

HORACE WELLS SCULPTURE RESTORATION IS COMPLETE



Wells Monument before restoration



Restored Wells Monument

In 2002, Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!), a national project co-sponsored by Heritage Preservation and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art to preserve our nation's public sculpture, awarded Cedar Hill Cemetery an SOS! Assessment Award. The award monies were used to hire a conservation professional with experience with outdoor sculpture to conduct on-site condition assessments of two of our significant

bronze sculptures, recommend treatment and maintenance and provide estimates of treatment costs.

The first sculpture selected for restoration was the Horace Wells monument on Section 4.



Sculptures that originally graced the monument's ends

This piece of remarkably fine artwork by sculptor Louis Potter is historically significant because of Wells' discovery of the use of nitrous oxide as an anesthetic. This piece stands out because it is entirely unique in a cemetery setting in that the story it relates is one of human triumph rather than loss and sorrow. The restoration, funded by the Horace Wells Club of Connecticut, the Hartford Medical and Dental Societies and Atena Foundation was completed last year and the results are amazing.

Because two additional sculptures that originally graced either end of the monument were stolen in the early 1980s and replaced with flat bronze facsimiles, the Horace Wells Club and Hartford Dental Society have further undertaken the task of raising funds to have the original sculptures replicated and returned to their original setting. The estimated cost of this project is approximately \$43,000 and the dental societies were thrilled to learn that Aetna Foundation would provide funding in the amount of \$15,000 toward the total needed to reproduce the original pieces.

Our sincere thanks to all. These generous contributions have enabled Cedar Hill to preserve this valuable piece of Hartford history for many future generations.



Replicated sculptures now restored to their original setting.