

= Brainard Homestead State Park =

Brainard Homestead State Park , and alternatively Brainerd Homestead State Park , is a 25 acre undeveloped Connecticut state park located in the town of East Haddam , Connecticut , United States . A farmhouse was built on the site by Timothy Green in 1842 before being purchased by Selden Tyler Brainerd in March 1854 . The ownership of the property was willed to Geraldine W. Hayden . Upon her death in 1929 , the property was willed to the State of Connecticut with the condition that William Brainerd be able to use the property for life . William Brainerd died in 1936 , the buildings were later dismantled , but the Brainard Homestead State Park was established prior to May 1 , 1932 . The undeveloped park is said to offer bird watching , sports fields and hiking according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection . As of 2012 , the fields were noted to be actively farmed and there were no established trails for hiking .

= = History = =

The known history of Brainard Homestead State Park begins in 1842 when Timothy Green constructed a farmhouse on the property . Green never lived in the farmhouse , but leased it to Jonathan Morgan . In March 1854 , the property was sold to Selden Tyler Brainerd . Brainerd with his wife , Harriet , raised five children in the 30 feet (9 @. @ 1 m) by 25 feet (7 @. @ 6 m) farmhouse . At some point ownership of the property was transferred to Geraldine W. Hayden in a will . In March 1929 , Hayden died and willed the property to the State of Connecticut so that the homestead could be utilized as a memorial to her grandfather . A report by the Connecticut State Park and Forest Commission noted that it was not an ideal situation due the concerns about identifying a proposed site in advance and establishing the adaptability of the land for public use . The report also notes that Mrs. Hayden was unknown to the commissioners and despite the land having significant liabilities was waiting to become a state park by 1930 . The delay in its transformation stemmed from a request that William Brainerd , one of Selden and Harriet 's sons , have life use of the property . William Brainerd died in 1936 and the terms of the will were completed . At a later date , the State of Connecticut dismantled the buildings and established the Brainard Homestead State Park .

Land use records show that two fields on the farm were once leased and used by Mortimer Gelston , but the fields surrounding or on the Brainard Homestead State Park continue to be actively farmed . Leary writes that the park preserves the Brainard Homestead and notes that the foundations and cellar pits are visible and provides a picture of the fieldstone foundation .

The establishment date of the Brainard Homestead State Park is unknown , but it predates the death of William Brainard . The 1934 State of Connecticut Register and Manual lists the Brainard Homestead State Park as the 39th State Park and consists of 25 acres . Though it is unspecific , the 1932 State of Connecticut Register and Manual notes that there were 40 state parks as of May 1 , 1932 .

= = Activities = =

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website highlights three activities for Brainard Homestead State Park : bird watching , field sports and hiking . In 2004 , Leary noted that the open fields were perfect for field sports and picnics . Use of field for sports seem to have ended soon after because a geocache placed within Brainard Homestead State Park and referenced on the Geocaching website notes that the fields were used for farming . In 2012 , the " The A to Z of CT State Parks " Tumblr website noted that the fields were unusable and were currently being farmed . The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection website continues to note the park 's " field sports " use as of 2014 . Also " The A to Z of CT State Parks " states that there were no established trails for hiking . Leary writes that there are limited views of the Connecticut River in winter , but the foliage in summer " precludes much of a vista . " Al Braden writes in his book that the park provides access to the Salmon River with parking , boat

ramp and docks , but this is the " Salmon River Boat Launch East Haddam " and not a part of the state park .