



PORT PARKS ALLIANCE



SOUTH END WALKING GUIDE

- 1 - MARCH'S HILL
- 2 - ATWOOD PARK & GARRISON GARDENS
- 3 - RAIL TRAIL
- 4 - JOPPA PARK
- 5 - PERKINS PLAYGROUND



1 - MARCH'S HILL

A field once lay at the foot of March's Hill, named after early owners, and stretching to High Street, until the Boston & Maine Railroad mined gravel there, creating a pit. During the War of 1812, an observatory atop what was then called "Lunt's Hill" allowed views of ships at the mouth of the Merrimack River. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) erected a water tower there in 1939.

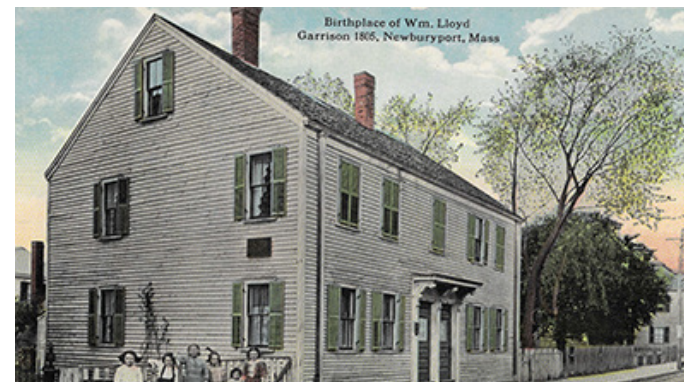


Bill Lane Photograph Collection, Courtesy of the Newburyport Public Library.

2 - ATWOOD PARK & GARRISON GARDENS

Site of the George W. Jackman School until 1975, Atwood Park is named for Margaret Ford Atwood (1754-1832), who lived nearby at 54-56 Lime Street. Widowed at a young age, Margaret raised two sons and for decades managed the family businesses herself, including Atwood Wharf and its warehouses, at least four ships, and properties on High Street.

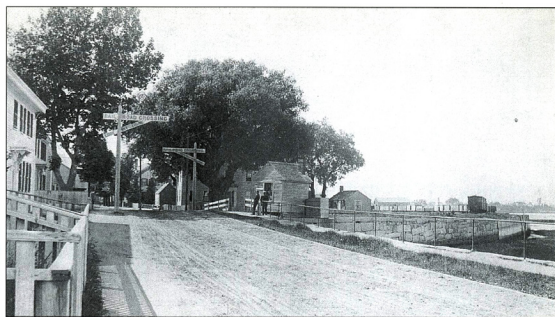
Garrison Gardens is located directly across the street from the birthplace of William Lloyd Garrison, an abolitionist and journalist who published *The Liberator* newspaper in Boston for over 30 years until slavery was finally abolished nationwide. Arguably Newburyport's most famous son, Garrison promoted "immediate emancipation", with no compensation paid to slaveholders.



Courtesy of Andrea Eigerman collection.

3 - RAIL TRAIL

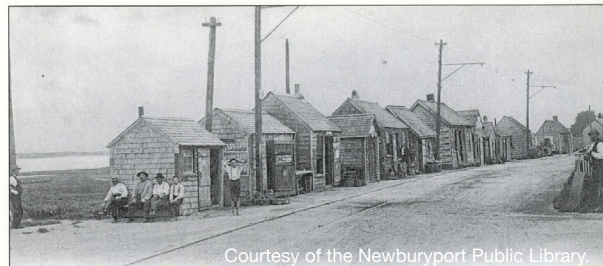
Formed in 1869, the Newburyport City Railroad Company ran a freight line starting at today's MBTA Commuter Rail Station, curving counterclockwise through the South End, and terminating at what is now Market Landing Park, then the site of large a "coal pocket."



RAILROAD CROSSING ON WATER STREET (c. 1892 PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN W. WINDER). A pair of tall, wooden railroad-crossing signs in the vicinity of Harrison Street admonish horse-drawn vehicle drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians to be aware of slow-moving freight trains of the former City Railroad, such as the one making its way beside the granite retaining wall toward the wharves by the center of the city. (Courtesy Nason Collection.)

4 - JOPPA PARK

The Joppa neighborhood likely takes its name from the primary seaport of biblical Judea. Fisherman and clammers lived and worked here for centuries, putting out in small vessels from near the foot of today's Neptune Street and Beacon Avenue, and using the waterfront to dry nets and fish, and to shell clams.



CLAM DIGGERS AND THEIR SHANTIES, "JOPPA" (1905 POSTCARD BY THE ROTOGRAPH COMPANY). The waterfront area along Water Street, somewhere between Somerby's Court and Rolfie's Lane, is known as Joppa Flats and has been referred to and pronounced by many locals as "Jopper" or "Joppy." A line of picturesque shingled shanties, or shacks, followed the curve in the road near Union Street at Flat Iron Point. They were used seasonally by clammers to store their equipment and perhaps to get a respite from family life.

5 - PERKINS PLAYGROUND

A coal gasification plant expanded onto fisherman and clammer William H. Perkins' land in 1900. The gasworks closed in 1926, and the utility company sold the land to the city in 1945. The playground was named after City Councilor Edward G. Perkins, a long-time public servant.



SOUTH END WALKING GUIDE

1 - MARCH'S HILL

This 5+ acre park is located on High Street at the top of Bromfield Street.

2 - ATWOOD PARK & GARRISON GARDENS

Located between Atwood and School Streets, between Federal and Lime Streets.

3 - RAIL TRAIL

The Rail Trail extends in a loop from Market Landing Park, east past Joppa Park and then south past March's Hill, west along Parker Street, and then follows the old rail alignment north, to the Merrimack River, back to Market Landing Park.

4 - JOPPA PARK

Located at Water and Harrison Streets.

5 - PERKINS PLAYGROUND

Located on Beacon Avenue, between Union and Lincoln Streets.

