

④ Kickemuit Cemetery



The Kickemuit Cemetery, the oldest one in town, sits at the north end of Serpentine Road between Child Street and Schoolhouse Road in the

center of Warren.

Also known as Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Warren #3, the cemetery has had over 400 burials, the oldest of which is John Luther in 1697. Graves include some of the soldiers who fought in the King Philip War, 1675-1676. Many are members of the Cole family, including Benjamin Cole whose 1701 house sits at 412 Old Warren Avenue nearby in Swansea.

Rhode Island Governor Josiah Lyndon, appointed the State of Rhode Island's Colonial Governor from 1768-1769, is also buried there.

⑤ Hugh Cole Well



Born in Devonshire, England, Hugh Cole came to Plymouth from England with his family in 1633 as an indentured servant and was hired to tend to

his neighbor's cows for 50 bushels of corn a year.

In the 1650s, Hugh was hired as a highway surveyor bringing him into frequent contact with Pokanoket Massasoit Osamequin. In 1667, he purchased 500 acres of land from him on the west bank of the Mattapoissett (now Coles) River.

Following the King Philip War (1675-1676) which forced him to relocate to Portsmouth, RI, Cole returned to what was then Swansea, now Warren, to build a farm on the east bank of the Kickemuit River where only his well now remains. The well is on the Bike Path behind the Kickemuit Middle School.

⑥ Joseph Reynolds House



Two 17th century houses still stand in Bristol, RI. The Joseph Reynolds house at 956 Hope Street is the oldest three-story house in Rhode

Island. Built by Joseph Reynolds on land his father, Nathaniel Reynolds, a leather worker from Boston, had bought in 1684.

A full three-story house, unusually large for its time, helps establish Bristol's important contribution to Rhode Island's architectural legacy.

The House began as a two-room, center-hall dwelling with chimneys built into the back wall, typical of early Massachusetts building. Later additions across the rear produced the present four-room plan with an ell.

The house is privately owned but has occasionally been opened for tours.

⑦ Nathaniel Bosworth House



In 1680-81, Deacon Nathaniel Bosworth constructed the first house in Bristol using material shipped over from England.

Religious services for members of the First Congregational Church were held in the Bosworth House shortly after it was built in the Silver Creek section of Bristol until the Meeting House was constructed on the Town Common in 1684.

It began as a typical two-room-plan, two-story house. This oldest portion consisting of a single room on each of two floors, may have moved slightly to its present site. The property remained in the Bosworth family until 1957 and is now privately owned.

⑧ Bristol First Congregational



While the first religious services were held late in 1680 in the home of Nathaniel Bosworth, the first meeting house in Bristol was built in

1684 on the Town Common, where the historic Court House now stands.

An artist's rendering based on a written description of the meeting house is shown above. Rev. Samuel Lee, D.D., a graduate of Oxford University and a long dissenting minister in England, was called to be the Church's first "settled" minister in 1687.

A pew panel, the only surviving fragment of the original meetinghouse is on display in the Church archives. A communion set given in 1693 and a plate belonging to Rev. Lee are also on display.

Next to today's building, built in 1855, are the gravestones of Church pastors moved from their original site on the Town Commons.

⑨ King Philip's Seat at Mount Hope



A hollow at the base of a large quartz outcropping on the Mount Hope property of Brown University in Bristol, RI is known as King

Philip's "seat" or "chair".

Items found on the property confirm that the site was occupied by Aboriginal Americans for thousands of years. King Philip is reported to have met with various councils and audiences at this site.

The Seat can be accessed by going to the office at Mount Hope Farm, 250 Metacom Avenue (Route 136) to request permission. On this property one can also find a marker where Philip was killed on August 12, 1676 ending the King Philip War that began on June 24, 1675 in what is now Warren.



Take a Tour of 17th Century Bristol & Warren

Visit nine unique places that give evidence of Bristol and Warren 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.



Many people think that the 17th century is gone in Bristol and Warren. No buildings from that time survive, 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 www.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.

① Burr's Hill Burial Ground



Burr's Hill was an ancient Pokanoket burial ground containing dozens of grave sites, including those of the people who

occupied the area in the 1600s.

Used as a sand and gravel source for a railroad that was constructed in 1853 next to the site, many graves were looted. In an effort to protect the artifacts in the remaining 42 graves, librarian and amateur archaeologist Charles Carr exhumed the contents and donated them to museums in New York, Providence and Warren.

Following the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in 1990, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council retrieved the artifacts and reburied them at the site in Burr's Hill Park in May, 2017.

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⑥ Joseph Reynolds ⑦ Nathaniel Bosworth ⑧ 1st Congregational Church ⑨ King Philip's Seat

② Haile-Nunes Farmhouse



On the former Bowen-Haile-Nunes Farmstead, a rare surviving representative of a 17th century Narragansett Bay saltwater livestock

farm now given over largely to development, stands the oldest extant house in Warren, currently in private hands.

The original house was erected by Obadiah Bowen about 1682 as a story-and-a-half house with a steeply pitched gable roof. In 1708, Richard Haile Jr. acquired the farm; thereafter it remained in the Haile family for over two centuries, until 1911. Inside, a beehive oven sits next to one of three fireplaces in the massive chimney, and a staircase leads to two rooms in the second story.

③ Massasoit Spring



A monument to Massasoit (Ousamequin), Chief of the Pokanoket tribe in the 17th century until 1661, sits at the end of Baker Street in Warren, the site of

one of the reputed aboriginal villages.

The street was named for the family of Virginia Baker, a school teacher and local historian who lived next to the spring in the early 20th century and who wrote extensively about Massasoit and early Warren.

When the monument was first installed, water gushed from the spring, but today it is dry.

An American Indian memorial tot lot sits across from the Spring on Baker Street, and a nearby pocket park at the end of the street affords a bench and spectacular views of the nearby Warren River.