

PH0352501

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 2 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 3 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  \* \* Old Saybrook South Green

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Old Boston Post Road, Pennywise Lane, Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Old Saybrook

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

#2 - Christopher Dodd

STATE Connecticut

CODE 09

COUNTY Middlesex

CODE 007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple Public and Private

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Old Saybrook

VICINITY OF

STATE Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Old Saybrook

STATE Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Conn. Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Hartford

STATE Connecticut

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Address Old Boston <u>Post Rd.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Modifications</u>	<u>Importance t District</u>
	#12	c.1873	Victorian Gothic/ Italianate details 3 bay, clapboard, gable end, 2½ story to street, bracket cornice	Essential
	#16	c.1830	Clapboard, 3 bay, gable roof; "false front" hides gable end, modified Greek Revival, 2 story	Moved, facade now is store- front, modern window frames Contributory
	#20	late 18th cent.	4 bay, clap- board, box cornice, central chimney, 2½ story	Storefront on first floor Contributory
#25 - First Church of Christ Scientist		20th cent.	1 story, brick	None
	#31	Maybe 18th cent.	3 bay, clapboard box cornice, classical door frame, 2 story	Modern clapboard new chimney new roof Contributory
	#32	20th cent.	Built to look like 19th century gambrel roof house, 3 bay, batten door, central central chimney	Contributory
	#33	1799	5 bay, clapboard, 2 story central hall, 2 chimneys, gable roof, rear ell, box cornice, doric porch	Essential

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Address	Date	Description	Modifications	Importance to District
Old Boston Post Rd.				
#34	c.1837	Very plain, Greek Revival, gable end to street, 3 bay, ell extending to left, 2 story	Interior restoration of 1930's	Essential
#40 Acton Library	1873	Victorian Eclectic mansard roof with gables, 2 stories, 3 bay, ornate front bannister, classical door surround		Essential
#45	c.1780 front porch c.1850	5 bay, clapboard, 2½ story, central hall plan with two chimneys, simple Doric front porch.	New windows	Essential
#50 Masonic Hall	c.1830	Greek Revival, 2½ story, 3 bay with pilasters between each bay, bracket & dentil cornice and sunrise window in pediment	Moved	Essential
Pennywise Lane				
#66	c. 1811	Very simple classical revival, 3 bay, 2½ story, clapboard with small sunrise window in simple pediment		Essential
#54	20th cent.	Ranch style		None

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Address Pennywise <u>Lane</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Modifications</u>	<u>Importance to District</u>
#46	20th cent.	Ranch style		None
#43	c.1800	2 story, 3 bay, gambrel cottage, clapboard, central chimney	Moved	
#40	20th cent.	3 bay, 2 story, stone facade on 1st floor, asbestos shingling above		None
#37	Maybe 18th cent.	5 bay, clapboard chimney off-center Doric style porch, box cornice, fan- light & sidelights around door		Contributory
#36	Early 19th cent.	1½ story, 5 bay clapboard, 2 dormers central chimney, gable roof	New roof	Contributory
#33	20th cent.	Split level		None
#29	20th cent.	Ranch style		None
#21	Early 19th cent.	1½ story clapboard, bell-cast gambrel, 3 bay dormers	Garage addition	Contributory
#17	20th cent.	3 bay, gable roof, aluminum siding		None
#28	c1825	Greek Revival, 3 bay sunrise window in simple pediment	Modern siding (alum)	Essential
#27	20th cent.	2 story, 3 bay, might be older but much altered		None

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Address <u>Lane</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Modifications</u>	Importance to <u>District</u>
Pennywise				
#16	mid 19th cent.	3 bay, gable roof, clapboard, 2½ story, gable end to street, Doric style porch		Contributory
#14	mid 19th cent.	clapboard, 3 bay, gable end to street, 2½ story		Contributory
#11	20th cent.	2 bay, asbestos siding, overhang, gable roof, side garage		None
#10	c1825	Cottage style, multi- gabled, large front bay	Asbestos siding	Essential
# 9	20th cent.	Ranch style		None
Pennywise Lane & Main St. (corner)	early 19th cent.	Old store and pharmacy 2½ story, 2 bay, clapboard, 12/12 sash windows, broken return pediment facing street, gable roof, sunbeam pattern in pediment, south ell		Essential
Main St. #325 Deacon Timothy Pratt House	c1746	2½ story, 5 bay, clap- board central & end wall chimneys, gable roof, simple classical door surround		Essential
#366- First Church of Christ	1839	Greek Revival style, wood, 4 fluted doric columns across facade, 2 pilasters support simple architrave frieze, pediment, surmounted by		Essential

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<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Modifications</u>	<u>Importance to District</u>
#366 Parish House	1875	1 story clapboard Victorian cottage style, gable roof		Essential
#350 Gen. William Hart Hse. on Nat. Register	1767	2½ story, 5 bay, clapboard, box cornice, simple Doric porch, 12/12 window sashes		Essential already on Nat. Register
#348 Nathan Merrills House	c1854	3 bay, simple Greek Revival, 2½ story diamond window in pediment	Asbestos siding	Essential
Main St. #338 Rectory	c1873	stick & shingle style Gothic, 2½ story, much Gothic ornament multi-gable roof, Gothic dormer		Essential
#338 Grace Episcopal Church	1872	Stone Gothic style church with buttresses, bell tower		Essential
#334 Samuel H. Pratt Hse.	1874	3 bay, 2½ story clap- board with Italianate features such as long windows, bracket cornice & porch		Essential
#328	late 19th cent.	multi-gabled, 2 story	Asbestos siding	None
#322 J. Shipman House	c1836	Greek Revival, 5 bay, 2 story, clapboard with simple Greek Revival engaged pilasters and frieze	Revival style, porch probably later addition	Essential

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<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Modifications</u>	<u>Importance to District</u>
#315	Early 19th cent.	2 story, clapboard gambrel roof with south ell	New chimneys, roof, interior arrangement	Contributory
#305 James Ingraham	c1811	4 bay, 2½ story clapboard, Georgian style, dentil cornice, central & end wall chimneys, door-southernmost bay		Essential
#297	20th cent.	Ranch style		None
#287 Main St. Humphrey Pratt Tavern on Nat. Register	1785	gable roof, 5 bay, 2½ story, clapboard with double overhang central hall plan (gambrel roofed, 2 story ell)		Essential On Nat.Register

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1630's the British established a town within a stockade fort on the edge of Long Island Sound and gave it the name Saybrook for Lord Say and Seal and Lord Brook had claimed the land for the British crown. Within thirty years the settlement had expanded beyond the fort and many new routes inland were opened up. Because it was located on the coast, Old Saybrook became the center for a large ship-building industry and during the eighteenth century, commercial shipping between Saybrook and the West Indies contributed greatly to the wealth and expansion of the town. It was due to such prosperity that many large impressive homes were built. The buildings surrounding the town green, particularly, reflect the wealth and history of the area between 1760 and 1900.

The first buildings along the green seem to have been large residences for prominent Saybrook families, such as the Harts (William Hart, Jr. was a general in the Revolutionary War and a candidate for Governor of Connecticut) and the Pratts. Built in the late eighteenth century, these homes reflect the wealth of this shipping port and of the expansion of the town away from Long Island Sound.

Evidence that the South Green remained a desirable neighborhood is found in the large nineteenth century homes belonging to the Pratts, Ingrahams, Bushnells and Actons, families of some means and importance in Old Saybrook politics. A general store was built just south of this area in 1800, and a library on the Old Boston Post Road in 1873. During the nineteenth century the Episcopal and Methodist churches were constructed in various sites surrounding the triangle (first on Old Boston Post Road and Pennywise Lane, respectively, then at their present locations on Main Street). Thus, the needs of the families living on the green were met by walking a very short distance.

Several of the buildings have been used for a variety of purposes, such as #16 Old Boston Post Road, which was used as a church, store and post office at various times. #43 Pennywise Lane is unusual, too, for it is thought to have been built originally as a carriage house.

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By surveying this small area of Old Saybrook, one can view both the architectural and social development of the entire community during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of the old houses reflect a high style of design and thus are impressive representatives of a bygone era. Visually, the district is a great asset to the town for its lovely streetscapes reflect a versatility of building styles and compatible building scale, making it one of the loveliest village greens in the state.

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"Saybrook's Quadrimillennial," Hartford, Clark and Smith, 1886.

"The General William Hart House, 1767," Old Saybrook Historical Society, Inc., Old Saybrook, 1974.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

South of the retail area of Old Saybrook and south Route 1 is a triangular residential area formed by Old Boston Post Road, Pennywise Lane and Main Street. Main Street is oriented to a north-south direction (conjuncting with Route 1) and forms one side of the triangle; the other side is Pennywise Lane, which runs from southeast to northwest. Old Boston Post Road crosses these two streets forming the north base of the triangle.

This residential area is known as Saybrook's South Green and the historical district is bounded by the back lot lines of buildings on the west side of Pennywise Lane, the north side of Old Boston Post Road and the east side of Main Street. Within these boundaries are 24 structures, including two churches, one commercial. Buildings range in date from 1767 to 1875 and present a variety of architectural styles, but are of similar scale so the neighborhood is of a very cohesive character. The district contains certain structures, primarily nineteenth century, which either are of no historical importance or have been altered in such a way as to damage their architectural integrity. These homes are contributory (see table) for they provide a stylistic continuity between "essential" buildings.

Of no importance to the historical character are a number of modern homes, largely on Pennywise Lane, which are of no historical or architectural interest.

Beyond the boundaries of the South Green district, specifically west on Old Boston Post Road and south on Main Street, there are a few old structures, but they are separated by many modern structures not in keeping with the general character of the Green. Further north on Main Street is a busy commercial area quite apart from this historic area. So, Old Saybrook South Green is a very distinctive area of the town, a landmark on the town plat.

The following table provides detailed historical and architectural information on each structure within the district:

→ 44 structures - topographical env. -  
 Libovich 5.7.76

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#16	c.1830	Clapboard, 3 bay, gable roof; "false front" hides gable end, modified Greek Revival, 2 story	Moved, facade now is store- front, modern window frames	Contributory
#20	late 18th cent.	4 bay, clap- board, box cornice, central chimney, 2½ story	Storefront on first floor	Contributory
#25 - First Church of Christ Scientist	20th cent.	1 story, brick		None
#31	Maybe 18th cent.	3 bay, clapboard box cornice, classical door frame, 2 story	Modern clapboard new chimney new roof	Contributory
#32	20th cent.	Built to look like 19th century gambrel roof house, 3 bay, batten door, central central chimney		Contributory
#33	1799	5 bay, clapboard, 2 story central hall, 2 chimneys, gable roof, rear ell, box cornice, doric porch		Essential

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#40 Acton Library	1873	Victorian Eclectic mansard-roof with gables, 2 stories, 3 bay, ornate front bannister, classical door surround	<i>no photo</i>	Essential
#45	c.1780 c.1850	5 bay, clapboard, front porch 2½ story, central hall plan with two chimneys, simple Doric front porch.	New windows	Essential
#50 Masonic Hall	c.1830	Greek Revival, 2½ story, 3 bay with pilasters between each bay, bracket & dentil cornice and sunrise window in pediment	Moved	Essential
Pennywise Lane				
#66	c. 1811	Very simple classical revival, 3 bay, 2½ story, clapboard with small sunrise window in simple pediment		Essential
#54	20th cent.	Ranch style		None

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#348 Nathan Merrills House	c1854	3 bay, simple Greek Revival, 2½ story diamond window in pediment	Asbestos siding	Essential
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#328	late 19th cent.	multi-gabled, 2 story	Asbestos siding	None
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#305 James Ingraham	c1811	4 bay, 2½ story clapboard, Georgian style, dentil cornice, central & end wall chimneys, door-southernmost bay		Essential
#297	20th cent.	Ranch style		None
#287 Main St. Humphrey Pratt Tavern on Nat. Register	1785	gable roof, 5 bay, 2½ story, clapboard with double overhang central hall plan (gambrel roofed, 2 story ell)		Essential On Nat. Register

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1630's the British established a town within a stockade fort on the edge of Long Island Sound and gave it the name Saybrook for Lord Say and Seal and Lord Brook had claimed the land for the British crown. Within thirty years the settlement had expanded beyond the fort and many new routes inland were opened up. Because it was located on the coast, Old Saybrook became the center for a large ship-building industry and during the eighteenth century, commercial shipping between Saybrook and the West Indies contributed greatly to the wealth and expansion of the town. It was due to such prosperity that many large impressive homes were built. The buildings surrounding the town green, particularly, reflect the wealth and history of the area between 1760 and 1900.

The first buildings along the green seem to have been large residences for prominent Saybrook families, such as the Harts (William Hart, Jr. was a general in the Revolutionary War and a candidate for Governor of Connecticut) and the Pratts. Built in the late eighteenth century, these homes reflect the wealth of this shipping port and of the expansion of the town away from Long Island Sound.

Evidence that the South Green remained a desirable neighborhood is found in the large nineteenth century homes belonging to the Pratts, Ingrahams, Bushnells and Actons, families of some means and importance in Old Saybrook politics. A general store was built just south of this area in 1800, and a library on the Old Boston Post Road in 1873. During the nineteenth century the Episcopal and Methodist churches were constructed in various sites surrounding the triangle (first on Old Boston Post Road and Pennywise Lane, respectively, then at their present locations on Main Street). Thus, the needs of the families living on the green were met by walking a very short distance.

Several of the buildings have been used for a variety of purposes, such as #16 Old Boston Post Road, which was used as a church, store and post office at various times. #43 Pennywise Lane is unusual, too, for it is thought to have been built originally as a carriage house.

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By surveying this small area of Old Saybrook, one can view both the architectural and social development of the entire community during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of the old houses reflect a high style of design and thus are impressive representatives of a bygone era. Visually, the district is a great asset to the town for its lovely streetscapes reflect a versatility of building styles and compatible building scale, making it one of the loveliest village greens in the state.



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"Saybrook's Quadrimillennial," Hartford, Clark and Smith, 1886.

"The General William Hart House, 1767," Old Saybrook Historical  
Society, Inc., Old Saybrook, 1974.