



# HAVEN PARK

THE LAND FOR THIS PARK WAS GIVEN TO THE CITY by Miss Eliza A. Haven through a bequest following her death in 1897.

The last direct descendant of Dr. Samuel Haven, she provided in her will that the ancestral family mansion be "taken entirely apart, selling only the materials thereof." This reflected the desire of Samuel Haven, who stipulated in his will that the house be demolished after the death of his last surviving descendant and that his land be given to the city.

The Haven family had long been prominent in Portsmouth and was known for its generous (and often anonymous) contributions to the city. Eliza continued that tradition, donating not only the family land for the creation of this public park, but also substantial funding for its maintenance and for the acquisition of additional land to expand it.



## SPACE for a PARK

Shown in this watercolor painted by Haven descendant Sarah Haven Foster are, from left to right, the 18th century houses of Samuel Haven, Edward Parry, and Jacob Wendell. Haven's house originally had two stories and a gambrel roof; about 1813 the roof was removed and a third story added. In order to create the park, the Haven house was demolished in 1898 and the Parry house was moved to Parrott Avenue and subsequently taken down. The Wendell house, which dates from 1785, still stands on its original site at the corner of Edward and Pleasant Streets.

*Haven House*, Watercolor, Sarah Haven Foster Collection. Courtesy of the Portsmouth Public Library.



## HAVEN PARK in 1813

This extract from an 1813 map of Portsmouth (at left) depicts the site of what was later to become Haven Park and its surrounding neighborhood. The Haven, Parry, and Wendell houses are shown in their original locations, as is the Livermore house. At the end of Edward Parry's garden along the South Mill Pond the map makes reference to Parry's "Fort Anglesea." It was an eccentric landscape feature that included high walls and a working cannon.

*Map of the Compact Part of the Town of Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire, 1813*, J. G. Hales, cartographer. Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenæum.



## FITZ JOHN PORTER

The equestrian monument in the park honors a Portsmouth native, Major General Fitz John Porter, who was born in the nearby Livermore house in 1822. A hero in the Mexican-American war, Porter fell victim to political infighting following the Union defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run during the Civil War and was dismissed from the Army. Many years later he was cleared of all charges. The monument was designed by renowned sculptor James Kelly and dedicated in 1906, before a crowd of 5,000 people, five years after Porter's death.

Photograph of Fitz John Porter, courtesy of Portsmouth Athenæum.

## DR. SAMUEL HAVEN

Dr. Samuel Haven, scion of the distinguished Haven family, served as minister at the South Church from 1752 to 1806. Father of 17 children, he raised them in the house that stood on this site from about 1760 to 1897. A man of many and varied talents, he manufactured high-quality saltpeter for use in the production of gunpowder for Washington's army, experimented widely with agricultural innovations, and was skilled in the medical practices of his time.

*Portrait of Dr. Samuel Haven*. Courtesy of Strawberry Banke Museum.



## LIVERMORE STREET HOUSES

This view of Livermore Street was painted by Charles Goodhue in the early 1950s. It depicts the Livermore house, birthplace of Fitz John Porter, and the brick Nathaniel Parker House. The Livermore house originally stood across the street and was moved to its current location in 1898 when the park was laid out.

*Winter Scene of Livermore Street*, Painting by Charles V. Goodhue. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenæum.



Funding for this historic marker was provided by the City of Portsmouth, 2011.

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