

# Unearthing the Tapestry of Time: Historic Tales of County Street Landmarks

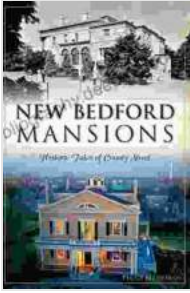
Nestled amidst the bustling city of New Bedford, County Street stands as a testament to the passage of time. This vibrant thoroughfare, once a bustling hub of maritime commerce, is now home to an array of historic landmarks that whisper tales of the past. From stately mansions to humble cottages, each structure bears witness to the city's rich heritage.

## The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum



**New Bedford Mansions: Historic Tales of County Street (Landmarks)** by Christophe Levaux

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 3680 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Print length	: 179 pages
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Nestled at 396 County Street, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum stands as a magnificent example of Federal architecture. Built in 1834 by whaling merchant William Rotch Jr., this opulent mansion served as a summer home for the Rotch family. Its elegant rooms, adorned with intricate moldings and fine furnishings, offer a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of wealthy New Bedford whaling families.

The gardens surrounding the house are equally impressive, featuring a formal garden inspired by European designs and a picturesque rose garden. Visitors can wander through the manicured lawns, admiring the vibrant blooms and sculptures that add to the property's charm.

## **The Seamen's Bethel**



## The Seamen's Bethel

Just a short walk down the street at 1 Johnnycake Hill stands the Seamen's Bethel, a poignant reminder of New Bedford's maritime history. Built in 1831, this non-denominational chapel served as a spiritual oasis for sailors venturing out to sea. Its simple yet elegant design reflects the unassuming nature of the mariners it served.

The interior of the chapel is adorned with maritime-themed artifacts, including ship models and scrimshaw pieces. Visitors can also climb to the

observation tower, which offers panoramic views of the city and surrounding harbor.

## **The Bourne Counting House**



Located at 546 County Street, the Bourne Counting House is a testament to New Bedford's maritime heritage. Built in 1836 by merchant Joseph Bourne, this three-story brick building served as the headquarters for Bourne's whaling operations. Here, crews were hired, supplies were purchased, and profits were tallied.

The Counting House's exterior is simple and unassuming, reflecting the practical nature of its purpose. However, the interior is adorned with

intricate moldings and decorative flourishes, a testament to the wealth and success of the Bourne family.

## **The Abraham Lincoln Statue**



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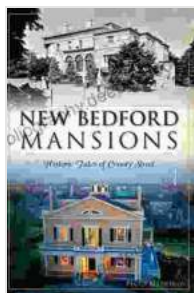


In the heart of County Street's historic district, at the intersection of County and William Streets, stands the Abraham Lincoln Statue. Unveiled in 1913, this bronze sculpture by renowned artist Daniel Chester French pays tribute to the Great Emancipator. Lincoln's towering figure gazes out over the city, a symbol of New Bedford's commitment to equality.

The statue's pedestal is adorned with bas-relief panels depicting scenes from Lincoln's life, including his signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Visitors can pause here to reflect on Lincoln's legacy and the city's struggle for social justice.

The historic landmarks of County Street are more than just buildings; they are living witnesses to the rich tapestry of New Bedford's heritage. From the opulent mansions of wealthy merchants to the humble dwellings of sailors, each structure tells a unique story of the city's past. By exploring these architectural gems, we gain a deeper understanding of the people and events that have shaped this vibrant community.

As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of New Bedford, let us not forget the stories enshrined in these historic landmarks. May they serve as a constant reminder of the city's proud past and inspire us to continue building a future worthy of its legacy.



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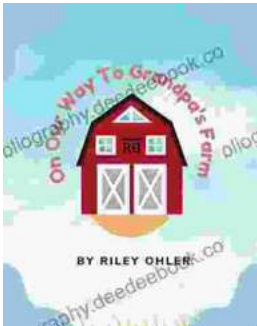
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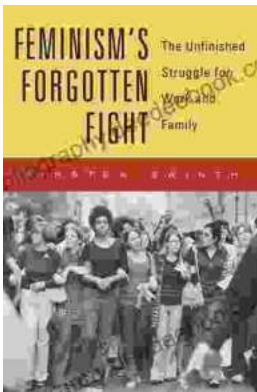
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