



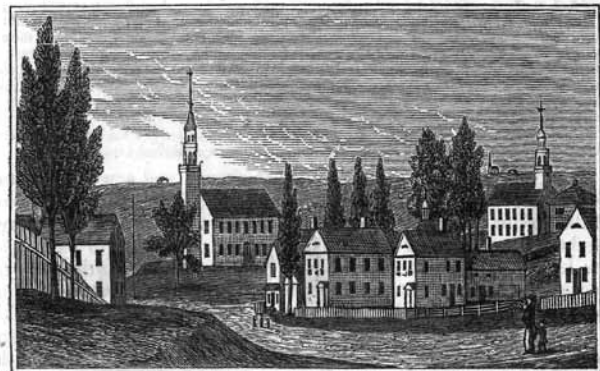
## History of Plymouth

Plymouth evolved from the original village of Mattatuck on the Naugatuck River, now known as Waterbury. Colonial settlement upriver began in the 1730s. By 1739, petitions to the General Assembly created two parishes; Westbury (now Watertown), and Northbury (Plymouth and Thomaston). In 1747, the area of the Plymouth Green was given to Northbury. The first meetinghouse was built in the southeast corner of the Green.

In 1795, Plymouth was recognized as a separate town by the General Assembly. In 1796, St. Peter's Episcopal Church was erected on the northeast corner of the Green. In 1838, the Plymouth Congregational Church was built. The large clock was donated by Eli Terry, Plymouth resident and successful clockmaker.

Eli Terry and his son, Eli Terry, Jr., eventually moved their businesses east from Plymouth Center to the section of town now known as Terryville.

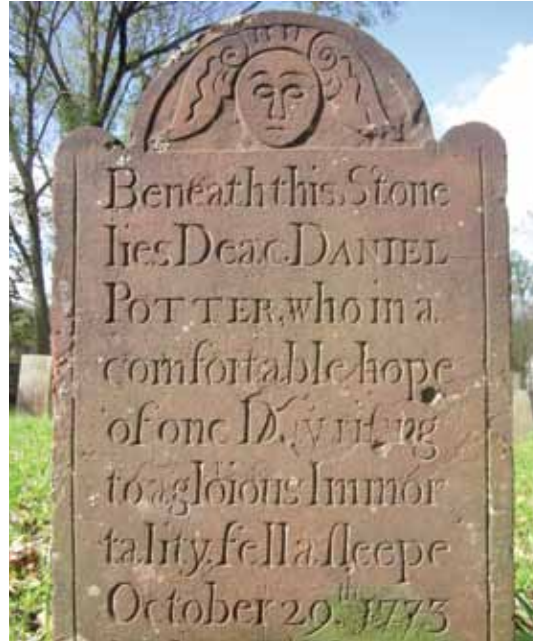
In 1875, the village of Plymouth Hollow separated from Plymouth to become Thomaston, leaving the town of Plymouth with its present boundaries.



## Burying Ground

The oldest gravestone dates to 1749. Soldiers from the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812 are buried here.

## Colonial New England Gravestone Symbols



*Beneath this Stone lies Deac. DANIEL POTTER, who in a comfortable hope of one Day rising to a glorious Immortality fell asleepe October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1773*

The gravestones from the mid-1700s often have carvings of winged angels, representing the ascension of the soul to heaven.

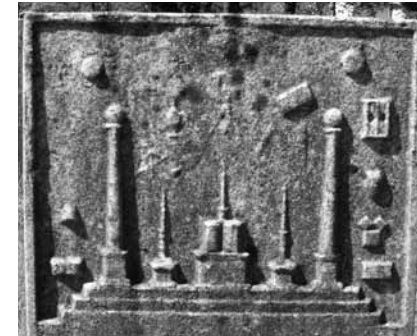
Some inscriptions warn the living to maintain a life of virtue; "*Mortals Attend & Learn Your End*". Others tell us how hard life was; "*lived to bury five husbands*", "*was drowned*", "*died of scald*" or "*died with her daughter stillborn*".

The best time to view the gravestone carvings is midmorning.



Stones from the early 1800s often have weeping willows, symbolizing sorrow.

A broken tree indicates a life cut short.



Stones may have symbols from organizations that the deceased belonged to, such as Freemasonry.



The Plymouth Burying Ground is an outdoor museum. The gravestones are artifacts that provide clues to the lives of our ancestors and the history of our town. They deserve our respect and devoted care.

## Plymouth Green

The Green, originally an alder swamp, has been at the center of Plymouth's history since 1747. A granite boulder near the corner of Park St. and North St. marks the site of the original Episcopal Church, built in 1796. During the Civil War, it was a training ground for Union militia and a stop on the Underground Railroad.



The Soldiers Monument was built by David Eaton Mattoon. It commemorates Abraham Lincoln and 38 men from Plymouth who died in The War of 1861.

*Note the detailed cannons recessed into each corner of the pedestal.*



The stone planter at the southeast corner used to be a watering tub for horses and oxen to quench their thirst after climbing the hill from Thomaston.



The Constitution Oak, on the southwest corner, was planted in 1902 to honor the Connecticut Constitutional Convention held that year.

- 1 Congregational Church** – 1838. Greek Revival style, based on the form of ancient Greek temples. Designed in Ionic tetrastyle with a pediment supported by four columns. A two-stage square belltower enhanced by engaged Doric columns is capped by a shaped parapet. The wooden clockworks were built by Eli Terry and still function today. This Church served as the model for the Watertown Congregational Church.

- 2 Stoughton Building** – ca. 1840. Greek Revival-style façade doorways and octagonal belfry. This building was relocated to its present site from the east side of North St. in the late 1800s. According to local lore, it was moved under cover of darkness because there was a dispute between those that wanted it moved and those who wanted it to stay put.



- 3 Reverend Andrew Storrs House** – 1764. Colonial style residence built by the second minister of the Church. The sycamore in front of the house was planted by Rev. Storrs. In 1853, this became the Hart Female Seminary.

- 4 Congregational Parsonage** – 1865. When the Hart Female Seminary closed, this building was detached from the Storrs House and moved to its present location.

- 5 Blakeslee House**, 63 North St. 1780. Cape.

- 6 Henry Terry House**, 14 North St. 1850. Greek Revival. This house was a station on the Underground Railroad. A tunnel led from the cellar to an outbuilding, allowing slaves to escape to freedom.

- 7 Reverend Isaac Warren House**. 8 North St. 1853.

- 8 Baptist Church** – 1915. Gothic Revival. Built after the original St. Peter's Episcopal Church burned down. Parishioners gathered stones from their fields and walls to build the new Church. It became the First Baptist Church of Plymouth in 1997.



- 9 Gaines House** – ca. 1800. Georgian Colonial. Originally the Red Tavern, an inn on the Hartford Turnpike, then the rectory for St. Peter's. Now part of the Baptist Church.

- 10 Plymouth Post Office**. 696 Main St. 1782. Perhaps the most charming post office in Connecticut.

- 11 Plymouth Grange Hall**, 694 Main St. Moved to this site from the former Ives Toy factory on Maple St., around 1870. Federal Revival.



- 12 Plymouth Library**, 692 Main St. 1932. Colonial Revival. The Plymouth Library was founded in 1871, largely through the efforts of Reverend E.B. Hillard. In 1929, the Library was destroyed by fire. In the midst of the Great Depression, funds were raised to build a new library, designed by architect Raymond Percival. It was officially dedicated in April 1932.



- 13 Shelton Tuttle Carriage Shop**. Stone foundations of the mid-1800s carriage factory. Co-owned by Augustus Shelton and Byron Tuttle, this successful business had regional distribution warehouses in Chicago and Louisiana. The Plymouth Land Trust maintains a trail to the site.

- 14 Byron Tuttle House**, 655 Main St. 1793. Federal.

- 15 Augustus Shelton House**, 663 Main St. 1825. Greek Revival.

- 16 Beach and Blackmer Store**, 703 Main St. 1780. A retail establishment since its origin. Now occupied by "Antiques at the Green".

- 17 The Quiet House**. 711 Main St. 1766. Originally owned by Major David Smith, who served with George Washington at Valley Forge. George Washington stayed here in September, 1780, on his way to meet the French General, Comte de Rochambeau, to discuss plans for the Revolutionary War. The house was later converted to an inn and named The Quiet House because the owner would not serve alcohol.

- 18 Eli Terry House**. 731 Main St. 1793. First house built by Eli Terry in Plymouth.

## Unique Places to See in Plymouth –

**Plymouth Historical Society** – 572 Main St. Restored 1852 Woodruff & Beach steam engine. Only engine of this kind still operational in the United States.

**Plymouth Land Trust** – 30 acres adjacent to Plymouth Center. Trail on Main St. leads to the foundations of the circa 1850 Shelton Tuttle Carriage factory. [www.plymouthlandtrust.org](http://www.plymouthlandtrust.org)

**West Cemetery** – Carter Rd. Mid-1800s rural cemetery design.

**Lock Museum of America** – 230 Main St. Over 23,000 colonial and antique locks, largest collection in the United States.

**Water Wheel National Register of Historic Places** – 264 Main St. Oldest water wheel in the United States with original parts. Built in the 1830s.

**Old Cemetery** – South Main St. Graves of Eli Terry, Eli Terry Jr., and their families. *N41.67761, W. 73.01137*

**East Church National Register of Historic Places** – in the village of East Plymouth. A one mile trail leads to Tory Den, a “cave” where British loyalists hid from the Sons of Liberty during the Revolutionary War. *N41.70912, W73.00405*

**Baldwin Park** – 184 Main St. Donated by N. Taylor Baldwin in 1902. Dorence Atwater Memorial- tribute to a Civil War hero.

**1835 Hartford Turnpike Mileage Marker** – Main St. *N41.67969, W72.99137*

**Horseshoe Falls** – Canal St. Waterfalls powered the Allen wood-turning factory. The bridge is named after Ted Knight, famous actor and Terryville native. *N41.66961, W72.99389*

**Buttermilk Falls** – Lane Hill Rd. The Nature Conservancy. Short trail leads to beautiful cascade. *N41.64475, W73.00755*

**Greystone Falls** – end of Greystone Rd. Site of 1806 clock factory. Interpretive sign. *N41.61555, W73.03602*

**Hancock Lake** – Old Waterbury Rd. Corps of Engineers. Hiking, kayaking, fishing, hunting. *N41.62151, W73.03651*

**Mattatuck State Forest** – Mt. Tobe Rd. (Rt. 262). ½ mile trail to Whitestone Cliffs - view of Naugatuck River Valley. [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep) *N41.61882, W73.04967*

**Lake Winfield** – Seymour Rd. Town park with one mile walking path encircling lake. Playscape. *N41.68299, W73.03161*

**Pequabuck Golf Club** – 56 School St. 18 hole public course. [www.pequabuckgolf.com](http://www.pequabuckgolf.com)

**Terryville Country Fair** – Town Hill Rd. Last weekend in August. [www.terryvillefair.org](http://www.terryvillefair.org)

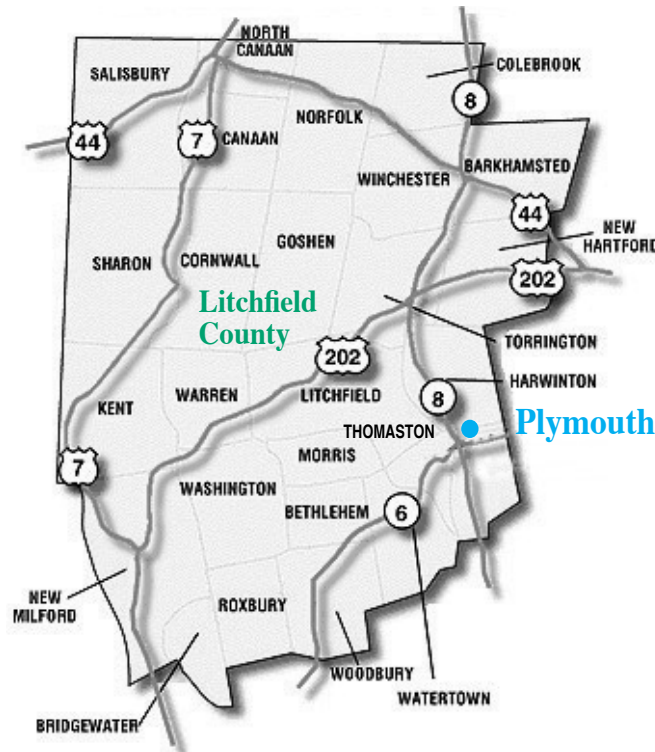
**Antiques at the Green** – 703 Main St. Country decor, old and new. 860-283-0689.

## Local Farms –

**Tonn Orchards** – 258 Preston Rd. Pick your own peaches, plums, apples, pumpkins, and Christmas trees. 860-585-1372 (weekends)

**Towill's Christmas Tree Farm** – 370 Harwinton Ave. Cut your own Christmas trees. 860-283-9436

**Westberry Farms** – 42 Carter Rd. Vegetable and bedding plants, mums. 860-283-9353



## Directions to Plymouth Center

*N41.67221, W73.05344*

From Hartford, take I-84 west to Route 8 north.

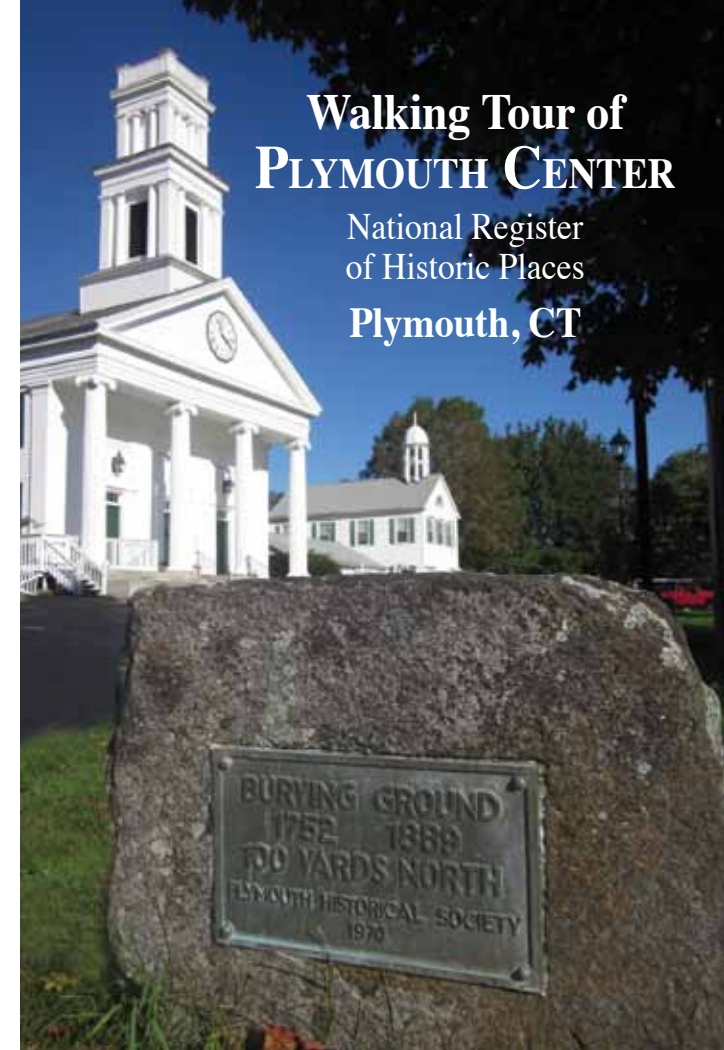
From the south and north, take Route 8 to exit 39. Then take Route 6 east for 0.7 miles to Plymouth Center.

**More Information:** [www.plymouthct.us](http://www.plymouthct.us) 860-585-4001

*This brochure made possible by a grant from the Merriman Family Fund and the Bristol Brass General Grant Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation.*

# Walking Tour of PLYMOUTH CENTER

National Register  
of Historic Places  
Plymouth, CT



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National Register of Historic Places



Scale 1" = 400'

