

**The Portsmouth Peace Treaty Trail**  
**"An Uncommon Commitment to Peace"**

The Portsmouth Peace Treaty Trail identifies the sites in and around Portsmouth that helped Russian diplomat Sergius Witte and Japanese diplomat Jutaro Komura negotiate the Portsmouth Peace Treaty to end the Russo-Japanese War. In August and September 1905, "an uncommon commitment to peace became a common virtue" in Portsmouth, ending "World War Zero" with the signing of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty on September 5, 1905.

President Theodore Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize for his diplomacy in arranging the conference. Although Roosevelt remained at his summer home at Oyster Bay, he relied on his representative, Asst. Secretary of State Peirce, the US Navy and Admiral Mead to host the formal diplomacy at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, while depending on New Hampshire Governor John McLane, the citizens of New Hampshire and Maine, and especially the City of Portsmouth, to be the official hosts.

The Trail retraces the path of diplomacy, both formal and informal, in the footsteps of Witte, Komura, their attaches and hosts. Starting in downtown Portsmouth, with the route of Gov. McLane's Welcoming Parade, see the homes and businesses that welcomed the delegations, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Wentworth By the Sea Hotel where the envoys held negotiations, and visit the many exhibits that tell the story.

For more details and continuous updates, visit [www.PortsmouthPeaceTreaty.com](http://www.PortsmouthPeaceTreaty.com)

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For a statewide visitor information kit, please contact: New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development  
 PO Box 1856, Dept 128 Concord, NH 03302-1856  
 1-800-386-4664 <http://www.visitNH.gov>

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Portsmouth Peace Treaty

Celebrating 100 years

Aug - Sep 2005

← Regional Sites Portsmouth Sites →

# PORTSMOUTH PEACE TREATY TRAIL

## 1905 - 2005

Portsmouth Hosts The Peace Treaty

**Portsmouth Railroad Station (demolished)**  
 City of Portsmouth turns out at farewell celebrations for the delegations, Sept. 6.

**Steamer Mineola**  
 Ferried the Portsmouth welcoming delegation to greet the arriving diplomats on Aug 8. Today's MV Thomas V. Laighton is an authentic replica.

**Portsmouth Furniture Company (demolished)**  
 Local business decorated for the Welcoming Parade; sold Conference room furniture after Treaty signing.

**St. John's Church**  
 Portsmouth-born minister E. Warren Clark, former teacher to Komura and Takahira preached to both delegations about Japan in 1905.

**Market Street**  
 Russian Jewish émigré merchants welcomed Russian delegates to their shops.

**Portsmouth Athenaeum**  
 This library holds original Russo-Japanese War and Treaty research materials; 2005 exhibit "War and Peace" lithographs.

**North Church**  
 "International Peace Service" held here August 5, 1905. Its steeple is the city's icon.

**The Music Hall**  
 Delegates and correspondents entertained here. Site of 1906 Peace Treaty film commemoration.

**Kearsarge Hotel**  
 International newsmen stayed here.

**Former Portsmouth YMCA (private)**  
 Hosted visits from delegates and promoted support for the Japanese Relief Fund.

**Portsmouth Historical Society**  
 Location of central Portsmouth Peace Treaty exhibit.

**Rockingham Hotel**  
 Housed national and international newspapermen. Mechanic's Ball held here on Aug 19, 1905.

**Mayor Marvin House (private)**  
 As Mayor of Portsmouth, he hosted the delegates and was one of only 6 American witnesses at the Treaty signing.

**Shapiro House**  
 Jewish émigrés supported Russian peace efforts, lobbied Russian delegation on treatment of Jews. The Shapiros helped found the first Synagogue in the city in 1905.

**Street Decorated for Welcoming Parade**  
 In the background, the Methodist Church where a Tokyo YMCA representative also spoke.

**Portsmouth Post Office**  
 John H. Bartlett, Postmaster, hosted banquets for both delegations.

**Rockingham County Courthouse (demolished)**  
 Gov. McLane held a reception here for the delegates following the Welcoming Parade.

**Portsmouth Peace Treaty Plaque**  
 Judge Calvin Page was honored with this plaque, on his office on Market St., for bringing the peace conference to Portsmouth.

**Christ Church (burned)**  
 Both delegations attended services here. After the Treaty signing, Fr. Alexander Hotovitsky (later canonized) performed a special Russian Orthodox peace service.

**Former Portsmouth Athletic Club**  
 Both delegations used the private club facilities including billiards and pool tables on the third floor.

**Former Merrick Hotel**  
 Japanese newspaper correspondents and other participants stayed here.

**Portsmouth Peace Treaty Sites and 2005 Special Event Locations:**

- 1 Steamer Mineola\*
- 2 Portsmouth Railroad Station
- 3 Portsmouth Furniture
- 4 St. John's Church
- 5 Market Street
- 6 Portsmouth Athenaeum\*
- 7 North Church\*
- 8 Music Hall\*
- 9 Kearsarge Hotel
- 10 Former Portsmouth YMCA
- 11 Portsmouth Historical Society\*
- 12 Rockingham Hotel\*
- 13 Portsmouth Post Office
- 14 Page & Bartlett Law Office
- 15 Rockingham County Courthouse
- 16 Former Methodist Church
- 17 Seacoast African American Cultural Center\*
- 18 Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery\*
- 19 Shapiro House, Strawberry Banke\*
- 20 Portsmouth Children's Museum\*
- 21 Former Merrick Hotel\*
- 22 Former Portsmouth Athletic Club
- 23 Mayor Marvin House
- 24 Hefenger House
- 25 Christ Church, Interior

\* 2005 Special Event Location

**Legend:**

- 2005 Special Event
- Treaty Building
- 1905 Building Site
- Other Building
- ➔ 1905 Parade Route
- P Parking

**Scale:** 0, 500, 1,000 Feet

**Compass:** N, S, E, W

**Photos courtesy of:** Portsmouth Athenaeum, Strawberry Banke Museum, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Old New Historical Society, Robert Byrnes, Richard Carde, Charles Collins, Peter Farnham.

**Downtown basemap information courtesy of:** The City of Portsmouth

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