

STAGE FORT PARK

Over 10,000 years ago, Indians migrated here from Arizona and New Mexico. The local tribe named "Agawam" means "fish curing place". As early as 1004, the coast of New England drew ships to the region in search of fish.

1623 - The permanent settlement of Mass. Bay Colony was Fisherman's Field - Stage Fort Park. The Dorchester Co. from England landed and left 14 men and sailed for Bilbao Spain with a cargo of salt cod. Huts, flakes and fishing stages were erected. The oldest defenses of the Mass. Bay colony were thrown up at Stage Fort in 1625. It was occupied in all wars. Gloucester's fishing industry developed amidst Indian skirmishes, pirate attacks, shipwrecks and wars. By 1660 shipbuilding had become the leading industry in Gloucester.

1700's - Prosperity and poverty defined this era. Large fish markets appeared in the Southern Colonies and the West Indies for dried fish as food for slaves.

1775 - 1783 Due to the Revolutionary War, fishing and all maritime pursuits were impossible and exploration of fish ended. Domestic and foreign trade, fishing and shipbuilding practically ceased. Life was difficult on Cape Ann. There was much poverty and suffering. Many fishing schooners converted into privateers. Many others rotted at the wharves.

1812 - British declared an embargo on American vessels. The restriction of trade was more injurious to U.S. than loss of life. Congress declares war on Great Britain. The Fort on Fisherman's Field rebuilt.

Mid-century - The Dutch colony in S.A. traded molasses for low grade salted fish as food for the black slaves. Rum was made from the molasses and wealth was gained for many from this trade.

1861-1865 The Civil War bought new fortifications at the Fort with 4 guns mounted. A Confederate raider TACONY sank six Gloucester schooners on Georges Banks. The fishing industry made gains because the Union Army used fish as a staple.

1887- Gloucester reigned as nation's busiest fishing port with 417 vessels.

1898 - 1899 Spanish American War - During the War the Fort was encamped. Elizabeth Hough sold land (Stage Fort Park) to City for \$75,000.

1909 - President William Howard Taft honored in the Great Pageant held at Stage Fort Park.

1916 - 1919 Gloucester men in the World War totaled 1686. German U-boats attacked Georges Banks and Cashes Ledge fishing fleet.

1923 - 300th Anniversary celebration of foundation of Mass. Bay Colony at Cape Ann. Fish demand reduced due to foreign competition.

1935 - Fishing industry made comeback based on frozen fish business.

1943 - WWII Some 23 of the largest fishing draggers & trawlers were sold or leased to the Navy. Three vessels sank in one minefield. Fishing schooners and small draggers were assigned to anti-submarine patrol. Women and school children replaced men in fish processing plants. Progressive Fish Co. cut and packed 1 million lbs. of fish in one day.

2013 - Government restrictions have reduced fishing to a bare minimum.

Gloucester Mass. Historical Timeline by Mary Ray & The Cape Ann Historical Museum

1 Visitor Center
 9 Hough Ave. Gloucester MA 01930
 Open Memorial Day-Columbus Day
 978-281-8865
 www.gloucesterma.com
 The center offers brochures and maps.



2 Picnic Areas
 Reservations for:
 large groups / field trips / company outings
 Area A - behind Visitor Center
 Area B - behind left field at Baseball Field
 Area C - across from Snack Shack
 Call: DPW 978-281-9785

3 Antonio Gentile Bandstand
 Sunday Night Summer Concerts
 Reservations for Weddings
 Call: DPW 978-281-9785



4 Tablet Rock
 A commemorative plaque marks the site and date of the founding of Gloucester as a Massachusetts Bay Colony by the Dorchester Company in 1623. Tablet Rock was used by the Native Americans as an altar for their prophets to invoke the Great Spirit.

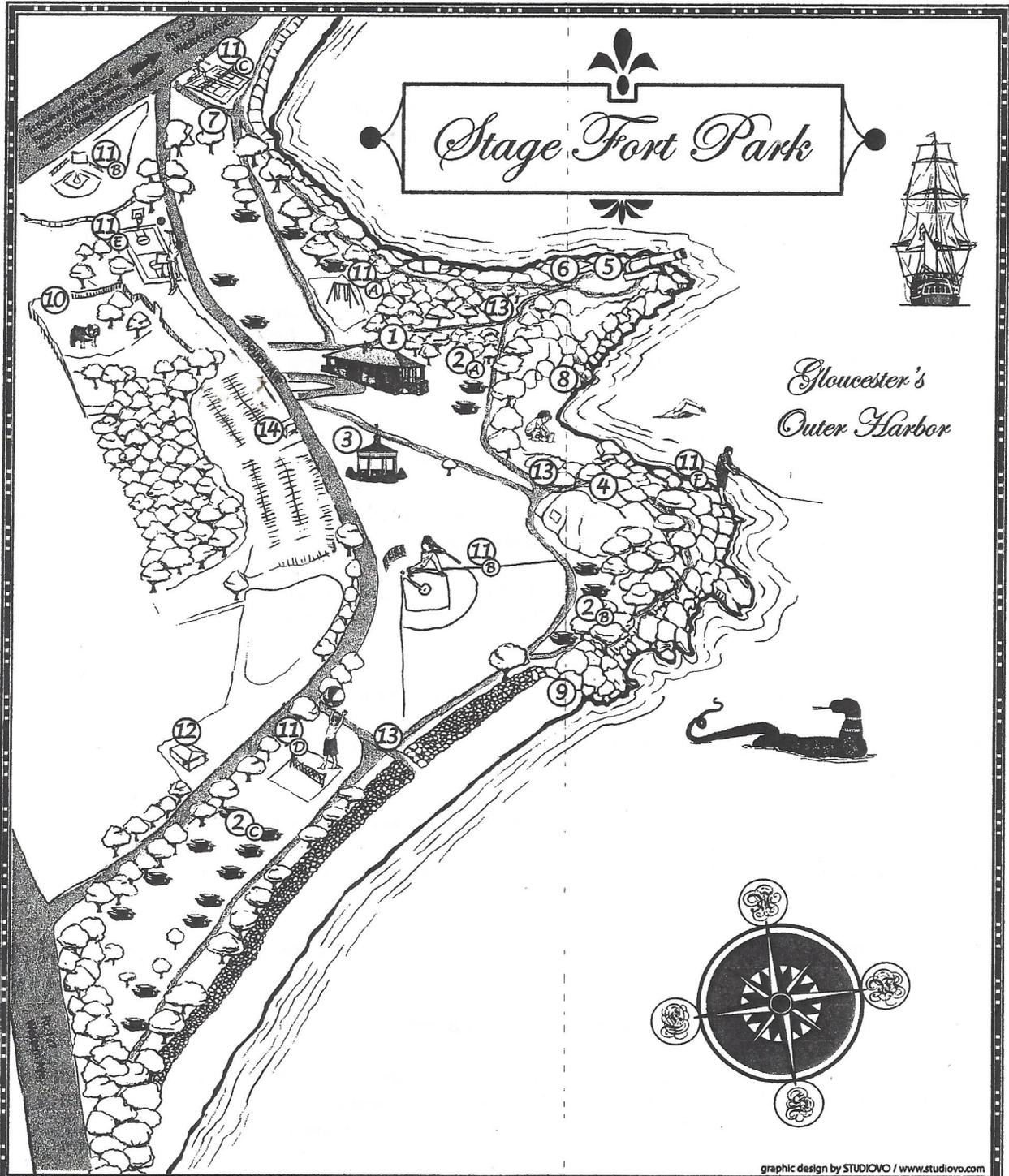


14 Parking and Trolley
 Beach Parking
 Memorial - Labor Day
 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Stage Fort Shuttle Park and Ride
 978-283-7278
 www.cantrn.com
 Seasonal Rides to:
 Downtown
 Good Harbor Beach
 Rocky Neck



13 Walking Paths Thru the Park
 Scenic walking paths thru trees, over rocks and along beaches.

12 Snack Shack
 Independent Food Service providing:
 Take Out or Eat In and delicious Ice Cream.



5 Stage Fort
 The oldest defenses of the Mass. Bay Colony since 1625
 Operational:
 1675-King Phillip's War
 1713-King George's War
 1776-American Independence
 1812-War of 1812
 1861-1865 Civil War
 1898-Spanish American War



6 Revolutionary War Plaque
 In memory of the Soldiers and Sailors who fought in the American War for Independence.



7 Triton Sculpture
 Greek God of the Sea
 Located in the Betty Smith Park, north end of Stage Fort Park



11 Recreational Areas
 A-Playground / B-Baseball Field
 C-Tennis Courts / D-Volleyball Sand Court
 E-Basketball Court / F-Fishing

10 Dog Park:
 www.gloucesterdogpark.org
 Two acres of off-leash recreational park for dogs. Large and small dog areas with "training area".



9 Cressy's Beach
 A rocky beach with cool sea breezes and site of the famed "Sea Serpent" rock painting. The first sighting of the Gloucester Sea Serpent in 1638 by an Englishman and two Native Americans, 80 to 100 feet long.



8 Half Moon Beach
 Small, Family Friendly with Sun and Shade. Near restrooms and playground.

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