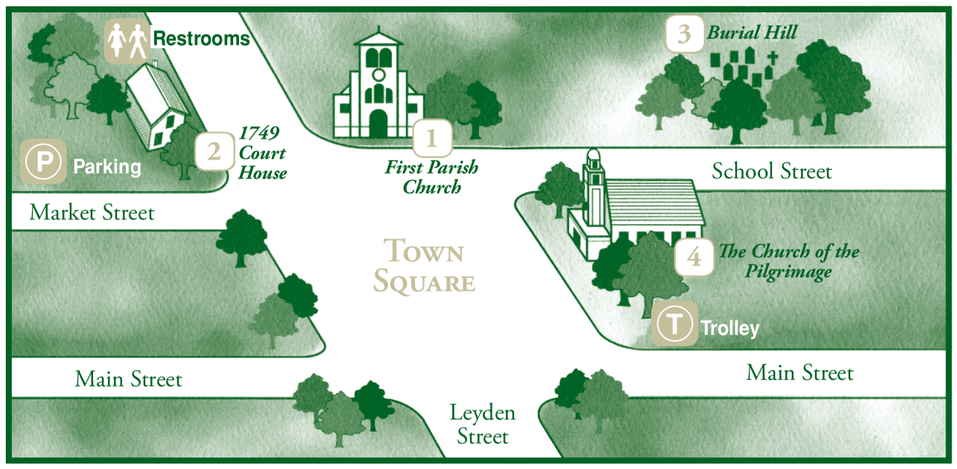
1. First Parish Church (1899)

The church was gathered in 1606 at Scrooby in England and arrived in America in 1620 with the Pilgrims. It is the oldest continually active congregation in the country, having moved from Congregationalism to Unitarianism in 1801. This impressive granite structure, built to replace the earlier wooden gothic structure which burned in 1892, is the church's sixth meetinghouse. It has outstanding Tiffany stained glass windows illustrating the Pilgrim story, and the Town Bell, cast by Paul Revere, which was rung by the sexton six times a day to mark the time in the old New England manner.

2. 1749 Court House

The oldest wooden courthouse in America, which served as the County Court, Registry of Deeds and Town House, is today an exhibit celebrating life in Plymouth during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is built on the site of the earlier County House from which the affairs of Plymouth Colony were managed before it became part of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1692.



3. Burial Hill

The site of the Pilgrims' first fort and meetinghouse, the hilltop became Plymouth's burial place following the demolition of the last fort in 1677. Carved stones range from the 17th to the 19th centuries and there are monuments to Governor Bradford, Deacon Cushman and other Pilgrim notables. There is a magnificent view of Plymouth harbor, the beaches and the surrounding countryside. Burial Hill was also the site of a powderhouse built in 1770. It served as a place of deposit for gun powder belonging to the town and its inhabitants. A brick replica of this Revolutionary War powderhouse is on the westernmost spur of land.

4. The Church of the Pilgrimage (1840)

Those members of First Church who did not agree with the controversial move to Unitarianism left to form the Third Church of Plymouth in 1802. The present white wooden meetinghouse was built to replace an earlier building located on Pleasant Street above the Town Green. It is a splendid example of the simple and traditional New England meeting house interior.

Town Square

Town Square is the heart of historic Plymouth. Located at the head of Leyden Street, Plymouth's first street, it was the focal point for the community's civic, religious and commercial affairs from 1620 until after World War II. It was here the Pilgrims first marched to church in the manner memorialized each Friday in August and on Thanksgiving Day by Pilgrim Progress. Their fort and meetinghouse was built on the hill overlooking the Square which later became their burial place. The civil government of Plymouth Colony, and later of the Town of Plymouth, was conducted in buildings facing the Square. Plymouth's first public market was held here weekly on Thursdays from 1639, and the first jail was a short way down Market Street.

Leyden Street is the original site of the Plymouth settlement, and is recreated as it was in 1627 at Plimoth Plantation. The brick building on the corner of Leyden and Main Streets marks the location of the house of the second governor, William Bradford. Located on what is now School Street, which bounds the easterly end of burial hill, was John and Priscilla Alden's home, Market Street exits the Square to the south towards the first bridge over Town Brook (replaced several times) and where the 1640 Sparrow House and recreation of the first Grist Mill are today. To the west is Church Street, a narrow way on which the parish centers of the Square's two churches are located. School Street and other locations were previously covered with ancient houses that were removed during years of urban renewal.

For more information contact www.visit-plymouth.com
Developed by the Town of Plymouth and the Visitor Services Board.

HISTORIC

PLYMOUTH
MASSACHUSETTS

DOWNTOWN & WATERFRONT

America's Hometown

Since 1620, Plymouth has been a great destination. Against a vibrant backdrop of beaches, boats and harbor, explore the town where history comes alive.

Trace the Past

Visit engaging museums that tell the fascinating story of the Pilgrims. Board the full-scale reproduction of the *Mayflower*. Step into the humble dwellings of the early settlers. Amble through the elegant homes of their 18th- and 19th- century descendants. Capture the true spirit of America's past from the towering Forefathers Monument to Plymouth Rock.

Celebrate the Present

Wander along the waterfront, a bustling kaleidoscope of activity and shops. Go whale watching for the sheer thrill of it. Meet the fishermen at day's end as they offload their catch, then head to a local restaurant to sample delicious fresh seafood.

Return to Nature

Forests, ponds and cranberry bogs abound here. Bike trails and walkways invite exploration of Plymouth's natural beauty. Miles of dunes and beaches beckon visitors for sunning, swimming and quiet walks by the sea. It's all here, every season of the year in Plymouth.

AMERICA'S HOMETOWN

It's All Here

MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN
SQUARE
A
WALK
THROUGH
HISTORY