NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

MAR 9 1993

NATIONAL	REGISTER	OF	HISTORIC	PLACES
REGISTRAT	TION FORM			

WATEDWAL RECISTER

REGISTRATION FORM
historic name: <u>North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District</u>
other name/site number: N/A
======================================
street & number: Riverside Drive (Route 12), Buckley Hill Rd., Floral Ave., Market La., Marshall, Central, River, and Holmes Sts. not for publication: N/A city/town: Thompson vicinity: North Grosvenordale state: CT county: Windham code: 015 zip code: 06255
3. Classification
Ownership of Property: <u>private, public - local, state</u>
Category of Property: <u>district</u>
Number of Resources within Property:
Contributing Noncontributing
103 18 buildings 2 0 sites 8 3 structures 2 4 objects 115 25 Total
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:0
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/	======================================	n	:======================================	
	======================================	e Nation	al Historic Preser	vation Act
of 1966,	as amended, I hereby certif	y that t	his <u>X</u> nominatio	n
	or determination of eligibi for registering properties			
	Places and meets the proced			
	in 36 CFR Part 60. In my			
does	not meet the National Regi	ster Cri	teria See co	nt. sheet.
	Ill In Thomas	2	03/04/93	
Signature	of certifying official		<u>03/04/93</u> Date	
	rector, Connecticut Historical Co Federal agency and bureau	mmission		
state of .	rederal agency and bureau			
	nion, the property mee			National
Register	criteria See continua	tion she	et.	
Signature	of commenting or other off	icial	Date	
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state or 1	Federal agency and bureau			
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	See continuation sheet.			
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	ional Register See continuation sheet.			
	rmined not eligible for the			
	ional Register			
remo	ved from the National Regis	ter		
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7. Description				
Architectural Classific	zation:			
Greek Revival				
Romanesque				
No Style				
Other Description: N/	A	**************************************		
Materials: foundation	STONE	roof	асрнат.т	
walls	BRICK	other	AUTHAUT	
	WOOD			
Describe present and h sheet.	istoric physical ap	pearance	e. <u>X</u> See	continuation
8. Statement of Signif		======	=========	========
			=========	========
Certifying official has				roperty in
relation to other propo	erties: <u>state</u>		•	
Applicable National Red	gister Criteria: <u>A</u>	,C		
Criteria Considerations	s (Exceptions) :			
Areas of Significance:	INDUSTRY			
	A D C U T M D C M I I D D			
Period(s) of Significan	nce: <u>c.1840-c.1940</u>			
Significant Dates:	1872, 1938			
Significant Person(s):	N/A		_	
	The second secon		_	
Cultural Affiliation:	N/A			
Architect/Builder: F.	P. Sheldon Co., en	gineer		
-				
State significance of p				
considerations, and are X See continuation sh	eas and periods of neet.	signitic	ance noted al	pove.

9. Major Bibliographical References	
X See continuation sheet.	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
<pre>_ preliminary determination of individual 1</pre>	er tional Register Survey #
Primary Location of Additional Data:	
_ Other state agency	Connecticut Historical Commission 59 South Prospect Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property: <u>approx. 70</u>	_
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zon	ne Easting Northing
A B	
X See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description: See conti The boundary is shown on the accompany from Thompson Assessor Map 61.	
Boundary Justification: See continuation The boundary was chosen to include all historically associated with the mill property lines, except where necessary excessive back acreage.	l contiguous properties . The boundary generally follows
11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan,	
Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Maura Croning	
Organization: <u>Historic Resource Consulta</u>	
Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue	
City or Town: Hartford	State: <u>CT</u> ZIP: <u>06106</u>

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT 7 - 1

The North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District consists of over 100 houses and other mill-related structures surrounding a large former textile mill in North Grosvenordale, a village in the Town of Thompson, Connecticut. Arranged closely together in rows, most of the houses are plainly detailed dwellings built to accommodate the mill's workers. The district also includes a large brick mansard-roofed building that formerly served as the mill store; a Greek Revival-style Methodist Church, built in 1842; and a few houses that pre-date the establishment of the mill. The district extends northward along the French River so as to include the mill dam, a large headgate structure, and a canal that carried water to power the mill. Also included, in the southeast part of the district, is a small parcel of land formerly owned by the mill and used by the workers as a park; it is now a town-owned ball field.

The North Grosvenordale Mill, also known as Mill No. 2, was built in 1872 (Photograph 1). Of brick construction, it is four stories tall, has a shallow-pitched hip roof, and measures 464' x 75' in plan. The windows are arched and recessed in the wall. The mill's cornice is elaborately corbelled, and its tall east-elevation towers are embellished with corbelling at the fourth, fifth, and sixth stories, as well as corner pilasters, round-arched belfry louvers, and bell-curved The 5-story west towers are smaller and less decorative. domed roofs. Extending west from the center of the mill is a 4-story, 135' x 70' brick wing, under which is a wheelpit that originally held three turbines. Attached to the north end of Mill No. 2 is a 2-story flatroofed addition constructed c.1900 (Photograph 2); at its corners are 3-story hip-roofed towers with details similar to those on the main mill. Other parts of the mill complex include a boiler house (the mill supplemented waterpower with a steam engine); picker house; smith shop; waste house; and a c.1900 weave shed, a wide 1-story building, the original sawtooth roof of which is now flat. All of the foregoing are clustered in the millyard (Photograph 3) and interconnected by passageways; detached from the mill, near the Riverside Drive (Connecticut Route 12) railroad overpass, are two large windowless brick storehouses (Photograph 4). The North Grosvenordale Mill specialized in fine cottons and became one of the largest textile mills in Connecticut.

The V-shaped mill dam (Photograph 5), completed in 1872, is actually two dams joined at an angle. One side is a rollway 104 feet long and the other is a spillway of equal length for high water. The dam

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT 7-2

provides a 26-foot fall. Around 1900 the height of the dam was raised, increasing the power available at the mill from 400 to 700 horsepower. A series of four headgate gears (Photograph 6) just west of the dam regulated the water level in a 1/2-mile-long canal. Engineering features associated with the canal, counted as a single contributing structure, include two stone tailrace arches under the main mill, a stone-arch overflow channel, and several steel-beam millyard bridges, one of which retains its original lattice railing (Photograph 7). The mill's tailrace passes under a stone-arch bridge carrying Route 12 (widened in steel and concrete) before rejoining the French River south of the mill.

The district's mill houses are of five different types. North of the mill, along Buckley Hill Road and Riverside Drive, are six 1 1/2-story brick houses (Photograph 9) that historically were used to house the families of supervisors. Each has a large gabled wall dormer with jigsawn trim along the eaves.

West of the French River, the mill company built over two dozen frame dwellings on Floral Avenue and Holmes Street. The majority of these, believed to date from c.1880, are 2 1/2 stories tall, with two entries and gable roofs with dormers. Those on Floral Avenue have the entries in vestibules where 1-story flanking wings join the main house (Photograph 10). This area was known as "Swede Village," after the immigrants who were accommodated in these houses beginning in the late 19th century.

Located south of the mill and surrounded by the railroad and French River is the group of houses called "Three Rows" (Photographs 11 and 12). These 25 frame houses are 2 1/2 stories tall and have duplex plans with the entries at the ends of their six-bay facades. The front and back slopes of each gable roof have two dormers. With four families per house, Three Rows was from the beginning occupied by French-Canadian workers and their families. French-Canadians made up 80 percent of the mill's original workforce.

East of "Three Rows" and across the French River is Greek Village. These four long, 2 1/2-story frame houses have six entries per side, with four dormers across the gable roof (Photographs 13 and 14). Originally, these were occupied by French-Canadians and each building held 12 families. However, around 1910 the houses were used as

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT 7-3

accommodations for unmarried immigrant men. All of the men were referred to as Greeks, but many were from Turkey, Albania, or Rumania.

Finally, the district includes several 2-story houses on Riverside Drive erected by the mill company about 1895. These simple Victorian dwellings have turned posts, jigsawn brackets, and other decorative porch detail (Photograph 15). At about the same time, the mill built a row of 1 1/2-story one and two-family houses, originally with similar porch details, east of Greek Village (Photograph 16).

The great majority of the buildings in the district retain their original form. Replacement of original clapboard exteriors with modern siding materials is the chief alteration evident in the district, but even where this has occurred, enough remains of entry and window trim (Photographs 12 and 14) to indicate the buildings' original detailing, and most of the houses have six-over-six sash that represents either original windows or replacement in kind. There are very few noncontributing buildings to interrupt the concentration of historic buildings within the district. The most serious deviations from the village's historic appearance are the loss of three large tenements south of the mill, on Main Street, and the destruction by fire in the late 1970s of the agent's residence, a large house that stood north of the intersection of Buckley Hill Road and Riverside Drive.

The boundary of the district was delineated so as to include all contiguous formerly mill-related properties. The boundary generally follows property lines; however, some property lines were cut so as to exclude excessive open land or buildings that were not connected to the North Grosvenordale Mill. East of the district, on Buckley Hill Road, and south of the district, on Main Street, are other parts of the village of North Grosvenordale that were not part of the mill-owned complex.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

DESCRIPTION

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-4
Thompson, Windham County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

LOCATION

In the Inventory that follows, contributing and noncontributing resources are indicated by counts in the C and NC columns. For the descriptions, it was not always possible to distinguish aluminum from vinyl siding, so both materials are indicated with the descriptor, "sided." "Composition" shingles or clapboards refer to siding made from wood-fiber, asbestos, or similar manufactured materials. Garages and sheds are counted as contributing if they appear to date from the period of significance; many garages appear to have been remodeled from old barns or sheds.

D.C.	111.514	DEBOXII ITON	C	110
12	Buckley Hill Rd.	MILI HOUSE, c. 1872, brick with stone veneer facade, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, entries at ends of six-bay facade.	1	
14	Buckley Hill Rd.	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, end entries at ends of six-bay facade.	1	
16	Buckley Hill Rd.	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, end entries at ends of six-bay facade. Small cottage at rear under construction.	1	1
-	Buckley Hill Rd.	Bridge No. 3950, over canal, concrete box-beam construction, c.1980.		1
-	Buckley Hill Rd.	Bridge No. 3949, over French River, steel-beam construction, c.1950.		1
5 C	Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-5 Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	С	NC
7 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
8 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Old shed at rear.	2	
11 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Garage probably made from old shed.	2	
12 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Shed made into garage.	2	
15 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Garage.	1	1
16 Central St.	"THREF ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, siding, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Shed made into garage. Photograph 12.	2	
19 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Garage.	1	1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	North Grosvenordale Mill Historic Distriction Thompson, Windham County, CT	ct	7-6
LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	С	NC
23 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
24 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, composition clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Old shed at rear.	2	
26 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
30 Central St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, wood shingles, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
- Central St.	Riverside Park, municipal ball field with its origins as a mill-owned recreation area. One-story stuccoed concession/facilities building of recent construction. Counted as one contributing site and one noncontributing building.	1	1
1 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with dormer, eight bay facade, modern garage, asphalt siding, with two entries in vestibules in flanking one-story wings.	1	
2 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with dormer, sided, with two entries in vestibules in flanking one-story wings. Photograph 10.	1	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-7
Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	С	NC
5 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with dormer, sided, with two entries in vestibules in flanking one-story wings.	1	
6 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with dormer, composition siding, with two entries in vestibules in flanking one-story wings. Modern garage. Photograph 10.	1	1
9 Floral Ave.	House, Foursquare-style, c.1930, 2 stories, hip roof, sided, duplex plan with entries at ends. Modern garage.	1	1
13 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, with two entries at ends of eight-bay facade.	1	
14 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, wood shingles, eight-bay facade, with two entries at ends. Modern garage.	1	1
17 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
18 Floral Ave.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, with two entries at ends of eight-bay facade. Modern garage.	1	1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-8
Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	С	NC
1 Holmes St.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Shed at rear.	2	
3 Holmes St.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, eight-bay facade, with two entries at ends. Shed at rear.	2	
4 Holmes St.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eightbay facade, with two entries at ends.	1	
7 Holmes St.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eight-bay facade, with two entries at ends.	1	
8 Holmes St.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eightbay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
11 Holmes St.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, siding, eight-bay facade, with two entries at ends. Small shed to rear.	2	
12 Holmes St.	"SWEDE VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c. 1880, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eight-bay facade, with two entries at ends.	1	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-9
Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	С	NC
7 Market Ln.	"GREEK VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with six dormers, sided, four entries per side. Photograph 13.	1	
11 Market Ln.	"GREEK VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with four dormers, sided, four entries per side. Photograph 13.	1	
15 Market Ln.	"GREEK VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with four dormers, sided, four entries per side. Photograph 14.	1	
19 Market Ln.	"GREEK VILLAGE" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with six dormers, sided, four entries per side. Photograph 13.	1	
2 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
6 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
8 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
12 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, asphalt siding, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Garage. Photograph 11.	1	1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-10 Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	С	NC
14 Marshall St.	MILL HOUSE, c.1900, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with four wall dormers, asphalt siding, four entries.	1	
16 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends. Garage, old shed. Photograph 11.	2	1
24 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, composition clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
28 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, sided, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
30 Marshall St.	"THREE ROWS" MILL HOUSE, c.1872, 2 1/2 stories, gable roof with two dormers, composition clapboards, eight-bay facade with two entries at ends.	1	
46 River St.	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, entries at ends of six-bay facade. Garage, c.1930.	2	
50 River St.	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, entries at ends of six-bay facade. Garage. Photograph 9.	1	1
867 Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1900, 1 1/2 stories with central wall dormer, center entry, clapboards. Garage, c.1930.	2	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-11
Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION		DESCRIPTION	C	NC
871	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1900, 1 1/2 stories with central wall dormer, double center entries, porch across front, sided.	1	
873	Riverside Drive	House, c.1970, 1 story, sided. Garage.		2
877	Riverside Drive	House, Foursquare style, c.1930, 2 stories, duplex plan, cobblestone foundation, 2-story porch in front, composition siding.	1	
881	Riverside Drive	House, Bungalow-style, c.1930, jerkin- head roof with large dormer, clapboards.	1	
885	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1900, 1 1/2 stories with central wall dormer, facade altered with blocked-off entries, two picture windows, composition siding.	1	
887	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1900, 1 1/2 stories with central wall dormer, facade altered with blocked-off entries, two picture windows, composition siding.	1	
889	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1900, 1 1/2 stories with central wall dormer, two center entries, modern porch, sided.	1	
891	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1900, 1 1/2 stories with central wall dormer, two center entries, modern porch, sided; small store attached at northwest corner.	1	

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-12
Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION DESCRIPTION \mathbf{C} NC 2 4 Riverside Drive Oscar Swanson Memorial Park, small open corner lot with tall shade trees, with several monuments: Oscar Swanson memorial, brass plaque on granite boulder, c.1920; War Memorial to those killed in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, 1968; Deceased Firemen, c.1960; Veterans flagpole, planter, and memorial plaque, 1968; Persian Gulf Memorial, polished granite monument, 1991. One contributing site, one contributing object, four noncontributing objects. 910 Riverside Drive See 929 Riverside Drive, next page. 915 Riverside Drive See 929 Riverside Drive, next page. Riverside Drive Bridge No. 676, concrete-encased beams, 1 1937, with modern railings and deck. 929 Riverside Drive MILL No. 2 (NORTH GROSVENORDALE MILL), 18 Romanesque Revival style, 1872, 4 stories with hip roof, T-shaped plan. Corbelled cornice; tall towers with belfries and bell-shaped domed roofs. Additions include c.1900 two-story north extension, weave shed, and other connected mill buildings. Large brick storage buildings to south, facing railroad tracks (910 and 915 Riverside Drive). Complex includes two small hose sheds, truss bridge in millyard, concrete-arch passageway under Riverside Drive (1901), V-shaped masonry dam, headgates, and canal with two associated c.1900 steel-beam bridges. Resources (all contributing) counted as 11 buildings and 7 structures. Photographs 1-7.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-13
Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCA	TION	DESCRIPTION	С	NC
_	Riverside Drive	Bridge No. 677, stone arch, c.1872, widened on both sides with steel and concrete; arch visible only from river.	1	
_	Riverside Drive	War memorials on traffic island. All are brass plaques on granite monuments: World War I memorial, c.1920; Vietnam memorial, 1976; Killed in Action, all wars, 1976.	1	2
938	Riverside Drive	House, c. 1850, 2 1/2 stories, gable end to street, sided. Small house at rear appears to be of modern construction.	1	1
940	Riverside Drive	House, Greek Revival-style, c.1850, 1 1/2 stories, gable end facing street, entry with sidelights, transom, and corner-block surround. Modern porch, siding.	1	
944	Riverside Drive	House, Greek Revival-style, c.1850, 2 1/2 stories, gable end facing street, corner pilasters, double entry with corner-block surround, clapboards. Garage, c.1930, and 19th-century barn at rear. Photograph 17.	3	
946	Riverside Drive	House, Greek Revival-style, c.1850, 2 1/2 stories, gable end facing street, full cornice return, entry with sidelights and paneled pilasters. Porch, c.1900, across front; siding. Garage made over from small barn.	2	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-14
Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION		DESCRIPTION	С	NC
954	Riverside Drive	NORTH GROSVENORDALE METHODIST CHURCH, brick sides, frame facade, Greek Revival style, 1842, pedimented front gable, small square belfry tower. Photograph 18.	1	
962	Riverside Drive	NORTH GROSVENORDALE MILL STORE, Second Empire style, c.1872, brick, 3 1/2 stories, mansard roof, open porch across eight bays of eleven-bay facade. Photograph 8.	1	
	Riverside Drive	Garage of unknown date.		1
973	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, center double entry.	1	
976	Riverside Drive	House, c.1840, 1 1/2 stories with high basement, clapboards.	1	
977	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, entries at ends. Deteriorated shed at rear straddles property line.	1.5	
980	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1895, 2 stories, gable end facing street, composition shingles, Victorian porch details.	1	
981	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, center double entry. Deteriorated shed at rear straddles property line.	1.5	

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Description North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 7-15 Thompson, Windham County, CT

LOCATION		DESCRIPTION	С	NC
982	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1895, 2 stories, gable end facing street, sided, Victorian porch details. Photograph 15.	1	
983	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, center double entry. Shed at rear straddles property line.	1.5	
986	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1895, 2 stories, gable end facing street, composition shingles, Victorian porch details.	1	
987	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, center double entry. Shed at rear straddles property line.	1.5	
990	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1895, 2 stories, gable end facing street, siding, replaced porch posts. Garage.	1	1
991	Riverside Drive	MILL HOUSE, c. 1872, brick, 1 1/2 stories, gable roof with large central wall dormer, center double entry. Two sheds at rear.	3	
1006	Riverside Drive	House, Greek Revival style, c.1850, 2 1/2 stories, 5-bay facade (1 blocked up), clapboards, side porch with fluted Doric columns, center entry with sidelights, transom, and Victorian roof on brackets.	1	

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Significance

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT 8-1

Summary

The historic resources included in the North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District are significant because they illustrate the tremendous impact of textile manufacturing in the development of eastern Connecticut (Criterion A) and because they embody the distinctive architectural and spatial characteristics of a 19th-century mill town (Criterion C). In 1864, William Grosvenor, a Rhode Island physician and investor, purchased two small textile mills and associated water privileges along the French River in the Town of Thompson, Connecticut. Grosvenor built large new mills at each site. starting in 1868 in the village of Masonville, which he renamed Grosvenordale. Shortly thereafter, he began an even larger mill in what had been the village of Fisherville, renamed North Grosvenordale. Completed in 1872, Mill No. 2 or North Grosvenordale Mill specialized in high-quality cottons such as cambrics and high-count sheetings. became one of the largest, most productive, and longest-lasting textile mills in Connecticut. The economic success of the mill created a stable economic base and allowed the village of North Grosvenordale to grow and prosper.

Historic Context

The swift-moving streams of eastern Connecticut were highly suitable for the waterpowered textile-manufacturing technology that had been developed in Rhode Island at the end of the 18th century, and by the time of the War of 1812 there were numerous small mills throughout the region. Most were started by some combination of local well-to-do citizens and Rhode Island entrepreneurs. Almost without exception, these early ventures remained small and relatively insignificant until the middle of the 19th century, when a fresh infusion of outside capital, mostly from Providence, allowed a number of mills to expand to new levels.

The North Grosvenordale Mill is an example of such a development. It was far larger than the Fisherville mill that had preceded it, running 65,000 spindles and employing 850 people in 1882. The stone dam and canal that created the waterpower (one of few major textile-mill dams to survive intact in Connecticut) represent engineering works of a scale previously unprecedented in the region. More than 11 feet higher than the old dam, the new one allowed for 400 horsepower initially,

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT 8 - 2

with an increase to 700 when the dam was raised and new turbines installed in the early 20th century. By concentrating on high-value goods, the mill's productivity and employment steadily increased. The north extension to the mill and the large weave shed built c.1900 reflect the mill's continued economic healthiness, with employment increasing to 1,122 in 1890 and 1,750 in 1900. Despite the economic uncertainty faced by the textile industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Mill No. 2 endured, shifting to colored shirtings when sheetings were manufactured more cheaply in the South. The Depression of the 1930s was a serious blow; the company reduced workers' wages and, in 1938, sold most of its houses. In 1942 Cluett, Peabody and Company bought the Grosvenor-Dale Company's remaining property, operating the mill until 1954. Today a variety of light industrial and warehousing businesses occupy the buildings.

Although similar in their lack of architectural embellishment, the village's many mill houses recall the ethnic and skill divisions that figured in the social history of North Grosvenordale. From the beginning the majority of the workers were French Canadians, with "Three Rows" once also known as Little Canada. The more skilled Swedish workers who were hired beginning in 1882 lived in similar houses, but "Swede Village" on the tree-lined Holmes Street and Floral Avenue is distinctly less densely built, with more generous setbacks, than the closely packed houses of Three Rows. At the same time, Three Rows may have been preferable to the larger and hence more crowded accommodations of Greek Village, whose name reflects the second wave of immigrants to work in the New England textile industry beginning about The most substantial houses in the village, the brick houses north of the mill (the material itself is uncommon in company-built houses) and the five Victorian-detailed houses built about 1895, are believed to have housed the families of higher-skill workers and supervisory personnel.

Although primarily dating from 1872 or later, some of the district's buildings antedate Mill No. 2. Buildings such as the 1842 Methodist Church and the Greek Revival-Style house at 1006 Riverside Drive recall that North Grosvenordale was built at the site of an earlier, smaller village. Many of the earlier houses were owned by the Fisherville Company, the manufacturer that preceded Grosvenor.

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Significance

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT 8 - 3

Architectural Significance

The huge mill, the nearby tracts of mill-related housing, and the large company store make North Grosvenordale an exceptionally good example of the mill village, a settlement pattern found throughout eastern Connecticut. The rows of nearly identical employee houses that surround the mill re-create the sense of order and company control that historically characterized such villages. The paternalistic presence of the mill is further recalled by the store and park, indications that the Grosvenor-Dale Company provided not only work and shelter but also other necessaries of life and even opportunities for recreation. Grosvenordale departs from other large mill villages in that its houses are arranged in long rows rather than in squares or on a grid. respect, North Grosvenordale was a scaling-up of the practice, common with smaller textile mills, of simply building the housing wherever it would fit, rather than using some pre-conceived village plan. over 60 mill houses still standing, North Grosvenordale represents one of the largest mill villages in Connecticut.

The houses are archetypal company-built dwellings: plain in form, with symmetrical duplex or other modular plans. As was typical, most of the houses have only the simplest architectural embellishment, in this case, brackets below the entry cornices. In contrast, the mill itself and the company store, the two largest buildings in the district, are also the most elaborately detailed, symbolizing their central importance. The store's mansard roof, raised window hoodmolds, and intricate porch detail typify the then-popular Second Empire style of architecture, while the mill's arched corbelling and highly embellished towers reflect a Romanesque influence suggestive of the churches and castles of the early Middle Ages.

The mill is also notable as a representative example of the period's textile-mill engineering. Its long and narrow proportions and multistory height provided efficient power transmission from the turbines located in the wheelpit of the ell, as well as maximizing natural light. The towers accommodated stairways (separated from the mill itself for fire-safety reasons), cisterns to pressurize a fire-hose system, and belfries for sounding the call to work. Its low-pitched hip roof represents a half-way point in an evolution toward the flat-roofed mills of the early 20th-century; insurance interests declared attics to be fire hazards, and mills had little use for such poorly-lit space anyway. The architectural embellishment of the mill identifies

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Significance

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT 8 - 4

its 1870s origins: by the end of the 19th century, a much more utilitarian appearance prevailed among the region's textile mills. The mill was designed by F. P. Sheldon, a Providence engineering firm that designed many of the largest textile mills in Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut, among them the Ponemah Mills in Taftville (Norwich), Connecticut.

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Geographical Data North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District 10-1 Thompson, Windham County, CT

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- 19.260220.4652780 **A**: B: 19.260100.4652190 C: 19.259960.4651880 19.260060.4651780 D: 19.260050.4651680 E: F: 19.260040.4651640 G: 19.259970.4651570 H: 19.259880.4651670 I: 19.259810.4651510 19.259750.4651540 J: **K**: 19.259720.4651730 L: 19.259740.4651840
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- S: 19.259880.4652300 T: 19.259970.4652440 U: 19.259960.4652500
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Photographs

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Photos-1

Thompson, Windham County, CT

All photographs:

- 1. North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District
- 2. Thompson, Windham County, CT
- 3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
- 4. August, 1992
- 5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission Hartford, CT

Captions:

North Grosvenordale Mill, east elevation, camera facing southwest Photograph 1 of 18

Two-story mill north of main mill, camera facing southwest Photograph 2 of 18

West side of mill, showing boiler house and mill yard, World War I monument in foreground, camera facing northeast Photograph 3 of 18

Storehouse along railroad tracks south of Riverside Drive, camera facing southwest Photograph 4 of 18

Dam, camera facing north Photograph 5 of 18

Gears for raising headgates at north end of canal, camera facing southwest Photograph 6 of $18\,$

Tailrace arches under main mill, with railing to c.1900 beam bridge over canal in foreground, camera facing northwest Photograph 7 of 18

Mill store, 962 Riverside Drive, camera facing southwest Photograph 8 of 18

Brick mill house, 50 River Street, camera facing southwest Photograph 9 of 18

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Photographs

North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District Thompson, Windham County, CT Photos-2

"Swede Village" mill house, 6 Floral Avenue, 2 Floral Avenue in background, camera facing northeast Photograph 10 of 18

"Three Rows" mill houses, 16 Marshall Street on left, tower of main mill in background, camera facing northwest Photograph 11 of 18

Detail of doorway of "Three Rows" mill house, 16 Central Street, camera facing northwest
Photograph 12 of 18

"Greek Village" mill houses, with part of park in foreground, camera facing northeast Photograph 13 of 18

"Greek Village" mill house, 15 Market Lane, camera facing northeast Photograph 14 of 18

Victorian-period mill house, 982 Riverside Drive, camera facing northwest Photograph 15 of 18

Mill house, 867 Riverside Drive, camera facing northeast Photograph 16 of 18

House, c.1850, 944 Riverside Drive, camera facing west Photograph 17 of 18

North Grosvenordale Methodist Church, 954 Riverside Drive, camera facing west Photograph 18 of 18