

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

63/94A/1/A/

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.: _____ Site No.: _____

UTM: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

QUAD: _____

DISTRICT: S NR IF NR, SPECIFY: Actual Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) _____ (Historic) _____
 MASONVILLE MILL MASONVILLE MILL, GROSVENOR DALE CO. MILL NO. 3

2. TOWN CITY _____ VILLAGE _____ COUNTY _____
 THOMPSON MASONVILLE WINDHAM

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) _____
 1547 ROUTE 12 (694 RIVERSIDE DR.) 63/94A-1A

4. OWNER(S) _____
 SKOWRON, CHARLES T. & TYCZ, BERNARD R., N. GROSVENOR DALE, CT 06255 Public Private

5. USE (Present) _____ (Historic) _____
 Industrial Cotton Textile Mill

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD Yes No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE Yes No IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

7. STYLE OF BUILDING _____ DATE OF CONSTRUCTION _____
 Industrial 1826; 1831

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):
 Clapboard Asbestos Siding Brick Other (Specify) _____
 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) NOT VISIBLE Ridge parallel to the street

11. NUMBER OF STORIES _____ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS _____
 3 42' x 92' (south portion); 72' x 62' (north)

12. CONDITION - structural _____ (Exterior) _____
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

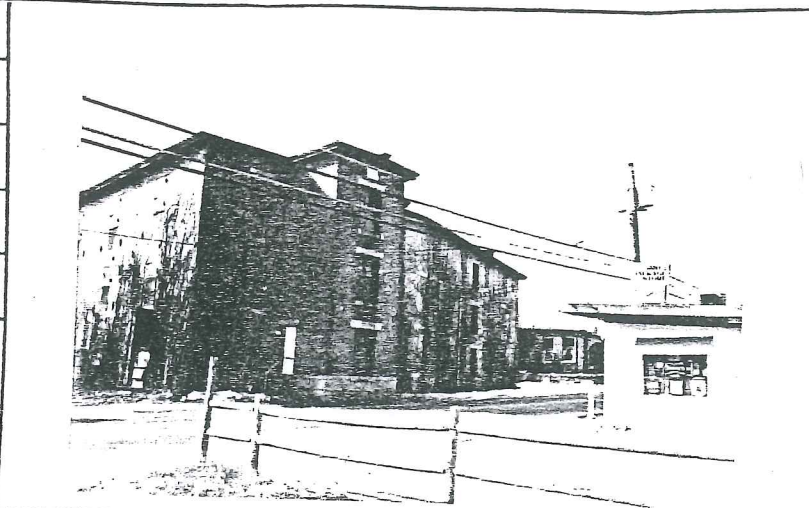
13. INTEGRITY (Location) _____ WHEN? _____ (Alterations) _____ IF YES, EXPLAIN _____
 On original site Moved Yes No Extensive; See #'s 17 & 19

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
 Eight masonry mill houses surround this mill.

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

Three story left (south) wing features heavy stone sills and lintels, walls of fieldstone, brick, and stucco. Windows generally have sheet metal shutters.

Central stair tower has carved stone tablet at top: "Erected 1831". Double wood freight doors in front wall of stair tower. Right wing has similar construction with banded brick edging surrounding window openings. Arched headrace opening visible in rear (now contains basement level entry).

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This mill, now extensively altered, was built in two stages by the Masonville Company, corporate ancestor of the Grosvenor Dale Company, which built the later and much larger cotton textile mills just to the north and south.

In 1812, brothers John and James Mason founded a small cotton factory at the site of the Grosvenor Dale Mill Number 4 (now known as the BCI mill, 1668 Route 12). This site, just to the north, then held a grist mill, sawmill, and fulling mill owned by Stephen Crosby, who declined to sell the property to the Masons.

In 1826, Amasa and William H. Mason made Crosby an offer he couldn't refuse, built what is now the north portion of this mill, and hired Thomas Thatcher to serve as resident agent. The mill produced high quality cotton sheeting made from Sea Island cotton and was an immediate success. After five years, Thatcher and the Masons expanded the facility, building the south wing. The factory changed hands several times over the next few years, primarily among the Mason family.

In 1841, the plant was sold to the Masonville Company, consisting of Amasa Mason, William H.

SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES

1887 O.H. Bailey View
Bagnall, Contributions to American Economic History
Thompson Land Records 65:547-56 (1954)

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known Highways Vandalism Developers Other _____

Renewal Private Deterioration Zoning Explanatlon _____

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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 MASONVILLE MILL, GROSVENOR DALE COMPANY MILL NO. 3
 Item number: _____ Date: _____

Mason, Thomas Thatcher, and local investor William S. Arnold.

Beginning in 1848, the holdings of the Masonville Company were increasingly dominated by Dr. William S. Grosvenor, a prosperous Providence businessman and physician who had married into the Mason family. By the early 1860s, the Grosvenor Dale Company, owned almost entirely by Grosvenor, had complete control of the mill. Under his direction, the company's textile holdings in Thompson were expanded enormously.

This mill, with its quaint rows of masonry housing, was soon dwarfed by the larger settlements of Grosvenordale and North Grosvenordale.

The prosperity of the Grosvenor Dale Company began to decline after the First World War. In 1938, it sold the bulk of its company owned housing, in 1942, it shut down and sold its mill operations. This mill, along with the hydroelectric power house just to the north, was retained, and sold to a real estate holding company in 1954. It has passed through several hands since then, and now houses the Little Bits Company, a manufacturer of small plastic parts.

The Masonville Mill is architecturally and historically significant as a good (if altered) example of an early New England textile mill. The fieldstone, brick, and stucco walls and the relatively small scale of the building are typical features. 19th century views of the Grosvenordales show a larger and more ornate structure with a monitor roof.

It is also historically significant for its longtime association with the textile interests of the Mason and Grosvenor families, which dominated economic, social, and political life in Thompson for much of the 19th and early 20th centuries.