



Salem Witch Hunt: Examine the Locations



Photo credit: Don Toothaker, toothaker.com

A Sense of Place

Salem and Essex County have a wealth of structures still standing that witnessed the period of the 1692 witchcraft trials. This is a guide to the sites used in *Salem Witch Hunt: Examine the Evidence* and is intended to encourage visitors to experience 17th century New England life for themselves. Directions from the National Park Service Visitor Center in Salem are included for each site.

The Corwin House ("The Witch House")



310 Essex Street • Salem

In 1692, this building was the home of wealthy merchant Jonathan Corwin. As a successful member of Salem's elite, Corwin was expected to serve on town committees and in the judiciary system. He was one of the judges chosen for the Court of Oyer and Terminer in Salem that examined and tried the accused witches.

Walking Directions from the Visitor Center

From the Visitor Center, turn right on Essex St. and walk down the pedestrian mall. Cross Washington St., and continue along Essex St. to the light. The Witch House is on the corner of Essex and North Streets. The walk should take about 10 minutes.

For further information, hours and admission fees, visit on the web: www.witchhouse.info

Salem Witch Trials Memorial



98 New Liberty Street • Salem

Opened in 1992 for the 300th anniversary of the witchcraft trials, this memorial consists of 20 stone benches, each engraved with the name of one of the executed victims of the trials. It is a place to reflect on those who died, and what the trials mean to us today.

The memorial is located next to the Old Burying Point Cemetery, where one of the trial judges, John Hathorne, is buried.

Walking Directions from the Visitor Center

From the Visitor Center, cross Essex Street and follow the pedestrian path to Central Street. The memorial is located across Central Street from the end of the path.

Gallows Hill

Proctor Street • Salem

There has been a great deal of debate about the exact place of execution of the victims of the trials. Most scholars now agree that it was in the vicinity of Gallows Hill. Gallows Hill is mostly private property today, but there is a park at the top of the hill that is open to the public.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

From the Visitor Center on New Liberty Street, take a left on Brown Street and a right on St. Peter Street. At the end of St. Peter Street, take a left onto Bridge Street (Rt. 107). At the fourth traffic light, continue straight on Proctor Street up the hill to the park.

Nurse Homestead



149 Pine Street • Danvers

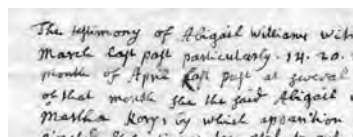
This was the home of Rebecca Nurse, one of the accused witches. Also on the property is the Nurse family graveyard, where Rebecca's body was secretly buried by her family after her execution. A reconstruction of the Salem Village meeting-house is located near the barn on the property.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

Turn left on Brown St. and right on St. Peter St. At the end of St. Peter St., turn left on Bridge St. Merge right onto 114 west. Follow 114 west past 95/128 and take the right fork onto Sylvan St. About half a mile down Sylvan St., take a left on Pine St.

For further information, hours and admission fees, visit on the web: www.rebeccanurse.org

Danvers Archival Center



Peabody Institute Library • 15 Sylvan Street • Danvers

The Danvers Archival Center holds many public, church, and private records related to the witchcraft trials and life in Salem Village.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

Turn left on Brown St., right on St. Peter St., then left on Bridge St. Merge right onto 114 W. Follow 114 W past 95/128 and take the right fork onto Sylvan St.

For information about hours and research, visit on the web: www.noblenet.org/danvers

Salem Village Parsonage Foundation



Rear of 67 Centre Street • Danvers

This foundation is all that remains of the 1681 Salem Village parsonage. This was the home of the Parris Family in 1692, when the hysteria began. A few years before Rev. Parris came to Salem Village, this was home of George Burroughs, who was executed as a witch during the trials.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

Turn left on Brown St. and right on St. Peter St. At the end of St. Peter St., turn left on Bridge St. Merge right onto Rt. 114 west. Follow 114 west past 95/128 and take the right fork onto Sylvan St. About half a mile down Sylvan St., take a left on Collins St., and continue onto Centre St.

Danvers Witch Memorial



176 Hobart Street • Danvers

This memorial sits on town land directly opposite the site of the Salem Village Meeting House where many of the witchcraft examinations took place. The monument includes symbols familiar to the Puritans and the words of some of the victims.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

Turn left on Brown St. and right on St. Peter St. At the end of St. Peter St., turn left on Bridge St. Merge right onto Rt. 114 west. Follow 114 west past 95/128 and take the right fork onto Sylvan St. About half a mile down Sylvan St., take a left on Collins St., and then a right on Hobart St. Continue on Hobart St.

Balch House



448 Cabot Street • Beverly

The original peaked roof, story-and-a-half section of this house is typical of the small farmhouses of 17th century Essex County. Many families of both the accused and accusers would have lived in houses like this one.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

Turn left on Brown St. and right on St. Peter St. At the end of St. Peter St., turn right on Bridge St. Follow Bridge St./ Rt. 107 across the Beverly Bridge and straight onto Cabot St./Rt. 22. Continue on Cabot St.

For further information, hours and admission fees, visit on the web: www.beverlyhistory.org

Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site



244 Central Street • Saugus

The Saugus Iron Works operated from 1646 to 1668. It was a major industrial site that smelted iron and made items like cast iron pots and wrought iron rods that blacksmiths could make into nails. In addition to the reconstructed Iron Works buildings with their operating water wheels and machinery, the site also has an original 1680s house.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

Turn left on Brown St. and right on St. Peter St. At the end of St. Peter St., turn left on Bridge St. Merge onto Rt. 114 W, and take 114 to 128 south to I-95 south. Take exit 43 (Walnut St.) off of I-95. Drive east towards Lynn and follow the brown National Park Service signs for 3.5 miles to the Iron Works.

For further information, hours and admission fees, visit on the web: www.nps.gov/sair

Old York Gaol



3 Lindsay Road • York, Maine

The gaol (an old spelling of jail) in York, Maine was built in 1719 using parts of the 1656 gaol. The gaol in Salem probably looked very similar.

When the former minister of Salem Village, George Burroughs, was arrested for witchcraft in nearby Wells, it is very likely that he was held in the York Gaol before being brought to Salem to answer the charges.

Driving Directions from the Visitor Center

The Gaol is part of the Museums of Old York, a collection of historic houses in York, Maine, about an hour north of Salem. Follow I-95 north into Maine, then take exit 7 and follow the spur road to Route 1. Bear right onto Route 1 South. At the traffic light, turn left onto Route 1A. In York Village, take a right onto Lindsay Road.

For further information, hours and admission fees, visit on the web: www.oldyork.org

For Further Information



ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

This film was made possible by the Essex National Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service.

For more information about the Essex National Heritage Area, and the rich history of Essex County, Massachusetts, visit on the web: www.essexheritage.org

Books and Articles

Baker, Emerson W. *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010

Boyer, Paul & Nissenbaum, Stephen. *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1974.

Demos, John. *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.

Norton, Mary Beth. *In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692*. New York: Random House, 2002.

Ray, Benjamin C. "Satan's War Against the Covenant in Salem Village, 1692" *New England Quarterly*, Vol. LXXX, no. 1 (March 2007) 69-95

Roach, Marilynne K., *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-To-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege*, Cooper Square Press, 2002.

Rosenthal, Bernard, ed., et al. *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt*. Cambridge University Press: New York, 2009.

Trask, Richard B. *The Devil hath been raised: A Documentary History of the Salem Village Witchcraft Outbreak of March 1692*. Revised edition. Yeoman Press: Danvers, MA. 1997.

For Young Adults:
Aronson, Marc. *Witch-Hunt: Mysteries of the Salem Witch Trials* New York: Athenaeum Press, 2005.

Web Sites

Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive and Transcription Project: www.salemwitchtrials.org

Essex National Heritage Area:
www.essexheritage.org/salemwitchhunt

Salem Maritime National Historic Site:
www.nps.gov/sama

Music

Music was an integral part of 17th century life in New England. Some of the music in *Salem Witch Hunt* is taken from the album *Salem's Musik: Songs and Dances of the Puritans*, by The Beggar Boys. The CD is available in the visitor center bookstore. For more information, visit www.beggarboys.com.