Introduction

Although a formal Revolutionary battle was never fought in Cambridge, its citizens witnessed more than their share of its events. The town endured two military occupations, first by their own countrymen, the Continental Army, and later by their enemies, British General John Burgoyne and the Convention Troops. The town of Cambridge opposed early British parliamentary legislation, but after it became clear a compromise could not be reached, the pen was traded in for the sword. Cambridge citizens flocked to volunteer for the Revolutionary cause.

This tour hopes to shed light on the Revolutionary events that occurred in Cambridge. It is intended to personify its leaders, highlighting both their strengths and their humanity. It also hopes to take the viewer back to a time before the United States was born, before the Constitution was ratified, and before an American victory was assumed.

To Use

Upon reaching a site, dial 617-517-5990 to hear an introductory greeting. At any point, dial the extension listed next to each site in the map section of the brochure. After dialing the number, you will hear a narrative about the site and its role in Revolutionary events. Then a prompt will offer two additional options: an extended explanation of the site or an opportunity to leave feedback about the narration, or you can simply end the call.
Start your tour at the intersection of Mass. Ave. and J.F.K. St.

1. The Harvard Square Subway Kiosk
   Extension 1 #, extended version 2 #
   Introduction: Events leading to the American Revolution

2. The Fourth Meetinghouse
   Extension 3 #, extended version 4 #
   A discussion of controversial acts of British parliamentary legislation

3. Longfellow Park
   Extension 5 #, extended version 6 #
   The Tory Row (Brattle Street) estates

4. The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House
   Extension 7 #, extended version 8 #
   The mansion of John Vassall and the headquarters of General George Washington

5. The Henry Vassall House
   Extension 9 #, extended version 10 #
   The headquarters and later prison of Dr. Benjamin Church, the Continental Army’s first surgeon general, who was tried as a spy

6. The William Brattle House
   Extension 11 #, extended version 12 #
   The home of the distinguished loyalist general who almost started the Revolutionary War

7. Harvard Hall
   Extension 13 #, extended version 14 #
   Harvard College’s contribution to the Revolutionary cause

8. The Old Burying Ground
   Extension 15 #, extended version 16 #
   The site of the burial of three Cantabrigians who died fighting the British during the retreat from Lexington and Concord

9. The Cambridge Common
   Extension 17 #, extended version 18 #
   The site of the encampment of the Continental Army throughout the Siege of Boston

10. Christ Church
    Extension 19 #, extended version 20 #
    During the Revolution, this church reopened its doors to hold services at the request of Martha Washington, as well as General Burgoyne and the Convention Troops

11. The Washington Elm
    Extension 21 #
    Legend has it that under this tree on July 3, 1775, General Washington took command of the Continental Army.