

PH0010651

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.09.0035	DATE 10/28/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort Nathan Hale

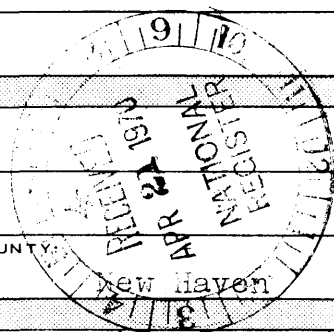
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fort Hale Park, Black Rock

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
off Woodward Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Haven

STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 06      COUNTY: New Haven      CODE: 009



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Connecticut

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Tax Assessor's Office-New Haven, State of Connecticut

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 Orange Street

CITY OR TOWN: New Haven      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 06

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
New Haven Harbor Survey (1876)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1876       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
copy: New Haven Colony Historical Society Library

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Whitney Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: new haven      STATE: Connecticut      CODE: 0630

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: CONNECTICUT  
COUNTY: NEW HAVEN  
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.10.09.0035  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Appearance 1659, earthworks only.  
 1775, earthworks and log fort.  
 1809, brownstone and brick fort.  
 1863, description as follows:

Five concrete buildings enclosed and covered by earthworks.

Present Appearance 1970, same as 1863 entire works surrounded by wet moat, some portions have filled in from erosion. moat originally forded by means of a draw bridge no longer existing.

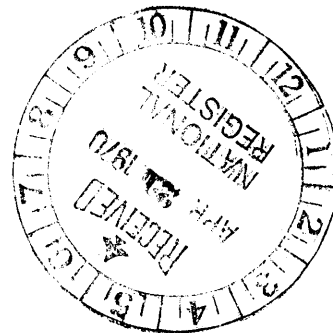
A protective sea wall of brownstone, the stones now scattered along the beach, was erected from stone of the 1809 fort.

Nothing else remains of the earlier forts as far as can presently be seen.

Three of the concrete buildings are in near perfect condition. One has collapsed and the remaining one is heavily damaged as far as can be seen. (the entire works is heavily overgrown and obscures much from easy view.

Most of the original earthworks remains as constructed with the exception of some areas where erosion has shifted some.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) July 5, 1779

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

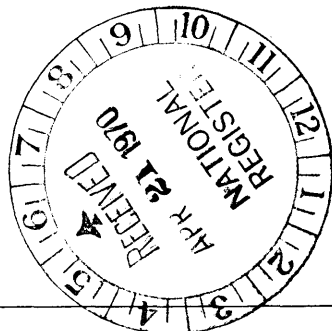
The site is presently occupied by a unique fort of the American Civil War period. On this same site in 1659, a earthworks and battery was erected to defend the New Haven Colony. In 1775, another works, a log and earthworks fort was erected for the revolution.

This fort was subjected to a combined land and naval attack by a large British force on July 5, 1779. The fort was then defended by nineteen members of the local militia until ammunition ran out. Then, the guns were spiked and the fort strategically evacuated. All nineteen defenders were taken prisoner as they were making their way back through the lines. They had been cut off.

About 1806 the site was purchased by the Federal Gov't. for the erection of an elliptical shaped masonry fort to mount nine guns, and to construct a barracks to house fifty officers and men. This fort was manned by U.S. corps of Artillery during the War of 1812. On several occasions it served to drive off wouldbe British raiding vessels.

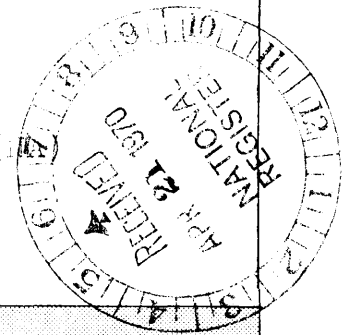
This fort was named in honor of Nathan Hale a martyred patriot. In 1863 work was begun on the second fort Hale. This fort was designed to mount 18 guns of heavy calibre. The work was completed in 1866, but the fort saw no action. For many years the fort was occupied and maintained as a post, but became outmoded. The armament was removed and the site, fort intact, was deeded to the State of Connecticut in 1921. Control of use of the site is presently vested in the City of New Haven, as a public park.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Connecticut quarterly, Vol. #4, (1998)  
 History of East Haven, by Sarah Hughes, pub. 1908  
 New Haven town Records Vol. 1.  
 Record Group #77- National Archives, Washington  
 Records- Office of the Chief of Engineers, #77.



**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Connecticut		New Haven	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Leonard Edward Adams, President

ORGANIZATION: Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects, Inc. DATE: 1/5/70

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 374

CITY OR TOWN: West Haven 06516 STATE: Connecticut CODE: 06516

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION 09**

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

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: Liaison Officer

Date: February 27, 1970

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: OCT 28 1970

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 28 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS