



Getting a Dose of Boston History While Dining

Everybody loves a good meal, but sometimes that's just not enough. For those of you who would like a dose of history with your dinner, Boston is the ideal place to get just the right mix. Here are some of the top choices, although there are many more as well.

Boston's Old City Hall, built in 1865 in the French Second Empire Style, is the home of the ***Ruth's Chris Steak House***. On the way in, check out Ben Franklin's Statue, which is where the first public school in America was built. Hence, the address of 45 School Street.

The Old City Hall is just across the street from *The Omni Parker House*, which was where visiting dignitaries would stay. It was Boston's first hotel and opened in 1855. No discussion of famous Boston restaurants would be complete without noting ***Parker's Restaurant*** at *The Omni Parker House*, where Parker House Rolls and Boston Crème Pie were invented. 60 School Street.

The Chart House is housed in Boston's oldest wharf building (circa 1760) and is known as The Gardiner Building. It once housed the offices of John Hancock and was known as *John Hancock's Counting House*. Located at 60 Long Wharf, just behind the *Marriott Long Wharf Hotel*.

Perhaps the most famous restaurant in town is ***The Union Oyster House***, which was established in 1826 and claims to be America's oldest restaurant. The building itself, located a few steps from Faneuil Hall, is even more long-standing and has served as a local landmark for over 250 years. Best known now for its famous raw bar. 41 Union Street.

Just a year after *The Union Oyster House* opened, ***Durgin-Park*** began its dining tradition that extends to this day. Be prepared for communal tables, feisty servers, and hearty, abundant New England fare. Located in historic *Quincy Market* at 340 Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

Finally is ***Mama Maria's***, a North End jewel that occupies an 1820 red-brick townhouse. This particular building became home to Mamma Maria in 1984, and is right across the North Square from Paul Revere's House. From the time it opened, Mama Maria's became known as one of the North End's best upscale restaurants. 3 North Square.

- Alan Maltzman of ***BostonCityWalks.com***