

# Historic Downtown Camden

- 1 Megunticook River Waterfall**  
The Megunticook River has the only waterfall on the coast of Maine close enough to the sea so that salt water does not flow up river with the tide; the only river that contains fresh water all the way to the sea. In the early spring, fishermen place nets at the mouth of the river to catch eelers, a popular delicacy in Japan.
- 2 Public Landing**  
The end of the waterfall was originally the site of a wooden factory built by Abraham and Lewis Ogier. Cyrus Alden bought the wooden mill in 1830. In 1866 William G. and Horatio E. Alden began the Camden Anchor Works on the site. It became the largest anchor factory in the country, making anchors for ships all over the world. In 1901, it became the Camden Anchor-Rockland Machine Company, building boats, launches, dories, Knox Gasoline Engines, and warships for World War I. The factory closed in 1925 and burned to the ground in 1935.  
Mary Bok purchased the land and paid for the construction of the Public Landing in 1938. From the 1850s until 1925, Nicholas Berry's Sail Lot was located where the public restrooms are today (Berry died in 1862). M. C. Whitmore's Wharf, a lumber and building supply company, was behind the sail lot.

- 3 Public Landing**  
**Camden-Rockport-Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce**  
1985—Camden-Rockport-Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce
- 4 Public Landing**  
**Small Wonder Gallery**  
1833—Joseph Jones Block (ship chandler, provisions, hardware, outfitters, steamboat agent.)
- 5 1 Main St.**  
**Capp's Chowder House, Capp's Company Store and Bakery**  
1826—built for Charles Wetherbee and James Bird (cofounders—made shoes from new leather)
- 7 Main St.**  
**The Village Shop**  
1813—built for John Nicholson (merchant, international trader, ship owner)
- 7 11 Main St.**  
**Camden Pottery**  
1899—Travelers Inn built by Walter B. Groves

- 13 Main St.**  
**The Colony** (children's clothing)  
1893—Sylvester Arau Block built for Sylvester Arau (barber upstairs and F.O. Clark Groceries and Meat Market on first story)
- 17 Main St.**  
**Star Bird Antiques**  
1893—George Burd Block built for George Burd Shoe Company
- 21 Main St.**  
**Maine Gathering**  
(Maine fine crafts and candy)  
1893—George Hodgman Block built for Hodgman & Co. (well suits, natty overcoats, hats)
- 25 Main St.**  
**The Village Shop** (gifts, stationery, Maine crafts), **Naomi's Cose Bella** (jewelry)  
1892—George H. Cleveland Building. George H. Cleveland General Store, selling groceries, provisions, hardware, sporting goods, and toys. It was in this general store that the great fire began on the night of Nov. 1, 1892, destroying buildings on both sides of Main St. and on Elm St. to the Camden Opera House. Cleveland felt a special urgency about reopening after the fire and built a temporary building that was open before Christmas. He expanded in 1896 and 1909, and in 1914 he sold the business to Jessie Hosmer who, with her partner Bertha Clason, pioneered in the gift shop business.

- 31 Main St.**  
**Planet Emporium** (women's clothing), **Stove Soup** (used books)  
1892—Camden Griest Mill. William Minot built the first mill here in 1771. Samuel G. Adams and Samuel D. Carleton were later owners. The mill was rebuilt quickly after the Great Fire of 1892, so farmers would be able to bring their winter wheat. The Camden Griest Mill closed in the 1940s and the building was used as Leifer's Automotive Services, selling Studebaker automobiles. From the 1950s through the 1970s this was the Tweed Shop—a ladies dress shop featured in the movie *Peyton Place*, filmed in 1957.
- 35 Main St.**  
**Marriner's Restaurant**  
1892—Camden Griest Mill Store (rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1892 to sell flour and grain from the mill next door.)

- 48 Main St.**  
**Camden Cottage** (lodging by the week)  
1827—James B. Meagher House
- 46 Main St.**  
Henry L. Alden House (manufacturer of oakum for sealing ships)
- 42 Main St.**  
**Guidicijko Gallery**  
1829—built for George W. Cobb (teacher and cabinetmaker)
- 38 Main St.**  
**The Right Stuff** (women's clothing & gifts)  
1865—Hanson A. Mills House and Studio (photographer)
- 34 Main St.**  
**The Leather Bench** (leather bags & clothing)  
1886—Ann Gleason Building (E. B. Knight Hardware)
- 32 Main St.**  
**The House of Logan** (women's clothing)  
1893—Fletcher Building built for J. B. Logan's Confectionery (candy, soda, fruit, and cigars)
- 30 Main St.**  
**Boynton McKay** (restaurant)  
1826—George Kaler House (blacksmith)
- 22 High St.**  
**Maine Style Inn**  
1802—Allen Bass House (house carpenter)
- 12 High St.**  
1839—built for Bezeleel Knight (wheewright)
- 10 High St.**  
**Ten High Street** (fines and decorative arts)  
1840—Joseph Stearns House (shipbuilder)

- 8 High St.**  
**Abigail's Bed & Breakfast**  
1838—James Seward House (grocer); 1850 sold to Ephraim K. Smart (lawyer)
- 6 High St.**  
**Windward House Bed & Breakfast**  
1856—Elijah Glover House (shipbuilder)
- 4 High St.**  
1856—Oliver C. Clary House (shipbuilder)
- 1 Mountain St.**  
1856—Eldridge G. Knight House. (sold hardware and tinware); sold house to Holly M. Bean, shipbuilder, who married Knight's daughter
- 2 Mountain St.**  
**The Steeple Condominiums**  
1893—Monument Square Methodist Church. Built after Great Fire of 1892 destroyed the Methodist Church on Mechanic St. The Methodist Church moved to John St. in 1991. The monument to the Union soldier has been moved from the boulevard to the Main St. side of Harbor Park.

- 49 Mountain St.**  
**Swan House Bed and Breakfast**  
1870—John B. Swan House (carriage manufacturer and undertaker)
- 50 Main St.**  
1806—Elisha Hobbs House

- 37 Main St.**  
**The Camden Deli**  
1905—built by Fred F. Thomas as a luncheon room called the "Two by Two."
- 39 Main St.**  
**Surroundings** (gifts)  
1915—Rockland, Thomaston & Camden Street Railway Waiting Room (also electrical appliance store owned by Central Maine Power Co.)
- 41 Main St.**  
**The Smiling Cow** (gift shop)  
1898—built on Elm for William V. Lane (photographer); moved to this location in 1919 by Herbert J. Potter, photographer.
- 43 Main St.**  
**Camden Cotton Company** (clothing)  
1913—Blackington's Fish Market
- 55 Main St.**  
**Camden Public Library**  
1928—designed by Parker Morse Hooper and Charles Greely Lyndon, architects. The Camden Library Archives contains the Edna St. Vincent Millay Archives and the Peyton Place Archives.

- Atlantic Avenue**  
Atlantic Avenue was laid out in 1880.
- Atlantic Avenue**  
**Bok Amphitheater**  
1929—Mary Bok donated the land and hired Fletcher Steele, landscape architect. The Amphitheater has been used for harp concerts, Shakespearean performances, Winter Carnival ceremonies, weddings, and funerals.
- Atlantic Avenue**  
**Harbor Park**  
1928—Mary Bok donated the land and hired Olmsted Bros., landscape architects. Beginning in 1850, there were several shipyards and boatshops here. The shipyards were owned by Elijah Glover, who sold to Oliver Clary in 1863, and then Isreal Decrow who went into partnership with Isaac Coombs. In the 1870s the shipyard was owned by David Decrow. In the late 1920s, the head of the harbor had become an unattractive collection of sheds, so Mary Bok purchased the land, cleaned it up, and donated it to the town as a park.  
A statue of Edna St. Vincent Millay, the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, was created by local sculptor Robert Willis and erected in Harbor Park in 1989.

- 21 Mechanic St.**  
**The Brewster Building: The Bogel Cafe**  
1912—J. A. Brewster Shirt Factory. In the 1920s, this was the Penobscot Woolen Mill, and in the 1930s it was the Camden Textile Corporation. A watershed on the back of the building was restored in the 1990s.
- 19 Washington St.**  
**Gibbons and Calderwood LLP**  
1970—Clifford O'Rourke Building (lawyer)
- 17 Washington St.**  
**Global Packing and Shipping**  
1927—Richard's Meat Market
- 15 Washington St.**  
**Harborside Consultants**  
1926—Arthur Marshall Building (Henry Brock Meats)
- 12 Mechanic St.**  
**Hannon, Jones and Sanford** (law offices)
- 11 Mechanic St.**  
**Harmon's Garage**  
1912—Bailey's Garage (cabinetmaker and painter)
- 10 Mechanic St.**  
**Camden House of Pizza**  
1941—part of the Camden Theater
- 9 Mechanic St.**  
**Maine Foothills** (clothing and shoes)
- 8 Mechanic St.**  
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- 39 Elm St.**  
**Rite Aid Pharmacy**  
1996—Rite Aid Pharmacy
- 41 Elm St.**  
**The Harstone Inn**  
1851—Captain Joseph C. Stetson House (shipbuilder)
- 43 Elm St.**  
**Camden Real Estate Company**  
1851—John W. K. Norwood House (ship chandler)
- 49 Elm St.**  
**Johnstone Chiropractic Center**  
1839—Ephraim S. Flye House (cabinetmaker and painter)
- 51 Elm St.**  
1846—Alfred D. Mansfield House (blacksmith on Main St., with brother, Elnathan D. Mansfield)
- 73 Elm St.**  
**Jaret & Cohn Real Estate**  
1816—Captain William Norwood House (sea captain, international trader)
- 75 Elm St.**  
1860—Charles F. Hosmer Homestead (boot and shoe manufacturer)  
1928—moved here by Roy A. Fuller (mailman) to make room for Telephone Co. on Elm.
- 77 Elm St.**  
**Hope Health**  
All Star Cafeteria (Moved here in 1929 by Roy A. Fuller (mailman) to make room for Telephone Co. on Elm.)
- 79 Elm St.**  
**Edward Jones Investments**  
1853—Samuel Chase House (blacksmith)
- 84 Elm St.**  
1886—Captain Calvin Curtis House (carpenter and customs inspector)
- 88 Elm St.**  
**The Elms** (lodging)  
1806—Captain Calvin Curtis House (carpenter and customs inspector)
- 82 Elm St.**  
**Blachery Inn**  
1849—Henry Knight House (store and tin business, first president of Camden National Bank)
- 80 Elm St.**  
1981—William and Stell Shevis House (artists—two of the founders of Maine Coast Artists, now the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport.)
- 78 Elm St.**  
**The Cutting Room** (beauty salon), **Skinnage Studio** (day spa)  
1826—James Bird House (cordwainer; made shoes from new leather)
- 76 Elm St.**  
1826—Jeremiah C. Cushing House (houseswright)
- 74 Elm St.**  
**Margo Moore Interiors** (interior design and home furnishings)  
1838—Charles Porter House (lawyer); sold to N. G. Bourne (shipbuilder) 1847; sold to James Perry 1856.
- 72 Elm St.**  
**Captain Swiff Inn** (named for Capt. Frank Swift who started the windjammer cruises in 1936)  
1818—Simon Hunt House (harness and saddle maker)
- 71 Elm St.**  
**The Wellness Center**  
1814—Allen Bass House (houseswright; sold to Dr. Benjamin Porter to Capt. Oliver Griffen to Capt. Isaac Coombs)
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**Blue Harbor House Inn**  
1835—Hiram Perry House (master mariner)
- 65 Elm St.**  
**The First (bank)**, **Maine Coast Photo & Digital**  
1893—William A. French Block (candy store, Farnsworth Grocery Store, and Ross's Pharmacy)
- 63 Elm St.**  
**Brevetto Kitchen & Coffee Bar**  
1863—Knox Woolen Mill (finishing, fulling, weaving, carding, and spinning)
- 61 Elm St.**  
**30 Washington St.**  
**Eric's Barbershop**  
1994—Eric's Barbershop
- 60 Elm St.**  
**Hanks of Change Massage**  
1923—Fred Dean Confectionery and Annie Dean Rooming House
- 59 Elm St.**  
**22 Washington St.**  
**Warner Graphics** (printing & graphic design)  
1941—Lucky Strike Bowling Alley

- 57 Elm St.**  
**Heavenly Threads** (First Congregational Church resale shop)  
1830—Elisha Gilkey House (merchant and trader)
- 59 Elm St.**  
1870—Elnathan D. Mansfield House (blacksmith on Main St.)
- 63 Elm St.**  
**Mahogany** (beauty salon)  
1839—Benjamin F. Tyler House (houseswright. Sold to E. W. Hosmer, who sold to Capt. James Clark who sailed to San Francisco in 1849)
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1848—Oliver C. Clary House (ship carpenter)
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- 21 Atlantic Avenue**  
**Camell, Payne and Page Yacht Brokers**  
1904—American Boathouse (for Chauncy B. Boreland's steam yacht *Mauna Loa*)
- 17 Atlantic Ave.**  
**Wayfarer Marine Corp.**  
1914—Camden Yacht Building Co. built to house H. H. Windler's steam yacht *Apache*. Across the street, where Daley Brook runs under Atlantic Ave., was the site of Joseph Stetson's shipyard, established in 1840. He built 70 ships in Camden and then sold the shipyard to John Witherspoon in 1854. John Daley built ships here and he built the house at 22 Atlantic Ave. as his carpenter and cooper's shop.
- 23 Atlantic Ave.**  
**Harbor Head Marina** (sales, service, storage)  
1914—Camden Yacht Building Co. (boatshop)
- 59 Sea St.**  
**Wayfarer Marine**  
1940—1988—Camden Yacht Building Co. and Wayfarer Marine  
In the 1850s, Jones and Adams had a salt wharf here, and David Fernald had a wharf on the point. Around the point, at the end of Steamboat Landing, was the steamboat wharf for the Eastern Steamship Co. boats from Boston. Next to the steamboat wharf, Thomas Hodgman and Russell Glover had a shipyard.  
In 1875, Holly Ben purchased the Hodgman & Glover Shipyards and expanded it along the east side of the harbor. The Bean Yard was famous for building ships of all sizes, including a six-masted schooner named the *George W. Wells*. The Bean Shipyard closed in 1909. Bean's son, Robert operated the R. L. Bean Yard here from 1914 to 1920.  
In 1940, Richard Lyman, Cary Bok, and Clinton Lunt formed the Camden Shipbuilding and Marine Railway Co. and built wooden mine sweepers and coal barges for World War II. Wooden ships were safe from the magnetic mines that sank steel ships. Eleanor Roosevelt came to christen the first barge in 1943.  
After the war, Cary Bok and William Petersen formed the Camden Shipbuilding Co. and built fishing boats and private yachts, with Malcolm Brewer as their designer. In 1963, the Camden Shipbuilding Co. declared bankruptcy, and Tom and Dick Watson formed Wayfarer Marine Corp. to purchase it. Wayfarer Marine Corp. is a boat storage and marine repair yard.

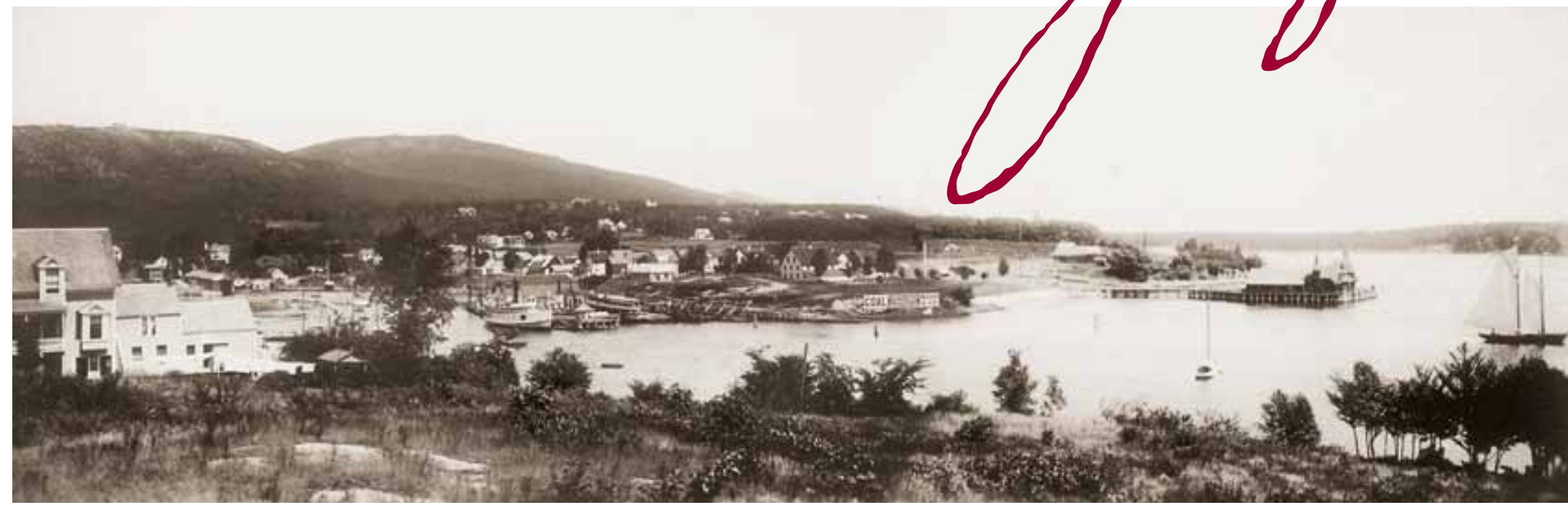
- 31 High St.**  
1887—Andrew Pendleton House (master mariner, sea captain)
- 39 High St.**  
1901—Dudley Martin House (master mariner, sea captain)
- 43 High St.**  
1899—Errol E. Hosmer House (Mrs. Hosmer's Boarding House)
- 45 High St.**  
1910—Francis R. Porter House
- 49 High St.**  
1901—Bath Ordway Cottage
- 51 High St.**  
1901—Wilder Perry Cottage
- 63 High St.**  
**Norumbega Bed and Breakfast**  
1886—Joseph Stearns House

- 68 Elm St.**  
**Town Motel**  
1853—Thomas H. Hunt House (gold harnesses, saddles, caskets; son of Simon Hunt)
- 66 Elm St.**  
**Town & County Realtors**  
1833—Joseph Stockbridge House
- 64 Elm St.**  
1826—James Clark House (mariner, Captain Clark sailed to San Francisco in 1849)
- 62 Elm St.**  
1867—Dexter W. Russell House (blacksmith on Bay View St.)
- 79 Elm St.**  
**The Village Variety** (convenience store)  
1970—The Village Variety
- Corner of Elm and Union Sts.**  
**The Conway Boulder**  
1906—Commemorates the start of William Conway of Camden. At the beginning of the Civil War, Confederate soldiers ordered Conway to take down the American flag at the Peninsola Navy Yard. Conway refused to do so and was thrown in prison.
- 58 Elm St.**  
**Children's House Montessori School**  
1869—Elm St. School (high school until 1904, elementary school until 2001)
- 56 Elm St.**  
**Critter Outfitter, Camden Herald Newspaper**  
1906—First Congregational Church Sunday School and Auditorium (Edna St. Vincent Millay attended Sunday School here.)
- 52, 54, 56 Elm St.**  
apartments  
1833—Job Hodgman, Jr. (trader, shipper)
- 50 Elm St.**  
**Good House Bed & Breakfast**  
1840—Coburn Tyler House
- 46 Elm St.**  
**Camden Hot Tub Company**  
1940—Roland G. Ware's Gulf Oil Station
- 44 Elm St.**  
**Hawley-Carlson Wagonit Travel, Frugal Suez's** (resale shop)  
1990—Hewins-Carlson Travel
- 40 Elm St.**  
**Fairpoint Communications**  
1930—New England Telephone & Telegraph Co.

- 39 Elm St.**  
**Rite Aid Pharmacy**  
1996—Rite Aid Pharmacy
- 41 Elm St.**  
**The Harstone Inn**  
1851—Captain Joseph C. Stetson House (shipbuilder)
- 43 Elm St.**  
**Camden Real Estate Company**  
1851—John W. K. Norwood House (ship chandler)
- 49 Elm St.**  
**Johnstone Chiropractic Center**  
1839—Ephraim S. Flye House (cabinetmaker and painter)
- 51 Elm St.**  
1846—Alfred D. Mansfield House (blacksmith on Main St., with brother, Elnathan D. Mansfield)
- 73 Elm St.**  
**Jaret & Cohn Real Estate**  
1816—Captain William Norwood House (sea captain, international trader)
- 75 Elm St.**  
1860—Charles F. Hosmer Homestead (boot and shoe manufacturer)  
1928—moved here by Roy A. Fuller (mailman) to make room for Telephone Co. on Elm.
- 77 Elm St.**  
**Hope Health**  
All Star Cafeteria (Moved here in 1929 by Roy A. Fuller (mailman) to make room for Telephone Co. on Elm.)
- 79 Elm St.**  
**Edward Jones Investments**  
1853—Samuel Chase House (blacksmith)
- 84 Elm St.**  
1886—Captain Calvin Curtis House (carpenter and customs inspector)
- 88 Elm St.**  
**The Elms** (lodging)  
1806—Captain Calvin Curtis House (carpenter and customs inspector)
- 82 Elm St.**  
**Blachery Inn**  
1849—Henry Knight House (store and tin business, first president of Camden National Bank)
- 80 Elm St.**  
1981—William and Stell Shevis House (artists—two of the founders of Maine Coast Artists, now the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport.)
- 78 Elm St.**  
**The Cutting Room** (beauty salon), **Skinnage Studio** (day spa)  
1826—James Bird House (cordwainer; made shoes from new leather)
- 76 Elm St.**  
1826—Jeremiah C. Cushing House (houseswright)
- 74 Elm St.**  
**Margo Moore Interiors** (interior design and home furnishings)  
1838—Charles Porter House (lawyer); sold to N. G. Bourne (shipbuilder) 1847; sold to James Perry 1856.
- 72 Elm St.**  
**Captain Swiff Inn** (named for Capt. Frank Swift who started the windjammer cruises in 1936)  
1818—Simon Hunt House (harness and saddle maker)
- 71 Elm St.**  
**The Wellness Center**  
1814—Allen Bass House (houseswright; sold to Dr. Benjamin Porter to Capt. Oliver Griffen to Capt. Isaac Coombs)
- 70 Elm St.**  
**The Wellness Center**  
1814—Allen Bass House (houseswright; sold to Dr. Benjamin Porter to Capt. Oliver Griffen to Capt. Isaac Coombs)
- 69 Elm St.**  
**The Wellness Center**  
1814—Allen Bass House (houseswright; sold to Dr. Benjamin Porter to Capt. Oliver Griffen to Capt. Isaac Coombs)
- 67 Elm St.**  
**Blue Harbor House Inn**  
1835—Hiram Perry House (master mariner)
- 65 Elm St.**  
**The First (bank)**, **Maine Coast Photo & Digital**  
1893—William A. French Block (candy store, Farnsworth Grocery Store, and Ross's Pharmacy)
- 63 Elm St.**  
**Brevetto Kitchen & Coffee Bar**  
1863—Knox Woolen Mill (finishing, fulling, weaving, carding, and spinning)
- 61 Elm St.**  
**30 Washington St.**  
**Eric's Barbershop**  
1994—Eric's Barbershop
- 60 Elm St.**

# A Short History of Camden, Maine

In 1769, James Richards brought his family from New Hampshire to live in the wilderness that is now Camden. He had fallen in love with the area when he came to cut timber for British ship masts. Richards built a sawmill and a gristmill on the Megunticook River near Washington St. His two brothers built cabins close by and brought their families to Camden.



The view of Camden Harbor from upper Bay View Street, circa 1920, with the Camden/Islesboro steamboat (left) and the Eastern Steamship Company terminal (right)

During the American Revolution, rebels seized British ships and sold their contents. The British plundered and burned cabins, houses, and mills. In 1779, people feared the British would annex eastern Maine to Nova Scotia and, rather than take an oath of allegiance to Britain, residents of Belfast evacuated to Camden leaving their crops in the fields. The British burned buildings at Camden Harbor. General George Ulmer erected a fort and cannon at Glen Cove and Lieutenant Benjamin Burton protected Camden Harbor.

In 1791, Camden incorporated as part of Massachusetts. It had a beautiful harbor with a sawmill and a gristmill on a freshwater stream. It became a market for all the back country for it was easier to sail to Boston or Europe than to walk to Boston. In 1792, Captain William McGlathery built the first ship in Camden at his shipyard which stretched from Chestnut Street all the way to the harbor. Benjamin Cushing and Noah Brooks took over the shipyard in 1800 building and repairing vessels during the War of 1812.

The prosperity of Camden came from the sea: from shipbuilding and ship provisioning, from sea captains and ship owners shipping fish and timber to Great Britain and France. But during the Napoleonic Wars, Great Britain and France prohibited trade with each other and both seized American ships that did so. President Thomas Jefferson levied an embargo, confining all ships to port. New England commerce came to a halt;

seamen were out of work; lumber sat on the shore; fish rotted. Many ships eluded the customs officials and sailed to foreign ports illegally. British ships seized American ships and pressed Americans into service in the British Navy. A second embargo caused an economic depression. The War of 1812 followed.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state in the Union as part of the Missouri Compromise. Joseph Stetson established the Stetson Shipyard at the head of the harbor and built 70 vessels over 20 years. He invented the "coffee break" to discourage his workmen from drinking rum on the job. A woolen mill and a paper mill went up along the Megunticook River.

The first steamboats began operating on Penobscot Bay in 1823. Passengers from Boston connected with a steamboat at Bath Street and carried them to Owls Head, Camden, Belfast, and north. Great religious revivals held along the coast from the 1830s through the 1880s led to large increases in church membership. The First Congregational

Church, which had met in the town meetinghouse since 1805, built its building in 1834. The Chestnut Street Baptist Church was built in 1837. The Methodist Church was built on Mechanic Street in 1841. And St. Thomas Episcopal Church was established in 1855 in a meetinghouse on Mountain Street.

In the 1850s, the lime industry flourished from Camden to Rockland. The quarries in Rockland and Rockport were the deepest open-pit quarries in the world. Limerock was burned in lime kilns on the west side of Camden Harbor, at Rockport Harbor, and at Rockland Harbor. Burned lime was crushed to powder, loaded into barrels, and shipped all over the world to be used for mortar, plaster, and many other products. A mill on the Megunticook mixed saltpeter and brimstone to make blasting powder for the quarries.

David Knowlton established a machine shop on the river to make capstans, cargo winches, windlasses, steering wheels, and dead-eyes for rigging ships. And the Megunticook Grist Mill ground 35,000 bushels of grain a year.

Shipping and shipbuilding made Camden prosperous before the Civil War. Ships built in Camden, or in any of the towns along the coast of Maine, were the pride of America in harbors all over the world. Ship captains from Camden sailed to the four corners of the world, not only traveled, but also well read, for they all had extensive libraries on board. While Maine basked in the glory days of sail, the nation took notice. The Whig National Convention was held in Belfast in 1840 and in 1860 Abraham Lincoln chose Hannibal Hamlin of Bangor as his vice presidential running mate.

During the Civil War, Camden men fought at Fredericksburg, at Chancellorsville,

and at Gettysburg, where Col. Joshua Chamberlain of Brunswick led the Twentieth Maine Regiment to victory in the Battle of Little Round Top. When General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Joshua Chamberlain and the Twentieth Maine received the surrender of arms.

After the Civil War, the railroads and the Industrial Revolution gradually brought an end to the shipping industry that had made Maine the most prosperous state in the Union. As more and more goods were manufactured in America, Americans no longer needed to import those goods from Europe. It was not profitable to sail to Europe full of lumber, lime, cotton, ice, or fish, and then sail for home empty.

But ships were still being built in Camden. The Holly M. Bean Shipyard opened on the east side of the harbor in 1875. Holly Bean and his son Robert built 64 large wooden sailing vessels before the shipyard closed in 1920. Horatio and William Alden established the Camden Anchor Works, the largest plant of its kind in the country, supplying anchors to ships all over the world. The Knox Woolen Mill on the Megunticook River produced the endless felts used in the manufacture of newspaper.

In the 1880s, the summer people discovered Camden. Sarah Orne Jewett's stories of nostalgia for the sea. Camden's deserted wharves and fine old homes of sea captains, and the paintings of Fitz Hugh Lane, Frederick Church, and Childre Hassam evoked a romantic vision of Maine and induced many to come to stay at the Bayview House Hotel, Ocean House, and Mrs. Hosmer's Boarding House.

In 1880, Edwin Dillingham of Bangor built the first summer cottages in Camden on Dillingham Point. The summer colony at Camden grew to include many prominent families from Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Chicago, and Washington, D. C. who built large, rambling Shingle Style cottages along the road to Belfast and on Beauchamp Point. The summer people arrived on the Boston Boats or on the Maine Central Railroad at Rockland. Local residents, who had formerly gone to sea, found jobs as caretakers, gardeners, and carpenters.

In 1891, the Town of Camden separated from the Town of Rockport. Then in November, 1892, a fire—fed by a strong easterly wind—burned the business district to the ground. Right away, Camden businessmen made the tremendous investment to build 12 large brick buildings, the Masonic Temple (now the Lord Camden Inn) and the Camden Opera House.

The Great Fire did not discourage the summer people. In 1897, Columbus Buswell built a road to the top of Mt. Battie and erected an inn at the top. In 1898, a group of friends from Philadelphia established the Megunticook Golf Club on Beauchamp Point. And in 1901, the Whitehall Inn opened on High Street in an old house built by a sea captain.

At the turn of the century, six mills operated along the Megunticook River and two foundries used the water power. In 1901, the Camden Anchor works became the Camden Anchor-Rockland Machine Company, building boats, launches, dories, and gasoline engines.

In 1912, Cyrus Curtis built the Camden Yacht Club on the site of the old lime kilns on Bay View Street. That same year, Edna St. Vincent Millay read "Renascence," a poem she wrote from the top of Mt. Battie, to the guests at the Whitehall Inn. One of the guests offered to pay her tuition to Vassar. After

graduating from Vassar, "Vincent" went on to write poetry and plays that made her one of the most famous women in America and an inspiration for the Roaring Twenties.

World War I put all the mills to work filling "War Orders," and the Camden Anchor-Rockland Machine Company built four battleship tenders for the U. S. Navy.

During the Depression, summer residents donated the land for the village green, the public library, the amphitheater, Harbor Park, and the Public Landing. Students from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia gave concerts at the Camden Opera House. Carlos Salzedo founded the Salzedo Harp Colony and each summer held a Harp Festival in the amphitheater beside the library. A CCC camp gave young men jobs building roads and hiking trails on Mt. Battie and Mt. Megunticook.

In 1936, Captain Frank Swift began operating windjammer cruises on old sailing vessels, and the Camden Winter Carnival led to the creation of the Camden Snow Bowl at the upper end of Hosmer Pond.

World War II brought prosperity to Camden. The CCC camp became an army camp, and the mills went to double shifts. The Camden Shipbuilding and Marine Railway Company, located at the old Bean Shipyard, built 30 vessels in three years, and Eleanor Roosevelt came to christen the first barge in 1943. After the war, the CCC camp was given to the State of Maine and became the Camden Hills State Park.

In the 1950s, artists and writers began moving to Camden. Local artists organized Maine Coast Artists in Rockport. Wayne Doolittle began publishing *Down East Magazine* from a little house on Bay View Street in 1954, and in 1957 Twentieth Century Fox filmed *Peyton Place* in Camden because the quaint, old town looked like an American icon.

In the early 1980s, Camden was named one of the ten best places to retire, and many did so: doctors, diplomats, corporate executives, authors, and retirees from the CIA.

In 1988, the Knox Woolen Mill closed. MBNA, the credit card giant, occupied the mill from 1992 to 2004, when the old mill was converted into retail shops and condominiums.

Today, the little town where the mountains meet the sea is truly the way life should be, for Camden still has fields and forests, hiking trails, stone walls, stary nights, rock-bound shores, and the beautiful, historical architecture of sea captains' homes.

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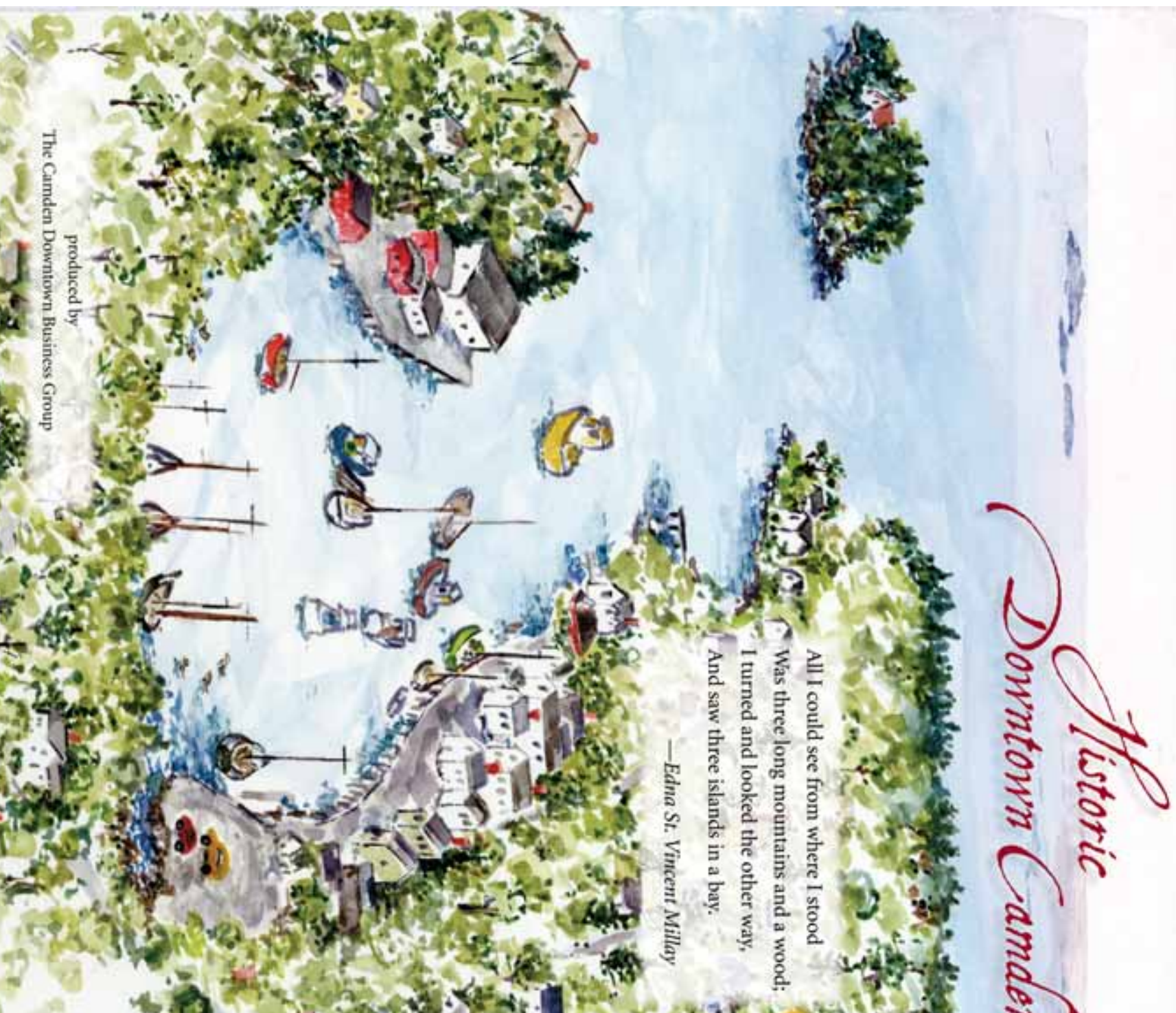
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The Camden Downtown Business Group

All I could see from where I stood  
Was three long mountains and a wood:  
I turned and looked the other way,  
And saw three islands in a bay.  
—Edna St. Vincent Millay