rectangular lot that slopes west toward the Durham meadows, the Andrew Jackson Robinson House is surrounded by a number of eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth-century domestic buildings.

DESCRIPTIC. (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)
 The facade exhibits slight cornice returns and a simple Greek Revival-style doorway featuring square recessed pilasters supporting a broad entablature. The doorway is covered by a hip-roofed entrance portico supported by two turned columns and sawn brackets. Late nineteenth-century two-over-two windows have replaced the original sash. Additions include a single story, shed-roofed ell to the southwest elevation. Outbuildings on the property include a large garage and small wooden shed.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE
 Erected in 1836, this two-over-three-bay, 1½ story, side-hall-plan, simple Greek Revival-style house faces east onto Maple Avenue. Resting on a sandstone foundation, the asbestos-sided, post-and-beam frame is topped by an asphalt-shingled, gable-to-street roof.

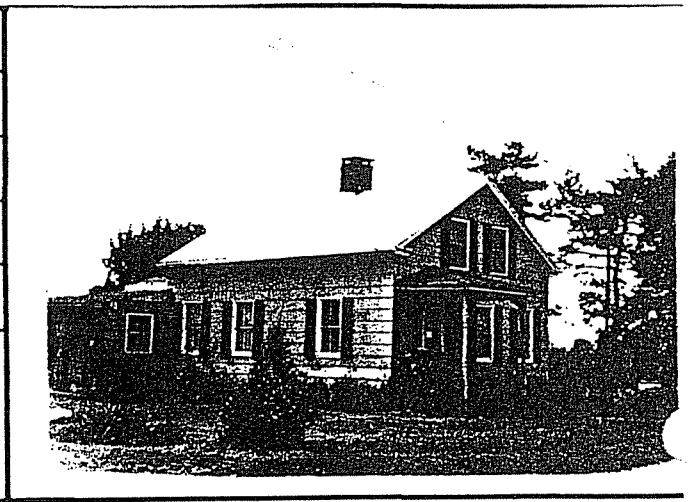
In 1836 Andrew J. Robinson received 40 rods of land on Back Lane from his father's estate, "as his share in said dowers land without any reference in the value thereof in consequence of the buildings or improvements that said Andrew may build or make thereon" (DLR 18:485). Durham's Grand List shows that within a year of receiving the land Robinson had erected a dwelling house worth six hundred dollars. Little historical information is available concerning Andrew Jackson Robinson, but we do know he was the son of Moses and Electa Robinson and served as a Grand Juror in Durham for many years. In 1873 the property was sold to Henry A. Fechter (b. 1844) of Southbridge, Massachusetts. Fechter, married to Alice G. Edgerton, was a "merchant" by trade and resided in the house until 1883. The next owners were Charles H. Parsons (b. 1846), a farmer, and his wife, Alice L. (Gay) Parsons. The Parsons, who had one daughter, Mattie Jane, owned the house until the turn of the century.

The Andrew Jackson Robinson House, which is architecturally similar to other early nineteenth-century Domestic dwellings in the immediate area (see Elias Camp House and Joel Blatchley House), is historically significant for its association with the Robinson family, one of Durham's founding families.

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; 1974 Beers Atlas.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER P. D. Hall	DATE 6/83
	VIEW Facing Northwest	NEGATIVE ON FILE 5:8
COMPILED BY	NAME E. R. Hart	DATE 12/83
	ORGANIZATION Greater Middletown Preservation Trust	
	ADDRESS 27 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanaton _____