



18. (190 Main Street) Grace Hanson Store
 Beginning in 1895, Grace and Hoel Hanson ran a dry goods store for nearly 50 years in one of the few remaining sea captain's homes in Winter Harbor.



19. (155 Main Street) Bickford Filling Station, Whitehouse/Webber/Tracey Store, Hamburger Hill
 The eastern end of Winter Harbor had its own commercial activity with Hamburger Hill Restaurant, operated by Laura Bickford and her daughter, Freda Smart from 1947 until the 1970's. Reynold Bickford's fuel pumps were in front of a small store and the original Whitehouse Store began on the corner of Main and Hillcrest Drive. Mr. Whitehouse brought his experience from a successful delicatessen in Brooklyn, NY to return to his Maine roots and provide delivery of choice meats and specialty goods in a horse drawn wagon or from the bikes of his sons.

Return to your car via the Island Explorer Bus or enjoy lunch at one of Winter Harbor's restaurants on your return walk.

Historic Walking Tour



Winter Harbor, Maine

Until the resolution of major wars, the Schoodic peninsula supplied Native American summer harvests of shellfish and berries. Surveys encouraging settlement of this "piece of rock" led to Gouldsboro's incorporation in 1789 and Winter Harbor's separation in 1895.

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1. (end of School Street) Rand Lumber and Fish Houses This land, worn thin by the retreating glaciers, was valued for its harbors, fishing and wood to fuel distant kilns. Mackerel and cod were salted for shipping, while families attempted small farms on these stony shores. Schooners were the only means



of transportation, requiring settlers to be self-reliant and independent. Workdays for fishermen are still determined by the tides, weather and the search for a catch. The fish house on the opposite shore is believed to have been built about 1870 and moved over the water from Big Moose Island in Acadia National Park.



2. (corner of School Street and Harbor Road)

Winter Harbor High School

An ungraded 12 week program after eighth grade requiring a written examination for admission was funded in Winter Harbor's first 1896 town meeting and probably held in a local home. Winter Harbor High School opened in 1909 and offered four years of study with courses such as: Latin, French,



Physiology and Rhetoric with certified teachers after 1915. Except in 1943, when paper was rationed, the value of education was documented in a professionally published yearbook until the last graduating class of 1952.

3. (corner of Main Street and Harbor Road-349 & 352 Main Street) Main Street, Winter Harbor photo page 37 & 27



J. M. Gerrish began with a small confectionery and patent medicine shop, adding sections to house a post office and their second floor apartment.

A three story business block burned in 1902, was rebuilt and burned again in 1915. On the site of the current 5 & 10, a store catering to the summer residents and visitors with groceries, dry goods and souvenirs prospered until a 1922 fire. A.B Whitehouse rebuilt with large plate glass display windows and a façade of fancy tin work. The store had a walk in meat case and ice house in the back with a butchering and fish cleaning room, a chicken house large enough for over 300 chickens and lobster storage in the harbor. The façade was changed in 1985 and the store evolved to the current 5 & 10. Town Reports document gas streetlights installed in 1904 and cement sidewalks in 1915. Determined to rebuild their downtown after the 1922 fire, a plumbing shop and showroom has become Artisans and Antiques, a filling station has become a fiber arts shop and The Art Gallery was the hardware store and office for Frank Weston, contractor for the Grindstone Inn and many other large structures. A tower for spotting planes during World War II once stood on the Art Gallery.

4. (367 Main Street) Hotel Hanover Built in 1860 the three story Hotel Hanover remains as evidence of Winter Harbor's early prosperous downtown. Provision of lodging was briefly interrupted, when it became a place for the quarantine and treatment during a smallpox epidemic in 1863. Hanf's Appliance Store began here in the 1950's and moved to Ellsworth. Across the street were the Schoodic Inn and



the turreted 150 room Beacon Hotel, boasting pure water to rooms, tennis court and stage or ferry connections with the railway.

5. (18 Chapel Lane) Channing Chapel Beach and fieldstones were hauled over frozen ground in 1887 to construct this Unitarian Chapel with oak beams, stained glass and cherry woodwork. At a time before women could vote or be admitted to the American Medical Association, Almena Guptill left her small home on Harbor Road to graduate from Boston University of Medicine in 1876 and become a respected Boston physician. She married David Flint, a successful lumber dealer and philanthropist, whose likeness is found in the east end of the chapel, where Dr. Almena Flint sponsored the first public library.

6. (427 Main Street) Hammond Hall Edward J. Hammond of Winter Harbor and a successful lumber merchant was one of the initial developers with a vision of Winter Harbor, as a resort area for the many travelers escaping the summer heat of the cities. Among his projects were a casino near the Town Dock, Casa Marina (the unoccupied cottage west of the library) and the Beacon Hotel. In 1904, E.J. Hammond provided land and materials for the Winter Harbor Town Hall, now known as Hammond Hall. An upstairs room served as town office, while the stage and hall were used as the school gym and for entertainment.



7. (Moore Cabin-Beach Street/Main Street) Grindstone pool Early rusticators found recreation in golf, tennis, canoeing, boating and swimming in a salt-water pool. Remains of concrete beach rock walls that held the ocean on the out going tide are visible at low tide. Bathhouses and lounging areas completed in 1905 provided a visual barrier from the street. Freeland Bunker built the Victorian home that still overlooks the Sand Cove and supplied coal from his dock to fuel homes and steamers in the bay. He managed a fish processing business, supplying local stores and inns. Records show the purchase of more than 40,000 pounds of fish on some days. John Moore, another native son returned from finding his fortune on Wall Street to summer on Grindstone and purchase plots of land that would eventually become Acadia National Park's Schoodic Section. The property for Moore Cabin was donated to Winter Harbor for Boy Scout troops.



[Return to Main Street](#)

8. (Pendleton Road) Winter Harbor Co-op The lobster traps are piled on the wharves for repair or storage. Lobster fishermen will move traps many times during the season in pursuit of the best fishing ground. Lobster bait and fuel is purchased at the Co-op, where lobsters are stored for marketing.



[Follow Pendleton Road back to Main Street](#)

9. (418 Main Street) Carrie Bickford's Store photo



Folks recall a barbershop, butcher shop and small grocery store across from Hammond Hall, managed by Carrie Bickford.

[Enjoy our Downtown Businesses continuing East on Main Street](#)

10. (335 Main Street) Charles Grover's hardware store flourished on this spot with his sawmill and lumber supplying building materials for the summer mansions and hotels. Mr. Grover is known as the contractor for both the Winter Harbor High School and Hammond Hall. Hundreds of men became boarders in the small homes on the east side of Winter Harbor, walking through town with their dinner pails to work on the homes and roads under construction. Agrandece Healey ran a gift and souvenir shop here through the 1950's. The building was most recently a laundromat and apartments.



11. (end of Hammond Lane) Winter Harbor Historical Society



Before Winter Harbor established its independence from Gouldsboro; the Mosquito Harbor School District was created in 1824. Two early schools burned, but in 1877 a "commodious and well lighted school

room with seats for one hundred scholars" and second floor meeting room was constructed for \$1400 near the current bank. This building was later moved through town to its current location and was used for school "sessions" until 1958. It was planned for one teacher and an assistant. Myra Earle's memoirs, [Fond Memories](#) relate: "The seats were graduated in size and made of plank. Youthful artists were free souls with their jack-knife carvings. The pupils had to buy their own books, which allowed more or less choice about what was studied and everyone used a slate with smelly slate rags. An invisible line divided the room, half being occupied by boys and half by girls. Most had perpetual colds and drank from a tin dipper and wooden pail in the anteroom. The big boys entered the school en masse, just to bedevil a new teacher. If it were a woman, they usually succeeded in making her rush from the room in a flood of tears. When a man teacher arrived, his initial gesture was to take a heavy ruler out of his pocket and lay it on the desk."

12. (Corner of Church and Main Street) First Baptist Church Through community fundraisers and pledges, this church began services before 1880 and has long been a community site for worship. Across the street once stood the Winter Harbor Inn and Morrison's Garage, which eventually moved to Ellsworth. The former parsonage for the church has become the current Winter Harbor Inn.

13. (292 Main Street) Argo Inn Edith Dyer provided rooms and meals until the 1950's, where she, also employed area children to create balsam bags for local souvenirs.

14. (275 Main Street) Laundry/Stable Donut Hole West of the Post Office, this apartment building housed one of the thriving laundries of the early 1900's. East of the Post Office a weathered cottage was once a twine shed, converted to a rustic breakfast and lunch stop, featuring homemade desserts by Joe and Grace Gerrish.

15. Henry's Cove

"The Cleat" sculpture was created during the 2007 International Sculpture Symposium in Winter Harbor by the late Don Meserve of Round Pond, Maine. Don's work is featured in the National Cathedral in Washington DC



and the Trinity Church in Manhattan. Mark Island Light is visible at the mouth of the harbor. Nine light keepers and their families lived on Mark Island and maintained the beacon from 1857 through 1933. Bernice Richmond recorded her memories of living on the island in her book, Winter Harbor. In 1956, children's authors; Rene and Pat Prud'hommeaux bought the island for \$2,000. They lived on the island full time for eighteen years. The Light in the Tower retells the tradition of their lighted Christmas tree in the lighthouse tower.

16. (Behind Winter Harbor Food Service) Misty Harbor

These condominiums are part of 82 units of former Navy housing. After 67 years of service, Winter Harbor Naval Security Group, a part of Naval Intelligence closed in 2002. Their departure decreased Winter Harbor's population by more than half and the number of school children declined from over 150 to less than 30. Winter Harbor was able to re-purpose these homes with the generous support of the Dixon family, long time summer residents.

17. (Corner of Main & Newman Streets) Main Stay Inn/Harbor Shop



The modern Raven's Nest Restaurant was built on the site of Alonzo Sumner's home, another early contractor. The house was described as true Victorian Gothic type of architecture with jigsaw work along the seven sharp gables. It became Dr.

Holt's home and office with many memories of births and deaths for local citizens. Clarence and Avis Buckley made it their retirement home, adding a commercial space, known for years as The Harbor Shop. The commercial space became an incubator for several new businesses and the house was operated as an inn for seventeen years.