

A Story of  
Massachusetts  
Told in  
100 Buildings

HOW THE  
BAY STATE  
HAPPENED



CRUDEN BAY BOOKS

# INTRODUCTION

If those walls could talk...this is what they would say. A story about Massachusetts.

Drive-in theaters...cranberries...Sears kit houses...trolley parks... Lariat Rope...diners...history-changing forts...nails...lighthouses... whales...boardwalks...pioneering railroads...mimetic architecture... kissing bridges...ice houses...octagonal buildings...chocolate...post office murals...clam shacks...tea parties...life-altering inventions... Carnegie libraries...ski lodges...The Big E...carousels...stone bridge masterpieces...Shakers...Carpenter Gothic cottages...candlepins... This book will have you telling stories like a native in no time.

The photos and stories collected here are a fast and fun way to learn the explanations behind the quirks, the traditions and the secrets that make Massachusetts uniquely Massachusetts. What Massachusetts cemetery was a major tourist attraction in the 1800s? Solved. At what course was golf's "shot heard round the world" fired? A mystery no more. What tunnel in Massachusetts claimed more lives to build than the Hoover Dam and Golden Gate Bridge combined? Identified.

Imagine a group of settlers arriving in an undeveloped location. First come shelters in which to live and then structures in which to work and shop. There are buildings for worship and education. As the community grows government buildings are required. With prosperity comes places in which to spend leisure time. And each step along the way builds a story only Massachusetts can call its own. A story told in 100 buildings. Almost all of the selections within are open to the public, or at least visible from public spaces. So, if you haven't seen these landmarks in person, fire up your GPS and get out and see the story of the Bay State standing in plain sight on Massachusetts streets!

**A STORY OF MASSACHUSETTS TOLD IN 100 BUILDINGS  
...HOW THE BAY STATE HAPPENED**

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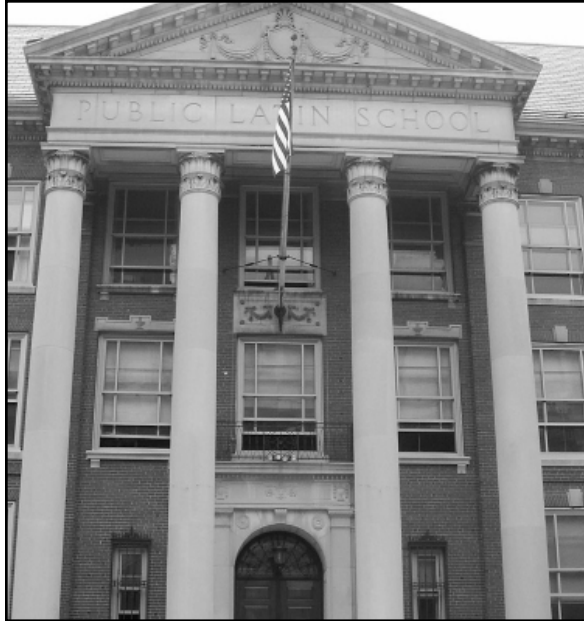
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# Public Latin School

Boston

1635



Five years after the English Puritans founded the City of Boston the community was ready to educate its children. The Reverend John Cotton used as his model the 180-year old Free Grammar School of Boston, England. The curriculum would focus on the humanities, taught in Latin and Greek. There was no school building until 1645 so the classes were held in the home of the headmaster, the first being Philemon Portmort. Education was

free to boys while girls received what education they could from private homes. The first wooden schoolhouse was torn down in 1745 after graduating four future signers of the Declaration of Independence: Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine, and William Hooper. A fifth signer had dropped out from Boston Latin - the illustrious Benjamin Franklin. That conflict would divide the school as well. After the first shots were exchanged at Lexington and Concord John Lovell, headmaster for more than four decades, addressed the student body, "War's begun and school's done; deponite libros." Lovell was on the first ship out of town to Nova Scotia when it came time for the British to evacuate the city. America's oldest public school has convened in different parts of the city since then as it has been absorbed into the Boston Public School system. Girls were admitted beginning in 1972 but other traditions remain, including the study of the Latin language. The curriculum remains rigorous enough that graduates applying to most Massachusetts colleges receive a 1.0 GPA bump.

# Fairbanks House

Dedham

1637



In 1930 the Massachusetts Bay Colony–Tercentenary Commission erected an historical marker in front of the house built by Jonathan Fairbanks in 1636, modestly declaring it to be the oldest house in Dedham, a town of about 15,000 at the time. In the nearly 100 years since the Fairbanks House has received a substantial upgrade in status - historians now consider the homestead to be the oldest frame house standing in North America and a National Historic Landmark. Jonathan and Grace Fairbanks received one of the first lots from the Dedham plantation and had the means to hire a master carpenter for the construction of their two room-over-two room house. More than 40,000 bricks were required for the hearths and chimneys, probably arriving by boat down the Charles River. Oak beams and boards were fashioned in a saw pit from trees felled to clear the lot. The timbers were assembled green and held in place by tongue and groove joints and wooden pegs. As the wood dried the fibers shrank and molded together into a frame capable of lasting 400 years. Had iron nails been used they would have rusted and lost their binding capacity over time. Dendrochronologists have confirmed the age of the core of The Fairbanks House that has seen wings added to each side. Eight generations of Fairbanks lived in the house that never had electricity or plumbing. Built to last forever, the house is now a museum.

# Saugus Iron Works

Saugus

1646



The great migration to the New World following the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony lasted little more than a decade. As the number of English ships docking in Boston Harbor slowed to a trickle in the 1630s, local leaders became increasingly concerned with the development of New England's abundant natural resources. In 1641 the General Court enacted an ordinance for "encouragement of discovery of Mines." Anyone discovering mineral rights was given exclusive rights to them for 21 years. Recruiters were sent to England to encourage industrial settlement at Massachusetts Bay - even if it meant emptying British prisons. Five years later America's first iron works was established on the Saugus River, powered by seven large waterwheels. One of its most important products was inexpensive iron nails, forged in the slitting mill, one of only a dozen such mills in the world at the time. By 1668 Saugus had failed - the victim of mismanagement, high production costs and increased competition. The Saugus workers fanned out through the Northeast, taking their skills with them and laying the foundation for the iron and steel industry in the United States. The area was excavated and reconstructed between 1948 and 1954 and operated as a private museum until becoming a National Historic Site in the 1960s.

# House of Seven Gables

Salem

1668



This is one of New England's oldest surviving structures and is often recognized as the oldest surviving mansion house in continental North America, with 17 rooms and over 8,000 square feet including its large cellars. John Turner, one of Salem's earliest merchant princes, built it in 1668. It hasn't gone nearly 350 years without additions, subtractions and alterations to the styles of the day. Along the way it also became one of the most famous residences in America after Nathaniel Hawthorne - whose cousins lived here - published his 1851 novel *The House of the Seven Gables*. When Caroline Emmerton bought the house in the early 20th century she restored its original seven gables. In building a museum to provide education and fund planned settlements for the poor, Emmerton also acquired and moved to the site five additional historical structures, including the 1804 birthplace of Nathaniel Hawthorne.

# Witch House

Salem

1670s



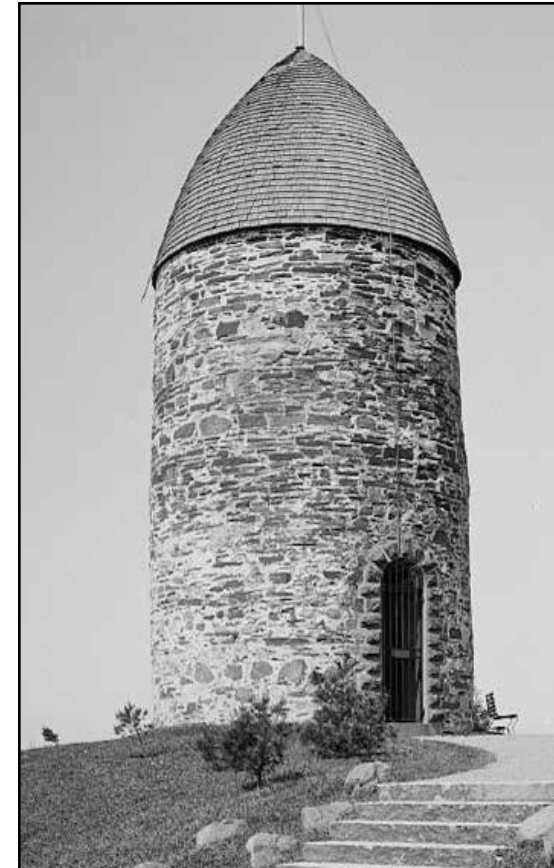
Salem's "Golden Age" of the early 1800s as a cod-fishing hub showed itself on the city streets. Native son Samuel McIntire was busy crafting one superb Federal-style mansion after another on Essex Street and Chestnut Street and Federal Street. But just as Salem was incorporating as a city in 1836, the port and

its gradually silting harbor were being eclipsed by Boston and New York City. Salem then began to draw on its historic past to lure tourists to town. What turned out to be the main attraction for outsiders, however, was not the wealth of fabulous architecture in the city but a fascination with a dark seven-month period in 1692 when hysteria over witchcraft led to a series of trials that caused 19 people to be hanged and another "pressed to death" by gradually loading stones one after another onto his chest. This house was built sometime before Judge Jonathan Corwin purchased it in 1675. It stands as a representative 17th century manor house with steep gables and a sloping salt-box roof but its lasting notoriety resides in its survival as the only structure in Salem with direct ties to the Witchcraft Trials of 1692. Corwin was a merchant who served as a judge on the communal charged with hearing some of the cases. Judge Corwin, who would be appointed to the Superior Court of Massachusetts, lived in the house for 40 years and it remained in the family almost 200. Creaking on into the 1900s, it was slated to be razed when townsfolk rallied to its rescue to raise \$42,500 to move and restore the "Witch House." Now owned by the City of Salem, the Corwin House has been open to the public since 1948.

# Powder House

Somerville

1703



The Huguenots were French Protestants who made do for hundreds of years in a country that was 90% Catholic. Mass emigration, however, began to take place in 1685 when the "heretical" religion was decreed illegal. Massachusetts was a favored landing spot in the New World which welcomed the French artisans and craftsmen. John Mallet was one such talented newcomer and he quarried native bluestone to construct this tower as a windmill. The family ground corn until 1747 when the mill was bought by the Province of Massachusetts Bay to store ordnance. There were 250 half-kegs of gunpowder on hand on September 1, 1774 when British troops seized the stock. The

alarmed colonists issued a general "Powder Alert" and mustering of arms that would prove a dress rehearsal for the full conflict that would arrive in eight months time. When hostilities erupted there was only one powder mill in the American colonies and its output was minuscule and of poor quality. In the first battle of the Revolution the loss of Bunker Hill by Patriot forces was directly attributable to a shortage of gunpowder. In 1818 the Powder House passed into private hands where it spent most of the remainder of the century as a farm building. The stone tower has been the centerpiece of a city park since 1892.

# Buckman Tavern

Lexington

1709



John Muzzey started a “publique house of entertainment” in this yellow clapboard building in 1714. Things were much more serious 60 years later when owner John Buckman hosted gatherings of his fellow Lexington Minutemen following training on the Green, located across the street. Early on the morning of April 19, 1775 the bell on the Green pealed and about 130 men assembled to hear the news that 700 elite British troops were marching up the road from Boston. By 4:30 a.m. no “redcoats” had appeared and many volunteers had returned home when a rider dashed up to report the British were a half-mile away. Captain John Parker assembled his remaining 77 farmers and artisans in two parallel lines, admonishing them that no shots should be fired but “if they mean to have a war let it begin here.” Facing overwhelming odds the Americans were ordered to disperse when the British arrived but as they did a shot rang out - from which side is not known - and a general British volley exploded into the crowd. Eight Lexington men were dead and another ten wounded. A hole from a British musket ball can still be seen in an old door at the Buckman tavern. The Revolutionary War was underway.

# Old State House

Boston

1712



This was the site of Boston’s first marketplace, replaced with the city’s grandest colonial building in 1713. In 1770 a dispute over a barber bill escalated into a riot in front of the State House and when it was over five men lay dead in the street, to be propagandized by anti-British agitators as the “Boston Massacre.” On July 18, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time from the balcony. The building is distinguished by an ornate three-tier windowed tower, a segmental pediment over Corinthian pilasters, bulls-eye windows and a gambrel slate roof concealed by stepped pedimented facades. The gilded lion and unicorn that adorn the building are replicas; the originals were torn down and burned in 1776. The government moved out of the Old State House in the 1830s. It served as city hall for awhile and was rented to local merchants before being scheduled for demolition in 1880. After the city of Chicago attempted to purchase it as a tourist attraction, a group of insulted Boston citizens saved it.

# Massachusetts Hall

Cambridge

1718



Cambridge is known the world over as the home of two legendary universities - Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In fact, the town name that had originally been "Newe Towne" since it was settled in 1630-1631 as a new town upriver from Boston, was changed to honor Cambridge University in England when it was selected in 1636 as the site for a school to train ministers for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. That school would become Harvard College that would come to so dominate the character of Cambridge that it would be observed in the late 1700s that, "This business of teaching, lodging, boarding and clothing and generally providing for the Harvard students was the occupation of the majority of the households of the Old Village." Massachusetts Hall, designed by Harvard president John Leverett and his successor Benjamin Wadsworth, was created as a dormitory to house 64 students. It has been a dorm ever since and among residents who went on to later acclaim were John Adams, John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Elbridge Gerry and James Otis. This is the oldest surviving building on campus and only the Wren Building at William & Mary in Williamsburg is an older collegiate building anywhere in the United States.

# Old North Church

Boston

1723



The enduring fame of the Old North began on the evening of April 18, 1775, when the church sexton, Robert Newman, climbed the steeple and held high two lanterns as a signal from Paul Revere that the British were marching to Lexington and Concord by sea and not by land. The Old North Church is officially known as Christ Church. It was built in 1723 on a design by William Price based on the work of British master Christopher Wren, and is the oldest standing church building in Boston. In 1775, on the eve of Revolution, the majority of the congregation were loyal to the British King and many held official positions in the royal government, including the Royal Governor of Massachusetts, making Robert Newman's loyalty to the Patriot cause even more extraordinary.

# Mission House

Stockbridge

1742



Stockbridge is the second oldest town in the Berkshires, after Sheffield, established in 1734 as a mission for the Mahican Indian tribe. Their missionary was a Yale reverend named John Sergeant and under his guidance "Indian Town" was a great success. Stockbridge, named for the town in Hampshire, England from which the mission hoped to elicit funds, was incorporated as a town. Sergeant married Abigail Williams in 1739 and a couple years later he was able to construct this spacious clapboard house on nearby Prospect Hill. Unfortunately Sergeant would live only a decade longer and relations with the Stockbridge Indians deteriorated rapidly. By 1785 their land was sold and the impoverished tribe was led out of the Berkshires - by a son of John Sergeant - to Oneida County, New York where they would gain some notoriety through the writings of James Fenimore Cooper. In the 1920s the house, a National Historic Landmark, was disassembled, moved, and restored at its current location. About that time the grounds were transformed into a replica Colonial garden by famed landscape architect Fletcher Steele with circular brick paths hugged by a cypress fence.

# Old Mill

Nantucket

1746



The Nantucket Historical Society was birthed in 1894 and has owned the Old Mill since 1897. Yet after 125 years much of the life of America's oldest functioning mill remains a mystery. A mariner named Nathan Wilbur is given credit for constructing the mill from stories handed down through the years. He is assumed to have obtained most of the timber from shipwrecks washed up on the island shore. The origin date comes from numbers inscribed on the stone step. Wilbur was said to have gleaned the knowledge to build the Dutch-flavored smock mill

from time spent in Holland on his travels, although no one has any idea what Wilbur's creation looked like. There is no evidence of the mill ever being rebuilt so it is concluded the tapered octagonal tower design has stood since the beginning. Unless it hasn't. What is known is that there were once five windmills on Nantucket grinding corn as the staple of the islander diet and this is the only survivor. The ownership of the mill comes into focus in the 1800s. Jared Gardner bought the structure for \$40 in 1829, an amount he considered to be its value as firewood. On closer inspection, however, he decided the sturdy oak tower was worthy of putting back in working order. As more seafarers turned to farming with the decline of the whale trade the mill found use until the Society was able to save the last mill on Nantucket at auction. In the summer, when the winds are right sails are attached to the 30-foot blades and volunteer millers once again grind cornmeal just like it was 275 years ago.



# Faneuil Hall

Boston

1760



In 1740 wealthy merchant Peter Faneuil offered to build the town's first public market but the acceptance of the gift was not a slam dunk. Pushcart vendors were used to peddling their wares through the streets on their own time and were none too happy with the proposal. When the new market was put to a vote it squeezed into existence with 367 yeas and 360 opposed. Faneuil's new emporium was constructed on landfill by the water's edge and opened in 1742. The benefactor did not bask long in the achievement however; Peter Faneuil died six months later of dropsy at the age of 42. The market

burned in 1762 but was quickly rebuilt, including the gilded grasshopper weathervane on its top. Soon the shouts of rebellion were echoing through the stalls and Samuel Adams dubbed the market the "Cradle of Liberty" in between cries of "no taxation without representation." The weathervane was used as a way to ferret out spies during the Revolution - if you were the least bit suspicious walking the streets of Boston in 1774-75 you had better have known what insect resided on top of Faneuil Hall. By 1805 the market was no longer large enough to serve the city. The renowned Charles Bulfinch, who by then had already completed the new State House, was chosen to expand the hall. Today, with the exception of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Faneuil Hall is considered the most historic building in America.

# Choate Bridge

Ipswich

1764



For the first nine years of Boston's existence the only way to get out of town was to travel on old Indian trails. In 1639 the General Court ordered the first road to be built in the Massachusetts Bay Colony - the Bay Road which would connect Boston with Portsmouth. Each town along the way was required to

provide two or three men to pick the route and build the road, coordinating with those in the adjoining towns. That was the main artery north in the colony for more than 100 years, with the entire road marked by stone milestones. When the Bay Road reached Ipswich travelers crossed the Ipswich River on a wooden cart bridge - when it wasn't being rebuilt from a tidal washout, a regular occurrence. By 1764 the bridge was too narrow to keep pace with the bustling colony. Officials came up with £996 to construct a new 20-foot wide, double span stone bridge. Colonel John Choate, who had commanded a British regiment in the Siege of Louisburg in Nova Scotia during the French and Indian War and was at the time a local justice, was given the job of supervising construction of the bridge. Lacking engineering expertise Choate was said to have had a horse at the ready pointing towards Canada should the bridge collapse during the removal of the falsework and an angry mob set upon him. Not only did the bridge not collapse, it still carries thousands of vehicles today as the oldest bridge in Massachusetts. The grateful citizenry ended up naming the bridge after the relieved colonel, but not until after his death in 1792.

# Springfield Armory

Springfield  
1777



George Washington cast the die for Springfield's future when he selected the town as the site for the National Armory in the 1770s. The first ramification came when Daniel Shays presented the first armed challenge against the federal government in 1787 and picked the Armory as his target. Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran and farmer, and his "army" of 800 disgruntled taxpayers were repulsed by soldiers outside the walls of Armory, crushing the rebellion. In the 1800s the Armory would be the catalyst for the industrialization of Springfield. The railroad came to town early and Springfield became an early leader in the manufacture of passenger coaches. Charles and Frank Duryea, built a gasoline powered automobile in their bicycle garage in town in 1893 and after the Duryea Motor Wagon's first test was successful it became to be the first ever offered for sale in America. The Springfield Armory was one of the first two federal armories in the country and the one responsible for the manufacturing of small arms. The famous "Springfield Rifle" came to refer to any of several types of guns churned out over the years. One hundred and seventy four years, to be exact, before the armory shut down. Today the grounds operate as a national historic landmark; the collection of military firearms is the second largest in the world, dwarfed only by the British collection at the Royal Armouries.

# Baker Chocolate Factory

Dorchester  
1780



It is known that the Aztec Indians of Central America used chocolate as many as 3,000 years ago, mixing cultivated cacao beans into a frothy beverage. Columbus was served the drink on a voyage in 1502 and other explorers started trading in the exotic flavor, which rapidly gained popularity in fashionable Europe-

an chocolate houses. The American chocolate business did not begin, however, until 1755 when Massachusetts sea captains sailed to the West Indies to trade cargoes of fish for the precious cocoa beans. Apothecaries who would then grind the beans into a medicine. This is how James Baker, a Dorchester physician came to know chocolate. In 1764 Baker provided the capital for John Hannon, an Irish immigrant, to mill the first chocolate in North America. The water-powered mill opened on the banks of the Neponset River and by the time of the American Revolution Hannon's chocolate business was flourishing. Meanwhile Baker was experimenting with other recipes for chocolate. In 1779 Hannon sailed for the West Indies in search of greater supplies of cocoa beans and was never heard from again. The original mill came under Baker's full control and he began producing the first chocolate under the brand name Baker's. James Baker retired in 1804 and the chocolate business remained in family hands for nearly another 100 years. When the factory closed in 1995 en route to being repurposed as apartments it was the oldest American concern manufacturing the same product in the same location.

# Boston Light

Boston

1783



There are 47 lighthouses at work to keep the navigable waters around the Massachusetts shore safe for mariners and none has stood longer than the Boston Light. Boston was England's busiest port in the New World but ships had a nasty habit of smashing into rocks and shoals trying to reach the shore. In 1715 at the urging of the townspeople the government began taxing every ship that reached the docks to raise money for the first lighthouse built in colonial America. The rubble-stone tower on Little Brewster Island rose 60 feet and illuminated the harbor with candles and fish oil lamps. The nation's first fog cannon was added to the operation in 1719; ships entering the harbor would fire a cannon and the keeper would fire back to give the mariner the direction of Boston Light. It would stay in service until the 1950s. Fires and storms took their toll on Boston Light but it was always rebuilt. During the American Revolution patriot commandoes sabotaged the light to harass the British who kept it in working order until they were forced from the city. On their way out of Boston they blew up the tower, which remained in ruins until war's end. In 1783 the commonwealth rebuilt the tower, the first in the new United States. In 1790 Boston Light was turned over to the federal government and it would not be automated for 208 more years - the last in the country to require a keeper. With automation on the horizon Senator Ted Kennedy sponsored a law that Boston Light be permanently manned but also open to the public. So today the keeper at the nation's second oldest lighthouse in continuous operation (Sandy Hook Lighthouse in New Jersey is the oldest) also acts as a tour guide.

# French Cable Station

Orleans

1791



In 1867 Cyrus Field was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal as an "expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals or institutions." Field had spent ten years and countless dollars to lay the first telegraphic cable across the Atlantic Ocean. That cable ran to Great Britain. France would not get into the communications game

until 1869 when a line was constructed 2,242 nautical miles from Brest, France to Newfoundland. Another cable delivered the line 827 more miles to America and Cape Cod. Hundreds of cables would be laid under the Atlantic Ocean, almost all taking the shortest route from Newfoundland to Ireland. The French Cable Company built a new line a decade later and ran its operation from this building after 1891. In 1897 the company laid the first telegraph line directly from the United States to mainland Europe, from Brest to Cape Cod. After France surrendered to Germany in World War II the United States took over the station for security reasons. In 1959 the Orleans cable station was shuttered and lives on as a museum, one of only a trio of original telegraph stations in the world. In 1927 word of Charles Lindbergh landing *The Spirit of St. Louis* safely in France after making the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean was first received in America in this station before being relayed to an anxiously waiting nation. Lindbergh would receive a Congressional Gold Medal of his own for the feat.

# State House

Boston

1797



Boston-born Charles Bulfinch is usually regarded as the first native-born American to call himself an architect on his business card. Bulfinch designs would dominate the city's posh Beacon Hill neighborhood. He began work here on the most outstanding public building in the young country in 1795 when he was 31 years old. Bulfinch had warmed up for the task by building the Connecticut State House which opened its doors in May of 1796 as the first state house in the union. Governor Samuel Adams and silversmith-turned-Revolutionary War-hero Paul Revere set the keystone for the Massachusetts State House on July 4, 1795 in a meadow on top of a steep hill, which until just recently had been John Hancock's meadow. Bulfinch based his design on classically-flavored English buildings that resulted in an elevated projecting Corinthian portico. The ever industrious Revere would later be commissioned to top the wooden dome with rolled copper in 1802. The dome, which is topped with a pine cone that symbolizes Boston's now long-gone timber industry, was gilded in 1874. The gold was re-applied in 1997 at the cost of \$300,000.

# Boston Navy Yard

Charlestown

1800



During the decades following the Revolutionary War the citizens of Charlestown seemed to be trying to make up for lost time, as new residential and industrial areas proliferated. Large landholders subdivided their properties for development. Skilled local housewrights built handsome Federal-style houses. No other Boston area can boast of such a fine group of frame houses from this period. By 1785, 13 wharves lined Charlestown's harbor, and soon new bridges increased trade. When the Navy Act of 1794 called for the creation of six naval yards to construct warships; one opened at Moulton's Point and became a major employer for more than 150 years. The first ship to sail from the yard was the largest of the nascent American fleet, the USS *Independence*. A century later the USS *Bridge*, the first refrigerated supply ship built by the U.S. Navy, launched before 10,000 spectators in World War I. During World War II the Navy Yard produced as many vessels - 6,000 - as it had in its previous 140 years. Besides warships the marien works produced all the ropes, anchors, and anchor chains used by the Navy. The work force numbered 50,000 during the war effort. All the workers were sent home in 1974 and 100 acres of the Boston Navy Yard was privately developed. Thirty acres, a collection of buildings, and two warships were set aside for the National Park Service to operate as an historic site.

# Middlesex Canal

Wilmington

1803



Early American roads were so atrocious it was obvious water routes would be the key to unlocking the new country's interior. George Washington was an early player in the canal game, futilely staking the Patowmack Canal in hopes it would take the Potomac River into the Ohio Valley. The Canal Age in America was underway. In Massachusetts John Hancock and John Adams were

among the investors in the Middlesex Canal Corporation that was chartered on June 22, 1793 to connect the Merrimack River with the port of Boston. Private contractors required ten years to construct 20 locks, each 80 feet long and 10 feet wide, and eight aqueducts along the 27-mile route. Hydraulic cement that used inorganic volcanic binding materials imported from the West Indies to create a waterproof mortar was used for the first time in North America. When the Erie Canal was planned to cross New York State its engineers came to Middlesex to study construction techniques, including a clever floating towpath across the Concord River. The trip for freight boats on the Middlesex from Boston to Lowell required 18 hours up and 12 hours back, an average speed of 2.5 miles per hour which was quick enough to turn a tidy profit. The Middlesex Canal remained a main transportation artery through New England even after the coming of the railroads but eventually succumbed to the competition from the iron horses. The last toll was pocketed in 1851. Within a year worn out bridges were being removed for firewood and the ditch was being filled in. Enough remained, however, that when the American Society of Civil Engineers began designating national landmarks in the 1960s one of the first to receive recognition was the Middlesex Canal.

# Rodman Candle Works

New Bedford

1810



There was a time when right whales came to graze on plankton off the coast of Nantucket like bison on the Great Plains. Nantucketers and the native Wampanoag worked to exterminate the local whale population by the mid-1700s as the island reigned as the whaling capital of America. Ocean-going whaling sloops kept the docks humming but by the time Herman Melville set *Moby-Dick* in

Nantucket in 1851 the island had ceded the title to the mainland port of New Bedford. Whaling was at its peak then and of the 700 or so ships chasing the sperm whale around the globe more than half were registered in New Bedford which bolstered its claim as "the richest city in the world." The sperm whale's blubber, distilled into oil, burned brighter and cleaner than its cetacean cousins and the 45-ton creatures would be sacrificed solely for their ability to light a room. Spermacetti candles were produced in factories such as this one, built by Samuel Rodman. The building is constructed of large wood beams and two-foot thick walls of granite rubble. The stucco exterior is scored to create the illusion of granite block construction. Anthracite coal and kerosene became superior light sources in the mid-1800s and the whaling trade disappeared quickly. By the 1890s the New England whaling fleet numbered just 51 ships, the last of which sailed from New Bedford in 1927 - eleven years after the New Bedford Gas and Edison Light Complex was built.

# Boston Manufacturing Company

## Waltham

### 1814



One country's industrial espionage is another's ingenuity. Francis Cabot Lowell, a wealthy merchant on a two-year sabbatical in England, got the wheels spinning on the American cotton manufacturing industry after studying British looms - while disguised as a country farmer - and introduced the first practical power loom in America from memory.

Back in Massachusetts, Lowell organized the Boston Manufacturing Company to construct the first integrated spinning and weaving factory in the world. Using Charles River power, the first cloth was commercially available in 1815. While a second mill was under construction Lowell went to Washington to successfully lobby for high tariffs on cheap cotton the British were pouring into the American market. The new interconnected Boston Manufacturing plant was the biggest in the country with most of the 300-person work force comprised of mill girls recruited from surrounding farms. Workers were housed and fed at the mill. The workday began with the factory bell at 4:40 in the morning and did not end until 7:00 in the evening, with a half hour for breakfast and another break at lunch. After returning to their rooms the girls were subject to strict supervision from matrons in the boarding houses. Sundays provided the only respite from the 80-hour work weeks. This highly profitable "Waltham System" was copied in other industries and by the Boston Manufacturing group themselves in the new city of Lowell in 1822. The plant went dark forever in 1930 and carries on as residential space a century later.

# Tremont Nail Works

## Wareham

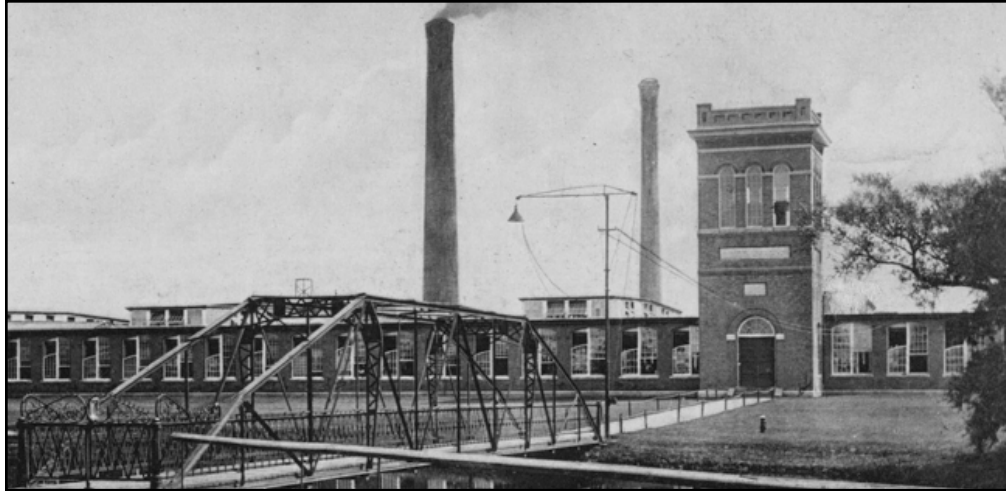
### 1819



The Romans hand-forged nails about 5000 years ago and not much changed until the 1770s when Jeremiah Wilkinson finagled a nail cutting process from a sheet of cold iron in his Rhode Island workshop. In 1786 Ezekiel Reed in Bridgewater, Massachusetts devised the first machine to cut and head a nail in a single operation. Within 25 years most of the nails produced in America were cut on machines. Parker Mills began life as a cotton mill but was purchased by Isaac Pratt to house the Parker Mills Nail Company, later to become Tremont. The mill buildings received a makeover in 1848 and workers from that time would recognize them today. The Tremont Nail Company kept churning out nails - many from machines that dated to Civil War days - in Wareham until 2004. The brand was purchased and moved 36 miles to Mansfield where the firm continues as America's oldest nail manufacturer. The nail works was purchased by the Town of Wareham for preservation and redevelopment.

# Plymouth Cordage Tower

Plymouth  
1824



Plymouth, the oldest town in Massachusetts, actually began settlement on board the *Mayflower* that brought 102 settlers from England in 1620. That first winter conditions were too harsh to make much headway on shore; only fifty-two of the English separatists who had broken away from the Church of England survived. The town they built served as the capital of Plymouth Colony (which consisted of modern-day Barnstable, Bristol, and Plymouth counties) from its founding until 1691, when the colony was annexed by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Plymouth grew up mostly as a fishing and whaling town. Industry was limited to a few mills and forges and small factories. In the early 1800s two of those factories were ropeworks providing rigging and rope for ships. In 1824, 34-year old Bourne Spooner, a Plymouth native who learned the ropemaking trade in New Orleans, chartered a new company on a 130-foot frontage of Plymouth Harbor. Over the next 145 years Plymouth Cordage would become the world's largest ropemaker; in the Old West Plymouth Silk-finished Lariat Rope was as famous as the Colt 45 revolver or the Stetson hat. The Plymouth Cordage Company was the largest employer in town for over 100 years until it ceased operations in 1964. The plant has since been repurposed as a commerce center.

# Granite Railway

Quincy  
1826



America doesn't usually erect elaborate monuments to defeats but as Nathanael Greene was moved to observe about the Battle of Bunker Hill, actually fought on Breed's Hill thanks to a British mapmaker's error, "I wish we could sell them another hill at the same price." From an army of 2,200 the British had over 1,000 casualties, including

140 dead; over 400 Americans were dead or wounded. No battle of the American Revolution would ever be as bloody as its first. The idea for a commemorative structure, a 221-foot Egyptian granite obelisk, came in 1823. The granite would come from Quincy, known for its dark stone that glistened when polished. The order for 2,600 tons of "the best Quincy granite, of uniform color" caused the town to boom with stonecutters arriving from across Europe. To get the stone from the quarry to the Neponset River where it could be floated to Charleston, a three-mile railway was constructed that lays claim to being the first commercial railroad in America. Wooden rails were plated with iron and placed on stone crossties. Teams of horses pulled the wagons. Boston was enthralled by the monument and 100,000 people turned out to hear Daniel Webster's remarks as the cornerstone was laid. But it was all frightfully expensive and funds were not sufficient to finish the obelisk until 1843. Luckily, Webster was still alive to croak out some more flowery words. The granite industry in Quincy continued to flourish and over 50 quarries would open in the "Granite City" before closing in 1963. The original railway is now part of parkland trails.

# Round Barn

Hancock

1826



The Shakers, so named for their frenzied religious dancing, trace their beginnings to Manchester, England in 1747. In 1758, 22-year old mill-worker Ann Lee joined the sect, which came to envelop her life. She reported visions that resulted in religious dogma and Lee was eventually jailed for two weeks for her beliefs. Free again, another vision told her to continue Christ's work in America. "Mother Ann" convinced her husband, brother and six Shaker converts to follow her to New York City in 1774. After five years the group leased land in the woods outside Albany to preach a life of simplicity and pacifism. Mother Ann's followers considered her the embodiment of the Lord in female form. She made several successful preaching trips to New England but also met angry crowds that inflicted injuries that helped contribute to her death in 1784. The Hancock Shakers survived the passing of their leader with farming and eventually acquired 3,000 acres controlled by around 300 members. The highly functional round barn could handle the feeding and milking of 70 cows. The Shaker movement abated steadily after the 1840s as believers drifted to jobs in the city or out west, selling their land before they departed. Finally the Hancock Shaker Village itself was sold in 1960. The new owners saved 20 buildings from the National Historic Landmark District and now operate the former commune as a museum.

# Union Oyster House

Boston

1826



Opened to diners in 1826, the Union Oyster House is considered the oldest restaurant in the United States. The building itself is more than 300 years old, constructed prior to 1714, most probably in 1704. Before it started serving up victuals, Hopestill Capen's dress goods business occupied the premises. The toothpick was introduced to America at the Union Oyster House. Charles Forster of Maine imported the picks from South America and hired Harvard students to eat at the Union Oyster House and conspicuously request the little wooden teeth cleaners in front of other diners. This was a favorite haunt of the Kennedys; Booth #18 in the upstairs dining room has been dedicated in to John Kennedy. America's first waitress, Rose Carey, worked here starting in the early 1920s. Her picture is on the wall on the stairway up to the 2nd floor.



# Mount Auburn Cemetery

## Watertown

### 1831



For tourists the 19th century equivalents of the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Yellowstone were Niagara Falls, Mount Vernon and Mount Auburn Cemetery. Before Mount Auburn burials took place on private estates or in downtown graveyards that were anything but permanent. If new development came

along cemeteries would be ripped out and moved to a less crowded part of the city. Jacob Bigelow, a Boston physician, saw this congested city burial grounds as a health nuisance. It was his idea to build permanent resting places outside the city on landscaped grounds, a rural cemetery if you will. In 1829 the Massachusetts Horticultural Society organized as the first formally plant-based institution in the United States. President Henry Dearborn put Bigelow's ideas into motion at Stone's Farm on the Watertown-Cambridge border. Civil engineer Alexander Wadsworth plotted the land and Dearborn designed the cemetery with lots and serpentine roads that followed the contours of the grounds. Mount Auburn plots sold briskly and families began adorning the grounds with marble monuments and iron fences. The rural cemetery movement caught on in major cities across the country, most of which had never had public parks before. Folks of all classes could come to the cemeteries and enjoy nature and sculpture gardens for free. Officials estimated that 60,000 people a year were visiting the pleasure ground at Mount Auburn in the mid-1800s when Boston's population was 130,000. Mount Auburn billed itself as a "museum without walls" and there were guidebooks sold to the Gothic and Neoclassical monuments. Today you can use a mobile app to fully appreciate the pioneering cemetery.

# Fort Warren

## Georges Island

### 1834



For the better part of 200 years Bostonians regarded Georges Island, seven miles offshore, as a place to grow crops. During the break from English rule Patriots began to recognize the strategic value of the island to guard the main shipping channel into the city. Temporary earthworks were raised

for an attack that never came. During the first two rounds of coastal fortifications enacted by the federal government for the safety of the new nation Georges Island was bypassed. But for the Third System following the War of 1812 the island was among 42 sites selected to be fortified. The pentagonal granite fort was named for Dr. Joseph Warren, the Revolutionary War leader killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Fort Warren was finished just in time to protect Boston Harbor from the Confederate Navy in the Civil War. The five bastions never came under attack and the facility morphed into a prisoner-of-war camp. After the fall of the Confederacy Vice-President Alexander Stephens was its most celebrated guest when he was detained here until October 1865. Despite overcrowded conditions Fort Warren experienced only 13 deaths from more than 1,000 prisoners, a humane record for the conflict. The batteries continued to be upgraded through World War II until decommission orders arrived in 1946. No shots were ever fired in anger from inside the masonry fort. Today Fort Warren is administered by the National Park Service as the central attraction of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

# Canton Viaduct

Canton  
1834



When the Canton Viaduct - the longest and highest built to that time - opened to rail traffic a fully stoked locomotive could reach 25 miles per hour. Today, it is the oldest viaduct of its kind, carrying high speed Amtrak trains. The "Great Wall of Canton" was constructed by the Boston and Providence Railroad, the last link on its 41-mile main line. Despite its imposing appearance the structure is actually two five-foot thick granite walls with a nine-foot cavity in the middle. Construction took 15 months and would have required more time if not for the deployment for the first time of a steam-powered shovel invented by 22-year old William Otis. Otis was able to obtain a patent for his revolutionary "Crane-Excavator" four years later before he died prematurely of typhoid fever at the age of 26. His cousin Elisha would successfully demonstrate the first safety elevator a decade later. The Canton Viaduct is such a critical strategic cog in the Northeast rail system that it was under guard during both World Wars. After the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 security was also dispatched to keep an eye on the Civil Engineering Historic Landmark.

# U.S. Custom House

New Bedford  
1834



The first agency established by the United States Congress in 1789 with the U.S. Customs Service. Until the advent of air travel there was no more important building in a port city than the Custom House, and its architecture reflected such. Robert Mills, the first architect born and trained in the United States, designed four Greek Revival-styled Custom Houses in New England in the 1830s and this was his largest and most impressive.

New Bedford had recently usurped Nantucket as America's leading whaling town and the white granite-faced temple reflects the city's new elevated status. Mills, who would go on to design the Washington Monument, was a leading proponent of fireproof buildings and everything behind the impressive Doric portico is masonry. Most of the grand custom houses of the sailing age have been repurposed, often as museums, but this building is still on the job, logging commercial fishing and cargo ships into New Bedford's deep, well-protected harbor. The city's first post office was here and there has never been another. This is the oldest continuously operating Custom House in America.

# Wesleyan Grove

Oak Bluffs  
1835



Religious camp meetings, often led by Methodists, can find their roots in America as far back as 1799 but the movement really exploded after the success of the Martha's Vineyard Campmeeting Association. In the early 1800s East Coast beaches were not vacation havens but generally regarded as bug-infested wastelands. So it was easy to acquire land and most camps sprouted within easy reach of the railroad from big cities. The first summer religious camp on the island took place in 1835 with nine canvas tents provided for attendees. Families began to bring their own tents for the meetings and by the 1850s they numbered in the hundreds. Lots were then leased so attendees could count on their camp spot year after year. The logical extension as Wesleyan Grove grew in popularity as a social retreat was permanent structures. These took the form of colorful Carpenter Gothic-styled cottages lined up in rows cheek to jowl. There would come to be more than 500 of the "gingerbread cottages," some 300 still stand. Over time the vacation vibe replaced the revivalist camp atmosphere although some traditional vestiges remain at Wesleyan Grove, including services in the open-air Tabernacle.

# Eliot Hall

Jamaica Plain  
1835



America's oldest community theater company organized on January 4, 1877. The 25 founding members had no play, no name, and no theater. But they had a determination "to promote friendly and social intercourse, and to furnish pleasant and useful entertainment by the aid of the drama." They rounded up a production with little difficulty ("A Scrap of Paper" by French dramatist Victorien Sardou) and hashed out a company name - The Footlight Club. For a stage the club found space in the rear of the local railway station where 65 audience members could be squeezed into chairs. The next season they secured the use of Eliot Hall, owned by the First Parish Church. The

arrangement worked well until 1889 when the church decided to raze the structure. Instead, supporters of the Footlight Club bought the property and converted the space into a legitimate theater. Electric lights were installed in 1896 to replace gas stage lights that were an incendiary threat to bulbous Edwardian dresses. Now incorporated as a non-profit organization, the Footlight Club still owns the National Register of Historic Places property.

# Boott Cotton Mills

Lowell

1836

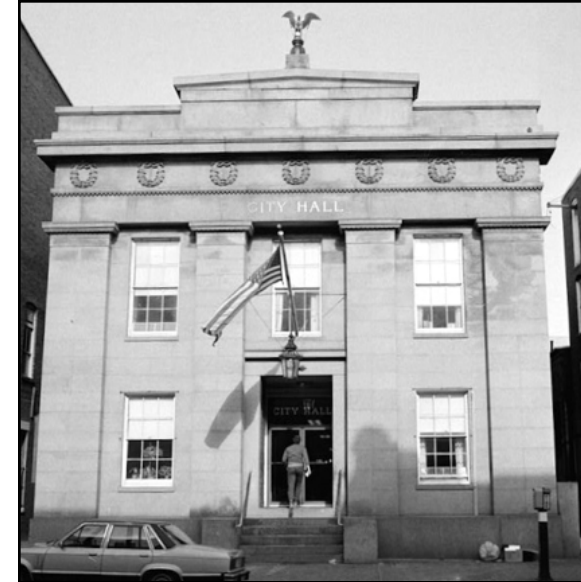


Founded as a company town, Lowell became the largest and most significant of all such towns. Both men and women, girls actually, slept in corporation lodging houses, ate in company dining halls, shopped in company stores and when they died, were buried in company lots. In return, the workers were expected to report for work at five in the morning and work until seven at night. Women received from \$2.25 to four dollars a week and the men about twice that. While the town boomed, working conditions were slow to keep up. The first "mill girls" strike took place in 1834. The Boott Cotton Mills were incorporated in 1835 for the purpose of producing "drillings, sheetings, shirtings, linens, fancy dress goods, and yarns." Between 1836 and 1839, four mill buildings rose along the Merrimack River, each operating independently from the other. By the 1850s Lowell was "Spindle City" - the largest industrial complex in the United States. In World War I the population was over 110,000 but the 100-year growth spurt was about to end with a thud. Textile manufacturing moved south so quickly that by 1931 only three major mills remained active and as many as one in three Lowell workers was on relief or homeless. All four of the original 1830s mills survive as do the company office and counting house. The mills have been redeveloped as residential space, save for Mill No. 6 which serves as the Boott Cotton Mills Museum.

# City Hall

Salem

1837



At first Salem was a farming and cod-fishing community but by the early 1700s Salem-built ships helmed by shrewd Yankee captains were plying waters far from home. In 1785 the *Grand Turk* left the protected harbor bound for the new trade in China. Other daring captains soon followed. The spices, silks and teas in their cargo holds fetched great wealth and at the time of America's first census in 1790 Salem, population 10,000, was the sixth largest city in the United States. In 1837 the United States Treasury had a surplus of some 40 million dollars. So President Andrew Jackson gave the extra money to the various states who dispersed it among their cities and towns. Salem got \$34,000 and used it to build a City Hall - and even then used only \$22,000 of the free money. The City got a municipal building it has used for 185 years without spending a single tax dollar. Boston architect Richard Bond designed the two-story building in the Greek Revival style with a granite street facade of four giant pilasters and brick walls on the other three sides. The eagle perched above City Hall is a gilded exact replica of one carved by Samuel McIntire that was damaged in a hurricane.

# Crane Rag Room

Dalton

1844



When aggrieved American colonists agitated for a complete boycott of all British goods they made room for one exception - paper. Paper was always in short supply. When the Declaration of Independence was written it was distributed on British paper. When war finally broke out skilled paper-makers were exempt from military service. Rag collectors were appointed in every jurisdiction in Massachusetts

to round up the necessary natural ingredient in paper-making. Paper was made from the fibers of water-washed cotton rags, printed while wet and hung to dry. Isaiah Thomas, who founded the *Massachusetts Spy* in 1770 and the popular *Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut Almanack*, established a mill in Worcester in 1793 capable of churning out 1,400 pounds of paper per week. In his work force of 21 was Zenas Crane who left to set up shop in a one-story building hard by the Housatonic River. Crane came to specialize in printing currency for local banks in the days when each financial institution issued its own money. In the middle of the 1800s, when all currency finally flowed from the federal government, Crane & Company won the contract to print banknotes and has done so ever since. After developing a counterfeit deference system with silk threads in 1844 Crane has continually innovated in banknote security, down to the micro-optics technology employed today.

# Cape Pond Ice

Gloucester

1848



Gloucester's deep water harbor attracted a group of Englishmen from the Dorchester Company, who landed here in 1623 to fish and establish a settlement. This first company of pioneers made landing at Half Moon Beach and set up fishing stages in a field in what is now Stage Fort Park. The town became an important shipbuilding center, and the first schooner was reputedly built there in 1713. By the late 19th century, Gloucester was a record-setting port for fisheries under sail. Its most famous seafood business was founded in 1849 -- John Pew & Sons. It became Gorton-Pew Fisheries in 1906, and in 1957 changed its name to Gorton's of Gloucester. The iconic advertising image of the "Gorton's Fisherman" carried Gloucester's reputation as America's oldest seaport around the globe. It is not possible to get fish to market without ice and Cape Pond has been icing Gloucester catches since 1848. 300-pound blocks of ice would be cut from ponds in the winter, stored under sawdust and sold to fishermen from the ice house at the docks. These days the ice house freezer hums at 28 degrees and the 150 tons of ice is manufactured daily.