



**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: 614 Quinebaug Road

Parcel No.: 3/ 81/ 39/ /

Historical Property Name (if applicable):

THS Reference No.: MS008;074

Lat/Long: 42.018434, -71.940512

Revisions to this document

Revision	Revised By/date	Description of Revision
01	M. Snay 12/12/23	Document created
02	M. Snay 5/10/24	Revised form format and file name format

INDEX TO THIS DOCUMENT

Description of the buildings and property.

1856 & 1869 Atlas images.

1934 & 1965 aerial photo images.

Image of collapsed Barn.

2023 Aerial and ca. 2005 image of house.

Image of house and Norwich Business Directory "John Thayer" listings.

Image of fireplace mantels and build label.

Copy of Thompson Assessor description for the property.

1986 Historic House survey.

DESCRIPTION/DETAILS

Located at the top center of the hill at the southwest corner of Fabyan Road and Rt 193, this dilapidated home still shows the prominence it had when first built. While its history from the mid 20th century to present is fairly well known, prior to that the only information we had was that of the 1986 Historic House Survey by the Connecticut Historical Commission (see attached at the end of this document). The document produced by the commission states that the house was built about 1900 by William E. Wheelock. With the home slated for demolition sometime in 2024, an interested party approached the home owner asking if architectural details could be saved for repurpose. One of those items was the fireplace mantels. With removal of the mantels, some were found with the original build sheets which dated the mantels to 1893 and the customer name of "Hon. J.M. Thayer", "Hon." shortend for Honorable which is an honorific which was used for Judges and other high elected officials . This contradicted the 1986 survey which led to further research.

Searching land records to follow the ownership lineage of a home can, at times, become difficult to follow due to how the property bound descriptions were written referenceing bounds of other property owners and roads with name that have since changed. With review of the records and other source clues, the information can be pieced together. The following is what is believed to be the ownership lineage of this home and some of the property.

The 1856 Woodford Atlas shows the owner name as "Nichols" and the 1869 Grey Atlas shows the owner as "Chas. Thayer" (Charles). Both atlases place a building at the location of subject home. It is believed that it was not the same building as exists in 2024. The reasoning for this is the architecture was not seen at the earlier time and more importantly, the physical structure building materials are not early enough to match the type of materials used in the mid 19th century. We do not know if the present day house was built on the same foundation/spot as the earlier house. No record has been found to indicate what occurred.

Charles D. Thayer was married to Lucy E. Nichols and they lived in the New Boston area (now Fabyan). It is believed that the Nichols of the 1856 map is David Nichols, father of Lucy. On 9/3/1892, Charles and Lucy sold property with buildings to their second son, John M. Thayer (Thompson Land Records vol. 29, pg 400-401). The description of the property bounds appears to match the location of the southwest corner of Fabyan Rd and Rt 193 (then the New Boston-Dudley highway and Old Springfield-Providence Turnpike) indicating the property of this subject.

Judge John Mowry Thayer was born in New Boston, CT in 1847. He was schooled at Nichols Collage and later Yale where he graduated in 1869 and was admitted to the Bar in 1871. He practiced law in Iowa for a brief time then moved to Norwich, CT and prcticed law under the the firm name Hovey and Thayer. He shortly thereafter removed from this firm and started his own, later being joined by his younger brother Charles F. Thayer who became Mayor of Norwich for several years. He was appointed as Norwich City Judge from 1875-77, later became States Attorney for New London County and in 1889 appointed as judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut. He retired from the bench at the age of 70 years, the age

limit for the position. His obituary states that he never married and other than real estate ownership, he had few interests other than his profession.

This time frame, shown on the date on the mantel label and the 1894 Norwich Business Directory listing of "Thayer, John M. , rem. to Thompson" (rem. = removed) gives reason to believe that the present day house was built in between his 1892 purchase and the 1893 date on the mantel label, possibly being completed in 1893. The framing, hardware and architectural style of the building are all indicative of this time period. While there is no other evidence found to corroborate this belief, this known information is enough to give good reason to assume that the present day building was built as this time. We do not know why he removed to Thompson from Norwich, but it is possible he wanted a summer/retirement home in his home town, as other wealthy families had done at this time.

The ownership by John M. Thayer ended on 3/8/1900 when he sold the property and buildings to Emma E. Wheelock on 3/8/1900 (Thompson Land Records vol. 31, pg 294). This ownership corresponds with the ownership mentioned in the 1986 Historic Survey. Emma E. (Fairbanks) Wheelock was spouse to William E. Wheelock who had an interest in the Interval Mills in nearby Dudley, MA. Emma passed away on 10/31/1920 and ownership passed on to William with Probate cert of deceased dated 11/24/1920 (vol39, pg 110). On 8/16/1922, William E. Wheelock sold the property to William J. Vinton (vol. 39, pg 324-325). The property then was sold by William J. Vinton to Elmer J. Corttis on 11/22/1922 (vol. 38, pg 299). The property was released by Henry B. Montague to Edith M. F. Corttis (spouse of Elmer) and her daughter Virginia P. (Corttis) Dooley as joint tenants on 12/26/1944 (vol. 54, pg 139-140). There is note on page 139 that this was the same tracts conveyed to Montague by deed from Edith and Virginia on 12/7/1944. This exchange was possibly due to the death of Elmer Corttis, further research is needed to confirm.

With the passing of Edith B. Corttis on 4/20/1960, the home was now in sole possession of Virginia (Probate cert vol. 73, pg. 517 dated 12/12/1963). Virginia passed away on 5/9/1972 and the estate went to her son Jay. C. Dooley (Probate cert vol. 201, pg. 73 dated 12/17/1986). Jay received a private loan/mortgage on the property on 12/4/2006 (vol. 657, pg 130) from Rob and Sue Vincent, friends of Jay. On 9/30/2020, the Vincents released the mortgage with the statement: "the underlying debt remains partially unsatisfied". That same date (vol. 969, pg 120), the property was sold by Jay to Todd and Diane Morin of Woodstock CT, (vol. 969, pg. 120). Jay died on 8/7/2021.

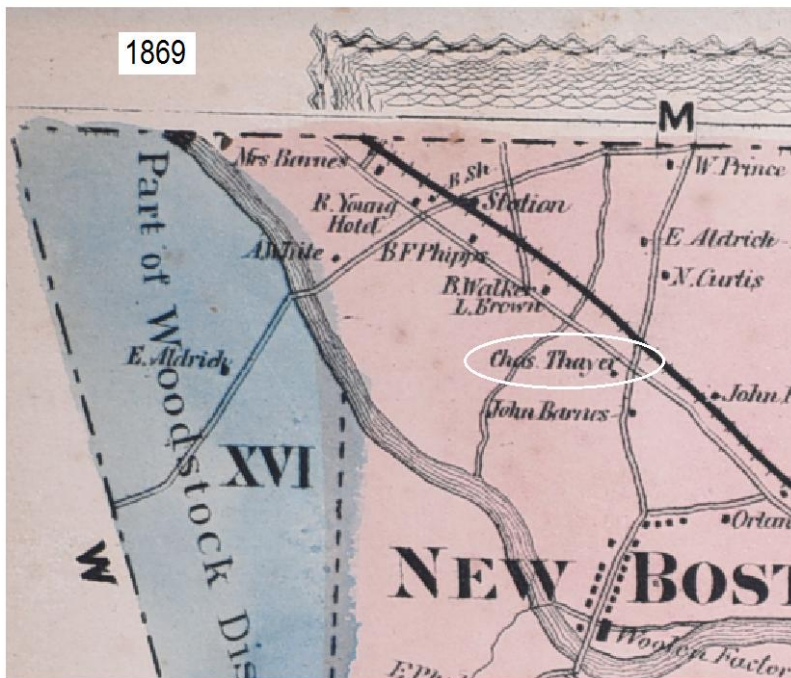
Of note, on 3/13/1965, Virginia leased a portion of the property (about 40 acres) to Ralph Leo, Jr. of Webster, MA – Leo Ready Mix Concrete Co. inc. for a period of 5 years (vol.75, pg. 133). This was to allow for removal of "gravel, sand and earth materials and processing of the same". The lease was amended on 3/31/1965 to allowed to operated a concrete plant to manufacture ready mix concrete on the premises (vol. 75, pg 163). On 5/15/1970, the lease was extended from 1/9/1970 to 1/8/1975 and the rent was increased from \$800/year to \$1200/year (vol. 82, pg. 193). The 1965 aerial photos of the property clearly shows the concrete operation was occurring on the property and there appears to be a tall structure, possibly a conveyor or other piece of equipment used for moving/screening or gravel for production of concrete.

More than a decade prior to the time of the Morin's purchase, the home had been badly neglected under the ownership of Jay Dooley, to include numerous tax liens and the vandalism. This started in the late 1980's-early 1990's and accelerated in the 2000's. With the deterioration, weather had entered through the roof causing the porch roof and decking to collapse and the ornate chimney had started to fall apart. The interior of the home had been vandalised and personal belongings of the Dooley and Corttis family had been strewn about the house in all rooms on all floors. Windows had been broken and doors removed for access. There were postings of this house on website for haunted or abandoned homes, bringing curious people to look at and through the home. Although the interior was in major disarray, paper and paint peeling, hardware rusting, floors weakened in one area that the leaking roof had allowed water through to, the frame of the house was still solid. There were several mantels that had beautiful tile and mirrors with cast iron fire boxes with some of the tile having been broken by vandals. The central staircase was wide and had fancy spindles and mill work and it was still solid and had no bounce or creaks when used. There was fancy millwork throughout the house, to include a butlers pantry with high glass paned cabinet doors. The overall building condition appeared to be savable, but would require extensive restoration.

The barn was deteriorating as was the house, but still very accessible and with exception of a few missing floor boards, very stable. The interior of the barn which was nearest to the house was very fancy in terms of finish (beaded paneling) which gives insight into the pride in the horses that were once here. There was a very fancy granite hitch post lying on its side between the barn and house. There had been an earlier (believed) built barn closer to the main road just west of the driveway. It had collapsed sometime between 2000 and 2016. There were many cars and trucks on the property that had belonged to Jay, to include a couple of campers that he would stay in when he was at the property for more than one day.

After the purchase by the Morins', the barn was knocked down to eliminate it as a liability and the house was slated to be torn down in 2023. A local historical contractor with interest in the house, offered to assist the owners with salvaging the interior architectural items, helping to save some of the finer elements of this classic Queen Ann Victorian. Samples of the architecture will be given to the Thompson Historical Society for display and research. The demolition had been delayed, allowing time for removal of the mantels and other details. In November and December of 2023, the house was looked through for any historic artifacts and the mantels were removed for salvage. Upon removal of the mantles it was discovered that they were built by the Irving and Casson Company in Cambridge MA, one of the country's premier architectural companies. The tiles for the fireplace surrounds were discovered to be manufactured by the Trent Tile Company in New Jersey and the MAW and Co. tile company from England, both companies holding world prominence in Victorian tile manufacturing in the 1800 and early 1900's. Many documents and photos pertaining to the Corttis and Dooley families were removed and stored in the archives of the Thompson Historical Society.

The Thompson Historical Society has an extensive collection of photos of the house and barn taken in August of 2020. The photos show many of the architectural details of the buildings as well as the poor condition due to deterioration and vandalism. Also within the collection are photos, documents and personal items that belonged to the Corttis and Dooley family.



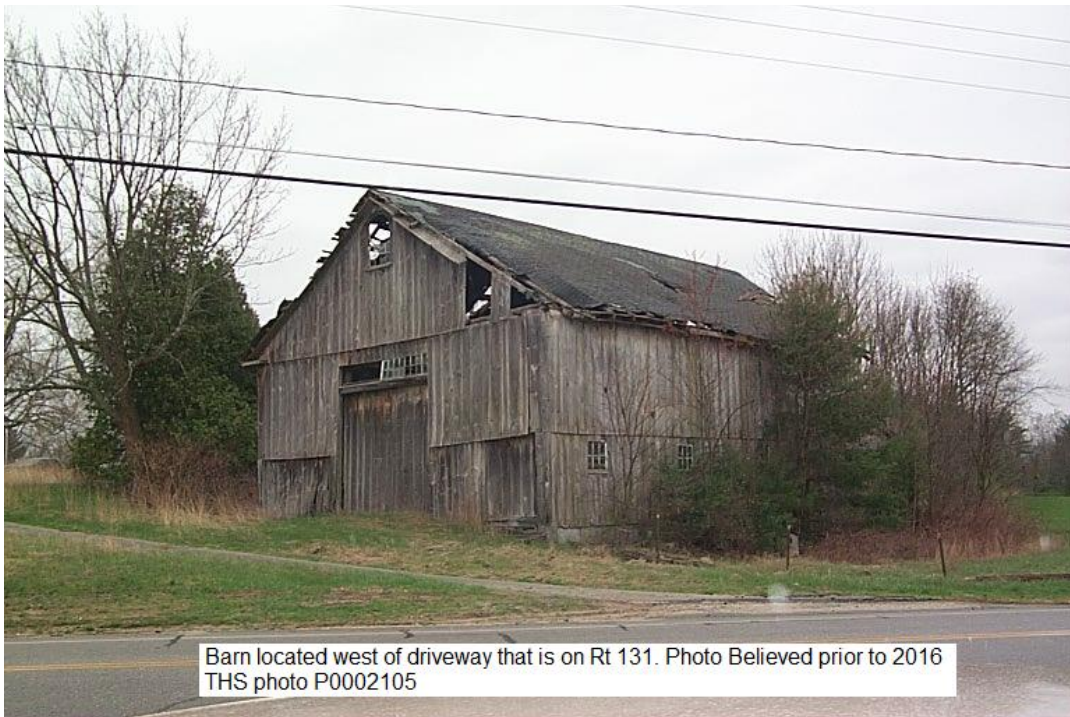
Sectional views of the 1856 Woodford and 1869 Grey Atlases showing the home owners at the same location as the present day home.



1934 and 1965 aerial photos showing the layout of the buildings. The barn closest to Rt 131 is the same as seen collapsed in the next image for 2016.



2016 Satellite image showing collapsed barn



Barn located west of driveway that is on Rt 131. Photo Believed prior to 2016
THS photo P0002105



The above image is from satellite imagery after the Morin family had purchased and cleaned up of the many vehicles that were on the property.





The above image, copied from the Thompson Tax Assessor record, showing the house as viewed from the direction of Rt 131.

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for John M Thayer
Connecticut > Norwich > 1892 > Norwich, Connecticut, City Directory, 1892
Thayer Charles F., atty-at-law 44 Shetucket, h 218 L H av
Thayer John M., judge Superior Court, bds Wauregan house, rooms 60 Washington

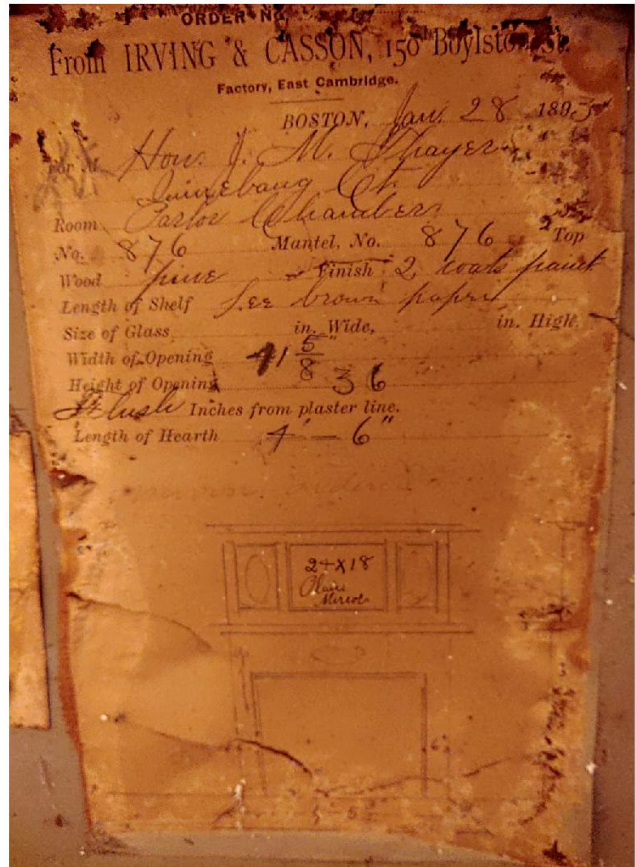
U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for John M Thayer
Connecticut > Norwich > 1894 > Norwich, Connecticut, City Directory, 1894
Thayer Charles F., attorney-at-law 44 Shetucket, h 218 L H av
Edgar, emp F. B. Durfey, bds 237 Central av
John M., rem to Thompson

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995
Connecticut > Norwich > 1896 > Norwich, Connecticut, City Directory, 1896
Thayer Charles F., attorney at law 44 Shetucket, h 218 Laurel Hill av
John M., attorney at law 44 Shetucket, bds Wauregan house

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995
Connecticut > Norwich > 1899 > Norwich, Connecticut, City Directory, 1899
Thayer Charles F., attorney at law 44 Shetucket, h 107 Wash-
ington
John M., attorney at law 44 Shetucket, bds Wauregan house

Source: Ancestry.com

The above is a compilation of four Norwich CT Business directories spanning 1892 to 1899 with the listed information about John M. Thayer. The year 1894 states he "rem."(removed) to Thompson.



The above is one of the mantles with the label found on the back side. The firebox is embossed cast iron with brass trim. There were 5 mantles of similar design, three on the first floor and two on the second floor.

074

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

3/81/39//

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

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>(Historic)</i>		WILLIAM E. WHEELOCK HOUSE	
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
THOMPSON	QUINEBAUG	WINDHAM	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)			
9 FABYAN-WOODSTOCK ROAD & ROUTE 131 (614 QUINEBAUG RO.) 17/81-39			
4. OWNER(S)			
DOOLEY, VIRGINIA CORTTIS, QUINEBAUG, CT 06262 <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present) <i>(Historic)</i>			
Residence		Residence	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:			
EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD		INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
IF YES, EXPLAIN			
7. STYLE OF BUILDING			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Queen Anne			c. 1900
8. MATERIAL(S) <i>(Indicate use or location when appropriate)</i>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick Foundation	
<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"/> 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 <i>(Specify)</i>			
10. ROOF <i>(Type)</i>			
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i> Complex messing
<i>(Material)</i>			
<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 <i>(Specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS	
2 1/2		38' x 31'	
12. CONDITION <i>(Structural)</i> <i>(Exterior)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY <i>(Location)</i> WHEN ? <i>(Alterations)</i> 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 type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings <i>(Specify)</i>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			
On a relatively large farm lot, house is at a small village crossroads.			

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER Mark McDonough		DATE 1986
	VIEW W	NEGATIVE ON FILE H16	
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)
 Left front gable, slightly lower recessed right cross-gabled wing. Two-and-one-half-story tower at right front corner. Sash: second floor generally 8-over-2, paired 6-over-2, attic sash, some 2-over-2 and border pane stained glass.
 Gable: three bays over two. First floor has bay window left, entry right. Entry has double wood doors with large lights over panels. Above attic windows, applied decoration in the form of broken scrolled pediment. Molded cornice shows full return across gable ends; slight overhang at attic story on jigsaw brackets.
 Tuscan columned porch begins at left bay, wraps across right elevation, has peak centered over entry. Porch and bay window have molded frieze and cornice. Square balusters and rail.
 Octagonal tower has tall 2-over-2 sash on first floor, 2-over-1 on second are flanked by border pane stained glass windows. All tower windows receive keyblocks, border pane

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
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19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE
 This large and elaborate Queen Anne House was built in 1900 by William E. Wheelock, who had a large interest in the nearby Intervale Woolen Mills. Although the mills themselves were located entirely in Dudley, Massachusetts just to the northwest, mill related development spilled across the state line and was largely responsible for the rise of Quinebaug as a distinct village.
 Older Thompson residents tell of a time when the Wheelock house was one of very few in town with gas lights. Its lighted windows - left burning far into the night - served as a beacon for travellers returning to town after dark.
 Architecturally, this sadly deteriorated building is significant as Thompson's finest Queen Anne house. The Queen Anne style, which reached a peak of popularity in the late 1890s, was very loosely based on medieval precedents. Queen Anne buildings generally feature towers, extravagant detailing, and frankly asymmetrical plans. The decorative sash seen in this example is also common; the classically inspired detailing (broken scrolled pediments, keyblock window surrounds) and border pane sash are typical of late examples. After 1900, Queen Anne architecture was rapidly absorbed by the Colonial Revival

SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES
 Thompson Land Records 31:294 (1900)

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"/> Expropriation _____

