

Westport: Still Revolutionary

FAQs about The Minute Man Monument, a beloved symbol of Westport

The Minute Man Monument site restoration is underway to preserve our artistic and cultural heritage

Did you know?

H. Daniel Webster's life-sized kneeling patriot, ready "to fire his old flint lock at the enemy between boulders in a stone wall," became a Westport landmark as soon as it was unveiled on Friday, June 17, 1910.

For 104 years the Minute Man has honored the heroism of local patriots who took up their own arms in "a minute's notice" to defend their country when the British invaded Connecticut at Compo Beach on April 25, 1777.

The monument—with the bronze farmer kneeling upon a grassy pedestal and encircled by a 24 inch high fieldstone wall—sits at the intersection said to be the exact spot where the fiercest part of the Battle of Compo Hill was fought.

Has he aged?

Yes, the Minute Man's original monumental look and feel have been altered over its 100+ year life, which may affect how people "see" it today and understand its meaning.



The Minuteman Monument circa 1910

Street repaving and re-grading to alleviate flooding have buried the original fieldstone wall; air pollutants have turned the bronze patina from brown to green; rain storms have eroded the earthen knoll's contour; and decades of general wear and tear have damaged the 1910 iron fence designed to protect the site.

Facelift?

Not really. Conserving the monument is a balancing of the change that is now inherently part of the site (preserving as much of the original sculpture, wall and iron fence), with the goal of restoring the artist's original design and the overall dynamics of the monument.

Who is doing it?

The restoration is being conducted by ConserveArt, LLC, Guinta-Bolduc (mason), Werner Horst (ironworker), and supported by the Town of Westport, Westport's Historic District Commission and Arts Advisory Committee, with donations of stone from Gault.

