

A 'Hocus Pocus' Tour Of New England For Halloween

Both movies are set in Salem, Mass. The original was partially filmed there, and partially in California, but the sequel was shot entirely outside of "Witch City," as Salem is often referred to for its 17th century witch trials. *Hocus Pocus 2* was filmed entirely in nearby Rhode Island. If you're feeling witchy this Halloween season, here's where to find the locations that appeared in some of the most famous *Hocus Pocus* scenes.



Washington Square, Newport, RI

The setting of many of the outdoor scenes in *Hocus Pocus 2* look very much like the modern-day version of Salem, and that's because they used *another* coastal New England town founded in the 1600s: [Newport, Rhode Island](#).

In the movie, the Salem Scare Fest is a Halloween carnival with game booths, spooky food and a memorable Sanderson-inspired performance. All of that takes place in Newport's Washington Square. Eisenhower Park is in the center of the square, and is where all the booths were set up. Rising up in the back of the square, the Newport Colony House (built in 1739, the fourth-oldest state house building in the country) is the backdrop for the show.

On the other side of the park, the production constructed a building that wasn't there before: the Olde Salem Magic Shoppe, where the black flame candle makes its reappearance and all manner of witchiness breaks loose. The magic shop occupied a vacant lot on Touro Street during the fall of 2021, but was torn down immediately after production wrapped.



Chase Farm Park, Lincoln, RI

Newport worked well as a stand-in for modern-day Salem, but to create the scenes set in 1653, the film needed a location that could feasibly look nearly 400 years old. That was [Chase Farm](#) Park in Lincoln, RI, which was originally purchased by Thomas Arnold in 1661.

Once a dairy farm, the land is now a public park — but was rented by Disney in 2021 to construct the Puritan village where the Sanderson sisters grew up. That section of Chase Farm was closed to the public during construction and filming, as was part of a public road near the set. The buildings no longer exist — if you've seen the movie, you know why — but there's a historic schoolhouse on the grounds, and the park is open daily to visitors.



Federal Hill, Providence, RI

As the Sanderson sisters traverse modern-day Salem looking for children to capture, they search high and low — including in a Walgreens in “Salem” that’s actually on Atwells Avenue, the main thoroughfare of **Federal Hill** in Providence. The film constructed part of the Salem Scare Fest on Atwells, which is gone now, but besides that, the film is true to the landscape of the street. When the witches fly into the night, you can see restaurants like Providence Oyster Bar that have been mainstays in the culinary destination for decades.



Benefit Street, Providence, RI

Called Providence’s “**mile of history**,” Benefit Street is a National Historic Landmark for the concentration of historic buildings on this East Side thoroughfare. The street is home to the RISD art museum and historic house museums including the 1707 home of Stephen Hopkins, signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Providence Athenaeum is an old haunt of Edgar Allan Poe (according to some accounts, literally). In *Hocus Pocus 2*, it’s the site of the scene with the Haunted Salem Tour Trolley.