

HISTORICAL FIGURES

1 GAIL LAUGHLIN

119 Exchange Street, Laughlin Law Office

Gail Laughlin was a Maine lawyer, legislator, and women's rights advocate. Originally from Robbinston, ME, Laughlin graduated with honors from Portland High School in 1886. She continued on to earn a law degree from Cornell University in 1898. After practicing law in various states, she returned to Maine where in 1929 she was elected into the Maine House of Representatives, and later into the Maine Senate. Laughlin was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame in 1991. The current home to the Press Hotel was the site of Gail Laughlin's law offices, which she shared with her brother.

2 HERMANN KOTZSCHMAR

20 Myrtle Street, Merrill Auditorium

Musician Hermann Kotzschmar, a German native, lived in Portland from 1849 until his death in 1908. Inside Merrill Auditorium is an organ that bears his name, which was a gift to the City of Portland from Cyrus H.K. Curtis, the son of Kotzschmar's dear friend (note Cyrus' middle initials – that's not a coincidence!). The Friends of Kotzschmar Organ, a nonprofit organization, present 16 - 18 concerts each year, showcasing renowned organists and guest artists from around the world.

TOUR DURATION
40 - MINUTE WALK
(PLUS EXPLORING!)

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TRAVEL DISTANCE
1.5 MILES

3 CHARLES A. ALEXANDER

15 Chestnut Street, Grace

Grace, formerly the Chestnut Street Methodist Church, is now a modern restaurant serving innovative cuisine in an 'atmosphere of artistic mastery.' This stunning Gothic style church was built in 1856 by Charles A. Alexander, a favorite architect of Portland's cultural elite. Alexander also designed many of the city's most stunning estates and mansions. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the few surviving examples of Alexander's work.

4 HENRY WADSWORTH-LONGFELLOW

487 Congress Street, Wadsworth-Longfellow House

The poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow grew up in this house, which was built by Henry's grandfather, General Peleg Wadsworth in 1786. The home and its fantastic garden have been lovingly restored and maintained by the Maine Historical Society, who offer tours to the public. Virtually all of the household items and artifacts inside the house are original to the Wadsworth and Longfellow families. Henry became one of the most famous men of his time, a recognized literary figure and world-famous personality.

5 RINES BROTHERS

537 Congress Street, Rines Brothers Dept. Store

Brothers Joseph, Albert, David, and R. Hight Rines were property owners and philanthropists, who redefined retail in Portland in the 1880s. With dry goods stores on Middle and Congress Streets, the Columbia Hotel on Congress Street, and other buildings and ventures throughout downtown, they made their mark on the growth and development of Portland. 537 Congress Street, in the J.B. Brown Block, marks the former location of the Rines Brothers Department store, which was operational from 1883 throughout the first half of the 20th Century.

6 JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER

619 Congress Street, The Baxter Building

James Phinney Baxter was a six-time Mayor of Portland between 1893 and 1905, long time president of the Maine Historical Society, and a founder of the Portland Society of Art. The Baxter Library Building, built in 1889, was donated to the City of Portland by Baxter to serve as the city's library, a role it served for 90 years. The Richardsonian Romanesque Building was designed by Francis Fassett. Once home to the Maine College of Art, it is now the headquarters for the VIA Agency.

7 JOHN NEAL

173-175 State Street, The John Neal House

America's first art critic, John Neal was born in Portland in 1793. He was also an accomplished lawyer, author, architect, women's rights advocate, and boxer. In 1827, after living in England, Neal settled in his hometown, founded the acclaimed, but short-lived, literary magazine, the "Yankee," and helped stimulate an artistic climate that flourished through the 19th Century. Neal designed this gorgeous granite building that he called home, which was built in 1836. Fun fact: Neal bought a quarry in North Yarmouth so that he would have a supply of granite for the home!



8 RUGGLES SYLVESTER MORSE

109 Danforth Street, The Victoria Mansion

Also known as the Morse-Libby House, Victoria Mansion was built between 1858 and 1860 as a summer home for Ruggles Sylvester Morse and his wife, Olive. While both originally from Maine, Morse made his fortune in New Orleans where he operated luxury hotels. Designed by New Haven, CT architect Henry Austin, this spectacular home is considered one of the finest examples of the Italian Villa style in America. Today, the Victoria Mansion is open for tours and special events, and is renowned for its spectacular Christmas decorations. Be sure to ask about the resident ghosts!

9 JOHN FORD

Corner of York & Danforth, John Ford Statue

Academy Award winning director John Ford, born John Martin "Jack" Feeney in Cape Elizabeth, was nicknamed "Bull" by his football team while at Portland High School. At 19 years old, he left Maine for Hollywood to begin his film career, where he adopted the name John Ford. His résumé includes four Best Director Oscars, including one for "The Grapes of Wrath", but he is probably most well-known for his Western films.

FUN FACT:

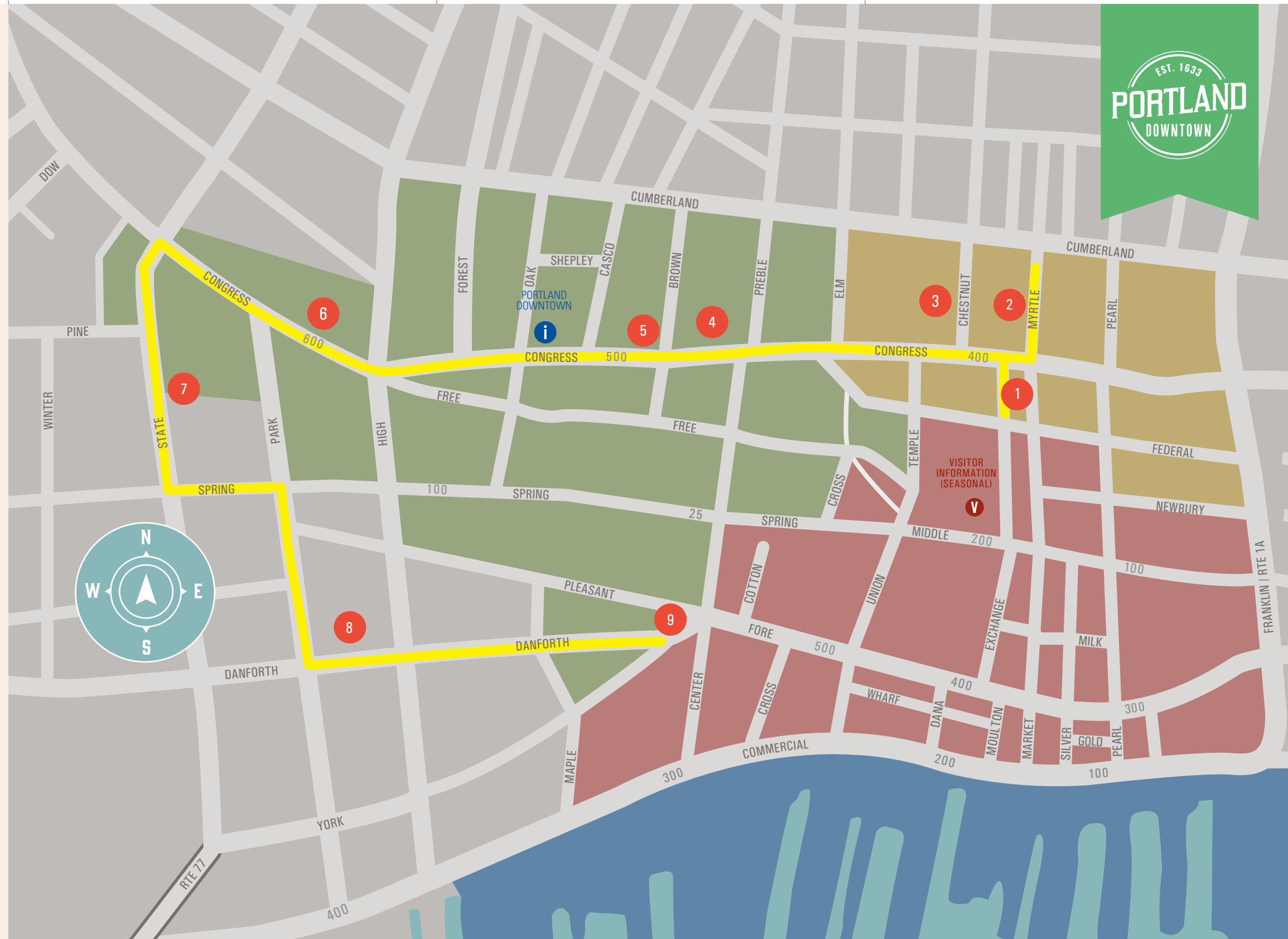
BULL FEENEY'S ON FORE STREET IS A NOD TO THE FAMOUS DIRECTOR.

HISTORICAL FIGURES SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



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Corner of York & Danforth Streets, John Ford Statue



ABOUT PORTLAND DOWNTOWN

Portland Downtown, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, is in the business of maintaining a clean and safe downtown while building and promoting a vibrant business, residential and tourism destination.

ABOUT THE WALKING TOURS

Undergraduate students from USM's Tourism & Hospitality program designed custom self-guided walking tours through a creative academic curriculum in partnership with Portland Downtown. The City of Portland provided a matching grant to have the walking tours made into professionally designed brochures, which are available for free at locations around Portland and on-line. We hope you enjoy!



CONTACT US

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