

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

181

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

143/16/10(A)

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

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) QUADDIC DAM		(Historic) QUADDICK DAM	
2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON		VILLAGE QUADDICK	COUNTY WINDHAM
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) SOUTH END OF QUADDIC POND		143/16-10A	
4. OWNER(S) RAWSON MFG., INC., RR#2, THOMPSON, CT 06277		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) Dam		(Historic) Dam	
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 type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, EXPLAIN Not applicable
7. STYLE OF BUILDING N/A		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: Cast	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type:	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Not applicable
(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 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 N/A	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 12' high x 60'		
12. CONDITION (Structural)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Exterior)		<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN ?	(Alterations)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
IF YES, EXPLAIN Modern cast-concrete at crest			
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) Higher dam just upstream; also see #17
<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
 In Quaddick, a 19th century village center with many later houses.

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW NE	NEGATIVE ON FILE I25	
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)

Nineteenth century masonry dam with recent cast concrete cap and flashboards. Long axis of dam runs east-west. At west end, modern rip-rap then modern trash rack covering headrace opening of 1985 hydroelectric turbine, which is sheltered by wood frame shed on concrete foundation.

At the east end of dam, old open headrace terminates in modern trash rack. Just upstream, considerably higher 1960 concrete dam impounds large reservoir.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Although the Five Mile River had been used to power small manufacturing plants as early as 1836 (including a twine mill, sawmill and grist mill), the river was too small and its flow too erratic for intensive industrial development. In 1864, perhaps inspired by the large scale textile mills just erected on the French river in Grosvenordale, a group of partners purchased the flowage rights of local property owners and prepared to build a dam which would provide a more constant flow of water, and which ultimately created the large reservoir now known as Quaddick Pond. The partners included Harris and Sabin Sayles of Killingly and Lorenzo Blackstone, Henry Norton, Timothy Norton, and William Norton, all of Norwich.

In addition to the flowage rights of adjoining landholders, the partners also purchased the property of early mill owner James Randall, which included six acres of land, five dwelling houses, a store, a shoemakers shop, a blacksmith shop, two barns, and a waste house. A grist mill site was purchased in 1865 from local merchant Silas Brown. The dam itself was built between 1865 and 1867. It was originally erected in three parts: two upstream dams were apparently replaced by the 1960 concrete dam; the surviving stone struc-

SOURCES

Ann L. Davis, The Quadic Reservoir

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanaton _____

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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 #19 QUADDICK DAM
 Item number: _____ Date: _____

ture was a lower dam regulating a small mill pond similar to the present impoundment.

When the dam was completed, its waterpower was used by a number of modest sized cotton mills. The Quaddick textile industry had a long, complex, and not particularly lucrative history. The Attawaugan Company, organized by the original partners, underwent several reorganizations before selling its operations in 1926. Powdrell and Alexander of Boston, which purchased the Attawaugan holdings, continued to use waterpower from the original dam until they went out of business in the late 1940s.

A competing mill founded by Isaac Ross in 1880 failed to pay its mortgage and was foreclosed on in 1882; it continued to lose money consistently until 1903, when it was sold to Frank Davis and converted into a successful shoddy mill. The Davis shoddy mill continued to operate until the 1970s. In 1960, the State of Connecticut built the new concrete dam upstream, replacing the bulk of the 19th century structure. In 1985, the remaining dam was restored and somewhat altered by the Rawson Manufacturing Company, which now uses it to supply hydroelectric power.

The Quaddick dam is historically significant for its connection to Quaddick's textile industry. While the large scale mills built by the Grosvenor and Mason families on the French River came to dominate the industrial economy of Thompson, smaller and less financially stable operations such as those found in Quaddick, Fabyan, West Thompson, Mechancisville, and Wilsonville were a common feature of 19th century life in Thompson.