

CT Trust Resource ID: 2241

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

State Historic Preservation Office, DECD, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

Inventory form modified for the Creative Places - Arts & Letters Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common): Huntington Estate; Stanerigg; Collis P. Huntington State Park

Other Name(s) (Historic): Huntington Estate; Stanerigg; Collis P. Huntington State Park

Street Address or Location: 9 Dodgingtown Road, Redding

Town/City: Redding

Village: Redding Ridge

County: Fairfield

Designation(s): SR

Owner(s): State of Connecticut

Public/Private: Public

Latitude: 41.3474 Longitude: -73.3585

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: LANDSCAPE: Park, Street furniture/objects

Historic Use: Domestic: single dwelling

Accessibility to public: Yes Exterior visible from public road? Yes

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: NA

Style of building: N/A, Bronze statues Date of Construction: 1955

Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)

Structural Systems(s):

Roof(Type): (Material):

Number of Stories: n/a Approximate Dimensions: n/a

Structural Condition: Excellent

Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: No If yes, explain: NA

Related outbuildings or landscape features: hiking trails, composting toilet, Garden

Surrounding Environment: Rural

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Collis P. Huntington State Park includes parking lots, hiking trails, ponds, and creeks. Dodgingtown Road extends to the east from Sunset Hill Road, Redding. It leads to a parking area and the entrance to the park, where two bronze statues frame the pedestrian entrance. The Collis P. Huntington State Park sign is located at the entrance of the driveway, and an informational sign about the park is slightly to the northeast of the statues. In the park, South Pond and Huntington Pond are accessed by hiking trails. A wooden fence and a stone wall run along the south border of the park; The only other man-made feature is a composting toilet near the parking area. Collis P. Huntington State Park encompasses 1017 acres, located in Redding, Bethel, and Newtown.

Other notable features of building or site:

The park is bounded on the west by Sunset Hill Road and on the southeast by Hopewell Woods Road. It is approximately 8.5 miles in length from the northeast corner (located in Bethel) to the southwest corner (located in Redding). The parkland includes hiking trails, ponds, and bridges. Huntington Pond, the largest on the property, is 50 acres and was man-made in the late nineteenth century. This pond is situated in the southwest section of the park. To the south of this is South Pond.

Two bronze statues are situated at the entrance to Collis P. Huntington State Park, each created by sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington. Each statue is on a mortared fieldstone base. The statue to the north includes two wolves howling. The statue to the south includes three bears, a mother and two cubs. Each statue is engraved with 'Anna Hyatt Huntington,' 'Stanerigg,' '1955,' and 'Roman Bronze Works, Inc. NY.'

Architect: Huntington, Anna Hyatt Builder/Maker: Roman Bronze Works, Inc.

Historical or Architectural importance:

Prior to the twentieth century, the property had been farmed and later used as a country estate. The land was purchased by Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington in 1938 as a country retreat which they called Stanerigg. They built a house on the property – it was demolished in 1973 after the death of Anna Huntington, at the time of the creation of the state park. The Huntingtons donated 694 acres of their estate as a public state park, to ensure its preservation in a natural condition. The bronze statues created by Anna Hyatt Huntington stand at the entrance, representing Huntington's love of nature and animals (Nye 1956, 3).

Anna Hyatt Huntington (1876- 1973) was the daughter of a zoology and paleontology professor in Boston. She became interested in sculpture at age 19, and studied in Boston and at the Art Students League in New York City. In 1923, she married Archer Huntington (1870-1955), the adopted son of railroad tycoon Collis P. Huntington. Archer Huntington was a philanthropist who enjoyed writing poetry and translating Spanish writings. He

spent much of his fortune on founding and funding museums. Anna Huntington sculpted in bronze and was a pioneer in the use of cast aluminum. She worked at Stanerigg until shortly before her death at age 97. Her statue of General Israel Putnam escaping from the British at Greenwich, CT, was completed when she was 91 years old and is now located at the Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding.

Sources:

Town of Redding Tax Assessor's Records and GIS viewer: <http://gis.vgsi.com/reddingct/Search.aspx> ; <http://ags.cdm.com/redding/> .
Anna Huntington, Sculptor, Is Dead: Noted for Heroic Statues – Donated Work to City. 1973. New York Times, October 5, 34. Accessed at: <http://search.proquest.com/docview/119793598?accountid=47114>.
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Collis P. Huntington State Park, Redding. State of Connecticut, 2015. Accessed November 11, 2015. http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&q=325222&deepNav_GID=1650 .
Huntingtons Present 700-Acre Estate At Redding for a Connecticut State Park. 1950. New York Times, March 14, 49. Accessed September 24, 2015. <http://search.proquest.com/docview/111473893?accountid=47114> .
Mitchell, Mary, and Albert Goodrich. 2004. The Remarkable Huntingtons: Chronicle of a Marriage. Newtown, Connecticut: Budd Drive Press. National Park Service. "Women's History Month; Anna Hyatt Huntington: South Carolina." accessed 9/21/2015. http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/wom/2011/anna_hyatt_huntington.htm .
Nye, Frank W. 1956. "Anna Hyatt Huntington." The Redding Times, Vol. 2. No. 2. November 8. Accessed at the Mark Twain Library in Redding, CT.
Nye, Frank W. 1959. "Huntington Park Means Much to Redding." The Redding Times, Vol. 4 No. 19. July 16. Accessed at the Mark Twain Library in Redding, CT.
Salmon, Robin R. 2006. Images of America: Brookgreen Gardens. Charleston SC, Chicago IL, Portsmouth NH, San Francisco CA: Arcadia Publishing.

Photographer: Kristen Nietering **Date:** 5/13/2014

View: West view of statue

Form completed by: Kristen Nietering **Printed On:** June 14, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



West View of bear statue at Collis P. Huntington State Park

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ **Site#** _____ **UTM** _____
District ☐ S ☐ NR **If NR, specify:** ☐ Actual ☐ Potential