

⑤ Rehoboth Village and Dams



The Bliss gristmill stood near this dam on Bay State Road in the village for about 180 years, starting sometime before 1690.

By the time of the American Revolution, the pond and dam also served a sawmill, a fulling mill owned by Joseph Goff, a cooperage, and a blacksmith's shop.

At that time, a slaughterhouse and tannery were around the corner on Locust Avenue and an iron forge on County Street at Route 118. In the early 1800s, Thomas Carpenter III bought the gristmill and sawmill and built a cotton mill on the north side of the street. The cotton mill and Goff's fulling mill were then sold to Nelson and Darius Goff, who manufactured cotton wadding. Although most industry in the village area died out around 1880, the mill owners and their families continued to live here.

A fortified house surrounded by a palisade was built on Barney Road during the King Philip War to shelter Rehoboth residents in the Palmer's River area. An attack on March 28, 1676 destroyed all of the buildings but the Block House saved all but one inhabitant, who had wandered too far away. This sketch of the structure was drawn by Dr.



William Blanding as he remembered it standing in the late 1700s.

Butterworth Falls that flow over the Perryville Dam at the intersection of Danforth Street

and Perryville Road. was constructed soon after the area was settled in the late 1600s. John Butterworth constructed a sawmill at the north side of Danforth Street prior to 1690. A sawmill and gristmill operated on the site until the mid-1930s. The Carpenter family owned and operated the mill through the Revolutionary War and up to the mid-1800s, when it was purchased by the Perry family.

⑥ Tobey Site and Carpenter Museum



Between 1986 and 1991, more than 700 artifacts were found on a site not far from the Carpenter

Museum at 4 Locust Street in Rehoboth Village.

Using radiocarbon dating, researchers concluded that some of the tools found were used by people who lived here around 3,700 year ago. Other artifacts dated back to 4,700 years ago.

A diorama of the Site in the museum depicts a subterranean circular enclosure about 14 feet in diameter with a small entrance used as a shelter and later as a sweat house that dated to 4,770 years ago. Women and children in the camp used the metate and mano to grind acorns, dried berries, and other wild food. They also gathered and roasted nuts.

The Carpenter Museum includes a number of colonial objects from the 17th century, including a pot that belonged to Pokanoket Sachem Metacom (see cover photo) and was reportedly used in his camp. The Museum is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m. and the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

⑦ New Palmer River Iron Forge



The New Palmer River Iron Forge was established before 1722 where Mine Brook crosses Tremont Street in Rehoboth.

Though there's no documentation, historians say that earlier forges were operating in the area prior to 1700.

Forges used bog ore found in local swamps to manufacture needed metal tools and implements. One of the owners was a Swansea shipwright, and the other owners were blacksmiths and builders. In later years, cart wheels were made at the iron works, and numerous wheel hoops were reported found years later when the business was dismantled in 1759.

⑧ Anawan Rock



Anawan Rock, a large dome of conglomerate rock, is a colonial historic site located off Winthrop Street (Route 44) in Rehoboth. There is a

small parking lot at the entrance to the trail. The Rock is visible just beyond the sign. At the rock, there is a narrow hiking trail that winds up and around the rock, to the top.

The event known as the King Philip War (1675-1676) had a great impact on the early colonial settlers in southeast Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Its close marked the firm ascendancy of colonial power and the end of aboriginal resistance in the region. Anawan Rock is the site of one of the closing confrontations of the War. It is one of the few incidents for which an exact location is known.

On August 28, 1676, following the death of King Philip in Rhode Island, Captain Benjamin Church and his company of colonists and Indians sought out Anawan, one of two of Philip's remaining chieftains. Surprising him and his men in Rehoboth, Church forced them to surrender. The Indians offered no resistance and Anawan surrendered Philip's regalia as a symbol of his defeat.

Church promised to spare Anawan's life; however, he was called to Boston and upon his return to Plymouth within a few days found that Anawan had been executed.

Anawan Rock overlooks Squannakonk Swamp, not far from the village of Rehoboth. In his later writing, Captain Church relates that legend states that visitors to the area may witness wisps of smoke rising up from the swamp, recalling the long extinguished fires of Anawan's braves.



Take a Tour of 17th Century Rehoboth & Seekonk



Including:

- Kingsley House
- William Hunt House
- Burial Place Hill
- Palmer's River Cemetery
- Rehoboth Village and Dam
- Tobey Site and Carpenter Museum
- New Palmer River Iron Forge
- Anawan Rock

Visit eight unique places that give evidence of Rehoboth and Seekonk as they were 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:

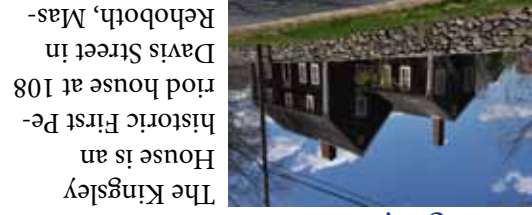


SowamsHeritageArea.org

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, an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

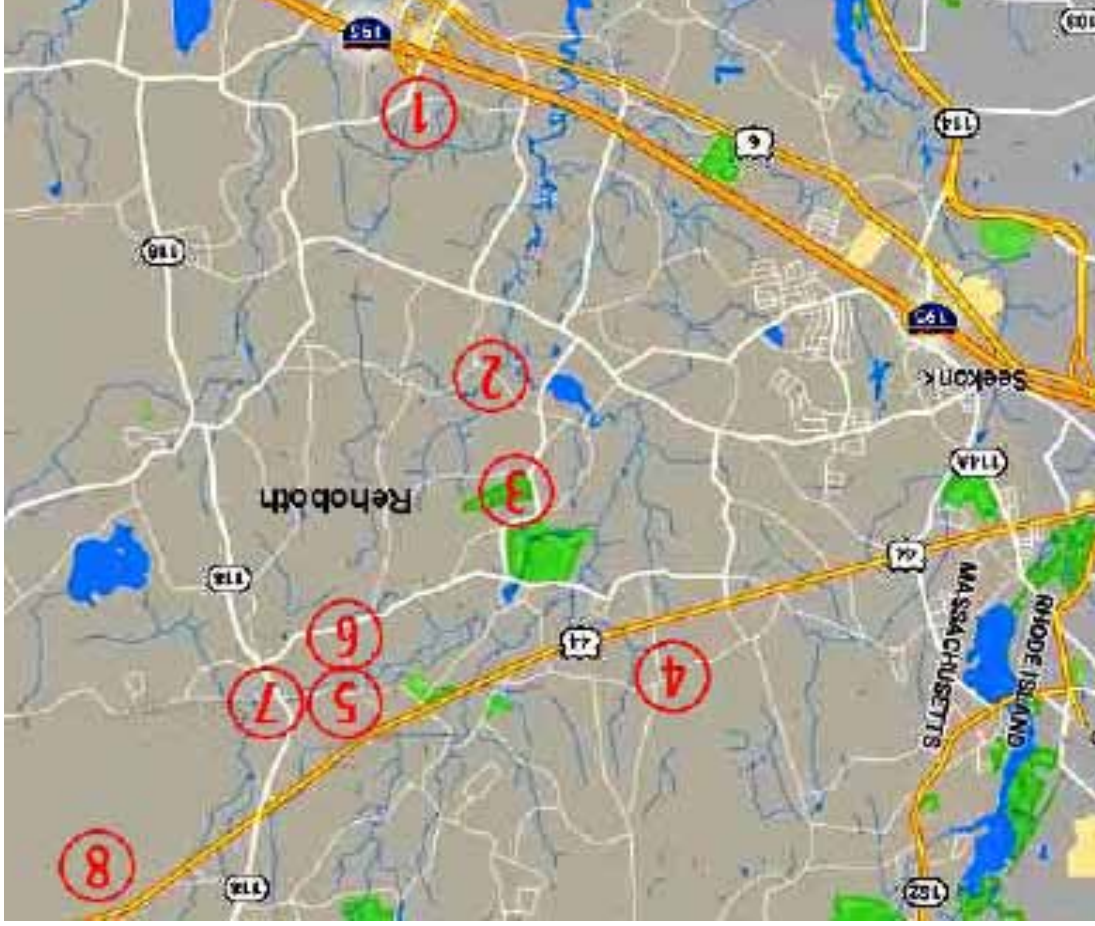


① Kingsley House

The Kingsley House is an historic First Period house at 108 Davis Street in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. The oldest portion of this house is estimated to have been built around 1680, making it the oldest structure in Rehoboth.

The eastern portion of the house may have been a one-room, two-story "stone end" with a subsequent one room addition to the west. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The builder appears to have been John Kinglsey, one of the first Rehoboth proprietors. His plaintive account dated 1676 is the only surviving written record of the terror and decimation brought to the first Rehoboth settlement by the King Phillip War.

⑦ New Palmer River Forge



⑧ Anawan Rock



④ William Hunt House, Seekonk

The eastern half of the house was built as a stone-ender. Early photos of the house show how it appeared with the western addition. The building was a roadside tavern used by travelers going from Providence to Taunton and Brockton. Later, the William Hunt House was constructed on 50 acres of land at 385 Jacobs Street in Seekonk (then Rehoboth) in 1690.

A possible mid-late 18th century secondary settlement node may have existed in the vicinity of the Old Grist Mill Pond on the Runnins River along Arcade Avenue.

The building was used as a residence and the land was used for farming.

The presence of this public tavern and the location of a pre-1795 meetinghouse and adjacent pre-1758 cemetery at the junction of Lake and Lincoln Streets suggest a primary settlement node may have been established in this locale between c. 1676 and the mid-18th century.

⑤ Rehoboth Village & Dams

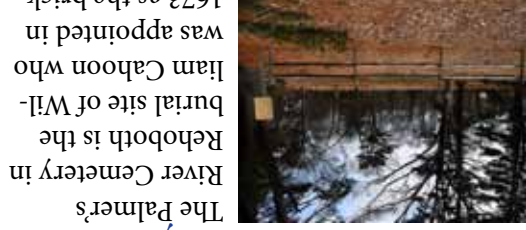
⑥ Toby Site and Carpenter Museum



② Burial Place Hill, Rehoboth

Presumed to be the first of the 53 cemeteries in Rehoboth, Burial Place Hill (cemetery #33) is located at the corner of Providence and Peckham Streets.

It is speculated that the oldest known burial is that of Richard Bowen who died at the age of 81 just before the King Phillip War began in 1675. This has not been confirmed, but this was the only burying place at that time that he died. The second oldest burial is that of Robert Wheaton who died in 1696. He arrived from England, coming to Salem circa 1636/7. He removed to Weymouth, MA circa 1642, and was among those who, in 1644, founded the Ring of the Green settlement at present day East Providence along with Elder Samuel Newman.



③ Palmer's River Cemetery

The Palmer's River Cemetery in Rehoboth is the burial site of William Cahoon who was appointed in 1673 as the brick-maker for the Town of Swansea.

On June 24, 1675, he volunteered to go and get a physician to treat several settlers who had been ambushed by the Pokanokets while returning from a First Baptist Sunday morning service during King Philip's War. He was ambushed and stabbed to death. The parts of him that were later found were quickly buried a short time later, but there was no formal burial service due to the threat of attack.

However, on June 25, 2000, the Cahoons descendants held a formal Christian burial service in his honor here. The cemetery is on Lake Street just north of Palmer Meadow Lane.