

15. CROCKER BUILDING 4 Court Street

Dating to 1898, the Crocker Building was built a bit later than other parts of downtown and has a distinct style. Earlier it was the red brick, corniced roofs, and flat faces of Italianate architecture which were quite popular in Taunton around the mid-19th century. Following the centennial celebrations of 1876 interest in colonial architecture blossomed into a style known as Colonial or Georgian Revival. Here with the Crocker Building you can see typical elements of this style with several features including: accented front door with decorative pediment, slender columns, façade symmetry, and details that tend to be exaggerated with larger proportions.



16. TAUNTON GREEN

Throughout the 17th & 18th centuries, the area around Taunton Green was as residential as it was commercial. Politicians, lawyers, and journalists made their homes here as Taunton grew to become the hub of Southeastern Massachusetts and in 1746 the judicial center as well. Hotels, saloons, shops, and other businesses sprang up to meet the needs of the growing population. With the industrialization of the 19th century came brick buildings in place of the older wooden structures, and then the electric trolleys and automobiles of the early 20th century. Known for its iconic Christmas displays, memorial statues, and historic past, "The Green" is remembered for its bustling activity, luxury shopping, and delicious dining cars.

17. BOULDER WITH PLAQUE Taunton Green

A granite boulder with a bronze plaque is a humble monument marking the importance of Taunton Green in this city's earliest history. Originally laid out as a training field for the militia in 1639, Taunton Green was once 88 acres in area. Perhaps the best known event to take place here was the rebellious raising of the Liberty and Union flag in 1774, the first such act of defiance against British rule in the colonies and an event celebrated each year for its role in America's fight for independence. Many Taunton patriots went on to fight in the American Revolution, and are honored with this marker, along with those who stood up to oncoming rebels in Shays' Rebellion twelve years later.



18. TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE 5 Cohannet Street

Founded in 1848 by the Reed family, the *Taunton Daily Gazette* remains our city's primary newspaper.

19. POST OFFICE 37 Taunton Green

This area of land was once the homestead of Samuel Crocker, industrialist and congressman, who was

an early advocate for the creation of Mount Pleasant Cemetery, one of the oldest rural cemeteries in the nation. It was later considered as a location for City Hall, but instead a post office



was constructed here in 1897. That building, however, was dynamited after only a few decades and rebuilt in 1931 as a means of putting Depression-weary Tauntonians back to work. The rebuilt post office is what you see today.

20. THE HIKER STATUE Taunton Green

Facing the Post Office is "The Hiker." Dedicated in 1937, this statue honors the 67 volunteers who served in the Spanish American War, including Lulu M. Plant, a Taunton woman who was the first female nurse to enroll in the Navy. Behind is the Walter T. Soper Memorial Fountain, built in 1959 to replace an earlier fountain which dated to 1882.



21. DOUGHBOY STATUE Taunton Green

Also standing on Taunton Green is a World War I soldier, known as "The Doughboy." Originally placed in Memorial Park in 1937 and moved in 1977, this statue was created by Taunton native Louis Leach and given as a gift to the city from members of the David F. Adams Post #611 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

22. DUNBAR BLOCK (opposite Doughboy Statue)

The white building marked "Mello" stands on the site where Taunton's first jail once stood. It was built in 1747 and held prisoners during the Revolutionary War. Also in this block you can see the El Mariachi restaurant. This building was once Foster's clothing store which drew customers from throughout the area.

23. LINCOLN STREET

On the west corner of Lincoln Street once stood the home of Caleb Barnum. Barnum was Taunton's seventh minister and a leader among Taunton's patriots. He had given the invocation at the raising of the Liberty and Union flag on the Green in October 1774, and left from here to join the Army as a chaplain the following year. Barnum became ill during his service and died in the home of Thomas Allen in Pittsfield, MA. Allen recalled that in his last days Barnum was asked about his views on the Revolution and American independence. "I have no doubts concerning the justice and goodness of that cause," he reportedly said, "and had I a thousand lives, they should all be willingly laid down in it."

24. UNION BLOCK 1-37 Main Street

After crossing Weir Street, extending along the south side of Main Street, the Union Block comes into view. The Union Block contains five sections built in 1860 to replace the 25 wooden buildings destroyed in the "Great Fire" of 1859. Irish immigrant labor, thousands of bricks, and tons of cement and lumber made this anchor of downtown commerce a reality.

25. ELIZABETH POLE HOMESTEAD (past Union Block, near St. Pierre's Shoes)

In 1792, Dr. Foster Swift built a house in this area on land that had once belonged to Elizabeth Pole, one of the earliest settlers in Taunton. Dr. Swift, when digging out a cellar hole for his house, accidentally exhumed the remains of Elizabeth Pole, which were then reinterred in Plain Cemetery. A plaque marks the spot where her home once stood.

26. LEONARD BLOCK/STAR THEATER 105-111 Main Street

Built in 1870 by George, Jr. and Joseph Leonard, this was the former site of a red brick Victorian commercial structure, uniquely adapted to the curve of the street. It was best known as the site of the Star Theater. Due to years of disrepair, the building was demolished in December 2014.



27. CITY HALL 15 Summer Street

Built in 1848, City Hall stands on the site of the homestead of Taunton's first minister, William Hooke. The site was later owned by Marcus Morton, former governor of Massachusetts. The second floor served as Taunton High School from 1854 to 1885, and the building was enlarged in 1896. Inside are memorials dedicated to Tauntonians killed in action during the Civil War, World War I and World War II.

28. HUBBARD HOUSE/ TAUNTON FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 14 Church Green

Built in 1884, this was originally the home of well-known physician Charles T. Hubbard, later served as the offices of the Taunton Visiting Nurse Association, and in the 1990s welcomed the Taunton Federal Credit Union.

29. VIETNAM MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN Church Green

One of the first Vietnam War memorials in the country was built on Church Green in 1968. Every year since the Taunton Area Vietnam Veterans Association holds a vigil for the 39 Massachusetts servicemen and 1,637 others nationwide whose remains were never returned from the battlefields of Southeast Asia. Near the fountain stands a memorial plaque bearing the names of Taunton citizens who died in Vietnam.

30. GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL Church Green

Next to the Vietnam Memorial is the Taunton Global War on Terrorism Memorial. Dedicated in 2012, this monument honors veterans and current service members of the Armed Forces of the United States, both male and female – the first to honor female service members in Taunton. The reverse of the memorial includes the names of the operations from the Global War on Terrorism and the service members from Taunton who gave their lives during this conflict.



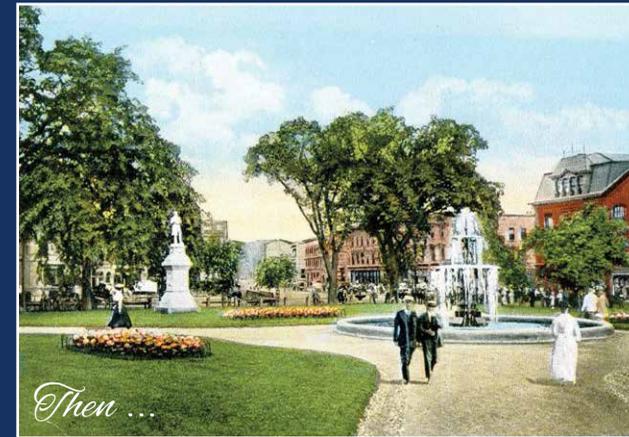
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LIBERTY AND UNION WALKING TOUR



Then ...

One-Mile Tour of Historic Downtown Taunton, Massachusetts



... and Now



OUR PAST IS ALWAYS PRESENT