

PROPERTY NAME

West Haven Green Historic District, West Haven, CT

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United States Department of the Interior

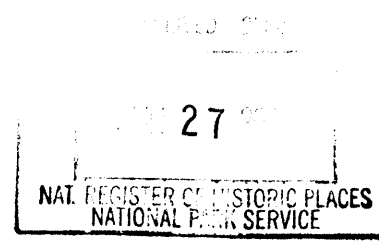
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: West Haven Green Historic District

Other Name/Site Number: NA

888



2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 463-465, 464, 464 (rear) 469, 473-475, 479, 481-483, 485-487, 489-495, 497-501, 507-509, 519-529 Campbell Avenue; 20, 38, 44 Church Street; 405 Main Street; 654, 662, 666, 678, 686 Savin Avenue Not for publication: NA

City/Town: West Haven Vicinity: NA

State: CT County: New Haven Code: 009 Zip Code: 06516

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
Private: <u>x</u>	Building(s): <u> </u>
Public-local: <u>x</u>	District: <u>x</u>
Public-State: <u> </u>	Site: <u> </u>
Public-Federal: <u> </u>	Structure: <u> </u>
	Object: <u> </u>

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>20</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> objects
<u>23</u>	<u>6</u> total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria..

 _____ 06/21/00 _____
Signature of Certifying Official Date

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

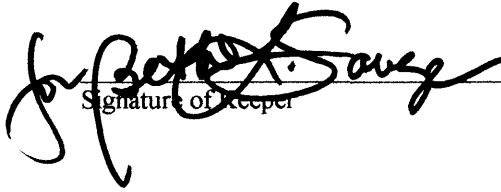
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register _____
- Determined eligible for the National Register _____
- Determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- Removed from the National Register _____
- Other (explain): _____

 _____ 8/11/00 _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: DOMESTIC, COMMERCE Sub: single dwelling, business
RELIGION, CULTURE religious facility, monument

Current: DOMESTIC, COMMERCE Sub: single dwelling, business
RELIGION, CULTURE religious facility, monument

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:

Materials:

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate,
Queen Anne, Romanesque
19C & 20C/Colonial and Tudor
Revivals

Foundation: STONE/BRICK/CONCRETE
Walls: WOOD/Weatherboard/BRICK
SYNTHETIC/vinyl
Roof: ASBESTOS
Other Description: STUCCO

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Overview

The West Haven Green Historic District consists of the 5.3-acre Green and the buildings surrounding three sides of the Green. The First Congregational Church and several historical monuments stand on the Green itself. While the location of the Green was established in colonial times, the present landscaping and the surrounding buildings date from the late 19th century. The two most architecturally significant buildings in the district are the frame Romanesque Revival Congregational Church with its brick Colonial Revival additions on the Green, and the traprock Episcopal Church, designed by Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, which is on the Church Street (south) side of the Green. Commercial buildings line Campbell Street on the east and frame domestic structures face the open space from across Savin Avenue on the west. The block of Main Street on the fourth (north) side of the Green is dominated by mid-20th century architecture, mostly commercial but including the City Hall. Since these buildings are less than 50 years old, the block is not included in the district. (See Figure 1, District Map.)

Site

The Green is a flat square block bounded on the north by Main Street, on the east by Campbell Avenue, on the south by Church Street, and on the west by Savin Avenue. Its earliest feature is the 18th-century cemetery in the southwest corner (Photograph 6). The landscaping of radial walks lined by shade trees was initiated in the late 19th century, and the monuments and bandstand in the 20th century.

Buildings

The siting and spacing of buildings within the district fall into three categories, which are related to the religious, commercial, and residential functions. First, the two churches are surrounded by ample space, the Congregational Church being alone on the Green (Photograph 2) and the Episcopal Church (Photograph 14) with its satellite properties occupying the entire Church Street block. Second, the commercial buildings on Campbell Avenue have common walls, creating maximum density (Photographs 11, 12). And third, the modest but comfortable spacing of the seven houses is consistent with late-19th/early-20th-century residential practice (Photographs 16, 18).

The Congregational Church, on the Green, consists of the three sections, the 1859 frame sanctuary, the 1915 brick Parish House, and the 1959 brick Education Building (Photograph 2). The sanctuary is a two-story rectangular building with projecting front tower and steeple in the Federal/Greek Revival tradition, but with distinguishing Romanesque Revival features of round arches, solid proportions, and strong cornices characteristic of its era of construction (Photograph 3). Christ Church Episcopal, across the street to the south, also adjoins an 18th-century cemetery. The stone church building articulates a Gothic Revival design of the architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson (Photograph 14).

The row of commercial buildings runs along Campbell Avenue from just north of Main Street to just south of Curtiss Place (Photographs 11, 12). At the north the large three-story Tudor Revival Wood Building (Photograph 13) faces the Italianate Thompson Block across Main Street (Photograph 12), to be followed by a row of mostly early 20th-century stores which continues to Curtiss Place. The Classical Revival/Colonial Revival brick office building of the Southern New England Telephone Company then anchors the southeast corner of the district.

The district's seven houses are comfortably spaced, starting on Church Street west of Christ Church (Photograph 16) and extending around the corner along the west side of the Green on Savin Avenue (Photograph 18). They are stylistically eclectic examples of the Queen Anne, American Four Square, Colonial Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Dutch Colonial Revival styles. The district's one apartment house, at the northwest corner, is in the Tudor Revival style, three stories high, and by its size and style balances the three-story Tudor Revival commercial block at the northeast corner (Photograph 17).

Objects and Structure

20th-century changes have brought three monuments to the Green. The World War I memorial consists of a granite pedestal which supports the bronze figure of a Doughboy celebrating the Armistice (Photograph 7), while the Firefighters Monument features a bronze bell on rough finished granite (Photograph 8), and a large boulder commemorates a West Haven incident in the Revolutionary War (Photograph 9). The chess table is an added amenity. The most recent addition is the 1987 frame bandstand (Photograph 10).

Inventory

Resources are arranged in the following tabulation alpha-numerically by street address. Construction dates for buildings are taken from the 1985 Historic and Architectural Survey of West Haven except for 405 Main Street and 662 Savin Avenue, not surveyed, for which Assessor's dates are used.

All resources are considered to contribute to the historic and architectural significance of the district except two less than 50 years old, which are marked NC, for Non-Contributing, at the left margin.

Note:

497-501 Campbell Avenue and 507-509 Campbell Avenue are on the same parcel, map 35, lot 119.
469 Campbell Avenue, 473-475 Campbell Avenue, and 479 Campbell Avenue are on the same parcel, map 35, lot 123A.

See Figure 1, District Map.

In the tabulation of Number of Resources at Item 3 above, the Green is counted as a site. The gravestones, collectively, in each of the cemeteries are counted as an object.

- C 463-465 Campbell Avenue Southern New England Telephone Company Building 1924 2-story Classical Revival/Colonial Revival brick office building. 41' x 48", with 1949 rear additions. In front elevation at each floor large tripartite 6-over-6 white windows are flanked by paired 6-over-6s. Eight single 6-over-6 windows continue strong design statement along side elevations. To balance visual vertical thrust, horizontal lines are introduced by string course that extends first-floor sills, by window caps, boldly molded cornice and roofline merlons. Proportion of window pane height to width is larger than usual, accentuating tall narrow measurements of windows. (Photograph 1)
- C 464 Campbell Avenue First Congregational Church 1859, 1915, 1959 Sidney Mason Stone, architect for 1859 building Sited on Green. 3-bay front tower of 1859 frame sanctuary on traprock foundation faces north. Each bay has four-paneled double door in arched opening. Arched and oculus windows above lead to square tower and 6-sided 30' spire. After structural integrity of tower and spire was impaired by storm, it was rebuilt in 1951 on steel frame. Five rectangular 8-over-8 windows in each side elevation of sanctuary. Vinyl siding over clapboards; aluminum siding over trim. Interior dominated by 2-story round chancel arch supported by paired pilasters at front (Photographs 3, 4, 5).
Three-story red brick 1915 Parish House/Fellowship Hall addition to south in Neo-Classical Revival style featuring Venetian window, swags, and festoons. Large round-arched stained-glass window in south wall of two-story meeting room. Second hipped-roof brick addition, Education Building/Sunday School, of 1961 in similar style designed by Joseph P. Kelly of West Haven. (Photograph 2)
- C Campbell Avenue (rear) The Green Parcel of 5.3 acres (see Figure 1, District Map) is owned by city except for land church buildings stand on. Edge of Green is defined by slate curbing. Concrete sidewalk runs around perimeter, about six feet in from edge. Pedestrian circulation provided by sidewalks radiating from center to corners and middle of blocks. Mature maple and oak trees shade paths and cemetery in southeast corner. Overall effect is canopy of trees covering Green, although trees are planted in linear pattern along sidewalks. Flagpole in north central location.
Town cemetery at southeast corner was established ca. 1700. Care was shared by the two churches. Interments were discontinued in 1878. The cemetery is surrounded by wrought-iron picket fence with cast-iron gate. Rows of 18th-century brownstone grave markers display traditional tombstone design of three segmental curves at top over angels or death's heads with foliate vine borders on sides to frame lettering. 19th-century rectangular marble markers with lettering only also are present. One new slate monument, "erected by his great grandson," commemorates J. Thompson, who was killed by British invaders on July 5, 1779. (Photograph 6)

Objects on the Green

- C World War I Monument Dedicated November 11, 1928. Gorham Company, Providence, Rhode Island, designers and builders. 11', 4" bronze figure of Doughboy on granite pedestal, surrounded by picket fence painted green. Evergreen shrubs and annuals within fence. Two-stage 12'-square stone platform supports 11'-tall pedestal.

Bronze plaques are affixed to each face of pedestal. Four original plaques are similar to one another in classical design, being rectangles bordered by Roman maces with fields of lettering set in foliate and vine patterns under Seal of United States in wreath. Plaque on front (north) face features eight bas-relief figures, four servicemen, one for each branch of service, and four artisans, shaking hands in cooperation concerning prosecution of war, over lettering first four lines of which are:

DEDICATED TO THE
MEMORY OF THOSE WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE
WORLD WAR 1917-1918

Similar smaller plaques on sides and back carry Honor Rolls, each of nine names in raised lettering of those who died in service. Three more plaques have been added on sides and back below originals to honor those who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

ARMISTICE is incised in top of pedestal below figure's right foot. Larger than life-sized figure stands with his right leg forward, holding his helmet aloft in his right hand. (Photograph 7)

Proposed by Hughson Post American Legion. Paid for by town. Dedicated with parade and suitable ceremonies.

- C Firefighters Monument ca. early 20th century Bronze bell on granite pedestal, surrounded by plain wrought-iron picket fence. Evergreen shrubs and annuals within fence. Two-stage rough-finished granite base supports granite block; front of block sandblasted smooth, sides rough-finished, back semi-rough finished. Front carries lettering, incised capitals:

DEDICATED TO THE
FIREFIGHTERS
OF WEST HAVEN WHO
FAITHFULLY SERVED THEIR
COMMUNITY AND HUMANITY

Above lettering, in recessed panel, is Fire Department shield over raised figure of fireman. Bronze bell on top of granite block. (Photograph 8)

- NC Adjutant William Campbell Boulder 1979 48" wide, 32" high, 48" deep Commemorates incident that occurred during British invasion of West Haven en route to New Haven on July 5, 1779. Crossed American and British flags over lettering. See Photograph 9 for lettering.

- NC Chess table Date unknown; perhaps ca. 1960s Pink aggregate cast stone table and two chairs with chess board in granite surface.

Structure on the Green

- NC John C. Ireland Bandstand 1987 Constructed by John F. Kelly Co., Inc. Frame open octagonal structure on brick foundation. Bronze plaques mounted on stand record date of dedication, June 14, 1987, names of donors, and name of sponsoring organization, West Haven Council of the Arts. (Photograph 10)

Rehabilitation. City of West Haven is currently engaged in \$300,000 program of rehabilitation of Green designed by West Haven architectural firm of Sapienza & Lessig, to be completed in 1999. Improvements will

include new pavers at entrances, wrought-iron benches, cast-iron light standards, plantings at flagpole and other shrubbery and trees elsewhere, and granite ballards/pedestals that will support brass plates giving historical information.

- C 469 Campbell Avenue D.M. Welch Building 1901 Frame, formerly shingled, 30' x 141' 1-story commercial building on northeast corner of Curtiss Place. Added plate glass and brick facade with Colonial Revival imitation pilasters under aluminum-sided parapet. Extensive alterations c. 1930; second floor removed 1941. Large brick rear addition. Welch constructed building as grocery store; it continued in this function at least to 1920s. (Photograph 12)
- C 473-475 Campbell Avenue John L. Haglin Building 1907 1-story wooden frame 38' x 141' commercial building. Brick veneer facade similar to 469 Campbell Avenue. Plain brick rear addition. (Photograph 12)
- C 479 Campbell Avenue Frederick A. Godfrey Building 1907 2-story 20' x 141' building. Plate glass storefront, with recessed south entry to second floor. Second floor shingled, without fenestration. Vertical narrow bands of shingles frame first story. Rear brick addition. Godfrey operated plumbing business on first floor and made his home in one of two second-floor apartments. (Photograph 12)
- C 481-483 Campbell Avenue Lewis H. Warner Building 1920 2-story buff brick building, 40' x 82'. Largely original except for full-width canopy and particle-board siding on north store front. Bands of windows at both first and second floors have original wooden surrounds. Entrance location to second floor continues in place, to south. Four bold pilasters of buff brick, which set off three recessed bays, are embellished with vertical arrows at their tops. Molded horizontal raised panels under roof line. (Photographs 11, 12)
- C 485-487 Campbell Avenue Krall Building 1914 Frame 3-story 63' x 184' Queen Anne building. First floor brick veneer, upper floors synthetic siding. 2-story section added to south, 1941, has fluted pilasters topped by abstract Greek key capitals. Two large second-floor tripartite Chicago windows with transoms are separated by two rectangular windows. Third floor features two 3-sided bays under pent roof. Roof line surmounted by trimmed wooden parapet. Krall Dry Goods store occupied premises. Krall family owned building to 1931. (Photographs 11, 12)
- C 489-495 Campbell Avenue Stevenson Hughes Block c. 1915 2-story 40' x 137' brick building. Multi-toned tan brick first-floor facade; stucco above, which return briefly over original yellow brick, visible on north side where there is roadway. Yellow brick side walls. Second-floor front has band of windows. During 1920s theater occupied rear T addition where high enclosure for drop curtains is still in place. (Photographs 11, 12)
- C 497-501 Campbell Avenue Thompson/Weissman Block 1910 1-story brick (brick is visible from south side roadway) 70' x 58' building. First-floor front covered with stucco, second floor with vinyl siding to resemble clapboards. Built by Clarence E. Thompson, then owner of adjoining Thompson Block. Sold to Joseph Weissman in 1913, three years after it was built. (Photographs 11, 12)
- C 507-509 Campbell Avenue Thompson Block 1874 3-story, 4-bay, brick, Italianate 50' x 42' commercial building, with additions. Originally on high basement with access by short flight of steps to first floor which had floor-to-ceiling height windows. Original first-floor features replaced, except for location of entrance to upper floors, which always has been at south end of Campbell Avenue elevation, and molded brownstone cornice with dentil course between first and second floors. Ornate brownstone window heads at second floor consist of molded lintel with central rosette under bracketed cornice. Limestone string course between second and third floors.

Segmental hooded brownstone window caps embellished with central raised keystone at third floor. Wide roof overhang supported by paired brackets.

North elevation at east end has small 1 1/2-story turn-of-the-century Neo-Classical Revival addition with limestone facade featuring wide bronze frieze of raised swags and garlands surmounted by stone cornice with dentils and parapet. Further narrow 1-story east addition, clad in metal siding, projects toward sidewalk.

Built by Silas Thompson. Tenants over time have included tinning and stove business, funeral parlor, feed and flour store, fish market, barber shop, town offices, dancing school, lodge meeting rooms, Chamber of Commerce, West Haven Bank & Trust Company, Paier Art College. (Photographs 11, 12)

- C 519-529 Campbell Avenue A.F. & J.P. Wood Building 1900 3-story Tudor Revival multi-gabled building, 107' x 132', stucco on brick. First floor storefronts altered. Original entrance to upper floors at north end of west elevation features four brownstone risers flanked by brownstone piers leading up to pair of wooden doors glazed with single long panes under 10-pane transoms, between narrow sections of original buff brick. Stucco walls of upper floors are inset with wood strips that are vertical, horizontal, diamond-shaped, and curved, in half-timbered effect. Windows are 9-over-1. L-shaped gable roof with strong cross gables covered with curved green tiles. Built by brothers Alonzo Felton and James P. Wood. They operated their drug store on first floor and drug store has continued to be major first-floor tenant to present time. (Photograph 13)
- C 20 Church Street Christ Episcopal Church Consecrated 1907 Designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue of Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson Two-story random traprock Gothic Revival 45' x 116' slate gable-roofed building with 21' square x 65' high front tower. Traprock is facing on concrete construction. Concrete trim. Buttresses at corners of tower and along sides of sanctuary. Paired stained-glass windows. Gothic-arched entrance with two-leaf wood door in archivolt surround. Tripartite stained-glass window over entrance. Large Gothic-arched louvered openings at top of tower. Timber gabled entrance on west side. Paired lancet stained-glass windows at first floor on side elevations, paired segmentally arched windows at second floor. Interior features Gothic arches, dark wood pews, and dark wood trussed ceiling (Photograph 15). With cloister forms U with 1916 Parish House to west. (Photograph 14) Front elevation of cloister is glass wall of 10 tall stained-glass lancet windows. Is located a few feet south of site of original 1739 Episcopal Church edifice, which was built 16 years after parish established in 1723.. (Figure 3, Ground Plan)
- Many stained-glass windows in shades of bright deep colors. Four lancet Chamberlin Memorial Windows in narthex by Wilbur Herbert Burnham, Boston, dated November 22, 1964, depict development of Episcopacy. Annunciation window in Lady Chapel by Goodhue. Other windows in chapel by Burnham. In chancel, windows by Cornish Associates, Boston, 1956; Len R. Howard, Kent, Connecticut; and J. Gordon Guthrie, 1931.
- 1723 cemetery to east owned by church. Some 18th-century brownstone grave markers but more 19th-century marble rectangular stones. Several obelisks. Plain wrought-iron fence along sidewalks. (Photograph 6)
- C 20 Church Street Christ Episcopal Church Parish House. Consecrated February 19, 1917. Cram & Ferguson 2-story traprock and limestone 38' x 72' Jacobethan Revival parish house. Paired 10-pane casement windows recessed in limestone surrounds. Entrance porch under Tudor Revival arch and stepped parapet flanked by square pilasters. Forms U with church to east. (Photograph 14) On site of wooden parish house which burned down day after 1907 church building was consecrated. Interior has large wood-paneled meeting rooms also in Jacobethan Revival style. Brick gymnasium added 1923 in rear was replaced 1956 with present plain classroom addition.
- C 38 Church Street 1888 2-story frame Queen Anne/Stick style 32' x 38' house covered with clapboards at first floor, imbricated shingles at second. L-shaped with shed-roofed Eastlake-influenced front porch in angle of eil. Trim over porch and in gable peak suggests Stick style. Most windows are 2-over-2, two are tripartite under round arches. First floor now used as church Thrift Shop. (Photograph 16)

- C 44 Church Street Samue Johnson Memorial Rectory 1897 American Four Square 2-story frame 26' x 34' building on brick foundation, covered with clapboards. Clapboards have wider surface exposed to weather at first floor than second. In irregular ground plan full-width shed-roofed front porch wraps around to west. Hip-roofed dormers with wide overhang. Deeply religious, John Barnett had close association with Christ Episcopal Church. (Photograph 16)
- C 405 Main Street 16-unit apartment house 1943 Three-story multi-toned buff brick 54' x 112' U-shaped building in Tudor Revival style. U shape is open to west. East and south front entries on Savin Avenue and Main Street have heavy wooden doors hung on strap hinges in Tudor Revival concrete surrounds under vertical panels, now sided, that lead up to gables. On Savin Avenue gables break through castellated parapet, while on Main Street gable terminates below parapet. 6-over-1 windows have concrete sills. (Photograph 17)
- C 654 Savin Avenue Albert C. Coe House 1892, survey; c. 1910, visual 36' x 34' + 22' x 18' ell. Frame two-story Colonial Revival house with strong gambrel roof gable end overhang toward street. Two-tier open front porch with delicate balustrade. Aluminum siding to resemble weatherboards. Coe was executive in shoe manufacturing industry. Now commercial. (Photograph 18)
- NC 662 Savin Avenue West Haven Funeral Home 1965 39' x 122' brick veneer building with white trim. Domestic in character with overscaled Colonial Revival portico. Rear section built 1988. (Photograph 18)
- C 666 Savin Avenue Charles Cullen Oram House 1906 2-story 32' x 38' Tudor Revival building. Stucco on masonry with half-timbering. Stained-glass transoms still in place at first floor. Enclosed round porch on south originally was open. Born in England, Oram was dealer in petroleum products. Building now used for offices. (Photograph 18)
- C 678 Savin Avenue Built as Congregational Church Parsonage c. 1900 Elaborate frame 2-story Neo-Classical Revival/Colonial Revival house covered with clapboards. Hipped roof with gambrel front cross gable. Venetian window on second floor. Recessed front entry is now enclosed porch. 1980 addition of two-story rear section on original house and two free-standing sections in rear coincided with conversion of building to residential condominiums. (Photograph 18)
- NC ca. 1980 Two-story frame Colonial Revival/contemporary added building in rear, covered with synthetic siding.
- NC ca. 1980 Second two-story frame Colonial Revival/contemporary added building in rear, covered with synthetic siding.
- C 686 Savin Avenue Maud Hughes House 1915 Brown & VonBeren Frame 2-story 3-bay Dutch Colonial Revival house with slate roof. 44' x 39', covered with clapboards. Front elevation has central doorway behind free-standing classical columns set off by tripartite windows to right and left. Main block flanked by sun porches. George W.R. Hughes built house for his mother, Maud N.M. (Mrs. George W.H.) Hughes. Poli family purchased house in 1924 and remains in residence. House and grounds are in excellent state of historic preservation. (Photograph 18)

PROPERTY NAME

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United StateDepartment of the Interior

Nation al Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally:___ Statewide: x Locally: ___

Applicable National

Register Criteria: A x B___ C x D___

Criteria Considerations

(Exceptions): A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1859</u> <u>1949</u>	<u>NA</u>
<u>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>1876</u> <u>1949</u>	<u>NA</u>

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Sidney Mason Stone
Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson
Brown & VonBeren
Joseph P. Kelly

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary

The West Haven Green Historic District is significant historically because it was settled in the 17th century as part of the New Haven Colony and because it played a central role in the area's late-19th-/early-20th-century religious, commercial, and residential development. At the beginning of this period, in 1876, ownership of the Green passed from church to town. The Green is significant architecturally because it contains well-designed and well-preserved examples of many of the styles in vogue in the mid-19th century and early-20th century, including Romanesque Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, and Colonial Revival.

History

When the New Haven Colony was established, ca. 1640, it included a section known as West Farms, where first settlers arrived in 1648, which over the centuries has evolved into the City of West Haven. West Haven remained a section of New Haven until 1822, when it became part of the new Town of Orange. Late in the 19th century, West Haven developed as the residential borough in the otherwise rural Town of Orange, before it was set off as a separate town in 1921 and incorporated as a city in 1961.

By the early 18th century, West Haven had sufficient population to warrant becoming a separate parish, which was created by the General Court in Hartford in 1715. The first building to be constructed by the Congregational Church followed in 1719. It was built on the Green, then a low marshy plot of ground used as pasture.

The Congregational parish was soon followed, in 1723, by an Episcopal parish, the second oldest in Connecticut, after Stratford. West Haven's first Christ Church Episcopal building was constructed in 1739, on about the location of the present edifice, also on or adjacent to the Green. There was no street separating the two as Church Street (1905) now does.

The Green was the scene of action during the Revolutionary War when Major General William Tryon led British forces in a brief invasion directed at New Haven. The July 5, 1779, incident, in which 27 Americans lost their lives, is commemorated on the Green by a memorial boulder to Adjutant William Campbell, a British soldier who saved the life of West Haven's Reverend Noah Williston, and by a slate gravestone in the cemetery erected by the great grandson of a West Haven citizen who lost his life that day.

The Green began to assume a landscaped identity in the 19th century when by 1860 it had walks and was fenced in. Some disagreement between the two churches over whether the Green should be enclosed, and if so exactly what area, led to removal of the fence and consideration of what entity held title to the Green. The question of ownership arose basically from introduction of Connecticut's 1818 constitution which disestablished the Congregational church, thereby dissolving the unity of church and town in such matters as ownership of real estate. The question came to the fore when the Congregational Ecclesiastical Society began to plan for replacement of its edifice. The issue was finally disposed of by decision on the part of the Congregational Church, by a vote of 12 to six, to quit claim to the borough its interest in the Green. The deed, dated March 13, 1876, and recorded at Orange Land Records, volume 25, pages 77 and 78, reads in part, "the first [*sic*] Ecclesiastical Society of West Haven ...quit claim...unto the Borough...all the right, title...in the West Haven Green...excepting ...the site upon which the present ...edifice stands. With the right to enlarge same..." The right to enlarge was exercised for the 1915 and 1960 additions, and for the 1980s play yard on Church Street (see Figure 2, The Green). The question of ownership of the town green has been settled by similar quit claim in some other Connecticut towns and sometimes left unresolved, as in Branford.

As the 19th century drew to a close and the 20th century opened, West Haven participated in Connecticut's commercial and industrial growth, which brought downtown development. The row of commercial buildings on the east side of the Green that gradually came into place was served by a trolley line on Campbell Avenue. The buildings often were owner occupied, with retail or other business facilities on the ground floor and living quarters for the owner's family on the second. Multi-story blocks housed professional offices, lodges, and town offices. Parallel accompanying residential construction developed on the west side of the Green. The West Haven Green, always the center of religious activity, strengthened its place in the community by becoming the important focus of commercial and desirable residential facilities as well.

Buildings, Objects, and Structures

The Congregational and Episcopal church buildings are good examples of several styles of ecclesiastical architecture. The initial Congregational edifice, built in 1719, deteriorated and was replaced in 1851 by a new structure of unknown appearance, which was destroyed by fire only eight years later, in 1859. The following year the present sanctuary was erected to the design of Sidney Mason Stone of New Haven, a prominent contemporary of Henry Austin.¹ It was designed in the Wren/Gibbs tradition of gable-roofed rectangle with projecting front tower and spire complemented by banks of tall side windows. However, Federal or Greek Revival trim, traditional in New England for such churches, here is replaced by classical motifs such as round-arched openings and modillion courses sensitive to the Romanesque Revival mode of its day. The eclectic design is carried through on the interior where a two-story-high round arch on tall paired pilasters dominates the white pews and galleries. The 20th-century additions are equally reflective of their eras in the Neo-Classical Revival Parish House and Colonial Revival Education Building, both in red brick with white trim and hipped roofs.

Christ Church Episcopal, on the other hand, reflects the 19th-century conviction of its mother denomination, the Church of England, that the only appropriate architectural style for churches is the Gothic Revival. Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, the leading American firm designing in the mode responsive to this official view as espoused by the Ecclesiologist Society, created a fine example of the type for West Haven's Christ Church Episcopal. The walls devote far more area to stone ashlar than windows in the Norman tradition of the Early English interpretation of the style, in a manner consistent with the chunky proportions and heavy buttresses which place less emphasis on the vertical than later interpretations. The dark wood interior is consistent in its plan of nave and aisles, its high arched truss ceiling, and abundant Episcopal iconography in stained glass and other materials. Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue (1869-1924), the partner in charge, began his career in the office of James Renwick (1818-1895) before entering into partnership with Ralph Adams Cram (1863-1942) in 1891 for a highly successful ecclesiastical practice. After Goodhue established his own office in 1914, he was responsible for the Fine Arts Building of the Panama-California Exposition of 1915 and, his last work, the Nebraska State Capitol.

The oldest of the standing buildings in the commercial row on Campbell Avenue facing west toward the Green is the Thompson Block, 507-509 Campbell Avenue, which continues to be a strong statement of the Italianate style despite severe alterations to the first floor. The cubical mass, elaborate classical window trim, and broad bracketed roof overhang are character-defining Italianate features. The Tudor Revival Wood Building, 519-529 Campbell Avenue, is an equally strong expression of its style, presenting half-timbered facades on both the Campbell Avenue and Main Street front elevations. Its green tile roof and ongoing drugstore tenancy both are original features which continue from the time the building was constructed. Most of the other buildings on Campbell Avenue between Main Street and Curtiss Place are more modest 1- and 2-story structures, many with altered storefronts and added rear extensions. Nonetheless, they continue to convey an accurate sense of a commercial streetscape of their era. Contemporary early-20th-century architectural trends are discernible in remaining original features such as the restrained wooden details of 481-483 Campbell Avenue, suggestive of the Arts and Crafts movement, and the flat classically inspired embellishment associated with the Art Deco style also found in 481-483 Campbell Avenue and at 485-487 Campbell Avenue. The final component in the row geographically, the Southern New England Telephone Building, and the last to be constructed, in 1924, is also the best preserved. The Neo-Classical Revival design is in the mode popularized by the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, and therefore is somewhat *retarditaire* for the 1920s when 20th-century styles were coming to the fore, a circumstance consistent with the conservative architectural proclivity of corporate owners such as the telephone company. The care and accuracy with which the details of the original front section of the building were executed in the first floor of the rear addition are noteworthy.

The oldest of the residential buildings in the district, and perhaps the most significant architecturally, is 38 Church Street, where the unity and completeness of Queen Anne/Stick style design are outstanding. The asymmetrical plan,

¹The church is pictured in *Congregational Quarterly*, volume 5, October 1863, page 317, with credit to Stone. The drawing shows the church appearing very much as it does at present.

clapboard siding at the first floor, imbricated shingles at the second, second-floor applied trim, and gable-end treatment, all well-preserved, give it distinction. Next door, 44 Church Street, the American Four-Square, five-bedroom Christ Church Rectory is another good example of its style and continues the residential function. Around the corner to the west, the Savin Avenue block continues the residential presence, although only one of the buildings, 686 Savin Avenue in the Dutch Colonial Revival style, continues to function as a single-family residence. Three others serve commercial purposes, while the former Congregational Parsonage, 678 Savin Avenue, an elaborate Neo-Classical Revival/Colonial Revival design, has been enlarged and converted to residential condominiums. The newest building (1943) is the Tudor Revival apartment block, 405 Main Street, at the northwest corner of the district, which balances in mass and style the Wood Building, 519-529 Campbell Avenue, at the northeast corner of the district.

The World War I Monument on the Green is a conventional design of granite pedestal, bronze figure, and bronze plaques. The figure is transitional in the sense that while it is an idealized oversized rendering of a generic subject in the Beaux-Arts discipline, it also reflects 20th-century realism in the exuberant pose of helmet held high in celebration of the Armistice. The plaques on the pedestal articulate pristine classical composition by their segmental shape, embellished mace borders, laurel wreaths, and foliate motifs. The Firefighters Monument exhibits a transitional mix of techniques in its early use of sandblasting for the front face of the pedestal with rock-faced finish for the sides and back. Other Connecticut memorials to firefighters are found in New London, New Haven, and Fairfield. The Campbell Boulder is unusual because it memorializes a British soldier, for whom Campbell Avenue was named, and for the crossed flags and still highly legible lettering in the stone.

A historic photograph shows the presence on the Green in the 19th century of a bandstand. The 1987 John C. Ireland Bandstand carries the presence of a bandstand on the Green into contemporary times.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Congregational Quarterly 5 (October 1863) :317.

Cram, Ralph Adams. Letter dated September 25, 1907, stating that Goodhue was primarily responsible for design. In possession of Christ Church Episcopal.

Cunningham, Janice P. Historic and Architectural Resource Survey of West Haven, CT. Statewide Historic Resource Inventory. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 1985.

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North, Harriet C. , Municipal Historian. "The West Haven Green is buried in history." *West Haven News*, November 3, 1995.

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PROPERTY NAME

West Haven Green Historic District, West Haven, CT

United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Perrone, Joseph, historian, West Haven Christ Church Episcopal. Conversation, June 8, 1999.

Sabo, Beth M., Commissioner of Human Resources, City of West Haven, and manager of Town Green rehabilitation project. Conversation, June 11, 1999.

Shine, Bob, historian, West Haven First Congregational Church. Conversation, June 8, 1999.

Works Progress Administration Writers' Program. *History of West Haven, Connecticut*. 1940, pp. 13, 14.

"World War Memorial Dedication" (program). Armistice Day, November 11, 1928. West Haven, Connecticut.

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: Specify Repository: _____

PROPERTY NAME

West Haven Green Historic District, West Haven, CT

Page 15

United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATAAcreage of Property: 17.5

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A 18 4570800 671780 B 18 4570560 671840
C 18 4570480 671600 D 18 4570660 671480

Verbal Boundary Description:

The district boundary is drawn at the rear lot lines of properties facing the Green except those on Main Street between Savin Avenue and Campbell Avenue. See Figure 1, District Map.

Boundary Justification:

The purpose of the district boundary is to include in the district the Green, which is the historic centerpiece, and those properties more than 50 years old which face the Green.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Architectural Historian

Date: June 1999

Street/#: 83 Avery Heights

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 860 953-8626

List of Photographs and Figures

Photographs were taken in May 1999 by David F. Ransom. Negatives are on file at Connecticut Historical Commission. Photographs are keyed on Figures 1, 2, and 3.

Photograph 1

463-465 Campbell Avenue
Southern New England Telephone Company Building
View southeast

Photograph 2

464 Campbell Avenue
First Congregational Church
View southeast

Photograph 3

464 Campbell Avenue
First Congregational Church
Tower and steeple
View east

Photograph 4

464 Campbell Avenue
First Congregational Church
Entrance
View southwest

Photograph 5

464 Campbell Avenue
First Congregational Church
Interior of sanctuary
View south

Photograph 6

464 Campbell Avenue (rear)
The Green
Cemetery adjacent to Congregational Church;
Church Street, cemetery adjacent to
Episcopal Church
View southwest

Photograph 7

464 Campbell Avenue (rear)
The Green
World War I Monument
View southeast

Photograph 8

464 Campbell Avenue (rear)
The Green
Firefighters Monument
View southeast

Photograph 9

464 Campbell Avenue (rear)
The Green
Campbell Boulder
View southeast

Photograph 10

464 Campbell Avenue (rear)
The Green
John C. Ireland Bandstand
View northeast

Photograph 11

481-483, 485-487, 489-495, 497-501,
507-509 Campbell Avenue
View northeast

Photograph 12

507-509, 497-501, 489-495, 485-487, 481-483, 479,
473-475, 465-469, 463-465 Campbell Avenue
View southeast

Photograph 13

A.F. & J.P. Wood Building
519-529 Campbell Avenue
View northeast

Photograph 14

20 Church Street
Christ Church Episcopal
View southeast

Photograph 15

20 Church Street
Christ Church Episcopal
Interior of sanctuary
View south

Photograph 16

38 and 44 Church Street
View southwest

Photograph 17

405 Main Street

View northwest

Photograph 18

654, 662, 666, 678, 786 Savin Avenue

View northwest

Figure 1

District Map, portions of West

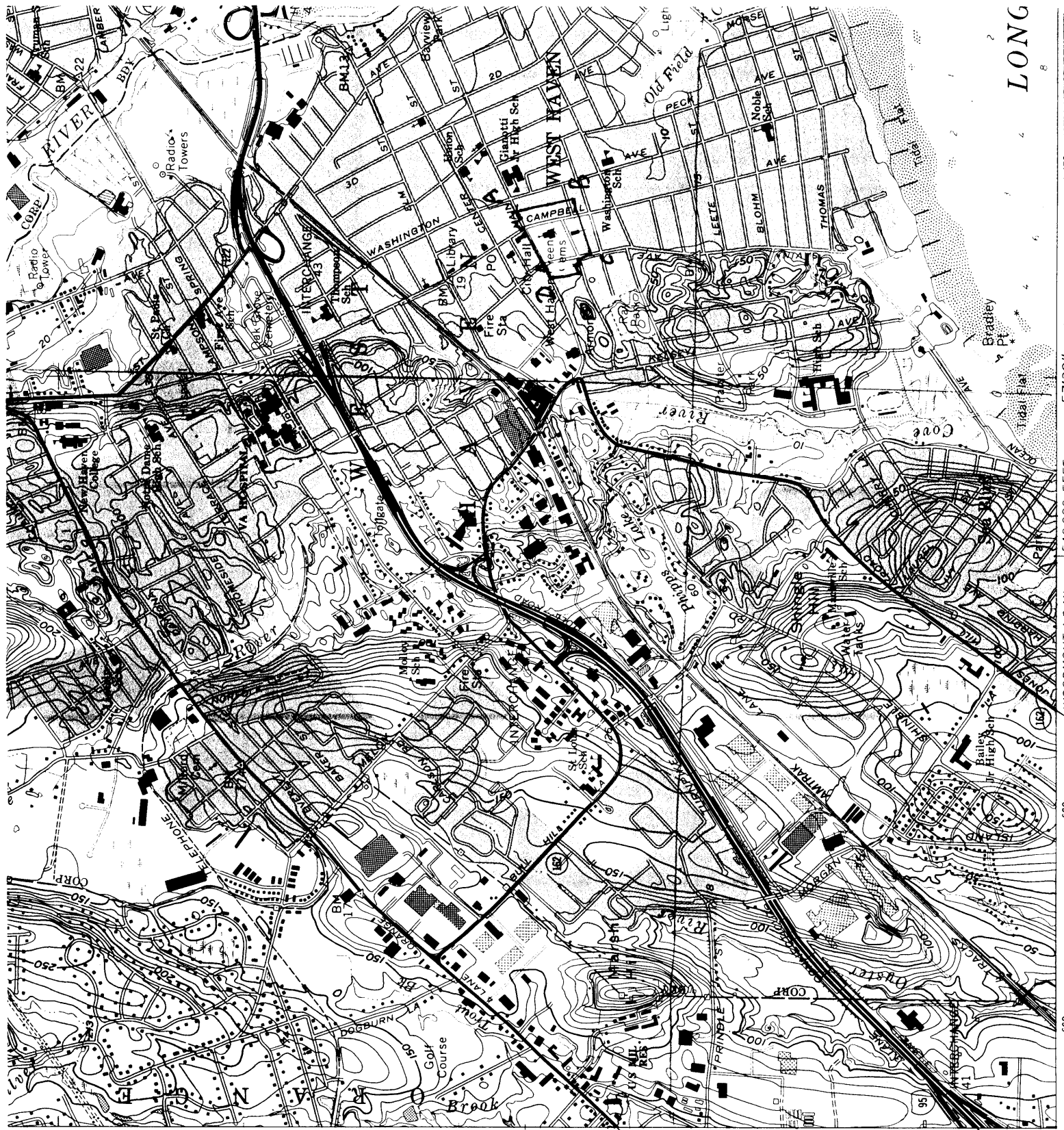
Haven City maps 35, 43

Figure 2

The Green

Figure 3

Christ Church Episcopal Ground Plan



LONG

4573 17'30" 4572 4571 160 000 FEET 4569
 BRIDGEPORT 15 MI. INTERCHANGE 39 (U.S. 1) 2.6 MI. MILFORD 4 MI.

WEST HAVEN GREEN
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 WEST HAVEN, CT
 UTM REFS:
 A 18/4570800/671780
 B 18/4570560/671840
 C 18/4570480/671600
 D 18/4570660/671480

41°15'

West Haven Historic District

West Haven, Connecticut

Figure 1 - District Map

District boundary - - - - -

Scale - 1" = 200'

North ↑

Photo key ↗

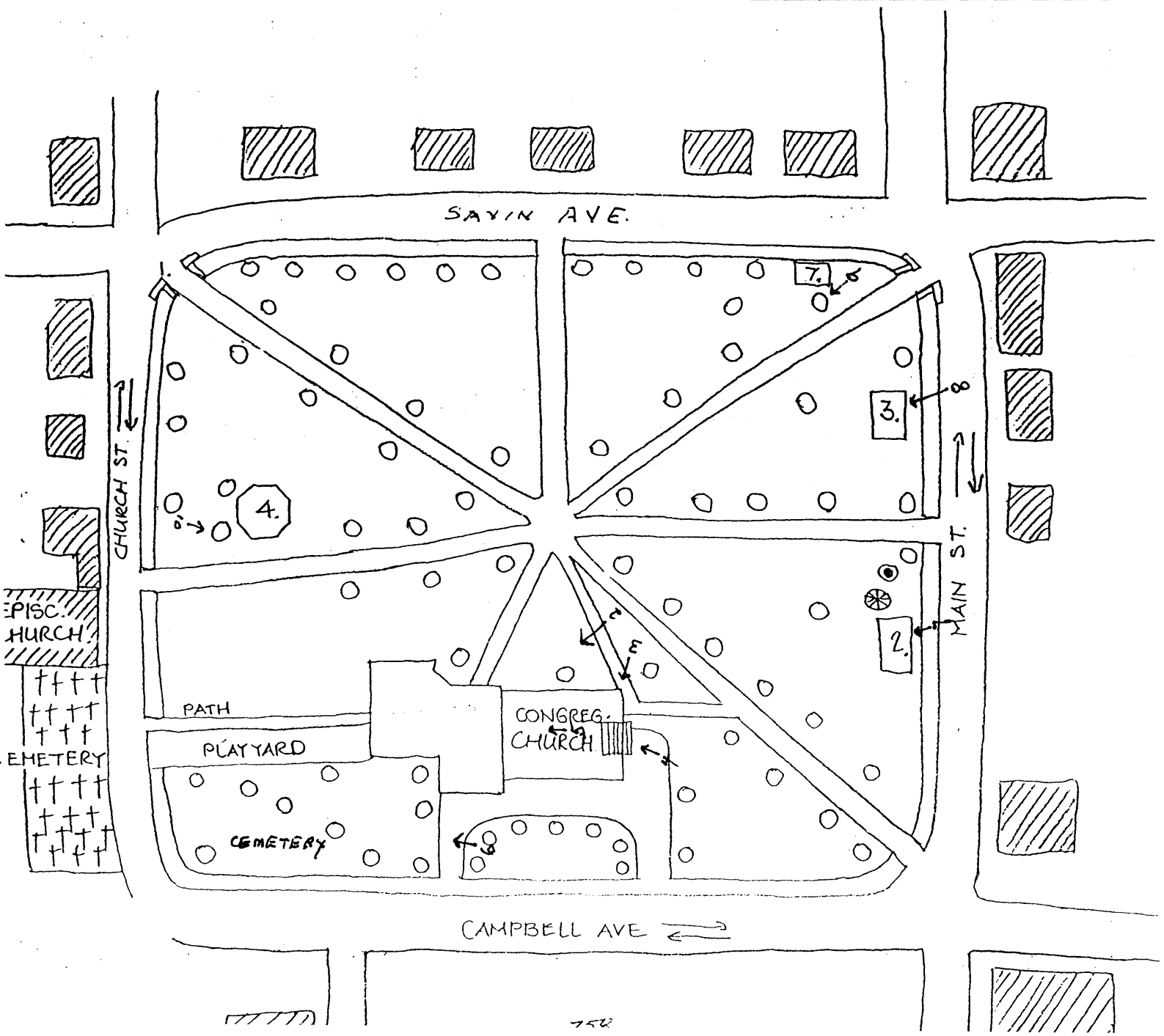


WEST HAVEN GREEN - WEST HAVEN.

- 2. W.W.I. MEMORIAL.
- 3. FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL.
- 4. BAND STAND.

- 7. BRITISH SOLDIERS MONUMENT.
FLAG POLE.
- ⊗ SPRUCE.
- OTHER TREE.

West Haven Historic District
 West Haven, Connecticut
Figure 2 - The Green
 Scale - 1" = 80'
 North →
 Photo key →

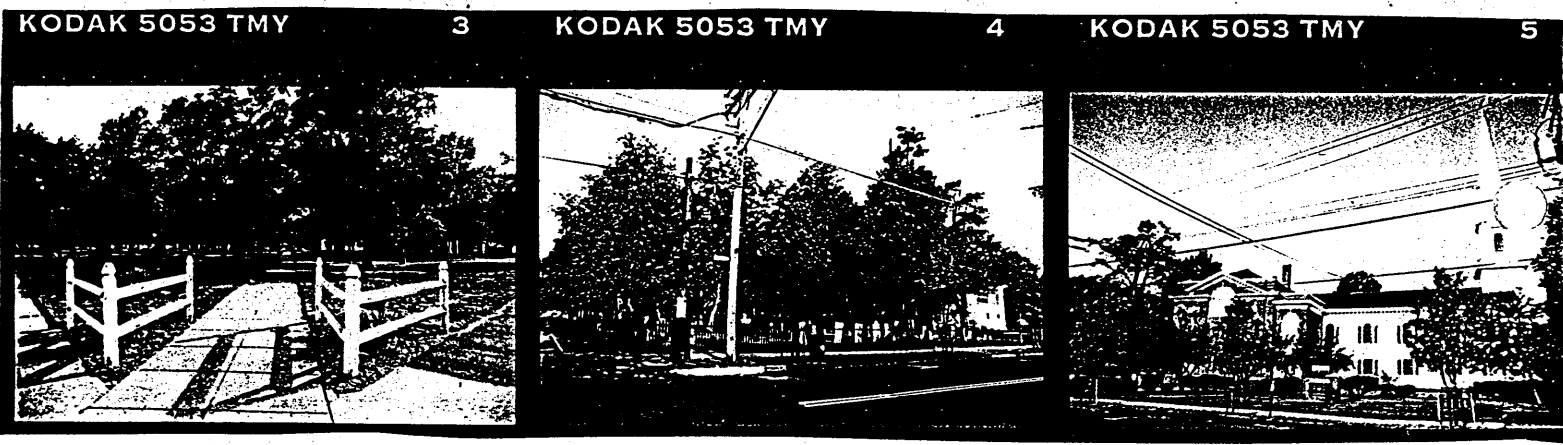
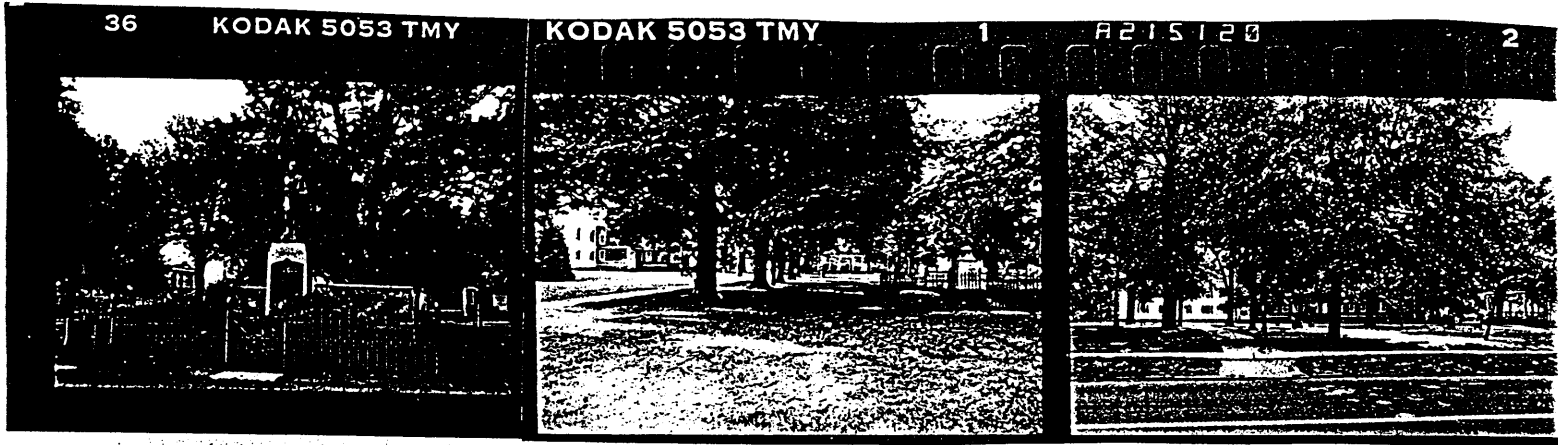


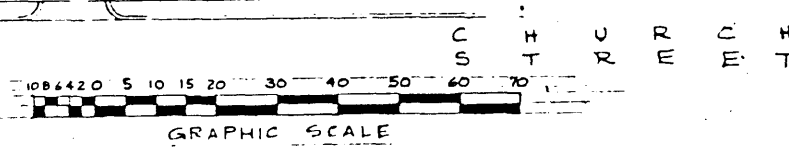
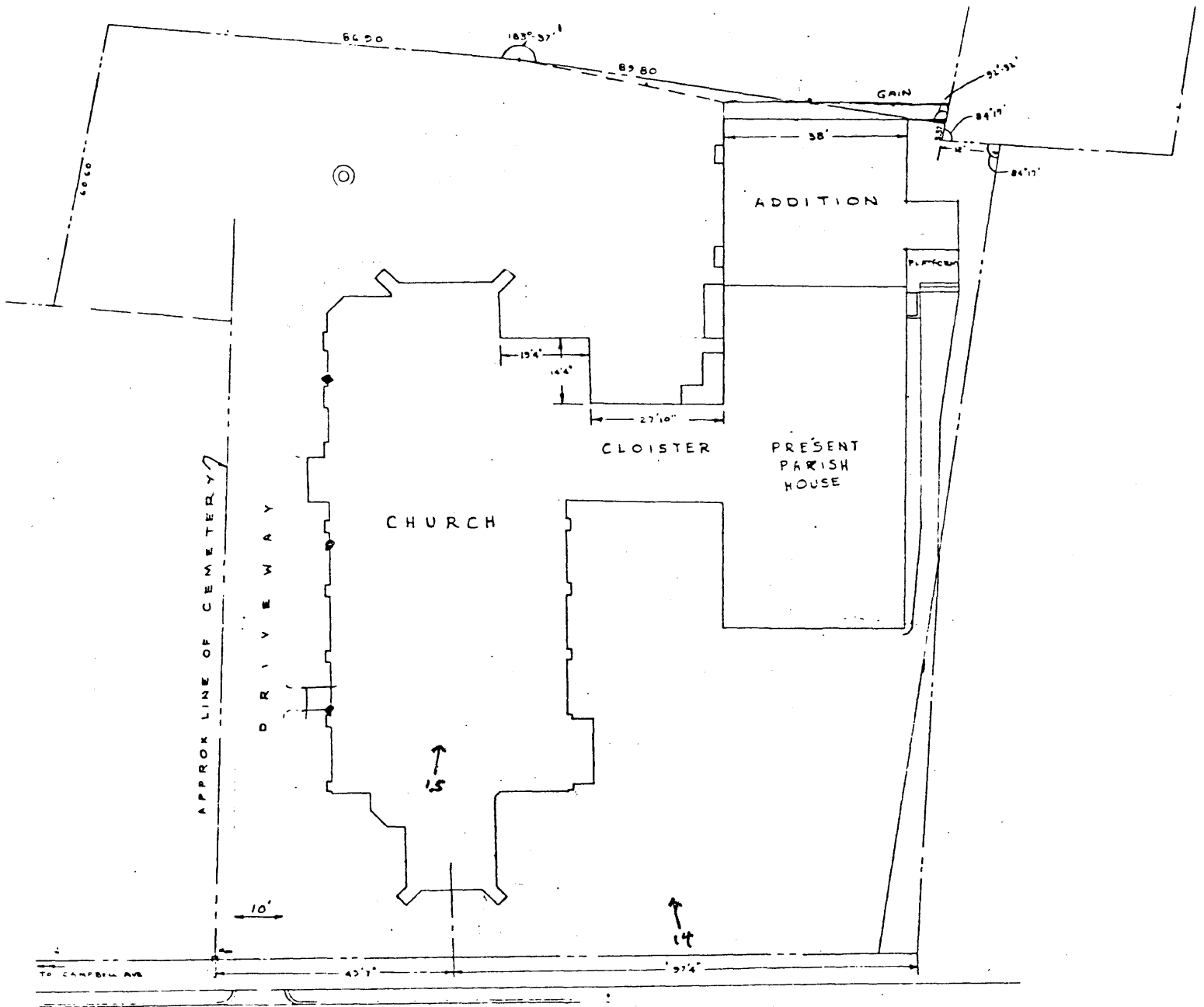
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.: 118
UTM: 18/ / / / / / / /	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT: 3	NR: ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number _____ Date: _____ West Haven Green





UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
 BREAK ALL SHARP EDGES
 TOLERANCES ON DIMENSIONS:
 IN FEET DECIMALS 2

West Haven Historic District
 West Haven, Connecticut
Figure 3 -- Christ Church Episcopal
Ground Plan
 North ↓
 Photo key ↗