



“By His Excellency’s Command :” General Gage and the British Army in Salem

In June 1774, General Thomas Gage arrived in Boston with orders to move the capitol of Massachusetts to Salem, where hopefully cooler heads would prevail over the increasing troubles in Boston. By the end of the summer, there were two regiments of regulars encamped around Salem, and the legislature had defied Gage’s authority, and set about creating the Provincial Legislature, independent of Royal government.

To commemorate this important event in Revolutionary history, Salem Maritime and the Center for 18th Century Life at Minute Man NHP have joined to invite some of the best reenactors in Massachusetts to give a taste of what Salem was like in the summer of 1774. We hope you enjoy your day with us.

Schedule of Events Saturday, July 20, 10-4:

On the drill field:

10:00 Gage’s arrival and parade

12:00, 2:00 Drill & musket firing demonstration

4:00 review of troops & retreat

In the camp:

All Day: Surgeon’s tent, meet the troops, Junior Ranger programs

11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30: “Awkward Squad:” learn how to drill like a Regular, using wooden muskets

11:00-12:30: Cooking for the troops. See how an 18th century chef prepared a meal!

Derby House Lawn:

All Day: Meet the colonial legislators, and hear their discussions about politics. Are you a patriot or a loyalist?

Gage’s Headquarters:

11: 15-12:00: Gage holds office hours. Do you have a complaint or petition? Hear the concerns of 18th century Salem residents.

1:45-2:15 Being John Mascarene. What does it take to create a living history character?

2:30: 18th century dancing. Easy dances that anyone can learn!

Derby House Garden:

11:00, 3:30: Learn how 18th century healers used herbs.

12:30-1:30 make your own sachet with rose petals and lavender

Hawkes House Lawn:

Meet the ladies of Salem and the officer’s wives. There will be music, and perhaps some 18th century card games to join.

12:30 18th century songs

Public Stores Yard:

1:00 Court Martial. There has been a crime in camp! Are you a witness?

3:00 Court of Common Pleas. Courtroom drama, 18th century style. Will John Adams win his case?

Sunday, July 21, 10-4:

On the drill field:

10:00 Morning parade and Service for the troops

12:00, 2:00, Drill and musket firing demonstration

4:00 review of troops & retreat

In the camp:

All Day: Surgeon’s tent, camp life, meet the troops, Junior Ranger programs

11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30: “Awkward Squad:” learn how to drill like a Regular, using wooden muskets

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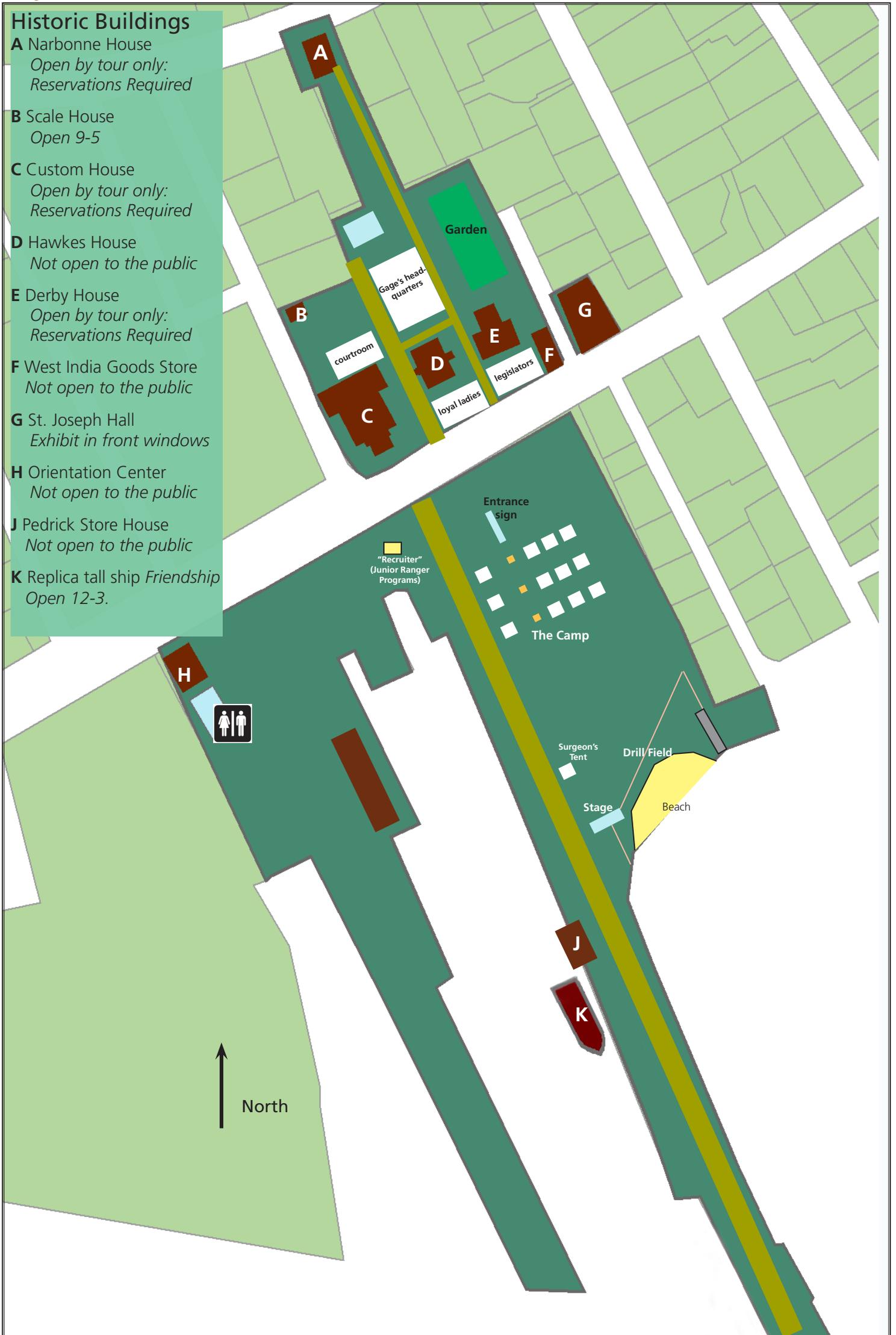
1:00 Court Martial. There has been a crime in camp! Are you a witness?



A drummer of the 59th regiment.
Courtesy of Don Troiani



Salem Maritime National Historic Site



To tour the historic buildings, please call 978-740-1650 to make a reservation.

For more information about Salem Maritime National Historic Site, visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/SAMA or like us on facebook, www.facebook.com/salemmaritime