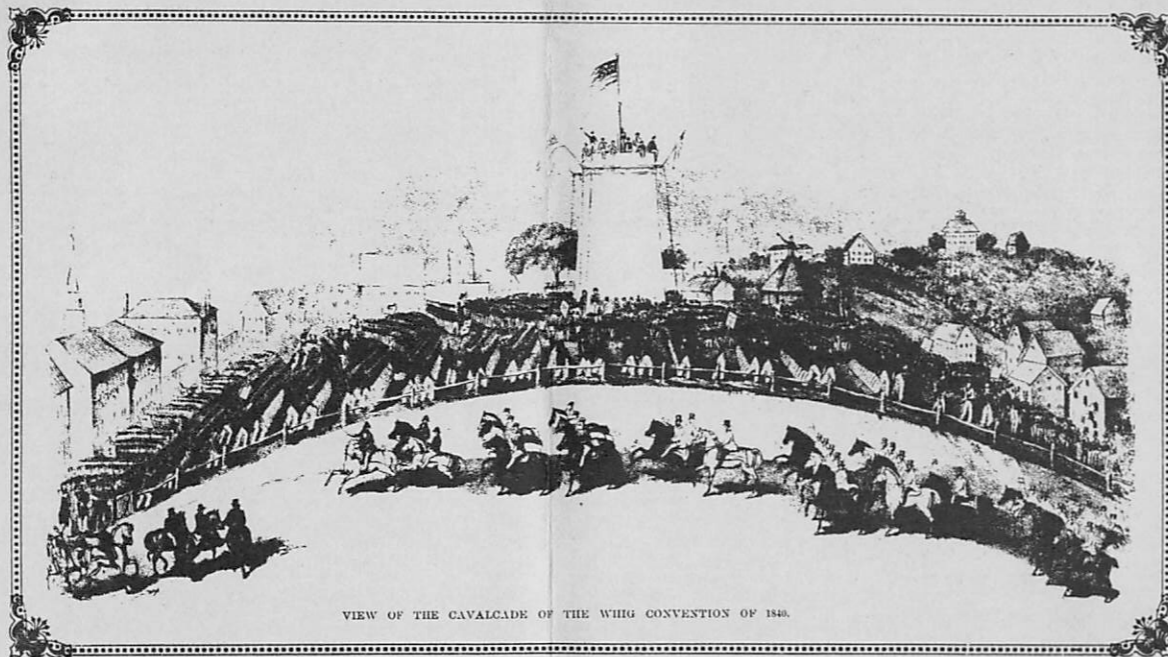


Did you know....

that the monument was used as a beacon for ship navigation? When ships got past the dangerous spots in the outer harbor, the captains and sailors would use the monument to guide them into the inner port of Boston. Mariners waited and grumbled seventeen years before their beacon was completed. A local poet wrote these lines:

*But where's the pile they said would rise,
Throwing its shadows o'er the wave—
Lifting its forehead to the skies—
A Beacon far o'er land and sea,
Signal and Seal for Liberty.*



VIEW OF THE CAVALCADE OF THE WHIG CONVENTION OF 1840.

What famous people have visited the monument?

Some of the notables have included: the Marquis de LaFayette; Daniel Webster; Presidents John Tyler, Calvin Coolidge, and John F. Kennedy.

Did you know....

that prior to the completion of the monument it was suggested that the top of the monument be modified into an observation platform? Since the monument would have looked like a chimney with a hat, the members of the Bunker Hill Monument Association voted against the proposal.

Why are there rings in the observation windows at the top of the monument?

They are to hold flagpoles. Before window panes were installed, flags were flown on holidays and festive occasions. An 1843 print of the monument's dedication is located behind the ranger's desk in the lodge. It shows how the flagpoles and rings were used.

Why does the cannon inside the top of the monument have a hole in it?

The hole was blown in the cannon during a firing in an 1821 celebration.

Did you know....

that originally there were fifteen acres of land for the site of the Bunker Hill Monument? In October 1834, the Bunker Hill Monument Association decided to sell eleven acres of the battlefield to pay off a \$25,000 mortgage. Four years later the Association decided against repurchasing the eleven acres. The land was subdivided into building lots which were sold in a public auction in September 1839. This ended the plan to preserve the fifteen acre Bunker Hill battlefield as open land for future generations.

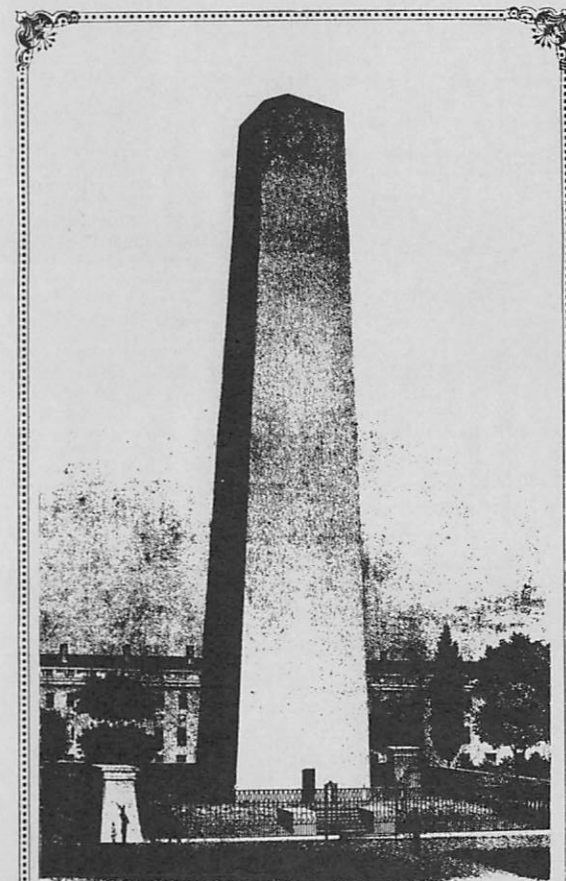


Bunker Hill Monument
Boston National Historical Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

What? No Elevator?

And Other Facts About

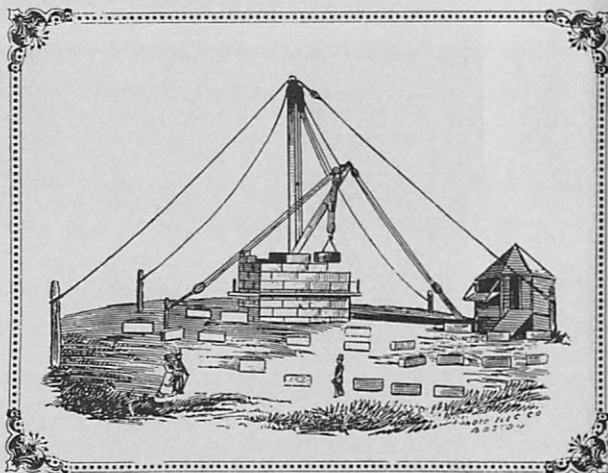
Bunker Hill Monument



VIEW OF THE MONUMENT, AS PROPOSED IN 1836.

Did you know....

that the Bunker Hill Monument is actually on Breed's Hill? The battle was fought on Breed's Hill, but many people fighting in the battle thought they were fighting on Bunker Hill. Bunker Hill is located just to the north of Breed's Hill.

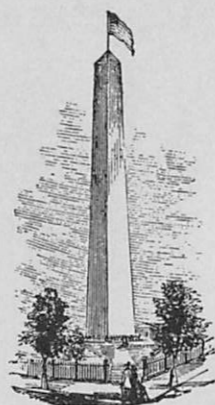


Did the Monument ever have an elevator?

Yes. In 1842, contractor James S. Savage used a steam engine to raise an elevator inside the monument. The engine had been used with a derrick and hoist, that lifted the granite blocks, to construct the monument. This elevator remained in use until the end of 1844 when it was removed.

Why is the monument an obelisk?

When this country was founded, many Americans felt that the ideas and customs of ancient Greece and Rome should be used in the creation of their new country. Like the ancient Romans, Americans called their country, a republic, and their legislature, the senate. Public buildings such as the nation's capitol were styled after Greek architecture. Since Greeks often built obelisks to commemorate major events, Americans felt that building an obelisk on Breed's Hill was a good way to mark the first major battle for independence.

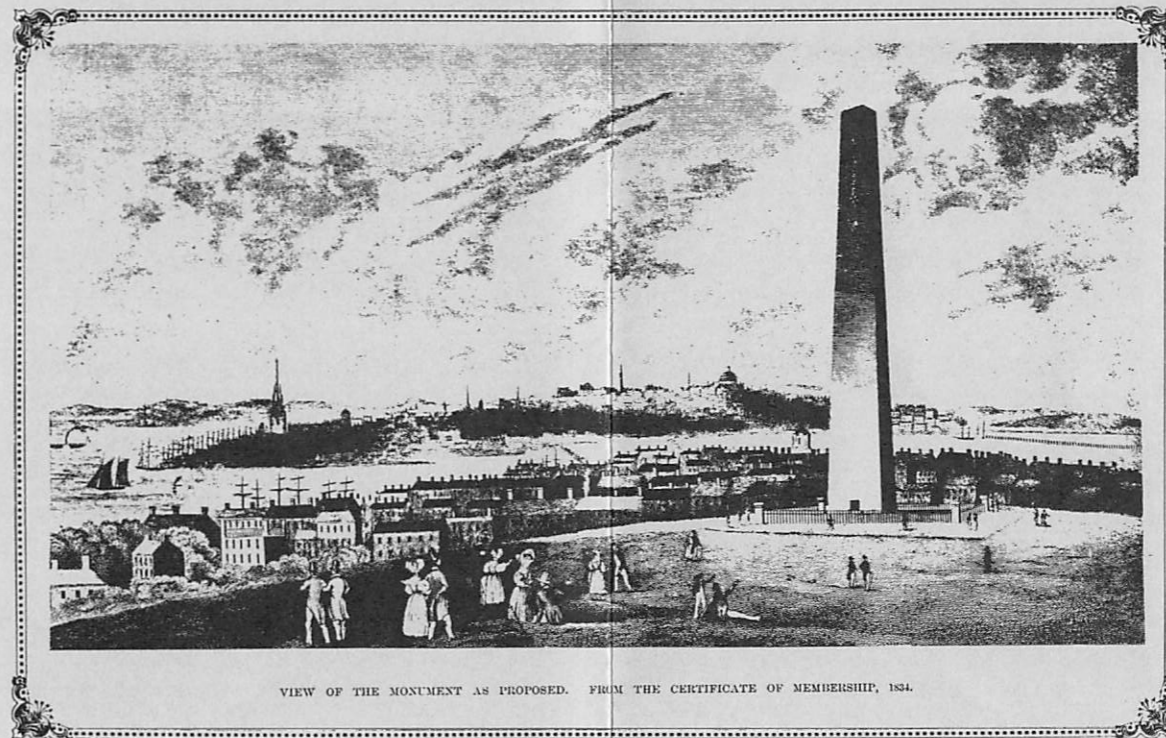


When was the Bunker Hill Lodge built?

Construction of the present lodge began in 1901 and was completed in 1903. It replaced the previous lodge built in 1857. The lodge was built to house the statue of Joseph Warren and portraits of several men who took part in the battle. It also served as a meeting place for the board of directors and a storage place for groundskeeping equipment. The cost to build the lodge, which was over \$30,000, bankrupted the Bunker Hill Monument Association.

Did you know....

that one man died during the construction of the monument? In 1828, the masons were setting the last stone of the twelfth course. A strong gust of wind caught a workman and blew him off the monument. He fell thirty-four feet to his death.



VIEW OF THE MONUMENT AS PROPOSED. FROM THE CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP, 1841.

Were any other monuments erected at Bunker Hill?

The first monument was erected December 1794 in James Russell's pasture (Breed's Hill). It was a Tuscan pillar, eighteen feet high, built of wood and topped with a gilt urn. It cost \$1,000 to build.

Which was built first: the Washington Monument or the Bunker Hill Monument? Which is taller?

The Bunker Hill Monument was completed in 1842. Construction of the Washington Monument did not begin until 1848 and was completed in 1885. The Washington Monument is 555 feet high and the Bunker Hill Monument is 221 feet high.

Is this monument the first dedicated to an American Revolutionary War battle?

This is the first major commemorative monument in the United States. Several small monuments were erected at Yorktown and West Point before construction began on the Bunker Hill Monument.