

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

052

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

152/2/1/1

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR, SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) _____ (Historic) JOHN SHERMAN HOUSE	
	2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON	VILLAGE E. THOMPSON
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 237 EAST THOMPSON ROAD (673 EAST THOMPSON RD.) 152/2-1	
	4. OWNER(S) WALLEN, GLEN G. & SANDRA L., RRL, THOMPSON, CT 06277 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) _____ (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 IF YES, EXPLAIN _____	
DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Victorian Vernacular	
	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c. 1865	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	Foundation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____		
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
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"/> 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 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 22' x 32'		
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 type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location) _____ WHEN? _____ (Alterations) _____ IF YES, EXPLAIN Modern storm sash		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS One of several 19th century buildings near a rural crossroads, most are highly altered.		

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW E	NEGATIVE ON FILE J20	
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)

Facade has two bays on first floor, three bays on second, no entry. Central second floor window on left elevation is Palladian with stained glass central sash, diamond pane transom and side sash. Sash generally 6-over-6. Wide plain frieze with large paired jigsaw brackets. Molded cornice.

Right elevation has one story porch on recent square posts. Porch shelters entry: paneled wood door with rectangular sidelights. Roofline extends at right rear corner to form one-and-one-half-story rear wing with similar detailing.

Left elevation has Palladian window similar to facade, else plain.

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house was built about 1865 by John Sherman, who operated a store and a shoddy mill (a factory for making felt-like cloth, generally out of textile scraps) in East Thompson. Between 1877 and 1879, Sherman sold the bulk of his East Thompson holdings, selling this house to wealthy merchant and mill investor Stephen Crosby. Sherman sold the last of his Thompson property in 1893, at which time he was living in Eastford.

Historically, the house is significant as part of a small assemblage of 19th century buildings preserved in the village of East Thompson, and for its association with Sherman, a prominent local citizen. A struggling hamlet during the turnpike era (East Thompson road was part of the old Boston-Hartford Turnpike), East Thompson briefly rose to prosperity with the coming of the New York and New England and Southbridge Branch railroads in the 1850s.

Architecturally, it is significant as an example of Victorian Vernacular architecture, which is characterized by the use of ornate wooden decoration. This decoration, seen here primarily in the large jigsaw brackets, was made affordable by 19th century advances in wood forming technology. The Palladian window on the left elevation is an unusual feature in a house of this date, but appears to be original.

SOURCES

1867 Atlas
Thompson Land Records 22:78 (1866)

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"/> Explanation _____