NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)	7	OMB NO. 1024-0018
United States Department of the Inte National Park Service	erior	JUN 2 1 1990
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORI REGISTRATION FORM		NATIONAL REGISTER
1. Name of Property		
historic name: <u>UNION GREE</u>		
other name/site number: <u>N/A</u>		
2. Location		
street & number: <u>Buckley Highway a</u> Hall Roads	and Cemetery, Ki	
city/town: <u>Union</u>	vic	inity: <u>N/A</u>
state: <u>CT</u> county: <u>Tolland</u>	code: <u>01</u>	<u>3</u> zip code: <u>06076</u>
3. Classification		
Ownership of Property: <u>private and</u>		
Category of Property: <u>district</u>		
Number of Resources within Property	:	
Contributing Noncontribut	ing	
16 6 build 3	s ctures cts	
Number of contributing resources pro Register:	eviously listed	in the National

Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>

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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Page 2

	ederal Agency Certification			
of 1986, a request fo standards Historic P set forth	ignated authority under the s amended, I hereby certify r determination of eligibil for registering properties laces and meets the procedu in 36 CFR Part 60. In my o not meet the National Regis	that that the the the the the the the the the th	this <u>X</u> nominatio ets the documentati National Register d professional requ , the property <u>X</u>	n on of irements meets
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State or F	ederal agency and bureau			
	ion, the property meet riteria See continuat			National
Signature	of commenting or other offi	cial	Date	
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USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

7. Description Architectural Classification: NO STYLE <u>Italian Villa</u> Classical Revival Other Description: N/A Materials: foundation <u>STONE</u> roof <u>ASPHALT</u> 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: <u>local</u>. Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C_ Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : <u>N/A</u> Areas of Significance: <u>EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT</u> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT ARCHITECTURE RELIGION Period(s) of Significance: <u>c.1760-1912</u> Significant Dates: <u>See inventory, Item 7</u> Significant Person(s): <u>N/A</u> _____ Cultural Affiliation: <u>N/A</u> Architect/Builder: <u>Merrick Marcy, builder</u>

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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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

Union Green Historic District 7-1 Union, CT

The Union Green Historic District consists of about a dozen buildings, mostly mid-19th-century in origin, clustered around a small town green in the center of Union, Connecticut (Photographs 1 and 2). The Green itself is a small unfenced grassy area at the north end of the triangle formed by Kinney Hollow Road, Town Hall Road, and Buckley Highway (Route 190). Located on the Green are a Civil War monument in the form of a cannon, the town's Connecticut Historical Commission town history marker (noncontributing), and the 1847 former town hall, a plain onestory clapboarded building. The balance of the triangle is a wooded area known as the Town Grove (Photograph 12): densely grown up with white pine, oak, birch, maple, and hemlock trees, the Grove includes a 1908 granite monolith commemorating the site of Union's first meetinghouse, a fieldstone planter and flagstaff (noncontributing), and the town's picnic pavilion (noncontributing; Photographs 13 and 14).

The nominated area also includes the Congregational church (Photograph 3), an 1841 meetinghouse located on a knoll overlooking the Green; a former one-room district school built in 1846 (Photograph 16); and the Classical Revival-style, brick Union Library built 1910-1912 (Photo-Houses include an 18th-century 2 1/2-story center-chimney graph 4). house (Photograph 11); a flat-roofed Italian Villa-style house (Photograph 5); an eclectic Victorian dwelling (Photograph 8); and two vernacular mid-19th-century houses (Photographs 7 and 9). The land in back of most of the houses is open pasture, and there are several board-sided barns and stone walls from the period of significance (Photograph 6). Although the buildings are spaced guite far apart, most are visible from the Green, which forms the visual focal point of the area, since most of the roads rise in elevation moving away from the Green. The houses north of the Green on Buckley Highway are less visible because of a screen of everyreen plantings which separates them from the road.

The noncontributing buildings within the nominated area include, in addition to the 1984 picnic pavilion, two houses of relatively recent construction (Photograph 10), and the parish house behind the church.

The boundary of the nominated area was chosen so as to include the Green, Grove, and important adjacent historic buildings. On the south, there are no further buildings except for the 1950 Union School opposite the Town Grove; the school was not included. At the southwest and northeast ends, the nominated area excludes houses of modern construction. The northern boundary was drawn so as to include only the old part of the town cemetery, a burying ground with dozens of 18th century and early 19th-century markers (Photograph 15). A narrow drive

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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 discontiguous 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

	Contributing/None	contr	ibuting
Address	Description	С	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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	Union Green Historic District Union, CT	7-3	
Address	Description	с	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 jigsawn 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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	Union Green Historic District Union, CT	7-4	
Address	Description	С	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 (con- tributing) 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. Deterior- ated condition. Later garage doors. Built by Merrick Marcy. Two small board-sided buildings to rear (Photo- graph 16).	3	0
1 Town Hall Road	House, 1956, 1 story, wood shingles and stone facing on exterior (Photo- graph 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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Description	Union Green Historic District Union, CT	7-5	
Address	Description	с	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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of Significance	Union Green Historic District	8-1
	Union, CT	

Summary

Union Green is a significant resource because the Green and the buildings and sites surrounding it recall the location's historic role as the town's political, religious, educational, and social center (Criterion A). From the construction of the first Congregational mmetinghouse in 1741 up to the present, the crossroads formed by Buckley Highway and Kinney Hollow, Town Hall, and Cemetery roads has been the location of virtually all the important institutions of Union's community life: the church of the town's predominant religious body, the oldest burying ground, the Town Hall, and the Public Library. Moreover, the Green and associated town grove have themselves been important as places for public monuments and townwide recreational and commemorative events. Finally, some of the buildings have architectural significance as locally notable examples of particular styles or types of construction, and the cemetery contains numerous significant examples of the 18th-century stonecarver's art. (Criterion C).

Historical Importance of Union Center

Because of its remoteness from Connecticut's population centers and its uninviting, hilly terrain, Union was one of the last areas to be settled east of the Connecticut River. Even before the town's formal incorporation in 1734, however, the proprietors of the "Union Lands" took an important step when they set apart 200 acres in the center of Union for a meetinghouse, cemetery, parade ground, and other public purposes. This tract was the forerunner of Union Green, and although now reduced in size and partly privately owned, it continues today as the site of many important Union institutions.

The first of these was the Congregational society, whose meetinghouse was for a hundred years located at what now is part of the town grove. As the town's publicly supported religion, Congregationalism permeated everyday life in Union. Even after disestablishment in 1818, the Congregational church continued as Union's predominant religious organization well into the twentieth century. In 1841, when a new meetinghouse was built, it was located on the knoll overlooking the town common land, just across the highway from the location of the first structure.

Like many Connecticut towns, Union in the 1840s decided to build a separate building to accommodate town meetings, which previously had been held in the Congregational meetinghouse. The common land in the

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of	Significance	Union	Green	Historic	District	8-2
		Union,	CT			

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	3-3
	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 The house at 980 Buckley Highway is significant because it type. embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Italian Villa style of architecture popular around the middle of the 19th century: lowpitched 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	8-4
	Union, CT	

carvers of eastern Connecticut."1

¹James A. Slater, <u>The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connec-</u> <u>ticut</u> (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 _____B _____ _____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: <u>55 Van Dyke Avenue</u> Telephone: <u>203-547-0268</u>

City or Town: <u>Hartford</u> State: <u>CT</u> ZIP: <u>06106</u>

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Bibliography

Union Green Historic District 9-1 Union, CT

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Eaton, William C., and H. C. Osborn. <u>Map of Tolland County</u>, <u>Connecticut</u>. Philadelphia: Woodford & Bartlett, 1857.

Lawson, Harvey M., comp. <u>The History of Union, Connecticut, Founded on</u> <u>Material Gathered by Reverend Charles Hammond</u>. New Haven: Price, Lee & Adkins Co., 1893.

Slater, James A. <u>The Colonial Burying Grounds of Eastern Connecticut</u>. Hamden, Conn.: Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1987.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

UTM References

Union Green Historic District 10-1 Union, CT

A: 18.735580.4652580 B: 18.735460.4652380 C: 18.735200.4652040 D: 18.734900.4652120 E: 18.735180.4652300 F: 18.735160.4652390 G: 18.735280.4652580 H: 18.735340.4652580 I: 18.735420.4652540 J: 18.735500.4652630

UNION GREEN

Union, Connecticut

SKETCH MAP

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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	, СТ			

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All photographs:
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- 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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Photograph captions Union Green Historic District Photos-2 Union, CT

House, 1 Town Hall Road, noncontributing, camera facing east Photograph 10 of 16

House, 5 Town Hall Road, camera facing northeast Photograph 11 of 16

View of Union Grove on Kinney Hollow Road, camera facing northeast Photograph 12 of 16

Monument to first meetinghouse, Union Grove, noncontributing flagpole and planter in background, camera facing northeast Photograph 13 of 16

Picnic shelter, Union Grove, noncontributing, camera facing southwest Photograph 14 of 16

Group of 18th-century grave markers, Cemetery Road, camera facing east Photograph 15 of 16

Center School, Kinney Hollow Road, camera facing northeast Photograph 16 of 16