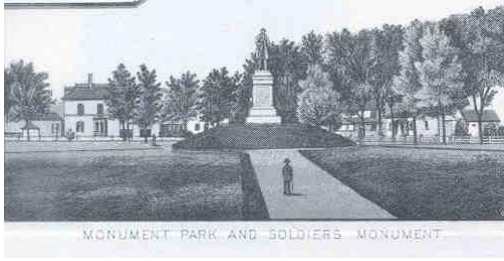


MONUMENT SQUARE

Veterans Memorial Park ~ Corner of Elm & Park Streets ~ Map #40



The old cemetery on Elm Street, originally a cemetery for veterans of the American Revolution, closed in 1855, and by 1868 most of the bodies had been removed to Pine Grove Cemetery in Waterville's south end. Waterville Pioneer & Revolutionary War veteran, Asa Redington, who died in 1845, is rumored to still be buried on Elm Street, however. Local legend claims that Redington, like Shakespeare, put a

curse on anyone who moved his body. A large monument in his memory can be found in Pine Grove Cemetery. In 1869, the site of the old City cemetery was converted into a park and a soldiers' monument was erected. It was known as Monument Square.

In 1851, former Maine Governor Abner Coburn donated buildings (where the current Elm Towers is now located) for an institute. It was known as Coburn Classical Institute, a college preparatory school that enrolled students from all over the country. The adjacent park became known as Coburn Park. The school burned down in February 23, 1955.



In 1998, at the request of Members of the Bourque Lanigan American Legion Post 5 of Waterville, the City Council voted to rename the site to commemorate the area's war veterans. In 1995, the park was formally dedicated as Veterans Memorial Park.