

BURIAL HILL

1 1749 Court House
Liberty Pole Square

The 1749 Court House was Plymouth’s Revolutionary epicenter. Here, tumultuous town meetings unfolded, and the 1774 Plymouth County Convention passed resolutions creating a detailed plan for resistance. Outside stood the Liberty Pole, where mass gatherings assembled and Loyalists were compelled to make public recantations.

2 Alexander Scammell Memorial
School Street

A Plymouth schoolmaster before the war who taught in the schoolhouse once on this spot, Scammell instructed his students in military drill in anticipation of conflict. He later served in the Continental Army, became Washington’s Adjutant General, and was mortally wounded near Yorktown in 1781.

3 Graves of James Warren and
Mercy Otis Warren

Buried here are James and Mercy Otis Warren, partners in Plymouth’s Revolution. James helped organize resistance and later served the new republic, while Mercy’s writings preserved and interpreted the struggle for liberty they had both helped advance.

4 Grave of Deacon John Torrey

Often chairman of Plymouth’s Committee of Correspondence, Torrey helped lead Plymouth’s Patriot movement, supporting Boston during the Tea Crisis and urging preparations as war approached.

5 Brigantine *General Arnold* Memorial

Placed in memory of the crew of the privateer *General Arnold*, wrecked in Plymouth Bay in December 1778. About seventy privateersmen froze to death and were here buried in a mass grave; Captain James Magee survived, but later asked to be buried here with his lost crew.

6 Grave of Colonel Theophilus Cotton

Colonel Theophilus Cotton emerged as one of Plymouth’s leading Patriots, commanded local militia during the Marshfield Alarm on April 19, 1775, and oversaw the move of the upper portion of Plymouth Rock to Town Square in 1774.

7 Grave of General Nathaniel Goodwin

Goodwin rose from Plymouth merchant to one of two Plymouth Revolutionary War generals. He was in charge of recruitment for Plymouth County, oversaw the POW camp in Cambridge for Burgoyne’s captured troops after the Battle of Saratoga, and joined the Rhode Island campaign.

8 Grave of William Watson

A prominent Plymouth Patriot, merchant, and Revolutionary contractor, Watson served as naval agent under General Washington, and helped coordinate privateering and other maritime activity essential to the American war effort.

9 Grave of Captain Simeon Sampson

Of Kingston and Plymouth, Sampson became the first naval officer commissioned by Massachusetts. Commanding the brigantine *Independence*, he captured British prizes and helped launch the Revolutionary war at sea.

TOWN CENTER

15 Dr. James Thacher House
9 North Street

This was the postwar home of Dr. James Thacher, a Continental Army surgeon’s mate who settled in Plymouth after the Revolution. His *Military Journal* preserved invaluable eyewitness details of the war, including the Siege of Boston.

16 Site of Colonel George Watson House
11 North Street

A Loyalist who was forced to resign his Crown-appointed post when a massive Patriot crowd gathered outside in 1774. Watson also enslaved Cuff, Esack, and Quassia, revealing how Plymouth elites on both sides sustained slavery.

17 Ephraim Spooner House Museum
27 North Street

Originally home to widow Hannah Jackson, this became the house of Ephraim Spooner, Plymouth’s longtime town clerk and successful merchant. During the Revolution, Spooner invested in privateer warships and used maritime trade to help sustain Plymouth through lean war years.

18 Jacob Taylor House
29-31 North Street

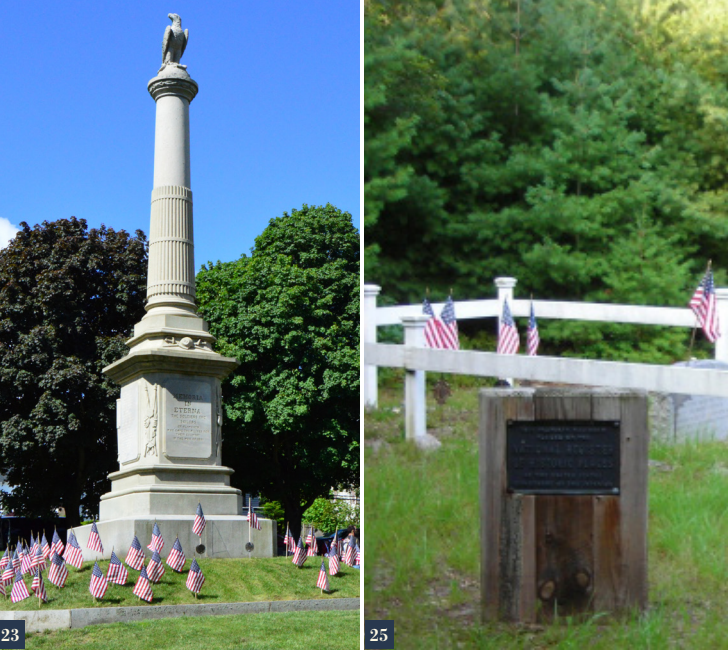
Jacob Taylor, master’s mate aboard the privateer *Washington*, endured a harrowing capture at sea and imprisonment. Plymouth authorities appealed to General Washington for his exchange, noting Taylor’s poor circumstances and family’s desperate need.

19 Edward Winslow, Sr./Mayflower Society House
4 Winslow Street

Winslow was Plymouth’s leading Loyalist, who held major local offices but was persecuted for his political convictions and left near the war’s end for Nova Scotia. His son Edward Winslow, Jr., also lived here but left Plymouth before the war to join British forces. Built in 1754, the house was greatly transformed in 1898.

20 Plymouth Rock

In 1774, as Plymouth’s Revolution moved from protest to open resistance, Patriots under Col. Theophilus Cotton hauled the upper portion of Plymouth Rock to Town Square, placing this important symbol beside the Liberty Pole. It was not reunited with its base until 1880.



FURTHER AFIELD

23 Training Green
65 Sandwich Street

Here, local minutemen drilled as war approached. Today, the green is marked by Plymouth’s Soldiers and Sailors of the Civil War Monument.

24 Site of Captain Jesse Harlow House
3 North Green Street

Near this site lived Captain Jesse Harlow, commander of one of Plymouth’s minuteman companies that answered the alarm of April 19, 1775. He later commanded at Gurnet Fort, guarding Plymouth Harbor during the Revolution.

25 Parting Ways
287 Plympton Road

Parting Ways was a post-Revolutionary settlement of free Black families, including Revolutionary War veterans Cato Howe, Prince Goodwin, Plato Turner, and Quamany Quash. Nearby, their cemetery preserves a powerful story of liberty, service, and community.

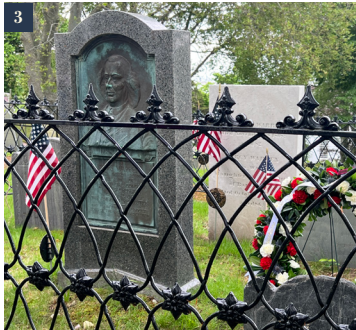
POST-REVOLUTIONARY MUSEUMS

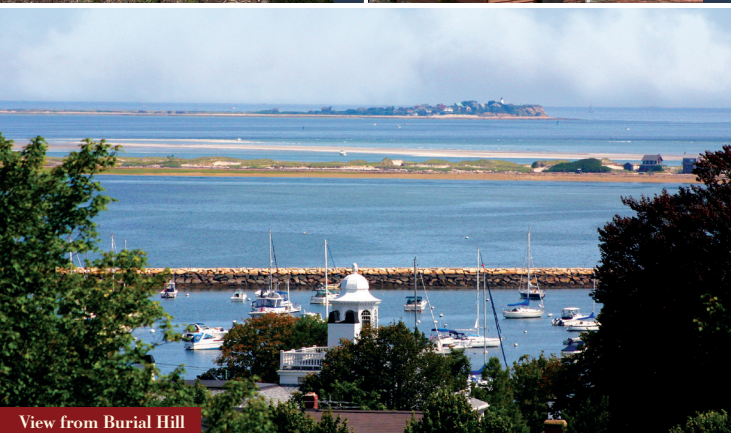
21 Pilgrim Hall Museum
75 Court Street

Revolutionary compatriots led by Dr. James Thacher opened this museum of Plymouth history in 1824. Treasures include Mercy Otis Warren’s needlework card table and Plymouth Colony’s royal coat of arms from before the war.

22 *Mayflower II*
77 Water Street

Plimoth Patuxet Museums’ full-scale reproduction of the ship that brought English colonists to Patuxet/Plymouth in 1620, *Mayflower II* recalls bold ideas about self-government and religious freedom and reminds visitors that “Revolutionary ideas started here.”





TOWN CENTER

★ 10 Thomas Mayhew House 25 Leyden Street

Here lived Thomas Mayhew, a key Plymouth Patriot and Committee of Correspondence leader. In 1778, the interrogation of a captured Loyalist, Benjamin Marston, took place in this house.

★ 11 Coles Hill

Burial place of *Mayflower* passengers who died in 1620/21, the hill became the site of a redoubt in 1775 to secure Plymouth from British attack. A marker here describes the larger fort built at the Gurnet in 1776.

★ 12 Thomas Foster House 32 Middle Street

Built by Capt. Thomson Phillips, this became the home of Deacon Thomas Foster, a Loyalist sharply at odds with his Patriot congregation. In 1774, an angry crowd reportedly mobbed the house, forcing the seventy-year-old Foster into hiding.

★ 13 James and Mercy Otis Warren House 65 Main Street

James, Plymouth's leading Patriot, and Mercy Otis Warren here hosted John and Abigail Adams, Samuel Adams, and other Revolutionary leaders to discuss resistance plans. Here, Mercy wrote political satires and plays that rallied Patriots, exposed tyranny, defended liberty, and later a two-volume history that preserved the struggle's meaning.

★ 14 Site of Thomas Southworth Howland's Inn, 4 North Street

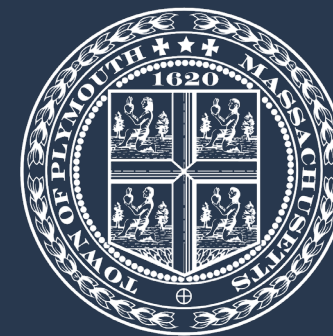
Howland's inn and tavern served as a lively gathering place in Revolutionary Plymouth. John Adams often stayed here as a circuit lawyer, while townspeople, travelers, and Patriot leaders met over dinners, news, and politics. Howland was a Loyalist.

PLYMOUTH'S LIBERTY TRAIL

The Plymouth Liberty Trail explores the people, places, and events that made Plymouth a vital Revolutionary community. From Plymouth Rock and the 1749 Court House to Patriot meeting sites, Loyalist homes, privateering stories, Burial Hill memorials, and the Black veterans' settlement at Parting Ways, the trail reveals a town deeply divided and profoundly transformed by the struggle for American independence. Here, residents debated resistance, drilled for war, organized committees, launched warships, preserved revolutionary ideas, and carried the meaning of liberty forward.

Scan the QR code below with the camera on your mobile device to view a map of stops along the trail.

★ BEGIN YOUR
REVOLUTIONARY
JOURNEY! ★



PLYMOUTH, MA
LIBERTY TRAIL

1620 ★ 1776 ★ 2026

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