

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET PH0084701

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

FEB 20 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Church of the Good Shepherd and Caldwell H. ~~Cole~~ Memorial Parish House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 155 Wyllys Street

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

— VICINITY OF

1st - William R. Cotter

STATE

Connecticut

CODE
09

COUNTY
Hartford

CODE
003

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Donations and Bequests of the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Hartford

STREET & NUMBER

1335 Asylum Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

— VICINITY OF

STATE
Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Record Room, City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

550 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE
Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Connecticut Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE

1975

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

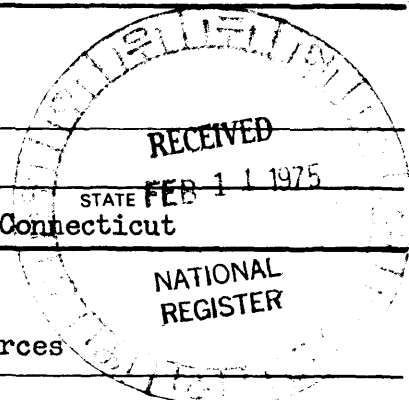
Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut



7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE :
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT (house)	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (church)	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Church:

Edward Tuckerman Potter's exquisite sensitivity to the color and texture of combined stones is apparent throughout the design of the Church of the Good Shepherd. The walls are Portland brownstone dressed with light Ohio sandstone. The "Italianate" arches above windows and doors are also of alternating brown and light stones, and alternating red and grey columns of polished Scotch granite separate the thirteen lancet windows of the apse. The irregular plan of the church is distinguished by a handsome semi-detached stone tower with high spire at the northwest corner and a large, single transept on the north side. Inside, this transept, used as a chapel, is ingeniously separated from the nave by a magnificent floor-to-ceiling carved screen set with plate glass.

Potter's predilection for delicate, naturalistically carved ornamentation (Anglo-inspired) is nowhere better displayed than in the carved capitals and gable stones on the exterior, and in the wood-carved foliage in the spandrels of the arches inside. The unique feature of this church is the southwest or Armorer's Porch, originally the main entrance. Here the tools of the armorer's trade, the products for which Samuel Colt was renowned - revolver and machinery parts - are carved amid the foliage of the capitals and Christian symbols along the gable edge. The theme of this porch conjures up the paternal image of Colt just as the name of the church and most religiously symbolic motifs appear to relate to the special memorial character of the whole.

The church interior offers a breathtaking visual experience to even the most casual visitor. A virtual forest of open chestnut timbers supports a blue ceiling once studded with gold stars. Slim cast-iron columns - encased in wood since 1936 but originally painted bronze and silver - carry ash wood arches which separate nave from aisles. Superb Victorian windows enrich the whole with brilliant hues of red, blue and yellow. The apse is lit by tall lancets bearing individual representations of Christ and the Apostles, based on paintings by German "Nazarene" Overbeck. Equally fine are the great memorial west windows, the jewel-like floral windows of the baptistry, and the continuous narrow clerestory, a band of radiance surrounding nave and apse. This interior is Potter-Victorian at its finest. There are no extant churches from this particular period of Potter's development that are as intact or have as much of his sumptuous ornament.

Parish House:

When her eldest son Caldwell Colt died in 1894, Mrs. Colt again commissioned Potter to design a memorial parish house to serve the church as a Sunday School and recreation hall. She also consulted the expert firm of Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot on the landscaping of the grounds. Although their plans

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	FEB 20 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Church of the Good Shepherd and
Caldwell H. Colt Memorial Parish House

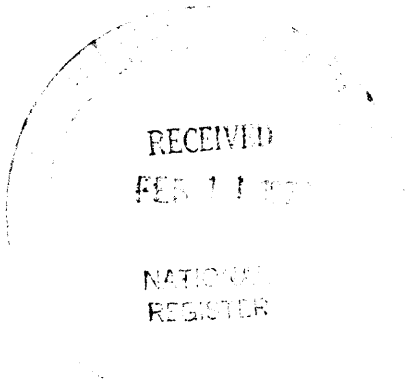
7

2

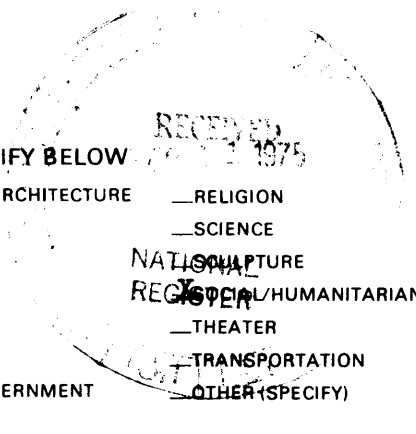
do not appear to have been followed, the siting of the parish house, southwest of the church and raised on an artificial eminence, is especially felicitous. Superficially, Potter kept to the coloristic, Gothic style of the church, but the imposing symmetry reflects the architectural taste of the 1890's, a taste disposed toward formality and grand axial spaces. The building was novelly planned with symmetrical apse-like ends, similar to the church's apse, a grand staircase inside across the front, an iron "bridge" leading to the openwork fleche, and exposed steel lattice girders in the spacious and inventively-styled auditorium. Throughout there is an abundance of ornamentation, most being carvings relative to the travels and nature pursuits of yachtsman Caldwell Colt. The Colt Memorial buildings form a complementary unit, neither part of which could be taken away without destroying the integrity of the whole.

Potter's Hartford Buildings:

Edward Tuckerman Potter is better represented in the Hartford area than anywhere else in America. Besides buildings already discussed, Potter designed the library at Armsmead (the Colt Mansion in Hartford), Trinity Church in Wethersfield (1871-1874), and two houses in the Nook Farm enclave at Hartford - one for George H. Warner (razed 1959), and the excellently restored Mark Twain house (1873-1874). The Twain house is Potter's most noteworthy domestic building, and is recognized as one of America's great Victorian houses. Hartford is doubly fortunate in also having the finest ecclesiastical ensemble, the Colt Memorial buildings.



8 SIGNIFICANCE



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1867/1894 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edward Tuckerman Potter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of the Good Shepherd and Caldwell H. Colt Memorial Parish House were designed by the architect Edward Tuckermann Potter, and built by Mrs. Colt as a memorial to her deceased husband and their eldest son. Sited between the Colt industrial complex and the Colt mansion(Armsmead), the Church was intended to serve the spiritual needs of the Colt workers, but was open to all. Conforming to the New England mill town tradition, the church was a component of the Colt family "armory village" in Hartford's South Meadow.

Samuel Colt(1814-1862)grew up in the stimulating atmosphere of the burgeoning Industrial Revolution. As a boy he experienced life in a mill town and the learned the manufacturing process while working in his father's textile mill. Later, he developed his "armory village" in the typical pattern of a New England mill town. As an entrepreneur, he selected a large tract of land near water(essential for power and transportation), and laid out factory buildings on a functional quadrangular plan, the main building being designated by a cupola. West of the factory complex, across a road, short rows of tenement houses were built for the skilled laborers. The private mansion of the agent or overseer was erected nearby. Since the location of the early Colt factory was dependent upon a source of water, it was remote from the center of Hartford proper. Samuel Colt provided all the necessities for his workers - housing, stores, churches - in short, a village. He is commonly regarded as a paternalistic employer. The Church of the Good Shepherd was, therefore, an integral component in Colt's industrial village.

Selection of the Architect:

In rapid succession, Elizabeth H. Colt endured the tragedies of early widowhood and the infant deaths of two children. But by 1865, despite all her misfortunes, she had begun to organize a new parish in the South Meadow and was planning to erect a memorial church in memory of her husband. The daughter of a minister and friendly with such key figures in the Episcopal church as the Reverend William C. Downe, rector of St. John's, Hartford, and later Bishop of Albany, Mrs. Colt paid frequent visits to New York where she moved in Episcopal high society. She knew the major church architects and was familiar with their buildings. Toward the middle of 1866, Mrs. Colt chose Edward Tuckermann Potter (1831-1904)as her architect for the Church of the Good Shepherd. She may well have been favorably impressed by the plans for Potter's small St. John's Church in East Hartford, Connecticut(the cornerstone there was laid several

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Church of the Good Shepherd", Architectural Review and American Builders Journal, April, 1869, pp. 642-644

The Daily Courant(Hartford), September 4, 1867

The Daily Times(Hartford), September 5, 1867; January 29, 1869

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

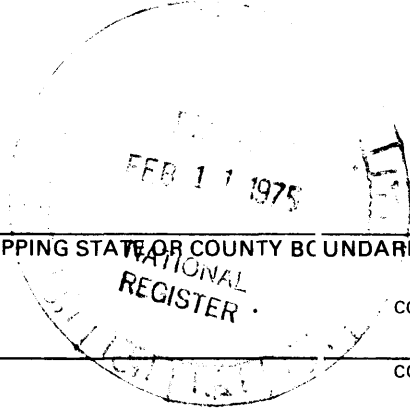
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 10

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 693 770 4625 1230
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 D
 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION



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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Christine Brockmeyer, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE January 20, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 59 S. Prospect Street

TELEPHONE (203) 566-3005

CITY OR TOWN Hartford

STATE Connecticut

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE John W. Shanahan 2/6/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

A. R. W. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 2/20/75

ATTEST: Charles ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-19-75

city

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

FEB 20 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Church of the Good Shepherd and
Caldwell H. Colt Memorial Parish House

8

2

months before that of the Church of the Good Shepherd). St. John's, incidentally, was erected under the aegis of the Reverend Mr. Doane, Mrs. Colt's adviser and friend. Perhaps also she was impressed by Potter's larger First Reformed Dutch Church in Schnectady, New York. She may have met Potter in New York. He was connected with the Episcopal hierarchy through his father, the Bishop of Pennsylvania; his uncle, the Bishop of New York; and two brothers who were in the ministry.

RECEIVED

FEB 11 1975

NATIONAL
REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	FEB 20 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Church of the Good Shepherd and Caldwell H. Colt Memorial Parish House	9	2

Hartford Times(Hartford), May 28, 1894; September 10, 1896.

Sarah B. Landau, "The Church of the Good Shepherd: The Church in the Meadow", unpublished typescript prepared for the Trustees of the Colt Bequest by the Hartford Architecture Conservancy, Inc., 1974

