

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

Unknown

Original Dedication Date Unknown

Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

Cannon Shed

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location _____

6 Singletary Ave

GPS Coordinates 42.15098197242507, -71.76269212647958

City/Village &/or Township Sutton

County Worcester

State MA

Zip Code 01590

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Town of Sutton

Dept./Div. Historical Society

Street Address 6 Singletary Ave

City Sutton

State MA

Zip Code 01590

Contact Person _____

Telephone () _____

ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

Unknown

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) wood

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Iron

Sutton 6-pdr bronze field gun, M1841 Alger 207 JPF 908 62 877 in storage in shed
Main Hall

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

M1841 Alger & Co 6 Pounder

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled Yes No

Markings: Muzzle To be documented during field survey. Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? Yes No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] Yes No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

_____ Height _____ Width _____ Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found To be documented during field survey.

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

Cemetery Park Plaza/Courtyard "Town Square" Post Office
 School Municipal Building State Capitol Courthouse College Campus
 Traffic Circle Library Other: Historical Site

General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city) Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor Cannon is housed in a protective structure and maintained by local historical

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 5/29/2026
 Your Name Rev. Donald McKinnon
 Address 659 Central Turnpike
 City Sutton State MA Zip Code 01590
 Telephone (508) 649-6490 E-Mail don.mckinnon73@gmail.com

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

Yes, Willie Grout Camp #25 Worcester, MA SUVCW

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 attached to this electronic file are the Monument's Condition and the Narrative forms. Only the Monument's Condition form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:
Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT’S CONDITION

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions.

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments with Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed?; Any evidence of structural instability?; Any broken or missing parts?; Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes?.

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: Black crusting; White crusting; Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal); Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.); Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines); Chalky or powdery stone; Granular eroding of stone; Spalling of stone (surface splitting off); Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains); Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? Yes No Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? Yes No Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded Painted Varnished Waxed Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? Yes No Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained Would benefit from treatment In urgent need of treatment Unable to determine

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

Known locally as "Old Ben," this Civil War-era cannon is owned by the Town of Sutton and is an important component of the town's Civil War heritage. Historical records indicate the cannon dates to 1862 and was acquired as part of the

Inspector's Name Rev. Donald McKinnon Date 5/29/2026

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ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

[Generally used to record the text of monuments, but may be used for any other useful information, such as if the monument has been moved or if you have information about the day of dedication. May repeat use of page as often as necessary.]

The Memorial is *currently* located at: Cannon Shed

Street/Road address or site location _____

6 Singletary Ave _____ GPS Coordinates _____

City/Village and/or Township Sutton

County Worcester State MA Zip Code 01590

TEXT

Old Ben is a Civil War-era cannon located in Sutton, Massachusetts. The cannon is a well-known local landmark and remains an active part of the town's commemorative traditions. It has undergone restoration and preservation efforts and serves as a visible reminder of Sutton's connection to the Civil War and the service of its citizens during the War of the Rebellion. The cannon is maintained in partnership with local historical organizations and volunteers and continues to be featured during public ceremonies and historical events.

"Big Ben" was fondly named after local citizen, Ben MacLaren, who unearthed the cannon from the Hearse Shed many years ago.

"Big Ben" is a fully-working 900-pound brass cannon cast in 1862 in Boston at the Cyrus Alger & Co. foundry. The cannon is a smoothbore, model M1841 cannon known as a "6-pounder" for the size of its cannonballs which had a shooting range of up to 1520 yards (almost 0.9 mile).

The treasured cannon and its carriage, tools and equipment are co-owned by the Town of Sutton and The Sutton Historical Society, Inc. The Historical Society is responsible for its custody and care.

In 1999, the cannon was refurbished, and an exact duplicate carriage was built.

Our Cannon Club, a group of dedicated Civil War re-enactors, display and fire the cannon during special town events.

In 2013, the cannon and its team proudly participated in the 150-year anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg.

"Big Ben" was one of four cannons received from the U.S. Government by Sutton after the Civil War to be used as monuments to commemorate and honor the local soldiers who fought and died in the Civil War.

Three of the cannons are fixed monuments; two are located at the entrance of the Town Hall with the third located on Mateychuk Square in the Village of Manchaug.

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