

VISITOR MAP OF CONCORD, MA

Points of Interest

1. Concord Visitor Center, 58 Main Street

Central hub for all local information, brochures and maps. Tours available year round.

2. South Burying Ground, 8 B Main Street

Early 17th century burying ground.

3. Old Jail Site, 70 Monument Square (in the grassy area to the left)

Site of Henry David Thoreau's night in jail to protest the expansion of enslavement which lead him to write the essay *Civil Disobedience*.

4. Wright Tavern, 2 Lexington Road

Built in 1747, several key revolutionary events took place within its walls.

5. Monument Square and Civil War Monument

The obelisk in the center of Monument square

Town square holding several key memorials including the 1866 obelisk honoring all who served the nation during the War of the Rebellion.

6. First Parish Church, 20 Lexington Road

The original meetinghouse was built opposite the present location on Lexington Road. A public building for religious worship and town meetings, the meetinghouse provided an occasional platform for antislavery speakers.

7. Concord Center for Visual Arts, 37 Lexington Road

Concord Center for the Visual Arts has been home to the visual arts since 1917 when it was founded by Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, an American impressionist painter, and feminist. She and her partner Grace Keyes hired the first female-only architectural firm in the country to redesign the building and its galleries.

8. Hill Burying Ground, *Grassy hill to the right of Holy Family*
Europeans' earliest burial site is located on a hillside overlooking the town center. John Jack, a self-emancipated African man's gravestone epitaph is world-renowned.

9. First Universalist Church / Holy Family Parish, 12 Monument Square

In 1841 the young Frederick Douglass spoke here at the Universalist meeting house in support of the long struggle for Civil Rights. In 1863 it became Concord's first Catholic Church to serve the town's growing immigrant community.

10. Concord Town House, 55 Monument Street

Built in 1851, the Town House became the center for the community as town residents rented the assembly hall for a variety of political and educational events and meetings, social gatherings and entertainments, and the observation and commemoration of important town and national events. EW Roberts' painting *Memories of Antietam* spans an interior wall and is open for public viewing.

11. Concord's Colonial Inn, 48 Monument Street

Historic Inn with dining room on Monument Square. The structure served many purposes dating back to 1716.

12. Dee Funeral Home, 27 Bedford Street

The home has been a witness and partner to the town's history since 1868 and has been of service to the Emerson, Alcott, Hawthorne, and Thoreau families.

13. Mary Rice House, 44 Bedford Street (Private)

Mary Rice, a teacher, assisted in the escape of self-emancipated enslaved persons in her home. She helped replace John Jack's gravestone and regularly put flowers on and tended the grave.

14. Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, 24 Court Lane

The town's largest cemetery, where the graves of Concord's literary figures can be found within a tranquil, natural, wooded park.

15. Garrison House, 78 Monument Street (Private)

In 1835 a derelict windmill stood at the top of this hill. The Garrison family moved into the mill about 1837, and later John Garrison, brother of civil rights activist Ellen, built the present cottage.

16. Formerly an armory, **51 Walden Performing Arts Center** is a treasured resource for the community as it hosts The Concord Players, The Concord Band, The Concord Orchestra, and Opera51.

17. Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street
Organized in 1826, this congregation took an early lead in antislavery activism. In 1836 the congregation voted to deny admission to slaveholders.

18. Mary Merrick Brooks House, 44 Hubbard Street (Private)
The home of Mary Merrick Brooks, granddaughter and daughter of merchants who once bought and sold enslaved people. She became one of Concord's most powerful White abolitionists and connected the town to the abolitionist network in Boston and beyond.

19. Bigelow House, 19 Sudbury Road (Private)
Shadrach Minkins, a self-emancipated man, made his way to freedom in Boston in May 1850. Nine months later he was seized by bounty hunters, yet a crowd rescued Minkins from custody at the courthouse and put him on an escape route that involved a brief stop in the middle of the night at the home of blacksmith Francis Bigelow and his wife Ann. From Concord, Minkins traveled by train to Canada, where he became a restaurant owner and barber.

20. Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street
Since 1873 the library connected community members to information, ideas, culture, and unique historical resources. It is the original site of the Mary Merrick Brooks House and the Black Horse Tavern.

21. Franklin Sanborn House & School Room, 106 Elm Street (Private)

Franklin Sanborn was one of the "Secret Six" who raised funds for John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry. Sanborn ran a small private school here. Federal marshals tried unsuccessfully to arrest Sanborn for aiding Brown.

22. The Umbrella Arts Center, 40 Stow Street
The Umbrella Arts Center promotes creativity, learning, personal growth, and cultural exchange through accessible arts education programs, performing and visual arts presentations, and community collaborations.

23. Emerson and Thoreau Amble Trail Head

The trail follows a meandering natural path similar to the one Emerson and Thoreau strolled as they walked from the town center to Walden Pond and Henry's cabin site.

24. Concord Center MBTA, 90 Thoreau Street
The current MBTA station was previously the site of the Fitchburg Railroad Station, which had connections to Vermont and Canada. As it was close to the town center, it was fundamental in the efforts of Concord residents to aid the escape of self-emancipated enslaved persons to freedom.

25. Ralph Waldo Emerson House, 28 Cambridge Turnpike
House Museum and National Historic Landmark.

26. Concord Museum, 53 Cambridge Turnpike
The museum educates visitors of all ages about the indigenous, revolutionary, literary and abolitionist history of Concord. Completely renovated in 2021, the Museum includes special galleries focused on April 19, 1775, Henry David Thoreau, the People of Musketaquid, and Concord's abolitionists.

27. Benjamin Barron House, 245/249 Lexington Road (Private)
This was the home of the shoemaker and enslaver Benjamin Barron. Over time, the enslaved man John Jack self-emancipated with money he earned as a shoemaker and laborer. His epitaph in the Hill Burying Ground is world famous as an antislavery declaration.

28. Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, 399 Lexington Road
The home of Little Women and a museum dedicated to Louisa May Alcott and the entire Alcott family.

29. The Wayside, Home of Authors, 455 Lexington Road
Home of authors Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott and Margaret Sidney. In 1775, Muster Master and Provincial Congress delegate Samuel Whitney lived here with his family and two enslaved men.

30. Grapevine Cottage, 491 Lexington Road (Private)
Here in his garden Ephraim Wales Bull developed the Concord grape which became the most widely cultivated grape variety in the U.S. for jelly and grape juice. He is buried in Sleepy Hollow with a gravestone that reads, "He sowed. Others reaped."

31. Path to Egg Rock

Follow this path down from Lowell Road along the river to a clearing from where you can view Egg Rock across the river.

32. Egg Rock

A large rock outcropping on egg-shaped intermittent island where the Assabet and Sudbury rivers join to form the Concord River. The rock may appear egg-shaped from some perspectives.

33. Old Manse, 269 Monument Street
Built for Reverend Emerson, and a witness house to the American Revolution, this historic manse is famous for its American literary associations and stories of enslavement and abolitionist struggle.

34. The Robbins House, 320 Monument Street
An historic early 19th century house once inhabited by descendants of formerly enslaved African American Revolutionary War veteran Caesar Robbins. Birthplace of his granddaughter and civil rights activist Ellen Garrison.

35. Old North Bridge Visitors Center, 174 Liberty Street
Overlooking the Old North Bridge and the Minute Man statue, this area provides full interpretation of the events of April 19, 1775. Part of Minute Man National Historical Park.

36. Reformatory Branch Trail Head
The trail follows a rail line built between Bedford and Concord in 1873. Nearly four miles long, the path provides a wooded and scenic route to several key historical sites as well as the Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge.

37. Edge of the Great Field
In this area formerly enslaved farmers John Jack, Caesar Robbins, and his descendants the Garrisons, as well as other free Concord African Americans such as Peter Hutchinson, pursued independence and contributed to the antislavery movement and abolitionist causes.

38. Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, *Monson Road*
National Wildlife Refuge with 2.7 miles of trails. This refuge provides habitats for native fish and wildlife, especially migratory birds.

39. Thoreau Farm and Birth House, 341 Virginia Road
Thoreau's birth house seeks to be a source of inspiration for living deliberately, practicing simplicity, and exploring new ideas for positive change. The land has been continuously farmed for over 300 years.

40. Meriam's Corner and East Quarter School House, 737 Lexington Road

The Battle Road begins here where April 19th changed from a day of small violent skirmishes to a running 16-mile-long battle. Also located next to the parking area is the former East Quarter School built in 1850 to serve the farm families of the outlying district and supervised by Superintendent Bronson Alcott, father of Louisa May.

41. Brister's Spring

In a shallow ravine beside the red-blazed trail marker, water bubbles up from underground. A post identifies it as Brister's Spring, named for Brister Freeman who once lived nearby.

42. Brister and Fenda Freeman House Site
Brister Freeman, who had been enslaved to Dr. John Cuming, purchased the "old field" in Walden woods with another African American Revolutionary War soldier and set up a two-family household. Brister's wife Fenda Freeman told fortunes; they had three children. Brister worked as a day laborer and endured frequent harassment from residents and local officials.

43. Thoreau's Path at Brister's Hill
Henry David Thoreau's words are engraved in granite and cast in bronze throughout the landscape. Here, Walden Woods Project placed the ninth Toni Morrison Society Bench by the Road to recognize the contributions of enslaved people to the building of this nation.

44. Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden St
National Historic Landmark and considered the birthplace of the conservation movement.

45. Thoreau's Cabin Site

The location of Thoreau's cabin was discovered by archaeologists nearly 100 years after Thoreau left Walden Pond.

46. Emerson Hospital / Indigenous Settlement Area, 133 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner
This regional hospital stands near the site of the Clamshell Bluff Settlement, an unusually large inland shell midden, situated on the edge of a high bank, which revealed to archaeologists a seasonal site of indigenous life dating back thousands of years.

47. Concord Reformatory, 965 Elm Street
Opened in 1878, it is the oldest state prison for men in Massachusetts. Malcolm X was an inmate at the Concord Reformatory for 15 months in 1947 and 1948 and this prison was visited in 1988 by Mother Teresa on her trip touring Massachusetts.

48. John Cuming House, 998 Elm Street (Private)
Squire John Cuming was a landowner, doctor, and Lt. Col. in the militia, and presided over 70 town meetings. He was the enslaver to Jem and Brister, later known as Brister Freeman. Cuming left an endowment to Harvard Medical School for which the college has recently tried to atone.

49. Barrett Farm, 448 Barrett's Mill Road
Once the home of Colonel James Barrett, his family, and an enslaved man, Phillip. On April 19, 1775 British Regulars searched this home looking for stores of artillery and ammunition.

50. Gerow Park and Warners Pond, 369 Commonwealth Ave
Seven acres of cleared and wooded land abutting Warners Pond. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail runs along the property and provides a relaxing area to recreate and picnic.

51. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, 66 Commonwealth Ave
A rail trail following the 25-mile route of the old New Haven Railroad Framingham & Lowell line. The trail has a 10-foot wide pavement with a 2-foot wide packed shoulder on each side and is open to non-motorized uses such as cycling, jogging, walking, roller-blading, and skiing.

52. West Concord MBTA, *Commonwealth Ave and Main Street*
The Fitchburg Line serves the station. Built in 1894, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Union Station. The exterior was restored with the original tri-color paint scheme and houses the Club Car Cafe.

53. Concord Sign Museum, 33 Bradford Street
A collection of more than 60 classic signs from all over Concord that aim to tell the story of the community in the 20th century.

54. Damon Mill, 1700 Main Street
One of the earliest textile mills in Massachusetts, Damon Mill produced an unique wool-cotton textile called domet cloth, from raw materials grown on plantations in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. In 1855 it consumed some 40,000 pounds of cotton from Southern plantations.

55. Jennie Dugan's Brook
Named after Jennie, wife of Thomas Dugan, a self-emancipated enslaved man from Virginia. Thomas was known for introducing the rye cradle to Concord farmers. George, their youngest son, enlisted in the MA 54th Black Regiment in the Civil War at the age of 43 in 1863 and lost his life at the Battle of Ft Wagner.

56. Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road
This year-round family farm store has a deli, fresh produce, baked goods, prepared foods, specialty items, and groceries. Hosts many family friendly events during all seasons.