

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

28

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:		SITE NO.:	
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION:

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: N/A Historic: Tom Thumb House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Norfolk VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Litchfield
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): Windrow Road, south side
- 4. OWNER(S): Starling R. & Virginia H. Lawrence, 160 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10024 PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Weekend Cottage Historic: Secluded Cottage
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Medieval Cottage Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1929
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input checked="" 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: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood frame: <input checked="" 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: _____	
- 10. ROOF: type:

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> hip	<input type="checkbox"/> round	<input type="checkbox"/> other _____

 material:

<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> roll asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> tin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slate
<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> built up	<input type="checkbox"/> tile	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26x28' & 21x24'
- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
Alterations: no yes, explain: _____
- 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: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> shop	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	<u>The cottage is on top of a hill.</u>
- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> open land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> rural	<input type="checkbox"/> high building density
- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
A larger, more conventional cottage has been built nearby.

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

This small cottage consists of two square sections joined together, each with a pyramidal roof and central chimney. The walls, battered, are made of giant boulders put in place by a derrick on footings 5 feet wide. Slate in the roof runs up to 2 1/2" thick. One of the square spaces, the larger, is the living room; the other, the smaller, is occupied by the kitchen and a sleeping alcove. Hand-hewn oak timbers and oak boards from old barns are used for interior framing and walls. There are a stone fireplace and two exposed ceiling trusses. Windows are metal casements, looking out onto a paved terrace on the east. In the large room there are groups of 5 windows on two sides, and 3 windows on the third side.

SIGNIFICANCE

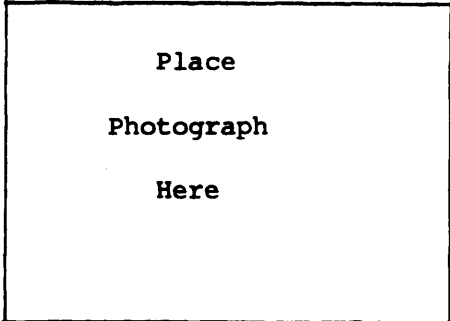
Architect: Taylor & Levi Builder: Unknown

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This is the first and smaller of two such structures, using the same building methods and components, for the same client. The second is the Sports House of about two years later. The effect is medieval, both inside and out. The floors are a cork/vinyl composition laid in large squares, a product developed by a friend of the client that was not commercially successful. Known in the family as the Tea House, this cottage was used as a place to get away from it all. The term Tom Thumb House is taken from the American Architect and Building News.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: D. Ransom
date: October 1978 view: _____
negative on file: Connecticut Historical Commission



COMPILED BY:

name: D. Ransom date: Nov. 2, 1978
organization: Connecticut Historical Commission
address: 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106

19. SOURCES:

American Architect and Building News, July 1931, p. 38.

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

Verbal boundary description: The structure is located on a large tract of privately-owned land. ~~Less than one acre~~, surrounding the structure, is included in the nomination.
UTM Reference: 18/647540/4647820.

→ 1/2 ACRE SQUARE
(Am 2/22/84)

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____