

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

026

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

61/58/49/1

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)		THE JOHN TOWN FARM		
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY		
	THOMPSON	NORTH GROSVENORDALE	WINDHAM		
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		61+63/58-59		
	281 BUCKLEY HILL ROAD		(139 BUCKLEY Hill Rd.)		
	4. OWNER(S)		RUTH, LESTER S., RR#2, BOX 11, N. GROSVENORDALE, CT 06255		
5. USE (Present)		(Historic) Residence			
Residence		Residence			
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION			
Vernacular		c. 1815			
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)					
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: granite foundation					
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			
2 1/2		36' X 28'			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input 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	later 19th-century sash, porch	
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) farm parcel; stone walls <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density					
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS					
In a semi-rural area east of North Grosvenordale; the least altered of several scattered 19th-century houses.					

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW W	NEGATIVE ON FILE E3	
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, central entry. Door has single large elliptical light with molded surround. Left and right bays paired and offset towards corners. Plain corner boards. Sashes generally 2-over-1. Full-width porch wraps across left elevation. Porch detail: square balusters, molded rail, turned posts, small jigsawn post brackets. Cornice details: molded architrave, plain frieze, denticular bed molding, molded cornice shows partial return. Single brick chimney is offset left.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

John Town, a farmer, was the early occupant and probable builder of this house. In 1835, Town bought a 145-acre parcel on this site from John and Eunice Foster, apparently as raw land. In 1833, he sold the property, with a house and other buildings, to John Jacobs.

Architectural evidence supports a c. 1805 date. The paired offset windows, denticular cornice, and ridge-parallel-to-street orientation are all typical of early 19th-century building in this then-rural township. Extensive late Victorian modifications include the porch, doors, and sash.

Historically, the John Town House is significant as a link with Thompson's rural past. When the house was remodelled in the late 19th-century, the town had become a thriving collection of industrial mill villages (the 1872 Grosvenor-Dale Company mill is just to the northwest).

Architecturally, it is significant as a good example of early 19th-century vernacular building; the Victorian modifications now have value in their own right.

SOURCES

Thompson Land Records 4:203 (1805) 12:508 (1833)

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanation _____