

Key Baptist History Sites nearby Attleboro, MA

East

Middleboro, Massachusetts (23 miles, 34 min)

Once known as “Backus Memorial Baptist Church,” [First Baptist Church of North Middleboro](#), Massachusetts is now in its third building since Isaac Backus founded it in 1748. It stands at the intersection of Plymouth and Bedford Streets. In [Titicut Parish Cemetery](#), at 41 Plymouth



Street, [Backus’s granite tomb](#) is pulpit-shaped and holds an open Bible. Under the Bible is a bronze memorial plaque.



Plymouth, Massachusetts (39 miles, 56 min)

Upon reading his son’s *Christian Baptism*, 1817, Adoniram Judson Sr. of the [Church of the Pilgrimage](#), on the north side of Town Square, became a Baptist and resigned the Congregational pastorate. After serving for most of his life in Burma, Judson Jr. died at sea. There is a cenotaph to his honor on [Burial Hill](#).

North

Boston, Massachusetts (50 miles, 59 minutes)

[First Baptist Church](#) was founded by Thomas Gould, 1865. In 1872, Brattle Square Unitarian Church erected a brick building, at 110 Commonwealth Avenue. By 1876, the church was extinct, and First Baptist purchased the building.

South-West



Providence, Rhode Island (12 miles, 26 min)

[First Baptist Church](#), founded by Roger Williams in 1638, was the earliest Baptist Church in America. Erected in 1775, its present building is at 75 North Main Street. Its twelfth pastor, James Manning, was founder and president of nearby *Brown University*.

Underneath *Roger Williams Statue*, at [Prospect Terrace](#), lie William’s ashes. With John Clarke, he was the co-founder of Rhode Island.

Newport, Rhode Island (39 miles, 63 min)

[United Baptist Church](#), John Clarke Memorial, at 30 Spring Street, was founded in 1644 by John Clarke. It was America's second Baptist church. Clarke was co-founder of Rhode Island and an early defender of liberty of conscience. *John Clarke's tombstone* stands in the [John Clarke Family Cemetery](#), on the west side of Dr. Marcus Wheatland Boulevard. The key to the cemetery's padlock is available at the United Baptist Church office. Adjoining the cemetery, a small park has two *Memorials to John Clarke*: A plaque on a small rock, and a monument, erected by the Baptist Historical Preservation Society.

[Newport Historical Society](#) (NHS) houses the first Seventh-Day Baptist church in America. In 1671, Stephen Mumford led a small group out of First Baptist to establish the church. In 1884, the NHS bought the Seventh-Day Baptists' 1730 wooden chapel. In 1915, the NHS moved the elegant chapel from Barney Street to the rear of their headquarters, at 83 Touro Street. Here, the NHS encased the chapel in brick and incorporated it into their facility. More restoration took place in 2009.



Middletown, Rhode Island (37 miles, 56 min)

In the [Holmes family cemetery](#), on the west side of Vaulse Avenue, just north of Green End Avenue, Route 138, a memorial tombstone honors the notable Obadiah Holmes, who suffered a public beating in Boston for preaching the gospel in a private home. He became successor to Pastor John Clarke in Newport.

South-East

Swansea, Massachusetts (15 miles, 27 min)

Founded by John Myles from Wales, the [First Baptist Church](#) of Swansea, at 21 Baptist Street, was the first Baptist church in Massachusetts. Its present building dates to 1848, and its adjacent cemetery dates to 1731.

**Descriptions from David Beale, [Baptist History in England and America](#) (Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2018), pp. 608-610.