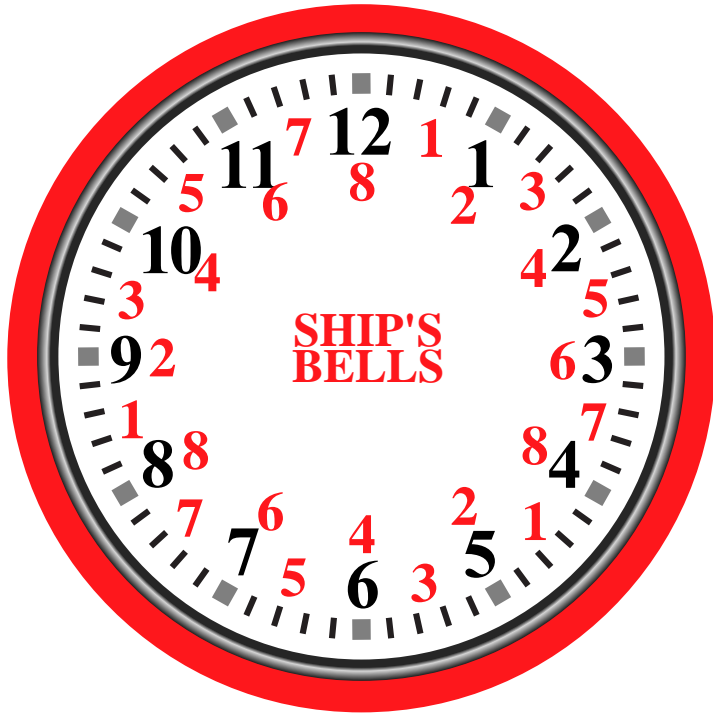


WATERFRONT VISITOR CENTER

Wharfinger Bldg. - City Pier #3 - Port of New Bedford

SHIP'S BELLS



Mid Watch	0000-0400
Morning Watch	0400-0800
Forenoon Watch	0800-1200
Afternoon Watch	1200-1600
1st Dog Watch	1600-1800
2nd Dog Watch	1800-2000
Evening Watch	2000-2400

The custom of *Ship's Bells* stems from a time when most mariners could not afford a personal time piece. To regulate the crew to its duties and watches, the ship's bell would be struck on the half hour to mark the *Hours of the Watch*. A Navy tradition splits the Dog Watch in to 2-hour stints. The watches repeat every 4 hours, with the ringing of eight bells at 4, 8 and 12 'o clock (thus, the origin of the phrase, "Eight bells and all's well.") *Ship's Bells* make no reference to AM or PM, as mariners would know if it were morning, noon or night. The bells are always struck in pairs (i.e. 9:30 = 3 bells: *ding-ding, ding*; 10:00 = 4 bells: *ding-ding, ding-ding*)

WILLIAM STREET BELL CIRCA 1849

Not original to the Wharfinger Building, this whaling era bell dates to the late 1840's and was probably made in New Bedford at the Taber & Grinnel Iron Foundry, which was located at the corner of Water & Cannon Streets. The bell hung in the William Street Intermediary School for more than a century. When its yoke was broken, it was placed in the cellar and remained there for decades. Retired Inspector of Wires for the City of New Bedford, Hugh Murray, rallied to restore the bell. The harpoon bracket, designed by Arthur Motta, was fabricated & installed by Jose Pereira, City's Wastewater Division. A marine time control unit controls the bell via a digital clock on Military Time. Mr. Pereira also designed the interior solenoid armature which activates the bell clapper automatically.



The William Street Bell (c.1849) was mounted on the harborside of the Wharfinger Building in 1999. It strikes "Ship's Bells" daily.