



What is the Heritage Trail?

The heritage trail is a self-guided tour through the downtown, which highlights key features and important eras in Oyster Bay's long history that brought the Hamlet from a colonial settlement to the downtown you see today.

How long is the Heritage Trail?

It depends on how many stops you would like to make along the way, but from the first marker to the last it is about 2.5 miles. So wear comfortable shoes!

Who wrote the Trail?

The text for the trail markers were provided by the high school students of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich School District in conjunction with adult community experts through Project L.E.A.R.N.S. (Leadership, Education, Appreciation, Respect, Nurture, Service).

Project L.E.A.R.N.S. established a dynamic partnership between the school district and other community organizations to create learning experiences for students beyond the classroom walls utilizing the assets of the Oyster Bay Community.

The Oyster Bay Main Street Association's Heritage Trail

is made possible through a matching grant from the National Park Service through their Preserve America Program.



Explore and Enjoy Our Heritage

The Heritage Trail is part of the Main Street Association's larger initiative to bring a coordinated sign plan to the downtown. Beginning in 2010, designs were produced for new street signs, directional signs, and interpretive signs in the downtown. Since then, 120 street signs have been fabricated and installed; seven directional signs have been fabricated and installed; as well as the 10 trail markers included in this heritage trail.

All aimed to assist Oyster Bay's residents and visitors in better navigating the downtown.

OYSTER BAY Main Street Association

HERITAGE TRAIL



Oyster Bay Main Street Association

P.O. Box 116

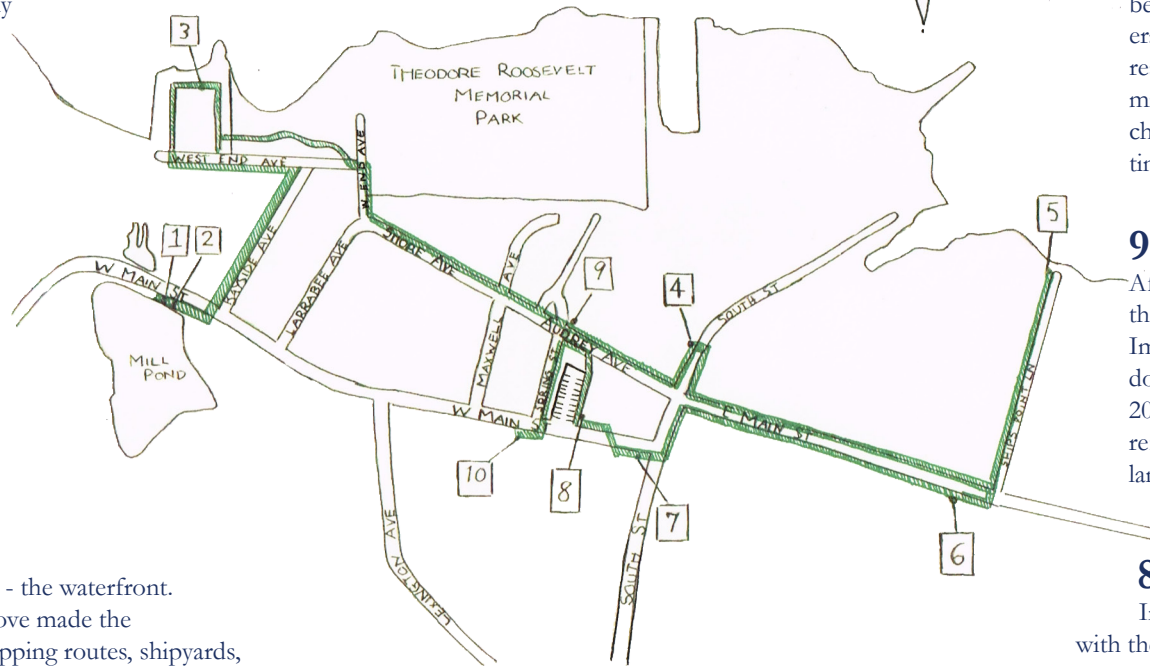
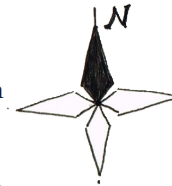
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HERITAGE TRAIL

Trail Map drawn by Michaela Mahon
Oyster Bay Main Street Association Intern



1. Town Spot

Begin the trail at a scenic overlook of Mill Pond. This location is not too far from the original contested boundary between the English and the Dutch, which made early settlement life so difficult.

2. Mill Pond

Few people realize the major role this body of water played in shaping Oyster Bay, but all can appreciate the scenic beauty. Located on a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Preserve, the pond is one of the few public freshwater fishing spots left on the North Shore of Nassau County.

3. Waterfront

Continuing on the trail up Bayside Ave and over the tracks, we come to one of the most defining features of the Hamlet - the waterfront. The calming protection of Oyster Bay Cove made the waterfront ideal for oyster harvesting, shipping routes, shipyards, and various means of transportation. Today, the waterfront continues to be a major revenue source, but focus has shifted more to recreation: with boats for rent at the WaterFront Center, playing fields in Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, and swimming at Oyster Bay Beach among other diversions.

4. Historic Churches

Oyster Bay is blessed to have many historic churches still standing in the downtown. They demonstrate not only a multitude of long-standing faiths, but show through their variations the evolution and growth of the downtown. Christ Church & First Presbyterian will be visible on your right and left as you continue to the next marker.

5. Revolutionary War

Remnants of British control during the Revolutionary War can be seen throughout the Hamlet - through street names like Simcoe St; the remnants of Fortified Hill; and etchings left by soldiers in the glass windows of the Townsend family home, now known as Raynham Hall. This trail will lead you by the museum and we suggest stopping in to learn more about Oyster Bay's role in the war!

6. Summer Colony

Looking down Cove Road from this marker, it is possible to see a change in the size of the homes and the lots they stand on. These homes are remnants of the wealthy summer colony that formed in the early half of the 19th Century, spurred by limited access through the steamboat ferries that carried the wealthy from their city dwellings to their "country" retreats. The Hamlet had a small commercial district at this time that supported the seasonal residents.

10. Haven to History

Oyster Bay has been the focus of many revitalization initiatives in the latter half of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century because of its ties to important figures and eras in our collective past. Organizations and residents have devoted countless hours and millions of dollars to preserve the quaint charm of historic Oyster Bay and will continue to do so for generations to come.

9. End of an Era

After Theodore Roosevelt's passing, the hamlet returned to its quiet tenure. Improvements continued to be made in the downtown throughout the first half of the 20th Century, some in his name, some to reflect the changing political and economic landscape.

8. Golden Age

Increased access by trains and cars, coupled with the newly elected President Roosevelt calling Oyster Bay his home, the Hamlet experienced a major economic boom, which completely transformed the commercial district into the one we are familiar with today. For more information about Roosevelt and his role in shaping Oyster Bay visit Sagamore Hill National Historic Site and the interpretive panels they have installed in the downtown.

7. 19th Century

The major commercial buildings you see on the corners of the downtown - the Moore Building, the Randall Building, Snouder's Corner Drug Store, the Ludlam Building - were built in the second half of the 19th Century to accommodate the influx of people visiting and living in Oyster Bay. These long-standing buildings are evidence that Oyster Bay had ceased to merely be a colonial settlement or seasonal retreat.