

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**  
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

202

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

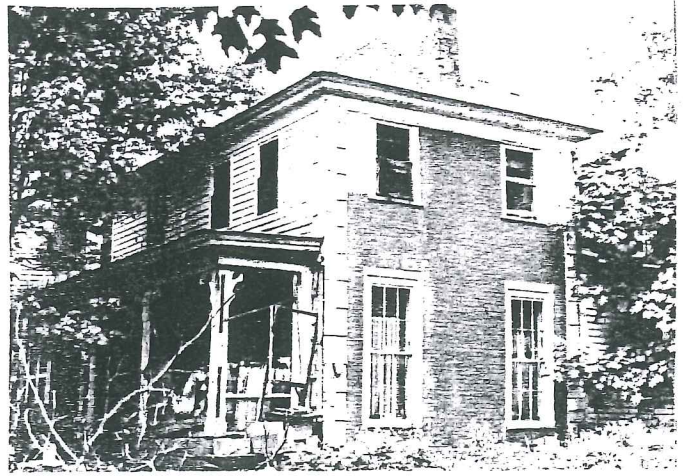
48/104/83/B

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) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> RAMSDELL HOUSE	
	2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON	VILLAGE WEST THOMPSON
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) RAVENELL ROAD 48/104-83B	
	4. OWNER(S) U.S. GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span> Residence Residence	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <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 Vernacular, Federal	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	
<input checked="" 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"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth	
<input type="checkbox"/> Round	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
(Material)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	
<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate	
<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 30' x 20'		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
WHEN ?	(Alterations)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
IF YES, EXPLAIN		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <del>scattered</del> buildings visible from site	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS On a long private road near the West Thompson Reservoir.		

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough	DATE 1986
	VIEW NW; W; W; SW	NEGATIVE ON FILE M21; M22; M23; M24
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) -

This house consists of three parts, a one-and-one-half story left rear wing (c. 1776), a two-and-one-half story central portion with brick endwalls (c. 1820), and a right front, two-and-one-half-story wood frame wing (c. 1840).

Rear portion has five bays, central entry with glazed transom. Central portion has brick endwalls, wooden quoins, oversized 6-over-6 sash on first floor. Porch is c. 1880 on lattice posts with small jigsaw brackets. Right front wing plain, with 6-over-6 sash, plain corner pilasters. Outbuildings to the rear include a deteriorated barn and outhouse.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This site was first occupied in 1735, when a house was built for the circuit-riding ministers serving the village of West Thompson. In 1825, the property was purchased by Reverend Hezakiah Ramsdell' it has been occupied by the Ramsdell family since that date.

In 1964, following a 1955 flood of the adjacent Quinebaug River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers condemned this property, along with nearly all of the village of West Thompson, for a flood control reservoir. The present occupant, Alice Ramsdell, refused to vacate the house, insisting that flood levels would never approach the site of the house. After a prolonged and locally celebrated battle, Miss Ramsdell was allowed to stay, although the U.S. Government owns the house.

Miss Ramsdell appears to have been correct about the lack of a flood hazard; flood waters have remained well below the level of the house, and some land originally condemned by the Corps was recently sold by the government as surplus property.

Historically, the Ramsdell House is significant for its longtime association with a prominent Thompson family. It is also significant for its role in Miss Ramsdell's successful

SOURCES

Brief Historical Tour  
Phase I Archeological Reconnaissance, West Thompson Reservoir, p. 42  
Thompson Land Records

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known   
 Highways   
 Vandalism   
 Developers   
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal   
 Private   
 Deterioration   
 Zoning   
 Explanaton \_\_\_\_\_

202

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 RAMSDELL HOUSE

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

struggle with the United States Government, which -- with the possible exception of the 1954 closing of the Cluett, Peabody cotton mill -- is the local historical event most often recounted by present day Thompson residents.

Architecturally, it is significant as the single best preserved farmstead in Thompson. The series of connected buildings, each built in a different style, adds to the architectural value of the site. The brick endwalls of the central portion are a locally popular feature.

