National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Coltsville

Special Resource Study
November 2009

This report has been prepared to provide Congress and the public with information about the resources in the study area and how they relate to criteria for inclusion within the national park system. Publication and transmittal of this report should not be considered an endorsement or a commitment by the National Park Service to seek or support either specific legislative authorization for the project or appropriation for its implementation. Authorization and funding for any new commitments by the National Park Service will have to be considered in light of competing priorities for existing units of the national park system and other programs. This report was prepared by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Northeast Region. For additional copies or more information contact:

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Executive Summary

Public Law 108-94, the Coltsville Study Act of 2003, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Special Resource Study regarding the national significance, suitability and feasibility of the Coltsville Historic District, in Hartford, Connecticut, for potential designation as a unit of the national park system. This report constitutes the results of the study undertaken by the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service (NPS).

This study, in accordance with previous legislation (Public Law 105-391) establishing the criteria to be used in such analyses and reflecting current NPS management policies, examines the national significance of the Coltsville Historic District, its suitability and feasibility for potential designation as a unit of the national park system, and the need for NPS management of the resource versus management by other public or private entities.

The Coltsville Historic District in Hartford, Connecticut, was the site of important contributions to manufacturing technology made by Samuel Colt (1814-1862) and the industrial enterprise he founded, Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company (Colt Fire Arms Company). The Coltsville Historic District (Coltsville) is a cohesive and readily identifiable 260-acre area, most of which was originally listed as the Colt Industrial District on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Also in the district, the home of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt was designated the Armsmear National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1966. On July 22, 2008, the Coltsville Historic District was designated an NHL by the Secretary of the Interior.

Samuel Colt is most renowned for developing a revolver design, which revolutionized personal firearms by eliminating the need to reload until five or six shots had been expended. His company drew upon the technological innovations of the firearms industry in New England to achieve a high level of mechanization and production. The Colt Fire Arms Company was a highly influential national source of innovation in precision manufacturing and firearms design well into the 20th century.

During both World War I and World War II, the Colt Fire Arms Company was one of the nation's leading small arms producers and made a vital contribution to the US war effort. Coltsville also is noteworthy because Samuel Colt planned it as a fully-integrated industrial community that includes manufacturing facilities, employee housing, community buildings, and landscape features built largely under the direction of Samuel Colt and his wife, Elizabeth Colt.

The Hartford-based Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee, with representatives from government, nonprofit, and private sectors, has been working for several years to develop support for a unit of the national park system at Coltsville. Strong community support for the NHL and unit designations was expressed at public meetings held to discuss this Special Resource Study and a potential National Historic Landmark designation for additional resources within the historic district.

Chapter 1 describes the purpose and background of the study, including the criteria used by the NPS to determine if a resource is eligible for potential designation as a unit of the national park system. It describes the study area and other related activities associated with the district and the study process.

Chapter 2 describes the history and resources of Coltsville from its development by Samuel Colt in 1855 until the present day. The chapter is not intended to be an exhaustive historical account. Rather, it provides the basis for public understanding of the resources of the district and information sufficient to determine whether the district meets applicable criteria for potential designation.

Chapter 3 analyzes whether the resources of the district meet the various criteria for potential unit designation including national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management.

Chapter 4 describes the required consultation and coordination that occurred during the study, including a summary of public meetings and written communications.

The study team concludes that the Coltsville Historic District NHL meets the criteria for national significance and suitability. The study team is unable, however, to conclude that the historic district meets the criteria for feasibility and need for NPS management for reasons explained in Chapter 3.

With the publication of this report, the NPS will receive public comments on its contents and findings for a period of thirty days. A public response document will then be prepared and sent to all persons who commented on the report. At the conclusion of the public response period, the report with any appropriate changes resulting from public comments will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary will then transmit the completed study to the United States Congress.

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Chapter 1: Study Purpose And Background

Introduction

Public Law 108-94, the Coltsville Study Act of 2003, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study regarding the national significance and suitability and feasibility of the Coltsville Industrial District, in Hartford, Connecticut, for potential designation as a unit of the national park system. The legislation also requires evaluation of the importance of the site as it relates to the history of precision manufacturing. This report constitutes the results of the study undertaken by an interdisciplinary team of professionals within the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service (NPS).

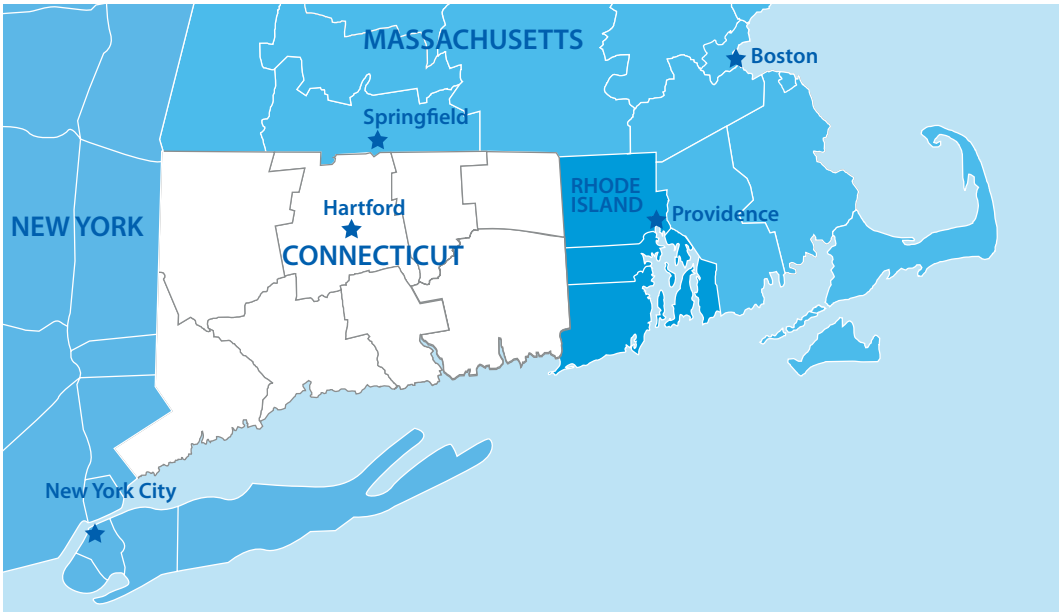
Areas comprising the present 391 unit national park system are cumulative expressions of a single national heritage. Potential additions to the system should, therefore, contribute in their own special way to a system that fully represents the broad spectrum of natural and cultural resources that characterize our nation. The NPS is responsible for conducting professional studies of potential additions to the national park system when specifically authorized by an Act of Congress, and for making findings regarding new areas to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress. Several laws outline criteria for potential units of the national park system. To receive a favorable finding from the NPS, a proposed addition to the national park system must

(1) possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources;
(2) be a suitable addition to the system;
(3) be a feasible addition to the system; and
(4) require direct NPS management, instead of alternative protection by other public agencies, tribes or the private sector.

These criteria are designed to ensure that the national park system includes only the most outstanding examples of the nation's natural and cultural resources. They also recognize that there are other alternatives, short of designation as a unit of the national park system, for preserving the nation's outstanding resources.

An area or resource may be considered nationally significant if it is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource; possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage; offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study; and retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource. National significance for cultural resources, such as those comprising the Coltsville Historic District, is evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmarks criteria contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 65.

An area may be considered suitable for potential addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector. The suitability evaluation, therefore, is not limited solely to units of the national park system, but includes evaluation of all comparable resource types protected by others.



Locus map for Hartford, Connecticut, in the Northeast

Suitability is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the resources being studied to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The suitability analysis also addresses the rarity of the resources, interpretive and educational potential, and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the potential new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource protection or visitor use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

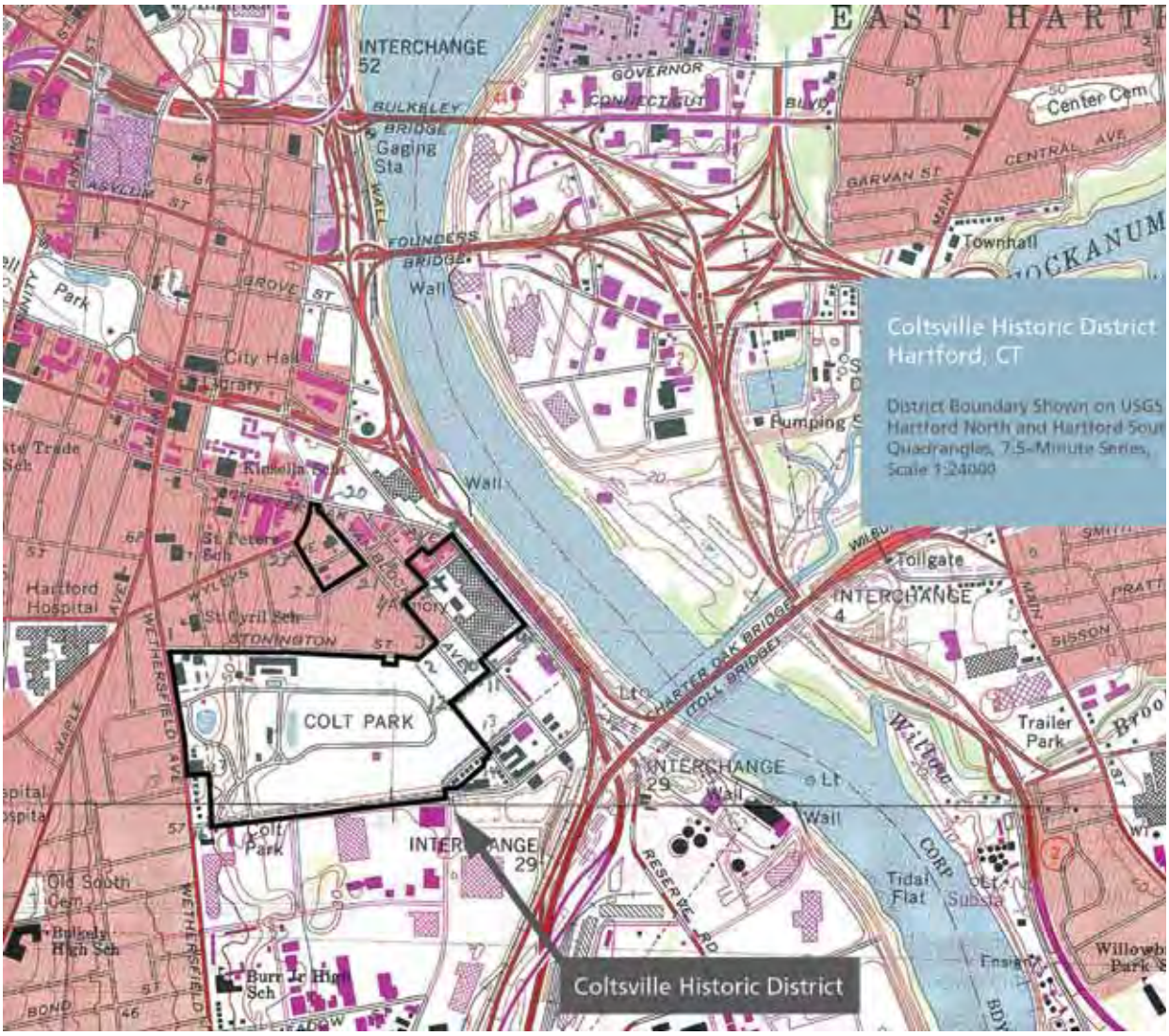
To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond its boundaries), and be capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost. In evaluating feasibility, the Service considers a variety of factors, such as: size; boundary configurations; current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands; land ownership patterns; public enjoyment potential; costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation; access; current and potential threats to the resources; existing degradation of resources; staffing requirements; local planning and zoning for the study area; the level of local and general public support; and, the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system. The evaluation also considers the ability of the NPS to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected constraints on funding and personnel.

There are many excellent examples of the successful management of important natural and cultural resources by other public agencies, private conservation organizations, and individuals. Most notably, state park systems provide for protection of natural and cultural resources throughout the nation and offer outstanding recreational experiences. The NPS applauds these accomplishments, and actively encourages the expansion of conservation activities by state, local, and private entities, and by other federal agencies. Unless direct NPS management of a studied area is identified as the clearly superior alternative, the Service will recommend that one or more of these other entities assume a lead management role, and that the area not be recommended as a potential unit of the national park system.

Studies evaluate an appropriate range of management alternatives and identify which alternative or combination of alternatives would be most effective and efficient in protecting significant resources and providing opportunities for appropriate public enjoyment. Alternatives to NPS management are not normally developed for study areas that fail to meet any one of the four criteria for inclusion listed above, particularly the “national significance” criterion.

In cases where a study area’s resources meet the criteria for national significance, but do not meet other criteria for inclusion in the national park system, the Service may instead recommend an alternative status, such as “affiliated” area. To be eligible for “affiliated area” status, the area’s resources must:

(1) meet the same standards for national significance that apply to units of the national park system;
(2) require some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available through existing NPS programs;
(3) be managed in accordance with the policies and standards that apply to units of the national park system; and
(4) be assured of sustained resource protection, as documented in a formal agreement between the NPS and the non-federal management entity.

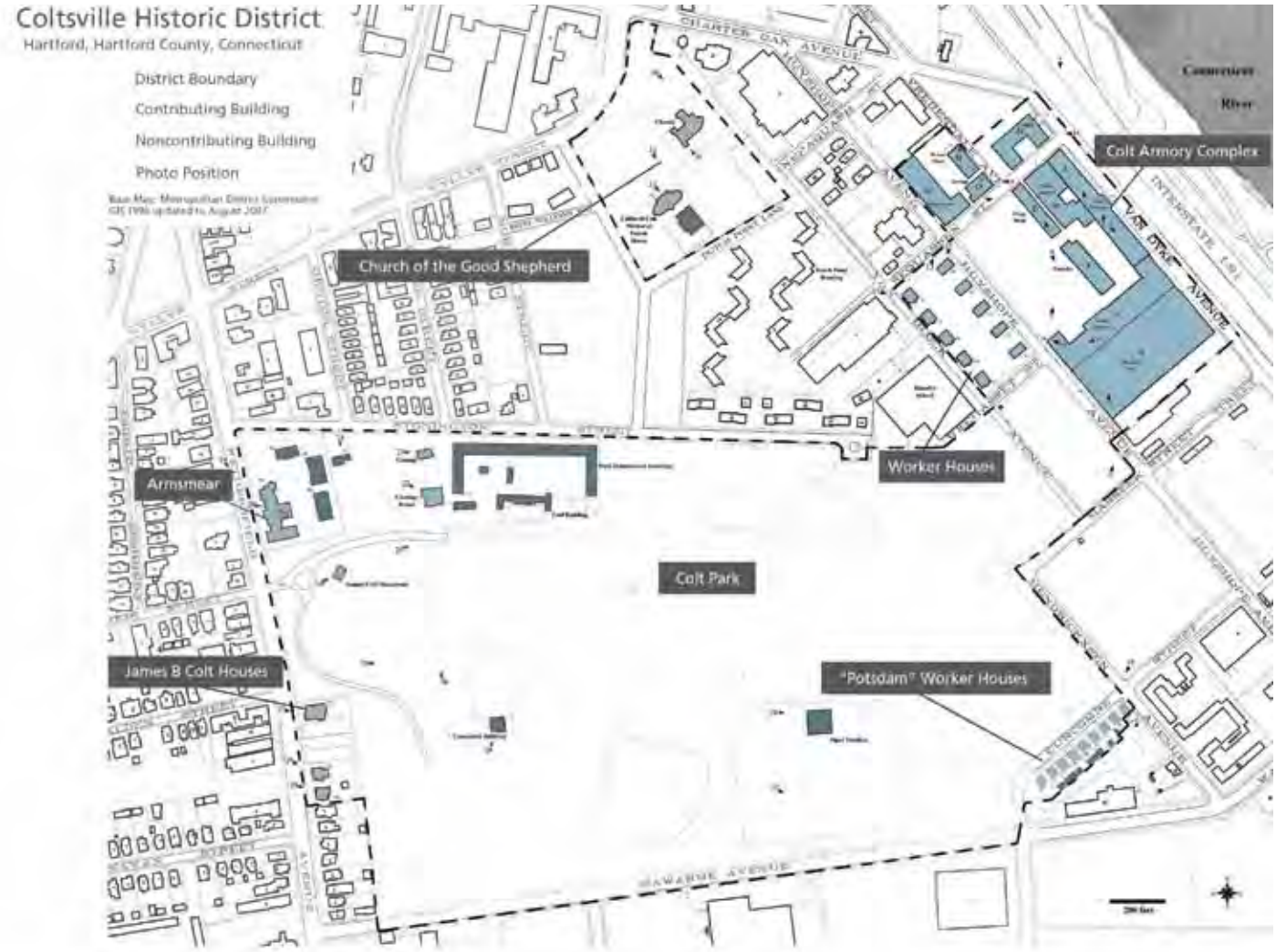


Location of the study area of the Coltsville Special Resource Study, Hartford, Connecticut. *Bruce Clouette, based on United States Geological Survey base map.*

Designation as a National Heritage Area is another option that could be recommended. Heritage areas are distinctive landscapes that are designated by Congress, but which do not necessarily meet the same standards of national significance. Either of these two alternatives would recognize an area's importance to the nation without requiring or implying management by the NPS.

A Notice of Intent to undertake a Special Resource Study/Environmental Impact Statement (SRS/EIS) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2004. In cases where resources do not meet the required criteria for potential designation as units of the national park system, the EIS portion of the study is not undertaken and a notice indicating that action is published in the Federal Register upon the conclusion of the study. Therefore, a notice will be placed in the Federal Register that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

This study has been conducted by the NPS Northeast Region's Park Planning and Special Studies Branch. The project team included planners, historians, curators, and architects based in the Northeast Region's Boston and Philadelphia offices. Advisers have included specialists in industrial



Study area of the Coltsville Special Resource Study, in Hartford, Connecticut. The study area's boundary is coterminous with the boundary of the Coltsville Historic District National Historic Landmark. *Bruce Clouette, based on Metropolitan District Commission base map.*

archeology and history; business, urban, and labor history; historic districts and structures; and historic collections. The study team has had primary responsibility for conducting the study process, producing this report, and has been responsible for coordinating the involvement of other public agencies and the public in the study.

Study Area

The city of Hartford, Connecticut is located in the north central portion of the state, along the Connecticut River. Hartford is the state capital of Connecticut and has an estimated 2007 population of 124,563 (U.S. Census Bureau); it is the state's second largest city.

Hartford is served by air transportation through Bradley International Airport, located in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, 20 minutes north of the downtown. Rail transportation is provided by Amtrak with connections through New Haven to New York City and Boston. Hartford sits at the intersection of two interstate highways (I-84 and I-91).

Hartford is implementing a downtown revitalization strategy that seeks to develop a critical mass of downtown market-rate housing, which would support downtown shopping, restaurants, and cultural life. The downtown plan seeks to knit together the fragmented sections of the downtown into a cohesive whole that becomes greater than the sum of its parts. Much attention is being focused on redeveloping the Riverfront area known as Adriaen's Landing. This is the site of the Connecticut Convention Center, the Connecticut Center for Science & Exploration, the Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel, and new shops and housing. Located just south of the redevelopment activity in downtown Hartford, Coltsville serves as a southern extension of the redevelopment activity. City of Hartford officials regard the redevelopment of Coltsville and establishing a national park there an important part of its overall redevelopment strategy.

Coltsville, itself, is located in the Sheldon/Charter Oak neighborhood of Hartford. The neighborhood is bounded on the east by Interstate-91 and the Connecticut River. The Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood, Inc. is the neighborhood's primary community development organization, seeking to promote development of the 335-acre neighborhood. The Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood has been active in promoting the historic preservation and interpretation of Coltsville.

Hartford has plans to reconnect Coltsville with the Connecticut River, now separated by I-91. In the 19th century, the Colt Fire Arms factory had a dock on the Connecticut River where it sent and received shipments, but the construction of Interstate-91 during the 1960s effectively walled off the Colt factory from the river. The nonprofit organization Riverfront Recapture, Inc., has been developing a continuous public park for the length of the banks of the Connecticut River in Hartford since its original plan was published in 1982. Much of this has been achieved, but the largest uncompleted section is on the riverfront opposite Coltsville. The 3,700-foot stretch, between the existing Riverfront Plaza, near downtown, and Charter Oak Landing, near the Charter Oak Bridge, is called Riverwalk South. Access to the riverfront from Coltsville currently is blocked by railroad tracks, Interstate-91, and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dike built in 1942. Riverfront Recapture, Inc., plans to create an opening in the dike, which would have a working gate to protect against flooding. The City is seeking federal funds to partly fund the connection between Coltsville and the riverfront.

The Coltsville Industrial District, the subject for this study, comprises 260 acres at the southern edge of Hartford's downtown section. The study area is bounded by Van Dyke Avenue, Vredendale Avenue, Huyshope Avenue, Sequassen Street, Van Block Avenue, and Masseek Street.

Previous Designations

On November 11, 1966, Armsmear, the home of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt, was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) by the Secretary of the Interior. Colt planned and built the Italianate style house at 80 Wethersfield Avenue in 1857 as a family residence when he married Elizabeth Colt on June 5, 1856. Today, the dwelling serves as a 51 unit complex for retired single women operated by the Episcopal Church.

The Colt Industrial District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 8, 1976. The district includes Armsmear, the Colt Fire Arms factory complex, Colt Park, three manager houses, and worker housing. A boundary increase to the district occurred in 2001 and included seven buildings and one structure situated on the north side of Sequassen Street between Van Dyke Avenue and Huyshope Avenue. These buildings were erected between 1916 and 1947. During the course of this study, the entire historic district was designated the Coltsville Historic District National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior on July 22, 2008. The period of significance for the Landmark is 1855 to 1945.

The National Park Service in Connecticut

The NPS has enjoyed lengthy and collaborative relationships with the governments, organizations and citizens of Connecticut in furthering the protection of natural and cultural resources. A unit of the national park system, Weir Farm, located in Ridgefield and Wilton, preserves, and interprets the landscapes, buildings and objects which together form a place of central importance to the art of Julian Alden Weir and the American Impressionist movement.

In 1994, the U.S. Congress designated an area comprising 26 communities in northeast Connecticut as the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. The corridor was extended in 1999 to include nine communities of the state of Massachusetts. The NPS provides financial and technical assistance to national heritage areas. In 2006, Congress designated the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, with eight communities in northwest Connecticut, and 18 communities in western Massachusetts.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, has provided grants to state and local governments of Connecticut in excess of $63.4 million for land acquisition, development and redevelopment of open space and recreational resources affecting close to 28,000 acres. The NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA has provided technical assistance to numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations in Connecticut for 18 conservation and trails development projects since 2000. RTCA projects currently underway include the French River Greenway and the Naugatuck River Greenway.

Connecticut contains 61 National Historic Landmarks including the Coltsville Historic District. In addition to Coltsville, NHLs in Hartford include the A. Everett Austin House, Henry Barnard House, the Connecticut State Capitol, the old state Capitol, and the Mark Twain House. The NPS administers the NHL program and provides technical preservation assistance to designated properties. NHLs are also eligible to apply for Save America's Treasures grants.

Local Activities in Support of a Coltsville National Park Unit

Interest in recognizing the historic significance of Coltsville has been strong in Hartford. In 1996, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art hosted an exhibit entitled "Colt: The Making of an American Legend." The exhibit and companion book of the same title, written by William Hosley, stoked local support for celebrating the story of Samuel Colt and his company. The 2006 Wadsworth Atheneum exhibit "Samuel Colt: Arms, Art, and Invention" strengthened awareness of Colt's technological and marketing genius. Samuel Colt was featured on the PBS program "They Made America" (2004). The companion book by Harold Evans, *They Made America* (2004) maintained:

"*Whether Colt's revolver defended or retarded civilization is endlessly arguable, but there can be no doubt his advances in precision manufacturing and his iconic marketing methods advanced American industrialization and marked a coming of age of the ideal of American individualism.*"

The Coltsville study legislation was sponsored by Senators Christopher Dodd and Joseph Lieberman, and Congressman John B. Larson who formed the local Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee to work on preserving and interpreting Coltsville as a unit of the National Park System. The committee has included congressional staff, state and local officials, the Colt Gateway developer, and representatives of local cultural and historical institutions and interested community organizations.

The study team met with the committee, at its invitation, on a number of occasions during the course of the study. The committee provided extensive information relating to the resources and history of Coltsville and the successful Coltsville NHL nomination. It also assisted in organizing public meetings related to the study and the NHL nomination. In order to provide information on the feasibility of a unit of the National Park System at Coltsville, the committee obtained funding from the State of Connecticut's Commission on Culture and Tourism to hire a consultant team to examine various visitor experience scenarios at Coltsville. Working with the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee, the consultant team developed a report "Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study" (December, 2008). The NPS study team reviewed the scenarios developed in the Visitor Experience Study to evaluate the feasibility of viable visitor experiences at Coltsville.

Heritage Organizations and National Historic Landmarks Related to Coltsville

There are a number of places and organizations located within the city of Hartford but outside of the study area that have associations with Samuel and Elizabeth Colt. These include:

Museum of Connecticut History

The museum operates under the Connecticut State Library. The purpose of the museum, which was established in 1910, is to interpret the political, constitutional, social, and economic history of Connecticut. It has a concentration in industrial history, collecting objects such as firearms, industrial machinery, clocks, household appliances, hand tools, and other manufactured products.

In 1957, the museum obtained the Colt Fire Arms Collection, assembled by the Colt Firearms Company over many years. The collection has 1,500 firearms, 350 of which are Colt firearms and the remainder manufactured by other companies. The collection includes firearms designed by Samuel Colt himself, as well as factory prototypes and "presentation" arms given to dignitaries. The museum also owns the original "rampant colt," the emblem of the Colt Fire Arms Company that once stood atop the factory's onion dome (currently a fiberglass replica is on the dome).
The museum owns a collection of approximately 50 pieces of industrial machinery, including one piece that was originally used at the Colt Fire Arms factory (starting in the 1930s, many historic Colt machines were lost when the company modernized and discarded them). Other pieces of machinery in the state museum collection are similar to machines once used by Colt. The museum currently keeps all of these machines in storage, but hopes ultimately to exhibit some of them. The museum's collections also include bicycles, sewing machines, typewriters, and other local products made with technology developed at the Colt Fire Arms Company.

The museum has expressed a willingness to work with the NPS to provide short- or long-term loans of Colt-related artifacts.

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

This museum, established in 1842, is the oldest public art museum in the United States. The Atheneum has a significant comprehensive collection which features European and American art and decorative arts, contemporary art, costumes, and textiles. The Atheneum received a bequest from Elizabeth Colt upon her death in 1905. The bequest included a large collection of rare firearms, art, armor, curios, and documents. Elizabeth Colt gave the Atheneum $50,000 ($1.75 million in today's dollars) to build the Colt Memorial Wing to display her collection. For much of the last century, the Wadsworth Atheneum displayed Elizabeth Colt's collection. It mounted a major exhibition in 1996 based on her collection which interpreted the career of her husband Samuel, her philanthropic career, and the impact of the Colt Fire Arms Company on Hartford. The exhibit "Colt: The Making of a Legend" was curated by William Hosley, and a book by the same name was published by the University of Massachusetts Press. In 2006, the Atheneum mounted an exhibit, "Samuel Colt: Arms, Art, and Invention." The focus of this exhibit was on firearms, particularly those objects dating to the career of Samuel Colt. A companion catalogue was written by Herbert Houze and published by the Yale University Press.

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art has expressed an interest in working with the NPS should a unit of the national park system be established at Coltsville.

Connecticut Historical Society

This organization has one of the most important historical museum and library collections in the state. The Society has extensive collections of costumes, furniture, tavern signs, paintings, tools, and clocks. The museum collection does not include artifacts directly connected with the Colt Fire Arms Company, but it does interpret the history of industry in Connecticut and has expressed an interest in working with the NPS should a unit of the National Park System be established at Coltsville.

Cedar Hill Cemetery

The cemetery is the burial site of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt and their children. Elizabeth Colt was the first subscriber of the romantic garden Cedar Hill Cemetery, which was opened in 1866. The Colt Family 32-foot-high funerary monument features a bronze Colt-Jarvis coat of arms and a statue of the angel Gabriel by sculptor Randolph Rogers.

Samuel Colt.
Portrait by Charles Loring, 1865.
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Bequest of Elizabeth Hart Jarvis Colt. 1905.8.

Chapter 2
Resources and Historical Overview

Introduction

This chapter provides a description of resources and a summary overview of the history of Coltsville and the Samuel Colt family involved in the manufacturing enterprise he established in Hartford, Connecticut. Information for this chapter is primarily drawn from the nomination which resulted in the recent designation of the district as an NHL.

Firearms inventor Samuel Colt was born in Hartford in 1814, the son of a textiles manufacturer, and died there in 1862. He obtained a patent for a revolver in England in 1835 and one in America in 1836. In 1836 he established the Patent Arms Manufacturing Company in Paterson, New Jersey. After producing approximately 5,000 guns, Colt was unable to attract government contracts for his revolver and he closed his Paterson operation in 1842. Colt returned to Hartford and was able to obtain government contracts during the Mexican American War. He temporarily established operations at Eli Whitney's factory and then established Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company. The company is still in operation today, although it has moved from the historic armory to West Hartford, Connecticut. The Colt revolver was a revolutionary weapon that changed military tactics by enabling the shooter to fire up to six shots without reloading. Colt firearms manufactured at the Hartford plant were used in every major American conflict from the Mexican War through the Vietnam War.

Samuel Colt's salesmanship was legendary, and the company grew due to his marketing skills. The name "Colt" became synonymous with the revolver. Harold Evans, in *They Made America* (2004), wrote that Samuel Colt "basically invented modern branding." At the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition in London, Colt displayed his revolvers and demonstrated their interchangeable parts to highlight the "American System of Manufacturing."

In 1855, Samuel Colt built a model factory in Hartford that employed the most advanced manufacturing technology. He also created an industrial community surrounding the factory that included housing, a beer garden, social hall and library, and a church. The Colt armory's distinctive blue onion dome is still a Hartford landmark, visible from Interstate-91. The original factory burned in 1864, but was rebuilt soon after. Many of the most important Coltsville structures are still extant. The Colt story is also the story of Elizabeth Colt, who owned the factory for 39 years after her husband's death in 1862. Mrs. Colt built many of the structures in Coltsville and was the leading philanthropist and art patron in Hartford before she died in 1905.

The history of Coltsville complements the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park System in Springfield, Massechuettes, 25 miles north of Hartford. Springfield Armory, a federal installation, produced shoulder arms while Colt made handguns. Many of the technological innovations developed in the early 19th century at the Springfield Armory were adopted by the Colt factory and elaborated in the private sector. Techniques developed in arms-making were adapted to manufacture other metal products, such as sewing machines, typewriters,

bicycles, and automobiles. For its concentration of metal-working industries, the corridor between New Haven, Connecticut, and Windsor, Vermont, became known as the "Precision Valley."

Resources

Coltsville is a historic district that includes manufacturing facilities, worker housing, community buildings, and landscape features built by the Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, largely under the direction of Samuel Colt and his widow Elizabeth Colt. The development of Coltsville started in 1855 following Samuel Colt's construction of a dike to protect Hartford's South Meadows from periodic flooding by the Connecticut and Little Rivers. Parts of the Colt dike still exist, with Warwarme and Van Dyke Avenues running atop the historic dike. In the early 1940s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a new dike closer to the riverfront as part of an extensive flood-control project.

Elizabeth and Caldwell Colt. Portrait by Charles Loring, 1865. *Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Bequest of Elizabeth Hart Jarvis Colt. 1905.9.*

The core of Coltsville is the manufacturing complex of the Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company (Colt Fire Arms Company) constructed between 1855 and 1942. The factory complex evolved over the years, reflecting changing types of factory design and construction technologies. Ten buildings still stand at the Colt factory complex: the Foundry and Forge Shop from the original 1855 factory; the signature East Armory (with blue onion dome, which has become the premier symbol of Hartford's industrial heritage), rebuilt in 1867; the South and North Armories, Machine Shop, Warehouse, Power Plant, and Garage built in 1916 for World War I armament effort; and the World War II Office Building (1942). The West Armory (1861) and infill buildings located between the East and West Armories were demolished in the mid-1930s and 1947.

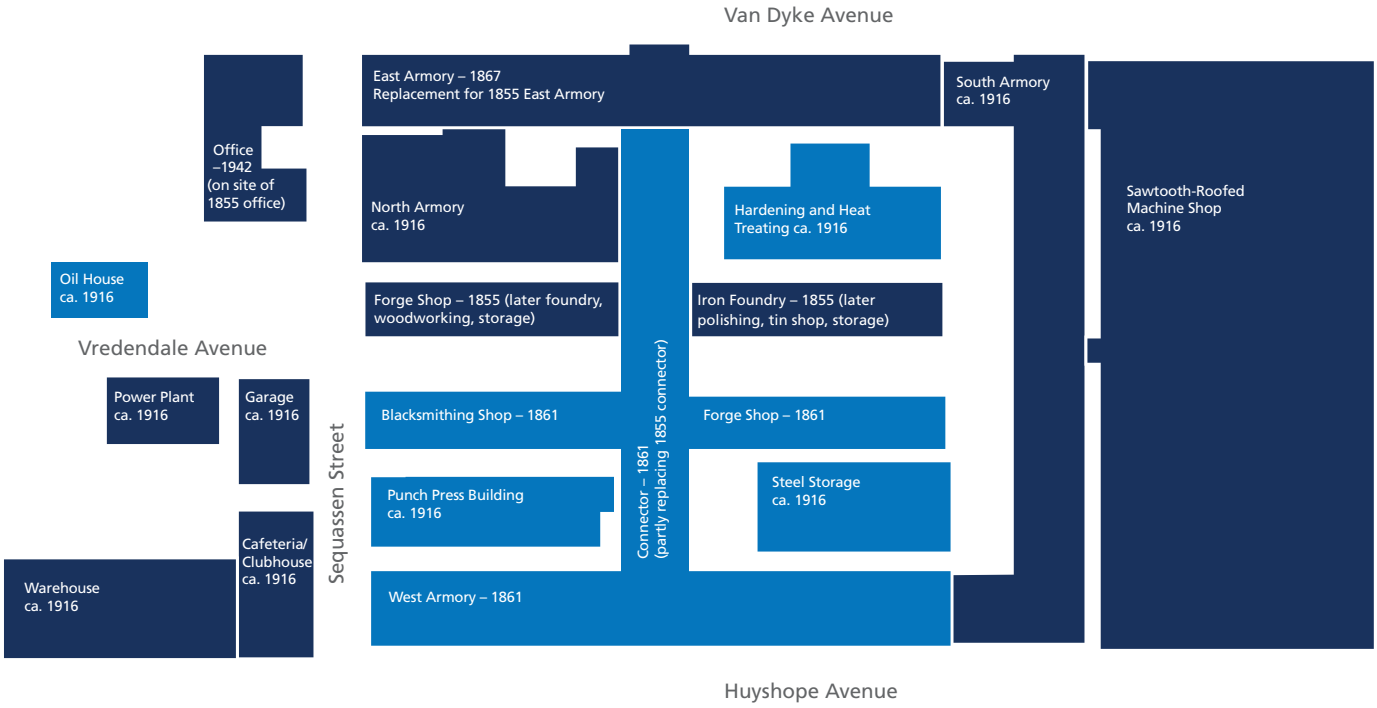
The surviving factory buildings enable the visitor to understand the evolution of the Colt Fire Arms factory as a major American small arms manufacturer from its establishment in 1855 until its decline following World War II. The building exteriors appear much as they did during the company's heyday. The interiors have not housed substantial gun manufacturing operations since the 1950s (a limited amount of firearms design and testing occurred in the Machine Shop until 1993). The historic manufacturing machinery of the Colt Fire Arms Company no longer exists in the factory complex. It was removed and sold off over the years, mainly after World War II.

An essential component of Coltsville is the Samuel Colt Home (Armsmear) National Historic Landmark. Armsmear was home to firearms manufacturer Samuel Colt and his wife Elizabeth, who oversaw the firearms company after his death in 1862 through 1901.

Coltsville also includes 19 extant dwellings that were built for workers in the arms factory and related Colt enterprises, including 10 vernacular five- or six-family tenements (1856) and nine two-family "Potsdam cottages" (1859). Other structures contributing to the district include three Colt-owned manager houses on Wethersfield Avenue; the Victorian Gothic Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (1869) and its Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House (1896); Colt Park, which was the original grounds of the Colt estate and was donated to the City of Hartford for public park purposes at the time of Elizabeth Colt's death in 1905; and the Samuel Colt's dike (1855).

The Colt factory complex includes the East Armory, South Armory, and North Armory, each of which is physically connected, although they were built at different times. When the Colt Fire Arms Company started downsizing its operations at the historic factory after World War II, much of the industrial space became vacant. Some of it was subdivided for use by small businesses, artist studios, and a limited number of apartments. In 2003, a private developer Colt Gateway LLC (Homes for America Holdings, Inc.) acquired the historic industrial buildings and has been redeveloping them for commercial, residential, and office tenants. Colt Gateway rehabilitated some of the factory

buildings, in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards regarding character-defining features such as windows, roofs, and facades. In 2009, the developer Urban Smart Growth took controlling interest of the Colt Fire Arms factory complex. The former developer, Colt Gateway, built some market-rate apartments in the South Armory, and Urban Smart Growth plans to complete this housing construction in the South Armory as well as the East and North Armories.



Schematic plan of Colt industrial buildings. Dark blue buildings are still standing; light blue buildings have been demolished. Some minor buildings are not shown. *Bruce Clouette, based on 1939 Factory Mutual Insurance Survey.*

East Armory (1867), 55 Van Dyke Avenue—A 5-story gable-roofed building, this structure is perhaps the most visible and best-known part of the Colt factory complex. It was built on the foundations of the original 1855 brownstone East Armory after that building was destroyed by fire in 1864. The East Armory was always the main building for manufacturing Colt firearms.

Rising above the center of the East Armory is the complex's signature onion-shaped dome, painted blue with gold stars (the original 1855 East Armory had a similar dome). On top of the dome is a gilded ball, above which is a gilded fiberglass replica of the original gilded wood Rampant Colt, a symbol of the company since Samuel Colt's time. The original is on display at the Museum of Connecticut History.

The interior framing of the East Armory has the original Phoenix-column posts supporting I-beams. In the center of the armory, the internal framing is supported by the vertical cast-iron beds and piston-rod guides of four Porter-Allen high speed steam engines that once drove the armory's machine tools. The East Armory, which is currently vacant, was most recently used for commercial and light industrial space.

South Armory (1916), 75 Van Dyke Avenue and 140 Huyshope Avenue—A six storied structure, the South Armory is constructed of reinforced-concrete and is joined to the East Armory. This building was constructed by Aberthaw Construction Company and was originally used to manufacture machine guns. After being vacated by the Colt Fire Arms Company, it was used for commercial, light-industrial, artist studios, and residential purposes. Recently, the building was undergoing redevelopment, with some apartments being opened on the upper floors.

North Armory (1916), 7 Sequassen Street—Constructed of reinforced-concrete, this structure has five stories with a sawtooth-monitor roof. It was constructed during World War I, before the United States officially entered the hostilities. This building was also constructed by Aberthaw Construction Company, a leading firm in the construction of reinforced-concrete industrial

buildings. The North Armory was originally used for the production of gun barrels. After being vacated by the Colt Fire Arms Company, it was leased for commercial and light-industrial purposes, including storage. Currently, the building is vacant and is awaiting redevelopment.

Forge Shop (1855), on the interior of the block bounded by Sequassen Street and Van Dyke and Huyshope Avenues—This original structure is a one-story gable-roofed building of random-ashlar brownstone. The entire interior is open and unobstructed. Later uses of the building included woodworking and general storage. Now vacant, the Forge Shop was used mainly for storage after World War II.

Foundry (1855), on the interior of the block bounded by Sequassen Street and Van Dyke and Huyshope Avenues—The building's interior is open and unobstructed. Originally equipped with cupola furnace for melting iron, it was later used for polishing operations and sheet-metal work. Like the Forge Shop, the Foundry, which was used mainly for storage after World War II, is vacant.

Machine Shop (1916), 170 Huyshope Avenue—This one-story structure is almost completely open, as it was when used for manufacturing. The sawtooth roof allows the interior of the building to be bathed in natural light. It originally housed machine gun production as well as a drafting room and offices. Between World War I and World War II, it was used for the production of Colt electrical equipment. Colt Fire Arms manufactured M-16s were produced here during the Vietnam War, after which the building was used for storage. In 2004, the Machine Shop was rehabilitated to become office space for an information technology company. It was rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Office Building (1942), 17 Van Dyke Avenue—This brick-and-glass building is noteworthy for its streamlined Moderne style. It replaced the original Italianate Colt Fire Arms Company offices. It is currently vacant and awaiting redevelopment.

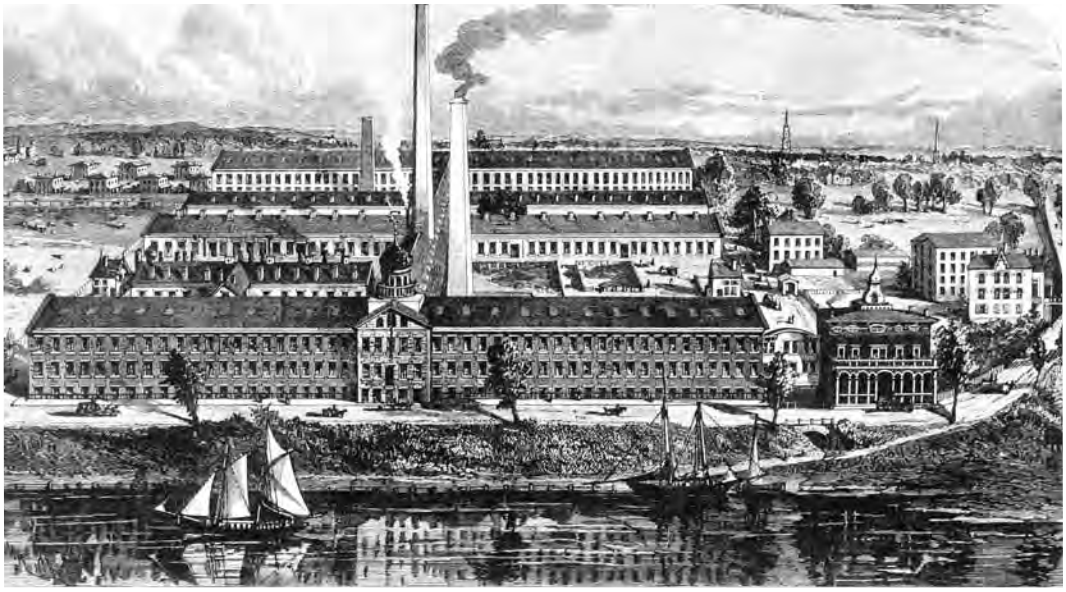
Warehouse (1916), 36-80 Huyshope Avenue, 34 Sequassen Street—This two-story building originally accommodated storage, shipping, and receiving and contained a clubhouse and cafeteria. It has been rehabilitated to house the Capital Region Education Council's (CREC) River Street Autism School and offices of community organizations, including the Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood, Inc.

Garage (1916), 53 Vredendale Avenue—The former garage is a one-story brick building currently used as school gymnasium space.

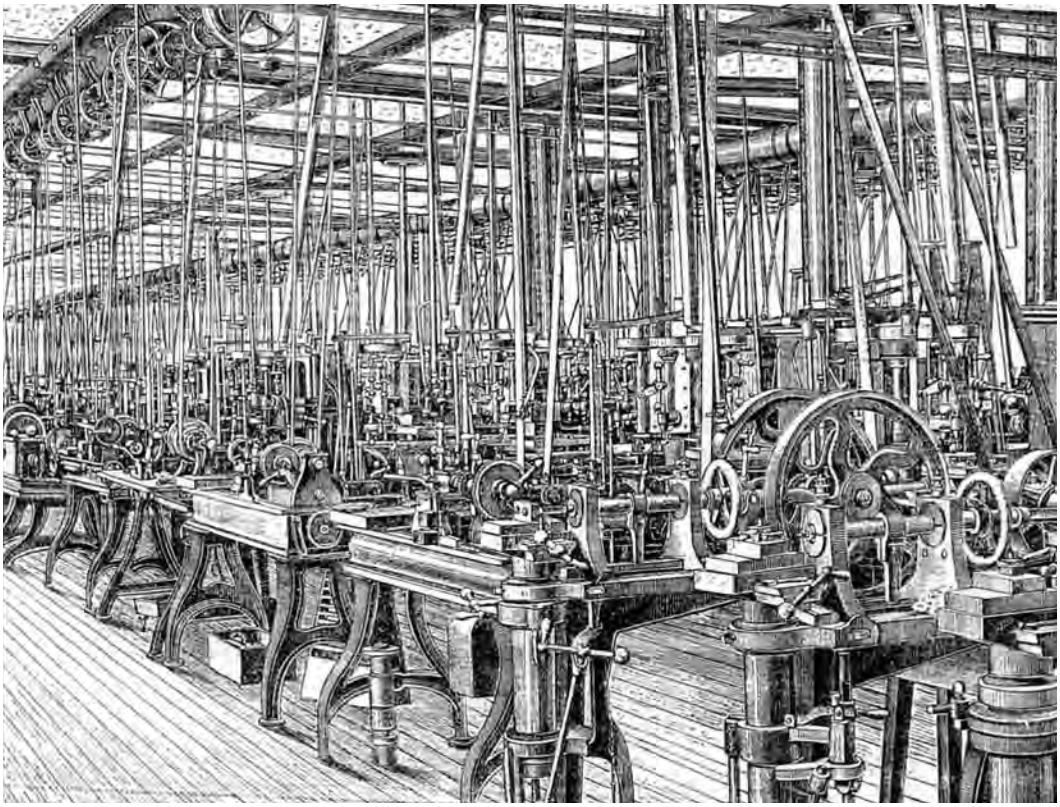
Power Plant (1916), 49 Vredendale Avenue—This single story structure continues to supply steam for heating the complex. The northeast corner features a tall circular brick smokestack with "COLT" spelled out vertically in black brick letters.

Away from the factory complex at 80 Wethersfield Avenue is Armsmear, the Colt family home from its construction in 1857 until Elizabeth's death in 1905. It has been a home for elderly women, originally widows of Episcopal ministers, since then. Armsmear was designated an NHL in 1966. The house has been altered and added to in order to meet its residential functions, although several rooms including the library retain decorative details dating to the occupancy of the Colt family. Armsmear is not open to the public, although occasional tours have been arranged. Armsmear is endowed by the Colt Bequest, Inc., which was established by Elizabeth Jarvis Colt. The Colt Bequest also owns and funds the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and the Caldwell Colt Memorial House.

Colt worker houses dating from 1856 are located at 101, 111, 121, 133, and 141 Huyshope Avenue. Each of these five buildings is of the same design. They maintain their historic exterior appearance. Each building originally had six residential units for a total of 30 units. Some of these units were combined to accommodate larger families. Since their renovation into private condominiums in the 1980s, 25 residential units are now found in these five buildings. The gable-roofed main block of the brick building is three stories high. The original room layout, corridors, and exterior access have been maintained.



View of the Colt Fire Arms factory showing the original brownstone East Armory, destroyed by fire in 1864, and the 1861 West Armory at the rear of the complex. *Henry Barnard, Armsmear, 1866.*



Interior of East Armory upper floor. During the latter 19th century, the Colt factory was using over 1,500 individual machines to manufacture firearms. *From Tenth Census of the United States (1880): Manufactures, Vol. 2, 1883.*

Additional Colt worker houses, also dating from 1856, are located at 60, 64, 68, 72, and 76 Van Block Avenue. Each of these five houses is of the same design. They maintain their historic exterior appearance. Each building originally had eight residential units for a total of 40 units. Some of these units were combined to accommodate larger families during the period of significance. Since their renovation into private condominiums during the 1980s, there have been 30 residential units in these five buildings. These brick buildings are four stories high. The basic room layout, corridors, and exterior access have been maintained.

"Potsdam" Carpenter Gothic worker houses constructed in 1859, are located at 13, 17, 21, 23, 29, 33, 37, 41, and 45 Curcombe Street. These nine cottages were built to house workers at Samuel Colt's willow ware factory, which abutted these houses before it was demolished. Each cottage is a two-unit dwelling. Some of the Carpenter Gothic decoration has been removed from the "Potsdam" cottages, but their general setting and appearance are still maintained. These houses are under private ownership.

The Church of the Good Shepherd (1869) and Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House (1896) are located at 155 Wyllys Street, to the north of the factory complex. The Church of the Good Shepherd shares in the collective association with Samuel and Elizabeth Colt and the Colt Company because Elizabeth Colt built it to serve the spiritual needs of residents of the neighborhood and to memorialize Samuel Colt. The parish house was built to serve as a social and educational center for Coltsville as well as to be a memorial to Elizabeth Colt's deceased son Caldwell. The parish house continues to serve the functions of a religious and community center that it was originally designed to meet over a century ago. The land where the parish house is located served as a baseball playing field during the 1870s and 1880s, with the Hartford Dark Blues, a charter member of the National League, playing there in 1876.

Manager Houses are located at 154, 180, and 184 Wethersfield Avenue. Samuel Colt's brother James built an Italianate house (1856) at 154 Wethersfield Avenue, just south of Armsmear. It has been subdivided for apartments, but its exterior retains most of its original Italianate features. The Elizabeth Colt Rental Houses (1885) at 180 and 184 Wethersfield Avenue were built by Mrs. Colt as dwellings for senior managers at the armory and are now used as offices. These two brick Queen Anne-style houses were listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Parkside Historic District in 1985.

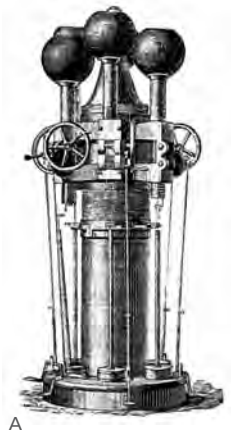
Colt Park at 92 Wethersfield Avenue was originally the grounds of Armsmear. It now serves as a 105-acre municipal park. The Armsmear grounds were laid out in the late 1850s by noted Boston landscape architects Robert Morris Copeland and Horace W.S. Cleveland. Armsmear had extensive formal gardens with statuary, urns, fountains, a summer pavilion, an ornamental pond, special plantings, formal drives, a deer park, cornfields, and grazing pastures. Colt's greenhouses, 2,364 feet in length, were used for growing plants from all over the world, including pineapples, bananas, figs, and 13 varieties of grapes. These gardens served as a physical buffer between Armsmear and the factory village.

The City of Hartford has owned Colt Park since it was bequeathed by Elizabeth Colt's estate in 1905. Theodore Wirth, Hartford's Superintendent of Parks and father of National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth (served 1951-1964), drew up a plan to transform the Armsmear gardens into a recreational park. By 1909, the City had removed some of the decorative gardens and created athletic fields, which are still in place. The reflecting pond and statuary remained until 1952, when both were removed and the area became a lawn.

The changes initiated by Theodore Wirth reflected the growing early 20th-century interest in active recreation. Colt Park became part of a Hartford "emerald necklace" that was created in a "rain of parks" around the turn-of-the-century. Inspired by Hartford native and landscape architecture pioneer Frederick Law Olmsted, the Hartford park system included Bushnell Park, Goodwin, Park, Elizabeth Park, Pope Park, Riverside Park, and Keney Park, several of which were designed by John Charles Olmsted and Charles Eliot (designer of Boston's metropolitan park system).

The foremost landmark in Colt Park is the Colt Memorial Statue, sculpted by J. Massey Rhind and dedicated in 1906. The memorial includes two statues: one of Colt as a boy fashioning a revolver and the second as a mature man. Two bas reliefs depict Samuel Colt meeting Russian Czar Nicholas I and demonstrating his interchangeable parts of his revolver before the British House of Commons.

Contemporary recreational facilities include an oval running track, soccer and baseball fields, an outdoor hockey rink, a space-frame-roofed open pavilion intended for outdoors concerts, and a large public pool that dates from the 1930s. The park has four buildings, built between 1937 and 1960, which have been used to support operations. Colt Park includes broad open areas of grass that are not dedicated to specific activities. The area closest to Armsmear, at the Wethersfield Avenue entrance, is lightly wooded. Despite these modern modifications, Colt Park, which still has the original Armsmear Carriage House and Gardner's House (ca. 1860), continues its historic function of providing a large open green space with vistas between the Colt residence and the Colt Fire Arms factory. A private nonprofit organization, Hartford Botanical Garden, is working with the City on plans to develop a botanical garden at the western end of Colt Park. There are no intentions to make it a historic replica of the original Colt gardens.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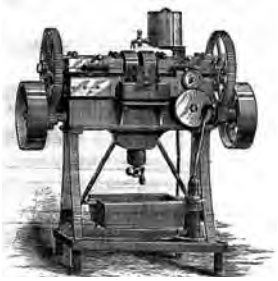
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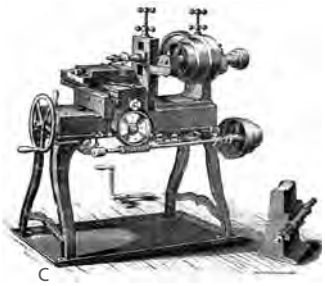
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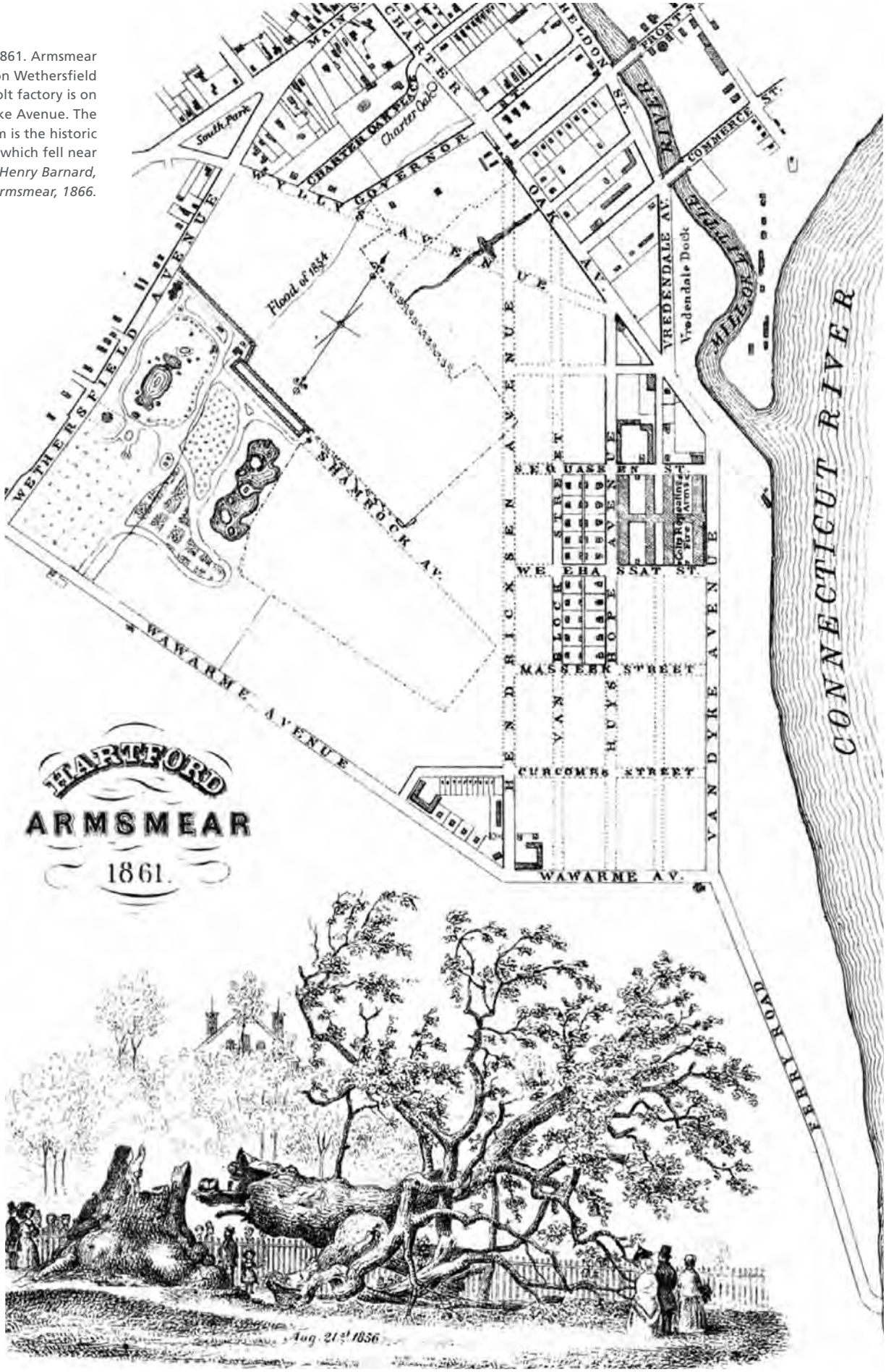
Three of the innovative firearms manufacturing machines developed for the Colt Armory. A) multiple-spindle vertical barrel boring machine; B) double-head face-milling machine; C) Lincoln miller. *From Tenth Census of the United States (1880): Manufactures, Vol. 2, 1883.*



Map of Coltsville, 1861. Armsmear is on the left, on Wethersfield Avenue, and the Colt factory is on the right, on Van Dyke Avenue. The tree at the bottom is the historic Charter Oak, which fell near Coltsville in 1856. *Henry Barnard, Armsmear, 1866.*

Historical Overview of Samuel Colt and Coltsville

The Invention and Adoption of the Colt Revolver

Samuel Colt, though not the first person to conceive of a multiple-shot pistol using a revolving cylinder magazine, perfected the revolver to the point that it became a practical weapon.[1] In 1836, he took out an American patent, supplemented by another patent three years later, which established an effective monopoly on revolvers until 1857. Colt manufactured his first revolver at Paterson, New Jersey, in 1836. That enterprise failed by 1842 because of an insufficient market and a firearm design that was complicated and expensive to produce. Colt's career as a gun manufacturer revived in 1847, when he received a contract from the U.S. Army to make revolvers for use in the Mexican War. Captain Samuel Walker of the Texas Rangers came to visit Samuel Colt in Hartford to suggest an improved revolver design. Colt fulfilled the first order by subcontracting with Eli Whitney's factory in Hamden, Connecticut. This contract provided him with the reputation and resources to establish his own pistol factory, first in rented space (not extant) in Hartford in 1849 and at his own plant six years later.

Colt's revolver first attained widespread notice when the Texas Rangers used it against Mexican soldiers in the Mexican War and American Indians during the 1840s. According to historian Walter Prescott Webb's *The Great Frontier*, American settlers were able to occupy the Great Plains because of major technological innovations, with the revolver being "the first mechanical adaptation to the needs of the country."[2] Historian Robert M. Utley wrote: "On the utility of Colt's product all agreed: a weapon that enabled a horseman to fire six shots without reloading had revolutionary implications."[3] The Colt revolver became so commonplace that lower-case "colt" "became a generic term for revolver.[4]

In front of the Samuel Colt Memorial Statue, which depicts Colt in his prime, is a statue of Samuel Colt as a sailor boy devising the revolving bullet chamber of his pistol. J. Massey Rhind, sculptor, 1905-1906. *Colt Park, Hartford, Connecticut. James C. O'Connell, National Park Service.*

Although historians argue that violence in the West was not as pervasive as popular movies and television suggest, the indisputable fact is that the Colt Fire Arms Company sold hundreds of thousands of revolvers both to the military and civilians. Most men on the Western frontier between the 1850s and the 1880s carried firearms, often a Colt revolver. Those who owned Colt revolvers included John Brown, Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, Jesse James, Wild Bill Hickock, and Theodore Roosevelt. Mark Twain carried a Colt Navy revolver during his sojourn in Nevada mining camps, remarking in *Roughing It* (1861) that he had "worn the thing in deference to popular sentiment, and in order that I might not, by its absence, be offensively conspicuous, and a subject of remark."[5] With so many Colt revolvers in circulation, they became an outsized symbol that has lasted into current times. Cultural historian John Cawelti, in *The Six-Gun Mystique*, wrote that the cowboy hero with his Colt six-gun "seemed to reaffirm the traditional image of masculine strength, honor, and moral violence."[6]

Colt firearms have been used by the United States military in all conflicts since the Mexican War. During the Civil War, the United States government purchased 378,000 revolvers and 114,000 rifles from the Colt Fire Arms Company, with contracts exceeding $4 million. Before the war started, Colt had sold "hundreds of thousands of his weapons to the South with a large discount," according to the New York Times.[7]

Precision Manufacturing

Coltsville's national importance in industrialization, during and beyond Samuel Colt's lifetime, is recognized among historians of economic and technological change who show that the firearms industry led the way in pursuing interchangeability of parts and mechanization of virtually all aspects of manufacturing. Historian Nathan Rosenberg wrote that "the making of firearms occupied a position of decisive importance in the development of specialized, precision machinery," and he identified the Colt Armory as the culmination of firearms manufacturing technology.[8] In his inventory of Connecticut's industrial heritage (1981), Matthew W. Roth concluded:

Colt's New Model Holster Pistol, .44 caliber, 1862. *Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Bequest of Elizabeth Jarvis Colt. 1905.996.*

Samuel Colt and his armory claim a place of central importance in the nation's history…. Colt's manufacturing processes constitute a crucial episode in the development of metalworking technology. The work begun at Colt's in the 1850s under superintendent E. K. Root drew from prior experience in production of textile machinery, firearms and consumer hardware to create a synthesis of technique that provided the basis for metalworking innovations into the 20th century.[9]

Eugene S. Ferguson, a leading historian of American technology, called the Samuel Colt armory "a showpiece of mechanization."[10] The specialized machinery, especially Root's drop presses, "found wide application in many other industries." David Hounshell's comprehensive account of American manufacturing, *From the American System to Mass Production: The Development of Manufacturing Technology in the United States*, identified Samuel Colt's armories in Hartford and London as "the prime showplaces of American manufacturing technology" of the era.[11]

Although it is difficult to isolate the achievements of individual companies and inventors in a prolonged process of gradual improvement, it is undeniable that Samuel Colt's armory contributed significantly to advances in precision manufacturing. Revolver parts required close tolerances and free-moving parts. If they were not made to precise specification, they could jam or cause an explosion. Colt and his successors brought together a host of innovative manufacturing techniques that allowed the nearly complete mechanization and standardization of parts for firearms production.

The foremost technological innovator at the Colt factory was Elisha K. Root, who managed the manufacturing processes at the plant between 1849 and his death in 1865. Root, who had originally developed advanced drop-forging techniques at the Collins ax factory in Collinsville, Connecticut, was the model for the inventive genius in Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Root developed an automated drop forge that allowed machinery to do metalwork. His drop forge pressed a heavy weight onto a soft piece of hot iron that had been placed in a steel die, producing the shape of the part that was needed. Root used power-driven machines to perform the manufacturing functions at the Colt Fire Arms plant, creating a manufacturing process for making a revolver that had 450 integrated steps.[12] Joseph Wickham Roe, in *English and American Tool Builders*, wrote of Elisha Root: "He invented the best form of drop hammer then in use, machines for boring, rifling, making cartridges, stock turning, splining, etc., and worked out the whole system of jigs, fixtures, tools, and gauges. The credit for the revolver belongs to Colt; for the way they were made, mainlyto Root."[13]

The Colt Fire Arms Company was part of the precision manufacturing region in the Connecticut River Valley that developed the "American System of Manufacture," which emphasized machine production of standardized parts and attracted great attention in Europe in the mid-19th century. The so-called "Precision Valley," stretching from New Haven through Hartford in Connecticut to Springfield, Massachusetts, and Windsor, Vermont, contained the most advanced manufacturers in America during the 19th century and into the 20th century. Colt's production and quality control techniques incorporated "armory practices" developed at the Springfield Armory, 25 miles to the north, and such private factories as Robbins and Lawrence in Windsor, Vermont; Simeon North in Middletown, Connecticut; and Eli Whitney in Hamden, Connecticut. The synergy between gun makers and machine tool builders who supplied them with manufacturing equipment had ramifications far beyond firearms.

The Colt Company played a major role in disseminating precision technology throughout American industry. Merritt Roe Smith is one of several historians of technology who demonstrate that technical innovations developed by firearms manufacturers, particularly the Colt Fire Arms Company, "spread to technically related industries and by the late 1850s could be found in factories making sewing machines, pocket watches, railroad equipment, wagons, hand tools. From these beginnings it was only a matter of time before the new technology found applications in the production of typewriters, agricultural implements, bicycles, gramophones, cameras, automobiles, and a host of products associated with the mass production industries of the twentieth century."[14] Hartford companies specialized in manufacturing sewing machines, typewriters, bicycles, automobiles, and machvine tools. The precision manufacturing technology developed there spread to factories across the country during the latter 19th century.

The National Park Service's *Connecticut River Valley Special Reconnaissance Study* (1998) found that precision manufacturing created a distinctive, highly-advanced industrial region in the Connecticut River Valley:

Precision manufacturing is associated with a distinctive social and architectural landscape, paralleling but different from the complexes formed by the textile industry elsewhere in New England, or the heavy industry of Pennsylvania. The higher skill level and consequent higher earnings of many workers in the precision trades seems to have encouraged the development of more prosperous, stable communities. There was a prestige associated with arms-making, particularly in manufacturing the weapons used in national defense.[15]

Connecticut River Valley manufacturers constantly exchanged technological solutions and skilled workers moved from company to company. Developments in arms-making were adapted to manufacture other metal products. William Hosley, in *Colt: The Making of an American Legend* (1996), wrote that the Connecticut River Valley's evolution into a "Precision Valley" in the 1850s occurred because of a "coalescence of creativity and capital that made the river towns of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire what California's Silicon Valley is today, the vanguard of an internationally significant, technology-based transformation."[16]

The Colt armory became known as the acme of precision manufacturing, in part because the company gave tours and arranged for favorable publicity. Mark Twain visited the Colt armory in 1868 and wrote an admiring account:

It comprises a great range of tall brick buildings, and on every floor is a dense wilderness of strange iron machines… a tangled forest of rods, bars, pulleys, wheels, and all the imaginable and unimaginable forms of mechanism… It must have required more brains to invent all those things than would serve to stock 50 Senates like ours.[17]

Right: At the time of the Civil War, the Colt factory used 450 mechanized steps in the process of manufacturing a revolver. This revolver frame jigging machine was designed and patented by Samuel Colt to cut the exterior and interior surfaces of a frame. *Photo ca. 1857. Museum of Connecticut History.*

When the U.S. Census Bureau published a detailed report on the nation's firearms industry in 1880, it featured the Colt armory as a leader in precision manufacturing and described and pictured several Elisha Root innovations, including drop forging (four-fold screw-drop & crank-drop), the edging or jigging machine, double turret lathe, and Colt chucking lathe.[18]

Another indicator of the Colt Company's leading role in manufacturing technology was its choice by the Russian government as manufacturer of rifles in the late 1860s. Russia arranged to have 30,000 Colt-Berdan rifles made at the Colt factory. They also used Colt's Hartford factory as the model for the Czar's own armory and tested their armory machinery in Hartford before shipping it to Russia.[19] The business of arms manufacture fluctuates greatly, affected by external political forces. When the firearms business slowed at Colt's, usually between wars, the company manufactured products other than firearms under its own brand name. It also manufactured products contracted for by other companies and rented space to other manufacturers. Often these businesses drew upon the skilled workforce and technological innovations of the Colt Fire Arms plant. Most touted their manufacturing address as "Colt's Armory" in their advertisements, trading on the company's reputation for reliability and precision manufacture. The prototype for the 18,000-part Paige typesetter, which Mark Twain lost a fortune investing in, was made at the Colt factory. Successful Colt-made products included Baxter Portable steam engines; Noark electrical equipment, such as switchboxes; Morrison and Charter Oak sewing machines; Universal printing presses; Thorne's

These workers are using a deburring machine to remove burrs and sharp edges from the components of pistols. *Photo ca. 1857. Museum of Connecticut History.*

typesetting machines; Federal adding machines; Charter Oak and Archimedean lawn mowers; Autosan commercial dishwashers; and Railway Alarm ticket punches for trains and streetcars. The Colt Plastics division, which operated between 1920 and 1955, manufactured firearm grips, electric plugs and outlets under the name "ColtRock," buttons, costume jewelry, and other consumer products.[20]

One of the methods that Samuel Colt used to promote innovation and manage workflow was to provide "inside contractors" space in his factory. He would contract with these engineers to produce certain gun parts, but would allow them to take in business from other companies and employ their own workers. Many important manufacturing innovators got their start at the Colt Fire Arms factory and moved on to establish their own businesses. They included rifle-maker Christopher Spencer; machine-tool manufacturers Francis Pratt and Amos Whitney; George A. Fairfield, later Superintendent of the Weed Sewing Machine Company and the Hartford Machine Screw Company; steam engine innovator Charles B. Richards, who became chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Yale University Sheffield Scientific School; William Mason, master mechanic for the Winchester and Remington rifle companies; Henry Leland, automobile engineer and founder of the Cadillac and Lincoln automobile companies; William Gleason, founder of bevel gear industry and The Gleason Works, in Rochester, NY.[21] Benjamin B. Hotchkiss, a former master mechanic at the Colt plant, designed and manufactured a machine gun that was adopted by the French Army in 1897.[22] Matthew Roth, in *Connecticut: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*, summarizes by saying that "Graduate apprentices or workmen from Colt and Pratt & Whitney worked throughout Connecticut's metals industries, bringing with them knowledge of machine construction in such areas as bearings, clutches, drive linkages, gearing and lubrication."[23]

In a broader sense, the Colt Fire Arms Company illustrates the major phases of development of urban industrial districts, as described in the "American Labor History Draft Theme Study." The most relevant section of this theme study, "American Manufacture: Sites of Production and Conflict," explains that urban industrial development proceeded through the following stages: the early innovations in precision metal-working and standardized parts production, the rise of diversified urban manufacturing centers in the mid-19th century, the development of a military-industrial complex in World War II, and deindustrialization of the late 20th century.[24]

Samuel Colt's Business Achievements

In addition to the contributions to the "American System of Manufacture" made by his company, Samuel Colt was notable for his organizational and marketing achievements. He made skillful use of the patent system to consolidate a monopoly position for 20 years. He demonstrated the axiom that inventions only become adopted when they are successfully marketed. Colt created a powerful brand name out of his own surname, making "Colt" nearly synonymous with the revolver.[25] Felicia Johnson Deyrup, in *Arms Makers of the Connecticut Valley*, wrote, that more than any other arms maker, Samuel Colt realized the importance of stimulating demand through aggressive sales promotion.[26]

He was an indefatigable and sometimes unscrupulous promoter of his wares, marshaling his colorful personality, appearances before government officials, and major exhibitions in an all-out effort to create a brand name to market his revolvers. Combined with a high-quality product and his company's demonstrated ability to produce it in quantity, Colt's promotional activities assured success. Like other 19th-century entrepreneurs, Colt made ample use of testimonials, such as those from Captain Samuel Walker of the Texas Rangers and the crowned heads of Europe and Asia. Colt

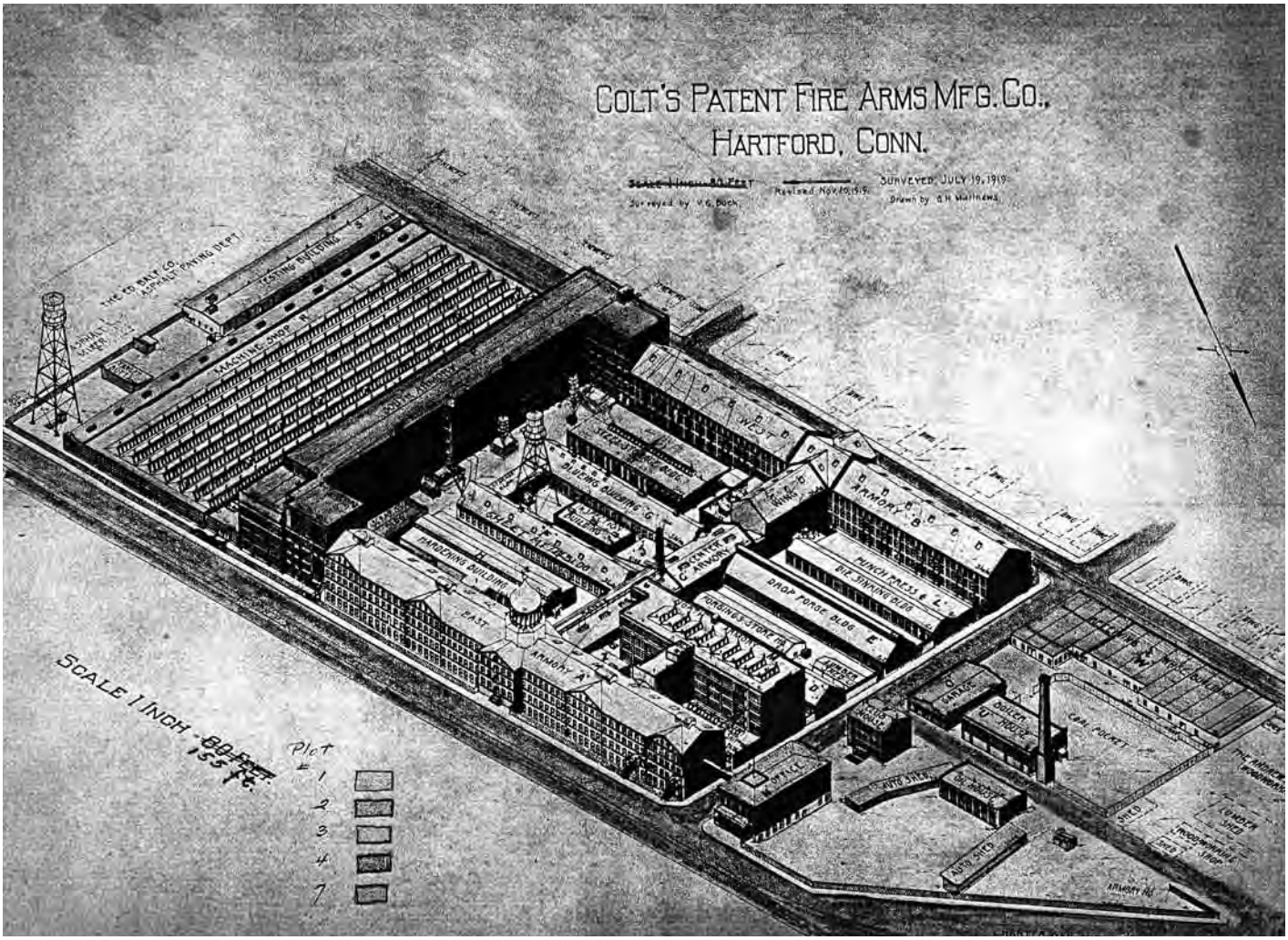
regularly sent specially engraved presentation versions of his revolvers to government officials, military heroes, titled nobility, and anyone else who might praise his wares and influence their purchase. After his death, the Colt Fire Arms Company continued this practice.

Samuel Colt generated a great deal of favorable publicity when he participated in the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition in London, where his revolvers awed visitors. He addressed the British Parliament and the British Institute of Civil Engineers, delivering a paper entitled "On the Application of Machinery to the Manufacture of Rotating Chambered Breech Firearms and the Peculiarities of the Arms." These appearances cemented Colt's reputation, and that of the "American System of Manufacture" in England. After a Parliamentary board toured Connecticut Valley factories, including Colt's, in 1853, the British government furnished its armory at Enfield almost entirely with American machinery. From 1853 to 1857, Colt established one of the first significant American factories abroad, operating a large factory in London, which supplied the British military during the Crimean War. He formed license agreements abroad, which forestalled potential copyists and brought in revenue that otherwise would have been lost. Colt traveled widely in Europe in the 1850s, cultivating contacts in the governments of all major countries, including Russia, where he was presented to Czar Nicholas I and became a major provider of arms to the Russian government during the Crimean War. He also provided firearms to their adversaries, the Brittish and theTurks, prefiguring the rise of America's international weapons industry.

Catlin the Artist Shooting Buffalos with Colt's Revolving Pistol. George Catlin, 1855. *Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. The Ella Gallup Summer and Mary Catlin Summer Collection Fund, 2005.2.1.*

Samuel Colt was a master of public relations. In 1855, he hired noted artist George Catlin to paint pictures of himself on Western adventures using a Colt revolver.

Samuel Colt's pioneering efforts at marketing resulted from the need to generate business during the lulls between warfare and military contracts. Using his flair for publicity, Colt targeted individual consumers and arranged to have descriptions of his revolver and factory widely published in newspapers and magazines. One of his bolder strokes was to commission artist George Catlin to produce a series of ten paintings and six mass-market lithographic prints illustrating Catlin's adventures in the West using Colt's firearms. Colt even used the exotic architectural features of his mansion Armsmear and the blue onion dome surmounting his factory to help brand his enterprise. Because of its symbolic value, Elizabeth Colt had the blue dome rebuilt after the East Armory burned in 1864. Betsy Hunter Bradley, in *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*, called Colt's blue onion dome "one of the most distinctive interpretations of the industrial building tower. . . . The presence of the tower can best be accounted for by the pragmatism and profit motive that drove the design of industrial buildings."[27] At a time when mass marketing and advertising were in their infant stages, Samuel Colt led the way by making his exploits virtually synonymous with the firearms he was selling.



Isometric drawing of firearms complex, showing the plant at its height during World War I. *Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, 1919.*

Subsequent Development of the Colt Fire Arms Company

The company Samuel Colt founded survived his premature death in 1862 and a disastrous fire in 1864, during the height of Civil War production. It retained its leadership in manufacturing, small arms innovation, and business development through World War II. As the controlling stockholder Elizabeth Colt was a rare example of a businesswoman who owned a major American industrial company during the late 19th century. She hired talented managers to run the company, including her brother, Richard Jarvis, who served as company president, and general managers General William B. Franklin and John Henry Hall. In 1901, four years before her death, Elizabeth Colt sold the privately-held Colt Fire Arms Company to a New York limited partnership because there were no suitable heirs to carry on management.

Under General Franklin, Colt Fire Arms converted cap-and-ball revolvers to use metallic cartridges. The company produced the famous Colt .45 (Single Action Army Model 1873), manufacturing over 350,000 of these revolvers, popularly called "Peacemakers," between 1873 and 1941. General Franklin was a West Point graduate who had served with the Corps of Topographical Engineers, supervised construction of the U.S. Capitol dome (1859-1861), and commanded Union troops in the Civil War. He supervised the reconstruction of the Colt factory after much of it burned in 1864.

Just as Colt manufacturing techniques adapted "armory practice" developed at the Springfield Armory for the production of civilian handguns, General Franklin's reconstruction of the Colt complex represented a transfer of advanced building technology from the government to the private sector. Franklin utilized rolled-iron Phoenix columns and I-beams to support shallow-arched brick floor structures. Pioneered in Britain, this expensive and still experimental technique of making buildings "fireproof" had been heretofore almost entirely confined to U.S. government buildings. Franklin had some experience with brick and iron fireproof construction through his work on Treasury Department projects before the war. The new East Armory in Hartford represented the third private sector application on this side of the Atlantic and the largest by far.[28] The Colt Fire

Arms factory was one of the first to abandon the hollow square layout for the H form in order to obtain more natural light on the factory floor. The armory's new layout also shortened the lines of travel between operations and provided separate work rooms.[29]

The factory reconstruction entailed installation of Porter-Allen engines to run the machinery. These were the first large scale direct-connected high-speed engines in the country. Originally seen as a radical departure, these engines entered widespread use between the 1870s and the first decade of the 20th century.[30]

In the decades after Samuel Colt's death, the Colt Fire Arms Company maintained a competitive edge in small arms manufacture by pursuing a deliberate business strategy to stress innovation, both by internal product development and by attracting outside inventors, and to develop close ties with the U.S. military, particularly with the Springfield Armory. The company hosted regular visits from Springfield Armory officers inspecting ordnance work being done for the federal government.[31] During this period, the Army Ordnance Department designed rifles and cannon, but turned to the private sector for handguns and machine guns. By remaining in the forefront in development of both types of weapons, Colt Fire Arms retained a strong position in dealing with the Army.

The Colt factory's reputation for technological innovation helped to attract weapons pioneers such as Richard Jordan Gatling and John M. Browning to manufacture their machine guns. Although they operated independently as inventors, they chose the Colt Company for machining, testing, and mass production of their designs. With most inventions, the key to their realization is not simply an innovative design; it has to be manufactured at a superior level of quality, in large quantities, at a reasonable cost. Colt Fire Arms was not the only company manufacturing innovative small arms in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but gun designers such as Gatling and Browning believed it was the largest and most technologically advanced.

When the U.S. Army officially adopted the Gatling gun, the world's first effective machine gun, in 1866, inventor Richard Gatling arranged for the Colt Company to manufacture the weapon. Gatling located his small research company in the Colt Fire Arms factory, which made 25 models of the Gatling gun until it became obsolete around 1911.

Similarly, when John M. Browning, a prolific mechanical genius who accumulated 128 patents on 80 different firearms, undertook to develop a machine gun, he went to Colt Fire Arms because the company had been manufacturing Gatling guns and he believed it had the most extensive experience dealing with the federal government.[32] Although Browning designed weapons that were manufactured by other companies, he maintained space for research and development at the Colt plant because of its advanced capacity for designing and producing firearms.[33] Browning had a particularly close relationship with the long-time Colt Fire Arms production manager Fred Moore. Colt historian Ellsworth S. Grant summarizes by saying that Browning, "the foremost living perfector of firearms," had "his longest and last association with Colt's—one that extended over a period of nearly thirty years."[34]

Colt Fire Arms and Browning originally sold the Colt Model 1895 Automatic Machine Gun, the first fully automatic weapon purchased by the United States military, to the U.S. Navy, which used it in the Spanish-American War and the Chinese Boxer Rebellion.[35] The U.S. Army started purchasing this model a decade later. As for the Colt .45 Browning Automatic Pistol, Colt Fire Arms convinced the U.S. Army to adopt the automatic pistol as its official sidearm in 1911. Because of its reliability, the Army used this legendary handgun (M1911) through the Korean War.[36]

World War I brought a surge of prosperity to the Colt Fire Arms Company. The company supplied .45 caliber automatic Browning pistols to Russia and Great Britain both openly and secretly through Canada before the United States entered the war in 1917. As a result, sales grew from $2.2 million in 1914 to $10 million in 1916, while employment increased from 1,056 to 2,400. The company had its most profitable year in 1916, when it netted $6,346,000 in earnings.[37]

During the war the machine gun became the defining weapon of trench warfare and the source of much of its horror. Historian John Ellis, in *The Social History of the Machine Gun*, attributes the industrialization of warfare that occurred with World War I to the development of the machine gun.

He argues that Americans, in contrast to Europeans, who began the war with a romantic devotion to individual initiative and only grudgingly adopted the machine gun and the tactical adjustments it demanded, developed this lethal technology because of their "faith in the unlimited potential of machines." This attitude was prevalent at the Colt Fire Arms Company, where its long-standing experience manufacturing the machine guns of Gatling and Browning placed it in a leadership position during the war.[38]

Despite the intellectual predisposition of Americans to accept the machine gun and the leading role of American inventors, backed by the Colt Company, in developing it, the U.S. Army entered World War I woefully ill-equipped with these weapons. When the U.S. declared war in 1917 the Army possessed only 1,300 relatively modern machine guns, and the first American troops arriving on the Western Front had to be equipped with French armament, much of it of inferior quality.[39]

As one of the only two armories in the United States capable of producing machine guns, with the Army's Rock Island Arsenal, the Colt Fire Arms Company became vital in the nation's forced military buildup. In December 1916, the U.S. Government contracted with Colt Fire Arms to supply 4,000 Maxim-Vickers machine guns, based on the model originally designed by Hiram S. Maxim and used by the British Army in World War I. Soon after the declaration of war, John Browning set up shop at the Colt Fire Arms factory, completing the design of a heavy machine gun and a light automatic rifle, both .30 caliber, and making constant improvements in manufacturing techniques. The first of Browning's automatic rifles (BARs) reached the front in July 1918. At the close of the war, Browning successfully tested the .50 caliber machine gun, which was an essential infantry weapon through World War II and the Korean War.

During World War I, Colt Fire Arms manufactured 487,700 Browning automatic pistols (96% of those weapons manufactured), 151,700 Colt revolvers (50% of all Colt revolvers), 10,000 .30 caliber Browning Automatic Rifles (17% of all Browning Automatic Rifles), and 13,000 Maxim-Vickers machine guns (100% of all Maxim-Vickers machine guns) for the U.S. Army and allied armies. The U.S. Army was responsible for procuring automatic pistols, revolvers, and machine guns for both the Navy and the Marine Corps during World War I and World War II.[40] In addition, the Colt Company completed 41,000 machine guns, 43,000 automatic rifles, and 150,000 M1911 pistols under contract with several other arms manufacturers.[41] With Colt Fire Arms patents, production drawings, machine tools, and management supervision, Westinghouse manufactured the M1917 Browning machine gun, Winchester made the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle, and Remington produced the Colt M1911 pistol. Satisfactory fulfillment of these contracts entailed the transfer of innumerable examples of unwritten "shop practice" that expanded on mechanical drawings, a demanding process. Since no single corporation had all the necessary production capacity, this kind of enforced sharing was critical to the war effort.[42]

To fill the extraordinary demands of the war, the Colt plant underwent a major expansion in 1916, adding the South and North Armories, the Machine Shop, and several smaller structures. This expansion effectively doubled the capacity of the plant. The World War I additions were constructed by Aberthaw Construction Company, an innovator in the construction of concrete factories. The Colt Fire Arms Company's wartime employment peaked at 10,000 in 1918, when the company's revenues reached $32 million. Over the course of the war it shipped a total of $66 million worth of munitions and earned $21.5 million.[44]

Wartime experience confirmed the rapidly increasing importance of military aircraft. The Colt company, characteristically, was determined to retain its leadership position in this promising technology. During the war the Colt Fire Arms Company converted some of the Maxim-Vickers machine guns to use on airplanes, as it was the only weapon that could be synchronized to fire between propeller blades. Following the characteristic course of weapons development, the success of this offensive weapon created the demand to counterbalance it, and the U.S. Army and Colt Fire Arms placed a high priority on developing an anti-aircraft gun to fill the gap between the machine gun and artillery. In 1921, John Browning successfully tested a .37 mm anti-aircraft cannon, his last invention, at the Colt factory. Testifying to the unrivaled capabilities of the Colt armory and his special relationship with it when the U.S. Army contracted to develop the cannon, Browning told his colleague Fred Moore, "Well, we'd better make this model at Colt. It's getting too big for our shop out West. I'll go up to Hartford with you from Washington, and we can start the drawing."[42]

According to the U.S. Ordnance Department official history, after Browning's death, "Colt's Patent Fire Arms Company pushed forward work upon a .37 mm."[47]

Between the wars, when military orders were intermittent and small, the Colt Company maintained and updated the technological capacity to research, develop, and produce advanced weapons, whether they were handguns or machine guns. The company improved the ballistic and cooling characteristics of the .30 mm Browning machine guns and adapted them for use in airplanes as well as improving and standardizing the .50 mm Browning machine gun.[48] With employment reduced to a base of about 1,000, Colt continued manufacturing firearms for the military and private markets. It was the sole manufacturer of Government-model Browning automatic pistols between the wars, making approximately 150,000. The company also was the sole manufacturer of Thompson submachine guns (designed by John T. Thompson) for the military and police forces. Prohibition-era gangsters gave the Thompson considerable notoriety, and in 1934 the federal government severely restricted civilian ownership of "tommy" guns and other fully automatic weapons. Colt Fire Arms also continued to manufacture the Browning Automatic Rifle for police use and export.

Despite meager arms purchases by the U.S. Army and the onset of economic depression, the Colt Fire Arms Company weathered the 1930s, and even maintained a dividend (though achieved in part by drawing on accumulated surpluses). It also endured the devastating Connecticut River flood of 1936, after which a new dike was built. Company executives continued the tradition of paternalism, apparently retaining older employees and keeping more employees on the payroll than were strictly needed, though a strike in 1934 eroded these traditions.

Determined to avoid a repeat of the humiliating experience of World War I, when the U.S. was unable to properly arm its soldiers, the Ordnance Department expended some of its limited resources to study and plan for wartime production. Colt Fire Arms Company was a key partner in this effort. As the owner of Browning military weapons patents, it worked with the Ordnance Department to improve the ballistic, cooling, and rate of-fire characteristics of .30 and .50 caliber Browning machine guns.[49] Under contract with the Ordnance Department, the Colt Fire Arms Company made production studies of these guns and helped prepare descriptions of their manufacture.[50]

During World War II, another major buildup occurred at the Colt Fire Arms Company, and the plant became an important component of the "Arsenal of Democracy," which has been described in the "National Historic Landmark Draft Theme Study: World War II and the American Home Front." The theme study finds that "Most historians agree that World War II was won as surely on the American home front as it was on the battlefield."[51] The remarkable ability to manufacture vast amounts of weapons and military supplies gave the United States and its allies a decisive edge in the war. The "Home Front" Theme Study has identified "places associated with production," including ordnance plants, as property types worthy of preservation and interpretation.

The Colt Fire Arms Company was the only company that had maintained an active capability to make machine guns during the interwar years. It held the patents on the .30 mm and .50 mm Browning machine guns, which had been adopted as standard by the U.S. armed services.[52] The .50 caliber was especially valuable because it could be converted to tank, aircraft, or anti-aircraft use. Colt Fire Arms was the sole existing source for the .37 mm Browning anti-aircraft gun. The classic Colt M1911 pistol was also the standard military pistol, though handguns received a lower priority in wartime production. In the fall of 1939, during the so-called "phony war," the British had agreed to finance an expansion of the Colt plant to produce Browning machine guns, but these plans were overtaken by the swift German successes in the West in the spring of 1940.[53] Alarmed by this "Blitzkrieg," the U.S. in July 1940 appropriated $50 million for small arms and ammunition, and Colt Fire Arms received a portion of this order.[54]

In 1939, the Colt Fire Arms Company plant employed 2,600 workers. Employment grew to 7,000 in 1941 and peaked at 16,000 in 1944, when satellite Colt plants were opened in the Hartford area. Colt's production in World War II included 575,600 Colt .45 caliber automatic Browning pistols (31% of those manufactured), 38,000 .30 caliber Browning aircraft machine guns (5%), and 240,600 .50 caliber Browning machine guns (13%).[55] These weapons continued to be used by the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, and the armies of other countries for decades after World

War II. The company's production of 37-mm guns, both aircraft and anti-aircraft, was essential. Under intense pressure from Ordnance officers, Colt Fire Arms produced more than 6,000 of these machine guns for mounting on U.S. warplanes in the desperate year of 1942.[56]

The U.S. Army licensed the patents for Colt-model automatic handguns, rifles, and machine guns and contracted with several other large corporations to manufacture them because the demand was greater than the Colt Fire Arms Company could fill on its own. The Colt Fire Arms Company, serving as a workshop for firearms design and production, provided the original designs and machine tools to other corporations. According to the *New York Times*, "The century-old Colt Company not only is producing the world's fastest machine gun in larger quantities and greater quality but is assisting half a dozen other potential producers to get underway."[57] General Motors received a contract to manufacture .50 caliber Browning machine guns.[58] Other companies included General Motors subsidiaries, Frigidaire, AC Spark Plug, Saginaw Gear Works, and Brown Light Works, as well as Buffalo Arms Company, Ithaca Gun Company, Kelsey Hays Wheel, Singer, Savage Arms Company, and Union Switch & Signal Company.

The Colt Fire Arms Company received the Army-Navy "E" award for production, but this honor concealed underlying problems. Despite initial advantages such as the long-standing partnership with the Army and long-standing experience in production, the company's performance in World War II was somewhat disappointing, especially when compared to its brilliant achievements in the previous war. Even while the Colt Fire Arms Company was producing weapons at a prodigious rate to support the war effort, it contrived to lose money beginning in 1943. The subsequent decline was foreshadowed by these wartime troubles.

It appears that the deeply rooted corporate culture that had brought success to Colt Fire Arms Company in the past began to work to its detriment. Traditional paternalism became inadequate in a time of increasing labor militancy, and the company had difficulty managing its greatly expanded workforce. Some of the manufacturing equipment and techniques tended to be outmoded, and the Colt Fire Arms customary stress on precision workmanship became increasingly out of place in a war that emphasized quantity and shortcuts.[59] Newcomers to weapons manufacture, unencumbered by accumulated precedent, were actually often at an advantage.[60]

By 1946, military orders had ceased and the number of Colt Fire Arms Company employees plunged below 1,000. Demolition of some Colt armory buildings began in 1947. The company struggled and was bought out by the conglomerate Penn-Texas in 1955. The main plant moved to West Hartford, but production of the Colt AR-15 and M-16 automatic rifles, introduced in 1960 and used by the American military since the Vietnam War, took place in the Machine Shop of the historic plant. The Colt Fire Arms Company finally abandoned its remaining operations at the Coltsville plant in 1993 and now all of its operations are headquartered in West Hartford. The Hartford area maintains a connection to the great age of precision manufacturing through the presence of the Colt Fire Arms Company and many independent machine shops. Most prominent among today's heirs of precision manufacturing is Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, which was spawned by Pratt & Whitney Machine Tools, which in turn grew out of the Colt Fire Arms factory.

The Creation of Coltsville

For nearly a century, the Colt Fire Arms Company was a national leader in small arms production and precision manufacturing. The industrial district known as Coltsville that Samuel Colt developed around his factory was an important example of a mid-19th-century planned urban industrial district. It expresses his assumptions about proper industrial design and is noteworthy because it represents a stage between the largely spontaneous villages that grew up around New England's water-powered textile mills and the (much less common) examples of totally planned industrial towns, such as Lowell, Massachusetts, and, later, Pullman, Illinois. The model industrial community created by Samuel and Elizabeth Colt included housing, recreation, and spiritual comfort. Coltsville's layout and individual features revealed the paternalistic and hierarchical attitudes that guided them, though the Colts' brand of paternalism was relatively benign. The Colts did not project stringent social control and moral supervision, mainly because the Colt Company was geographically integrated with the rest of Hartford and provided housing for only a fraction of its employees.[61]

Earlier in the 19th century, hundreds of textile mill communities had sprung up around water privileges in New England. In most of them there was no pre-existing settlement, so the entrepreneurs had to provide housing for their employees. Unlike them, Coltsville was developed as a neighborhood within an existing city. It represented the "metropolitan path to industrialization" described in the "American Labor History Draft Theme Study." This study has identified the old walking cities that were involved in diverse industrial production as meriting attention, particularly since many of these industrial districts have disappeared due to urban renewal and deindustrialization.[62] In contrast to the single-industry communities that arose in many parts of the country, particularly the New England textile towns, the "metropolitan" industrial centers produced numerous, synergistic industries. Hartford offers a good example of this: its first major industry—gun-making—spun off manufacturers of machine tools, sewing machines, typewriters, bicycles, automobiles, and aircraft engines.

View of "Potsdam" cottages and willow ware factory (no longer extant) on Curcombe Street. The cottages were named after "Potsdam" because they were designed in a German style that might appeal to willow ware workers Colt was recruiting from Germany. *Henry Barnard, Armsmear, 1866.*

In the early 1850s, Samuel Colt, after manufacturing his pistols in space leased from others, decided to create his own industrial settlement in the South Meadows section of Hartford, a sparsely developed area prone to flooding from the nearby Little River and Connecticut River. Since the South Meadows had not been considered buildable, Colt was able to purchase the land at a low price. He set about building a large, steam-powered factory, housing and social facilities for workers, and his own mansion Armsmear.

In order to make South Meadows secure for development, Colt built a dike along the bank of the Connecticut River. The dike and the first armory buildings were completed in 1855. Colt laid out a grid of streets, using romanticized names that recalled Hartford's origins. Street names commemorated the Native American occupancy and the Dutch presence, when the Connecticut River formed the eastern boundary of New Netherlands. Coltsville was connected to the rest of Hartford by the first omnibus and streetcar lines in the city. It was an integral part of Hartford, helping to spawn factories across the city, including Pratt & Whitney machine tools, Pope bicycles and automobiles, Royal typewriters, Underwood typewriters, and Atlantic screws. With its precision manufacturing and the emerging insurance industry, Hartford was one of the wealthiest American cities per capita by the early 20th century.

"Potsdam" cottages today. Some of the other "Potsdam" cottages now have modern siding. *James C. O'Connell, National Park Service.*

Soon after the armory was completed, Samuel Colt added 20 six/eight-family houses (10 of which survive) on Huyshope and Van Block Avenues to attract and retain skilled workers in a competitive labor market. Initially machinists, toolmakers, and other craftsmen lived there, but by the 1880s the blocks were primarily occupied by the families of unskilled laborers. The more affluent employees found better housing opportunities elsewhere in the city.[63] Colt's housing for workers was dissimilar from the boardinghouses built in New England textile cities like Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts, which were originally designed to exert paternalistic social control over the single young farm girls, who were the original employees. The growth of Colt's enterprise meant that only a small proportion of employees could be housed on company property. Samuel Colt's paternalistic vision of a self-contained industrial community gradually faded as Hartford became a complex industrial city with a wide array of employers.

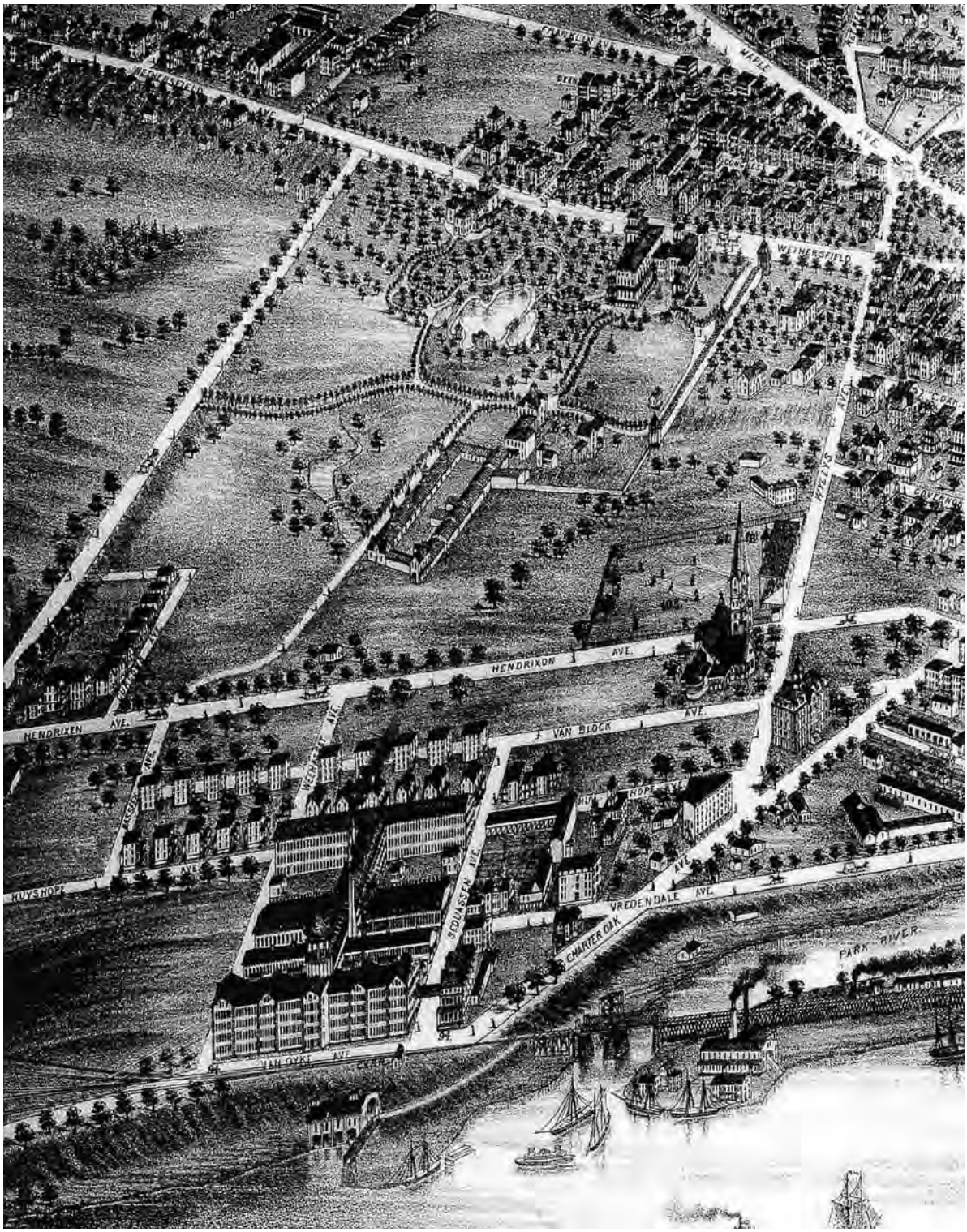
An integral element of Samuel Colt's industrial community was the Colt Willow Ware Manufacturing Company, established in 1859 to make use of the willow trees that were planted to stabilize the earthworks of the dike. This subsidiary employed about 120 people, who made baskets, wicker furniture, picture frames, and similar items from willow trees. Colt hoped that the wives and children of his pistol makers would find useful employment at the willow ware factory. The "Potsdam" cottages (nine of the original 10 survive) were designed in a "Carpenter Gothic" style reminiscent of Germanic styles to make them attractive to the German willow workers Colt recruited to staff the factory. The willow ware complex also included several eighteen-family tenements, which have been demolished. The willow ware factory building itself was never rebuilt after a fire in 1873. Even before the willow ware operation was discontinued, armory workers occupied some of the cottages.[64]

In 1876, the Hartford Dark Blues baseball team became a charter member of the National League. After one season, the franchise moved to Brooklyn and later became known as the Dodgers. This close-up of the "Bird's-Eye View" shows the playing field on the left and the grandstand on the right. *From The City of Hartford, Connecticut, 1877. Connecticut Historical Society.*

Samuel Colt believed that it was important to create a stable community for his workers, a community which expressed the social hierarchy of owners, managers, and workers. It was especially important to provide amenities for the skilled workers he was trying to attract, many of whom were recruited from Germany. He provided varied recreational and educational facilities for his employees.[65] Charter Oak Hall (no longer extant) contained reading rooms, classes in art and music, and an auditorium for lectures, entertainments, and dances. Colt created a German beer garden and sponsored militia companies—Colt's Armory Guards and Colt's Rifle Regiment. The Colt Band was a fixture at parades and civic events in Hartford through World War II. The company also sponsored baseball teams, an Armory Glee Club, an Armory Dramatic Association, and Mechanics Balls. On July 4th, Colt sponsored fireworks displays and picnics on the grounds of his estate, which later became Colt Park. On the Colt-owned property now occupied by the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House, the Hartford Dark Blues baseball team played as a charter member of the National League in 1876. The baseball field, which was used during the 1870s, included one of the nation's first wooden grandstands. Colt factory workers were often spectators at these early major league baseball games.

Mrs. Elizabeth Colt, the daughter of a prominent Episcopal minister, endowed the Coltsville neighborhood with an Episcopal church, combining paternalism with her sustained effort to perpetuate a carefully controlled version of her husband's memory. The Episcopalian denomination was the church of many of Hartford's leading families. Colt historian Ellsworth S. Grant observes that "To be an Episcopalian was to reach the pinnacle of social success . . . closer to those who composed the power structure of the city and to their wives who dictated social behavior, like Mrs. Samuel Colt."[66] Her Church of the Good Shepherd reinforced the social status of the owners while expressing the importance of religion as an influence in an industrial community. As Grant notes, "As long as Mrs. Colt lived it was a sensible idea for Colt executives to belong to the Church of the Good Shepherd."[67] Despite the elite status of the Episcopal Church, the Church of the Good Shepherd was attended by a cross-section of company executives and workers, growing continuously from its founding in the 1860s until well into the 20th century.[68] As further expression of her concern about the religious and social welfare of working people, Mrs. Colt built the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House to provide such amenities as a kindergarten, Sunday School, library, sewing room, cooking school, gymnasium, pool tables, and bowling alleys (in addition to serving the purposes of commemorating her son).[69] The church and parish house are located two blocks northwest of the factory complex.

Samuel and Elizabeth Colt built an elaborate mansion several blocks from the industrial complex in 1857 and called it Armsmear. Samuel Colt himself was responsible for the overall design, working with local architect Octavius Jordan. Armsmear featured Italianate and Moorish decoration.[70] Next to P.T. Barnum's Iranistan in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Colt's Armsmear was considered the "most exotic house. . . incorporating some Eastern features" anywhere in America before the Civil War.[71] After Samuel's death, Armsmear was home to Elizabeth Colt and her brother Richard Jarvis, who served as president of the company until it was sold to New York investors in 1901. Samuel and Elizabeth's son Caldwell Colt also lived there, though his contributions to the company's management were small. A second large Italianate villa house on the grounds of Armsmear was built to house Samuel Colt's brother James. James Colt was Samuel's close associate in his early dealings. James Colt left the company when the two brothers fell out in 1859. During the 1880s Elizabeth Colt built four houses, two of which remain, on the southern edge of the estate, fronting on Wethersfield Avenue, for armory managers and their families and the rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd.



"Bird's-Eye View" of Coltsville. Note the ball field where the Hartford Dark Blues are playing, next to the Church of the Good Shepherd. *From The City of Hartford, Connecticut, 1877. Connecticut Historical Society.*

As originally designed, the Colt estate grounds, now Colt Park, illustrated the hierarchical nature of the Coltsville community, as conceived by Samuel and Elizabeth Colt. The estate grounds, designed by landscape architecture pioneers Robert Morris Copeland and H.W. S. Cleveland, originally included ponds, outdoor sculpture, a huge greenhouse, and gardens and bowers. In the typical New England textile village, the owners and managers lived on a hill overlooking the factory. Samuel Colt adopted and expanded upon this layout, placing the real and symbolic separation of the estate grounds between his ornate home and the factory that was the source of his wealth. Other company managers lived on the hill, from where they were able to oversee the industrial operation in both senses of the word. The Colts' elaborate landscaped buffer zone was reminiscent of Leo Marx's insight about the "machine in the garden," in which early American industrialists attempted to mitigate the negative impacts of manufacturing (in a deliberate effort to avoid the British experience of industrial squalor) by placing their factories in attractive natural surroundings.

The Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House still serves as a community center. It was designed by Edward Tuckerman Potter in 1896. *James C. O'Connell, National Park Service.*

By the time of Elizabeth Colt's death in 1905, it was a widespread belief that open space relieved the harmful effects of urban industrial life, so she bequeathed her estate's grounds to the city as a public park. Today, athletic fields and structures have replaced Colt garden structures and plantings, yet the contemporary Colt Park still represents the open space that was between Armsmear and the other splendid residences on Wethersfield Avenue and the industrial zone. The Armsmear gardener's cottage and a large stable still stand behind the main house in Colt Park.

The "American Labor History Draft Theme Study" describes the importance of understanding the work and social lives of manufacturing workers. At Coltsville, the skilled workforce was relatively well paid and the Colt Company provided such benefits as housing and social activities for workers. According to historian David Nelson, gun makers held a leading place in the ranks of industrial workers, especially compared with workers in iron and steel, textiles, and shoe-making: "precision-machinery manufacturers had established what even by twentieth-century standards were reasonably attractive and healthy working conditions."[72] Felicia Deyrup called armory workers like those at Colt Fire Arms a "favored class."[73] The highly skilled workforce developed at the Colt Fire Arms Company factory helped create the labor pool that staffed many other industrial enterprises in Hartford during the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.

The "American Labor History Draft Theme Study" also describes how immigrants and minorities found occupational niches in certain industries. Notably, Germans and Irish in the 19th century and African-Americans from the South in the 20th found job opportunities in Hartford at the Colt Fire Arms Company plant. The factory relied on Irish immigrants to serve as skilled blacksmiths as well as unskilled labor. So many Irish men were employed by Colt that in 1859 a second Catholic parish was founded in the south end of the city.[74] When African-Americans migrated from the South to Hartford during World War II, one of their primary destinations was a job in the Colt Fire Arms Company factory.[75]

The institutions and memorials that Elizabeth Colt built in honor of her husband and her son Caldwell were important elements of Coltsville. Elizabeth Colt was devoted to celebrating her husband as one of America's industrial giants. The Colts felt that the Hartford community, Samuel's home town, had been hostile to his enterprises, and they wanted to trumpet his success. In pious Victorian fashion, Elizabeth Colt memorialized her husband's accomplishments by commissioning the Church of the Good Shepherd (1869). Designed by architect Edward Tuckerman Potter, who also designed the Mark Twain House in Hartford, the church has stonework depicting revolvers and bullet moulds and a stained-glass window portraying Samuel Colt as Joseph serving as the Egyptian pharaoh's steward. Mrs. Colt later commissioned the Colt Memorial Statue (1905) in Colt Park, which depicts the rise of Colt from a cabin boy whittling a model revolver to a confident titan of industry. After her son Caldwell died in Florida in 1894, Mrs. Colt commissioned Edward Tuckerman Potter to design the Caldwell Colt Memorial House (1896) as a parish and community hall.

The memorials also represent Elizabeth Colt's role as a leading philanthropist. During his lifetime, Samuel Colt contributed to the establishment of Hartford Hospital and proposed to establish a technical college in Hartford, but he died before his vision was realized. After Samuel Colt died, Elizabeth Colt became a civic leader in Hartford, organizing and providing financial support for many social welfare causes and leading an 1878 effort to consolidate all local charities into a single coordinated charity. Elizabeth Colt served as President of the Soldiers Aid Society during the Civil War, the Hartford Arts Society, The Union for Home Work (a pioneering social service agency), and the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames. In her final bequest, she donated Armsmear to become a retirement home for women; the grounds of the estate for a public park; and her art collection to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art along with funds to build a museum wing to house her collection. When she died, the *Hartford Courant* wrote of Elizabeth Colt: "What she has done for this community is incalculable … She was the First Woman of Connecticut."

Armsmear, south elevation, ca. 1870. *Museum of Connecticut History.*

After Elizabeth Colt's death, the Colt Fire Arms Company, then owned by a limited partnership, continued to sponsor social activities for workers, including the Colt Band, sports teams, and company picnics. Nevertheless, corporate paternalism was in decline. Coltsville became more integrated into the economy and urban landscape of Greater Hartford, exemplifying the "metropolitan path to industrialization" described in the "American Labor History Draft Theme Study." The focus of Coltsville was the factory complex, which underwent a massive expansion during World War I to support the arms buildup. Up through World War II, the Colt Fire Arms Company remained one of the nation's leading small arms producers and was a vital contributor to United States military efforts. The historic factory complex remains: the site of innovative arms-making and American precision manufacturing in the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.

Endnotes

[1] Elisha Collier, of Boston, designed a flintlock revolver with a rotating chamber breech in 1818, but it had to be rotated manually. Colt developed a cocking hammer, which caused the chamber to rotate when it was cocked. Harold Evans, *They Made America, From The Steam Engine to the Search Engine: Two Centuries of Innovators* (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2004), p. 61.

[2] Walter Prescott Webb, *The Great Frontier* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1964), p. 245.

[3] Robert M. Utley, *Frontiersman in Blue: The United States Army and the Indian*, 1866-1890 (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc., 1967), pp. 26-27.

[4] Robert Hendrickson, *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins*, 3rd ed. (New York: Checkmark Books, 2004), p. 166.

[5] Roger D. McGrath, *Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1984), p. 5.

[6] John Cawelti, *The Six-Gun Mystique*, 2nd ed. (Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1984), p. 86.

[7] "A Revolving Patriot," *New York Times*, April 26, 1861.

[8] Nathan Rosenberg, *Perspectives in Technology* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1976), p. 19.

[9] Matthew W. Roth, *Connecticut: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites* (Washington, D.C.: Society for Industrial Archeology and Historic American Engineering Record, 1981), p. 50.

[10] Eugene S. Ferguson, "History and Historiography," *Yankee Enterprise: The Rise of the American System of Manufactures*, ed. Otto Mayr and Robert C. Post (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1981), pp. 3-4. Ferguson explained that there was a distinction between "interchangeable parts" and "mechanized production." Industry did not achieve complete interchangeability of parts until the 20th century. Ferguson explained: "Most of the parts of a Colt revolver were interchangeable, but the hand fitting in its final assembly was inevitable, given the practical impossibility of making at any reasonable cost parts that would fit very snugly and at the same time be interchangeable." Ferguson, p. 4.

[11] David Hounshell, *From the American System to Mass Production: The Development of Manufacturing Technology in the United States* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984), p. 49. Hounshell points out that "uniformity [or interchangeability of parts] would be an effect, not an absolute goal, of mechanization" and that Samuel Colt did not attain complete mechanization of manufacturing processes, since that goal was not cost-effective. Despite the fact that Colt workers filed and fitted certain gun parts during the manufacturing process, Hounsell argues that "The lack of interchangeability of revolver parts by no means precludes characterizing Colt's production technology as embodying the American system of arms manufacture."

[12] Jack Kelly, "'The Most Perfect Weapon,'" *Invention & Technology*, Fall, 2004, p. 25. Historian Donald R. Hoke has written that "Root probably was not the first to conceive of the system as a system, or to engage in system thinking, but he was probably one of the earliest to do so and one of the most influential," Donald R. Hoke, *Ingenious Yankees: The Rise of the American System of Manufactures in the Private Sector* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1990), p. 122.

[13] Joseph Wickham Roe, *English and American Tool Builders* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1916), p. 169.

[14] Merritt Roe Smith, "Army Ordinance and the 'American System' of Manufacturing, 1815-1861," *Military Enterprise and Technological Change: Perspectives on the American Experience*, ed. Merritt Roe Smith, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1985), p. 78. According to David Hounshell, the Singer Sewing Machine Company adopted the American system of manufactures piecemeal between 1863 and 1873 "only after a Yankee mechanic and a local machinist [Andrew R. Arnold and Lebbeus B. Miller] were hired who knew a little about how things were done at the Colt Armory." David Hounshell, "The System: Theory and Practice," Mayr and Post, p. 136.

[15] National Park Service, *Connecticut River Valley Special Resource Reconnaissance Study* (Boston: National Park Service Northeast Region, 1998), p. 31.

[16] William Hosley, *Colt: The Making of an American Legend* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1996), p. 34. Business historian Michael Best provides a case study describing how the Connecticut Valley precision manufacturing district was the cradle of the "American System of Manufacture." Michael Best, *The New Competition: Institutions of Industrial Restructuring* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990), pp. 29-45.

[17] Quoted in Ellsworth S. Grant, *Yankee Dreamers and Doers: The Story of Connecticut Manufacturing* (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society & Fenwick Productions, 1974), p. 245. Mark Twain lived in Hartford between 1874 and 1891. Here he raised a family and wrote such classics as *Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, The Prince and the Pauper, Life on the Mississippi,* and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. The Twain house, a 19-room Victorian gingerbread mansion, is part of the Mark Twain Museum Center.

[18] Charles H. Fitch, "Report on the Manufactures of Interchangeable Mechanism," U.S. Census Office, *Report of the Manufactures of the United States at the Tenth Census*, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1883, pp. 611-645.

[19] Joseph Bradley, *Guns for the Tsar* (DeKalb, IL: University of Northern Illinois Press, 1990), passim.

[20] Colt Fire Arms Company manufactured Baxter portable steam engines between 1868 and 1898. Louis C. Hunter, *A History of Industrial Power in the United States, 1780-1930–Volume Two: Steam Power* (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1985), pp. 494-496. Colt Fire Arms Company manufactured "Universal" printing presses between 1873 and 1902. Fred Williams, "The Great Colt's Armory War!," Type and Press, Winter, 1983.

[21] Roe, pp. 174-179.

[22] Geoffrey Perret, *A Country Made by War* (New York: Random House, 1989), p. 306.

[23] Roth, p. xxi.

[24] "American Labor History Draft Theme Study," pp. 41-74.

[25] News accounts and popular literature are full of stories emphasizing the "Colt" brand name when mentioning revolvers. *The New York Times* May 15, 1865 account of the capture of Confederate President Jefferson Davis by Union troops described how Davis "yielded promptly to the persuasions of Colt's revolvers, without compelling the men to fire." The far-flung presence of Colt revolvers and Brownings is described in Mikhail Bulgakov's Russian novel set in the Russian Civil War, *The White Guard*: "The Colt Automatic that had belonged to Nai-Turs and Alyosha's Browning were thoroughly greased with engine oil and paraffin." Mikhail Bulgakov, *The White Guard* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1971), p. 194.

[26] Felicia Johnson Deyrup, *Arms Makers of the Connecticut Valley: A Regional Study of the Economic Development of the Arms Industry, 1798-1870* (York, PA: George Shumway, Publisher, 1970), p. 124.

[27] Betsy Hunter Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), p. 119.

[28] Mark Snell, *From First to Last: The Life of Major General William B. Franklin* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2002), p. 339. Sara Wermiel, *The Fireproof Building: Technology and Public Safety in the Nineteenth-Century American City* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), pp. 154-156. It should be emphasized that this fireproof technology only made these buildings somewhat more fire retardant.

[29] Daniel Nelson, *Managers and Workers: Origins of the New Factory System in the United States, 1880-1920* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1975), p. 21.

[30] Hunter, pp. 450-472.

[31] A sampling of official U.S. Army Ordnance Department staff assignments published in the *New York Times* between 1890 and World War I mentions that Army officers stationed at the Springfield Armory were making inspections at the Colt factory. *New York Times*, June 23, 1891; August 6, 1892; August 21, 1898; October 26, 1898; January 29, 1903; April 2, 1904; February 9, 1908; December 31, 1910; March 20, 1912; February 26, 1913.

[32] John Browning [Jr.] and Curt Gentry, *John M. Browning, American Gunmaker* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1964, p. 150. Before working with Colt Fire Arms, John Browning worked with Winchester Repeating Arms on designing repeating rifles and shotguns. In the 20th century, he also maintained a relationship with the Belgian arms manufacturer Fabrique National.

[33] *Ibid.*, pp. 117, 169, 196.

[34] Ellsworth Grant, *The Colt Legacy: The Colt Armory in Hartford, 1855-1980* (Providence, RI: Mowbray Company, 1982), pp. 94, 97.

[35] George B. Johnson and Hans Bert Lockhoven, *International Armament*, Vol. II (Cologne, Germany: International Small Arms Publishers, 1965), pp. 289, 412.

[36] *Ibid.*, p. 162.

[37] Grant, pp. 221-222.

[38] John Ellis, *The Social History of the Machine Gun* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), p. 23.

[39] Roger Ford, *The Grim Reaper* (New York: Sarpedon, 1996), p. 71.

[40] U.S. Navy Department Bureau of Ordnance, *Navy Ordnance Activities. World War I, 1917-1918* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1920), p. 71; Buford Rowland and William B. Boyd, *U.S. Navy Bureau of Ordnance in World War II* (Washington, DC: Government Printing office, 1953), p. 332.

[41] Charles W. Clawson, *Colt .45 Service Pistols: Models of 1911 and 1911A1* (n.p.: Charles W. Clawson, 1991), p. 212; Ian V. Hogg, and John Walter, *Pistols of the World*, 4th edition (Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 2004), pp. 76, 292; Dolf L. Goldsmith, *The Grand Old Lady of No Man's Land: The Vickers Machinegun* (Coburn, ON: Collector Grade Publications, 1994), pp. 225-226; James L. Ballou, *Rock in a Hard Place: The Browning Automatic Rifle* (Coburn, ON: Collector Grade Publications, 2000), p. 62. According an article "Vickers Gun Wins Board's Award," *New York Times*, Nov. 11, 1916, "The Colt company has been selling practically its entire output of Vickers guns to the Entente Allies since the war began."

[42] Johnson and Lockhoven, pp. 289, 440.

[43] According to an article "Colts to Increase Plant," *New York Times*, June 30, 1915, the Colt Fire Arms Company "has decided to double its plant to fill huge war orders for machine guns." Amy E. Slaton, *Reinforced Concrete and the Modernization of American Building*, 1900-1930 (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), pp. 160-161.

[44] Grant, p. 103.

[45] *Ibid.*, p. 94.

[46] Browning and Gentry, p. 212.

[47] Constance McLaughlin Green, Harry C. Thomson, and Peter C. Roots, *The Ordnance Department: Planning Munitions for War* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Military History, 1955), p. 407.

[48] *Ibid.*, p. 178.

[49] *Ibid.*, p. 423.

[50] Harry C. Thomson and Lida Mayo, *The United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services; The Ordnance Department: Procurement and Supply* (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1960), pp. 26, 156, 179.

[51] National Historic Landmarks Survey, "National Historic Landmark Draft Theme Study: World War II and the American Home Front" (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2004), p. 2.

[52] Johnson and Lockhoven, Vol. II, p. 433.

[53] Thomson and Mayo, p. 159.

[54] *Ibid.*, p. 27.

[55] Clawson, p. 344; Goldsmith, p. 407; Ballou, pp. 55-68.

[56] Thomson and Mayo, p. 80.

[57] "Huge New Industry for Machine Guns," *New York Times*, March 7, 1941.

[58] Eliot Janeway, *The Struggle for Survival: A Chronicle of Economic Mobilization in World War II* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951), pp. 213-214.

[59] Grant, p. 159. Ellsworth Grant's book mentioned that the Colt Fire Arms Company was in the "incipient stage of its downfall" by 1943. Grant, p. 162.

[60] Thomson and Mayo, pp. 78, 80, 181.

[61] Industrial paternalism was strongest in communities that were small and isolated and less so in urban settings. Margaret Crawford, *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns* (New York: Verso, 1995), p. 31.

[62] "American Labor History Draft Theme Study," pp. 18, 49.

[63] Social composition of the housing derived from listing in the 1880 manuscript census schedules for Hartford, microfilm, Connecticut State Library.

[64] City directory listings in 1869, for example, include four willow-ware workers and five pistol makers, as well as four laborers and a silver-plater who probably worked at the armory as well. *Geer's Hartford City Directory for 1869–70* (Hartford: Elihu Geer, 1869).

[65] Jack Rohan, *Yankee Arms Maker* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1935), p. 184.

[66] Grant, p. 83.

[67] *Ibid.*, p. 83.

[68] The Church of the Good Shepherd parish began as a mission of St. John's Episcopal Church on Main Street and operated out of Charter Oak Hall until the church was completed in 1869. Church records indicate a broad range of members from the Colt family and General William B. Franklin to pistol makers, printers, lumbermen, bookkeepers, and painters living in company housing to other persons living in the general area. "Church of the Good Shepherd Baptisms, Burials, Communicants and Marriages, 1865-1876," pp. 14-22. Episcopal Church Records, Connecticut Diocese Archives, Hartford, CT. The occupations of members have been identified by cross-referencing with the *1865 Hartford City Directory*. Parish records show that the number of parish families grew steadily from 150 families in 1869 to 375 families in 1924.

[69] Hosley, p. 209.

[70] *Ibid.*, p. 138.

[71] Clive Aslett, *The American Country House* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990), p. 30.

[72] David Nelson, "The American System and the American Worker," eds. Otto Mayr and Robert C. Post, *Yankee Enterprise: The Rise of the American System of Manufacturers* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1981), p. 173. Nelson argued that the "American system" produced a new, more highly organized labor force and conditions of work: "The manufacturer who introduced the American system installed more than a series of machines and a system of machine production; he also made fundamental decisions regarding the treatment of his labor force, his relations with his subordinates, and, ultimately, his conception of social progress." Nelson, p. 173.

[73] Deyrup, pp. 163-164.

[74] Bruce Clouette, "Getting Their Share: The Irish and Italian Immigrants of Hartford, Connecticut," unpublished Ph.D. diss., University of Connecticut, 1992.

[75] "Semi-Skilled Negroes Find More Jobs Open," *New York Times*, May 3, 1942.

[76] *Hartford Courant*, August 24, 1905.

Chapter 3: Designation Analysis

Introduction

For a determination to be made as to whether a resource should be considered for potential designation as a unit of the national park system, analyses are conducted based on criteria established by Congress in *Title III of Public Law 105-39* and in accordance with NPS *Management Policies 2006*. To be eligible for consideration, an area must:

(1) possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources;
(2) be a suitable addition to the system;
(3) be a feasible addition to the system; and
(4) require direct NPS management instead of alternative protection by other public agencies or the private sector.

This chapter evaluates the Coltsville Historic District and applies the criteria for designation as a potential unit of the national park system cited above.

Colt East Armory blue onion dome. *James C. O'Connell, National Park Service.*

National Significance Analysis

NPS *Management Policies 2006* provide that a resource will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following criteria:

(1) is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource;
(2) possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage;
(3) offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment, or for scientific study; and
(4) retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

The national significance of cultural resources is evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmark (NHL) criteria contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 65. National significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture, and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and that:

> *are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or*
>
> *are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or*

represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or

embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or

have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

When evaluating national significance in congressionally authorized special resource studies, resources that have been designated as NHLs are considered to already have been determined to be nationally significant and require no further analysis. Resources associated with the Coltsville Historic District have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior as an NHL for reasons identified in the NHL nomination. Chapter 2 of this report contains much of that information. These resources, therefore, meet the criterion for national significance.

The study team confirmed that the resources of the district retain integrity. The Coltsville Historic District National Historic Landmark nomination states that Coltsville retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The location, setting, feeling, and association of Coltsville maintain their integrity since the site is the same one laid out by Samuel Colt in 1855 in Hartford's South Hartford. The Coltsville Historic District is a cohesive cultural landscape that reflects the industrial social hierarchy, with the Colt family and other managers residing in mansions on the hill overlooking the Colt factory and the homes of workers. Importantly, Coltsville maintains its association with Samuel Colt, Elizabeth Colt, and the Colt Fire Arms Company which they founded and developed. The factory complex, their residence, worker housing, and church and social institutions remain to interpret those associations.

The design, materials, and workmanship of the factory complex evolved over the years, reflecting the evolution of factory design and construction technologies through the latter 19th and early 20th centuries. The Coltsville buildings that remain from the period of significance (1855-1945) maintain their integrity of materials and workmanship, enabling the visitor to understand the evolution of the Colt Fire Arms factory. The exteriors appear very much as they did during the period of significance. The interiors have not housed substantial gun manufacturing operations for over 40 years (a limited amount of firearms design occurred in the Machine Shop until 1993). In recent decades, much of the space was subdivided for use by small businesses, artist studios, and a limited number of apartments. Between 2003 and 2008, a developer of the factory complex transformed the Machine Shop into office space, the brick warehouse into school and office use, and part of the South Armory into apartments. These buildings have been rehabilitated in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards regarding character-defining features such as windows, roofs, and facades.

The Italianate exterior of Armsmear has been modified, but it still retains much of its original architectural form and features. The interior has been altered to create apartments, but three public rooms remain relatively unchanged and retain much of the original decoration. Colt Park, which had contained the gardens of the Colt family before being bequeathed to the City of Hartford in 1905, now is used mainly for athletic fields, but the sense of the estate grounds can still be appreciated.

Ten multi-family worker tenements and nine "Potsdam" cottages remain. The worker houses are relatively unaltered from their historic appearance. The exteriors of the James Colt House and the Elizabeth Colt Rental Houses at 180 and 184 Wethersfield Avenue retain most of their original Italianate features. The exterior and interior of the Gothic Revival Church of the Good Shepherd and its Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House appear very much as they did when they were built.

Colt East Armory. *Jet Lowe, Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service.*

Suitability Analysis

According to National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*, an area is considered suitable for addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the national park system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state or local governments; or the private sector.

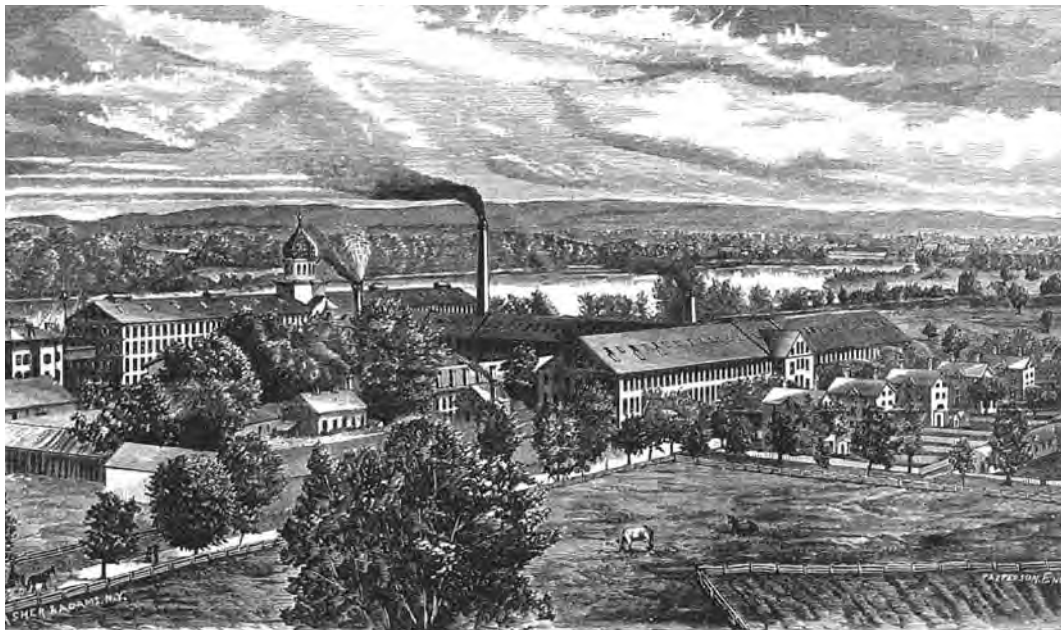
It is important to note that the suitability analysis is not limited, simply, to whether resources are represented in the national park system, but the analysis extends to similar resources protected by other entities. Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the proposed area to other units in the national park system for differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The comparative analysis also addresses rarity of resources; interpretive and educational potential; and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource-protection or visitor-use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

In evaluating the suitability of cultural resources within or outside the national park system, the Service uses its "Thematic Framework" (1994) for history and prehistory. The framework is an outline of major themes and concepts that help to conceptualize American history. It is used to assist in the identification of cultural resources that embody America's past and to describe and analyze the

multiple layers of history encapsulated within each resource. The thematic framework reflects an interdisciplinary, less compartmentalized approach to American history through eight concepts that encompass the multi-faceted and interrelated nature of human experience. The concepts are:

(1) Peopling Places;
(2) Creating Social Institutions;
(3) Expressing Cultural Values;
(4) Shaping the Political Landscape;
(5) Developing the American Economy;
(6) Expanding Science and Technology;
(7) Transforming the Environment;
(8) Changing Role of the United States in the World Community.

Coltsville relates to three themes from the NPS Thematic Framework—*Developing the American Economy, Expanding Science and Technology,* and the *Changing Role of the United States in the World Community*.



View of Colt Fire Arms complex, looking southeast. The worker housing is visible on the right. *From Asher & Adams Pictorial Album of American Industry, 1876.*

Developing the American Economy—This theme reflects the ways Americans have worked, including slavery, servitude, and non-wage, as well as paid labor. It also reflects the ways they have materially sustained themselves by the processes of extraction, agriculture, production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Topics that help define this theme include extraction and production, distribution and consumption, workers and work culture, labor organizations and protests, exchange and trade, and economic theory. These topics are commonly applicable to historic industrial districts such as the Coltsville Historic District.

Developing the American Economy: Production—This topic is illustrated by the pivotal role the Colt Fire Arms Company played in advancing large-scale American manufacturing.

Developing the American Economy: Distribution and Consumption—This topic is illustrated by the manner in which Colt handguns became important consumer products, particularly in the West. The company's marketing and distribution techniques played an important role in developing the American consumer society.

Developing the American Economy: Workers and Work Culture—This topic is reflected in Coltsville's ability to tell the stories of skilled precision manufacturing workers and portray their social life through worker housing and community institutions. Coltsville epitomizes the paternalistic nature of corporate worker policies during this period.

Expanding Science and Technology—This theme focuses on science, which is modern civilization's way of organizing and conceptualizing knowledge about the world and the universe beyond. This is done through the physical sciences, the social sciences, and medicine. Technology is the application of human ingenuity to modification of the environment in both modern and traditional cultures. Topics that help define this theme include experimentation and invention, technological applications, scientific thought and theory, and effects on lifestyle and health.

Expanding Science and Technology: Experimentation and Invention, and Technological Applications—These themes are illustrated by the Colt Fire Arms Company's inventions and technologically-advanced products and the development and applications of precision manufacturing processes that influenced other industries during the second half of the 19th century.

Changing Role of the United States in the World Community—This theme explores diplomacy, trade, cultural exchange, security and defense, expansionism—and, at times, imperialism. Topics that help define this theme include international relations, commerce, expansionism and imperialism, and immigration and emigration policies.

Changing Role of the United States in the World Community: Commerce—The Colt Fire Arms Company relates to this topic. The "American System of Manufacture," as articulated by Samuel Colt at London's Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1851 and implemented at his Hartford Armory, provided the basis for subsequent industrial expansion and allowed the United States to become a world power. Samuel Colt's London factory (1853) was one of the first American manufacturing companies to locate abroad. This theme is also illustrated by arms development and production by the Colt Fire Arms Company during World War I and World War II, when the factory was a foundational element of America's global military-industrial complex, providing weapons to allied countries such as Great Britain and Russia.

The pistons that ran the machinery of the Colt East Armory can still be seen in the lobby beneath the blue onion dome. *Jet Lowe, Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service.*

Units of the National Park System and Sites Managed by Others Related to the Themes

Within the national park system several units interpret resources related to the themes of *Developing the American Economy, Expanding Science and Technology* and the *Changing Role of the United States in the World Community*. The most comparable units are Lowell National Historical Park, Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Edison National Historical Park, and Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park.

Lowell National Historical Park (Massachusetts) tells the story of the development of American industrialization as it occurred in the textile industry. Lowell emphasizes the topics of *Developing the American Economy: Production; Workers and Work Culture*, as one of the first and most influential planned industrial communities in America. Lowell interprets mass production, Yankee working girls, immigrants, corporate paternalism, union organization, working and living conditions, and the consequences of deindustrialization. Lowell also interprets the theme *Expanding Science and Technology: Experimentation and Invention* by interpreting the role of industrial waterpower and the mechanical innovations that made the mass production of textiles possible.

Springfield Armory National Historic Site (Massachusetts) preserves and interprets the federally owned and operated Springfield Armory (1794-1968). Springfield Armory interprets the industrial processes that produced military firearms. Its exhibit features the Benton Small Arms Collection. Springfield Armory was a federal installation producing military armaments, therefore it does not provide an opportunity for understanding the entrepreneurial production and marketing of privately-owned weapons for mass consumption.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (West Virginia) includes the federal armory at Harpers Ferry (1799-1861), which was an early innovator in using interchangeable parts for the manufacture of rifles. Today, only the ruins remain of the armory.

Edison National Historical Park (New Jersey) preserves and interprets the home and factory, as well as the inventions of Thomas Alva Edison, including the phonograph, movie camera, and alkaline storage battery. It also provides public understanding of how inventions were manufactured and commercialized by his company for mass distribution.

Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park (New Jersey) is in the process of being established pursuant to the recently enacted Omnibus Lands Management Act (Public Law 111-11). The Great Falls Historic District, of which the park is a part, is an industrial complex begun by Alexander Hamilton and the Society for Establishing Useful Manufacturers in 1791. It is significant as the first American attempt to harness the power of a major river for a planned industrial city. Multiple industries in Paterson included textile, silk and railroad locomotive manufacturing among others. Samuel Colt produced his first revolvers, between 1836 and 1841 in Paterson, New Jersey. The building used by Colt in Paterson exists as a ruin (it was subject to arson in the 1980s).

Other units of the national park system that interpret one or more of these themes include Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site (Massachusetts) and Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (Massachusetts). Both units interpret the history of various phases of iron manufacturing. Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park (California) interprets the role of heavy industries, particularly shipyards, in supplying the war effort during World War II. It commemorates the contributions of women in the World War II workforce.

Several National Heritage Areas interpret industrial themes. The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (Massachusetts & Rhode Island) is one of the earliest industrialized areas of the country. It includes Slater Mill, an NHL in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, which was the first textile mill in America. Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area (Pennsylvania) interprets the steel industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (Pennsylvania) tells the story of how the Delaware and Lehigh Canals and associated railroads opened up anthracite coal mines in Eastern Pennsylvania, which helped fuel much industrial development. MotorCities National Heritage Area (Michigan) tells the story of automobile manufacturing. Of the several themes interpreted by the Essex National Heritage Area (Massachusetts), the shipbuilding, shoe, and textile industries are among them. The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (New York) includes industry and commerce among its heritage themes.

The suitability analysis also examines whether these themes are represented at "protected areas" managed by private entities. There are many sites operated by non-profit entities interpreting industrial enterprises.

Aspects of firearms industry history and precision manufacturing are interpreted at the American Precision Museum (Robbins & Lawrence Armory & Machine Shop NHL) in Windsor, Vermont. The American Precision Museum focuses on interpreting its large collection of machine tools. The exhibit does not treat the broader technological, business, and social implications of manufacturing and does not carry the story into the 20th century. The Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden, Connecticut, located at the site of Eli Whitney's firearms factory, focuses primarily on K-12 science and technology education and does little to interpret the history of the Whitney factory and precision manufacturing.

The Smithsonian Institution and the Henry Ford Museum, in Dearborn, Michigan, have large collections of many kinds of manufacturing machinery, much of which is not on public display. The Hagley Museum, in Wilmington, Delaware, interprets various aspects of American industrial history, including the gunpowder and explosives manufacturing undertaken in the Brandywine Valley, most notably by the DuPont Company.

There are a number of museums across the country displaying collections of historic firearms, though they tend not to focus on the manufacturing and business aspects of the story. One of the leading collections of Colt firearms is at the Cody Firearms Museum, which is part of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming.

In Hartford, the Museum of Connecticut History and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art each have collections of Colt firearms, machinery, and memorabilia related to Samuel and

Elizabeth Colt and the Colt Fire Arms Company. Both of these museums have indicated an interest in participating in collaborative efforts to interpret Coltsville in partnership with the National Park Service.

Coltsville enhances appreciation of the branch of industrialization based on precision manufacturing, a class of industry that is under-represented in the current listing of NHLs. NHLs such as the Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the Harrisville mill village in Harrisville, New Hampshire, the Boston Manufacturing Company mills in Waltham, Massachusetts, the Lowell National Historic Park, the Lowell Locks and Canals Historic District in Lowell, Massachusetts, and the Cheney Brothers silk mills Historic District in Manchester, Connecticut, illustrate textile manufacturing, a branch of industrialization whose impacts were quite different from those of precision manufacturing.

Despite the number of National Park units and private "protected areas" that interpret industrial history, no site fully interprets precision manufacturing or the large-scale private-sector firearms manufacturing that developed during the second half of the 19th century.

Based upon the preceding analysis and that in Chapter 2 of this report, the following conclusions have emerged:

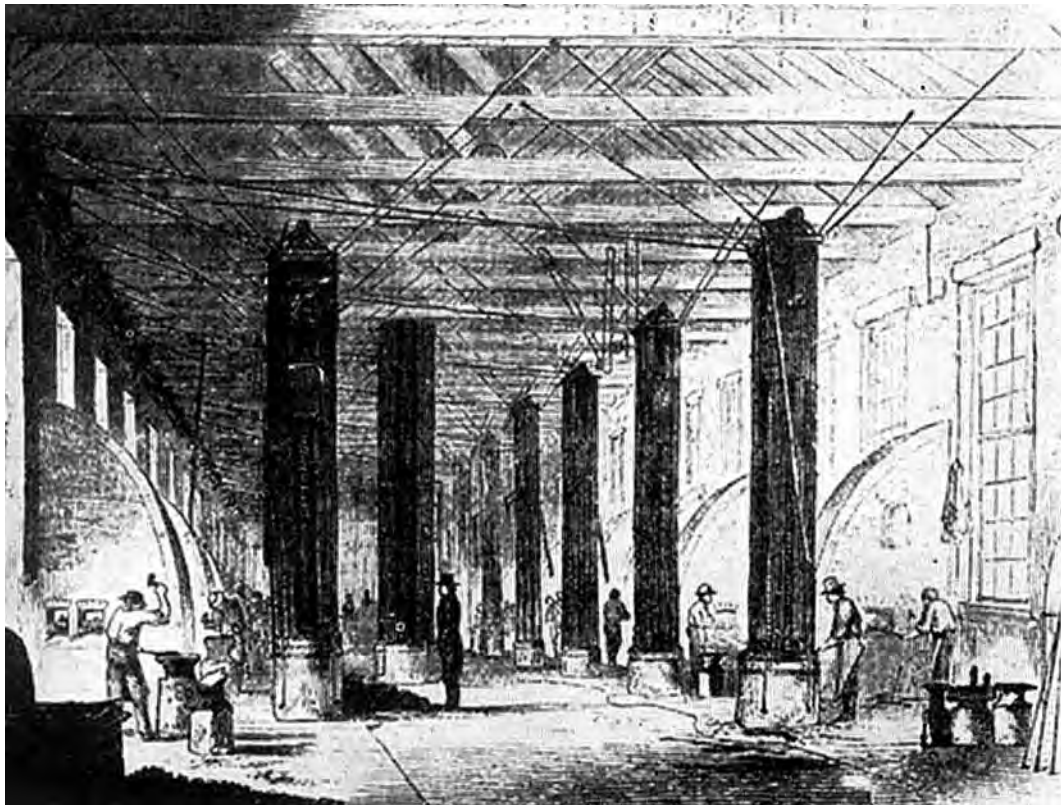
- Coltsville provides a unique opportunity to interpret the NPS Thematic Framework themes of *Developing the American Economy, Expanding Science and Technology, and the Changing Role of the United States in the World Community*. Potential visitor interpretive experiences at Coltsville include:

  (1) firearms manufacturing and the roles of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt;
  (2) precision technology and its impact upon other products, such as sewing machines, typewriters, bicycles, and even automobiles;
  (3) the importance of entrepreneurship and marketing in developing industrial enterprises; and
  (4) the life of an urban industrial community, including its owners, managers and workers.

- Of the national park system units that interpret industrial history, only the Springfield Armory NHS interprets firearms manufacturing, and the site focuses mainly on the military development of firearms, since the armory was a federal military installation.

- Coltsville has the potential to go well beyond the Springfield Armory NHS in the interpretation of precision technology, entrepreneurship and business marketing, and the

Samuel Colt often gave specimens of his firearms as gifts to notables and those who might purchase his firearms in bulk. The Colt Company gave this presentation New Model Belt Pistol, .36 caliber to a U.S. Navy official during the Civil War. Details shown. *Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Gift of Mrs. Charles W. Butler, 1932.5.*



The interior of the Colt forging shop. Innovations in forging, developed by Armory Superintendent Elisha K. Root, were of paramount importance in propelling the Colt Company to the forefront of metalworking technology. The interior, including the distinctive wooden trusses (but absent the equipment), appears today much as it does in the engraving. *From U.S. Magazine, March, 1857.*

evolution of industrial communities. The Colt Fire Arms Company adapted and improved upon the Springfield Armory's manufacturing techniques for private enterprise, organized them to produce innovative consumer products, established a strong international brand identity, and disseminated innovative manufacturing technologies to several other major industries.

Historians see a fundamental distinction between the textile industry and precision manufacturing, which has been technologically more advanced and has led to the rise of such industries as sewing machines, typewriters, bicycles, automobiles, and aircraft engines. University of Massachusetts-Amherst historian Bruce Laurie regards the precision manufacturing pioneered by the Springfield Armory and the Colt Fire Arms Company as representative of the "Second Industrial Revolution," which marked an advance over the textile industry represented at Lowell, Massachusettes, and which was indicative of the "First Industrial Revolution":

> *The Second Industrial Revolution catapulted this nation to world leadership in technology and productivity, projecting it far beyond the capacity of the Lowells of America. No nation ever achieved sustained greatness on the First Industrial Revolution and none ever will; it was the Second Industrial Revolution that made this nation an industrial power.*[1]

- The Colt Fire Arms factory represents the acme of precision manufacturing, as it developed in the Connecticut River Valley. The National Park Service's *Connecticut River Valley Special Reconnaissance Study* (1998) found that precision manufacturing created a distinctive, highly advanced industrial region in the Connecticut River Valley:

> *Precision manufacturing is associated with a distinctive social and architectural landscape, paralleling but different from the complexes formed by the textile industry elsewhere in New England, or the heavy industry of Pennsylvania. The higher skill level and consequent higher earnings of many workers in the precision trades seems to have encouraged the development of more prosperous, stable communities. There was a prestige associated with arms-making, particularly in manufacturing the weapons used in national defense. Metalworking plants were usually quieter and less visibly polluting, so they were more acceptable as neighbors.*

> William Hosley, in *Colt: The Making of an American Legend* (1996), wrote that the Connecticut River Valley in the 1850s was "what California's Silicon Valley is today, the vanguard of an internationally significant, technology-based transformation that changed the world of work." Just as the textile industry developed across much of Eastern New England, the steel industry arose in Pennsylvania, and the auto industry became dominant in Michigan, firearms and precision manufacturing emerged in the corridor stretching from Bridgeport and New Haven to Hartford, Connecticut, and Springfield, Massachusetts, to Windsor, Vermont.

In conclusion, this study finds that Coltsville offers an opportunity to provide public understanding and appreciation of the nationally significant story of the development of the private-sector firearms manufacturing during the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. With a comprehensive ensemble of industrial structures and associated buildings, Coltsville has significant interpretive and educational potential to tell the stories of precision manufacturing, innovative branding and entrepreneurial business organization, and the development of an integrated industrial community. The collections of Colt firearms and memorabilia and precision manufacturing equipment at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and the Museum of Connecticut History could complement Coltsville in telling the Colt Firearms Company story. The analysis conducted during the course of this study indicates that the Colt Fire Arms factory and related structures in the Coltsville NHL district are suitable for inclusion in the National Park System.

Feasibility Analysis

NPS *Management Policies 2006* outlines criteria for evaluating the feasibility of new units proposed for addition to the national park system:

> *To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must (1) be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries); and (2) be capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost.*
>
> *In evaluating feasibility, the Service considers a variety of factors, such as: size; boundary configurations; current and potential uses of the study area and surrounding lands; land ownership patterns; public enjoyment potential; costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation; access; current and potential threats to the resources; existing degradation of resources; staffing requirements; local planning and zoning for the study area; the level of local and general public support; and the economic/socioeconomic impacts of designation as a unit of the national park system.*
>
> *The feasibility evaluation also considers the ability of the National Park Service to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected constraints on funding and personnel.*

To assist in the determination of the feasibility of establishing a unit of the national park system at Coltsville Historic District, the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee obtained funding from the State of Connecticut's Commission on Culture and Tourism to engage a consultant to examine various potential visitor experience scenarios at the site and presented a report to the NPS study team for evaluation. The consultant team was headed by Museum Insight and included Roberts Consulting, objectIdea, and Economic Stewardship. Working with the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee, the consultant team developed a report *"Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study"* (December, 2008). As part of the study process, the consultant team met with local stakeholder groups, including the owner of the Colt East Armory, to ascertain their commitments to a potential Coltsville national park unit.

The study outlined three potential scenarios, which differed primarily in the range of Coltsville Historic District resources that would be available to the visitors. The study assumed that the then developer of Colt Gateway would make available space in the East Armory for a contact station/visitor center under each scenario. The developer indicated a general interest in making space available, but made no tangible commitment to do so. It is important to note that the management of the East Armory has changed since the consultant's study was completed. A new corporation, Urban Smart Growth, has been in the process of management and ownership transition.

The Coltsville visitor experience proposed in the report would be focused on the East Armory and the overall Coltsville Historic District, with opportunities to view and learn about Armsmear, worker housing, Colt Park, the Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House. These scenarios assume that the NPS would manage an area within the East Armory dedicated to an NPS contact station/visitor center and that other partners would provide financial and technical resources, and loan Colt-related artifacts. The three scenarios are:

Basic Scenario—The resources available in this scenario would be limited to a relatively small contact station located on the first level of the East Armory. The contact station would provide information for visitors and would serve as a base for weekend ranger guided tours of the Coltsville Historic District NHL. This scenario proposes a 1,500-square foot contact station and interpretive signage at key locations around the historic district. The scenario assumes limited staff assigned from the Springfield Armory will be available to conduct the weekend tours. Capital costs are estimated at $700,000. Annual operational costs are estimated at $150,000.

East Armory Scenario—In this scenario, visitors would have access to all four levels of the historic East Armory, where much of the firearm manufacturing took place. It would include a more extensive contact station, an interpretive exhibit with artifacts from the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and the Connecticut State Museum, a multimedia experience in the East Armory, and an observation area under the blue onion dome with views over the site to the rest of the city. This scenario would comprise 10,000 square feet in the East Armory. It would feature a Colt Manufacturing Multimedia Experience that would be modeled on the Flour Tower at the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis. Visitors would be seated in a freight elevator stopping at four floors of the factory. At each floor doors would open and multimedia recreations would represent activities on each of the manufacturing floors without having to dedicate large sections of each floor to the visitor experience. The multimedia techniques could allow visitors to learn about firearm manufacturing, Samuel and Elizabeth Colt, and listen to oral histories from employees. A 2,500-square foot fourth-floor Colt gallery and observation area would provide interpretive panels and a view over the Coltsville Historic District. Costs associated with this scenario are estimated at $6,800,000 in capital improvements and $300,000 for annual operations. The facilities would be open daily throughout the year with on-site NPS staff. Costs would be shared among federal, state and local governments, and corporate partners.

Full Site Scenario—This scenario would include everything in the East Armory Scenario as well as implementation of a Cultural Landscape Master Plan that would make the entire Coltsville Historic District inviting and walkable. It would include physical linkages and complementary experiences at the Riverfront and the Botanical Garden in Colt Park. In addition to the 10,000 square feet utilized in the East Armory Scenario, this scenario would use an additional 5,000 square feet in the East Armory for interpretive and educational programming. Costs associated with this scenario are estimated at $21,000,000 for capital improvements and $330,000 for annual operations. Costs would be shared among federal, state and local governments, and corporate partners.

The NPS study team drew upon these three scenarios developed in the Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study to examine their feasibility for a potential unit of the national park system. Although the scenarios may prove appropriate for differing intensities of visitor experience, none of the parties mentioned in the scenarios, most importantly the developer of the Colt East Armory, have made tangible commitments that could lead to the required feasibility findings in this special resource study.

The following is an evaluation of Coltsville in accordance with the NPS *Management Policies 2006* feasibility criteria.

Size & Configuration: This special resource study concludes that Coltsville is of sufficient size and configuration to permit adequate resource protection and visitor experiences. The boundary of a potential unit at Coltsville would be coterminous with the Coltsville Historic District NHL. The district includes 10 industrial buildings; 19 worker housing buildings; the

Samuel Colt Home (Armsmear) National Historic Landmark (NHL); the Colt Dike, which runs along Warwarme Avenue and Van Dyke Avenue; the 105-acre Colt Park, originally part of the Armsmear grounds; the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House.

Building Uses & Land Ownership: The original developer of the Colt Gateway project, owner of all 10 factory buildings, was redeveloping the factory buildings for office, retail, and residential uses prior to 2009. As indicated previously, these properties are in the process of being transferred to a new management group–Urban Smart Growth. Since ownership and future plans for the Colt factory buildings remain uncertain, it is impossible for any party to make commitments that factory buildings would be available for a national park unit. The 10 worker houses were rehabilitated in the 1980s as 55 condominiums and are privately owned. The nine "Potsdam" cottages are also privately owned. Colt Park is owned and managed by the City of Hartford. Armsmear is owned and managed by the Colt Trust. The Church of the Good Shepherd and the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House serve an Episcopalian congregation.

Access: The study team cannot make positive findings related to public access to any structures at Coltsville. While the study team met with the previous Colt Gateway developer and understood that a proposal would be forthcoming regarding use of properties, no proposal was ever submitted. No commitments to permit visitors internal access to the Colt Fire Arms factory buildings currently exist. The new developer, Urban Smart Growth, has recently expressed strong interest in a NPS presence at the site, but discussions of such arrangements are somewhat premature during the transition phase of ownership of the properties.

The *Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study* had a perspective that the Basic Scenario would require interior access to 1,500 square feet in the historic East Armory to provide a minimal visitor experience. The East Armory and Full Site Scenarios in the *Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study* would require up to 15,000 square feet in the East Armory. NPS staff and the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee and its consultants have observed that internal access to the East Armory, the historic core of the Colt Fire Arms Company, would be necessary to providing a meaningful visitor experience at Coltsville since this important resource is still extant and is potentially available for public visitation.

External access to factory views could be available, but is has become apparent that the quality of the visitor experience would be inadequate in comparison to that provided by internal access to the East Armory.

No offers of access have been received from the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House. The workers housing and "Potsdam Cottages" would not be suitable for visitor access since they are private residences, but agreements for the placement of exterior interpretive devices would enhance the visitor experience. Colt Park would be suitable for visitation if assurances were received from the City of Hartford that management practices at the site would be compatible with its designation as a component of a unit of the national park system.

Access to even a small portion of Armsmear would significantly enhance visitor understanding of this NHL and the family life of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt, but this may not be possible. At an April 2009 meeting, a representative of Armsmear indicated that, since the house is currently a private multi-unit residence, it would be problematic to allow internal visitor access to the home.

Access to the Coltsville area by motor vehicle, public transit, and by walking is relatively easy because the neighborhood directly abuts the south side of downtown Hartford. Interstate-91 passes directly in front of the Colt East Armory and has exits within one mile of the site. Several major Hartford streets, including Main Street, Wethersfield Avenue, Whitehead Highway, Charter Oak Avenue, and Columbus Boulevard, connect to Coltsville. A local bus line passes directly by the former Colt Fire Arms factory. Parking could be provided in a large parking lot owned by the Colt Gateway developer.

Threats to the Resource & Degradation of Resources: The Colt Fire Arms factory buildings have suffered gradual disinvestment since the end of World War II and the subsequent move of the company headquarters to West Hartford, Connecticut. Some of the buildings have been vacant, while others have been used for purposes such as warehousing and artist studios. In 2003, the original Colt Gateway developer, Homes for America Holdings, Inc., started rehabilitating and leasing the former factory space. In order to obtain federal historic preservation tax credits, the developer followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties regarding character-defining features such as windows, roofs, and facades. The buildings are structurally sound and the factory complex maintains much of its historic integrity. Rehabilitation of the Colt factory buildings is only partially completed, and there is new ownership of the site. There is no assurance of continued preservation efforts at the site. The 10 worker houses and nine "Potsdam" cottages are privately owned. Colt Park is owned and managed by the City of Hartford. Armsmear is owned and managed by the Colt Trust. The Church of the Good Shepherd and the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House are an Episcopalian parish. All these properties are well maintained and do not appear to be at risk.

Public Enjoyment Potential: Coltsville's historic resources are extensive and have the potential to provide the public with a viable and educational national park experience. Access to the industrial buildings, church properties, the Colt Park and Armsmear, as well as exhibits and the use of collections from area institutions, would provide visitors with an understanding and appreciation of the Colts, precision manufacturing at the factories, and workers stories. Until public access issues are resolved, local commitments for sharing financial resources and collections cannot be fully ascertained.

Costs of Acquisition, Restoration, Development, and Operation: Without tangible commitments to make space available in the Colt East Armory for public visitation and knowledge of the terms of access to other structures at Coltsville, the study team is unable to develop cost estimates, or to verify the estimates in the Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study for the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee. Financial feasibility would in large part depend upon access and partnerships with other public and private entities. It would be enhanced by local financial contributions. No firm offers of financial assistance have been forthcoming during the study, although supporters of unit designation have consistently indicated that if Coltsville becomes a unit of the national park system, such assistance could become available.

Staffing Requirements: The size and scope of a potential unit of the national park system at Coltsville is uncertain. Therefore, the study team is unable to estimate staffing requirements or to assess the potential level of visitation.

Local Planning and Zoning for the Study Area: The Coltsville study area is located in two City of Hartford land use zones. The 10 former industrial buildings, located between Huyshope Avenue and Van Dyke Avenue, are located in an Industrial District-2 zone, which also is part of an Industrial Re-Use Overlay District. The overlay district has been established to encourage reuse of industrial buildings constructed before World War II for residential and commercial purposes as well as industrial purposes. The overlay district allows the creation of residential units in former industrial space as long as they are located above commercial or industrial uses or are physically separated from such uses if they are on the same level. The plans to build residential apartments in the former Colt Fire Arms factory meet the zoning requirements.

The former worker housing is in a Residential-3 zone, which is considered a Medium Density Residential District. This zoning permits the existing multi-family housing in this area to exist by right.

Hartford is implementing a downtown revitalization strategy that seeks to knit together the fragmented sections of the downtown into a cohesive whole. Much attention is being focused on redeveloping the Riverfront area known as Adriaen's Landing. This is the site of Connecticut Convention Center, the Connecticut Center for Science & Exploration, the Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel, and new shops. Located to the south, Coltsville serves as an extension of the downtown revitalization activity. The City of Hartford considers the redevelopment of Coltsville and the establishment of a national park unit there an important part of its urban redevelopment efforts.

The Church of the Good Shepherd was built by Elizabeth Colt as a memorial to her deceased husband in 1869. Designed by architect Edward Tuckerman Potter. *James C. O'Connell, National Park Service.*

Level of Local Public Support: There have been strong indications of local support for designating Coltsville as a unit of the national park system. The Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee's membership represents a broad cross-section of state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. At public meetings concerning this study, there has been widespread support expressed for the designation of a unit of the national park system. *The Hartford Courant*, the city's daily newspaper, has published several editorials supporting the establishment of a national park at Coltsville.

Economic/Socioeconomic Impacts of Designation as Unit of National Park System: Without the ability to determine exactly how a potential unit of the national park system would be configured at Coltsville, the study team is unable to assess economic/socioeconomic impacts.

NPS *Management Policies 2006* provides that in a special resource study an overall evaluation of feasibility will be made after taking into account all of the above factors. However, evaluations may sometimes identify concerns or conditions, rather than simply reach a yes or no conclusion. For example, some new areas may be feasible additions to the national park system only if landowners are willing to sell, or the boundary encompasses specific areas necessary for visitor access, or state or local governments will provide appropriate assurances that adjacent land uses will remain compatible with the study area's resources and values.

In the case of Coltsville, a number of factors have extended the study process, particularly in determining the feasibility of establishing a unit of the national park system. These include the study team's inability to ascertain what interior spaces would be available for visitor use and park management and what specific local commitments there may be to provide, through loans or permanent exhibits, resources associated with the Colt family or the operations and products of the Colt factories. While there are letters of interest in the study record by state and local organizations interested in participating with the NPS and in loaning Colt associated resources, at this point, there is no place determined as the locus of a potential park unit.

Largely because of the evolving situation regarding ownership and use of the Colt factory complex and the lack of public access to interior spaces of many of the Coltsville Historic District's resources,

this study must conclude that the feasibility criterion for establishing a unit of the national park system at Coltsville cannot be met under the present circumstances. It is possible that as ownership issues are resolved, development plans crystallized, and partnerships better established among potentially contributing institutions and organizations, that the feasibility criterion could be met in the future. More specific proposals devised collaboratively by the new developer of the factory complex, the state, city, and institutions that have Colt associated resources could provide the necessary public access to structures and other resources and collections within a cost range that would enable feasibility to be established. Such a collaborative effort should address the feasibility issues raised in this report and provide necessary information regarding how each of the partners would contribute to the overall viability of establishing and operating a sustainable unit of the national park system.

Analysis of the Need for National Park Service Management

As with the feasibility criteria, it impossible at this time to determine that a need for NPS management exists. The study team has been unable to determine what resources would actually be managed and protected by the NPS and what level of visitation and visitor services may be required. Until such time as the feasibility findings are resolved, the study must conclude that there is no current need for NPS management of the Coltsville resources.

Study Conclusions

This congressionally authorized Coltsville Special Resource Study concludes that the resources in the Coltsville Historic District meet the criteria for national significance and suitability but, at present, do not meet the criteria for feasibility and need for NPS management. As stated above, it is possible that the feasibility and need for NPS management criteria could potentially be met if the feasibility issues discussed in this report are resolved over time.

Environmental Compliance

Since this study concludes that the resources associated with the Coltsville Historic District NHL do not fully meet the criteria for potential designation as a unit of the national park system, no federal action is anticipated. Therefore, a notice will be placed in the Federal Register that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Endnote

[1] Bruce Laurie, "The Second Industrial Revolution," Background Statement Prepared for Springfield Armory National Historic Site *(Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts-Amherst, History Department, January 3, 2005)*.

Chapter 4: Consultation and Public Outreach

This chapter describes the required consultation procedures, public meetings, and comments related to the preparation of the Coltsville Special Resource Study.

Notice of Intent

A notice of intent to conduct a Special Resources Study/Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2004.

Public Scoping Meeting

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a public scoping meeting for the Coltsville Special Resource Study took place on October 20, 2004. The meeting, which was attended by approximately 100 people, provided an opportunity for members of the public to express specific issues that the study should address. Twenty-seven people spoke at the public scoping meeting, virtually every person expressing support for the establishment of unit of the national park system at Coltsville. Congressman John B. Larson spoke in favor of a national park site at Coltsville, stating he had sponsored the Congressional legislation to undertake the Coltsville SRS. Aides of Senator Christopher Dodd and Senator Joseph Lieberman read statements expressing the senators' support for a national park. Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez also spoke in favor of a national park designation.

Additional Meetings and Public Participation

Public meetings to discuss and answer questions about the National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination for Coltsville were held on August 3, 2006, and August 8, 2007. NPS staff, which assisted in preparing the NHL nomination, made a presentation. Residents of the immediate area, include residents of the historic Colt housing, were invited to attend. Attendees expressed strong support for the Coltsville NHL nomination. Members of the study team met periodically with staff of Congressman John B. Larson, Senator Christopher Dodd, and Senator Joseph Lieberman for briefings, as well as members of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee at the committee's request. Meetings were conducted with state and local officials, nonprofit stakeholders related to Coltsville, and the Colt Gateway developers. Various ad hoc contacts with members of the public occurred during the study. A briefing for congressional staff and members of the Ad Hoc Committee was conducted in April 2009 to inform them of the conclusions of the study.

Written Communication

The Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee, which sponsored the consultant study "Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study" (December, 2008), sought letters of support from stakeholders for creating a national park unit, as discussed in the report. Letters of support were submitted by Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell (December 17, 2008); Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez (December 12, 2008); Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Karen Senich; Connecticut State Librarian

Kendall Wiggin; Connecticut Humanities Council Executive Director Bruce Fraser; Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Executive Director Helen Higgins; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Director Susan L. Talbott; Riverfront Recapture President Joseph R. Marfuggi; CSS/CON Inc. Executive Director Carol Coburn; Hartford Botanical Garden Planning Committee President Lisa Musumeci.

Consultation

Formal consultation was undertaken with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism), and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. A letter (November, 2007) was sent to USFWS concerning any potential threats to natural resources, including threatened and endangered species. No response letter has been received, but the USFWS website was consulted and no threatened and endangered species were identified. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (May, 2006) indicated that there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at the site. The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) expressed (December, 2007) support for establishing an NPS unit at Coltsville. The Connecticut SHPO was active in preparing the Coltsville NHL nomination and was a member of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee. The NPS Northeast Region ethnographer has advised that there are no American Indian Tribes that may have interests in the study area. See Appendix 4: Letters of Consultation.

Appendix 1: Federal Legislation for Coltsville Special Resource Study, PL. 108-94

Public Law 108–94
108th Congress

An Act

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

Oct. 3, 2003
[S. 233]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Coltsville Study Act of 2003.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coltsville Study Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Hartford, Connecticut, home to Colt Manufacturing Company (referred to in this Act as "Colt"), played a major role in the Industrial Revolution;

Colt Manufacturing Company.

(2) Samuel Colt, founder of Colt, and his wife, Elizabeth Colt, inspired Coltsville, a community in the State of Connecticut that flourished during the Industrial Revolution and included Victorian mansions, an open green area, botanical gardens, and a deer park;

(3) the residence of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt in Hartford, Connecticut, known as "Armsmear", is a national historic landmark, and the distinctive Colt factory is a prominent feature of the Hartford, Connecticut, skyline;

(4) the Colt legacy is not only about firearms, but also about industrial innovation and the development of technology that would change the way of life in the United States, including—

(A) the development of telegraph technology; and

(B) advancements in jet engine technology by Francis Pratt and Amos Whitney, who served as apprentices at Colt;

(5) Coltsville—

(A) set the standard for excellence during the Industrial Revolution; and

(B) continues to prove significant—

(i) as a place in which people of the United States can learn about that important period in history; and

(ii) by reason of the close proximity of Coltsville to the Mark Twain House, Trinity College, Old North Cemetery, and many historic homesteads and architecturally renowned buildings;

(6) in 1998, the National Park Service conducted a special resource reconnaissance study of the Connecticut River Valley to evaluate the significance of precision manufacturing sites; and

(7) the report on the study stated that—

(A) no other region of the United States contains an equal concentration of resources relating to the precision manufacturing theme that began with firearms production;

(B) properties relating to precision manufacturing encompass more than merely factories; and

(C) further study, which should be undertaken, may (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating the site and surrounding area as a unit of the National Park System; and

(3) the importance of the site to the history of precision manufacturing.

(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

Deadline.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 30 days after the date on which the study under section 3(a) is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved October 3, 2003.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 233:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 108–252 (Comm. on Resources).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 108–9 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 149 (2003):
Mar. 4, considered and passed Senate.
Sept. 23, considered and passed House.

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Appendix 3: Study Team Contributors

National Park Service Northeast Region

James C. O'Connell, *Community Planner,* Park Planning and Special Studies Branch, NER, *Study Project Manager*
Lisa Kolakowsky, *Architectural Historian,* National Historic Landmarks Program, NER

Terrence D. Moore, *Chief,* Park Planning and Special Studies, NER
Duncan Hay, *Cultural Resource Management Specialist,* NER
John Monroe, *Outdoor Recreation Planner,* NER
David Clark, *Environmental Specialist,* NER

NPS Northeast Region Advisors

Dennis R. Reidenbach, *Regional Director,* NER
Michael Reynolds, *Deputy Regional Director,* NER
Maryanne R. Gerbauckas, *Associate Regional Director,* Heritage Preservation, Planning and Compliance, NER
Robert W. McIntosh, *Associate Regional Director,* Planning, Construction, & Facility Management, NER
Peggy Albee, *Manager, Historical Architecture Program,* NER
Sue Andrews, *Management Analyst*, Lowell National Historic Park
Richard Chilcoat, *Preservation Specialist*, Northeast Cultural Resources Center
Michael Quijano-West, *Superintendent*, Springfield Armory National Historic Site
Elliot Foulds, *Landscape Architect*, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Elizabeth Igleheart, *National Register Coordinator*, NER
Jed Levin, *Industrial Archaeologist*, NER
William Machurat, *Historical Architect*, Northeast Cultural Resources Center
Robert Page, *Director*, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Steven Pendery, *Archaeologist,* NER
Chuck Smythe, *Regional Ethnographer,* NER
Paul Weinbaum, *History Program Manager,* NER

Consultant

Larry Lowenthal, *Historian*

Appendix 4: Letters of Consultation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region Office
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 17, 2007

Ms. Karen Senich, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
Historic Preservation & Museum Division
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Coltsville Historic District, Hartford, CT, Special Resource Study

Dear Ms Senich:

I am writing to advise you officially that the National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking a special resource study to determine if the Coltsville Historic District, in Hartford, CT, has national significance, suitability, and feasibility for designation as a unit of the national park system. If the study also finds that federal management of the site is appropriate, Congress could designate Coltsville a unit of the national park system. Since this study could possibly lead to establishment of a new national park unit, it will include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The NPS has been working closely with your office, particularly Linda Spencer, on the National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination that has been part of the special resource study concerning Coltsville. This letter is to make formal contact with your office as we prepare the special resource study and the EIS. The study area is the National Register of Historic Places Colt Industrial District, a historic 260-acre urban, industrial area, with the addition of the nearby Church of the Good Shepherd and its parish house. The study area encompasses 10 former industrial buildings of the Colt Fire Arms factory, the Colt Family's Armsmear mansion (existing NHL), Colt Park, three manager houses, 19 structures used for housing Colt workers, the Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House. The boundary of this district is shown on the accompanying map.

We are interested in input from your office related to establishing a national park unit at Coltsville. We would be pleased to provide greater detail on this study. A draft report will be distributed for public comment in 2008, and your office will receive a copy. We look forward to your questions and comments.

The Planning and Legislation Group of the National Park Service, Northeast Region – Boston office is responsible for carrying out the boundary study. I am the project manage for the study and may be reached at (617) 223-5222, or via email at Jim_O'Connell@nps.gov. We very much appreciate your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

James C. O'Connell, Project Manager
National Park Service
Northeast Region

cc: Linda Spencer

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Karen Senich
Acting Executive Director

Arts
Tourism
Film
History

One Constitution Plaza
Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

860.256.2753
860.256.2811 (f)

December 28, 2007

James C. O'Connell
Project Manager
National Park Service
Northeast Region
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-3572

Re: Coltsville Historic District
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

Thank you for your letter dated December 17, 2007 indicating the National Park Service's undertaking of the special resource study to determine the significance, suitability and feasibility of the Coltsville Historic District to become a new national park unit.

As you know, the Commission on Culture & Tourism, of which the State Historic Preservation Office is a part, and the Governor stand firmly committed to the designation of Coltsville as National Historic Landmark and as a unit of the national park system. Coltsville is an invaluable historic resource, not only to the State of Connecticut, but to our nation as a whole.

We look forward to working with you and the Planning and Legislation Group of the National Park Service towards establishing a national park unit at Coltsville. Please know that we are here to assist in this endeavor however needed.

Thank you for your commitment to this designation.

Sincerely,

Karen Senich
Acting Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: The Honorable Governor M. Jodi Rell
Linda Spencer

CONNECTICUT
www.cultureandtourism.org

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region Office
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 19, 2007

Mr. Mike Thabault, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

Re: Coltsville Historic District, Hartford, CT, Special Resource Study

Dear Mr. Thabault:

I am writing to advise you that the National Park Service has initiated a special resource study to determine if the Coltsville Historic District, in Hartford, CT, has national significance, suitability, and feasibility for designation as a unit of the national park system. If the study also finds that federal management of the site is appropriate, Congress could designate Coltsville a unit of the national park system. Since this study could possibly lead to establishment of a new national park unit, it will include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The study area is the National Register of Historic Places Colt Industrial District, a historic 260-acre urban, industrial area, with the addition of the nearby Church of the Good Shepherd and its parish house. The study area encompasses 10 former industrial buildings of the Colt Fire Arms factory, the Colt Family's Armsmear mansion (existing NHL), Colt Park, three manager houses, 19 structures used for housing Colt workers, the Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House. The boundary of this district is shown on the accompanying map. The factory complex is undergoing redevelopment, and the other structures in the district are in active use.

The resources of Coltsville illustrate important contributions to manufacturing technology made by Samuel Colt (1814-1862) and the industrial enterprise he founded. The Colt Fire Arms Company was a highly influential national source of innovation in precision manufacturing and firearms design well into the 20th century. During World War I and World War II, the company was one of the nation's leading small arms producers and made a vital contribution to the U.S. war effort. Coltsville also is noteworthy as a planned industrial community.

We are interested in input from your office on natural resources in the study area, including wildlife or wetland-related issues. We would be pleased to provide greater detail on this project. A draft report will probably be distributed for public comment in 2008, and your office will receive a copy. We look forward to your questions and comments.

The Planning and Legislation Group of the National Park Service, Northeast Region – Boston office is responsible for carrying out the boundary study. I am the project manage for the study and may be reached at (617) 223-5222, or via email at Jim_O'Connell@nps.gov. We very much appreciate your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

James C. O'Connell, Project Manager
National Park Service
Northeast Region

enclosures

Note: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not respond to the National Park Service's foregoing letter. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently encourages parties interested in determining the presence of federally-listed endangered species to visit its website and make the determination there. The website provided the following letter.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087
http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice

January 2, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

This project was reviewed for the presence of federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat per instructions provided on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New England Field Office website:

(http://www.fws.gov/northeast/newenglandfieldoffice/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm)

Based on the information currently available, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

This concludes the review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above. No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact Mr. Anthony Tur at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas R. Chapman
Supervisor
New England Field Office

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

May 30, 2006

James O'Connell
National Park Service
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Coltsville, Former Colt Firearms Factory
& Worker Housing, Hartford

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for a proposed visitor center in the former Colt Firearms Factory in Hartford. According to our information, there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at the site in question.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at 424-3592. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. McKay
Biologist/Environmental Analyst

DMM/blm

Appendix 5: Letters of Support for a Coltsville National Park Unit

The Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee, which sponsored the consultant study "Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study" (December, 2008), sought letters of support from stakeholders for creating a national park unit, as discussed in the report. Letters of support were submitted by Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell; Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez; Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Karen Senich; Connecticut State Librarian Kendall Wiggin; Connecticut Humanities Council Executive Director Bruce Fraser; Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Executive Director Helen Higgins; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Director Susan L. Talbott; Riverfront Recapture President Joseph R. Marfuggi; The Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood Inc., Executive Director Carol Coburn; Hartford Botanical Garden Planning Committee President Lisa Musumeci.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2004

Mr. Jim O'Connell
Mr. John Monroe
Public Scoping Meeting
Coltsville Special Resource Study
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior

RE: Official Statement on the Importance of Coltsvillle

Dear Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Monroe:

As sponsors of the Coltsville Study Act, we would like to thank the National Park Service for allowing our official statement to be submitted during this public "scoping" meeting to define the focal points for the Coltsville Special Resource Study.

The designation of Coltsville as a National Park is an issue of great importance to our constituents and to the historic preservation of an important American landmark. It is also important to thank the rest of the Congressional delegation, Representatives DeLauro, Johnson, Shays, and Simmons, for their support of this legislation and proposal.

Coltsville is a unique regional and international landmark that is known as the birthplace of the world renowned "Colt 45." The Colt Firearms Company was founded by Samuel Colt and run by his wife, Elizabeth, for over 40 years after his death in 1862. It is important to emphasize that the Colt legacy is not just about firearms, but also about industrial innovation and the development of technology that would change the way of life in the United States. Mr. Colt worked with Samuel Morse in the development of the telegraph, and Colt manufacturing contributed to the development of technology in many ways, inspiring the jet engine pioneers Francis Pratt and Amos Whitney, who served as apprentices at Colt manufacturing. In addition, Henry Ford, was drawn to the community because of his interest in learning about the innovative manufacturing techniques and equipment being invented and developed in Coltsville.

The passage of the Coltsville Study Act and the local support it has received signifies that we are starting on the road to developing and cultivating Coltsville's history and marking its importance to the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut. Along with other

members of the delegation and the community, we are committed to preserving the area's immeasurable historical value.

In addition, we appreciate the work of the National Park Service in going into the community and studying the area for national significance, suitability, and feasibility for designation as a unit of the National Park System.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senate

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senate

JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

M. Jodi Rell
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

December 17, 2008

The National Park Service
c/o Jim O'Connell
Northwest Regional Office
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02104

Re: Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

I write on behalf of the State of Connecticut in support of the *Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study* and of the creation of a National Park at the Coltsville Historic District in Hartford.

The State of Connecticut stands ready to work with the National Park Service, the City of Hartford and the developer to establish a National Park to Coltsville. We are prepared to provide appropriate assistance to fulfill this mission. As the Study recognizes, the East Armory must be brought up to National Park standards and a contact station must be created in the designated sections of the East Armory. The State is committed to working with the National Park Service and the City of Hartford to ensure that the all of the historic assets within the National Historic Landmark designation zone are protected in a manner that will preserve their historic integrity for generations to come.

The establishment of this National Park at Coltsville would lead to the level of national recognition due this remarkable historic resource and would ensure the integrity and protection of the historic district. Coltsville is an invaluable historic resource to the State and the nation as it is a significant symbol of the development of the American economy and American manufacturing. Connecticut has long been committed to preserving, protecting and promoting its historic resources and we would be honored to share in the efforts to preserve, protect and promote the Coltsville legacy.

Very truly yours,

M. Jodi Rell

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS • STATE CAPITOL
210 CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TEL (860) 566-4840 • FAX (860) 524-7396 • WWW.CT.GOV
GOVERNOR.RELL@CT.GOV

EDDIE A. PEREZ
MAYOR

December 12, 2008

Jim O'Connell
The National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02104

RE: Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study

Dear Mr. O'Connell

On behalf of the City of Hartford, I write this letter in support for the "Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study" and the goal of achieving a National Park designation for Coltsville. This study highlights the rich heritage of the Colt Armory complex, its physical connection to this city and the contributions of Sam and Elizabeth Colt to America's industrial history. Most importantly, it identifies a unique opportunity to preserve and showcase Coltsville for generations to come.

On behalf of the City of Hartford, I stand ready to work with the National Park Service, State of Connecticut and the developer to bring a National Park to Coltsville. If the National Park Service approves a National Park or National Historic site at Colstville, the City of Hartford will provide appropriate city resources, within available appropriations, to help bring the East Armory up to National Park standards, create a contact station in the designated sections of the East Armory and provide city public works resources for the project at an appropriate level. In addition, the City will work in close coordination with the Park Service and the State of Connecticut to make sure that the all of the historic assets within the National Historic Landmark designation zone are protected in a manner that will preserve their historic integrity for generations to come.

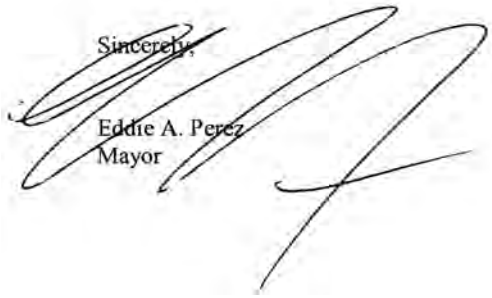
The recent designation of Coltsville as National Historic Landmark is symbolic of the revitalization that continues in Hartford. Businesses are choosing the city, schools are being rebuilt and new homeownership opportunities are being developed throughout our many neighborhoods. A National Park would be an important destination for residents and visitors alike, and add to the considerable revitalization momentum underway.

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Phone (860) 757-9500
Fax (860) 722-6606

I have assigned my Director of Development Services, David Panagore (panad001@hartford.gov, 860. 757-9028) to work closely with the Park Service, State of Connecticut, and the developer to represent the City to help make this National Park a reality. You may also reach me directly at eperez@hartford.gov or at 860.757.9500 and asking for my executive assistant Barbara Crockett, if I can be of direct assistance.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Historic Preservation and Museum Division

One Constitution Plaza
Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

860.256.2800
860.256.2763 (f)

December 15, 2008

The National Park Service
Northwest Regional Office
15 State Street
Boston , MA 02104

Re: Coltsville National Park

The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, in its role as the State Historic Preservation Office, enthusiastically supports the creation of a National Park at the Coltsville Historic District in Hartford, now officially designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

To that end, we fully endorse the "Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study", just completed by the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee, and funded by the Commission on Culture & Tourism.

The establishment of a National Park at Coltsville would establish appropriate national and state recognition for this extraordinary historic resource, and insure the integrity and perpetual protection of the historic district.

The Commission pledges its support to the National Park Service and the City of Hartford in providing technical and historical assistance to facilitate the establishment of a Coltsville National Park. Furthermore, we will continue to work with private individuals to appropriately develop the Colt Amory complex and to facilitate available federal and state historic tax credits. The Commission also may be able to provide those not-for-profit entities associated with the development of the park with support from our grant programs.

Sincerely,

Karen Senich, Executive Director, CCT
State Historic Preservation Officer, Historic Preservation and Museum Division

cc: The Honorable Governor M. Jodi Rell

CONNECTICUT
www.cultureandtourism.org

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

231 Capitol Avenue • Hartford, Connecticut 06106

KENDALL F. WIGGIN
State Librarian
TEL: (860) 757-6510 - FAX: 757-6503

December 11, 2009

The National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

The Connecticut State Library administers the State Archives and the Museum of Connecticut History, and as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee, has been an active participant in the discussions surrounding the Colt Gateway project from the very beginning.

We are very excited by the recommendations in the *Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study* and fully support the establishment of Coltsville as a National Park. As outlined in the study, the State Library expects to make major contributions to the interpretation of the site.

The State Library cares for, exhibits, and provides access to the world's largest and most comprehensive public collection of historical materials illuminating the Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company's pre-eminent role in American industrial history. The astonishing 1957 corporate donation (with later augmentations) of a thousand firearms and hundreds of boxes of photographs, factory plans, manuscripts, drawings, business ledgers and marketing materials cover more than a century and a half of the Colt epic, from its origins in the 1830s to the present. Within the bounds of the Library's and Museum's collection policies we are prepared to work with Park management on both short and long term loans of significant artifacts from our extensive collections for interpretive exhibits. Management and staff of the State Library are also prepared to provide consultative and other assistance as requested.

Few national landmarks have the level of documentation and such extensive artifact collections in such close proximity as are available at the State Library and Museum of Connecticut History. Having a National Park as a neighbor and partner would provide great benefit to those visiting the Library and Museum as well as those starting their discovery of the Colt story at a Coltsville National Park. We look forward to the creation of a Coltsville National Park.

Sincerely,

Kendall F. Wiggin

Connecticut Humanities Council

December 4, 2008

Mr. James O'Connell
The National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

I write to convey the Connecticut Humanities Council's unqualified support for the application of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee for National Park status and the "Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study" that underpins it. I write, too, to confirm that the Humanities Council is committed to playing an ongoing advisory and financial role in supporting the project as it goes forward.

The Connecticut Humanities Council is the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, charged with the support of local initiatives in history and literature across the state. Over the years we have allocated several hundred thousand dollars in grants to a succession of major exhibits and other public programs bringing the story of Samuel Colt and his extraordinary impact on American industrial history to the public. That experience has underscored for us both the ongoing fascination the Colt story has across a remarkably diverse audience, and the rich archival and programmatic resources that the Hartford area cultural organization posseses to assist the Park Service in telling that story well.

Our long involvement in the Coltsville planning process has documented another important aspect of the project: the level of commitment to it manifest in the composition and persistence of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee. For over five years, that group has doggedly moved this project forward, from concept, to argument, to national landmark status. Seeing these folks in action over that long span, we have no doubt that the broad array of community partners the National Park Service expects to complement the programming of a national park exists in full measure in Hartford.

The circle of cultural organizations capable of augmenting the visitor experience at a Coltsville National Park in fact extends across the greater Hartford region.

2911 DIXWELL AVENUE, SUITE 203 HAMDEN, CT 06518-3130 T 203.248.6370 F 203.287.0757 WWW.CTCULTURE.ORG

Mr. James O'Connell
The National Park Service
December 4, 2008

No less than thirty-five historical societies and museums exist within ten miles of Coltsville, a concentration unequaled in any other metro region in the state, and a fact that perhaps explains why the Humanities Council over the years has traditionally allocated over 40% of its statewide support for heritage programming in that area. While these organizations are diverse in the periods and subjects forming their mission, when the Council and the Greater Hartford Arts Council convened them in 2004 to explore collaborative activity that might be united under a single "brand," they chose "ingenuity" as that theme.

Testing the market appeal of that concept, we then commissioned an independent audience assessment study which concluded that both instate and out-of-state potential visitors to the region already associate Hartford with heritage themes and see Hartford as an attractive heritage tourist destination.

The Humanities Council is committed to playing a major supporting role here over the long haul. We expect to continue our role as a broker of academic and organizational resources in the heritage community, as an advisor on the corporate and foundation components of the project's development initiatives, as a financial supporter of the project itself, and as a continuing granting agent for the Connecticut Historical Society, the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the Stowe Day Center, the Raymond E. Baldwin Museum of Connecticut History and the many other Hartford area heritage organizations whose stories and programs will augment the visitor experience in the community.

Our support for this application is unqualified. We urge you to consider it favorably.

Sincerely,

Bruce Fraser

Bruce Fraser
Executive Director

BF/ad

CT·TRUST
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

December 9, 2008

The National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02104

To the Park Service:

On behalf of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, I am writing to express the Trust's highest endorsement of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee's "Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study."

The Trust stands ready now and in the future to assist the City of Hartford, the State of Connecticut and the National Park Service in advocating for and lending staff resources to the process that will make for a successful National Park in Hartford. We do not have the financial resources to offer but we can provide various services, especially public advocacy in the state and nationally. The Trust is a partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation which has a strong interest in this project. Additionally, the Trust will continue to provide administrative support for any future planning or studies that may be required. The Trust was the administrative agent for the state grant that funded the current Visitor Study.

The Visitor Experience Study is conclusive in demonstrating that a National Park at Coltsville will be a homerun for all of us. At the Trust, Coltsville National Park will be the culmination of years of advocacy to see the buildings restored and the complex recognized and offered as a public resource. The extraordinary national importance of the Coltsville story will be part of the national consciousness, where it finally deserves to be

Again, we fully endorse the Visitor Study and urge that you do also.

Sincerely,

Helen Higgins

Helen Higgins
Executive Director

940 Whitney Avenue Hamden, CT 06517-4002 Phone: 203.562.6312 Fax: 203.773.0107 www.cttrust.org

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Susan L. Talbott
Director and C.E.O.

December 11, 2008

The National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
15 State St.
Boston, MA. 02109

Dear Sirs,

This letter is written in support of the Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study, developed for the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation by MuseumINSIGHTS in association with Roberts Consulting, objectIDEA and Economic Stewardship in November 2008.

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art holds extensive collections of artwork and firearms from the Elizabeth Colt bequest of 1905. This bequest also made possible the construction of the Atheneum's Colt memorial wing in 1907. In the past decade and a half the Atheneum has organized two major exhibitions of the Colt collections. The more recent of these exhibitions enjoyed national exposure by traveling to numerous museums in the American West and Southwest.

A Coltsville National Park would be a highly significant historic preservation project. We will give every consideration to participating in this potentially transformative endeavor.

Regards,

Susan

600 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-2990 Telephone 860 858-4088 Fax 860 548-0264

RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE

December 12, 2008

The National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
15 State St
Boston, MA 02109

RE: Coltsville National Park Consideration

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Riverfront Recapture in support of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee's submission of Coltsville to the National Park Service for consideration as a National Park.

Riverfront Recapture, Inc. is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 that was founded in 1981 by a group of corporate and community leaders for the purpose of restoring access to the Connecticut River. We have raised over $60 million for the capital projects in both Hartford and East Hartford that are generating significant benefits to the community. Public access to the river is once again possible for local residents and tourists, and the riverfront has become a catalyst for economic development on both banks of the river.

Our Riverfront Master Plan, which was adopted by the City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford in 1982, envisioned a revitalized Coltsville that was home to both small businesses and local residents and reunited with the Connecticut River. This reconnection to the river was deemed important because Sam and Elizabeth Colt located their factory at that site so they could receive raw materials and ship their finished products by water. That historic connection was later blocked by the construction of a flood control dike and the interstate highway between Coltsville and the river. The restoration of this connection to the river will help us complete a three-mile loop system of riverwalks connecting Hartford and East Hartford.

Over the past 26 years, Riverfront Recapture has supported the owners and developers' various efforts to restore Coltsville with the goal of returning the historic structure to local prominence. With the recent designation of Coltsville as a National Historic Landmark, we believe the project's development is nearing the conclusion of a very long process. The ultimate achievement in this much anticipated project would be the designation of Coltsville as a National Park.

To support the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee's efforts, Riverfront Recapture will continue the development of our riverfront park system including the construction of a new park entrance adjacent to the East Armory. The new entrance will include a public plaza, a walkway and an

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CSS/CON, INC.

The Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood, Incorporated
c/o CREC 111 Charter Oak Avenue • Hartford, CT 06106 • 860.547.1663 x19 • Fax 860.547.1831 cacoburn@crec.org

December 15, 2008

Representative John B. Larson
Connecticut's First Congressional District
District Office
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Congressman Larson:

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition to Strengthen The Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood (CSS/CON). Specifically, I am writing in support of designating the historic area known as Coltsville a National Park. CSS/CON has almost 30 years of experience as the revitalization force for our neighborhood. We have 501(c)3 non-profit status and we're a state-designated Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ). Our new Strategic Plan, adopted by city ordinance last spring, recognizes the integral links between our historic past and our current and future economic, physical, and social health.

The State Historic Preservation Commission lists 153 CSS/CON buildings and properties on its 1997 Survey of Historic Resources. Of the 29 nationally significant structures in Hartford, 21 are in our neighborhood, and are located in the proposed National Park at Coltsville. A national park is a most appropriate way to further protect and preserve the area's history and to communicate its significance and importance to Connecticut and the nation.

As you're well aware, Hartford has established the strong partnerships among area businesses, the community, and the government and that stand ready to make a National Park work here. These partnerships have a track record of success: the Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded a $20 million HOPE VI grant for the Dutch Point Colony in the heart of our neighborhood. This was the result of the concerted effort of neighborhood residents, city staff, corporate leaders and elected officials on the local, state and national level. The leadership provided by you and your office was the lynchpin in winning the HOPE VI for Dutch Point. The same holds true for securing National Historic Landmark status for the newly designated Colt-related properties in our neighborhood.

The National Park at Coltsville comes at a perfect time. The Convention Center is complete. The Center for Science and Exploration opens in the spring, and other Hartford landmarks including the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe houses, the Old State House, the Bushnell, the Wadsworth Atheneum and the entire riverfront area, are in top shape and ready to take on more visitors. Just as Colt manufacturing led the way in Hartford's industrial revolution, a national park at Coltsville will be a leader in restoring and improving our capital city, returning it to the status of a vibrant and economically healthy New England urban area.

CSS/CON fully supports the effort to designate Coltsville as a national park, and we will do everything on the local and state level to make this vision become a reality. Please continue to pursue the necessary action that will grant National Park status to Coltsville.

Sincerely,

Carol Coburn
Executive Director

National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
15 State Street
Boston, Mass. 02109

December 15, 2008

Re: Designation of Coltsville National Park

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to your organization, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hartford Botanical Garden, to express our enthusiasm with the nomination of the Coltsville Historic District as a National Historic Park, and the recently completed study on the potential visitors' experience conducted by the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee..

After many years of searching for a suitable location throughout the Greater Hartford area, the Hartford Botanical Garden Planning Committee (HBGPC) determined in 2005 that the site of Sam and Elizabeth Colt's personal gardens was indeed an excellent choice to locate a botanical garden. Funds have been raised for a master plan, and as the process nears completion, we are excited by the prospect of celebrating the passions of Sam and Elizabeth's horticultural legacy. Included in the construction are: interpretive panels, replanting original orchards, children's gardens, greenhouses and the restoration of many of the Colt family's original buildings located around the Armsmear residence.

We are anticipating, an aggressive fundraising effort, and together with the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut will commit the resources necessary to ensure a quality visitor experience at the Sam and Elizabeth Colt's garden site.

We also understand that the greater Hartford community has an abundance of locations of historical importance, and we look forward to participating in a cooperative effort to market ourselves as a part of an historic district. This effort would be a special and critical addition to the momentum already underway to celebrate the stories of Sam and Elizabeth Colt.

Sincerely,

Lisa Musumeci
President, Hartford Botanical Garden Planning Committee

Department of the Interior

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has the responsibility for most of our nationally-owned public lands and natural resources. Its duties include fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interest of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The Department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. Its mission is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resources conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.