

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

215

55/65/17/11

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	1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
	THOMPSON		RIEL CONVERSE HOUSE	
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
	THOMPSON	WILSONVILLE	WINDHAM	
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)			
	211 ROUTE 12		(1448 RIVERSIDE DR.)	
	55/65-17			
	4. OWNER(S)			
	KUHN, GEORGE R. & LEONA M., RRI, 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		INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
	IF YES, EXPLAIN			
DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
	Greek Revival			c.1850
	8. MATERIALS: (indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	
	<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		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
1 1/2		32' x 23'		
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)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	WHEN?	(Alterations) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
IF YES, EXPLAIN				
Later siding, frieze missing, altered fenestration				
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				

At the northern end of Wilsonville a small and relatively well-preserved 19th century mill village.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	Mark McDonough	1986
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	NW	F7
	NAME	DATE
Mark McDonough	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, central entry, old heavy paneled door with single large light. Paneled entry surround. Paneled corner pilasters, frieze missing; molded cornice shows partial return. Sash generally old 6-over-6. Lower parallel left wing is old but highly altered.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house was built about 1855 by Riel Converse, then 74 and just married to his second wife Sarah L. Pierce. Converse, a farmer in his later years, owned the Wilsonville mill privilege in his youth (conveyed to him by his father Elijah) and operated saw and grist mills at the present site of the Wilsonville woolen mill, just to the southeast of this house. In 1822, Converse sold the mill privilege to Zirah Preston, who subsequently sold it to Laban T. Wilson, for whom the village is named.

The 19th century history of the Wilsonville mills was extremely unstable; Converse seems to have fared better than most subsequent owners. Upon his death in 1874 at the age of 93, he left a \$32,000 estate, substantial for the time. \$20,000 of the estate was in cash deposits, a highly unusual sum. In view of this, and the unusually modest scale of this house, it seems likely that Mr. Converse was a bit thriftier than average.

Historically, the Riel Converse House is significant for its connection with Converse, a prominent citizen in 19th century Wilsonville.

Architecturally, it is significant as an example of the Greek Revival style; the corner pilasters are the main Greek Revival feature remaining intended to recall the columns of a classical Greek temple.

SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES

1855 Atlas
 1867 Atlas
 Baylis, History of Windham County
 Thompson Probate Records
 Thompson Vital Statistics

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 _____