

**Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts
Self-Guided Masonic Walking Tour of Boston**



Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts
186 Tremont Street
Boston MA 02116
www.MassFreemasonry.org

The walking tour will guide you from Grand Lodge to Bunker Hill in Charlestown. The walk could take you 90 minutes to two hours, so you might want to split the walk into two or more easy segments.

The Tour describes historical events, many of which involve Freemasons, but the tour is also suitable for anyone who is not a Freemason.

Recommendations

Wear clothing suitable to the weather, and make sure you have comfortable shoes!
The walk from Grand Lodge to Old North Church is mainly on the level. It then rises gradually to Copp's Hill, then there's a steep hill down. Charlestown is level at first, but you'll need to ascend at the very end to Bunker Hill. The walk up the stairs within the Bunker Hill Monument is rewarding, but pay heed to the posted warnings if you have a medical condition.

The Route

Grand Lodge – Tremont Street to Park Street Church – Granary Burying Ground – School Street – Washington Street to Old State House & Boston Massacre site – Faneuil Hall & Quincy Market – Union Street to Union Oyster House – Marshall Street (Blackstone Block) – Hanover Street & North End – North Square & Revere House – Revere Mall to Old North Church – Copp's Hill Burying Ground – Charlestown Bridge – City Square, Charlestown – Main Street – Joseph Warren Tavern – Bunker Hill.

Returning by cab. After the tour you might need to retrace your steps to City Square in order to find a cab.

Refreshment along the route.

The route takes you past many restaurants and bars. The Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market has many notable restaurants. Almost every other storefront along Hanover Street is an Italian restaurant, and you'll also pass Modern Pastry and Mike's, which are famous for their Italian pastries. After you cross the bridge into Charlestown there are fewer restaurant choices.

Tour Formats

Our self-guided Masonic Tour exists in two formats:
The PDF version – which is what you're now reading.
You can download it from the website of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

The audio version will soon be available in different formats, suitable for use in a portable digital audio player.

There's also a fold-out map that is available from Grand Lodge and many tourist locations in Massachusetts. The map is a very condensed version of the downloadable files.

All three versions of the tour commence at Grand Lodge, which is situated on the corner of Boston Common, at the intersection of Tremont and Boylston streets. The nearest subway stop is Tremont, just across the street from the Grand Lodge, although the hub at Park Street is within easy walking distance.

Grand Lodge website: www.MassFreemasonry.org

We hope you enjoy your tour.

START THE TOUR

Location:

Outside Grand Lodge at the corner of Boylston Street & Tremont Street, downtown Boston



Grand Lodge Building at the busy intersection of Tremont and Boylston Streets

You should now be standing on the sidewalk in front of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts – a big white stone building with prominent mosaics.

It's a historic corner.

Apart from all the history in the Grand Lodge Building, John Adams had his townhouse just across the street.

Just down Essex Street stood the Liberty Tree - a large and stately elm where protesters held noisy meetings in the years before the Revolutionary War. In the college year this corner outside Grand lodge is busy with students from nearby Emerson College.

Now cross the street at the traffic lights - to the park.

STOP On the corner of the park (Boston Common)

You're now on the corner of Boston Common, a designated open space since the days of the Puritans in 1634. Boston itself was settled in 1630. They needed the common for the grazing of the common cattle - hence the name - and also as a space for the militia to perform their drills. Back in 1630, Boston was a frontier town. Nonetheless, the founders opened their first school - Boston Latin School - in 1630, and their first college - Harvard College - in 1636. Both are going strong today.



The low stone building nearby is the entrance to Boston's subway system, which was America's first subway. In fact Tremont Street station was the first stop on the first official journey that was ever made in 1897. Bostonians call the subway 'the T', and you'll need to purchase a 'Charlie Card' - available at any station - in order to ride it. It's called Charlie because of the old song about the man who got lost on Boston's subway.

One of the mosaics on the wall of the Grand Lodge Building. This one depicts the coat of arms, and the founding date of the Grand Lodge - 1733.

Looking back across the road, you'll get a good view of the Grand Lodge building.

The ornate building was dedicated on the Feast of St John in 1899.

The previous seven story building on the same site was damaged by fire, and had to be demolished. We'll be walking past the site of Boston's first Grand Lodge building shortly.

We hope you had chance to tour the Grand Lodge building - it contains many interesting artifacts from America's early Masonic history.

Notice the mosaic panels on the walls of Grand Lodge. When the building was first opened, there were storefronts in these spaces. One of the panels has the Grand Lodge coat of arms, with the date the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was founded - 1733.

GO. Look for the white steeple along the edge of the park in the distance. We'll be heading in that direction, north on Tremont Street, with Boston Common on your left. We'll be making several stops along Tremont Street all the way to the historic Parker House Hotel, but make your first stop at the walkway into the Common marked by a tall white column on your left.



Park Street Church at the corner of Park Street & Tremont Street. Suffolk University Law School is on the right, opposite the Granary Burying Ground.

STOP Massacre Monument

The tall white column that you can see, set back into the park, was erected 1888 to commemorate the victims of the incident that became known as the Boston Massacre, that happened on the 5th March 1770.

Later we'll be passing over the spot

where the incident actually happened. Take a close look at the dimensional bronze tablet that is a rendering of Brother Paul Revere's famous engraving of the event.

You'll be reading many mentions of famous people we call 'Brother' (abbreviated to Bro), which means they were a Freemason. Masons call each other "Brother" as a mark of respect.

GO. Continue on in the same direction along the edge of the Common, heading for the white church steeple. Stop at the short rectangular stone and bronze monument on the edge of the Common on your left.

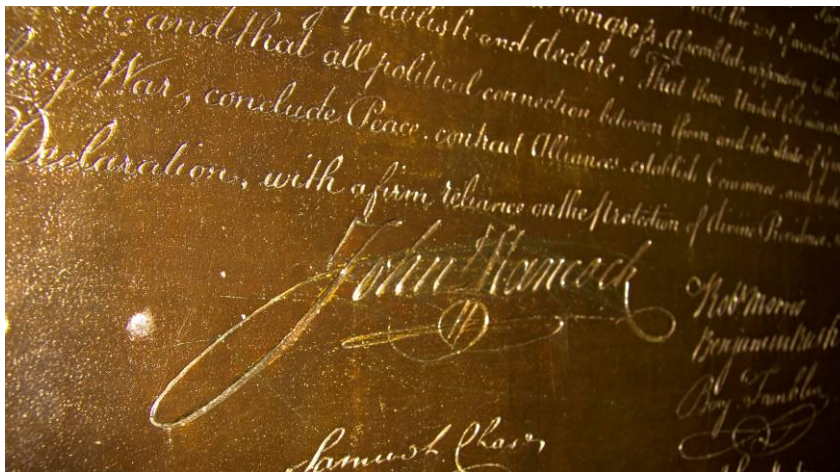
STOP Declaration of Independence Monument



You're at the Declaration of Independence Monument. Several Masons signed the Declaration, including Brothers John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin and Robert Treat Paine - all from Boston, and all of them interred in a burying ground that's on our route.

Of course you can't miss the large signature of Bro John Hancock.

He was perhaps the wealthiest man in New England at the time, and he had one of the finest houses in Massachusetts. It stood on the far side of the Common, up on the hill. Unfortunately it was demolished in the 1800s to build extensions to the State House.



GO

Continue in the same direction until you come to a group of stone monuments called Parkman Plaza

STOP Parkman Plaza

This is an open space along the edge of Boston Common. Note the Visitors' Center hut.

The Parkman Plaza was named for a prominent Boston family, many of whom were high-

ranking Masons. They also donated the bandstand that you can see, and gave millions of dollars for the upkeep of the Common.

You'll also see a low building in the plaza. This is the Visitor Center, where you can obtain free brochures on the Freedom Trail and other Boston attractions. Notice that the Freedom Trail starts here - it's the red brick line in the sidewalk. We won't be following it all the way, but you'll notice it from time to time on today's walk.



Freedom trail bronze plaque.

You'll see these in the sidewalk along the Freedom Trail.

GO to the walkway on the common that heads at an angle, directly to the State house at the top of the hill. There's also a small monument there to Commodore John Barry. Stay along the edge of the Common (unless you want to make a detour to the State House)

STOP

At the Barry Monument

You're at the low monument to Commodore John Barry 1745-1803, often referred to as "The father of the American Navy".



The gold dome of the Massachusetts State House

You now have a stunning vista across the Common of the Massachusetts State House, with its gold dome. It was built to the designs of architect Charles Bulfinch, and it opened in 1797. It was the first US State House to have a dome. Other state capitols were subsequently built with a prominent dome, including the US Capitol.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid with impressive Masonic ceremonies on

Saturday, 4 July 1795. Fifteen white horses drew the cornerstone to the site in a large Masonic procession which also included 3 Master Masons bearing the Square, Level, and Plumb-Rule, and 3 Stewards bearing Corn, Wine, and Oil. In the cornerstone laying an

inscribed silver plate was placed beneath the cornerstone, which bore the inscription

This Corner-Stone intended for the use of the Legislature and Executive Branches of Government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was laid by His Excellency Samuel Adams, Esquire Governor of said Commonwealth assisted by the Most Worshipful Paul Revere, Grand Master; and Right Worshipful William Scollay, Deputy Grand Master; The Grand Wardens and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts on the 4th Day of July 1795, being the 20th Anniversary of American Independence.

Paul Revere delivered the following brief address:

Worshipful Brethren, I congratulate you on this auspicious day:--when the Arts and Sciences are establishing themselves in our happy Country, a Country distinguished from the rest of the World, by being a Government of Laws.-Where Liberty has found a Safe and Secure abode, and where her Sons are determined to support and protect her. Brethren, we are called this day by our Venerable and patriotic Governor, his Excellency Samuel Adams, to Assist him in laying the Corner Stone of a Building to be erected for the use of the Legislature and Executive branches of Government of this Commonwealth. May we my Brethren, so Square our Actions thro life as to shew to the World of Mankind, that we mean to live within the Compass of Good Citizens that we wish to Stand upon a Level with them that when we part we may be admitted into that Temple where Reigns Silence & peace.

The Governor, Samuel Adams was also a Mason.

The ceremony was concluded to the roar of cannon and the cheering crowd. On 4 July 1995, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts under the direction of Most Worshipful David W. Lovering conducted a reenactment of this event.

The ceremony on Boston Common in 1795 was reminiscent of a similar event which took place only two years earlier in Washington. On 18 September 1793, George Washington, in a full Masonic ceremony, laid the cornerstone for the Capitol.

Paul Revere's public life as a Freemason was coming to an end by late 1797. Revere had served as Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts for three years.

Back across the Tremont Street at the traffic lights, you'll see a side street called "Temple Place". It was so named because it was the location of the first Grand Lodge building. The white building (Marked RH Stearns on the canopy) occupies the site. The old building was a stone building built in the Gothic style with pointed arches. Ralph Waldo Emerson's lectures there helped boost him to cultural stardom. Eccentric philosopher Bronson Alcott, father of Louisa May, ran the Temple School for Children on an upper story.



The RH Stearns building which replaced the first Grand Lodge building at the corner of Temple Place – hence the name.

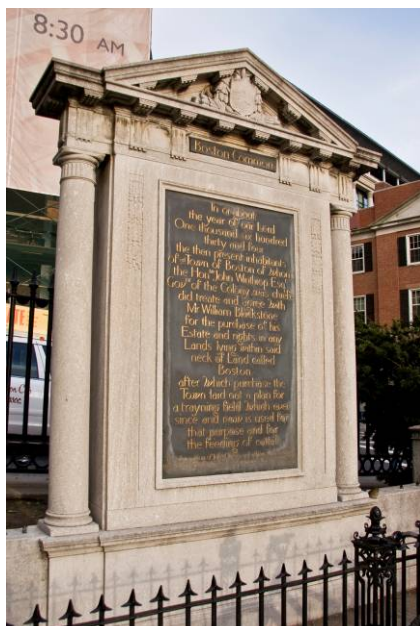
Next to the old temple site is the Episcopal Cathedral of St Paul's. It has a granite colonnade. This is where the body of General Joseph Warren was buried after he was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. As a matter of fact, the body of Bro Joseph Warren was thrice buried: once in the rubbish of the battlefield, second in the nearby Granary Burying Ground, and thirdly in this sanctum sanctorum. Unfortunately for Masonic lore, he was buried a fourth time in Forest Hills Cemetery, outside town. Bro Joseph Warren was Grand Master at the time he was killed in action at the Battle of Bunker Hill - and that location will be the destination of our Masonic Walking Tour.

Today the Joseph Warren Medal is one of the highest awards a Mason in Massachusetts can receive.

GO to the extreme corner of the Boston Common dominated by the white steeple of Park Street Church, but don't cross Park street yet

STOP

On the Boston Common corner near Park Street Subway Station



Notice the stone monument erected to the founding of the Boston Common. The Common is the oldest public park in the history of the USA, being open for public use in 1634, when the area was designated a common pasture. It was also used for military purposes and for public hangings.

In a typical religious persecution In 1657 two Quakers were hanged here on 27 October 1657. A third Quaker - Mary Dyer - was about to be hanged, but her son persuaded the authorities to have mercy. Mary Dyer was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. She returned next year and was duly hanged.

The gallows were removed in 1817 and from 1830 on the

grazing of cattle was forbidden.

Ever since, the Boston Common mainly has served as a public park for leisure – a concept that was abhorrent to its Puritan fathers, who believed that “idle hands are the Devil’s tools.” By the way, Boston’s first House of Correction was opened on Court Street in 1657. It was built to imprison those “who might be debauched and who live idly”. How things have changed in Boston!

GO Now cross Park Street to the steps of the Park Street Church.

STOP Park Street Church Entrance

Park Street Church was founded in 1809 and has a strong tradition of social activism. On 4 July 1829, pastor William Lloyd Garrison delivered a thundering oration on the wickedness of slavery, and the church became a center of the antislavery movement. The church also heard the premiere performance of the hymn “My Country, 'Tis of Thee”, also known as “America”

GO Continue in the same northerly direction along Tremont Street, outside the railings of the Granary Burying Ground at the James Otis grave marker.

STOP James Otis Grave Marker

On your left is the Granary Burying Ground, one of Boston’s oldest burial spots. Before you get to the entrance to the Burying Ground you can see the tomb of Bro James Otis close by the railings. Otis was a lawyer in colonial Massachusetts who was an early advocate of the political views that led to the American Revolution. The phrase “Taxation without Representation is Tyranny” is usually attributed to him.

Founded in 1660, the Granary is the third oldest burying ground in Boston proper. In 1737, when grain was stored where the present Park Street Church stands, the burying ground was renamed the Granary Burying Ground. Along with Massachusetts Governors, Clergymen, and Mayors, three signers of the Declaration of Independence – all of whom were Freemasons – are buried here. They are John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin and Robert Treat Paine.

A tall white obelisk along the left side of the burying ground marks Bro John Hancock’s grave, and Robert Treat Paine’s tombstone is alongside the wall on the right.

Right In the middle is a large granite obelisk to the family of Bro Benjamin Franklin, who was born in Boston on nearby Milk Street in 1706.

Many other Freemasons are buried within these iron railings. Bro Paul Revere’s tomb is located along the rear walkway of this hallowed ground. Paul Revere was initiated at age 25 into St. Andrew’s Lodge on 4 September 1760. He was the first candidate

received after their Charter dated 1756 had been received from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He was raised on 27 January 1761. Bro Revere went on to become a Royal Arch Mason and Knight Templar on 11 December 1769.

Brother Revere was very active in his Lodge, serving as Junior Deacon, Junior Warden, and Secretary before being installed at age 35 as Worshipful Master on 30 November 1770. He served nine terms as Worshipful Master, 5 with St. Andrew's Lodge and 4 with Rising States Lodge and, with the exception of the Revolutionary war years, served continuously as a Grand Lodge Officer from 1769 to 1797. As Grand Master, Paul Revere chartered 23 new Lodges within Massachusetts and Maine. Maine was part of Massachusetts until 1820.

GO Continue in the same direction with the Granary Burying Ground on your left. Just past the ornate granite entrance you'll find the grave marker of Samuel Adams and the victims of the 'Boston Massacre'.

STOP

Sam Adams Grave Marker & Boston Massacre marker.

You can see this through the railings, from Tremont Street. It's just beyond the entrance to the granary Burying Ground.

The Boston Massacre was an incident involving the deaths of five civilians at the hands of British troops on 5 March 1770, the legal aftermath of which helped spark the Revolutionary War. A tense situation due to a heavy British military presence in Boston boiled over into a riotous brawl between soldiers and civilians, and eventually led to troops discharging their muskets at the rioters. Four civilians were killed at the scene, and one died after the incident that was given its popular name by Bro Samuel Adams, buried nearby.

GO further in the same direction along Tremont Street to the traffic lights at the intersection of Tremont and School.

STOP

King's Chapel & The Omni Parker House Hotel

The stone church at the corner, King's Chapel, was organized as an Anglican congregation at a meeting in the Town House in 1686. Its first house of worship was a small wooden meeting house on this location Tremont and School Streets, where the church stands today, built in 1689.



Peter Harrison of Newport RI designed the present building, and construction began in 1749. The stone building, made of Quincy granite, was opened in 1754. A bell that forged in England was hung in 1772. It cracked in 1814 and was recast by Paul Revere and rehung in 1816. Revere is quoted as saying it was "the sweetest bell I ever made." It still rings every Sunday morning. King's Chapel closed in 1776 for a few months following the exile of the Boston Loyalists, but reopened for the funeral of Bro Joseph Warren, killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The King's Chapel portico as seen from School Street.

The hotel, The Parker House, was founded by a Canadian immigrant, Harvey Parker, and has been in continuous operation since 1855, which makes it America's oldest hotel. It's famous for dishes it created such as

scrod, Boston Crème Pie and Parker House Rolls.

GO We now change direction. At the traffic lights, head down School Street, the narrow road that separates King's Chapel from the Omni Parker House.



STOP

Old City Hall on School Street, just down from King's Chapel

Boston has two buildings called "City Hall". This is the old one. We'll pass the new one soon.

City Hall Plaza. The statue of Bro Ben Franklin – who attended the school on this site – is on the left.

And Boston has two buildings called "State House". We passed the new one with the gold dome. Strange that it should be 'new' - as it was built in the 1790s. It was the site

of the Boston Latin School during Ben Franklin's time - hence the name School street - and hence the statue of Bro Franklin who attended that school.

GO in the same direction down to the end of School Street at the traffic lights.

STOP

At the Old Corner Bookstore, at the traffic lights, corner of School Street and Washington Street

Thomas Crease built this structure as his apothecary and residence shortly after the great fire of 1711 destroyed Anne Hutchinson's house on this site. Between 1845 and



1865, the booksellers Ticknor & Fields occupied the building. They published many of the works of Boston's literary giants of the era: Hawthorne, Longfellow, Stowe, Emerson, Thoreau and other prominent American and British authors, who often gathered here.

Old South Meeting House

Look across the open space and you'll see the large brick building with a steeple - the Old South Meeting House.

It is best remembered as the site of the tax protests that led to the Boston Tea Party in 1773. Old South has been the site of religious, political and social debate for over 300 years. This brick meeting house was built in 1729 to replace the previous Meeting House, which its dissident Puritan congregation had outgrown.

African-American poet Phillis Wheatley worshipped here, and Benjamin Franklin was baptized here. Franklin was born just across the street from the church, on Milk Street.

GO from the Old Corner Bookstore north along Washington Street (away from the Old South Meeting House.)

STOP

At the Old State House, an old brick building on your right. Walk down the narrow pedestrian plaza to the far end of the building.

The Old State House, Boston's oldest public building, was built in 1713 as the seat of British colonial government. It replaced the original wooden Town House, built in the mid-1600s that was destroyed by fire in 1711.



At the building you now see, the Royal Governor and the Massachusetts Assembly debated the Stamp Acts and the Writs of Assistance, and the Declaration of Independence was first read to Bostonians from the east balcony on 18 July 1776. The building served as the Massachusetts State House until 1798, and was also Boston's City Hall from 1830 to 1841. The lion and unicorn that you can see atop the gable end of the building, symbols of British power, were torn down by revolutionary Bostonians, but were later replaced in their place.

The Old State House on State



The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts met here for several years in the early 1800s.

Nearby in front of the end of the Old State House is the site of the Boston Massacre. It's marked by a circle of stones in the road island.

Redcoats reenact the Boston Massacre every year.

The National Park Service store on the plaza has interesting books and maps and handy bathrooms!

GO Standing at the gable end of the Old State House with its lion and unicorn decoration, look north along Congress Street. You'll see an old brick building on your right called Faneuil Hall. Head there now.

STOP

At the Samuel Adams statue in front of Faneuil Hall.

Faneuil Hall is where Bro Samuel Adams and fellow revolutionary colonists gathered and protested the 'taxation without representation'. The many meetings held by American patriots between 1764 and 1774 gave Faneuil Hall the nickname 'Cradle of Liberty'.



Faneuil Hall was given to Boston in 1742 by Peter Faneuil and designed by painter John Smibert, it was enlarged by Charles Bulfinch in 1805.

Following English custom, a public meeting hall still sits atop the marketplace - you can visit the National Park Service meeting hall on the second floor and the The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company that has been headquartered there since 1746.

The statue of Bro Samuel Adams, a man who was highly influential in the early days of the Revolution. He later became governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Behind Faneuil Hall is the extensive Quincy Market, built by the Mayor Bro Josiah Quincy in 1826 of massive granite. The Greek Revival structure was designed by Bro Alexander Parris, who went on to design many lighthouses and buildings in Navy Yards on the east Coast.

GO In the same direction across North Street to Union Street, which has buildings (mostly bars!) on the right side, and a very small park on the left. Go as far as the Union Oyster House.



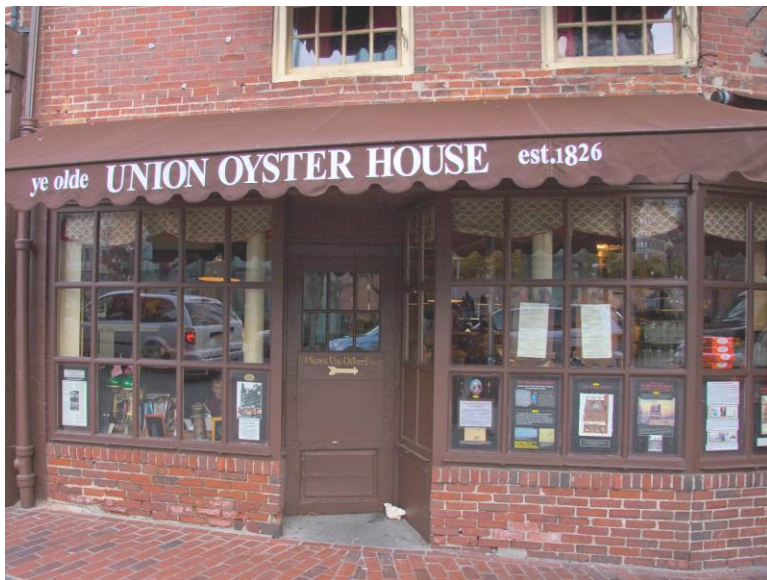
STOP

Outside the Union Oyster House

The Union Oyster House is the oldest restaurant in Boston and the oldest restaurant in continuous service in America — the doors have always been open to diners since 1826. The building has been around for some 250 years, but it wasn't always an oyster house.

In 1742, before it became a seafood house, the building housed importer Hopestill Capen's fancy dress goods business, known as "At the Sign of the Cornfields." At this time, the Boston waterfront came up to the back door of the dry goods establishment, making it convenient for ships to deliver their cloth and goods from Europe.

The first stirrings of the American Revolution reached the upper floor of the building in 1771, when printer Bro Isaiah Thomas published his newspaper "The Massachusetts Spy," long known as the oldest newspaper in the United States. Bro Isaiah Thomas continued to publish during the siege of Boston in 1775-5, but finally he had to flee, taking with him his printing press. He move to Worcester in western Massachusetts where he continued to publish his newspaper and books. After the revolutionary war, Bro Thomas founded the American Antiquarian Society - which still has his press on display.



The Union Oyster House – the favorite watering hole of many politicians from Bro Daniel Webster to Sen Ted Kennedy.

1775, Capen's silk and dry goods store became headquarters for the payment of American troops. There is no reason to doubt that Washington himself was familiar with its surroundings. At the very spot where diners today enjoy their favorite New England specialties, Federal troops received their "war wages" in the official pay-station.

During the revolution the Adams, Hancock, and Quincy wives, as well as their neighbors, often sat in their stalls of the Capen House sewing and mending clothes for the soldiers.

In 1796, a future king of France lived on the second floor. Exiled from his country, he earned his living by teaching French to many of Boston's fashionable young ladies. Later Louis Philippe returned home to serve as King from 1830 to 1848.

1826 marked the end of Capen's Dry Goods Store and the beginning of Atwood and Bacon's establishment. The new owners installed the fabled semi-circular Oyster Bar — where the greats of Boston paused for refreshment. It was at the Oyster Bar that the great orator Bro Daniel Webster, a constant customer, daily drank his tall tumbler of brandy and water with each half-dozen oysters, seldom having less than six plates. Nearby you'll see a bar called the Green Dragon. It's not the original one, which stood on Union Street - the old one was established in 1657 - one of the earliest hostelrys in Boston. Taverns in the old days were meeting places for all groups of people, including the Freemasons. There were no dedicated lodge buildings in the colonial period, groups such as Freemasons rented space in the inns and taverns. The Old Green Dragon Tavern was torn down in 1828. The St Andrew's Lodge of Freemasons was organized at the original Green Dragon in 1752, formed of Masons who had broken away from St John's Lodge.

One such important tavern was the Bunch of Grapes which was located on King Street - now State Street, not too far from the Old State House. It was opened in 1712, the same year that a law was passed forbidding "fiddling, piping, dancing and reveling " in taverns on Sundays. The bunch of Grapes Tavern was home to several Masonic lodges,

and a replica of the inn sign hangs in Grand Lodge to this day.

The Bunch of Grapes was torn down in 1798 to make way for the New England Bank.



GO Follow the angled façade of the Union Oyster House, and go along Marshall Street, to a neat brick house on your right.

Marshall Street gives you a notion of what old Boston used to be like.

STOP

At the Ebenezer Hancock House.

The three story neat brick house on your right is the Ebenezer Hancock House of 1767. Ebenezer Hancock was the brother of John Hancock, and the Deputy Paymaster General for the Continental Army.

It is the only remaining house in Boston associated with John Hancock who owned the house which was inhabited by Ebenezer, This is one of the few downtown residences

surviving from the late 18th century. From 1798 to 1963 the country's oldest



continuously run shoe store occupied the building's first floor.

Low down on the next building is a circular stone known as the Boston Stone. All mileages on maps are measured stating from here, so "5 miles to Boston" means 5 miles to the Boston Stone. You can regard it as the center of Boston,

[The Ebenezer Hancock House on Marshall Street.](#)

[GO to the end of Marshall Street, where it meets Hanover Street.](#)

STOP

[Hanover Street & Marshall Street](#)

After the American Revolution the Patriots changed many of the royal street names. King Street became State Street, and other names like Queen Street were given new names. Strangely Hanover Street, named for the royal family of King George III kept its name. Hanover Street leads us into the North End. We are now in what used to be known as the West End, although nobody uses that description nowadays.

On the corner of Marshall street and Hanover Street stood the dwelling and chandlery shop of Josiah Franklin, Benjamin Franklin's father, at the sign of the Blue Ball, where Benjamin spent his boyhood. The landmark remained till the late eighteen fifties, when it fell victim to a widening of Hanover Street.

In the 1600s the North End was a desirable peninsula. One of the early settlers remarked that the area was "free of the three curses of mankind: wolves, rattlesnakes and muskeetoos." It has gotten very much built up since then!

[GO From narrow Marshall street, and take a right onto Hanover Street. Stop in the broad open place that is being developed into a greenway.](#)

STOP

Hanover Street on the open parkland.

Since the 1950s the interstate passed along this path on a huge ugly green-painted steel elevated highway that cast a gloom over everything and separated Boston from its waterfront. Fortunately that has all been swept away and the interstate has been put underground, but not without a lot of travail and the expenditure of billions of dollars. The project has certainly improved the area, and Boston will be keeping the wide



avenue of green as a vista for all to enjoy. You can see this to the right and left of you as you walk along Hanover to the North End.

The start of the Italian section of Hanover Street. Always busy with people and traffic.

GO Continue along Hanover Street where there are many shops and Italian restaurants.

STOP on Hanover Street in front of Modern Pastry on your right.

Hanover Street is the main thoroughfare of the North End, and you'll find many fine Italian restaurants and coffeehouses along this street. It's hard to pick a favorite: they're all good! Famous landmarks include (on your right) Modern Pastry and (on your left) Mike's Pastry. Well worth going in to see the delicious confections displayed in the showcase. Maybe this is the time to enjoy a cannoli!

If you're passing here at a quiet time - like Sunday morning - you might see some of the residents enjoying their morning cappuccino, and speaking in Italian. In the evenings



this becomes a bustling scene as patrons fill the restaurants. Hanover Street is a great place for people-watching.

One of the former residents of the North End was Bro Paul Revere. His house still stands in North Square. We're going to take a right and left into North Square then a left and a right back onto Hanover Street.

GO

Continue along Hanover Street to the cross street Richmond Street. Take a right on Richmond and next left into North Square. The Revere House is a brown clapboard with latticed windows on your left.

STOP

In front of Revere's House.

Revere wasn't the only important resident of North Street. Governor Thomas Hutchinson had a fine house there until an angry mob of Boston citizens tore it down one August evening in 1765. The Governor was lucky to escape with his life.



The Revere house was built in 1680 by a wealthy merchant, Robert Howard. Paul Revere bought the two-story house in 1770. Revere is remembered most for his 'midnight ride' which started from this house. In 1775, Paul Revere worked as an express rider to carry messages and news. On 18 April 1775 he was sent out to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock of the British' troops march on Concord, where guns and ammunition were hidden. This ride was later immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride". Paul Revere was arrested by a British patrol on his way from Lexington to Concord, but was released in time to witness the battle in Lexington.

Revere had 16 children (he called them "my lambs") -- eight with each of his two wives - and he supported the family with a thriving silversmith's trade.

Known by Masons as being the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, the culmination

of Paul Revere's 34 years as a Freemason came in 1794 when he was elected as the second Grand Master of the newly-formed Grand Lodge of Massachusetts AF & AM. Revere was chosen as Grand Master at age 60.

Revere was the first to wear the three-cornered hat as Grand Master, a tradition that continues to this day, and he was the first Grand Master to appoint a Grand Chaplain. On 12 December 1796 Grand Lodge voted that "the Most Worshipful Grand Master be authorized at every annual meeting to nominate and appoint a Grand Chaplain whose duty it shall be to attend the Grand Lodge and perform such clerical duties as shall be assigned him



As Grand Master, Bro Revere wrote the ceremony for constituting a new Lodge, in which he instructed the officers to "carefully enquire into the Character of all Candidates and recommend none to the Master who in your opinion, are unworthy of the privileges and advantages of Masonry, Keeping the cynic far from the Antient Fraternity, where Harmony is obstructed by the Superstitious, & Morose"

[The view down Hanover Street towards St Stephen's Church \(Built by Bulfinch\). Turn onto Revere Mall here.](#)

When he retired as Grand Master on St John's Day in 1797, he stated that Freemasonry "is now in a more flourishing situation than it has been for Ages and that there is no quarter of the Globe but acknowledges its Philanthropy. He felt it was the greatest happiness of his life to have presided in the Grand Lodge at a time when Freemasonry had attained so great a height that its benign influence

has spread its self to every part of the Globe and shines with more resplendent rays, than it hath since the days when King Solomon implored our immortal Grand Master to build the Temple."

GO in the same direction along North street to Prince Street, Take a left onto Prince street, and then the next right on Hanover Street. Go down to the elegant white church on the right hand side of Hanover Street.

STOP
St Stephen's Church

The white church on your right was originally referred to as the New North Church and was a Unitarian church. It's now the Catholic church of Saint Stephen. It was built by Bulfinch, who also designed the Massachusetts State House and many of Boston's fine buildings.



GO With your back to St Stephen's Church you'll see the Paul Revere Mall. Cross the street to the equestrian statue. There are usually lots of tourists taking pictures right here! Continue along the mall to Unity Street.

The statue of Paul Revere on Revere Mall, across Hanover Street from St Stephen's Church.

STOP
Unity Street



The little, quiet cross street at the end of the Revere Mall is Unity street.

Notice the neat brick house to your left. The Clough House of 1712 is typical of what many well-to-do merchants' houses looked like in the early 1700s. Clough was one of the operative masons who built Old North Church, just ahead of you. Bro Ben Franklin owned a similar house nearby, which unfortunately that no longer exists. Remember that Franklin was born in Boston, although he moved to Philadelphia, and spent much time in Europe.

The Clough House of 1712 on Unity Street at the end of Revere Mall adjacent to Old North Church

GO Cross Unity Street and go through the iron gates into the yard of Old North Church. The famous old brick church is straight ahead.

STOP

Old North Church

Go up the brick steps, the gift shop is on the left, the church is on your right. Both are worth a visit.

It was from the steeple that the two lanterns were hung by the sexton Bro Robert Newman on the fateful night of Paul Revere's ride. The lanterns warned observers on the far shore "two if by sea" - which meant that the Redcoats were leaving Boston, headed for Lexington and Concord by boat.



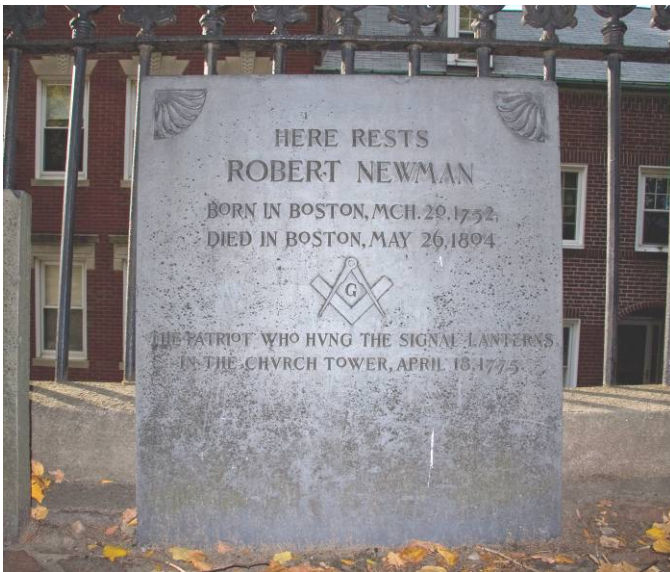
A little oasis. If you want a little peace and quiet from the busy tourist area around Old North, walk right past the entrance to the church (but within the iron railings). A small gateway leads into a quiet "Peace Garden" where you can sit and reflect - or just rest your weary feet! There you'll find memorials to George Washington, the Tudor family and other luminaries.

Old North Church seen from Copp's Hill Burying Ground on Hull Street.

GO Cross Salem Street and straight ahead go up the rise of Hull Street. As you begin to walk up the hill, note the North End Visitor Center on your right. They have restrooms.

STOP At the top of the hill with the entrance to Copp's Hill Burying Ground on your right. Go up the steps of the Burying Ground.

There are memorials to Bro Robert Newman who put the lanterns in the steeple and to Bro Prince Hall after whom Prince Hall Masonry is named. If you want to find these memorials, take a left along the railings at the top of the stairs, then turn right along the railings. Robert Newman's stone is against the railings - you can't miss the square and compasses! Bro Hall's monument is just beyond on the right - a large broken column, which was erected later by Prince Hall masons. His original tombstone is the very small one close by, with Prince Hall's name on one side, his wife's on the other.

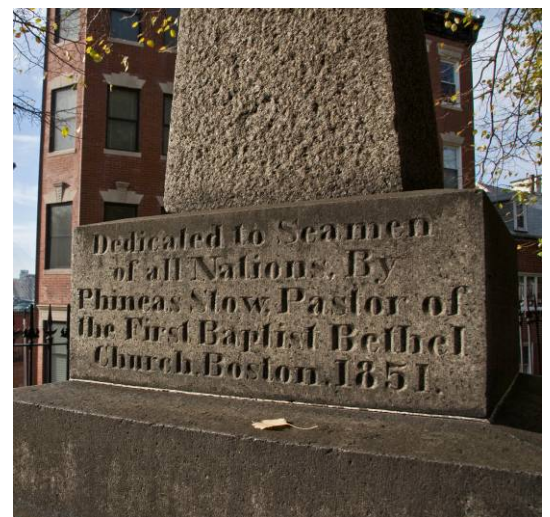


From the burying ground you can see the harbor and the USS Constitution moored across the harbor in Charlestown. The shipbuilder Edmund Hartt is buried here.

As you exit the Burying Ground on Hull Street look across the road a little to your right. You'll see Boston's smallest house - with a very narrow frontage!

The tombstone of Bro Robert Newman in Copp's Hill Burying Ground. It was Bro Newman, the sexton, who hung the two lanterns in the tower of nearby Old North Church to warn 'two if by sea'.

The tomb for unknown seamen who might be washed up on the shore of Boston Harbor, The Rev Phineas Stow dedicated the monument, then his own wife died and was the first to be interred there, She lies buried with the remains of dozens of seamen.



General view of Copp's Hill Burying Ground.



Monument for Bro Prince Hall, erected by Prince Hall Grand lodge. His actual tombstone is very small and behind this granite broken column – his wife is buried by his side, and is commemorated on the reverse side of his tombstone.

GO Exit Copps' Hill burying Ground by the gate at which you entered. Take a right and continue on Hull Street as it descends steeply.

STOP At the foot of Hull Street

The brick building on your left is a parking garage. The premises used to belong to the Brink's Company, and this was where the famous heist was made in January 1950. The robbers made off with 1.2 million in cash and 1.5 million in checks and securities – a huge amount back in 1950. The 1978 movie The Brinks Job – starring Peter Falk – gives you the details.

GO At foot of Hull Street turn left onto Commercial Street, then turn right over the Charlestown Bridge,

There's nothing left to see of it but a commemorative plaque, but this part of Commercial Street saw a major disaster in January 1919. A towering wooden storage tank containing molasses suddenly broke, and a sudden black wall of sticky molasses engulfed houses and residents, killing several, and almost bringing a train down from the el, which used to run along Commercial Street.

STOP about half way over Charlestown Bridge

The first bridge on this site, which connected Charlestown and Boston, opened in 1786 and proved to be useful, but insufficient to serve the growing population of Boston. To alleviate some of these traffic problems, the General Court authorized another bridge, the Warren Bridge, in 1828, named for Bro Joseph Warren who died at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The present steel bridge was opened in 1899. It used to have a second deck which took the elevated railway tracks. You can see to this day the middle unused roadway, which is where a streetcar also used to run. The middle section used to swing clear for boats making their way from Boston Harbor on your right up the Charles River to your left.



Charlestown Bridge which crosses Boston Harbor/Charles River from Boston to Charlestown. The Bunker Hill Monument (the destination of this tour) is on the right.

As you cross, look over to the harbor side, and on your left you should be able to see the masts of USS Constitution in the Navy Yard. Up on the hill to your left you can see the Bunker Hill Monument that is our destination for the day.

Over to the left of the Charlestown bridge you'll see the cable-stayed bridge known as the Zakim Bridge, which carries the interstate highway. At this one crossing spot there



are road bridges, the railroad bridge into North Station and the Col Gridley locks separating the Charles River from the ocean. They commemorate Bro Richard Gridley, a Revolutionary War military engineer who took part in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Gridley Locks (as seen from the Charlestown Bridge) control the flow of water from the Charles River into Boston Harbor. They are named for Bro Richard Gridley, Revolutionary War engineer.

If you look back from where you came, on the left you'll see the hill that is the North End, crowned by the white spire of Old North Church. From here you can see the very window in which the two lanterns were placed to signal to Bro Paul Revere in 1775, as he began his legendary ride.

GO Continue on completely across the bridge. Stay in the same direction and cross Chelsea Street to the small park directly ahead of you.

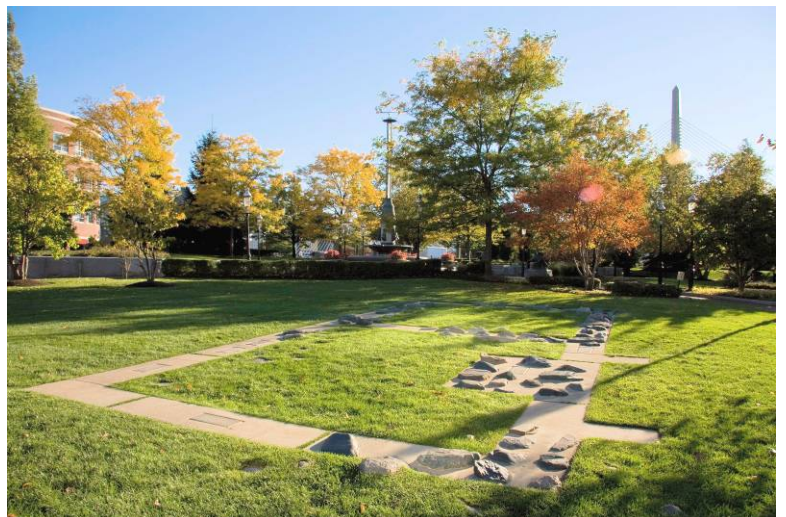
STOP in the little park

In the grass lawn of the park you'll see the remains of the Three Cranes Tavern, which was previously Governor John Winthrop's 'Great House' of 1629. All of these old buildings were destroyed in the artillery attack on Bunker Hill in 1775. Charlestown had to be rebuilt after 1775; first by wood frame houses, then by brick Georgian and Victorian houses, laid out on neat gaslit streets. You'll see many of the old gas lamps in



City Square, Charlestown with the remains of the 17th century Great House of the first settlers.

City Square, Charlestown.
The obelisk seen beyond the trees is a tower of the modern Zakim Bridge.



The obelisk seen beyond the trees is the Bunker Hill Monument.

GO Leave the park cater-corner from where you entered. Go along Main Street to 55 Main.

STOP at 55 Main Street

This 1790s Georgian residence was built for Deacon John Larkin, a patriot best remembered for his role in Paul Revere's legendary midnight ride. It was Larkin's horse that carried Revere out to Lexington and Concord to warn the Committee of Safety of the approaching British troops. Larkin's original house stood in nearby City Square. Along with the rest of Charlestown, it was destroyed during the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. This clapboard-sided house with a low third floor and quoin-embellished corners is a rare survivor from Charlestown's post-Revolutionary era of construction.



Deacon Larkin's House on Main Street, All the buildings in Charlestown date from after 1775, when the town was bombarded in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

By the way, Deacon Larkin never got his fine horse back. When Bro Revere was captured on the road to Concord, his horse was confiscated by British troops. Fortunately Bro Revere escaped without the horse!

GO Continue along Main Street to the corner of Pleasant Street on your right.



STOP at the corner of Main and Pleasant.

The Warren Tavern is located on the corner at 2 Pleasant Street

The Warren Tavern was probably the first building erected in Charlestown after the British razed the town during the Battle of Bunker Hill on 17 June 1775. It was founded by Captain Eliphelet Newell in 1780. Newell had been believed to have been a participant at the famous Boston Tea Party and as an ardent patriot and admirer of Dr. Joseph Warren, it is natural that he named his tavern after the fallen hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The old Warren Tavern, named for the hero of Bunker Hill, Bro Joseph Warren. You can remember our brother in true 18th century style by raising a glass to his

august memory!

Warren, because of his early death, is not popularly known today, except by Freemasons. As head of the committee for safety, and the Sons of Liberty, he was one of the prime movers of the revolution. In fact Lord North, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, described Warren to King George as "the greatest incendiary in North America". Warren by his nature, was not a radical, and it was only after years of failure in attempting closer ties between Great Britain and the colonies that he began his work to build a separate nation.

Other famous visitors to the Warren Tavern included Paul Revere, who had been a close friend of Warren's and stated often that the Tavern was one of his favorite watering places. King Solomon's Lodge met here for twenty years, and Grand Master Revere headed those meetings. After the Revolutionary War, General George Washington, on a visit to Charlestown to see his old friend Benjamin Frothingham, stopped here. After you've come to the end of the Masonic Walking Trail at the nearby Bunker Hill Memorial, what better than to retrace your steps to this watering hole, commemorating so amiable and exemplary a character as Bro Warren, and to emulate Bro Washington as he came from labor to refreshment?



GO

Continue past the Warren Tavern, along Pleasant Street to the intersection with Warren Street. Turn right then left up Monument Street. As you go, observe the charming wooden residences and

small flower-filled courtyards on Warren Street.

STOP at the top of Monument Street.

You now are standing in the large grassy Monument Square. Catch your breath a little and look around you. The monument looms above you.



The Grand Lodge contributed half a million dollars to the renovation of the Bunker Hill memorial, which has important Masonic connections. The monument was reopened in 2007 in a Masonic ceremonial attended by the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. Masonic donation also helped pay for the small Bunker Hill museum on your left, corner of Monument Street and Monument square. It's well worth a visit.

The Bunker Hill Museum

GO Across the street that is Monument Square and along Massachusetts Gate to the Monument itself.

STOP at the Monument.

The walkway known as Massachusetts Gate has a bronze statue of Colonel William Prescott of the colonial forces, who at the battle of Bunker Hill uttered those immortal words "Wait until you see the whites of their eyes." The volleys fired by Prescott's troops proved to be devastating to the tight ranks of advancing Redcoats.

The first monument to be built here after the battle was erected by King Solomon's Lodge to commemorate General Joseph Warren - on Masonic land that was later donated to the nation.

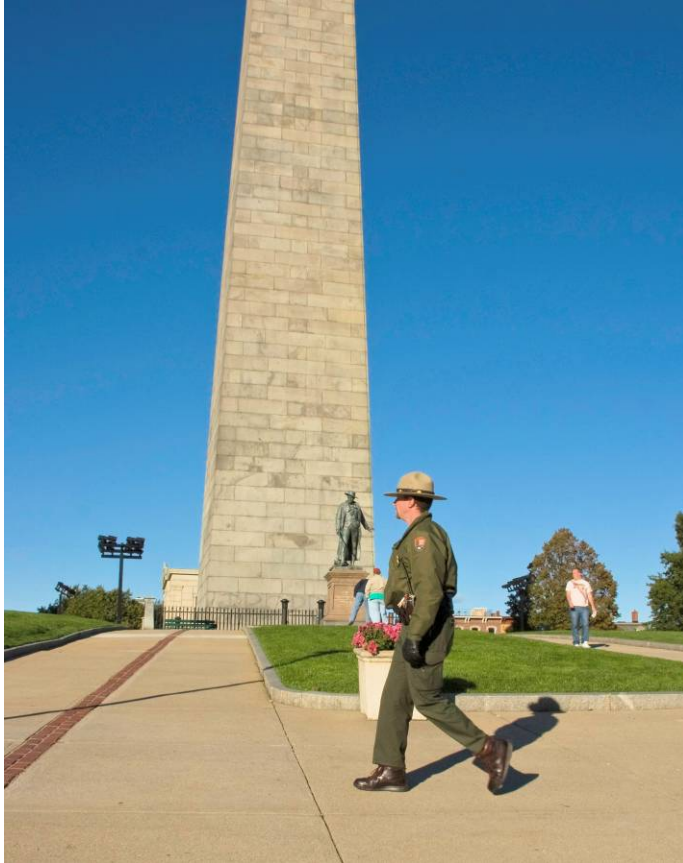
A statue of Colonel William Prescott commands the view of the Bunker Hill Memorial.

In the neoclassical pavilion adjacent to the monument -you can ask questions of the uniformed national Park Service staff. Before you ask, the monument has 294 steps. We don't recommend it for anyone with a heart condition!



There is nothing left of the battle that took place here in 1775. The Colonials' defensive works were erected by Col and Bro Richard Gridley. Being temporary earthworks only, they were easily destroyed by the rough hand of time and weather.

GO You might choose to go up the steps of the Monument. Admission is free. Even if you don't go up the steps, you should view the Masonic monument inside and at the base of the tower



The monument is now cared for by our National Park Service. Here a ranger walks past.

At the top of the monument you might have to catch your breath for a while! There are four narrow windows which give you a view over the surrounding area.

Look out the window above the staircase, and you'll see out to Boston Harbor, Boston Airport and the many Harbor Islands. You'll overlook the Navy Yard with the USS Constitution at berth. The big green bridge on the left is the Tobin Bridge, taking road traffic to the North Shore of Boston.

Going anticlockwise, the next window shows a view over the Zakim Bridge, and you'll see the gold dome of the Massachusetts State House atop Beacon Hill to your left. In the far distance you might see the Great Blue Hill from which the state of Massachusetts got its name.

THIS IS THE END OF THE SELF-GUIDED MASONIC WALKING TOUR

Notes on the Battle of Bunker Hill

"Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes!" This legendary order has come to symbolize the determination of the ill-equipped American colonists who faced the powerful British forces during the famous battle fought on this site on 17 June 1775. The battle is popularly known as "The Battle of Bunker Hill" although most of the fighting actually took place on adjacent Breed's Hill, which is the site of the existing monument. Today the towering 221-foot granite obelisk proudly marks the site of the first pitched battle of the American Revolution.

The Battle of Bunker Hill pitted a newly-formed and inexperienced colonial army against the more highly trained and better-equipped British. Despite the colonial army's shortcomings, it was led by such capable men as Colonel William Prescott, Colonel John Stark and General Israel Putnam, who had experience fighting alongside the British in the French and Indian War. Although the British Army ultimately prevailed in the battle, the colonists greatly surprised the British by repelling two major assaults and inflicting great casualties.

Before the Battle of Bunker Hill Bro Warren was a prominent revolutionary, who was elected Major General by the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts three days before the battle. Without military

education or experience, he was placed in the presence of the whole British army. Against the protests of General Artemus Ward, General Israel Putnam and others, Warren chose to shoulder a musket and join the fighting men behind the barricades on the hill. He felt a premonition of his death and had declared to General Palmer's wife Betsy, "Come, my little girl, drink a glass of wine with me for the last time, for I shall go to the hill tomorrow and I shall never come off."

Bro Warren had received a commission in December 1769 from the Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, appointing him Provincial Grand Master of Masons in Boston and within a 100 mile radius. When the Earl of Dumfries succeeded Dalhousie as Grand Master he issued another appointment to Warren, dated 7 March 1772, constituting him "Grand Master of Masons for the Continent of America," thus considerably extending his original limits!

The first monument on the site was an 18-foot wooden pillar with a gilt urn erected in 1794 by King Solomon's Masonic Lodge in honor of Bro Joseph Warren, and a replica of the pillar can be seen as you enter the base of the Monument. It is made of Italian marble and, including the granite pedestal on which it stands, is about nine feet in height and bears substantially the same inscription as the original. It's worth a visit, even if you don't venture to the top. By the way, admission to the monument is free.

Bro Warren's wife had predeceased him and the good doctor had to care for his four young children alone. After Warren's death the children were orphaned. A brother Mason came to the rescue, contributing the large sum of \$500 from his own pocket for their education. The good brother moreover succeeded in obtaining from congress the amount of a major-general's half-pay for the children's support, backdated from the date of the father's death. The kindly Brother Mason's name? General Benedict Arnold.

In 1823, a group of prominent citizens formed the Bunker Hill Monument Association to construct a more permanent and significant monument to commemorate the famous battle. King Solomon's Lodge gave the Association the ground which it owned, together with the monument it had erected to the memory of Bro. Warren, on condition that some trace of its former existence might be preserved in the monument to be erected.

On 17 June 1825, the 50th anniversary of the battle, Grand Lodge opened at 8:00am and a procession was formed on Boston Common across from the Grand Lodge building, which then processed to Bunker Hill. There, in the presence of Bro. Lafayette and Masonic representatives from New England states, Grand Master John Abbott and Senior Past Grand Master Isaiah Thomas assisted in laying the cornerstone. The Marquis de Lafayette was the most distinguished foreign guest of this occasion. His name headed the subscription list for the monument, and such was his enthusiasm for the enterprise that he wrote, "In all my travels through the country, I have made Bunker Hill my Polar Star." Both Bro Lafayette and Bro Daniel Webster addressed the great gathering. The apron that Lafayette wore on this occasion is in the possession of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

The Monument Association was forced to sell off all but the hill's summit in order to complete the monument, and the obelisk was finally completed in 1842 and dedicated on 17 June 1843, in a major national ceremony. Regrettably, this time there was no official Masonic presence, because this was the height of the anti-Masonic era. The Bunker Hill Monument was the first large public monument erected in the United States. The granite obelisk was built with granite from Quincy, Massachusetts and conveyed to the site by the first commercial railway in the US, which was built especially for that purpose.



The monument site was closed recently for restoration that was funded by the Park Service and a donation of half a million dollars from the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, in recognition of the strong Masonic connection.

The Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, MW Jeffrey Black Hodgdon, dedicating a stone at a ceremonial at the Bunker Hill Monument on Flag Day 2007.

We hope you have enjoyed this self-guided Masonic Tour that has taken you from Grand Lodge on Boston Common to the Masonic Bunker Hill monument. The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts is proud to have been a major donor to the restoration of America's first public monument.

The implements laid out for the Grand Master's re-dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument on 14 June 2007.

The goblets hold corn, wine and oil.

This Tour was prepared by the Grand Lodge Masonic Awareness Committee.

