

## 1: Full text of "History of Durham, Connecticut"

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From the Connecticut Historical Collection BY John Warner Barbour Published THE tract of land comprising Durham was formerly supposed to be included in the limits of the neighboring towns, until they were surveyed, when a tract was found to be left. This was considered small for a distinct plantation or town, and does not appear to have been contemplated with that view for a long period. The Legislature however granted many lots or farms in it to persons who had performed important services to the colony. In this way more than 5, acres became the property of individuals widely dispersed in the state, before any settlement was made. The next spring, therefore, a petition was presented to the Legislature, signed by thirty one inhabitants of that town, that there might be a plantation at Coginchaug, the Indian name of Durham. This was urged on the ground that Coginchaug was so far from other settlements that the people could not go to them for public worship. The petition was granted, and -soon after a site was selected for a meeting house, on a hill in the southern part of the town, which from that circumstance is called Meeting-house hill to this day. But very few of the petitioners left Guilford, and no plantation was immediately formed. The Assembly proposed that the proprietors should give up one fourth part of their farms, and that the part thus given up, with the common lands, should be laid out into lots, for such persons as should offer themselves as inhabitants. Their proposal was accepted, and settlers came in from various places, who, in May, , were invested with town privileges. The number of adult male inhabitants, at that time, was thirty four, most of whom were heads of families. As early as , John and Nathaniel Sutliff, and probably some others from Durham, settled on Haddam quarter. These had the consent of the people of Haddam, that they might attend public worship in Durham, and in the quarter was annexed to Durham. They were, however, regarded as the rightful owners of the soil, and their title was purchased by Samuel Wyllys and others, on the 24th of January, , at the same time that a purchase was made of the lands in Middletown. It is about six miles in length from east to west, and nearly four in width. The central part of the town is 20 miles south from Hartford, and 18 northeast from New Haven. The prevailing surface of the town is a diversity- of moderate hills and gentle declivities and dales. The eastern and western parts are somewhat broken and mountainous. The soil is generally fertile and productive, and the inhabitants are mostly employed in the cultivation of the earth. The above is a view in the central part of Durham. The church seen on the left is the new Congregational church, erected in The church seen standing in the street is the old Congregational church. The above drawing was taken September, , a few days before the old church was taken down. These churches are a fair specimen of the ancient and modern method of building houses of worship. A new Methodist church is now erecting on the east side of the street, about opposite the old church seen in the engraving. The principal settlement is on the road running north and south, on ground moderately elevated, bounded on the east by a considerable range of hills, on the west with a large tract of low land, and then a tract of higher land, extending to the Wallingford mountains. The tract of low land lying westward of the village was called Coginchaug, or the long swamp, and from this the name was applied to the township. This is generally cleared, and yields a large quantity of coarse grass. Two oxen, presented by some of the inhabitants to General Washington, furnished a dinner for all the officers of the American army at Valley Forge, and all their servants. These oxen were driven almost five hundred miles, through a country nearly exhausted of its forage, yet one of them, a steer five years old, weighed two thousand two hundred and seventy pounds. In memory of Capt. Israel Camp, a man of unaffected piety; benevolent in his temper, and kind and just in his behavior; in private and public offices, useful through life; a great lover and promoter of Divine Psalmody. The praises of God and the Lamb sweetly employed his breath, nil, through painful sickness, his voice expired in death, the 6th day of May, , in the 55th year of his age. Sacred to the niemory of Mr. Elias Camp, who died March 26th, , in the 78th year of his age. Return to [ Connecticut Towns ] All pages copyright All items on this site are copyrighted by their author s. These pages may be linked to but not used on another web site. Anyone may copy and use the information provided here freely for personal use only.

### 2: History of Durham, Connecticut - William Chauncey Fowler - HÃftad () | Bokus

*Durham is a town in Middlesex County, Connecticut, United States. www.enganchecubano.com is a former farming village on the Coginchaug River in central Connecticut. The population was 7, at the census.*

Oliver Knowles House, ca. 1780, by Jerry Dougherty, , own work [cc-by] Portions of the content on this web page were adapted from a copy of the original nomination document. Description The Main Street Historic District in Durham comprises the historic residential and commercial center of a small rural community in central Connecticut. Main Street, the principal street in the district, runs north and south. Several parallel streets are located on each side of Main Street: The latter street borders the Town Green in the southern portion of the district. The Main Street Historic District includes all of the present state-enabled local district and also extends to the south along Main Street and to the west to include historic properties and open land on the west side of Maple Avenue. Two additional houses are included on the north side of Talcott Lane. The Main Street Historic District contains buildings. Eighty-three percent contribute to the district and were built between 1700 and 1850. Modern intrusion is limited. With few exceptions, the historic buildings in the Main Street Historic District are of wood-frame construction. In addition to 90 historic residences, the Main Street Historic District includes public buildings four churches, two schools, a library, and a post office , and seven commercial buildings. By far the most common form is the five-bay, two-and-one-half story, center-chimney house with a gable roof. Only a few of these houses display the traditional overhang, and surprisingly enough, they are not from the earliest period, but were built about the middle of the eighteenth century the Moses Austin House, Main Street, and the Elnathan Camp House, Main Street. The latter house is also distinguished by its gambrel roof, a feature more commonly found on Cape-style houses in Durham. Although the "salt-box" form was more popular in the outlying areas of town, this type of house was also built in the Main Street Historic District. All the surviving examples have an integral ell. Another less common form was the Cape-style house, an economical house favored by small farmers in the Connecticut Valley south of Middletown. Several examples can be found in the more rural areas of town. Cook, the builder of his gambrel-roofed house, may also have been responsible for the other examples in town, most of which display the same roof type. The last type of colonial house in the Main Street Historic District is a type rarely built in the eighteenth century. While retaining the standard form, several houses have a gable-end-to-street orientation and date from the 1700s, foreshadowing by a century the orientation of the Federal and later Greek Revival styles. Some of the colonial-period houses in the Main Street Historic District have been altered over time. They include the oldest house in Durham, the Colonel James Wadsworth House on Madison Road at the intersection with Higganum Road at the south end of the district. Originally built as a one-and-one-half-story house; it was raised and expanded to its present five-bay, two-and-one-half-story configuration by 1800. A Greek Revival style doorway was added in the early nineteenth century. The Federal period in Durham was characterized by a general conservatism. Most of the houses built at that time in the Main Street Historic District make few concessions to style and remain essentially colonial in form. Georgian influence can also be found in such features as a Palladian window, but purely Federal style houses were built quite late. A store and tavern built at this time also display very little applied detailing, a less surprising adherence to traditional norms. The Greek Revival style had a major impact on domestic and institutional architecture in Durham after 1800. Twenty-eight of the sixty surviving houses in the Main Street Historic District built between 1800 and 1850 are of this style. The style was utilized for modest buildings such as the Beecher Shoe Shop 96 Main Street , as well as large churches: The latter church has retained its colonnaded portico, while on the former the portico has been removed. A classical spire with an elongated conical, shingled roof was added to the North Church about 1820. Other public buildings, including the Durham Academy Main Street and the Grange Hall, originally built as a church 52 Main Street , were constructed in this style, but in a simplified form retaining only the pediment and the temple front with pilasters. This common interpretation of the style can be found in residential construction as well. Notable examples include the William A. The latter has an Italianate style, wraparound verandah. After the middle of the nineteenth century, the majority of the houses were simple, vernacular

interpretations of the currently popular styles. Most farmhouses built in this period were totally unadorned, generally those built in the more rural areas, including such typical examples as the John Newton House on Maiden Lane, and the two houses on Main Street, the Andrew Hull and Henry David House Main Street and 31 Main Street. Both of the latter houses have the simple gable-to-street orientation found throughout Durham in the nineteenth century, relieved only by decorative porches, and in the case of the Hull House, stickwork in the gable peak. The Italianate-style influence is more marked on the Wadsworth House 32 Main Street with its exposed rafter ends, and the Leverett House Main Street, but again stylistic expression is limited. Against this background, the few public buildings built in the same period on Main Street make quite a contrast. Another church was built in the Carpenter Gothic style in Church of the Epiphany. It is an exceptional example with lancet windows, flying buttresses, and a square belfry, highlighted by sawn work repeating the lancet-arch form. Another exceptional public building is the Public Library, erected in the Neo-Classical style. An architecturally compatible modern addition was added to the latter building in 1920. Whether or not they were actually purchased from these companies is not known, but they are markedly similar and representative of the mass-produced cottages built in this period throughout the country. More than half of the surviving historic resources in Durham are contained within the Main Street Historic District; it displays an exceptional degree of architectural integrity and craftsmanship. A remarkable cross section of social classes and occupations is represented in the district, expressed in the style and function of the buildings. Of particular note is the unusual number of well-preserved eighteenth-century houses, as well as the quality of the public buildings erected in the Greek Revival style. Most of the land in the town had been granted to individuals for distinguished service to the colony in military or civic affairs in the seventeenth century. All of these men were absentee owners; none were anxious to occupy what was then one of the least desirable areas for settlement in the colony. Swamp and marshland occupied most of the central part of the area, surrounded by rolling hills overlaying rocky ledges. Less than one third of the mere 15 acres was suitable for cultivation. The majority of the absentee owners were from Hartford, with a smaller group from Guilford. A petition in by the Guilford interests to locate the town plat in the southern part of town was acted on favorably by the General Court. But the more powerful Hartford group was successful in having this decision overturned, with the result that the town was laid out at its present location in 1724, where the land was owned by Hartford men. The swampy terrain had much to do with the axial pattern of the "Great Street," as Main Street was first known. It traced a more or less direct course along the high ground from about the Wadsworth House on Madison Road to the present-day intersection of Route 1 and Main Street. There was little room for expansion to the east or west, but "back lanes" were laid out along the rear of the homelots, present-day Maple Avenue on the west and Cherry and Brick lanes on the east. More than 30 families were living in the town center by this time. They came from 11 different towns in the Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay Colonies. The boundaries of the township, however, were not so easily settled; land on the borders with Killingworth and Haddam remained in dispute for most of the rest of the century. By the end of the eighteenth century, Main Street was lined with houses built in the colonial period and appeared to be a quite typical center of a rural community with a major difference. Durham was located on the old Mattebeseck Trail, which was becoming the preferred route from New Haven to Hartford. With fewer ferry crossings, it was replacing the Boston Post Road to the east along the coast. By 1790 shoemaking had become a major cottage industry. Shoemakers were the largest listed occupational group on the census that year; a disproportionate number of homes contained unskilled laborers or apprentices in the shoe trade. This circumstance, together with the fact that a "factory" was established in an existing colonial house, suggests that the shoe industry had weathered that difficult transition from a craft to a full-fledged but small-scale factory system. While Durham certainly never approached the scale of major shoe manufacturing centers established in Massachusetts, the era of the autonomous craftsman-merchant who was also a farmer was over. Apprentices or hired laborers were needed as the industry expanded, but the entrepreneurial shoe manufacturer was increasingly at the mercy of outside market forces. The Panic of 1837 followed an extended period when the wholesale price of shoes was down, resulting in several business failures. Overextended manufacturers who had mortgaged their property for needed credit lost their homes and their factories as well. Only a few survived this period. Bennet Beecher, a journeyman shoemaker who came

to Durham in , ran the last of the larger operations in town. His "factory," built in the Greek Revival style, remains at 96 Main Street. By the end of the Civil War, shoemaking as the industrial base for the town was at an end. The last shoe shop was operated by a German immigrant family who came to Durham in the last half of the nineteenth century, joining many other immigrants who made their homes in the town in this period. While the prosperity engendered by the industry lasted, and commercial agriculture was still a viable proposition, the impact on Durham was considerable. It was evident not only in the fine Federal and Greek Revival style houses and public buildings in this period, but also in the general wealth of the community, which produced an increasingly educated and cultivated class. Daughters as well as sons in this group were sent to the best seminaries and schools in the state. By Durham had its own academy, a private secondary school Main Street. The Durham Book Company evolved into one of the first free libraries in the state. A lyceum was formed to debate the weighty topics of the day. Skilled artists such as Benjamin Coe, the painter, and John Johnson, the noted stone carver, were products of this rural renaissance. The rise of a sophisticated leisure class implies the existence of a laboring class. In fact, in the census of , a surprising number of houses contained more than one family families in houses. Eighteen percent of the population were unskilled laborers; only four of these owned land. The decline of the shoe industry was followed by a decline in commercial farming. Despite the founding of the Merriman Manufacturing Company that specialized in tinware products and employed both men and women, the economy of nineteenth-century Durham never recovered. With the drop in farm commodity prices after the Civil War, many farms were abandoned, especially in the outlying areas. Many of the farms were purchased by newly arrived immigrants from Europe, most notably by Russian and Polish emigres who financed their purchases through the Jewish Agricultural Society of New York, an organization founded for this purpose. Even with a substantial influx of immigrants, population levels which had reached a peak in dropped off dramatically and did not return to the same level until A few native sons returned to their hometown either to retire or use the old family homestead for summer vacations. One of these was S.

## 3: Connecticut Town Histories, Durham

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William Chauncey Fowler Language: This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world , and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant. Durham Historical Society Language: In Durham, Connecticut, captured moments of time afford a precious glimpse into the lives of the early residents of this small, central Connecticut town. Situated between Hartford and New Haven, Durham was a natural stopping place for many early travelers, but with its rich farmland and plentiful sources of water power, it quickly became much more. This resulted in a colorful social history and a beautiful collection of architectural styles along the main roads. Grand celebrations, patriotic and agricultural, are shown here as well as a pictorial progression through more than 200 years of life in rural New England. In the captions that accompany each picture, those familiar with the town will recognize names of local streets and landmarks and meet the people for whom the places are named. Those who only know Durham through the Durham Fair will gain insight into the beginnings of this very popular event. William Chauncey [Fr Fowler Language: This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. Durham History Committee Durham, Conn.

## 4: Main Street Historic District, Durham Town, Middlesex County, Durham CT,

*History of Durham, Connecticut From the First Grant of Land in to by William Chauncey Fowler William Cornwall and His Descendants A Genealogical History of the Family of William Cornwall, One of the Puritan Founders of New England, Who Came to America in or Before the Year , and Died in Middletown, Connecticut, in the Year by.*

## 5: History of Durham, Connecticut

*History of Durham, Connecticut From the first grant of land in to Written by Professor William Chauncey Fowler with the aim to "preserve the Records, and place them in the hands of the inhabitants in a form convenient for reference."*

## 6: History Of Durham Connecticut | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

*Page - Like his brothers, he was educated at Yale, and took his bachelor's degree in In constitution he was less vigorous than the other sons, but to a fine taste and poetical genius he united a disposition the most affectionate, and manners the most persuasive.*

## 7: Durham | Historic Buildings of Connecticut

*Durham, a part of Middlesex County, is located just south of Middletown on the Coginchaug River—centering it in the southern portion of Connecticut. Settled in , Durham was named in May of and incorporated as a town in October that*

## HISTORY OF DURHAM, CONNECTICUT pdf

same year.

### 8: Durham, Connecticut - Wikipedia

*Durham Connecticut to Memorandum of General Statutes Special Acts Ordinances, Interesting Items and Special days, Occasions Town Reports to Coginchaug was the Indian name for "Long Swamp."*

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