



1 Monument Square



4 Prospect Hill Cemetery



2 One Vestal Street



5 Community Garden



3 Loines Observatory



6 Cisco Beach



1

Monument Square. Monument Square was once known as Old White Bone because the bleached jawbone of a whale sat on the corner of Main and Gardner Streets. The Civil War Monument in front of you, AKA the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, commemorates the 73 Nantucket men who died during the Civil War, and was placed here in 1874. Prior to this, during the American Revolution, islanders put a "Liberty Pole" here and gathered around it for important meetings. Anti-British colonists gathered around Liberty Trees and Liberty Poles, as a sign of protest against the king. In some towns, suspected Tories were even forced to kiss the pole.



2

One Vestal Street. Like many of Nantucket's late 18th/early 19th century homes, the Quakers built fine and solid homes but avoided decoration or ornamentation. This home is the birthplace of Maria Mitchell, America's first woman astronomer. Maria discovered a comet in 1847 and later became the first professor at Vassar College. Maria passed away in 1889. Following her death, her family, friends, and students banded together to form the Maria Mitchell Association in 1902, located at 4 Vestal. Since 1908, the Maria Mitchell Observatory has attracted researchers from across the world, as well as provided lectures which continue today.



3

Loines Observatory. You are standing in the parking lot of the Loines Observatory, which is the second observatory that is part of the Maria Mitchell Association. Do you see the two domes? The larger dome is the original observatory, built in 1968. It contains an 8-inch refracting telescope made by Alvan Clark & Sons. The smaller dome was added in 1998 and contains the bigger telescope: a 24-inch, research-grade telescope, the largest in all of New England, which is open for public viewing.



4

Prospect Hill Cemetery. This is the site of the Upper Milk Street Ropewalk. Quiet today, it used to bustle with islanders making cordage, or rope, for whale ships. From the mid-18th century to the mid-19th century, whale ships fueled the Nantucket economy. Since whale ships needed miles of rope, during whaling's peak, Nantucket's 10 ropewalks, of which this was one, employed more than 300 people. Whale ships needed rope long enough to stretch between harpooned whales and the whaleboat, and to control sails and rigging. Employees stretched strands of rope the length of the factory along a "ropewalk," then twisted them together.



5

Community Farm Institute. This is Community Farm Institute, a partnership created between local non-profits and the town of Nantucket to increase sustainable agricultural production and distribution on the island. The 8 acres you see, part of the former Mount Vernon Farm, were granted by the Nantucket Land Bank. The Land Bank was established by the Town of Nantucket in 1983. Since inception, as the first of its kind in the nation, it has served as a model for other communities across the county to protect and preserve key open spaces, scenic views, ecological resources, and to promote local agriculture and create outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.



6

Cisco Beach. As you enjoy this beautiful view, consider this — 45 miles out, 250 feet down lies the wreck of the Andrea Doria, an Italian ocean liner that sank in 1956 after the Swedish ocean liner Stockholm rammed into the passenger cabins. The Andrea Doria carried 1706 passengers, bound for Europe, while the Stockholm carried 747 passengers, steaming toward New York. Post-collision, the crew of the French Ile de France led the rescue effort. Sadly, many died. However, 14-year-old Linda Morgan was ejected from bed and landed on the Stockholm's crushed bow, earning her the name "The Miracle Girl" in the press! We have our own local connection as well. Then 9 year-old Bambi Gifford was on the Andrea Doria, returning from a European tour with her family. Thankfully, they all survived and today Bambi is married to the captain of a Nantucket fishing charter boat.