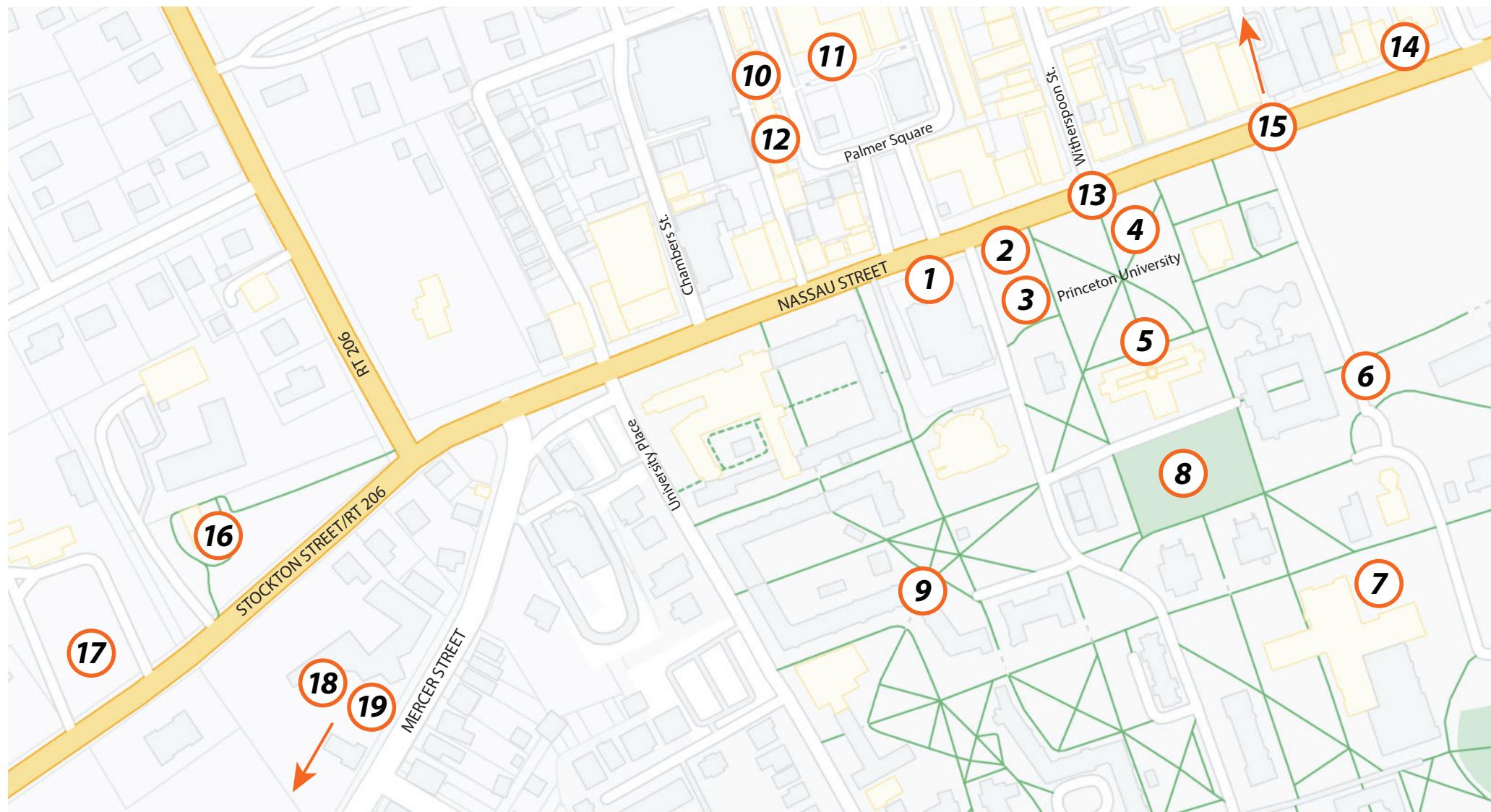


# Princeton Discovery Walk: A Revolutionary Visit to the Nation's First Capital

Princeton has a revolutionary role when it comes to the war for Independence! Walk in history's footsteps while learning fascinating stories about our town. Complete your walk with a delightful picnic!



## Map Key (see following pages for descriptions)

- 1. Nassau Presbyterian Church
- 2. Stamp Act Sycamore Trees
- 3. Maclean House
- 4. Princeton's "Tea Party"
- 5. Nassau Hall
- 6. John Witherspoon statue
- 7. Princeton University Art Museum
- 8. Cannon Green
- 9. Blair Arch
- 10. Olsson's
- 11. Yankee Doodle Tap Room
- 12. the bent spoon
- 13. Nation's First Capitol Plaque
- 14. Bainbridge House
- 15. Aaron Burr Jr's Grave
- 16. Battle Monument
- 17. Morven Museum & Garden
- 18. Edgehill House
- 19. Princeton Battlefield State Park

**1** **Nassau Presbyterian Church** (61 Nassau Street)

During the Revolution, the building was occupied by both British and American soldiers, with the pews and galleries stripped for firewood and burned in a makeshift fireplace. Peek around the corner to see the iconic Tiffany green color of stained glass. Yes, these windows were completed by Tiffany & Company!

**2** **Stamp Act Sycamore Trees** (trees in front of the Maclean House;

yellow house on Nassau Street located to the west of Nassau Hall) According to legend, these trees were planted in commemoration of the Stamp Act's repeal in 1766. These are the oldest trees on campus.

**3** **Maclean House - Aaron Burr, Jr.'s Childhood home** (walk to the back courtyard of the Maclean House)

George Washington gifted the hedges in this garden from his estate, Mount Vernon. In his diary, Washington wrote, "no college has turned out better scholars or more estimable characters than Nassau." Did you know Aaron Burr Jr. applied to the College of New Jersey at age 11 and was rejected? TRUE! He applied again at age 13 and graduated on time and with honors!

**4** **Princeton "Tea Party"** (lawn area in front of Nassau Hall)

In January of 1774, as described by student Charles Beatty, students "gathered all the steward's winter store of tea and having made a fire on the campus [and] burned near a dozen pound, tolled the bell, and made many spirited resolves." They also made an effigy of Massachusetts Governor Hutchinson, tied a tea canister around its neck, and burned it on this site. You gotta admit, you didn't see that revolutionary fact coming!

**5** **Nassau Hall** (main campus building facing the intersection of Witherspoon and Nassau)

From June through November in 1783, the Continental Congress met in Nassau Hall where some critical problems of the new nation were solved. Most importantly, George Washington and Congress accepted the Treaty of Paris which, simply put, meant the world agreed we were a free nation.

**6** **John Witherspoon Statue** (opposite of Princeton University Chapel)

Sixth president of The College of New Jersey. Look at the statue for clues to his legacy—books by his feet because he was an educator, a bible because he was a theologian, and a bald eagle to acknowledge his role as a signer of the Declaration of Independence! (If the name "Witherspoon" sounds familiar, you're right: Reese Witherspoon claims she's his cousin, nine times removed!)

**7** **Princeton University Art Museum** (Opening October 31, 2025 at 5pm)

Princeton University Art Museum is home to a portrait of George Washington, victorious at the Battle of Princeton. Google it and you'll see Nassau Hall smoldering in the background! The picture frame had originally held a portrait of King George III, and had a gilded crown carved into the top... until it was knocked off by a cannon ball during the battle! We love the symbolism! This world class museum is free and open to the public everyday.

**8** **Cannon Green** (lawn area behind Nassau Hall)

After the Battle of Princeton, the British fled in disarray, leaving artillery behind, including this cannon (which was built in 1670, making it one of the oldest weapons on display in the United States!) It was hauled off to New Brunswick, NJ, for the War of 1812, and over time became favored by the students of Rutgers University, until 100 Princeton Tigers gathered to return it to Princeton.

**9** **Blair Arch** (large archway over long staircase, behind Alexander Hall)

When Washington's troops arrived in downtown Princeton they found the British had taken cover inside Nassau Hall. Washington revered the school and was hesitant to fire on the building. However, a young Alexander Hamilton—who had been denied acceptance to Princeton—jumped at the opportunity. He's rumored to be the first one to light a cannon fuse to begin the siege!

**10** **Olsson's** (53 Palmer Square) - **FOODIE STOP**

Did you know cheddar cheese was a major staple during the revolutionary days? It was uniquely sturdy and adaptable, and it proved manageable in colonial conditions. It also tasted great despite the seasonal extremes in temperature and humidity that other European cheeses couldn't endure. Go inside and try the version available just to celebrate the SemiQuincentennial. This is Princeton's go-to cheese and picnic gathering spot -- be sure to check out their menu too!

## A Revolutionary Visit to Princeton **by Princeton Tour Company**

### **11** **Yankee Doodle Tap Room - mural inside Nassau Inn's pub**

(10 Palmer Square East) - **FOODIE STOP**

Insiders know to begin this stop by ordering an Ironbound Cider. The Harrison apples used to create this delicious libation are the same apple variety preferred by George Washington himself! (It's even rumored that George called Harrison cider the "champagne of ciders.") Norman Rockwell's thirteen foot mural, Yankee Doodle, is his largest mural. The mural was commissioned in 1937 by the namesake of Palmer Square, Edgar Palmer, a Princeton alumnus and zinc magnate. 'Yankee Doodle' is a familiar song, popularized during the Revolutionary War, and was written by English soldiers to mock the new Yankees for a lack of sophistication: "Doodle" is thought to derive from *düdel* in German, meaning "fool". The "macaroni" wig, to which the song refers, was an outlandish style of the 1770s. The implication was that the Yankees were so unsophisticated that they thought simply sticking a feather in a cap would make them fashionable. Despite the tone of the original version, the song was adapted by the 'Yankees' themselves and recast as a patriotic anthem!

### **12** **the bent spoon** (35 Palmer Square) - **FOODIE STOP**

By the 1770's customers could increasingly find ice cream for sale for immediate consumption in American cities. Strawberry, lemon and raspberry were favorite flavors back then and even today. Did you know Dolley Madison liked to serve oyster ice cream at the White House? TRUE! Did you know George Washington spent \$200 on ice cream in the summer of 1790 when he was President? TRUE! (He was a big fan of asparagus ice cream!). the bent spoon has been voted the Best Ice Cream in America a ton of times. Go in, try a revolutionary flavor or just pick anything you like - everything is wonderful!

### **13** **Nation's First Capitol Plaque** (interior of the western gate, Nassau St.)

Proving that Princeton was, when we received the Treaty of Paris, the nation's first capitol! Capitol is the building that holds the legislative body, and Capital is the town that holds the legislative building. Hashtag #revolutionaryprinceton when you post a photo and help us spread the word!

### **14** **Bainbridge House** (158 Nassau St.)

Built for the well-to-do Stockton family in 1766. During the Revolutionary War while the house sat empty, locals tried to convince Richard Stockton to turn it into a Tavern! Bainbridge house gets its name from William Bainbridge, a commander of the USS Constitution during the War of 1812. Today, it's a satellite site for the Princeton University Art Museum, with galleries showcasing the work of contemporary artists.

### **15** **Aaron Burr Jr.'s Grave** (Princeton Cemetery - enter at 29 Greenview Ave.)

Walk down Tulane Street and down the lane at Greenview Avenue to enter the historic Princeton Cemetery. Maps can be found inside the gate, but if you walk through the cemetery towards the corner of Witherspoon and Hamilton Streets, you'll see areas enclosed by a low iron railing—the Princeton University President's Plot. Though Burr was never a president of the University, his father (Aaron Burr Sr.) and maternal grandfather (Johnathan Edwards) were. While Aaron made plenty of decisions worth criticizing, we love that he was a feminist in his day! He was committed to ensuring his daughter was educated "for her own happiness." (Unsolved mystery: After Burr's death, Theodosia was aboard a ship with all of her belongings, and vanished!)

### **16** **Battle Monument** (55 Stockton Street)

This monument depicts General Washington leading his troops into the Battle of Princeton. It stands 50 feet (15 m) tall and was inspired by carvings on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Created by Beaux Arts sculptor Frederick MacMonnies, the design is a bas-relief with George Washington on horseback as the central figure. Below it depicts the death of General Hugh Mercer, the namesake of Mercer County.

### **17** **Morven Museum & Garden** (55 Stockton Street)

This colonial mansion was the home of Richard Stockton, graduate from the College of New Jersey, one of NJ's five delegates to the Continental Congress, and Signer of the Declaration of Independence. The British ransacked Morven, capturing Stockton, who was released in January 1777. His wife, Annis, is one of America's earliest published female poets, immortalizing heroes of the Revolution such as George Washington, who called her "the elegant Muse of Morven." This home entertained dignitaries such as Washington, James Madison, Aaron Burr Jr. and more during the revolution.

### **18** **Edgehill House** (32 Edgehill Street)

Initially built in 1684, this house belonged to the family of Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It has had many uses and guest throughout its rich history, including hosting Alexander Hamilton and James Madison when the Continental Congress was headquartered in Princeton from July through November, 1783. ***This is now a private residence, so please remain on the sidewalk.***

### **19** **Princeton Battlefield State Park** (500 Mercer Road)

Grab a picnic lunch and head to the main attraction! Informational signs are on the field, there's free parking, and the Historical Society of Princeton is just around the bend at 354 Quaker Road!

***We hope you enjoyed your walk around Princeton!***

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