



Coltsville National Historical Park - For almost 15 years, a diverse coalition has championed the establishment of the Coltsville National Historical Park. They can finally celebrate. In December, 2014 Congress passed and the President signed legislation authorizing the park. Once established, Coltsville National Historical Park will join the Weir Farm National Historic Site, 2 other National Heritage Areas, 8 National Natural Landmarks, and 61 National Historic Landmarks in Connecticut as part of the National Park Service (NPS). The Coltsville Historic District is currently a National Historic Landmark District in Hartford, Connecticut. The district encompasses the factory, worker housing, community facilities and owner residences associated with Samuel Colt, one of the nation's early innovators in precision manufacturing and the production of firearms. Armsmear, the Colt's mansion was originally designated a national landmark in 1966. In 2008 the larger historic district built by Colt was expanded into a National Historic Landmark District.

The Legislation creating Coltsville National Historical Park was passed in 2014 as part of the Defense Authorization Bill. The legislation lays out a series of "Conditions for Establishment"

that must be accomplished before the Secretary of Interior can formally establish the park. Essentially, there are a series of agreements that must be negotiated and signed.

The three agreements are with:

1. **Owners of the Colt Armory complex** to secure the donation of at least 10,000 square feet of space for a visitor center.
2. **City of Hartford** to ensure that public property, primarily Colt Park, is managed for preservation and use as a national park.
3. **Episcopal Church of Connecticut** to secure a preservation easement on both the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Caldwell Colt Parish House.

Development of Partnerships -Initial contacts with our partners in the development of the Coltsville National Historical Park have been exciting! We have met with the curatorial and educational staff from the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, to map out possible programs. From the Hartford tourism group we learned the large number of attractions our future visitors could attend in Hartford. Representatives of the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe homes invited the Springfield



Congressman John Larson studies lithograph of historic Colt Armory

Armory National Historic Site staff to visit their sites. The meeting with the Coltsville Alliance members was equally exciting and we hope to meet the full board in the near future and begin an enthusiastic journey to support Coltsville National Historical Park. National Park Service staff have already had a tour of the Church of the Good Shepherd and Armsmear and begun identifying ways to incorporate these vitally important sites to the story of Coltsville National Historical Park.

Coltsville National Historical Park Office - The National Park Service opened an office at 140 Huyshope Avenue, Apartment 331 located in the Colt Armory complex. The office will be shared with the friends group organizing to

support Coltsville. Thanks to Larry Dooley and those with Colt Gateway LLC for making this space available.

Interpretive Brainstorm – The National Park Service organized a one day interpretive brainstorm with NPS specialists, Wadsworth Atheneum and the Connecticut State Library (both institutions have major collections of Coltsville related artifacts) to look at interpretive opportunities. This is only the first of many initiatives directed toward telling the story of Coltsville. Laurel Racine, Chief Curator, NPS Northeast Museum Services produced an outstanding report outlining recommendations from the visit (available upon request).

Precision Valley Symposium – On May 15th the Springfield Armory and Springfield Technical Community College are organizing a one day symposium on precision manufacturing. Leading scholars will present during the morning and afternoon field trips will visit major sites in the area (including Springfield Armory and the new Coltsville National Historical Park). If anyone is interested in attending this event, please contact site historian Richard Colton (richard_colton@nps.gov)



Coltsville working meeting attended by Congressman John Larson, Mayor Pedro Segarra, Chevron's Dick Sheehy and other committed members of the community.

2016 National Park Service Centennial - On August 25, 1916 President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act creating the National Park Service "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations".

The national park concept is generally credited to the artist George Catlin. Catlin's vision was partly realized in 1872, when Congress reserved the spectacular Yellowstone "as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." With no state government there yet to receive and manage it, Yellowstone remained in the custody of the U.S. Department of the Interior as a national park-the world's first area so designated. Congress followed the Yellowstone precedent with other national parks in the 1890s and early 1900s, including Sequoia, Yosemite, Mount Rainier, and Crater Lake.

The movement for an independent agency to oversee these federal lands was spearheaded by conservationist Stephen Mather, who subsequently became the first director of the National Park Service. The National Park Service has grown to 407 units, which includes 59 National Parks, 125 Historical parks and sites, and 25 military parks, battlefields, and sites. The system encompasses approximately 84.4 million acres, overseen by approximately 22,000 employees.

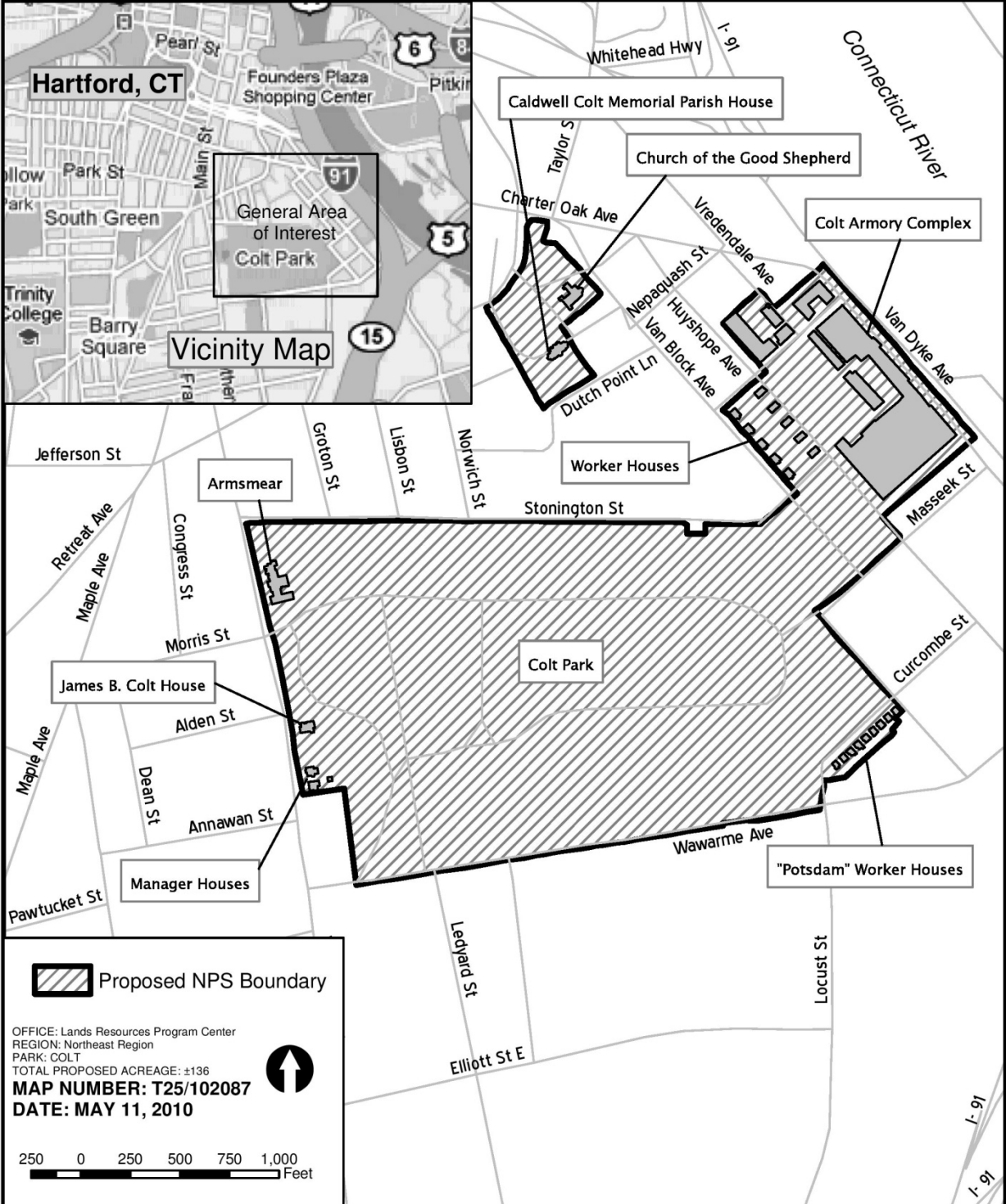
The efforts to create the Coltsville National Historical Park are on track to establish the newest jewel that is the National Park Service. Join us in 2016 celebrating the National Park Service Centennial.




Colt Employees 1930


Coltsville National Historical Park Proposed Boundary

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



 Proposed NPS Boundary

OFFICE: Lands Resources Program Center
 REGION: Northeast Region
 PARK: COLT
 TOTAL PROPOSED ACREAGE: ±136
MAP NUMBER: T25/102087
DATE: MAY 11, 2010



250 0 250 500 750 1,000
 Feet