Start your walking tour at **Abbot Hall** on Washington Square `1`. The building was constructed 1876–77, and is the seat of Marblehead's town government. In it, many artifacts of Marblehead's history are displayed in several areas, maintained by the **Marblehead Historical Commission**.

Abbot Hall / Town Hall & Exhibits

In the large **Selectmen's Room**, a focal point is *The Spirit of '76* painting by Archibald Willard. Nearby is the original deed to Marblehead from an Algonquian tribe of Native Americans, dated 1684. Above that is a bust sculpture of **Elbridge Gerry**, who was a Revolutionary Patriot statesman, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Massachusetts in 1810, and United States Vice President under James Madison during the three-year War of 1812.

Another historical painting among several there depicts the **Crossing of the Delaware River** in December 1776 during the American Revolution for the surprise attack on Trenton, NJ, which turned the tide of the war. The crossing was orchestrated by Marblehead's military regiment of several hundred men from a town of about 950 families, under the command of Colonel, later General, John Glover. The Marblehead mariners manned the boats that carried George Washington's Continental Army across the ice-choked river, and their tenacity and endurance made the difficult crossing possible, throughout Christmas night in 1776, in lashing sleet, and back again after the battle, with prisoners. Remarkably, there were no American casualties in that entire engagement.

The Spirit of '76
Courtesy Town of Marblehead

A portrait of the Marblehead Regiment's commander, **Colonel John Glover**, portrays him after he was promoted to General in early 1777. He served through the entire seven years of the Revolution. Glover's fine Georgian-style home can be seen later on this tour.

Another portrait shows **Joseph Story**, who was appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1811 when he was only 32 years old. To this day, he is still the youngest ever appointed. He served for 34 years, until his death in 1845, and helped write much of early America's important maritime law.

Also inside Abbot Hall are historically themed **murals** from America's WPA project in the 1930s, a federal program that helped put unemployed artists to work after the Great Depression. A **Maritime History Museum Room** shows the town's seafaring and naval heritage over nearly 400 years.

Abbot Hall is open year-round, daily Memorial Day–October; closed Friday afternoons and most weekends October–May.

A **gift shop** is often open most weekdays and some weekends.

For further information, visit **Marblehead.org** and click on **Marblehead Historical Commission** under the online heading **Visiting & Town History**. See also **MarbleheadHistory.org**.

Samuel Lee & R. Hooper Houses

As you leave Abbot Hall by the Washington Street entrance, turn right going down the hill. On the left you will see three privately-owned houses (numbers 185, 183 `2` and 181) built during the mid-18th century by members of the Lee and Hooper families—successful ship owners and merchants (later enlarged).

The house at **185 Washington Street** `3` is a fine example of late Georgian-style architecture. It features a "rusticated" wood facade built to resemble stone blocks. The back portion of the house was built around 1743, and the front part c. 1768–69. After 1771, it was the home of Colonel William Raymond Lee, a nephew of Colonel Jeremiah Lee and a major, then a colonel, in Glover's Regiment, which played a significant role in the American Revolution.

At the bottom of the hill at 161 Washington Street is the **Jeremiah Lee Mansion** `4`. The house is considered to be one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in America. Its wood facade is "rusticated" and was originally coated with sand to look and feel like stone.

Robert Hooper / William R. Lee House

Jeremiah Lee Mansion
Open to public seasonally

Built 1766–68 by Colonel Lee, a wealthy merchant and patriot leader, and surviving virtually intact, it is a superb example of pre-Revolutionary gentry living, with outstanding furniture and decorative objects of the period, original and virtually unique hand-painted English wallpapers, and some of the most elaborate interior woodwork carving in America. Rare and beautiful mahogany paneling from the West Indies and fine ceramics, brass, glass and hand-painted wallpaper from England were brought to America in Lee's and other merchants' ships.

The Jeremiah Lee Mansion has been owned by the **Marblehead Museum & Historical Society** since 1909, and is open June–October, Tuesday–Saturday 10am–4pm; closed Sunday and Monday. Across the street at 170 Washington Street, special exhibits and the Museum's J.O.J. Frost Folk Art Gallery (plus research archives by appointment) are open year-round, Tuesday–Friday, 10am–4pm, and some Saturdays.
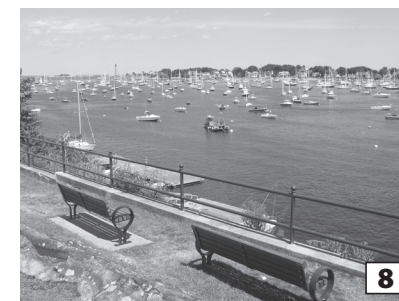

King Hooper Mansion
Open to the public

Diagonally across the street on Hooper Street is the **King Hooper Mansion** `5` once the home of Robert Hooper, merchant prince and ship owner. He was known as "King" because of his wealth and his fair dealings and generosity to the town. The older part of the building was constructed c. 1728–30, and its pine-paneled rooms reflect their early date. The Georgian front rooms were added c. 1747–50, and were updated in the 1820s. Their ornamentation and elegance are an interesting contrast to the older rooms. The home also contains a wine cellar, cozy cellar kitchen, and a third floor ballroom. **The Marblehead Arts Association** has owned the building since 1938 and displays art exhibits throughout the year. The building, its art galleries and a gift shop with members' artworks for sale are open Tuesday–Sunday year round.

When leaving the Hooper home, turn left and follow Hooper Street to Union Street.

At this corner is a very fine Georgian-style house `6`. Legend has it that the carriage of the Marquis de Lafayette, a Revolutionary War general and a favorite aid to General George Washington, was too large to pass by the house when he visited Marblehead in 1824, so the corner of the house was removed. Actually, the corner was built that way for a retail shop entrance. This was also the first home of Col. Jeremiah Lee and his family for 17 years (1751–68) — more than twice as long as they lived in grand style in their larger new mansion, which you already saw.

J. Palmer / Colonel Jeremiah Lee ("Lafayette") House

Boston Yacht Club

Follow Union Street to Water Street and down toward the **Boston Yacht Club** `7` one of the oldest yachting clubs in the country, which began operating in Marblehead in 1902.

Continue on to Front Street and **Crocker Park** `8`. From the park you will enjoy a magnificent view of Marblehead Harbor. Benches and seasonal rest rooms are available.
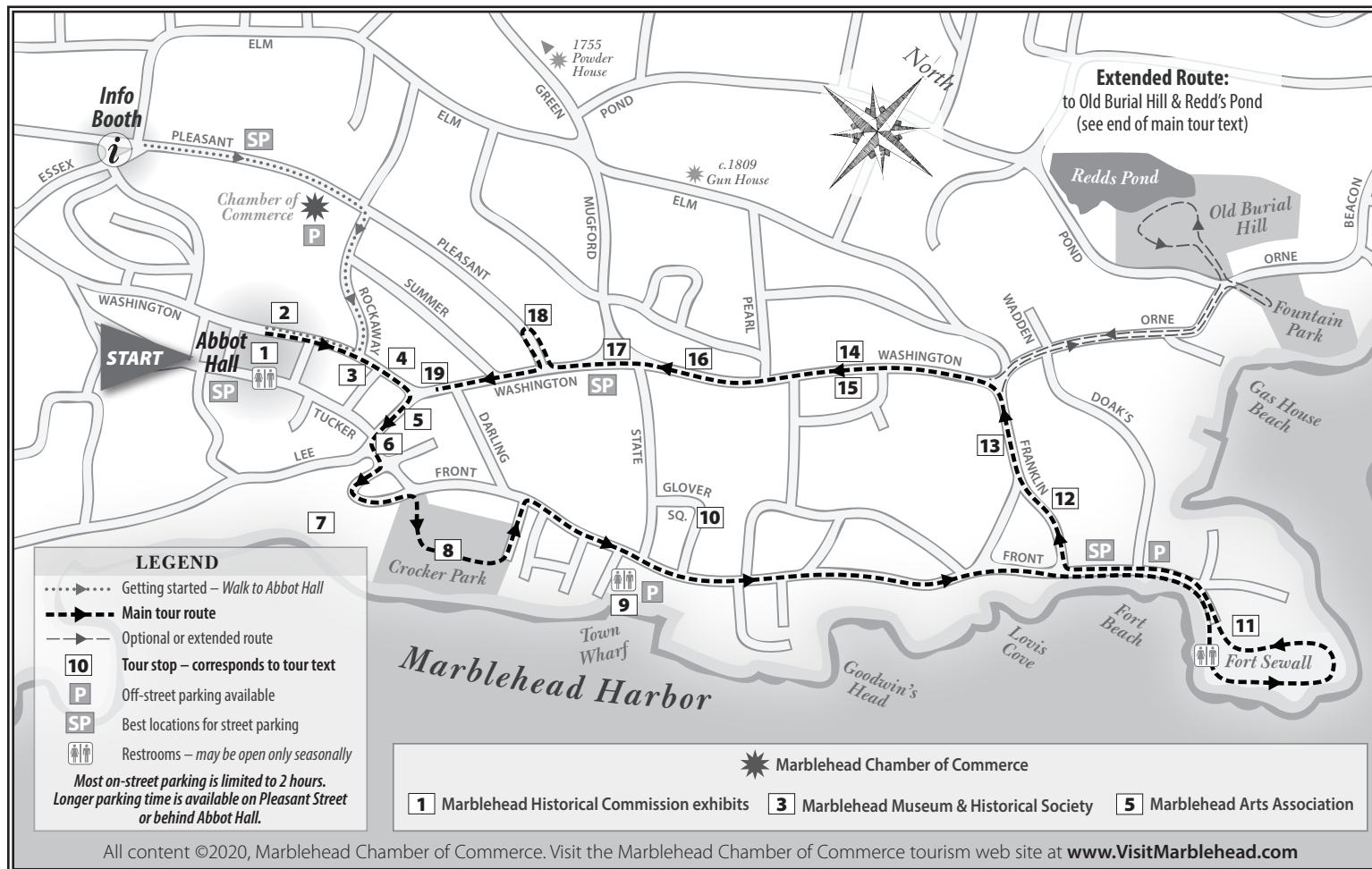

Crocker Park

As you continue down Front Street, you will find the **State Street Wharf** `9` the town's public landing since the mid-1600s. Benches and seasonal rest rooms are available.

Beyond the Front Street wharves is **Glover Square** `10` named for the Revolutionary War hero General John Glover. For a year and a half, while a Colonel, he led the country's first regiment of military mariners (precursors of the Marines), which was comprised of nearly 600 Marblehead fishermen, seamen, tradesmen and merchants. Under his leadership, they rowed General Washington

State Street Wharf / Town Landing

A Walk Through Historic Marblehead

LEGEND

- ⋯⋯▶ Getting started – Walk to Abbot Hall
- ▬ ▬ ▶ Main tour route
- ──▶ Optional or extended route
- `10` Tour stop – corresponds to tour text
- **P** Off-street parking available
- **SP** Best locations for street parking
- 🚻 Restrooms – may be open only seasonally

Most on-street parking is limited to 2 hours. Longer parking time is available on Pleasant Street or behind Abbot Hall.

Extended Route: to Old Burial Hill & Redd's Pond (see end of main tour text)

✸ Marblehead Chamber of Commerce

`1` Marblehead Historical Commission exhibits   `3` Marblehead Museum & Historical Society   `5` Marblehead Arts Association

and his army across the Delaware River. Four months earlier, they had ferried a larger force of 9,000 men, oxen, and cannon across the East River in New York after the Battle of Long Island.

At the end of Front Street and at the entrance to Marblehead Harbor is **Fort Sewall** `11` first established in 1644. Originally just earthen barriers constructed by the British Crown against attack from the sea by the French, the fort was improved in 1705, 1742, 1794, and 1863 with more cannon, powder magazines and officers quarters. Some underground chambers still exist.

Glover Square & General John Glover House

In 1800, the fort was named after Marblehead attorney Samuel Sewall, who was a state and U.S. congressman, then served on the Massachusetts Supreme Court 1800–14 and was Chief Justice in 1814. That year, during the War of 1812, the frigate USS Constitution sought shelter in Marblehead's harbor from two pursuing British men o' war. Marblehead seamen in the Constitution's crew and the intimidating guns and cannon on Fort Sewall made the escape possible.

Fort Sewall

From the Fort, walk back towards town on Front Street, turning right on Franklin Street. At **30 Franklin Street** `12` is a house made famous in a mid-20th century historical novel set in Marblehead by Anya Seton, called *The Hearth and Eagle*. Built in 1715 for merchant Thomas Gerry, it was later the home of one of his granddaughters and her husband, Frederick Conklin, an infantry captain, who housed officers in command of Fort Sewall during the War of 1812. The shutters on the house were made by soldiers at the fort at that time.

Thomas Gerry House

At **7 Franklin Street** `13` stands the c. 1717 home of Reverend John Barnard, minister of the First Church (now First Church of Christ) for over 50 years in the early 1700s, who encouraged the men of Marblehead to resume the town's foreign trade, which led to its mid-1700s prosperity. His church, built in 1695, originally stood opposite his house until a new church was erected a block away in 1824 (#14, next stop).

Follow Franklin Street and turn left on Washington Street. On the right is the First Church's third edifice, now referred to locally as **Old North Church** `14`. Founded in 1635, the church (then called a meeting house) was originally located on Old Burial Hill. The

Reverend John Barnard House

building at 41 Washington Street was constructed of rough granite in 1824. A new facade of cut stone was added in 1886.

The beautiful codfish weather vane on the steeple is made of gilded copper, and is 52 inches long (just over four feet!). It is believed to have been made about 1700, although the artisan is not known.

Old North Church

On the opposite side of the street stands **44 Washington Street** `15` childhood home (later enlarged) of Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Governor of Massachusetts, and Vice President of the United States in 1813–14, during the War of 1812, under fourth president James Madison.

At **65 Washington Street** `16` is the home of Captain Samuel Russell Trevett, leader of an artillery company at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775. A fine early house, it was built in 1715.

Elbridge Gerry House

Directly ahead in Market Square is the **Old Town House** `17`. It was built in 1727–29, pre-dating Boston's Faneuil Hall, and has been used as an official town building ever since.

One block past the Town House is Pleasant Street, with buildings mainly from the 1800s. It leads to where the town's largest shoe factories were located in the mid- to late-1800s, in an area that suffered two major fires, in 1877 and 1888, which ended that mid-19th century industry for the town.

Russell Trevett / Capt. Samuel R. Trevett House

Two blocks past the Town House on Washington Street, turn right on Summer Street. Just up the hill is **St. Michael's Church** `18`, the second oldest Episcopal church still standing in the U.S., built in 1714, originally with a tall steeple spire that had to be taken down in 1793. A replica was erected in 2014. The church interior contains fine artifacts donated by English benefactors, including a 1732 brass chandelier and a period altarpiece. When news of the Declaration of Independence reached Marblehead, patriots broke into church, removed the royal coat-of-arms from above the altar, and rang the church's old English bell until it cracked. The bell was later recast by Paul Revere's foundry, and is still in use. A businessman and important town benefactor, John Hooper, helped to restore the church in 1833.

Old Town House

Later additions include 1890s stained-glass windows and a fine pipe organ from 1975 by the renowned C.B. Fisk organ company, built within the older historic wooden organ structure that had been made in 1833 by the leading early organ makers E. & G. Hook of Salem.

Back on Washington Street, the second house past Summer Street is a brick residence `19` that was the meeting place of the Tories, or Loyalists, who did not favor separation from or war with Britain in the 1770s. Not many colonial-period houses in New England were built of brick, due in part to health concerns about brick buildings in damp weather. The home of a colonial merchant selling fine English imported goods for people's homes, it would have originally had a large shop window at the street level, facing the street.

St. Michael's Church

To return to Abbot Hall, where the tour began, continue walking and turn right up the hill one block.

To return to the Chamber office or info booth or Pleasant Street, walk past the Lee Mansion and then turn right, following Rockaway Street one block up to Pleasant Street.

Loyalist Thomas Robie House

Stop in at the Lee Mansion (June–October), the Marblehead Museum, and the Marblehead Arts Association in the Hooper Mansion, all just a block away.

MarbleheadMuseum.org • MarbleheadArts.org

And take time to enjoy Marblehead's harbor and many shops and restaurants!

Thank you for visiting!

Extended Tour *(see upper right of map)*

Old Burial Hill is the town's early burying ground, with some significant stone grave markers. A memorial obelisk lists 65 men and boys lost in a great 'gale' or hurricane on the North Atlantic Grand Banks in September 1846 that left 43 widows and 155 fatherless children, and ended fishing as Marblehead's principal industry. A covered gazebo with benches looks out toward Cape Ann and the Atlantic Ocean.

Redd's Pond lies beyond, named for Wilmott Redd, the only Marblehead resident to be hanged during the Salem witchcraft trials in 1692. Formerly a water source for fire-fighting, it is the site of annual historic fire hand-tub competitions and popular model sailboat races some Sundays.

A Walk Through
Historic Marblehead

A self-guided Walking Tour of Downtown Marblehead
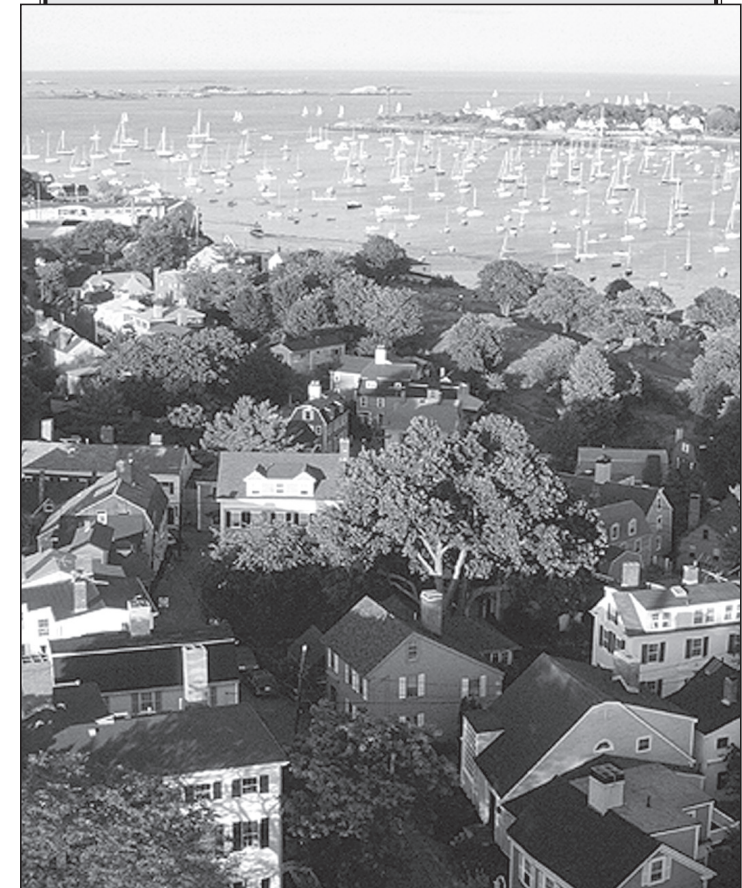
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