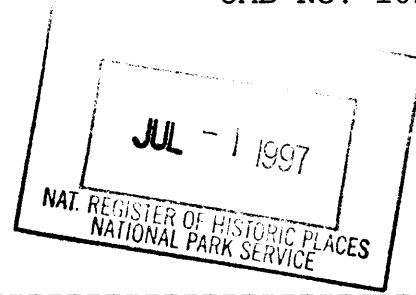


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

=====

1. Name of Property

historic name: TOLLAND GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

street & number: Tolland Green, Old Post Road, Tolland Stage Road, and
Cider Mill Road

city/town: Tolland not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Tolland code: 013 zip code: 06084

=====

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>55</u>	<u>22</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>56</u>	<u>23</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission; Date: 06/25/97

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 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):

Edson R. Beall 8/1/97

Signature of Keeper: [Signature]; Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURE, RELIGION, GOVERNMENT; Sub: single dwelling, agricultural outbuilding, religious facility, city hall, courthouse, correctional facility

Current: DOMESTIC, RELIGION, EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT; Sub: single dwelling, religious facility, library, city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

- Colonial
- Federal
- Victorian

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation	<u>STONE</u>	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
walls	<u>WOOD</u>	other	<u>BRICK</u>
	<u>BRICK</u>		

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: state.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1706-c.1940

Significant Dates: See item 7

Significant Person(s): _____

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: See Item 7

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	Tolland Green Historic District Tolland, Tolland County, CT	7-1
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The Tolland Green Historic District consists of over 50 houses and other buildings concentrated around a long strip of open land known as Tolland Green (Photograph 1) and along the side roads leading from it: Tolland Stage Road, Cider Mill Road, and Old Post Road. Although the district's buildings are a mixture of residential, religious, and public properties, the greatest number are houses dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries. The houses are generally of wooden post-and-beam construction, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 stories high, and range in style from the plain vernacular of the colonial period to the Federal and Greek Revival styles of the early 19th century. Victorian architecture is also represented, both in houses of the period and in remodelings of earlier buildings. The exteriors of most buildings are covered with clapboards, with Victorian-period structures having additional exterior variegation in the form of wood shingles; as noted in the Inventory, a number of houses have recently been sided. Only a few buildings are constructed of brick or stone.

The district's oldest houses, dating from the middle to late 18th century, exhibit the typical features of colonial Connecticut's domestic architecture: broad-side-to-the-road orientation, clapboarded exterior, small-pane divided sash, and plain detail (Photographs 7, 13, and 14). Early 19th-century buildings in the district have their gable end facing the street and Federal and Greek Revival details such as pilasters, fanlights, and full cornice returns (Photographs 1 and 2). The Tolland Inn and 714 Tolland Stage Road reveal an Italianate influence with their wide overhanging eaves and decorative porch columns and brackets (Photographs 9 and 10). The Gothic Revival is represented in the district in an outstandingly well-preserved example of the Swiss Chalet mode, 704 Tolland Stage Road, notable for its richly embellished second-floor porch supported on large braces (Photograph 8); a later Gothic influence can be seen in the simple Stick-Style bracing of the Old Town Hall (Photograph 5). The district's several buildings from the Late Victorian period have steeply pitched gable roofs, decorative porch detail, shingles, and other ornamental millwork (Photographs 3, 11, and 12).

A number of the residential properties include former agricultural outbuildings that are considered as contributing resources. About a dozen old barns can be found behind the houses along Tolland Green and Tolland Stage Road (Photograph 16).

In addition to the houses, the district includes several institutional buildings. There are three current or former church buildings: the

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Tolland Green Historic District 7-2
 Tolland, Tolland County, CT

Greek Revival-style United Congregational Church, built c.1838 (Photograph 2); the eclectic 1880 Methodist Church, since 1959 the meeting place of the Tolland Grange (Photograph 6); and St. Matthew's Catholic Church, a noncontributing building erected in 1966 (Photograph 18). Public buildings include the Federal-style 1822 Tolland County Courthouse, now the library of a genealogical society; the Tolland County House and County Jail, 1856-1893 (Photographs 3 and 4); the 1879 Old Town Hall at the southeastern end of the Green (Photograph 5); and the brick Romanesque-style building, built in 1908, that was formerly the Ratcliffe Hicks Memorial School and now houses the Tolland Public Library and town hall offices.

There are three current or former commercial-use buildings within the district: a Federal-style building (Photograph 1), currently a crafts store but with a long history of accommodating various other enterprises, including a drygoods store and shoe shop; the Tolland Inn (c.1850), an Italianate-detailed building in business as an inn at least since the turn of the century, when it was known as the Steele House (Photograph 10); and the former Tolland County Bank, whose Greek Revival-period origins are now obscured by the modernization that took place in 1962 (Photographs 2, 19). The house at 55 Tolland Green (Photograph 1) was also at one time used as a store and served many years as Tolland's post office. Two buildings are now in use as museums: the Tolland Historical Society Jail House Museum in the former county building and the Hicks-Stearns Family Museum in a Victorianized colonial-period house (Photograph 12).

The Green itself consists of two sections set end-to-end running in a north-south direction, with roads along either side. For the most part, it is devoid of fencing, curbs, and walks. Plantings are limited to a few shade trees along the central axis of the Green, so that aside from better-paved roads, its appearance today is not markedly different from that of the 1830s (see Barber view, below). The spirit of the Green is continued on the west side of Route 195, where many of the buildings have broad front lawns between them and a sidewalk (Photograph 2). At the south end of the Green is the town's flagpole, set upon a granite war monument. The Green is counted as a contributing resource within the historic district; the flagpole and monument are considered noncontributing because of their relatively recent construction (1968).

The boundary of the district generally follows property lines, cutting across them only to exclude excessive open land or modern construction.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Tolland Green Historic District
Tolland, Tolland County, CT

7-3

The boundary of the district generally follows property lines, cutting across them only to exclude excessive open land or modern construction. The nominated district approximates the boundary of the Tolland Green local historic district but includes three more properties.

In the inventory of buildings that follows, the count of contributing buildings (C) includes houses, barns, and other buildings that retain their historic appearance; conversely, the count of noncontributing buildings (NC) includes houses and outbuildings that appear to be of relatively recent construction. Altered historic buildings were counted as contributing if they retained their basic overall form and enough detail, such as the Tolland County Bank's cornice embellishment (Photograph 19), to make their period of origin evident. Historic names and dates were compiled from the local historic district report and town history books. Other dates are estimates made by the preparers of this form, based primarily on architectural features.



View of Tolland Green, looking north, with Tolland Bank and County Courthouse on left; from Barber's *Connecticut Historical Collections* (1836).

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Tolland Green Historic District 7-4
Tolland, Tolland County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
BUILDINGS						
2 Cider Mill Road	2 1/2	c.1800	Colonial	siding	1	0
7 Cider Mill Road JEREMIAH PARISH HOUSE	1 1/2	c.1730	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
8 Cider Mill Road	2 1/2	c.1798	Colonial	siding	2	0
14 Cider Mill Road PHOTOGRAPH 15	1 1/2	1930	No style	clapboards	1	1
55 Old Post Road	2 1/2	c.1780	Colonial/Georgian	siding	1	1
2 Tolland Green	2	c.1830	Greek Revival	brick	2	0
4 Tolland Green	2 1/2	c.1820	Colonial	composition shingles	2	0
10 Tolland Green	1 1/2	c.1950	Ranch	siding	0	1
16 Tolland Green	2 1/2	c.1776	Colonial	clapboards	2	0
21 Tolland Green FORMER RATCLIFFE HICKS SCHOOL	2 1/2	c.1908	Romanesque Revival	brick	1	0
22 Tolland Green OLD TOWN HALL - PHOTOGRAPH 5	1 1/2	c.1879	Stick style	clapboards	1	0
25 Tolland Green PHOTOGRAPH 11	2 1/2	c.1873	Late Victorian	clapboards	1	0
26 Tolland Green	2 1/2	18th Cent.	Colonial	clapboards	1	0
30 Tolland Green W. Wescott, builder	1 1/2	c.1848 altered c.1925	Bungalow	clapboards	2	0
31 Tolland Green	3 1/2	c.1860	Greek Revival	clapboards	1	0
34 Tolland Green OBEDIAH WALDO HOUSE - PHOTOGRAPH 13	2	c.1780	Colonial	shingles	1	0
35 Tolland Green	2 1/2	c.1820	No style	siding	1	0
41 Tolland Green	2 1/2	c.1776	Colonial/Late Victorian	clapboards, siding	1	0
42 Tolland Green HICKS-STEARN'S FAMILY MUSEUM - PHOTOGRAPH 12	2 1/2	c.1795	Colonial/Late Victorian	clapboards, shingles	2	0
46 Tolland Green	2 1/2	c.1800	Federal	siding	1	0
47 Tolland Green UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - PHOTOGRAPHS 2,19	2 1/2	c.1838	Greek Revival	clapboards	1	1
51 Tolland Green FORMER TOLLAND COUNTY BANK - PHOTOGRAPHS 2,19 Attrib. to Ithiel Town, architect	1 1/2	c.1830	Greek Revival	brick	1	0

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Tolland Green Historic District 7-5
Tolland, Tolland County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
52 Tolland Green FORMER TOLLAND COUNTY HOUSE AND JAIL - James Clough, architect	2 1/2	c.1856/1893	Late Victorian - PHOTOGRAPH 3, 4	shingles, stone, brick	2	2
53 Tolland Green TOLLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE -	2 1/2	c.1822	Federal - PHOTOGRAPH 2	clapboards	1	0
55 Tolland Green PHOTOGRAPH 2	2 1/2	1830	Greek Revival	siding	2	0
56 Tolland Green PHOTOGRAPH 17	2	1945	Cape	siding	0	1
59 Tolland Green	1 1/2	1926	No style	siding	1	0
63 Tolland Green TOLLAND INN -	2 1/2	c.1850	Italianate - PHOTOGRAPH 10	clapboards	1	0
64 Tolland Green	2 1/2	c.1720/1750	Colonial	shingles	2	0
70 Tolland Green	2 1/2	1940	Colonial	siding	0	2
76 Tolland Green James Clough, architect	3 1/2	c.1883	Late Victorian	shingles, clapboards	1	1
79 Tolland Green	2	c.1826	Federal	clapboards	1	0
80 Tolland Green	2	1959	"Colonial"	shingles	0	1
81 Tolland Green James Clough, architect	2 1/2	c.1875	Late Victorian	clapboards	2	0
85 Tolland Green	2	c.1791	Federal	siding	1	1
88 Tolland Green	2	1965	"Colonial"	siding	1	0
89 Tolland Green PHOTOGRAPH 7	2 1/2	c.1790	Colonial	siding	2	1
91 Tolland Green	1 1/2	c.1800	Colonial	siding	2	0
94 Tolland Green	2		Contemporary	siding	0	1
95 Tolland Green FORMER METHODIST CHURCH, NOW GRANGE NO. 51 -	1 1/2	1880	Late Victorian - PHOTOGRAPH 6	clapboards, shingles	1	0
96 Tolland Green	empty lot Site of Blacksmith Shop					
100 Tolland Green	2	1965	"Colonial"	clapboards	0	1
104 Tolland Green	1 1/2	1941	"Colonial"	shingles	0	1
111 Tolland Green ST. MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH -	1	1966	"Colonial" - PHOTOGRAPH 18	brick	0	1
114 Tolland Green EATON HOUSE	2 1/2	c.1750	Colonial	siding	2	1
665 Tolland Stage Road	2 1/2	c.1755	Colonial	siding	1	1

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description Tolland Green Historic District 7-6
Tolland, Tolland County, CT

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

ADDRESS	STORIES	DATE	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	C	NC
689 Tolland Stage Road	2 1/2	c.1820	No style	siding	1	1
699 Tolland Stage Road	2 1/2	c.1792	No style	siding	1	0
704 Tolland Stage Road PHOTOGRAPH 8	2	c.1859	Swiss Chalet	matched boards	1	1
714 Tolland Stage Road PHOTOGRAPH 9	2 1/2	c.1850	Italianate	siding	1	1
768 Tolland Stage Road	1 1/2	c.1865	No style	clapboards	1	0
OBJECTS						
- Tolland Green FLAGPOLE AND WAR MONUMENT		1968	Flagpole and monument	granite, steel	0	1
SITE						
- Tolland Green TOLLAND GREEN - PHOTOGRAPH 1		c.1722	Town green		1	0

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 Tolland County Courthouse, 53 Tolland Green
- 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 Connecticut Historical Commission
- Other state agency 59 South Prospect Street
- Federal agency Hartford, Connecticut 06106
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 50 acres

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'.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.
The boundary includes the entire Tolland Green, along with all contiguous historic buildings bordering the Green and its side streets.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Hoang Tinh, reviewed by John Herzan,
Conn. Hist. Commission
Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: February 28, 1997

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 860-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT Zip: 06106

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Bibliography Tolland Green Historic District 9-1
Tolland, Tolland County, CT

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Maps and Views:

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Geographic Data Tolland Green Historic District
 Tolland, Tolland County, CT

10-1

UTM REFERENCES:

- 1: 18.717000.4639100
- 2: 18.717960.4639000
- 3: 18.717880.4639000
- 4: 18.717870.4638960
- 5: 18.718110.4638940
- 6: 18.718120.4638810
- 7: 18.718120.4638790
- 8: 18.718130.4638760
- 9: 18.718160.4638750
- 10: 18.718190.4638640
- 11: 18.718150.4638630
- 12: 18.718270.4638400
- 13: 18.718380.4638420
- 14: 18.718380.4638340
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- 16: 18.718410.4638310
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- 20: 18.713380.4638220
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- 35: 18.718220.4639120
- 36: 18.718170.4639120
- 37: 18.718160.4639100

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs Tolland Green Historic District Photos-1
 Tolland, Tolland County, CT

All photographs:

1. Tolland Green Historic District
2. Tolland, Tolland County, CT
4. August, 1996
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford, CT

Captions:

Tolland Green, north end with house at 46 Tolland Green to the left,
camera facing south
Photograph 1 of 19

West side of Tolland Green, United Congregational Church, 47 Tolland
Green, on far left, former Tolland County Bank, 51 Tolland Green, on
left, former Tolland County Courthouse, 53 Tolland Green, in center,
and 55 Tolland Green, on right, camera facing southwest
Photograph 2 of 19

Former Tolland County jail, 52 Tolland Green, camera facing northeast
Photograph 3 of 19

Rear section of former jail, 52 Tolland Green, camera facing northeast
Photograph 4 of 19

Old Town Hall, 22 Tolland Green, camera facing northeast
Photograph 5 of 19

Grange No. 51, 95 Tolland Green, camera facing southwest
Photograph 6 of 19

Eighteenth-century house, 89 Tolland Green, camera facing southwest
Photograph 7 of 19

Swiss Chalet-style house, 704 Tolland Stage Road, camera facing south
Photograph 8 of 19

Early 19th-century house, 714 Tolland Stage Road, camera facing
northwest
Photograph 9 of 19

