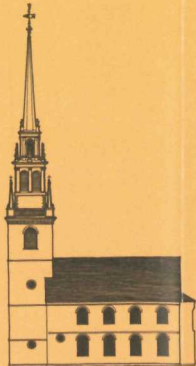


Faneuil Hall



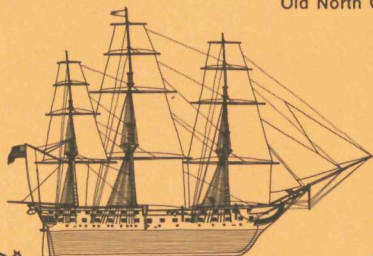
Bunker Hill Monument



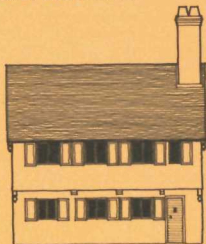
Old North Church



Old State House



U.S.S. Constitution



Paul Revere House



Old South Meeting House

Faneuil Hall

Boston merchant Peter Faneuil gave this hall to the town of Boston in 1742. It burned in 1761 and was rebuilt 2 years later. The present building is the result of architect Charles Bulfinch's enlargement of the structure in 1806.

Market stalls occupied the first floor, while the hall above was used for Boston town meetings and the discussions that led James Otis to call it the "Cradle of Liberty."

The oldest military company in North America, the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, has its armory and museum on the third floor.

Bunker Hill Monument

The Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, (actually fought on and around Breed's Hill) was the first significant battle of the Revolutionary War. As Boston was besieged by the Americans, British general Thomas Gage planned to fortify Dorchester Heights to protect the city. On hearing of Gage's plan, the colonial forces decided to occupy Charlestown peninsula and fortify Breed's Hill. Although the British won the ensuing battle, they suffered heavy losses. The Battle of Bunker Hill rallied the colonies and prodded the Continental Congress into organizing an American army.

Old North Church

The Old North Church, built in 1723 as a place of worship for non-Puritan Anglicans, was styled after Sir Christopher Wren's churches in 17th-century London.

On the night of April 18, 1775, sexton Robert Newman hung two lanterns in the steeple to signal that the British were leaving Boston by sea. This prearranged signal was intended to give the Charlestown militia warning of the British march toward Lexington and Concord, even if Paul Revere should be captured. This is the oldest church building still standing in Boston.

Charlestown Navy Yard (Boston Naval Shipyard)

One of the country's first naval shipyards was established in 1800 on "Moulton's Point" in Charlestown. Here in 1833 one of the first two dry docks in the country began operation. The first ship to enter the dock was the U.S. frigate *Constitution*, which now lies at the Navy Yard. This frigate helped drive French privateers from the American coast and the West Indies in the 1790s and became famous for her actions in the War of 1812. "Old Ironsides" is the oldest commissioned ship in the United States Navy.

Old State House

The Province of Massachusetts Bay was governed from this building. Here colonial courts met, James Otis argued against Writs of Assistance, and John Hancock and Samuel

Adams denounced the tax laws of Parliament. The world's first gallery where the public could watch government in action was established in this building as a result of a motion by James Otis in the Massachusetts House in 1766.

The square in front of the State House was the scene of the famous Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770. In 1776 the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in Boston from the eastern balcony.

Paul Revere House

Built about 1677 after one of the great fires of Boston, this is the oldest frame dwelling left in the city. It was constructed on the original site of Rev. Increase Mather's house and was the home of Paul Revere from 1770 to 1800. Paul Revere, on the night of April 18, 1775, began his famous ride to Lexington from this house.

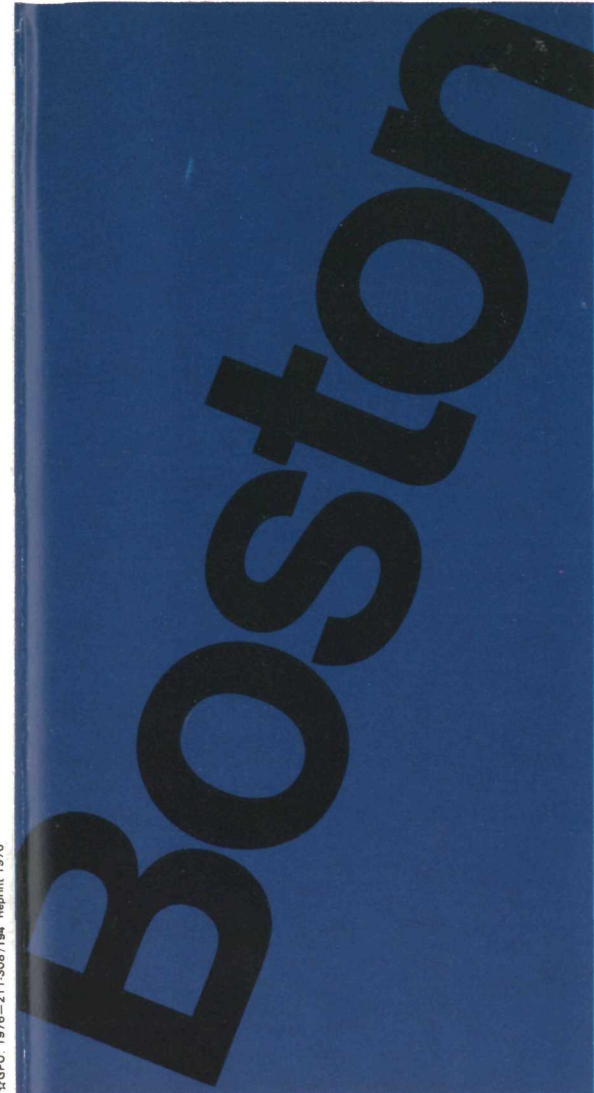
Old South Meeting House

Erected in 1729 as a Congregational meeting house, "Old South" served as the site for Boston's town meetings whenever they became too large for Faneuil Hall.

In this building on the night after the Boston Massacre in March 1770, Bostonians waited until Gov. Thomas Hutchinson promised to remove British regiments from Boston. On December 16, 1773, participants in another town meeting dispersed to Griffin's Wharf to carry out the famous Boston Tea Party.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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A Beacon for Rebellion

In 1630, on the hilly peninsula the Indians called "Shawmut," an experiment was begun. Settlers from England, escaping the fear of religious persecution, came to Boston to worship in their own manner, to begin a life with new opportunities, and to "set a city upon a hill"—an example to the world. A century and a half later the experiment begun here—and now much changed—reached back across the sea and reshaped not only England's future, but the world's.

The colonists who came to Shawmut were embarked on a business venture, but they brought with them rebellion, a mission, and a charter. They were Englishmen: industrious, educated, and bitter. Loyal to their king and Parliament, they had left their homeland to worship in their own way and crossed 3,000 miles of ocean to pursue their convictions in peace. Their charter, detailing their rights and privileges, eventually was to provide a means for changing a business company into a self-governing commonwealth in which free men had a voice in the affairs of the community.

It was an English town they established on Shawmut peninsula. Boston defined itself in a maze of cobblestoned streets, cowpaths, and wooden houses. It turned to the sea and began a thriving trade with England and the West Indies, and became a major English port whose wharves were piled with British cargoes. Smells of salted cod, spices, and timber and the wares of craftsmen gave flavor to the town.

But it was a town where the spirit of rebellion lived. The Puritans had left England dissenting from the Anglican Church, but persecution followed them to Massachusetts. Only a few years after their arrival the king and Archbishop of Canterbury, wishing to purge the Church of Puritans, demanded that the colony's charter be surrendered. The Puritan leaders refused to give up the document they believed protected their rights as Englishmen. They rejected the demands for their charter and when civil war in

England brought the downfall of the king and the establishment of a Puritan commonwealth in England, the colonists saw the hand of God in their salvation. The success in retaining their charter reinforced the belief that their holy experiment had divine sanction.

A half century later Boston again resisted. Again their charter was threatened. The colony had progressed and developed independently of royal direction. But another king, determined to control the wayward colony, annulled the Massachusetts Bay charter. The northern colonies were combined into the Dominion of New England under a single appointed governor. In 1688 England was beset by strife. The Glorious Revolution put William and Mary on the throne of England, and Massachusetts was chartered as a royal colony under the sovereign. Once more resistance succeeded, and Massachusetts retained its separateness.

For over a century Boston played an active role in the British Empire; it carried the produce of the Empire in the colony's ships and fought in England's wars against the Indians, the Spanish, and the French. The city grew prosperous through these years, but in 1763 the benevolent relationship between England and her colonies changed. The French and Indian War ended with Canada a part of the British Empire, but England was impoverished. While Englishmen in England had to pay high taxes, Englishmen in the colonies were paying very little to support troops protecting them from the Indians on the frontier. It was only fair, thought Parliament, that the colonies should help pay for their own defense.

Parliament's attempts to tax the colonies were seen in America as threats to representative government and to the rights of Englishmen guaranteed to them by the Magna Carta. Resistance became open. Town meetings protesting the taxes were held in **Faneuil Hall**, and at **Old State House** John Hancock and Samuel Adams denounced the tax laws. Then in December 1773 protest came to a head at a town meeting in **Old South Meeting House**. Refusing to pay even a minimal tax on tea a group of patriots proceeded to the waterfront, boarded the

British ships, and dumped cargoes of tea into the harbor.

Early the following year Parliament passed the Coercive Acts to punish Boston for destroying private property during its "Tea Party." The port was closed, the colony's charter powers curtailed, town meetings were restricted, and British troops were authorized to be quartered without consent in private homes. The colonies called them "Intolerable Acts," and in response a Provincial Congress met in Concord and a Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Some leaders on both sides of the Atlantic urged reconciliation, but matters went from bad to worse. Gen. Thomas Gage, British governor in Boston, on April 19, 1775, ordered troops to Concord to seize military supplies stored there by the Provincial Congress. Lanterns were hung in the steeple of **Old North Church** to warn the Charlestown militia of the British move. Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott raced to warn the countryside.

Rebellion burst into armed conflict at Lexington Green, Concord's North Bridge, and in a running battle back to Boston. Patriots converged on the besieged British Army in Boston. Two months after the first shots, the Americans threw up earthworks on Breed's Hill behind Charlestown. The British landed troops near the site of the present **Charlestown Navy Yard** and in the Battle of **Bunker Hill** pushed the American soldiers out of Charlestown, but with disastrous results to themselves.

Boston was an occupied city after the Battle of Bunker Hill. In January 1776 Washington's troops dragged 60 tons of artillery captured from the British at Fort Ticonderoga through the dead of winter to Boston and fortified Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston. The British, unprepared for this development, evacuated the city on March 17, 1776.

In 1634 the Massachusetts General Court had "a beacon sett on the sentry hill at Boston, to give notice to the country of any danger." In 1775 Boston itself was a beacon guiding the colonies toward nationhood through revolution.

The New Park

As Boston rushed into the 20th century, it rearranged itself from shoreline to hilltop, but in the midst of change the past was not forgotten. Many cherished historic scenes were preserved by private groups and individuals as reminders for the present.

Today, seven of Boston's oldest and most important historic sites have a new dimension. In recognition of the national significance of these areas, the President signed into law, on October 1, 1974, legislation that authorized the establishment of the Boston National Historical Park. These seven sites on Boston's Freedom Trail are the Old State House, Old North Church, Faneuil Hall, the Old South Meeting House, Paul Revere's House, Bunker Hill, and part of the Charlestown Navy Yard, including the U.S.S. *Constitution*.

Boston National Historical Park will be based upon cooperative agreements which will combine the expertise and resources available at each of the seven historic sites with those of the National Park Service. This form of management will rely upon the continued contributions of all site owners to create a viable program of joint historic preservation and interpretation.

Although the new park will not be fully operating during the Bicentennial, the National Park Service in cooperation with the Freedom Trail Foundation, Boston 200, and the present owners and managers of these sites, will furnish limited interpretive services to visitors.

Boston National Historical Park joins several other NPS Bicentennial areas in Massachusetts: Minute Man National Historical Park, Lexington-Concord; Adams National Historic Site, Quincy; and Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Salem.

Other National Park Service areas in Massachusetts are: Cape Cod National Seashore; Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge; John F. Kennedy National Historic Site, Brookline; and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, Saugus.

General information on the park can be obtained by writing: Project Manager Boston National Historical Park National Park Service 150 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114

Cooperating Associations and Organizations within the Boston National Historical Park

City of Boston; Metropolitan District Commission; Bostonian Society; The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts; Paul Revere Memorial Association; The Old South Association in Boston; Christ Church in the City of Boston (Old North Church); United States Navy; U.S.S. Constitution Museum Foundation Inc.; The Freedom Trail Foundation Inc.

Administration
As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This responsibility includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.



FREEDOM TRAIL
 HISTORIC SITES
 BOSTON NHP SITES
 OTHER SITES OF INTEREST

