

Introduction

Although a formal Revolutionary battle was never fought in Cambridge, its citizens witnessed more than their share of its events. The town endured two military occupations, first by their own countrymen, the Continental Army, and later by their enemies, British General John Burgoyne and the Convention Troops. The town of Cambridge opposed early British parliamentary legislation, but after it became clear a compromise could not be reached, the pen was traded in for the sword. Cambridge citizens flocked to volunteer for the Revolutionary cause.

This tour hopes to shed light on the Revolutionary events that occurred in Cambridge. It is intended to personify its leaders, highlighting both their strengths and their humanity. It also hopes to take the viewer back to a time before the United States was born, before the Constitution was ratified, and before an American victory was assumed.

To Use

Upon reaching a site, dial **617-517-5990** to hear an introductory greeting. At any point, dial the extension listed next to each site in the map section of the brochure. After dialing the number, you will hear a narrative about the site and its role in Revolutionary events. Then a prompt will offer two additional options: an extended explanation of the site or an opportunity to leave feedback about the narration, or you can simply end the call.

This tour was written by Anna Gedal. It was produced by the Cambridge Historical Society through the generous support of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

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Return to

The Cambridge Historical Society
159 Brattle Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Cambridge and the American Revolution



Cell Phone Tour

617-517-5990

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Start your tour at the intersection of Mass. Ave. and J.F.K. St.

1. The Harvard Square Subway Kiosk Extension 1 #, extended version 2

Introduction: Events leading to the American Revolution

Turn and look inside Harvard Yard to the site of

2. The Fourth Meetinghouse Extension 3 #, extended version 4

A discussion of controversial acts of British parliamentary legislation

Walk down Brattle St. to Mount Auburn St., then down Mount Auburn (6 blocks) to

3. Longfellow Park Extension 5 #, extended version 6

The Tory Row (Brattle Street) estates

Walk through Longfellow Park to 105 Brattle Street

4. The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House Extension 7 #, extended version 8

The mansion of John Vassall and the headquarters of General George Washington

Walk down Brattle St. to 94 Brattle St.

5. The Henry Vassall House Extension 9 #, extended version 10

The headquarters and later prison of Dr. Benjamin Church, the Continental Army's first surgeon general, who was tried as a spy

Continue down Brattle St. to 44 Brattle St.

6. The William Brattle House Extension 11 #, extended version 12

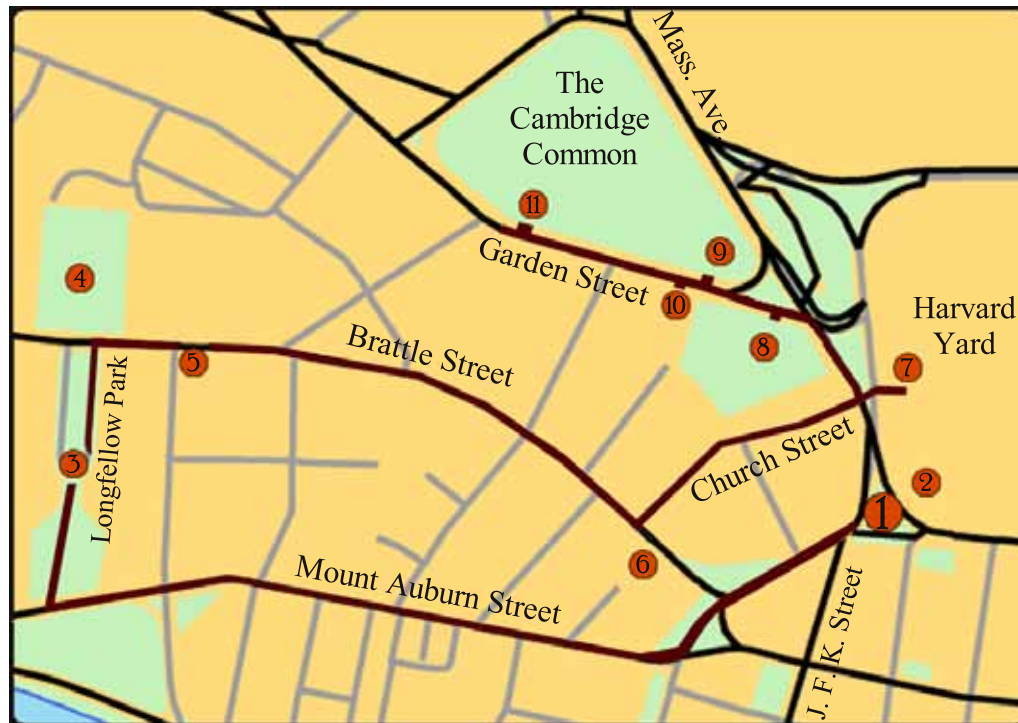
The home of the distinguished loyalist general who almost started the Revolutionary War

Cross Brattle and walk up Church St. Cross Mass. Ave. and enter Harvard Yard. On your left is

7. Harvard Hall Extension 13 #, extended version 14

Harvard College's contribution to the Revolutionary cause

Leave Harvard Yard, cross Mass. Ave., and walk up Garden St. to



8. The Old Burying Ground Extension 15 #, extended version 16

The site of the burial of three Cantabrigians who died fighting the British during the retreat from Lexington and Concord

Look across Garden St. to

9. The Cambridge Common Extension 17 #, extended version 18

The site of the encampment of the Continental Army throughout the Siege of Boston

Continue up Garden St. to

10. Christ Church Extension 19 #, extended version 20

During the Revolution, this church reopened its doors to hold services at the request of Martha Washington, as well as General Burgoyne and the Convention Troops

Cross Garden St. to the Cambridge Common and walk along the path to the cannons

11. The Washington Elm Extension 21

Legend has it that under this tree on July 3, 1775, General Washington took command of the Continental Army.