

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

254

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

63/94A/1/1

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

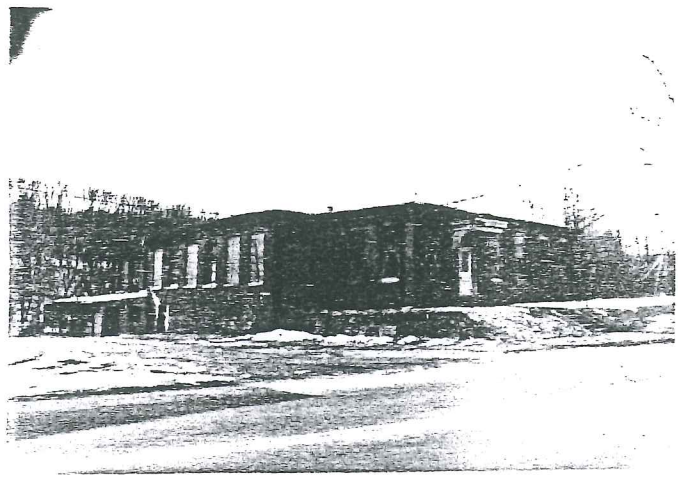
IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	
FRONTIER MANUFACTURING	MASONVILLE POWER STATION
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE COUNTY
THOMPSON	MASONVILLE WINDHAM
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)	
1537 ROUTE 12 (700 RIVERSIDE DR.) 63/94A-1	
4. OWNER(S)	
FLOOD, HELEN, C., ROUTE 193, THOMPSON, CT 06277 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>	
Industrial Industrial	
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	
7. STYLE OF BUILDING DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Industrial c. 1890	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
10. ROOF (Type)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
1 1	
12. CONDITION (Structural) <span style="float: right;">(Exterior)</span>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Rear portion burned	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS	
1826-31 Masonville Mill just to south.	

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE D1	
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)

Six-bay facade with entry in second bay. Flat molded entry hood on large jigsawn consoles. Wood door, sidelights, glazed transom. Segmental arched windows with 15-over-15 sash. (many boarded up).

Rear of building destroyed by fire several years ago, is now open to elements.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This brick building was built about 1890, and served for many years as a hydroelectric generating station which supplied power to the adjacent 1826-31 Masonville Mill (see 1547 Route 12). The building was erected by the Grosvenor Dale Company, which absorbed and greatly expanded the early 19th century cotton textile holdings of the Mason family.

At the time it was erected, many of New England's textile mills were beginning to make the transition from direct mechanical transmission of waterpower energy through a complex series of belts and shafting to a hybrid system using large electric motors powered by generators to drive belting. In the early 20th century, the current system of installing electric motors on individual machines came into favor, eliminating the dangerous and troublesome forest of belts and shafting which dominate most photographs of 19th century factories.

The Grosvenor Dale Company sold the bulk of its holdings in Thompson in 1942; it retained ownership of this building and the adjacent mill until 1954. It was then sold to a real estate holding company and passed through a number of hands. The unburned portion now houses a small wood products firm.

SOURCES

Foster, Lamb's Textile Industries of the United States  
Thompson Land Records 53:547 (1954)  
Thompson Town Clerk Map Collection

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

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

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

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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

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET #19 MASONVILLE POWER STATION  
 Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Masonville Power Station is historically significant for its connection with the Grosvenor Dale Company, which transformed the scale of Thompson's cotton textile industry and dominated the town's social, political, and economic life for eight decades.

Architecturally, it is a good (if deteriorated) example of utilitarian brick mill construction.