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north side of Main Street in 1719 which served the parish until the new "Stone Church" was erected in 1774 farther east in the present-day center of town. The second and last schoolhouse to be located on the Green was erected in 1799.

The first recorded reference to the common as the "Green" appeared in New Haven and East Haven records in 1720, when the town meeting voted that "the Green shall not be disposed of except it be for some public use." Although the town had made allotments to proprietors along Main Street, the more customary settlement practice of setting out homelots around the rest of the common was not followed, which created some ownership disputes. Apparently in an effort to retain the Green as town property and forestall any more settlement there, wide roads were laid out that crisscrossed the Green and virtually covered the entire space. One of the proprietors already living nearby was Gideon Potter, whose house was located on Hemingway Avenue at the southwest corner of the Green (Inventory #4). Built in 1717, it is the oldest surviving house in the district. Much later, Stephen Thompson, who lived farther west on Main Street, built houses for three of his sons around the Green. Only one still stands, the gambrel Cape erected for Amos on Park Place in 1771 (Inventory #26). One erected for Moses on the foundation of the Hemingway parsonage on River Street was moved and later demolished, as was Stephen, Jr.,'s house that once stood at the corner of Main and Hemingway. Leverett Bradley, a member of the family who had a farm on River Street (the site of the East Lawn Cemetery), built his house at the head of Park Place in 1791 (Inventory #29).

The Green was the site of several events during the American Revolution. When East Haven was threatened during the invasion of New Haven by the British in July 1779, the colonial militia from area towns as far away as Durham mustered there. The previous year, 2800 troops under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette camped on or near the Green. Lafayette, who was on his way to Providence to join up with the French fleet, stayed at the Reverend Street's house. Tradition holds that his return to East Haven in 1824 was marked by the erection of a "liberty pole" on the Green, which stood until 1840 when it disappeared on election night in the presidential campaign of William Henry Harrison and John Tyler.

Victorian women were in the forefront of the village improvement movement of the nineteenth century, which often focussed on the beautification of public spaces. In East Haven they began with the town cemetery. Little had been done there in the way of maintenance since 1786, when townspeople banned the grazing of cattle and horses, while allowing sheep, geese, and calves to roam there to keep down the brush and grass. In 1849 a society of young women was formed to raise subscriptions to make improvements, which included the partial filling of the pond at Indian Bowl and grading there for a carriage path, and installing a new stone wall on the south side and picket fences on the other borders. The old hearse house, in poor repair and no longer in use, was torn down. Perhaps inspired by the new Henry Austin (1804-1891) gate at New Haven's Grove Street Cemetery, a decision was made to install an entrance gate. Designed by Sidney M. Stone (1803-1888), another New Haven architect, it was replaced by the present Cowles Memorial Gate in 1907, which was donated by E. B. Cowles of Boston, a descendant of an old East Haven family (Inventory #36).

The Bradley Farm along River Street (once known as Bradley Street) was privately purchased to make way for the new East Lawn Cemetery in 1898. The farmhouse and barns were demolished and the Moses Thompson House (on the site of the Hemingway parsonage) was moved to 233 Hemingway Avenue. Unlike the older town-owned cemetery, which is run by appointed trustees, the new graveyard was owned and run by a private association. The stone office erected there in 1927 honors Leroy A. Chidsey, a descendant of Deacon John Chidsey, who lived nearby on Main Street (on the site of Inventory #8). The deacon was a tanner by trade and, until quite recently, remnants of his tan vats can still be seen at the rear of his property.

Landscaping of the Green after the Civil War marked a shift from active to more passive uses. In June of 1861 the East Haven town meeting had voted to discontinue the public highways on the Green so the area could be fenced. A committee was appointed to investigate the cost of fencing, grading, and other improvements, but actual implementation of the plans was delayed by the war. When the schoolhouse on the Green burned down in 1862, it was not replaced; a new school was built on Main Street in 1867 (Inventory #7). The area was graded in 1869 and elm trees were planted; ball playing was forbidden and fined by 1876. A perimeter fence was erected that year and an octagonal bandstand, quite similar to the present structure, was built in 1886. The selectmen were

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authorized to mow the grass in the "park" at least three times a year and sell the hay. With its new landscaping, the Green attracted new residential development. Among the houses that sprang up in this period were four erected by the Chidsey family on Park Place (Inventory #s 18, 20, 22, 24).

The more ceremonial aspects of the Green were emphasized after 1900, a period when many towns began to celebrate Arbor Day and Decoration Day. The custom of planting trees on Arbor Day began in the Midwest in 1872 and spread to Connecticut by 1887. On Arbor Day in 1903 the East Haven Women's Club planted 100 trees, which were donated by town and neighborhood residents and school children. In later years, trees were planted to honor governors of the state and a plaque marks the former location of an oak donated in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt. When the Green was surveyed and mapped in 1910, there were 150 trees in place; each was located and coded with a number to identify the donor (Exhibit C). Of interest is the fact that the overall planting pattern left an open space along the south side, as it still does today. The map also shows that the perimeter fence had been removed (in 1905) and there were additional paths radiating out from the center along the cardinal points of compass. It appears that the first bandstand was located east of where the paths converged, rather than west, its present location. Also illustrated were the tracks for the electric railway that had passed by the Green on the west and south since 1900 and remained in place into the 1940s. The cars came from New Haven on Main Street, then ran down Hemingway Avenue to the southwest corner of the Green, where the tracks branched for the run to Branford along River Street.

In 1911 the Cannon Memorial was installed to honor East Haven's war dead. (Inventory #13). The cast-iron cannon was one of four that had comprised the battery at Fort Nathan Hale in the War of 1812.² Known as Black Rock Fort during the Revolution, it is located on the east side of New Haven harbor at the head of Morris Cove. Moved to Lighthouse Point nearer the harbor entrance by the Spanish American War, the guns eventually were dispersed among area towns for use as monuments. New war memorials were installed much later in the century, which established the entrance to the Green at the northwest corner (Inventory #s 15, 16, 17). The Lafayette Memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 27, 1996. Originally known as Decoration Day, this national holiday was officially recognized in Connecticut in 1875.

Architecture

The architecture of the district has undeniable historic significance. While the Green itself remains the centerpiece of the district, the houses provide a necessary historic context of some temporal depth. They stand today as witnesses to the evolution of the Green in the colonial and Victorian periods, and, together with ancient trees along Park Place and River Street, and on the Green itself, they contribute to a distinct sense of time and place. Architecturally, these historic properties collectively define and help preserve and enhance the Green, a significant public space that is so much a part of East Haven's heritage. While some houses have been converted to new uses and others have been altered by the use of synthetic sidings or additions, all of the buildings have retained their original historic form and thus contribute to the overall architectural significance of the district.

Three key buildings have considerable architectural significance in their own right. The Leverett Bradley and Gideon Potter houses, which anchor the Green from opposite corners, are fine, well-preserved examples of the Colonial style (Inventory #s 4, 29; Photograph #s 9, 10). Although built almost 80 years apart, they are remarkably similar in form and plan, illustrating the essentially conservative nature of colonial builders. The significance of the Bradley House is enhanced by a distinctive doorway, which combines the formality of a double door with a molded enframing with a flared doorhood, the latter a popular vernacular feature in the region during the colonial period. The replacement of the roof is the only apparent change to the exterior of this fine house. The exterior integrity of the Potter House was uncompromised by its conversion to office space, and the addition, while large, is quite unobtrusive, as it is not visible from the street. This sensitive approach to historic rehabilitation is also found in the bank's rather ingenious use of the Smith House across the way, in which new additions are in keeping with the original style of the building (Inventory #1; Photograph #13).

² They were cast by the Dahlgren method, in which cold water was poured into the hot barrel casting to produce a harder and straighter bore. C. Nitchke, 8/5/01.

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Regional characteristics are also displayed in the Chidsey-Linsley Cape on Main Street, the other architecturally significant house in the district. It is distinguished by the use of flared overhangs on both the front and rear elevations, a rare manifestation of this characteristically Dutch construction. The more usual approach is a single facade overhang, which may extend out over a porch, a feature of several Capes in towns to the north of New Haven, such as Woodbridge. Other unusual features are the use of a double-leaf front door and the so-called "coffin" door at the front of the right elevation, elements normally reserved for larger two-story Colonials. These anomalies might be attributed to its building history, which indicates the reuse of an older foundation and framing materials.

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Section 9/10 Page 1**9. Major Bibliographic References**

East Haven, Connecticut. Hagan Memorial Library Archives. History files.

Chidsey, Donald V. "Old Homes of East Haven." MS, 1934.

Dodd, Reverend Stephen. *East Haven Register*. New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1910 (Appendix to Hughes *History of East Haven*).

"Historic Preservation : A Plan for Connecticut, Vol. II." Connecticut Historical Commission, 1974.

Hughes, Sara E. *History of East Haven*. New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1908.

175th Anniversary: East Haven Connecticut 1785-1960 (Souvenir Program).

Nitchke, Clifford E. Personal communication and excerpts from his East Haven history files.

Town Greens, Statewide Architectural and Historical Survey. Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and Connecticut Historical Commission, 1996, site 47.

10. Geographical Data**UTMS:**

1. 18 678890 4571290
2. 18 678290 4571400
3. 18 678530 4571370
4. 18 678560 4571460
5. 18 678680 4571460
6. 18 678670 4571400
7. 18 678730 4571410
8. 18 678710 4571180
9. 18 678810 4571170
10. 18 678810 4571020
11. 18 678500 4571040

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries are shown on the attached district map (Exhibit A) reproduced at reduced scale from East Haven Tax Assessor's Maps 190 and 210.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries are drawn to encompass the remaining acreage of the East Haven's seventeenth-century commons, an area now occupied by the present Green and two cemeteries, and all the surviving historic buildings associated with the development of these sites during the period of significance of the district, and to exclude all the recent commercial construction on the periphery.