

Church steeples rise over the Boston skyline in this 1820 view. The large building left of center is the State House. The steeple of Old South Meeting House is the third from the right. Courtesy: Boston Athenaeum.

Bostonians blazed a trail of freedom from colony to independence. They met in town meetings to argue contemporary issues, they spoke against excessive taxes, and they were among the leaders in organizing a defense against British dominion. Today the sites of *Boston National Historical Park*, connected by the *Freedom Trail*, symbolize the accomplishments of that revolutionary generation.

Years before the Revolution, the Massachusetts House of Representatives denied that Parliament had the right to tax the American colonies without representation. A circular letter issued from the *Old State House* sought a meeting of delegates from all thirteen colonies to discuss the Stamp Act. The British, however, continued to impose duties. In *Faneuil*

Hall James Otis and Samuel Adams raised their voices to oppose England's oppressive tariffs. Then on the evening of December 16, 1773, more people gathered at Faneuil Hall than could be accommodated. They moved to *Old South Meeting House*, the town's largest building. From there a band of men disguised as Indians went to the waterfront, boarded three British ships, and unloaded their cargoes of tea into the harbor. In retaliation, England closed the port of Boston.

In May 1774 British troops occupied the city, and patriots prepared to defend their homeland. In the steeple of *Old North Church*, near *Paul Revere's House*, two lanterns were hung on April 18, 1775, warning the patriots that British troops were crossing by boat on the Charles River.

Paul Revere and William Dawes rode to Lexington to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams of the pending attack. When British troops tried to confiscate patriot arms stored in Concord, the "Minutemen" fought. Shots rang out from Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge. The war for independence had begun. The British retreated to Boston, and an American army soon took up positions on the hills surrounding the city. Two months later, the British planned to occupy Charlestown Heights. To prevent this, Breed's Hill (*Bunker Hill Monument*) was fortified by colonial forces. Alarmed by the armaments, the British attacked on June 17, 1775. By mid-afternoon a battle raged. It ended in an American retreat, but with substantial British losses. Gen. George Washington arrived to take command and by March 1776 he had

fortified Dorchester Heights. Under threat of bombardment, the British evacuated Boston and for the next few years the war moved south.

Although the Revolutionary War was fought primarily on land, a small Continental Navy was built, only to be disbanded at the end of the war. The foundations of the permanent Navy were established by Congress in 1794 with the authorization of six new frigates. *USS Constitution*, built at Hart's Shipyard in Boston, was launched in 1797. Her strength in battle gave her the nickname "Old Ironsides." Now the oldest ship in the United States Navy, she is restored and berthed at *Charlestown Navy Yard*, one of the first naval shipyards in the Nation.

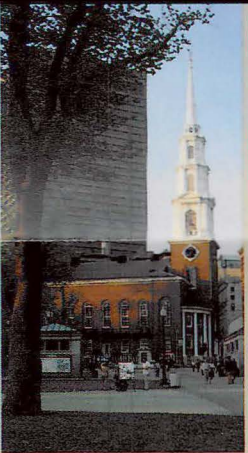
A Tour of the Freedom Trail



State House

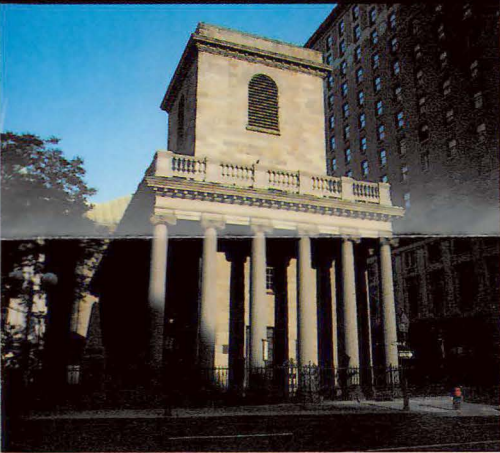
Begin your tour of the Freedom Trail at **Boston Common**, land purchased in 1634 as a militia "traying field" and for the "feeding of Cattle." During the Battle of Bunker Hill the British embarked for Charlestown from the Common. Artist Gilbert Stuart is buried in the Central Burying Ground. The "new" **State House**, designed

by Charles Bulfinch, was built in 1795 on land that originally belonged to the John Hancock family. Located opposite the State House is the **Robert Gould Shaw and 54th Regiment Memorial**. The Black Heritage Trail begins here and explores the Boston African American National Historic Site and the Museum of Afro-American History.



Park Street Church

William Lloyd Garrison gave his first antislavery speech in this church, built in 1809. Adjacent to it is **Granary Burying Ground**, where many notable Americans are interred, including Declaration of Independence signers John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine, and Samuel Adams. Also buried here are the victims of the Boston Massacre.



King's Chapel and Burying Ground

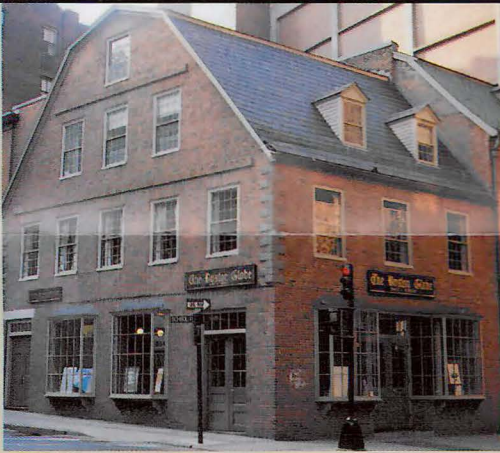
The first Anglican Congregation in Boston was founded at Tremont Street in 1688. The present structure was completed in 1754. In colonial times the church was presented with gifts of silver and vestments by Queen Anne and King George III. After the Revolution it became the first Unitarian Church in America. The burying

ground next door, the first in the colony, shelters Governor John Winthrop and William Dawes, Jr.



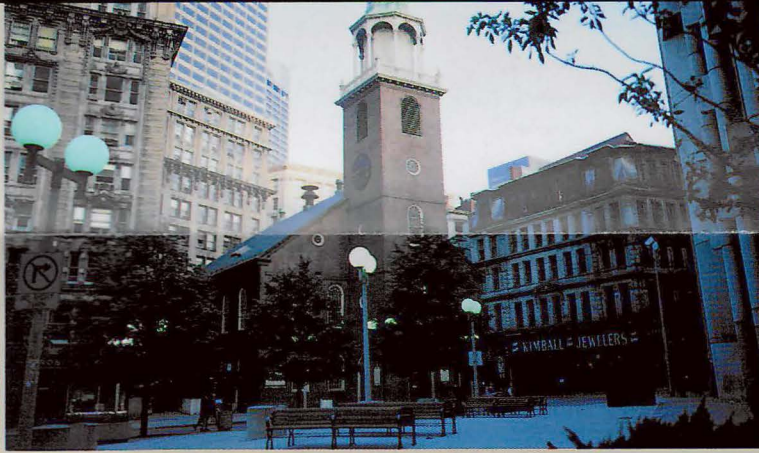
Franklin Statue

Designed by Richard S. Greenough, this portrait statue, the first erected in Boston, commemorates one of the city's most versatile sons. The bronze tablets depict Franklin's career: printer, scientist, and signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Peace Treaty with Great Britain.



Old Corner Bookstore

Originally built in 1712 as the home of Thomas Crease, this building was the center of literary Boston in the 19th century. Such noted authors as Longfellow, Emerson, Hawthorne, and Oliver Wendell Holmes gathered in the Bookstore here.



Old South Meeting House

"Old South," built in 1729 as a Congregational Church, was the largest meeting space in colonial Boston and often served as a town meeting site whenever attendance grew too large for Faneuil Hall. Town meetings were frequent at Old South, especially in the years prior to the Revolution. The most famous meeting took place on

December 16, 1773, when Bostonians met to consider the British tax on tea. After the meeting a group of citizens left Old South for the waterfront, where they boarded three ships and dumped their cargoes of tea into the harbor. The "Boston Tea Party" caused Parliament to close the port of Boston, bringing the country a step closer to

rebellion. Old South remained a church until the 1870s, when its congregation moved to a new church in Back Bay. The Old South Association, a private organization, was formed to preserve the building and to continue its affiliation with the exercise of free speech. The Association remains active through lectures, exhibits, and publications.



Old State House

Built in 1713, this was the seat of the colonial government. Here in 1766 the first gallery from which the public could watch government in action was opened. A circle of cobblestones in the street outside marks the **Boston Massacre Site**, where on March 5, 1770, British soldiers killed five colonists.

Quincy Market

Newly refurbished Quincy Market is a prime example of the adaptive use of old structures. Its many restaurants and shops make it an interesting place to visit. Nearby is the waterfront of Boston Harbor, one of the oldest ports in America.

Faneuil Hall

Peter Faneuil donated this building to the town in 1742. It was enlarged in 1806. The lower floor has always been a market; the second floor meeting hall is dubbed "the Cradle of Liberty" because of protests against British policy voiced here. The fourth level houses the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company Museum.

Paul Revere House

This house, the oldest in Boston, was built about 1680. Paul Revere owned it from 1770 until 1800. While living here he produced his famous Boston Massacre engraving, took part in the Tea Party, and, on April 18, 1775, made his historic ride to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock of the approaching British. After Revere's time, the house was used

for commercial stores and tenement housing. Its restoration by the Paul Revere Memorial Association in 1908 was a landmark event in the historic preservation movement. The adjacent **Pierce-Hichborn House** was the home of Revere's cousin, Nathaniel Hichborn, and is one of the earliest brick houses in the city.

Old North Church

Built in 1723 as "an house of prayer for all people," "Old North," or Christ Church, seen here from the **Paul Revere Mall**, is the city's oldest standing church. From its steeple sexton Robert Newman hung two lanterns to warn Charlestown that the British were crossing the Charles River on their way to Concord.

Copp's Hill Burying Ground

Begun as a cemetery in the 1660s, this site overlooking the Charles River was used by the British a century later as an emplacement for the cannon that fired on the Americans on Bunker Hill. Buried here are Cotton Mather and Edward Hart, builder of the *USS Constitution*.

Charlestown Navy Yard

The navy yard opened in 1800 to build, service, and supply ships for the United States Navy. Today the yard is the proud home of *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world. "Old Ironsides" was launched at Boston in 1797. She sailed against the Barbary Pirates and fought the British in the War of 1812. She never

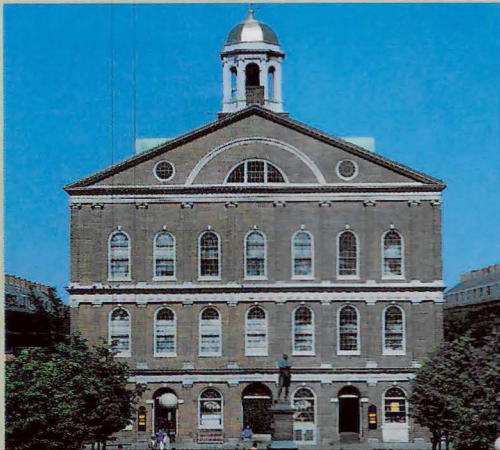
lost a battle in her long career. The **USS Constitution Museum** tells the story of her years under sail. Exhibits on shipbuilding, audio-visual programs, displays, and models combine to create the feeling of shipboard life in the 1800s.

For 174 years, dry docks, ropewalks, and shipways were part of the scene at

the navy yard. The yard reached peak operation during World War II when its work force numbered 50,000 men and women. Damaged ships were repaired and a record number of vessels built. *USS Cassin Young*, once refitted in drydock here, is now moored at Pier I, and represents the type of ship built here during World War II.

Bunker Hill Monument

This obelisk commemorates the first major battle of the Revolution, fought here on June 17, 1775. The lodge at the base of the monument has exhibits on the battle. Visitors may view the city from the top of the monument (there are 294 steps; no elevator).



Boston's Freedom Trail

Boston exemplifies many aspects of America's heritage. Its citizens are a perpetual fountain of individualism. Its scholars and statesmen have profoundly influenced the life of the city and the Nation.

Cities, like people, change and evolve. Boston is famous for its adaptive use of old structures. The old Quincy Market, the Waterfront, and Charlestown Navy Yard are being renovated for a variety of community, commercial, and leisure uses. The marriage of historic preservation and economic revitalization has created a skyline of contrasts: modern skyscrapers and the Government Center vie with the steeple of the Old North Church and clock tower of the Customs House. Architectural and cultural diversity is the essence of Boston.

A walk on the Freedom Trail will also take you through the varied neighborhoods that characterize the city: the Italian neighborhood in the North End, the "Old Boston" neighborhood at Beacon Hill, and the Irish community in Charlestown. Park visitors can best enjoy the city by walking or riding the public transportation system to its museums, theaters, concerts, and shops.

About the Park

Boston National Historical Park is an association of a number of sites that together give the visitor a coherent view of the city's role in the Nation's history. Each site brings to life the American ideals of freedom of speech, religion, government, and self-determination.

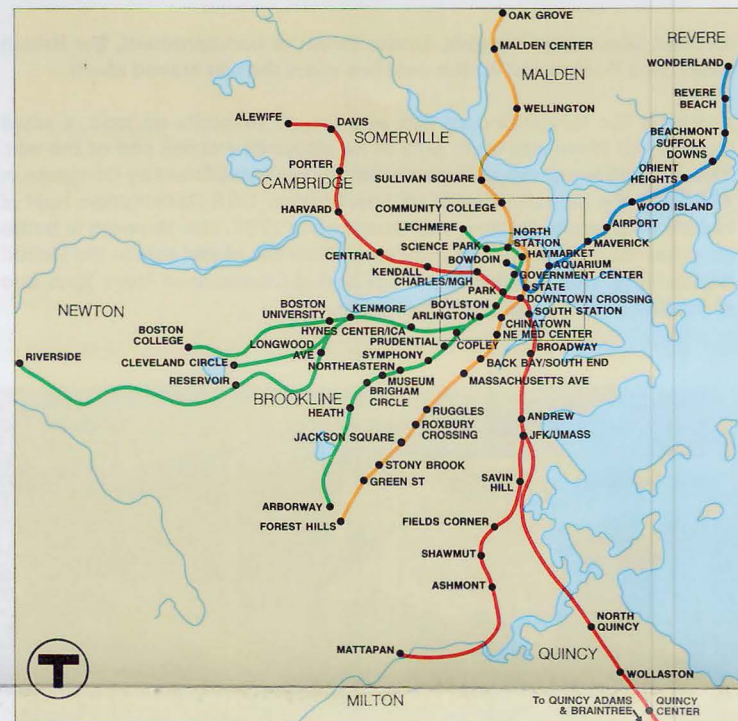
The park complex is unique in that only three of the sites—the Charlestown Navy Yard, Bunker Hill Monument, and Dorchester Heights—are owned by the Federal Government. The others—the Paul Revere House, the Old North Church, the Old State House, the Old South Meeting House, and Faneuil Hall—are privately or municipally owned and managed. Hence the creation of Boston National Historical Park signifies a new kind of park management, in which the resources of federal, state,

city, and private organizations are combined in a cooperative relationship. Responsibilities, costs, and technical assistance are shared among all parties.

Most of the historic sites are connected by the Freedom Trail. Recognized as a National Recreation Trail, the 2½-mile trail is a walking tour of 16 sites and structures of historic importance in downtown Boston and Charlestown.

This park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Contact: Superintendent, Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA 02129.

Exploring Historic Boston

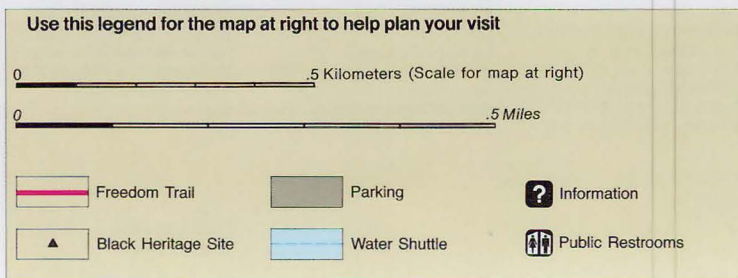


Entrance/exit for Rapid Transit station on map at right.

Boston is a city best seen on foot. Traffic in the downtown area is usually heavy and the street system difficult for newcomers to negotiate. We urge you to park your car and walk wherever possible. You will see parts of the city you might otherwise miss and have a far more relaxing visit. For longer distances, depend on the Rapid Transit System.

Boston's **Rapid Transit System** (the "T") consists of four different routes, color-coded as the Red, Green, Blue, and Orange Lines on the map above. Most station stops within Boston proper are named for streets and squares and are marked with a large sign bearing the transit logo—a black "T" in a white circle. They are indicated on the map at right

Excellent, easy-to-follow system maps are posted inside each transit station. Tokens may be purchased at all stations except along surface portions of the Green Line, where exact change is required. The "T" operates from 6 a.m. until midnight.



Information on Boston is available at the Boston National Historical Park Visitor Center at 15 State Street (across from the Old State House). The visitor center features a slide program oriented to the sites along the Freedom Trail. The Greater Boston Convention and Tourist Bureau operates information centers on Boston Common and at the Prudential Center.

The **Freedom Trail** is the best way to tour Boston's 18th and 19th century historic sites. The trail begins at the Boston Common and ends at the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. Along most of the route a red line on the sidewalk shows the way; in some places the trail is marked in red brick or granite paving stones. Allow most of a day to walk the 2½-mile trail and visit the 16 sites.

The **Boston African American National Historic Site** explores the history of Beacon Hill's 19th century black community. The

Black Heritage Trail begins at the Shaw Memorial across from the State House. Black and brown signs identify sites, including the African Meeting House and the Smith School. Trail folders are available at the park visitor center.

Bus service between Boston and Charlestown is provided by MBTA routes 92 and 93. To reach Charlestown from downtown, catch one of these buses at Haymarket station north of Faneuil Hall and get off at City Square (the first stop after crossing the Charlestown Bridge). It is a short walk from here to either the Navy Yard or Bunker Hill. Catch the return bus at City Square in front of the John Harvard Mall. Exact change is required.

A marble tower atop **Dorchester Heights** in Thomas Park in South Boston commemorates the American actions that brought about the British evacuation of Boston on March 17, 1776. This bloodless American

triumph was the first victory for the Continental Army under its new commander, George Washington.

The monument was built in colonial revival style in 1902. The tower, designed to resemble a colonial meeting house spire, offers a commanding view of Boston and its harbor. The grounds are open during daylight hours; the tower is open on a limited schedule during the summer.

Dorchester Heights is two miles from downtown Boston. To reach the site by public transportation take the subway (Red Line) to Broadway Station. Here board MBTA Bus #9 (City Point) and get off at "G" Street. It is a short walk uphill to the Heights.

By car, cross into South Boston on the Congress Street Bridge. Turn right onto "A" Street, then left onto West Broadway. Follow Broadway to "G" Street and turn right. The monument will be on the left.

