

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. 25

UTM : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

QUAD: _____

DISTRICT S NR | IF NR SPECIFY Actual Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) Singing Hen Farm (Historic) Southmayd, John, House

2. TOWN CITY Durham VILLAGE _____ COUNTY Middlesex

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and or location) Haddam Quarter Road, south side, .3 miles west of Carriage Drive

4. OWNER(S) Roger & Henry Berten Public Private

5. USE (Present) Residence (Historic) Office

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD Yes No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE Yes No IF YES EXPLAIN with permission

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Nineteenth-century Domestic DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1884-89

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) _____

Wood Shingle Asphalt Siding Fieldstone

Board & Batten Stucco Cobblestone

Aluminum Siding Concrete Type: _____ Cut stone Type: sandstone

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Wood frame Post and beam balloon Other (Specify) _____

Load bearing masonry Structural iron or steel

10. ROOF (Type)

Gable Flat Mansard Monitor sawtooth

Gambrel Shed Hip Round Other (Specify) _____

(Material)

Wood Shingle Roll Asphalt Tin Slate

Asphalt shingle Built up Tile Other (Specify) _____

11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 37' x 24'

12. CONDITION (Structural) Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated (Exterior) Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) On original site Moved WHEN? _____ (Alterations) Yes No IF YES EXPLAIN 1 story addition to south side

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Barn Shed Garage Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____

Carriage house Shop Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

Open land Wood-land Residential Scattered buildings visible from site

Commercial Indus-trial Rural High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

This handsome late-nineteenth-century farmhouse stands on the south side of Haddam Quarter Road on land which slopes upward from the public way. To the east and rear of the house are the many barns and outbuildings of a working farm.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

This 2½ story cross-gabled farmhouse is striking in its verticality. The south section of its main block, which faces Haddam Quarter Road, is only 15 feet wide, although the cross-gable, set back 13 feet on the east side, adds 9 more feet to the width of the structure. The presence of full-length, two-over-two windows on the first story of the south side suggests that the house once possessed a porch. The gable peak on the south side contains a round fixed-pane window. The main entry to the house is on the east side. It contains the original front door, an oak 2 panel unit with an elliptical arch and a frosted and etched glass panel in its top section. A 1 story shed-roofed 9' x 24' addition has been added to the south side of the house. The fenestration has been extensively altered on the west side of the main block. The original clapboarding has been replaced by asbestos shingles.

18 ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

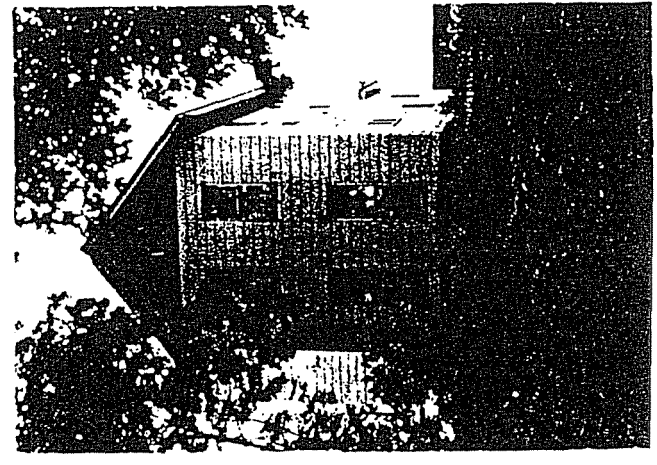
This house is one of four in the Haddam Quarter associated with the Southmayd family, which came to Durham from Middletown in the late eighteenth century. It stands on the site of an eighteenth century farmstead built by Oliver Coe (1751-1827) and inherited by his sons, Oliver B. Coe (1799-1883) and William Coe (1801-1870). The younger Coes were very poor and were constantly in dept. The farm was seized by their creditors in 1883. It was assigned to Gilbert Tibbals, to whom Oliver B. Coe owed an unsatisfied mortgage. He sold it in 1884 to John Southmayd, son of Huntington B. Southmayd, who lived up the road. The old house, which had been neglected during the Coe's occupancy, was razed and replaced by the present building at the time of John Southmayd's marriage to Caroline B. Nettleton. In 1902, following the death of his wife, Southmayd sold his farm to Ereck and Caroline Ereckson of Middletown, who sold it in 1913 to William Hall of Brooklyn, New York. Hall sold it two years later to Adolf and Elise Berten of Brooklyn, ancestors of its present owners.

Although extensively altered, this house retains the setting and the atmosphere of a late nineteenth century farmstead. As such, it is one of the better historic rural properties in Durham. Its historical significance is derived from its association with the Southmayd family, one of the most prominent families in the Haddam Quarter during the nineteenth century, and from its connection with the movement of European immigrant farmers into Durham during the early twentieth century.

SOURCES

Durham Land Records; Durham Vital Records; Middletown Probate Records; Federal Census of 1820, 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; Robert-Coe: Puritan

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	P.D. Hall	6/5/83
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	North Facade	1:8
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE
	P.D. Hall	2/1/84
	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
 Explanation _____