



The Thoreau Society

Thoreau Farm

Concord Scout House

Co-sponsored by:



Trail Guide

Thoreau

National Historic Trail



Town of Concord

Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail

Landmarks

The following are the sites identified with the help of Thoreau Farm and The Thoreau Society. Those marked with a  indicate that they are sites that must be visited as part of the Thoreau Leave No Trace Trail.

1. The Texas House Site

Belknap Street. The house that Henry and his father built, and the home for the Thoreaus in the 1840s, is no longer standing. It would be located beside the house at 156 Belknap Street. *Please respect this private property.*

2. South Bridge Boat House

496 Main Street. Navigate the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers as Thoreau did in his rowboat for a visit to Fairhaven Bay and Egg Rock, located at the confluence of the Sudbury and Assabet rivers. Canoe rentals are available here.

3. The Thoreau-Alcott House

255 Main Street. Privately owned today, this was Henry's home for the last 12 years of his life. The family pencil factory was attached to the house. Henry died in the room to the right of the front door in May 1862. Louisa May Alcott helped her sister Anna buy this house in 1877. A plaque marks the house. *Please respect this private property.*

4. The Old Academy Building

25 Middle Street. Originally located along Academy Street, this building was the structure of the old Concord Academy, the school that Henry and his brother John attended. They later conducted their own school for a short time in the building. Look for the words "The Old Academy" above the front door. *Please respect this private property.*

5. The Concord Free Public Library

129 Main Street. The library holds an excellent collection of Thoreau books, a bust of Thoreau by Walton Rickerson, and several N.C. Wyeth paintings for F. H. Allen's collection of Thoreau's writings. *Men of Concord.* The Special Collections room houses additional Thoreau material, including the original manuscript of "Walking" and many of his land surveys and surveying tools.

6. The Jail Site

East of 70 Monument Square. The grassy area at the intersection of Monument Square and Main Street was once the site of the Middlesex Hotel, and the county jail was just behind it. A stone marker now



this section of the trail.

Heywood Meadow for more detailed information of Thoreau Amble Trail Guide at the trailhead in Thoreau Amble Trail Guide at the trailhead in

It is recommended that you pick up the Emerson-

historictrails@concordscouthouse.org or at

www.concordscouthouse.org

questionnaire available at by emailing

3. Complete and return the required fees and while hiking the trail.

2. Scouts must wear Class A or Class B uniform fleur-de-lis.

Center, visiting each site designated by a BSA

1. Hike at least from Concord Train Depot along the designated trail to Walden Pond Visitor's

requirements:

Trail medal and patch, you must meet the following

Trail it is possible to earn a Thoreau Leave No Trace

of Concord Division of Natural Resources.

(birthplace of Henry David Thoreau) and the Town Scout House, The Thoreau Society, Thoreau Farm America's Spirit of Adventure Council, Concord of cooperation between the Boy Scouts of Established in 2017, this 10-mile trail was the result

In Thoreau's Footsteps

stands on the site where Thoreau spent a night behind bars for not paying the state poll tax.

7. Corinthian Lodge

58 Monument Square. The Corinthian Lodge, chartered in 1797 by Paul Revere, was built as a "brick schoolhouse" in 1820. The lodge was housed on the upper floor and the Center School for Concord occupied the first floor. Henry Thoreau attended the Center School; it was here that he took his first teaching job after graduating from Harvard in 1837. He lasted two weeks in the position before resigning because of a disagreement over discipline.

8. Colonial Inn

48 Monument Square. This hotel consists of three connected buildings. Henry's aunts occupied the building to the right of the main entrance, along with John and Cynthia Thoreau, during Henry's later years at Harvard. In July 1846, one of the aunts reputedly sneaked over to the jail to pay the tax that Henry owed.

9. The Town House

22 Monument Square: Constructed in 1851, this building originally housed town offices, a town library, two classrooms, and a hall for large group functions, including Lyceum lectures. Thoreau delivered "A Plea for Captain John Brown" here in 1859.

10. The Old Manse

269 Monument Street. Originally owned by Emerson's ancestors, the Old Manse was also the first home for Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne. Before the couple was married in 1842, Thoreau planted a garden for them here as a wedding present. A recreation of that garden still grows at this location.

11. The Concord River and the Old North Bridge

Flowing under the Old North Bridge is the Concord River, immortalized in Thoreau's A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers. The monument on the Old Manse side of the bridge was dedicated in 1837. Emerson composed the words to the famous "Concord Hymn" for the service. Thoreau sang in the choir. In Henry's lifetime, no bridge spanned the river at this location.

12. Thoreau's First Gravesite

New Burying Ground, Bedford Street. When Henry died in May 1862, he was buried in the Dunbar and Thoreau family plot in the New

lived in the house several times, usually occupying the room at the head of the stairs.

19. Thoreau Survey Marker

110 Walden Street. Henry Thoreau surveyed many properties in Concord and the surrounding towns, and he was known for his accuracy. Here a contemporary granite post to the left of the driveway indicates that this property was surveyed by Thoreau. His surveys are on file at the Concord Free Public Library. *Please respect this private property.*

20. Emerson-Thoreau Amble

Starting at Heywood Meadow, this 1.7 mile trail represents an approximate walking route used by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau from Emerson's "Bush" house to Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond. *There is no crosswalk on Walden Street. Please use caution crossing the street.*

21. Brister Freeman Family Home Site

Enslaved for nearly three decades in colonial Massachusetts, Brister Freeman (1748-1822) seized his freedom during the Revolutionary War and fought for independence in the Continental Army. In the 1790s the veteran acquired land in the Walden Woods. A boulder marks the Freeman family house site on Brister's Hill. He was one of the "former residents" in the Walden Woods whose small community is evoked in Thoreau's *Walden*.

22. Thoreau's Bean Field

Walden Pond State Reservation. Thoreau set about "making the earth say beans instead of grass" during his stay at Walden. The plot is wooded today. Follow the Wyman Road trail from Route 126 and look for the marker.

23. Thoreau's Cabin Site

Walden Pond State Reservation. Walk along the pond-path to Thoreau's house site and leave a stone or pebble on the cairn. This tradition began in the 1870s.

24. Thoreau Cabin Replica and Statue

Walden Pond State Reservation. A replica of the Thoreau cabin and a bronze statue of Thoreau by Jo Davidson are located near the parking lot.

25. Walden Pond State Reservation Visitors' Center

Be sure to stop by the new visitor's center to see artifacts and educational exhibits about Thoreau, and watch an introductory film by documentaryarian Ken Burns on Walden Pond. Visit the Thoreau Society's **Shop at Walden Pond** where you can find books by and about Thoreau, gift items, and Concord area information.

Burying Ground, near the intersection of Bedford Street and Court Lane. Some Dunbar graves are still here. Look closely at the stone wall separating the cemetery from the road. Stones from the old jail (where Henry spent one night) are said to have been used to build that wall.

13. Thoreau Family Gravesite

Author's Ridge, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Follow the signs to Author's Ridge to find the Thoreau Family gravesite as well as those of the Hawthornes, Alcotts, and Emersons. Many visitors leave natural "offerings" on the gravestones. The Thoreaus were moved here in the early 1870s from the New Burying Ground.

14. Thoreau Farm: Birthplace of Henry David Thoreau

341 Virginia Road. In 1817, Henry was born in the upper east room of a farmhouse then located at 215 Virginia Road. In 1878, the house was moved up the street to its present location. The birth house is opened to the public and tours are offered on weekends from May through October, and for special events and programs. Visit www.thoreaufarm.org to learn more about the birth house and how you can donate, volunteer or become a member. *There is no crosswalk on Virginia Road. Please use caution crossing the street.*

15. The Wayside

455 Lexington Road. Henry visited residents of this house, for it was at various times the residence of the Alcotts, the Hawthornes, and the Manns during Thoreau's lifetime.

16. Orchard House

399 Lexington Road. Thoreau visited his friend Bronson Alcott and his family after they made their home here in 1858. He attended Anna Alcott's wedding in the house in 1860.

17. The Concord Museum

53 Cambridge Turnpike. Many Thoreau artifacts including his flute, walking stick, and Walden furniture are on display here. A chronicle of Concord's history makes up an extensive part of the museum.

18. Ralph Waldo Emerson House

28 Cambridge Turnpike. Just across the street from the Concord Museum, this house was the home of Henry's mentor and friend. Many transcendentalists stopped here to talk with Emerson. Thoreau

