

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.:
UTM 1: 8 6 8: 7 3: 9 0 4: 6 2: 7 1: 4 0	
QUAD:	Hartford North
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> Duffy House Whitman House	
2. TOWN/CITY West Hartford	VILLAGE
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 208 North Main Street approx. .7 acres Vol. 551, p. 202.	
4. OWNER(S) Gregory and Norine Burns <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) <i>(Historic)</i> residence farmhouse	
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
IF YES, EXPLAIN	

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Colonial		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1764 and 1807
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: brownstone fdn.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		
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 2	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 53 x 32	
12. CONDITION (Structural) <i>(Exterior)</i>		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	1913- windows enlarged, pediments removed, wide
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) clapboards, rear ell added, north door removed	
<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		

Building is in an area of single family residences containing 18th and 19th century farmhouses and 20th century suburban styles, many of them Tudor Revival. Inventoried

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

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

One of the few remaining 18th century houses in West Hartford, this building was originally a 5 bay saltbox, increased to 9 bays with two chimneys circa 1813. The front door is framed by carved and fluted pilasters, with 8-petaled rosettes under scroll capitals; round headed panels form the bases. A photograph of the capitals is shown in Kelly, Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut.

18. ARCHITECT *N/A* BUILDER John Whitman, Jr.

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Original owner, John Whitman, Jr., was an early town leader, represented town in petitions to Hartford for separation status. Brother to Sarah Whitman Hooker, whose home is on the National Register. In the early part of the 20th century this was the farmhouse for Frederick Duffy, who gained prominence for his innovations in dairy herding, such as storing grain in silos and using milking machines. Dairy cattle were pastured on the farm until the mid-1930's.

The architect of the extensive interior and exterior remodelling that took place in 1913 was Harold Mason, a local resident, who also designed the house at #160 North Main Street, in the survey area.

SOURCES

Hartford Land Records, 10:239
 Hartford Probate Records John Whitman, Jr., 1813, James Whitman, 1833
 Geer's Hartford Area Directory 1900, 1925, 1930
 1854 map, 1869 map, 1896, 1909 and 1923 Atlases
 Hall, West Hartford, p. 9, 10, 71, 222-225, 250-251
 McLoughlin, V. "The Story of 208 (North Main Street)", at Noah Webster Foundation

PHOTO

COMPILED BY

PHOTOGRAPHER Katherine Cruse DATE April 1982

VIEW northwest NEGATIVE ON FILE CHC II-13,14,15

NAME Katherine Cruse DATE Nov. 1982

ORGANIZATION Noah Webster Foundation

ADDRESS 227 North Main Street, West Hartford



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

Exterior condition is good: chimney rebuilt and exterior painted. Interior includes finely detailed raised-panel walls and wainscoting. Said to be built on site of 17th-century Cornelius Merry house.

HRC 12/85

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highway Vandalism Developers Other chimney collapsed

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanation possible water damage