Maine Architecture Trail

www.visitmaine.com

Architecture of Maine's Small Towns and Villages

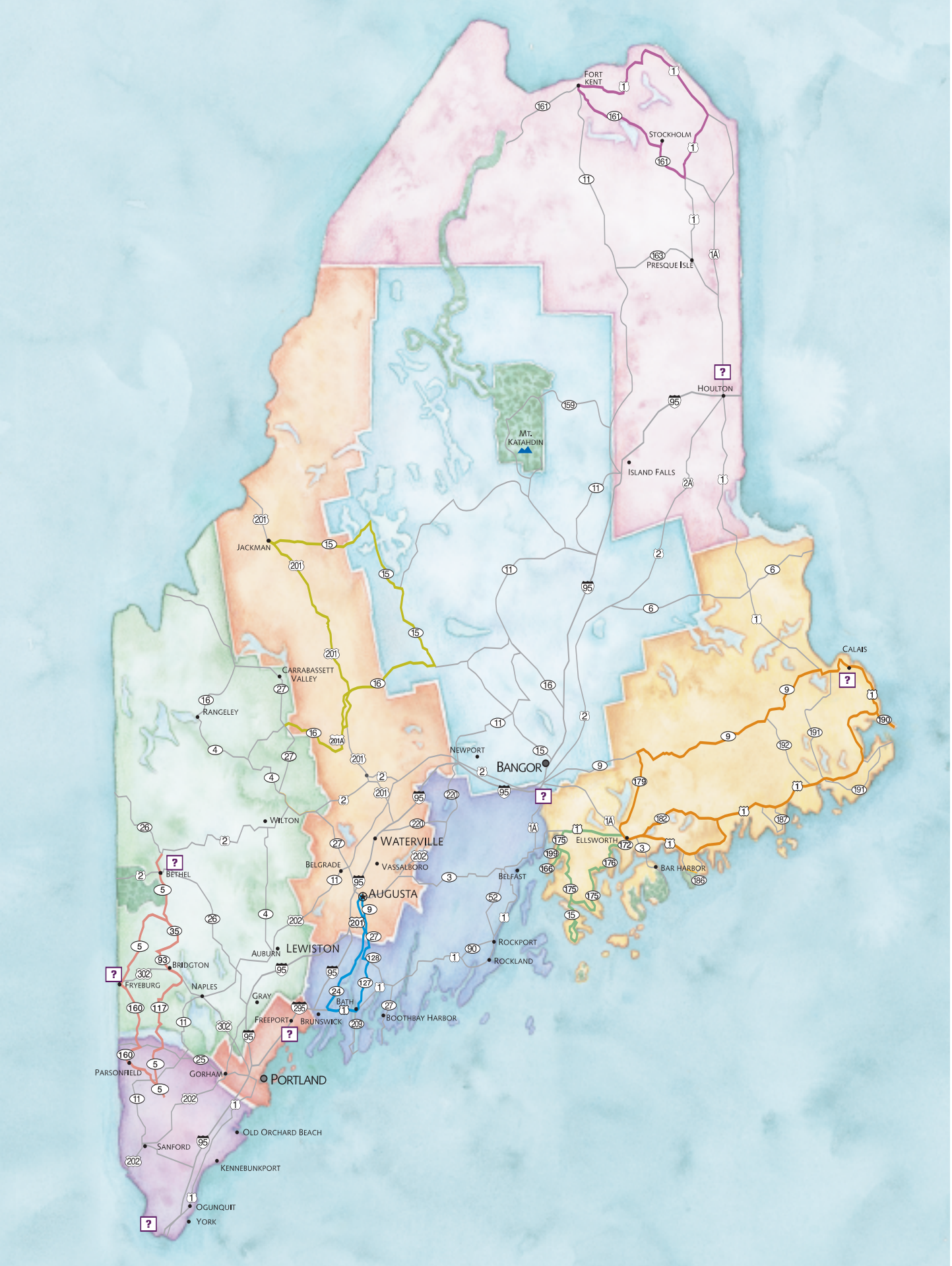
The architectural character of Maine's small towns and villages is intrinsically linked to the history of its people. Buildings and the cultural landscapes of which they are a part are a reflection of the time and place in which they were constructed, as well as the people who created them. They inform our conceptions of the past, our sense of the local aesthetic, and the values of community.

A journey through the different regions of Maine will reveal both stark contrasts and subtle variations in the appearance of its villages and rural areas. For example, the Acadian heritage architecture in the St. John River Valley of Aroostook County is markedly different from the farms of western Maine, as is the design of rustic inland sporting camps when contrasted with the architect-designed "cottages" of the coastal summer colonies. More subtle changes become evident in a comparison of traditional building practices from community to community. Here, one may observe differences of taste, as well as the individual skills and training of local builders and the materials from which they fashioned a wide variety of buildings. On the other hand, the architecture of Maine's small towns and villages is also recognizable in a regional and national context where basic design precepts and common features that distinguish one stylistic form from another are apparent.

The six driving tours that are introduced in this brochure have been developed to point you to the diverse architectural heritage of Maine's small towns and rural areas. I encourage you to explore these communities at a leisurely pace and to visit the many historic properties along the way that are open to the public.

Earle G. Shettleworth Jr.
Director
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Before you start your driving tour, be sure to call ahead—many sites are open seasonally and have special hours. In addition, some sites are private property and are not open to the public.


Fort Kent
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Mt. Katahdin
Island Falls
Jackman
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Waterville
Ellsworth
Bar Harbor
Belgrade
Vassalboro
Belfast
Bethel
Augusta
Rockport
Rockland
Auburn
Lewiston
Bridgton
Fryeburg
Naples
Gray
Bath
Freeport
Brunswick
Boothbay Harbor
Parsonfield
Gorham
Portland
Old Orchard Beach
Sanford
Kennebunkport
Ogunquit
York

Aroostook County
Often referred to as “The County”, this region abounds with outdoor pleasures. Snowmobilers come to ride on the expertly groomed trails. Hikers and campers explore wilderness where few have been before. And history buffs celebrate the area’s rich heritage with the Acadians who still call this region home today.

Downeast & Acadia
For generations Downeast & Acadia has been synonymous with great family vacations. And every vacation should include a boat trip to see the whales, puffins and harbor seals. Or you can explore quiet coastal inlets in a sea kayak. Go hiking and biking on the well-kept trails of Acadia. And, of course, feast on lobster fresh off the boat.

Greater Portland & Casco Bay
To experience urban culture done Maine style, there’s no better place than Greater Portland & Casco Bay. You can see the region’s lighthouses or sample the day’s catch at a trendy restaurant. If you’re looking for something a little different, take in a baseball game, attend the symphony, visit an art museum or explore an historic fort.

Kennebec & Moose River Valleys
If you’re looking for a whitewater adventure, head to the Kennebec & Moose River Valleys. With dam-controlled whitewater, you can raft and kayak all summer long. And all winter long you can explore the area’s well-groomed snowmobile trails. The region also offers outdoor activities including fishing, canoeing and moose watching.

The Maine Highlands
With so much to do in the Maine Highlands, you might have trouble deciding where to start. You can run the rapids in a raft or kayak. Hike the area’s many trails. Treat yourself to a round of golf. Visit one of the local fairs or heritage festivals. Or venture out on boat, canoe, bus or even plane safaris to spot a Maine moose.

Maine Lakes & Mountains
In Maine Lakes & Mountains, the best of nature comes together for some of the best recreation in Maine. In winter, try skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling. In summer, immerse yourself in history at one of the area’s living museums or experience true Maine hospitality at a local festival.

Mid-Coast

What makes the Maine coast a real treasure? Go to Mid-Coast and see for yourself. It's a great place to board a windjammer for a bit of sailing—an unforgettable way to see whales and lighthouses. And back on land, you can go antiquing, visit a local museum or tee off at a seaside course.

Southern Maine Coast

The Southern Maine Coast boasts miles of sandy beaches perfect for beachcombing, swimming and sunbathing. Or you can take to the water for sailing, sea kayaking and fishing. If you're in the mood to shop, quaint village boutiques, rustic antiques shops and Kittery's factory outlets are all close by.

Connected Farm Buildings and Covered Bridges

In this part of Maine, you'll see many connected farm buildings as well as agriculture and recreation related architecture. Many of the connected farm buildings in this area are private homes. While this guide does not direct you to visit those properties, you will see many of the buildings along the way. There are also a number of significant bridges.

Begin in Newfield and visit **Willowbrook Museum**, a museum of 19th century rural living. Just off Rte 11, 207-793-2784. Open May 15 - Sep 30.

Take Rte 11 to Limerick, then Rte 160 north to Parsonfield and Porter, home of the **Porter-Parsonsfield Covered Bridge**, Rte 160. Built in 1889 utilizing the Paddleford timber truss structural system, the 183 foot bridge is one of only five bridges of this type remaining in Maine.

Also in the Porter-Parsonsfield area don't miss:

Porter-Parsonsfield Historical Society on Main Street, Porter. Stop in at the Porter Town Offices for information or call 207-625-8344.
Parsonfield Seminary, Rte 160.
Old Town House, 1833, Merrill Hill Road, south of Rte 160. Built as the Town House, this classic Greek Revival building is still used as a polling site.

Next, head to S. Hiram, then to 160 north through Brownfield, then to Fryeburg where you will find the town's **Main Street Historic District** at Rtes 302 and 5. The historic district is arrayed along both sides of the village's principal streets.

Also in Fryeburg don't miss:

District No. 1 Schoolhouse/Fryeburg Women's Library Club, 1832, 98 Main St., 207-935-2731. The building is now the Fryeburg Public Library.
Fryeburg Town House, 1847, Main Street on the east side of Rte 5, just north of Woodlawn Avenue.
Fryeburg Historical Society and Museum, 1805, 96 Main St., 207-935-4192.
Fryeburg Fairgrounds Museum, at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds, 207-935-3268.
Hemlock Covered Bridge, 1857, Hemlock Bridge Road, East Fryeburg. Built with the Paddleford truss design, this bridge is the oldest of this type in Maine.

Moses Hutchins House, c. 1839, Lovell, home to the Lovell Historical Society.

McLaughlin Garden and House, 1840's, South Paris, farmstead and two acre perennial garden begun in 1936.

Dr. Moses Mason House, 1813, Bethel, owned by the Bethel Historical Society.

Stephen and Edward Cummings House, c. 1886, Norway.This is an outstanding example of Queen Anne design and the most important known work of John Hazen, the leading local architect.

Take Rte 5 north to Center Lovell where you will find the **Moses Hutchins House**, c. 1839, at the intersection of Rte 5 and Old Stage Road, Lovell Historical Society, lovellhist@pivot.net. This is your opportunity to see a connected farm building and learn the history of how these structures evolved.

Also in Lovell don't miss the Lovell Village Church, 1852, Christian Hill Road, off Rte 5.

Continue on Rte 5 north through Center Lovell and East Stoneham to Bethel, home of the **Broad Street Historic District**. A walking tour is available at the Bethel Historical Society. All major architectural styles are represented in this district. Also in Bethel is the **Regional History Center at the Bethel Historical Society**, 10-14 Broad St., 207-824-2908. The museum and library collections include a wide range of materials documenting the heritage of northern New England, with major concentrations devoted to the history of western Maine and the White Mountains. Open year round during regular hours or by appointment.

Continue on Rte 5 north to Newry, home to many connected farm buildings and the notable **Sunday River Bridge**. The bridge is based on the truss system design and was built in the 1840s by Peter Paddleford of Littleton, NH. This truss style became the dominant style in covered bridge construction throughout much of northern New England.

Return south on Rte 35 to Waterford and stop at the **Waterford Historic District** on Rtes 35 and 37. The Historic District area is known locally as the "Flat," and consists of 27 buildings. The area rose to prominence in the mid-19th century with the founding of a successful hydropathic spa, which later led to the popularity of Waterford as a summer resort.

Head east towards Sweden, then take 93 south to Bridgton, home to **Narramissic (the Peabody-Fitch House)**, 1797, Bridgton Historical Society, 207-647-3699.

At the junction of Rtes 302 and 117 in Bridgton, look for the **Wales and Hamblen Store**, 1882, which still has its original W & H sign.

Take 117 southeast to Denmark. Two miles east of Denmark on Rte 117 is Heald's Corner, a cluster of 19th century connected farmsteads set in the midst of agricultural fields and pastures that have been farmed for almost 200 years. This grouping is unusual for its integrity, and the relationship between the houses and the fields. Some of the farms are on Berry and Heald Head Road. Look for the stone walls that line the roads.

Head south to Hiram, and then take Rte 5 south to return to the loop's start.

In this region there are some other notable sites and historic districts that you might want to consider visiting. They include:
Norway Historic District on Main Street, Norway. A walking-tour guide is available from the **Norway Historical Society**, 232 Main St., 207-743-7377. Described as a living museum, the Norway Historic District embraces the most architecturally and historically significant group of buildings in this community.

If you have the time, visit the **Paris Hill Historic District**, located just off Rte 26 or the **McLaughlin Garden and House**, 207-743-8820, an historic site located on Rte 26 with over 100 varieties of lilacs.

Ice Towns, River Towns and Early Settlements of Maine

The river towns of Maine are filled with architecture from the 18th century and feature some of the earliest buildings in the state's history. There are also buildings remaining from the days of ice harvesting, including ice palaces in Bowdoin, Gardiner and Pittston.

Take Rte 24 north from Brunswick/Topsham through Topsham to Bowdoinham, on the west side of the Kennebec River. Bowdoinham has a number of beautiful private homes that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and were built when families prospered in one of the local industries, including ice harvesting, shipbuilding, and brick making. Although the homes are not open to the public, their architectural significance is apparent on the exterior.

Continue to the Richmond Historic District located on Rte 24 and in the residential district to the west. There were 236 vessels built in Richmond between 1815 and 1920; second only to Bath in shipbuilding in the Kennebec River area.

Between Richmond and Dresden in the Kennebec River lies the Swan Island Historic District and Steve Powell Wildlife Refuge, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 207-547-5322. This district reflects the agrarian community that flourished here from the 1760s through the 1920s.

Continue on Rte 24 to the Gardiner Historic District. An important 19th century commercial center, the river port town of Gardiner was home to a large number of ice harvesting houses, steam ships, barges and mills.

Take Rte 201 to Hallowell where you will find the Hallowell Historic District. Significant as a 19th century river port, the district contains dwellings of all periods, early commercial buildings, churches, public buildings, an old doctor's office, an early hotel, an 1840 row house and an old cotton factory. Pick up a copy of the local walking tour at the town hall.

Also of interest, the Pulitzer Prize winning, **A Midwife's Tale**, edited by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, is the diary of Martha Ballard, a midwife who lived in Hallowell from 1777 to 1812. A fabulous driving tour of buildings from this period in Hallowell and Augusta can be requested from the Maine Humanities Council at 207-773-5051, info@mainehumanities.org.

Fort Western, 1754, Augusta.

Governor Joseph R. Bodwell House, c. 1875, Hallowell Historic District.

Robert Reed Homestead, c. 1765, Days Ferry, also known as the Robert P. Tristram Coffin House, located on the corner of Rte 128 and Chop Point Road. Coffin was a Pulitzer Prize winning poet and author and wrote fondly of this house in the book, Kennebec: Cradle of Americans.

Bath City Hall, Bath. Built early in the 20th century, the tower houses an 1805 Paul Revere bell.

Continue on Rte 201 to Augusta and visit the Maine State Museum, 207-287-2301, www.state.me.us/museum/. The museum features premier community and natural history exhibits on topics such as shipbuilding and ice harvesting.

Also in Augusta is **Fort Western**, 16 Cony St., 207-626-2385, www.oldfortwestern.org. A National Historic Landmark, Fort Western was erected in 1754 under the direction of Gershom Flagg, a Boston housewright, for the Kennebec Proprietors. Built of hewn timbers, the post was garrisoned until 1767 and perhaps best known for its association with Benedict Arnold, who, in September 1775, gathered his men, material, and equipment there (including the now-famous bateaux) for his brave but unsuccessful assault on Quebec.

In Augusta, cross east over the Kennebec River, and proceed south on Rte 9, which becomes Rte 27 in Randolph.

In Pittston don't miss the Reuben Colburn House, 1765, at the Arnold Expedition Historical Society, off Rte 27 on Arundel Road, 207-582-7080. Open Jul - Aug.

Turn west onto Rte 128 and proceed south to Dresden and visit the Pownalborough Courthouse, 1766, Cedar Grove Road, operated by the Lincoln County Historical Association, 207-882-6817. At the courthouse is a model of ice cutting, packing, storing and shipping. Also in Dresden, visit the **Dresden Brick School House**, c. 1816, operated by the Dresden Historical Society, River Road, 207-737-8892. Open Jul - Sep.

Continue on Rte 128 and pass through the Days Ferry Historic District, in Woolwich. Days Ferry is a small village settlement of private homes not open to the public. From 1750 to 1850 the village grew around an early ferry service crossing the Kennebec River to Bath.

Pick up 127 south of Days Ferry, head south to Rte 1, and then west to the Bath Historic District. This area of homes, commercial blocks and shipyards is part of the oldest continually active shipbuilding center in America. A walking tour is available at the Bath Chamber of Commerce, 45 Front St., 207-443-9751.
Also in Bath, visit the **Maine Maritime Museum**, 243 Washington St., 207-443-1316. Open daily 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Take Rte 1 south to Brunswick/Topsham to return to the start of the loop.

The Sea and the Blue Hill Peninsula

Explore the Blue Hill Peninsula and you'll find architecture related to the maritime history of Maine including wharves, fish sheds, water-powered mills, and the quarrying and granite industries. There are also a number of buildings from the Revolutionary era. Today, the area is home to many artists.

From Rte 1 north take Rte 175 south to West Penobscot, pick up Rte 166 south to Castine.

Drive through the **Castine Off-The-Neck Historic District** on Rte 166, leading to the village of Castine. This district consists of eleven farmhouses built between 1760 and 1820 scattered along a rural highway. When you arrive in the maritime town of Castine, explore the **Castine Historic District** by taking the walking tour available from any merchant.

Also in Castine, be sure to visit:
Castine Historical Society, at the **Abbott School** on Castine Common, 207-326-4118. **Schooner Bowdoin**, National Historic Landmark, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine. Built in 1921 specifically for Arctic exploration, the Schooner Bowdoin was the brainchild of Admiral Donald Baxter MacMillan, an Arctic explorer, author, anthropologist and educator who made 26 of his 29 Arctic voyages on the Bowdoin.

Wilson Museum, 107 Perkins St., 207-326-9247. Open May 27 - Sep 30.

Continuing from Castine retrace your steps to Rte 175 south and follow this road to its intersection with Rte 15 south. Along the way, you can stop at the **Brooksville Historical Society**, Rte 176, 207-326-8681.

From here continue south on Rte 15, cross over the Eggemoggin Reach to Deer Isle.

While in Deer Isle, visit:
Squire Haskell House, 1793, Rte 172A, Main Street, 207-348-6615. The Squire Haskell House is now known as the Pilgrim's Inn.
Salome Sellers House, 1830, Deer Isle Stonington Historical Society, Rte 15A, Sunset Road, 207-348-2324.

South of town, bear right onto Rte 15A through Sunset to Stonington, home of the **Stonington Opera House**, 1912, 207-367-2788. Currently under restoration, the Opera House continues to offer a full summer season of performing arts.

Schooner Bowdoin,
1921, Castine.
Arctic vessel built for Admiral Donald MacMillan, now a National Historic Landmark located at the Maine Maritime Academy.

Abbott School, 1859, Castine Historic District. This Italianate three-story building was used as the first Eastern State Normal School starting in 1867 and is now home to the Castine Historical Society.

Pumpkin Island Light, 1854, Eggemoggin vicinity, Deer Isle.

Stonington Opera House, 1912, Stonington.

On Rte 15 south of Deer Isle, the island is nearly cut in half by coves from the east and west. The 200-foot strip between is called the **Haulover**, where Indians and settlers used to portage their canoes.

Return north on Rte 15 from Stonington to Rte 175 to Sedgwick and Brooklin.
The Sedgwick Historic District embraces a collection of late 18th and early 19th century buildings and sites and includes a cemetery and cattle pound. The **Sedgwick-Brooklin Historical Society** is located in the district in the **Rev. Daniel Merrill House**, 1795, at the corner of Rte 172 and Old County Road, 207-359-4447. Open Jul - Aug.

In Brooklin don't miss:
Wooden Boat School, Naskeag Road, 207-359-4651.
Beth Eden Chapel, 1900, and **Naskeag Cemetery** on Naskeag Point Road. A Revolutionary War soldier is buried in the cemetery.

Brooklin was also home to author E.B. White and his wife Katherine Sergeant Angell, a New Yorker editor. Their home, still a private residence, served as the setting for **Charlotte's Web** and as the inspiration for his World War II period essays, **One Man's Meat**.

From Brooklin take Rte 175 to Blue Hill then turn right on Rte 176 to East Blue Hill. Blue Hill Village is at the head of a pointed cove near Blue Hill and offers impressive views of Mt. Desert Island. **The Blue Hill Historic District** is located in the central part of town, including parts of Main, High, Union, Pleasant and Water Streets.

While in Blue Hill don't miss:

Holt House, 1815, Blue Hill Historical Society, 3 Water St. Open Jul - Sep.

Jonathan Fisher Memorial, 1814, Main Street, 207-374-2459, www.jonathanfisherhouse.org.Open Jul - mid-Sep.

Blue Hill Library, 1919-1920, 5 Parker Point Road, 207-374-5515.

Kneisal Hall, Pleasant Street, 207-374-2811, www.kneisel.org. Home to the Kneisel Chamber Music Festival.

Continue on Rte 176 to Surry. In Surry follow Rte 172 east which will lead to Ellsworth and Rte. 1. There are many interesting side roads to explore in this area, but be sure to have a good map.

To return to the beginning of the loop, take Rte 1 south.

Downeast Maine, the Revolution, and the War of 1812

On this tour, you will find a number of villages and buildings from the Revolutionary period and many Federal houses. The first naval battle of the Revolution was fought in Machias Bay on June 12, 1775. Eastport was also occupied throughout the War of 1812. The town has been designated a Main Street Maine Community—part of a revitalization program of the Maine Downtown Center. The Washington and Hancock County areas are now energized by the arts and cultural communities.

Start in Ellsworth. While in town, be sure to visit:
Woodlawn Museum, 1/4 mile from downtown on Rte 172 (Surry Road), 207-667-8671, May - Oct, built between 1824 and 1827 by Colonel John Black.

Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary, Birdsacre, Rte 3, (Bar Harbor Road). This 130-acre woodland sanctuary was the 1850 country home of pioneer ornithologist Cordelia J. Stanwood, photographer and author.

Take Rte 1 north to Cherryfield or take Rte 182 (the Cherryfield Maine State Scenic Byway) to Cherryfield. The Scenic Byway is a 12-mile route through blueberry barrens and granite coastline, with turnouts for access to lakes and ponds.

In Cherryfield, explore the **Cherryfield Historic District**, located on Rte 1, Main Street and River Road. The district is comprised of both residential and commercial structures on both sides of this riverine community. Cherryfield flourished in its position as a lumber milling and shipping center. A walking tour is available at the Cherryfield Town Hall.

Continue on Rte 1 to Columbia Falls and visit the Ruggles House, 1818, 1/4 mile off Rte 1, 146 Main St. Ruggles House Society, 207-483-4637, www.ruggleshouse.com. Open Jun 1 - Oct 15. This Federal style home features intricately hand-carved interiors and a magnificent flying staircase. Restored and furnished with period pieces.

If you have extra time, **take Rte 187 to Jonesport**. The harbor is filled with over 100 lobster and fishing boats. Around the time of the Civil War, annual boat races began here to determine the “World’s Fastest Lobster Boat”. They continue today every Fourth of July.

Continue on Rte 1 to Machias. In addition to touring the historic districts, while in the area it’s worth taking the time to visit the **Burnham Tavern**, 1770, Machias, as well as the **Gates House**, c.

Woodlawn Museum, 1824-1827, Ellsworth. This elegant Federal house contains orginal family furnishings from three generations of the Black family.

Frank Campbell House, 1875, Cherryfield. This Second Empire style house was built by Charles A. Allen.

Burnham Tavern, 1770, Machias.

Jonesport, Maine.

1807 and **Fort O'Brien State Historic Site**, 1775, both in Machiasport.

In East Machias, visit the **East Machias Historic District**, High and Water Streets. From the time of its establishment as a village in 1765, the town of East Machias has been a thriving community and remains so today. This area has a rich history involving the Revolution
and the War of 1812.

Continue on Rte 1 to Dennysville and visit the Dennysville Historic District, located at Main Street and The Lane. Most of the structures are residences but also included are the **Congregational Church**, 1834; the town library, 1923; a former academy, 1846; the American **Legion Hall**, c. 1885; and a former inn. The village has experienced very little change within the last century and retains its 19th century flavor both in architecture and in the generous spacing of its buildings.

Continue on Rte 1 to Perry, then take Rte 190 to Eastport. The town's **Historic Waterfront District** extends from the Customs House down Water Street to Bank Square and the **Peavey Library**. The library displays the 1814 letter from Admiral Hardy demanding the citizens of Eastport swear loyalty to the British throne under threat from the cannons of his fleet. Downtown Eastport was severely damaged by fire in 1864 and 1886.

Don't miss the **Eastport Barracks Museum**. Located on Washington Street, this building was used as part of the officers' barracks for Fort Sullivan. It was moved to its present site in 1877. Open weekdays in the summer. Also visit the **Todd House**, c. 1781, now a bed and breakfast on Capen Avenue, and the **Tides Institute**, 43 Water Street, Eastport, 207-853-4047, www.tidesinstitute.org. The Tides Institute celebrates the international Passamaquoddy Bay region's art, culture, architecture and history.

Continue on Rte 1 from Perry to Calais, where you will find the **Calais Historic District** at Church, Main and North Streets. Seventeen buildings are included in this district representative of commercial and government architecture of the mid-to-late 19th century. Much of Calais was rebuilt after a major fire in 1870.

On Calais Avenue and Main Street, visit the **Calais Residential Historic District** and the **Hinckley Hill Historic District**. You can pick up a copy of the walking tour at the library, city building or any merchant in town.

Also be sure to visit the **Downeast Heritage Center**, located in the historic **Calais Rail Station**, c. 1875, 877-454-2500, www.downeastheritage.org. Open Apr 2004.

To return to the start, take Rte 9 south. Turn left on Rte 179 to Ellsworth.

The Northwoods and Recreation

This area's architecture reflects the growth of lumbering and mill towns in the 19th and 20th centuries and includes recreational facilities from which to access the Northwoods. In this part of the state, you will notice the large use of slate in buildings. Hunting, fishing and logging camps and old summer hotels are all evident, with many still in use.

Start in Kingfield, which is situated on a narrow interval in the valley of the Carabasset River. Historically the river created waterpower for several lumbering mills. Kingfield is the birthplace of F.E. and F.O. Stanley, 1849, twins who developed the Stanley Steamer.

In Kingfield, don't miss the **Kingfield Historical Society**, 1890, 45 High St., 207-265-4032 and the **Stanley Museum**, 40 School St., 207-265-2729.

From Kingfield drive east on Rte 16 to New Portland. On Wire Bridge Road, you will find the **New Portland Wire Bridge**, the smallest suspension bridge in the state. Built in 1842, this 198-foot bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a Maine Historic Civil Engineering Landmark and has been described as one of the most spectacular bridges in the United States.

Continue on Rte 16 to North Anson, where on Madison Avenue, you will find the **Temples Historic District**. The Temples Historic District is a residential neighborhood that was home to the mill employees in the mid-1800s.

While in the area, don't miss the **Bailey Farm Windmill**, c. 1905, on Rte 16. It is an unusual octagonal framed structure that resembles the Portland Observatory built in 1805.

Head south on Rte 201A to Solon. You may want to make a side trip to **Skowhegan** and **Madison**, both known for manufacturing wood products.

Be sure to visit:

Margaret Chase Smith Library, 56 Norridgewock Ave, Skowhegan, 207-474-7133.
Skowhegan History House, Elm Street, Skowhegan, 207-474-6632. Open Jun - Sep.
Lakewood Theatre, Wesserunesst Lake, Madison, 207-474-7176. Built in 1898, the Lakewood is the oldest surviving summer theatre in America.

Bailey Farm Windmill,c. 1905, Anson.

Bingham Free Meeting House,1836, Bingham.

Pittston Farm,1908, Rockwood.

SS Katahdin, c. 1914, MooseheadMarine Museum,Greenville.

New Portland Wire Bridge,1842, New Portland.

In Solon, visit the **South Solon Meeting House**, 1842, located off Rtes 201 and 43. The meeting house boasts an intact interior including a high pulpit, box pews and beautiful frescos painted in the 1930s by the WPA and a group of artists from the Skowhegan School of Painting and Art. Also visit the **Solon Historical Society** located on Rte 201, 207-643-2275. Open by appointment.

On Rte 201 between **Solon** and the **Canadian border** is the **Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway** and part of the **Kennebec Chaudierre Heritage Corridor**. Guides for both the Scenic Byway and the Kennebec Chaudierre can be picked up at local chambers of commerce on the route. The Canada Road, which connected Quebec to Boston, was the route for trade, immigration and cattle drives through Jackman. Today, Jackman is a supply center for hunters and for the lumber industry.

Continue on Rte 201 north to Bingham and visit the **Bingham Free Meeting House**, 1836, and the **Wyman Dam and Hydroelectric Station**, 1928 - 1930. The power station was designed by John Calvin Stevens, the pre-eminent Maine architect of the early 20th century, and is the second largest hydroelectric generating station in Maine.

Continue on Rte 201 north to Jackman, then take Rte 15/Rte 6 toward Rockwood in the Moosehead Lake Region. Just after Long Pond, take a left on Demo Road, then another left on 20-Mile Road. Follow the signs to Pittston Farm, 1908, Pittston Academy Grant, 207-280-0000. Pittston Farm was developed by Great Northern Paper Company in the early years of the 20th century to support its logging operations.

Return to Rte 15, and head to Rockwood. You will notice that numerous hunting camps, lodges, cottages and inns dot the shores of **Moosehead Lake**. While in Rockwood, catch a shuttle boat from Rockwood out to **Mount Kineo** to see the remains of the grand hotel that once stood on the island or climb the mountain for spectacular views of Moosehead Lake. Information about the shuttle can be found at local stores.

Travel south on Rte 15 to Greenville, a hub for fishing, hunting, canoeing, camping, mountain climbing and winter sports, including sled dog events. While in the area visit:

The Moosehead Historical Museum, Pritham Avenue, 207-695-2909.
Moosehead Marine Museum, Lily Bay Road, 207-695-2716. This museum is home to the SS Katahdin, one of the few remaining passenger steam vessels once common on Maine's inland waters. Service began in 1836 and cruises still operate.

Continue on Rte 15 to Monson, a town perched on a slate ridge. Deep slate-walled quarries cut the hillsides where the pit method of quarrying was used. This industry was supported by Scandinavian immigration to the town in the late 19th century. Note the multitude of slate roofs in town. In summer and fall, Monson is populated with Appalachian Trail "through hikers." Many of the local residents provide these hardy visitors with pie, barbeque, showers and rooms.

From Monson, continue on Rte 15 to Rte 16 west and return to Kingfield.

Potatoes and Immigrants

The architecture in this area centers on potato farming and was greatly influenced by the growth of Swedish and Acadian immigrant populations. You will see many cathedrals, railroad buildings, potato and twin barns and a magnificent landscape still used for harvesting potatoes.

The people of the St. John Valley descended from a group who arrived in the 18th century from Nova Scotia. These people proudly refer to themselves as Acadians, for their origins lie in the same background as the exiles who settled in New Orleans after 1755, an event celebrated in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, **Evangeline**. Many people in the area still speak French.

While in Aroostook County, consider traveling on **Rte 11—a Maine State Scenic Byway** from Fort Kent to Portage Lake.

Start your tour in Caribou and head north on Rte 161 to New Sweden where you will find the **Larsson-Noak Historic District**, just off Rte 161 on Capitol Hill. Maine's Swedish Colony oversees this unique historic district that consists of the **Ostlund Farm**, a two-story log house, as well as a blacksmith's shop, an automobile shop and a potato cellar. Also located on Capitol Hill is the **Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church**, 1880, and the **New Sweden Historical Society**, rnhne@mfx.net.

Continue on Rte 161 to Stockholm. As you're driving, keep your eyes open for log homes erected by early Swedish immigrants. This form of construction is unique in Maine. In fact, the area's landscape has changed little since it was settled by Swedish immigrants in 1870. In Stockholm visit the **Stockholm Historical Society**, located in the **Anderson Brothers Store**, 1901.

Continue on Rte 161 to Fort Kent and visit the **Fort Kent Memorial**, 1838-1840, State Historic Site, National Historic Landmark, 207-941-4014. Open Memorial Day - Labor Day. Also in Fort Kent is the **Fort Kent Railroad Station**, 1902, Main and Market Streets, Fort Kent Historical Society, 207-728-6826. Open Jul - Aug.

From Fort Kent, take Rte 1 to Frenchville and visit the **Frenchville Railroad Station and Water Tank**, 1910, Rte 1, Frenchville Historical Society, 207-728-6826. Open mid-Jun - Labor Day.

Continue on Rte 1 to Madawaska. On Rte 1, you will find the **Acadian Landing Site**, Madawaska Historical Society, 393 Main St., 207-728-4518. Open mid-Jun - mid-Aug, and the **St. David Catholic Church**, 1911-1913.

What's a potato barn?

Potato barns were built so farmers could store their harvest during the winter months. Usually buried in a hillside with soil mounded around a stone or poured concrete wall to keep the interior from freezing, the typical potato barn also has a gambrel roof extending to the ground. The barns allowed for potatoes to be loaded into the front upper level and removed at the back or side lower level.

While potato barns are found throughout Aroostook County, a particularly large number of them are on the back roads between Presque Isle, Caribou and Fort Fairfield.

Potato barn, 1940, Fort Kent.

L'Association Culturelle et Historique du Mont-Carmel, 1909, Lille.

Take Rte 1 to the Village of Lille where you will find **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**, 1909, L'Association Culturelle et Historique du Mont-Carmel, 207-895-3339. This is the most intact and architecturally significant of the surviving historic wooden Catholic churches constructed in the Acadian settlement along the St. John River.

Continue on Rte 1 to Van Buren and visit:

Acadian Village, Rte 1, 207-868-5042. Open Jun 15 - Sep 15.

Governor Brann School (Cyr Plantation Town Hall), 1934, Rte 1, 207-728-6826.

Fortunat O. Michaud House, 1911-1917, 231 Main St., 207-868-7729, now known as the Farrell-Michaud House Bed & Breakfast.

Return to Caribou via Rte 1.

Other Sites Not to Miss

Cary Library, 107 Main St., Houlton, ME 04730 207-532-1302.Cary Library was built in 1904 and designed by John Calvin Stevens.

Chandler Parsons Blacksmith Shop, 107 Dawes Road (west off 153 north), Dover-Foxcroft, ME.Built in the 1860s, this is one of the few blacksmith shops in the state actually built for this purpose.

Davistown Museum, 58 Main St., #4, Liberty, ME 04949, 207-589-4900, www.davistownmuseum.org.A museum showcasing tools, regional history and rural living.

Fort Knox, Rte 174, Prospect, ME 04981, 207-469-7719, www.state.me.us/doc/prkslnds/prkslnds.htm.Constructed between 1844 and 1869, this National Historic Landmark is Maine's largest fort and features stunning military architecture and master granite craftsmanship.

Hamilton House, 40 Vaughan's Lane, South Berwick, ME 207-384-2454, www.spnea.org.
Built on a magnificent site overlooking the Salmon Falls River, Hamilton House's extensive grounds include a formal garden.

Katahdin Iron Works, From Rte 11 go five miles north of Brownville Jct., turn left on the gravel road to the site, 207-941-4014.

McLellan-Sweat House, Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101, 207-775-6148, www.portlandmuseum.org.
This newly restored Federal-era house was built in 1801.

Old York Historical Society, 207 York St., York, ME, 207-363-4974, www.oldyork.org.Seven historic house museums represent four centuries of life in York.

Portland Observatory, 138 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, 207-774-5561, www.portlandlandmarks.org.Built in 1807, the Observatory is the only existing maritime signal station in the United States.

Salmon Brook Historical Society, Washburn, ME, 207-455-4339.Located in the Benjamin C. Wilder House, c. 1852.

Shaker Museum, 707 Shaker Rd., New Gloucester, ME 04260, 207-926-4597, www.shaker.lib.me.us.Located in the last active and functioning Shaker community in the world.

Katahdin Iron WorksA restored stone blast furnace and charcoal kiln on the site of a 19th century iron works that produced 18-20 tons of raw iron daily during its periods of peak operation in the 1880s.

Tate House, 1270 Westbrook St., Portland, ME 04102,
207-774-9781, www.tatehouse.org.Located in the Stroudwater Historic District, this large and elegant dwelling was built in 1755 for Captain George Tate and his family.

Thomas A. Hill House/Bangor Historical Society
159 Union St., Bangor, ME, 207-942-5766.
This Greek Revival home was built c. 1840 and has 19th century period rooms and a dedicated Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Exhibit Room containing an extensive collection of Civil War artifacts.

Victoria Mansion (The Morse-Libby House),
109 Danforth St., Portland, ME 04101, 207-772-4841, www.victoriamansion.org.Victoria Mansion is New England's finest historic house museum of the mid-19th century featuring 90% of the original Gustave Herter furnishings.

Wadsworth-Longfellow House, 489 Congress St. Portland, ME 04101, 207-879-0427, www.mainehistory.org.The boyhood home of Maine's beloved poet, Henry Wadsworth-Longfellow

Washburn-Norlands Living History Center, 290 Norlands Rd, Livermore, ME 04253, 207-897-4366, www.norlands.org.Norlands was the home of the Washburns, one of the great American political dynasties.

Watson Settlement Bridge, Over Meduxnekeag Stream, five miles north of Houlton on Rte 1, then east two miles on a side road, Littleton, ME, pedestrian access only. Built in 1911, this 150 foot covered bridge is the only one in Aroostook County.

Resources

Greater Portland Landmarks www.portlandlandmarks.org 207-774-5561

Maine Archives and Museums www.mainemuseums.org 207-287-5709

Maine Historic Preservation Commission www.state.me.us/mhpc/ 207-287-2132

Maine Office of Tourism www.visitmaine.com 888-624-6345

Maine Preservation www.mainepreservation.org 207-775-3652

Maine Tourism Association www.mainetourism.com 207-623-0363

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities www.spnea.org 603-436-3205