

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

359

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

105/40/17/11

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	QUAD:
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR, SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <span style="float: right;">(Historic)</span>		ERASTUS KNIGHT HOUSE (1)		
	2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON	VILLAGE THOMPSON	COUNTY WINDHAM		
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 42 ROUTE 200 (362 THOMPSON Hill Rd.)		105/40-17		
	4. OWNER(S) BIGELOW, JOHN B. & MARGARETE K., THOMPSON, CT 06277		<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) Residence		(Historic) 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
DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Greek Revival		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c. 1845		
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone Foundation	
	<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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES   APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS					
2 1/2		38' x 37'			
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) granite retaining wall and steps		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS					
On Thompson Hill, in a well-preserved 18th century village center.					

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW N	NEGATIVE ON FILE G22	
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 in oversized bay. Entry has heavy paneled wood door, modified border-pane sidelights and glazed transom. Paneled pilasters and transom bar with paneled corner blocks. Paneled lintel above with central paneled block. Pedimented peak carried forward on two story fluted Doric columns. Molded architrave, plain frieze, molded cornice. Plain corner pilasters. Sash generally old 6-over-6.

Right rear parallel wing connects to barn with square cupola. Cupola has segmental arched louvers, molded cornice, overhanging eaves on small jigsaw brackets, cross-gabled roof with flush-boarded pedimented peaks, wood finial.

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
--------------	---------

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house was built about 1845 by dry goods merchant and grocer Erastus Knight, who operated a store just to the north of the nearby Vernon Stiles Inn (1872 Route 193). Knight, born in Thompson in 1799, sold this house in 1860 to Joel R.L. Douglass, living in the much smaller house just to the west (50 Route 200) until his death in 1870. It is quite likely that Knight's sale of the larger house was due to financial reverses (his estate, when probated in 1898, was worth only \$3,000). The coming of the railroads in the mid 1850's brought an end to Thompson Hill's prominence as a turnpike trading center; its revival as a summer resort community did not come until the late 1870's.

Historically, the Erastus Knight House is significant as part of a large and well-preserved assemblage of older buildings in Thompson Hill and for its association with Knight, a prominent figure in the 19th century life of the village.

Architecturally, it is significant as one of Thompson's finest examples of the Greek Revival style. America's first truly nationwide architectural movement, the Greek Revival was most popular from about 1835 to 1855. The Doric columns, pedimented peak, elaborate entry treatment, and gable-to-street orientation are all intended to suggest the massing

SOURCES

1867 Atlas  
 Thompson Land Records 21:186 (1860)  
 Thompson Probate Records 9:368 (1898)  
 Thompson Vital Statistics

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 _____

359

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 ERASTUS KNIGHT HOUSE ✓  
 Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

and construction of a classical Greek Temple. The lavish detailing suggests the prosperity Knight enjoyed as a merchant during Thompson Hill's heyday as a commercial center.