

Walk 6 September 7

Direction: North to South

Washington Army Route

Pawtucket to Cranston

We had it easier than Gen. Washington's troops, a lot easier. So we compensated by starting early, ready to go before 8am.

Weather conditions ideal: late summer sunshine, comfortable temperatures.

Pawtucket was beginning to stir as we began but we had most public spaces pretty much to ourselves.



A riverside park made it easier to progress on our route south through Pawtucket.

Rhode Island seems blessed with many rivulets, ponds and lakes, Although we did not see many sails as we walked. A guess: that RI's many ocean-front ports draw more boats during the sailing season than do fresh water ports.

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Erected approximately 1800



Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin was appointed to that position in 1753. He intended to standardize postal rates which his government office calculated by noting the distances between delivery points for carried mail.

In that effort, local officials put up markers, one of which is here at the Pawtucket-Providence line. It shows a distance: “3 ½ M C H” i.e., “three and a half miles to the courthouse”. A plaque tacked on in 1930 describes its purpose.



The corner of East St. and Hope Ave. in Pawtucket (at left) is where we turned left to go directly south on Hope toward Providence.

Hope Ave. was a straight, busy road lined with convenient stores, sub and pizza shops.

As the complexion changed ever-so-slightly, we passed into Providence. We noticed more residences and larger lots as we descended into the city.

Soon, Providence College and Brown University buildings appeared.

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Washington's French Army ally, Commander Rochambeau, is honored with a Providence street named for him. GJ's pause nearby.



Monument reads “Snowtown Riot 1831” – “site of the second major riot between Providence Afro-American residents and White Workers.” GJ’s across from Cranston Street Armory Building (1907).

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We turned west at this point in Providence, our path taking us under Route 10 that was roaring above. Its sound effects were evidently intended to be muffled by the wall constructed on top of the overpass, seen here, and it worked.

Our appetites had turned into strong hunger so we began to speculate where on Route 1 up ahead, we could grab lunch.

We ended up at Subway clutching (3) selections which they could not make fast enough for us.

Two subs and a salad fueled us for the remaining distance into Cranston, a good-sized city promoting a proud heritage. As we walked into this suburban setting, we could almost hear Cranston officials saying: We're outstanding on our own - especially compared with our larger neighbors.



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Cranston City Hall



Destination for the day The walking trio made it to Cranston City Hall as the clock approached 1pm after a nine-plus mile hike. We made our pre-planned ride back to Pawtucket where we restored the Chief Engineer to his car and on the way recalled several highlights, one of which was an Italian sub. But many landscaped city parks and clean city streets made the day.