

**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

256

63/94A/2/1

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) MASONVILLE MILL HOUSING - TYPE B		
	2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON		VILLAGE GROSVENORDALE	COUNTY WINDHAM	
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		1553 ROUTE 12 (690 RIVERSIDE DR.) 63/94A-2		
	4. OWNER(S)		Grosvenor Rd. WOLCHENSKY, MICHAEL W. & WM., JR., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		
	5. USE (Present)		(Historic) Residence Residence		
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <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		Mill Housing DATE OF CONSTRUCTION C 1826		
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walls Brick Chimneys <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: Lintels, foundation: granite				
	DESCRIPTION	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 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		50' x 29'			
12. CONDITION (Structural)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent (Exterior) <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	See #17	
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES					
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" 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					
One of four very similar mill houses just south of the 1826 Masonville mill.					

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE C34	
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, left and right entries. Brick walls laid up in common bond with occasional header courses. Stone sills and lintels, second floor windows just under eaves. Brick dentil course at eaves; molded cornice shows partial return

Central shed-roofed roof dormer, central brick chimney. Sash is mixed, with some old 12-over-12; also 8-over-8, 1-over-1, 2-over-2, 6-over-6, 4-over-4 sash in dormers.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

These brick duplexes were built by the Masonville Company between 1826 and 1831; probably in 1826 when the adjacent cotton mill went into operation. The Masonville Company, which was the corporate ancestor of the later and much larger Grosvenor Dale Company, was organized by Amasa and William H. Mason, Providence merchants with family connections in Windham County.

In 1826, the Masons bought the mill privilege from local innkeeper and merchant Stephen Crosby, who had operated a grist mill, fulling mill, and sawmill at the site. Thomas Thatcher was brought in as a minority partner to serve as mill superintendent, and a building comprising a portion of the north part of the current mill was erected. Expanded in 1831, the mill was further expanded in the late 19th century under the direction of the Grosvenor Dale Company.

These houses are historically significant for their connection with the Masonville and Grosvenor Dale companies, and also as part of the oldest extant mill complex in Thompson (four similar brick and stucco duplexes are just to the east on Mason Terrace). Like the later complexes at Grosvenordale (just to the south) and North Grosvenordale (about

SOURCES

1887 View  
Bagnall, Contributions to American Economic History  
Margolick, Patterns of Change in New England Textile Towns

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 _____

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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 MILL HOUSING - TYPE B  
 Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

a mile to the north), the Masonville mills were erected on the mill village plan - housing, work, retail, religious and recreational activities were all combined in an easily supervised area in the shadow of the mill.

Architecturally, these buildings are significant as good examples of early mill housing. Especially notable is their relatively substantial masonry construction, and their references to 18th century domestic architecture (central chimneys). Both the substance and style of the buildings was probably intended to make them more palatable to rural New Englanders, suspicious of the then novel factory system. The dormers resemble the clerestory monitors found on so many early 19th century mills (the roof of the Masonville Mill has been extensively altered).