

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Town of Madison in south central Connecticut is roughly oblong in shape, about five miles wide in the east-west direction and 12 miles long in the north-south direction. The town borders on Long Island Sound. A road has run across the town paralleling the seacoast ever since settlement in the 17th century. This highway, known historically as the Boston Post Road (U.S. Route 1), is the spine along which settlement developed in the 17th and 18th centuries and it was logical that the town green (Photo 1), the center of the community, should be established on this road. The 17th-, 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century buildings around the green and along adjoining sections of the Boston Post Road are the subject of the nomination, 48 structures in all, 7 of which are considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district. Of the 41 buildings, one dates from the 17th century (Photo 2), 5 from the 18th, 26 from the 19th, and 9 from the 20th century.

The green is an oblong space of approximately four acres located in the heart of the village, just west of the shopping center. It has an east-west orientation parallel with the Boston Post Road, which runs along its southern edge (Photo 3). Local government and community buildings are clustered around the other three sides of the open space. The Congregational Church and its Church House face the north side of the green (Meetinghouse Lane) (Photo 4). A triangular wing of the green to the east is the setting for the town hall, community meeting building, Academy Elementary School, and Lee Academy (School Street) (Photo 5), and the Lutheran Church faces a triangular wing to the west (Britton Lane) (Photo 6).

The district's boundaries are extended to the east and to the west of the green to encompass the adjoining historic houses along the Boston Post Road until their continuity is interrupted by an intrusion. On the east this limit is reached with the commercial structures at the intersection of the Boston Post Road with the Durham Road (Route 79), and on the west with 446 Boston Post Road. The district, therefore, is the central section of Madison along the Boston Post Road where the 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century arrangement of churches, public buildings and houses remains intact.

The building that dominates the green is the First Congregational Church (1838). From the Boston Post Road parallel walks across the green lead to the drive up to the church, the two together forming an impressive vista for the Greek portico of six Doric columns. The channelled columns rest on a stylobate of eight granite steps, and support a plain architrave, a frieze with triglyphs that have guttae above and below, and a molded cornice. The face of the tympanum is flush boarding, as are the front and side walls of the building. There are three double doors in the front wall, behind the columns, each door with two, long, vertical, recessed panels. The central doors are flanked by pilasters that support an entablature. Over the doors there is a foliate, horizontal medallion level with the pilaster capitals, under the architrave. The two doorways to left and right have crossette architraves with central, vertical, foliate medallions, separated

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Madison Green District
Madison, CT

CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

There are no tax maps in Madison, and therefore no map/block/lot numbers. The street numbers used in the addresses are taken from the houses and/or from the assessor's street cards.

The owner(s)'s address is the same as the property address unless an additional address is given. All addresses are Madison, CT 06443 unless otherwise indicated.

There are 48 structures in the district. 5 are considered not to contribute to the historic character of the district, and are designated "NC" in front of the description. All others are considered to contribute.

Dates of construction are taken from the assessor's records or from plaques on the houses or are approximated through visual examination. At the end of the inventory a tabulation is given for 34 of the houses comparing dates from six different sources.

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Madison Green Historic District
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Property Owners
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Address of Property
Name of owner(s)
Owner's mailing address
if different

Approximate Date of Construction,
Name of First or Early Resident,
Description

446 Boston Post Road
Virginia Hill
100 Crown St.
New Haven, CT 06510

1843. 2½-story, 3-bay, clapboard, Greek Revival house on stone foundations with 6-over-6 double-hung sash. West bay have gables entrance portico supported by fluted columns. There are a wing to the southeast and a rear addition.

448 Boston Post Road
Louise Crowell

1910? 2½-story, gable-roofed, Georgian Revival, clapboard house with central roof gable over central low-gabled entrance portico that is supported by columns with projecting, molded capitals.

454-460 Boston Post Road
Bertha M. Benton and
Grace D. Francis
Photograph 12)

454 1927. 1-story, gable-roofed, 22x40' converted garage with wood shingle siding. Said to be the first gas station on the Boston Post Road in the Madison/Guilford area. The gas tanks are still in the ground in the front yard. (Photo 12)

456 (Rear) 1907? Simple, 1-story, gable-roofed, 24x32' house on concrete block foundations with weathered shingle siding. Thought to be a converted barn.

458-460 1788. 3-story, 5-bay, central chimney, central doorway, clapboard house on stone foundations with wood-shingled roof. There is a second story overhang and, in the end walls, a third story overhang with cyma recta moldings. Each gable end has an attic window above the third story windows. The bracketed hood appears to have been added in the late 19th century. The structure was converted to a 2-

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family house, c. 1920, at which time a vertical section of the chimney was removed. The first floor front, east side bows outward, indicating structural problems. (Photo 13)

498 Boston Post Road
Herman and Viola Derenthal

c. 1835? 2½-story, 3-bay Greek Revival house with gable roof on stone foundations. Important trim was removed when aluminum clapboard siding was applied, e.g., the clapboards have a straight run up the facade the cornice forming the base of the pediment having been removed.

506 Boston Post Road
Roger W. MacLaughlin

1811. Jonathan Scranton. 2½-story, 3-bay, clapboard house with gable roof and central chimney. Modillion blocks under the eaves. Classic revival doorway in west bay with peaked hood. Stone foundations.

514 Boston Post Road
Gilbert & Ellen Switzer

1825. Two-story, clapboard, Greek Revival house on stone foundations. The eaves return, and there is a wide fascia under the raking cornices. Three windows at first floor, two at second floor.

518 Boston Post Road
Fred O. & Ann D. Ewing

1820. Two and one-half story, 3-bay, clapboard, ell-shaped, Greek Revival house. There are two pediments, one on the front with a rectangular window, and another on the ell to the west. The recessed doorway in the front, east bay is flanked by panelled pilasters that support an entablature

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524 Boston Post Road
Bruce E. & Patricia C. Bates

with two dentil courses under a projecting, molded cornice.

1835. Three-story, 3-bay, square, hipped-roof, Italianate house on stone foundations. Porch across front has square posts with molded capitals. First floor windows are floor-to-ceiling. Roof is metal. This house presumably has been altered from its original appearance to the Italianate style.

526 Boston Post Road
Joan W. Brown

1840. Two and one-half-story, 3-bay clapboard, transitional Greek Revival/Italianate house on stone foundations. The portico at the west bay has fluted columns with bell capitals. The window caps and the cornice of the pediment are supported by brackets.

530 Boston Post Road
Dorothy Barnard Cooper
24 Cherry Lane

1820. Two and one-half story, 3-bay clapboard, gable roof, Greek Revival house on stone foundations. The oblong window in the pediment is surmounted by a Greek key fret. The first and second story window caps have a vertical, zig-zag fret. The doorway is flanked by fluted columns with anthemion capitals.

534 Boston Post Road
Frances M. Donnelly

1828. Jonathan Trumbull Lee. Two and one-half story, 3-bay, clapboard, Greek Revival house on stone foundations. Fanlight in pediment. Shaped window caps. Two-story, 3-sided bay added on west side.

536 Boston Post Road
Henry & Deborah Drinker

1822. Samuel Robinson. Large, 2½-story, 5-bay, twin chimney, clapboard Georgian house on stone foundations with gable roof. The central recessed

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- doorway has fluted Doric columns. The house has the same shaped window caps as several Greek Revival houses. There is a wood picket fence with square posts in front of the house.
- 542-546 Boston Post Road
Charlotte L. Evarts
17 Gopse Road
1789. Rev. John Elliott. Two and one-half-story, 5-bay, central chimney, central doorway, Georgian house on stone foundations. Covered with asbestos shingle siding. A 3-sided oriel has been added at second story level on the east side of the front facade. It is supported by a single, heavy, sawn C-bracket.
- NC 1935. Two-story, Cape Cod cottage.
- 548 Boston Post Road
Steven Leninski
Pond River Road
Killingworth
1750. Abraham Scranton. Two and one-half-story, gable roof, 3-bay, central doorway, central chimney, clapboard saltbox on stone foundations. The windows are small, and have 12-over-12 sash. There is an added cross gable in the rear, over the lean-to. A 19th-century, vertical boarding, gable roof barn and two sheds are behind the house.
- 554 Boston Post Road
First Congregational Church
20 Meetinghouse Lane
1800. Curtis Wilcox House. Two and one-half-story, gable roof, 5-bay, central chimney, central doorway, Georgian house on stone foundations. The doorway has a half-round, leaded fanlight and peaked hood. There is a tripartite window at second floor level over the doorway. The gable ends of the house project, forming end pediments.
- 558 Boston Post Road
R. Roland & Margaret M. Eckman
1830. Col. Jonathan S. Wilcox. Two and one-half-story, gable roof, twin chimney central doorway, clapboard, Georgian house on stone foundations. There is a gabled, columned portico. The gable ends of the house form pediments that

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- 566 Boston Post Road
Jane French
Box 247
- 574 Boston Post Road
Edith L. Steele
- 582 Boston Post Road
B. Christopher & Jean D. Hill
- 584 Boston Post Road NC
Donald J. & Mary Jane McSparrow
- 586 Boston Post Road
H. Robert & Barbara S. Beecher
- have semi-oval fanlights. Modillion blocks run under the eaves on four sides of the house and continue under the raking cornices of the end pediments. A 2-story, 3-sided bay has been added at the west end. A wood picket fence separates the house from the street. The square fence posts are capped by small pineapples.
1740. Gilbert Dudley. Two and one-half story, clapboard, gable roof, 3-bay central stone chimney, central doorway, saltbox on stone foundations. A Greek Revival doorway surround has been added. There is a rear, shed dormer.
1840. Two and one-half story, gable roof, twin chimney, T-shaped, clapboard 3-bay Greek Revival house. Pediment has a leaded fanlight with keystone. The elaborate doorway surround includes leaded transom and side lights, panelled jambs, flanking pilasters, and a dentil course under a flat, molded cornice. The five windows have pointed labels.
1850. Two-story, oblong, plain, vernacular house on stone foundations. Length of house is parallel with the street. A central, 2-story ell projects toward the street. Aluminum clapboard siding.
1970. Raised Ranch.
1810. Two and one-half story, 3-bay, clapboard, Greek Revival house on stone foundations. Entrance portico has fluted columns with acanthus leaf capitals, plain architrave and frieze, heavy dentil course, and flat molded cornice. Outbuildings include a barn and three sheds. A long wooden fence separates the house from the street.

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463 Boston Post Road

Donald S. & Marilyn F. Bullis

1830. 2½-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, clapboard house with wide front porch having square posts and a balustrade with square balusters. Originally an ell-shaped, vernacular farm house, the structure has been altered, enlarged, and re-modelled from time to time, most recently in 1970. Has stone foundations with dirt cellar floor

477 Boston Post Road

Raymond & Marguerite Cairns

1838. 2½-story, 4-bay, clapboard, gable-roofed house on stone foundations with wood-shingled roof and central chimney. There is little in the way of decorative trim; the doorway in the second bay from the right has a flat molded cap and slim pilasters, giving a hint of the Greek Revival style.

485 Boston Post Road

Corinne D. Reuter
736 Camillia Drive
Royal Palm Beach, Florida

NC 1930. 2-story, Dutch Colonial Revival house with two paired windows at second story level above enclosed porch that runs across the width of the front of the house at first story. The roof has a gambrel profile at the ends of the house. Aluminum siding.

c. 1890? 2½-story, 3-bay, clapboard, vernacular farm house with enclosed porch on north side. Roof slopes project in front of the gable end.

NC 1-story, 2-bay, flat-roofed, concrete block gas station. Facade is porcelain clad. Side walls have stepped parapets.

(Photo 14)

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509 Boston Post Road
George A., III & Linda Y. Wilson

1760. Eber Gudd. One and one-half story, 3-bay, central chimney, clapboard house on stone foundations with high gable roof.

513 Boston Post Road
S. Jeffrey Burt

1830. Two and one-half story, 3-bay, clapboard, gable roof, Greek Revival house on stone foundations. The central entrance has portico with balustrade. There are two outbuildings, one of which appears to be old.

519 Boston Post Road
Michael J. & Grace Maloney
8908 Shelbyville Rd.
Louisville, KY 40222

1760. Talcott Bradley. One and one-half story, 3-bay, clapboard house on stone foundations with central stone chimney and high gable roof. There is a 1½-story, gable-roofed extension to the rear.

The Green
First Congregational Church
20 Meetinghouse Lane

Four-acre park, rectangular in shape with triangular wings to north and south, along Boston Post Road. Assumed its present park-like appearance in 1842 when the church cleared and levelled the ground and introduced walkways.

581 Boston Post Road
William P. Lage, Jr.
Executor
1918 Sioux
Glendale, AR 85301

1675. John Grave(s). Two and one-half story, 4-bay, central chimney, weathered clapboard saltbox on stone foundations. Gable roof is covered with wood shingles. Six fireplaces. Ell to southwest. Two-story, vertical boarding, 19th-century barn.

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589 Boston Post Road
Milton S. Marcus

c. 1850? 2½-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house on stone foundations. The pediment of flush boards has an oblong window while the one-story, wide front porch has a low, gable of flush boards. The square porch columns have deeply recessed center sections.

1909? Gable-roofed barn behind paved parking area to the right has been altered by the installation of windows and Classic Revival trim such as corner pilasters, not to restore it but to make it into a companion piece for the house, which it was not originally.

9 Britton Lane
Lutheran Church of Madison

1955, 1969. One-story, brick veneer, gable roof church. Sanctuary 26x52'. Education building 40x60'. Contemporary architecture with large, stained glass window and thin, stylized white spire. Well designed in sensitive scale and relationship to the green as a 20th-century continuation of the 18th- and 19th-century development of the district.

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- 13 Britton Lane
Kenneth L. & Sandra P. Evarts
1930. Two-story, shingled, bungaloid house. Wide, gable roof slopes over front porch.
- 15A Copse Road
Ruth C. Francisco
Mid-19th century. Two and one-half story, T-shaped, gable roof, clapboard vernacular house on stone foundations. Some aluminum siding.
- 8 Meeting House Lane
Town of Madison
1896. Madison Memorial Hall. Two and one-half story, 44x56', Classic Revival yellow brick building on granite foundations.
- 1914 One-story, hipped roof, yellow brick, 19x27', Classic Revival office. Rear ell, 18x23' of red brick (now painted yellow) with gable roof was built in 1874 to house original vaults for town records.
- 14 Meeting House Lane
Town of Madison
(Leased to Madison Historical Society)
8 Meeting House Lane
1821. Lee Academy. Two-story, 22x40', oblong, clapboard building with twin front doors, and gable roof with open belfry. The land is owned by the Town and leased to the Society; the building vice versa.
- 20 Meeting House Lane
First Congregational Church
1965. Church House. Two-story, T-shaped, light buff brick, gable roof building with Ionic tetrastyle. Base of the T is 62x100' and arm of the T is 32x43'. Design is sensitively related to the church.
- 26 Meeting House Lane
First Congregational Church
1838. Altered 1867. 56x76', Greek Revival, wood church on granite foundations with Gibbsian steeple. Portico has six Doric columns.
- 30 Meeting House Lane
Morris A. & Mary M. Kirchoff
1820. 34x38', 2½-story, frame house with 2-story, columned portico. Hipped roof is flared at the eaves. Granite foundations.

FHR-8-300A
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17 Rockledge Drive
Donald R., Jr., & Marjorie K.
Meredith

NC 1966. 2-story, shallow H-shaped house with vertical wood siding stained brown, long open porches and sun decks, and large, single-pane windows. Flat or low hipped roofs. On an elevated site with a fine view toward the Sound.

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- School Street
Town of Madison
8 Meeting House Lane
- 1921, 1936. Academy Elementary School. Two-story, Roman Revival structure of red brick laid with white mortar. Central, 1-story, projecting section has round-headed windows with radial muntins. Building cornice supported by heavy modillion blocks.
- School Street
Town of Madison
8 Meeting House Lane
1884. Former Congregational Church chapel, now community building. One and one-half story, T-shaped, gable roof Queen Anne building with clapboard and shaped shingle siding.

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1. The 1889 List is abstracted from Proceedings at the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Settlement of Guilford, 1889.

2. The 1939 List is abstracted from a list of "Old Houses in the Town of Madison, Connecticut" prepared for the Tercentenary Celebration of Guilford Colony by Howard C. Field, 1939.

3. 1975-6 List was researched by a committee of the Madison Historical Society.

4. Col.Dames dates are taken from the series of books prepared by the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames in America and deposited at the State Library.

5. d indicates the land records have been searched.

MADISON GREEN DISTRICT

NO.	OWNER	HISTORIC OR COMMON NAME	M.H.S.	TOWN*	DATES			COL. DAMES ⁴
					1889 LIST ¹	1939 LIST ²	1975-6 LIST ³	
<u>BOSTON POST ROAD</u>								
1	506 S	MacLaughlin	Jonathan Scranton House	c.1811				
2	509 N	Wilson	Maj. Eber Judd House	c.1760	1760		1760	
3	513 N	Burt	Col. Jonathan S. Wilcox House II	a 1850				
4	514 S	Switzer	John A. Hill House	a 1850				
5	518 S	Ewing	Albert L. Hill House	c.1848	1820		1848	
6	519 N	Maloney	Talcott Bradley House	c.1760	1760	1760	1760	1760
7	524 S	Bates	Samuel Brown Hill House	c.1850	1835			
8	526 S	Brown	Frederick Munger House	c.1848d ⁵	1840			
9	530 S	Richardson	Jonathan Chittenden House	c.1843d	1820		1820	
10	534 S	Donnelly	Jonathan Trumbull Lee House	c.1828	1828			
11	536 S	Drinker	Samuel Robinson House	c.1822	1822		1822	
12	542 S	Evarts	Rev. John Elliott House	c.1789	1789	1789	1789	1789
13	544 S	Evarts (rear--NC)			1935			
14	548 S	Leninski	Abraham Scranton House	c.1750	1750	1750	1750	1750
15	554 S	1st Cong. Church	Curtis Wilcox House	c.1800	1800		1800	
16		1st Cong. Church	The Madison Green					
17	558 S	Eckman	Col. Jonathan S. Wilcox House I	c.1830	1830		1830	
18	566 S	French	Gilbert Dudley House	c.1740	1740	1740	1740	1740
19	574 S	Steele	Timothy V. Meigs House	a 1850				
20	581 N	Lage Estate	Dea. John Grave House	c.1675	1675	1680	1675	1675
21	582 S	Hill	B. Christopher Hill House	c.1900				
22	584 S	McSparrow (rear--NC)						
23	586 S	Beecher	Samuel S. Meigs House	c.1810	1810			
<u>BRITTON LANE</u>								
24	9 W	Lutheran Church	Lutheran Church	c.1955-1969				
25	13 W	Evarts (Ken)		c.1930				
<u>COPSE ROAD</u>								
26	15 W	Francisco	Jonathan F. Todd House	a 1850				
<u>MEETING HOUSE LANE</u>								
27	8 E	Town of Madison	Madison Town Hall	c.1896				
28	14 E	Madison Hist. Society	Lee Academy	c.1821				
29	18 N	1st Cong. Church	1st Cong. Church House	c.1965				
30	20 N	1st Cong Church	1st Congregational Church	c.1838-1867			1838	
31	30 N	Kirchoff	Dea. Benjamin Hart House	c.1830				
<u>SCHOOL STREET</u>								
32	4 N	Town of Madison	Academy Street School	c.1884-1936				
33	10 N	Town of Madison	Madison Recreation Department	c.1884				
34	12 N	Town of Madison	Madison Engineering Department	c.1875-1915				

* Assessor's Records

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State Register of Historic Places

1982
Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford

State

Connecticut

Survey of Madison Architecture

Connecticut Historical Commission
Hartford

Local

Connecticut

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from the doors by a row of five bosses. There are three ten-over-ten windows at second floor level, one over each doorway. The central window has a crossette architrave, five bosses, and vertical medallion as the flanking doorways have.

There are seven pilasters along the sides of the church, including one at each front corner. The pilasters are flush boarding, too, but with the boards vertically oriented in contrast to the horizontal orientation of the flush boarding that makes up the walls. Triglyphs continue in the frieze under the eaves along the sides of the church. There are six tall two-story windows between the pilasters. The blinds for the windows are in three sections. The upper and lower sections are open and the central section is closed, creating the effect that there are first and second story windows.

The four-stage steeple begins with a square belfry of vertical flush boarding with louvered openings surrounded by crossette architraves. The sides of this stage are canted, giving the suggestion of Egyptian Revival influence. The second stage is octagonal, and just tall enough to accommodate the clock faces. The third stage is round with peristyle of eight Ionic columns, while the fourth and final stage, also round, has eight free standing, shorter columns with anthemion capitals. The whole is crowned by a gilt dome and an arrow weather vane. The church has a standing-seam gable roof.

The appearance of the interior dates from 1867 remodelling. The chief decoration is the painted trompe-l'oeil panelling in shades of cream and grey that covers the walls and ceiling (Photo 7). The recessed area in the north wall behind the black walnut pulpit formerly had a complex, trompe-l'oeil, perspective design, but this was replaced in 1955 by the present arrangement of two Doric columns. There are galleries on three sides of the church that correspond in height to the closed sections of the exterior window blinds.

Adjoining the church to the east, on the north side of the green, is the Church House, built in 1965 in materials, proportions and decorative elements sensitive to the church. It is a two-story, T-shaped, gable roof building of light buff colored bricks. The arm of the T projects, and across its front, forming a shallow pedimented portico are four Ionic columns, slightly paired. The wider, central space leads to two-leaf, panelled doors with side and transom lights and entablature. A large, 32-pane window is above the doorway. The composition is reminiscent of the front of the church without being a copy. A further tie-in with the church facade is provided by the use of triglyphs in the frieze over the Ionic

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columns. While triglyphs normally are found only in a Doric entablature, their use here provides a common decorative element with the church. Wood pilasters along the sides of the building at second story level echo the pilasters on the sides of the church.

The third structure on the north side of the green, adjoining the church to the west, is a square, two-story house (1830) that in several ways resembles the church, although there is no known association between the two other than their location. Like the church, the house has flush vertical boarding, tall, two-story windows with three-part blinds, and a two-story pedimented portico. The columns of the portico are Tuscan, with a pronounced entasis. The accompanying pilasters next to the facade repeat the entasis in a manner that suggests the batter associated with the Egyptian Revival, a suggestion also found in the first stage of the church steeple. Like the church the house rests on granite ashlar foundations. A point of difference is the presence of a half-round fanlight with keystone in the pediment of the house. The roof of the house is an unusual shape. It is listed in the assessor's records as mansard, but a better description might be truncated hipped roof with flared eaves. The angle of the slope from the vertical seems too large to qualify as mansard. While the roof is old, whether it is original has not been determined.

The buildings that border the east side of the green are town buildings. Central among them is the 1896 Memorial Hall, now the Town Hall, built of yellow brick with marble trim in the Classic Revival style. It is a 2½-story, oblong, hipped roof building on a 7½ foot-high, granite, ashlar basement.

The building is oriented in the north-south direction. The southern corners are truncated. An entrance porch projects from the southwest corner. Approached by a high flight of steps, the entrance is protected by Ionic columns in antis under a pulvinated frieze and dentil course, the whole surmounted by a balustrade. In the east and west walls there are three, two-story, round-headed openings each containing wood surrounds for tripartite windows whose glazing is separated, first floor from second floor, by panels. On the south wall there are three windows at each level, basement, first floor, and second floor. At the first floor level there is a half-round recess with keystone over the central window, creating a Palladian effect. Raised lettering in the recess spells out the words "Memorial Hall 1896."

Directly behind the Memorial Hall is a one-story, brick building originally built for the Town Clerk. The older section (1874) in the back

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is built of red brick, now painted yellow, with a gable roof. The newer section (Photo 8), in front, has a hipped roof over yellow brick walls, on granite foundations. The central doorway has a segmental hood supported by brackets. Paired, one-over-one windows flank the doorway. Each of the stone lintels of the windows carries three stone keystones disposed one in the center over the space between the windows, and one at each end of the lintel. An architrave with dentil course under the eaves completes the Classic Revival effect.

The building next east of the Town Clerk's office is now used for community meetings of varied types, but was consecrated July 24, 1884 as the chapel of the Congregational Church (Photo 9). It is a 1½-story, T-shaped, frame building in the Queen Anne style with gables and bays, clapboards and shaped shingles, on stone foundations. There is a rose window in the gable end of 12 radial sections. Each section terminates in a half-round shape at the periphery of the window. Below the rose window there is a lancet window composed of eight elongated sections shaped like those of the rose window. The sides of the building have tripartite windows with some colored lights. An early photo shows that originally the chapel had a low, four-sided, pointed steeple. The report of the building committee, quoted in the minutes of the July 3, 1884 meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society, described the interior as containing a chapel "with suitable parlors connected, adapted to the use of the several sewing Societies to engage in their benevolent work."

There are two schools in this cluster of town buildings. Lee Academy (1821) is the older one. It is a narrow, 22 x 40', two-story, clapboard, gable roof building on stone foundations, not on its original site. On the front there are two doors at the first floor, two windows at the second floor, and a half-round fanlight in the gable end. The sides have five bays. A new open belfry with pointed roof and iron finial was constructed in 1976 in faithful reproduction of the original, which was deteriorated.

The Academy Elementary School dates from 1884, the year it was established on a nearby site as Hand Academy, the benefaction of Daniel Hand. The present schoolhouse, constructed in 1921 with a 1936 addition, is a two-story, Roman Revival structure executed in red brick with white mortar (Photo 9). A central, one-story front section has a round-headed entrance-way, a motif that is repeated on the sides of this section in two round-headed openings for tripartite windows with radial muntins at the top. A heavy, molded, wood cornice runs around the building at the eaves, supported by large modillion blocks. A broad, poured concrete frieze under the cornice is decorated with periodic clusters of brick laid in diamond

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shapes. On the sides of the school the cornice breaks out over shallow pavilions that mark the side entrances.

In mid-20th century the west side of the green became the location of a new church, the Lutheran Church of Madison (Photo 6). The one-story, brick veneer edifice was constructed in 1955, and it was enlarged in 1969 by the addition to the west of a 40 x 60' educational facility. At that time the main entrance was moved from the front to the east side and a tall stained-glass window was installed in the front wall. The window depicts a figure of Christ surrounded by various Christian symbols. It is composed of faceted glass pieces one inch thick that project a fraction of an inch from the epoxy material in which they are set. The roof of the sanctuary is supported by three laminated wood beams. The overall effect of the building is a simple, one-story, gable roof, red brick structure without embellishment other than the stained glass window and a thin, stylized, white spire.

The Boston Post Road runs along the south side of the green. A row of 18th- and 19th-century houses face north across the road, toward the green. East and west of the green there are houses on both sides of the Boston Post Road. The oldest house in the district, the Graves House, 581 Boston Post Road, is east of the green on the north side of the street (Photo 2). Built in 1675, it is a 2½-story, gable roof, four-bay, weathered clapboard structure with central stone chimney and added lean-to, on stone foundations. The clapboards are beaded. The windows have 12-over-12 sash. The doorway occupies the second bay from the west. It has two-leaf, five-panel doors. The second story of the house projects about four inches over the first story. One-foot-long sections of cyma recta bolection moldings at the corners and in the front connect the two planes. The section of overhang above the two windows to the east of the doorway has an exterior chamfer bevel with lamb's tongue stops. An ell attached to the northwest corner of the house also appears to be of great age, while a two-story, vertical-boarding barn in the rear may be of 19th-century origin.

Two 18th-century houses are located west of the green on the north side of the Boston Post Road, 509 and 511 (Photo 10). They are 1½-story, three-bay houses with high gable roofs, central chimneys and stone foundations. The district's houses on the south side of the Boston Post Road are Georgian in style, built in the 19th century (Photo 11). They are in the majority, and are described in the inventory.

The spacing and arrangement of the churches, public buildings, and houses in the district, and their relationship to one another, follow the pattern established in the 18th and 19th centuries as colonial Connecticut towns developed and expanded.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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

SPECIFIC DATES See Item 4

BUILDER/ARCHITECT See item 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Madison Green National Register Historic District demonstrates the thrust of colonization and preserves the historic relationship to one another of church, government, and residential buildings as it has developed since Colonial times in the center of the Madison community (Criterion A). Moreover, two of the individual buildings, the Graves House and the First Congregational Church, are important in architectural history, and the other 39 structures contribute to the distinguishable entity that constitutes the district (Criterion C).

Madison was an offshoot of Guilford, the next town to the west. The 1639 settlement at Guilford under the leadership of the Reverend Henry Whitfield was expanded in 1641 by further purchase from the Indians of the land that is now the western half of Madison, then known as East Guilford. The eastern half was acquired in 1650 by gift from George Fenwick of Saybrook, then the next community further east along the shore at the mouth of the Connecticut River. Settlers established themselves on the land primarily for the purpose of farming. Their common English background prompted them to build typical 17th-century houses such as the Graves House at 581 Boston Post Road (Photo 2).

In 1703 permission was granted by Guilford and the Connecticut General Assembly for the establishment of a church in East Guilford, and in 1705 a meeting house was constructed on the southeast section of the "Common" or present green. This action encouraged thicker settlement in the immediate area, convenient to the church, and marked the beginning of the development of the community center that has continued to the present day.

During the 18th century the cultivation of corn, flax, and wheat was augmented by establishment of grist mills, flax mills, and tanneries. In the northern part of town saw-mills were introduced to exploit the rich timberlands, and iron and garnets were mined. The resources of the sea were also utilized. There is record of a porpoise fishery established in 1792 that had a catch of 600/700 in a season. Whitefish was used for fertilizer. The center for all this activity was along the Boston Post Road in the vicinity of the green and the church where the cluster of buildings grew larger and more important.

In the course of time it became expedient to create a separate political entity. This change was accomplished in 1826 by splitting off from Guilford a new town, called Madison after the president of the United States.

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The location and setting of the Madison green were established in 1705 by selection of the site for the first meeting house, near the present church's position. This act fixed the center of the community, and the green has continued to be a focal point for the village for the ensuing 275 years. Town meetings were held in the basement of the church until 1896. When a building for the Town Clerk and later a larger Town Hall were needed they were built on the green. Daniel Hand established his academy near the green, and Lee Academy is there. Even as late as mid-20th century, when a new church was formed it chose to establish itself on the green. The close spacing of the many houses along the Boston Post Road in the vicinity of the green testifies to the desirability of the central location as the area developed, as opposed to the wider spacing between farmhouses located further away from the green.

The green is a demonstration of the development of a village center as it expanded after the period of colonization. It was the central focus of the community as settlement spread along this section of the southern coast of the state between the key points of Guilford and Saybrook. The broad pattern of Connecticut's early history can be followed by examination of the structures and spaces that constitute the Madison Green District. The fact that the pattern of the green has encompassed 19th- and 20th-century developments enhances its significance. With the exception of the Graves House and the Congregational Church, probably none of the buildings is individually outstanding in architectural terms, but collectively they constitute a remarkable demonstration, free from intrusions, of the development of a village center from colonization to ^{the}late 20th century.

The Graves House has many interesting attributes in addition to its age, including the four-bay facade, the fine panelled front doors, the exterior chamfer and moldings, and the fact that ownership to the present time has descended in the family of the builder. The continuous family ownership probably accounts for the somewhat unusual circumstances that title to the front portion of the land cannot be verified by reference to any volume and page in the land records. The book on this house at the State Library prepared by the Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames in America includes measured drawings of the interior panelling by the late J. Frederick Kelly, Connecticut's leading scholar on the state's 17th- and 18th-century houses.

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The present Congregational Church edifice is the third meeting house, constructed in 1838 at a cost of \$8,000 to the design of Volney Pierce (1807-1865), architect, of Hartford. A quotation¹ said to come from the (Hartford) Northern Watchman of December 1838, recounting the dedication ceremonies, states that Pierce was the architect of ten houses of worship, but their identity is not known. He does appear in the Hartford city directories for the years 1838 through 1843, usually listed as an architect but once as a joiner. He is known to have built the house at 446 Boston Post Road, in Madison. The (New Haven) Columbian Weekly Register for February 18, 1865 (3:6) in an obituary refers to him as a resident of Fairhaven, Connecticut "known in this vicinity as a skilled architect," who had been living in the south for the past 12 years "for business purposes." He is thought perhaps to have been a disciple of Ithiel Town and David Hoadley, leading early 19th-century Connecticut architects.

In 1867 the church commissioned Henry Austin (1804-1891) of New Haven to make extensive interior alterations. He eliminated the original arched ceiling, altered the galleries, lengthened the windows two feet, widened the exterior steps, and added the two flanking doorways where originally there had been only the central entrance. The distinctive embellishment of the three doorways and the central window above therefore probably is Austin's work. The building was extended 13 feet to the north with a recessed alcove in the new north wall, and a new black walnut pulpit was installed. The cost of this program was \$14,659.24.

It was at this time that the trompe-l'oeil decoration was introduced. It was begun by John Jaeckle of New Haven who died while the work was in progress. It was completed by his foreman, Charles Schenck, who renewed the painting, using the original stencils, in 1907. There was another refurbishing in 1928, using oils rather than water colors. By 1955 the condition of the plaster walls behind the pulpit that were the location of the arched, deep perspective effect was considered unrestorable, and Henry Kelly, brother of J. Frederick Kelly, designed the present rectangular arrangement that is dominated by two Doric columns. The trompe-l'oeil panelling again was renewed in 1947 by John DeLeon of Hamden, Connecticut who said he "found details in the center decoration which had never been retouched, and he did not presume to do so."²

The architect for the 1965 Church House was Malcolm R. Knox of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

The decision of the Lutheran Church to construct an edifice in 1955 in contemporary design was the subject of considerable adverse community comment at the time. The Lutherans nevertheless went ahead with con-

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struction as planned by Conrad Hanne, architect, of Manhattan, New York. The architect described his work as "native American style." The stained glass window was created by the Peter Rohlf Studio of New York. The reason for organizing the Lutheran Church in the 1950's was the same as the reason for organizing the Congregational Church in the early 1700's. In both cases the communicants wanted a church closer to home. In 1700 local residents considered that the journey to Guilford was unreasonable, and they sought relief through establishment of the East Guilford (now Madison) church. In 1950 the Lutherans concluded that driving to Middletown or Naugatuck was too much of a burden, so ^{they} established their own church. In both cases, some 250 years apart, the location selected was the green.

Lee Academy, organized by Frederick Lee, captain of the revenue cutter "Eagle," opened in November 1821 at a location on Boston Post Road west of the district. It was moved to the vicinity of the green in 1828, and to its present location in 1896 to make room for Memorial Hall. Lee Academy prepared students for admission to college and drew its student body from throughout the northeast, the out-of-town scholars boarding in the community. Its career as a college preparatory school was relatively short lived and by 1839 Lee Academy had assumed the function of an ordinary secondary school. Since 1923 the Madison Historical Society has taken responsibility for the building, making it available for use by the Red Cross, Girl Scouts, and other community organizations.

Daniel Hand (1801-1891) was another benefactor of education in Madison. He had been a successful merchant in Savannah and Augusta, Georgia, returning to Madison after the Civil War. In 1884 he gave \$15,110 and the necessary land for construction of Hand Academy, a grammar school that over the years developed into the present Academy Elementary School. (The name Hand continues in use for the high school.) In 1888 Hand gave \$1,000,894.25 to the American Missionary Society to establish the Daniel Hand Educational Fund for blacks in the south.

Memorial Hall was dedicated May 31, 1897 in honor of soldiers and sailors of various wars. The architect is unknown but the builder was Holdworth of Westbrook, Connecticut who put up the structure at a cost of \$13,000. Its main feature was an auditorium for public gatherings, concerts, and plays. The auditorium also served as a gymnasium. The interior was rebuilt into town offices in 1939. Until this auditorium was built town meetings were held in the basement of the church, an example of co-operation between church and state that continued long after the disestablishment of the church in 1818.

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No further architects are known, but the original owners (who perhaps also were the builders) of several of the houses are known and their names are listed in the inventory. The many people who were engaged in establishing the green and constructing around it the churches, public buildings and houses that constitute the Madison Green District have created a living record of the development of a community center over a period of almost three centuries.

1. Evarts, p. 36.
2. Evarts, p. 77.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mary Scranton Evarts, History of the First Congregational Church 1707-1955, Madison, n.d.

Philip S. Platt, ed., Madison's Heritage, Madison: Madison Historical Society, 1964

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40 prox.

QUADRANGLE NAME Clinton
UTM REFERENCES See continuation sheet

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

A

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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H

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Madison Green National Register Historic District is shown by the red line on the sketch map that is drawn to a scale of 1":300".

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David F. Ransom, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

April 2, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect Street

TELEPHONE

203 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE May 21, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE 6/28/82

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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DATE ENTERED	JUN 28 1982

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Madison Green Historic District
Madison, CT

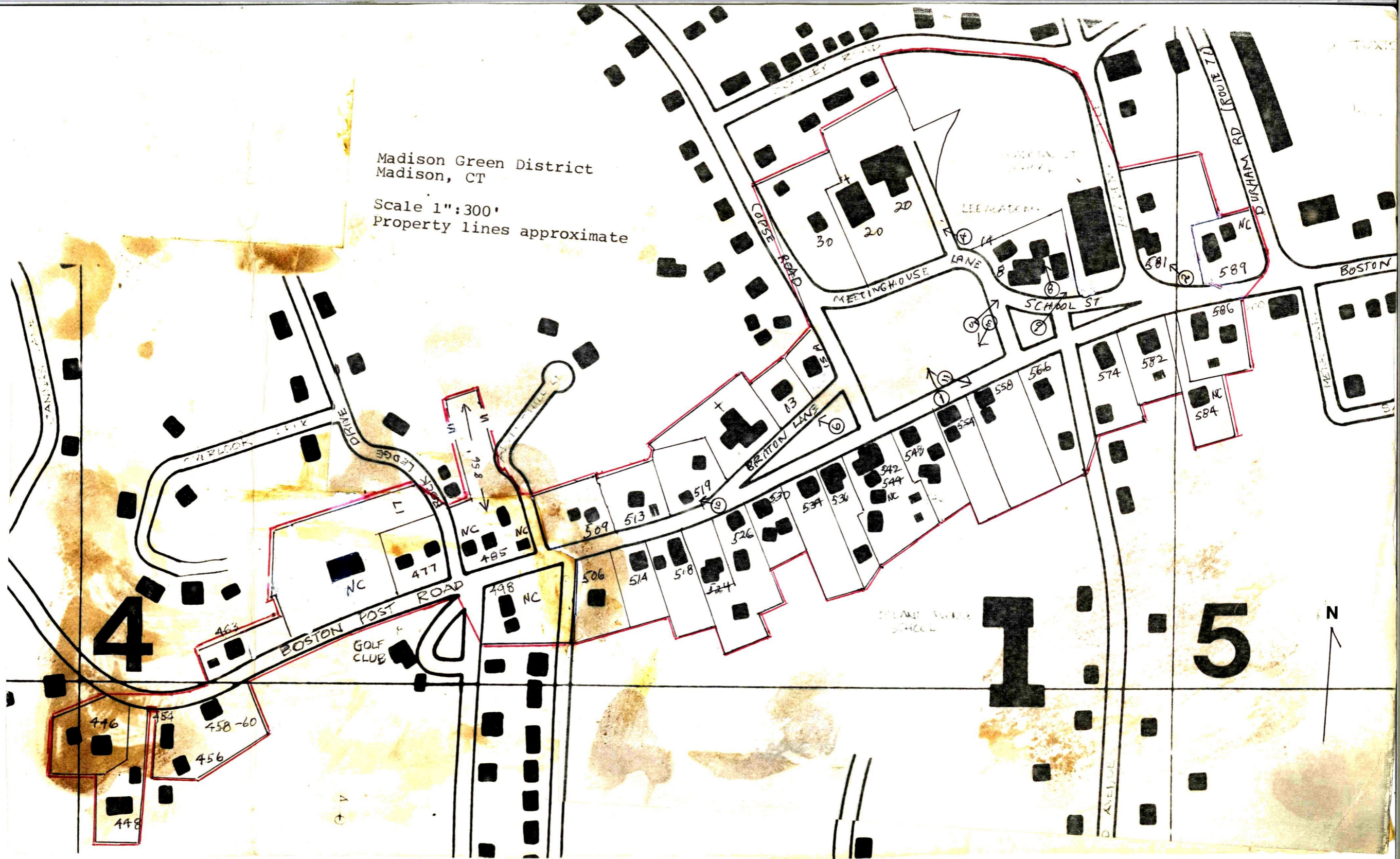
CONTINUATION SHEET Geograph. Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

UTM References:

- A 18/701080/4572380
- B 18/701060/4572330
- C 18/801060/4572240
- D 18/700910/4572230
- E 18/700440/4572000
- F 18/700350/4572010
- G 18/700360/4572060
- H 18/700130/4571970
- I 18/700140/4571870
- J 18/700040/4571860
- K 18/700040/4571940
- L 18/700040/4571810
- N 18/699980/4571810
- O 18/699980/4572900
- P 18/700110/4571850
- Q 18/700090/4572010
- R 18/700150/4572030
- S 18/700140/4572040
- T 18/700260/4572070
- U 18/700240/4572240
- V 18/700290/4572240
- W 18/700300/4572110
- X 18/700540/4572180
- Y 18/700650/4572300
- Z 18/700620/4572390
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- B1 18/700720/4572560
- B2 18/700900/4572530
- C1 18/700940/4572400
- C2 18/701000/4572410
- D1 18/701000/4572370

Madison Green District
Madison, CT

Scale 1"=300'
Property lines approximate



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Madison Green Historic District
State, County: CT, New Haven
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 5/28/82-166A
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 6/25/82 - 7/12/82
Action: ACCEPT 6/28/82

Entered in the _____ RETURN _____
National Register _____ REJECT _____
photos _____
maps _____

- ___ resubmission
- ___ nomination by person or local government
- ___ owner objection
- ___ appeal

Substantive Review: ___ sample ___ request ___ appeal ___ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
___ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ___ technical corrections cited below
___ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category _____ Ownership _____ Status _____ Present Use _____
Public Acquisition _____ Accessible _____

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

7. Description

Condition: ___ excellent ___ deteriorated ___ good ___ ruins ___ fair ___ unexposed
Check one: ___ unaltered ___ altered
Check one: ___ original site ___ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ___ summary paragraph
- ___ completeness
- ___ clarity
- ___ alterations/integrity
- ___ dates
- ___ boundary selection

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8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



























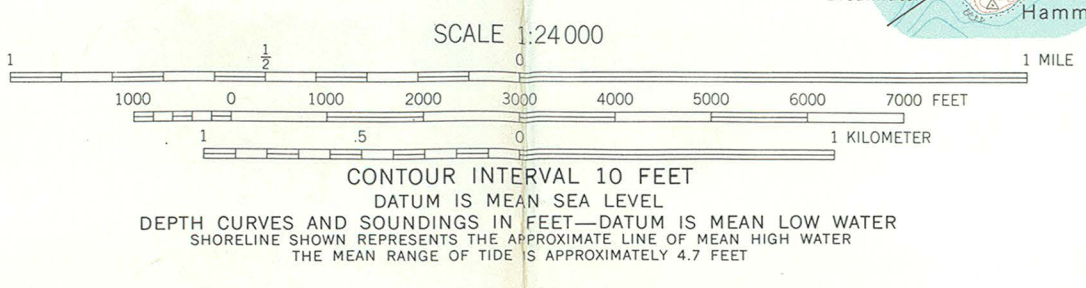
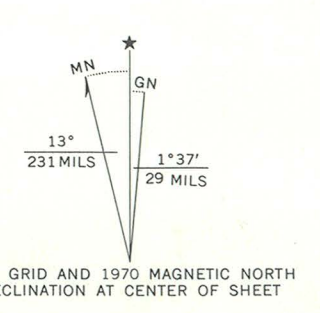




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- UTM References:
- A 18/701080/4572380
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 - C 18/701040/4572280
 - D 18/700910/4572230
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 - L 18/700040/4571810
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 - O 18/699980/4572900
 - P 18/700110/4571850
 - Q 18/700090/4572010
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 - X 18/700540/4572180
 - Y 18/700650/4572300
 - Z 18/700620/4572390
 - A1 18/700750/4572450
 - B1 18/700720/4572560
 - B2 18/700900/4572530
 - C1 18/700940/4572400
 - C2 18/701000/4572410
 - D1 18/701000/4572370

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1949. Field checked 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 216 (1960)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs taken 1970
This information not field checked



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Heavy-duty —————
 - Medium-duty —————
 - Light-duty —————
 - Unimproved dirt - - - - -
 - Interstate Route (thick red line with shield)
 - U.S. Route (red line with shield)
 - State Route (black line with shield)

CLINTON, CONN.
N4115—W7230/7.5
1961
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6466 I SE—SERIES V816

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

RECEIVED
MAR 11 1982
Connecticut Historical
Commission

March 8, 1982

Mr. John W. Shannahan
State Historic Preservation Officer
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Mr. Shannahan:


This is to certify that I am partial owner of the property located at 581 Boston Post Road in Madison, Connecticut and that I object to the listing of the property in the Madison Green Historic District and the inclusion of the property in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,


Barbara Anne Lage Donnelly
Date 8 March 1982

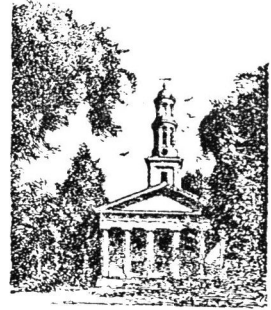
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF GRAFTON

Personally appeared BARBARA ANNE LAGE DONNELLY, signer of the foregoing instrument, who acknowledged the same to be her free act and deed before me this 8th day of March 1982.


Notary Public/Justice of the Peace

MALINDA R. LOW, Notary Public
My Commission Expires June 19, 1988

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETING HOUSE LANE, P.O. BOX 346
MADISON, CONNECTICUT
06443
PHONE: 245-2739



MINISTERS

WINTHROP E. STONE

LARRY W. SMITH

FRANKLIN A. BOWER, EMERITUS

March 15, 1982

The State Historic Preservation Officer
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Sir:

The Prudential Committee of the First Congregational Church of Madison has requested that I represent the Church at the hearing scheduled for April 1, 1982. In preparation for the hearing, I have reviewed a copy of the nomination document. As discussed via telephone with Mr. John Herzan of your office, I am writing to advise that the records of the Town of Madison Building Department, who control street numbering, show the Church sanctuary as #26 Meeting House Lane. The description of properties in the nomination document groups the church and Church House as #20 Meeting House Lane. We are confident that you can correct this item without causing any delay in the processing of the nomination to the State Historic Preservation Board.

I would like to state that I was instructed at a Prudential Committee meeting on March 11 to attend the April 1 hearing and convey the Church's approval of the nomination.

Sincerely,

Harold E. Cantrell
Senior Deacon

hec/vc

40 Acres In Madison's Center Considered For Historic District

By BENJAMIN ENGEL
Staff Reporter

MADISON — A 40-acre area near the town center, including buildings around the Green and residences on both sides of Boston Post Road, is being considered for the National Register of Historic Places.

Also under consideration are the Allis-Bushnell House, 853 Boston Post Road, and the Jonathan Murray House, 76 Scotland Road.

John Herzan of the Connecticut Historical Commission said Wednesday the buildings are valued for their architectural as well as historical significance. He said it may be a year or more before state and federal authorities decide whether to put the properties in the register.

A meeting for owners of the properties under consideration will be held Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in town hall.

Inclusion in the national register does not restrict property owners who wish to modify their buildings, Carol Dubie, historian in the register office in Washington, D.C., said Wednesday.

However, a register listing permits property owners to apply for federal property-improvement grants. In addition, owners of income-producing properties such as businesses and apartments are entitled to tax advantages if the properties are listed.

First Selectman John W. G. Phillips commented that "from what has been explained to me, it looks like an exciting thing for the town."

Herzan said consideration of the proposed "Madison Green National Register Historic District" and the Jonathan Murray House grew out of a statewide survey of historic locations in the late 1960s.

He said the Allis-Bushnell House, home of Civil War-era financier Cornelius S. Bushnell, was proposed by the Madison Historical Society, whose offices are in the house.

The Madison Green historical district would include the properties from 486 to 589 Boston Post Road and the buildings surrounding the Green.

Nomination papers prepared by the Connecticut Historical Commission say this area "demonstrates the thrust of colonization in Connecticut and preserves the historic relationship between church, government and residential community as it has developed since colonial times in Madison center.

"Moreover the Graves House and the First Congregational Church are important in architectural history and the other 39 structures contribute to the distinguishable entity of the district." The Graves House is at 581 Boston Post Road.

Some structures in the proposed district date from the 17th century, Herzan said. The Jonathan Murray House is thought to date from 1690 and the Allis-Bushnell House from 1785-89, he said.

Ms. Dubie said that at last count about 12,000 properties and districts of national, regional, state or local significance are listed in the national register. To qualify, they must be of historic, architectural, archeological or cultural interest.

She said that before a property is listed, one or more public meetings must be held and nomination materials must be submitted to the state review board. If approved by the review board, the nomination is submitted to the Washington register office, an agency of the Department of the Interior.

The final decision on inclusion of the properties rests with Carol Shull, keeper of the national register. Ms. Dubie said once the national office gets the state nomination it must act in 60 days.

Herzan said nomination forms have been prepared on the Madison sites. He added that after the Jan. 10 public meeting, the forms would probably go to the state review board "within the next year."



staff photo by BETTY JOHNSON

With only 365 days to go before Christmas, shoppers in Guilford were buying holiday wrapping paper, cards and ornaments on Wednesday.

Historic district means benefits, not losses

By BENJAMIN ENGEL
Staff Reporter

MADISON — Property owners in the proposed Madison Green National Register Historic District were told Thursday night that listing in the register would not take away any of their property rights.

Two representatives of the Connecticut Historical Commission explained the meaning of a listing in the National Register of Historic Places to about 40 persons at a Town Hall public meeting.

John Herzan, national register nominations coordinator for the commission, emphasized that a listing in the register is different from inclusion in a local historic district.

While property owners in local district may require public approval before modifying their buildings, they face no such restriction by being in the register, Herzan said.

First Selectman John W. G. Phillips said a survey is under way that may identify areas for a local district that could be established "a goodly distance in the future."

But, he added, "there's nothing concretely in the works" toward establishing a local district.

Herzan said almost all consequences of listing on the register are favorable for the property owner.

Owners may apply for federal matching grants for "restoration work," improvement of utilities, rehabilitation of the property and related research and architectural expenses, Herzan said.

Judith Paine, another Historical Commission representative, said the federal grant allocation to Connecticut for fiscal year 1980 was \$755,119. She said more than \$3 million in applications were re-

ceived for the year. Most grants are from \$10,000 to \$15,000, she said.

As another consequence of a register listing, owners of income-producing property who do major renovation are entitled to tax advantages.

Few limits are placed on property owners, Herzan said. Grant recipients must retain federally assisted alterations for a certain amount of time, depending on the size of the grant, and interior alterations must be open to public visitation 12 days a year.

Also, he said, owners who demolish property listed in the register are ineligible for tax write-offs they might otherwise enjoy on demolition costs.

Herzan said consideration of the 40-acre area, which includes the properties from 486 to 589 Boston Post Road and the buildings around the town Green, grew out of a statewide survey of historic locations in the late 1960s.

"Many properties around the Green were identified as being historically valuable," Herzan said. "I don't think it needs

too much explanation as to why it was picked out," he said.

Herzan later described the register listing as, in part, a protection against government officials in a variety of agencies and "a guide to make sure they consider the historic issues involved" in their plans.

He said no studies have been made to determine whether a register listing adds to property values.

Before properties can be listed on the national register, state and federal officials must find them of historic, architectural, archeological or cultural interest. If the Madison properties meet the criteria, the process should take about a year, Herzan said.

Two other buildings in town are under consideration: the Allis-Bushnell House, 853 Boston Post Road, and the Jonathan Murray House, 76 Scotland Ave.

Almost 10,000 buildings on Connecticut are now on the list, Herzan said. Many are included in historic districts.

05/11/1

Historic Green Still Unlisted

MADISON — The town's historic Green won't be considered for listing on the National Register of Historic Places this year, a National Register coordinator, John Herzan, said Tuesday.

Although Madison Green and the buildings surrounding it could be considered early in 1981, it isn't on the list of 20 properties to be discussed at a National Register meeting tentatively scheduled Dec. 4, Herzan said.

The Green is one of three town properties that may obtain historic register status. The other two are the Historical Society's Allis Bushnell and Jonathan Murray houses.

These are among the more than 100 applications being reviewed by the state Historic Preservation Office, Herzan said.

Herzan, in a letter this week to First Selectman John Phillips, said a new state law enables communities to establish local preservation boards that would make recommendations for National Register listings to the state.

Phillips said he will refer the matter to the Historical Society.

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Comment 9/24/80