

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 10 1980

date entered MAY 19 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic MEMORIAL ARCH OF TILTON

and/or common TILTON-NORTHFIELD ARCH

2. Location

street & number Elm Street ___ not for publication

city, town Northfield ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Merrimack code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: monument

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Northfield

street & number Summer Street

city, town Northfield ___ vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Merrimack County Courthouse
Merrimack County Registry of Deeds

street & number Main Street

city, town Concord state New Hampshire 03301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Memorial Arch of Tilton, a neoclassical monument, is located on a hilltop outside the village of Tilton in the town of Northfield about 150 feet above the north bank of the Winnepesaukee River, with a commanding view of the surrounding area. Erected in 1882 at a cost of \$50,000 by Charles E. Tilton (1827-1901), a local industrialist, the arch is an adaptation by Concord architect Edward Dow (1820-1894) of the Arch of Titus on the Sacred Way in Rome. Built principally of rough-cut Concord granite, the arch is 55 feet high and 40 feet wide; it stands on a 12 acre plot of land which faces Tilton's former home, a 35-room Victorian mansion located across the River in the center of Tilton.

Between the columns of the arch is a block of Scottish granite on which is mounted a Numidian lion and inscribed "TILTON / 1883". The keystone of the arch is also inscribed on each side "MEMORIAL / ARCH / OF / TILTON / 1882". Four neoclassical post lamps, originally lighted by gas and adorned with elegant cut-glass globes (now missing), are spaced at the corners of the raised cut-granite platform on which the monument stands.

The masonry of the monument is in a generally good state of preservation, although some repointing and cleaning is needed, and the well-landscaped grounds surrounding the monument have been allowed to deteriorate.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1882/1883 **Builder/Architect** Edward Dow (1820-1894)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Memorial Arch is significant for its association with the well-known Concord architect Edward Dow (1820-1894) its designer, whose plans for scores of commercial, civic and residential structures largely defined the 19th century architectural character of Concord and environs. Moreover, the Arch is an uncommon example of Dow's work in the neoclassical mode; most of his known buildings are in the eclectic Victorian styles popular in Concord in the 1860s and 70s. The Arch is patterned after that erected in honor of the Emperor Titus at Rome in the year 79 but is not an exact replica.

Construction of the Arch, which took two years, represents in itself something of an engineering feat for the 1880s. It was built by Leonard Conant (contractor) and Daniel Donovan (master mason) at a cost of \$50,000.

Charles Elliott Tilton (1827-1901), who conceived the arch as a family memorial as well as a possible last resting place for himself, was a native of Tilton who achieved considerable prominence as a banker and entrepreneur in the far west. Following the Mexican War he went into business with his brother in New York; later he traveled extensively in South America. After the discovery of gold in California, Tilton settled in San Francisco where he established himself in business. About 1850 he moved to Oregon, where he was active in many enterprises, including the opening of trade between Oregon and China. Tilton returned to live in his native town in 1879; eighteen years earlier, he had built there a magnificent Victorian residence "said to be one of the finest in New England." In later years Tilton made numerous public gifts and civic improvements in Tilton and Northfield; of these, several, including the Memorial Arch, a public park and fountains were adorned with a pagoda and statuary which reflected Tilton's interest in art and landscape architecture.

Local significance of the Arch is demonstrated by the fact that it is incorporated in the design of the town of Tilton's official seal. A representation of the Arch is also used as the seal of the Tilton-Northfield Fire Department, and as part of the logo of the Winnisquam Regional Chamber of Commerce.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cross, Lucy R.H., History of Northfield, NH 1780-1905, Concord, NH, Rumford Printing Co., 1905, p. 198.
 Hurd, D. Hamilton, Ed., History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, NH, Philadelphia, J.W. Lewis & Co., 1885, p. 878.
 Stearns, Ezra S., Genealogical and Family History of the State of NH, 4 vols., NY, Lewis Publishing Co., 1906, p. 1966.

10. Geographical Data UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 12
 Quadrangle name Penacook, NH ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED Quadrangle scale 15'

UMT References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>290550</u>	<u>4812700</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the nominated property are those indicated in red on the attached map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gordon Hill, Chairman

organization Bicentennial Committee date November 15, 1978

street & number Hill Street telephone (603)286-4940

city or town Northfield state New Hampshire 03276

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]
 Commissioner, Dept. Resources & Economic Development
 title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date August 6, 1979

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 5/19/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 5/19/80
 Chief of Registration

Site Plan for the Town of Northfield
of the

Charles E. Milton Memorial Arch

Northfield, Merrimack County, New Hampshire

Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet

November 1979

Total of shaded area is 2.5 acres

This plan is for the reservation of the Arch Property
in accordance with the requirements for the boundaries
for the National Historic Register. No needed subdivis-
ion is intended or certified as part of this plan

STREET