

# National Historic Landmark Designation

## Colt Industrial District

### Hartford, Connecticut

The historic district associated with the former plant of the Colt Patent Fire-Arms Manufacturing Company in Hartford had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1976, but despite its undisputed eligibility, the district lacked the nation's highest historic-site designation, that of National Historic Landmark. Working with the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the National Park Service, the Museum of Connecticut History, and a neighborhood coalition, AHS Historian Bruce Clouette, Ph.D. prepared the



*The Colt factory complex in Hartford.*



*Colt worker houses on Huyshope Avenue.*

materials necessary to have the district designated a Landmark. The documentation required a detailed site map, black-and-white photographs of historic resources in the district, reproductions of historic maps, engravings and photographs, a complete architectural description of the factory, houses, and other components of the district, and a lengthy statement explaining the national significance of the Colt company as embodied in the district's resources. Clouette participated in numerous local public-information meetings, gave media interviews, and presented the nomination to the National Landmarks Board in Washington.

Samuel Colt (1814-1862) is well-known for perfecting the mechanized production of firearms; his revolver is considered a milestone in American industrial history. Less well-known is the part played by Elizabeth Colt, who owned the company longer than her husband and oversaw the development of some of its most innovative products. The National Historic Landmark nomination also discussed the importance of the work force to Colt's success and the company's role in making America the "Arsenal of Democracy" in two world wars.



*Entrance to Armsmear, the home of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt.*



*A remnant of an "allée" of American lindens in Colt Park marks a former carriage entrance to the Colt estate.*