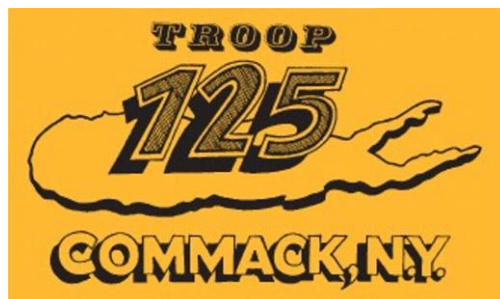




## NATHAN HALE HISTORIC TRAIL



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Nathan Hale Trail wanders through a scenic and historically interesting area of long Island. The history of the Huntington area predates the American Revolution, and we hope that by hiking the Trail you will learn more about the early development of our country and the way-of-life of the early American Settlers.

Colonial Huntington was first settled in 1653 by people of English origin who come from surrounding towns. The town comes into being with the "First Indian Purchase" - a six square mile area between Cold Spring Harbor and Northport Harbor, running from long Island Sound on the north; and to an area approximating Old Country Road on the south. The Matinecock Indians sold this property to the first settlers. You will be hiking through the original purchased area. Other properties were purchased from the Indians and added to the town as it grew with settlers. It was along Park Avenue, starting point of the hike, that the majority of the settlers built their cabins, many of them setting up trade in their front yards.

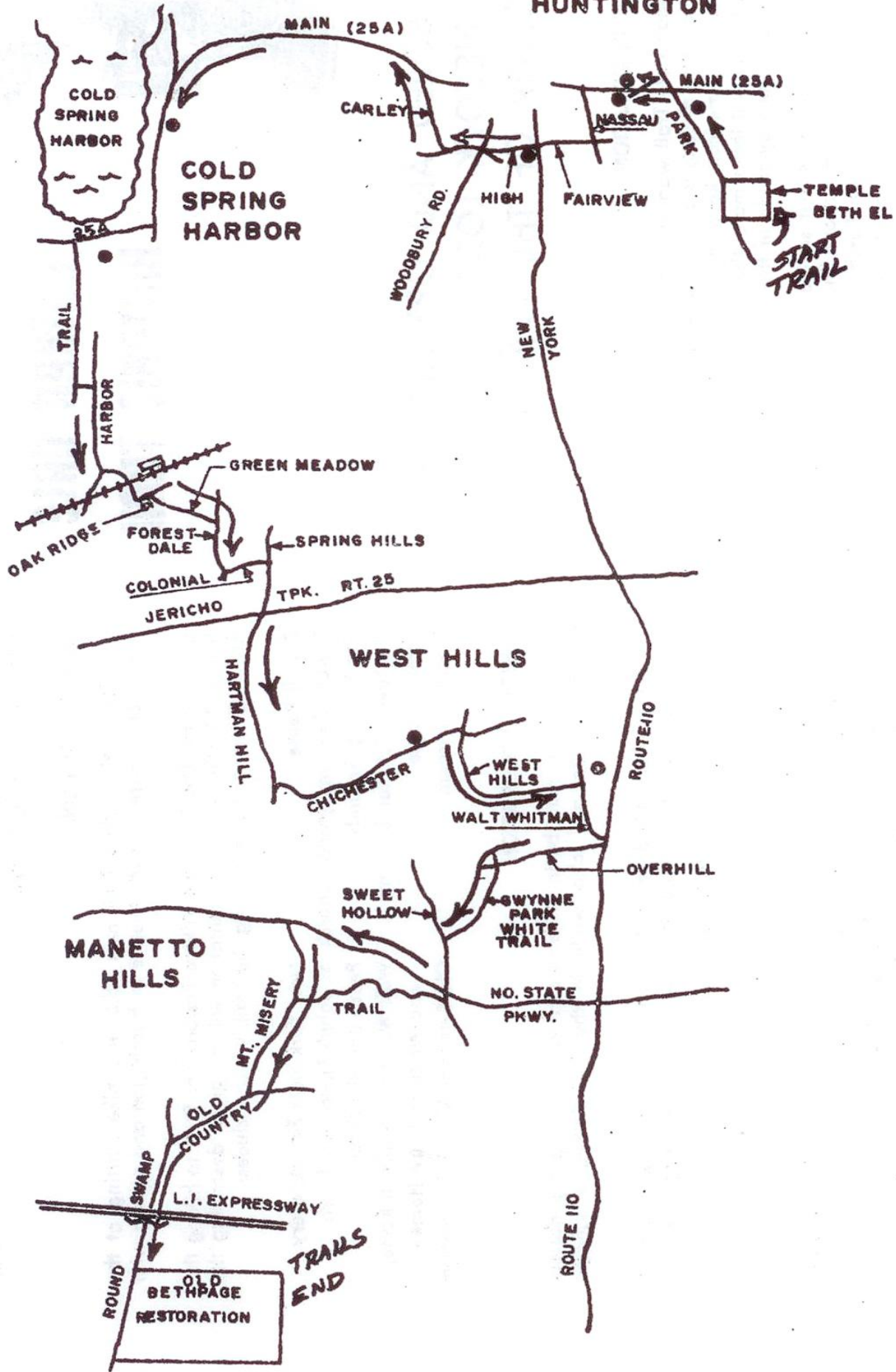
The Old Bethpage Village Restoration at the end of the Trail depicts the post-revolutionary life on long Island with restored homes from nearby Towns.

### TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The Nathan Hale Trail is a 18.5 mile hike starting at the Silas Wood House on Park Avenue in Huntington and ending with a visit to the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. Prior to hiking the trail a 15 minute slide presentation will be given describing the historical sites to be seen along the Trail, which includes:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Powell House                      | New York State Fish Hatchery .               |
| The Old First Presbyterian Church | St. John's Episcopal Church                  |
| Old Burying Grounds               | Peace and Plenty Inn                         |
| The Town Historian Building       | WalrWhitman; Whitman-Rome, and Whitman-      |
| Conklin House                     | Place Homes Old Bethpage Village Restoration |
| Whaling Museum                    |  |

# HUNTINGTON



The Nathan Hale Trail wanders through a scenic and historically interesting area of Long Island. The history of the Huntington area predates the American Revolution, and we hope that by hiking the Trail you will learn more about the early development of our country and the way-of-life of the early American Settlers.

## COLONIAL HUNTINGTON

Huntington was first settled in 1653 by people of English origin who came from surrounding towns. The town came into being with the "First Indian Purchase" - a six square mile area between Cold Spring Harbor and Northport Harbor, running from Long Island Sound on the north; and to area "approximating Old Country Road on the south. The Matinecock Indians Sold this property to the first settlers. You will be hiking through the original purchased area. Other properties were purchased from the Indians and added to the town as it grew with settlers. It was along Park Avenue, starting point of the hike, that the majority of the settlers built their cabins, many of them setting up trade in their front yards.

The original form of government was the town meeting which every man was required to attend and at which the majority vote ruled. At the time of the American Revolution, Huntington had become strong and prosperous. It was the center of the large farming area growing quantities of wheat, corn and rye. It was also the center for other industry. The American Revolution was a disastrous experience for the town, which had protested unfair British taxes and began to raise troops for the rebellion as early as 1775.

When the victorious British soldiers marched in after the fateful Battle of Long Island, the troops killed many inhabitants. Some residents fled to Connecticut in order to keep up the fight against the enemy. The Towns' church, the Old First Presbyterian, on Sabbath Path, was used to quarter British troops. The site of Fort Golgotha, built by the British in 1782, was located at the nearby burying grounds on Main Street.

It was at Huntington Bay that Nathan Hale landed on his fateful mission to spy on the British Troop Movements. Nathan Hales' famous last words, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my Country", are to be found on a marble monument near the Town Historian Building.

At the end of the Revolutionary War and with the Withdrawal of the British troops, the people of the town once again took up their' jobs and new industries flourished in the area. A thimble factory, brick and pottery works, and whaling enterprises provided employment and showed the wide range of interests of the townspeople.

The Old Bethpage Village Restoration at the end of the Trail depicts the post-revolutionary life on Long Island with restored homes from nearby Towns.

### **TRAIL DESCRIPTION**

The Nathan Hale Trail is an 18.5 mile hike starting at the Silas Wood House on Park Avenue in Huntington and ending with a visit to the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. The historical sites to be seen along the Trail, which includes:

Powell House'

The Old First Presbyterian Church

Old Burying Grounds

The Town Historian Building

Conklin House

Whaling Museum

New York State Fish Hatchery

St. John's Episcopal Church

Peace and Plenty Inn

Walt Whitman, Whitman-Rome, and Whitman-Place

Old Bethpage Village Restoration

### **General Information**

The Trail will be open only on Saturday and Sunday year round (weather permitting).

All Scouts must be in uniform and travel as a group during the entire hike and also while in the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. Each hiker should carry his own water supply and a bag lunch which is to be eaten only at the designated eating areas. Fires are not permitted along the Trail.

**It is suggested that units hiking the Trail make it a two day experience. Camping facilities and eating areas will be provided at West Hills County Park (old Camp Kaufmann, a Greater New York City Scout Camp)**

**Note: This trail is always changing because of land development.  
Check the Trail before you go.**