

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

163

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

141/16/21/1/1

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

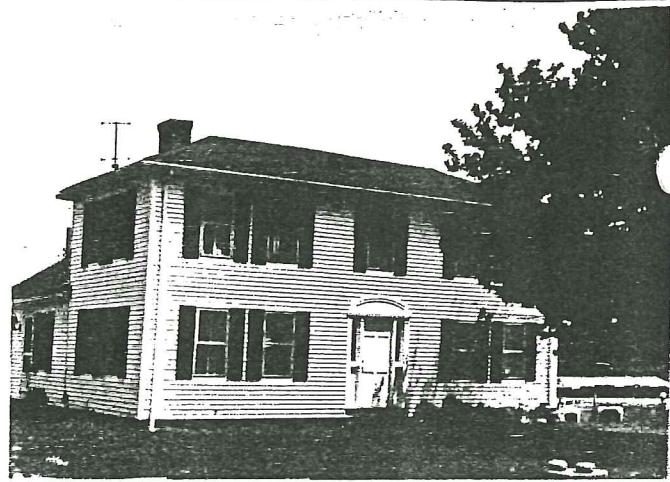
1. BUILDING NAME (Common) O'LEARY FARM	(Historic) JOHN MILLS HOUSE	
2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON	VILLAGE THOMPSON	COUNTY WINDHAM
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 294 O'LEARY ROAD	(157 O'LEARY RD.)	141/16-21
4. OWNER(S) O'LEARY, ERNEST J. & NORMA R., RR2, THOMPSON, CT 06277	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private
5. USE (Present) Residence	(Historic) Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	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

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Vernacular/Federal	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c. 1800
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimneys
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone	Granite foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel
10. ROOF (Type)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up
<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate
<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 38' x 16' (old part)
12. CONDITION (Structural)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)	Numerous agricultural buildings
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural
<input type="checkbox"/> High building density	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS  
 The farmhouse of one of Thompson's largest working dairy farms.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE M16	
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)

Five-bay facade, central entry. Window bays paired and offset. Second floor windows located relatively high under the eaves. Entry altered by later repairs. Rectangular sidelights, old heavy paneled door. Narrow fluted pilasters flank sidelights, outer pilasters paired.

Semi-elliptical carved sunburst above with molded surround. Overhanging eaves, sided cornice. Plain lower two story rear wing, old.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house was built about 1800 by John Mills, a farmer, and later owned by his eldest son, Rowland Mills, who purchased it in 1854. John Mills was born in 1770 and married Lucinda Whipple in 1793. When John Mills sold his farm to Rowland (for the token sum of \$100) he was 84 years old; he died in 1861 at the age of 91.

Rowland born in 1796, died in 1874, owning little but this farm and some farm equipment. Since the 1940s, the property has been owned by the O'Leary family; it is still a working dairy farm.

The John Mills house is historically significant for its association with one of Thompson's oldest operating farms.

Architecturally, it is considerably altered, but is significant for the surviving Federal style trim seen in the entry. The Federal or Adam style, inspired by the work of England's Adam brothers, is characterized by the use of delicate, classically inspired detailing (seen here in the slender fluted entry pilasters and carved fan). It was most popular in Thompson between 1800 and 1815.

SOURCES

Thompson Land Records 3:332 (1800); 20:138 (1854)  
 Thompson Probate Records 3:515 (1861)  
 Thompson Vital Statistics

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known   
  Highways   
  Vandalism   
  Developers   
  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal   
  Private   
  Deterioration   
  Zoning   
  Explanation \_\_\_\_\_