



NEW ENGLAND STATES EXHIBITION, NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965  
802 STATLER OFFICE BUILDING, BOSTON, MASS. 02116

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### REGIONAL THEME BUILDING

The Regional Theme Building at the New England States Exhibition at the New York World's Fair takes the visitor from the days of the Pilgrims to the space age.

The message of New England as a place to visit, live, learn, work and play--its famed contributions, its present progress and its great opportunity is portrayed in a series of exciting and memorable scenes, words, pictures, experience and unique concepts all demonstrating the theme of the six-state combined exhibit--"Where Our Past Began--Our Future Begins".

The Theme Building also houses the Tribute to President John F. Kennedy which presents him in the historic line of New England Presidents and emphasizes his New England Heritage and his great love of the region. The Kennedy Tribute occupies the highest level of the Theme Building and provides a reflective conclusion to the review of New England's past, present and future.

The visitor's first impression reflects that of the Pilgrims--waves lapping a rocky shore. Models of early sailing vessels, an over-sized facsimile of John Smith's early map of New England, and

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a vast mural of dawn's early light over Cape Cod's Great Beach, complete the preface to a realization of New England heritage.

The next and a central aspect of the Theme Building is the Liberty Tree--the unique New England symbol of man's struggle to control his own destiny. The Tree is constructed of metal and stands 23 feet tall. More than 60 leaves of acrylic plastic ranging in size from 3' x 4' to 2' x 2' bear engravings of tax stamps, Revolutionary War battle plans, a page from the Hartford Courant, the nation's oldest newspaper now observing its 200th anniversary, and more than 30 other historic items.

Enclosing the Tree, three curved floor-to-ceiling panels depict related aspects of New England community life--the village green as seen from a nearby hill; the tidy panorama of meeting-house, homes and lawns as seen from the green; and the interior of the meeting-house with its straightforward pews and stalwart pulpit.

Connecting "Liberty" at the core with the confines of the village, six glass cylinders dramatize such acknowledged Yankee traits as frugality, perseverance and vigilance with such authentic artifacts as candle moulds, a plow wedged against a boulder, and a carved wooden eagle. All together--each with an appropriate quotation from a spokesman for the region--they portray the elusive and storied New England character.

Next the visitors meet outstanding New Englanders--past and present--through a parade of floating likenesses, and also see a brief filmstrip showing the evolution of enduring New England ideas.

Then the visitor moves to an exhibit-area as impressive as the story it tells--the story of the strengths of the six-state region. Standing in the center, the visitor is surrounded by the world--a unique projection-map whose surface extends above and beneath you--as New Englanders have always extended their horizons. Illustration after illustration depict the area's philosophical, cultural, scientific and material contributions to world society.

All around the outer exhibit-area are examples of notable Yankee achievement. The New England-developed modern technique of the teaching machine teaches that this is where the concept of the public school originated. The scope of higher education in this corner of the United States is projected from an immense map bearing the names of all its colleges and universities, and an assemblage of some of their famous alumni and their leadership in many realms--immigration, human dignity, finance.

Next is Yankee inventiveness in action--from Eli Whitney's revolutionary rifle, to a sub-miniaturized electronic system--from Elias Howe's first sewing machine to the precursor of today's monorail.

Also on view are working models from the fields of rocketry and medicine against a backdrop showing the diversity of New England business.

Then the visitor is invited to sample "the good life"--the museums and concerts, skiing and swimming, the many opportunities for personal enrichment with which New England abounds.