

THE GREEN
(The Town of East Haven)
1720

It was not until 1720 has reference been made in the old records of the Town of East Haven to the actual laying out and the formation of the Green. At this time, the records indicate, roads were laid out at this location over ten rods wide and in all four directions so as to create a large area in the center. In this manner land was laid aside, to be used by the public, as a Market Place or Green. Traditions infer that the Green extended much beyond its present limits. It is also understood that the first meeting-house and first school house both stood on the knoll at the north west corner of the Market Place. The first meeting-house built on the knoll in 1706 was twenty feet long and sixteen feet wide. The first church served until 1719 when it was necessary to replace it with a larger meeting-house.

In 1777 the American army under Gen. Sullivan was transferred to New Jersey from Rhode Island to help Gen. Washington against the British. At that time General Lafayette with his regiment encamped on the Green and on the river bank for a few days.

In 1824 Lafayette visited the place of his encampment and was welcomed by the inhabitants of East Haven on the Green. At that time a liberty pole was erected on the Green in his honor. The pole erected at this time served until 1840. During the political campaign of Harrison and Tyler in the fall of that year politics ran high and the liberty pole mysteriously disappeared one night.

In January 1862 the "Old Yellow School House" burned and that marked the end of the Green being a common playground. About that time the people began to realize the worth of the Green and considerable improvements were made to the Public Square with a handsome fence erected around the entire plot. About this same time a number of elm trees were planted to replace the old sycamores that were rapidly falling due to decay and storms.

Since the Spanish American War an old coast defense gun mounted on a granite base was placed on the Green to the north of the flag pole.

The American Legion members were instrumental in erecting a sandstone monument to their fallen (buddies) on the northwest corner of the Green near the site of the first meeting-house.