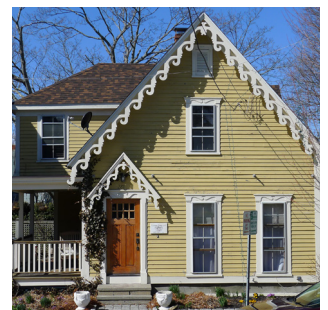


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Walking Tour

• Hope Street South •



Bristol Historical & Preservation Society

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WELCOME to Bristol!

Founded in 1680, **Bristol, Rhode Island**, was incorporated on September 1, 1681. Over time, **Hope Street**, the town's main thoroughfare, became home to many of the town's important residents and significant architecture. As you walk, you may choose to step off the beaten path, wander the side streets, and explore the town. Bristol's 24-block grid is easy to navigate and many buildings have plaques listing the original owner and date of construction. The Historic Hope Street Tour consists of two parts—one tour travels north and the other travels south. Each tour loop covers approximately one mile and begins and ends in front of the Burnside Memorial Hall at the southeast corner of Hope and Court Streets.

1 Burnside Memorial Hall 400 Hope Street (1883)

Burnside Memorial Hall was designed by Stephen C. Earle of Worcester, MA, to honor the memory of Ambrose Everts Burnside, Major-General in the Civil War, Governor of Rhode Island, and U.S. Senator from Rhode Island. Earle was one of the



first graduates of MIT's recently-founded school of architecture and had already designed the Rogers Free Library at 525 Hope Street. The Romanesque Revival building was dedicated as the Town Hall by President Chester A. Arthur and Rhode Island Governor, Augustus O. Bourn. It ceased functioning as Town Hall in 1969 and now serves as an annex to the present Town Hall, located directly behind it at 10 Court Street. In front of the Burnside Memorial is Bristol's Soldiers and Sailors Monument. The Civil War monument was made by the Gorham Company in 1914. Located behind the monument is the Bristol War Veterans Honor Roll Garden.

27 John Willard Russell House/St. Michael's Episcopal Church Office • 399 Hope Street (1810/1970s)

In 1810, John Willard Russell built this five-bay, Federal-style house for himself and his family. Russell sailed the Triangle Trade for William and James DeWolf and wrote frequently to his wife about his voyages in the slave trade. Their letters were published posthumously under the title, *The Romance of an Old-Time Shipmaster*. In 1919, the property was bequeathed to St. Michael's Church. The classroom wing was added during the 1970s.



28 James M. and Josephus Gooding House 407-409 Hope Street (1807)

In 1807, brothers James Madison Gooding, a goldsmith, and Josephus Gooding, a clock maker, began construction on this Federal-style house intending to live in it together. But before completion, the brothers quarreled, about what we do not know. It is rumored that they never spoke again. As a result, the housewright was ordered to tear out the single entrance and interior stairway and replace it with two, dividing the house into two sections each occupied by a brother and his family. Eventually, the whole house was owned by Gertrude Guiteras, who left it to



the Congregational Church with the stipulation that if sold, the proceeds were to be donated to the Guiteras Library in Matanzas, Cuba. In 2000, when the church did sell the property, the money was

donated to a Cuban monastery in Florida, thereby fulfilling the spirit of Gertrude's will.

Point of Interest

Between the years 1739 and 1939, 1,289 vessels were registered from the Bristol/Warren Customs District; 3,352 from the Newport Customs District and 6,716 from the Providence Customs District.



25

William H. Bell Block • 361-365 Hope Street, (1879)
(Description, previous page)

2 St. Michael's Parish House (Episcopal)
378 Hope Street (c.1870)

St. Michael's Chapel/ Parish House was designed by Stephen C. Earle. The Gothic Revival style echoes that of the church across the street at 375 Hope Street. The bell tower dates to 1961 and serves as a memorial to the parents of Anna C. Gress. Most of its bells came from the congregation of the former Trinity Episcopal Church, which still stands at 850 Hope St. and today serves as the V.F.W. Hall.



26 St. Michael's Episcopal Church
375 Hope Street (1860)



St. Michael's parish dates to 1720. It was one of four mission churches founded in Rhode Island by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The present building dates to 1860 and is the fourth church on the site. St. Michael's was one of the first Gothic-style structures to be built on Hope Street. Architects Saeltzer & Valk of New York and George Ricker of Newark had intended to clad the church in granite but the material was changed to sandstone during construction. The picturesque design features a steep gable roof, side aisles, and gabled entry porch with a pointed arch opening.

3 David Leonard House
366 Hope Street (1808 /c.1864)

Daniel Leonard, postmaster and editor of Bristol's first newspaper, *The Mount Hope Eagle*, built this Federal-style house in 1808. The central entrance, two flanking bays, decorative second-story window, and classical moldings date from this period. However, the mansard roof, dormer windows, and decorative front porch are later and probably were added for Captain Augustus N. Miller, who purchased the house in 1864. Together, the styles unite two key periods of Bristol's history, the Federal-era and the post-Civil War period.



Point of Interest

Nathaniel Byfield is credited with having built the first ship in Bristol in 1686. It was named the "Bristol Merchant" and took a shipment of Narragansett Pacer horses to Dutch Suriman (South America).

4

Royal Diman House

344 Hope Street (1792/c.1937)

Royal Diman, a cooper and merchant trader, had this house built in 1792. Although small by today's standards, the house was quite large and well decorated for its time. It features an asymmetrical façade and a fine, pedimented entrance with fluted Ionic pilasters. In 1937, Marion Paull restored the interior using period woodwork and moldings from several houses being razed on Thames Street. These houses were demolished to make way for the construction of the Premiere Thread factory, now Stone Harbor Condominiums.



5

Barnard Smith/Capt. Daniel N. Morice House

328 Hope Street (ca.1795)

This Federal style house was built for Barnard Smith, a "hat maker" by trade. The property was inherited by his wife, Elizabeth, through the estate of her father, Capt. Mark Anthony DeWolf. She was 17 at the time of the marriage on September 20, 1792. The lunette window in the attic gable, as well as the hip-breaking gable roof are unusual features. On August 20, 1810, the house was purchased



by Captain Daniel N. Morice, a French refugee from Haiti. Morice became a naturalized citizen in Philadelphia, PA, on June 20, 1806. Rumors were locally spread by sharp tongued gossips, that he had been a spy for Napoleon.

Point of Interest

In the years between 1821 and 1861, an average of 16 whaling vessels per year set out from Warren, RI, with an average crew of 25. The cost of building one whaling vessel in 1844 was approx. \$31,000 plus \$20,000 to outfit it for a 2 year voyage. Today, that would equal 1.3 million dollars!

23

John Howe House/Four Eagles

341 Hope Street (1808)

This house was constructed in 1808 for John Howe, a lawyer and politician, after his marriage to Louisa Smith. The Federal-style structure has a central entrance with fanlight and sidelights beneath an entry porch. Look up at the Chinese Chippendale balustrade on the roof to the four eagles that reside on the balustrade's corners. The eagles were placed there by Benjamin Churchill, captain of the privateer Yankee, who purchased the house in 1822. Tradition holds that the eagles were carved by crew members and presented to Churchill. In 1825, the house was purchased by Byron Diman, who enlarged it considerably. Diman served as Governor of Rhode Island from 1846 to 1847.



24

William Fales House

353 Hope Street (1797, moved c.1879)

(pictured below)

25

William H. Bell Block • 361-365 Hope Street (1879)*(photo next page)*

Although it may not look it, the William Fales House and the William H. Bell Block share a history. The Fales House was



built in 1797 at the corner of Hope and Church Streets for William Fales, a wealthy merchant in the West Indies trade. Originally, it was a simpler structure, with a hip roof and side entrance. William H. Bell purchased the property in

1876, moved the house south to its present location, and added the front and side porches in 1879. He then built the Bell Block in brick with granite trim and a cast iron storefront. The first floor originally housed Bell's furniture store and the upper floor has been used continually from the date of construction for Masonic meetings by St. Alban's Lodge.

21 Susan Gorham Cottage
281 Hope Street (c.1855/1867)

In 1855, after the death of her husband, Susan Gorham sold her family farm on Bristol Neck and purchased this empty lot. She built this charming Carpenter Gothic cottage, a rare example of the style in Bristol. The house retains many of its characteristic features, including decorative bargeboard along the gables and the scrolled motif in the lintels over the windows. The rear addition and porch were built in 1867.



22 Priscilla Lindsey House
295 Hope Street (1789)

Priscilla Talbee Lindsey was the daughter of Edward Talbee and the wife of Stephen Lindsey. In 1787, Edward gave this lot to Priscilla, possibly in celebration of her marriage. Stephen was a housewright and built the house, but Priscilla owned the land throughout their marriage. The gambrel roof and side entrance form was typical for Newport, but less common in Bristol. The northern wing is a later addition.



6 Samuel Smith/Mary P. Paine House
290 Hope Street (c.1745/1810 et seq)



Samuel Smith built this house in 1745. Smith was a cordwainer (shoemaker) and the one-story ell at the rear likely served as his shop. Living and working in the same structure was common practice during the mid-eighteenth century. The house remained in the family until 1962.

7 Colt Apartments
262 Hope Street, (1918)

Samuel Pomeroy Colt commissioned local architect Wallis E. Howe to design this apartment building to house the managers of the U.S. Rubber Company. Exuberantly Greco-Roman with its Ionic portico and pediment, this house consists of 4 units with a separate space in the attic and represents a lively departure from the typical twentieth-century apartment-block.



8 Frederick A. Easterbrooks House
232 Hope Street (c.1879)



Grocer Frederick A. Easterbrooks built this house in 1879. Victorian-Eastlake details include the scrolled motifs on the bay and along the roofline, and the brackets on the windows, roof, and entrance. This was the childhood home of Mary Cantwell, whose memoir, *American Girl*,

reflects on life in Bristol in the 1940s and 1950s. Easterbrooks owned a grocery store located at 467 Hope Street. (see *Hope Street Walking Tour North*)

9

Timothy French House

224 Hope Street (1803)

Housewright Timothy French built this house for himself in 1803. The use of brick as a building material is important because it reflected the affluence of its owner. At this time, brick cost more money than wood and had to be imported. If you look closely at the brick pattern, you can see rows where the bricks are placed with their ends facing out mixed in among rows where the sides of the bricks face out. This pattern, called English bond, makes for stronger walls by interlocking the bricks at various points.



10

Captain James Davis Ingraham

202 Hope Street (c.1838)

The Captain James Davis Ingraham House is both old and new. The original Greek Revival House faces south and features paneled cornerboards, a front door with sidelights, and a Stick-style porch with jigsaw balusters (added later). In 1993-95, the house was expanded with an addition to the north. Altogether, the house shows how sensitive additions and alterations to historic buildings can respect the values of each period of time.



19

Captain Joseph M. Coit House

259 Hope Street (1818)

In 1818, Joseph M. Coit, a sea captain and ship-builder, hired local housewright Isaac Borden to construct this Federal-style house. Borden's signature was the semi-circular door surround with



fan light and columns—a copy of this motif can be seen at Borden's own house at 159 High Street. The Coit house is otherwise a typical Federal-style sea captain house, with five bays, central entrance, and

gable roof. It was heavily damaged by fire in 1975 and was restored with assistance from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

20

John W. Munro House/Linden Place Barn

275 Hope Street (c.1810, c.1866)

The John W. Munro House might be Bristol's most eccentric house. Munro owned a hardware store and wallpaper business. In 1866, Samuel Colt, who was one of Munro's customers gave Munro a wooden barn that stood on the Linden Place property. Munro moved the barn to this site, possibly merged it with an earlier structure, added a story and false roof, and turned it into his residence. Of particular note is the elaborate woodwork surrounding the door.

**Point of Interest**

Bristol is the site of the oldest continuous Fourth of July Celebration in America. First held in 1785, the Celebration was started by Bristolians who had taken part in the Revolutionary War.

17

Barnes House/Wyndstowe/Edgewater

221 Hope Street (1899, c.1950s, 1983)

Best viewed from park at base of Union Street

Like Miramar, Wyndstow was also built as a summer home. Isoline and Hattie Barnes, two sisters from Boston, hired local architect Wallis E. Howe, who would go on to design the Colt Apartments at 262 Hope Street, to do the job. This Queen Anne-style house features steep roofs, varied cladding materials, and intricate woodwork. The sisters must have become close to Howe, because they willed the house to him in 1935. The hip-roofed wing was added in 1983 when the building was converted to condominiums.



18

Edward Wainwright Brunsen House

249 Hope Street (1862, 1910)

Edward Wainwright Brunsen was a partner in the local sugar refinery of Sherry, Camp & Brunsen. The original house includes the central entrance beneath a fan-light, and a deck-on-hip roof. In 1910, a new owner, Dr. Frederick Williams, built the Colonial Revival addition on the north side to use as his office. The front porch dates to this period as well.



11

Bristol Fire Arms Factory

1 Burnside Street (1857, raised up in 1863)

The complex of buildings located at the corner of Burnside and Hope Streets was home to the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, established by John Brown Herreshoff in 1863. Despite being blind, J.B. was an extremely talented boat designer and naval innovator. In 1878, J.B. expanded his operation by partnering with his brother, Captain Nathaniel Greene Herreshoff. Their product line included steam yachts, sail yachts, and the first U.S. Navy torpedo board (Lightning). Five Herreshoff-designed boats successfully defended the America's Cup six times between 1893 and 1920. Though the company changed hands several times, it produced two



more successful America's Cup defenders before it ceased operation in 1945. Family members opened the Herreshoff Marine Museum in 1971 to preserve the Herreshoff legacy. On the land side, the complex retains

several manufacturing buildings. On the water side, two long piers mark the locations of two former warehouses in which boats were built and launched. (www.herreshoff.org)

12

Lemuel Clark Richmond/Herreshoff House

142 Hope Street (c.1800, c.1870, c.1926)

The Richmond/Herreshoff House was built in 1800 by Lemuel Clark Richmond, a whaler who owned over 20 ships. By 1854, the house had passed to William H.S. Bailey, publisher of *The Bristol Phoenix*.

Then, in 1863, Charles F. and Julia A. Herreshoff bought the house, moving their family from a farm on Poppasquash to this more "urban" area. Herreshoff sons J.B. and Nat grew up racing



their boats nearby in Narragansett Bay and established the world-renowned Herreshoff Manufacturing Company (see 1 Burnside Street). The house is presently owned by the Herreshoff Marine Museum.

13 **Caroline L. Chesebrough House**
140 Hope Street (1878)

By the early 1870s, the boat empire that J.B. Herreshoff had founded in 1863 was beginning to attract clients from outside Rhode Island. In 1878, the same year that J.B. and Nat joined in partnership, their sister, Caroline Chesebrough, purchased this part of the family's property



and built a large, Second Empire house. Caroline operated the property as a guest house for the Herreshoff clientele for several decades until the Belvedere/Bradford Hotel was constructed in 1901. (see *Hope Street Walking Tour North*)

14 **The Mumma House**
138 Hope Street (c.1994)

This late 20th-century home was designed for the Mumma family by local restoration architect, Lombard John Pozzi. It was located just west of the original Seven Oaks Carriage House, which was destroyed by a fire in February of 1980. It was designed to fit in with the surrounding historic neighborhood and to suit its narrow sixty-foot wide lot, while taking full advantage of the view of Bristol Harbor. This Victorian Revival-style home has a stepped mansard roof, which is achieved by varying the ceiling heights of the interior. The colors and patterning on the various roof levels and the details of the porches (which derive from Bristol's Longfield) add to the visual quality of this house.



Point of Interest

New Englander and Early American mathematician Nathaniel Bowditch (1773-1838) penned a book on maritime navigation. It was first published in 1802 and is still carried on every American Naval vessel.

15 **Seven Oaks/Augustus O. Bourn House**
136 Hope Street (1873)

In 1863, Augustus O. Bourn founded the National India Rubber Company, which was headquartered in the large, stone complex on Wood Street between State and Franklin Streets. Ten years later, he hired New York architect James Renwick, designer of



the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, DC, to build this picturesque house. The high tower, pointed dormers, and asymmetric plan are all hallmarks of Gothic Revival style. Ten years after constructing this house, Bourn was elected Governor of Rhode Island and later served as U.S. Consul

to Italy. The National India Rubber Company fell on hard times late in the nineteenth century and was resurrected by Samuel Pomeroy Colt as the U.S. Rubber Company. A major employer in Bristol for much of the twentieth century, its buildings still stand on Wood Street.



👉 *The tour now returns to the **Burnside Memorial Hall**. Crossing Hope St. at this point is not advised. Please retrace your steps back to Union Street and cross at the crosswalk to the west side of Hope Street. The tour continues from there.*



16 **Miramar, "The Tides"**
217 Hope Street (1893/1986)

While Newport is well known for its summer resort culture, many tourists opted for Bristol's quiet and relaxed atmosphere. Joshua Wilbour, a banker and State Senator from Providence, hired architect Edward I. Nickerson to design this stately Colonial Revival home. Wilbour summered in the house briefly before selling the property to Isabella DeWolf, who lived here until



1936. Miramar's best features are its wraparound porches and varied windows, which took advantage of the site's dramatic views. In 1986, Miramar was converted into condominiums.