



**Thompson  
Historical  
Society**

Thompson Historical Society Inc.

P.O. Box 47

Thompson, CT 06277

Property address: 20 Chase Road, Thompson CT

Historic Property Name (if applicable): William H. Mason House

Last Update: 3/21/2020

Document 1: Historic Information Summary from THS archivist Mark Snay

Document 2: 1986 Historic Inventory Survey – Connecticut Historic Commission

## **THOMPSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORIC PLACE DECRIPTION**

**Parcel No.:** 105/ 38/ 7/ /

**Street Address:** 20 Chase Rd, Thompson, CT 06277 (April 2020)

**1986 Historic survey No.:** 041

**Lat/Long:** 41.958496, -71.864147

**Title:** William Mason House

**Description:** See 1986 historic house survey for details. Additional to the survey: Purchased by Mario Buatta in April 1992. Mario purchased for his personal use and began to remodel the property in his signature “English cottage Style” decoration. Various changes to both the interior and exterior greatly altered the appearance of the main house, carriage shed and back house. Some of the changes included a swag style fence, removal of the stone fence in front of the property, English style chimney flues, porch additions, layout changes to the interiors and more. During the late 1990’s or early 2000’s, Mario made the decision to stop working on the buildings and property and allowed all to fall into disrepair and decay. There are many speculations as to why this occurred – local neighbors requesting he stop changing the original appearance, lack of communication with local contractors, loss of interest and more - but the real reason may not ever be known. After Mario’s death in October 2018, Mario’s estate was managed by his brother Joseph Buatta. The buildings were packed with many of Mario’s personal items which were removed to make the property ready for sale. At the time the property went up for sale to the public, there was much damage to the buildings due to the 20+ years of neglect.



1845 - William Mason 1st  
owner - president Thompson  
Bank.



Image: THS Digital Archives #???????????



Three images that follow:

- 1) Major Beebe and daughter Dorothy – likely early 1890s
- 2) 1970s photo when owned by Lloyd Seaver
- 3) WPA photo from mid 1930s survey







**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**  
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**  
 HIST-6 NEW 5/77

041

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
 (203) 566-3005

105/38/7/11

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
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) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>		WILLIAM H. MASON HOUSE		
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY		
	THOMPSON	THOMPSON	WINDHAM		
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		105/38-7		
	43 CHASE ROAD (20 CHASE RD.)				
	4. OWNER(S)		SEAVER, LLOYD B., THOMPSON, CT 06277 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		
DESCRIPTION	5. USE (Present)		(Historic) Residence		
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		IF YES, EXPLAIN		
	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION		
	Gothic Revival		c. 1845		
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimneys Brick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) matched boards <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: granite foundation				
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street					
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS			
2 1/2		45' X 44'			
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 ?	IF YES, EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	modern storm sash		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) on large wooded lot, fieldstone wall <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density					
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS					
On Thompson Hill, a well-preserved 19th-century village center.					

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW SW	NEGATIVE ON FILE E12	
COMPILED BY	NAME Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	ORGANIZATION Town of Thompson, Connecticut		
	ADDRESS		



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)  
 Three-bay facade, central entry. Principal windows on first and second floors have paired 4-over-4 sash, molded surrounds, rectangular drip moldings. Entry has lancet sidelights, pointed-arched stained-glass transom, pointed-arched drip molding. Door has twin lancet panels. Above entry is steep-gabled wall dormer with stained-glass lancet windows, elaborate scalloped vergeboard, carved floral panels and medallions in peak. Large finial with floral carvings, turned pendant below. Full-width flat-roofed porch has posts carved to resemble grouped slender round columns with annular rings. Engaged posts flank entry. No porch rail, brackets form shallow pointed-arched openings with trefoil-motif spandrels.

Central bay is higher, has timber balustrade with trefoil openings, paneled newel posts with finials. House has two-story corner pilasters in the form of engaged octagonal columns. Overhanging eaves, molded cornice. Two steep-gabled roof dormers with paired 4-over-4 sash, scaled-down vergeboards and finials similar to main peak.

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE  
 This house was built in 1845 by mill owner William H. Mason (1778-1860), at the time Thompson's wealthiest and most powerful resident. Mason's father, John Mason, made a great deal of money as a merchant in Thompson (mainly as a seller of cattle and tinned beef) and then moved to Providence, Rhode Island, leaving behind his eldest son John to tend the family farm. By 1812, the son was looking for wider horizons, and attempted to organize a cotton mill with several local investors (the building, known as the Swamp Factory, was located just south of the 1862 Grosvenor-Dale Company mill at Routes 12 & 200). In short order, the brothers living in Providence, James, Amasa, and William H., were called in to provide managerial expertise and capital. In 1826, Amasa and William H. formed the Masonville Company and erected a new factory some distance north of the first. Mill housing was built, Thomas Thatcher was retained as a mill superintendent, and the mill was expanded in 1831. The new mill was enormously successful. At the time he built this house in 1845, William Mason presided over a large and rapidly-growing business, soon to spawn the much larger Grosvenor-Dale Company, organized by Mason's niece, Rosa Anne, and her husband, physician and merchant William Grosvenor. Mason died of pneumonia in 1860 at age 82, leaving an estate of \$321,000 including nearly

SOURCES  
 Bayles, History of Windham County  
 Thompson Land Records 29:130 (1885)  
 Thompson Probate Records 3:480 (1860)  
 Thompson Vital Statistics

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None known	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Developers	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning	<input type="checkbox"/> Explanaton _____

041

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:			SITE NO.:
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

WILLIAM H. MASON HOUSE

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

17) Two large corbelled brick chimneys. Side elevations have one-story bay window with lancet windows, single roof dormers. Rear elevation has simplified wall dormer, small one-story parallel wing.

19) \$200,000 in Providence and Boston bank stock and such luxuries as a piano, three oak cases of books, a Buffalo robe, and a painting of the Battle of Lexington.

Architecturally, the William Mason House is significant as one of Connecticut's best examples of the Gothic Revival style. Introduced to America by architect Alexander Jackson Downing, the Gothic Revival began in England in the mid 18th-century as part of the Picturesque Movement. The style was promoted as a proper mode for rural houses; its setting in this small village is typical.

Medieval detailing, generally rendered in wood. Typical features present here include the porch post and brackets, the centered wall dormer with vergeboard and finial, the lancet windows and drip moldings, and the steeply pitched gables.