



### 9. Friends Meeting House

*Middle Road at Hedly St.*

The Portsmouth Society of Friends was founded in 1658 and this Meeting House was completed in 1700. It is now known as the Portsmouth Evangelical Friends Church.

### 10. Historical Society Museum

*Corner of East Main Road and Union Street.*

This was the former Christian Union Church where Julia Ward Howe and other notables preached. It now houses a museum (open on Sundays 2-4 PM from Memorial Day to Columbus Day). The state's oldest schoolhouse, Southernmost School (1720's) is on the grounds as well as Portsmouth's Old Town Hall which contains farm equipment, wagons and a horse drawn hearse.



### 11. The Glen

*Glen Road off East Main Road.*

There are several historical sites in the town-owned Glen Farm area. The Glen Manor House (1923) was designed by John Russell Pope as the summer home for the Taylor Family. The Leonard Brown House (c. 1850) is in the process of being restored. It was the home of a very prominent Portsmouth farmer and served as a support house for Glen Farm. The Glen Barns were built from 1907 - 1910. across from the barns is the colonial Cundall/Slocum graveyard.



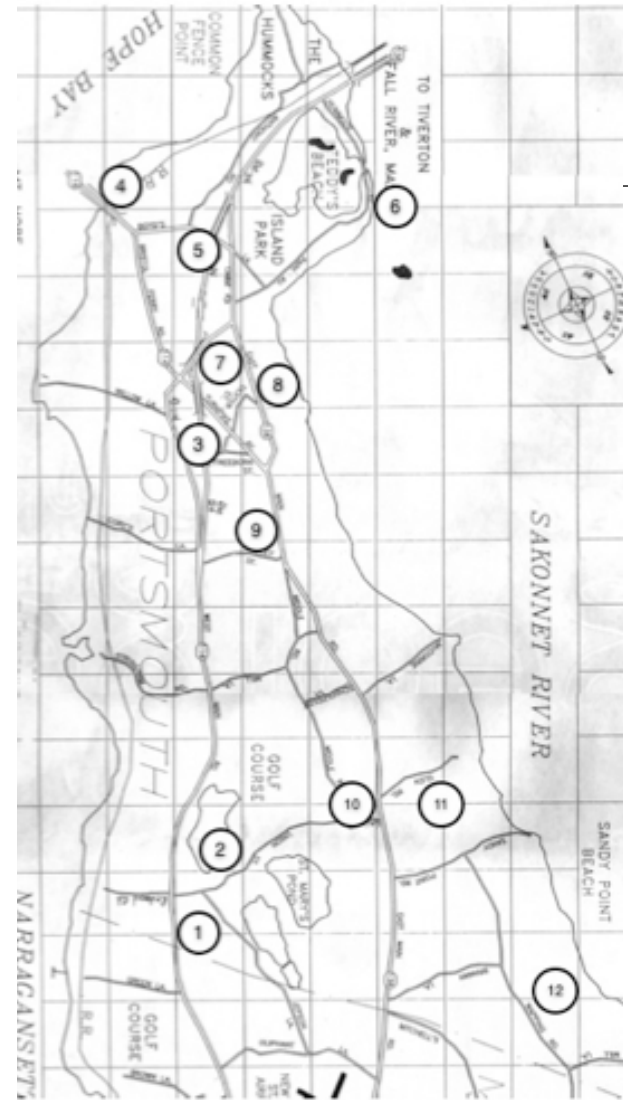
### 12. Greenvale

*582 Wapping Road*

Originally Greenvale Farm was built on the idea of a "Gentleman's Farm." Owner John Barstow's intent was to find a 50 to 60 acre farm to "establish a rural agricultural retreat but one that would provide occupation as well as recreation." The farm has remained in the same family since 1863 and the family continues to farm the land as a vineyard. Of special interest is the restored stable that has become a tasting room.



# A Tour of Some Historical Sites in Portsmouth, Rhode



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VINTAGE IMAGES FROM THE COLLECTION OF G SCHMIDT

**PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
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### 1. Prescott Farm (Overing House)

West Main Road at town line

At this site., British General Richard Prescott was captured in July 1777, Colonial militia, led by Colonel William Barton, made the daring night raid. The site is owned by the Newport Restoration Foundation (small admission charge) and besides the Overing House (1730) it includes relocated Portsmouth colonial homes: The Hicks House (1715) from Bristol Ferry Road and the Sweet Anthony House (1730) from West Main Road. The Sherman grist mill (1812) had been located on Lehigh Hill.

### 2. Oak Glen

745 Union Street.

Oak Glen (1858) was the home of Julia Ward Howe, the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." She died here on October 17, 1910, at the age of 91. Julia was active in the abolition and woman's suffrage causes as well as being a leader in the literary community.

### 3. Patriots Park

West Main Road at split with Route 24.

Memorial to the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, known as the "Black Regiment" located at the junction northbound of Routes 114 and 24. Flagpole commemorates the site where the Black Regiment courageously fought off a Hessian attack, saving the American line, on August 29, 1778 during the Battle of Rhode Island



### 4. Bristol Ferry Town Commons

End of Bristol Ferry Road at Bayview

This is the site of a town common dating back to 1714. Farmers Ferry service started here in 1640. This 1.5 acre space was originally used by farmers and others to keep their livestock and other goods while waiting for the ferry to Bristol. This became a transportation hub for Portsmouth with steamboats, trolleys, trains and ferries all stopping here. The opening of the Mount Hope Bridge in 1929 ended the ferry service.

### 5. Founder's Brook

Off Boyd's Lane

Memorials at this brook honor the settlers who arrived at this site in Portsmouth and the compact the founders signed March 7, 1638 before they left Boston. They pledged to establish a "bodie politck" what would be under God's law. Anne Hutchinson, John Clarke and William Coddington were among the early leaders.



Lane leading to site of Memorial Boulder adjacent to "Spring", the source of Founder's Brook, so called. The spring was the center of the original settlement. Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

### 6. Stone Bridge

Park Avenue



Site of bridges to Tiverton dating back to 1795. This was one of the earliest ferry sites as well.

The last Stone Bridge was badly damaged in Hurricane Carol in 1954 and was replaced by the Sakonnet River Bridge.

### 7. Fort Butts

Off Sprague Stree



In 1776 the Americans built a small battery on Butt's Hill. The British and Hessians occupied the fort in December of

1776 and enlarged it to hold barracks for 200 men. During the Battle of Rhode Island in August of 1778, the fort was an American strong hold and the whole battlefield could be seen from this position.

### 8. Lafayette House

2951 East Main Road

Also known as the Joseph Dennis house (1760), French General Lafayette stayed here just before the Battle of Rhode Island.

