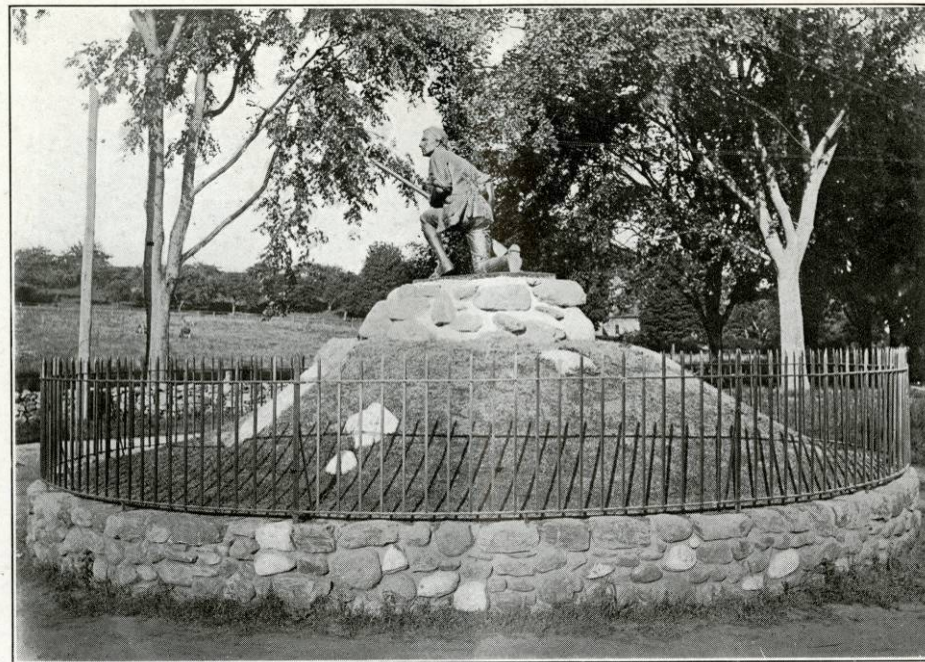
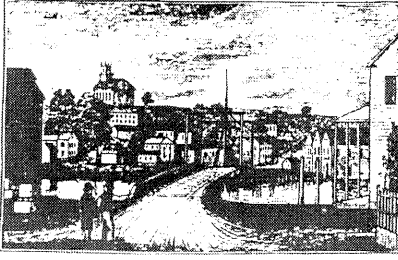


**STUDY REPORT FOR PROPOSED
LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROPERTY DESIGNATION OF
MINUTE MAN MONUMENT AT INTERSECTION OF
COMPO ROAD SOUTH AND COMPO BEACH ROAD**



**TOWN OF WESTPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AND
ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE STUDY COMMITTEE**
Arts Advisory Committee Members: Kathleen Motes Bennewitz and Leslie Green
HDC Members: Francis Henkels, Betsy Wacker and Grayson Braun
HDC Staff Administrator Carol Leahy



Westport Historic District Commission

Town Hall, Room 108

110 Myrtle Avenue

Westport, Connecticut 06880

May 23, 2013

State Historic Preservation Council
Department of Economic and Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office
One Constitution Plaza, Second Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Proposed Local Historic Property Designation of Minute Man Statue Site at the Intersection of Compo Road South and Compo Beach Road

Dear Council Members:

In June 2012, a letter of request by First Selectman Gordon F. Joseloff on behalf of the Town of Westport was submitted to the Historic District Commission to designate the Minute Man Statue site as a local historic property. At a public hearing on July 10, 2012, the Commission approved this property for study.

The Town of Westport's Historic District Commission (HDC), in partnership with the Westport Arts Advisory Committee (WAAC), requests local historic landmark designation for H. Daniel Webster's *The Minute Man Memorial* (1909-10). This bronze life-sized figure portrays a patriot kneeling atop a grassy pedestal and "firing his old flint lock at the enemy from between two large boulders in a stone wall." ["Webster Work Satisfactory," *The Westporter-Herald*, July 2, 1909]. Today a century-old landmark and icon of the town, the bronze statue was unveiled on July 17, 1910 to "commemorate the heroism of the Patriots who defended their country when the British invaded this State April 25, 1777," as its plaque reads.

The State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Sons of the Revolution (CSAR) and private residents funded the project, launched by 1903. At this time, among the State's important roles was to sponsor public commemorative monuments. Established in 1886 by a legislative act, the Commission on Sculpture (COS) was charged with "all matters relating to the decoration of the capital building and grounds with historical statues or works of art." In 1907 a bill expanded its powers "so as to permit the acceptance of trusts created for purpose of maintaining any memorial on public ground." In 1909, the year the COS approved the *Minute Man Memorial's* design and site, Connecticut was hailed by experts in Washington, DC as "a pioneer in this movement" and the agency "probably the oldest of its kind in the country." That year, the New York State Legislature also authorized a sculpture commission modeled on Connecticut's.

Webster's figure is one of four known statues of a continental minuteman commemorating a Revolutionary battle, among them Daniel Webster French's bronze *Minute Man* erected in Concord on April 19, 1877 for the centennial of the "shot heard 'round the world." American sculptors like Webster, who were working in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, benefited from the popularity of monumental sculpture in the post-Civil War era.

The HDC has chosen to seek local historic landmark designation because the Westport *Minute Man Memorial* (1909-10) holds a unique place in the history of the Town of Westport and State of Connecticut as well as that of the CSAR and State's COS. The creation of this monument is rich with stories that demonstrate historical interests, civic pride, and successful partnership among private and public organizations over a hundred years ago. The proposal is a direct response to the removal of the original iron fence by the town in 2012 and its replacement with a historically inappropriate modern metal fence. At the time, the cost of restoration was not feasible with existing funds. Fortunately, the iron fence was dismantled and placed in safe storage. In investigating the removal and conservation and restoration of the original 1910 fence, the HDC's Study Report Committee conducted research on the monument. Its findings contribute new scholarship, information and documentation on the monument's complete site and fuller significance and history. Through this effort, the project strongly aligns with HDC's goals to promote the interests of historic preservation throughout the Town of Westport, to preserve continuity of our cultural heritage and to ensure that existing historic districts and properties (including historic monuments) are preserved and provide a sense of place.

The study report has been completed and, in accordance with CGS sec. 147(b), is being submitted to you for your comments and recommendations.

The following items are included for your review:

- Statement of significance
- A survey map of the proposed local historic property
- Site map and current photographs of the property
- Town Ordinance with boundary description
- The letter of petition received from the property owner, and property owner contact information

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Francis H. Henkels, Chairman
Historic District Commission

cc: Gordon F. Joseloff, First Selectman; Larry Bradley, Dir. of Planning and Zoning; Eileen Flug, RTM Moderator; Gail Kelly, Town Attorney; Patricia Strauss, Town Clerk; Steve Edwards, Dir. of Pub. Works

Statement of Significance

The British Landing at Cedar Point and the Battle of Compo Hill



Robert Penn Lambdin (1886-1981), *The British Landing at Cedar Point*, April 25, 1777, oil on canvas, 1955, Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection.

On April 25, 1777 twenty-six British warships manned by approximately 2,000 British troops under the command of General William Tryon landed at Compo Beach (today, Westport, Connecticut). They were met by guides loyal to the British Crown who directed them along Compo Road to Cross Highway, across Redding Road then, north through Redding and Bethel, to Danbury where their objective was to burn a major munitions depot. With the exception of a Patriot force numbering eighteen men led by Captain Disbrow at the corner of the Post Road and Compo Road, the British march to Danbury went unopposed. One British Major was killed and three other men wounded. This began the Patriot resistance to the invasion of Connecticut.



Eugene E. Hannan (1875-1945), *The Battle of Cedar Point*, plaster, 1936-37, Westport WPA Collection, Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection

Two days later, the British objective of the destruction of the munitions depot in Danbury having been achieved (they also succeeded in burning nineteen homes, twenty-two stores and barns as well as a printing press, a variety of food, clothing, medical equipment, tents and candles), they encountered Patriot forces in what is now known as the Battle of Ridgefield. Brigadier General Benedict Arnold led the Patriot forces, outnumbered three to one. Realizing reinforcements were on their way General Tryon made the tactical decision to relocate his troops back to the shoreline.



Eugene E. Hannan (1875-1945), *Battle of Compo Hill*, plaster, 1936-37, Westport WPA Collection, Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection

Having been warned by a Tory, named Deliverance Bennett, of a planned ambush on Old Hill, the British troops crossed the Saugatuck River at Ford Road. Brigadier General Arnold raced to intercept General Tryon's troops near the Kings Highway Bridge. After a failed charge, he maneuvered to meet the British at the foot of Compo Hill, which forced the British to fight their way back to their waiting ships. The British suffered more than 200 casualties in the fighting, and the Americans had 20 men killed and 40 wounded. This final engagement occurred on April 28, 1777. Westport's *Minute Man Memorial* commemorates this battle.

A Symbol of the Town



Robert Penn Lambdin (1886-1981), *Westport in the 1920s*, 1976, Westport Historical Society

In modern times the *Minute Man* "is the symbol of Westport," to quote Westport's current First Selectman Gordon Joseloff. At its 100th anniversary in 2010 Town Historian Allen Raymond also declared that the *Minute Man* is Westport's equivalent of the Lincoln Memorial. The Town's new flag, designed in 1986 by Miggs Burroughs, also incorporates the patriot. He recalled that the design was approved because "everyone agreed that there was no more iconic symbol of the town and its origins."



Town flag by Westport's Miggs Burroughs, 1986

Earlier in 1935, unbeknown to the 1986 flag committee, the monument also symbolized the town on the commemorative medallion honoring Westport's Centennial.



Town of Westport centennial commemorative medallion, 1935, private collection

A year later Eugene Hannan depicted both April battles in a pair of *bas reliefs* (illustrated above). Westport's Works Progress Administration (WPA) Committee commissioned Hannan to make these ambitious bas reliefs, each 22 feet long, titled *The Battle of Compo Hill* and *The Retreat of the British*, for the entrance of Staples High School. Today, these Depression-era works of art grace the entrance of the building that now functions as Saugatuck Elementary School.



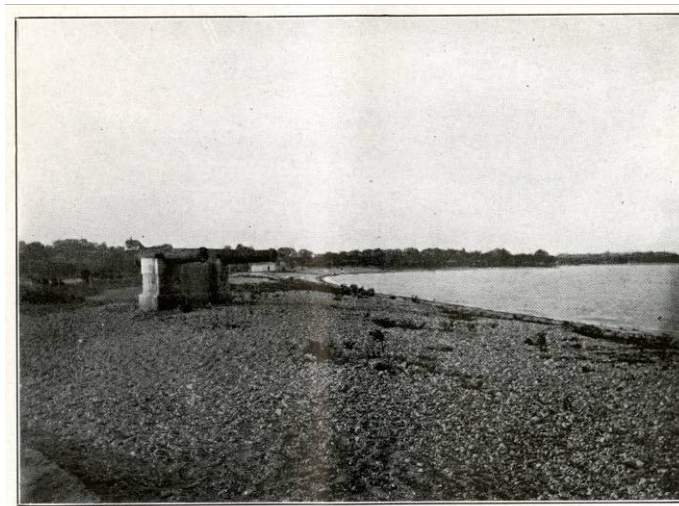
Robert Penn Lambdin (1886-1981), *Ready for All Seasons*, oil on canvas, 1975, Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection

Several artists, such as esteemed muralist Robert Lambdin, who were active in Westport's art community, featured the monument in their work. Similarly, many local businesses adopted the image and name. The Westport Young Woman's Club "Minute Man" race, held at Compo Beach, directs its runners past the *Minute Man Memorial* giving the annual April event the name it has had ever since 1979.



In 2005, four years after publication of a study on how to improve Westport's downtown, one of its recommendations became a reality—new signage that points the way to downtown sites. The signs are topped with a Minuteman figure.

Installation of Cannons at Compo Beach



Cannons at Compo Beach, c. 1906, from *Minute Man* dedication program, 1910

On July 4, 1901 a pair of large cannons, mounted to a granite base and donated by the U.S. Government, were placed at Compo Beach to commemorate the fighting on and near the shore as the British returned to their ships. These cannons (restored in 1999 with a grant from The Rotary Club of Westport) served as an impetus to create a new, larger monument to the Connecticut Patriots.

Plans for a Monument

In 1902 the Town of Westport secured title to Compo Beach and William H. Burr, one of the town fathers, felt the need for a monument that would commemorate the Patriot resistance to British troops in Westport. He requested the assistance of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (CSAR), to help raise the necessary funds. Jonathan Trumbull, then President of CSAR, addressed the members at the CSAR Annual Meeting and spoke of the need

for CSAR to take a “prominent place” in “exemplifying the work of our own state in the days of the Revolution.”



HISTORIC CEDAR POINT
WHERE THE KING'S TROOPS LANDED



COMPO HILL—WHERE GALLANT COLONEL LAMB LED THE PATRIOTS
AGAINST ENGLAND'S ARMY INTERRUPTED BACK OF THE STONE WALL.

Compo Beach and Hill, W.H. Burr, "The Battle of Compo," Connecticut Magazine, 1906

He went on to credit the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for inspiring sympathy and money to this end and cause, and he espoused a desire for the role public education could play in commemorating Connecticut's role in the American Revolution.

The following year, in an article published in *The Hartford Courant*, William H. Burr notes the difficulty with which Westport achieved title to Compo Beach and calls for the public to contribute money to create a monument. In his article he cites the presence of the cannons on the beach:

Two large guns presented by the United States Government now mark the place of the conflict in the days of the young republic.

He goes on to describe the sacrifice made by the people of Connecticut for the cause of freedom and states the need to commemorate that sacrifice:

The state of Connecticut, the descendants of those who fought in the battle, and patriotic people generally, will be invited to contribute for the erection of a memorial, which shall record the names and deeds of these who gave their lives their country's defense in the dark days of 1777.

In his address at the CSAR 1903 Annual Meeting, Trumbull endorsed the project and appointed a committee of three members (Sen. R.H. Woodruff of New Haven, Col. Louise H. Cheney and John M. Holcombe of Hartford) "to aid the town in its undertaking."

Despite the enthusiasm for a monument by Burr, Trumbull and the CSAR, not everyone was in agreement about public funding for the monument. In 1903 Sen. Lloyd Nash of Westport presented a bill to the Connecticut State Legislature calling for the appointment of a commission of five to erect a monument at Compo Beach, and for an appropriation of \$6,000. While this bill wound its way through the State Legislature, an article in *The Hartford Courant* on April 14, 1905, reported that the General Assembly Appropriations Committee voted adversely on the request. The Chairman went so far as to state that there was no need for a monument and the bill was rejected. On February 21, 1907 an article titled, "Indiscriminate Monuments," was published in *The Hartford Courant*. It illustrated public opinion in opposition to setting precedent for State appropriation of funds for public sculpture.

Despite the opposition, the summer of 1907 finally brought success for public funding for the monument. It was an appropriation not to exceed \$2,000, or one-fourth of the projected cost, with the requirement that the State Commission on Sculpture (COS) approve the design, material and location of the monument. Established in 1886 by a legislative act, the COS was charged with "all matters relating to the decoration of the capital building and grounds with historical statues or works of art." In 1907 a bill expanded its oversight for "any memorial on public ground."

One year later, Wm. H. Burr was appointed to select plans for a monument at Compo Beach and the CSAR appointed a special committee to secure plans to erect the monument. At the 1909 CSAR Annual Meeting, it was disclosed that several artists including Charles Niehaus, the sculptor of the McKinley monument in Canton, Ohio, were submitting designs. In December 1909 H. Daniel Webster was readying his model for submission of a "minute-man on alert for invaders."

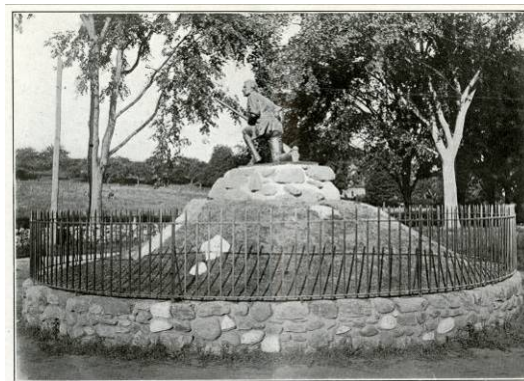


W.H. Burr, Fairfield Museum and History Center

The CSAR selection committee, according to W.H. Burr's July 2, 1909 article in *The Westporter-Herald*, awarded Webster the commission. His design featured "a minute man firing his old flint lock at the enemy from between two large boulders in a stone wall." Burr then described Webster's fuller conception:

The minute man is said to be life-size, accoutered for the period of 1776 and to be standard bronze; of the same material will be two tablets bearing inscriptions to be secured to the boulders. The boulders and figure will rest on a mound some six feet above the roadway, and will cost when completed not far from the \$2,500, the larger part of which has been provided.

Now that funding had been secured and the artist commissioned, the precise site for the sculpture had yet to be determined. In early July, provisions were made, reported by Burr, for a prospective site by Mr. Morris and Mr. Irwin who "have kindly consented to have such changes made in the immediate locality as will insure ample accommodation and protection for the memorial." On July 17, 1909, according to *The Hartford Courant*, the State Commission on Sculpture met at New Haven to accept and approve the site—"the intersection of two roads in the town of Westport and is said to be the exact spot where the fiercest part of the battle of Compo Beach was fought"—for the monument. Its placement would require, the Commission stipulated, the moving of a trolley line "further to the west" so that the mound, on which the minute man kneels, could be enlarged and raised.



The Minute Man, 1910

In the Town of Westport's Meeting Records from September 1909 (Town of Westport, [September], pp. 249-50), the minutes show that a resolution was passed for the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company "to remove their trolley tracks from their present location by "the monument, erected by the State and people at Compo, to a position by the fence recently constructed by town, thereby allowing ample room for the beautifying of the monument surroundings." The State of Connecticut and the Town of Westport paid this jointly.

The Creation of *The Minute Man*

Webster was an already an accomplished sculptor by the time he moved to Connecticut in 1906. An instructor at The Art Students League in New York and member of the newly established Silvermine Group in New Canaan (today, Silvermine Guild of Artists), the 29 year-old sculptor, hailing from Iowa and South Dakota, became an active member of its thriving artist community.

His Westport home, "Nine Hearths," was the former Noah Nash house at 56 Sylvan Road North (see HRI, Appendix D). He restored the farmhouse and built a studio, where the full-sized *Minute Man* was modeled in clay.

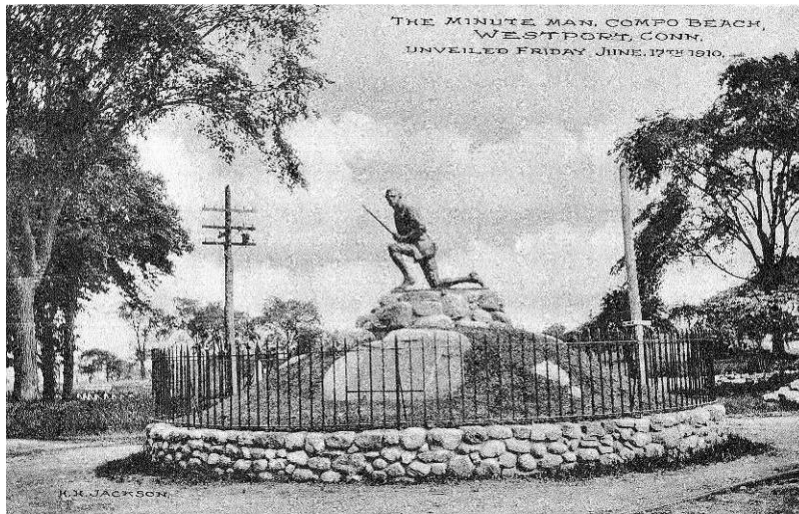


Bronze statue cast by Tiffany Studios, 1910

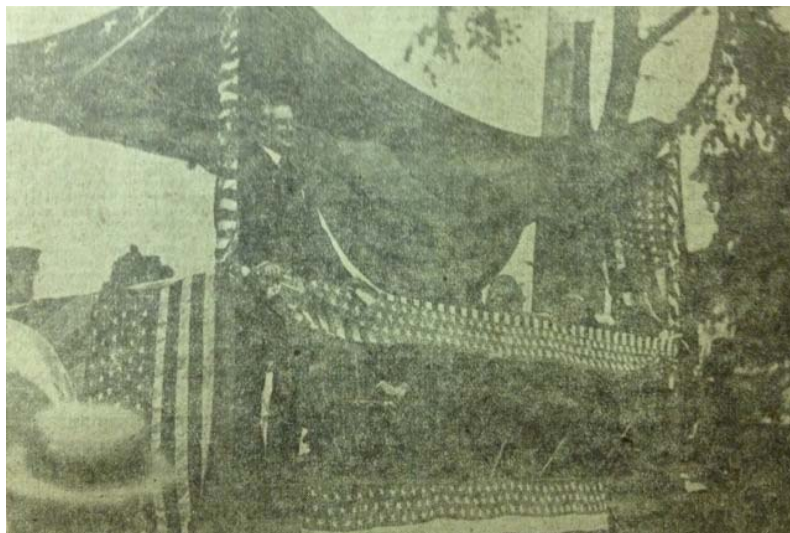
The June 17, 1910 article "The Minute Man Unveiled" in *The Westporter-Herald* notes, "Mr. Webster came to Westport about three years ago purchasing the Christofson [Kristoferson] place. This house was entirely remodeled by Mr. Webster and it presents one of the most artistic homes in this section. At the rear of the home Mr. Webster erected a commodious studio. In it he does all of his work." There, Webster, according to an August 2, 1929 *Westporter Herald* article modeled the clay version in actual size using First Selectman Lewis P. Wakeman as his model for the figure, as "a number of prominent local citizens watched." In April 1910 Tiffany & Co. cast the clay model in bronze at the Roman Bronze Works Foundry in Brooklyn, New York. To complete the project, Webster needed local fieldstone for the mound and wall. The newspaper asked nearby residents to donate stone "to furnish the foundation" along with "large symmetrical boulders," which the sculptor would "inspect," to integrate into the mound and to house the bronze tablets.

The Dedication

In May 1910 “the beautiful statue which now adorns a grassy pedestal on Compo Road” was being readied for dedication. The May 20th edition of *The Westporter-Herald* reports the statue as being in place with preparations for a clambake at Compo Beach to coincide with the unveiling on Bunker Hill Day, June 17, 1910. (A program of the 17 June 1910 ceremony and complete list of contributors can be found in Appendix A).



The CSAR organized the event, which was covered by newspapers across Connecticut. Festivities included a lunchtime clambake, followed by a procession from the beach to the site, music and addresses by officials from the Town, State, CSAR, DAR, historians and H. Daniel Webster, the artist. A poem, “The Minute Man,” by author Agnes Lewis Mitchell from Westport, also was read to commemorate the event and the landing of the British on their raid on Danbury.



Lewis B. Curtis presenting *The Minute Man* to the Town of Westport, *Bridgeport Evening Post*, June 18, 1910, Westport Historical Society

Thousands, according to *The Norwalk Hour's* headline the next day, attended "the auspicious ceremonies." *The Bridgeport Evening Post* added, "All Westport and much of Southport, Fairfield, Norwalk and some Bridgeport were there to make the occasion a success." After accepting the statue, CSAR president Lewis B. Curtis turned over the care of the monument to the town of Westport and the First Selectman Lewis P. Wakeman, stating:

And now, sir, to you as first selectman of the town of Westport, we commend the care of this monument. You may well feel proud of it, for it not only marks a most important historical spot, but it is itself a thing of beauty.... Thousands have made the trip to Concord and Lexington to visit that historical spot, and to admire the graceful lines of that statue, and so I venture to predict will thousands visit this sight in time to come, and Compo Beach, and Concord will stand side by side in historical interest.

Westport should always cherish among their brightest possessions, this spot and the monument, which we have erected to commemorate the noble deeds enacted here.

With this, the young daughter of Curtis was joined by Brewster Jennings, whose great grandfather Col. Abraham Gould was killed defending the state in the subsequent battle at Ridgefield on April 27, 1777, to unveil the monument.

Today, *The Minute Man* is third on the list of the CSAR's nine major accomplishments and projects preserving historic landmarks in the State since the SAR's founding in 1889:

3. At Compo Beach in Westport, Connecticut, there was dedicated on June 17, 1910, a monument which represents "The Minute Man," a life size statue of a Revolutionary Patriot. This memorial was erected by the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to commemorate the resistance to the landing on April 25, 1777, of the British troops under General Tryon for their march to Danbury.

The Minute Man Marker



The Minute Man with "Tablet" as shown on a postcard, c. 1912



The Minute Man marker; below the marker at Compo Road South and The Post Road, 2012

The inscription on the marker reads:

To commemorate the heroism of the Patriots who defended their country when the British invaded this State April 25, 1777. General David Wooster, Colonel Abraham Gould and more than one hundred Continentals fell in the engagements commencing at Danbury and closing on Compo Hill. Erected by the Connecticut Society Sons of American Revolution.



On June 27, 1914 a second bronze tablet, above, was installed, at the corner of Compo Road South and the Post Road, and dedicated by the Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution, with the sculptor's widow in attendance. It reads:

Here occurred the first engagement between the Continentals and the British troops when they invaded Connecticut April 25, 1777. Erected by the Connecticut Society Sons of

American Revolution. Erected June 27, 1914 by the Connecticut Society Sons of American Revolution.

Growing Recognition of the Importance of *The Minute Man*

In 1913 *The Minute Man* was recognized by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSAR) when they published W. H. Burr's account of the 1777 invasion and described the importance of monuments and historic sites as places for future generations to better understand history and to cultivate tourism. That year the NSAR advocated the erection of monuments, like Westport's, to encourage "patriotic education." In 1913 the NSAR president urged members to "perpetuate the spirit of '76 in their children and grandchildren," and advocated the marking of historical sites in the states, so that "the future generations will know the history of that spot." It was also a way to indoctrinate incoming immigrants as naturalized Americans. "The great problem of today," Burr stated, "is to cultivate in the thousands of foreigners coming to our shore every day the spirit of America."

In accordance with the concept of historical tourism, which took into account the growing popularity of the automobile, the NSAR also organized a "Washington Journey Trip" to take place in June 27-30, 1914. *The Hartford Courant* covered the event, under the headline, "Pilgrims to See Historic Places." Members traveled by automobile and followed the route taken by George Washington from Philadelphia to Cambridge in 1775 on his way to assume command of the Revolutionary Army. The itinerary included two stops in Westport, to visit the *Minute Man* and to Compo Beach. On June 27, 1914 the CSAR dedicated a plaque at the intersection of Compo Road South and Post Road East. A boulder bears a plaque:

Here occurred the first engagement between the Continentals and the British Troops when they invaded Connecticut April-25-1777

The Minute Man's site—a fieldstone cropping within a traffic circle at the intersection of today's Compo Road South and Compo Beach Road—made it well situated for automobile tourism. The CSAR then planned additional series of "patriotic and military engagements" that summer. Shares of the funds raised, *The Hartford Courant* reported on July 16, 1914, were "to carry forward the patriotic project begun by them at Compo Beach, to mark with memorials the various spots made historic by the Revolutionary heroes."

Since then, *The Minute Man* has been recognized nationally by Dale K. Benington on the Historical Marker Database (www.hmdb.org), the Smithsonian Institution Inventory of American Painting & Sculpture (<http://sirismm.si.edu/siris/saam.htm>) and also embraced by the American public through comedienne Lucille Ball.



Lucille Ball as the *Minute Man* on *I Love Lucy*, 1957

The Minute Man made its national television appearance on the *I Love Lucy* episode, “The Ricardos Dedicate a Statue.” The plot revolved around Lucy accidentally damaging the *Minute Man* statue—which her bandleader husband Ricky was to dedicate at the historical society’s Yankee Doodle Fair—by decapitating it. Then, Lucy unsuccessfully tries to stand in for the shattered statue while Ricky extols the bravery and heroism exhibited by the patriots at the Battle of Compo. On May 6, 1957 over 35 million viewers watched this 179th and final episode of *I Love Lucy*.

***Minute Man’s* 100th Anniversary & Town Celebration**



On June 17, 2010 the Town of Westport marked the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of *The Minute Man* with a brief ceremony, which was attended by a crowd of more than 100 people led by a fife-and-drum duo. Bedecked in red, white and blue bunting, the Westport militiaman was honored with a display of the American, Connecticut and Westport flags.

Today, "it is the symbol of Westport," remarked First Selectman Gordon Joseloff, and in the eyes of Town Historian Allen Raymond, *The Minute Man* is Westport's equivalent of the Lincoln Memorial. The Rev. Frank Hall of Westport's Unitarian Church gave a blessing and read the poem Agnes Lewis Mitchell penned for the original dedication ceremony.

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Appendix A: Monument Dedication Pamphlet, “*The Minute Man*,” arranged by Henry C. Sherwood (1910)

Please see attached Dedication Pamphlet

Appendix B: Historic Photographs of *The Minute Man Monument*, Westport CT

Minute Man, plaster cast, from *Bridgeport Standard*, July 17, 1910



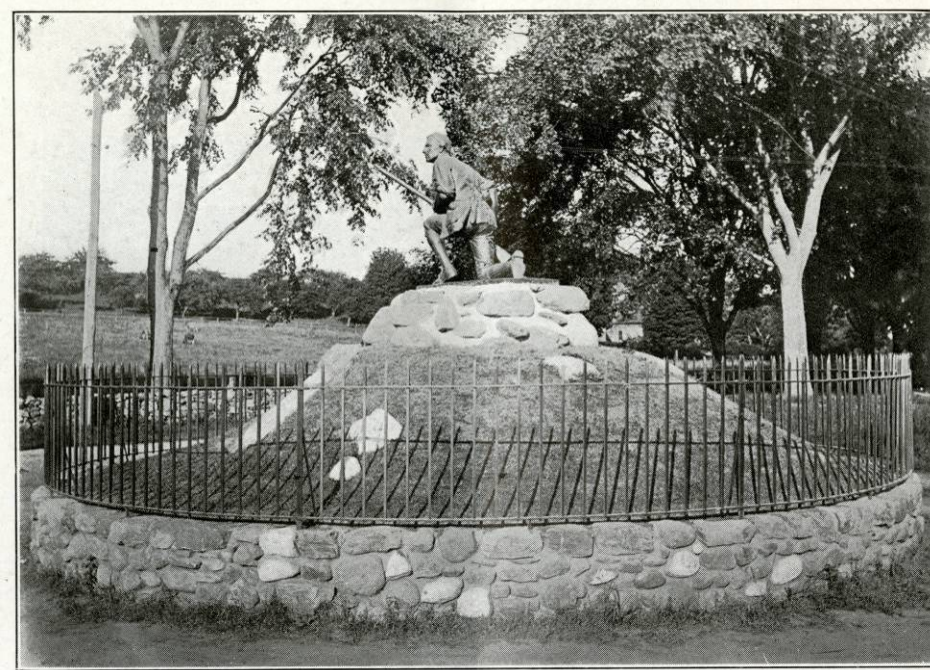
Minute Man bronze as illustrated in dedication program, 1910, HDC, Westport



Minute Man Monument prior to dedication, without fence, 1910, Westport Public Library



Minute Man Monument at dedication, June 17, 1910, Dedication Program, HDC, Westport



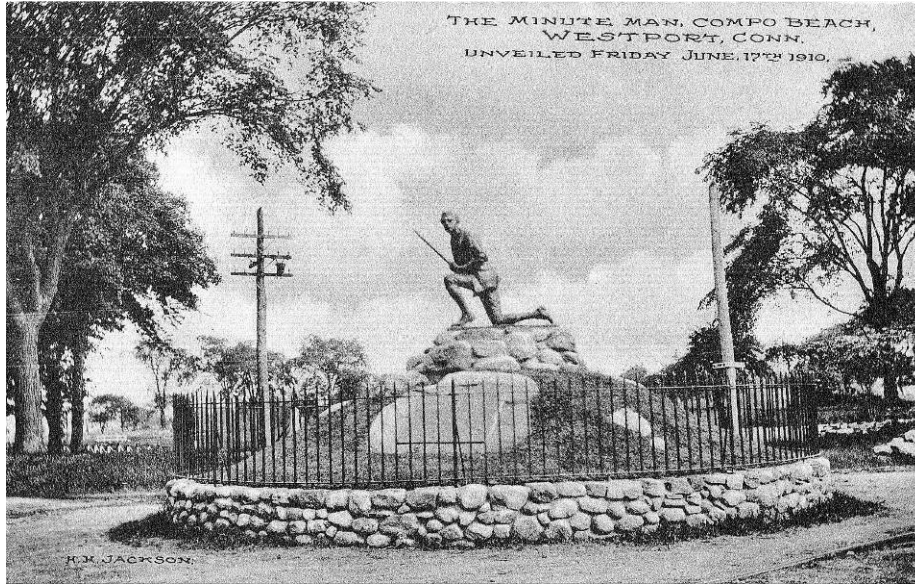
Minute Man Monument, postcard, c. 1910, Westport Historical Society



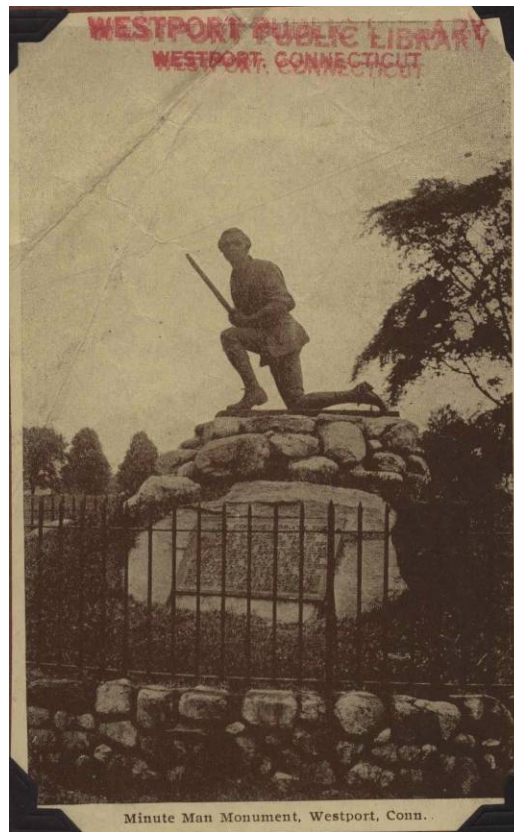
View from the *Minute Man Monument*, postcard, c. 1910, Westport Historical Society



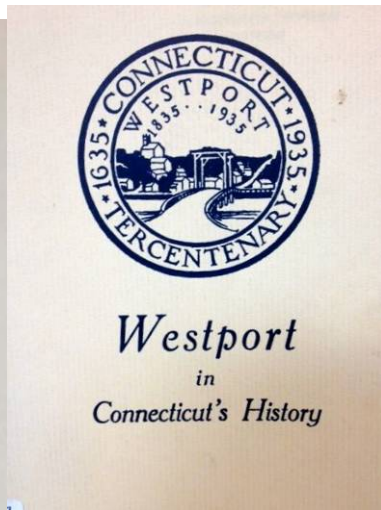
The monument with its original fence, 1910, Westport Public Library



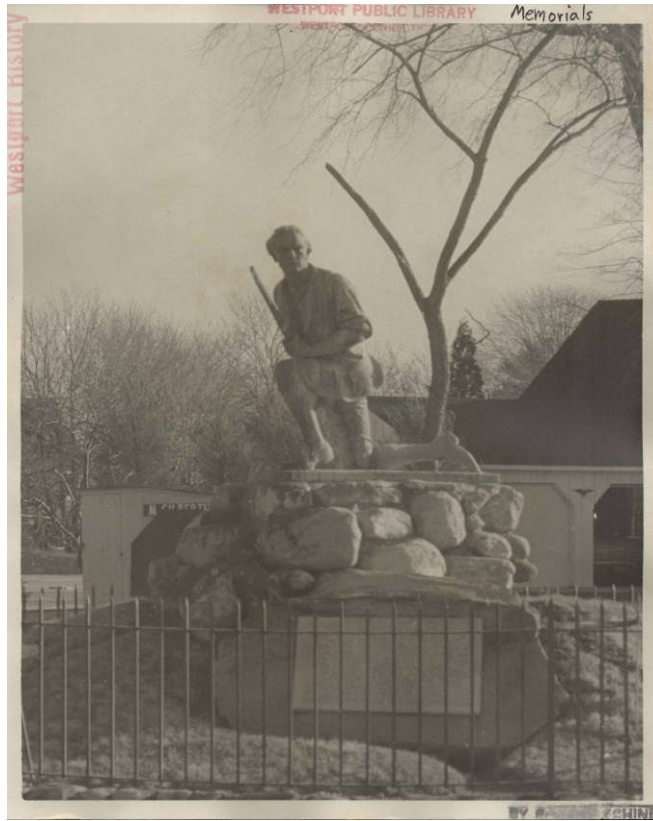
The *Minute Man Monument*, c. 1910s, Westport Public Library



The *Minute Man Monument*, postcard, c. 1910s, Westport Public Library



The *Minute Man Monument*, c. 1940s, Westport Public Library



The *Minute Man Monument*, postcard 1954, Westport Public Library



The monument, with its original fence, undergoing conservation, 1996, Westport Arts Advisory



The monument, with its original fence, 2012, CTmonuments.net



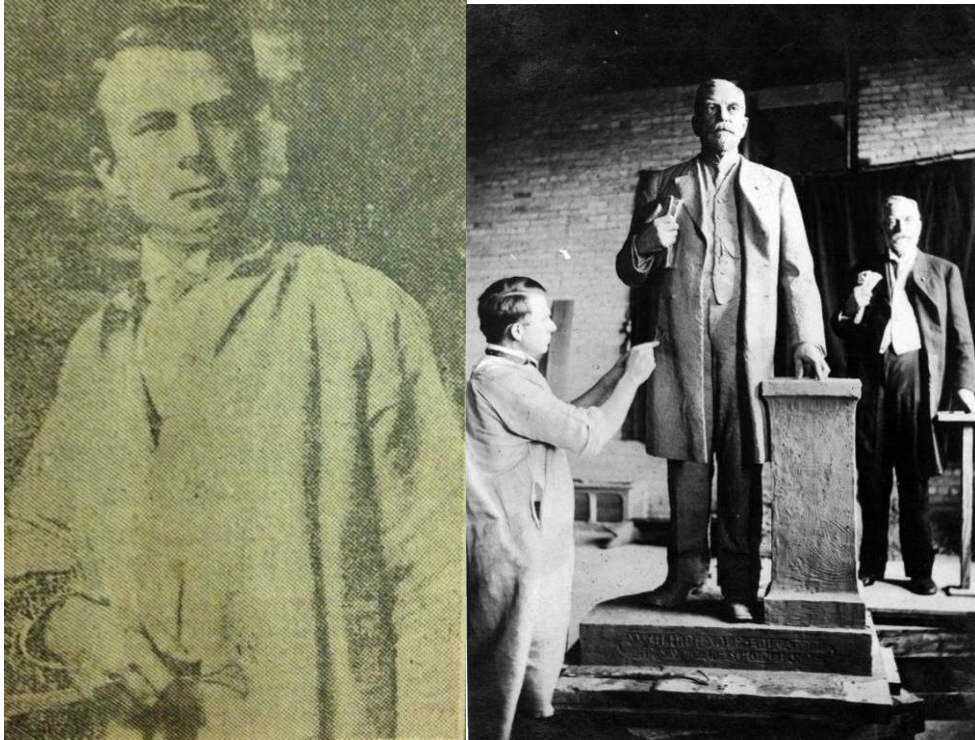
The replacement fence, installed 2012, WestportNow.com



The original fence, de-installed, rescued and in storage, 2012



Appendix C: Biography of Artist, H. Daniel Webster, 1880-1912



Left, H. Daniel Webster, *Bridgeport Standard*, June 17, 1910; Right, Webster modeling clay model of General William Henry Harrison Beadle for the South Dakota State Capitol, c. 1910

Harry Daniel Webster, born on April 21, 1880, was the eldest of four children born to Nelson Mortimer Webster (1833-1892) and Barbara Kirschman (later Davidson; 1853-1941) in Bloomfield, Winneshiek County, Iowa, where his grandfather's family had moved by 1856 from New York State to purchase and manage a large farm. Around 1892 the sculptor's family moved to Rowena, SD; in December 1894 his father passed away, leaving responsibilities for the farm to his three sons and forcing them to leave school. His widow decided to move the family to Sioux Falls for the children's education. (The family is distantly related to statesman Daniel Webster.)

In 1900 the aspiring sculptor left South Dakota for Philadelphia to study art and to teach "manual training" at a night school to pay his way through art school. A year later he was in New York where he organized the Manual Training Department for the NY State Reformatory on Randall's Island; he also worked for the YMCA to pursue his art studies. He studied at The Art Students League and in New York was a pupil of Barnard MacNeil, Francis C. Jones, and Frank Vincent DuMond. He also was employed as an instructor at The Art Students League in drawing, illustration, composition and modeling, with noted teacher George R. Brigman. He joined the League's board, serving as treasurer in 1905 and secretary in 1906. Around this time, he began to receive commissions from Tiffany & Co. to model portrait busts of Thomas Jefferson and Henry Clay, Andrew Carnegie, Ethel Barrymore, William Kreighoff, John Dumortier and a relief panel of the children of William Kingsley.

On April 30, 1907, he married Ethel Louise Felder, in Washington, Texas. Felder was also a student at The Art Students League and exhibited throughout her career. In 1906 before their

marriage, Webster purchased "Nine Hearths" at 56 Sylvan Road North in Westport (see Appendix D). According to "The Minute Man Unveiled," *The Westporter-Herald*, 17 June 1910, "Mr. Webster came to Westport about three years ago purchasing the Christofson place. This house was entirely remodeled by Mr. Webster and it presents one of the most artistic homes in this section. At the rear of the home Mr. Webster erected a commodious studio. In it he does all of his work." In Westport, two three children--Daniel Felder Webster (1908-1993) and Barbara Louise Webster (1910-1971)--were born. Webster also became an active member of the local art community and joined and exhibited with the Silvermine Group in New Canaan, in, if not before, 1910 (organized 1908; renamed Silvermine Guild of Artists). The year the Westport monument was dedicated, Webster also completed an ambitious pair of bronze doors, cast by Tiffany Studios, for the American National Bank in Austin. On March 20, 1912 Webster suddenly died of unknown causes while visiting the Chapel Hill, Texas home of his wife's parents. After his premature death, his widow and children continued to live in Westport. Exhibition records list Ethel Felder Webster as living in Westport as late as 1916. On January 17, 1917, she bought the Baugh-Colby House in Austin, TX, and moved to Texas.

Known Works:

- *The Minute Man*, Westport, CT, 1910 (bronze, Tiffany Studios)
- Doors, American National Bank, Littlefield Building, Austin, 1910 (bronze, Tiffany Studios)
- *Col. W.H.H. Beadle*, 1911 (marble), State Capital, Pierre, SD; in 1938, a bronze version was given by South Dakota to National Statuary Hall, U.S. Capitol
- *Senator Alfred Kittredge* of SD, location not known, c. 1912 (bronze)
- *Thomas Jefferson*, University of Virginia (c. 1907)
- Portrait busts (bronze, Tiffany Studios): Daniel Webster (1907); William Henry Harrison Beadle (1911); John Calhoun (c. 1911), Ethel Barrymore (c. 1907); Henry Clay (1907), Andrew Carnegie (c. 1907), William Kriehoff (c. 1907), John Dumortier (c. 1907), and a relief panel of the children of William Kingsley (c. 1907)

**Appendix D: H. Daniel Webster Residence and Studio, 56 Sylvan Road North, Westport,
Historic Resources Inventory Form, Historic District Commission**

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

HIST-6 REV. 6-83

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.: 333
UTM:	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR, SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <i>Clark Nash House</i> (Historic) <i>Noah Nash House</i>	
	2. TOWN CITY <i>Westport</i>	COUNTY <i>Fairfield</i>
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) <i>56 Sylvan Road North 5270-2/36B-A</i>	
	4. OWNER(S) <i>Feeney, James & Alberta</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) <i>Residence</i> (Historic) <i>Residence</i>	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN	
DESCRIPTION	7. STYLE OF BUILDING <i>Cape/Colonial Revival</i> DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <i>ca. 1790, 1907, 1940s</i>	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
	10. ROOF (Type)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ (Material) <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
	NUMBER OF STORIES <i>1 1/2</i>	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS <i>35x32 + Ells</i>
	12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
14. RELATED BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		
Set close to the road and enclosed by a low, stone wall with a Chinese trellis balustrade. Casually landscaped with mature trees. Important contributor to character of street.		

(OVER)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The four-bay, stone central chimney, cape nucleus of the rambling, Colonial Revival house dates to the late-18th century. It has been enlarged by numerous, mid-20th century additions to the south and east. The shed dormers and north second level bay window were added ca. 1907 as was the shed-roofed front porch. A tripartite frontispiece with distinctive side panels surround the entrance. The flush eaves and 12-over-8 windows appear to be original.

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

SIGNIFICANCE

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Exactly when the cape was built is not known, but the house was standing and in the possession of the Nash family by 1805. Noah Nash (1771-1834) received the property in the division of his father's estate, and the land had been in the Nash family since the middle of the 18th century, according to J.E. Coley. After Noah's death, the house passed to his unmarried son Clark Nash. He sold to large landowner David M. Marvin in 1865, and it passed from David's estate in 1883 to William H. Marvin (10:101, 13:452). William immediately sold the property "known as the Clark Nash farm" to Almira B. Kristoferson, and she held it until 1906 when it was purchased by sculptor H. Daniel Webster, creator of the Minute Man statue on Compo Road South. He was the first to improve the house. Oscar and Julia Delano bought it in 1931, and they made further additions before (see continuation sheet)

SOURCES

Coley, J.E. Reminiscences.
Adams Manuscript.
Westport Land Records.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
Mary E. McCahon	May, 1
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
west	CHC 8:23

COMPILED BY

NAME	DATE
Mary E. McCahon, Architectural Historian	June,
ORGANIZATION	
Westport Historic District Commission	
ADDRESS	
Town Hall Westport, Conn. 06880	



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanation _____

333

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL
			POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: _____

Item 19

Clark Nash House

selling to William Carr in 1945. A ca. 1910 snapshot of the house in Coley's manuscript shows that it historically was unpainted, but the dormers, north side bay windows, and porch had already been added. The Nash House is one of many, early dwellings that were converted to quaint, comfortable, country retreats in the early and middle part of this century.

Appendix E: *Minute Man* Monuments in the History of American Sculpture

H. Daniel Webster's 1910 *Minute Man* is one of four known sculptures using a figure of a continental minute man to commemorate a battle of the Revolutionary War. Webster and other sculptors working in the late 19th and early 20th centuries benefited from the community's desire for a war memorial and the popularity of monumental sculpture in the post-Civil War era. According to the Connecticut Historical Society's Civil War Monument Study, at the end of the Civil War in Connecticut "conditions favorable to pursuit of the idea of war memorials came together. The Civil War had taken an emotional and family toll unprecedented in American history, making it understandable for society to seek an activity that would be compensating, at least to a degree. The talent, technology, and prosperity required for a large building program were all available. Perhaps the convergence of considerations such as these prompted communities to consider what could be done locally in recognition of the wartime experience." Inspired by the Civil War memorials, commemorative commissions honoring individuals, statesman and battles of past wars, including the Revolutionary War, were plentiful across the nation. To provide scope, the 1907-08 issue of *The American Art Annual* included four-pages of commemorative sculptural projects under the heading "Important Monumental Sculpture Erected Since October 1905."

1) Minuteman National Historic Park, Concord, Massachusetts

Daniel Chester French (1850-1931)

The Minute Man, 1875, Bronze



"Make your model so fine and soul stirring that all the ladies in the land will bring their jewelry and copper pans to have melted up to cast The Minute Man"--John Quincy Adams Ward to Daniel Chester. French, 1874

For the centennial of the beginning of the Revolutionary War, in 1872 a committee of citizens from the Town of Concord commissioned Daniel Chester French to create a 7-foot tall statue of a continental minuteman as a monument commemorating the battle at the North Bridge. It was to be the aspiring 25-year old sculptor's first full-size statue, and was to stand on a base inscribed with a sentence from Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Concord Hymn*, with its famous stanza, "A shot heard 'round the world." Over the winter of 1873-74, French worked in his makeshift studio in

Boston, modeling the figure with several young men as live models and using plaster casts of classical statues at the Boston Athenaeum, in particular the stance of the heroic *Apollo Belvedere*, as inspiration. Concord's Monument Committee approved his clay model, which was then cast in plaster, and then in bronze at the Ames Foundry in Chicopee, Massachusetts, using bronze melted down from Civil War cannons. French was paid \$1,000 for the statue, which was unveiled on April 19, 1875 in front of a large crowd that included such notable guests as President Grant, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Metropolitan Museum of Art Curator of American Sculpture Thayer Tolles has written: "Given that French's instruction was relatively limited and his early sculptures were portraits and small-scale subject pieces, it is all the more astonishing that by 1875, at age 25, French would complete the *Minute Man*. This full-size monument of stirring sentiment and enduring quality honors the centennial of the Battle of Concord at North Bridge. French's *Minute Man* depicts a farmer becoming a soldier, relinquishing his plow, raising his rifle, and stepping forward resolutely toward battle. He wears realistic Revolutionary-era dress with tall, wrinkled boots and rolled-up shirtsleeves. The plow, with abandoned coat, is a symbol of land he and his militia will defend. This tool was also to serve as a structural support for the standing figure when translated to granite, as the *Minute Man* committee originally planned."

In Westport direct comparisons were drawn to French's Concord monument at the 1910 dedication of H. Daniel Webster's *Minute Man*. In his address, CSAR president Lewis B. Curtis stated:

I stood before that other minute man, and in imagination listened to the shot 'hear round the world.' I refer to that famous statue by D.C. French at Concord. While I was lost in admiration at its marvelous beauty, as most everyone be, who sees it. I tell you that this statue [Westport's] did not suffer from the comparison. Thousands have made the trip to Concord and Lexington to visit that historical spot, and to admire the graceful lines of that statue, and so I venture to predict will thousands visit this sight in time to come, and Compo Beach, and Concord will stand side by side in historical interest.

2) Lexington Green, Massachusetts

Henry Hudson Kitson (1865-1947)
The Minute Man, 1899, Bronze



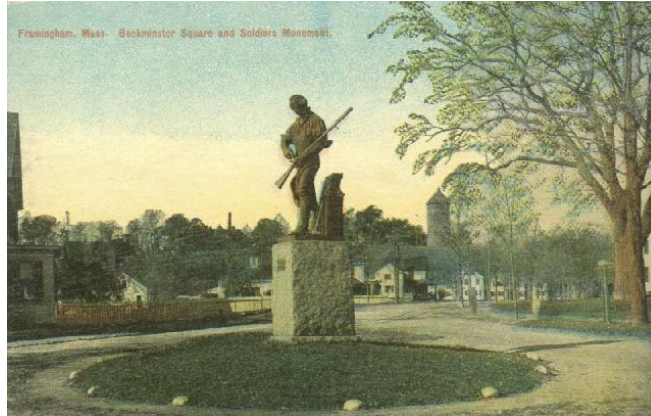
Almost twenty-five years after the unveiling of the Concord statue, the town of Lexington and its leaders commissioned a statute for its Green, the historic site of the first military engagements of the American Revolutionary War. H. H. Kitson, a British-born artist who was known for his many representations of American military heroes, was chosen to execute the Lexington monument. In 1899 the work was unveiled: a hatless Lexington Minuteman stands atop a field stop pedestal looking out in the direction of the advancing British troops.



The artist made slight variations to a second cast, adding a hat and altering the figure's boot, which today stands near George Washington's Newburgh, New York, headquarters.

3) Framingham, Massachusetts

Henry Hudson Kitson (1865-1947)
The Minute Man, 1905, Bronze



In February 1900, representatives from the Town of Framingham and the Framingham Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution formed a committee for a public monument. They commissioned H. H. Kitson, artist of the Lexington *Minute Man* (1899), assisted by his wife, Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson, to create a bronze memorial to the Revolutionary War soldiers of Framingham. The statue of a minuteman, hatless and with his powder horn and musket at the ready, was cast by Roman Bronze Works, then mounted on a massive granite base. Like the future Compo Beach site, its location was in the center of a round traffic island, Buckminster Square, encircled by a course of fieldstone. (In 1941 the statue was moved from this location to accommodate increased automobile traffic.)



The DAR dedicated it on Memorial Day, May 30th, 1905; then the Town of Framingham held their ceremonies later on Bunker Hill Day, June 17, 1905. Ceremonies, dignitaries and guests lunched beforehand and a military parade escorted them to the site.

Appendix F: Chronology of *The Minute Man Monument* by Kathleen Motes Bennowitz

Several monuments on and near Westport's Compo Beach [Cedar Point] mark the starting and ending point of the invasion of Danbury by British forces, which landed there on April 25, 1777. The British brought about 2,000 troops to Westport, who planned to destroy war supplies being stored about 20 miles north in Danbury. The British spent the night in Weston before reaching Danbury on April 26, where they destroyed food, medicine and ammunition. Warned of the pending arrival of local militia, the British evacuated Danbury and retreated south, engaging in battles in Ridgefield and Westport before sailing away on April 28. The British suffered more than 200 casualties in the fighting, and the Americans had 20 men killed and 40 wounded.

Westport marks the battles with 3 monuments: 1) At Compo Beach pair of large cannons has been mounted on a granite base to commemorate the fighting on and near the beach as the British returned to their ships. The U.S. government donated the cannons, whose markings cannot be distinguished. The cannon monument, dedicated in 1901, and restored in 1999.

2) Westport's *Minute Man Monument* kneels atop fieldstone cropping within a traffic circle at the intersection of Compo Road South and Compo Beach Road. The monument depicts a musket-wielding Continental soldier waiting with his sleeves rolled up for the returning Redcoats. A plaque on the north side of the base reads "To commemorate the heroism of the patriots who defended their country when the British invaded this state April 25th 1777. General David Wooster, Colonel Abraham Gould and more than one hundred Continentals fell in the engagements commencing at Danbury and closing on Compo Hill." The monument was created by Harry Daniel Webster and cast by Tiffany Studios in April 1910. It was dedicated June 17, 1910 [Bunker Hill Day]. [The memorial was a joint project of the State of CT and the CT Section of the Sons of the American Revolution.]

3) At the intersection of Compo Road South and Post Road East, a boulder bears a plaque reading "Here occurred the first engagement between the Continentals and the British Troops when they invaded Connecticut April-25-1777." The Connecticut Society Sons of the American Revolution dedicated the plaque on June 27, 1914.

(Adapted from <http://ctmonuments.net/2009/04/british-raid-monuments-westport>)

1901

- Pair Cannons donated by US Government are installed at Compo Beach to mark the place of the conflict.

1902

- "The American Revolution. Annual Meeting of Connecticut Sons Saturday," *The Hartford Courant*, May 12
SAR President Jonathan Trumbull (grandson of patriot and Governor John Trumbull) in address to membership speaks of need for CT SAR to take a "prominent place" in "exemplifying the work of our own state in the days of the Revolution." He credits the DAR for inspiring sympathy and money in this good cause. Wants public education about CT's role to be a project for the public and philanthropy.

1903

- "For a \$6000 Monument at Compo Beach," *The Westporter-Herald*, January 30
Sen. Lloyd Nash of Westport presented a bill calling for the appointment of a commission of five to erect a monument at Compo Beach, and for an appropriation of \$6000. "This is a

resolution that everyone in Westport hopes will pass both the house and the senate. Why Westport should not be recognized by the erection of a monument at the cost of the state is no known. Certainly, she contributed her quota of me to resist the invasion of Tyron. \$6000 will erect a very good monument that will do credit to both the state and Westport.”

- W.H. Burr, “Where Heroes Fought. Government Cannons at Westport Beach. Memorial to be Erected at Compo Hill,” *The Hartford Courant*, February 7

“The beautiful beach on which the British landed and where the closing scenes of the battle were enacted is visited by thousands during the summer. There has been long litigation as to the ownership of the property, but the title is now vested to the town of Westport and it will always be a public resort. Two large guns presented by the United States Government now mark the place of the conflict in the days of the young republic.

The state of Connecticut, the descendants of those who fought in the battle, and patriotic people generally, will be invited to contribute for the erection of a memorial, which shall record the names and deeds of these who gave their lives their country’s defense in the dark days of 1777.”

- “SAR Annual Banquet,” *The Hartford Courant*, February 23

SAR President Jonathan Trumbull in address to membership speaks of Westport project: “A second resolution endearing the efforts of the town of Westport to create a erect a monument at Cedar Point [Compo Beach] in masonry of the patriots who were killed at the time of Tyron’s raid was offered and passed. A committee, consisting of Sen. R.S. Woodruff of New Haven and Col. Louise H. Cheney and John H. Holcombe of this city [Hartford], was named to aid the town in its undertaking.”

- “Sons of Revolution Take Interest,” *The Westporter-Herald*, February 24

At the Annual Banquet in Hartford, Connecticut Section, Sons of the American Revolution (CSAR) pledges its cooperation from the CT General Assembly an appropriation to assist in the erection of a suitable monument on this historic spot, which saw one of the most important struggles against British forces on CT soil.

- *The Hartford Courant*, March 12

Appropriations Committee, State of Connecticut: \$6,000 for the erection of a monument at Compo Beach, Westport

- “Committee on Appropriations,” *The Westporter-Herald*, March 13

“A number of Westport gentlemen” appeared before the Committee of Appropriations and told why the state should appropriate \$5000 to a monument at Compo Beach to commemorate the landing of the British there. William H. Burr “pointed out why Westport should have a suitable monument, one that would be a credit to the state and an honor to the town.” Mr. Burr introduced Jonathan Trumbull, president of the CSAR, also spoke in support. Also speaking were George P. Jennings, Horace S. Wakeman, Stephen B. Wakeman and Thomas Hill.

- List of Bills, Etc., Public and Private Acts, General Assembly

Senator Nash, March 12, \$6,000 appropriation for the erection of a monument at Compo Beach, Westport [SJR 66]

- “Connecticut SAR Annual Meeting of Society in This City,” *The Hartford Courant*, May

SAR President Jonathan Trumbull in address to membership discussed CT chapter and its 14 years in existence and in its history “has left no viable memorials... because funds have not been available for the purpose. The society has, however, through committees and the individual exertions of members done all in its power to induce legislation for the memorial asked for at Westport to mark the landing and retreat of Tryon in 1777.”

“The proposed memorial at Westport has not yet been favored with an appropriation, but will, the president understood be recommended to favorable consideration, thought it may be necessary to await another session of the Legislature. Such a memorial is a most fitting one for the society to promote in every possible way if only for the reason that the town of Westport under the inspiration of a fellow member, William H. Burr, has already incurred a large expense in preserving the title to the ground in question. Aside from this, the projected memorial should interest the society for the reasons that it is to mark a spot where a larger number of Americans were opposed in a larger number of British than at any other place on Connecticut soil during the Revolution.”

1905

- Journal of The Senate, State of CT, January
Senate Petition no 59 for aid to support the erection of a monument at Compo Beach
- Journal of The House of Representative, State of CT, January
Senate Bill no 74 for “An Act Making an Appropriation for the erection of a monument at Compo Beach,” the Governor appoint a commission, of 5 people, and an appropriation of \$5,000; House Petition nos. 194, 203, 204, 208, 209 for aid to support the erection of a monument at Compo Beach; Senate Petition nos. 60, 61, 62 for aid to support the erection of a monument at Compo Beach; April, withdrew petition for appropriation and rejected bill
- “Want a Monument at Compo Beach,” *The Hartford Courant*, February 14
Intention of the CSAR to ask the General Assembly for an appropriation of \$5,000 for the erection of a monument at Compo Beach, Westport, in memory of patriots who died in repelling General Tyron’s raid on Danbury in 1777. The same measure was presented in 1903, but not acted on.
- *The Hartford Courant*, February 14
Appropriation advocated by Rep. Hyatt and Mr. Burr of Westport
- “Connecticut S.A.R. Will Ask Legislature for Monument in Westport,” *Meriden Daily Journal*, February 14
- *The Hartford Courant*, April 14
Appropriations Committee reported adversely on request, chairman said there was no need for such a monument; bill rejected.
- *The Reporter* (journal devoted to granite and marble monument trade), v. 38 (March 1905) 3: 37
CSAR are persistent and hope to succeed in effort to get an appropriation of \$5,000 for the erection of a monument at Compo Beach, Westport

1906

- *W.H. Burr, “The Battle of Compo,” Connecticut Magazine* 10 (1906) 1: 139-152

Includes photographs of Compo Beach and the cannons; article part of campaign to raise money for CSAR monuments

1907

- Journal of The House of Representative, State of CT, January
HP 155, Mr. Albin of Westport, CSAR and others request appropriation to assist in the erection of a monument at Compo Beach, Westport; February, HP 155 and HJR 437;
- Journal of The Senate, State of CT, January
Re HP 155 and February, HJR 437 passed and sent to Senate committee
- List of Bills, Etc., Public and Private Acts, General Assembly, February
HP 155, Albin, Westport. CSAR and others request appropriation to assist in the erection of a monument at Compo Beach, Westport
- “Indiscriminate Monuments” *The Hartford Courant*, February 21, 1907
Public opinion opposing, in principle, of setting precedent for State appropriation of funds for public sculpture
- “Proposed Monuments and Monumental News,” *Granite, Marble and Bronze* 17 (March 1907) 3: 32-33
CSAR began popular subscription to raise funds to erect a monument at Compo Beach, Westport. Proposed monument is to cost \$8,000; \$4,000 to be raised by subscription and \$4,00 by the legislature.
- List of Bills, Etc., Public and Private Acts, General Assembly
HP 155, Albin, Westport. CSAR and others request appropriation to assist in the erection of a monument at Compo Beach, Westport; June 13 favorable, grant June 19, 26; HJT 437, June 13 favorable, June 19, 26 passed
- “Concerning the Erection of a Monument at Compo Beach and Making an Appropriation Therefore,” Special Acts and Resolutions of the State of Connecticut, v. 15, pt 1
HJR no. 437, passed; appropriation not to exceed \$2,000 and design, material and location of sculpture shall be approved by the Commission of Sculpture.

1908

- “To Erect Memorial at Compo Beach” *The Hartford Courant*, October 21
Wm H. Burr appointed to select plans for monument at Compo Beach
- “Doings of State Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, December
CSAR appoints special committee to secure plans and erect a monument at Compo Beach

1909

- “Sons Banquet in Bridgeport,” *The Hartford Courant*, February 23
At Annual meeting CSAR presidents discusses monument in his address; plans being made by Neihouse [Charles Niehaus], designer of the McKinley monument in Canton, OH; discussion of CT as a historic and patriotic state

- “New SAR Officers,” *The Hartford Courant*, May 11
This year a monument will be erected at Compo Beach; a well known designer is making plans to be available for inspection and approval by the board of managers in a short time
- “Doings of State Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, May
Progress made on monument
- “Webster Work Satisfactory,” *The Westporter-Herald*, July 2
W. H. Burr writes on CSAR monument and the work of fellow townsman H. Daniel Webster. A number of designs were submitted to the committee by artists in this and other states. “But no other was so effectively embodied the artistic conception of the historic event that we sought to commemorate as that furnished by Mr. Webster.... Webster gave the committee a sketch model of a minute man firing his old flint lock at the enemy between two large boulders in a stone wall.” Describes bronze figure, tablets and mound with boulders. “The boulders and figure will rest on a mound some six feet above the roadway...Mr. Morris and Mr. Irwin have kindly consented to have such changes made in the immediate locality as will insure ample accommodation and protection for the memorial and others in the vicinity will furnish stone for the foundations.” Looking for large boulders to donate and Mr. Webster will inspect them. Needs to be approved by State sculpture commission. Expected cost now \$2500 and state appropriations will be ¼, about \$600.
- “Site for Compo Beach Monument Approved,” *The Hartford Courant*, July 17
State Sculpture Commission met at New Haven to accept site for Compo Beach monument, to be erected jointly by the CSAR and State of CT; describes [Compo Rd] site and moving of trolley line so that mound can be enlarged and raised; Selectman of Westport said road can be moved with little trouble; State to pay ¼ of costs, about \$2,000.
- “Approve of Site Compo Beach,” *Meriden Daily Journal*, July 17
- “Doings of State Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, October
June 21 meeting, Minuteman design presented by H. Daniel Webster; describes statue, tablet and boulders and fence; called a park
- “Sons of Revolution Meet,” *The Hartford Courant*, December 13
Considerable discussion on the Compo Beach monument to be erected in the spring; Minuteman model by Webster ready by January 1 and monument will be in bronze
- “Doings of State Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, December
CSAR has completed plans for the monument and raised the funds needed; larger than life size Minuteman

1910

- “S. Of R. Met in Bridgeport,” *Meriden Morning Record*, February 23
“The menu card was ornamented with a photograph of ‘The Minute Man,’ the statue the society expects to dedicate near Compo Beach, Westport, in May commemorating the

heroism of the patriots who defended their country when the British invaded their state on April 25, 1777.”

- “Connecticut SAR to Have Annual Banquet,” *The Hartford Courant*, February 25
Discusses Compo Beach monument in opening address
- “Doings of State Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, March
Quotes from opening address on Compo Beach monument and on patriotism for country and also on need to education millions of immigrants
- “Doings of State Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, May
Dedication ready for midsummer
- “Ready for Monument Dedication,” *The Westport Herald*, May 20
Statue now in place on grassy pedestal on Compo Rd; discussion on historic site and spirit; artist is Westport resident, which adds significance to work; “The Minute Man” poem published
- “SAR to Unveil Compo Beach Monument,” *The Hartford Courant*, May 27
Monument unveiling and clambake planned for June 17, Bunker Hill Day and CSAR Field Day
- “The Minuteman Unveiled,” *The Westport Herald*, June 17
Full account of ceremony
- “Sons of the American Revolution Unveil “The Minute Man” at Compo Beach Today,” *The Bridgeport Standard*, June 17
Photograph of plaster cast of *The Minute Man* and portrait of Webster; full account of ceremony, speeches and unveiling
- “Unveiling of Minute Man Statue Yesterday,” *Bridgeport Evening Post*, June 18
Full account of ceremony plus description offstage, plus photograph of Curtis presenting monument (need better copy).”
- “The Minute Man Statue Unveiled at Compo Beach,” *The Westport Herald*, June 17
Full account of ceremony; over 1,000 people attended; statue concealed by large American Flag, across the street was the platform for speakers and guests.
- “The Minute Man”, arranged by Henry C. Sherwood of The Gen. Gold Selleck Silliman Branch of Bridgeport. Pamphlet, includes history of project and dedication addresses.
- “Monument Dedication at Compo Beach,” *The Hartford Courant*, June 18
- “Monuments to Mark Edward Vroom’s Tour,” *The Hartford Courant*, July 18
Historic tour of sites includes stop at Comp Beach, the CSAR’s inaugural patriotic project.
- Town Meeting Records, Town of Westport, [September], p. 249-50

Resolution passed for the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company “to remove their trolley tracks from their present location by “the monument, erected by the State and people at Compo, to a position by the fence recently constructed by town, thereby allowing ample room for the beautifying of the monument surroundings.”

- “Doings of State Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, October
Account of unveiling ceremony
- Report of the Controller to the Governor, State of CT
\$668.54 spent on SAR Compo Beach monument in 1910

1913

- “Patriotic Education,” and “Historical Papers for Use of Societies,” *Official Bulletin of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*, October
Story of the invasion of CT in 1777, read at unveiling of Compo Beach monument; importance of monuments and historic sites for future generations to know the history of the spot and to cultivate in 1000s of foreigners coming to our shore every day the spirit of America.

1914

- “Pilgrims to see Historic Places. SAR Men Complete plans for Trip through Connecticut,” *The Hartford Courant*, June 19
SAR organized “Washington Journey Trip,” June 27-June 30, following the route George Washington traveled from Philadelphia to Cambridge in 1775 on his way to take command of the American Army. The CT itinerary from and include two stops at Westport: Saturday, June 27 at 3:30 to dedicate commemorative tablets on Tyron’s raid and then at 4:15 to visit the “Minute Man”
- Estimates for State Expenditures, 1915-17
\$1,331,46 balance on SAR Compo Beach monument 1909 grant

1915

- “Report of the Historian General,” *National Year Book, The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*
Historic places in PA, NJ, NY, CT and MA “have since been visited by many persons whose attention was drawn to them by the now famous automobile”—Compo Beach cited.

1922

- “Attempts Made Within Last Two Weeks to Steal Minute Man Statue form Historic Spot on Compo Street,” *The Westporter-Herald*, September 1

1929

- “Your Westport and Mine: The Minute Man,” *The Westporter-Herald*, August 2
On general history and civic pride of statue, with photo; “Grass and ground neatly kept by Horace S. Wakeman, of Compo, a man whose civic pride is great. The town, it is understood, has not taken care of the Minute Man for some time, but it is kept in perfect condition by Mr. Wakeman.”

Appendix G: Record of Conservation Treatment of *The Minute Man Monument*, Westport

Linda Merck-Gould, Conservation Technical Associates LLC, Westport, CT

Merk-Gould began a conservation firm to provide preservation-oriented new facilities/renovation construction design consultation and museum-quality conservation treatment for galleries, private collectors, public institutions and museums. Noted Projects include: Statue of Liberty; Freedom Statue on the U.S. Capitol dome; Ancient Egyptian Tomb Chapel of Ka(i)pura; Cleveland War Memorial, D.C.; Daniel Chester French's gilded "Quadriga," the golden horses and chariot that sit atop the roof at the base of the Minnesota State Capitol's dome; Henry Moore sculpture conservation for the Moore Foundation.

- 1996: Sculpture beset by active corrosion, dirt, paint splatters; graffiti and two bullet holes (near the soldier's right cheekbone and right temple). Cleaned with solvents and power wash, damaged areas repaired, and wax bronze. Maintenance cleaning and waxing recommended every two years.
- 1998: wash and wax bronze

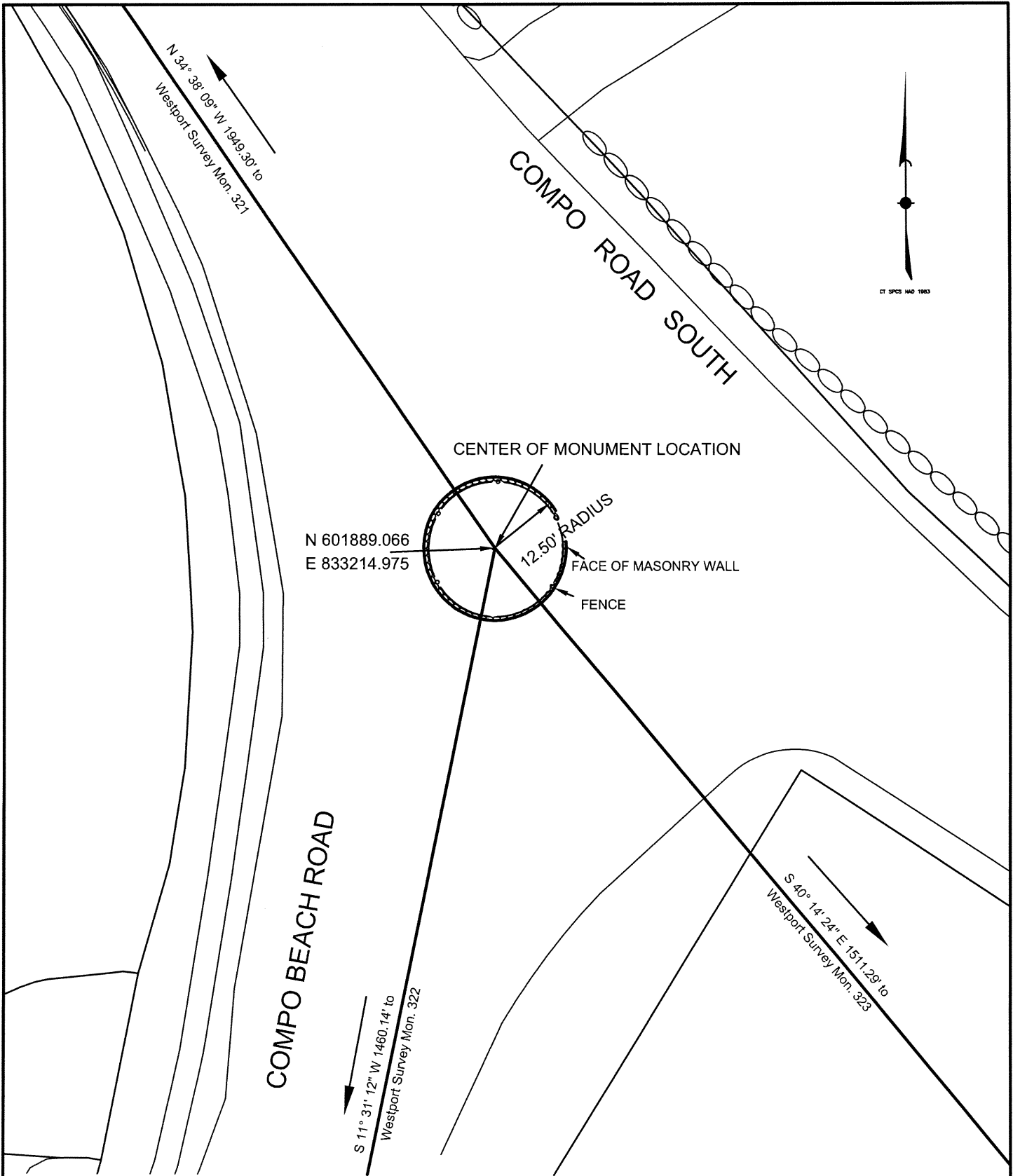
Francis Miller, ConservArt LLC, Hamden CT

Formerly with Conservation Technical Associates, Miller is dedicated to the preservation of artistic and historic objects, upholding the highest standards in conservation practice by the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. ConservArt, founded in 1999, provides quality care of historic cemeteries, monuments, sculpture and architectural elements held in public, museum and private collections. Noted projects: *The Soldiers' and Sailors Monument*, New Haven, CT; sandstone *Gordon Monument*, Savannah, GA; 16th Century Renaissance marbles, Stamford, CT; Henry Moore's *Mother and Child*, private collection; bronze entry doors, Scroll and Key Secret Society, Yale University; wrought iron handrails, Gracie Mansion, New York, NY; Enid Yandell's *Bajnotti Fountain*, Providence, RI.

- 2001 - Wash and wax bronze
- 2005 - Wash and wax bronze
- 2009 - Wash and wax bronze
- 2010 - Graffiti removal *Minute Man* base

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

The bronze statue, the rubble stone pedestal, the bronze plaque, the fencing, the stone masonry wall supporting the fencing, and the grounds upon which they are set, to be known as the “Minute Man Monument”, situated in the Town of Westport, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, set in the circle at the intersection of the right of ways of Compo Road South and Compo Beach Road and as shown on a map entitled “Town of Westport Map of Minute Man Monument, Historic District Commission, Compo Road South and Compo Beach Road, Westport Connecticut April 5, 2013” on file in the Westport Town Clerk’s office as Map No. 10088.



DATA FOR WESTPORT SURVEY
MONUMENTS AVAILABLE FROM
ENGINEERING DEPT.

TOWN OF WESTPORT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DIVISION

TOWN HALL, 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
WESTPORT CONNECTICUT 06880
203.341.1120
(f) 203.454.5783
www.westportct.gov

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
MAP OF MINUTE MAN MONUMENT**

PREPARED FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
COMPO ROAD SOUTH AND COMPO BEACH ROAD
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

APRIL 5, 2013

Schedule A

Commencing at a point, being a concrete monument known as Westport monument number 322, having coordinates North 600458.33' East 832932.23' (Connecticut State Plane Coordinate System, North American Datum 1983), thence; North 11° 31' 12" East, 1460.14' , to the point of beginning, being the center of a circle, circumscribed about the Minute Man Monument, including the fencing and curb, having coordinates of North 601889.066' East 833214.975'. This circle set in the intersection of the right of ways of Compo Road South and Compo Beach Road has a radius of 12.50', an arc length of 78.54', and an area of 490.9 square feet. This feature is depicted on a survey, filed in Westport Land Records, "Location Survey of the Minute Man Statue prepared for the Historic District Commission, dated April 5, 2013 at a scale of 1"=10'.

5



WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

GORDON F JOSELOFF
First Selectman

RECEIVED
JUN 28 2012
HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION

June 28, 2012

Mr. Francis Henkels
Chair
Westport Historic District Commission
Town of Westport
Westport, CT 06880

RE: MINUTEMAN STATUE

Dear Mr. Henkels:

On behalf of the Town of Westport and as its First Selectman, I hereby propose the local historic landmark property designation for the Minuteman Statue, (located at the intersection of Compo Road South and Compo Beach Road). The designation would include the statue, wrought iron fencing and stone foundation.

If I can provide additional information or be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Joseloff".

Gordon F. Joseloff
First Selectman

GFJ:ps

cc: Carol Leahy, Historic District Commission Office
Stuart McCarthy, Parks & Recreation Department
Katherine Bennewitz, Westport Arts Advisory Committee