



NEWFOUND MEMORIAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Gould House can be reached
from the Old Methodist Church by
crossing Kelley Park and exiting left
of Newfound Middle School.

KELLEY PARK

SCHOOL STREET

SUMMER STREET — ROUTE 104

NORTH MAIN STREET

CENTRAL
SQUARE

SPRING STREET

PLEASANT STREET — ROUTE 104

CENTRAL STREET

NEWFOUND RIVER

NEWFOUND RIVER

BEECH STREET

SOUTH MAIN STREET — ROUTE 3A SOUTH

CHURCH STREET

HIGH STREET

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| 1. Taylor House (starting point of walking tour) | 9. Central Square South (Bean-Tukey and Abel Blocks, Miss Gove's House) |
| 2. Cavis House | 10. Cass Block |
| 3. Minot-Sleeper Library | 11. Bartlett House |
| 4. Central Square West (Tin Shop, Rollins, Cavis and White's Blocks) | 12. Baptist Church and Parsonage |
| 5. Draper Block | 13. Henry Whipple House |
| 6. Federated Church | 14. Town Hall |
| 7. Old Firehouse | 15. Bank Block |
| 8. Musgrove House | 16. Old Methodist Church |
| | 17. Gould House (end point of walking tour) |

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

(PLEASE REFER TO MAP AT LEFT)

1. Taylor House, 69 Pleasant Street: This Greek Revival-style cape built in 1837 was commissioned by Cyrus Taylor, a well-respected 19th-century Bristol businessman who also served as a New Hampshire State Senator (one of two State Senators who have resided in the house). Unique features include a well-preserved tin ceiling and a large granite hitching post for horses. Over its 170-year history, the house has been owned by only five families — the Taylors, Chases, Ackermans, Gilmans and Gordons — each of whom has lovingly cared for this stately building. 🌿

2. Cavis House, 61 Pleasant Street: Erected by Solomon Cavis, owner of the Cavis block on Central Square, this house remained in the family for two generations until it was purchased by the Oddfellows in 1934. The current owners, the Masons, have occupied the building since 1974. The structure appears to have a porch addition on one side; this is really a 1936 modification for extra space. At this time four of the upstairs windows on the right side were bricked up to give the appearance of an addition to the second story. 🌿

3. Minot-Sleeper Library, 35 Pleasant Street: The Minot-Sleeper Library was constructed in 1884 as a gift to the Town of Bristol from Judge Josiah Minot of Concord, New Hampshire and Colonel Solomon Sleeper of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Both men grew up in Bristol and retained a strong affection for their native town. In a letter to Bristol's selectmen, the men wrote, "We intend that the building, with the grounds connected, shall be of such design and in such condition, that they will be a credit to the place; and we hope that the library, when established, will be useful and beneficial to the community." The petite brick structure still operates as the town's library. 🌿

4. CENTRAL SQUARE WEST
White's Block, 4 Central Square: Known mostly as a clothing store, White's Block has also been a law office, shoe shop, jewelers, drug store, watch-repair store, meeting hall with dramatic entertainments, hardware store and licensed retailer of spirituous liquors. The building was gutted by the fire of July 1861 and rebuilt as the two-story block with a flat roof that stands today. Take note of the carved tympanums on the arch heads of the second-story windows and do not miss the beautiful and ornate tin ceiling to be seen inside. 🌿

Cavis Block, 8 Central Square: This is the site of the very first building on the west side of the square, a blacksmith's shop and a hatter. A store erected in 1832 by Joseph Noyes was to become the dry good, groceries and hardware store owned by the Cavis Family. This store was destroyed by fire on the Fourth of July, 1861 and the present block was erected soon afterwards. The fire of December 1871 that claimed the tin-shop site buildings also greatly damaged this building. 🌿

Rollins Block, 12 Central Square: The same fire that destroyed Nos. 11 and 13 Central Square also leveled this building which had housed a hatter, a

— BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUE ON REVERSE SIDE.

country store and a tailor. Leston L. Rollins built the present block in 1872 and since that time its stores have sold a variety of merchandise: groceries, clothes, hats, dry fancy goods, boots and shoes, toys, fishing tackle, jewelry and medicine. The title “Rollins Block” still appears above the second-story windows. In addition to the original windows notice the carved brackets with pendants that support the cornice on all of the Central Square West buildings. 🌿

Tin-Shop Site, 18 Central Square: Erected in 1872 after a December 1871 fire destroyed previous buildings on this site, Hiram W. Kendall, a dealer in stoves and tin-ware, was probably the first occupant. The building remained as a tin-shop through the early 1900s and still retains its original tin ceiling. Other merchants have occupied the site but its first use remains the name by which the building is best known. Many original elements still exist, such as the six-over-six second-floor sash windows and granite sills. Looking at the building from the adjacent bridge reveals that it is supported in part by piers. Ask inside about the unique three-story latrine. 🌿

5. Draper Block, 30 South Main Street: George Draper began construction of this Victorian brick commercial block in 1874. Unfortunately, while watching excavation of the foundation, Mr. Draper fell headfirst into the foundation trench and died a few weeks later from his injuries. Construction was nonetheless completed by the administrator of his estate and the building was occupied the following year by the town’s post office. Other businesses in this building have included a jewelry store and a millinery. 🌿

6. Federated Church, 15 Church Street: According to a local historian from the early 1900s, the original frame of the church took two days and a barrel-and-a-half of rum to raise in 1827. Thankfully, “only one man showed the effects of his libations” and the structure has gracefully withstood the test of time. The church has since undergone two major renovations: in 1870 the front façade was heightened and embellished, and in 1968 a Fellowship Hall, classrooms and administrative offices were added. The church’s sanctuary is a grand, light-filled hall with white-painted pews, a large pewter chandelier, an ornate tin ceiling and gold organ pipes that rise toward heaven. 🌿

7. Old Firehouse, 15 High Street: This unique structure was erected in 1889 as Bristol’s Fire Department and was the town’s sole fire apparatus storage facility until the mid-1970s. The fire alarm bell, located in the belfry, was salvaged from the Mason Perkins mill after the top portions of that building burned in the late 1800s. Today the building is still owned by the town, but the top story is rented to the Bristol Historical Society for the sum of one dollar per year for use as a display and meeting hall. 🌿

8. Musgrove House, 135 South Main Street: Built around 1878, this twelve-room Victorian was the home of the Musgrove family from 1884 until 1970. Richard Musgrove was a Civil War veteran and the author of the History of Bristol, published in 1904. Musgrove was also editor of The Bristol Weekly Enterprise for thirty-six years until his death in 1914. Later, the building was a rooming house; it is now a law office and home. 🌿

9. CENTRAL SQUARE SOUTH

Bean-Tukey Block, 20–22 Central Square: In 1818 this was the site of a “ten-footer,” home to the first saddle- and harness-maker’s store. The building was replaced in 1841 and then enlarged to its present size in 1901 to cover every inch of its site. A distinctive feature of the southern façade is the one-story wooden porch suspended over the Newfound River. This building was also home to the first meat market in town, the post office, a tin shop, shoe shop, millinery and a fruit shop. Note the tall brick chimney rising from the center of the north roof which seems large for the size of the building. 🌿

Abel Block, 26 Central Square: The first two stories of this building were erected by A. J. Smith before the Civil War. In 1878 William H. Abel remodeled the exterior and enlarged the block by adding a third story under a new mansard roof, creating the excellent Second Empire building that stands today. The interior retains many original features, including granite steps leading to a lower level which affords an excellent view of the Newfound River. 🌿

Miss Gove’s House, 2 Central Street: This building was home to both a saw mill and a grist mill. It was remodeled in 1840 to its present size and still has wonderful original beams inside, some of which show signs of a previous fire. 🌿

10. Cass Block, 34 Central Square: Joseph Cass built this post-and-beam structure in 1848. It is made up of three buildings: the front portion was constructed earliest; the barn in the rear was constructed next; later, an addition connecting the two was built. A 1911 fire that destroyed the Browns Hotel next door also damaged the Cass Block and shortly thereafter the front building was remodeled by raising the roof and replacing the columns with the round ones seen today. Originally a pharmacy, this site was home to Arthur W. Prescotts Fruit & Confections Company in 1884, Arthur Bernier’s clover farms in the mid-1900s, and in the late 1970s the Bristol Market. The inside boasts original Victorian features including a tin ceiling. 🌿

11. Bartlett House, 42 Central Square: This structure was reportedly built in 1822 by Ichabod Bartlett, who served in the 19th and 20th US Congresses and was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Bristol. The current house, built as an addition to an 1802 wooden dry goods store, remains almost in its original form (note the Indian shutters on the front windows) but once had an attached carriage shed and a field for pasturing animals. This building remained a residence but has also been home to a funeral parlor, a florist shop, a boarding house and the location of the first newspaper in Bristol. 🌿

12. Baptist Church and Parsonage, 20–30 Summer Street: Still in operation today, this church was built in 1850 for the sum of \$1,260 — \$900 of which was raised from the sale of old pews from the previous chapel. In 1867 the building was remodeled, adding ten feet to its length and in 1894 the colored glass windows were added and these remain today. Today’s parsonage on the right of the church was once home to Kelley Tavern. Built in 1794, this was the second tavern on Central Square and once had a doctor’s office with an operating room on the second story. This building was extensively remodeled in the twentieth century to the current structure one sees today. 🌿

13. Henry Whipple House, 75 Summer Street: Built in 1904 for Henry Chandler Whipple, President of Dodge-Davis Woolen Mills (Bristol’s largest employer in the late 1800s and early 1900s), this building with its carriage house remained in the Whipple family until 1961. Since then the house been home to two town newspaper publishers and more recently a bed and breakfast. Today’s Whipple House is one of but a few New England Queen Anne-style homes that retains its original structure. Some examples of this are the widows walk and stained-glass windows. Interior viewing is arranged by appointment only. 🌿

14. Town Hall, 45 Summer Street: A typical New England meeting house, construction on Bristol’s Town Hall was completed in 1849. Early on the hall served as the focal point of most town events, hosting dances, graduations, plays, suppers and concerts. All town government was conducted at the Town Hall until the mid-1920s. Today the hall continues as the site of Bristol’s town elections. Bristol’s annual Town Meeting has been held in the Town Hall every year since 1850 — it is generally acknowledged that the hard wooden benches that grace the hall’s interior keep the meeting a tad bit shorter. 🌿

15. Bank Block, 10 North Main Street: The original building was completed in 1893 and The First National Bank of Bristol opened its doors for business on December 1 of that year. Although the first floor has been extensively remodeled the upper stories remain unchanged, exhibiting beautiful brickwork on the decorated parapets and the sawtooth courses underneath. Also note the granite string courses incorporating the sills and lintels of the windows. 🌿

16. Old Methodist Church, 30 North Main Street: That this building was once the community’s Methodist church accounts for its impressive scale and grand steeple. Erected in 1872, this Gothic structure once seated 675 parishioners. Today the building is owned by the Bristol Federated Church (created by a merger of the area’s Methodist and Congregational churches in the early 1900s) and is used as a recreation center facilitating countless beneficial programs for both children and adults in the Newfound Lake area. 🌿

17. Gould House, 90 Lake Street: Bricks from the Profile Falls-area clay pits were no doubt used to build the handful of early brick homes in Bristol. This building is one of but three erected prior to 1850 that still stand in Bristol today. Originally a private home, this building has been home to lumber stores and a hardware store. The original brick structure can be viewed from inside also. 🌿



This walking tour map and guide is produced under the auspices of the Bristol Downtown Revitalization Committee. Accuracy of all historical data has been researched and verified to the extent possible.



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A Walking Tour of HISTORIC BRISTOL, New Hampshire



A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC BRISTOL STRUCTURES