

REVOLUTIONARY PROVIDENCE SELF-GUIDED BIKE TOUR: SOUTH LOOP

RI BICYCLE COALITION + RI HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION



Take a spin to Providence places associated with the Revolutionary War. STOP at numbered sites and spot ■ additional sites along the way.
Look for plaques and signs that tell the story. Come back to *sites for a guided tour.

START@150 Benefit St.
Walk down N. Court St.
Stand on brownstone steps.
The building IS under there!

L on South Court St, R on Benefit
STOP at SW corner of Hopkins/Benefit

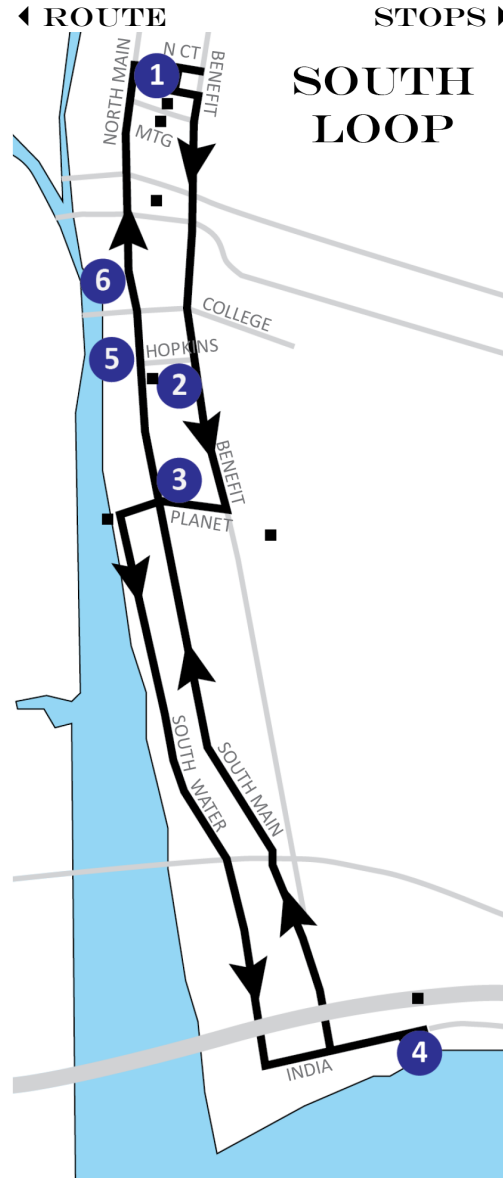
Continue on Benefit
Ahead on L: ***John Brown House (1786+)**
Return for a tour. JB was larger than life.
R on Planet St
R into driveway before S Main and STOP

Continue on Planet St
L on South Water St, continue across
Point St and under I-195
L on India St
STOP at park entrance on R. Look @water

Turn around on India St
R on South Main back under I-195
Continue on S Main just past Hopkins St.
Cross S Main to STOP in Memorial Park.

Walk bike north on sidewalk
Cross College St
STOP at Market House

Cross st (now N Main), continuing past
■ ***First Baptist Church (1774-75)** built by
Boston shipbuilders/carpenters
■ **Shakespeare's Head (1772)** publish
pro-patriot *Prov. Gazette* (up Meeting St)
END on N Main by Old State House



DISTANCE: 3 MILES

STOPS ▶

SOUTH LOOP

1 OLD STATE HOUSE (1760-62+)

Undergoing restoration (no plaques visible). On May 4, 1776, the R.I. General Assembly met here to repeal an act of allegiance to the King. Was it Rhode Island's "Declaration of Independence?" Discuss.

■ Across S Court: **Brick School House (1769)** also used as an arsenal.

2 *STEPHEN HOPKINS HOUSE (1708+)

View plaque (Hopkins's resume) in front of house and visit the garden. Hopkins was a complex man. Come back for a house tour.

3 HMS GASPEE MARKER

View both sides of the granite marker. Gaze downhill to where
■ **Fenner's Wharf** used to be; the Sons of Providence boarded longboats here, heading down river to attack the *Gaspee* on June 6, 1772.

4 INDIA POINT PARK ENTRANCE

In the lead up to war, several forts were installed along the shore to protect Providence from attack by sea. ■ **Fox Hill Fort (1775)** was located behind you, and **Robin Hill Fort (1775)** was at Field's Point.

5 WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU WAYSIDE SIGN [rude graffiti]

@Across S. Main: ■ **Joseph Brown House (1774)** Home of a Son of Providence. Also Quarters for a French military official 1781 and 1782.

6 MARKET HOUSE (1775+)/MARKET SQUARE

Market/town hall was Providence's civic center. Site of Providence Tea Party on March 2, 1775. Served as barracks for French soldiers in 1781.

1 OLD STATE HOUSE (1760-62+)

In 1781 General Washington visited here. In 1790 President Washington returned to celebrate Rhode Island's ratification of the Constitution. If you hate hills, it's time for you to celebrate: you have completed the North Loop! If you like moderate hills, start the South Loop.

REVOLUTIONARY PROVIDENCE SELF-GUIDED BIKE TOUR: NORTH LOOP

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START on North Main St, looking up hill at the Old State House. The building IS under there!

Continue on N Main to NE corner of N Main/Olney
Walk on sidewalk to Liberty Tree and STOP

Back on bike, continue on N Main
L on Branch Ave and STOP at cemetery entrance

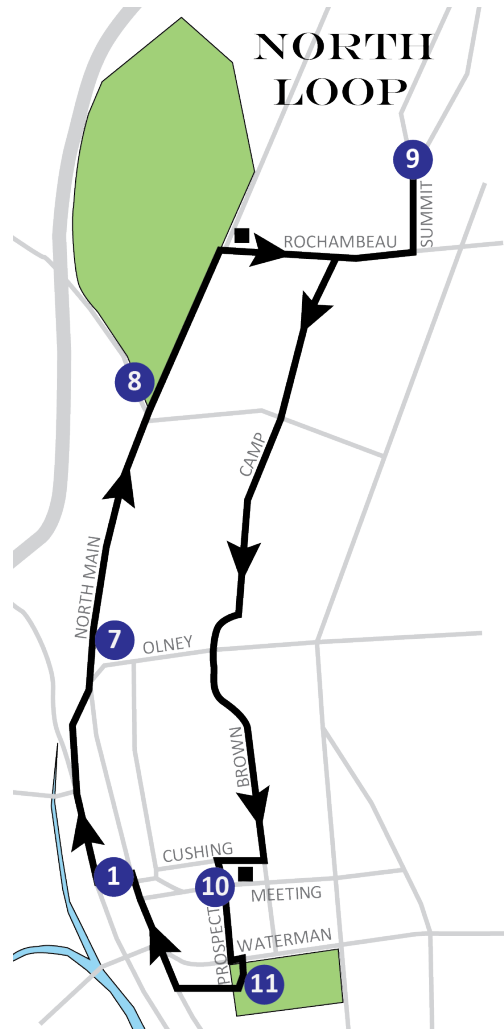
Cross N Main
R on Rochambeau Ave past ■ **J. Dexter House (1754)**. L on Summit to Brewster. STOP

Reverse direction on Summit, R on Rochambeau, L on Camp St (later Brown), R on Cushing St past ■ **Powder House**, L on Prospect to STOP at Meeting

L on Waterman St
Enter Brown University campus from sidewalk gate and STOP at...

Exit through Van Wickle gates on to College St
R on Benefit
L on South Court and END.

◀ ROUTE STOPS ▶



DISTANCE: 4 MILES

1 OLD STATE HOUSE (1760-62+)

Did you ride the South Loop? Do that before you start the North Loop. That's why the next stop is 7.

7 LIBERTY TREE (1768/1968)

On March 12, 1766, Providence's Daughters of Liberty boycotted British imports by producing homespun textiles at a communal spinning bee. On July 25, 1768, the Sons of Liberty dedicated a Liberty Tree on this spot. Speaker Silas Downer charged that Parliament lacked "any lawful right to make any laws whatsoever to bind us."

8 *NORTH BURIAL GROUND (1700+)

Final resting place of many R.I. Revolutionaries—Gaspee Raiders, Daughters of Liberty, soldiers, and officers; "Our Allies in the Revolution" monument to French. Temporarily closed. Return for a visit or go to <https://tinyurl.com/y86pww>

9 MONUMENT TO FRENCH TROOPS (1907)

In 1780, the Comte de Rochambeau and ~7000 troops arrived in Newport to aid the American cause. Returning from Yorktown in 1782, they set up camp on **Jeremiah Dexter's** farm. Camp Street and Rochambeau Avenue recall this history.

10 SITE OF PROSPECT HILL BEACON (1775)

Look up! On this site stood a 90' pole topped with a beacon to be set ablaze to warn of a British attack. The ■ **Powder House (c. 1765)** was located here to store gunpowder (before its move to Cushing St). Also nearby: **Prospect Hill Fort (1775)**.

11a SLAVERY MEMORIAL (2014) recognizing the work of Africans and African Americans who built Brown as well as Brown's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

11b UNIVERSITY HALL (1770) served as barracks/hospital for American troops starting in 1776 and a hospital for French troops in 1781. See plaques on the W, N.

1 OLD STATE HOUSE (1760-62+)

In 1908, the General Assembly designated May 4 as Rhode Island Independence Day. It's not exactly an anniversary of independence and not a state holiday. Nonetheless, May the Fourth be with you. Celebrate the end of your ride!