



13-Sept

# CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

22

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
(203) 797-4641  
FAX (203) 796-1586

WILLIAM J. BUCKLEY, JR., P.E.  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS / CITY ENGINEER

September 20, 2005

Honorable Mark D. Boughton  
Common Council  
City of Danbury  
155 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, CT 06810

Dear Mayor Boughton and Common Council Members:

## Request for Sign – Old Great Plain School

At the September 7, 2005 Common Council meeting, the August 28, 2005 letter from Council Council member Mary G. Saracino requesting that an identifying sign be installed at the old Great Plain School was referred to our department for a report within 30 days (reference item 13 of the meeting minutes).

The old Great Plain School is located on a parcel of land at the corner of Great Plain Road and Dixon Road (Tax Assessor's Lot No. J08120). A copy of a section of the Tax Assessor's maps showing the location crosshatched has been enclosed for your reference. Also enclosed is a copy of the State of Connecticut Historical Commission inventory form for the old school.

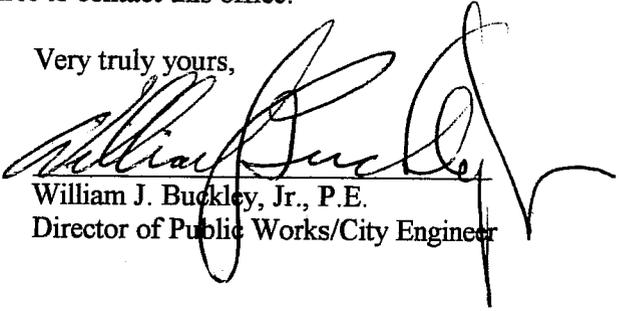
The property (Tax Assessor's Lot No. J08120) is shown in the Tax assessor's records as being owned by The Great Plain District Association, Incorporated. The Town of Danbury quit-claim deeded the parcel of land to The Great Plain District Association, Incorporated in 1954. The quit-claim deed is recorded in Volume 288 on Page 241 of the Danbury land records.

The quit-claim deed contains a "reverter clause" by which title to the land reverts back to the City of Danbury under certain circumstances. It also is our understanding that The Great Plain District Association, Incorporated no longer exists.

From a Public Works Department standpoint, we have no objections to the placement of a sign on the property. A legal determination seems to be warranted to settle the issue of current title to the property. The sign to be placed on the property will need to meet sign requirements of the City of Danbury Zoning Regulations. It is assumed that the appropriate City departments and agencies, as well as the Danbury Historical Society and the Friends of Great Plain will agree on the text of the sign. It is also assumed that a source of funding for the sign will be designated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office.

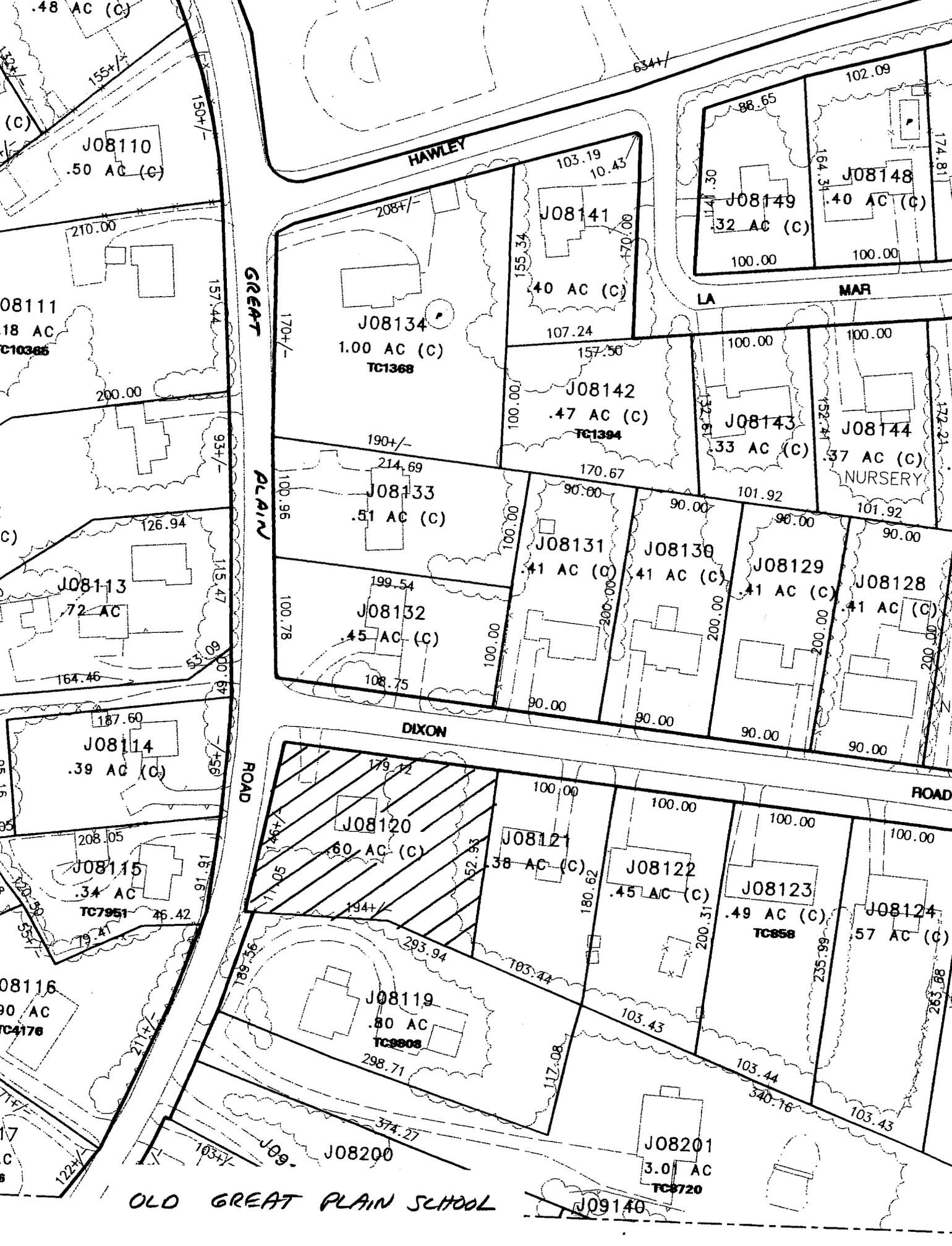
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Buckley, Jr.", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William J. Buckley, Jr., P.E.  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Encl.

C: Eric L. Gottschalk, Esq., with encl.  
Dennis Elpern, with encl.  
Michael McLachlan, with encl.



.48 AC (C)

J08110  
.50 AC (C)

J08111  
.18 AC  
TC10385

J08113  
.72 AC

J08114  
.39 AC (C)

J08115  
.34 AC  
TC7951

J08116  
.90 AC  
TC4176

GREAT PLAIN ROAD

J08134  
1.00 AC (C)  
TC1368

J08133  
.51 AC (C)

J08132  
.45 AC (C)

ROAD

J08120  
.60 AC (C)

J08119  
.80 AC  
TC8808

J08200

HAWLEY

J08141  
40 AC (C)

J08142  
.47 AC (C)  
TC1394

J08131  
.41 AC (C)

DIXON

J08121  
.38 AC (C)

J08122  
.45 AC (C)

J08119  
.80 AC  
TC8808

J08201  
3.0 AC  
TC8720

J08149  
.32 AC (C)

J08143  
.33 AC (C)

J08129  
.41 AC (C)

J08123  
.49 AC (C)  
TC858

J08148  
.40 AC (C)

J08144  
.37 AC (C)  
NURSERY

J08128  
.41 AC (C)

J08124  
.57 AC (C)

OLD GREAT PLAIN SCHOOL

J09140

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR, SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
Great Plain School			
2. TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Danbury	Great Plain	Fairfield	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)			
77 Great Plain Road			
4. OWNER(S)			
Great Plain District Association, Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Vacant		District schoolhouse	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	by special arrangement
7. STYLE OF BUILDING			DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
Greek Revival			1856
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry		<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____			
10. ROOF (Type)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
(Material)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		
One	24 x 32		
12. CONDITION (Structural)		(Exterior)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN ?	(Alterations)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IF YES, EXPLAIN			
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			

The former schoolhouse stands on its own lot on the corner of Great Plain and Dixon Roads, the latter leading into a recent subdivision. It is set far back from the road. Many older houses are in the near vicinity.

20. FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The building is rectangular with its gable end facing the road. The gabled facade is fully pedimented, with two, four-panelled entry doors with limestone lintels. The building is four bays deep. Windows are currently shuttered.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

Abel Wheeler, joiner, Hiram & W.A. White,

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

MASONS

The Great Plain School is significant as an excellent example of a Greek Revival one-room school, and a rare example in brick. The Great Plain School district was one of the first nine districts laid out in 1768 in Danbury proper by the First Ecclesiastical Society (another seven were in what is now Bethel, or the Second Society). This schoolhouse was built during the summer and early fall of 1856. Great Plain residents contributed money or materials and boarded the workmen. The brick was from the local brickyard of Philo Marsh. The total cost of building and equipping the schoolhouse with desks, globes and maps ran to \$863.08. The building was heated by a single stove, and served the area until the 1940's. In 1954, it was transferred by the city to a neighborhood group to be used as a community center. The schoolhouse is one of only three one-room schoolhouses still standing in Danbury.

SIGNIFICANCE

Danbury Tax Assessor's Records (1933 & 1977); Danbury Land Records (DLR 288:241); School account books, invoices and other material, at the Scott-Fanton Museum; information from Donald Taylor, Sr., caretaker

SOURCES

PHOTOGRAPHER

William E. Devlin

DATE

June, 1985

VIEW

west facade & north elevation

NEGATIVE ON FILE

Conn. Historical Commission

Place

NAME

William E. Devlin

DATE

July, 1985

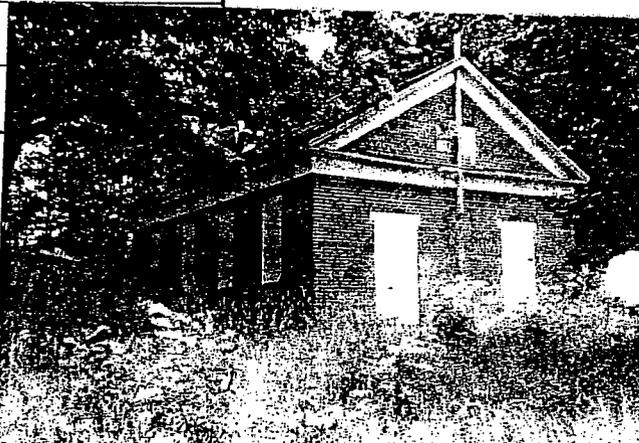
Photograph

ORGANIZATION

Danbury Preservation Trust

ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2201, Danbury, CT 06813



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known
- Highways
- Vandalism
- Developers
- Renewal
- Private
- Deterioration
- Zoning