

Charles River

Charlestown

Mill Pond

Boston Harbor

Tidal Flats (Dry at low tide, except mid channel)

Dorchester Heights

Legend:

- Buildings
- Streets
- Bridge
- Dock/Wharf
- Fen
- Field
- Open
- Repeewalk
- Salt Fen
- Square

Scale: 0 200 400 600 800 1,000 2,000 Feet

Inset Map: Boston's situation in 1775

Inset Map Labels: Mystic River, Charles River, Modern Shorelines, Dorchester

[illegible]

his map was created using ArcGIS, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software package by ESRI. Each feature on the map was drawn similarly to how a cartist drew graphics, but in this case, as each feature was also stored in the database along with other bits of descriptive information. That information included notes about which sources were used to determine whether that feature existed in 1775, the name of the feature, and anything else interesting about that feature.

This map wasn't created overnight; it was begun as a research project about the Battle of Bunker (Breed) Hill nearly four years ago. The database was intended to include all of Boston, and the surrounding coastline (the entire area is shown in the overview map at the bottom of the poster). Sources between 1600 and 1850 were used for place names, road names, drawing, and creating data were compiled over the four-year period. Today Boston's topography is a very different than what existed in 1775. Soundings and the heights and shapes of hills shown on maps made of the area between 1775 and 1777 were used to create a digital elevation model for this area.

The GIS database that this map contains even more information than what is shown on the map. For instance the buildings data layer contains information about the purpose of the building, allowing for spatial analysis of settlement and land use. The database is also intended to be a model or template that can be used for other historical GIS projects. The manner that the sources are referenced to the features on the map, in particular is an example of a new method for using GIS for historical research.

No maps of the period showed detailed locations for the houses of significant persons, the tents, taverns, barracks, etc. Most of these locations were interpreted from books and manuscripts written and published in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. These sources were published prior to the modern age of skyscrapers and such, as guides to the historical places for persons walking around Boston. The audience for these books would have been well educated, civically minded area residents and tourists, and historical societies.

Citations for Names and Places

Nearly Every place name and name on this map is shown based on it appearing in a document published prior to 1799. The keys to the names and places contain their sources as a list of numbers in parentheses. Sometimes sources disagreed, which was certainly possible because some maps were actually engraved (franked), far removed from the time and place shown on the map; those sources are shown within brackets. Additionally, notes for places may be included after the citations. The spellings are those found on primary source maps and may differ from today's accepted spellings.

1. *St Thomas's Hyde Park (Lieutenants)*, A plan of the attack at Bunkers-Hill, on the 17th. of June, 1775, between His Majesty's troops under the command of Major-General Howe, and the rebels, given by Lieut. Page, of the Engineers, who acted as aide de camp to General Howe in that action. *Page of His Majesty's Corps of Engineers*, and from those of other gentlemen. 1775. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000070>
2. *St Thomas's Hyde Park (Lieutenants)*, A plan of the town of Boston, with the intrenchments etc. of His Majesty's forces in 1775. From the observations of Lieut. Page of His Majesty's Corps of Engineers, and from the plans of other gentlemen. London, 1777. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000070>
3. *St Thomas's Hyde Park (Lieutenants)*, A plan of the town of Boston, with the intrenchments etc. of His Majesty's forces in 1775. From the observations of Lieut. Page of His Majesty's Corps of Engineers, and from the plans of other gentlemen. London, 1777. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000070>
4. Bacon, Edward M., *Rambles Around Old Boston*. Internet, 1921. <http://www.kellercliff.com/RamblesAroundOldBoston/ramblesaroundcontent.html>
5. Balfour, David M., *The Gardens of Boston in its Olden Time, The Bay State Monthly*, Volume II, No. 2, November, 1884. Internet, 1884. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/13741/13741-8.html>
6. Item 2 of 12. Peter Force Collection, *Battle of Bunker Hill*, 1775. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000890>
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12. Unknown, *A Map of forty miles round Boston, thirty miles west, and twenty miles south of Boston, including an accurate plan of the harbour and town*. 1775. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000890>
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14. Bellin, Jacques Nicolas, *Plan de la ville et du port de Boston, capitale de la Nouvelle Angleterre*. Paris, 1746. *St. Vliet* part. No. 25, 1775.
15. Unknown, *A plan of the town and harbour of Boston and the country adjacent with the road from Boston to Concord, shewing the site of the late engagement London*. 1775. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000890>
17. Mills, John, *St Thomas's Hyde Park with the surroundings, etc.*, 1777. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000890>
18. Jefferys, Thomas, *A map of the most inhabited part of New-England, containing the provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, with the counties of Connecticut and Rhode Island, divided*. London, 1771. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000890>
19. *St Thomas's Hyde Park (Lieutenants)*, A plan of the town of Boston and its environs, with the lines, batteries, and incampments of the British and American armies, 1776. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000890>
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22. *Admiral Henry*, A plan of the town of New-England with its environs, including Milford, Dorchester, Roxbury, Brookline, Cambridge, Medford, Charlestown, parts of Malden and Chelsea with the military works constructed in those places in the years 1775 and 1776. London, 1777. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/g3v6h/c000890>
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29. Price, William, *A new plan of a great town of Boston in New England in America, with the many additional buildings, and new streets, to the year 1769*. Boston, 1769. http://www.bps.org.uk/doc/001_001182
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Wards

When Boston was occupied, beginning in 1768, by the British Army, the commanders divided Boston into twelve wards. Some wards had entire wards of about 500 men in them. The British Army divided the city into wards assigned to and responsible for maintaining the peace and security of each ward. Reality was that the mere presence of the troops raised tensions between themselves and the citizenry.

The troops were billeted or had barracks in public buildings or warehouses in their wards, but often the officers stayed in private homes. Sometimes as the case may have been with people who were Tories this would have been voluntary, or even preferred given the protection the officers could provide. In other cases, the fact for people who were Tories, the troops gave the occupants no choice—the Xing had already occupied the occupation and the people must comply and that included housing the troops. In fact the governor's original plan was that as many troops as possible were to be housed in private homes. The public outcry was so great that the governor was forced to change his orders.

This occupation infuriated the people, causing many of them who were otherwise good British subjects to reconsider the Whigs' point of view. Samuel Adams, John Hancock, John Adams, Paul Revere, and others used the occasion to play up the depredations of the British troops, essentially winning the hearts and minds of many people in and around Boston.

Two maps, #29 and #24 above showed the locations of these wards.