

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

168

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

67/96/12/A/

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) _____	
	MECHANICSVILLE MILL HOUSING	
	2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE
	THOMPSON	MECHANICSVILLE
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)	
	39 OLD ROUTE 12 (134 RIVERSIDE DR.)	
	4. OWNER(S)	
	BIRON LEO H. & PATRICIA C., BOX 426, QUINEBAUG, CT 06262 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) _____ (Historic) _____	
	Residence Residence	
DESCRIPTION	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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	
	19th century	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation, endwalls <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <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		
1 1/2		
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
44' X 26'		
12. CONDITION (Structural) _____ (Exterior) _____		
<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		

One of a number of similar mill houses in this 19th-century mill village.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW NE	NEGATIVE ON FILE F25	
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, entries in third and fourth bays. Doors generally have single large light over panels; one on rear elevation has twin round-arched lights and molded surrounds. Full-width one-story front porch on square chamfered posts. Square balusters, molded rail. Jigsawn post brackets, plain frieze, molded cornice and small jigsawn brackets. Sash generally, 2-over-2; small frieze-band windows.

Endwalls are brick; splayed brick window lintels. Rear elevation is similar to front, but lacks porch.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This dwelling is one of several similar types built in the mid 19th-century to house workers at the nearby Mechanicsville woolen mills. The mills were originally developed in 1827 by a local group incorporated as The Mechanic's Company. After a long and complex history including several fires and numerous changes of ownership, they were bought in the 20th century by the Cluett, Peabody Company and converted to cotton textile operations. The mills were destroyed in the flood of 1955. This building is historically significant as part of a large assemblage of utilitarian mill housing in Mechanicsville, illustrating the tremendous impact of 19th-century textile manufacturing on what has been a relatively isolated rural township.

The neat rows of nearly identical mill housing preserved in the surrounding neighborhood show the 19th-century millowner's penchant for providing not only employment, but also housing, recreation, religious institutions, and other amenities, all combined in the context of an orderly, company-controlled village.

Architecturally, this building gains additional significance for its surviving Victorian porch and the brick endwalls, a locally-popular feature generally found in high-styled houses built between 1810 and 1820.

SOURCES

Bayles, History of Windham County, p. 700
Brief Historical Tour

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____

Renewal
 Private
 Deterloration
 Zoning
 Explanatton _____