

## STYLES OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE VILLAGE OF YARMOUTH PORT

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The Town of Yarmouth contains three villages: South Yarmouth, West Yarmouth and Yarmouth Port. This architectural tour will lead you through the Old Kings Highway (Route 6A) corridor of Yarmouth Port, which encompasses a significant collection of historic buildings.

Accordingly, historic districts recognizing this significance have been established at both the regional and national levels. On May 1, 1973, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts formally created the Old Kings Highway Regional Historic District, which stretches from Sandwich to Orleans, and from Cape Cod Bay to Route 6 (Mid-Cape Highway). Yarmouth's portion of the district essentially corresponds to the Village of Yarmouth Port. Within this district is the much smaller Northside Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 24, 1987. The district is a more focused concentration of historic architecture along, and in close proximity to, Old Kings Highway, and forms the basis of this tour (please click on *A Walking Tour of the Village of Yarmouth Port* and *A Walking Tour of the Captains' Mile* for further information on the area).

Below are the architectural styles you will encounter on this tour (please note that the listed date ranges reflect general periods of popularity in the region and the country). ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF THESE PROPERTY OWNERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE OTHERS RESPECT YOURS.

### CAPE COD STYLE – early 1700s to present

The house is story and a half tall. With a full Cape, there are two windows on either side of door; three-quarter Cape, there are two windows on one side and one window on other side of door; half Cape has two windows on one side of door. Earliest house has windows which touch eaves. By 1800, windows are moving down from eaves, up to three feet by 1830. Capes were often altered or built into simplified Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles. Often contain many additions or ells. Dormers on second floor were almost always later addition. There are great Cape Cod houses throughout Yarmouth. The name, Cape Cod house, was coined in 1800 by Timothy Dwight, president of Yale College, while traveling through Yarmouth Port. The Cape Cod house fell out of favor by the early decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but was reimagined in the 1930s and made especially popular just after World War II as modest housing for returning soldiers and their young families. The style is still going strong today due to the floor plan flexibility it offers. Examples of the early-period style are: 187, 191, 195, 197, 201 and 209 Old Kings Highway (ca. 1780 – 1800).

### GEORGIAN STYLE –1700 - 1780

The Georgian style traces its roots to the classical designs of the Italian Renaissance, which influenced the architecture of England and the New World. Typically, 2 stories in height, 2 rooms deep, using strict symmetry. Windows are usually symmetrical across the front. The paneled front door is centered on the façade within a prominent wood surround and may have a multi-pane transom above. Usually, there is a single chimney protruding through the roof peak

and aligned with the front door. Windows have small lights or panes with wide, flat muntins or divisions. These houses tried to imitate the more elaborate homes being built in England and the style is named for King George (there were three Georges in a row in 1700s). Examples of this style are: 450 Old Kings Highway, 1721 (formerly the Squire Doane tavern); 250 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1780 (Winslow Crocker House, owned and operated by Historic New England as a house museum); and 84 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1760 (Matthews House – has a “Beverly Jog” at the west end, which is a shed-roof enclosure that is set back from the façade and likely shelters a staircase).

#### FEDERAL STYLE – 1780 - 1820

The name “Federal” is derived from this early period in the country when the Federal form of government was under development. The robust appearance of Georgian architecture gives way to more refined decoration, although symmetry of design is still key. Hip or gable low-profile roof. Delicate ornamentation with tall slim pilasters beside doorway. Fanlights and sidelights often frame and embellish the front entrances. Windows typically have larger lights and thinner muntins than their Georgian counterparts, and there are often paired chimneys at both ends of building. Examples of this style are: 92 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1795 (Captain John Eldridge House, now Village Inn); 202 Old Kings Highway, 1833 (Captain Otis White House); and 495 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1805 (Isaac Matthews House).

#### GREEK REVIVAL STYLE – 1820 - 1860

The style draws inspiration from ancient Greek temples. A considerable number of houses along Old Kings Highway exhibit Greek Revival characteristics. Gable end of house faces street with prominent pilasters defining the corners. Typically, the façade of the main block of the house is three bays wide with the entrance at the far right or far left. A prominent door surround frames the entrance, often with sidelights included. Large-pane windows are usually six lights over six lights. The more elaborate examples of the style endeavor to be more faithful to the temple design and have full-width or wraparound porches with stately fluted columns.

Toward the end of its popularity here, Greek Revival buildings began to incorporate decorative brackets linked to the Italianate style (discussed below) Examples of this style are: 11 Strawberry Lane, original house ca. 1740 – enlargement and re-design in the Greek Revival style ca.1840 (Captain Bangs Hallet House, owned and operated by Historical Society of Old Yarmouth as a house museum); 4 Summer Street, ca. 1820 (Joshua Sears House, now Inn at Cape Cod – one of the most high-style Greek Revivals on the Cape); and 220 Old Kings Highway, ca.1850 (Knowles Store, now Parnassus Book Store – features Italianate-style brackets along the cornice and roofline; see also “Italianate Style” below).

#### GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE – 1830 - 1870

Influenced by English interpretations of Medieval architecture in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Gothic Revival style is most easily identified by steeply pitched gable roofs outlined with bargeboards of highly cut intricate patterns. Porch supports and brackets often displayed openwork patterns as well. Original paint colors were often earth tones. Institutional and religious examples of the style incorporate additional Gothic features such as pointed-arch

windows and trefoil and quatrefoil motifs (clover-like shapes). Examples of this style are: 134 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1850 (Frederic Howes House / "Gingerbread House", now Optimist Café – best-known Gothic Revival locally); 266 Old Kings Highway, 1870 (Swedenborgian Church / Church of the New Jerusalem, now owned and operated by the non-profit Yarmouth New Church Preservation Foundation as a venue for a variety of public events); and 297 Old Kings Highway, 1870 (Yarmouth Port Library – the original center section was a more robust Victorian Gothic example, but was later modified to accommodate additions).

#### ITALIANATE STYLE - 1840 – 1880

The Italianate style, loosely based on Italian rambling farmhouses further refined by English designs of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is distinguished by decorative roof and cornice brackets and round-arch windows. These windows are usually capped by pronounced hood moldings. More elaborate examples often have rusticated quoins at the corners that imitate cut stonework. Locally, it is more common to find hybrid Greek Revival – Italianate buildings, which are Greek Revival at their core, but differentiated by Italianate brackets. True and hybrid examples of this style are: 329 Old Kings Highway, 1870 (First Congregational Church – reflects true Italianate style); 220 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1850 (Knowles Store, now Parnassus Book Store – hybrid Greek Revival – Italianate; see also "Greek Revival style" above); and 4 Church Street / 282 Old Kings Highway, 1857 (Captain Thacher Taylor House – hybrid Greek Revival - Italianate).

#### SECOND EMPIRE / MANSARD STYLE - 1860 – 1890

The Second Empire style derives its name from France's Second Empire during the reign of Napoleon III, 1852 – 1870. The French influence is most easily recognized by the double-pitched mansard roof, consisting of a steep lower section topped by a flattened hip roof. Dormers often exist in the steep portion of the roof, which is usually concave and supported by brackets. There are two examples of this style on Old Kings Highway: 277 Old Kings Highway, original house ca. 1780 – modified in the Second Empire style ca. 1860s (Captain Joseph Eldridge House, later Dr. Azariah Eldridge House, now the boutique inn Chapter House Cape Cod); and 138 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1860 (Captain Winthrop Sears House, later Charles Swift House).

#### QUEEN ANNE STYLE – 1880 – 1900

The Queen Anne style, a whimsical interpretation of late Medieval architecture prior to the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714), is characterized by asymmetry, verticality and a variety of forms, textures, materials and colors. It may include towers or turrets with stained glass and ornamental porches and is most frequently referred to as "Victorian." Along this stretch of Old Kings Highway, there are no high-style examples; instead, there are buildings that incorporate simple Queen Anne details, such as stained-glass window lights or panes. Examples of these buildings are: 139 Old Kings Highway, 1889 (Hallet's Store – incorporates storefront transoms and a square gable window, all with Queen Anne colored-glass lights); and 378 Old Kings Highway, 1887 (Captain Isaac Matthew Bray House – in addition to the square Queen Anne window in

the gable, the house has other modest elements of the style, including steep intersecting gables, tall windows and a wraparound porch).

#### SHINGLE STYLE -1880 - 1900

The hallmark of the style is the unpainted wood-shingle cladding on the exterior walls. Roofs ~~are~~ may be long and low or steeply pitched as a nod to the earlier Gothic Revival style. The façade may be asymmetrical and shingle-wrapped walls may be rounded or appear to “flow” in an organic manner, as sharp edges are typically minimized or avoided. The only example of the style in the area is Sacred Heart Chapel, 32 Summer Street, 1899.

#### COLONIAL REVIVAL STYLE – 1880 to present

When the country celebrated its centennial in 1876, there was a fervor for looking back at the colonial period for inspiration. As a result, principles of Georgian and Federal architecture of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were adapted to create a new style. A Colonial Revival house often incorporated both Georgian and Federal elements, rather than being a faithful copy of either style. A subcategory of the Colonial Revival is the Dutch Colonial Revival style, which reached its zenith between 1920 and 1940 and is distinguished by the double-pitched gambrel roof. The Colonial Revival has evolved over the years so that some of today’s examples may be asymmetrical, have more complex roofs, and borrow elements from other historic styles like the Greek Revival. Examples of this style are: 482 Old Kings Highway, 1925; 308 Old Kings Highway, 1939 (Dutch Colonial Revival); 286 Old Kings Highway, 1965; and 25 Old Kings Highway, 1971.

#### CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW STYLE – 1905 - 1930

With roots in India—first as thatched-roof huts for the native population and then as more refined one-story, large-veranda cottages for 19<sup>th</sup> century British colonists—the Bungalow was further transformed in England and then America. The name “Bungalow” is derived from the Hindu word “*Bangla*,” meaning “belonging to Bengal.” Early examples in this country date to around 1900, and the most elaborate were built in California, influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement then popular in England. Simplified examples exist in this region, but classic Bungalow features—including broad overhanging roofs with large, full-width front porches—are evident. The gable end may be toward the street or perpendicular to it. The low-slung house accommodates one story or a story and a half. The plans, or the entire building, could be purchased from Sears Roebuck as well as many other companies. Magazines carried these plans and houses could be built for as little as \$500. 370 styles of houses could be purchased from Sears Roebuck between 1908 and 1940. The Bungalow was the most common style, followed by the Dutch Colonial. Over 70,000 houses were sold. Examples of this style are: 142 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1915; and 435 Old Kings Highway, ca. 1930.

#### RANCH STYLE – 1950 – 1980

The Ranch style was based on earlier ranch architecture of the American Southwest. The style caught on first in California in the 1920s and 1930s, combining the classic one-story, low-to-the-ground, rambling design with modern amenities of the time. After World War II, the Ranch style followed the revived Cape Cod style, filling the need for affordable housing and accelerating the suburbanization of the country. Typically, this one-story house contains living and kitchen spaces at one end, with bedrooms and a bathroom(s) filling out the other end. If there is a garage, it is located adjacent to the living/kitchen section. Sometimes there is a breezeway connector between the house and garage, providing a transition area and more separation between the two zones. There are many examples of highly familiar Ranch houses along Old Kings Highway, especially at the east end, and on offshoot streets in the area.

### Architectural Styles, Old Kings Highway Vicinity, Yarmouth Port

Note: Date Ranges Reflect General Periods of Popularity in the Region and U.S.

Style	1700	1800	1900	2000
Cape Cod	Early 1700s → To Present			
Georgian	1700 → 1800			
Federal		1780 → 1820		
Greek Revival		1820 → 1860		
Gothic Revival		1830 → 1870		
Italianate		1840 → 1880		
Second Empire		1860 → 1890		
Queen Anne		1880 → 1900		
Shingle		1880 → 1900		
Colonial Revival		1880 → To Present		
Bungalow			1905 → 1930	
Ranch			1950 → 1980	