

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

128

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

169/91/19//

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)		FRANK COMMINS TENEMENT (2)	
2. TOWN CITY THOMPSON	VILLAGE NORTH GROSVENORDALE	COUNTY WINDHAM	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 142 MAIN STREET (47 MAIN ST.)		169/91-19	
4. OWNER(S) DAVIS, BERNARD H., BOX 8A, 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 Vernacular		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c. 1878	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) vinyl siding
<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 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 checked="" 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 2 1/2		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 53' X 30'	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No siding, mod. storm sash
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 type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
 In an extensive 19th-century mill village.

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW NE	NEGATIVE ON FILE A4	
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 two-bay one-and-one-half-story flush parallel extension at right corner. Entries in second, fourth, and seventh bays. Paneled wood doors have a single large light.

Bay windows: first and third bays on first floor, first bay only on second. Sash is mixed: 2-over-2 predominates, some narrow 1-over-1 in bay windows.

Porch: two-story, shed-roofed formed by flare of main roofline. Turned posts with jigsaw brackets; square balusters and molded rail on second floor only.

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Frank Commins (aka Cummings, Coman, Commings, etc.) built this tenement and a similar building at 136 Main Street about 1878 on land purchased from Russell Spencer.

Historically, the building is significant as an artifact of North Grosvenordale's early boom years as a mill town, when this stretch of Main Street served as a commercial and social center for the employees of the 1872 North Grosvenordale Mill.

Architecturally, the Commins Tenement is significant as a good example of a utilitarian 19th-century building with simple decorative detailing in the Victorian Vernacular mode. Typical features include the turned porch posts and jigsawed post brackets. Victorian Vernacular detailing was made affordable by 19th-century improvements in wood-forming technology.

SOURCES

Thompson Land Records 25:87 (1876); 23:227 (1879)

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 _____