

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

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

088

167/88/42/1

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:

Site No.:

UTM

QUAD:

DISTRICT

☐ S ☐ NR

IF NR, SPECIFY

☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)

SWEDE VILLAGE MILL HOUSING

(Historic)

NORTH GROSVENORDALE MILL HOUSING - TYPE B

2. TOWN CITY

THOMPSON

VILLAGE

NORTH GROSVENORDALE

COUNTY

WINDHAM

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)

5 FLORAL AVENUE

(1 FLORAL AVE.)

167/88-42

4. OWNER(S)

MEYER, DORILLA ANTOINETTE, BOX 359, N. GROSVENORDALE, CT 06255

☐ Public

☒ Private

5. USE (Present)

(Historic)

Residence

Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY
TO PUBLIC:

EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD
☒ Yes ☐ No

INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE
☐ Yes ☒ No

IF YES, EXPLAIN

7. STYLE OF BUILDING

Mill Housing

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

between 1872 and 1881

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

☒ Clapboard

☐ Asbestos Siding

☒ Chimneys

☒ Brick

☐ Other
(Specify)

Foundation

☐ Wood Shingle

☐ Asphalt Siding

☐ Fieldstone

☐ Board & Batten

☐ Stucco

☐ Cobblestone

☐ Aluminum
Siding

☐ Concrete
Type:

☐ Cut stone
Type:

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

☒ Wood frame

☐ Post and beam

☐ balloon

☐ Load bearing masonry

☐ Structural iron or steel

☐ Other (Specify)

10. ROOF (Type)

☒ Gable

☐ Flat

☐ Mansard

☐ Monitor

☐ sawtooth

☐ Gambrel

☐ Shed

☐ Hip

☐ Round

☐ Other
(Specify)

(Material)

☐ Wood Shingle

☐ Roll
Asphalt

☐ Tin

☐ Slate

☐ Gable end to the street

☒ Asphalt shingle

☐ Built up

☐ Tile

☐ Other
(Specify)

☒ Ridge parallel to the street

11. NUMBER OF STORIES

2 1/2

APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS

38' x 30' (main part)

12. CONDITION (Structural)

☐ Excellent

☒ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

(Exterior)

☐ Excellent

☒ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location)

☒ On original
site

☐ Moved

WHEN?

(Alterations)

☒ Yes ☐ No

IF YES, EXPLAIN

See #17

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

☐ Barn

☐ Shed

☐ Garage

☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)

☐ Carriage
house

☐ Shop

☐ Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

☐ Open land

☐ Wood-
land

☒ Residential

☐ Scattered buildings visible from site

☐ Commercial

☒ Indus-
trial

☐ Rural

☒ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

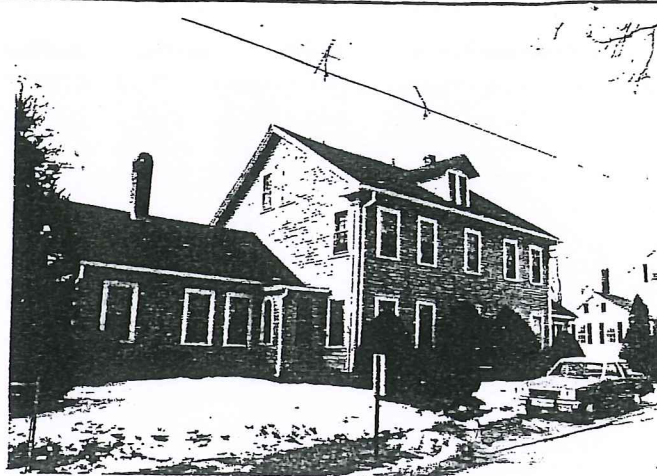
In a complex of mill housing just west of the North Grosvenordale mill.

DESCRIPTION

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW SW	NEGATIVE ON FILE B32	
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 with paired and offset windows. Sash generally old 6-over-6. Two story paneled corner pilasters, plain frieze. Molded cornice shows partial return.

Central gabled roof dormer has paired 4-over-4 sash, molded cornice. Twin brick chimneys. One-and-one-half-story parallel left wing has entry in shed-roofed vestibule with round arched window. Wing has matching pilasters, brick chimney. Shorter right wing is very similar to left, but lacks chimney.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house and the similar houses that make up "Swede Village" were built between 1872 and 1881 by the Grosvenor Dale Company, which owned the huge brick cotton mill located just to the east. In 1881, the company hired C. August Pearson, a Swede from Rhode Island, to oversee carding operations. Pleased with his work, the company encouraged Pearson to recruit other Swedes in Rhode Island. Having depleted the local supply, the company urged Pearson to seek out additional countrymen in Sweden itself. Swedes generally did not favor millwork (according to an 1885 census, there were only 22 Swedish millworkers in the mill cities of Lowell, Lawrence, Fall River, Holyoke, and Chicopee combined), but Pearson was aided by a severe agricultural depression in Sweden which had made many Swedes desperate for work. In 1882, two passenger cars full of Swedish immigrant families recruited by Pearson arrived at the North Grosvenordale station, and were housed in these dwellings on Holmes and Floral Avenues (Holmes Avenue was named after Reverend Ludwig Holmes, the first pastor of the Swedish Emanuel Lutheran Church). The segregation of ethnic groups in housing and job classification was a well known practice in 19th century American history; among other things, it tended to encourage internal divisions in the work force and make labor organization more difficult.

SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES

Margolick, Patterns of Change in New England Textile Towns, p. 186-93

Johnson, Emanuel Lutheran Church, North Grosvenordale

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 _____

088

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 NORTH GROSVENORDALE MILL HOUSING - TYPE B

Item number: _____ Date: _____

The newly arrived families were provided with furniture (the costs were deducted from their wages at the mill). Rents ranged from 99 cents to \$1.27 a week, with no running water or indoor plumbing and kerosene for lights and heat. In 1938, the Grosvenor Dale Company auctioned off the bulk of its remaining company owned housing, and Swede Village passed into private hands. Four years later, the company sold its milling operations in Thompson. The mill closed in 1954, and has since been occupied only by a series of small scale tenants.

Swede Village is architecturally significant as a good example of the type of mill housing found throughout the textile towns of northeastern Connecticut, and as part of a large assemblage of roughly similar housing surrounding the 1872 Grosvenor Dale Company mill. The relatively high status of the Swedish workers is reflected in the company's choice for their housing: Swede Village has wider streets and larger lots than the nearby settlements in Three Rows (once predominantly French-Canadian) and Greek Village (originally southern European), and is located in a hill away from the humidity and flood danger of the French River.

Architecturally, the buildings in Swede Village are relatively plain, but sturdy. The pilasters and paired offset windows found on this particular subtype suggest Greek Revival and 18th century vernacular architecture respectively.

Historically, Swede Village is significant both for its connection with one of Thompson's most prominent ethnic groups, and with the company itself, which dominated economic, social, political, and even religious life in Thompson for roughly eighty years.