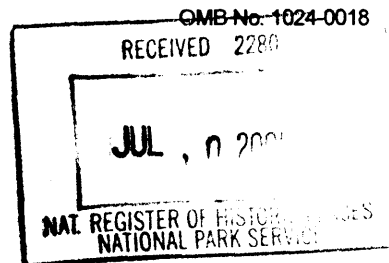


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

34 Sequassen Street; 1-3 and 17 Van Dyke Avenue; and
street & number 47, 49, 50, and 53 Vredendale Avenue _____ not for publication

city or town Hartford _____ vicinity

state Connecticut _____ code CT _____ county Hartford _____ code 003 zip code 06106

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ~~XX~~ 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
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John W. Shanahan 07/05/01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
John W. Shanahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

DOE 00/Beth Savage 8/24/01
listed 73040/Beth Savage 3/25/03

Name of Property

County and State

Ownership of Property

(Check only one box)

_ object

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

7

_building

sites

1

structures

objects

8

Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Functions

Commerce: business

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

Architectural Classification

Other

(Enter categories from instructions)

Brick

Asbestos

roof Asphalt

other _____ Steel

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

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Continuation Sheet**

**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
Hartford (Hartford County), Connecticut**

Section number 7 Page 1

Section 7: Narrative Description

This boundary increase extends the Colt Industrial District one-and-one-half blocks north across Sequassen Street to include seven buildings and one structure that were built by the Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company between 1916 and 1947 as part of Colt's Armory. The properties within the boundary increase are adjacent to the armory's main manufacturing complex, which is situated south of Sequassen Street between Huyshope and Van Dyke Avenues, and which is listed in the National Register as part of the original Colt Industrial District. The eight properties in the boundary increase were ancillary to the armory's original manufacturing function, and include two warehouses, a *Moderne*-style office building that served as company headquarters, a smaller employment office, two small garages, a power plant, and a pedestrian bridge across Sequassen Street that connects the company headquarters building to the East Armory in the original district.

The area within the boundary increase is situated along the north side of Sequassen Street between Van Dyke Avenue on the east and Huyshope Avenue on the west. It consists of two adjacent parcels of land: a gore block along Van Dyke and half of a rectangular block along Huyshope. The two blocks are separated by Vredendale Avenue, which terminates in a T-intersection at Sequassen Street. The gore block, which is formed by a 45° bend in Van Dyke Avenue along the eastern edge of the block, comes to a point at the five-point intersection of Van Dyke, Vredendale, and Charter Oak Avenues and Nepaquash and Sheldon Streets.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Inventory of Resources

All buildings are identified by a street address and a company inventory number. Colt's Armory began the building inventory numbering system after World War II. The present owner of the property, Coltsville Heritage Park, continues to implement this numbering system.

Address/ Company inventory #	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
34 Sequassen Street (Building #39)	Warehouse, 1916-1918. Aberthaw Construction Company, Hartford, builder. Two-story reinforced concrete industrial building, 24,300 sq. ft. per floor. Exposed exterior concrete structure with brick infill and large industrial steel sash windows with concrete sills. Low brick parapet with terra cotta coping surrounds flat, concrete slab roof. L-shaped footprint, with six bays along Sequassen Street (south elevation) and 13 bays along Huyshope (west elevation). At south elevation, second bay from west is divided in two by an intervening vertical structural member to accommodate front entrance. Three bays at ground floor of south elevation have been infilled with wood panels and small plate glass windows. Interior structural system comprised of exposed reinforced-concrete mushroom columns. Open warehouse space on each floor has been divided into classrooms and offices on either side of double-loaded corridor. Non-historic interior partitions are concrete block.	Contributing building
1-3 Van Dyke Avenue (Building #46)	Employment office, 1943. A. F. Peaslee, Hartford, builder. Two-story office building, 1,500 sq. ft. per floor. Five-sided footprint. Steel structure with concrete foundation, asbestos exterior siding, and steel industrial sash windows. Flat roof with wide eaves and brick chimney. Open interior office space with exposed concrete-clad steel columns.	Contributing building

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Hartford (Hartford County), Connecticut

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Address/ Company inventory #	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
17 Van Dyke Avenue (Building #24)	<p>Colt Company Headquarters. <i>Moderne</i>. 1940-41. Moore and Salisbury, West Hartford, architects. A. F. Peaslee Co., Hartford, builder. Three-story U-shaped office building with courtyard facing Sequassen. 15,000 sq. ft. per floor. Steel structure with brick spandrel, steel ribbon windows, and flat roof. Front elevation at Van Dyke is two stories high. Front entry is approached by wide concrete stair leading up to three-bay entry. Double stainless steel doors with transom are set in middle bay, with window openings in bays to either side. Entry bays are one story high and are separated by rounded concrete pilasters with concrete canopy. Second story above main entrance consists of massive solid brick panel projecting from main block of building and extending above roofline. Prominent vertical flagpole is attached to center of brick panel. Low brick wall encloses exterior garden space along Van Dyke Avenue on either side of front entrance. At courtyard, south elevation of main block of building is solid brick wall with punched window openings. Entrances through south elevation at either side of courtyard are topped by concrete canopies with long ribbons of glass block extending full height of building above. Interior has open floorplan with enclosed offices along Van Dyke. <i>Moderne</i> interior features include rounded foyer with recessed ceiling at front entry, with handsome open stairway opposite foyer. Stair curves upward from second to third floors and is characterized by stainless steel railings and risers, terrazzo treads, and long vertical band of glass blocks facing courtyard in exterior wall near head of stair. Pedestrian bridge over Sequassen Street connects third floor of Headquarters Building to third floor of East Armory (see below).</p>	Contributing building

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Address/ Company inventory #	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
47 Vredendale Avenue (Building #63)	Garage, 1946. One-story, single-volume space, 1,530 sq. ft. Exposed reinforced-concrete structure with brick infill and flat roof. Front elevation is 4 bays wide. Each bay is 12 feet high and 8 feet wide and contains interior space for single vehicle. Three bays contain original 30-panel rolling wooden garage doors; first bay from south contains steel replacement door. Row of six small window openings with steel sash is located at upper third of rear elevation.	Contributing building
49 Vredendale Avenue (Building #32)	Boiler House, <i>Classical Revival</i> , 1916-1918. Aberthaw Construction Company, Hartford, builder. One-story, single-volume space, 4,900 sq. ft. 4 ½ bays wide by 3 bays deep. Exposed reinforced-concrete structure with brick infill panels to height of 10', with large steel industrial sash above. Flat roof. Copper cornice at east elevation along Vredendale. Interior space with 30' high ceilings contains large oil-fired boilers used to heat entire armory complex. Free-standing yellow brick smokestack rises 100' above boiler house. Smokestack sits on high concrete base adjacent to boiler house to north along Vredendale. Matching copper cornice at top of concrete base.	Contributing building
50 Vredendale Avenue (Building #36)	Oil Storage Warehouse, 1916-1918. Aberthaw Construction Company, Hartford, builder. One-story warehouse with full basement, 3,400 sq. ft. per floor. 7 bays wide by 3 bays deep. Originally used to store barrels of oil for machinery in armory's manufacturing plant. Exposed reinforced-concrete structure with brick infill and steel industrial sash windows, except at north elevation where there are no windows. Open interior space with exposed reinforced-concrete columns and beams.	Contributing building

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Address/ Company inventory #	Description	Contributing/ Noncontributing
50 Vredendale Avenue (Building #25)	Garage, 1916-1918. Aberthaw Construction Company, Hartford, builder. One-story, single-volume space, 4,400 sq. ft. 5 bays wide by 6 bays deep. Constructed of brick piers with brick infill and steel industrial sash windows at bays. Windows have concrete sills and lintels, with brick corbels above lintels. Stepped parapet at east and west elevations, with brick corbels at cornice. Concrete coping at parapet. Garage doors at east and west elevations. Windows at south and east elevations have been removed and openings infilled with wood. Steel trusses exposed at ceiling. Building currently used as auto repair shop.	Contributing building
Sequassen Street Pedestrian Bridge	Enclosed walkway across Sequassen Street. According to the draft National Historic Landmarks nomination, the pedestrian bridge dates to c. 1900. Earliest documentation of structure is its appearance on 1914 engraving of Colt Armory. 80' long, 6' wide. Steel span enclosed with corrugated iron walls and roof, with three small steel windows located at both east and west elevations. Connects third floor of Headquarters Building to third floor of East Armory. Originally connected East Armory to original Colt office building, which was demolished in 1941 to make way for present Headquarters Building.	Contributing structure

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

1900-1946

Significant Dates

1916

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder**

Moore and Salisbury, architects

Aberthaw Construction Company, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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:

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**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
Hartford (Hartford County), Connecticut**

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary:

The seven buildings and one structure in the Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase) contribute to the significance of the original Colt Industrial District under National Register criterion A for industrial history. The area of the Boundary Increase, which includes one and one-half blocks north of Sequassen Street, constitutes the northern extent of Colt's Armory and contains all remaining armory properties not already included in the original district. Built between 1916 and 1946, these properties are associated with the major expansion of Colt's Armory during World War I and with a lesser period of growth around World War II. Although the properties in the boundary increase are on a smaller scale than the massive manufacturing buildings south of Sequassen and are ancillary to the arms production process—warehouses, offices, garages, a boiler house, a pedestrian bridge—they are nonetheless an important component of the historic armory complex. Buildings in the main armory complex, along with two groupings of workers' housing—one for the armory and one for another Colt industry on Warwarne Avenue—and a large park donated to the City of Hartford by the Colt family, were listed in the National Register in 1976 as part of the Colt Industrial District.

Historical Significance

The area of the Boundary Increase was part of the original 20-acre tract of land on which Samuel L. Colt (1814-1862) built his armory for the Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company between 1855 and 1862. From the beginning of the armory's development, the one and one-half blocks north of Sequassen Street, directly across from the armory's massive manufacturing plant, were reserved for smaller buildings, such as offices, warehouses, and repair shops, whose function was to support the manufacturing process. Although none of the 19th-century buildings survives within the Boundary Increase, land use patterns at the armory were clearly delineated by 1862 and are evident today in the street layout and in the size, design, and function of the surviving buildings within the Boundary Increase and throughout the entire complex.

The significance of the properties in the Boundary Increase is apparent only in the context of the development of the entire armory between 1855 and 1946, and a brief description of that development is included as part of this significance statement. Colt built his main armory building on Van Dyke Street at the southwest corner of Sequassen Street, facing east onto the Connecticut River. Completed in 1856 and destroyed by fire in 1864, the armory was three and one-half stories tall, 500 feet long, and built of Portland brownstone. On top of the armory, at

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**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
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the center cross gable, Colt erected a blue onion dome set above a circle of white columns. The dome was crowned by a bronze weathervane in the shape of the Colt family icon, a rampant colt holding a broken spear in its mouth. The original armory included a rear brownstone ell that extended 150 feet off the center cross-gable west toward Huyshope Avenue. At the end of the ell, two one-story brownstone cross wings stood parallel to the main armory building and contained the armory's iron foundry and metal polishing shop. Today these two small brownstone workshops, known respectively as buildings #8 and #10, are free-standing and are all that remain of the original manufacturing plant as it stood during Samuel Colt's lifetime. At the west side of Huyshope Avenue on the two narrow blocks south of Sequassen, the company built at least 20 multi-family residences to accommodate armory workers and their families. Ten of these residences, which date to the late 1850s, survive and are today under private ownership as residential condominiums.

At the same time that Colt built his magnificent blue-domed armory and the picturesque workers' village south of Sequassen Street, the company also constructed several buildings to the north of Sequassen in the area of the present Boundary Increase. Most important of these was a handsome three-and-one-half-story brick office building that stood at the northwest corner of Van Dyke and Sequassen. This building served as Colt's company headquarters from 1856 until 1941, when it was demolished to make way for completion of the existing headquarters building. Built in the Italianate style, Colt's original office building contained a two-story front porch with arcaded columns, wide eaves with large ocular windows at the frieze, and a captain's walk overlooking the river atop the hipped roof. At the south elevation, an enclosed wooden pedestrian bridge connected the second floor of the office building to the main armory across Sequassen Street. The original bridge presumably was destroyed by the fire in 1864 that destroyed the main armory, and a new wooden bridge is shown at that same location in an engraving from the early 1870s. A steel span pedestrian bridge with corrugated iron siding was built c. 1900 to replace the wooden bridge. The earliest documentation for the steel span pedestrian bridge is its appearance on a 1914 engraving of the armory complex. The steel span bridge does not appear in 19th century photographs or drawings of the armory. The steel span bridge stands today and connects the East Armory to the 1940s headquarters building, which is on the site of the original Italianate office building.

At the northern tip of that same block, along Charter Oak Avenue (now the northern terminus of Van Dyke Avenue) at the site of the present employment office, stood Germania House, a social club and mutual aid society. William Hosley, writing in *Colt: The Making of an American Legend* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1996), speculates that Germania House may have served as a medical dispensary and provided various charitable functions for Colt's German immigrant workers, who made up nearly one-third of the armory's workforce in

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**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
Hartford (Hartford County), Connecticut**

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the 1850s through the 1870s. A photograph from c. 1861, shows that Germania House was a small two-story brick Gothic Revival building with decorative vergeboard at its several cross-gables. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map identifies the building as Germania House in 1885, but labels it as Armory House in 1900. The new name came perhaps in deference to the demographic changes brought to Colt's workforce by the massive immigration of non-Germanic eastern and southern Europeans to the United States in the late 19th century. Armory House is shown on Sanborn Maps as late as 1927, but an aerial photograph of the armory from the late 1930s shows that the building had been demolished by that date.

Other original armory buildings from the 1850s that formerly stood within the area of the present Boundary Increase include a three-story brick machine and tool repair shop at the southeast corner of Sequassen Street and Vredendale Avenue, behind the original office building. From the Sanborn Maps, it appears that this building was demolished in the 1920s to provide additional surface parking for Colt's employees. Across Vredendale, at the south end of the block bordered by Huyshope on the west and Sequassen on the south, stood a large warehouse complex. The warehouse complex included an L-shaped lumber storage building that ran along the east side of Huyshope halfway up the block from Sequassen, and then formed a right angle along Colt's northern property line, where it ran across the block to Vredendale. A horse stable and a barn for delivery wagons stood along the west side of Vredendale at the site of the present boiler house and garage. The lumber warehouse, stable, and barn were demolished c. 1916 to make way for construction of the buildings that stand today at that same location.

By 1857, Colt's Armory was turning out 150 finished handguns a day at a price of \$24 each, making a respectable profit of \$237,000 per year with sales to the U.S. Army, Western pioneers, and foreign governments. The onset of the Civil War brought new opportunities to Colt, and, in 1861, he set out to double the size of his original armory. South of Sequassen Street, Colt extended the armory's rear ell and connected it to an exact replica of the Main Armory (*sans* dome) which was built along Huyshope Avenue. This new configuration, all in brownstone, formed the familiar H-shaped plan, which stood until 1939. The buildings became known as the East Armory (Van Dyke Avenue) and the West Armory (Huyshope), with the Center Armory connecting the two through the block. Two additional one-story brownstone cross wings also were built off the new section of the Center Armory to complete the symmetry of the complex.

Colt's profits soared to over \$1 million in 1862, the first full year of the Civil War and the first full year of operation of his expanded plant. It was also the year that Colt died.

Profits continued to grow during the war, until a fire destroyed the East Armory in 1864. Although most of the Center Armory and all of the West Armory were saved and continued to

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**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
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operate, much of the most important production machinery was located in the East Armory and was lost in the fire. Colt's widow, Elizabeth Jarvis Colt, who had retained ownership of the armory after her husband's death, ordered the East Armory to be rebuilt. The company completed a new brick armory in 1867 atop the brownstone foundation of the original East Armory. The new East Armory was built to match the dimensions of the original, except that the 1867 building, which stands today, is four and one-half stories tall rather than three and one-half. It also has brownstone quoins and four cross-gable sections that protrude off the east (front) elevation, two on either side of the center pavilion. The new building featured vaulted brick ceilings for fireproofing. An exact replica of the blue dome was placed at the center of the roof, with the original rampant colt weathervane, salvaged from the fire, set at its apex. (The original weathervane is now in the state museum, and a replica is presently at the top of the dome.)

Colt's continued to prosper and to develop new products throughout the 19th century, including the legendary "Peacemaker," the six-shot revolver that has been romanticized as the gun that won the West. Despite the phenomenal demand for the "Peacemaker" throughout the world, the company continued to operate within its existing H-shaped factory and did not alter its physical plant to any great extent during the remainder of the 19th century.

Colt's began to develop automatic weapons by the beginning of the 20th century, including the highly successful Colt .44 and the Browning machine gun. A growing demand for these weapons became apparent with the onset of World War I in 1914, and Colt's once again expanded its facilities in a mighty spurt of construction that lasted from 1916 through 1918. The enormous six-story South Armory (building #27) was built through the block between Van Dyke and Huyshope along the south side of the complex, closing in the south side of the original H-shaped plan. An expansive one-story machine shop (#29) with more than 96,000 square feet of workspace, brightly lit by seven sawtooth monitors at the roof, was built on the opposite side of the South Armory. The five-story North Armory (#22) was built along Sequassen Street at the north end of the East Armory. Buildings #22, 27, and 29 were constructed of reinforced concrete with enormous industrial steel sash windows. Several one-story buildings were also constructed within the yards of the original H-shaped armory, including a punch press building, later known as the carpenter's shop (#21), which still stands on the south side of Sequassen Street near Huyshope Avenue. According to building permits filed with the Office of Licenses and Inspections of the City of Hartford, all buildings constructed during the 1916-1918 period were designed and built by the Aberthaw Construction Company of Hartford.

Also during the 1916-1918 period, Colt's constructed several buildings to the north of Sequassen Street, all of which stand within the present Boundary Increase. These buildings include a large warehouse for storing excess machinery and spare parts (building #39), a boiler house with a tall

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**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
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brick smokestack (#32), and a garage (#25). The boiler house provided hot water through underground pipes to heat all of the buildings in the armory complex. The boilers were originally fired by coal, which was stored outdoors in a "coal lot" in the middle of the block. The boilers were converted to oil after World War II. Across Vredendale Avenue, the company also built another small warehouse (#36) to store oil for use in the armory's machinery. The two warehouses (#39 and #36) and the boiler house (#32) were built of reinforced concrete with large industrial steel sash windows, in the same manner as the much larger armory buildings of the same era south of Sequassen. The garage (#25) is of brick construction.

Following World War I, once again facing a decrease in demand for its product, Colt's began to curtail production. The company began to use the new South and North Armories and the large machine shop as its sole manufacturing plant, and relegated the old East Armory to storage and testing, or leased space to other companies. By the 1930s, with the onset of the Great Depression and a devastating strike in 1935, the company had fallen on hard times. It demolished the deteriorating Center and West Armories in 1939 to make way for employee parking, in the process destroying the much-altered H-shaped plan which had stood since 1861. Earlier in the decade, also to provide parking, the company had demolished an entire block of its workers' housing along Huyshope Avenue across from the South Armory. This vacant block continues to serve as parking for the current tenants of the Colt complex.

In 1940, in anticipation of expansion of the company at the beginning of World War II, Colt's began construction of a new company headquarters (building #24) in the Moderne style near the northeast corner of Van Dyke and Sequassen. The new headquarters was designed by Moore and Salisbury of West Hartford and was built by the A. F. Peaslee Co. of Hartford. Originally in an L-shape, the new headquarters building stood beside the old Italianate office building for one year. The Italianate building was then demolished in 1941 to make way for construction of the east wing of the headquarters building, completing that building's existing U-shaped plan. The steel span pedestrian bridge (c. 1900) across Sequassen Street, which connected the old Italianate office building to the East Armory was retained and was attached to the new headquarters building at the third floor.

Colt's operated tirelessly throughout World War II to meet its vast production quotas. The small employment office at 1-3 Van Dyke Avenue (building #46), was constructed north of the headquarters building in 1943 to accommodate the hundreds of new workers who applied for jobs on Colt's three wartime shifts. According to the building permit, 1-3 Van Dyke Avenue was classified as temporary emergency construction, meaning that it could be built without further permits or inspections for wartime use only. The A. F. Peaslee Co. also built the employment office. Although the building permit clearly states that the employment office was

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**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
Hartford (Hartford County), Connecticut**

Section number 8 Page 6

to be demolished immediately upon cessation of the wartime emergency period, the building still stands today.

Company profits suffered during the war. Antiquated machinery, stiff competition from other manufacturers, and continued labor strife took a toll. None of the manufacturing plant was expanded during or after World War II, and new construction was limited to small ancillary buildings, such as the employment office and a small reinforced-concrete garage (building #63) built in 1946 at the west side of Vredendale Avenue.

The Penn-Texas Corporation bought out Colt's in 1955. Penn-Texas sold the armory in 1959, but continued to lease space there for its Colt's Firearms Division. Colt's manufactured the M-16 rifle for the U.S. Army in the enormous "Sawtooth" Machine Shop (#29) throughout the Vietnam War. The company ceased production completely at the old Hartford armory in the early 1980s, moving all firearms manufacturing activity to its facility in West Hartford. Later in the decade, the property was converted to its current use as artists' studio/residential space and light manufacturing by Water+Way Properties, and has continued in that use since its purchase by Coltsville Heritage Park in 1998.

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**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
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City of Hartford. Office of Licenses and Inspections, Municipal Building. Building permits for 17 Van Dyke Avenue. Contains all available permits for Colt's Armory from 1910 through the 1950s.

Clouette, Bruce, Hoang Tinh, and Blanche Higgins Schroer. *Colt Historic District*. Draft National Historic Landmarks nomination. Unpublished, 1998.

Clouette, Bruce, and Carole Antress Paine. *Colt Industrial District*. National Register of Historic Places nomination. Listed in National Register 1976.

Grant, Ellsworth S. *The Colt Legacy: The Story of the Colt Armory in Hartford 1855-1980*. Providence, Rhode Island: Mowbray Company, 1981.

Hosley, William. *Colt: The Making of an American Legend*. Amherst, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1996.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885, 1900, 1924, 1927, 1947.

Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Hartford, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.25 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18T 0694037 4625318
Zone Easting Northing

2. 18T 0694163 4625288
Zone Easting Northing

3. 18T 0694203 4625242
Zone Easting Northing

4. 18T 0694083 4625135
Zone Easting Northing

X 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 Jeffrey Shrimpton

organization Historic Preservation Consulting date 1/26/2001

street & number 14 Beachcroft Road telephone (978) 281-0683

city or town Gloucester state MA zip code 01930

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

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
Hartford (Hartford County), Connecticut**

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References (continued)

5.	18T Zone	0694028 Easting	4625204 Northing
6.	18T Zone	0694093 Easting	4625245 Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase) includes two parcels of land shown on Hartford Assessors Map #436 as Block 4-Parcel 1 and Block 6-Parcel 1.

Boundary Justification

The two parcels included in the Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase) are adjacent to the Colt Industrial District, which was listed in the National Register in 1976. These parcels were part of the original Colt's Armory as it developed from the 1850s and form the northern property line of the former armory. They include all known armory buildings that are not listed in the National Register as part of the Colt Industrial District.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase)
Hartford (Hartford County), Connecticut**

Photograph Key

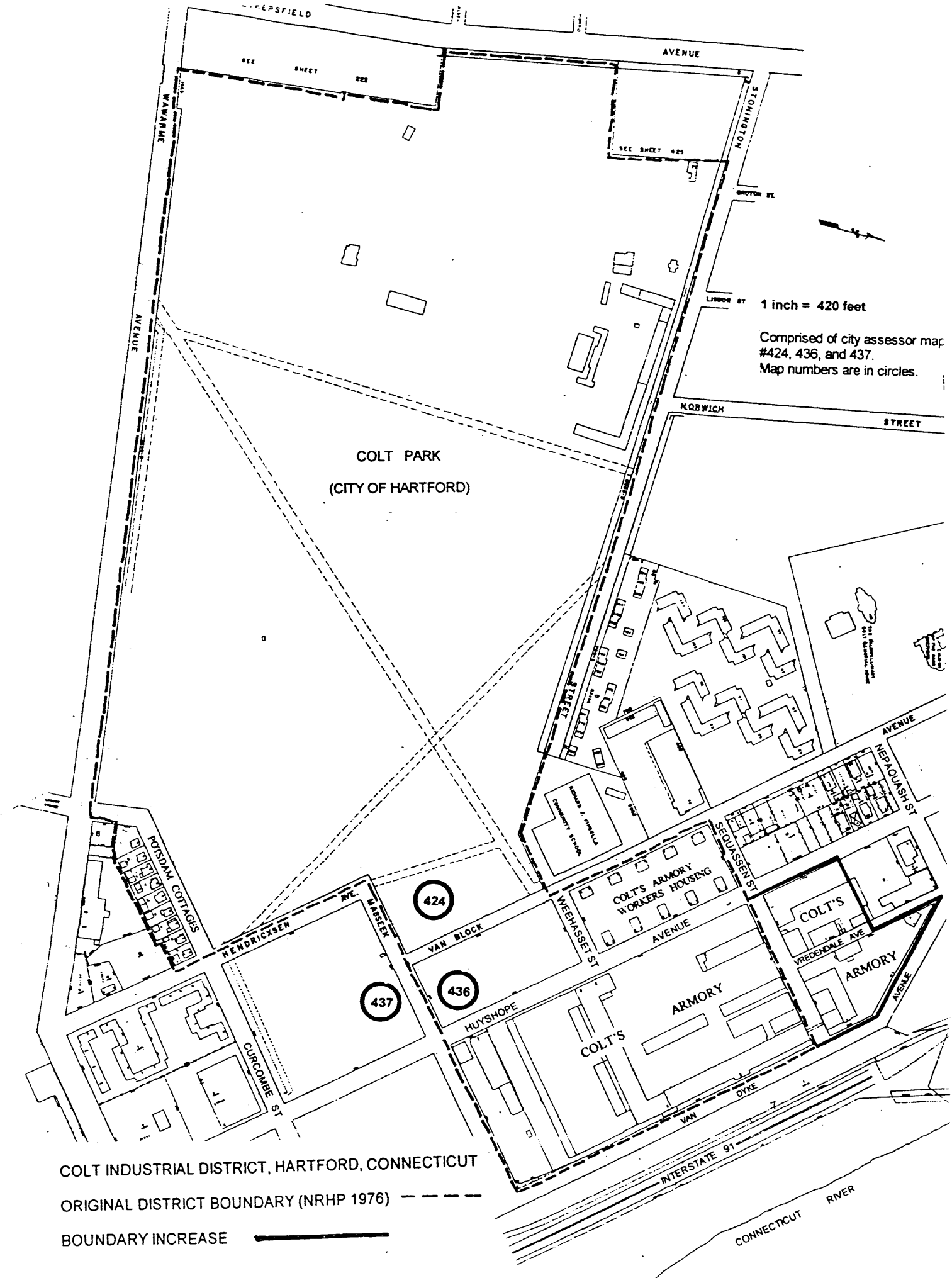
Date of photographs: September 2000, except as otherwise noted.

Photographer: Jeffrey Shrimpton
Historic Preservation Consulting
14 Beachcroft Road
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-0683

Photo #1 is from Coltsville Heritage Park Company files. Photographer is unidentified.

1. Aerial view of former Colt's Armory, December 1998. Camera pointing northwest.
2. Warehouse. 34 Sequassen Street at Huyshope Avenue. Camera pointing north.
3. Garage. 53 Vredendale Avenue at Sequassen Street. Camera pointing west.
4. Boiler House. 49 Vredendale Avenue. Camera pointing northwest.
5. Employment Office. 1-3 Van Dyke Avenue at Vredendale Avenue. Camera pointing north.
6. Oil Storage Warehouse. 50 Vredendale Avenue. Camera pointing north.
7. Streetscape, Vredendale Avenue. Camera pointing south.
8. Streetscape, Sequassen Street. Camera pointing west.
9. Colt Company Headquarters, east elevation. 17 Van Dyke Avenue at Sequassen Street. Camera pointing northwest.
10. Colt Company Headquarters, west and north elevations. Camera pointing east.
11. Colt Company Headquarters, interior. Camera pointing southeast.

Original negatives for photos #2-11 on file with Jeffrey Shrimpton.



BOUNDARY INCREASE:

436

COLT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

City Assessor's Map #436 with Photo Key for Boundary Increase

ORIGINAL (1976) NATIONAL REGISTER

DISTRICT BOUNDARY (Partial)

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increase) Address List

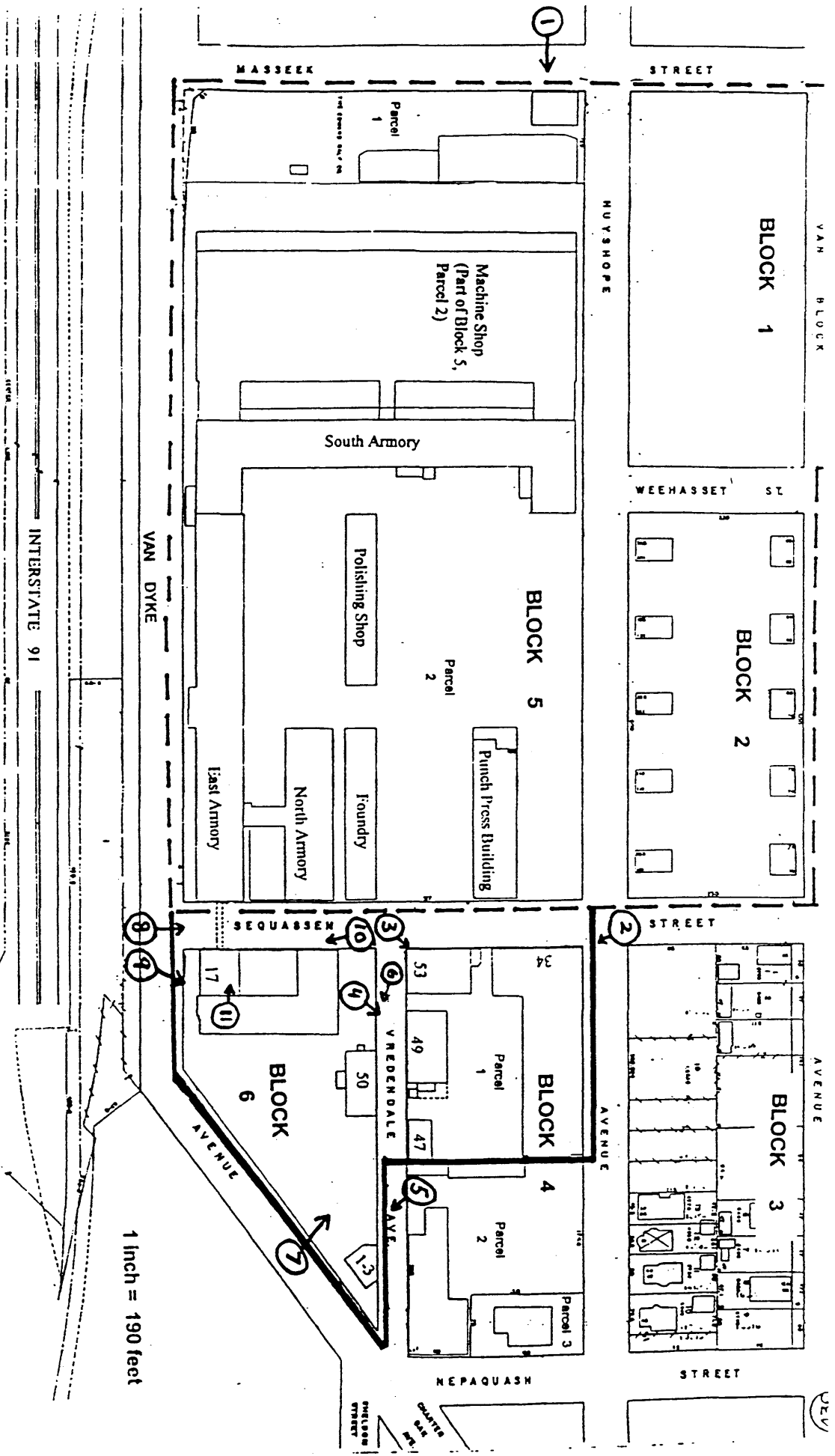
- 34 Sequassen St: Warehouse
- 1-3 Van Dyke Ave: Employment Office
- 17 Van Dyke Ave: Colt Co. Headquarters
- 47 Vredendale Ave: Garage
- 49 Vredendale Ave: Boiler House
- 50 Vredendale Ave: Oil Storage Whse.
- 53 Vredendale Ave: Garage
- Sequassen St. Bridge near intersection with Van Dyke Ave.

BLOCK 5-Parcel 2, BLOCK 4-Parcel 1, and BLOCK 6 contain all buildings associated with the Colt's Armory manufacturing complex.

BLOCK 2 contains Colt's Armory workers housing.

BLOCK 7

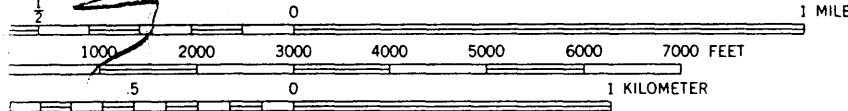
1 inch = 190 feet





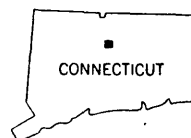
692 (HARTFORD SOUTH)
6467 11 NW

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Heavy-duty
Medium-duty
Interstate Route

HAR

Colt Industrial District (Boundary Increases)
Hartford, Connecticut
Hartford North USGS Quad Map