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

284

67/53/8//

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR	IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic): MECHANICSVILLE MILL HOUSING

2. TOWN CITY: THOMPSON | VILLAGE: MECHANICSVILLE | COUNTY: WINDHAM

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 2594 ROUTE 12 (113 RIVERSIDE DR.) 67/53-8(N)

4. OWNER(S): HEBERT, ROLAND F. & LUCILLE L., QUINEBAUG, CT 06262 ☐ Public ☒ Private

5. USE (Present): Residence (Historic): Residence

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Mill Housing | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1860

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
☒ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☒ Brick Chimneys ☐ Other (Specify) ____
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☒ Fieldstone Foundation
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ____ ☐ Cut stone Type: ____

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
☒ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon
☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other (Specify) ____

10. ROOF (Type)
☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify) ____

(Material)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☐ Gable end to the street
☒ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify) ____ ☒ Ridge parallel to the street

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 54' x 28'

12. CONDITION (Structural): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated (Exterior): ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location): ☒ On original site ☐ Moved | WHEN? | (Alterations): ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☐ Barn ☒ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden

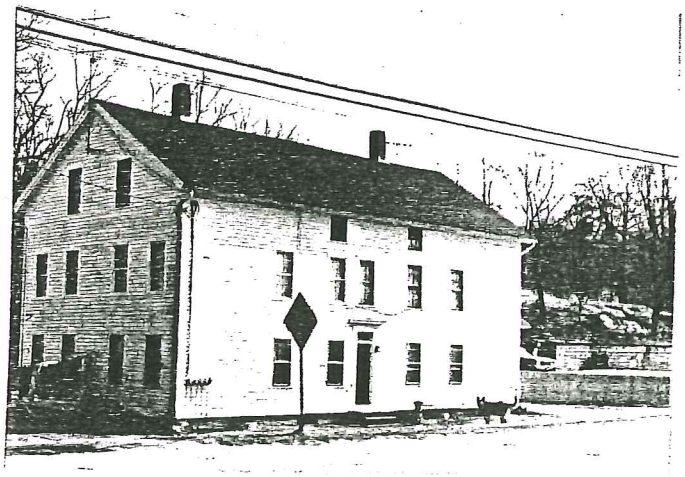
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☒ Residential ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site
☐ Commercial ☐ Indus-trial ☐ Rural ☒ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
In Mechanicsville, a well preserved 19th century mill village; one of two nearly identical houses.

(OVER)

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: Mark McDonough
DATE: 1986
VIEW: SE
NEGATIVE ON FILE: F28



COMPILED BY

NAME: Mark McDonough
DATE: 1986
ORGANIZATION: Town of Thompson, Connecticut
ADDRESS:

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

Six-bays grouped toward center of facade. Central entry under flat molded hood. Sash 2-over-2; plain board surrounds with splayed lintels. Rectangular glazed transom. Small frieze band windows in second and fifth bays with 3-over-3 attic windows.

Twin brick chimneys. Plain corner boards, molded cornice. Endwalls have ten windows.

SIGNIFICANCE

18 ARCHITECT:
BUILDER:

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This dwelling originally housed workers at the Mechanicsville woolen mills. The mills, destroyed in the flood of 1955, had a long and varied history dating back to the formation of the Mechanics' Company, a group of local investors which built a woolen mill, a sawmill, and an eight tenement block on the site in 1827.

The company quickly failed, and the original mill burned in 1843. A long series of subsequent owners included members of several prominent Rhode Island and Connecticut mill families, including the Wilkinsons, Sayles, and Sabins. A nearly identical house just to the north was recently destroyed by fire.

Despite the loss of the mills, this house is architecturally and historically significant as part of a mill village complex which includes the Cascades Hotel, the Mechanicsville Store and Post Office, and a variety of nearby mill housing. These closely spaced and uniform structures illustrate the mill village ideal, a single easily supervised environment combining work, housing, religious and retail facilities and recreation.

SOURCES

Bagnall, Contributions to American Economic History
Margolick, Patterns of Change in New England Textile Towns
Van Slyck, Representatives of New England Manufacturers

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

[X] None known [ ] Highways [ ] Vandalism [ ] Developers [ ] Other _____

[ ] Renewal [ ] Private [ ] Deterioration [ ] Zoning [ ] Explanation _____