

National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Lebanon Green Historic District Lebanon, Connecticut

AHS Historian Bruce Clouette prepared the nomination document for the Lebanon Green Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 1979. Situated on a broad ridge top between two valleys, the Green is an open tract of land about 500 feet in width and over a mile long. Surrounding the Green are widely spaced 18th and 19th-century houses, many of them accompanied by barns and other farm buildings that recall the importance of agriculture in the community's history. Other notable buildings include the 1807 Federal-style brick meetinghouse, a former grange hall and country store, and the current Lebanon Town Hall and Public Library.



The nomination's Statement of Significance recognized several aspects of the Green as contributing to its significance. First, the houses around the Green include several associated with prominent figures: Jonathan Trumbull, Connecticut's Revolutionary War-period governor; Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., an aide to George Washington and later himself a governor; William Williams, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; and William Buckingham, Governor of Connecticut during the Civil War. The Green is also significant for the architectural qualities of its buildings, including several outstanding Georgian interiors by Isaac Fitch and the brick meetinghouse designed by the nationally known artist John Trumbull. Finally, the Green is significant as one of very few town commons to retain its original size and undeveloped, field-like character. The Green has played a central role in the history of Lebanon, serving as the location of the meetinghouse and other public buildings, the training ground of colonial militia companies, the Trumbull store in which Connecticut's leaders met to direct the state's participation in the Revolution, and the winter quarters of a French cavalry unit sent to America in 1780 to aid the American cause.

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