

Yarmouth, Maine Walking Tour

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House Markers

As you tour

Yarmouth's village you will notice some homes with markers. The house marker program was established by Yarmouth's Village Improvement Society as a means to increase awareness of the historically and architecturally significant buildings in town. The history of these homes and information about the individuals who built them can be found at the Yarmouth History Center.

CUSHING PRINCE HOUSE
c.1785



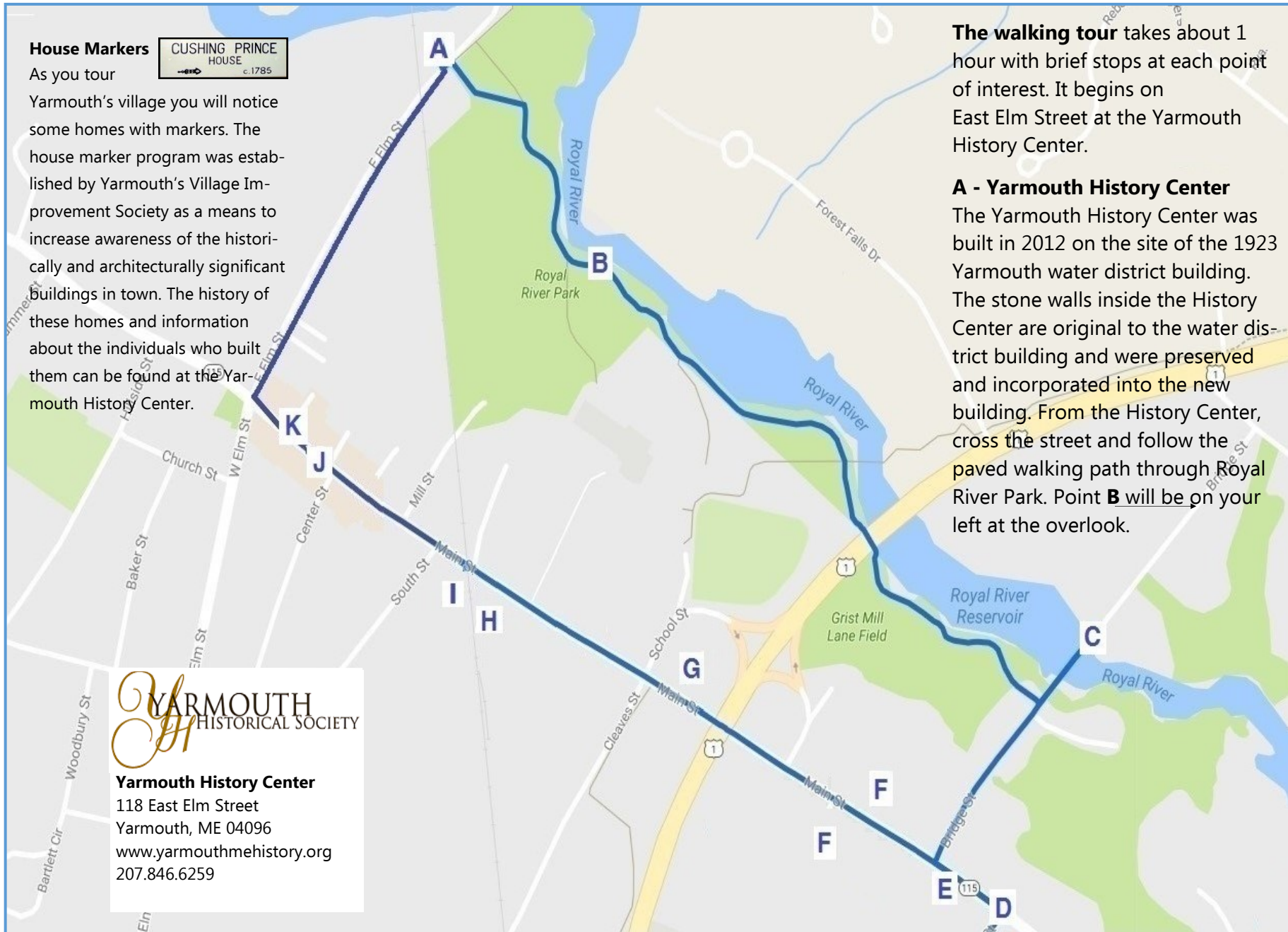
Yarmouth History Center

118 East Elm Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096
www.yarmouthmehistory.org
207.846.6259

The walking tour takes about 1 hour with brief stops at each point of interest. It begins on East Elm Street at the Yarmouth History Center.

A - Yarmouth History Center

The Yarmouth History Center was built in 2012 on the site of the 1923 Yarmouth water district building. The stone walls inside the History Center are original to the water district building and were preserved and incorporated into the new building. From the History Center, cross the street and follow the paved walking path through Royal River Park. Point B will be on your left at the overlook.



B - Third Falls

This site is marked with informational signs about the history of the mills that once operated on this site. The first paper mill was established in 1864. This company was known as the Yarmouth Paper Company. In 1874, S.D. Warren and George W. Hammond purchased the rights to an operating soda pulp mill, a mill built in 1872 to replace the original mill that burned. They established the Forest Paper Company. The Forest Paper Company operated until 1923. After the mill's closure, the unoccupied building burned in 1931. The remains of Forest Paper Company can be seen at this site. Continue down the path along the river until it ends at Bridge Street.

C - Sparhawk Mill

At the end of the paved path, turn left and proceed across the bridge to point **C**, the Sparhawk Mill. In 1847 Eleazer Burbank opened the North Yarmouth Manufacturing Company. The company made cotton yarn and cloth. In 1855, Libby and Harrison purchased the business and replaced the wooden mill with a brick structure. They opened the Royal River Manufacturing Company, which manufactured seamless cotton grain bags. In the mid-20th century, the mill was bought and sold repeatedly but the Royal River Manufacturing continued to operate until 1951, with a brief interruption during the Great Depression. In the early 1950s the Old Sparhawk Mills Company moved into the mill and focused its production on braided rugs. In 1957, Sherman O. Yale took over the space to produce braided twine for lobster traps and yachting cord under the name Yale Cordage. In 1991 the mill was developed into a rental space for businesses. A lasting legacy of the mill is its electric turbines that still function today thanks to their revitalization in 1986.

D - Universalist Church

From the Sparhawk Mill, cross the bridge and continue up the hill on Bridge toward Main Street. At the top of the hill and turn left to Point **D**, the Universalist

Church. The church was established in 1886, at what had previously been the Central Parish Church. The Central Parish Church formed when members of the Congregational Church split in 1860. The split occurred because some members felt the Congregational Church was too liberal on issues of morality, alcohol use, and slavery.

E - First Parish Church

From the Universalist Church, cross Main Street, proceed to the right, cross Portland Street and head down Main Street to point E. The First Parish Church will be on your left. The congregation was established in 1730. The current Italianate style meeting house was constructed in 1867-68. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

F - North Yarmouth Academy

The First Parish Church's neighbor, North Yarmouth Academy, is point **F**. North Yarmouth Academy is one of the oldest private schools in Maine. NYA was incorporated in 1814 and its campus is located on both sides of Main Street. The school's main building, Curtis Hall was built in the 1930s. Across the street are the older campus buildings: Academy Hall built 1847-48 and Russell Hall built in 1841. Both buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Continue along Main Street toward the overpass bridge.

G - Merrill Memorial Library

At the traffic light cross Main Street. On the corner of Main and School Streets is point **G**, the Merrill Memorial Library. Joseph Edward Merrill, George Hammond, S. D. Warren, and John Coombs were key figures in the construction of the Merrill Memorial Library. The architect for the building was A. W. Longfellow, nephew of the famous poet, and senior architect for the firm that designed many Carnegie libraries.

H - Grand Trunk Train Station

Return to the stoplight crosswalk and cross Main and Cleaves Streets. Continue up Main Street until you

reach Village Green Park. Turn left into the park and walk toward the station. The Grand Trunk Train station, point **H**, was completed 1906, replacing a previous structure constructed in 1848. The station's elegant roofline, delicate brackets, and semicircular northern facade distinguish the building as a wonderful and unusual surviving example of mid-19th century station design. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

I - Bickford Collection

Return to Main Street and cross the tracks to access point **I**, Railroad Square. This collection of vintage trucks and heavy equipment was gathered by the late Erv Bickford. The vehicles can be seen anytime, but gates are open on Saturdays, May through October, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm.

J - First Baptist Church

Return to Main Street and continue up the street passing the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, built in 1923 with granite from a Yarmouth quarry, to point **J**, the First Baptist Church on the corner of Center and Main Streets. The church was designed by John Calvin Stevens in 1889 in his characteristic shingle style. Stevens designed more than 1,000 buildings in the state of Maine.

K - The Brick Block

At the crosswalk at Center and Main Streets cross Main Street, turn left, and proceed to the third building from the crosswalk. Samuel Fogg and Ansel Loring built the Brick Block in 1862. From 1878-1916 Cook's apothecary was on the right of the building. Cook's carried a "choice assortment of fine drugs and chemicals." Cook's store was then owned by Archie & Minnie Knapp. On the left was Marston's Dry Goods. Marston's store did business at this location for over 100 years!

Return to the Yarmouth History Center