

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

PUBLIC LAW 108-94—OCT. 3, 2003

117 STAT. 1163

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 “Armsmead”, 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.

# Appendix 2: Bibliography

## Surveys and Guidebooks

- Andrews, Gregory E., and David F. Ransom. *Structures and Styles: Guided Tours of Hartford Architecture*. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1988.
- Kummer, Merle, ed. *Hartford Architecture*. Vol. 2. *South Neighborhoods*. Hartford: Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1980.
- Roth, Matthew W. *Connecticut: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*. Washington, DC: Historic American Engineering Record, 1981.

## Historical Maps and Views

- Atlas of the City of Hartford and the Town of West Hartford. Springfield, Mass.: L. J. Richards & Co., 1909.
- Atlas of Hartford, Connecticut, City and County. Hartford: Baker & Tilden, 1869.
- City Atlas of Hartford, Connecticut. Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1880.
- The City of Hartford, Connecticut. "Bird's-Eye View." Boston: O. H. Bailey, 1877.
- "Colt's Patent Fire Arms Company's Manufactory," in Asher & Adams Pictorial Album of American Industry. New York: Asher & Adams, 1876.
- "Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, Hartford, Connecticut." Isometric view on cover of Real Estate and Buildings Account book (see next section).
- Sanborn Map and Publishing Company. Insurance maps of Hartford. Microfilm, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.

## Secondary Works

- Barnard, Henry. *Armsmear: The Home, the Arm, and the Armory of Samuel Colt, A Memorial*. Hartford: privately printed, 1866.
- Barnes, G.M. *Weapons of World War II*. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1947.
- Best, Michael. *The New Competition: Institutions of Industrial Restructuring*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990.
- Boorman, Dean K. *The History of Colt Firearms*. New York: Lyons Press, 2001.
- Bradley, Betsy Hunter. *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Bradley, Joseph. *Arms for the Tsar: American Technology and the Small Arms Industry in Nineteenth-Century Russia*. DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 1990.
- Browning, John and Curt Gentry. *John M. Browning, American Gunmaker*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1964.
- Cawelti, John. *The Six-Gun Mystique*. 2nd ed. Bowling Green, OH: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1984.
- Chandler, Alfred D., Jr. *The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1977.
- Clouette, Bruce Alan. "'Getting Their Share' Irish and Italian Immigrants in Hartford, Connecticut, 1850-1940." Ph.D. diss., University of Connecticut, 1992.
- Deyrup, Felicia Johnson. *Arms Making in the Connecticut Valley: A Regional Study of the Economic Development of the Small Arms Industry, 1798-1870*. York, PA: George Shumway, Publisher, 1970.
- Edwards, William B. *The Story of Colt's Revolver: the Biography of Col. Samuel Colt*. Harrisburg, PA: The Stackpole Company, 1953.
- Ellis, John. *The Social History of the Machine Gun*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.
- Evans, Harold. *They Made America, From the Steam Engine to the Search Engine: Two Centuries of Innovators*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2004.
- Fitch, Charles H. "Report on the Manufacturers of Interchangeable Mechanism." In *Tenth Census of the United States (1880): Manufactures*. Vol. 2. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1883.
- Grant, Ellsworth S. *The Colt Legacy: The Colt Armory in Hartford, 1855-1980*. Providence, RI: Mowbray Company, 1982.
- Haven, Charles T. and Belden, Frank A. *A History of the Colt Revolver and the Other Arms Made by Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company from 1836-1940*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1940.
- Hine, Robert V. & John Mack Faragher, *The American West: A New Interpretive History*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.
- Hosley, William. *Colt, The Making of an American Legend*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1996.
- Hounshell, David. *From American System to Mass Production: The Development of Manufacturing Technology in the United States*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.
- House, Herbert G. *Colt Rifles and Muskets from 1847 to 1870*. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 1996.
- Janeway, Eliot. *The Struggle for Survival: A Chronicle of Economic Mobilization in World War II*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951.
- Johnson, George B. and Hans Bert Lockhoven. *International Armament, Vols. I & II*. Cologne, Germany: International Small Arms Publishers, 1965.
- Mayr, Otto and Robert C. Post, eds., *Yankee Enterprise: The Rise of the American System of Manufactures*, Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1981.
- McGrath, Roger. *Gunfighters, Highwaymen and Vigilantes: Violence on the Frontier*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1984.
- Raber, Michael S., "Conservative Innovators, Military Small Arms, and Industrial History at Springfield Armory, 1794-1918," *The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archaeology*, Vol. 14, Number 1, 1988, pp. 1-21.

- Roe, Joseph Wickham. *English and American Tool Builders*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1916.
- Rohan, Jack. *Yankee Arms Maker: The Incredible Career of Samuel Colt*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1935.
- Rosenberg, Nathan. *Perspectives in Technology*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1976.
- Slaton, Amy E. *Reinforced Concrete and the Modernization of American Building, 1900-1930*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Smith, Merritt Roe. *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology: The Challenge of Change*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1977.
- Smith, Merritt Roe, ed. *Military Enterprise and Technological Change: Perspectives on the American Experience*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1985.
- Snell, Mark A. *From First to Last: The Life of Major General William B. Franklin*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2002.
- Webb, Walter Prescott. *The Great Frontier*. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1964.
- Wermiel, Sara. *The Fireproof Building: Technology and Public Safety in the Nineteenth-Century American City*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.
- Wilson, R. L. *Colt, an American Legend*. New York: Abbeville Press, 1985.
- Wilson, R.L. *The Colt Heritage: The Official History of Colt Firearms from 1836 to the Present*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979.

## 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 manager for the study and may be reached at (617) 223-5222, or via email at [Jim\\_O'Connell@nps.gov](mailto: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**

December 28, 2007

**Karen Senich**  
Acting Executive Director

**Arts  
Tourism  
Film  
History**

One Constitution Plaza  
Second Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06103

860.256.2753  
860.256.2811 (f)

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](http://www.cultureandtourism.org)

An Affirmative Action  
Equal Opportunity Employer



## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 manager for the study and may be reached at (617) 223-5222, or via email at [Jim\\_O'Connell@nps.gov](mailto: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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas R. Chapman".

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

( Printed on Recycled Paper )  
79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106 - 5127  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

## 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 Coltsville

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

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

1

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.

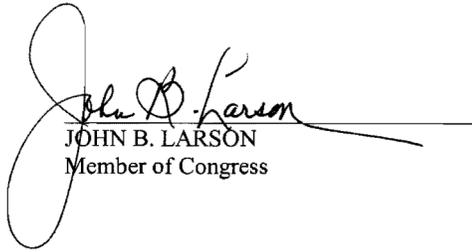
Sincerely,



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 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  
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

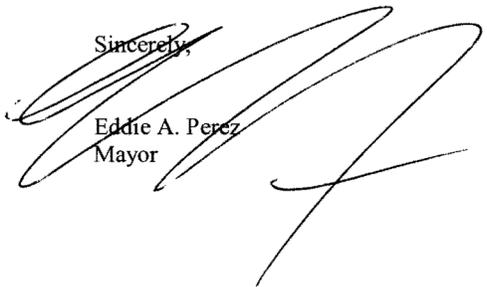


I have assigned my Director of Development Services, David Panagore ([panad001@hartford.gov](mailto:panad001@hartford.gov), 860. 757-9028) to work closely with the Park Service, State of Connecticut, and the developer to represent the City to help make this National Park a reality. You may also reach me directly at [eperez@hartford.gov](mailto: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**

December 15, 2008

**Historic Preservation  
and Museum Division**

One Constitution Plaza  
Second Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut  
06103

860.256.2800  
860.256.2763 (f)

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](http://www.cultureandtourism.org)

An Affirmative Action  
Equal Opportunity Employer



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 *Coltville National Park Visitor Experience Study* and fully support the establishment of Coltville 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 Coltville National Park. We look forward to the creation of a Coltville National Park.

Sincerely,

Kendall F. Wiggin



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 possesses 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

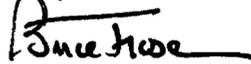
No less than thirty-five historical societies and museums exist within ten miles of Coltsville, a concentration unequaled in any other metro region in the state, and a fact that perhaps explains why the Humanities Council over the years has traditionally allocated over 40% of its statewide support for 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 in-state 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  
Executive Director

BF/ad



**Board of Trustees**

**Officers**

Chairman  
Jeffrey Muthersbaugh, *Bethel*  
Vice Chairman  
Adrienne Farrar Houel, *Bridgeport*  
Secretary  
Theresa Kidd, *Haddam*  
Treasurer  
Edmund F. Schmidt, *Darien*  
Assistant Treasurer  
Walter Fiederowicz, *Litchfield*

**Gubernatorial Appointees**

Theodore F. Ellis, *Branford*  
Natalie Ketcham, *Redding*  
Edith Pestana, *Hartford*

**Additional Members of the Board of Trustees**

Scott Bates, *Stonington*  
Sara Bronin, *Hartford*  
William Crosskey, *Bolton*  
Leroy Diggs, *Danbury*  
Robert Faesy, *Wilton*  
Lynn Friedman, *Madison*  
Glenn Geathers, *Hartford*  
Charles Janson, *Stamford*  
William Hosley, *Enfield*  
Charles Janson, *Stamford*  
Ralph Knighton, *Bloomfield*  
Rebekah MacFarlane, *Westport*  
James McLaughlin, *Durham*  
Edward Munster, *Haddam*  
Donald Poland, *Hartford*  
George Purtill, *Glastonbury*  
Hon. Kelvin Roldan, *Hartford*  
Adele Strelchun, *North Canaan*  
John B. Toomey, Jr., *Bolton*  
Jane A. Vercelli, *Thompson*  
Richard Wies, *New Haven*  
Jeanne Webb, *Hartford*  
Douglas Williams, *Punnam*  
Hiram Williams, *South Kent*

**Advisory Council**

J. Barclay Collins, *Sharon*  
William Crowe, *Hartford*  
Jared Edwards, *FAIA, West Hartford*  
Gerald Farrell, Jr., *Wallingford*  
Mimi Findlay, *New Canaan*  
John Herzog, *Madison*  
Lee G. Kuckro, *Wethersfield*  
Stephen S. Lash, *Stonington*  
Charles T. Lee, *Greenwich*  
Peter Malkin, *Greenwich*  
Cesar Pelli, *FAIA, New Haven*  
The Hon. Andrew Roraback, *Goshen*  
John W. Shannahan, *Suffield*  
Rob Simmons, *Hartford*

Helen Higgins  
*Executive Director*

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  
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,



600 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-2990 Telephone 860 853-4088 Fax 860 548-9264



**Thomas F. Mullaney, Jr.**  
*Chairman*

**Thomas P. Cody**  
*Vice-Chair/Planning & Development*

**Lawrence V. Mowell, Jr.**  
*Vice-Chair/Management*

**Marjorie E. Morrissey**  
*Vice-Chair/Fundraising*

**David R. Robb**  
*Treasurer*

**Ranjana Chawla**  
*Secretary*

**Joseph R. Marfuggi**  
*President and CEO*

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

50 Columbus Boulevard • 1st Floor • Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1984 • (860) 713-3131 • Fax (860) 713-3138  
[www.riverfront.org](http://www.riverfront.org)

# 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](mailto:cacoburn@crec.org)

December 15, 2008

Representative John B. Larson  
Connecticut's First Congressional District  
District Office  
221 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

1

Colt National Park  
December 15, 2008  
Page 2

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,

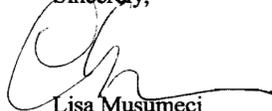
I am writing to your organization, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hartford Botanical Garden, to express our enthusiasm with the nomination of the Coltsville Historic District as a National Historic Park, and the recently completed study on the potential visitors' experience conducted by the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