



10

## The Amesbury Hat Museum

Tucked away in a quiet corner of the basement of 9 Water Street, “The Hattery” consists of a sampling of high fashion ladies’ hats, men’s hats, novelties and memorabilia produced by the Merrimac Hat Corporation. The Merrimac Hat Factory rose from humble beginnings in 1856 to become the largest maker of hats and hat bodies in the U.S. in 1946. For over 100 years the Merrimac Hat Corporation was a vital part of Amesbury’s economy. Follow the story of this great American Industry through pictures and explore the reasons that the Merrimac Hat Corporation finally closed its doors in 1971.

**Open by appointment**  
**978.388.5359**

## Amesbury Carriage Museum

The mission of the Amesbury Carriage Museum is “to champion the history of Amesbury industry and people.” Formed in 1986, the museum organizes public programs, walking tours and events that explore Amesbury history and connect people to the past. The museum does not have a permanent location — but uses resources throughout the city to present a regular series of programs that deepen understanding of the community.

For many years, Amesbury has been home to a robust and diverse industrial economy. As early as 1640, operators used the flowing water of the Powow River to power their mills and saw logs, grind grain, weave textiles, make iron nails, and much more. By the 1850s, carriage making emerged as a significant industry. Amesbury makers produced carriages of high quality and for a reasonable price. By the 1890s Amesbury had earned the reputation as a major center for the carriage industry and became known as “Carriagetown.”

Other industries thrived as well including



12

manufacturing wooden automobile bodies, hardware, and hats. The downtown business district and nearby neighborhoods are filled with buildings that document this important history.

The museum owns a collection of historic artifacts including Amesbury-built carriages. And in 2015, the museum received the collections of the Salisbury Point Railroad Historical Society which includes the 1870 Salisbury Point railroad station **11** (now standing in Heritage Park on Water Street in the Lower Millyard) and other Amesbury railroad-related artifacts.

Information about the museum is available on Facebook, the website – [www.amesburycarriagemuseum.com](http://www.amesburycarriagemuseum.com) or by contacting:  
**Amesbury Carriage Museum**  
**P.O. Box 252, Amesbury, MA 01913**  
**978.834.5058 info@amesburycarriagemuseum.com**

## Rocky Hill Meeting House

The Rocky Hill Meeting House is the best-preserved example of an original 18th-century meeting house interior in New England. It was built in 1785, replacing a c.1715 meeting house for the West Parish of Salisbury. George Washington paused here to greet the towns people in 1789.

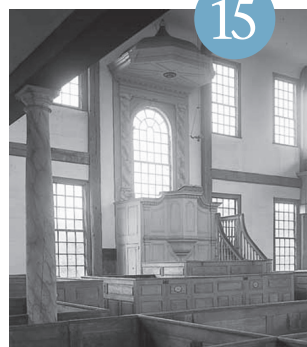
Around 1800, a worsening economic situation, coupled with new ideas about religion and architecture and the construction of two new churches in the area, led the congregation to drift away. By the 1840s, regular religious services came to an end at Rocky Hill.

Rocky Hill has survived with its original fittings and finishes intact. The pews have never been painted, while the marbleized pulpit and pillars still boast their original paint. The original 18th-century hardware survives throughout the building.

**Please visit [HistoricNewEngland.org](http://HistoricNewEngland.org) or call for open hours**  
**Available for weddings and special events**  
**978.462.2634 [www.historicnewengland.org](http://www.historicnewengland.org)**  
**Maintained by Historic New England since 1941**



15



## Amesbury Public Library

The Amesbury Public Library was founded in 1856. The present Romanesque style building was built and dedicated in 1902. Inside there are oak columns, fireplaces and three floors of book stacks. There is a very busy children’s room as well as the main floor for adults and the lower level for teens.

John Greenleaf Whittier was, for many years, Chairman of the book committee and one of the original trustees. The library has a sizeable collection of local history and genealogies of local families.

### Library hours:

**Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday summer hours: 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

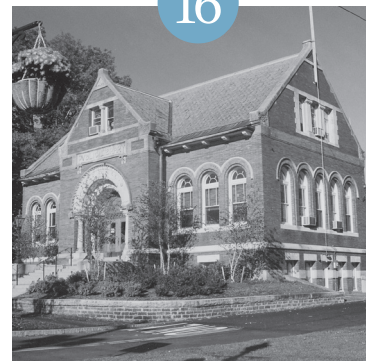
**978.388.8148 [www.amesburylibrary.org](http://www.amesburylibrary.org)**

## Amesbury Friends Meetinghouse

A group of Friends (Quakers) first met for worship in Amesbury in 1705 on Friend Street. In 1851 the present Meetinghouse was completed. It is in the Greek Revival style and is on the National Register of Historic Places

Amesbury Friends Meeting’s best known member was John Greenleaf Whittier. Whittier, the famous poet and social activist, served as the clerk of the building committee that supervised construction of the Meetinghouse. A plaque on one of the pews in the Worship Room commemorates Whittier. Amesbury Friends consider the handicapped-accessible Meetinghouse to be a community resource. The Fellowship Room has been used to host weddings, meetings, and other community events.

**Open for worship Sundays at 10 a.m., otherwise by appointment**  
**978.378.0553 [www.amesburyquakers.org](http://www.amesburyquakers.org)**



16



## Amesbury Improvement Association

The Amesbury Improvement Association (AIA) was founded in 1851 with the goals of town beautification, tree planting and maintaining historical sites. These outdoor sites are openly accessible:

- 2** Alliance Park: “Alliance,” one of the first frigates in the Continental Navy, was launched from this site in 1778.
- 6** Golgotha Burial Ground: The original burial ground of the first settlers of Amesbury, who date back to 1654.
- 7** The Captain’s Well: Valentine Bagley, an Amesbury seaman who had been shipwrecked and expected to die of thirst, dug the well around 1802.
- 8** Patten’s Pond: In 1927, Annie Horton and abutters donated land to the AIA for a bird sanctuary.
- 13** The Powder House: The Powder House on Brown’s Hill was erected in 1810 to store weapons and ammunition.
- 14** Training Field: George Washington stopped by this area in 1789 to review the troops

With special thanks to Karen Shea Design for brochure design.

©2018 Amesbury Treasures



Amesbury Treasures is a partnership of seventeen unique historic sites.

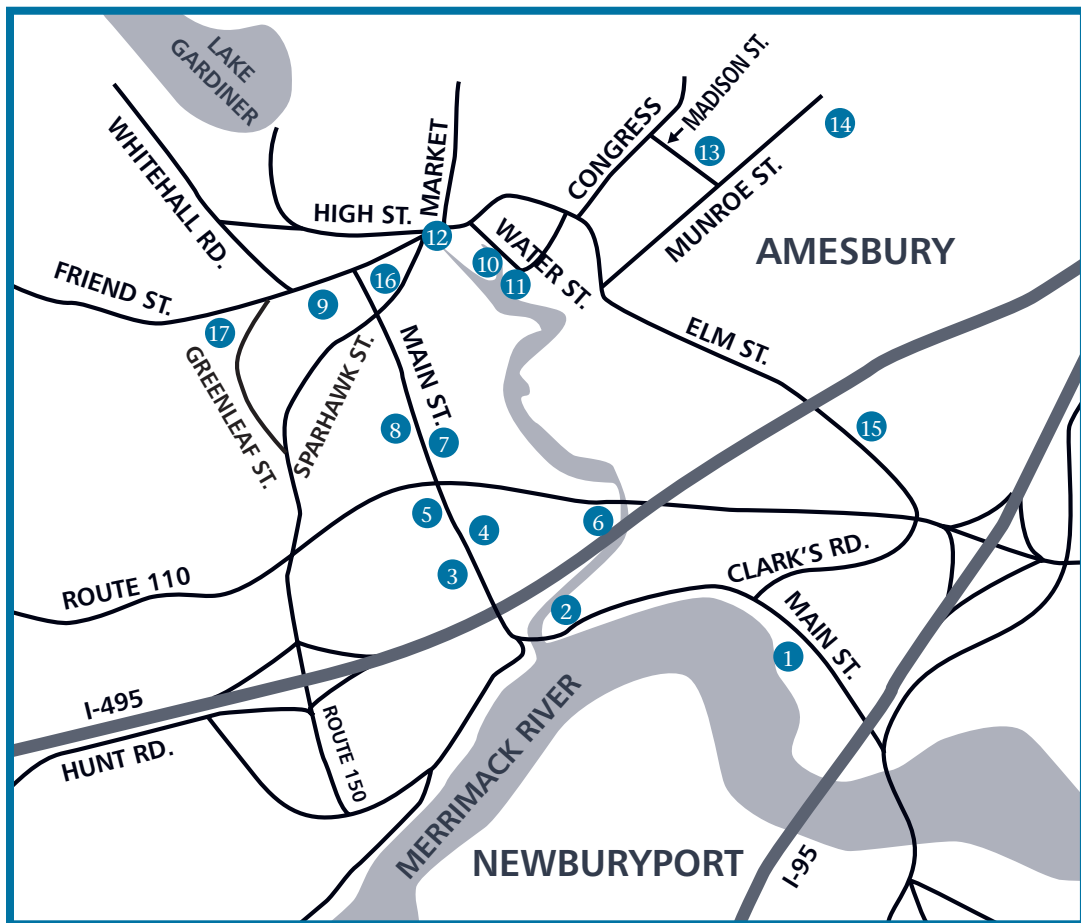
Together, they cover four centuries of Amesbury’s rich history, and as individual sites offer a deeper look into specific eras and aspects of this town.

Amesbury Treasures’ goal is to provide the public with more information, more choice, and more access to the historic treasures that Amesbury offers.

[www.amesburytreasures.org](http://www.amesburytreasures.org)

Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913





1 Lowell's Boat Shop  
459 Main Street

2 Alliance Park\*

3 Mary Baker Eddy  
Historic House  
277 Main Street

4 Bartlett Museum  
P.O. Box 692, 270 Main Street

5 Macy-Colby House  
259 Main Street

6 Golgotha Burial Ground\*

7 The Captain's Well\*

8 Patten's Pond\*

9 Whittier Home  
86 Friend Street

10 The Amesbury Hat Museum  
9 Water Street

11 Salisbury Point Station  
In Heritage Park at the bottom of  
Water Street

12 Amesbury Carriage Museum  
Carriage Museum Office at  
5 Market Square

13 The Powder House\*  
Up steps into woods at top of  
Madison St.

14 Training Field\*

15 Rocky Hill Meeting House  
4 Portsmouth Road

16 Amesbury Public Library  
149 Main Street

17 Friends Meetinghouse  
120 Friend Street

\* Amesbury Improvement Association

Please check the Treasure's Members' websites for updated information and any changes to opening times.

## Lowell's Boat Shop

Established in 1793 and cited as the birthplace of the legendary fishing dory, Lowell's Boat Shop is the oldest continually operating boat shop in the United States. As the sole survivor of the area's renowned dory manufacturing industry, Lowell's maintains its time-honored tradition as skilled craftsmen continue to build the dories and skiffs that were once the mainstay of the fishing industry in New England.

Located on the picturesque banks of the Merrimack River, this non-profit working museum and National Landmark is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the art and craft of wooden boat building. Centuries of boat building tradition are brought to life at this remarkable site as the Boat Shop conveys its rich history through the boats it builds, its collections and the stories they tell, guided tours, workshops, boat building classes, youth programs, and lectures. Innovative educational programs, exhibits, and events are offered to the public throughout the year, and rowing is available seasonally.

Open to visitors seasonally and by appointment  
978.834.0050 [www.lowellsboatshop.com](http://www.lowellsboatshop.com)

## Mary Baker Eddy Historic House

Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, resided in Amesbury in the 1860s. While in Amesbury she studied the Bible and taught others about her recent discovery. Mary Baker Eddy became one of the most well-known women in America and founded a worldwide church and a daily newspaper, *The Christian Science Monitor*. Her major work on Christian Science is *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

Throughout this home you will observe life as it was for the Bagley family, with whom Mrs. Eddy stayed as a guest in 1868 and 1870. The Bagley story illustrates women's roles and activities in Amesbury in the 1800s and also tells the story of Squire Bagley, who was very active in the community. The home contains some original furnishings and artifacts.

Open by appointment May–October  
Free admission  
800.277.8943 [www.longyear.org](http://www.longyear.org)



## Bartlett Museum

The two-room, Italianate style "Ferry School" was built in 1870. The name was later changed to "The Bartlett School" in honor of Josiah Bartlett who was born a few houses away. In 1922, the two rooms were divided to create four, and from that time until its closing in 1968, the school housed various combinations of grades one through five. The Museum's permanent collection includes: prehistoric and Native American artifacts spanning several thousand years; memorabilia from Colonial, Federal and Victorian periods; room settings of an early kitchen and a Victorian parlor with life-sized figures dressed in period costumes; a natural history room featuring a large collection of birds, some of which are extinct, and fossils, minerals and shells from the area; an original schoolroom with early desks gathered from local schools.

Open Memorial Day to Labor Day on Sundays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Admission: Adults \$3 and Children/Seniors \$1.  
Special Tours available at other times — call 978.388.4528



## Macy-Colby House

Thomas Macy was Amesbury's first town clerk, and in 1659 became the first European settler on Nantucket. Anthony Colby was one of the first settlers of the new town of Amesbury and was active in town affairs. Both signed Amesbury's Articles of Agreement in 1658.

The Macy-Colby House is an excellent example of early American architecture. Built by Thomas Macy around 1652, it was sold to Anthony Colby in 1654 for 38 pounds. Obadiah Colby modified the structure extensively in the early 1740s. Eight generations of Colbys lived in the house, which Moses Colby donated to the Bartlett Cemetery Association in 1899.

In 1900, the care of the house was given to the Josiah Bartlett Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, who opened the doors to the public on October 13, 1900. In the 1980s the Friends of the Macy-Colby House was formed, which welcomed new members who were not Revolutionary War descendants.

Open on the first Saturday of June, July, August, September  
and October 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment.  
Adults \$3 978.388.3054 [www.macycolbyhouse.org](http://www.macycolbyhouse.org)

## Whittier Home

In 1836, the 19th-century Quaker poet and abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier purchased a small four-room cottage with an attic in Amesbury. It was near the Friends Meetinghouse, which the family attended. Over the years the home expanded, but the original four downstairs rooms and furnishings remain nearly the same as when the family occupied them. Here Whittier wrote much of his literary legacy, including *Snowbound*, and led a crusade against slavery and social injustice.

For more than 100 years, the Whittier Home Association has been steward of this historic house museum. The Association renovated the buildings and grounds for the 2007 town-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of Whittier's birth. Visitors will rediscover his extraordinary life and legacy through exhibits and programs at the Museum and other sites. In 1963 the Museum was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Open May 1 – October 31  
Saturdays 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (last tour at 3:30 p.m.).  
Other times by appointment year round.  
978.388.1337

