



**Thompson
Historical
Society**

Thompson Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 47
Thompson, CT 06277

Historic Record of Property and Places in Thompson, CT

Property Address: 196 Hill Road

Parcel No.: 126/15/7/B/

Historical Property Name (if applicable): Alpheus Russell

THS Reference No.: MS004;100

Lat/Long: 41.94046, -71.83922

Revisions to this document

Revision	Revised By/date	Description of Revision
01	M. Snay 10/14/23	Document created
02	M. Snay 10/15/23	Corrected Ty-Vek photo info
03	M. Snay 5/10/24	Revised form format and file name format

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Description and details to include early map images

Details of early owners

Photo of Lemuel K. Blackmar

Images of property ca. early 1960's

Image of Lemuel Bixby

List of some of the property owners

Present day images and building layout

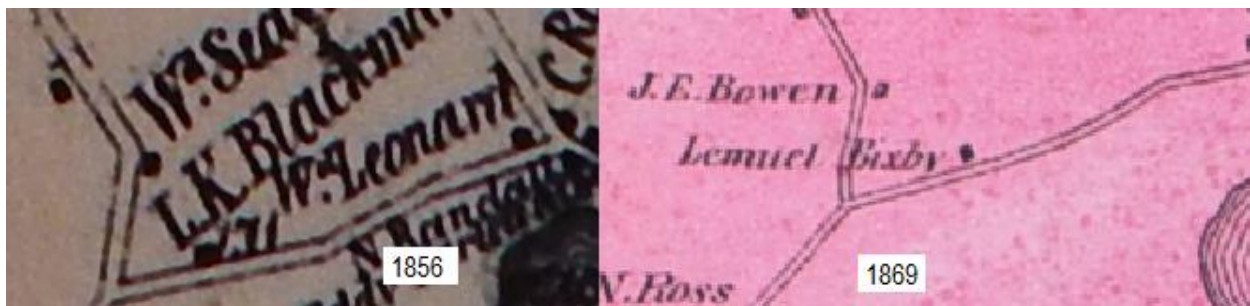
1986 Historic House Survey

DESCRIPTION/DETAILS

According to the 1986 Historic House Survey (see below), this house was built ca. 1795 by Alpheus Russell, at about the time of his marriage to Susannah Angell. Alpheus' last will and testament, date June 18, 1839, directed that after payment of his accounts and burial along with \$300 to Abner Davis, Susannah was to receive use and improvements of all his property for the balance of her natural life. She also was willed \$500 that she could dispose of as she pleased through her will. At her Susannah's death, Alpheus instructed that the property was to be divided in six equal parts, one share to his brother Jonathan, one share to heirs of Jonathan, one share to heirs of brother Chandler, one share to heirs of brother James, one share to heirs of brother Abiel and one half share to Hannah and Libbye Kieth and one half share to Barak Kieth. The probate inventory list was two pages long containing personal items, home and buildings on about 145 acres and a second lot of about 84 acres – total value listed at \$8177.22. Susannah died 9/29/1842 and her will left, after payment of debt and funeral expenses, the \$500 stipulated above plus her wearing apparel to her niece Matilda Steere. There was further mention of the property in her will and likely is listed in other land records in Thompson. Further research is required to determine how the property was divided per the instruction of Alpheus. Images of the wills for both Alpheus and Susannah are accessible on Ancestry.com and should be in the Thompson Town Hall.

In Ellen Larned's *First Families* article of John Russell, she states "Jonathan Russell, in 1786, purchased the old "Merrill Farm" occupied by the late Mr. Horace Bixby and gave the farm to his son Alpheus Russell through whose heirs it was conveyed to Stephen Crosby". It is possible these heirs that conveyed to Stephen Crosby are the heirs of the above mentioned will. What is important about this statement is if this is the same Alpheus Russell listed in the 1986 survey, it contradicts the build date of that survey. This info requires more research to learn if this is the same Alpheus of the home name.

Looking to the 1856 Woodford map, the home is listed as owned by L.K. Blackmar. On the 1869 Gray map, the home is owned by Lemuel Bixby.



While not positive, L.K. Blackmar is believed to be Lemuel K. Blackmar. In Richard M. Bayles book *History of Windham County Conn.* a biography for Lemuel K. Blackmar reads:

"Lemuel K. Blackmar, born in 1819, is a son of Joseph and grandson of Jacob Blackmar. His mother was Mahala, daughter of Ebenezer Munyan. He went to Providence at the age of sixteen, where he remained eleven years. since that time he has resided in Thompson. He had charge of the grist and saw

mill at Grosvenor Dale for sixteen years, beginning November, 1864. He was appointed postmaster at Thompson in August, 1885, and since September of that year has filled that office. He was married in 1846 to Mary M., daughter of Edmund Cooper, of Wickford, R. I., and has three children: Martha (Mrs. John W. Ballard), Lewis E. and Mary E.

As well as:

"In 1822 Mr. Mason, for \$1,900 sold one-third interest in the Quadic Manufacturing Company, set off as one-half of the late hat manufactory," to Messrs. Sessions and Waterman, who for a number of years continued in charge, manufacturing "Quadic sheeting." Calvin Randall and Stephen B. Winsor had also rights in the mill. Nelson S. Eddy purchased the establishment in 1835, and resided a number of years in the village, employing from fifty to seventy-five men, women and children. Quadic village, with its factory, daily stage-coach passing through it, and constant teaming to and from Providence, was then a brisk little settlement, its convenient store in pre-temperance days furnishing spirituous refreshment to many a weary traveller. After the decease of Mr. Eddy the factory was leased for a time to Card & Stone. In 1848 Mr. Lemuel K. Blackmar assumed the charge of the saw and grist mills, and a little later fitted up the old red hat factory," for the manufacture of twine."

Also noted, regarding the Thompson Bank:

"The present board comprises Messrs. Jeremiah Olney, L. K. Blackmar, James N. Kingsbury, George H. Nichols, Thomas D. Sayles, Hiram Arnold, George S. Crosby, David Chase, Frank M. Messenger."

In Allen B. Lincoln's *A modern History of Windham County Conn.*, he states:

"Lemuel K. Blackmar (1818-1898), Postmaster under President Cleveland, also Selectman and Tax Collector."

In *Fiber and Fabric, vol. 32*:

"Thompson, CT: L.K. Blackmar, age 82, died here recently; he was for 24 years manager of the cotton mill in Grosvenordale"

It appears that he may have started in Quadic and then changed his position and moved on to the Grosvenordale Company.

There is one photo, number P0001271, in the THS digital archives which pertains to Lemuel K. Blackmar. The photo description is noted as "Home on Chase Road Lemuel Blackmar & "Old Fan", Fan died 5/1/1891". There was also a note stating "In 1981 house owned by Bark/Barsk". The name Lemuel Blackmar may be the "L.K. Blackmar" listed as owner on the 1856 map, however, the Chase Road note confuses this – is this the house on Hill Road, or is it another that is/was on Chase Road? There is no other information with the photo. Hill Road home owner William DeGregorio (12/2021) stated: "If the photo of Lemuel Blackmar and Old Fan does show this house, the main contender would be the west

side, which is where the addition was put on. My reasoning is that it appears to show a basement window on the lower right; as far as I can tell, looking from inside the basement, there were only ever two basement windows, one on the east and one on the west side. The east one was blocked up some time ago, so that the west one is the only extant. As the house stands today, there is only one casement window from the original ca. 1795 house on the west side, which would likely correspond to the one in the center behind Old Fan--the one on the far right was closed up, and the one on the left was removed when the addition was put on, if I am correct."



THS Digital photo P0001271

Further correspondence between Mark Snay and William DeGregorio in December 2021:



Mark Snay: "I looked through our digital photos and found the following images. Unfortunately, none of the photos show much of the house, with exception of #P0002416, which shows the unique lintel trim over the windows that match to the photo from the 1986 historic survey document Joe initially sent to you. The description we have for photo #P0002416 description is "Target practice Bertha Logee Rawson 1914 from David Rawson family". It just happens that David Rawson passed away last week and in his obituary it states that Bertha Logee Rawson was his mother."

William DeGregorio: "No. P0002416 is definitely the house, and helps answer one of my main questions: namely, when was the first-floor addition (now the master bedroom suite) put on? Clearly before 1914. However, and related to No. P0001271, it may have been sometime between/before 1891, when the photo with the horse was taken, and 1914, when the target practice image was taken."



Hill Road
Linus A. Logee
standing
Ora munyan seated.
early 1920's.



Richard Rawson and
Marjorie Logee Currier
Hill Road
1932



Hill Road 1924
From left
Unidentified
Rachel Rawson Bennett
David Rawson
Nathan Rawson
Allan Logee
First 3
Children of Edward &
Bertha Rawson. ~~Richard~~
Richard was born later.

P0002546 (revised)

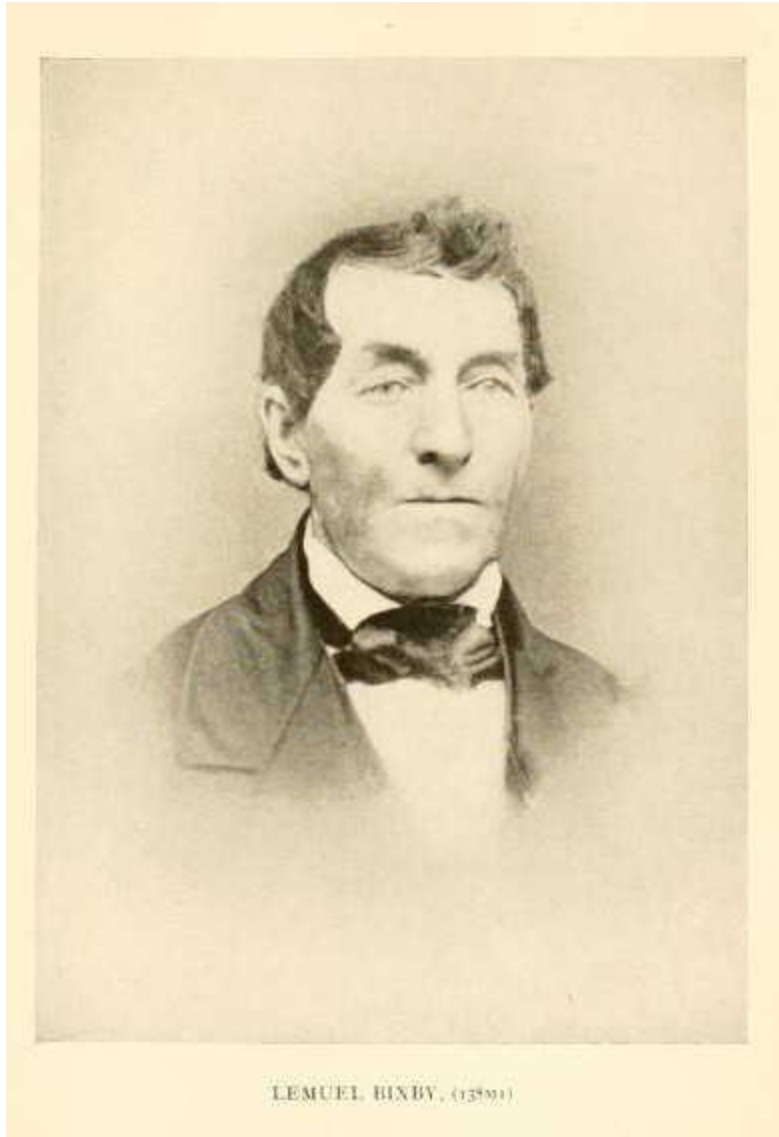
From William DeGregorio: "You see that one window in No. 2546, in the photo of the five children standing at the corner of the new addition and the old house in 1924. That is definitely us, as is the photo of the horse and cart in front of the retaining wall. That image confirms something I have long wondered about, which is if there ever was a porch. The enormous barn behind it is fascinating, as there is absolutely no trace of it today. However, the house and property have clearly been through many apparently quite drastic changes. I believe one of the more recent owners essentially took the house down to the studs, and rebuilt many interior features, though they retained as much of the antique material as possible. It must have been an enormous job, and probably cost more than we paid for the house. I ran into one of the other previous owners, Jeff Woods (I believe a Historical Society member), and he told me he was the one that put up the current outbuildings, which include two sheds and a gazebo, and rebuilt some of the large wall in back after excavating debris that had filled the interior. He also mentioned doing a lot of regrading work, so the current topography of the land is probably quite different than during the early 20th century. The large barn on the east side of the house must have extended well down into our neighbor's current property."



Mark Snay: "Photo #P0002545 only had a listed description as being from the David Rawson family."

William DeGregorio: "The image of the two men sitting outside is more intriguing though, as it could very well be the back/North facade of the house during a period when the lawn came straight up to the door jamb. Currently the basement masonry is quite visible and the door rises about two feet from the ground. The windows are seemingly in the right places."

Note: There are other photos in P0002545 and P0002546 which showed outbuildings in early 1960's era, however, it is undetermined if they are also of 196 Hill Road, so they are not included here.



Lemuel Bixby was born in 1794 and died 1871 and is buried in Old East Thompson Cemetery. This image is from Ancestry.com, Singleton Family Tree, and is believed to be the Lemuel Bixby of the 1869 map. Further review of the family tree is needed for confirmation.

Based on all of the above, the following is believed to be the possible early ownership line up to 1869. Consideration must be given to the possibility that if the above mention note by Ellen Larned is pertaining to this house, the Jonathan was not the first owner. Further research in Thompson Land records is required:

Jonathan Russell
Alpheus Russell
Susannah Russell
Heirs named in last will and testament of Alpheus Russell
Stephen Crosby
Lemuel Blackmar
Lemuel Bixby (coincidence of same first name?)

Most recent ownership activity per Thompson Assessor, as of late 2023, is:

Jennifer Mahr-Aitken, 01/25/2011

Jeffrey M + Donna J Woods, 10/10/2013

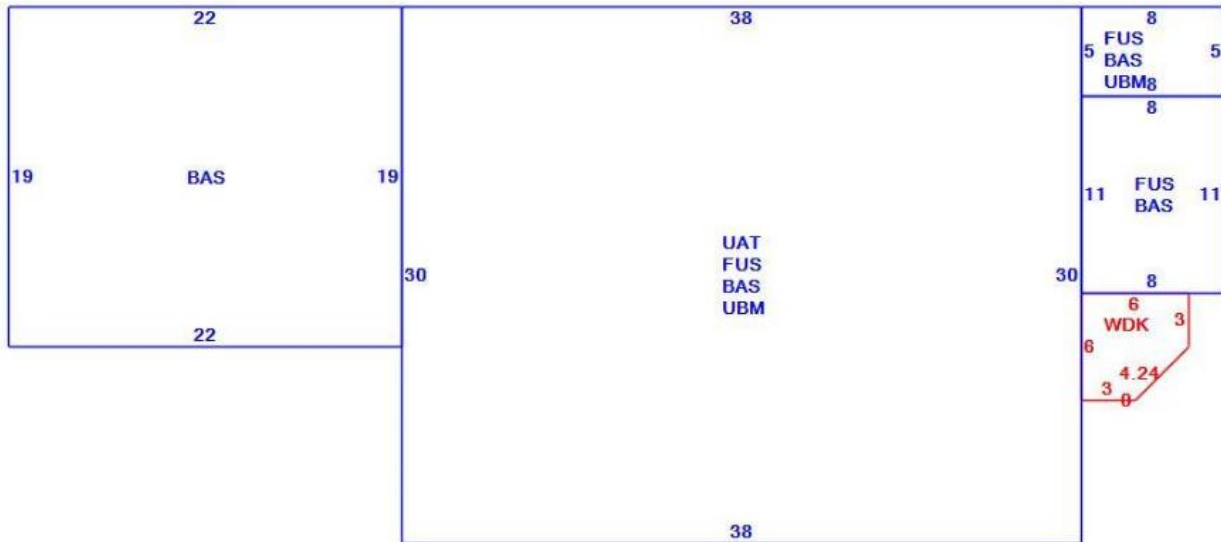
Victoria Chandler + James Lebrun, 10/20/2016

William DeGregorio + Austen Eadie -Friedman, 07/22/2020

Ronald Amoling + Michelle Chipman, 06/26/2023



This photo and layout, copied from the Thompson Tax Assessor property listing was likely taken during or prior to the ownership of the Jennifer Mahr-Aitken.





The above images are copied from one of the numerous web based real estate listings from 2023.

The following pages are from the 1986 historic house survey.

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

100

126/15/7/B

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)	
THOMPSON		ALPHEUS RUSSELL HOMESTEAD	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
THOMPSON		WINDHAM	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		126/15-78	
168 HILL ROAD (196 Hill Rd.)			
4. OWNER(S)		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
SIEGEL, STEPHANIE G., RR2, THOMPSON, CT 06277			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Residence		Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Federal		c. 1795	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone Foundation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Limestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Granite	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> Masonry	
<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		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
2 1/2		38' x 30'	
12. CONDITION (Structural)			
<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)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			Some later sash
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
DETERIORATED BARN TO THE EAST			
<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 type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			
In a rural part of southeastern Thompson.			

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW N	NEGATIVE ON FILE I 32	
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. Sash generally 2-over-2; splayed window lintels on first floor, second floor windows fitted into bed molding. Entry sized window in second bay. Window bays are paired and offset towards corners of house.

Entry has heavy paneled door, molded transom bar, rectangular glazed transom, flat molded cap with delicate flared consoles. Beaded corner boards. Frieze has delicate dentils, then consoles similar to entry cap. Molded cornice shows partial return. Central brick chimney. Small parallel left wing is somewhat altered. Two story right rear wing is old if not original.

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

This house was built by Alpheus Russell (c. 1766-1839) about 1795, the date of his marriage to Susan Angel (aka Angell). Russell was a relatively well off farmer; upon his death his estate was valued at just over \$8,000, a comfortable sum for the time. It included such items as three rocking chairs (a staple in all but the barest 19th century homes), an assortment of tinware, and an ox wagon.

The Russell house is architecturally and historically significant, despite considerable later fabric, as one of Thompson's best examples of the Federal or Adam style. The Federal style featured the use of characteristically delicate elements adapted from classical precedents (typical features seen here include the dentils, splayed lintels, and flared consoles). The paired and offset window bays, the beaded corner boards, the high placement of the second floor windows, and the central brick chimney are all typical of 18th century dwellings. This relatively high styled building reflects Russell's prosperity.

SOURCES

Thompson Land Records 2:200 (1795)
 Thompson Probate Records 1:396 (1839)
 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 _____