

④ Bridgham Farm & Newman Oak



A park is all that remains of the colonial era Bridgham Farm, the last sizable tract of undeveloped, pristine farmland, once part of the ancient Rehoboth “Ring of the Green”, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Farm can be accessed at a small parking lot near the intersection of Pleasant and Miller Street in East Providence. It is contiguous with a walking path which skirts the Turner Reservoir from Route 152 south to Pleasant Street.

This property serves as valuable protection for the adjoining Turner Reservoir, once the source of drinking water for East Providence.

The champion Newman Oak, at the southern edge of the Farm next to the Brigham Farm Road cul-de-sac entrance, is believed to be at least 400 years old.

⑤ Philip Walker House



The Phillip Walker House (also known as the Deacon Walker House) is an historic American Colonial house at 432 Massasoit

Avenue in East Providence, Rhode Island.

It is the second oldest house in East Providence and the oldest known sawn-timber frame house in Rhode Island.

The house’s paneling was salvaged from an earlier house on the site, documented to have been constructed in 1679. The right half of the existing house is the original built in 1724; the left hand side was added c. 1780.

Owned by Preserve Rhode Island since 1982 and used as a study house for historic preservation students and professionals, it is currently being rehabilitated and is not open to the public.

⑥ Hunt’s Mills on the Ten-Mile River



The Ten Mile River flows for twenty-two miles from Plainville, MA, to East Providence and once provided water power to a series of mills built

along its banks from 1643 to 1893.

The mills in the 1643 Rehoboth Purchase were first located along the Ten Mile River by Stephen Payne as early as 1645. In 1671 Israel Sabin and Payne were operating four mills on this site along the River.

A recreation area known as Hunt’s Mills Amusement Park operated around the c. 1750 John Hunt House from the 1890s until the dance hall burned in 1925 and the amusement park closed forever.

Hunt’s Mills serves as the East Providence Historical Society headquarters at 65 Hunts Mill Road and is open to the public from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the second Sunday every month except in January and February.

⑦ Bold Point



Bold Point sits across from Providence on the Seekonk River in East Providence and has views of Upper Narragansett

Bay and the Seekonk River.

Indigenous people used the shallow water by the Point as a ford across the Seekonk River.

India Point, located on the other side of the River, was Providence’s first port. It remained active from 1680 until the Great Depression. Its success was in part due to the large trading businesses of John Brown and his partner, John Francis, with both the East and West Indies.

Bold Point is now a public park owned by the City of East Providence and is the state’s largest outdoor concert venue, with the capacity for about 4,000 attendees.

⑧ Wannamoisett Marker



This granite marker (see photos left and right) sits in the sidewalk next to the Silver Spring Golf Course on the west

side of Pawtucket Avenue at the end of Wheeler Avenue in East Providence, RI.

It marks the original boundary between the Wannamoisett section of the Pokanoket Indian “Sowams” land in 1620 purchased by John Browne from the Massasoit Osamequin in 1643, and the town of Rehoboth. This was the first of a series of purchases that occurred over the next 25 years.

When heading north, the marker is on the left side of Pawtucket Ave. at Wheeler Ave. When heading south, a marker for the 1642 Rehoboth town line on the right side. The marker is north of the entrance to the Silver Spring Golf Club.

⑨ Little Neck Cemetery



Little Neck Cemetery, located at the south end of Read Street below Allen Avenue in Riverside, contains the graves of John Brown, Jr. who purchased Wannamoisett from Massasoit in 1643,

Elizabeth Tilley who was a passenger on the 1620 Mayflower voyage to Plymouth, and Captain Thomas Willett who settled in Rehoboth in 1643 and later served as the Mayor of New York City in 1665 and 1667.

Elizabeth Tilley Howland (c. Aug 1607 – December 21, 1687) was a participant in the first Thanksgiving in the New World and was present at the first meeting between the Pilgrims and Aboriginal Americans, later known as the First Encounter. She was one of the few original Pilgrims to live to see King Philip’s War. She died in Swansea.

Take a Tour of 17th Century East Providence



Including:

- Roger Williams Spring at Omega Pond
- Newman Church and Burial Ground
- Nathan el Daggett House
- Bridgham Farm and Newman Oak
- Philip Walker House
- Hunt’s Mills on the Ten-Mile River
- Bold Point
- Wannamoisett Marker
- and Little Neck Cemetery

Visit nine unique places that give evidence of East Providence in the 17th century.

Learn about dozens of other places from the 17th century in the East Bay and nearby Massachusetts on the Sowams Heritage Area website:



SowamsHeritageArea.org

Many people think that the 17th century is gone in Barrington and Swansea. No buildings from that time survive intact, and much that was here has been transformed or covered over with new buildings. If you know where to look, however, you'll find evidence of that important time when these two towns were just starting. Each location tells part of the story that can be put together to show what initially took place here 400 years ago.

Locate these eleven places on the map in this brochure, and then travel to each one on foot, by bicycle or by car to learn more about how this area started and who was here at the time. Visit the SowamsHeritageArea.org website and find over fifty locations on-line that are part of the story of what happened in East Bay RI and nearby Massachusetts in the 17th century.

Support for this project was provided by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. National Endowment for the Humanities.



① Roger Williams Spring at Omega Pond
 Roger Williams first settled here after he was banished from Salem, Massachusetts in January, 1636, and spending fourteen weeks sheltered at Margaret's Rock in what is now farmland in Swansea, Massachusetts near the Warren, RI border. In April, he was notified by the Plymouth authorities that he was on land granted to them by the King and that he had to remove himself and his band of followers. Realizing that all he had to do was to cross the Seekonk River, he paddled a canoe to the opposite shore and was greeted by the Narragansett sachem Canonicus who welcomed him with the famous words, "What Cheer, Nitop?", and offered him land by the nearby Mashentucket River. A granite tablet sits across the street from the Pond at the back of a lot at 89 Roger Williams Avenue.

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② Newman Church & Burial Ground
 While court records show that the original Rehoboth area was settled as early as 1625, the Newman Church congregation was organized in 1643 by the Reverend Samuel Newman of Weymouth, MA. The first Newman Meeting House, which also served as a meeting hall for village business, was built across from today's church at 100 Newman Avenue in the center of what was called the "Ring of the Green." When King Philip burned the first meeting house in 1676, a second and later a third were built. The burial ground for the community, located across the street from the Church, has grave-stones dating back to 1658. The oldest one, that of William Carpenter, is simply marked with his initials and the year of his death. A bronze plaque sits in front of the cemetery on Newman Ave.



③ Nathaniel Daggett House
 The Nathaniel Daggett House at 74 Roger Williams Avenue is the oldest house in East Providence and dates to between 1680 and 1690. It has been in three municipalities, two states, and two colonial jurisdictions without having been moved. The privately-owned House was originally a two-story, gable-roofed, timber-framed, end-chimney dwelling, probably with only one room on each floor. A small entry and stair hall with front door opening to the south was squeezed in front of the chimney. A single-story lean-to with its own chimney was later added across the rear north side of the house, and the roofline was altered to its present saltbox profile. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.



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 Margaret's Rock in what is now farmland in Swansea, Massachusetts near the Warren, RI border. In April, he was notified by the Plymouth authorities that he was on land granted to them by the King and that he had to remove himself and his band of followers. Realizing that all he had to do was to cross the Seekonk River, he paddled a canoe to the opposite shore and was greeted by the Narragansett sachem Canonicus who welcomed him with the famous words, "What Cheer, Nitop?", and offered him land by the nearby Mashentucket River. A granite tablet sits across the street from the Pond at the back of a lot at 89 Roger Williams Avenue.