

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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. Colt 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

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

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.

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"/> SCULPTURE
<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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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 Schenectady, 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.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Church of the Good Shepherd", Architectural Review and American Builder 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	6	93	17,7,0	4	6	25	12,3,0	B							
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING			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	DATE _____
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE _____
ATTEST:	DATE _____
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR PS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

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.