

Paul Revere was not the only person who rode that night to warn of the British troops; he was just the most famous. William Dawes (pictured right), a shoemaker, also rode on April 18, 1775, and reached Lexington just half an hour after Revere. This 1896 satirical poem presents Dawes' side of the story.



The Midnight Ride of William Dawes
HELEN F. MOORE, 1896

I am a wandering, bitter shade,
Never of me was a hero made;
Poets have never sung my praise,
Nobody crowned my brow with bays;
And if you ask me the fatal cause,
I answer only, "My name was Dawes"

'Tis all very well for the children to hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere;
But why should my name be quite forgot,
Who rode as boldly and well, God wot?
Why should I ask? The reason is clear –
My name was Dawes and his Revere.

When the lights from the old North Church flashed out,
Paul Revere was waiting about,
But I was already on my way.
The shadows of night fell cold and gray
As I rode, with never a break or a pause;
But what was the use, when my name was Dawes!

History rings with his silvery name;
Closed to me are the portals of fame.
Had he been Dawes and I Revere,
No one had heard of him, I fear.
No one has heard of me because
He was Revere and I was Dawes.

(Information and poem text from:
<http://www.paul-revere-heritage.com/midnight-ride-william-dawes.html>)

Is this really the smallest park listed in the National Register of Historic Places?

This small triangle of land, at the intersection of Broadway (for obvious reasons) and Main Street (less aptly named in this spot), encompasses only 0.2 acres of land, but is of great historical significance. This is where Paul Revere galloped by—having been nearly captured—en route to the present-day towns of Medford and Arlington, then known as Menotomy. As Bob Doherty, retired Somerville firefighter and local history buff, has noted in one of his very entertaining "Historical Fact of the Week" columns in the Somerville Times, "You might say it was the greatest horse race in American history." (It is also said that Paul Revere's Midnight Ride was the original form of the Boston Marathon.) Evading capture by the pursuing British, he was able to continue onward to his final destination, the Hancock-Clark House in Lexington, where Samuel Adams and John Hancock were staying.

This tiny triangle-shaped park is not just where Paul Revere passed by on his famous ride to warn that the British were coming. It is also the source of Somerville's own urban myth. People will tell you Paul Revere Park is the smallest national park in the U.S., or even the smallest park in the world. At 0.2 acres, it is in fact the City's smallest park. On its patch of fenced-in grass you'll find a tall evergreen shading a stone marker commemorating Revere's ride. But although President Taft was present at the park's dedication in 1910, the U.S. Park Service does not count the park as one of its own. Then again, maybe they just lost track of it, seeing as how it's so small.



(Second paragraph text from: <https://www.mapquest.com/us/massachusetts/business-somerville/paul-revere-park-267720806>)

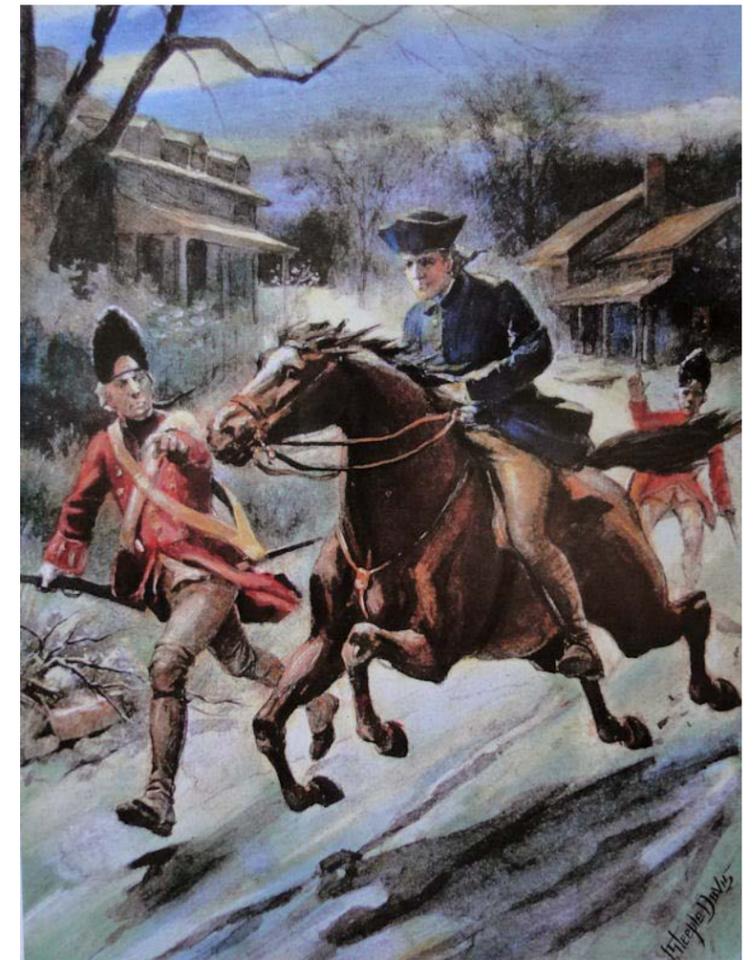
<https://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride/recreate.html>

Retracing Much of the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

Somerville's 15th Annual Historic Bike Ride May 22nd, 2016

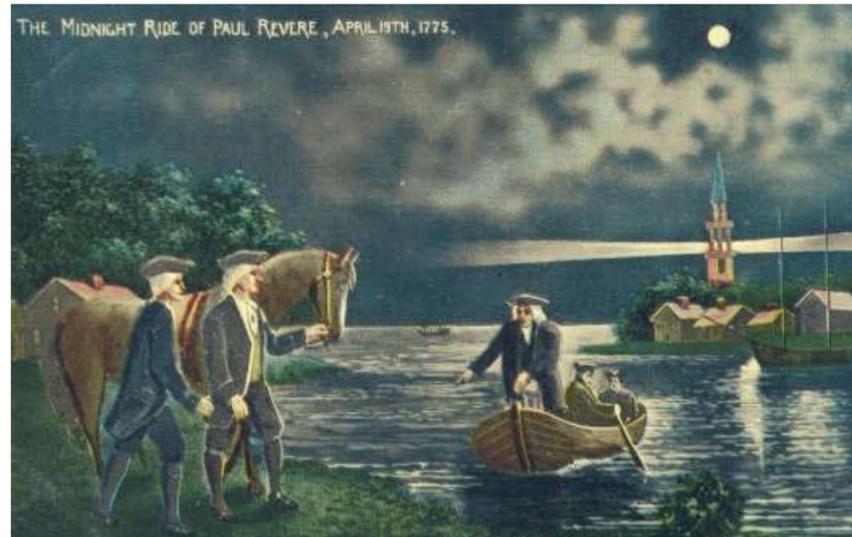
Sponsored by the Somerville Bicycle Committee (SBC)
and the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC).

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor



Start: The marker was originally placed on Washington Street, in the area once known as Charlestown Commons, within then-Charlestown 'beyond the Neck.' The marker was then relocated to a more protected area, possibly during the Bicentennial years, to the front of the Somerville Holiday Inn. Mysteriously, it has since moved once again to an even less publicly prominent spot, within the left side parking lot of the hotel, close to the building wall!

On the 18th of April, 1775, Dr. Joseph Warren sent to Lexington William Dawes, by way of Roxbury, and Paul Revere, by way of Charlestown, to thwart the capture of Revolutionaries Samuel Adams and John Hancock by the British troops loyal to King George III. Before leaving, Revere arranged for signals to be displayed from the steeple of the North Church in Boston – two lanterns if the British went by water, one if by land – as well as a lantern from Christ’s Church to warn Charlestown that the troops had begun their march. Revere was quietly rowed across the river by two friends, past the British man-of-war *Somerset* only a few minutes before her sentinels were ordered to stop all boats! Suddenly he was compelled to abruptly alter his route.



Revere recalled many years later in a letter dated 1798 and sent to Jeremy Belknap, Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society:

“I set off upon a very good Horse; it was then about 11 o’Clock, and very pleasant. After I had passed Charlestown Neck, and got nearly opposite where Mark was hung in chains, I saw two men on Horse back, under a Tree. When I got near them, I discovered they were British officer. One tried to git a head of Me, and the other to take me. I turned my Horse very quick, and Galloped towards Charlestown neck, and then pushed for the Medford Road. The one who chased me, endeavoring to Cut me off, got into a Clay pond, near where the new Tavern is now built. I got clear of him, and went through Medford, over the Bridge, and up to Menotomy.”

(Letter text from: http://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item_id=99&mode=transcript)

Now you may be wondering what the reference means to “Mark was hung in chains”?

Here’s the story as told in

<https://paulreveresriderevisited.wordpress.com/2012/06/06/the-gruesome-landmark/>:

“Mark was one of three slaves who, in 1755, were arrested and tried for the murder of their owner, the Charlestown merchant and former ship captain, John Codman. They were also charged with petit treason, the crime of killing a master. The three plotted and poisoned Codman with arsenic, which they added to his meals seven times. Mark, it is written, was upset with his separation from his family. He had set fire to Captain Codman’s workshop six years earlier in an effort to prompt his dismissal.

In the end, the three slaves were found guilty and suffered different fates. Mark’s two companions were female. Phillis, an elderly woman, was found guilty of both crimes (murder of an owner and petit treason) and was burned at the stake in Cambridge at a site called Gallows Hill, near present-day Porter Square. Phebe was found to be a lesser conspirator and sentenced to be transported to a plantation in the West Indies. Mark, 30 years old, was also found guilty of the two crimes and was hanged (also at Gallows Hill). His body was then tarred, and gibbeted (hung in chains) for all to see, including Paul Revere, who came close to passing the decayed corpse, still hanging over the street, 25 years after the crime.”

Old Schwamb Mill 17 Mill Lane, Arlington

The Old Schwamb Mill was the third mill built in colonial Cambridge, c. 1684. It operated first as a gristmill and later as a spice mill. In 1864,



Charles Schwamb and his brother Frederick acquired the Woodbridge Spice Mill and converted it to woodworking, especially for making oval frames for portrait photographs. Just after the Civil War, as oval portrait frames grew in popularity along with photography, Old Schwamb Mill became the leading maker of hand-turned oval and circular portrait and mirror frames in the U.S.

(Text edited from: <http://www.oldschwambmill.org/research/research.html> and <http://www.oldschwambmill.org/research/research.html>)



Jason Russell House 7 Jason Street, Arlington

The Jason Russell House was built by its namesake in 1740 on his 40-acre farm property. On the first day of the Revolutionary War, April 19, 1775, this house was the site of a bloody conflict in the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

Russell, then 59 years old, and several minutemen took on the British, who were retreating to Boston. They fought inside the house, and Russell was among the many killed. Bullet holes from the battle can still be seen throughout the house.

(Information from: <http://www.arlingtonhistorical.org/visit/online-tour/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Russell_House)

Royall House and Slave Quarters 15 George Street, Medford

The Royall House and Slave Quarters, a National Historic Landmark, was the home of both Isaac Royall, Sr. and Jr.

The slave quarters is the only remaining such structure in the northern U.S. The Royalls were the largest slaveholding



family in Massachusetts. A portion of Isaac Royall, Jr.’s estate was used to found Harvard Law School. In March 2016, student protests led the Law School to change its seal because of its ties to slavery: the seal had contained elements of Royall family’s coat of arms.

(Text from: <http://www.royallhouse.org> and <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2016/3/21/hls-seal-change-logistics/>; Information from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Royall_House)