

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 ideals of the 18th century—is a great leap for us today. But the sites along the Freedom Trail do speak eloquently of that time. Bostonians and other colonists shared a notion of liberty that was 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 towards 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 living in the North End, downtown Boston's oldest surviving residential neighborhood, were middle-class 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 military 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 U.S. 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

The Freedom Trail begins at Boston Common where cattle once grazed and British soldiers once camped. Established in 1634 by Puritan settlers, it is the oldest public park in the United States. Overlooking the Common is the new Massachusetts State House designed by Charles Bulfinch. 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 Afro American History and Boston African American National Historic Site.

Old State House

Built in 1713, this historic landmark served as 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.



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 in 1829. Park Street

Church has stood on this corner since 1809 as an active Congregational church, organized in reaction to Unitarians who were gaining control in many of the old Puritan churches.

Faneuil Hall

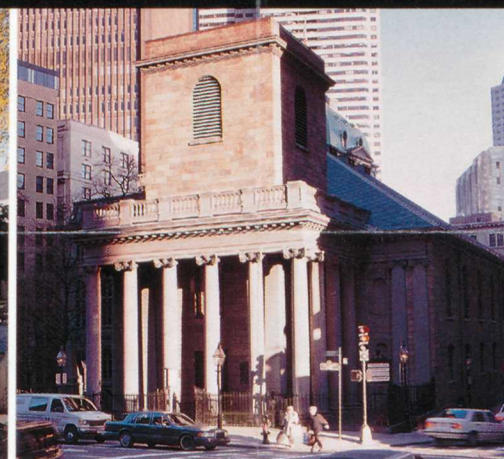
This old market building, first built in 1742, sits at the site of the old town dock. Town meetings, held here between 1764 and 1774, heard Samuel Adams and others lead cries of protest against the imposition of taxes on the colonies. The building was enlarged

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.



Granary Burying Ground

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



King's Chapel and Burying Ground

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

in 1776. In 1787 those remaining organized the first Unitarian congregation in America. The burying ground next to the chapel contains the remains of John Winthrop, the colony's first governor, as well as the gravestone that inspired Nathaniel Hawthorne to write *The Scarlet Letter*.



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 and which Franklin, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock 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 tax on tea. It was here at an overflow meeting on

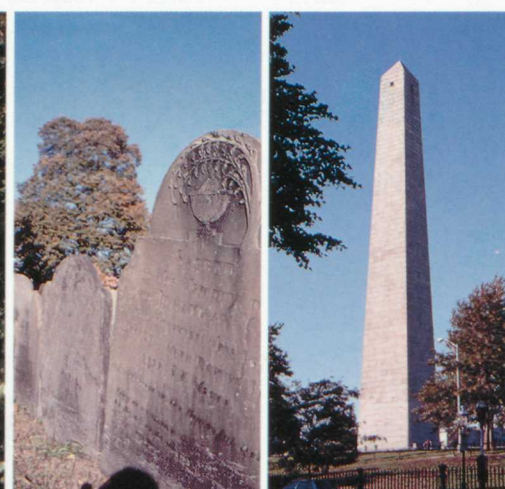
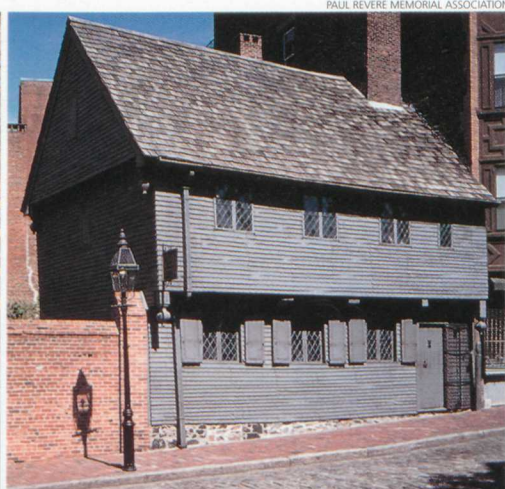
December 16, 1773, that Samuel Adams launched the Boston Tea Party. The building was saved from destruction in 1876 in the first successful historic preservation effort in New England. Today it is an active meeting place, a haven for free speech, and a museum exhibit, "Voices of Protest."



Old Corner Bookstore

Typical of the kinds of dwellings and shops that lined the streets of Boston in colonial days, 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 as 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.



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 steeped 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

Visitors can enjoy the city by walking or by riding public transportation to its museums, shops, theaters, and historic sites.

Boston is best seen on foot. Traffic in the downtown area is usually heavy, and the street system difficult for newcomers to negotiate. There are many commercial parking garages in downtown Boston and at the Charlestown Navy Yard, and 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 more relaxing visit. 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—a black T in a white circle.

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 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 the John Harvard Mall. Exact change is required. You may also use the water shuttle service, which runs frequently between Pier 4 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. 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 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.

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 imbedded in a major modern urban environment.

More Information Start your journey by getting information at Boston National Historical Park Visitor Center at 15 State Street or at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Or contact: Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA 02129; 617-242-5642; www.nps.gov/bost.

Boston National Historical Park is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. To learn more about national parks visit www.nps.gov.

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