

= Groton Monument =

The Groton Monument , sometimes called the Fort Griswold Monument , is a granite monument in Groton , Connecticut . It is dedicated to the defenders who fell during the Battle of Groton Heights on September 6 , 1781 . The monument was originally 127 feet (39 m) high , but it was later changed in 1881 to commemorate the centennial of the Battle of Groton Heights ; the cupola was removed and replaced by an iron @-@ capped pyramid in emulation of the Bunker Hill Monument . The monument bears a plaque describing the events of the Battle of Groton Heights and another plaque with the names of the Americans who died in the battle . In 1918 , lightning destroyed the capstone and damaged the adjacent Monument House Museum which features exhibits about the Revolutionary War . Visitors can climb the monument and visit the museum from Memorial Day through Labor Day . The Groton Monument is located in Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park , which includes Fort Griswold , in Groton , Connecticut , United States .

= = Design = =

The Groton Monument association was incorporated in 1820 and had the monument designed by the partnership of Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis . The cornerstone was laid on September 6 , 1825 and the monument was completed in 1830 . Originally , the monument was 127 feet (39 m) high , but this was later changed in 1881 to commemorate the centennial of the Battle of Groton Heights , the cupola was removed and replaced by an iron @-@ capped pyramid in emulation of the Bunker Hill Monument . As a result of these renovations , the height was extended to 135 feet (41 m) high .

A plaque affixed to the monument above the entrance reads : " THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT , A.D. 1830 , AND IN THE 55TH YEAR OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE U.S.A. IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE PATRIOTS , WHO FELL IN THE MASSACRE AT FORT GRISWOLD , NEAR THIS SPOT , ON THE 6TH OF SEPT . A.D. 1781 , WHEN THE BRITISH , UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE TRAITOR , BENEDICT ARNOLD , BURNT THE TOWNS OF NEW LONDON AND GROTON , AND SPREAD DESOLATION AND WOE THROUGHOUT THIS REGION . "

Another plaque details the eighty @-@ eight names of the American defenders who were killed during the battle . The plaque has seven minor errors in naming , with six being minor spellings of the names of the deceased . One significant error is name for Thomas Minard , which should read Thomas Miner .

= = Repairs = =

The monument was repaired and the grounds renovated with an appropriation of \$ 5000 from the State of Connecticut in 1893 and completed by early 1894 . In 1901 , lightning struck the Groton Monument and any damage caused was noted as trivial because The Day says the event was a " dim memory " and its exact date un @-@ discoverable . In 1918 , lightning again struck the monument with great effect . The bolt of lightning shattered the capstone and sent the pieces to the ground before traveling through the brass railings and scattered the cards in one of the wire @-@ racks . The lightning also jumped 25 feet (7 @.@ 6 m) to the monument house and damaged the veranda , upraising the brick tilling floor and even sticking some to the ceiling and doing minor damage inside the museum . Frederic Bill , attempted to find a fitting match for the original capstone , but could not .

In 1985 , Hurricane Gloria blew out a window of the monument . In 1986 , the State of Connecticut spent \$ 6250 to re @-@ mortar the monument . The monument was closed until 1989 for the repair work . In 2007 , Carol Kimball of The Day wrote that the State of Connecticut has not funding repairs to the historic site , but it would be required if the monument were to continue to survive . Kimball also referenced a New York Times article on the neglected monument and that the bond commission has yet to issue the approved \$ 350 @,@ 000 for its preservation . Other costs

including sidewalks surrounding the entrance , and Memorial Gate itself , would require another \$ 150 @, @ 000 to repair .

= = Operation = =

The Groton Monument is formally located in Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park , which includes Fort Griswold , in Groton , Connecticut , United States . The State of Connecticut came to control the site in 1902 and as of 2007 , Connecticut 's Department of Environmental Protection was the specific branch in charge . On July 1 , 2011 , the department was reorganized as the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection . In 1981 , the bicentennial of the battle , the monument was originally scheduled to be closed due to budget cuts , but instead would remain open throughout the season . The monument was expected to be visited by thousands of people during the celebration . There is an adjacent museum operated by the Daughters of the American Revolution , which features exhibits about the Revolutionary War and the battle at Fort Griswold .

Visitors can climb the monument and visit the museum from Memorial Day through Labor Day .