

*A Walking Tour of the  
Historic Village of  
East Greenwich  
Rhode Island*



*By Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle*



## A Brief History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Welcome to East Greenwich, chartered in 1677 by the “the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England in America” and the 7<sup>th</sup> oldest town in the colony/state. The original recipients of the land grants were veterans of King Philip’s War, which had ended the previous year. The Colony chartered our town to help fill the void to the south of Warwick. There were no other towns there, and the Native American presence was greatly reduced because of the war. As a result, there was nothing to prevent Connecticut from pursuing their claim to most of southern Rhode Island. What better way to show control of the area than to settle it with your own citizens? There were also competing claims from Massachusetts, such as the Atherton group, which later sold land that they didn’t own to the Huguenot settlers in 1686. Naturally this didn’t endear the Huguenots to the locals, and the troubles between the local English speaking neighbors and the new French-speaking “trespassers” resulted in the Huguenots leaving East Greenwich. They had already left their homes in France because of their persecution due to their religion. This is how the Frenchtown section of our town came to be known by that name. But, that’s a whole other story.

Many of the men who received the original grants from the colony lived in Newport, and most of them gave their interest to younger sons.

The town was set up with farms to the west, and a compact area at the harbor where the town center eventually developed. It was a thriving seaport, with the farm produce being shipped out of the port for local and coastal trade.

Unfortunately, the cove silted up so much by the mid-19th century that today, when the replica of the Sloop *Providence* comes to visit; it has to time its arrival and departure to take place at high tide!

While Massachusetts and Connecticut towns developed around a central common area, or village green, Rhode Island towns tended to develop along a highway, such as the Post Road, just as East Greenwich did. Today the only Rhode Island towns that have village greens, or commons, are the ones that started out as Massachusetts towns, such as Little Compton and Bristol.

The time it takes to walk the entire tour is less than one hour, so take your time and enjoy your visit.

There is so much to see and do on Main Street that you may wish to return again to enjoy our many fine restaurants and specialty shops, including bridal shops, jewelers, and stationary shops, allowing bridal parties to spend a fruitful day visiting East Greenwich, providing one-stop shopping for the bride and her entourage.



*Please refer to the map in the center of this booklet*

*All structures mentioned in this tour are located in the  
National and State Historic Districts.*

*There are five buildings marked with an asterisk "\*" which are  
individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places*

*Free on-street parking is available on Main Street and Peirce Street,  
as well as the three Free Municipal Lots located at 86 Main Street,  
111 Peirce Street, and behind 65 Main Street (at Melrose Street)*



**The Historic walking tour begins at Main Street's  
Crown Jewel, our 1804 Town Hall.**

**1**

125 Main Street

*Old Kent County Courthouse, 1804, now the East Greenwich Town Hall;  
Georgian-Early Republican Style*

*\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places*



The first courthouse was built here in 1750. In 1804 it was replaced with the present building. The Kent County Courthouse was one of five county courthouses which were used by the Rhode Island General Assembly, each session meeting at a different county courthouse. Thus, from 1750 to 1854 the General Assembly met in East Greenwich every fifth session, and the Governor and all the important people from throughout the state would gather at this courthouse to make the laws of the Colony, and later, the

State. In addition, as its name suggests, Court sessions were held here from 1750 to 1974. Famous lawyers from James Varnum to former RI Governors John Chafee and Bruce Sundlun have argued their cases in trials that took place here. Court cases recently returned, when the town created a Municipal Court.

Some important events took place at the Kent County Courthouse when the General Assembly was meeting here. They include the approval of the first Navy in America, and the approval of the Charter of what was to become Brown University.

In 1993, the citizens of the town decided to restore the Courthouse and build an addition onto the back of the building for the town offices. Once again, this building is an active center of the town. The Town Council holds its meetings in the beautifully restored main Chamber, and the offices of the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Finance Department and Planning Department are located here.

**The tour continues, while facing Town Hall,  
turn right and head north on Main Street.**



**2**

65 Main Street

*Greenwich Odeum, 1926; Neo-Federal Style.*



This building has always been used as a theater. When it first opened, it had silent movies. Many years later, with the popularity of home videos and the big new movie complex on Division Street showing over 20 different movies at the same time, this little movie theater couldn't stay in business. A group of residents restored the theater, and renamed it the Odeum, and

presented plays and other events until the cost of complying with the new state fire code closed it down once again. Another group of citizens are in the process of raising money to make the improvements, and reopen the Odeum once again.

Not so long ago, it became a tradition to book musicians at the Odeum as part of their appearances in Boston. This resulted in many big name stars appearing in town. Room Full of Blues, Rose Weaver, and a production of Broadway's "Love Letters." Tom Clancy (of the Clancy Brothers) for many years appeared here on the weekend before St. Patrick's Day.

**3**

11 Main Street

*Old Post Office Building, 1934; Colonial Revival style*



Its 5 arches make a bold statement. This was the working post office for over 50 years, and now houses a fine restaurant. The Old Post Office and the Armory form an anchor to this end of Main Street, and create a very strong entrance to town.



**4**

6 Main Street

*Varnum Memorial Armory, 1913; Medieval Style*



Note the wonderful crenellated parapets, along the top of the walls. Built in 1913 as the headquarters of the Varnum Continentals, who still actively meet here, the armory contains a large 40 x 100 foot drill hall, meeting rooms, a rifle range, and an extensive museum collection of military artifacts from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Senator John McCain made his only RI stop in his 2000 Presidential Primary campaign here, and East Greenwich native Governor Don Carcieri used it for his campaign announcement and primary election headquarters. For many years the Armory was the largest hall in town, and most of the important town meetings were held here.

**Cross Main Street and proceed up the hill.**

**5**

20 Division Street

*Called the Miller-Congdon House after its most famous occupants  
Gambrel Roofed Colonial*



While the date painted on the chimney is 1711, the house appears to have been built by Samuel Cahoon in 1750. This house is one of only a handful of true colonial buildings left in the vil-

lage. The house is named after Silversmith James Miller who lived here in the early 1800's, and Ship Captain John Congdon who purchased the house in the 1850's. Congdon's family lived here for nearly 100 years. Sea captains like Capt. Congdon brought back many exotic things from their voyages all over the world. One example is the pair of china vases that the Sultan of Muscat gave him for being able to transport Arabian horses to Queen Victoria as the Sultans gift. Today, these vases are on display at the Varnum House Museum.



**6**

28 Division Street

*Dr. Eldredge House. 1773; Early Georgian Style*



Built by John Reynolds, it is basically the same design as the Varnum House, with less detailed work inside. For example the downstairs wood detailing here is the same as the upstairs detailing at the Varnum House.

It is quite noticeable that the walls are bulging. This is evidence that this house at one point had some severe structural problems. Although

these problems have been corrected, the bulges remain. While the aluminum siding was installed to help hide the repairs, it also hides many of the desirable architectural features as well.

Named for Dr. Charles Eldredge and his son, Dr. James H. Eldredge. Charles was one of the founders of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. James held a medical degree from Yale, and served in the General Assembly, Town Council and School Committee. Eldredge School is named for him. The entrance to the doctor's office was on Peirce Street. Note the Greek phrase carved in the stone wall: "I was sick and you visited me." This is quite appropriate for a doctor's house.

**Turn left onto Peirce Street**

**7**

35 Peirce Street

*East Greenwich First Baptist Church, 1884; Queen Anne Style*



The Baptist Church was represented in town from the time it was chartered in 1677. This congregation was gathered in 1839, and was formerly at 301 Main Street, where the Café Fresco Restaurant is now located, across from the Fire Station. Although this Peirce Street church building was begun in 1884, it wasn't completed until 1887. No steeple was included in the plans, as it was feared that a nor'easter might topple it through the roof!



8

47 Peirce Street

*William Gorton Bowen House, 1830; Early Greek Revival Style*



Bowen was an attorney, and lived here until his death in 1854, and his widow Susan remained here until 1891. There was a front porch that was removed about 1910. The Courthouse Lane granite stairs were originally installed in his honor, by his son Dr. William Shaw Bowen. While this is a typical colonial house, if you look carefully, you'll see that it is not quite symmetrical, the left and right sides of the face of the house don't quite match.

9

57 Peirce Street

*Varnum House Museum, 1773; Georgian Style*

*\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places*



This beautiful house was built for James Mitchell Varnum by John Reynolds, who also built the Eldredge House on Division St. Varnum was a lawyer, the first Colonel of the Kentish Guards, one of George Washington's Generals during the American Revolution a U.S. Congressman, and a Federal Judge. He was one of the most accomplished men in the state. He

met his future wife Patty Child while he was a student at Rhode Island College (later Brown University) then located in Warren, where Patty lived. When he wanted to build his home, he chose a spot on the edge of the village in East Greenwich, surrounded on three sides by open fields. In his new home, right behind the Kent County Courthouse, the young lawyer could entertain the leaders of the State when the General Assembly met in town. The house and one acre property was purchased in 1939 by the Varnum Continentals partially to prevent it being broken up into house lots! It is operated as a house museum in Varnum's honor. There is a plaque on the house commemorating Varnum's involvement in organizing the Black Regiment, which had part of their training at Academy Field. General and Patty Varnum entertained many famous friends here, including La-



fayette, Rochambeau, Governor William Greene, General Nathanael Greene, and perhaps even Washington himself.

In 1802, the property was purchased by Ethan Clarke. His descendants lived here for five generations, until 1921. Ethan Clarke was a Revolutionary War veteran, president of

the first bank in town, and one of the founders of the Greenwich Academy. His descendants included a RI Supreme Court judge and a doctor.

The Varnum House is considered to be the town's most important structure due to its outstanding architecture and its importance to our National history.

## 10

101 Peirce Street

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1876, spire 1923, Class rooms & auditorium 1966, Logia 1999; Gothic Style*



St. Luke's Episcopal Church was founded in 1833. Located on the site of a previous Congregational Church, the original St. Luke's was built of

wood in 1834 and was never painted. It looked somewhat like the stone 1810 St. John's Cathedral in Providence. The current building was constructed with Coventry Granite, very much in the English Country Church tradition. There is a cemetery behind the church, and the west end of St. Luke's covers a portion of the original Congregational cemetery. Both of the Doctor Eldredges are buried in the cemetery, as well as many of the leaders of both the church and town. The spire was added in 1923, and its interior is smooth, like the inside of an ice cream cone. There is an outstanding collection of 43 stained glass windows, including several by Tiffany. The church installed a new Wilhelm organ about 1978, and it is one of the finest organs in the state. The Music-on-the-Hill program began their music series in the church in 1973.



**1 1**

82 Peirce Street

*East Greenwich Free Library, 1915; Romanesque Revival Style*



The interior woodwork of this building is outstanding. Beginning in 1869 some of the leading citizens of town such as Professor George Washington Greene, Doctor James H. Eldredge and Governor William Greene knew it was important to have a library in town to encourage the citizens to read

and learn. In 1914, Daniel Peirce built a new library building on the site of his boyhood home. He gave the completed building to the Library Association in memory of his daughter, who had died as a young girl. It is made of the same type of stone that was used to build St Luke's 40 years earlier.

Seeing the need for expansion, the Library Board and its architect worked with the local Historic District Commission to insure the rear addition of 2003 would not overpower the original building.

In the springtime, the Cherry trees at the Library and at St. Luke's Church, across Peirce Street, are ablaze with beautiful pink blossoms.

**1 2**

90 Peirce Street

*Kentish Guards Armory, 1843; Classic Greek-Revival style.*

*\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places*



The armory was built with a \$1,000 grant from the state in recognition of the Guards loyal support of the state during Dorr's Rebellion in 1842. The Kentish Guards are the fifth oldest

chartered command in continuous existence in the United States. They were formed in 1774 to train men to serve as soldiers for protection of the town, because of the unsettled feeling people had about the way the colonies were being treated by the British Navy. Many of the early members of the Kentish Guards became famous leaders in the American Revolution, such as General Nathanael Greene and General James Mitchell Varnum. The armory is one of the town's three most important structures due to its outstanding architecture and its importance to our National history.







**1 3**

100 Peirce Street

*Samuel K. Knowles House, 1853; Italianate style*



Knowles was an attorney, a state senator and town council president. The cornices and brackets on the house appear to have been replaced. You can see where the original porch roof was, just above the first floor windows. There was a major fire here in the early 1990's, which was caused by a worker using a heat gun to remove paint. The heat ignited a bird's nest that had been built in the eaves.

**1 4**

111 Peirce Street

*Stone Wall*



This stone retaining wall is the only remaining vestige of the Peirce Street campus of the old Greenwich Academy. Three academy buildings stood

where the Town House, St. Luke's parking lot and St. Luke's Loggia are now located. They were torn down in 1959. In the mid 1980's there appeared several large sink holes in St. Luke's parking lot. An investigation revealed that tree stumps had been used as fill, and over the years had rotted away, ultimately collapsing under the parking lot. The Quaker Meeting House (1804) stood where the Town House parking lot is now located. It was torn down in 1952.



**1 5**

112 Peirce Street

*Rose Cottage, 1848; Italian Villa Style*



William N. Sherman, who was the founder, editor and publisher of the Rhode Island Pendulum (now the East Greenwich Pendulum), lived here from 1858 until his death in 1886.

Beginning in 1888, Rose Cottage was part of the Academy, serving as the Headmaster's home. It was the location of many meetings between the headmaster and students, as well

as school and social events. It is called Rose Cottage because it originally had trellises with climbing roses.

One of the last four Academy buildings still standing, it has served many purposes. For many years it was a rooming house and then a nursing home. The porch had even been expanded to two levels and was enclosed. In the 1980's the building was restored to a single family house. In a classic case of good intentions resulting in unintended consequences, the carpenter who built the new porch columns reversed the details when he copied them from an old photograph of the original, losing the light feel of the original. What is now wood should be open, and what is open should be wood.

**Walk down the driveway between St. Luke's Parish House and the East Greenwich Town House. Follow this Driveway past Swift Community Center, onto Academy Field, and continue to the left to Spring Street; On the way, view:**

**1 6**

121 Peirce Street

*Swift Community Center 1907; Early 20th Century style*



This is one of the last four Academy buildings that is still standing. This was built as a gymnasium, and donated to the Academy by the widow of Augustus Swift, founder of the Swift Meat Packing Company of Chicago.



Now owned by the town, it is used

extensively for town events.

**1 7**

**Academy Field**



Behind Swift Community Center, at the corners of Church, Rector & Spring Streets

Outwardly, Academy Field is a baseball diamond, with a flagpole and an anchor. However, this is one of the most historic places in town. This is where the Kentish Guards drilled and practiced before they went off to fight in the American Revolution in 1775. It

is also where General Varnum's newly recruited Black Regiment trained. They became the famous 2<sup>nd</sup> R.I. Continental Line Regiment, who successfully held off the attack of the British in the Battle of Rhode Island.

Beginning in 1803, this was the playing field for generations of students at the old Greenwich Academy. Just imagine, soldiers drilling here 230 years ago, and students playing here for over 200 years, including Little League and soccer today. By the way, the flagpole, anchor and benches were added to the field at the time of the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration. The anchor signifies our town's ties to the sea.

**Take a Left at Spring Street**

**1 8**

**62 Spring Street**

*First Swedish Church/Boy Scout House, 1874; Late Victorian Style*



When the earliest people from Sweden came to East Greenwich, one of the first things they wanted was a Church of their own, where they could worship God in their traditional way. The little church they built was just right for them at that time, but they soon outgrew it, and by 1905 they

built a new, larger church on Division Street.

After the Swedes left for their new church, this building was used for many years as an annex for the old Spring Street School, which was next door, but was later torn down.

For many years this old church has been used as a meeting place by the Boy Scouts of Troop 2. The hall is now wide open on the first floor, allowing plenty of room for troop meetings and activities. Generations of boys have learned the principles of Boy Scouting and good citizenship within these walls. James Essex has served as Scoutmaster for over 35 years, and the troop, founded in 1922, has produced over 150 Eagle Scouts.



**1 9**

50 Spring Street

*Carriage House/Stable, ca. 1885, Late Victorian style*

35 Spring Street, rear

*Barn, ca. 1895, Late Victorian style*

1 Liberty Street

*A Private Home which would need barns and stables for its horses, ca. 1850, with later porch addition ca. 1885), Greek Revival Style*



barns or stables to live in, and carriages were stored in a carriage house.

This carriage house and barn are among the few remaining today, in our world of horse-less carriages. This combination of the house on the corner, the carriage house next to it, and the barn across the street represent a rare example of what was once a common sight.

The doorway on the carriage house has been changed, as it is now a private home, but originally it would have had large doors to allow the horses and carriages to go inside. Across the street is a large barn, which was needed to take care of the numerous horses that were necessary for transportation in the old days.



Today we're used to the convenience of cars, but 100 years ago, there were very few cars, and people got around by horse and carriage. Horses needed



**At the corner of Spring and Main Streets,  
turn left and walk down Main Street**



**20**

301 Main Street

*Old East Greenwich Baptist Church, 1847; Greek Revival Style*



Built by the First Baptist Church, the members worshiped here until 1887, when their new church was finished on Peirce Street. The long narrow arched window in the center is the only visible reminder of its 40 years as a church.

**21**

294 Main Street (National Register of Historic Places)

*Col. Micah Whitmarsh House/Brick House, 1767; Georgian Style*

*\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places*



This was the first brick building in East Greenwich. John Reynolds built both this house and the Varnum House. From 1771-73 it was owned by Stephen DeBlois, an associate of Aaron Lopez, a famous Jewish merchant, ship owner and importer based in Newport. As a result, East Greenwich became a branch office of an extensive international merchant organization. Col. Whitmarsh, a veteran of the American Revolution, and his family lived here 1773-1845.



**2 2**

284 Main Street

*East Greenwich Fire Station, 1914, with 1975 addition; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Style*



The East Greenwich Fire District was chartered in 1797, but this building was its first official Fire Station. Several of the original leather fire buckets still survive at the Varnum House Museum, and the East Greenwich Preservation Society. Peter Soderlund built both the fire station and the Varnum Memorial Armory at 6 Main Street. The Fire District was an all volunteer organization until the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**2 3**

214 Main Street

*Former United Methodist Church, 1833; Greek Revival, with Late Victorian modifications*



The church, built in 1833, was enlarged in 1850, and in 1876 an addition was constructed for the organ and choir stalls. In 1896 the Corinthian Columns were removed, and the area enclosed, as it is today. In 1846 the State Constitutional Convention met in the old Kent County Courthouse, but on the day of the vote, the furnace wasn't working, so the final session, including the vote, was held at this church. In 2008, after 175 years, the congregation moved to a newly built modern style church on South County Trail. Today the old church provides a unique retail space.



**2 4**

162-168 Main Street

*Greenwich Hotel, 1896, (site of the old Arnold Tavern); Colonial Revival style.*



There has been a tavern/hotel on this site since 1740. The old Arnold Tavern was razed in 1896 to make way for the Greenwich Hotel. The Kentish Guards were organized at the Arnold Tavern in 1774.

The Arnolds married into the Updike family, and the tavern was run by the Updikes from 1825 until 1896,

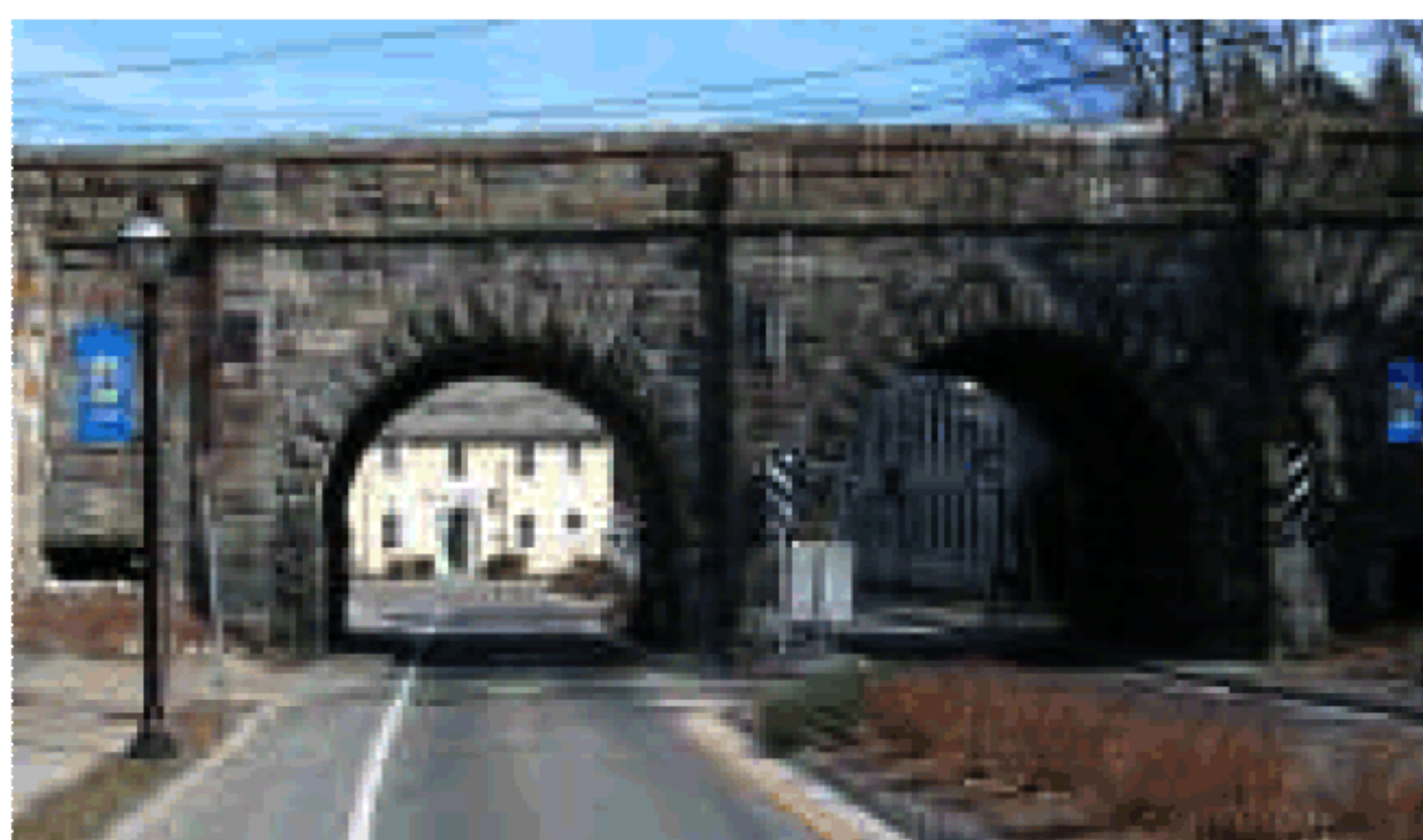
when it was replaced by the existing building.

The garden terrace was a very popular spot for dancing and dining in the 1930s and 1940s, drawing patrons from Providence and beyond.

There is a legend that Babe Ruth stayed here in his early days of baseball. While Ruth became a member of the Boston Red Sox on July 9, 1914, the Red Sox had so many star players, that they optioned him to the Minor League Providence Grays, where he played out the season, and certainly would have had the opportunity to visit East Greenwich. The Providence Grays won the International League pennant that year. The following year, 1915, Babe Ruth was in the Red Sox starting lineup, and they won the World Series.

**2 5**

The View down King Street.



One of the town's most important structures is the 1837 double arched railroad bridge on King Street. Built when the Providence-Stonington Rail Road was constructed, the town asked that the line be built along the waterfront to help improve commerce in

the village. The arched bridge was designed by Major William Gibbs McNeill, the uncle of the prolific American painter James McNeill Whistler. Note the square openings on either side of the bridge. These probably allowed gutters to run through and carry the large amounts of silt and rainwater that ran down King Street into Greenwich Cove. This silt eventually filled in the cove enough to close the area as the viable shipping port that it had been in Colonial times.

King Street was the most distinguished Street in town in the early days. Ship Captains lived in the hous-



es, and had their ships tied up at docks in the cove. While the cove doesn't see the sailing ships that it did generations ago, the Captains' houses are still here for us to enjoy. The view of Greenwich Cove and Greenwich Bay is quite a pleasant one, and it's not too difficult to envision General

Lafayette and his French contingent making their way up the hill soon after the Battle of Rhode Island in August of 1778, to visit their friend and compatriot General Varnum, who considered the visit to be the housewarming of his newly constructed home.



This is the end of the Walking Tour of the Historic Village of East Greenwich. We hope you've enjoyed your visit, and that you will return to our village many times in the future.

Thank you for visiting our Town!!





**Other Important Places in East Greenwich  
(Not part of this tour, but worth checking out later.)**

**A.**

144 Division Street

*Windmill Cottage, 1818, the windmill was added in 1870; Federal Style, with late Victorian additions*

*\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places*



This was the home of Prof. George Washington Greene, U.S. Consul to Rome, and the grandson of Gen. Nathanael Greene. The Greenes were frequently visited by their close friend, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who purchased the original home for them in 1866, and added the windmill in 1870. Greene and Long-

fellow each had an office in the windmill.

The porches and additions on the back of the house are also excellent examples of sympathetic recent additions to a house that is important architecturally and historically. This building is one of the town's three most important structures due to its outstanding architecture and its importance to our National history.

Prof. Greene frequently took the train from East Greenwich to Cambridge to visit his literary friends Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, and Longfellow. The 2003 novel *"The Dante Club"* by Matthew Pearl features Prof. Greene and his friends, who solve the mystery of the Dante-like crimes taking place in the Boston area.

**B.**

Wine Street at Railroad,

*Old Baptist Burial Grounds, East Greenwich Historic Cemetery No. 62; Earliest known stone 1741, earliest surviving stone 1756*



## *A Walking Tour of the Historic Village of East Greenwich*



This cemetery was part of the original Six-Principle Baptist Meeting House, built 1726, but destroyed in the Gale of 1815 (before the railroad was built). The area is still sometimes called Meeting House Hill. There are several well preserved gravestones carved by the renowned Stevens' family, stone-carvers from Newport.

## C.

Water Street - A wonderful view, salty air, restaurants and marinas



25 Water Street, at the corner of King Street, originally the Bay Mill, built in 1844 with additions before 1855. It was built in the Late Federal style, with a Second Empire (Mansard Roof) addition before 1855. This is a good example of a typical mill building in Rhode Island of this era. Originally built as a cotton mill, the mill building sat empty for a number of years, with the roof open to the weather. Local historians were afraid that the building would either burn or decay to a point where it couldn't be saved.

Conversion to residential condos began in the mid 1980s, but was delayed by the financial crisis of that time, it was finally completed in 1993.



110 King Street, at the corner of water Street, is the Second Kent County Jail, built in 1796. The original one-story stone jail addition was reconstructed in 1889, with a second story and the brick addition. This jail, or "gaol" as it was spelled in Colonial times, served as the jail in town for 150 years. It replaced the First Kent County Jail that was on Marlborough Street, which was destroyed by fire in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has always been painted yellow, and originally had carved figures over the door depicting



two handcuffed men of different races signifying equal justice for all. It is planned to have copies of these figures made to replace the originals.

In front of the Second Kent County Jail is "Founders' Rock" with a plaque listing all the founders and early settlers of East Greenwich. There are 77 names on the plaque, which was dedicated October 31, 1977, the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the October 31, 1777 founding of the town.



"Scalloptown" is the area along the shore from Queen Street to London Street. This has always been the traditional center of the commercial fishing in East Greenwich. The original plans for the village showed a "Ship Yard" at the foot of Queen Street. Numerous small houses, shacks and shanties were built by the local fishermen and sailors. Because of the rough nature of some these people, this area used to be considered "the bad part of town."

Although many of the shanties have been removed, and the area is generally no longer referred to as Scalloptown, the shell-fishing industry still operates in the area and into Greenwich Bay, and a half dozen fish-

ing shanties remain scattered along the shore. One launching area, just across from 80 Water Street, shows the original slope of the shoreline, nearly all the rest of the area has been filled to the level of Water Street by the use of bulkheads or retaining walls.

At moon high tide, the cove often overflows these bulkheads, and floods the parking lots. In 1977, in honor of the town's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a barge containing a full orchestra was tied up at the dock at Harborside Lobstermania. Chairs were set up in the parking lot for spectators, with places of honor in the front rows for dignitaries. As the tide came in, and started to overflow into the parking lot, the dignitaries quickly exited, except for the State's Adjutant General, a two star general, who remained in his seat until the end of the concert, ankle deep in salt water!

The lush trees across Greenwich Cove are part of Goddard Memorial State Park. This point of land was originally an empty area of sand and brush. In the late 1800s Henry G. Russell, husband of Hope Brown Ives, spent decades developing the area transforming it from its original desert island appearance, to the thick forest of trees we now see. Mrs. Russell was a descendant of wealthy Providence merchant Nicholas Brown (Brown University) who had purchased the property at the end of the American Revolution. She left the property to her cousin, Col. Robert H.I. Goddard, whose son and daughter gave the property to the state for use as a park