

VF-Green



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

December 7, 2001

Enclosed you will find a draft National Register district nomination form prepared under the supervision of the State Historic Preservation Office. Please make this information available for public reference for the next two months. This nomination will be reviewed at the State Historic Preservation Board meeting on February 14, 2002. Also enclosed you will find information on the National Register of Historic Places program.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call or write John Herzan, National Register Coordinator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Shanahan".

John W. Shanahan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DRAFT

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names/site East Haven Green Historic District

2. Location

street & number .See Item #2. not for publication N/A

city or town East Haven vicinity N/A

state Connecticut code CT county New Haven code 009 zip code 06512

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally . (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

East Haven Green Historic District, New Haven County, CT

Section 2 Page 1

Location:

Hemingway Avenue: 263, 270, 274.

Main Street: 125, 129, 133, 139, 143, 150 (East Haven Green).

Park Place: 3, 7, 11, 15, 23, 27, 39, 47.

River Street: 58 (East Lawn Cemetery), 100 (Town Cemetery).

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>21</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<u>3</u>	_____ sites
<u>1</u>	_____ structures
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> objects
<u>26</u>	<u>10</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

0

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure.
LANDSCAPE/green
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure
LANDSCAPE/green
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne/Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls weatherboard
roof asphalt shingle
other brick/vinyl siding

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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East Haven Green Historic District, New Haven County, CT

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The East Haven Green Historic District, which is located east of the town's business and institutional center, consists of a four-acre Green and its immediate environs (see Exhibit A-district map). Altogether the district contains 36 resources, of which 26 (72 percent) are contributing, principally historic sites and buildings. Main Street, which borders the Green on the north, was once part of the Boston Post Road. Although bypassed by the Saltonstall Parkway after World War II, it still is a busy four-lane highway, as is Hemingway Avenue (Route 142) on the west. There is some commercial intrusion around the intersection of these streets (office and apartment buildings) not part of the district, but a row of five historic houses on Main Street and three houses on Hemingway Avenue still remain in place. The entire length of Park Place, a quieter two-lane street on the east, is lined with mature maples in front of eight historic houses and a 1964 church. There is no residential development in the district on River Street, also just two lanes, which divides the Green from the cemeteries to the south. They include the Old Town Cemetery directly opposite the Green and the contiguous East Lawn Cemetery to the east. Together they comprise more than 13 acres and overlook the Farm River marshes to the southeast.

The Green, roughly rectangular in shape and bordered by a fluted bollards (once connected by chains) and concrete curbing, is divided by concrete pathways that cross at a diagonal and meet near the center (Inventory #12; Photograph #s 1, 2). They are lighted at regular intervals by tall lamp posts, also fluted. A narrow asphalt path also runs along the Main Street inside the bollard fence. According to the survey of 1992, about 130 mature trees shade the Green. Mainly deciduous, they include maples, oaks, and sycamores, and a few conifers. Although today they appear to have been planted randomly, many older trees that date from the early 1900s were arranged in rows and along the walkways or edges of the Green.

Objects and structures are found throughout, including a large cast-iron nineteenth-century cannon mounted on a marble slab with a granite base near the center (Inventory #13; Photograph #2)). It was installed in 1911 to honor East Haven war veterans. A hexagonal wooden bandstand to the southwest, a recent replacement for the original structure of 1886, features a trumpet-shaped conical roof (Inventory #14). War memorials of more recent vintage are clustered at the northwest corner (Inventory #s 15, 16, 17; Photograph #1). The center monument, a granite pier surmounted by a globe, was erected in 1988 by the East Haven American Legion to honor veterans of all wars. Rose granite vertical slabs to either side commemorate soldiers who died in the world wars. Among the numerous small plaques (not inventoried) set at grade or on upright boulders is one near the northeast corner commemorating the Marquis de Lafayette's encampment on the Green in 1778.

The Old Town Cemetery is set off River Street by an iron fence and four large sycamores (Inventory #35). The entrance is defined by four rusticated rose granite pillars with dressed smooth margins (Inventory #36; Photograph #3). They support iron gates for a central carriage path with an ironwork sign above, and two pedestrian passageways on either side. The graveyard consists of two sections: the older part at the rear laid out in 1707 and an area next to the road, which was added in 1797. A tree-ringed depression about 40 feet across known as "Indian Bowl" lies between the sections on the eastern side. Once a spring-fed vernal pond, now partially filled in with soil, it no longer holds water, but is still at least 20 feet deep. A large group of eighteenth-century headstones to the south, generally carved from brownstone with the typical winged-angel motif of the period, are arranged in two closely set rows about three feet apart (Photograph #4). Apparently these markers were moved to this location from the now open grassed slope to the south, but no further information is available. Although a few early nineteenth-century headstones and obelisks are also found in this area, most of the later graves are in the newer section (Photograph #s 5, 6). There individual stones are embellished with a willow tree or other period designs, and there are family plots marked by a central obelisk. A number of materials were utilized, including limestone, marble, and granite.

Two free-standing granite pillars flank the entrance to the East Lawn Cemetery (Inventory #32). Laid out in a formal grid pattern defined by paved roadways, this cemetery, which is still in use, is more open and the gravestones are arranged in orderly rows (Photograph #7). The cemetery office, a cottage in the English manner with a slate roof and ashlar stone walls, is located in a cul-de-sac on the eastern side (Inventory # 33; Photograph #8), and there is a modern c. 1970 garage at the rear (Inventory #34).

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East Haven Green Historic District, New Haven County, CT

Section 7 Page 2

Two five-bay center-chimney Colonials, the Gideon Potter House (Inventory #4; Photograph #9) and the Leverett Bradley House (Inventory #29; Photograph #10), are located at opposite corners of the Green. The 1717 Potter House at the southwest corner, now converted to offices with a large rear addition, displays a pedimented Italianate doorhood with consoles and a segmental-arched transom, which, along with the drops at eave corners, probably dates from the 1860s. The first-floor sash are six-over-six; those at second floor, which are tucked up under the eaves, contain 12-over-12 sash. At the entrance to the 1791 Bradley House at the head of Park Place, a cantilevered flared hood shelters the double-leaf doorway. Six-over six windows are found throughout. Since here the roof was replaced, the second-floor facade windows only appear to abut the roof plate. The space between the windows and the original shallower cornice is now taken up by the present cased extended overhang. The house is the rectory for the Christ of the Epiphany Church next door, which was built of brick in the Colonial Revival style in 1964 (Inventory #39).

The Chidsey-Linsley House, a Colonial Cape on Main Street, has the small fixed-pane windows in the end elevations associated with this style (Inventory #8; Photograph #11). It displays flared overhangs on the façade and rear elevations, a regional characteristic attributed to Dutch influence. Other features include 12-over-12 window sash, a double-leaf front door, and a side door on the right elevation, which has a plain hood. Built on the foundation of an earlier house, it is traditionally dated to c. 1750, but the high roof plate suggests that the building was constructed after the Revolution. Interior physical evidence, especially the use of cut nails in the original trim, tends to confirm the later date. Another Cape with a gambrel roof, the Amos Thompson House, was erected on Park Place in 1771 (Inventory #26; Photograph #12). Unlike the other colonial houses in the district, which are sheathed with clapboard, this house is wood-shingled. The enclosed entryway and its later second level are recent additions.

The H. Smith House was erected on Hemingway Avenue shortly before the Civil War just west of the Old Town Cemetery (Inventory #1; Photograph # 13). A typical cross-gable Italianate farmhouse with segmental-arched window in the gable, it has been converted to a bank. The veranda posts with flared capitals are replacements, as is the balustrade, which is repeated along the access ramp on the south side. A drive-through area at the rear is sheltered by a hood with decorative braces.

Three nearly identical vernacular Queen Anne houses were constructed on Park Place about 1880 by the Chidsey family. Although somewhat altered, they have retained imbricated shingles in the gables and decorative bargeboards. They are similar in form to several vernacular houses on Main Street, including the one at #139 built as a school in 1867 (Inventory #s 5, 7, 9). A later Chidsey house next door was built as a duplex in the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles about 1910 (Inventory #24; Photograph # 15). The facade wall dormer, pronounced cornice returns, and tripartite windows in the gables are typical of this combination style. Its neighbor to the north is a 1930s Bungalow, the last historic house built in the district (Inventory #25; Photograph 15).

The following inventory list includes all the resources in the district. Dates of buildings were estimated in the field and later confirmed by historic research or tax assessor's records. Resources that are less than 50 years old are listed as non-contributing, as per National Park Service guidelines. This designation applies even when the resource commemorates a period or historic event, which is the case for the more recent war memorials on the Green.



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East Haven Green Historic District, New Haven County, CT

Section 7 Page 3

Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Inv. #	Address	Name/Style/Date	C/NC	Photo #
HEMINGWAY AVENUE				
1.	263	H. SMITH HOUSE, Italianate, c. 1870 (converted to a bank)	C	13
2.	270	WOODWARD HOUSE, Queen Anne, c. 1900	C	
3.		garage, c. 1930	C	
4.	274	GIDEON POTTER HOUSE, Colonial, 1717	C	9
MAIN STREET				
5.	125	vernacular, c. 1900	C	
6.		garage, c. 1950	NC	
7.	129	vernacular, c. 1890	C	
8.	133	CHIDSEY-LINSLEY HOUSE, Colonial Cape, c. 1750 or c. 1790	C	
9.	139	MIDDLE DISTRICT SCHOOL, vernacular, 1867 (residence after 1876)	C	
10.	143	A. D. CROCKER HOUSE, vernacular Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, c. 1900	C	
11.		garage, c. 1950	NC	
12.	150	EAST HAVEN GREEN, c. 1720, c. 1870	C	1, 2
13.		Cannon Memorial, 1911	C	
14.		bandstand, c. 1985	NC	
15.		World War I Memorial, c. 1985	NC	
16.		World War II Memorial, c. 1985	NC	
17.		American Legion Memorial, 1988	NC	
PARK PLACE				
18.	3	WALTER H. CHIDSEY HOUSE, vernacular Queen Anne, c. 1880	C	
19.		garage, c. 1940	C	
20.	7	HORACE L. CHIDSEY HOUSE, vernacular Queen Anne, c. 1880	C	14
21.		shed (concrete block), c. 1950	NC	
22.	11	WILLIAM S. CHIDSEY HOUSE, vernacular Queen Anne, c. 1880	C	14
23.		garage, c. 1960	NC	
24.	15	CHIDSEY BROTHERS HOUSE, Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, c. 1910	C	15
25.	23	Bungalow, c. 1930	C	
26.	27	AMOS THOMPSON HOUSE, Colonial (gambrel) Cape, 1771	C	12
27.		garage, c. 1910	C	
28.	39	Christ of the Epiphany Episcopal Church, Colonial Revival (brick), 1964	NC	
29.	47	LEVERETT BRADLEY HOUSE, Colonial, 1791	C	10
30.		garage/barn, c. 1900	C	
31.		shed, c. 1920	C	

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East Haven Green Historic District, New Haven County, CT

Section 7 Page 4

Inventory continued:

RIVER STREET

32.	58	EAST LAWN CEMETERY, 1898	C	7
33.		Cemetery Office, stone cottage, c. 1927	C	8
34.		garage, c. 1970	NC	
35.	100	OLD TOWN CEMETERY, 1707, 1797	C	4, 5, 6
36.		COWLES MEMORIAL GATE, 1907	C	3

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1700-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other 17

Name of repository:

Hagaman Memorial Library, East Haven, CT

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East Haven Green Historic District, New Haven County, CT

Section 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

The East Haven Green Historic District, a cultural historic landscape in process for over 200 years, embodies two distinct periods in the evolution of a Connecticut town. Today a quiet oasis amidst commercial development, in colonial times the district encompassed the heart of the town common, which, together with a central burying ground, became the civic and institutional focus of the parish. In the more formal defined landscape created in the later half of the nineteenth century, the East Haven Green expressed esthetics and values of the period, a Victorian sensibility also reflected in improvements to the town cemetery. Both of these periods are mirrored in the style and age of the residential borders of the district, which include some good examples of colonial architecture as well as a group of less significant houses influenced by the Italianate, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles.

Historical Background and Significance

East Haven was once part of the Town of New Haven, the seat of government for the New Haven Colony founded by Theophilus Eaton and the Reverend John Davenport in 1638. When the colony organized in 1643, it included Milford, Stamford, Guilford, and Southhold, Long Island, and Branford joined the following year. New Haven remained a separate colony until 1665 when it became part of the Connecticut Colony and later, the co-capital of the colony and state. East Haven, or East Farms as it was once known, remained part of the Town of New Haven for almost 150 years, evolving from a satellite farming community to a separate parish, or church society, with some limited governing powers as a village. Although farming was the principal occupation, East Farms settlers also started an iron forge and blast furnace in 1655. Located where present-day Route 1 crosses at the foot of Lake Saltonstall on the Farm River, it was the first ironworks in Connecticut and possibly the first in the colonies to utilize bog iron. When the City of New Haven was incorporated as a city in 1784, city and town bounds were not coterminous, leaving villages on the periphery still part of the Town of New Haven. East Haven was the first to seek political independence, becoming a separate town in 1785, followed by Hamden and North Haven in 1786.

The East Haven Green Historic District encompasses just a small part of the original town commons, an area that once totaled more than 400 acres. There are few references in New Haven town records, but in 1686 a survey was ordered of 200 acres set aside in 1640 and several hundred more acres of river meadow and marsh land to the south. As reconstructed and mapped by town historian Clifford Nitchke, the northern portion (about 65 acres)¹ included the present four-acre Town Green as well as the adjacent cemeteries, and extended east to the Farm River, the Branford town line (see Exhibit B). Apparently the northern boundary always followed the road to Tokoket (Branford) laid out in 1640, present-day Main Street, which still borders the Green. On the west, part of the commons ran from the Green along Main Street to the site of the present fire station.

As was the case in many colonial towns, the East Haven commons served several functions. In the early years, it was a communal pasture where livestock freely grazed and also served as a central marketplace and militia training grounds. Liberty to establish a blacksmith shop on the northwest corner of the present Green was granted in 1662 to John Potter, who lived to the east on Main Street, a privilege later extended to Roswell Chidsey and Samuel Bradley. Some of the commons was set aside for the support of the ministry, and in time, the first meetinghouse, parsonage, and schoolhouse were located there.

As early as 1679 the inhabitants of East Haven, led by Samuel Hemingway, began to petition the Town of New Haven for "liberty and encouragement" to establish a new village and church. While this first attempt to found a parish was not successful, a second effort in 1704 resulted in the erection of a small meetinghouse, which stood on a knoll near the northwest corner of the original commons with a schoolhouse at the rear (see Exhibit B). The first minister, the Reverend Jacob Hemingway, Samuel's son, a new graduate of the Collegiate School at Saybrook (later Yale College), received a house and five acres at the southeast corner of the Green, and also served as the schoolmaster. In 1707 part of the commons was sequestered for a town burying ground. Located at the rear of the present Old Town Cemetery, it encompassed an area just south of "Indian Bowl," a pond once thought to be the site of a Native American fort. The oldest grave there dates to 1712; prior to that time East Haven people were buried in New Haven in the old cemetery on the upper Green. When the East Haven cemetery was expanded to present size in 1797, it extended north across River Street to the southern edge of the Green. The most direct route from New Haven to the ironworks once ran along the east side. Laid out by a Mr. Tyler in the 1650s, it still is called Tyler Street on town maps. A second, larger meetinghouse was built on the

¹ As determined by author using scaled acreage estimator on current USGS map of Branford quadrangle.