Downtown Portsmouth

Today's downtown includes sites of the earliest urban settlement, the waterfront, homes of the early merchants, and, consequently, the earliest enslavements. Enslavement of Africans was part of Portsmouth life by 1645, although the first records of Portsmouth merchants participating in the slave trade were in the 1680s, with captives mostly male children and adolescents sold directly from ship or dockside near the area where Prescott Park is now. A 1775 census reported 656 enslaved Africans in New Hampshire, mostly in Portsmouth and adjacent towns. Since colonial times, Portsmouth's population has remained 2 to 4 percent Black.

Downtown Portsmouth Map Key

1 †Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire office, 222 Court St.

2 Governor John Langdon House, 143 Pleasant St.

3 William Pitt Tavern, 416 Court St., Strawbery Banke Museum

4 *†Docks & view of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Prescott Park

5 Sherburne House, Strawbery Banke campus

6 South Meeting House, 280 Marcy St.

7 *NH Gazette, corner of Howard & Washington Streets [private]

8 †Cooper House & Beauty Shop, 171 Washington St. [private]

9 Stoodley's Tavern, 14 Hancock St., Strawbery Banke Museum

10 Penhallow House, 93 Washington St., Strawbery Banke Museum

11 †Warner House, 150 Daniel St.

12 Saint John's Church, 100 Chapel St.

13 Waterfront, Ceres Street

14 Moffatt-Ladd House, 154 Market St.

15 *Black Whipple House, 127 High St. [private]

16 Meeting Rooms, 14-16 Market Square, corner of Daniel & Pleasant Streets

17 *†Town Pump and Stocks, next to North Church

18 North Church, Market Square

19 *†Pomp & Candace Spring House & Bakery, Church Street

20 *The Music Hall (The Temple), Chestnut Street at Congress Street

21 †John Paul Jones House, 43 Middle St.

22 Rockingham House, 401 State St. [private]

23 African Burying Ground, Chestnut Street, between Court & State Streets

24 South Church, 292 State St.

* The original structure no longer exists

† No descriptive plaque

BHTNH Office
222 Court St.
Waterfront,
Ceres Street
Moffatt-Ladd,
154 Market St.
Old Harbour
MAINE
NEW HAMPSHIRE
Memorial Bridge
Marcy St
Mechanic St
Gardner St
Manning St
Gates St
Howard St
Washington St
Hancock St
Richmond St
Pleasant St
Edward St
Junkins Ave
Court St
Mast Lane
Puddle Lane
Atkinson St
Dutton Ave
Scott Ave
Daniel St
State Street
Chapel St
Sheafe St
Bow St
Penhallow St
Market St
Ceres St
Ladd St
Church St
Porter St
Court Pl
Fleet St
High St
Haven Ct
Congress Street
Rogers St
Mark St
Vaughan Mall
Middle Street
Maplewood Ave
Bridge St
Hanover St
Portwalk Pl
Deer St
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