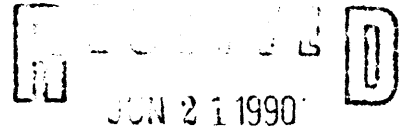


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

=====

1. Name of Property

historic name: UNION GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

street & number: Buckley Highway and Cemetery, Kinney Hollow and Town
Hall Roads

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Union

vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Tolland

code: 013 zip code: 06076

=====

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private and public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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. See cont. sheet.

Signature of certifying official: John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: 6/18/90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

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

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):

Signature of Keeper: Melissa Byers; Date of Action: 7/19/90

Signature of Keeper; Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE, GOVERNMENT, RELIGION, EDUCATION; Sub: single dwelling, agricultural outbuilding, library, city hall, religious structure, school; Current: DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE, GOVERNMENT, RELIGION; Sub: single dwelling, agricultural outbuilding, library, religious structure

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE
Italian Villa
Classical Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

Period(s) of Significance: c.1760-1912

Significant Dates: See inventory, Item 7

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Merrick Marcy, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Union Green Historic District 7-2
Union, CT

separates this part of the cemetery from a newer part, predominantly 20th-century in character, while another 19th-century burying ground further north was not included because it is discontinuous and not visible from the center of the nominated area. In general the boundary follows rear property lines but cuts across lots where excessive back acreage would be included. As drawn the boundary includes the associated farm buildings and sufficient back acreage behind several of the houses to maintain the essential agricultural setting of the area. An inventory of included resources follows.

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

Address	Description	Contributing/Noncontributing	
		C	NC
SITES			
Cemetery Road	OLD UNION CEMETERY, several dozen 18th and early 19th-century grave markers of gneiss, brownstone, and marble, surrounded by stone walls (Photograph 15).	1	0
Town Hall Road, Kinney Hollow Road, and Buckley Highway	UNION GREEN, small triangular grassy area with old town hall, Civil War monument, and historical marker (Photographs 1 and 2).	1	0
Town Hall Road, Kinney Hollow Road, and Buckley Highway	UNION GROVE, triangular wooded area with meetinghouse monument, picnic shelter, and flagpole (Photograph 12).	1	0
OBJECTS			
Town Hall Road, on Green	CIVIL WAR MONUMENT, iron cannon on granite base, brass plaques, stack of cannon balls (Photograph 2).	1	0
Town Hall Road, on Green	Historical marker, Union town history, 1978, Connecticut Historical Commission, blue-painted aluminum (Photograph 2).	0	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Union Green Historic District 7-3
Union, CT

Address	Description	C	NC
Kinney Hollow Road, in Grove	Meetinghouse monument, 1908, rough-hewn granite slab commemorating 1741 meetinghouse. (Photograph 13).	1	0
Kinney Hollow Road, in Grove	Duane Bradway flagpole and planter, 1984, fieldstone (Photograph 13).	0	1

BUILDINGS

976 Buckley Highway	CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1841, 1 story, aluminum sided, 2-stage square pilastered tower (formerly had pinnacles at corners), Gothic-arch gable window, Victorian doorways beneath pent roofs on brackets with jigsaw scrollwork. Two-story parish house, 1970, to rear (Photographs 1 and 3).	1	1
979 Buckley Highway	UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1910, yellow brick with limestone trim, Classical Revival style, 1 story, slate hip roof, pediment on paired columns, stone quoins, lintels, and watertable, round-arched entry with leaded fan transom and sidelights, original oak interior (Photograph 4).	1	0
980 Buckley Highway	House, c.1850, Italian Villa style, 2 stories, low hip roof, clapboards, paired cornice brackets, round-arched windows above entry, veranda on curved braces, 2-over-2 sash (Photograph 5). Two old barns (Photograph 6).	3	0
985 Buckley Highway	House, c.1835, 2 1/2 stories, wood-shingle siding, 5-bay facade, later porch, 2-over-2 sash (Photograph 7).	1	0
987 Buckley Highway	House, 1973, 1 story, brick and aluminum siding.	0	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Union Green Historic District 7-4
Union, CT

Address	Description	C	NC
993 Buckley Highway	MERRICK A. MARCY HOUSE, 1882, Victorian, 2 1/2 stories, clapboard and fishscale wood shingles, round-arched gable window, slate roof, veranda on turned posts with cut-out brackets, shaped rafter ends, decorative valence (Photograph 8).	1	0
995 Buckley Highway	MERRICK MARCY HOUSE, 1857, 2 1/2 stories, clapboards, paired round-arched gable windows, 6-over-6 sash except for modern picture window. (Photograph 9). One old barn (contributing) and 1965 stable complex (noncontributing).	2	1
Kinney Hollow Road, in Grove	Town Grove picnic pavilion, 1984, concrete base, pressure-treated wood posts, corrugated metal roof on wooden roof trusses (Photograph 14).	0	1
Kinney Hollow Road	CENTER DISTRICT SCHOOL, 1846, 1 story, clapboarded, 2-over-2 sash. Deteriorated condition. Later garage doors. Built by Merrick Marcy. Two small board-sided buildings to rear (Photograph 16).	3	0
1 Town Hall Road	House, 1956, 1 story, wood shingles and stone facing on exterior (Photograph 10).	0	1
5 Town Hall Road	EZRA HORTON HOUSE, c.1760, 2 1/2 stories, 5-bay facade, cornice over center entry. Later 2-over-2 sash, small side porch. Aluminum siding. Attached wood shed (Photograph 11). Two old barns to rear.	3	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description	Union Green Historic District Union, CT	7-5
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Address	Description	C	NC
6 Town Hall Road	OLD TOWN HALL, 1847, 1 story, clapboarded, wood-shingle roof, 6-over- 6 sash, small c.1989 storage building to west (Photograph 2).	1	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Statement of Significance	Union Green Historic District Union, CT	8-2
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center was the logical choice for the site. Similarly, it made sense to locate the schoolhouse for Union's Center District at the Green. Together, the new meetinghouse, Town Hall, and schoolhouse established in the 1840s the basic appearance of the Green, which is still in evidence today.

Because Union never developed much trade, commercial agriculture, or industry (with one notable exception), little residential development occurred at the Green. Most Union residents continued to live on scattered family farms. The oldest house on the Green (Photograph 11) is that built by Ezra Horton, the Congregational minister from 1759 to 1783. Another older home (Photograph 5) was owned by E. Lindsey, a doctor.

The chief impetus for development at the Green came from Merrick Marcy (c.1812-1869). Marcy was a general merchant and contractor; he built the town hall and center school in the 1840s. In the years preceding the Civil War, Marcy organized a shoemaking business which, at its height, employed 150 people. Instead of factory production, Marcy's business involved putting out the work to individual shoemakers, with Marcy providing materials and marketing the finished product. In addition to his own house at the top of the hill (Photograph 9), Marcy built a store, stable, some tenements, and a brick commercial structure (the "Marcy Block") along the south side of Buckley Highway. His son, Merrick A. Marcy, continued the business, eventually using convict labor at the State Prison before abandoning shoemaking. He was Union's State Representative for several years. Although the Marcy Block burned in 1881, the two Marcy homes and a former tenement (Photographs 7, 8, and 9) remain to mark this episode in Union's history.

Unlike many Connecticut town commons, Union Green was never turned into a landscaped park. In the early 20th century, however, monuments to Civil War soldiers, erected by the G.A.R. 1901-1902, and to the first meetinghouse, erected by the town in 1908, added a commemorative function to the other public activities at the Green. When the town decided to build a public library, it too was sited near the Green, where it opened in 1912. The Green and the wooded part of the town common, now known as the Grove, were extensively used for public celebrations such as Old Home Week.

Today the Green retains its character as the center of a small rural town. Many of the properties include the back fields and barns which indicate their origins in an agricultural community, and there are few

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Statement of Significance Union Green Historic District 8-3
 Union, CT

structures to disrupt the historical character of the area, which closely reflects its mid-19th-century appearance.

Architectural and Artistic Significance

The sparse population of Union throughout its history has resulted in a relatively small number of notable old buildings in the town. Those buildings around the Green which have exceptional architectural qualities therefore often represent the town's best examples of their type. The house at 980 Buckley Highway is significant because it embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Italian Villa style of architecture popular around the middle of the 19th century: low-pitched or flat roof, round-arched window shapes, decorative brackets, and blocky massing with verandas. The Merrick A. Marcy House at 993 Buckley Highway is a good example of the stylistic eclecticism, elaborate detailing, and mixed exterior textures (clapboards and wood shingles) typical of the Victorian period. The Public Library is an outstanding demonstration of the pervasiveness of the Classical Revival, which spread formal, monumental architecture throughout early 20th-century America. Although a very small building, the library's pillars, pediments, and elaborate stonework epitomize the style.

The Town Hall and Center School embody the vernacular construction common for public buildings in rural antebellum Connecticut. Schools and town houses were typically plain, rectangular-plan clapboarded structures bereft of even the simple Greek Revival detailing found on houses of the period. Both buildings are good examples of the type, with the town hall an especially well-preserved specimen. Even the meetinghouse, updated twice and covered with modern siding material, is predominantly a vernacular institutional structure of this type.

Gravestones are today recognized as a major medium of artistic expression for 18th-century New Englanders. The carvings of death's-heads, angels, funerary symbols, and border designs in Union cemetery are typical examples of the genre. The cemetery is especially notable for the large number of Manning "batwing" stones, including the earliest (1760) signed stone by Josiah Manning, and for the high-relief angel on the marker of Rev. Ebenezer Wayman (1756, Photograph 15), which has been called "one of the most beautiful examples of the mature work of [Obadiah Wheeler,] . . . the finest craftsman of the early inland rural

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Statement of Significance	Union Green Historic District Union, CT	8-4
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carvers of eastern Connecticut."¹

¹James A. Slater, The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut (Hamden, Conn.: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1987), 7, 290.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

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, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 30

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	___	_____	_____	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The boundary is shown on the accompanying map, scale 1"=200', traced from Union Assessor Map 13.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes historic buildings, objects, and sites immediately on or nearby the Green and excludes buildings of modern construction. The boundary follows rear property lines except where it crosses properties in order to exclude excessive rear acreage.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth, Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: 2/15/90

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT ZIP: 06106

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Union, CT 9-1

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Union Green Historic District
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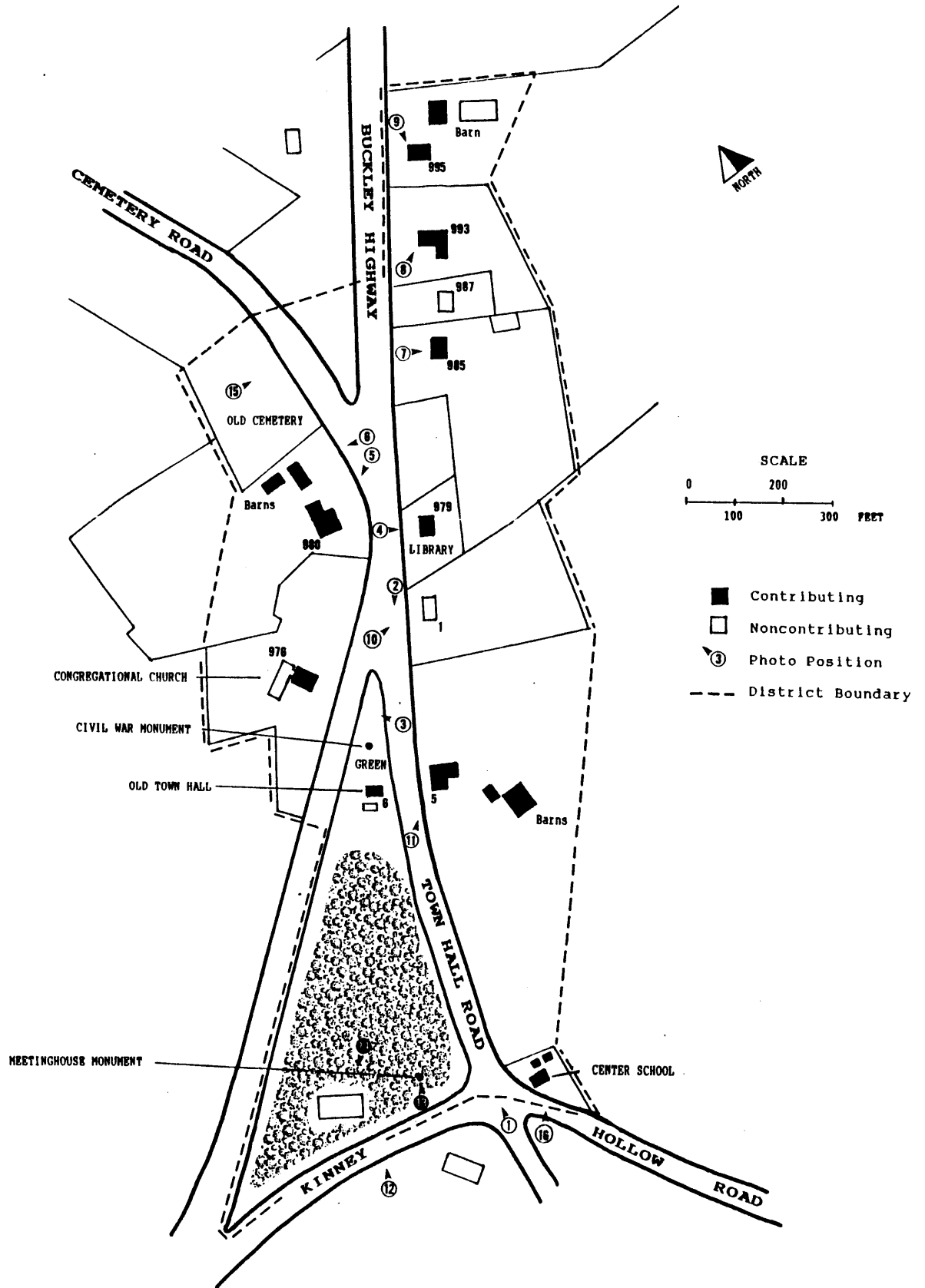
10-1

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UNION GREEN

Union, Connecticut

SKETCH MAP



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photograph captions Union Green Historic District Photos-1
 Union, CT

All photographs:

1. UNION GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. Union, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. February, 1990
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
 Hartford, CT

Captions:

View toward green along Town Hall Road, camera facing north
Photograph 1 of 16

View of green, with historical marker (noncontributing), Civil War
monument, old town hall (6 Town Hall Road), camera facing southwest
Photograph 2 of 16

Congregational Church, 976 Buckley Highway, with 980 Buckley Highway on
right, camera facing north
Photograph 3 of 16

Union Public Library, 979 Buckley Highway, camera facing southeast
Photograph 4 of 16

House, 980 Buckley Highway, Congregational Church in background, camera
facing west
Photograph 5 of 16

Barn, 980 Buckley Highway, cemetery in background on right, camera
facing northwest
Photograph 6 of 16

House, 985 Buckley Highway, camera facing southeast
Photograph 7 of 16

House, 993 Buckley Highway, camera facing east
Photograph 8 of 16

House, 995 Buckley Highway, camera facing south
Photograph 9 of 16

