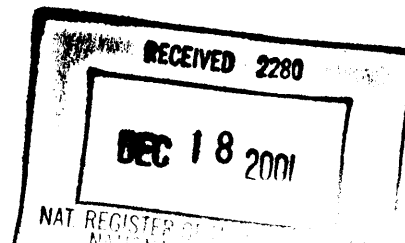


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a type- writer, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT  
other names/site number HALE MONUMENT

2. Location

street & number Nathan Hale (Town) Cemetery, 120 Lake Street not for publication \_\_\_  
city or town Coventry vicinity \_\_\_  
state Connecticut code CT county Tolland code 013 zip code 06238

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] December 17, 2001  
Signature of certifying official Date

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 1-28-02

Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property

Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
<u>1</u>	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation & Culture Sub: Monument/Marker

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation & Culture Sub: Monument/Marker

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Egyptian Revival/Greek Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Granite  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
walls Granite  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**Narrative Description**

The CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT is a 45-foot obelisk consisting of base, die, and shaft facing east/southeast, close to Lake Street at the entrance to the Nathan Hale Cemetery in the village of South Coventry, Connecticut. The location is approximately 200 yards south of State Route 31. The monument is constructed of Quincy, Massachusetts, granite, the dark gray color of which is created by a dense field of black specks.

The monument stands above the street at the front of the cemetery on a high hill faced with a four-foot-tall granite ashlar retaining wall. The wall, built in 1894 of massive stones five feet in length, includes curved corners on either side of the entrance into the cemetery, at the north edge of the monument site. Directly in front of the monument, five steps rise to the top of the retaining wall where a walk leads to three additional risers accessing the monument level.

The monument site is defined by a granite curb seven and one-half inches wide. The curbing is marked at the northeast and southeast corners of the site by low two-foot-square piers with pyramidon caps a few inches above grade, diagonally opposite each other. At the northeast corner the visible stone is the top of a pier rising from street level as a component of the retaining wall. Dimensions of the rectangular site area within the curbing, including the walk, are 63 feet across the front and rear, and 42 feet along the sides. The monument is sited off-center to the north and west within the area bordered by the curbing.

The monument base is surrounded by coping stones 16 ½ inches to 19 inches above grade, 12 inches deep, and 21 feet long, one on each of the four sides. Each side is a single piece of stone, 21 feet long. The space behind the coping is filled with earth, which establishes the level on which the monument stands.

**Base**

The base of the monument rises in four stages. The first stage is three feet high and 14 feet long. Its corners are L-shaped stones which are 39 inches across the front and sides and 18 inches deep (visible), flanking a central piece seven and one-half feet long. The tops are slightly pitched, and appear to extend about four inches beyond the visible 18 inches under the second stage to provide support.

Stages of the base above the first are constructed differently, without the L-shaped corner pieces. Instead, at the second stage, single pieces of stone eight and one-half feet long, 27 inches high, and 10 inches deep run north-south across the front and back. The ends are enframed by corresponding stones running east-west on the sides and measuring ten feet and ten inches long by 27 inches high by ten inches deep. About six and one-half inches of stone extend for support under the third stage above.

The third stage of the base reverses the enframing arrangement of the second stage. The long pieces here are front and back, 21 ½ inches high, seven and one-half inches deep (visible), and nine feet long, while on the sides the length is six feet and ten inches. The support surface beneath the next stage is six and one-half inches. The fourth stage, arranged like the second, is made of stones 18 ½ inches high, four and three-fourths inches deep (visible), and five feet and eight inches long on the front.

**Die**

The front and back of the die are four feet and five inches high, seven feet and two inches long, and 12 inches deep. The sides of the die are shorter, five feet and two inches long. Each face of the die is embellished at the top by a row of three wreaths under a low gabled pediment. The tympanum bears a feroher, an Egyptian symbolic decoration in the form of a disc with a pair of long, horizontal wings. The corners of the cornice are ornamented by anthemion antefixae.

**Shaft**

The shaft section of the monument above the die is composed of stepped-back stones that continue for another three stages, rising to a shaft of six stones of the same size and the crowning pyramidon. The distance from the top of the die to the top of the monument is 32 feet. The weight of the monument is 125 tons.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**Inscriptions**

Lettering on the monument is incised. Cross-section of the incised letters is V-shaped.

East face of die, capital letters:

CAPTAIN  
NATHAN HALE,  
1776.

North face, mixed case:

Born at Coventry  
June 6, 1755.

South face:

Died at New York  
Sep. 22, 1776.

West face:

I only regret  
that I have but one life  
to lose  
for my country.

**Current Condition**

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection commissioned a conservation assessment (condition) report prepared by an outdoor sculpture conservator in 1997. The conservator found that the general condition of the monument was very good. She made several recommendations concerning a misaligned granite block, further testing to determine the construction of the core of the monument, and repair of the lead joints.<sup>1</sup> The granite walls and coping added in 1894 are in very good condition and correspond to the description found in the report of the Commission on the Nathan Hale monument submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly on June 11, 1895.<sup>2</sup>

Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property

Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

---

### 8. Statement of Significance

---

---

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Art

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1846

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1846

1894

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building object or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder** Henry Austin (architect)  
Solomon Willard (builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

---

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

---

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Connecticut Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1 Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**Statement Of Significance**  
**Summary**

The CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT (1846) is significant as a very early example of a large commemorative memorial, one of the first in Connecticut and the nation to memorialize an event or, more rarely, an individual important in American history. It was designed in the Egyptian Revival/Greek Revival styles by a leading Connecticut architect, Henry Austin (1804-1891) of New Haven, and erected by Solomon Willard (1788-1862), owner of the granite quarries at Quincy, Massachusetts, who designed and built the BUNKER HILL MONUMENT (1843) in Boston (Charlestown), Massachusetts. The HALE MONUMENT project helped to establish the practice of commissioning an architect for the design of prestigious civic monuments. Dedicated to the memory of Nathan Hale (1755-1776), a Revolutionary War hero and Coventry native, the HALE MONUMENT is a large-scale memorial 45 feet high. Hale was officially designated Connecticut's State Hero by an act of the Connecticut General Assembly on October 1, 1985.<sup>3</sup> (Criterion C)

**Architectural and Artistic Significance**

The HALE MONUMENT exhibits the bold proportions and strong massing basic to the Egyptian and Greek Revival styles. The obelisk form and feroher reflect the influence of the Egyptian Revival style, and the decorated frieze below the die's cornice, the low pedimented gable above the cornice, and the anthemion antefixae at the corners of the monument are features of the Greek Revival style.

The obelisk form used in the monument is interpreted as the Egyptian representation of the sun's rays fanning out from one point, as shown by the pointed, pyramid-shaped tip of the shaft. The feroher motif, an orb (sun god) and flanking feathered wings, within the pediment is an Egyptian Revival ornament often found in examples of the style, which enjoyed a brief but vigorous period of popularity in the mid-nineteenth century. The Egyptian Revival was the style in which the architect of the HALE MONUMENT, Henry Austin, contemporaneously designed the gateway to Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven (1845).<sup>4</sup> Connecticut-born, Austin was perhaps the best-known New Haven architect of the nineteenth century, for 50 years conducting an extensive practice. He began his career in the office of Town & Davis, New York, which employed him as supervising architect of the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford (completed in 1844), at which time he became the first professional architect to be listed in the *Hartford City Directory* (1840, 1841). Among Austin's many celebrated Connecticut commissions were the New Haven Railroad Station; New Haven City Hall; Moses Y. Beach House, Wallingford; and First Congregational Church, Danbury.<sup>5</sup>

War-related or commemorative monuments of any kind erected in America before the Civil War are few in number. In part, this paucity is due to the controversial nature of putting up monuments in the young republic at the beginning of the nineteenth century. President John Quincy Adams declared: "Democracy has no monument. It strikes no medals. It bears the head of no man on a coin."<sup>6</sup> Monuments were seen by some as decadent and anti-republican or as symbols of European aristocracy or of religion. Great resistance was encountered when committees were formed with the intent of raising both public and private funds for erecting patriotic monuments to the heroes of the American Revolution. The WASHINGTON MONUMENT in Washington, D.C., was begun in 1833 when a group of prominent citizens founded a group to raise private funds for a memorial to George Washington. "Construction of the obelisk began in 1848, but was not without controversy....At one point saboteurs seized the monument office records and claimed possession of the monument....Recurrent vandalism, lack of funds, and the coming Civil War brought construction to a halt in 1854/55."<sup>7</sup> Congress approved federal funds in 1876 to complete the obelisk, much as the State of Connecticut was called on to provide enough funding to complete the HALE MONUMENT. In New England, the BUNKER HILL MONUMENT was begun in 1825 and but not completed until 1843 in Boston, Massachusetts. Its design and construction were overseen by Solomon Willard, the same person who supervised construction of the HALE MONUMENT. In Connecticut, the first example on the scale of the HALE MONUMENT was the FORT GRISWOLD MONUMENT (begun in 1825 and completed in 1830) in Groton, designed by Ithiel Town. Town's protégé was Henry Austin, a circumstance which no doubt contributed to the design resemblance between the two monuments.<sup>8</sup> Other Revolutionary War memorial obelisks in Connecticut are of brownstone rather than the granite of the FORT GRISWOLD and HALE MONUMENT examples.<sup>9</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

---

**Historical Background**

The Hale Monument Association, formed in November 1837, encountered the opposition characteristic of the time period when it proposed to erect a memorial. The Association requested funds from the United States Congress in 1834, 1836, 1838, and again in 1840 without success, but was able to collect some money by private fund-raising efforts. According to Mary E. Baker, "The Hale Monument was not even wholeheartedly endorsed in the Hale family....members declined involvement on the excuse that it might be viewed as immodest."<sup>10</sup> In May 1846, the State of Connecticut provided \$1,000.00 and in May 1847, \$250.00 more.

With the above support, it was possible to proceed. Cost of transportation of the granite from the quarry in Quincy, Massachusetts, to Norwich, Connecticut, was contributed by the Old Colony, Boston & Worcester Railroad and the Norwich & Worcester Railroad. From Norwich the stone was brought to Coventry by ox teams at a cost of \$525.00. Total expenses for the monument came to \$3,733.93, with \$1,250.00 provided by the State of Connecticut and presumably \$2,483.93 provided in private funds raised "by means of private subscriptions, by fairs, by tea-parties, and by the exhibition of a Drama illustrating the services and fate of Capt. Hale...."<sup>11</sup> Apparently, the Hale Monument Association gave the monument to the town.

By the last decade of the nineteenth century, the condition of the site and the monument had deteriorated. The town sought the assistance of the state to remedy the situation. At a Special Town Meeting held May 11, 1894, the selectmen were instructed to deed to the state "The Hale Monument and the land upon which the same stands...."<sup>12</sup> Apparently, the transfer in ownership was duly executed, although examination of the Coventry Land Records did not reveal entry of the deed.

As cited in the *Special Acts and Resolutions Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut at the January Session, 1893*,<sup>13</sup> an act was approved on April 19, 1893, which directed the Commission on the Nathan Hale monument (composed of Henry C. Robinson, Hartford, John L. Hunter, Willimantic, and George L. Philips, Coventry) to repair and restore the monument and provided an appropriation of \$2,500.00 to pay for the work. The Commission's report was filed on June 11, 1895, with the General Assembly:

...plans and sketches were prepared to enable the commission to fulfill its duties. In preparing the plans we had the benefit of the counsel and skill of the Hon. Sherman W. Adams of the Hartford Park Commission.... the Hale monument was in a sad condition. The commission were unsuccessful in obtaining the co-operation of the town to join with them in making a sightly terrace approaching the Hale monument from the northeast.... We found the base of the monument unsafe, the lot irregular and poorly defined, and the commission entered into a contract with the W.N. Flynt Granite Co., of Monson, Mass., to put in an appropriate and harmonious new base foundation, to construct a beautiful and substantial granite wall on the easterly and southerly sides of said lot, and to put neat and firm granite coping along the northerly and easterly sides, also curbing for sidewalk and granite steps to approach said monument, the sidewalk in front and on the southerly side has been made of crushed granite; the lot has been properly graded and turfed....<sup>14</sup>

The cost of the work was \$2,362.71, within the approved appropriation of \$2,500.00. Along with the invoices for the work, the Commission submitted "before and after" photographs. These have not been located. In closing, the Commission stated, "We believe that the State will no longer be ashamed of the condition of this sacred resting place of the patriotic martyr, whose noble life and tragic death it commemorates"<sup>15</sup>

Thereafter, responsibility for care of the HALE MONUMENT fell to the Connecticut State Comptroller until 1923, when it was transferred to the State Park and Forest Commission by Chapter 159 of *Public Acts Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in the Year 1923*. The monument is currently administered by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8      Page 3      Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**Nathan Hale**

Nathan Hale (June 6, 1755 - September 22, 1776) was born in Coventry, Connecticut. He attended Yale College, New Haven, and began a career as a schoolteacher before becoming a "citizen soldier" in the American Revolutionary War. After serving as a lieutenant in the siege of Boston, he was promoted early in 1776 to the rank of captain and transferred with his unit to the New York City area. In New York he volunteered to enter the British lines, where he was captured in his disguise as a Dutch schoolteacher and hanged the following day. At his execution, Hale was reported to have said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" (the inscription found on the HALE MONUMENT). Hale has been recognized as a symbol of youthful patriotism and as a martyr.

**Special Considerations**

Although ordinarily, properties that are commemorative in nature are not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT has exceptional significance in the social and design history of outdoor sculpture and civic monuments in America. The monument is also significant in the careers of the two men, Henry Austin and Solomon Willard, responsible for its design and construction.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Conservation Technical Associates LLC, "Conservation Assessment Findings for the Hale Monument, Coventry" (Westport, December 8, 1997).
- <sup>2</sup> Connecticut, *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Connecticut*, "Report of the Commission on the Nathan Hale monument, June 11, 1895" (Hartford, Connecticut: Press of the Case, Lockwood and Brainard Company, 1895), pp. 1200-1202. The official name of the state-appointed body was the "Commission on the Nathan Hale monument," the last word being spelled with a lower-case "m."
- <sup>3</sup> Connecticut, *Public Act No. 85-311*, "An Act Designating Nathan Hale as State Hero" (1985).
- <sup>4</sup> George Dudley Seymour, *Researches of an Antiquary: Five Essays on Early American Architects* (privately printed, no date), p. 17. Also see John Warner Barber, *Connecticut Historical Collections, Containing a General Collection of Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Sketches, Anecdotes, etc. Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Connecticut, with Geographical Descriptions* (New Haven, Connecticut: Dunn and Peck, 1856), p. 581. Expanded edition.
- <sup>5</sup> David F. Ransom, "Biographical Dictionary of Hartford Architects," *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin*, Volume 54 (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1989), p. 16.
- <sup>6</sup> Mary E. Baker, "The Nathan Hale Monument in Coventry," unpublished paper excerpted from "The Past Belongs to the Living: Nathan Hale and the Making and Breaking of an American Icon" (unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Connecticut, 1998), p. 8.
- <sup>7</sup> Smithsonian Institution, Museum of American Art, Inventory of American Sculpture, Smithsonian Institution Research Information System ([www.siris.si.edu](http://www.siris.si.edu)), Inventory form for WASHINGTON MONUMENT, Control number IAS 71500328.
- <sup>8</sup> Mary E. Baker, "The Past Belongs to the Living: Nathan Hale and the Making and Breaking of an American Icon" (unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Connecticut, 1998). Baker's thesis contains a very detailed description of the events leading to the financing, erection, and dedication of the CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT in Coventry, as well as detailed information concerning other Connecticut outdoor sculptures depicting Nathan Hale.
- <sup>9</sup> David F. Ransom, "Connecticut's Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials," *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin*, Volume 58, Numbers 1-4, 1993; Volume 59, Numbers 1-4, 1994 (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society). Also illustrated in the 1856 edition of Barber are two other Revolutionary War memorial obelisks in Connecticut, including the REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIAL (30 feet high) erected in 1852 in Milford Cemetery, Milford, designed by architect M.J. Ritter, Milford, and the GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER MONUMENT (40 feet high) erected in 1854 in Wooster Cemetery, Danbury, designed by James G. Batterson, Hartford. The State of Connecticut provided \$600.00 of a total cost of \$1,250.00 for the Milford monument, and \$1,500.00 of a total cost of \$3,000.00 for the Danbury monument. Of approximately 137 known Civil War-era examples, only seven are taller than the HALE MONUMENT'S 45 feet. Also see the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American Art, Inventory of American Sculpture, part of the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System, at [www.siris.si.edu](http://www.siris.si.edu). The Inventory of American Sculpture contains citations for over 35,000 pieces of outdoor sculpture, including 306 obelisks. The database may be searched by artist, type, material, or date. Detailed information can be obtained on any listed piece. No other citations for Henry Austin were found.
- <sup>10</sup> Baker, unpublished paper, p. 5.
- <sup>11</sup> Barber, p. 581.
- <sup>12</sup> Coventry, "Special Town Meeting" (Town Records, Volume 4, p. 265, May 11, 1894).
- <sup>13</sup> Connecticut, *Special Acts and Resolutions Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut at the January Session, 1893*, "House Joint Resolution No. 305: Appropriation for Improvements on the Nathan Hale Monument" (Hartford: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1893).
- <sup>14</sup> Connecticut, 1895, p. 1201.
- <sup>15</sup> Connecticut, 1895, p. 1202. Nathan Hale's gravesite is not located at the HALE MONUMENT in Coventry. He was hanged as a spy in New York City and presumably buried in an unmarked grave in New York.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9      Page 1      Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**Bibliography**

Books

Barber, John Warner. *Connecticut Historical Collections: Containing a General Collection of Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Sketches, Anecdotes, etc. Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Connecticut, with Geographical Descriptions.* New Haven, Connecticut: Dunn and Peck, 1856, p. 581. Expanded edition.

Seymour, George Dudley. *Researches of an Antiquary: Five Essays on Early American Architects.* Privately printed, no date, p. 17.

Withey, Henry F., and Withey, Elsie Rathbun. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased).* Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970, pp. 26, 659. Reprint of 1956 edition.

Journals

Ransom, David F. "Biographical Dictionary of Hartford Architects." *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin.* Volume 54. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1989. P. 16.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Connecticut's Monumental Epoch: A Survey of Civil War Memorials." *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin.* Volume 58, Numbers 1-4, 1993. Volume 59, Numbers 1-4, 1994. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society.

Newspapers

Baker, Mary E. "Nathan Hale's a hero, but his monument is falling apart." *The Hartford Courant*, September 10, 1997, A13.

Shayer, Harold C. "Nathan Hale monument in danger of disrepair." *The [Willimantic] Chronicle*, May 31, 1997, p. 8.

Ungar, Laura. "Legislators urged to save hale monument." *The Hartford Courant*, February 18, 1995, B1.

Public Documents

Connecticut. *Special Acts and Resolutions Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut at the January Session, 1893.* "House Joint Resolution No. 305: Appropriation for Improvements on the Nathan Hale Monument." Hartford: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1893.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Connecticut.* "Report of the Commission on the Nathan Hale monument, June 11, 1895." Hartford, Connecticut: Press of the Case, Lockwood and Brainard Company, 1895, pp. 1200-1202.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Public Acts Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in the Year 1923.* "Substitute for Senate Bill No. 427, Chapter 159: An Act Concerning the Care of Public Monuments." May 23, 1923. Hartford, Connecticut: Published by the State, 1923.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Report of State Park and Forest Commission.* No date. References *Public Acts 1923*, Chapter 159, pp. 15, 17, placing public monuments previously cared for by the Comptroller in the charge of the State Park and Forest Commission.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Report of State Park and Forest Commission to the Governor For the Fiscal Term ended June 30, 1924.*

\_\_\_\_\_. *Public Act No. 85-311.* "An Act Designating Nathan Hale as State Hero." 1985.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9      Page 2      Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

Coventry. Town Records, Volume 4, p. 265. "Special Town Meeting." May 11, 1894.

Unpublished Materials

Baker, Mary E. "The Past Belongs to the Living: Nathan Hale and the Making and Breaking of an American Icon." M.A. thesis, University of Connecticut, 1998.

Conservation Technical Associates LLC. "Conservation Assessment Findings for the Hale Monument, Coventry." December 8, 1997.

Monument Setting Company, Inc. "Nathan Hale Monument Study." 1988.

Electronic Resources

Smithsonian Institution. Museum of American Art. Inventory of American Sculpture, Smithsonian Institution Research Information System ([www.siris.si.edu](http://www.siris.si.edu)), Inventory form for WASHINGTON MONUMENT, Control number IAS 71500328.

Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property

Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

---

**UTM References** (Place additional  
UTM references on a continuation sheet)

**Acreage of Property** less than one

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>723885</u>	<u>4627300</u>	3
2	_____	_____	4	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

---

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

---

name/title David F. Ransom and Mary M. Donohue  
organization Connecticut Historical Commission date June 15, 2001  
street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 860-566-3005  
city or town Hartford state CT zip code 06106

---

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

---

**Property Owner**

---

---

name State Parks Division, Department of Environmental Protection, State of Connecticut  
street & number 79 Elm Street telephone 860-424-3200  
city or town Hartford state CT zip code 06106-5127

---

---

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10      Page 1      Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is described in the Coventry Town Records, Volume 4, page 265, "Special Town Meeting," May 11, 1894. The town records state "At a Special Town meeting held...On motion it was voted that the Selectman be and they are hereby instructed to deed to the State of Connecticut the Hale Monument and the land upon which the same stands and the land around the same, on the Northwesterly side to a point two feet from the graves on said side of said Monument and on the South by the driveway, Easterly by the Highway and northerly by a line 27 feet from the North side of said Monument keeping the same distance from said Monument and making a line to intercept the Northwesterly line at right angles."

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the parcel deeded to the State of Connecticut by the Town of Coventry in 1894. The nominated property is solely owned by the State of Connecticut.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Captain Nathan Hale Monument  
Name of Property  
Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut  
County and State

---

---

**List of Figures**

1. Drawing, CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT, from John Warner Barber, *Connecticut Historical Collections, Containing a General Collection of Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Sketches, Anecdotes, etc. Relating to the History and Antiquities of Every Town in Connecticut, with Geographical Descriptions* (New Haven, Connecticut: Dunn and Peck, 1856), p. 581.
2. Postcard View, CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT, no publisher noted, 1914.

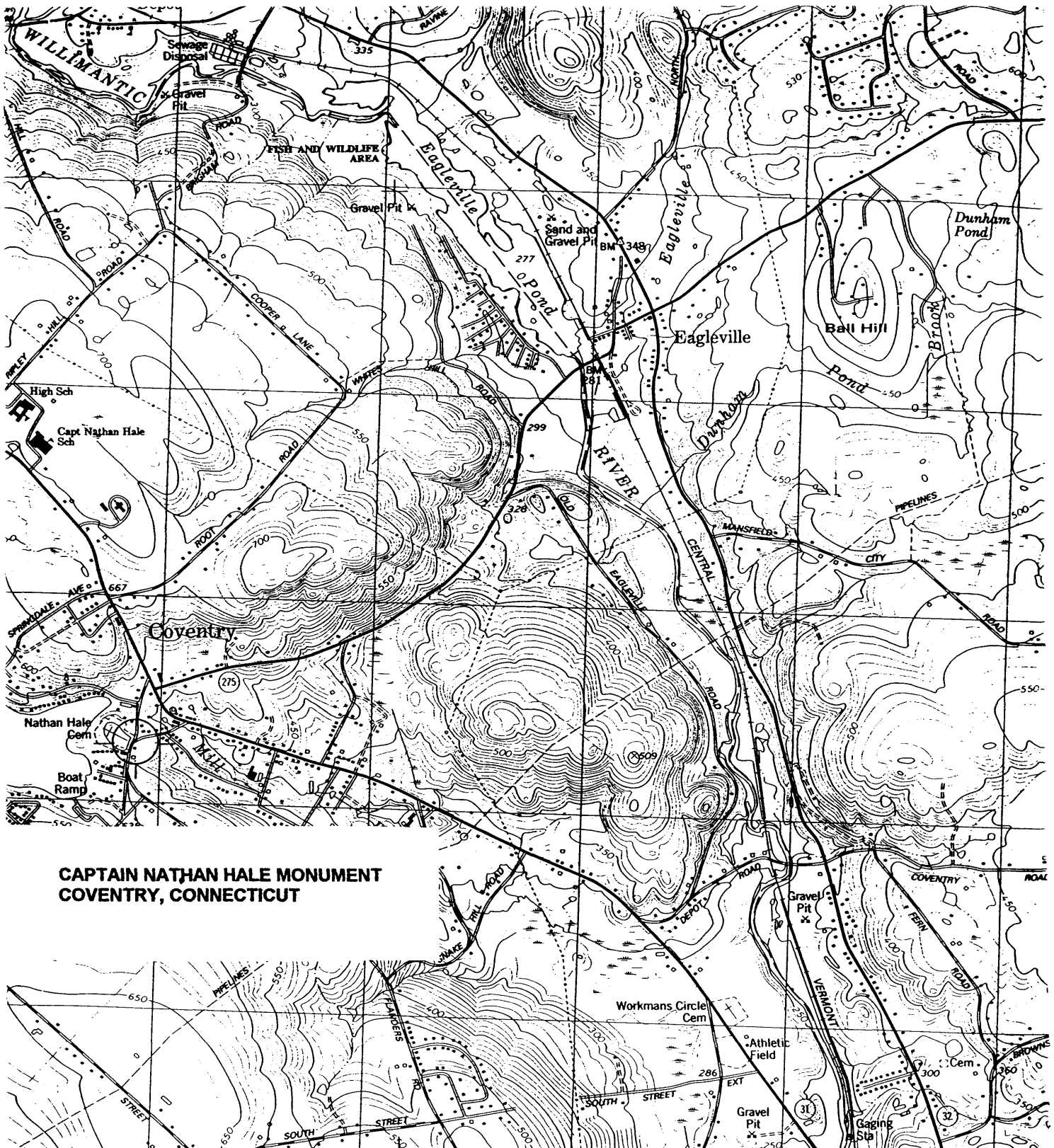
**List of Photographs**

Photographer: Mary M. Donohue

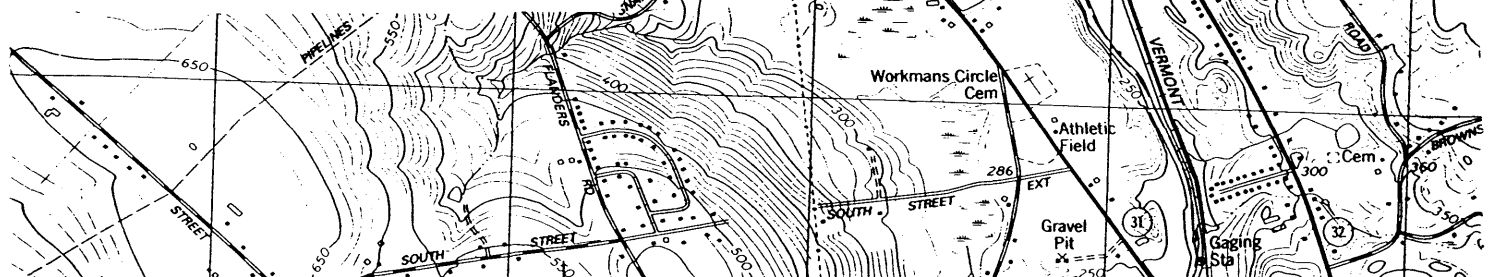
Date: July, 2001

Negatives on file: Connecticut Historical Commission

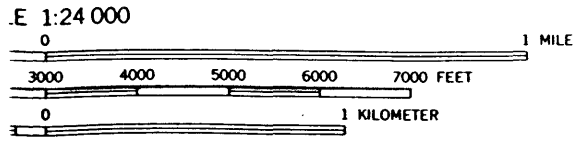
1. Monument and site with 1894 granite retaining wall, front elevation, camera facing northwest.
2. Monument, front elevation, camera facing northwest.
3. Monument and surrounding area of Nathan Hale Cemetery, rear elevation, camera facing southeast.
4. Monument die, east and north faces, camera facing northwest.
5. Monument die with Egyptian Revival-style feroher in tympanum, close-up of east face, camera facing northwest.
6. Monument, close-up of east face, camera facing northeast.
7. Granite curbing marked with 2-foot-square piers with pyramidon caps, northeast corner, camera facing northeast.



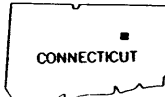
**CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT  
COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT**



COLUMBIA 6567 IN NE 724 725 17'30" 726 727 INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA— WILLAMANTIC 3.6 MI 728



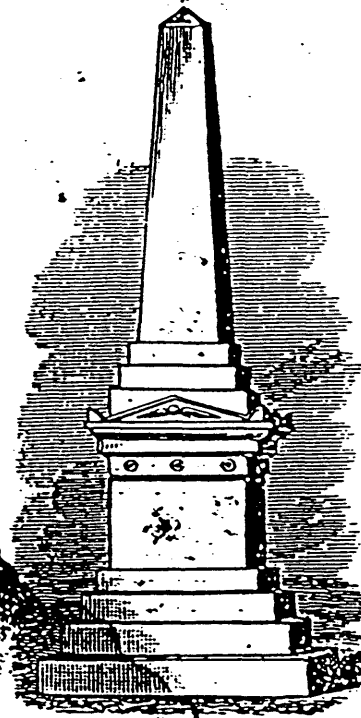
INTERVAL 10 FEET  
VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Primary highway, hard surface
  - Secondary highway, hard surface
  - Light-duty road, improved surface
  - Unimproved road
  - Interstate Route
  - U. S. Route
  - State Route

## HALE MONUMENT AT COVENTRY.

The annexed is a representation of the monument erected to the memory of Capt. Nathan Hale, the martyr to American liberty, from the original plan or design of Mr. H. Austin, architect, New Haven. It is of Quincy granite, solid from foundation to capstone, embracing one hundred and twenty-five tons of stone. It is fourteen feet square at the base, and forty-five in height. The transportation of the material from Quincy to Norwich, at an estimated cost of \$400, was a generous gratuity on the part of the Old Colony, Boston & Worcester, and Norwich & Worcester Railroad Companies. From Norwich to Coventry the material was transported by ox-teams, at an estimated cost of about \$525. It was erected in 1846, at a cost, every thing included, of \$3,733.93. The monument stands upon elevated ground, near the Congregational Church in South Coventry, within a space enclosed by an iron picketed fence, which abuts on the old burying yard, the burying place for the Hale family. [See Coventry, p. 546.] It has on its sides the following inscriptions:



Hale Monument.

[North side,] Capt. Nathan Hale, 1776; [West side,] Born at Coventry, June 6, 1755; [East side,] Died at New York, Sept. 22, 1776; [South side,] "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

In November, 1837, the "Hale Monument Association" was formed, for the purpose of erecting a cenotaph in honor of his memory. Congress was several times memorialized for aid, but without effect. The Association, however, by means of private subscriptions, by fairs, by tea-parties, and by the exhibition of a Drama illustrating the services and fate of Capt. Hale, collected funds, and excited public interest, until, in May, 1846, the State of Connecticut granted one thousand dollars, and in May, 1847, two hundred and fifty more in furtherance of this object.

A small but interesting work, by I. W. Stuart, Esq., entitled the "Life of Capt. Nathan Hale," &c., has been published the present year, (1856.) It contains probably all the information which can be collected concerning the life, capture and death of the "martyr spy" of the Revolution.





Figure 2. Postcard View, CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE MONUMENT, 1914, Coventry, Connecticut