

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: Fairfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70,12,09,0046	DATE 12/29/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Putnam Memorial State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersection of Routes 58 (Black Rock Turnpike) and 107 (Park Road)

CITY OR TOWN:
Redding

STATE Connecticut	CODE 06875	COUNTY: Fairfield	CODE 001
----------------------	---------------	----------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted
 No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Connecticut--State Park and Forest Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
-----------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Redding

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
-----------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1967 Federal State County Local

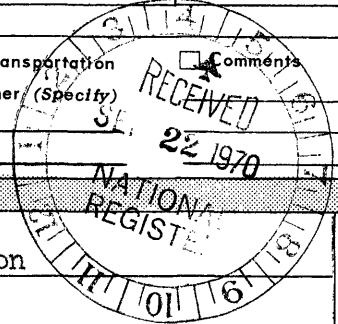
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE: Connecticut	CODE 09
-----------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: Fairfield

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: 70,12,09,0046
DATE: 12/29/70

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Putnam Memorial State Park is a large park of two hundred fifty-two acres which is a memorial to the soldiers of the American Revolution who spent the winter encamped here in 1778-79. It is located at the intersection of Route 58 and 107 in Redding, Connecticut.

On the eastern side of the park is a lake built by the "Old Put Club" in 1891. This eastern section is devoted to picnicking and recreational activities. The extensive grounds have been kept in their natural state, with attractive drives and footpaths adding to the pleasure and convenience of visitors. In the extreme northeastern section of this area there is an undeveloped area which contains a circle of firebacks.

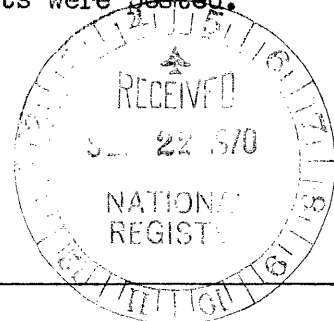
The area west of the lake contains the main entrance to the park. Approaching the west entrance one finds two blockhouses marking the gateway; the piers of these blockhouses are ten feet square and seven feet high and the houses above project over the piers by two feet on all sides. These blockhouses are examples of a building type which was a favorite form of defense during the winning of the West and during the French-Indian Wars, however, they were not original to the site.

Near the entrance is a recently erected statue of General Putnam by Anna Hyatt Huntington and a monument to commemorate the men of the Continental Army who wintered at the site in 1778 and 1779.

The monument is an obelisk of native granite ten feet square at the base, forty feet in height, and crowned by a cannonball two-and-a-half feet in diameter. The shaft is of rack-face ashlar, quarried from a boulder that occupied the present site of the monument. The polished plinths which bear the inscriptions are granite and are five feet square.

Northeast of the monument is a row of firebacks from the buildings in which some of the soldiers who lived in the camp were housed. North of the firebacks is a reconstructed barrack and west of this, the foundation of an oven where bread was baked for the troops. North of the oven is a reconstructed officers barracks and east of this the foundations of a powder magazine. Between this magazine and the soldiers hut is Philip's Cave, named for a soldier who camped here with the army and later returned to live in the cave and prey on the countryside. East of the firebacks is the museum which is on the site of the original picket-post where lookouts were posted.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

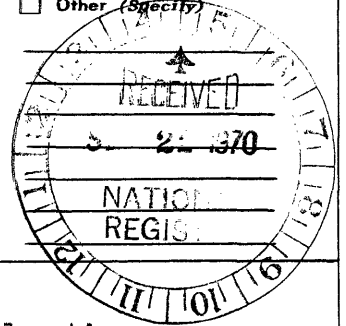
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1778-79

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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Putnam Memorial State Park

The significance of Putnam Park is that it was the location of the winter quarters of the right wing of the Continental Army in 1778-79. The location was strategically important because the troops would be available both for the defense of the Southeastern Connecticut coast and also to return to the the Hudson River in the event of an attack there.

The park is also significant for its association with the commanding general, Senior Major General Israel Putnam, who had distinguished himself earlier in the war in his shared command of the American Army at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Out of the battle came an undying piece of American historical lore, Putnam's famous order: "Men, you are all marksmen--don't one of you fire until you see the white [sic] of their eyes." As the British attacked Putnam strove desperately to reinforce the American lines. Finally, after suffering staggering casualties, the British carried the field, but the New Englanders had performed surprisingly well.¹

Putnam's later Revolutionary career failed to match the dashing promise of Bunker Hill. Though Washington did not criticize his leadership at Long Island, he seems to have decided that Putnam should be employed chiefly in posts not requiring battlefield command--first in Philadelphia and later in Peekskill. The younger officers meanwhile tended to regard "Old Put" as an outdated military leader. Any change of further battlefield distinction was ended when he suffered a paralytic stroke in 1779, and retired to his farm for the remainder of his life.²

¹ Albert E. Van Dusen, Connecticut, New York: Random House, 1961, p. 137.

² Ibid., p. 150.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albert E. Van Dusen, Connecticut. New York; Random House, 1961.

Fred Van Name, Putnam Memorial at Redding, Conn.: A State Park.
 Connecticut Vignettes: No. 2 of a series, copyright
 Fred Van Name, 1957.

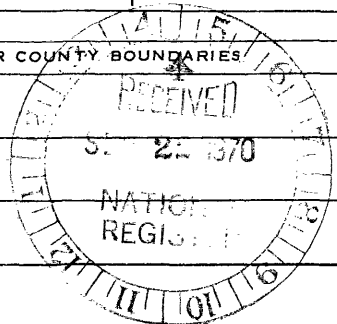
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	41° 20' 42"	73° 23' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41° 20' 42"	73° 22' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	41° 20' 03"	73° 22' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	41° 20' 03"	73° 22' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 183 Acres

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

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Constance Luyster, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: August 3, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
75 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 State Liaison Officer and Chairman
 Title: _____
 Connecticut Historical Commission
 Date: August 3, 1970

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 29 1970

Date: _____
 ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: NOV 27 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BETHEL QUADRANGLE
CONNECTICUT—FAIRFIELD CO.

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6366 IV NE
(NEWTOWN)

6.7 2.4 MI.
5'

633 420 000 FEET



NEWTOWN 6.5 MI.
DODDINGTON 2.7 MI.

635

73°22'30"

41°22'30"



1.3 MI. TO U.S. 202

190 000
FEET



COEWER

NW

NE

SE

SW

Putnam Memorial State Park

LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

41° 20' 42"

73° 23' 23"

41° 20' 42"

73° 22' 33"

41° 20' 03"

73° 22' 33"

41° 20' 03"

73° 23' 23"