

Detail from *A Southeast View of the Great Town of Boston in New England in America*, by J. Carwitham, London, 1764
COURTESY THE BOSTONIAN SOCIETY

To travel back to Revolutionary Boston—to understand the people, the events, and the ideals of the 1700s—is a great leap for us today. But the sites along the Freedom Trail speak eloquently of that time. Bostonians and other colonists shared a notion of liberty as something precious and worth fighting for. The Freedom Trail sites include the scenes of critical events in Boston's and the nation's struggle for freedom. Some visitors choose to trek the entire 2½-mile route or select an individual site to visit at length, while others experience the Freedom Trail as a cohesive story built around the following four chapters, organized along geographic and thematic lines.

Chapter 1—Revolution of Minds and Hearts For more than a century before the first musket was fired in America's War for Independence, Puritan-bred Bostonians embraced a strong heritage of community

and a culture of freedom that was remarkable among colonial settlements. The sites here include places where townsfolk assembled to proclaim their rights, drill their militias, bury their dead, educate their young, govern their own church congregations, and protect their property from British meddling. "The Revolution was effected before the war commenced," observed John Adams. "The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people." Sites in this chapter include Boston Common, Massachusetts State House, Park Street Church and Granary Burying Ground, King's Chapel and Burying Ground, and the site of the first public school.

Chapter 2—The People Revolt In 1760 breaking away from Great Britain was unimaginable to most Bostonians. Between 1761 and 1775, however, differing views of the rights of the colonies under British rule led to actions, reactions, and tumultuous encounters between Britain and the

Boston colonists that snowballed toward war. The sites here feature places where liberty-loving men and women began to take collective action, culminating in events like the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party. They include Old South Meeting House, Old Corner Bookstore, Old State House, Boston Massacre Site, and Faneuil Hall.

Chapter 3—Neighborhood of Revolution In the course of two pivotal days—April 18 and 19, 1775—years of growing unrest burst into insurrection. Among the families of the North End, downtown Boston's oldest surviving residential neighborhood, were artisan Paul Revere, his second wife Rachel, and seven of his children. It was patriot Revere who planned the hanging of warning lanterns in the steeple of the Old North Church on April 18 before his famous ride. By morning, colonial militia had assembled in Lexington and Concord for what became the first mili-

tary encounters of the Revolution. The North End sites in this chapter include Paul Revere House, Old North Church, and Copp's Hill Burying Ground.

Chapter 4—Boston Goes to War Less than two months after Lexington and Concord, patriots and British troops engaged in one of the bloodiest encounters of the War for Independence—the Battle of Bunker Hill. Though the British won the battle, their losses were immense, inspiring patriots to continued resistance. By 1783, the United States had won its independence. To defend the young nation against pirates, the British, or any other would-be challenger, the newly formed US Navy built the seemingly invincible frigate *USS Constitution*. The Charlestown sites in this chapter include Bunker Hill Monument and *USS Constitution*, berthed in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

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Sites Along the Freedom Trail



Boston Common and State House

Freedom Trail begins at Boston Common where cattle once grazed and British soldiers camped. Puritan settlers established the Common in 1634, making it the nation's oldest public park. Charles Bulfinch designed the Massachusetts State House, which overlooks the Common. Samuel Adams and Paul

Revere laid the cornerstone in 1795. The memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment, opposite the State House, marks the start of the Black Heritage Trail®, a feature of the Museum of African American History and Boston African American National Historic Site.



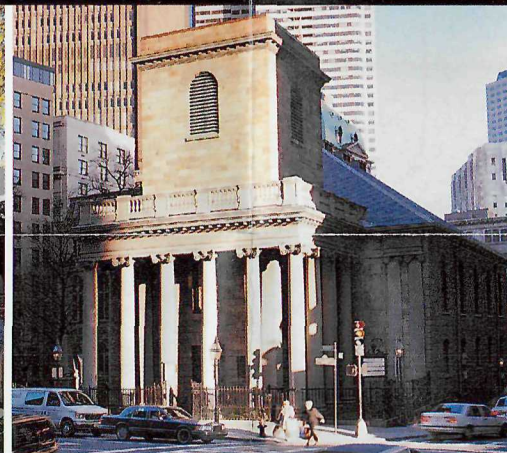
Park Street Church

The elegant spire of this church and its carillon, which sounds twice daily from its steeple, have long been landmarks for downtown shoppers. The hymn "America" was first sung here, and abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison gave his first antislavery speech here at the Park Street Church.



Granary Burying Ground

Patriots John Hancock, Paul Revere, James Otis, Samuel Adams, Robert Treat Paine; victims of the Boston Massacre; and whole families of settlers ravaged by fire and plague are interred in this cemetery next to the Park Street Church.



King's Chapel and Burying Ground

King's Chapel, designed by Peter Harrison in 1749 for the first Anglican congregation in Boston, possesses one of the most elegant Georgian church interiors of the colonial era. The congregation was a stronghold of Loyalist opposition, and most of its members left for England and Nova Scotia



Franklin Statue and First School Site

This statue of Benjamin Franklin overlooks the first site of the Latin School, the oldest public school in America, established by Puritan settlers in 1635. Franklin, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock all attended. Its first schoolhouse was built here in 1635.



Old South Meeting House

Built in 1729 as a Puritan house of worship, the Old South Meeting House was the largest building in colonial Boston. In the days leading to the American Revolution, citizens gathered here to challenge British rule, protesting the Boston Massacre and the tea tax. Here, at an overflow meeting on

December 16, 1773, patriot Samuel Adams launched the Boston Tea Party. Saved from destruction in 1876, in the first successful historic preservation effort in New England, the building is now an active meeting place, a haven for free speech, and a museum exhibit, "Voices of Protest."



Old Corner Bookstore

Typical of the kinds of dwellings and shops that lined the streets of colonial Boston, this gambrel-roof building was saved from destruction in the 1960s and restored by Historic Boston in 1970. Built as an apothecary for druggist Thomas Crease in 1718, it became a literary center in the mid-1800s.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and others brought their manuscripts here to be published by Ticknor and Fields Co.

Old State House

Built in 1713, this historic landmark was the seat of colonial and state governments as well as a merchants' exchange. In 1761 patriot James Otis opposed the Writ of Assistance here, inspiring John Adams to state, "then and there the child independence was born." A cobblestone circle

under its balcony marks the site of the 1770 Boston Massacre when British soldiers fired into a crowd of Bostonians. Fugitive slave Crispus Attucks was among the five victims who died that day. Today the Bostonian Society maintains the building as a museum of Boston history.

Faneuil Hall

This old market building, first built in 1742, sits at the site of the old town dock. Town meetings, held here between 1764 and 1774, heard Samuel Adams and others lead cries of protest against the imposition of taxes on the colonies. The building was enlarged

in 1806. Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Lucy Stone brought their struggles for freedom here in the 1800s. Market stalls on the first floor service shoppers much as they did in Paul Revere's day.

Paul Revere House

Boston's oldest residential neighborhood, the North End, includes the Paul Revere House, downtown Boston's oldest residence, built about 1680. Paul Revere and his family owned and occupied it most of the time from 1770 to 1800. The Paul Revere Memorial Association now operates it, along with the neighboring Pierce-Hichborn House, as a house museum. The association restored the dwelling in 1908 after it had been used as a cigar factory and bank, and for other purposes.

Old North Church

Built in 1723, Christ Church is better known as Old North. Boston's oldest church building, it remains an active Episcopal Church. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow memorialized Old North's role at the start of the Revolutionary War in his poem, "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

Copp's Hill Burying Ground

On the night of April 18, 1775, sexton Robert Newman hung two lanterns in the steeple to warn Charlestown patriots of advancing British soldiers. The Georgian style church houses the nation's first maiden peal of bells and the first bust of George Washington.

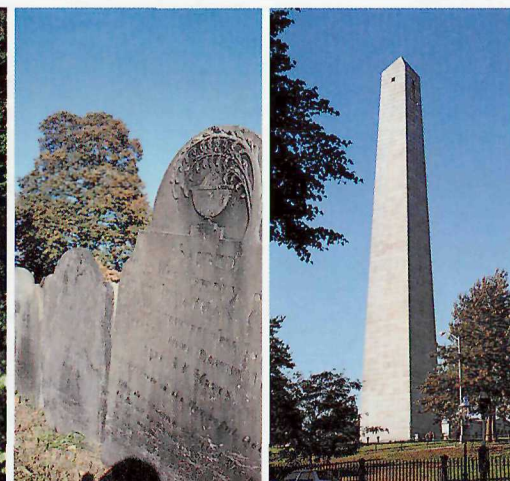
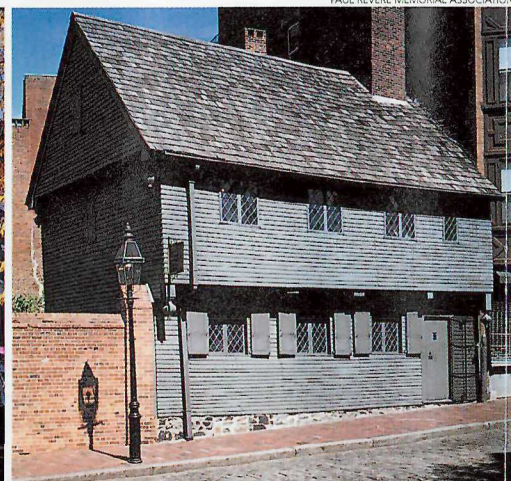
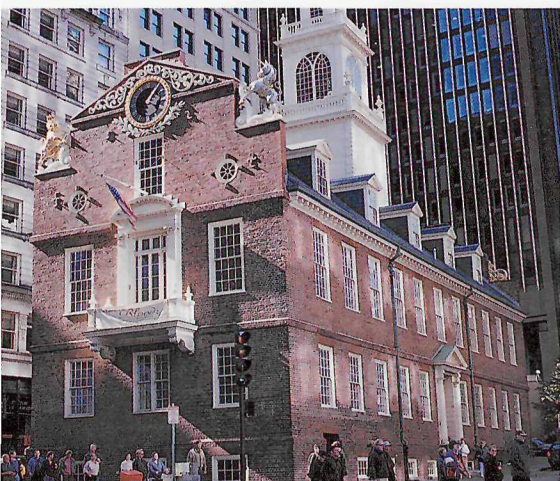
Bunker Hill Monument

Dedicated in 1843, this 221-foot obelisk commemorates the Revolution's first major battle. Visitors may climb the monument's 294 steps. A museum across the street has exhibits about the community, monument, and battle.

Charlestown Navy Yard/US Constitution

After the Revolution, citizens proved their willingness to defend their newfound freedom and economic independence by developing and supporting a navy. From 1800 to 1974, Charlestown Navy Yard built, repaired, and outfitted US naval vessels. Today the yard is home

to the *USS Constitution*, the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world, and the *USS Constitution Museum*. The *USS Cassin Young*, refitted and modernized in the yard's drydock, represents the type of ship built here during World War II.



Exploring Historic Boston

In the 1870s, imbued with the spirit of the nation's centennial, Bostonians began saving colonial and Revolutionary era buildings that were critical in the struggle against British rule. A century later, in 1974, Congress ensured the continuity of this effort—and the preservation of important parts of America's heritage—by creating Boston National Historical Park.

Today the park is an association of sites ranging from steepled churches, grand meeting halls, and battlegrounds to America's oldest commissioned warship. The park is distinctive, mixing historic buildings and landscapes owned by the city, the state, the federal government, and private organizations. Only three sites are owned by the federal government—the Charlestown Navy Yard, Bunker Hill Monument, and Dorchester Heights Monument.

Getting Around

Boston is best seen on foot. Downtown traffic is usually heavy, and the street system is difficult for newcomers to negotiate. Park your car in a commercial parking garage downtown or at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Walk wherever possible or for longer distances, depend on the Rapid Transit System.

Rapid Transit System
The "T" consists of the Red, Green, Blue, Orange, and Silver lines (see map below). Most stops within Boston proper are named for streets and squares and are marked with a sign bearing the transit logo.

Take MBTA routes 92 and 93 between Boston and Charlestown. To reach Charlestown from downtown, catch one of these buses at Haymarket station north of Faneuil Hall and get off at City Square Park (the first stop after crossing Charlestown Bridge).

It is a short walk to either the navy yard or Bunker Hill. Catch the return bus at City Square Park in front of John Harvard Mall. Exact change required. A water shuttle runs often between Pier

3 at Charlestown Navy Yard and Long Wharf in downtown Boston near the Aquarium rapid transit station.

Other Points of Interest
Boston African American National Historic Site
This site explores the history of Beacon Hill's black community in the 1800s.

Black Heritage Trail®
The trail begins at the Shaw Memorial opposite the State House. Black and brown signs identify sites, including the African Meeting House and the Abiel Smith School. Brochures are available at the park visitor center.

Dorchester Heights
A marble tower in Thomas Park in South Boston commemorates the American actions that brought about the British evacuation of Boston on March 17, 1776. This bloodless triumph was the first victory for the Continental Army under George Washington.

The monument was built in colonial revival style in 1902. Designed to resemble a colonial meeting house spire, the tower offers a commanding

view of Boston and its harbor. The grounds are open during daylight hours; the tower is open on a limited schedule in 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. 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 is on the left.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to a visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.

For firearms regulations check the park website.

Except for the Dorchester Heights Monument in South Boston, all of Boston National Historical Park's historic sites are part of Boston's Freedom Trail. The Freedom Trail is a 2½-mile walking trail of 16 colonial, Revolutionary, and federal sites in downtown Boston and Charlestown that tells the story in four principal chapters (see other side of this brochure) of the people, places, and events that sparked the American Revolution against England and highlights Boston's role in laying the foundation for a new nation.

The Freedom Trail originated in 1951 when Old North Church sexton Bob Winn proposed to reporter Bill Schofield the creation of a trail to help visitors find Boston's historic sites and to boost tourism. Schofield promoted the idea in his newspaper columns. In June 1951, with the support of Mayor John B. Hynes and the Chamber of Commerce, the city placed signs painted

with a colonial rider directing visitors to 12 historic sites from the State House to Copp's Hill Burying Ground.

Over the years the Freedom Trail has expanded and evolved. Today it is recognized as both a National Recreation Trail and a National Millennium Trail. It extends from Boston Common to the Charlestown Navy Yard and Bunker Hill and is marked by a line of contrasting bricks, red paint, and distinctive signage. A wide variety of private and public organizations oversee the welfare of the trail, including the city of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the National Park Service, and the Freedom Trail Foundation. Together these organizations have made the trail into an exciting, historical adventure—a vital part of Boston's and the nation's heritage. More than 1.5 million people walk the trail every

year, discovering the Revolutionary past embedded in a major modern urban environment.

More Information Start your journey by getting information at Boston National Historical Park Visitor Center at Faneuil Hall or at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Or contact: Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA 02129; www.nps.gov/bost; 617-242-5642.

Boston National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities visit www.nps.gov.

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