

# INTERPRETER / AMBASSADOR GUIDE



## **Thames River** Heritage Park **DOCENT ACADEMY**

A guidebook for interpreters, ambassadors, docents, boat crew, and volunteers of Thames River Heritage Park and its partners.

February 2024





## *Thames River Heritage Park*

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# Section I: Docent Academy



*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section I: Docent Academy Welcome**

February 22, 2024

Dear Class of 2024:

On behalf of the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation's board of directors and program committee, welcome to the Thames River Heritage Park Docent Academy. We are delighted that you are joining this cohort to discover the rich history and heritage of the Thames and its impact and significance to our great region, state and nation.

During this 10-week program you enjoy an overview of the people, places, events and ways of life on the Thames that shaped the history of this deep-water port. You experience a sampler, sip or taste of what the Thames has to offer. You hear and see a selection of the stories and heritage sites on the Thames and are encouraged to revisit the sites and resources of interest to you for further exploration and volunteer opportunities. You will also enjoy a new community as old and new relationships have the opportunity grow into friendships through your shared experience.

It is our deepest hope that you thoroughly immerse yourself in all that the academy has to offer ...

- Be curious.
- Ask questions.
- Ponder how history relates to today.
- Contemplate lessons learned.
- Make new connections with others.
- Contribute to the retelling of the thousand stories of the Thames.

Most of all ... enjoy!

Best regards,



Catherine M. Foley



*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section I: Docent Academy Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Welcome / Park Overview**

**Mohegan Life on the Thames**

Fort Trumbull State Park Conference Center\*

**Week 2**

**Colonial Life on the Thames**

Shaw Mansion\*, Hempsted Houses, Old Town Mill, Nathan Hale School House

**Week 3**

**American Revolution on the Thames**

UConn Avery Point\*, Bill Memorial Library, Ebenezer Avery House, Fort Griswold Battlefield Museum State Park

**Week 4**

**Whaling Industry on the Thames**

**The Amistad Story**

Fort Trumbull Conference Center\*, Custom House Maritime Museum

**Week 5**

**The Immigration Story**

**Guiding People w Special Needs/Learning Styles**

Avery-Copp House Museum\*

**Week 6**

**The Gilded Age and Fine Arts on the Thames**

**Learning Styles**

Lyman Allyn Art Museum\*, Monte Cristo Cottage, Pequot Chapel

**Week 7**

**Military on the Thames**

Submarine Force Museum and Library\*

**Week 8**

**The Visitor Experience**

**New London Black Heritage Trail**

Fort Trumbull Conference Center\*, NL Black Heritage Trail

**Week 9**

**Pulitzer Playwright**

**Performing Arts and Culture on the Thames**

Garde Arts Center\*, Hygienic Art, Mural Walk

**Week 10**

**Heritage Partner Site Fair**

**Graduation & Commissioning**

Fort Trumbull Conference Center\*

\* The day starts here.

*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section I: Docent Academy Volunteer Opportunities**

Upon graduation Docent Academy alumni are encouraged to volunteer at a heritage partner site or with an institutional partner by providing a mutually agreeable and needed service to the Park. Below is a listing potential volunteer opportunities as of February 2023.

**Avery-Copp House Museum**

Docent	Program Greeter/Host	Archivist (full)
Tour Interpreter	Gardner	

**Cedar Grove Cemetery**

Board of Directors	Tour Interpreter
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**CT Landmarks - Hempsted Houses**

Docent	Program Greeter/Host
Tour Interpreter	Gardner

**CT Maritime Heritage Fest / OpSail CT**

Festival Committee	Parade Committee	Festival Volunteers
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**Custom House Maritime Museum / NL Maritime Society**

Docent	Program Greeter/Host	Gift Shop Attendant
Tour Interpreter		

**Ebenezer Avery House**

Docent	Tour Interpreter	Program Greeter/Host
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**Friends of Fort Griswold**

Board Member	Tour Interpreter	Admin Support
Docent	Program Greeter/Host	Program Committee

**Friends of Fort Trumbull**

Board Member	Program Greeter/Host	Gift Shop Attendant
Docent	Admin Support	
Tour Interpreter	Program Committee	

**Garde Arts Center**

Usher	Concessions	Hospitality
Ticket Scanner	Box Office	Facility

**Lyman Allyn Art Museum**

Docent	Tour Interpreter	Program Greeter/Host
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**Old Town Mill**

Open House Support	Pollinator Gardener
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**Monte Cristo Cottage**

Docent	Tour Interpreter	Program Greeter/Host
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**Nathan Hale School House**

Docent	Tour Interpreter	Program Greeter/Host
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**New London Black History Trail**

Tour Interpreter	Researcher
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**New London County Historical Society / Shaw Mansion**

Docent	Tour Interpreter	Researcher
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**Pequot Chapel**

Docent	Program Greeter/Host
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**Submarine Force Library & Museum**

Docent	Program Greeter/Host
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**Thames River Heritage Park**

Ambassador	Program Committee	Board of Directors
Tour Interpreter	Development Committee	Special Projects
Program Greeter/Host	Admin Support	

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section I: Docent Academy Additional Info.**

## Weekly Communications

At the end of each week participants receive an electronic (email) communication that includes the following:

## Schedule

The detailed schedule for the upcoming week. See sample below:

## **DOCENT ACADEMY**

### **Week Three**

Revolutionary War on the Thames

March 24, 2022

Start	End	Function	Location	Facilitator/Presenter
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Registration / Coffee	Bill Memorial Library	Committee Members
9:00 AM	9:10 AM	Welcome / Overview	Bill Memorial Library	Catherine Foley
9:10 AM	9:30 AM	Revolutionary War on the Thames	Bill Memorial Library	Steve Manuel
9:30 AM	9:40 AM	Walk to Sites		
9:40 AM	10:00 AM	Group 1 Site Visit & Tour	Bill Memorial Library	Wendy Connal
9:40 AM	10:00 AM	Group 2 Site Visit & Tour	Ebenezer Avery House	Tony Chirillo
9:40 AM	10:00 AM	Group 3 Site Visit & Tour	Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park	Hali Keeler
9:40 AM	10:00 AM	Group 4 Site Visit & Tour	Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park	Hali Keeler
10:00 AM	10:10 AM	Groups 1 & 2 walk to next site / Groups 3 & 4 continue tour of FG		
10:10 AM	10:30 AM	Group 1 Site Visit & Tour	Ebenezer Avery House	Tony Chirillo
10:10 AM	10:30 AM	Group 2 Site Visit & Tour	Bill Memorial Library	Wendy Connal
10:10 AM	10:30 AM	Group 3 Site Visit & Tour	Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park	Hali Keeler
10:10 AM	10:30 AM	Group 4 Site Visit & Tour	Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park	Hali Keeler
10:30 AM	10:40 AM	Walk to Next Site		
10:40 AM	11:00 AM	Group 1 Site Visit & Tour	Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park	Hali Keeler
10:40 AM	11:00 AM	Group 2 Site Visit & Tour	Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park	Hali Keeler
10:40 AM	11:00 AM	Group 3 Site Visit & Tour	Ebenezer Avery House	Tony Chirillo
10:40 AM	11:00 AM	Group 4 Site Visit & Tour	Bill Memorial Library	Wendy Connal

## Accessibility

The majority of the sites are historic preservation sites. While all have made accommodation as best they can to increase accessibility, many still pose challenges and may not be fully accessible for those with physical disabilities.

Several of the tours require walking inside and outside on uneven ground. Important that participants remain mindful and bring any tools that might aid their safe touring.

## Resources

In addition to the bibliography included in this guide, you will find more information and resources on the TRHP Docent Academy resource page - an organic listing resources that included video, books, periodicals, webpages on the history and heritage related to the sites and events along the Thames. It also includes an electronic copy of the Interpreter's Guide, Docent Academy daily schedule, class list. This page will be updated weekly throughout the program.

Link: <https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/docent-academy/resources>

Passcode: docent

## Attire

Attire for this and for all sessions is casual. It is strongly recommended that you wear **solid, comfortable walking shoes** for all sessions and appropriate gear; ie., rain gear, boots, and dressing in layers are recommended.

## Session Evaluation

The weekly evaluations provide insight and feedback on the quality of the presentations, tours and experiences and are used to design future sessions. They are also a way for participants to show their gratitude for the program, the presenters, and the visited sites.

## Assessment

In order to assess the effectiveness of the program, participants complete an assessment at the close of the Docent Academy to provide data on their knowledge, actions before and after the program.

## Pictures

We love pictures! If you take any pictures during the site visits, please consider sharing them with us. You can share a folder, or send them to Casey Howley-Brigham at [caseyhb@thamesriverheritagepark.org](mailto:caseyhb@thamesriverheritagepark.org) or upload them when you complete your evaluation. If you post any pictures to social media, please be sure to tag @ThamesRiverHeritagePark #discoverthethames.

## Social Media, YouTube, Trip Advisor

If you are on social media, please be sure to follow Thames River Heritage Park and to like, comment about, and share the Park's posts.

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/thamesriverheritagepark>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/thamesriverheritagepark/>
- LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/58334526/>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ThamesRiverPark>
- Like the Park's YouTube page - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW471rmFFn3gOE88q1QJtdg>
- Write a review about the Park and it's heritage sites in Trip Advisor - [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g33852-d12262029-Reviews-Thames\\_River\\_Heritage\\_Park-New\\_London\\_Mystic\\_Country\\_Connecticut.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g33852-d12262029-Reviews-Thames_River_Heritage_Park-New_London_Mystic_Country_Connecticut.html)

## Contacts

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## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section I: How to Use This Guide**

*The Interpreter's Guide to the Thames River Heritage Park* is divided into three major sections and an Appendix. **Section I** provides the necessary information for understanding the history behind the Thames River Heritage Park (TRHP), along with the Parks mission, vision, and institutional and partner sites.

**Section II** takes you step-by-step through the TRHP. It provides a sequential “tour” of the Park alphabetically - along both sides of the Thames River. In this section, each partner site category contains a historical summary, address, hours, admission, parking, and contact information.

**Section III** focuses on water taxi information and guidelines for use of TRHP facilities, Park policies, and TRHP staff contacts.

The **Appendix** contains information regarding TRHP walking tours, the Izi App, and a interpretation best practices reading list. Additional resources, such as the Thames River Quests, are also included.

This guide provides in-depth information about the historical and contemporary sites, communities, and institutions on both sides of the River that make up the TRHP and is designed to meet the needs of Park interpreters. Accordingly, throughout this guide, there are subjects that overlap. This has been done for accessibility, as well as, to show the interconnected lines within the TRHP, allowing visitors and our interpreters, to experience the Thames River itself as the heart of the region.

Now, you might be asking yourself, **what is interpretation?** The essence of interpretation is to answer for visitors: why is this important?

Interpretation is a bridge between the historical information and the visitor. It is a conversation where the interpreter may use a variety of techniques to make the objects, ideas, and site more meaningful. As the interpreter, you translate artifacts and physical resources into a language that helps visitors make meaning of these resources. This interaction between an interpreter and visitor will make their experience in the Park memorable and personally relevant. It may even spark a greater interest, encouraging the visitor to strike out on their own in search of more information. By understanding the art of interpretation, docents and staff can more effectively communicate meaning, relevance, and value to their visitors.

When you, the interpreter, get out onto the museum floor or into the community, you will observe a wide variety of interpretive techniques and styles that may influence and shape your own personal style. Interpretation is a skill. It takes practice and experience. Embrace every interaction with a visitor or fellow docent as an opportunity to learn.

*At its core, interpretation is about communicating and connecting.*

Knowledge of the Park and its collection of historic sites, combined with knowledge of the visitor audience and various interpretive techniques, makes visitors have those “WOW” moments. Interpret to get those “WOW” moments; they feel amazing.

Happy interpreting!



TRHP interpreter Mark Jones leading a 90-minute narrated boat tour on the Thames River.



## Section II: About the Thames River Heritage Park



## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section II: Our History**

#### **TRHP is the only heritage park in Connecticut!**

Officially opened in 2016, the Park was actually more than fifty years in the making. A Park Plan was prepared by the Yale Urban Design Workshop, a community design center based at the Yale School of Architecture, providing urban design and planning assistance to communities in the region. The principal authors of the Park Plan were Andrei Harwell and Alan J. Plattus and the entire project was initially funded by the Avery-Copp House.

#### **Timeline:**

- 1966** The Southern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency first proposed the “Marine Heritage Area”; a heritage park centered on the Thames River
- 1987** Statewide Heritage Park System Act approved by the State of Connecticut; Heritage State Park Planning and Selection Study Commissioned by DEEP
- 1988** Final Heritage Park Plan presented; Thames Estuary selected as model study area and more detailed planning commissioned
- 1990** Closure of Naval Underwater Sound Laboratory at Fort Trumbull
- 1990** \$2.6 million in bonding funds approved to fund the Thames River Maritime Heritage Park; first advisory committee formed for Park
- 1991** Second advisory committee formed for Park
- 1994** Thames Maritime Heritage Park Implementation Plan issued by QL Consulting
- 2000** Opening of Fort Trumbull State Park
- 2002** Groton and New London each receive \$750,000 of the initial bond funds to establish “gateways” to the Park.
- 2004** Fort Street Landing in Groton Bank completed using Heritage Park funds
- 2009** Five years of negotiations between Navy and State of Connecticut over Nautilus floating dock ownership end without resolution
- 2010** Parade Plaza, New London completed using Heritage Park funds; effort for Park began to fade away

- 2013** Yale Urban Design Workshop retained by Avery-Copp House to gauge interest in reviving and reconceptualizing Thames River Heritage Park
- 2016** Thames River Heritage Park Foundation was established mission to promote, support, and sustain Thames River Heritage
- Thames River Heritage Park officially opened as the first heritage park in Connecticut following the purchase of two surplus Navy utility boats. This effort launched the first water taxi service in the area since the 1930s.
- 
- 2017** The Foundation’s first executive director, Amy Perry, is named
- 2017** The Park is voted “Best Historical Experience” By *Yankee Magazine*
- 2018** Thames River Heritage Park Foundation signs 17 historic and cultural sites as collaborative partners
- 2018** Park is awarded “Best Historical Attraction” in the state by *Connecticut Magazine*
- 2020** The Foundation adds a third water taxi to its fleet and hosted 23 history-themed boat tours.
- 2021** The Foundation premieres [\*Partners in History\*](#), a video introduction to heritage sites along the Groton and New London shores of the Thames River and its virtual lectures and hosted 60 history-themed boat tours and specialty cruises
- 2022** The Foundation graduated its first Docent Academy - a collaborative, 10-week intensive program designed to train tourism ambassadors for the heritage sites in the Park, presented a 6-part hybrid lecture series, “Past and Present Visions of the Thames” featuring CT State Historian Walt Woodward, launched *Discover the Thames* – collaborative marketing campaign, and hosted 94 history-themed tours and specialty cruises.
- 2023** The Foundation graduated its second Docent Academy; hosted a 6-part reception and lecture series - *Stories of the Thames* featuring authors whose topics related to people, historical sites, and events on the Thames; continued the *Discover the Thames* campaign; and hosted 70 tours and cruises.
- 2024** The Foundation graduated its third Docent Academy, hosted a reception and lecture series - *Island Affairs of the Thames* featuring probing the historical impact and influence of connections with island near and far to the communities on the Thames River – at Lyman Allyn Art Museum and continued to spearhead the *Discover the Thames* campaign.

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section II: Mission Statement**

In the Park you are transported to the spot where in 1781 traitor Benedict Arnold's men stormed Fort Griswold in Groton, a massacre commemorated with the nation's first obelisk, built before Bunker Hill. Cross the river to the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse to learn about America's first patriot. Visit the 1678 Hempsted Houses to see where a widowed father of nine children with the assistance of Adam, an enslaved man, managed to find time to chronicle daily life in a diary that is now used worldwide as a primary source on Colonial America.

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**Thames River Heritage Park Foundation** makes the history and heritage of the Thames alive and relevant to all, promotes tourism and economic development and instills a sense of community by connecting, promoting, supporting, and sustaining Thames River Heritage Park, a collection of heritage sites linked by water which capture the history and culture of life along the Thames River.

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## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section II: History of Our Boats**

TRHP owns three former navy Liberty utility boats, which were originally designed for ship to shore transport of 45 people plus crew.

**TRHP's first water taxi** was assigned to the *USS LaSalle* which in 1988, while in the Persian Gulf, assumed the role of Commander of Middle East Forces. The *USS LaSalle* was decommissioned in 2005.

**TRHP's second water taxi** was assigned to the *USS Hunley*, a submarine tender home ported in Charleston, South Carolina servicing the nuclear-powered Polaris submarine fleet. The *USS Hunley* was decommissioned in 1994.

**TRHP's third water taxi** was last assigned to the *USS Canopus*, a submarine tender assigned to ports including Rota and Holy Loch, Spain, and Bremerton, Washington. The *USS Canopus* was decommissioned in 1994.

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### **Boat Specifications:**

**Built:** 1987 by Willard Marine

**Location:** Anaheim, California

**Main Propulsion:** 174-hp Detroit Diesel (Allison) 6-71, 6-cylinder main diesel engine

**Horsepower:** 174 SHP

**Fuel Tank:** 56-gallon fuel tanks (total 112 gallons of diesel on board)

**Range:** 120 nautical miles (138 standard miles)

**Gross Weight:** 28,800 lbs

**Length:** 50'

**Beam:** 12"

**Draft:** 5' 4"

**Cruising Speed:** approximately 15 knots (17 mph)



## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section II: Institutional Partners**

TRHP Institutional Partners are organizations committed to preserving and promoting our culture and history but may not have a site to welcome visitors. They are historic or cultural associations, “friends” organizations, and educational institutions. The following is a descriptive list of TRHP Institutional Partners:

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#### **Anna Warner “Mother” Bailey House**

The mission of the Friends of the Mother Bailey House is to restore, preserve and maintain the Mother Bailey House and to serve as an educational resource by establishing an archival repository to preserve historical materials concerning Mother Bailey and other female patriots. *Note: The house, which was previously owned by the City of Groton, was sold to a private developer. The exterior remains historically accurate.*



Visit its website: [www.motherbaileyhouse.org/](http://www.motherbaileyhouse.org/)

#### **Connecticut Sea Grant**

Sea Grant is a national network of 33 Sea Grant programs based at flagship universities in the U.S. coastal and Great Lake states and territories. The Program is focused on making the United States the world leader in marine research and the sustainable development of marine resources.



*Science serving the Connecticut Coast*

Visit its website: [seagrant.uconn.edu/](http://seagrant.uconn.edu/)

#### **Friends of Fort Griswold**

The purpose of the Friends of Fort Griswold is to work to preserve, restore, maintain, and promote the historic value, earthworks, buildings, and grounds, known as Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park in cooperation with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.



Visit its website: [www.fortgriswold.org/](http://www.fortgriswold.org/)

## Friends of Fort Trumbull

The purpose of "The Friends of Fort Trumbull State Park, Inc.," is to work in cooperation with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to support its mission of bringing to the visiting public the history of Fort Trumbull and the local area.

Visit its website: [www.fortfriends.org/](http://www.fortfriends.org/)



## Groton Bank Day

Groton Bank Day, Inc. is a collaborative effort among historic and cultural institutions on Groton Bank to promote its historic and cultural resources. Its most notable collaborative effort is the Groton Heights Open House Day. Held in conjunction with Connecticut Open House Day, Groton Heights Open House offers families the opportunity to tour for FREE historical and cultural organizations. The event hosts historic walking tours and also offers food, entertainment, and a marketplace.

Visit its website: [www.grotonbankday.org/](http://www.grotonbankday.org/)



## Groton Bank Historical Association

The Groton Bank Historical Association was established in 1971. It publishes information about Groton Bank and sponsors several historical educational presentations annually.

Visit its website: <https://grotonbankha.org/>

## New London County Historical Society

Founded in 1870, the New London County Historical Society is the oldest historical organization in eastern Connecticut and one of the oldest in the region. Headquartered out of the historic Shaw Mansion since 1907, NLCHS houses a vast collection of cultural artifacts and archives. NLCHS strives to preserve and share New London County's rich history with researchers and the community alike through tours, educational programs and events.

Visit its website: [www.nlchs.org/](http://www.nlchs.org/)



## **New London Landmarks**

New London Landmarks actively works to preserve New London's historic resources through educational programs, house tours, collaborations with New London Main Street, also a National Trust program, and other historic organizations in the city.

Visit its website: [www.newlondonlandmarks.org/](http://www.newlondonlandmarks.org/)



## **New London Maritime Society**

Founded in 1983 to protect and preserve New London's U.S. Custom House and to repurpose it as a maritime museum, the New London Maritime Society (NLMS) now includes three area lighthouses in the Long Island Sound. Headquartered out of the historic U.S. Custom House, NLMS' mission is to promote, interpret, and celebrate the rich maritime life & history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions, educational programs, and preservation initiatives.

Visit its website: <http://www.nlmaritimesociety.org/>



## **OpSail CT / CT Maritime Heritage Fest**

OpSail Connecticut hosts the Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival in the Port of New London annually on the second weekend in September to "Celebrate the Sea" and give visitors the opportunity to interact with those who work on, under or with the sea. Visit often to see the latest in festivities, unravel the fabric of Connecticut's maritime history and appreciate how the sea unites our shores.

Visit its website: <https://ctmaritimefest.com/>



## **Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition**

The Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition fosters region-wide economic growth in New London County by optimizing existing and new arts and cultural activities to assure that cultural sector and creative business assets are central to the vitality of the region.

Visit its website: <http://culturesect.org/>





### **Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region Corp (seCTer)**

seCTer is a designated private, non-profit Economic Development Organization providing a broad range of services and resources to stimulate and support economic development and diversification within the region. seCTer primarily serves the businesses, residents and municipalities of New London County and the Town of Windham.



Visit its website: [www.secter.org/](http://www.secter.org/)

### **University of Connecticut: Avery Point Maritime Studies**

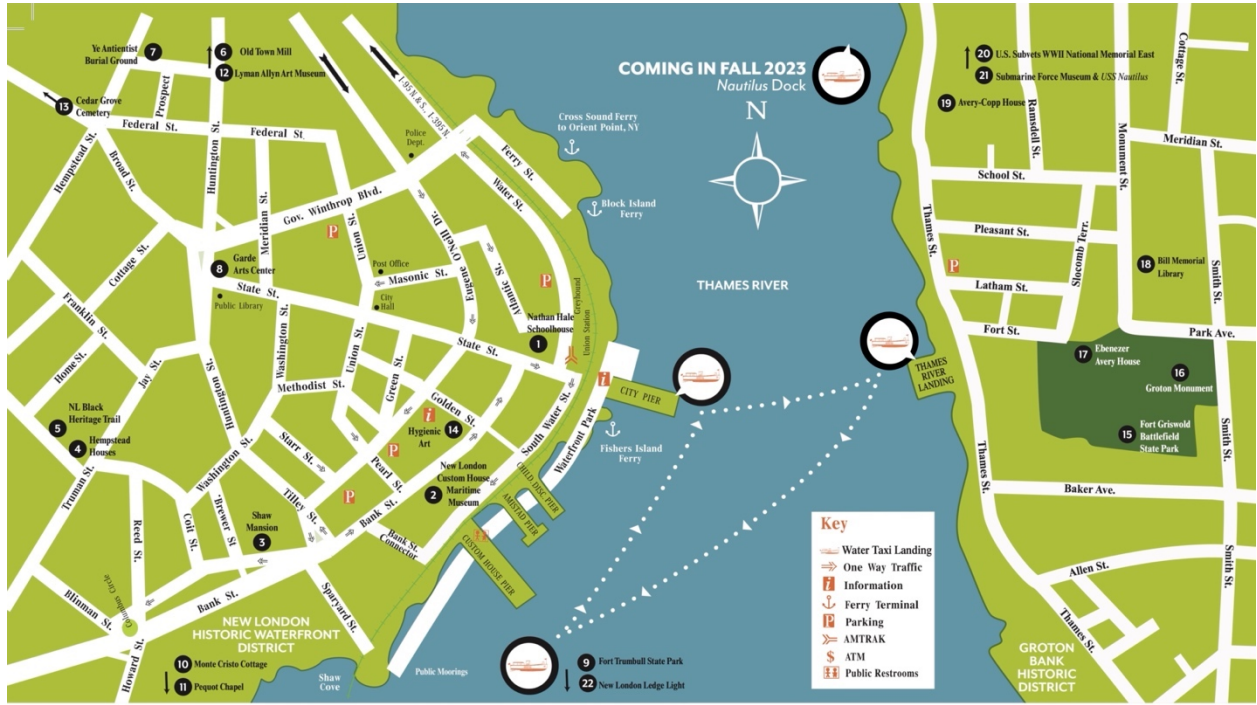
Maritime Studies highlights the social and cultural side of the human/water relationship and the foundations needed to find inspiration, solve problems, and craft a future for Earth's oceans and rivers.



Visit its website: [maritimeconnecticut.org/](http://maritimeconnecticut.org/)

# Thames River Heritage Park

## Section II: TRHP Map & Guide



### NEW LONDON SITES

#### NEW LONDON'S HISTORIC WATERFRONT DISTRICT

- 1. NATHAN HALE SCHOOL HOUSE**  
One-room schoolhouse where Hale taught from 1774-1775 just before he enlisted as spy in the American Revolutionary War. 0.1 Miles\*
- 2. NEW LONDON CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM**  
Exhibits New London's maritime and whaling history, *La Amistad*, and regional lighthouses. 0.2 Miles\*
- 3. SHAW MANSION**  
Built in 1756 by Capt. Shaw. Hosted General George Washington. Served as headquarters for CT's state navy and local privateers. 0.3 Miles\*
- 4. HEMPSTED HOUSES**  
Two homes which served 9 generations of Hempsted's and survived the burning of New London in 1781. 0.6 Miles\*
- 5. NL BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL**  
Celebrates three centuries of Black strength, resilience, and accomplishment while telling the stories about Black life in New London. 0.6 Miles\*
- 6. OLD TOWN MILL**  
Originally built in 1650 by John Winthrop Jr., the founder of New London and later governor of CT. One of the oldest industrial sites in CT. 1.2 Miles\*

\*Walking distance from closest water taxi landing.  
= At or within walking distance to Water Taxi Landing

- 7. YE ANTIENSTIST BURIAL GROUND**  
One of the earliest graveyards in New England and the oldest colonial cemetery in the county. 1 Mile\*
- 8. GARDE ARTS CENTER**  
Beautifully restored 1920's movie palace and vaudeville theatre with an exotic Moroccan design - a regional center for the arts. 0.4 Miles\*
- 9. FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK**  
1852 fort with world-class visitor center and museum depicting 225 years of military history.
- 10. MONTE CRISTO COTTAGE**  
Childhood home of Eugene O'Neill, America's only Nobel Prize winning playwright and setting for his *Long Day's Journey into Night*. 1 Mile\*
- 11. PEQUOT CHAPEL**  
Opened in 1853, decorated with two stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany, a regular summer visitor. Sunday services June - early September at 10:55AM. 2.2 Miles\*
- 12. LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM**  
A 2,600-year period collection, Louis Comfort Tiffany exhibit, art depicting whaling industry and special exhibitions. 1.8 Miles\*

- 13. CEDAR GROVE CEMETERY**  
Park-like final resting place of many of the city's most significant citizens: colonial-era diarist, ship captains, top elected officials and wealthy Gilded Age industrialists. 0.6 Miles\*
- 14. HYGIENIC ART**  
Built in 1844 as a ship's provision store and crew's quarters, the former Harris Building houses Hygienic Art - a free public art forum featuring exhibits, live performances and other events. 0.2 Miles\*

### GROTON SITES

#### NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 15. FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK**  
Site of an infamous 1781 massacre by British troops aided by turncoat Benedict Arnold. 0.5 Miles\*
- 16. GROTON MONUMENT**  
The 1st obelisk completed in the U.S., the 135' monument is open for climbing in season. 0.5 Miles\*
- 17. EBENEZER AVERY HOUSE**  
Sheltered the wounded after the tragic massacre at Fort Griswold. 0.1 Miles\*

- 18. BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
Built in 1890 the library displays the Bill family's collection from around the world and the sword that killed Colonel Lydard at the Battle of Groton Heights. 0.4 Miles\*
- 19. AVERY-COPP HOUSE**  
Victorianized colonial with original 19th and 20th century treasures that tell the story of domestic life during these periods. Special focus on Irish domestics. 0.4 Miles\*
- 20. SUBVETS WWII NAT'L MEMORIAL EAST**  
Sail of *USS Flasher* graces this memorial dedicated to 3,617 submariners who lost their lives during WWII. 0.6 Miles\*
- 21. SUBMARINE FORCE LIBRARY & MUSEUM**  
WATER TAXI LANDING COMING FALL 2023  
Experience the world's first nuclear submarine and view the nation's finest exhibits and collections of America's submarine heritage. 2.5 Miles\*
- 22. NEW LONDON LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE**  
Perched out in Fishers Island Sound at the mouth of the Thames River, Ledge Light has served as a navigation aid since 1909 and is a symbol of maritime New London.

THANK YOU TO OUR SEASON SPONSORS



# Section III: Park's Historic Sites



Figure 1

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Fast Facts to the TRHP**

#### **Mother Bailey House**

Anna Warner “Mother” Bailey is considered the first female American patriot.

#### **Avery-Copp House**

The Avery-Copp House has been passed down through generations of the same family making it a time capsule.

#### **Bill Memorial Library**

The original Bill Memorial Library was established in the First District schoolhouse in Groton before the permanent library was constructed.

#### **Cedar Grove Cemetery**

Cedar Grove Cemetery is a non-sectarian rural cemetery in New London, Connecticut. It was established in 1851 on 39 acres and designed by Dr. Horatio Stone.

#### **Ebenezer Avery House**

This historic house was used as a shelter for the wounded following the massacre at Fort Griswold during the American Revolution.

#### **Garde Arts Center**

Garde Arts Center sits on a portion of property originally owned by former whaling captain William Williams, whose estate was later purchased by Theodore Bodenwein, the founder of *The Day* newspaper.

#### **Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park**

Fort Griswold is the site of the Battle of Groton Heights and today serves as one of Connecticut’s state parks.

#### **Fort Trumbull State Park**

Fort Trumbull has served as the location of various military forts, schools and research facilities for the United States Army, Coast Guard and Navy for the past 200 plus years.

#### **Hempsted Houses**

The 1678 Joshua Hempsted House is one of New England’s oldest and most well documented dwellings thanks to Hempsted’s diary of daily colonial life.

#### **Hygienic Art**

Originally built as a whaling provisioning store and crews’ quarters in 1678, Hygienic Art houses six affordable live-in studios for emerging artists and four public fine art galleries and hosts exhibitions and live events in its galleries and Art Park all year long.

**Ledge Light**

This one-of-a-kind structure was one of the last lighthouses built in New England. It represents a rare case of an early 20th century offshore lighthouse not constructed out of cast-iron.

**Lyman Allyn Art Museum:**

The Lyman Allyn Art Museum was built by the daughter of New London whaling captain, Lyman Allyn.

**Monte Cristo Cottage**

This cottage is the summer boyhood home of famous playwright Eugene O'Neill.

**Nathan Hale Schoolhouse**

There are two Nathan Hale Schoolhouses in Connecticut. One is located in downtown New London and the other can be found in East Haddam.

**New London Black Heritage Trail**

New London's Black Heritage Trail celebrates three centuries of Black strength, resilience, and accomplishment.

**New London County Historical Society**

The New London County Historical Society is the oldest historical organization in eastern Connecticut and one of the oldest in the region.

**New London Custom House Museum**

New London Custom House is a historic custom house at 150 Bank Street in New London, Connecticut, built in 1833-35. It was designed by Robert Mills, one of the country's first formally trained architects.

**New London Mural Walk (see Hygienic Art)**

New England's largest mural trail of underwater spacemen, exotic shells, geometric shapes, community portraits, musicians, mosaics and much more are part of a 6-block walking tour of New London.

**Old Town Mill**

Old Town Mill was originally built in 1650 by John Winthrop Jr., the founder of New London and later the Governor of Connecticut. Listed on the National Historic Register, the Mill is one of the oldest industrial sites in Connecticut.

**Pequot Chapel**

Pequot Chapel is the most important surviving remnant of the Pequot Colony, but it is more than just an artifact; it continues as a spiritual, social, and cultural center for the neighborhood and the region.

**St. James Episcopal Church**

Founded in 1725 the current church – the congregation's third – was built from 1847 to 1850 to designs in the [Gothic Revival style](#) by Richard Upjohn and is on the National Register of Historic Places and includes six large stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

### **Submarine Force and USS Nautilus Museums**

This is the only submarine museum managed exclusively by the Naval History & Heritage Command division of the Navy, making it a repository for many special submarine items of national significance, including *USS Nautilus*.

### **US SUBVETS WWII National Memorial East**

This outdoor memorial is dedicated to the 3,617 courageous submariners who lost their lives during World War II and honors each of the US Submarines lost during the war.

### **Ye Antientist Burial Ground**

One of the earliest graveyards in New England and the oldest colonial cemetery in New London County, Ye Antientist Burial Ground is the final resting place of Gurdon Saltonstall, Governor of the Colony of Connecticut from 1708 to 1724 and other notables from colonial New London.



*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: Anna Warner “Mother” Bailey House**

**History:** Born in 1758, Anna Warner was orphaned at an early age. On September 6, 1781, when the British attacked Fort Griswold, Warners Uncle Edward, a corporal in the militia, hurried to the fort leaving behind his wife, a young son, and a newborn baby. When Edward did not return home following the end of the battle, Warner walked the three miles to Fort Griswold and found her uncle mortally wounded. His last wish was to see his family one more time, so Warner went back to the farm and returned, this time by horse, with her aunt and the children.



Towards the end of the Revolution, Warner married veteran soldier Elijah Bailey in 1783. The two served as inn-keepers on Thames Street and later their home served as the town post office. When the War of 1812 began, it frightened Groton locals into thinking there would be another attack and most people packed up their households and fled inland. Warner-Bailey was still in residence when a messenger from the Fort came by, desperate for cartridges and flannel for wading. As the story goes, Warner-Bailey loosened her



long flannel petticoat, stepped out of it, and presented it as wadding. The messenger carried the petticoat to the fort, where it was received with cheers. News of this generous and impulsive act spread across the country. Newspapers hailed her as the war’s greatest female patriot. Later, a stream of celebrities knocked at her Groton door: President Monroe in 1817, Lafayette in 1824, and in 1833, President Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren.

On January 19, 1851, as Mother Bailey slept in an armchair near an open hearth, her clothes caught fire and she died at the age of 93. She is buried in Starr Cemetery in Groton. Today her home stands empty, victim of neglect and abuse. Part of the fence, a gift of President Andrew Johnson, is still standing. It is the wish of the Friends of the Mother Bailey House that the home be saved, repaired, and returned, not to her former glory, but to find new purpose as a cultural and educational resource. In doing so, the legacy of Mother Bailey will live on.

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**Mission:** The Friends of Mother Bailey’s aim to “restore, preserve and maintain the Mother Bailey House. Our goal is for the house to serve as an educational resource by establishing

an archival repository to preserve historical materials concerning Mother Bailey and other female Patriots.”

<b>Hours:</b>	Not open to the public	<b>Admission:</b>	Not open to the public
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.annawarnerbaileyhouse.org/">https://www.annawarnerbaileyhouse.org/</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	108 Thames Street Groton, CT 06340	<b>Parking:</b>	On-Street Parking
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:awbfriends@gmail.com">awbfriends@gmail.com</a>	<b>Telephone:</b>	N/A

**Did you know** that Mother Bailey’s popularity became so widespread that several honors and tributes were bestowed upon her? One dedication, which was a bit unusual and controversial, came to fruition 10 years after her death:

“Mother Bailey’s Quieting Syrup.”



Produced in the late 1860s, the syrup was marketed throughout the country as being a remedy “for children, which greatly assists [the] child through the months of teething, allays all pain, reduces inflammation, corrects acidity of the stomach and never fails to regulate the bowels.”

This “cure all” children’s medicine, which was reportedly an old family recipe used by Mother Bailey’s family for years, was subsequently removed from the market after studies revealed that its components were ethyl alcohol and powdered opium, which if taken in excess or over a long period of time could result in addiction or even death.



*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: Avery-Copp House**



**History:** If these walls could talk, what stories they could tell!

The Avery-Copp House is a museum of social history, focusing on the experience of everyday life in Groton from the 1880's to the 1930's. This was a time of profound change for our town, with massive immigration from Europe changing the face of the population, women gaining the right to vote, automobiles and the trolley replacing the horse and wagon, and electricity and indoor plumbing improving life at home.

Visitors to this house will tour an intact family home from a century ago, see where the Irish immigrant servants lived and worked, learn about changes in household technology, and find out about the joys and challenges that Groton families faced c.1900 – some of them very different from our experiences today, but some of them very much the same.

The grounds are dog friendly for walking, and we welcome you to sit on our porch overlooking the Thames River anytime.



---

**Mission:** The Avery-Copp Museum celebrates, preserves, and documents the historic home, its collection, and the grounds belonging to the Avery and Copp families in Groton, Connecticut and engages the public in learning about the history of Groton through the study of domestic life as it was experienced in this house and the surrounding community.

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<b>Hours:</b>	May 27 – October 8 Sat / Sun 12 PM – 4 PM	<b>Admission:</b>	Adult Active Military Families (ID required) Children age 0-12 (accompanied by an adult)	Free Free Free
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://averycopphouse.org">https://averycopphouse.org</a>			
<b>Address:</b>	154 Thames Street Groton, CT 06340	<b>Parking:</b>	Free – Puffins Lot (across the street)	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:museum@averycopphouse.org">museum@averycopphouse.org</a>	<b>Telephone:</b>	(860) 445-1637	

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**Did you know** that when the house transitioned from a family home to a museum, the archives collection was still stored in desks, drawers, trunks and in the attic?

The Avery-Copp Papers (1728-1991), which span mostly from 1830 to 1930, are comprised of correspondences, printed material, electronic media, photographs and other material related to the daily life of the Avery and Copp families and their relations who lived in and around their homestead on Thames Street in Groton, Connecticut. Among the topics in the collection are diaries and other writings, business concerns, household matters, domestic servants, social and cultural observations, and military conflicts from the Civil War through World War II. The collection also includes a number of World War I posters and letters to family members from Thomas Edison and George Bernard Shaw.



*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: Bill Memorial Library**



**History:** Frederic Bill was born in a section of Groton which later became present day Ledyard. On October 15, 1888, Bill sent identical letters to a group of Groton citizens in which he stated that he wished to found a library to honor the memory of his two sisters, Eliza and Harriet (Eliza died of typhoid when she was just 16 years old;

Harriet died at age 19 of tuberculosis). He selected approximately 1,700 books and had cases installed in a room at the First District schoolhouse. This room opened for the distribution of books on November 20, 1888, with 1,750 volumes on hand. During the next year, Bill drew up plans for a new library upon the summit of Groton Heights overlooking the Thames River. The original library building, designed by Stephen C. Earle of Worcester, Massachusetts, was dedicated on June 18, 1890. In 1907, Bill enlarged the library's main reading room to provide a space for a natural history museum. He acquired a collection of birds, butterflies, natural history and cultural history artifacts, sculptures and paintings, some of which are still on-site.

Bill died in 1920 at the age of 86 and is buried on library grounds alongside his first wife, Lucy F. Denison Bill and his second wife, Julia O. Avery, the first librarian of the Bill Memorial Library.

Today, the Bill Memorial Library is a full-service public library, with an extensive collection of books and media for children, teens and adults, including downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines. We offer public access computers, with printing, copying, scanning, and faxing services. A full range of programs, both virtual and in-person, are offered for all ages, including our famous musical story time and our spring bunny bonanza.



Figure 3

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**Hours:**

Mon/Tues/Thurs 10 AM – 8 PM  
Wed / Fri 10 AM – 5 PM  
Saturday 10 AM – 3 PM  
Sunday Closed

**Website:** <https://www.billmemorial.org/>

**Address:** 240 Monument Street  
Groton, CT 06340

**Parking:** On-site

**Admission:** Free

**Email:** [staff@billmemorial.org](mailto:staff@billmemorial.org)

**Phone:** (860) 445-0392

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**Did you know** that before Frederic Bill opened Bill Memorial Library, he was a book publisher and a linen salesman?

Frederic and his brother Gurdon moved to Springfield, Massachusetts and joined the book publishing business in 1856. In 1861, during the outbreak of the American Civil War, Frederic left his brother and the business and decided to move to New York City. In the city, Frederic opened a business called Tracy & Bill, where he made a fortune manufacturing and importing fine linens. In 1870, he purchased his partner's half of the business and three years later sold it all and retired to Groton.

Frederic Bill also made substantial monetary contributions to the Groton Congregational Church and Connecticut College in New London, where a dormitory still bears his name.

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Cedar Grove Cemetery**

**History:** Cedar Grove Cemetery is a 76-acre non-sectarian, non-profit burial ground in the city of New London, Connecticut. Still an active cemetery, Cedar Grove also is the final resting place of many of the city's most significant citizens, ranging from a noted colonial-era diarist and ship captains from the city's heyday as a major whaling port, to top elected officials and wealthy Gilded Age industrialists. Established as part of the rural cemetery movement in the 19th century, Cedar Grove was designed as a peaceful haven with park-like natural features.



A group of citizens formed a Cemetery Association in 1850 to establish a rural cemetery where the remains of residents would be secure from ever being disturbed from their eternal resting places. “This association purchased a tract of forty-five acres of land, about a mile west of the city, mostly covered with cedars,” Frances Manwaring Caulkins wrote in her 1852 *History of New London*. Cedar Grove Cemetery was consecrated in October 1851 with numerous city notables in attendance for the establishment of a park-like, professionally planned and landscaped cemetery that not only provided a bucolic and scenic final resting place for its citizens, but also a green and peaceful oasis from which any resident could escape the noise and smells of urban life and enjoy some majestic sculpture in a natural setting.

In the mid-19th century, New London was riding a wave of prosperity produced by the whaling industry. Whaling brought fabulous wealth to a number of New London's whaling agents, ship owners and whaling captains. They built majestic homes, established public institutions such as the Public Library of New London, and developed parks that served as centerpieces for their ornate houses. It was in this booming economic era that Cedar Grove Cemetery was established. The private, non-sectarian association hired Dr. Horatio Stone, a sculptor, physician and writer who also dabbled in landscape design, to design the cemetery. Stone is best known today for three sculptures he created for the U.S. Capitol of Alexander Hamilton, John Hancock and Edward Dickinson Baker.



*US Senator Frank Bosworth Brandegee Memorial*

On Oct. 8, 1851, Cedar Grove was consecrated and a month later the first burial there was conducted. Many local families also began moving the remains of their loved ones from the crowded burial grounds at the Ye Antientist Burial Ground and a now-defunct cemetery that was at the site of Williams Memorial Park at Broad and Hempstead streets.

Enlarged through the years, the non-sectarian Cedar Grove Cemetery is overseen by an association of private citizens. It now encompasses some 78 acres of land and is the final resting place of thousands of local residents, including a governor, Civil War veterans, U.S. senators and representatives, business leaders and many other notables.

*“I would not bury the good, the beloved, upon the bleak and desolate sandplain, where no tree can cast its shade and no flower blossom: I would rather lay them beneath the boughs of the goodly cedar-trees, which of old were dedicated to a sacred use in building a temple to the Lord, and which speak a prayer for perpetual remembrance in their foliage of unfading green.”*

*Hiram Willey, New London mayor, from a speech delivered at the consecration of Cedar Grove Cemetery, 1851.*

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<b>Hours:</b>	Grounds are open year-round from sunrise through sunset.	<b>Admission:</b>	Free
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://cedargrovecemeteryct.org">https://cedargrovecemeteryct.org</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	638 Broad Street New London, CT 06320	<b>Parking:</b>	Small lot next to office and parking along interior road
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:cdrgrovecemetery@gmail.com">cdrgrovecemetery@gmail.com</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	(860) 442-1301

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**Did you know** that two stain glass windows attributed to Louis Comfort Tiffany’s studios were stolen from a mausoleum in Cedar Grove Cemetery, recovered, and restored and are now on display in the Lyman Allyn Art Museum?

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## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Ebenezer Avery House**

**History:** Ebenezer Avery, the namesake of the house museum, worked as a tailor and served in Groton's local militia during the American Revolution. On September 6, 1781, Ebenezer left his home, rushed to Fort Griswold, and prepared to defend his town from the British invasion. At the end of the day, he was returned to his house by the British where he laid on the floor severely wounded surrounded by other Americans who fell victim to the British massacre.

When the fighting and looting ended, wounded American soldiers were placed in a cart to be dragged down the steep hill to the shore of the Thames River to be taken as prisoners on British ships headed to New York. The wagon increased in speed as it descended the hill; the men pulling were obliged to let it roll. It got away from them and collided with a tree, causing much agony to the wounded occupants of the wagon. The wounded were taken back to

Ebenezer Avery's house and laid back on the floor. Ebenezer was severely injured by a shot through the lower part of the neck but managed to recover from his wounds, only suffering from hearing loss. He lived in his home for years after the Battle of Groton Heights and died on January 11, 1828 at the age of 81. For nearly two centuries Ebenezer's house stood at the corner of Latham and Thames Street, revered as a relic of the American Revolution. According to local legend, blood stains from the wounded soldiers were visible on the floor years after the battle.

In 1971, the Avery Memorial Association obtained ownership of the home. They had it disassembled and relocated directly below Fort Griswold. Efforts were made possible through the interest and cooperation of the Park and Forest Commission.



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**Hours:** Sat / Sun  
Memorial Day - 12 PM - 4 PM  
Labor Day

**Admission:** Free: Donations Appreciated

**Website:** <http://averymemorialassociation.com/>

**Address:** Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park,  
57 Fort Street  
Groton, CT 06340

**Parking:** On-Street Parking

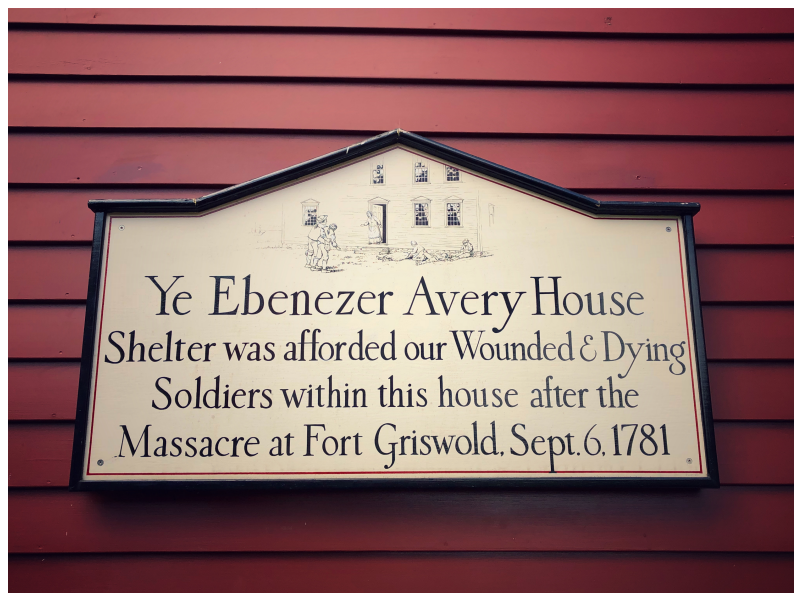
**Email:** [ebenezeraveryhouse@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezeraveryhouse@gmail.com)  
[info@averymemorialassociation.com](mailto:info@averymemorialassociation.com)

**Phone:** (860) 446-9257

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**Did you know** that the Ebenezer Avery House conducted a series of archaeological digs on the property of a former Avery family home that was built in 1656 and burnt down in 1894?

During the digs, over 1,000 artifacts were uncovered. Some of the uncovered finds included, shards of pottery, a child's boot spur, a glass candlestick, a copper penny, a metal pistol toy, part of a porcelain doll, a clay pipe and clay marbles, and a toothbrush. These items provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about the Avery family and their daily lives in Groton over the centuries.



Over time, the museum has made the effort to restore some of the found items and put them on display in the Ebenezer Avery House. In 2017, the house museum was chosen as one of 75 institutions nationwide to take part in a program that helps museums improve the care of their historical collections. Through the Collection Assessment for Preservation program, the Ebenezer Avery House is working to improve the care, storage conditions, environmental controls and preservation of their permanent collection and the artifacts found on the Avery family archaeological digs.



**Section III: Garde Arts Center**



**History:** The Garde Theater was built between 1924 and 1926 on the site of New London whaling merchant William Williams former mansion. The land was sold to theatre developers in an effort that something would be built “for the good of New London.”

The theatre was built during the height of the movie palace era as a “photoplay house” by architect Arland Johnson. Named after Walter Garde, a Hartford and New London businessman, the Garde Theatre opened on September 22, 1926, with the silent film “The Marriage Clause,” starring matinee idols Francis X. Bushman (1883-1966) and Billie Dove (1903-1997). The Garde was hailed by the press as “one of the finest theatres in New England.” Typical of the era, the theatre was a stage for vaudeville as well as film. Variety acts of music, comedy, acrobats, and magic were interspersed between the showing of feature films, comedy shorts, and newsreels.

For decades, the Garde Theatre played a central role in the community of New London and Southeastern Connecticut. Its ornate Moroccan interior, giant screen, and marvelous acoustics ensured that Warner Bros., who purchased the Garde for \$1 million in 1929, would maintain it as one of the region’s most stunning and viable movie theaters. The Garde’s nontheatrical events included a national touring production of the play “Tobacco Road ” in February 1953 and a televised showing of the Sonny Liston-Cassius Clay boxing match in October 1964.

As New London faced growing competition from suburbanization and economic decline, the Garde fell victim to malls, multiplex cinemas, and



television in the 1960s and 1970s. Despite occasional blockbuster attendance like the 1971 screening of “The Godfather,” declining attendance forced Warner Brothers to close the theater in 1977. In 1978, it was sold to locally owned business Robertson Paper Box Company who, after attempting to operate the theater on a regular basis, sold the building in 1985 to the newly created non-profit Garde Arts Center, Inc.

In 1987, the Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra made the Garde their new home and in 1988, the Garde hired its first executive director, Steve Sigel. Under Sigel, the Garde began presenting a full spectrum of performing arts series: dance, musical theatre, contemporary music, and family events. In 1988, the State of Connecticut awarded \$750,000 to replace the theatre heating and air-conditioning system, the first of several major facilities grants three successive Governors shepherded through for the Garde. In the summer of 1994, movies were added to the Garde’s live programming. That year began a \$15.75 million fundraising effort – Campaign for the Garde 2000 – to restore and expand the theatre. In October 1998, the Garde opened with its new lobbies and storefronts and, one year later, the theatre opened with the theatre interior restored.

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**Mission:** The Garde Arts Center strives to engage, enrich, entertain, educate and inspire the region of greater New London County, by:

- Protecting, operating and enhancing the historic Garde Theatre and its facilities as a central cultural gathering place and educational resource,
- Presenting top-quality performing arts and film events,
- Fostering community arts organizations,
- Providing educational opportunities in and through the arts, and
- Strengthening community interaction and vitality

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<b>Hours:</b> Box Office	Mon. – Fri. 10 AM - 5 PM	<b>Admission:</b>	Varies – See Website
Performance Days:	2 Hours before Curtain		
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://gardearts.org/">https://gardearts.org/</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	325 State Street New London, CT 06320 Corner of State Street and Huntington Street	<b>Parking:</b>	Free On-Street Parking Free Behind Courthouse Free Municipal Parking Lot Paid: Cornish Garage / Water St. Garage
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:boxoffice@gardearts.org">boxoffice@gardearts.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	(860) 444-7373

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**Did you know** that in the late 19th century, theater drop curtains used to be purposely filled with asbestos fibers?

Theaters began using drop curtains with asbestos fibers as a fire barrier between the stage and the auditorium in the 1890s. Fires often occurred due to the open flames of gas and carbon arc lighting and flammable curtains. The asbestos curtain would be rigged to automatically descend during a fire. In 1926, the Garde had a similar curtain installed and it had remained in the theater ever since.

As a precaution against possible safety hazards, the Garde began to have the old asbestos filled curtain removed in 2019. The curtain was replaced with a new, Zetex curtain made of fiberglass material, that is 1,000 square feet and weighs 2 tons.



## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park**

**History:** On September 6, 1781, the British landed 800 soldiers on the Groton side of the Thames River, about 1 ½ miles south of Fort Griswold. The British forces were commanded by General Benedict Arnold, a native of Norwich, Connecticut. The British troops were slowed by tangled woods and swamps, and the artillery could not keep pace. The foot soldiers for the British forces approached Fort Griswold at 10:00 AM that day.



The Fort had been garrisoned with about 165 militia and local volunteers, all under the command of Colonel William Ledyard. Expecting reinforcements, Colonel Ledyard elected to defend the post against the British forces. The British commander, Colonel Eyre, sent forward a flag demanding surrender, but Colonel Ledyard refused. The demand was made again, and Colonel Eyre threatened that if he were forced to storm the fort, “no quarter” would be given to its defenders. Colonel Ledyard responded “we will not give up the fort, let the consequences be what they may.”

The British forces spread their ranks and advanced on the fort. As they neared the surrounding ditch, they were met with an artillery barrage, which killed and wounded many, but the seasoned troops continued their charge. Some tried to gain the southwest bastion, but were repulsed and Colonel Eyre was badly wounded. Under heavy musket fire, one group dislodged some pickets and, in hand-to-hand combat, captured a cannon, turning it against the garrison. Another party, led by Major Montgomery, charged with fixed bayonets. They were met with long spears and Major Montgomery was killed. A few of the British managed to reach the gate and opened it; the enemy marched in. Seeing this, Colonel Ledyard ordered his men to stop fighting.

American and British accounts of the subsequent events are at odds. The American version holds that after Colonel Ledyard gave up his sword in surrender, he was immediately killed and the American wounded were massacred. Before the surrender, it is claimed only a handful of Americans had been killed, but when the battle was over, 85 Americans were dead and five more were dying, and 36 were severely wounded. The British version of the battle makes no mention of the massacre or the manner of Colonel Ledyard's death. The entire battle lasted only 40 minutes.

Major Montgomery was buried near the main gate of the fort. His family eventually retrieved his skull for burial in England. The other British who died during the battle were placed in unmarked graves, and the wounded were carried down the steep hill to the river. American wounded were placed on a heavy ammunition cart, which broke away as it was being moved down the hill and crashed into a tree, causing terrible suffering to the men inside. The bleeding, wounded men were carried to Ebenezer Avery's house. Prisoners who were able to walk were placed aboard British ships as prisoners of war, but many died aboard the ships on their way to New York. As evening approached, British troops plundered and burned many homes on Groton Bank.

There are a number of monuments and memorial dedications placed on the grounds of the fort today. The largest dedication is the Groton Monument. The Monument was built between 1826 and 1830, and is the oldest monument of its type in the country. Built of locally quarried granite, the Monument stands 135 feet tall with 166 steps. There is a marble memorial plaque with the names of the defenders who fell during the Battle of Groton Heights placed on the monument.

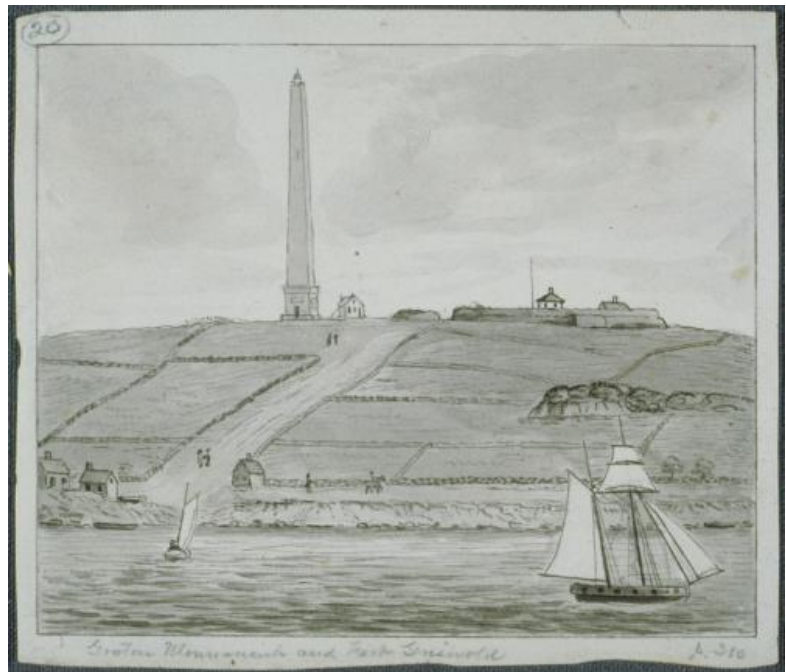


Figure 4

The Monument House Museum was built in 1830 but originally served as the monument caretaker's house. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began meeting in the house in 1894, and members started donating items to be put on display. The Memorial Annex (upper room) was added by the DAR in 1906 to accommodate the growing collection. In the museum you will find cases displaying artifacts from the battle and other periods of Groton's history. The Revolutionary War exhibit houses Colonel William Ledyard's sword and a painting depicting the battle. There is also a model of the Fort as it looked on September 6, 1781.

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**Mission:** “The purpose of the Friends of Fort Griswold is to work to preserve, restore, maintain, and promote the historic value, earthworks, buildings, and grounds, known as Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park in cooperation with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.”

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**Hours:** Sunrise - Sunset

**Admission:** Free

Museum and  
Monument  
Memorial-Labor Day

Wed. – Sun.  
9 AM – 5 PM

**Website:** [www.fortgriswold.org/](http://www.fortgriswold.org/)

**Address:** Park Ave. & Monument St.  
Groton, CT 06340

**Parking:** On-street Parking  
(side streets adjacent to fort)

**Email:** [info@fortgriswold.org](mailto:info@fortgriswold.org)

**Phone:** (860) 449-6877

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**Did you know** Fort Griswold bears 5 other memorials? Memorials include:

1. **The Spanish-American War Cannon** in front of the Groton monument was taken off the Spanish flagship *Marie-Teresa*. The cannon fired upon American ships as the *Marie-Teresa* tried to steam out of Cuba’s Santiago Harbor.
2. **The Civil War Memorial** was erected by Civil War Sergeant Robert Gray to honor his comrades-in-arms. He was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and served with the 21st Regiment, Connecticut volunteers.
3. Close to the Groton Monument is the **Veterans War Memorial**. It reads “The City of Groton, successor to the borough of Groton, has not forgotten the courage, valor, and sacrifices of its veterans of all wars.”
4. The **“Attention Universe”** stained glass museum window was dedicated in 1902 to honor Jonathan Brooks. Only 14 years old at the time of the battle, he was one of the first New London residents to venture out after the burning of the town. Every year he would go to Groton and join in the anniversary commemoration of the battle. One year, with near hurricane conditions, no one came, so he shouted “Attention Universe” and told his story to the wind.
5. **The Memorial Gate** was dedicated in 1911. A plaque details the fate of each defender of Fort Griswold on September 6, 1781.

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Fort Trumbull State Park**



**History:** Since the Colonial era, Fort Trumbull has served as the site of various military forts, schools and research facilities for the United States Army, Coast Guard and Navy. The original structure, which did not survive, was built to protect the New London Harbor from British attacks and later served as part of the country's coastal defense system. The masonry fort that stands today was constructed between 1839 and 1852 and is unique due to the Egyptian Revival features incorporated into its design.

During the American Revolution, Connecticut was known as the Provision State, and most of the supplies for Washington's army passed through the state, with New London being the principal port in this activity. New London was a hotbed of Revolutionary activity, which brought about the British attack on the port in the closing weeks of the war. On the morning of September 6, 1781, a large British force commanded by Benedict Arnold attacked New London, commencing at Fort Trumbull. The defenders of Fort Trumbull briefly engaged the British before spiking their guns and rowing across the Thames River to join the larger force of defenders at Fort Griswold. By the end of the day, most of New London lay in ruins after the British set it on fire.

After the Revolution, Fort Trumbull experienced periods of activity and neglect as the need for fortified coastal defense waxed and waned. During the Civil War, Fort Trumbull served as a Union fort, used primarily for inducting and training recruits. Many years later, the Fort was

again repurposed and became the home of the Coast Guard's first academy from 1915 to 1932. The academy was later moved up river to its present location at the northern end of New London to make room for the Maritime Officers Training School. The training school at Fort Trumbull graduated 15,473 officers in 76 classes between 1939 and 1946, until the operation was transferred to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Long Island.

Fort Trumbull's final tour of duty was during the second half of the twentieth century when the U.S. Navy stationed the Naval Underwater Sound Laboratory on fort grounds. The Sound Lab became the principal sonar research facility operated by the Navy, working closely with the Naval Submarine Base and Electric Boat shipyard. Sound Lab personnel gained international recognition for their pioneering work in acoustics and applied their expertise to develop and introduce into the U.S. Fleet advanced high-performance sonar suites for both submarines and surface vessels. The Lab was also involved in the development of periscopes and non-acoustic sensors used on submarines, providing at one location an expertise in all aspects of detection. The broad mix of talent covered a spectrum ranging from theoretical acoustic research, computerized system and warfare analysis and simulation, through fleet introduction and check-out of new sonar suites. Fort Trumbull quickly became the center of modern anti-submarine warfare sensor systems and development.



The efforts of the New London Sound Lab began in the early days of World War II in response to the presence of German U-boats in the North Atlantic. In response, a small building was erected at Fort Trumbull for the Columbia University Division of War Research under the sponsorship of the National Defense Research Committee (NDRC). Development work included aircraft listening equipment, ordnance, surface

craft listening and echo-ranging equipment. The highly successful radio sonobuoy and submarine-installed listening sonars were both invented at Fort Trumbull. The term "SONAR" (Sound Navigation And Ranging) also originated there. After the war, New London's Columbia laboratory was merged to form the Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory (NUSL) at Fort Trumbull.



During the 1950s and 1960s, New London’s research focused on the development of nuclear submarines and guided missiles. NUSL had a definitive role in submarine sonar and radio communication systems and anti-submarine sonar systems for surface craft. Efforts also included ocean surveillance systems for continental defense against missile-launching submarines, underwater acoustic research, and Polaris command communications. Expanded research activities at the site necessitated alterations to many of the old buildings and the construction of additional new ones. In 1970, the New London facilities were combined with undersea research and development activities in Newport, Rhode Island, to form the Naval Underwater Systems Center (NUSC).

In 1992, the Naval Underwater Systems Center was absorbed by a newly created Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) with major divisions in Newport, Rhode Island and Keyport, Washington. At that time, the New London Laboratory was redesignated as the New London Detachment of NUWC. With the close of the Cold War, the Navy consolidated the operations of the New London facility with its Newport facility and in 1996, the New London Sound Lab was closed and the property was transferred to the State of Connecticut.

The State invested \$25 million into Fort Trumbull, establishing it as Connecticut’s newest state park in 2000. The Visitor Center contains state of the art multimedia theaters, computer touch screen interactive exhibits, 3-D models, and extensive graphics and text panels. This one-of-a-kind center depicts over 225 years of military history and technological advances from the Revolutionary War to the Cold War. Some of the main themes of the Visitor Center are the September 6, 1781 attack by the British under the command of Benedict Arnold, the U-boat menace during World War II, and the anti-submarine efforts during the Cold War.

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<b>Hours:</b>	Sunrise - Sunset	<b>Admission:</b>	Free
Visitors Center and Fort Memorial-Labor Day	Wed. – Sun. 9 AM – 5 PM	Visitors Center and Fort Tours Memorial-Labor Day	Adult: \$ 6 Children ages 6-12: \$ 2 Children ages 0-5: Free
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.fortfriends.org/">https://www.fortfriends.org/</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	90 Walbach Street New London, CT 06320	<b>Parking:</b>	On-site Lot
<b>Email:</b>	N/A	<b>Phone:</b>	(860) 444-7591

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**Did you know** Fort Trumbull is the setting for Mark Twain's short Civil War thriller, "A Curious Experience"?

During the Civil War, Fort Trumbull was used as the headquarters for the 14th Infantry Regiment, as well as for recruitment and training. This is the setting in which Twain's "A Curious Experience" unfolds. In the story, narrated by the commander of the fort, a boy turns up asking to be enlisted, and impresses everyone with his behavior, both unusually charming and odd. He leads the narrator into a mystery involving potential threats, Confederate spies, and suspicions of secret plots. It's a quick and entertaining read that paints a convincing picture of Fort Trumbull and the City of New London.

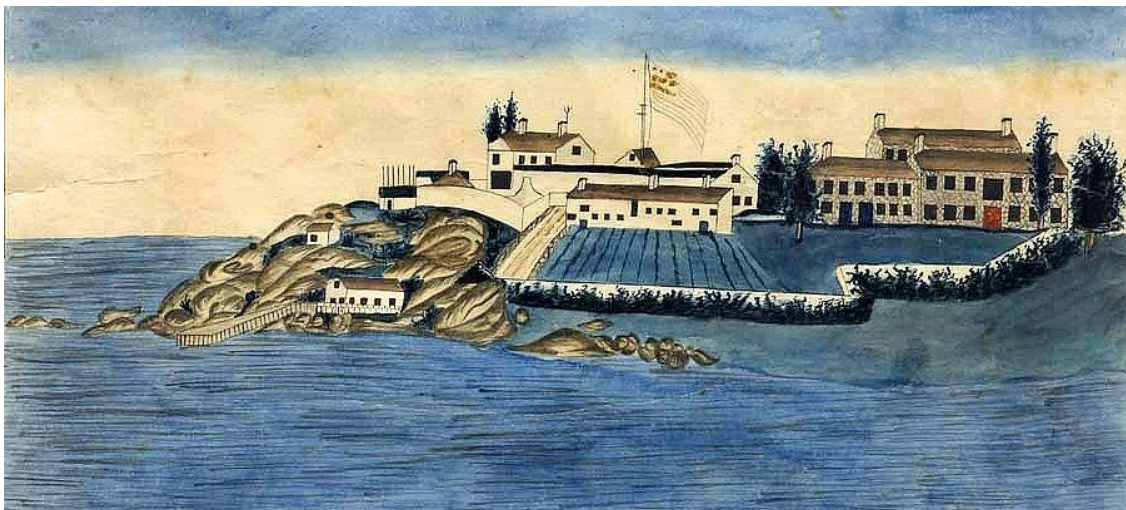


Figure 5

*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: Hempsted Houses**



**History:** Joshua Hempsted, the son of Joshua, a wheelwright, and his wife Elizabeth Larrabee, was born in New London on September 1, 1678. He lived his entire life in the house built that year by his father. The home, along with the addition built by his own son Nathaniel in 1728, is still standing today. In his earlier years, Hempsted was a shipwright, carpenter, landlord, lawyer, surveyor, and farmer. For many years, Hempsted also served as a business agent for the New London Winthrops, descendants of Governor Winthrop, one of the founding members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. As Hempsted got older, he spent his time as a public servant. He was a selectman, a member of the school

committee, an officer and captain in the local militia, delegate to the General Assembly, member of the committee to divide the Commons, and member of the committee of the First Congregational Society.

While he practiced several trades and careers throughout his life in New London, Hempsted is best known for his diary. Hempsted began a diary as a way to keep track of his many business activities. He recorded on a daily basis the weather, baptisms, marriage announcements, military training, court sessions, sailing vessel traffic, town meetings, thanksgivings, fasts, deaths, his travels, celebrations, and other events important to New London or Connecticut. The surviving part of the diary covers 47 years, from September of 1711 through early November of 1758. Hempsted's diary is one of the most important sources of information on colonial life today. It has been used to study diverse subjects such as trade with the West Indies, slavery, and the Great Awakening.

The stone Nathaniel Hempsted House was constructed by Joshua's grandson Nathaniel Hempsted. He was a merchant and one of three rope makers in maritime New London.



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**Mission:** The Hempsted Houses are owned and operated by Connecticut Landmarks, whose overall mission is to use historic properties to “inspire an understanding of our complex past.”

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<b>Hours:</b>	Sat. and Sun.	<b>Admission:</b>	New London Residents:	Free
May - October	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM		Adults	\$ 12
			Adults Discounted*	\$ 10
			TRHP Sr. Members	\$ 8
			Children age 6-18	\$ 5
			Children age 0-5	Free
			Family**	\$ 25

\* Students with ID, Adults aged 60+  
AAA and TRHP Members & Teachers  
\*\* 2 adults, unlimited children

**Website:** <https://ctlandmarks.org/properties/hempsted-houses/>

**Address:** 11 Hempstead Street  
New London, CT 06320

**Parking:** On-street Parking

**Email:** [hempsted@ctlandmarks.org](mailto:hempsted@ctlandmarks.org) **Phone:** (860) 443-7949

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**Did you know** that French-speaking exiles from Acadia built the Nathaniel Hempsted House and the Shaw Mansion?

In 1756, a ship with 300 French Acadians sailed to New London after being deported by British colonial rulers who questioned their loyalty to King George II.

The first settlement in Acadia was established by the French in 1605, and two years later, a group of English settlers landed in Jamestown, Virginia. The religious intolerance that racked Europe for centuries carried to North America, leading to bloody confrontations between French and English settlers for nearly 150 years. Because of this, the colony of Acadia changed hands nearly 10 times between 1605 and 1710.

Caught in between France and England, the Acadians maintained neutrality, but the British demanded full allegiance. In 1755, British colonials gathered about 5,000 Acadians and forced them upon ships set sail for England and the colonies. Acadians who survived the voyages arrived starving or sick with smallpox, typhus or other diseases. Connecticut received 731 Acadians and scattered them among the towns so they could not cause any political or religious unrest. Among their permanent contributions to New London are the two stone houses they built; the Shaw Mansion and Nathaniel Hempsted House.

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Hygienic Art Park**

**History:** The building is an integral part of New London's history. It was built of the foundations of colonial buildings that were destroyed in the burning of New London led by Benedict Arnold and British troops during the Revolutionary War in 1783.

The current build was originally built as a whaling provisioning store and crews' quarters in 1842 and became the Columbia Hotel in 1878. In 1919 the Swanson Brothers started a restaurant in the building.

In 1931 the restaurant became the Hygienic Restaurant and Delicatessen after the Sigros family, the Swanson brothers' partners who purchased the business. The name is derived from the Greek mythological god, Hygia, the god of health and cleanliness. One can only assume that at a time of no health inspectors and crude refrigeration, the name Hygienic was used to advertise the purity of the food sold there.

The Hygienic Restaurant became a popular 24-hour eatery with a catering kitchen and rooms on the upper floors. From the 1930's through the 60's it was very popular and was the place to go for late night dining and Sunday breakfasts. President Roosevelt, when at a train stop at New London station, asked about a good place to lunch and was brought through the alleyways to the Hygienic Restaurant. Al Capone was also said to have dined there. In 1961 acclaimed Vogue Photographer Diane Arbus visited the Hygienic to shoot Jack Dracula, a tattoo artist and resident. The photo was published in Vogue and now is a part of her photographic legacy.



In the early 1970's as the wrecking ball took its toll on the residential and business community in downtown New London and de-urbanization was the trend, the Hygienic Restaurant attracted street people, sailors and denizens of the night. Sailors on shore leave were purported to have frequented the alleged brothel on the upper floors and in 1969 the cocktail lounge was listed in the National Directory of Gay Bars in America.

In 1979, local fine artists who started a studio community in downtown New London began having yearly non-juried art exhibitions at the Hygienic Restaurant - modeled after the Salon des Independants movement in Paris - in an effort to bring fine art to the common man. The exhibition continued until restaurant closed in 1986 and was bought by developers. The Hygienic Art Show continued in other venues while the building lay vacant and was slated for demolition in 1996 to make a bank parking lot. Nine days away from demolition the volunteer artists who incorporated the non-profit, Hygienic Art, Inc. produced the yearly Hygienic Art Shows rallied a grassroots effort of community volunteers to save the building and purchased it in 1998. The building was completely gutted and rebuilt to serve the community with six affordable live-in studios for emerging artists and four public fine art galleries. Hygienic Art Galleries opened in January of 2000 for the 21st annual Hygienic Art show. The building and the vision of Hygienic Art now stands as a testament to community activism.

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**Mission:** Hygienic Art’s mission is to inspire, enrich, and instill a sense of community by promoting a free public art forum with events to stimulate economic development, tourism and educational projects for the City of New London and surrounding area.

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<b>Gallery Hours:</b>	Thu-Sat 12-7PM Sun 12-4PM	<b>Admission:</b>	N/A
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://hygienic.org">https://hygienic.org</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	79 Bank Street New London, CT 06320	<b>Parking:</b>	On-street Parking
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:director@hygienic.org">director@hygienic.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	(860) 443-8001

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**Did you know** that New England’s largest mural walk is right here in New London! Download your map [here](https://bit.ly/NLMuralWalk) (<https://bit.ly/NLMuralWalk>) or stop into the Hygienic and pick one up.



*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: Ledge Light**



**History:** New London Ledge Light is one of the most striking and unusual-looking

lighthouses in the United States. In 1900, the United States Lighthouse Board determined that because of increased ship traffic into the New London harbor, a new lighthouse to supplement New London Harbor Light (located upriver) was warranted.

The United States Senate authorized the construction of the new lighthouse in 1906.

The lighthouse was built by the Hamilton R. Douglas Company of New London. The lighthouse's foundation was constructed by the T.A. Scott Company of New London who owned and operated a large construction and marine salvage business on the Thames River.

Construction of the primary foundation, which sits on the ledge 28 feet from the waterline-began in 1908. On it was built the secondary foundation. The three-story eleven-room brick and granite structure with a mansard roof and circular lantern room-was completed in 1909. The design of the lighthouse was influenced by Edward Harkness and Morton Plant, two wealthy homeowners located in Waterford and Groton, who wanted the new lighthouse to be representative of the wealth and prosperity of the surrounding communities.

The architects used a design that was very popular in the late 1800's that incorporated both a mansard roof, brick construction and unique iron framing. And local craftsmen constructed the interior in keeping with the finest homes of the period. The lighthouse was commissioned Southwest Ledge, but to avoid confusion with an existing New Haven Lighthouse, the name was changed and-became known as New London Ledge Light.

The lighthouse was placed in operation on November 10, 1909, with a fourth-order Fresnel lens, crafted in Paris by Henry-Lepaute, providing magnification of the Whale Oil Lamp light source.

The light's distinctive "signature" of three white flashes followed by one red flash every thirty seconds and on clear nights can be seen for 17 miles.

The lighthouse was looked after by "light keepers", who were part of the U.S. Lighthouse Service until 1939, when the Service became part of the US Coast Guard.

In 1938, New London was devastated by a natural disaster, the 1938 Hurricane. A fast moving hurricane with devastating winds, tremendous waves and high surf -- made landfall in Southeastern Connecticut. Even with the widespread destruction on the coast and inland caused by the hurricane, Ledge Light managed to survive. Lighthouse keepers taking refuge in the lantern room for 12 hours reported waves crashing up to the second floor!

By the early 1980s, New London Ledge Light was the last remaining lighthouse on Long Island Sound manned by the Coast Guard. In 2014, ownership to New London Light was transferred from the US Coast Guard to the New London Maritime Society (NLMS) who also owns Race Rock and New London Harbor Light. Subsequently, NLMS entered into a 25-year lease with the Ledge Lighthouse Foundation, a non-profit organization formed in 1987 and began their stewardship of the Ledge Light.

New London Ledge Light still serves as an active aid for navigators entering and exiting the New London harbor and remains an iconic image recognized by many in logos and advertising.



Figure 6



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**Mission:** “The Ledge Light Foundation was created in 1987 with the goal of tending the lighthouse building. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. Our goal is to restore the light, publicize its history, and manage its reuse as a museum, gallery and tourist attraction.”

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<b>Hours:</b>	By Appointment Public Tours offered by NL Maritime Society	<b>Admission:</b>	Contact Ledge Light Foundation
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.ledgelighthouse.org">www.ledgelighthouse.org</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	Ledge Light Foundation 30 Mile Creek Rd. Old Lyme, CT 06371	<b>Parking:</b>	N/A
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@ledgelighthouse.org">info@ledgelighthouse.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	(860) 391-3364

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**Did you know** that when the T.A. Scott Company was awarded the bid to build Ledge Light, it was because they had successfully constructed Race Rock Light a few decades earlier?

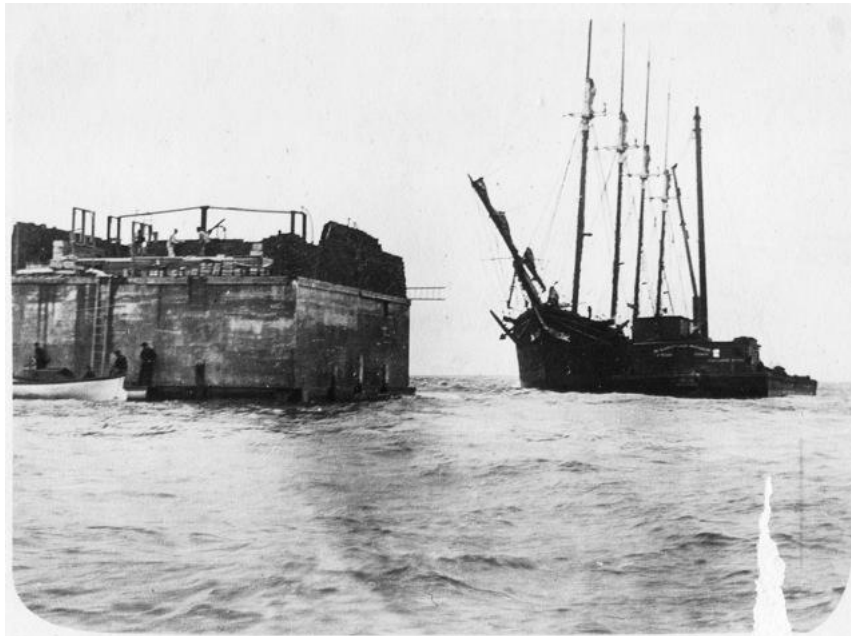


Figure 7

To begin the foundation for Ledge Light, Scott's workers constructed a timber crib made out of southern yellow pine, which was held together with nine tons of iron and steel. Four tugboats towed the crib from Groton to Southwest Ledge, a short journey that took eight hours to complete in 1908. The wooden crib was filled with concrete and gravel to secure it in place under twenty-eight feet of water.

*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: Lyman Allyn Art Museum**



**History:** Lyman Allyn, the namesake of the museum, was born just north of New London in Montville on April 25, 1797. His family relocated to Springfield, Massachusetts, but Allyn returned to Montville at the age of twenty-one, where he worked as a sailor serving under Captain Daniel Deshon and later as Captain for whaling vessels under the ownership of N. & W.W. Billings. When Allyn was thirty-seven, he retired from seafaring and developed a variety of other business ventures in New London. He served as a board member of both Lyman Law and the Whaling Bank of New London throughout the 1830s and 1840s. He is also listed as a board member for the short-lived New London Marine Insurance Company between 1847 and 1849. When the Willimantic and Palmer Railroads merged, Allyn served as the director of the newly formed New London, Willimantic, and Palmer Railroad conglomerate, while also working in the Connecticut State Legislature, actively supporting the Democratic Party.

Allyn married Emma Turner, the daughter of Captain John Turner and Mary Beckwith, and together had six children, five of whom survived into adulthood. They were: Mary, Emma, Charlotte, John, and Harriet. Lyman Allyn passed away on April 8, 1874, just prior to his seventy-fifth birthday.

In 1910, Allyn's daughter Harriet requested in her will that the Connecticut Trust and Safe Deposit Company of Hartford use money from her estate to create a park and a museum to honor the life and achievements of her father. In addition to this declaration, she donated a significant amount of land to neighboring Connecticut College, then a women's only school. When Harriet passed away in 1926, her bequest initiated the disbursement of funds to form a committee and begin planning the museum.

Architect Charles A. Platt was hired “to design an elegant neo-classical granite structure on a hill overlooking New London and the Thames River” using a design similar to the one Platt created for the Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. The museum building opened in 1932, displaying a collection built by the first Director, Winslow Ames, which famously consisted of only thirteen works, augmented by additional objects from the Allyn family’s collection. Today, the Lyman Allyn’s permanent collection consists of over 17,000 paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, furniture and decorative arts, with an emphasis on American art from the 18th through 20th centuries. One of its more recent addition is the Lyman Allyn’s new permanent Gilded Age Exhibition featuring Louis Comfort *Tiffany in New London*.

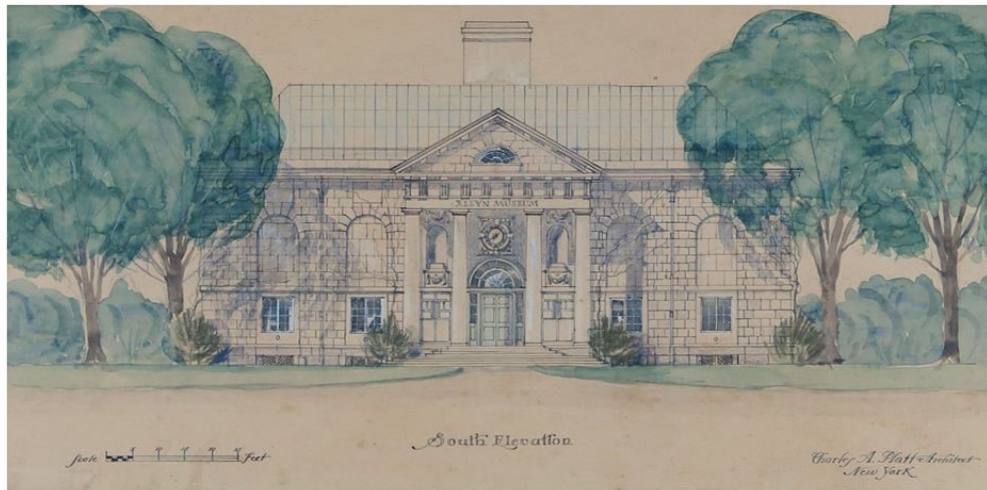


Figure 8

*Tiffany in New London* explores the life and career of artist, designer, and glassmaker Louis Comfort Tiffany through the lens of New London, focusing on the artist’s unique connections to the region. This Gilded Age permanent collection gallery includes stained-glass windows, lamps, favrile glass vessels, silver, jewelry, paintings, archival photographs, and other objects, some of which come from Tiffany family descendants.

*Tiffany in New London* features three stained-glass windows from New London that anchor the gallery, evoking the contemplative memorial and ecclesiastical environment for which they were created.

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**Mission:** “The Lyman Allyn Art Museum strives to make art enjoyable, inspirational and accessible to the people of New London, New England and beyond. We preserve, enhance, display and illuminate a collection of fine and decorative arts, held in trust for the public and in accordance with the highest ethical standards and practices. We are driven by a commitment to make our museum a gathering place for learning and the passionate exchange of ideas that educate, enrich and resonate with the lives of all in our communities. Our goal is to reveal the power of art with thought-provoking exhibitions and dynamic programs in and around our historic buildings and grounds.”

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**Hours:**

Tue – Sat 10 AM – 5 PM  
Sun 1 PM – 5 PM  
Mon Closed

**Admission:**

New London Residents  
& Members: Free  
Adults \$ 12  
Seniors \$ 9  
Active Military \$ 7  
Students \$ 5  
Children age 0-11 Free

**Website:** <https://www.lymanallyn.org/>

**Address:** 625 Williams Street  
New London, CT 06320

**Parking:** On-site Lot

**Email:** [info@lymanallyn.org](mailto:info@lymanallyn.org)

**Phone:** (860) 443- 2545

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*Tiffany Exhibit Lamps*

**Did you know** the Deshon-Allyn House, the Federal and Greek Revival inspired home located on the museum's property, was purchased by Lyman Allyn in 1851?

Daniel Deshon, a New London whaling captain, built the two-story granite home in 1829 for his wife Fanny Thurston, daughter of well-known Rhode Island Senator, George Thurston. Unfortunately, it was not long after the house finished that Fanny passed away in 1833 and Deshon moved to Hartford, putting the home up for sale.



Lyman Allyn, who at one point worked under Deshons direction aboard whaling vessels, purchased the home in 1851. When Allyn passed away in 1874, the home moved into the hands of his daughter Harriet, who kept it until her passing in 1926. Harriet left the home in the hands of her widowed sister-in-law Lucretia, who passed away in 1931. The residence was then purchased by the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company and used as the residence of the museum's first director, Winslow Ames.

Since then, the Deshon-Allyn House has served as the home of two museum directors, has been rented out to cadets attending the Coast Guard Academy, and been transitioned into gallery space. Former museum director Edgar Mayhew spearheaded the effort that placed the Deshon-Allyn House on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. Since 2014, the historic house has been the East Coast headquarters of the Ocean Exploration Trust, an organization dedicated to establishing international programs centered on scientific exploration of the seafloor.

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Monte Cristo Cottage**

**History:** Born on October 16, 1888, in a New York City hotel room, writer Eugene O'Neill is known as one of the best playwrights in American history. He was the son of Mary Ellen "Ella" and James O'Neill, a stage actor. After O'Neill was born, his mother developed an addiction to morphine and was still grieving the death of her first son who died of measles three years earlier. His father continued on with his role in a touring production of *The Count of Monte Cristo* where he played the role of Edmond Dantès.



O'Neill spent much of his early life on the road with his father but would return to New London every summer to vacation in a quaint cottage on Pequot Avenue overlooking the mouth of the Thames River. Years later O'Neill's father named the house the Monte Cristo Cottage after his popular stage role. The Cottage would eventually serve as the location for two of O'Neill's most famous plays.

Before becoming a playwright, O'Neill struggled with formal education. Shortly before his 7th birthday, he was sent away to St. Aloysius Academy for Boys, where he received a strict Catholic education. In 1900, he returned to New York City, where he attended the De La Salle Institute before transferring to the Betts Academy, a prep school in Stamford, Connecticut. In 1906, O'Neill enrolled at Princeton University, but was either dismissed for missing too many classes or left after only 10 months at the school. After that, he took several sea voyages and indulged heavily in alcohol.

In 1912, he battled tuberculosis and while in recovery, found his calling as a playwright. He enrolled in a writing class at Harvard University and had his first one-act play, "Bound East for Cardiff," produced in Provincetown, Massachusetts, in 1916. The emerging playwright took the theatrical world by storm in 1920 with the creation of "Beyond the Horizon," a Pulitzer Prize winning play. In 1922, O'Neill brought his drama "Anna Christie" to the Broadway stage, which won him his second Pulitzer Prize. O'Neill became the first American playwright to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

In 1947, the playwright was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and found it difficult to write due to the tremors in his hands. Eugene O'Neill died of bronchial pneumonia on November 27, 1953, at the age of 65, in Boston, Massachusetts. Before his death, he completed the play "Long Day's Journey Into Night," but he refused to have this autobiographical play produced until after his death. In 1957, "Long Day's Journey Into Night" was performed on Broadway with rave reviews. He received a posthumous Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize for the drama and his work continues to move and fascinate audiences today.



While O'Neill led a successful life away from New London, the Monte Cristo Cottage remained standing. The house is now a museum owned by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, the country's preeminent organization dedicated to the development of new works and new voices for the stage. Under the Center's direction, the Monte Cristo Cottage was registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1971. Restoration efforts began in 1972 and the Cottage officially opened as a museum in 1982. The Cottage underwent a second restoration in 2005 to reflect the setting of "Long Day's Journey Into Night" as described by O'Neill in his set directions.

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**Mission:** "In the pioneering spirit of its namesake, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center discovers, develops, and empowers new work, new voices, and creative risk-taking. By introducing innovative artists, essential to broadening the national cultural landscape, the O'Neill serves as the Launchpad of the American Theater."

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<b>Hours:</b>	Thu - Sun May - August 12 PM - 4 PM	<b>Admission:</b>	Adult: \$ 7 Seniors/Students \$ 5 Members Free
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.theoneill.org/mcc">https://www.theoneill.org/mcc</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	325 Pequot Avenue New London, CT 06320	<b>Parking:</b>	On-street Parking
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:theaterlives@theoneill.org">theaterlives@theoneill.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	(860) 445-1637

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**Did you know** that Eugene O’Neill’s California home is a National Historic Site run by the National Park Service? Two-thirds of America’s national park sites were created to preserve history and culture, but very few represent achievements in the arts and humanities. One notable exception is the park site preserving the home of playwright Eugene O’Neill.



The national park site preserving the home O’Neill shared with his third wife, Carlotta, sits on a wooded 158-acre piece of land in Danville, California. The couple purchased the land with the \$40,000 prize money O’Neill won with his Nobel Prize. The home was designed to be private and secluded, with an unusual mixture of adobe-inspired Spanish architecture and Asian-style furnishings and art. They called it Tao House, named for the Chinese religious tradition of Taoism, and they lived there for six years with their Dalmatian, Blemie. The Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site is one of the least-visited national parks in the country.

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## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section II: Nathan Hale Schoolhouse**



**History:** Nathan Hale, Connecticut's official state hero, was hired as New London's schoolmaster in 1774. He arrived at Union Grammar School, a one-room schoolhouse with a chimney in the back, with good teaching credentials. Having grown up in Coventry, he was educated at Yale College in New Haven and spent one year teaching in East Haddam. The proprietors of the New London school were happy with the new teacher, but Hale quit a year after accepting the job. He went on to enlist in Connecticut's militia in 1775 following the start of the Revolutionary War. Soon after enlisting, Hale was promoted to the rank of Captain. He became the only soldier to volunteer to spy on the British who had taken control of Long Island when George Washington needed valuable information. He was caught and hanged on September 22, 1776 by the

British at the age of 21. "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" were Nathan Hale's immortal last words.

Hale's namesake one-room schoolhouse in New London – not to be confused with the one in East Haddam - has been jokingly referred to as the city's oldest mobile home. The former Union School, now known as the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, was built in 1773 at the corner of State and Union streets and has moved six times since being erected. The schoolhouse was first moved from its original location in 1830 to the intersection of Golden and Union streets where it became a private residence, according to an account by the Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution, which purchased the building in 1899.

The building was renovated and moved to the Ancient Burying Ground on Hempstead Street in 1901 where it remained until 1966. It was at one point moved to Crystal Avenue, near the old town mill, until the Gold Star Memorial Bridge was erected and the schoolhouse became a structural concern. The building was then moved and situated on State Street, near city hall during a time when State Street was the pedestrian only Captain's Walk. It moved again in 1988, this time further down State Street. It now rests comfortably off Atlantic Street near the Water Street parking garage where it was moved as part of the \$10 million renovation of the downtown Parade plaza, which was completed in 2010.

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**Mission:** The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (CTSSAR) was organized on April 2, 1889 as a membership organization of men whose lineal ancestors supported the Patriot cause during the War for Independence. The private, non-profit organization is a society of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and its purposes, as outlined in its constitution, are patriotic, educational, and historical. An all-volunteer organization, the CTSSAR takes its responsibility as a guardian and interpreter of history seriously.

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**Hours:**

June - Sept.      Wed - Sun      11 AM – 4 PM  
After Labor Day      Sat & Sun      11 AM – 4 PM

**Admission:** Free

**Website:** <https://www.connecticutsar.org/historic-sites/nathan-hale-schoolhouse-new-london/>

**Address:** 19 Atlantic Street  
New London, CT 06320

**Parking:** On-street Parking

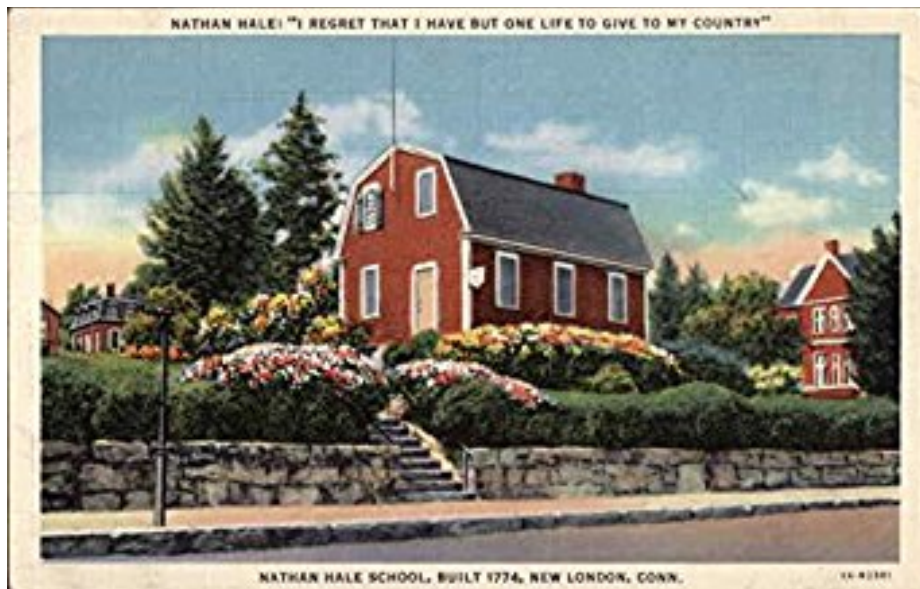
**Email:** Via Website

**Phone:** (860) 334-2858

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**Did you know** that the Nathan Hale Schoolhouse was going to move to the campus of Mitchell College in the mid-1970s but the plan fell through?

It appeared to be a done deal when the Sons of the American Revolution offered to sell the schoolhouse to the college for one dollar. Mitchell



College even erected a statue of Nathan Hale and named one of its buildings Nathan Hale Hall in anticipation of the move. It never became a reality because of last-minute political pressure to keep the schoolhouse where it was. The fear was that the absence of the schoolhouse would hurt the chances of the Captain's Walk success, while also removing the schoolhouse from its historical context in downtown New London.

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## *Thames River Heritage Park*

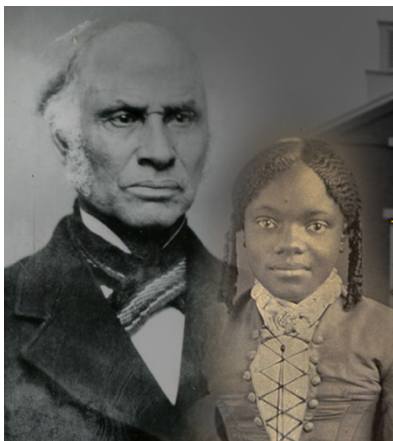
### **Section III: New London Black Heritage Trail**

**History:** New London’s Black Heritage Trail celebrates three centuries of Black strength, resilience, and accomplishment. Some of the trail’s fifteen sites explore nationally known people or incidents. Others honor people who have been nearly forgotten. Nearly all describe the determination with which New London’s Black community overcame obstacles through personal courage and by founding institutions to meet its social, political, economic and spiritual needs. Together, the sites tell a story about Black life in New London while tying into larger stories about enslavement, the Great Migration and the struggle for civil rights.

Unveiled in October 2021, as per Greg Smith’s article “New London poised to unveil Black Heritage Trail” in *The Day* “the self-guided trail is composed of a series of 15 bronze plaques marking and explaining the significance of historical sites ranging from the place where Frederick Douglass gave lectures to the former home of Black female abolitionist and civil rights activist Sarah Harris Fayerweather, who was the first Black student to attend a Canterbury school run by [Prudence Crandall](#) that would later become the first school for Black girls in the state.”



*Photo Credit: Harriett Jones, WSHU*



The Black Heritage Trail was made possible through the tireless efforts of a core volunteer committee that included Councilman Curtis K. Goodwin, New London Landmarks, New London Office of Development and Planning (ODP), and New London City Council Economic Development Committee along with a very dedicated team of volunteer researchers, most notably New London natives Tom Schuch and Nicole Thomas, docent and researcher at the Hempsted Houses; Lonnie Braxton, and Laura Natusch, executive director of New London Landmarks.

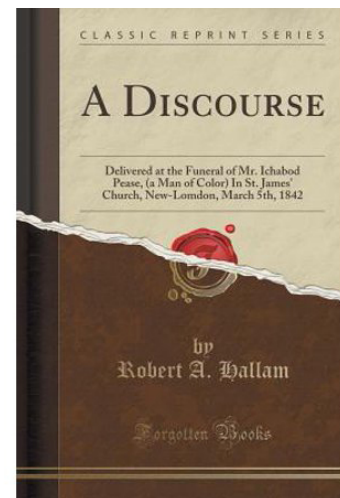
**Mission:** The mission of New London’s Black Heritage Trail is to tell the story about Black life in New London while tying into larger stories about enslavement, the Great Migration and the struggle for civil rights and to inspire current and future a generations.

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**Hours:** • Guided tours by TRHP in 2024      **Admission:** Self-guided tours - Free  
Tours  
• Self-guided Walking Tours – see      Guided tours - TBA  
Research website  
**Website:** <https://visitnewlondon.org/black-heritage-trail/>  
Walking Tours: <https://thamesriverheritagepark.org>  
**Address:** See map on website      **Parking:** On-street Parking  
Municipal Lot  
**Email:** [info@thamesriverheritagepark.org](mailto:info@thamesriverheritagepark.org)      **Phone:**

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**Did you know** that “the most eminent citizens sought the privilege of acting as bearers” for the funeral of Ichabod Pease, a formerly enslaved man who, in 1837, established New London's first school for Black children. Pease was 81-years-old and hosted the school in his home. He established the school in the middle of controversy in the city over the abolition of slavery and the education of Black children.



**Section III: New London County Historical Society and the Shaw Mansion**



**History:** The Shaw Mansion was built by Captain Nathaniel Shaw in 1756. That same year, French Acadians from Nova Scotia arrived in New London with few resources and began looking for work. Captain Shaw offered them work cutting the granite ledge on his property where he planned to build his family's mansion. Over the years, Captain Shaw and his family welcomed many

notable guests into their elaborate home. In 1776, the Shaw's hosted General George Washington, while he moved the continental army from Massachusetts to New York via New London. Shortly after, Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., a major revolutionary and First Selectman of New London, was named Naval Agent for Connecticut and the house became the naval headquarters for Connecticut's state navy. Shaw Jr. also worked in favor for the nearly fifty privateers that worked out of New London at the time.

New London eventually paid for their success at privateering when Benedict Arnold came to town with a force of 1,600 British, German, and loyalist soldiers in 1781, burning the town and attacking both forces at Fort Trumbull and Fort Griswold. Approximately 143 public buildings, homes, stores, warehouses, and ships burned. The Shaw Mansion was one of the few structures that survived the British attack that day. As the city rebuilt following the destruction laid during the Revolutionary War, the Shaw Mansion stayed within the Shaw family for nearly five generations. The home was eventually sold to the New London County Historical Society in 1907.

The historical society was founded in 1870 and is considered the oldest historical organization in eastern Connecticut and one of the oldest in the region. When the historical society was founded, they collected widely from the region but focused mainly on paper archives. Henry Havens, a leading founder of the historical society and half-brother to prominent town historian Frances Manwaring Caulkings, donated his half-sisters research in 1869 after her passing, initiating the

beginning of the societies archival collection. Originally located in New London City Hall, the historical society moved its collection in 1876 to private rooms in the city library. After acquiring the Shaw Mansion from the Shaw family, the historical society moved to its current location on the banks of the Thames River in 1907.

The first full-time executive director, Edward Baker, was hired in 2004, just over 100 years after moving into the Shaw Mansion. Baker hired a professional librarian to manage the historical societies archive and grow the collection through partnerships with the Library of Congress, Yale

University and the Connecticut State Library systems. Since then, the historical society has been awarded grants from the Institute for Library and Museum Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Extensive restoration work has also been done on the Shaw Mansion, including restoring a brick outdoor cellar, new drainage and new walkways creating a wheel-chair accessible entrance into the mansion, an accessible bathroom, classroom, and kitchen, repointing and sealing the chimneys, and upgrading the heating systems control.



Figure 9

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**Mission:** The mission of the New London County Historical Society is to inspire residents and visitors to appreciate the county’s past and draw upon its rich heritage to understand the present and imagine its future.

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<b>Hours:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	Free
Tours	Thu	1 PM – 4 PM*	
		By Appointment	* Last tour starts at 3:15 PM
Research	Wed-Fri	By Appointment	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.nlchs.org/">https://www.nlchs.org/</a>		
<b>Address:</b>	11 Blinman Street New London, CT 06320		<b>Parking:</b> On-street Parking Municipal Lot
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Info@nlchs.org">Info@nlchs.org</a>		<b>Phone:</b> (860) 443-1209

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**Did you know** that a well-known politician served as the President of the Board of the New London County Historical Society during the early part of the 20th century? Ernest Rogers involved the historical society in several major historical moments within the City of New London and the State of Connecticut's history while serving on the board.



Figure 10

The historical society was run under the leadership of Board President Ernest Rogers who became mayor of the City of New London in 1917. Rogers later went on to become a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1921 to 1922, Connecticut State Treasurer from 1925 to 1929, a delegate for the Republican National Convention from Connecticut in 1928, and Connecticut Lieutenant Governor from 1929 to 1931. He even ran as

a candidate for Connecticut Governor in 1930 under the Republican party but did not get elected. Ernest Rogers passed away in 1945 after suffering a heart attack during a Sunday church service.

Under Rogers leadership the historical society was involved in several major historical celebrations such as the erection of the statue of John Winthrop, Jr., a founder of New London in 1646, and the dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors monument. Dedicated in 1896, the Soldiers and Sailors monument is a privately funded, 50-foot-tall obelisk in downtown New London honoring the city's Civil War veterans.

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: New London Custom House Maritime Museum**

**History:** New London U.S. Custom House is a historic custom house at 150 Bank Street in New London, Connecticut, built in 1833-35 at the height of the City's maritime power, when New London was the second-greatest whaling port in the world. City leaders had petitioned the U.S. Treasury to build them 'a gem on the waterfront'. Robert Mills, one of the country's first formally trained architect best-known for his design of the U.S. national Washington Monument, did just that. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture in 1970,<sup>[1]</sup> and is now a local museum covering the city's maritime history.



*New London U.S. Custom House*

Located in New London's historic waterfront district, the U.S. Custom House is a three-story masonry structure, built out of dressed granite of differing colors. Due to sloping terrain, it presents two stories to Bank Street and three to Water Street, which separates it from the waterfront. It has corner pilasters shaped out of light granite, and its main entrance is sheltered by a porch with round columns and pilasters made of more smoothly finished light granite. A stringcourse of light granite separates the upper floors, and the top-floor windows have projecting cornices over the lintels. The door is fashioned out of wood that was once used in the USS Constitution.<sup>[3]</sup> The granite for its construction was taken from the Millstone Quarry in Waterford, Connecticut.





*New London U.S. Custom House*

In 1839, New London and its U.S. Custom House, now the Custom House Maritime Museum, played a small but significant role in the story of the *Amistad*. On June 28, 1839, the schooner *Amistad* set sail from Havana on a routine delivery of human cargo: 49 adult males and four children, three of them girls. On a moonless night, after four days at sea, the African captives risked death to stake a claim for freedom. They rose up, killed the captain, and seized control of the ship. Attempting to sail home to Africa, they were captured by the United States Navy and, on August 29, towed into New London Harbor. Called 'murderers' by some, the Africans were thrown into a New Haven jail. Today the Custom House tells the *Amistad* story with a new exhibition ***Amistad: A True Story of Freedom.***



*Vintage Dive Helmet*

The nation's oldest continuously operating U.S. Custom House and scene to much of the area's maritime history, the building was still in use as a customs office at the time of its National Register listing in 1970.<sup>[3]</sup> Owned by the City of New London and operated by the New London Maritime Society (NLMS), the Custom House serves as the headquarters of NLMS, which operates it as the Custom House Maritime Museum – a lively maritime museum, preservation, and educational organization. Exhibits include New London's maritime history, ship models, the *Amistad* affair, the history of the Robert Mills building, and regional lighthouses. The Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library consists of more than 2,300 books, charts, maps, and prints.

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**Mission:** To protect and preserve New London's U.S. Custom House, three area lighthouses, and Long Island Sound, and to promote, interpret, and celebrate the rich maritime life & history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions, educational programs, and preservation initiatives.

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<b>Hours:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	Adult:	\$ 7
			Children aged 7-14	\$ 5
<b>Wed.-Sun.</b>	1 PM – 5 PM		Members	Free
			NLPS Students & Family*	Free
<b>Sat.</b>	10 AM – 5 PM		USCGA Cadets*	Free
			Active Military* & Family	Free
			* Id Req'd.	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.nlmaritimesociety.org">https://www.nlmaritimesociety.org</a>			
<b>Address:</b>	150 Bank Street New London, CT 06320	<b>Parking:</b>	On-street Parking	
<b>Email:</b>	Via Website	<b>Phone:</b>	(860) 447-2501	

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**Did you know** that the U.S. Custom House in New London is officially the *first Connecticut site* on the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom!



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1. ["National Register Information System". National Register of Historic Places. National Park Service. March 13, 2009.](#)
  2. ["U.S. Custom House \(New London, CT\)". US National Park Service. Retrieved July 1, 2020.](#)
  3. ["NRHP nomination for New London Customhouse". National Park Service. Retrieved 2018-03-24.](#)
  4. ["2015-Summer-activities".](#)

*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: New London Mural Walk**

**History:** One of the newest additions to the the New London scene is the New London Mural Walk is a self-guided walking tour of New England’s largest mural walk presented by Hygienic Art, Inc. in collaboration with Connecticut College and Camel Tours.



“Underwater spacemen, exotic shells, geometric shapes, community portraits, musicians, mosaics and much more are part of your six-block walking tour of New London, Connecticut. You will discover the work of internationally acclaimed artists as well as aspiring local artist reflecting the rich cultural diversity of this small historic city on the Long Island Sound.”

“*Streetside with New London Mural Walk Artists* is a CamelTour that presents the artists behind the murals. CamelTour is a free virtual docent that will enhance your walking tour experience with artist-narrated slideshows on your mobile device. Information for each mural can be accessed by scanning the QR code inside this brochure.”

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<b>Hours:</b> Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guided tours by TRHP – tentative</li></ul>	<b>Admission:</b> Self-guided tours - Free  Guided tours - TBA
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-guided Walking Tours – see website</li></ul>	
<b>Website:</b>	Audio: <a href="https://cameltours.digital.conncoll.edu/ct/u16/t10/">https://cameltours.digital.conncoll.edu/ct/u16/t10/</a> Map: See map on in brochure: <a href="https://bit.ly/NLMuralWalk">https://bit.ly/NLMuralWalk</a>	
<b>Address:</b>	See map in brochure: See map on in brochure: <a href="https://bit.ly/NLMuralWalk">https://bit.ly/NLMuralWalk</a>	<b>Parking:</b> On-street Parking Municipal Lot
<b>Email:</b>		<b>Phone:</b> <a href="tel:(860)443-8000">(860) 443-8000</a>

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## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Old Town Mill** *also known as Winthrop Mill*



**History:** The Old Town Mill was originally built in 1650 by John Winthrop Jr., the founder of New London and later the Governor of Connecticut and William Comstock. Listed on the National Historic Register, the Mill is one of the oldest industrial sites in Connecticut. On September 6, 1781, General Benedict Arnold burned the mill down during his raid on

New London. The mill was rebuilt soon after on the original site and may include elements of the original. Some elements of the mill infrastructure may be very nearly original to the period of first use, notably the elevated flume, wheel pit, and tail race. The property remained in Winthrop family hands until the late 18th century. The property went through a succession of owners until 1892, when it was acquired by the city. It was leased for commercial operation until 1913, and underwent a major rehabilitation in 1960.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Old Town Mill is located north of downtown New London, on Mill Street, a short road between State Pier Road and Winthrop Street. The site is located on Briggs Brook, and is overshadowed by the high bridges carrying I-95 overhead. The mill building is a 1-1/2 story gambrel-roofed wood frame structure, measuring about 30 by 60 feet (9.1 m × 18.3 m). The roof flares out over the front to include a porch, supported by four square posts. The exterior of the building is finished in horizontal boarding that gives rough clapboard-like flushboard finish. Attached to the west wall is the mill's waterwheel. It is powered by water delivered from an elevated wooden penstock, which receives water from a gate at a small dam on the brook upstream from the mill. The penstock is about 200 feet (61 m) long, and is supported by wooden trestles mounted on stone piers. The interior of the mill contains a mix of modern and old finishes, and retains only a portion of the machinery needed to operate it properly.<sup>[2]</sup>

1. ["National Register Information System". \*National Register of Historic Places\*. \*National Park Service\*. March 13, 2009.](#)
2. ["NRHP nomination for Winthrop Mill". \*National Park Service\*. Retrieved 2015-02-04.](#)

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**Hours:** Grounds are open year-round  
from sunrise through sunset.

CT Open  
House Day June 11 – 12 PM – 4 PM

Saturday Open  
House Days July 9 & 23 and August 6 & 20  
11 AM – 2 PM

**Website:** <https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/oldtownmill/>

**Address:** 8 Mill Street  
New London, CT 06320

**Email:** [Cox@newlondonct.org](mailto:Cox@newlondonct.org)

**Admission:** Free

**Parking:** On-street Parking

**Phone:** (860) 447-5243

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**Did you know** that the original millstones were shipped directly from England and spent centuries grinding local farmers' corn and oats.



## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Pequot Chapel**

**History:** Pequot Chapel was founded in 1872 by Henry Crocker, manager of the Pequot House, a summer hotel in the Pequot Colony in Southern New London, as a convenience for guests. The Pequot House, opened in 1853, was popular with wealthy vacationers from New York and Washington, D.C. As more and more visitors came to New London and Pequot House was continuously at capacity, cottages were built to accommodate the overflow. Churchgoing guests of the Pequot House were able to explore a new option on Sundays. They could stroll to a newly built nearby chapel to worship rather than endure a tedious 45-minute horse and buggy ride to downtown churches three miles away.



The chapel proved so popular with hotel guests and with residents of the surrounding area that two years later it was incorporated. In 1873, the deed was turned over to a Board of Trustees. Over 140 years later, Pequot Chapel stands as a symbol of a cultural heritage in the best New England tradition.

The Chapel is a fine example of the Carpenter Gothic Revival style espoused by Alexander Jackson Downing, utilizing varying texture and color to enrich the building. Its design has been attributed to James Renwick. Mr. Renwick is best known for designing "The Castle" for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Buttresses in the rear of the building emphasize the gothic tradition while the board and batten construction stresses the rustic application of this style. In the south transept of Pequot Chapel are two stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Mr. Tiffany was a regular summer visitor at the Pequot House. These enchanting windows are hung together in a side aisle, doubling their artistic impact. The windows were given to the Chapel in 1895 by Mrs. William Woodward, in memory of her husband (he donated the land for the Chapel) and of his mother. The windows were placed next to the pews the Woodwards occupied.

---

**Mission:** Celebrating faith and fellowship for 150 years, Pequot Chapel is non-sectarian where all are welcome for all services and special events. The chapel is the most important surviving remnant of the Pequot Colony, but it is more than just an artifact; it continues as a spiritual, social, and cultural center for the neighborhood and the region.

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**Hours:**

Sundays 11 AM Service  
June – Labor Day

Tours

By Appointment

**Website:** <https://www.pequotchapel.org>

**Address:** 857 Montauk Avenue  
New London, CT 06320

**Email:** Via Website

**Admission:** Free

Donations gratefully accepted.

**Parking:** On-street Parking

**Phone:** 860-442-0812

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**Did you know** that the Pequot Chapel hosts an annual Lessons & Carols every December? It's a real treat, but if you go remember to dress warmly and bring a blanket as the Chapel has no heat.



## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: St. James Episcopal Church**

**History:** St. James Episcopal Church was formed in 1725. The original wooden- structure church was located on the current site of New London's Parade Plaza and built in 1732. It was destroyed during the burning of New London on September 6, 1781 – the same day as the Battle of Fort Griswold. A second church as built near the current site of The Salvation Army of New London.

The third and current church was designed by English-born architect [Richard Upjohn](#) in the [Gothic Revival](#) style. The cornerstone was laid November 3, 1847, and the church was consecrated on June 11, 1850. It was built in a cruciform style with north and south transepts. There is a very prominent bell tower on the northwest corner.<sup>[1][2]</sup> St. James is an excellent example of Upjohn's architectural style. It is notable that St. James was started the year after Upjohn completed [Trinity Church \(Manhattan\)](#).<sup>[1]</sup>The [New York Ecclesiological Society](#) criticized Upjohn for the "moorish" design of the roof bracing in St. James, however, it was well received locally.<sup>[1][2]</sup>



The original stained glass windows (including the Altar window) in the church were installed in 1850 and are believed to have been designed by the Henry E. Sharp Studio in New York.<sup>[1]</sup> Starting in 1910, six of the original windows were replaced with memorial windows made by Tiffany Studio in New York. The large Tiffany windows in the north and south transepts are magnificent examples of the art form. The south transept window depicts three saints; Sebastian, Joseph (holding the infant Jesus), and Francis. It commemorates three members of the Lawrence family: father Joseph and his two sons, Francis and Sabastian. The north transept window shows the Holy Family and was donated in memory of Lyman Allyn. The wealth that made these and the other Tiffany windows possible was derived largely from the whaling trade.<sup>[1]</sup>



The church has an [Ernest M. Skinner](#) Organ, Opus 220, made in 1913.<sup>[8]</sup> It was donated to the Parish by philanthropist and railroad magnate, Commodore Morton Plant, son of [Henry B. Plant](#), in memory of his wife Nellie. The instrument has 43 ranks of pipes with four divisions and pedals, and contains 2680 pipes. Major tonal changes were made in 1952 and it was reconditioned in 2002. The modern console is mobile and is placed at the center of the [choir](#) for organ concerts. [Silent film](#) showings featuring live accompaniment on this organ are an annual event at St. James.



1. ["National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Listing 90001098" \(PDF\)](#). Retrieved 2012-08-11.
2. *Caulkins, Frances (1852), History of New London, Connecticut: From the first survey of the coast in 1612, to 1852, New London, CT, pp. 440–448, 594–595*
3. <http://aeolian-skinner.110mb.com/> Archived July 28, 2010, at the [Wayback Machine](#)

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**Mission:** Celebrating faith and fellowship for nearly 300 years, St. James Episcopal Church is a forward-looking and inclusive urban parish, grounded in the sacramental and liturgical life of The Book of Common Prayer, the Holy Scripture, and the Anglican tradition. They try to be a faithful community that lives out our baptismal vows. It is the mission of the Church to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

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**Hours:**

Sundays  
June – Labor Day

8 AM and 10 AM Service

Tours

By Appointment

**Website:**

<https://www.stjamesnl.org>

**Address:**

Corner of Huntington  
and Federal Streets  
Office: 76 Federal St.  
New London, CT 06320

**Admission:** Free

Donations gratefully accepted.

**Parking:**

On-street Parking

**Email:**

parishoffice@stjamesnl.org

**Phone:**

860-443-4989

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**Did you know**  
that the  
Anglican  
Singers have  
been guest  
Artists-in-  
Residence since  
1996 at historic  
St. James  
Episcopal  
Church in New  
London,  
Connecticut.



## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Submarine Force Library and Museum and USS Nautilus**

**History:** The Submarine Force Library and Museum maintains the world's finest collection of submarine artifacts. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy, and as such, is the primary repository for artifacts, documents and photographs relating to the U.S. Submarine Force history. Established in 1955, the Submarine Force Library and



Museum was originally operated by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics and was known solely as the Submarine Library. In April 1964, the entire collection was donated to the Navy and relocated to the Naval Submarine Base, New London, in Groton, Connecticut. The name "Submarine Force Library and Museum" was officially adopted in 1969. In 1984, the museum formed the "Connecticut Nautilus Committee" to raise funds for an improved museum, aiming to convince the U.S. Navy to donate the USS Nautilus as an official museum piece.

The USS Nautilus is the world's first nuclear powered vessel. The construction of Nautilus was made possible through scientists and engineers at the Naval Reactors Branch of the Atomic Energy Commission, under the leadership of Captain Hyman G. Rickover, USN. On December 12, 1951, the Navy Department announced that Nautilus would be the sixth ship of their fleet to bear the name Nautilus. The vessel's keel was laid by President Harry S. Truman at the Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut on June 4, 1952. Construction lasted nearly 18 months and the Nautilus was officially launched on January 21, 1954, with First Lady Mamie Eisenhower breaking the traditional bottle of champagne across Nautilus' bow as she slid into the Thames River.

Eight months later, on September 30, 1954, Nautilus became the first commissioned nuclear-powered ship in the U.S. Navy. Nautilus became the first ship to go to the North Pole and the first submarine to journey "20,000 leagues under the sea." Several years later in 1959, Nautilus entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine for her first complete overhaul - the first of any nuclear-powered ship - and the replacement of her second fuel core. One year later, Nautilus departed Maine and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea to become the first nuclear powered submarine assigned to the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

For six years, Nautilus participated in several fleet exercises while traveling over 200,000 miles. In 1966, the vessel recorded 300,000 miles underway, breaking all previous distance records. Following this achievement, Nautilus became involved in a variety of developmental testing programs while serving alongside other more modern powered submarines of its kind.

In 1979, Nautilus set out from Groton, Connecticut for her final voyage to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. The U.S. Navy officially decommissioned Nautilus on March 3, 1980 after a military career of 25 years and traveling over half a million miles. To recognize her pioneering role in naval submarine technology, Nautilus was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 20, 1982. Following an extensive historic ship conversion at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Nautilus was towed back to Groton in 1985. On April 11, 1986, eighty-six years to the day after the birth of the Submarine Force, Historic Ship Nautilus joined the Submarine Force Library and Museum as an official museum piece. The vessel became the first exhibit of its kind in the world, providing a visible link between yesterday's Submarine Force and the Submarine Force of tomorrow. Today visitors can explore the spaces where the crew of this historic vessel worked, ate, slept, and entertained themselves on their long voyages beneath the sea.

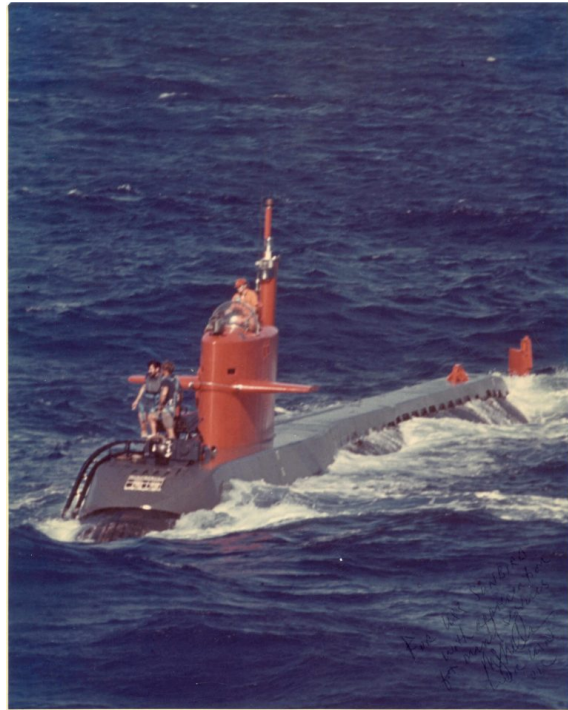


The Submarine Force Library and Museum's collection includes more than just the Historic Ship Nautilus, it also houses more than 33,000 artifacts, 20,000 significant documents and 30,000 photographs. Their 6,000-volume reference and research library is a world-renowned collection focused on the history of all United States submarines and is open to researchers looking for information on submarines, the USS Nautilus, or the history of the U.S. Submarine Fleet.

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**Mission:** “To collect, preserve and interpret the history of the United States Naval Submarine Force in order to honor veterans and to educate naval personnel and the public in the heritage and traditions of the US Submarine Force and its relationship to America’s freedom by:

- Acting as a national repository with responsibility to archive and display US Submarine history that is accurate, complete and unbiased.
- Preserving the physical legacy and experiences of submariners for presentation to the widest possible audience.
- Developing and publicizing programs that broaden and deepen public knowledge and appreciation of the significance of the Submarine Force.
- Striving to anticipate the Submarine Force’s future historical needs in formulating strategies and policies for acquisition of historical material.
- Hosting Naval traditions and activities that promote Naval Heritage to the greater community.”



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**Hours\*:**  
May 1 - Oct 31    Wed - Mon    9 AM – 5 PM  
Nov 1 - Apr 30\*    Wed - Mon    9 AM – 4 PM  
                          Tue            Closed  
                          Holidays\*\*    Closed

**Admission:** Free

\* Closed for 2 2-week maintenance periods in spring and fall. Contact museum or check website for dates.

\*\*Christmas, New Year, Thanksgiving Days

**Website:** <https://www.ussnautilus.org>

**Address:** 1 Crystal Lake Road  
Groton, CT 06340

**Parking:** On-site Lot

**Email:** [info@ussnautilus.org](mailto:info@ussnautilus.org)

**Phone:** (860) 694-3174

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**Did you know** that when the USS Nautilus traveled to the North Pole it was under top secret orders conducted through “Operation Sunshine?”



Figure 11

On July 23, 1958, Nautilus departed from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii under “Operation Sunshine,” a top-secret mission to reach the geographic North Pole. Nautilus was chosen for this mission over other submarines due to its nuclear reactor which allowed it to remain submerged longer than other conventional submarines. A few days after departure, a crew of 116 submariners submerged under the ice caps in Point Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost point in the United States. Nautilus surfaced in Point Barrow in order to photograph the area, but quickly moved through due to their proximity to Russian waters. At 11:15 PM on August 3, 1958, Nautilus passed directly below the North Pole. Nautilus’s second Commanding Officer, William R. Anderson, announced to his crew, “For the world, our country, and the Navy -

the North Pole.” Commander Anderson did not notify Washington DC of their achievement until 36 hours later when the Nautilus surfaced in the Greenland Sea. The message Commander Anderson sent to President Dwight D. Eisenhower regarding Operation Sunshine stated only three words - “Nautilus 90 North.” Commander Anderson was later awarded the Legion of Merit and the Nautilus was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, the first one ever designated during peacetime.



USS Nautilus officially launched into the Thames River on January 21, 1954  
(Bates Littlehales, National Geographic)

*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section III: US SUBVETS WWII National Memorial East**

**History:** Overlooking the shores of the Thames River in Groton, this outdoor memorial is dedicated to the 3,617 courageous submariners who lost their lives during WWII. Fifty-two engraved granite stones around the concrete walkways honor each of the US Submarines lost in World War II. Bronze plaques list the name of the vessel and the date of their sinking



The largest feature of this outdoor National Memorial is the conning tower of the USS Flasher (SS-249). The USS Flasher, built by Groton's Electric Boat and commissioned in 1943, was credited with sinking the highest tonnage of Japanese ships, 24 vessels and more than 100,000 tons, during World War II. The vessel was decommissioned by the Navy on March 16, 1946.



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**Mission:** “This outdoor memorial is dedicated to the 3,617 courageous submariners who lost their lives during WWII.

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**Hours:** Sunrise - Sunset

**Admission:** Free

**Website:** [www.ctvisit.com/listings/us-submarine-world-war-ii-veterans-memorial-east](http://www.ctvisit.com/listings/us-submarine-world-war-ii-veterans-memorial-east)

**Address:** 37 Bridge Street  
Groton, CT 06340

**Parking:** On-site

**Email:** [commander@ussvigroton.org](mailto:commander@ussvigroton.org)

**Phone:** (860) 388-3553

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**Did you know** that World War II submarine veterans are honored with a similar memorial outside the Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach, California?

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach is the West Coast site for the United States World War II Submarine Memorial. Dedicated in 1977, this memorial pays tribute to over 3,000 submariners who never returned home from war. The memorial includes plaques for each of the 52 U.S. submarines lost in that conflict, as well as additional dedications representing submarines lost during the postwar Cold War era.

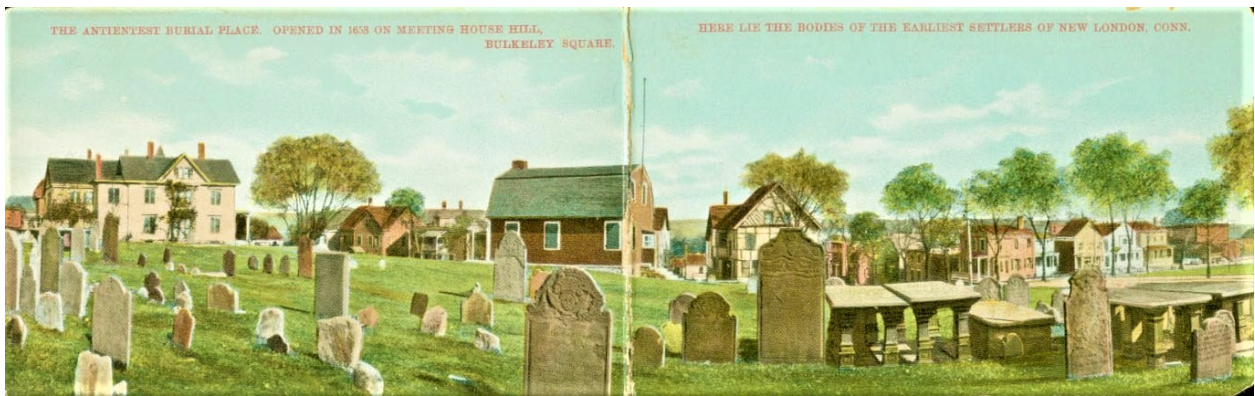




## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section III: Ye Antientist Burial Ground**

**History:** One of the earliest graveyards in New England and the oldest colonial cemetery in New London County, the Ye Antientist Burial Ground is the final resting place of Gurdon Saltonstall, who served as Governor of the Colony of Connecticut from 1708 to 1724, and Lucretia Harris Shaw. The wife of Captain Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., Lucretia turned her home into a hospital for soldiers returning from British prison ships. The hillside lot of 1.5 acres (6,000 m<sup>2</sup>), which is owned by the City of New London, adjoins the site of New London's first meeting house. The settlement at the time was called "[Pequot Plantation](#)" until the name changed in 1658. From the burial grounds, visitors have a broad view to the east of the [Thames River](#) and, on the far shore, the heights of [Groton, Connecticut](#).



*Early 20th-century postcard of Ye Antientist Burial Ground*

The lot had been reserved for a burying ground and recorded as such in the summer of 1645. The first decedent "of mature age" was duly interred there in 1652. But it is the ordinance of June 6, 1653 that legally sets the place apart and declares, "It shall ever bee for a Common Buriall place, and never be impropriated by any."

17th century New London was yet a rough and isolated corner of early [colonial Connecticut](#). Private interments were not customary, and this was the only common burial place. The dead were brought in from a distance of six or seven miles (11 km), either carried in [hurdles](#), or borne on a [bier](#) upon men's shoulders; large companies assembling, and relieving each other at convenient distances ([Prentis & Caulkins 1899](#), p. 7).

Few of the early graves ever had inscribed markers. The New London of that time possessed no skilled stonecutters, and those early planters simply had not the means. A few surviving families did, however, seek to address the deficiency in later years. At least four stones dated in the 17th century have been found that could not have been placed before 1720 ([Slater 1987](#), p. 221).

**Hours:** Grounds are open year-round from sunrise through sunset.

**Admission:** Free

**Website:** <https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/ye-antientist-burial-ground/>

**Address:** 1 Bulkeley Place  
New London, CT 06320

**Parking:** On-street Parking

**Email:** N/A

**Phone:** N/A

**Did you know** that on the New London's famous ladies interred at Ye Antientist Burial Ground - Lucretia Harris Shaw, wife of Captain Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. - turned her home into a hospital for soldiers returning from British prison ships. Her home was the Shaw Mansion, now home to the New London County Historical Society.



*Gravestone dated 1764 carved by David Lamb of Norwich*

## Section IV: Water Taxi Policies and Emergency Contacts

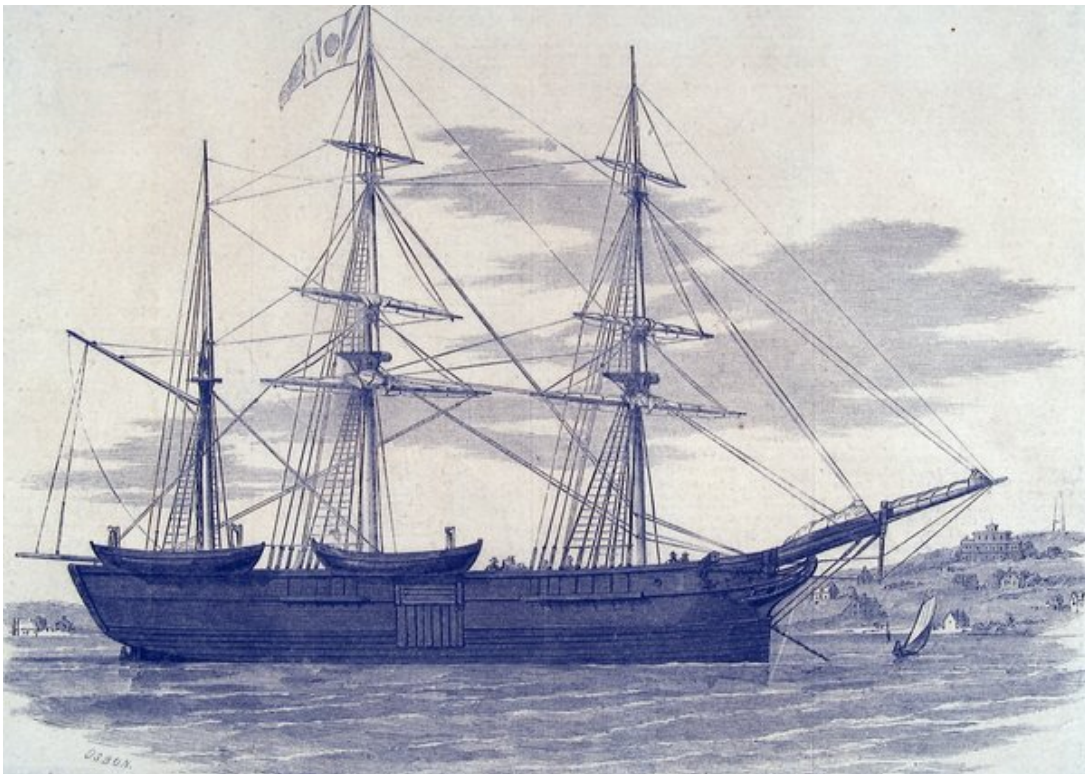


Figure 12

*Thames River Heritage Park*

**Section IV: Hop-on, Hop-off Harbor Cruise (Water Taxi) Information**

The water taxi runs between City Pier, New London and Thames River Landing, Groton and in the near future will extend to the new dock located at Submarine Force and Nautilus Museums.

**TENTATIVE 2024 Hop-on, Hop-off Harbor Cruise (Water Taxi) Schedule:**

**Saturday / Sunday**

Board from Any Landing:

<b>Fort Trumbull State Park, New London</b>	10:00, 11:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:00
<b>City Pier, New London</b>	10:20, 2:20, 3:30, 5:20, 6:20
<b>Thames River Landing, City of Groton</b>	10:40, 2:40, 3:40, 5:40, 6:40



\* Water taxi operating hours are subject to change depending on the needs of the TRHP and community. In times of a national health crisis and global pandemic additional precautions and policies are added to ensure the safety of crew and passengers. These changes can include, but are not limited to, reduced passenger count, frequent sanitization, facial coverings, and alterations to operating hours.

## Hop-on, Hop-off Harbor Cruise (Water Taxi) Rates:

Children 3 & under	Free
Adult All Day Pass	\$ 15
Children & Active Military* Round Trip	\$ 7.50

Tickets may be purchased online or with cash or credit card on the water taxi.

\*Active Military ID required.

## Season Passes:

A season pass permits a rider all days, unlimited rides.

Adult Season Pass	\$ 65
Children's (age 0-12) Season Pass*	\$ 35
Additional Children's Season Pass	\$ 25

Season passes may be purchased online or with cash or credit card on the Water Taxi.

Season Passes are non-transferable.

\* Children must be 12-years old or younger and must be accompanied by an adult.

## Weather Delays:

There are conditions throughout the summer months when the weather will impact the taxi service. Thunderstorms may affect the times of departure and arrival. If there are no weather conditions the taxi should be Green. Yellow is running but may be delayed. Red is not running.

Weather delays will be displayed on the home page above the main navigation throughout the site. If you have purchased a ticket, you will be notified via text message and email. Water Taxi tickets are non-refundable but may be used for any 2021 regularly scheduled ride.

- Green dot – Taxi is running
- Yellow dot – Taxi is delayed
- Red dot – Taxi is not running

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Section IV: Water Taxi Policies and Emergency Contacts**

#### Water Taxi Accessibility Policy:

The water taxis are not ADA compliant; however, an attempt to accommodate all passengers as best possible will be made.

For your safety, passengers must be able to walk up and down 4 stairs and board the water taxi independently with minimal, courtesy-only assistance from the crew. Should there be a need to disembark quickly or unexpectedly, passengers must be able to do so unaided.

The water taxis are not equipped to accommodate wheelchair passengers unless they are able to move in and out of their wheelchair on the landing and fold and lift their wheelchair onto and off the boat unassisted or with the assistance of a travel companion.

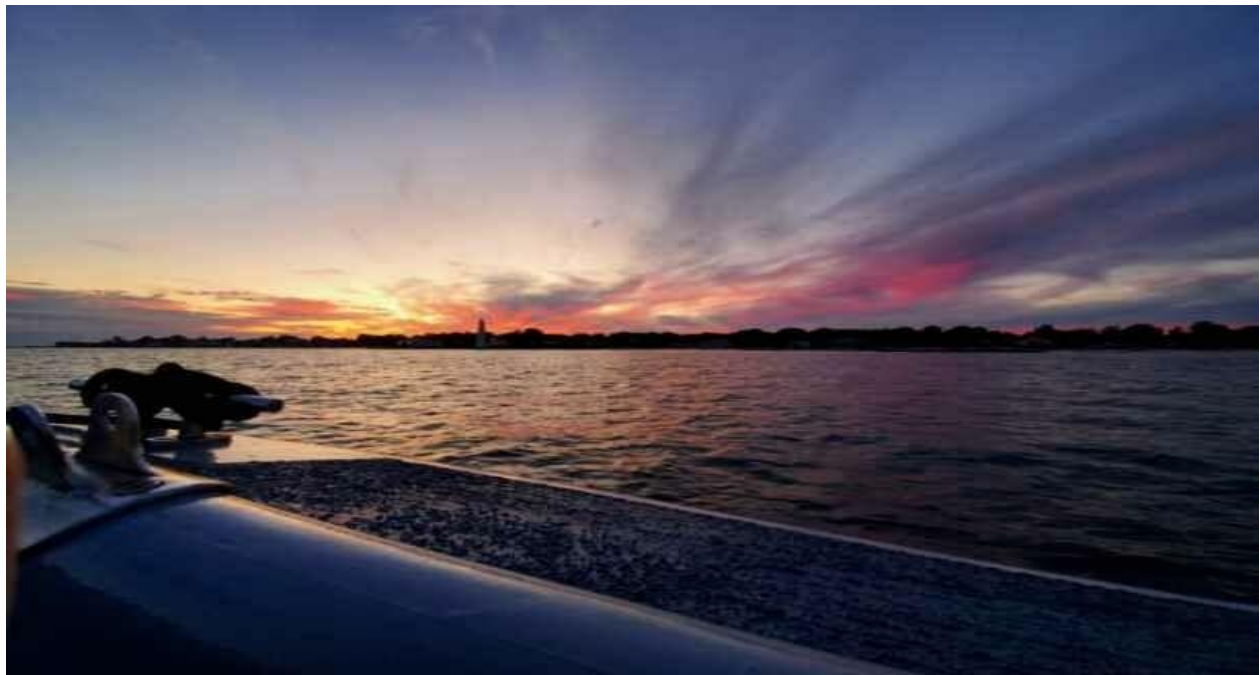
Passengers requiring assistance are encouraged to board with a companion to avoid any difficulty.

Admittance onto the water taxi is at the discretion of our captains who are authorized to determine a guest's ability to meet these requirements.



TRHP Staff Contact List:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>
Catherine Foley	Executive Director	(860) 333-6706	<a href="mailto:cfoley@thamesriverheritagepark.org">cfoley@thamesriverheritagepark.org</a>
Marci Marciniak	Program Coordinator	(860) 333-6706	<a href="mailto:marci@thamesriverheritagepark.org">marci@thamesriverheritagepark.org</a>
Casey Howley-Brigham	Digital Marketing Coordinator	(860) 961-1982	<a href="mailto:caseyhb@thamesriverheritagepark.org">caseyhb@thamesriverheritagepark.org</a>
Scott Arsenault	Water Taxi Operator	(860) 961-7715	<a href="mailto:scott@vixenledgemarine.com">scott@vixenledgemarine.com</a>
Weekend Water Taxi Operation		(856) 259-71293	







# Appendix



Figure 13

## Thames River Quests

These quests are self-guided, family-friendly treasure-seeking hikes that will take you to Fort Trumbull State Park and Waterfront Park in Downtown New London and Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park and Thames Street in Groton. At each site you will follow a series of clues to learn about the history and the ecology of the area and the river while solving a word puzzle that leads to a treasure box. Each hike is a separate experience, but can be linked with rides on the Park's water taxi. It's a fun outdoor activity for young and old alike!

### **Thames River Quest Options:**

1. Downtown New London Waterfront Park
2. Fort Griswold Quest
3. Fort Trumbull Quest
4. Hidden Thames Street Quest

\* Go to [www.thamesriverheritagepark.org](http://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org) to print out a quest. Grab a pencil and go!

\* Examples of each Thames River Quest are included in this guidebook.



## THAMES RIVER QUEST - DOWNTOWN NEW LONDON WATERFRONT PARK

Your quest - should you choose to accept it - is to discover the hidden treasures found in the history, heritage, and ecology of the Downtown New London Waterfront as you crack the code to the clue, which can be found at the end of this document.

*At this place the boat you carries  
Lots of interesting sights you'll see  
To Long, Fishers and Block islands there are ferries  
and across the river Electric Boat or just "EB"  
building nuclear-powered subs for our military*

Begin your walk into history at the colorful **mini-submarine sculpture** located at the base of City Pier. It's close to the dock where you exit the water taxi. It is also easily reached by walking off Water Street, past the train station, across the railroad tracks and onto New London's waterfront park.



Walk due west (away from the water) and turn south (left) onto the walkway just beyond the signs for the Mystic Whaler and the Fishers Island Ferry landing.

What vowel begins one of the words in these two names? \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Write this **vowel** in **#2, 13, 30, 44 and 47**.

1. Continue walking south (straight ahead) and stop at the **statue of the small boy sitting on a rock** on your left.

*So serious does he appear  
As he writes his observations.  
This young Eugene emerged premier  
With weighty plays of his creation  
Lauded in the most Nobel sphere*

Where is Eugene O'Neill's boyhood home? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of his plays includes the name of a species of tree? \_\_\_\_\_

Add the three digits in the number of Eugene's childhood home together (a)\_\_\_\_\_. Count the number of letters in the name of the tree (b)\_\_\_\_\_. Add that number to the number of letters in the tree name (c)\_\_\_\_\_.

(a)\_\_\_\_\_ + (b)\_\_\_\_\_ = (c)\_\_\_\_\_. Write the word for this number (c): \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter in the word for (c)** \_\_\_\_\_ in space **#1** of the clue.

◆ Write the **first letter of the name of the play** \_\_\_\_\_ in **#4 and #48**.

2. Continue south (away from the water taxi landing) along the waterfront path. Turn east (left) onto the first side pier. Find the **signs for and the pavement etchings of the sea creatures** that can be found in Long Island Sound.

*Quahogs, oysters and clams with soft shells  
Bivalves all are these  
Shrimp, lobster and crabs live here as well  
But are called crustaceans, please  
Also five kinds of fish here do dwell.*

In addition to sea creatures, the signs also describe 1 mammal and 1 echinoderm.

What is the mammal? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the echinoderm? \_\_\_\_\_

TRHP Quest: Downtown NL Waterfront Park our words of these names \_\_\_\_\_. Write the word for this number: \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the **3<sup>rd</sup> letter** of the word for this number (\_\_\_\_\_) in **#7, 10, 11, 18, 23, 34 and 49**.

3. Walk past the humpback whale sign to the “**Marine Life of the Lower Thames River**” sign.  
Salt water from Long Island Sound mixes in the river with fresh water from three (3) other rivers.

This means the Thames River is an \_\_\_\_\_ (7 letters).

Write the **2<sup>nd</sup> letter** of that word \_\_\_\_\_ in **#46**.

What are the names of the three rivers that flow into the Thames? (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the **7<sup>th</sup> letter of the river** name that is 9 letters long \_\_\_\_\_ in **#39 and #43**.

4. Return to the main walkway, turn south (left), and go to the **2<sup>nd</sup> side pier** with the “**New London and the Sea**” sign.

What is the title of the other side of the sign? \_\_\_\_\_

Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the title** \_\_\_\_\_ in **#12 and #29**.



The U.S. Custom House, which is described on the “New London and the Sea” side of the sign, can be seen across the railroad tracks. It is the gray granite block building.

*Of privateers and shipwrights, a regatta and more*

*New London and its harbor are known*

*The story of the Amistad unfolded on its shore*

*The oldest custom house still stands here in stone*

*And from many whaling ships once did oil pour.*

5. What names (5) did the native Americans use for the Thames River? (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_

Of the two letters common to both tribal names (Pequot and Mohegan), which letter comes later in alphabetical order?

Write the **last letter** that comes in alphabetical order \_\_\_\_\_ and put in **#25, 28, 41 and 42**.

Find the **2 consonants** in the tribal names that come closest to the beginning of the alphabet.

Write the **consonant** that is **closest to the beginning** \_\_\_\_\_ in **#22**.

Write the **next highest consonant** \_\_\_\_\_ in **#6, 15, 17, 24 and 33**.

6. Continue south to the **Customs House Pier** and read the “**Changing Shoreline**” sign. Look at the small map in the center of a portion of the city with the Shaw Mansion, the Stone House that belonged to Nathaniel Hempstead, grandson of the author of the Hempstead Diary, and the Coit House. All the streets on the map can still be found in the city.

Three of the street names and the name of the cove all begin with the same letter \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the **2<sup>nd</sup> letter of the longest of these four names** \_\_\_\_\_ in **#19, 26, 27 and 40**.

Write the **last letter of that same name** in **#3, 31, 38 and 45**.

7. Turn around and head north along the walkway. Notice the murals on the backs of the downtown stores and restaurants along Bank Street. When you reach City Pier, carefully walk across the railroad tracks toward the large red brick building. This is **Union Station**, a stop for Amtrak and Shoreline East trains on the Northeast Corridor between Washington D.C., New York City and Boston. Walk to the front of Union Station and find the plaque by the front door.



What was the name of the architect? \_\_\_\_\_

Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of his last name** \_\_\_\_\_ in **#9, 21 and 36**.

How many years passed between when it was built in (a) \_\_\_\_\_ and when it was saved, restored, adaptively reused and named to the National Register of Historic Places in (b) \_\_\_\_\_? (c) \_\_\_\_\_. Count the letters in the architect’s name (d) \_\_\_\_\_ and add it to this number (c) \_\_\_\_\_. Add these three digits together. (e) \_\_\_\_\_

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ + (b) \_\_\_\_\_ = (c) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ + (d) \_\_\_\_\_ = (e) \_\_\_\_\_ Write the word for (e): \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Write the **3<sup>rd</sup> letter in the word for (e)** \_\_\_\_\_ in #37.

8. Walk back around the building and carefully walk cross the railroad tracks to return to City Pier. Turn left and walk across the lot until you find the **large sign along the waterfront announcing a new** TRHP Quest: Downtown NL Waterfront Park

What will the museum commemorate (two words, five letters each)? \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Write the **last letter of the first word of the name** in #5, 8, 14, 16, 32 and 35.

◆ Write the vowel that's repeated in the name \_\_\_\_\_ in space #20.

Your key to the clue should be complete. **Before you leave, take a selfie\* in front of the sign with your completed**, then turn around with your back to the water and walk across the lot to the chain link fence to find the treasure.

\* Questers who finish any of the quests and send in a selfie at the final location to [info@thamesriverheritagepark.org](mailto:info@thamesriverheritagepark.org) will be entered into a random weekly prize drawing.

Questers, who [register](#) with TRHP, complete quest(s) on **Connecticut Trails Day** and **send a selfie** from the final location to [info@thamesriverheritagepark.org](mailto:info@thamesriverheritagepark.org) or **post a selfie on their social media account selfie with a tag to a THRP social media** page are eligible for a complimentary roundtrip water taxi ticket. Complimentary ticket will be available at the boats and may be used for any regularly scheduled ride during the year that it is issued.

**Congratulations! We hope you had fun!**

## DOWNTOWN NEW LONDON WATERFRONT PARK CLUE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	
44	45	46	47	48	49									



## THAMES RIVER QUEST – FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Your quest - should you choose to accept it - is to discover the hidden treasures found in the history, heritage, and ecology of the Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park as you crack the code to the clue, which can be found at the end of this document.

Begin your hike at **Thames River Landing located at 301 Thames Street in Groton** and proceed to **Fort Griswold**. The landing is a stop on the route of the Thames River Heritage Park Water Taxi. Take the water taxi or park at 2 Latham Street for easy access. (You may also park on side streets.)

*Our trail begins where some did end.  
For from this place Redcoats did send  
The prisoners, their spoils of war.  
To remember them forever more  
A stone wheel stands upon this spot.  
For some returned and some did not.*



- How many prisoners were taken? \_\_\_\_\_ Add the two digits: \_\_\_\_\_ Write the word for this number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the number** in #19.
- The battle that took place at Fort Griswold is called the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> word** in #22.  
 Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> word** in #23.

*Cross the street and up the hill  
And there a hallowed home stands still,  
Where patriots, wounded, dying,  
Were brought from the fort where they were lying -  
Here to be sheltered and carefully tended.  
For far too many their life here ended.  
Round the house to read the signs  
For in their words more clues you'll find*

- What is the most common letter in the original owner's name? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write the **most common letter** in #6.
- When was the house first constructed? \_\_\_\_\_ Add the 1<sup>st</sup> two numbers and subtract the 3<sup>rd</sup> number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the word** in #18.

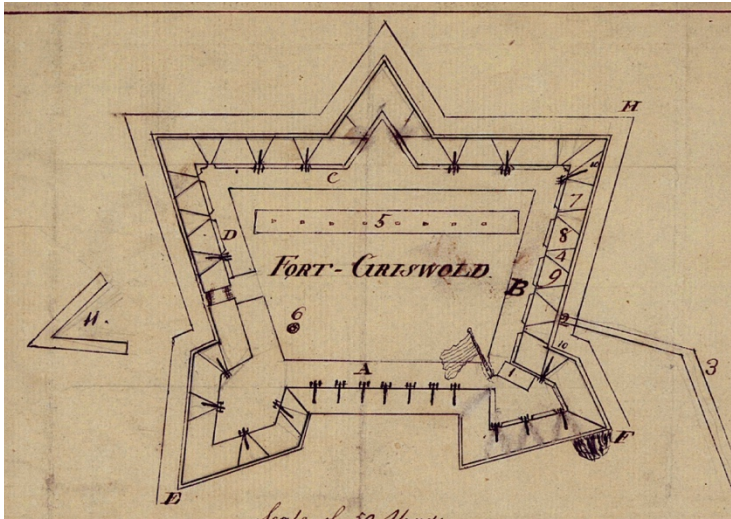
*Now climb the hill and find the tower  
That marks the very day and hour  
When patriots heard the cannon's warning  
And ran to serve that fateful morning  
And fell for home and freedom's name  
At the hand of he with traitor's fame.*

- When was the monument constructed? \_\_\_\_\_ Add the numbers together: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the word** \_\_\_\_\_ in #13.
- Who commanded the British troops? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of his first name** \_\_\_\_\_ in #16 and the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of his last name** \_\_\_\_\_ in #17.

Now find your way to the battlefield's gates  
 Where listed are the men whose fates  
 Were met upon that dreadful day  
 And are remembered here today.

7. How many men with the last name "Avery" are on the marker? \_\_\_\_\_ Write the word for this number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the word** in #14.
8. Find the member of the Pequot tribe is listed among the names. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of his first name** \_\_\_\_\_ in #11, 15, and 24.
9. Find the two names on the marker that are also names of animals. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 ♦ Write the **vowel that comes 2<sup>nd</sup> in alphabetical order** in #1, 4, 8 and 21.

Use this map to find locations inside the fort.



1. Magazine
2. Sallee Port
3. Covered Way
4. Embrazine where Maj Montgomery Fell
5. Barracks

Go through the gates and soon you'll find  
 A most explanatory sign  
 Read it and you'll shortly learn  
 What happened here while New London burned

10. What was the date of the battle? \_\_\_\_\_  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the month** in #3, 10, and 12.
11. In what month of 1775 was Colonel Elderkin directed to consider places that could be used to fortify the harbor against the enemies? \_\_\_\_\_  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of that month** in #2.
12. During which war did the Battle of Groton Heights take place? \_\_\_\_\_  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of this war** in # 9 and 20.

Enter now this hallowed ground  
 And take the time to look around.  
 Here upon his own sword's blade  
 Was Ledyard's sacrifice last paid.  
 Here the barracks once were found  
 Their outline marked in granite stone.

And find to the left of the sallee port  
 The spot where Montgomery entered the fort  
 And here he met his fateful end

*Felled by the pike in Freeman's hand.*

TRHP Quest: Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park

Write the word for this number: \_\_\_\_\_

*To find your way outside the fort  
The covered way does twist and wind  
To two more buildings yet to find.  
The first was used to heat the shot  
That sealed the wooden vessels' lot*

14. Part of this building's name refers to a place that is very hot. \_\_\_\_\_

 Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the word** in **#7**.

*One building more is yet to see  
And at your journey's end you'll be  
The magazine will end our quest  
Go to the side that's at the west  
Use your clues to solve the rest.*

*Reach inside to find your prize  
You'll find it tucked into the side  
But here it is, my last request  
Return it for a future guest.*

### FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK CLUE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24						





## THAMES RIVER QUEST – FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK

Your quest - should you choose to accept it - is to discover the hidden treasures found in the history, heritage, and ecology of the Fort Trumbull State Park as you crack the code to the clue, which can be found at the end of this document.

*Head up the path a little way  
And there your Quest will start  
At a Blockhouse strong and gray  
Standing still though its peers did depart.*

**From the water taxi landing:** Walk to the left past the rest room building and look for the sign to the “North Battery and Fort.” Follow the sign up the stairs all the way to the top. You’ll see a wrought iron fence around a hillside and a rooftop just beyond. Turn right around the path, then make a left toward the small gray cut stone building called the Blockhouse. This quest takes 30-45 minutes to complete.



**From the main entrance at the visitor’s center:** Walk past the “Site Orientation” sign towards the fort, and turn left onto the path towards the small gray cut stone block building called the Blockhouse.

- The sign at the Blockhouse says that it is the only building remaining from the original 1700s fort. It also says that this is the last one standing of many buildings like it along the coast between which two states?  
 \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ (5 letters) and \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ (7 letters).  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the longer state name** in #49 and 50 of the final clue.
- Which governor the fort was named for? \_\_\_\_\_ (8 letters) \_\_\_\_\_ (8 letters).  
 ♦ Write the **5<sup>th</sup> letter of his last name** in #5.
- One of the walls of the Blockhouse has a circular stone pattern in it. Count the number of stones blocks in the circle. \_\_\_\_\_ Write the word for this number \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters).  
 ♦ Write the **last letter of this word** in #7, 17, 18, 20, 26, 34 and 54.
- Walk behind the Blockhouse to find the sign for the “North Battery.” In the 1800s, what three large pieces of military equipment were positioned here? \_\_\_\_\_ (six letters) \_\_\_\_\_ (four letters)  
 ♦ Write the **3<sup>rd</sup> letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> word of the name** and put it in #23, 38 and 52.
- Turn right and walk towards the fort. Stop at the sign at the doorway. If the fort is open and you have time, go inside and explore. After your tour of the fort, read the sign. From where did the granite for the fort come from? \_\_\_\_\_ (9 letters) \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters).  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> word in this name** in #21, 36 and 56.
- The sign says that the fort was built between 1839 and 1852 to protect what? \_\_\_\_\_ (3 letters) \_\_\_\_\_ (6 letters) \_\_\_\_\_ (6 letters)  
 ♦ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> word in this name** in #11, 13 and 28.
- Turn around. With your back towards the fort, walk to the gray building that says “Gift Shop.” On that building is a sign for “The Barracks” where enlisted men stayed from the 1930s to 1907. Look at the photo from 1898 of the inside of the barracks. What does the sign say the bed frames were made of? \_\_\_\_\_ (4 letters).

◆ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of this word** in #25, 31 and 55.

8. What was the barracks converted into when the Coast Guard used Fort Trumbull? \_\_\_\_\_ (7 letters)

TRHP Quest: Fort Trumbull State Park

9. The Coast Guard moved from Fort Trumbull to a new location north on the Thames River in what year? \_\_\_\_\_  
Add the four numbers in the date together. \_\_\_\_\_ Write the word for this number. \_\_\_\_\_ (7 letters)

◆ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter in the word** for this new number in #39 and 43.

10. Walk to the front of the Visitors Center and find welcome sign that reads, "Soldiers, Sailors, Scientists & Submarines." What vowel appears only once in these four names? \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Write this letter in #45.

11. Which of these four names begins with two consonants? \_\_\_\_\_ (10 letters).

◆ Write the **2<sup>nd</sup> of these 2 letters** in space #15 and 30.

12. Turn and walk to the "Site Orientation Sign" in front of some benches. How many years of history are represented at Fort Trumbull? \_\_\_\_\_. Write out the 2 words for this number. \_\_\_\_\_ (3 letters) \_\_\_\_\_ (7 letters).

◆ Write the **1<sup>st</sup> letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> word** in #10, 12, 27 and 32.

13. This site was first used in the war called the \_\_\_\_\_ (8 letters) \_\_\_\_\_ (10 letters).

◆ Write the **5<sup>th</sup> letter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> word** in #1, 47 and 58

14. Go to the main path closest to the fort and walk towards the river. This is the mouth of the Thames River, with Ledge Light marking the entrance. Find a set of benches overlooking the river. How many benches are there? \_\_\_\_\_ Write the word for this number: \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters). Find the vowel that appears twice in this word.

◆ Write the **vowel that appears twice** in #6, 8, 14, 24, 29, 37, 48 and 51.

15. Now look at the side of the fort facing the river. There are 5 wall surfaces, 3 facing straight ahead the 2 at an angle. How many windows do you count in these 5 walls? \_\_\_\_\_ Write out the word for this number \_\_\_\_\_. (8 letters)  
Write the **4<sup>th</sup> fourth letter of this word** in #41 and 46.

16. Turn around and look for the cannons and read the sign that says "South Battery." What is the name of the low wall of earth and granite that protected the gun crews? \_\_\_\_\_ (7 letters).

◆ Write the **vowel that appears twice** in this word in #9, 16, 22, 35, 42, 53 and 57.

17. Look at the wall behind the cannons. It is made of four different types of materials: natural rock, concrete, cut stone and manmade blocks made of clay called \_\_\_\_\_ (6 letters).

◆ Write the **5<sup>th</sup> letter of this word** in #4.

18. Look at the cannons. Find the 7-letter name of the city where one of the cannons was made that ends in a vowel. \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Write this **vowel which is the last letter of the city** in #2, 3, 19, 40 and 44.

### FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK CLUE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42		
43	44	45	46	47	48	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58



## THAMES RIVER QUEST – HIDDEN THAMES STREET

Your quest - should you choose to accept it - is to discover the hidden treasures found in the history, heritage, and ecology of the Thames Street as you crack the code to the clue, which can be found at the end of this document. Answer questions about each location while you follow the trail. The answers can be read on signs at each location. Put the letters of the correct answers in the blank spaces of the answer code at the end of the guide. Together they will tell you how to complete your quest.

The Hidden Thames Street Quest, an easy walking loop of about 1 mile, takes approximately 60 minutes to complete. In some instances, there may be no street number on the building. Although the number will appear on GPS, there is an alternate description here to help you find the building.

### 1. **Thames Street Thames River Heritage Park Water Taxi Landing**

This landing is part of Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park. On September 6, 1781, British forces led by Benedict Arnold attacked both Groton and New London. The local militia of the Continental Army led by William Ledyard were overcome by the British and a massacre ensued. Patriots were taken from this spot to be held on British ships as prisoners of war. You can learn all about the Battle by visiting Fort Griswold and the Monument.

Find the circular marker. How many prisoners were taken from this spot? c. 14 d. 38 e. 6 f. 81



Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #10.

Proceed up to the sidewalk and turn left, heading north on Thames Street.

### 2. **269 Thames Street**

In 1920, Frederick Bacon moved his fledgling Bacon Banjo Company from Vermont to Groton where his company flourished. Here he and the man who became his partner, David Day, built some of the world's finest banjos until the 1938 hurricane severely damaged the building. Although the factory closed, Bacon Banjos are still highly prized collectibles today.

When was the building which housed the Bacon Banjo Factory originally built? k. 1823 l. 1920 m. 1938 n. 1781



Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #4.

### 3. **241 Thames Street**

This building was built for Ernest Coe and Henry Bailey in the 1890's. Coe and Bailey served as the general store for Groton Bank from 1892 until 1908. The upstairs of the building was once the home of Groton Bank's first YMCA and was used for another purpose.

What was the upper part of the building used for? p. saloon q. printer r. hotel s. Laundry



Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #14.

### 4. **223 Thames Street**

Paul's Pasta began serving delicious pasta here in 1988 but the building was almost 150 years old when Paul moved in. It was best known as the storefront of Edgecomb and Poppe which specialized in men's clothing. The store was a mainstay of the neighborhood for many years.

When is Paul's Pasta closed? l. Tuesday m. Wednesday n. It isn't o. Monday



Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #2.

TRHP Quest: Hidden Thames Street

Look down toward the river. For many years this served as one of Groton's ferry landings. In the early 1800s, someone standing in this spot could look around the intersection and find a pharmacy, a grocery, plumbers and tinsmiths, and numerous other stores which greeted ferry passengers as they arrived in Groton. There is no clue for this stop.

6. **169 Thames Street**

Puffin's Restaurant was once the home of Groton Hardware. It is also located next to one of the landings for ferries that brought passengers from New London to Groton. Until 1889, ferries were used to carry passengers and even railroad cars across the river. There have been other locations for ferries across the river. Another was at Thames and School Street.

What color is the Early American Naval uniform on the puffin? q. Red r. Blue s. green t. White



Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #6.

7. **137 Thames Street** (*large singled house undergoing renovation*)

Parke Avery was a lieutenant in the Continental Army. On September 6, 1781, he and his 17-year-old son Thomas answered the call to arms and rushed to defend Fort Griswold in the Battle of Groton Heights. Thomas died in the battle and Parke was severely wounded. This house was built during his recovery and was more likely to have looked like the green house on the left when it was built. By 1870 the house was owned by the Fergusons who added a second story to the house and operated a small shipyard behind the house, building yachts and small vessels until the 1920s.

When was this home built? c. 1776 d. 1792 e. 1781 f. 1889



Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #11.

8. **121 Thames Street**

This is a good spot to view the bridges. In 1889, the first railroad bridge was built over the river. In 1919, a newer railroad bridge was built and the old railroad bridge became the first road bridge over the Thames River. In 1941, one span of the present bridge was built and later named the Gold Star Bridge in honor of those who were killed in the wars overseas. The second span was completed in 1973. There is no clue for this stop. Continue along Thames Street passing the intersection with Broad Street until you come to a sharp bend in the road.

9. **Intersection of Bridge and Thames Streets** (*US SUBVETS WWII National Memorial East*)

This Memorial is dedicated to the submarines and submariners lost during World War II. It is one of two United States Submarine Veterans of World War II National Memorials. The Wall of Honor lists the name of every submariner lost during World War II. The site also has stones for each of the lost boats, a torpedo which would have been used on a submarine, and the conning tower of the USS Flasher (SS-249). The Flasher was built here in Groton and served in the Pacific during WWII. It sank 21 Japanese vessels. Their combined weight of 100,000 tons was the most sunk by any submarine during WWII.

How many submarines were lost during WWII? s. 52 t. 48 u. 22 v. 14



Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #8.

Return south on Thames Street on the opposite side of the road.

10. **90 Thames Street**

This house was originally built by Major Noyes Barber and his wife Catherine in 1810. Major Barber was a major of the Connecticut militia when the War of 1812 came to Groton. In 1813 Captain Stephen Decatur and his ships were blockaded in the Thames River by the British. Groton residents, fearful of an attack similar to the Battle of Groton Heights, fled inland. Major Barber and his militia armed Fort Griswold for a year and a half. Captain Decatur himself was said to have been entertained in Major Barber's home. There is no clue for this stop.

11. **108 Thames Street** (*large white house on the southeast corner of Broad and Thames*)

The builder of this home was a doctor who attended the wounded after the Battle of Groton Heights. He built this home after his own home was destroyed during the 1781 attack on Groton. Within a few years Anna Warner Bailey and her husband Elijah Bailey lived in this home which was also a tavern and a post office. Anna Warner Bailey first came into history when she was one of the first women into Fort Griswold after the attack. She found her uncle, who was mortally wounded, and granted his dying wish by returning home to gather his wife and children so he could see them one more time. Later in the War of 1812 when many townspeople had fled fearing another attack, Anna Warner Bailey stayed. When soldiers came looking for cotton wadding for the Fort's cannons, "Mother Bailey" famously stepped out of her petticoat so that it could be used to defeat the British. News of her patriotic act traveled far and wide. Three presidents visited her in this home. Sadly, she died in this home when, at the age of 92, her clothing was ignited by a spark from the fireplace. Her legend has lived on over the centuries.

Who built the Mother Bailey house? p. Elijah Bailey q. Major Barber r. Andrew Jackson s. Amos Prentice

◆ Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #5.

12. **1154 Thames Street** (*Avery-Copp Museum*)

The Avery-Copp House and the yellow house immediately to its left were built by Captain Rufus Avery who fought in the Battle of Groton Heights. The house was passed through the Avery family to the Ramsdells and then the Cops. When Betsy and Belton Copp died in 1930, their son Joe Copp preserved the house making it a family time capsule. The house and its occupants, including the servants, have a fascinating history which can be learned by visiting the Museum.

The Avery-Copp House is a museum of what type of history? f. Military g. Whaling h. Groton i. Folklore

◆ Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #12.

13. **190 Thames Street**

The Leeds family was Groton's first family of shipbuilders. Captain John Leeds arrived from England in the 1600s. In 1680, long before Groton was incorporated in 1705 he was building small sailing vessels a hundred yards upriver from here, next to the ferry landing. In the 1720s, James Sterling and John Jeffery obtained a 12-year lease on the old Leeds shipyard. In 1725 they launched what was perhaps colonial America's largest vessel, and followed that with several other transatlantic trading vessels. Jonathan Leeds, a descendent of John Leeds, built a small house on this site. It was incorporated into this Greek Revival-style house in the 1830s.

When did Jonathan Leeds build his house here? d. 1680 e. 1793 f. 1705 g. 1830

◆ Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #13.

Proceed south along Thames Street to the next corner. Take a left onto School Street.

14. **40 School Street**

This building is the home of the founding chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated. The organization was founded in 1964 to perpetuate the memory of those submariners who gave their lives for their country and to provide companionship for all submarine veterans. The building's history show it has always been a place for people to gather. In 1895 the Groton Bank Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen built this as their Union Hall. It was later the home of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. Later still it was a playhouse for live theater productions and in 1915 was the Delphi Movie Theater. The Groton Base of the USSVI raffled a gold Cadillac to raise the money to purchase this building in 1966. The base is named after the person who started the organization.

Who is that person? e. "Joe" Negri f. Don School g. Tom Denison h. Alex Ramsdell

◆ Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #15.

Return to Thames Street. Turn left, walk one block and turn left onto Pleasant Street.

15. **18 Pleasant Street** (*brick building on the left*)

This building was once the home of the Pioneer Hose Company, a successor to Groton City's first volunteer fire company, the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company, which was started in 1900. They reorganized as the Pioneer Hose Company in 1916 and moved into this building in 1917. In 1965, the fire department moved to its current headquarters on Broad Street.

What is the number of the IAM Lodge which now uses the building? f. 12 g. 1917 h. 18 i. 1871

Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #9.

Return to Thames Street. Turn left and walk to the corner of Latham Street.

16. **242 Thames Street**

This 1920's apartment building was converted to the local home of the Fleet Reserve Association in 1954. The FRA has existed since 1924 to monitor legislation affecting enlisted ranks and their families. Today it advocates for crews and their families in discussions with Congress and the Department of Defense and Veteran's Affairs. The torpedo to the right of the building is a Mark 14 torpedo which was a standard submarine weapon during World War II.

What is the number of the local branch of the Fleet Reserve? e. 20 f. 27 g. 16 h. 12

Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #7.

17. **2 Latham Street** (*parking lot*)

This was once the site of the Ebenezer Avery House. Built around 1760, the house was the home of Elizabeth and Ebenezer Avery during the Battle of Groton Heights. After the battle, as the British prepared to board their ships with their prisoners, a cart filled with injured patriots got away from the soldiers, racing down the hill and crashing into a tree. The house had been set afire as so many homes on this street were, but the fire was extinguished. The house instantly became a makeshift hospital when 35 injured prisoners were laid upon its floor. Dr. Amos Prentice treated their wounds, and for more than 100 years their blood stains could be seen on the floorboards. The Ebenezer House is now located at 57 Fort Street and is open to visitors seasonally.

When was the Ebenezer Avery House moved to its present location? m. 1781 n. 1866 o. 1971 p. 1945

Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #3.

18. **16 Fort Street** (*corner of Fort and Thames Streets*)

This building is today what it was built to be – a house of worship. The chapel was originally built in 1875 by Groton congregants of the Saint James Episcopal Church in New London. Its first service was held on Christmas Day in 1875. In 1881, it was consecrated and named after Bishop Samuel Seabury who in 1785 became the first Bishop of the American Church. Bishop Seabury was born in the section of Groton that is now Ledyard. In 1967 the congregation outgrew the building and moved to North Street. The current occupants purchased this building as its mosque in 2001.

Who occupies this historic building today? a. Bishop Seabury b. Islamic Center c. YMCA d. a nursery school

Write the **letter of the correct answer** in #1.

Cross the street and return to 301 Thames Street, the water taxi landing.

**Congratulations! You have completed the quest and have gathered the answer to find the secret location.**

**Find the item at the landing that was constructed by students of the Grasso Tech Carpentry Shop.**

<b>HIDDEN THAMES STREET CLUE</b>
_____

## Thames River Heritage Park TRHP Scavenger Hunt

### Scavenger Hunt

Drive, bike, walk, or take a hop-on, hop-off harbor cruise on the **Thames River Heritage Park** water taxi and use this “scavenger hunt” to help explore sites around New London and Groton with **Thames River Heritage Park**.

Follow these 5 easy steps to join the hunt:

1. Find the recommended object or spot.
2. Take a selfie.
3. Post your pics to social media.
4. Tag @ThamesRiverHeritagePark
5. Tag the site in your photo.

You can print all pages of the hunt or just the first page to help keep track of your progress! Pair the hunt with the Thames River Heritage Park Map and Guide for more location details.

*Note: Sites may have limited open hours, or are grounds only, so check before you go. You can always take a picture outside!*

**THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK  
SUMMER 2023 SCAVENGER HUNT**

	Nathan Hale School House		Pequot Chapel
	Custom House Maritime Museum		Lyman Allyn Art Museum
	Shaw Mansion		Cedar Grove Cemetery
	Hempstead Houses		Historic Groton Bank
	New London Black Heritage Trail		Fort Griswold & Groton Monument
	Old Town Mill		Ebenezer Avery House
	Ye Antientist Burial Ground		Submarine Force Museum
	Garde Arts Center		SUBVETS WWII National Memorial East
	Fort Trumbull State Park		Bill Memorial Library
	Monte Cristo Cottage		Avery Copp House
			Ledge Lighthouse

<https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Thames-River-Heritage-Park-Scavenger-Hunt.pdf>

## Thames River Heritage Park

### TRHP Walking Tours and izi App

#### Walking Tours

Hear some of the 1,000 stories of the Thames River Heritage Park during our free guided walking tours. Led by local authors and historians, these 45-minute-long tours are offered at each of our three water taxi landing sites and are timed to get you back to the water taxi for the next boat.

We offer guided walking tours of:

1. Fort Trumbull State Park
2. Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park
3. Historic Downtown New London

Walking tours are offered on select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. To know when a walking tour is scheduled for, visit the Thames River Heritage Park Facebook page, CTvisit.com website, or the events page on our website [www.thamesriverheritagepark.org](http://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org).

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#### Izi Travel App

Another way to experience the Thames River Heritage Park is through one of our five self-guided audio tours located on the izi travel app.

The izi travel app contains indoor and outdoor audio tours of cities, museums, other cultural sites and attractions. This multimedia platform allows you to use your own mobile device to download museum content and travel easily while participating in regional storytelling. The izi app is completely free to download and can be found in any app store.

#### **How to find Thames River Heritage Park audio tours on izi:**

- Download the free izi travel app in your preferred smartphone app store
- Open the app and click on the search bar at the top of your screen  
Search Thames River Heritage Park
- After searching you will be shown a handful of TRHP audio tours  
**Tip:** Be sure to double check that your tours are of the Thames River in Connecticut and not England! Simple regional mistake!
- Your search will bring you to audio tours the TRHP has available on the app platform.



- Tours are as follows:

**1. The American Revolution and Groton Bank**

- a. Tour Distance: 1.7 miles
- b. Tour Duration: 53 minutes
- c. Topics of Discussion: Connecticut as a major seaport during the American Revolution, Fort Trumbull, the Battle of Groton Heights at Fort Griswold, the Continental Army and Continental Navy, the state's reputation as the provision state.

**2. Life on Groton Bank**

- a. Tour Distance: 2.1 miles
- b. Tour Duration: 1 hour and 6 minutes
- c. Topics of Discussion: The Pequots, English settlers, the ferry tavern and King's Highway, the Battle of Groton Heights at Fort Griswold, the Groton Monument, the Eastern Shipbuilding shipyard, World War I, and Electric Boat.

**3. The Navy and Groton Bank**

- a. Tour Distance: 1.4 miles
- b. Tour Duration: 43 minutes
- c. Topics of Discussion: The Continental Navy, Oliver Cromwell, Nathaniel Shaw, privateers, the USS Constitution, Captain Stephen Decatur, the US Navy's first submarine base, World War I, II, and the Cold War, submarine building at Electric Boat, and the USS Nautilus.

**4. Whaling and Groton Bank**

- a. Tour Distance: 1.5 miles
- b. Tour Duration: 49 minutes
- c. Topics of Discussion: New England maritime industry and whaling, New London whaling and the "underwater men," whaling captain William H. Allen, whaling tales, and New London's Jibboom Club.

**5. General Thames River Heritage Park**

- a. This is a general tour that can take you to each historic site within the Thames River Heritage Park. This tour is perhaps best using mobile transportation as many of the sites are a fair distance from one another.
- b. Topics of Discussion: Water Taxi, Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, Hempsted Houses, Fort Trumbull, Shaw Mansion, Fort Griswold, Ebenezer Avery House, Avery Copp House, Submarine Force Museum and Library

## *Thames River Heritage Park*

### **Appendix: Suggested Interpretive Reading List**

Now that you have read through the Interpreter's Guide to the Thames River Heritage Park, you might still be asking yourself, is what I am doing really interpretation? The answer is YES! If you're not convinced, let's look at some definitions of heritage interpretation and see if they help.

**Interpretation Canada** - "Heritage interpretation is any communication process designed to reveal meanings and relationships of cultural and natural heritage to the public, through first-hand involvement with an object, artifact, landscape or site."

**Interpret Europe** - "Heritage interpretation is a structured approach to non-formal learning specialized in communicating significant ideas about a place to people on leisure. It establishes a link between visitors and what they can discover at heritage sites such as a nature reserve, a historic site or a museum."

These definitions are not bad, but they do not convey the fun that goes into heritage interpretation. They do not quite bring to life the stories you will be telling. As historian Freeman Tilden said in his book *Interpreting Our Heritage*, "good interpretation is always based on first-hand experience and often on personal contact with staff on site." Interpretation does four things:

1. It **provokes** visitors' curiosity and interest in what may be an unfamiliar topic or theme
2. It **relates** the site or objects to visitors' own knowledge, experience, background and values
3. It **reveals** the significance of the site or objects which visitors can understand and appreciate
4. It **helps** people to enjoy a satisfying experience.

*"Any interpretation that does not somehow **relate** what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile. Information, as such, is not Interpretation. Interpretation is **revelation** based upon information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information."*

*Freeman Tilden*

Well-designed interpretation should spark the imagination. It should invoke scenes from the past, smells and sounds. Things that cannot be seen or touched can be made real through the power of clear, informative, and fun interpretation.

Should you want to further your interpretive skills, below is an annotated suggested reading list of books that focus on maritime, naval, and military interpretation, plus general interpretation in state parks and museums.

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## Interpretive Reading List

Blackburn, Marc K. *Interpreting American Military History at Museums and Historic Sites*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

*Interpreting American Military History at Museums and Historic Sites* tackles the difficult task of helping institutions charged with the care of sites, collections and stories that relate to our past while still maintaining their rich history. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is a culmination of the past and it is more important than ever to remember and learn from the triumphs and failures, and this guide provides and explains those strategies for making our stories and collections relevant to modern audiences.

Hruska, Benjamin J. *Interpreting Naval History at Museums and Historic Sites*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

*Interpreting Naval History at Museums and Historic Sites* demonstrates the broad appeal of naval themed commemoration, centering on military aspects from both times of war and peace. Transcending place and time, naval history is shaped into public forums for modern day consumption. Naval history is just one avenue, with sites marking the history of immigration, engineering technology, and architecture. Naval history also extends into lighthouses and port facility construction which are the background of a host of U.S. Generals in the U.S. Army with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Johnson, Anna, Kimberly A. Huber, Nancy Cutler, Melissa Bingmann, and Tim Grove. *The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.

*The Museum Educator's Manual* addresses the role museum educators play in today's museums from an experience-based perspective. Seasoned museum educators author each chapter, emphasizing key programs along with case studies that provide successful examples, and demonstrate a practical foundation for the daily operations of a museum education department, no matter how small. The book covers volunteer and docent management and training, working with families, seniors, and teens, and collaborating with other institutions.

Stone, Joel. *Interpreting Maritime History at Museums and Historic Sites*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.

*Interpreting Maritime History at Museums and Historic Sites* lays the groundwork for keeping this heritage alive in museums and historic sites. It provides the broadest spectrum of discussion and direction for those approaching new installations, projects and programming. Highlights of its wide-range include: historic vessels and shipbuilding, freshwater maritime history, maritime archaeology, environmental history, recreational maritime history, and lighthouses and lifesaving stations. For a local history connection, chapter 4 is a case study about Mystic Seaport Museum and the re-interpretation of the Charles W. Morgan.

Tilden, Freeman. *Interpreting Our Heritage*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1957.

Freeman Tilden's *Interpreting Our Heritage* is considered the most important text for historic site and museum interpretation. In this text Tilden discusses his six principles for interpretation, stating that if sites can relate, reveal, be artistic, provoke, be holistic, and age-appropriate, they can present the visitor with a memorable experience. Though this is a dated text, Tilden's principles have not lost their value over time and his lessons still carry beyond the National Park Service.

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- Figure 1. Richard Welling, *Open Drawbridge, New London*, New London, ca. 1970, gray marker on paper, Connecticut Historical Society.
- Figure 2. Jim Streeter, "History Revisited: Mother Bailey earns tributes through years," *The Day*, March 19, 2019.
- Figure 3. Earle, Stephen C., Architect. Bill Memorial Library, Groton, Connecticut. Connecticut Groton, 1890. Photograph. Library of Congress.
- Figure 4. John Warner Barber, Groton Monument and Fort Griswold, New London, ca. 1836, pen and ink, Connecticut Historical Society.
- Figure 5. Susan Hodara, "Taking In the History of New London, a City Shaped by the Sea," *The New York Times*, August 15, 2014.
- Figure 6. New London Ledge Lighthouse (Conn.), 1909 - 1950, photograph, Mystic Seaport Museum.
- Figure 7. "New London Ledge Light," 1908, photograph, Maritime Society.
- Figure 8. Charles A. Platt, *South Elevation for Lyman Allyn Museum*, architectural drawing, ca. 1930. Lyman Allyn Art Museum.
- Figure 9. Richard Welling, Shaw Mansion, ink on paper, ca. 1976, Connecticut Historical Society.
- Figure 10. Captain Nathaniel Shaw Mansion, 11 Blinman Street, New London, New London County, CT., 1933. Photograph. Library of Congress.
- Figure 11. Erik Ofgang, "Operation Sunshine: The Nautilus & Its Top-Secret Mission to the North Pole," *Connecticut Magazine*, June 14, 2016.
- Figure 12. "Whaling bark George Henry of New London," New London, Conn, illustration, 1860, Mystic Seaport Museum.
- Figure 13. Philip Medbery, Ledge Light and Military Ship, New London, Conn, photograph, 2019.

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