

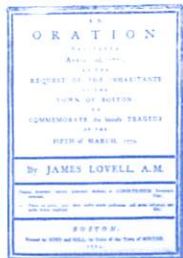


The Old South Meeting House stands today as it did in 1729 when it was built as a Puritan house of worship. Thousands of visitors each year learn about the rich history of Old South, as well as Boston, through an award-winning permanent exhibition.

Photo credit: John Woolf



Until 1783, citizens gathered at Old South to commemorate the Boston Massacre on its anniversary.



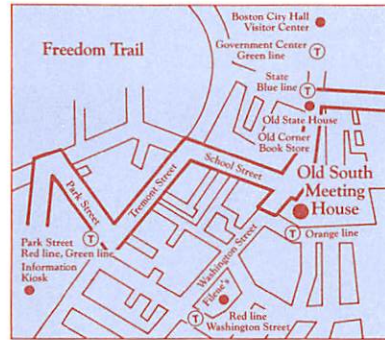
Noted patriot James Lovell delivered the Boston Massacre oration at Old South in 1771.



Phyllis Wheatley, first published black poet, was a member of Old South.



### AN IMPORTANT STOP ON THE FREEDOM TRAIL



The Old South Meeting House is located in the heart of Boston's business and shopping district, close to all subway lines. It is wheelchair accessible.

#### HOURS:

Summer (April 1-October 31) — 9:30-5:00 Daily  
Winter (November 1-March 31) — 10:00-4:00 Weekdays  
10:00-5:00 Weekends  
Closed Thanksgiving; December 24 & 25; January 1

#### ADMISSIONS:

There is a small admission fee to the museum exhibition. Discounted admission rates are available for school and adult groups with reservations.

#### ADDRESS:

Old South Meeting House  
310 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108

#### PHONE:

617/482-6439

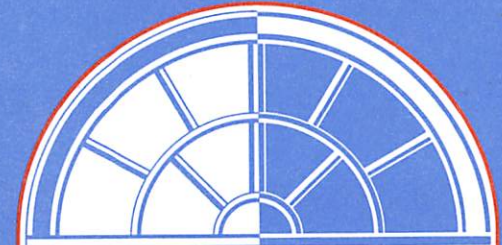
#### BY SUBWAY:

MBTA Stops and Lines  
State Street (Orange and Blue Lines)  
Downtown Crossing (Red and Orange Lines)  
Park Street (Green and Red Lines)  
Government Center (Green and Blue Lines)

Old South Meeting House is managed by the Old South Association, a private, non-profit corporation, in cooperation with the National Park Service. It receives support from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other private and public sources.

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MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITE  
ON THE FREEDOM TRAIL



# OLDSOUTH MEETINGHOUSE

## BOSTON





## DRAMATIC PAST...

When the Old South Meeting House was built in 1729, its Puritan congregation couldn't foresee the role it would play in American history. In colonial times, Ben Franklin was baptized here. Phyllis Wheatley, the first published black poet, was a member—as were patriots James Otis, Thomas Cushing, and William Dawes. In the 19th century, Old South was one of the first buildings in this country to be preserved as an historic site. Today, Old South is at the forefront of America's history museums with a nationally recognized permanent exhibition.

But perhaps the Meeting House played its greatest role in the years preceding the Revolutionary War. When rumblings started to shake the colonies and the Revolution was imminent, patriots flocked to Old South to debate the issues of the day. They argued about the Boston Massacre, they protested impressment of American sailors into the British Navy. And then, on the night of December 16, 1773, they acted.

“THIS MEETING CAN DO NO MORE TO  
SAVE THE COUNTRY...”

*Samuel Adams, 1773*

Over 5,000 citizens of Boston and surrounding towns gathered at Old South to rally against the tax on tea. After hours of debate, Samuel Adams gave the signal that launched the Boston Tea Party. From Old South, the Sons of Liberty sneaked to Boston Harbor where, dressed as Indians, they threw over 400 chests of tea into the water.

Several years later, when the city was occupied by British troops, Old South was used as a riding school by the British cavalry. The building sustained enormous damage but was restored as a place of worship by its congregation in March, 1783.



*The basic physical structure of the Meeting House is the same as in colonial days, but the cumulative architectural changes reflect Old South's active role in history.  
Photo credit: John Woolf*



*On December 16, 1773 over 5,000 people filled Old South to protest the tax on tea. From the Meeting House, members of the Sons of Liberty sneaked to Boston Harbor where they threw over 400 chests of tea into the water.*

A century later, the Meeting House was scheduled for demolition after it was sold by its congregation, who moved to Boston's Back Bay section. If it were not for the great efforts of such leaders as Wendell Phillips, Julia Ward Howe and Ralph Waldo Emerson, Old South certainly would have met that fate. But the building was saved, thus ushering in the nation's historic preservation movement which has led to the preservation of thousands of historic buildings nationwide.

After its preservation, the Old South Meeting House stood as a museum, historic site and educational institution, as well as defender of



free speech. In the early 1900's the Old South Association voted to grant use of the building to groups denied access to other public auditoriums. Old South continues this tradition today by sponsoring public forums and debates on controversial subjects.

## ...DYNAMIC PRESENT

Old South's rich history springs to life through "In Prayer and Protest: Old South Meeting House Remembers," the award-winning permanent exhibition at the Meeting House. Installed in 1987, the exhibition features a special audio system recreating the fiery Boston Tea Party debates as well as other exciting moments from Boston's past. In addition, special exhibits, rare colonial artifacts and a scale model of early Boston give the 90,000 visitors to Old South each year a complete historical overview of this important historic site.

Throughout the year, Old South also sponsors lectures, concerts, and live theatre presentations, and collaborates with other organizations to round out a full schedule of quality programming. During the school year, over 5,000 children visit the Meeting House to participate in a variety of school programs which allow them to experience some important moments in American history in a truly inspiring setting.

## MUSEUM SHOP

The Museum Shop at the Old South Meeting House is one of the finest on the Freedom Trail. It features high quality, hard-to-find items related to colonial American history. Children's toys, a selection of teas from a descendant company of the original East India Company, maps, and hand-crafted gift items are only a few examples. The shop also features a book store which includes the well-known Old South Leaflet Series covering over 200 subjects in American history. Visit the shop free of charge.