

Daniel Webster Birthplace

Off Route 127, Franklin, NH 03235; Phone: 603–485–2034. Nature trail; grounds are open to the public. Birthplace and early childhood years of one of our country's most respected orators and statesmen. Also provides a glimpse of 1700s farm life in the infant years of the United States.



Endicott Rock

Route 3, Laconia, NH 03246; Phone: 603–823–7722. Picnicking; grounds are open to the public. New Hampshire's oldest public monument. The name of John Endicott, Governor of Massachusetts Bay, and initials of Commissioners and Surveyors were inscribed on the rock on August 1,1652.



Fort Constitution Historic Site

Off NH Route 1B at US Coast Guard Station, 25 Wentworth Road, New Castle, NH 03854; Phone: 603-436-1552. Ocean views; self-guided tour; on National Register of Historic Places. Historic Revolutionary War fort in Portsmouth Harbor on the northeast corner of Newcastle Island.



Fort Dearborne, Odiorne Point State Park

Route 1A, Rye, NH 03870; Phone: 603-436-7406 (Odiorne State Park). Picnicking; bicycling and walking trails; Seacoast Science Center. Part of the chain of coastal defenses that protected Portsmouth Harbor and the Naval Shipyard. Today, bunkers are camouflaged within the hills and vegetation of the park.



Fort Stark Historic Site

Off NH Route 1B, Wildrose Lane, New Castle, NH 03854; Phone: 603-436-1552. Self-guided walking tour. Historic fort overlooking the Piscatuagua River, Little Harbor, and the Atlantic Ocean. Active fort in every war from the Revolutionary to World War II.



Franklin Pierce Homestead

Off Route 31, Hillsborough, NH 03244, Phone: 603-478-3165. Guided tours; gift shop; picnicking; National Historic Landmark. Operated by the Hillsborough Historical Society, the boyhood home of America's 14th president is a spacious, federal style country home. Built by Pierce's father in 1804, it reflects the affluent living of the 19th century.



Governor Wentworth Historic Site

NH Route 109, Wolfeboro, NH 03894; Phone: 603-823-7722. Picnicking. Explore the remains of an extensive northern plantation built just before the outbreak of the American Revolution. Built by New Hampshire's second Royal Governor, John Wentworth, the mansion burned to the ground in 1820.



Hannah Duston Memorial

Exit 17 off I-93. Boscawen, NH 03303; Phone: 603-485-2034. First publicly-funded statue in New Hampshire, erected in 1874. Commemorates the escape of Hannah Duston, who was captured in 1697 during the French and Indian War. A short walk from the parking area leads to a pretty picnic spot on the shore of the Merrimack River.



John Wingate Weeks Historic Site

Off Route 3, Lancaster, NH 03584; Phone: 603-788-4004. Guided tours; summer programs; on National Register of Historic Places. Built at the direction of John Wingate Weeks, leading conservationist, U.S. congressman, senator, and Secretary of War. The 420-acre Mt. Prospect estate provides a 360-degree panorama of mountain splendor.



Robert Frost Farm

Route 28, Derry, NH 03038; Phone: 603-432-3091. Self-guided nature-poetry trail; guided house tours; National Historic Landmark. Home from 1900-1911 to one of the nation's most acclaimed poets, who attributed many of his poems to memories from the Derry years. The simple two-story white clapboard farmhouse is typical of New England in the 1880s.



Taylor Mill Historic Site

Island Pond Road, Derry, NH; Phone: 603-485-1552. The 200-year old "Taylor Up and Down Sawmill" is situated on the 71-acre Ballard State Forest. The mill is open to the public for sawing demonstrations several times during the spring and summer, offering visitors a glimpse into the beginnings of New Hampshire's forest products industry.



Tip Top House - Mount Washington State Park

On the summit of Mt. Washington, Route 302, Sargent's Purchase; Phone: 603-466-3347. A stone hotel built in 1853. As sole summit survivor of the great fire of 1908, it provides a link between the mountain's past and present and affords a window to its rich history. Believed to be the oldest mountain-top hostelry still in existence in the world.



Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion

375 Little Harbor Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801; Phone: 603-436-6607. Guided tours; National Historic Landmark. Former home of NH's 1st royal governor, Benning Wentworth, who served from 1741-1767. The 40-room mansion is one of the most outstanding homes remaining of the colonial era. Reflects aristocratic life in Portsmouth in the 1700s.



Please note: Pets are not permitted at state historic sites.

Photos courtesy of Ellen Edersheim



