Throughout your stroll you'll see examples of many styles of architecture that help illustrate the history of this village. Small gambrel style homes date to the 18th century when farming, shipbuilding, and fishing defined a way of life. You'll also see numerous examples of 19th century Greek Revival homes that were home to successful explorers, sea captains, and merchants. Sealing, whaling, and the China Trade brought great wealth to Stonington sailors. Stonington Borough was incorporated in 1801 as their interests as a commercial center and deep water port required special attention. Turn right onto High Street to the Town Dock, where you'll find Connecticut's last commercial fishing fleet on the site of the old steamship docks and railroad round house.

Back on Water Street, the commercial center of this village, you’ll encounter some structures that were raised to accommodate commercial spaces on their ground level. A commemorative plaque marks the location at 107 Water Street of the James Merrill House, once home of the late, renowned poet, James Merrill. Across the street you can walk through the brick arches of a former Masonic Hall to see numerous examples of 19th century Greek Revival homes. At 35 Main Street sits one of the only brick homes in town's first millionaire, which sits back from the street. Near the original railroad that ran from the Steamship docks.

We hope that you have enjoyed your stroll through history and will come back often to shop, dine, and visit our unique New England village.

POINTS OF INTEREST

A Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer House
The R.W. Woolworth Library & Research Center
C The Lighthouse Museum
Managed by the Stonington Historical Society www.stoningtonhistory.org

PARKING INFO

There are three public parking lots: at the Town Docks, Wayland’s Wharf, and Stonington Point. There is ample on-street parking, also used by residents. In the summer, on-street parking is at a premium and monitored, allowing for two hours. Please watch for posted 15-minute parking signs - it is strictly monitored on Water Street.

Retrace your steps back to Cannon Square and start up Main Street. Take note of the 1823 Custom House on your left that was Stonington’s first bank, now privately owned. Next door is the Ames Palmer House, once occupied by the artist James McNeil Whistler and his family, and the poet Stephen Vincent Benét. Next door is the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society that celebrates Stonington’s historic Portuguese population. At 35 Main Street sits one of the only brick homes in Stonington built with ballast bricks that originated in England. You can’t miss the stately home of Charles P. Williams, Stonington’s first millionaire, which sits back from the street. Near the United Church is a tablet that marks the right of way used by the original railroad that ran from the Steamship docks.

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