

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Connecticut</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Hartford</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>70.10.09.0038</b>	DATE <b>10/22/70</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Bushnell Park**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Bounded by Elm St., Jewell St., and Trinity Street.**  
**Located south and southeast of the State Capitol Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Hartford**

STATE <b>Connecticut</b>	CODE <b>06101</b>	COUNTY: <b>Hartford</b>	CODE <b>003</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**City of Hartford**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Hartford**      STATE: **Connecticut**      CODE: **06**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Municipal Building**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Hartford**      STATE: **Connecticut**      CODE: **06**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

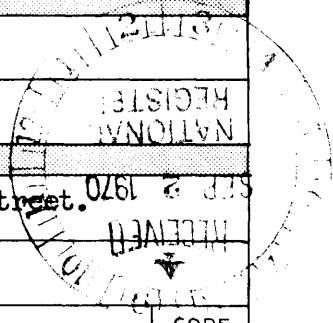
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970**       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Connecticut Historical Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**75 Elm St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Hartford**      STATE: **Connecticut**      CODE: **06**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut  
COUNTY: Hartford  
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.09.0038  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The park was originally laid out along the banks of the Hög River (later the Park River) and replaced a slum area of the city which included among other things the town dump. Originally it consisted of thirty-five acres which were entirely within the first area of settlement. Later more land was purchased from Trinity College which increased the area of the site to fifty acres and provided space for the new statehouse.

After the land for the park had been cleared and planted with grass and trees, fine buildings were built around it, although some of these have now been rebuilt or destroyed or replaced. In 1947 the Park River was diverted underground to make room for an access road to Interstates 91 and 84.

Along Elm Street an impressive row of brownstone townhouses was built in the 1870's. Only No. 95 and No. 97 Elm Street remain, the latter built by Doctor Cincinnatus Taft. Both the Hotels Heublein and Garde were located on the other side. And in 1892 the new YMCA building replaced the old jail in a new style to complement the "Soldiers and Sailors Monument."

Bushnell Park has remained the site of several interesting monuments of this last century. The most important single effort is the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Built in 1885, it is a unique combination of arch and bridge (now filled under) which once spanned the river. George W. Keller (1842-1935) was the Scottish born architect, who came to this country under the aegis of William Burges to supervise the work at Trinity College. Mr. Keller was also the architect for the Hartford High School which was completed in 1884. In niches on both towers of the Memorial are brownstone figures representing the occupations of the Union Army's men. (One is a freed slave, another a printer, a mason, a student, etc.

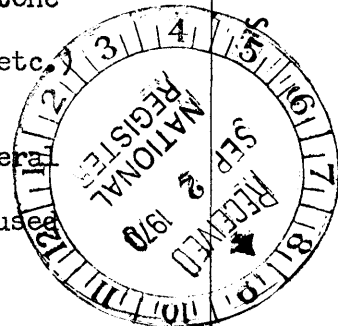
In addition there is the Corning Fountain, statues of Israel Putnam and Horace Wells, a Spanish American War Memorial, several memorial trees including a scion of the Charter Oak and two memorial entrances. Also, the diverting of the Park River caused a pumping station to be constructed in 1947-1949 at the east end.

The following list describes these monuments with their inscriptions.

Fox Memorial Entrance. "1952 erected pursuant to the will of Frederick K. Fox." (Architect Unknown).

Soldiers and Sailors Monument. "Post Nobila Phoebus" "In honor of the men of Hartford who served and in memory of those who fell on land and on sea in the war for the Union their grateful townsmen have raised this memorial. During the Civil War 1861 - 1865 more than 4,000 men of Hartford bore arms in the National

SEE INSTRUCTION



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
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(Number all entries)

Description of Bushnell Park

2

cause nearly 400 of whom died in the service." Erected 1885, George Keller, architect. Casper Buberl and Samuel Kitson sculptors.

Corning Fountain. "This Fountain is erected as a tribute to the memory of John B. Corning by his son Uohn J. Corning." Erected 1899, architect and sculptor unknown.

Silver Maple Sapling. "Second World War. In memory of all Marines who make the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country. The Marine Corps Fathers Association of Connecticut."

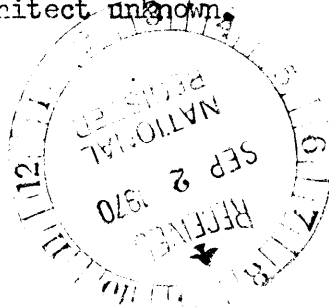
Hickory Sapling. "This tree presented by Connecticut State Exchange Clubs to honor Dwight A. Hogg, State President 1945-1946. The Exchange Club of Hartford."

Statue of Israel Putnam. "Presented by the Honourable Joseph Pratt Allyn, 1873." Erected 1879, sculptor J.Q.A. Ward. John Quincy Adams Ward was born in Urbana, Ohio. As a sculptor he was elected President of the National Academy in 1874 at the age of thirty-three.

Spanish War Memorial. To commemorate the valor and patriotism of the Hartford men who served their country in the war with Spain 1898. Erected by the City of Hartford 1927." Sculptor Evelyn B. Longman, 1926.

Oak Tree. "Scion of the Charter Oak planted 19 October 1871 by the First Company of the Governor's Foot Guard."

Statue of Horace Wells. "Horace Wells, The Discoverer of Anaesthesia Died at Hartford 1847 Selectman 24 years, Mayor of the City, Judge of the City Court, Representative to the State Legislature, High Sheriff of Hartford County. Erected by his grandson George Edward Hoadley and presented to the City of Hartford, 1909." Architect unknown.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

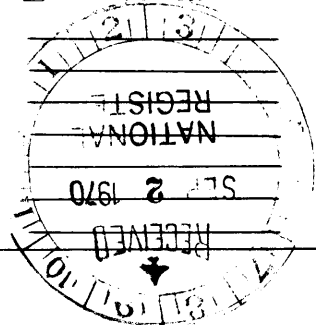
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1868

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The development of the Hartford Park (later Bushnell Park) was one of the achievements of Horace Bushnell who along with other liberal Protestant leaders (Channing, Emerson, and Bellows) was determined to channel the religious energy of the New England Church into a new social and institutional ideal: the development of a superior public environment including parks, parkways, and institutions devoted to the study of history and science.

In the view of these Protestant leaders a renewed democracy required

the development of institutions in which all social classes participated and from which intellectual-moral instruction and psychological satisfaction were derived. Such a consensus flowed from the realization that there had taken place in the American city a dramatic decline in the social influence of the Protestant Church. "It had been replaced as a means of molding popular values," wrote Bellows, "by Schools, Colleges, and popular literature." Nor was the church any longer the center of social life, "for in the cities at least these functions were filled by the social parties, the festivals, the Lyceum, the concert and the skating-pond and the theatre."<sup>1</sup>

In the cities the place of the New England village church and its associated common was taken not so much by the new Gothic-or Romanesque-styled ecclesiastical structures as by the public parks and the museums surrounding them.

Horace Bushnell in the mid-1800's attempted a complete synthesis of Protestant thought. Through sermons and books, he expounded a philosophic basis for the secular expression of religious activity. He authored one of the century's most comprehensive essays on the need for a new profession of city planning and in the process influenced two members of his community who were to become famous as urban reformers— Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society, and Frederick Law Olmsted, planner of Central Park. Bushnell took

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Hartford Park," by Rev. Horace Bushnell, D.D. in Hearth and Home, February 6, 1869.

Albert Fein, "The American City: The Ideal and the Real," in The Rise of American Architecture (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1970) pp. 54-57.

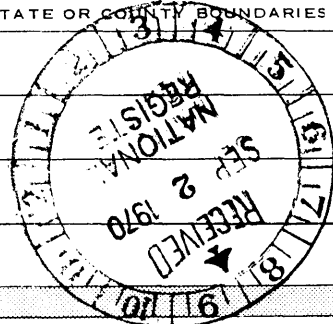
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	45'	59"	72°	41'	01"			
NE	41°	46'	05"	72°	41'	54"			
SE	41°	45'	53"	72°	41'	31"			
SW	41°	45'	45"	72°	41'	41"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee**

ORGANIZATION: **Connecticut Historical Commission**      DATE: **July 9, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**75 Elm Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Hartford**      STATE: **Connecticut**      CODE: **06**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *[Signature]*  
State Liaison Officer and Chairman  
Title: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: July 9, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Arrest Allen Connally*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
**OCT 22 1970**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
*William J. Murtagh*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **OCT 14 1970**

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Connecticut	
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(Number all entries)

Significance of Bushnell Park

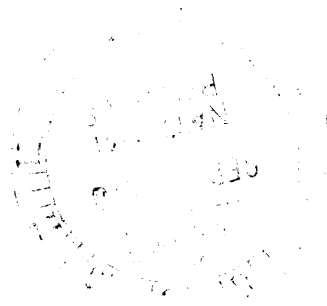
particular pleasure in learning, just before his death, that the park in Hartford for which he had fought, selected the site, and cooperated as designer with Olmstead would be named for him.<sup>2</sup> Bushnell Park remains today as a secular monument to his religious thought.<sup>3</sup>

Thus Bushnell Park is significant because of its relation to a distinguished citizen of Hartford, and also now because it functions in part as it was intended: to refresh and revitalize people whose days are spent in the capitol area and in the center city.

<sup>1</sup>Henry W. Bellows to R. N. Bellows, March 1, 1865, Bellows Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society.

<sup>2</sup>Although Bushnell had a major role in selecting the site of the park, the work of designing the park was done officially by the landscape artist and draughtsman, J. Weideman in cooperation with a five member Park Commission. See "Hartford Park," by Rev. Horace Bushnell, D.D. in Hearth and Home, February 6, 1869, p. 102.

<sup>3</sup>Albert Fein, "The American City: The Ideal and the Real," in The Rise of American Architecture (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1970) pp. 54-57.





LATITUDE

NW	41° 45' 59"
NE	41° 46' 05"
SE	41° 45' 53"
SW	41° 45' 45"

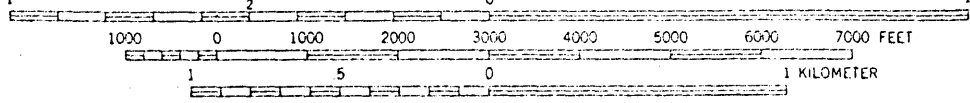
LONGITUDE

NW	73° 41' 01"
NE	73° 41' 54"
SE	73° 41' 31"
SW	72° 41' 41"

10" 691 692 (HARTFORD SOUTH) 693 4  
6467 11 NW

SCALE 1:24 000

0.9 MI. TO MERIDIAN (1/4) MI.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL.

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.7 FEET

