CONNECTICUT'S OLD STATE HOUSE

Hartford History & Art

WALKING TOUR

Revolutionary Hartford
Explore the historic sites and statues that remind visitors of Hartford’s revolutionary past. All of the stops on this walking tour are easily accessible and walking distance from the starting point: Connecticut’s Old State House.

**CONNETICUT'S OLD STATE HOUSE**
800 Main Street

**WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART**
600 Main Street

**THE ANCIENT BURYING GROUND**
60 Gold Street

**BUSHNELL PARK**
1 Jewell Street

Stop #1
Stop #2
Stop #3
Stop #4
Welcome to Connecticut's Old State House!

- Completed in 1796, the building that you currently see before you replaced an earlier 1720 building that was used during the Revolutionary War.
- Meetings between George Washington and French commander Count Rochambeau took place on the grounds. This meeting was vital to securing French help in defeating the British.
- Served as the State Capitol from 1796-1878, serving as Hartford City Hall from 1878-1915.

Next Stop: Wadsworth Atheneum | 3 Minute Walk
Welcome to the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art!

- Founded in 1842 by Daniel Wadsworth, one of the first major American art patrons.
- The oldest continuously-operating public art museum in the country.
- Site of Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth's home. He entertained George Washington on several occasions. In September 1780, he hosted a meeting between General Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, General Henry Knox, and French commanders.

Next Stop: The Ancient Burying Ground | 1 Minute Walk
Stop #2
Wadsworth Atheneum
Nathan Hale Statue (1889)

- Created by artist Enoch Smith Woods (American, born Nova Scotia, 1846-1919), cast by Husman Foundry.
- Nathan Hale, (1755-1776), former school teacher, Connecticut State Hero.
- On a secret mission ordered by General George Washington, Hale went behind enemy lines to gather information on the British army's location. Captured by the British in New York City, he was hanged for espionage.
- Reputed to have said: "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country" prior to his hanging.

Next Stop: The Ancient Burying Ground | 1 Minute Walk
Welcome to the Ancient Burying Ground!

- Hartford's oldest historic site and the only burial ground in use from 1640- the early 1800s.
- Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth is buried here.
  - Started as a sailor and rose to make a fortune in the West India trade.
  - During the Revolutionary War, he served as a commissary of the Connecticut troops and eventually became Commissary General, and the Commissary for Count Rochambeau's troops.

Next Stop: Bushnell Park | 3 Minute Walk
Welcome to Bushnell Park!

- Endorsed by Hartford voters in January 1854, Bushnell Park was the first publicly funded park in the United States.
- Its creation displaced 200 people who lived in the area, primarily Irish laborers and African American servants.
- Designed by Swiss-born Jacob Weidmann.

Continue through the park for the Bushnell Park Statues
Stop #4
Bushnell Park
Israel Putnam Statue
(1874)

- Created by John Quincy Adams Ward (American, 1830-1910)
- Israel Putnam served during the French and Indian War.
- Involved with the Sons of Liberty. According to legend, when word came about the battle of Lexington & Concord, he dropped his plow, unhitched one of his horses, left word for local militia to follow, and rode to Massachusetts.
- Colonel in Connecticut militia and later put in charge of getting recruits from New England for the Patriot Army.
- A stroke in 1779 ended his career.

Continue through the park for the Bushnell Park Statues
Continue through the park for the Bushnell Park Statues

Stop #4
Bushnell Park
Col. Thomas Knowlton Statue (1895)

- Created by Enoch Smith Woods, cast by Melzar Hunt Mosman and the Chicopee Bronze Works.
- Col. Thomas Knowlton was from Ashford, CT and was elected Captain of the Ashford Militia Company.
- During the Revolutionary War, he led the "Knowlton's Rangers", considered the U.S. Army's first intelligence unit.
- He was killed in battle. General Washington said: "The gallant and brave Colonel Knowlton would have been an honor to any country."
Stop #4
Bushnell Park
Statue of the Marquis de Lafayette

- Created by Paul Wayland Bartlett (American, 1865-1925)
- The statue is a copy of a 1907 statue in Paris.
- The statue was dedicated in 1932.
- The Marquis de Lafayette, a French aristocrat, snuck out of France to fight for the American cause. He was instrumental in securing French aid for the patriot cause.
- He returned to the U.S. for a triumphal tour after the war, including a stop in Hartford in 1824-5.
- A small turtle stands near Lafayette's horse's left foot, interpreted as a coded complaint about the slow rate of payment to Bartlett, or a secret apology for the pace of the statue's completion.
Thank You for exploring Hartford's Revolutionary history with us today! Check out the links below for more information about the stops on this tour.

CONNECTICUT'S OLD STATE HOUSE
Website: CTOldStateHouse.org

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART
Website: TheWadsworth.org

THE ANCIENT BURYING GROUND
Website: TheAncientBuryingGround.org

BUSHNELL PARK
Website: BushnellPark.org