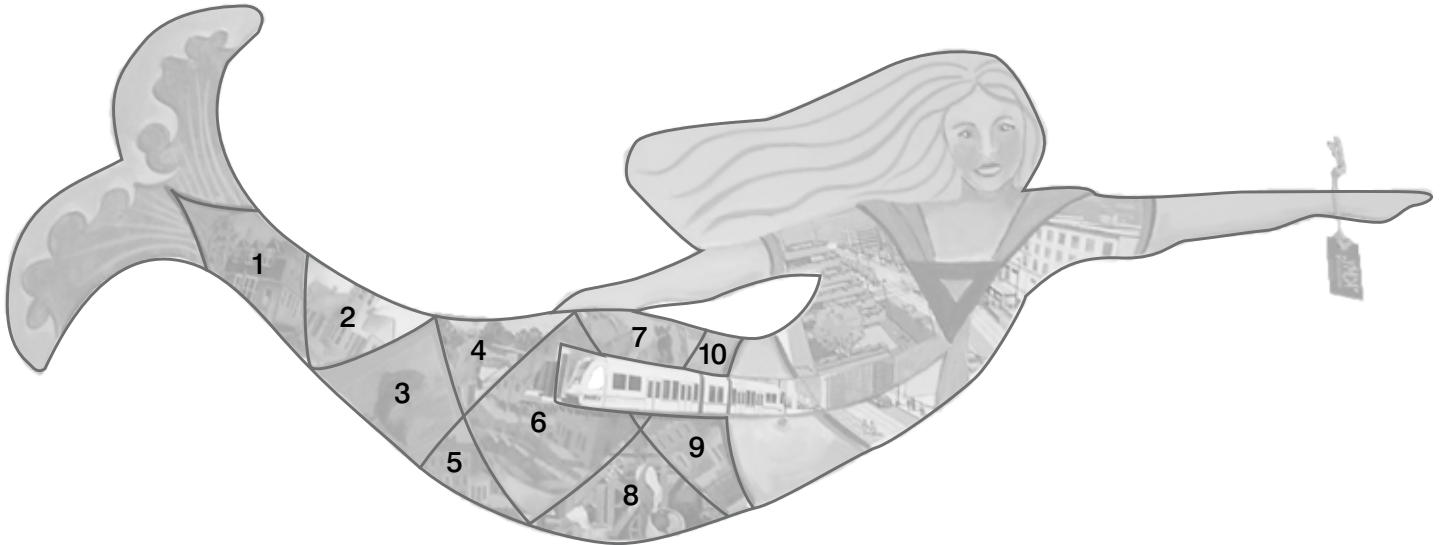


The Blocker Norfolk Family YMCA Mermaid



1. **Thomas W. Lawson (ship).** The Thomas W. Lawson was a seven-masted, steel-hulled schooner originally planned for the Pacific trade, but then used primarily to haul coal and oil along the East Coast of the United States. Built in 1902, the ship holds the record of being the only seven-masted schooner, the only seven-masted sailing ship in modern time, the largest schooner and the largest pure sailing ship (without auxiliary engine) ever built. The ship's home port was Boston, MA, but made appearances in the Norfolk area.
2. **MacArthur Memorial.** In 1964, the building that was originally erected as the City Hall Building in 1850, was converted to the resting place and memorial for General Douglas MacArthur. General MacArthur was a hero in two world wars and the Korean conflict. He would have been born in Norfolk had he not been a premature baby. He arrived in Little Rock, Arkansas, while his mother was preparing to return to her Norfolk home for his birth. MacArthur chose Norfolk as his final resting place.
3. **First YMCA Building in Norfolk - 1888.** Long gone from East Main Street, this was the first YMCA Building in Norfolk. Hamburger & Company, tobacconists and several railroad and steamship companies occupied space on the first floor. The YMCA used the building until about 1907. The structure was eventually taken over by the Pickwick Club, an organization devoted to sports and headed by Norman Hofheimer. The upper floor was given over to wrestling and some of the most renowned names of the time performed there: Ed "Strangler" Lewis, Dr. Roller, the Terrible Turk, the Scissors King and others.
4. **Moses-Myers House.** The Moses Myers House stands on the corner of Freemason and Bank Streets, built in 1789-91 by Moses Myers, a merchant prince and consul of Dutch-Jewish ancestry and the first known Jewish person to settle in Norfolk. The house is considered to be an outstanding example of Federal architecture and has one of the finest Adams style interiors in America. About four years after the original house was built, Myers added the octagonal dining room, considered by the National Trust as one of the most beautiful in this country. Lafayette, James Monroe, Stephen Decatur, President Theodore Roosevelt, and others have been entertained here. The Myers House is distinctive in that it contains much of the original furniture of the Myers family, who lived here continuously until 1931 when it was opened as a museum.
5. **Selden House.** Located at the corner of W. Freemason and Botetourt Sts., the Selden House, a post-Colonial frame building with broad chimneys, was built in 1807 as a country house for Dr. William B. Selden, originally of Hampton, who settled in Norfolk after a medical education in Philadelphia and Edinburgh, and became a leading physician. When Norfolk was occupied by Federal troops from 1862-65, General Egbert L. Viele, military governor of Norfolk lived at Selden House while Dr. William Seldon, son of Dr. William B. Selden was serving as surgeon general of the Confederacy. Dr. William Seldon, entertained Robert E. Lee during his visit to Norfolk in 1870, several months before Lee's death. For years the Grady family, descendants of the Seldens, lived here, but from the early 1960's until 1973, the house was used by the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences as a school.

(continued on reverse side)

6. **Norfolk Trolleys** Granby St., 1913

7. **Norfolk Southern Railroad.** The railroad industry has played a tremendous role in the growth of Norfolk's port and commercial development. Norfolk Southern was created in 1982 from the merger of the Norfolk and Western Railway and the Southern Railway Company. An earlier company, also named the Norfolk Southern Railway, serving primarily North Carolina and the southeastern tip of Virginia, had been acquired by the Southern Railway in 1974. The older company was the namesake for the 1982 combination. Headquarters for the newly established Norfolk Southern were established in Norfolk.

8. **Chrysler Museum.** In 1905, alumnae of the Leache-Wood Seminary for young ladies located on the present site of the Commodore Maury Hotel on the corner of Freemason and Granby streets, conceived the idea of a museum for Norfolk. Their early meetings were held in the public library on Freemason Street, where their collection was stored. In 1914, the Irene Leache Art Association was founded for the purpose of securing better housing and care of the collection. When the group became known as the Norfolk Society of Arts around 1917 and continued their drive for a museum, the city gave them a site in the Lee Park area, facing the Hague, which area shortly before had been a part of Smith's Creek extending at one time almost to Church Street. The society kept its small collection in the old library and then in a temporary building on the corner of Mowbray Arch and Fairfax Avenue, made possible by Florence K. Sloane. Eventually, the city agreed to appropriate \$12,500 a year for maintenance and operation of the museum. Mrs. Sloane chaired a committee to raise money for construction of the museum. Despite the Depression, in 1933, the first of three units of the museum was finished. In 1939, a second unit was opened. As activities increased, membership grew, and collections were added, a new wing, known as the Willis Houston Wing, was added and opened in 1968. In May 1971, the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences merged with the Chrysler Museum of Provincetown, Massachusetts, to become the Chrysler Museum at Norfolk; Walter Chrysler has moved to Norfolk a priceless collection that has become world renowned and to which additions are continually being made. The permanent collection includes objects from ancient Greece, Rome, the Orient, and pre-Columbian American art. Its glass collection of 7,500 pieces is one of the largest in the United States. The entrance sculpture of the Chrysler Museum, The Torchbearers, was the gift of its artist, Anna Hyan Huntington, to the City of Norfolk.

9. **Navy Presence in Norfolk** (The Wisconsin) Over the years, Norfolk's progress and growth was greatly affected by war; World War I was no exception. In its search for a naval base the federal government acquired the Jamestown Exposition property at Sewell's Point in 1917, following the declaration of war against Germany. Overnight the city swelled with military men and their families assigned to Norfolk, as well as with thousands of civilians who arrived seeking work with the government. A housing shortage became acute as the resulting population doubled the norm.

The Wisconsin (BB64) is an Iowa-class battleship. She was built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and launched on December 7, 1943, the second anniversary of the Pearl Harbor raid. The Wisconsin was last decommissioned in September 1991, having earned a total of six battle stars for service in World War II and Korea, as well as a Navy Unit Commendation for service during the 1991 Gulf War. She currently functions as a museum ship operated by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum at Nauticus, The National Maritime Center in Norfolk.

10. **The Norfolk Mace.** On April 1, 1754, the mace, made by the London silversmith Fuller White, was presented to the Norfolk Common Council by the Lt. Royal Governor of Virginia, Robert Dinwiddie, as a gesture of friendship and affection.

January 1, 1776, Norfolk burned on New Year's Day, the Mace lay safely buried at Kemps Landing for its protection.

1790, The Mace was returned to Norfolk's Clerk of Court. May 1862. When Union forces occupied Norfolk, Mayor William Lamb hid the Mace under a hearth in his home at 420 Bute Street. Union troops occupied the home, but the Mace was never discovered.

1881 through 1885, the Mace was kept at the Exchange Bank of Norfolk. The bank foreclosed and the Mace disappeared.

1894. Police Chief C. Iredell discovered the Mace among litter in the Norfolk Police Station. The Mace was given to the Norfolk National Bank for safekeeping. It was later put on display.

February 16, 1989. City Clerk Breck Daughtrey, escorted by armed police officers, delivered the Mace to the Chrysler Museum of Art where it remains on public display. Today, the Mace, a colonial-era symbol of authority bestowed by English royalty, is a precious reminder of and witness to much of Norfolk's nearly 400 year history.



Blocker Norfolk Family YMCA

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

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