

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

032

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

169/92/17/11

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

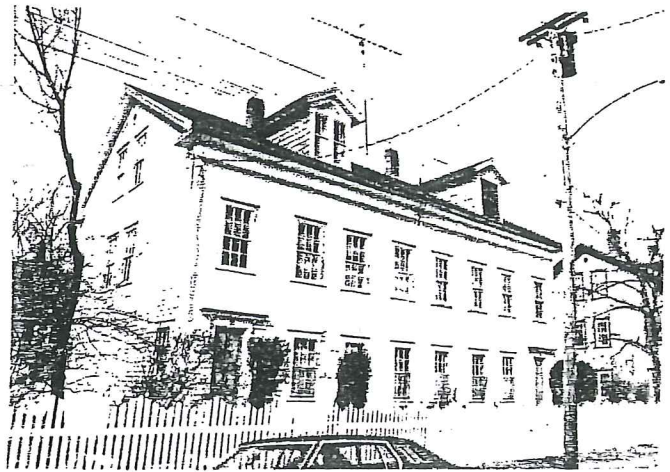
IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) THREE ROWS MILL HOUSING		(Historic) NORTH GROSVENORDALE MILL HOUSING - TYPE C	
2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON		VILLAGE NORTH GROSVENORDALE	COUNTY WINDHAM
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 27 CENTRAL STREET (16 CENTRAL ST.)		169 /92-17	
4. OWNER(S) POLACK, JOHN J., 27 CENTRAL ST., N. GROSVENORDALE, CT 06255		<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	IF YES, EXPLAIN
7. STYLE OF BUILDING Mill Housing		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c. 1870	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney Brick	<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"/> balloon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry		<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2 1/2		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 50' 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No See #17
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			
In three rows of nearly identical mill housing just southeast of the North Grosvenordale mill.			

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough	DATE 1986
	VIEW NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE B11
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)

Eight-bay facade, left and right entries with flat molded caps on small jigsawn consoles. Plain corner boards and frieze; molded cornice shows partial return. Sash mixed, originally 6-over-6. Two gabled roof dormers front and rear with paired 4-over-4 windows.

Twin brick chimneys. Endwalls originally had 10 windows, same sash. Most common alterations include later or missing entry hoods and blocked-up endwall openings.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This collection of mill houses known as Three Rows was built in 1870 by the Grosvenor Dale Company, and was first used to house masons and other laborers working on the huge cotton textile mill just to the north. When the mill went into operation in 1872, Three Rows (the name is apparently as old as the village) became a predominantly French-Canadian community of mill workers, originally living four families to a house (most are now duplexes).

The houses in Three Rows (once also known as "Little Canada") were sturdily but plainly built; they were originally without central heat or indoor plumbing, and the attics, which served as childrens' quarters, were entirely unheated. Several houses were apparently added to the village after 1887 (one local tradition has it that they were moved from Grosvenordale).

The location of Three Rows on the humid and hazardous flood plain of the French River and the close spacing of the buildings indicates the relatively low esteem in which the Grosvenor Dale Company held its French-Canadian operatives. Swedish workers, blond and Protestant, were housed in the roomier and airier quarters of Swede Village just to the west.

Three Rows is architecturally and historically significant as a large and well preserved

SOURCES

1887 View
Bagnall, Contributions to American Economic History
Margolick, Patterns of Change in New England Textile Towns

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanaton _____

032

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
 Item number: _____ Date: _____

assemblage of 19th century mill housing, and as part of a mill village complex including the mill, three groups of row housing, associated commercial and religious structures on Main Street, and variety of mill owned housing along Route 12, River Street, and Buckley Hill Road. The mill village ideal, followed by the Grosvenor Dale Company in modified form until it auctioned off the bulk of its housing in 1938, was similar to the "company town" plan made infamous by Appalachian coal mine operators. Work, housing, commercial facilities, churches, and recreation were all combined in a single, compact environment, under the thumb of the Company Agent and the long shadow of the mill tower (the Agent's house, just to the north, burned down in the late 1970s).

The buildings of Three Rows were sold by the Grosvenor Dale Company in 1938, primarily to speculators. During the years of company ownership, Grosvenor Dale crews maintained houses, yards, trees, and fences. The final closing of the mill in 1954 followed by a disastrous flood in 1955 sent the neighborhood into a rapid decline. During the 1970s and early 1980s it developed a reputation for crime and decay. In recent years, a new group of owners, including a number of Three Rows' residents, are transforming it into a stable residential neighborhood.

Along with the 1872 mill, Three Rows is Thompson's most significant surviving example of historic architecture. It is a visible reminder of an industry and an economic system which dominated the town for nearly half of its 200 year history, and transformed it from an out-of-the-way collection of hardscrabble Yankee farms into one of the largest French-Canadian settlements in America and a major producer of cotton textiles.