



Fishing

Stonington's main industry is fishing and fishing related services. Lobsters and clams presently dominate the industry; however, crabs, urchins, scallops, mussels, shrimp, oysters, elvers, and halibut are also fished. In 2021, 10.99 million pounds of lobster were caught with a value of \$71 million, giving Stonington the distinction of being the number one fishing port in Maine.

Until 1992, herring (sardines), mackerel, and lobster were processed and canned in Stonington factories. Dories, Friendship sloops, and peapods (a double ended row boat roughly 16' long) were used for fishing. Eventually the Knox, a 4 hp make and break engine, was invented making it easier to get to fishing grounds. Over time, larger and more efficient engines made it possible to change from sail to the vessels you see in the harbor today. Early lobstermen used hoop nets with joints to catch lobster. They would catch the buoy, pull hard to close the net, then hoist the net up from the bottom. Later, more modern traps were invented, made of wooden lathe and hand knitted nets. Today all traps are wire mesh. Boats can usually be seen arriving and unloading their catch in the late afternoon.

Island men were known worldwide for their seamanship, often leaving the island to crew all over the world. They are most famously known for their victories in the 1895 and 1899 *America's Cup*.



Tourism

Although early travel was difficult, the first tourists arrived in the late 1880's. Known as "rusticators", they came to Stonington to escape the heat of the busy southern cities and to enjoy the country life and sea air. From 1879 to 1904 the steamship *Mount Desert* carried 150 passengers, who were offered lobster feasts upon arrival. The *Hotel Stonington*, located by the fish pier, offered fine accommodations (hot and cold running water!) and a dining room seating 40. Unfortunately it burned in 1919. One could find entertainment at the Music Hall (Opera House), and enjoy bicycle riding, day sailing trips, picnics, and walks overlooking scenic views. SOUND FAMILIAR??

We feel fortunate that even though access to our lovely island is now easier, we have not changed very much through the years.

"Deer Isle is like Avalon; it must disappear when you are not there.... There is something about it that opens no door to words. But it stays with you afterward, and, more than that, things you didn't know you saw come back to you after you have left." — John Steinbeck



Johnson and Young Lobsters

The Waterfront

1. Colwell Ramp Now the public boat and kayak site, it once housed *Johnson and Young* lobster brokers back when sloops and peapods were used.

2. Isle au Haut Ferry Dock Boats go daily to Isle au Haut with mail and passengers. Half of this island is an outpost of Acadia National Park. The Sardine Factory that operated from 1910-1992 was located in this red building.

3. Tidal Salt Water Pool Dories and small boats are moored here.

4. Powder House Island Blasting powder was stored here for use in the granite quarries. A house was later built on the site, but is no longer there.



5. Hagen Dock The public landing is used for both pleasure and commercial boats. The public restrooms are located here.

6. The Fish Pier This commercial wharf serves the fishing industry.

7. Crotch Island This granite quarry is still in operation today. Barges transport cut stone around to Webb's Cove, where they are offloaded and trucked off island.

8. Greenhead This is the site where settlers first landed to form what eventually became the town of Stonington.

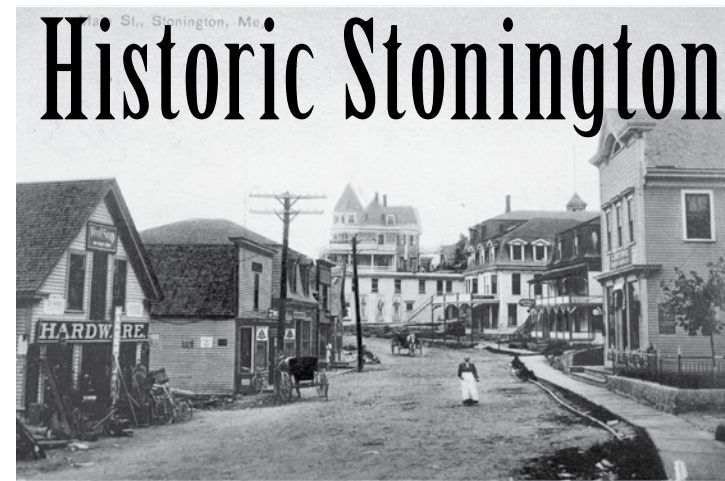
9. Moose Island There are lobster pounds on both sides of the causeway that lead to the island. It is the home of *Billings Diesel*, a full service shipyard.



The house on Powder House Island



The location of Hagen Dock



A map of historic buildings and points of interest on Main Street Stonington and the waterfront.



A three-masted schooner unloads material at what is now the fish pier.



The sea was, and still is, an important part of our lives.

About Our Town

Stonington, one of the few remaining authentic working waterfronts villages of Maine, overlooks a majestic archipelago of more than sixty islands.

Originally settled in the early 1800's by farmers and fisherman, Stonington was part of the town of Deer Isle and was known as Green's Landing. After an argument over road maintenance (an incident involving a horse, a bridge, and where tax money was spent), the residents of Green's Landing petitioned to become a town. Shortly before its incorporation in 1897, the granite industry exploded and the population soared to over 4,000. Stonington became a boom town. Boarding houses were built for workers, and tourism increased. As newer construction materials replaced granite, commercial fishing took over as the main source of revenue. Today Stonington has 325 registered fishing vessels. Expect to hear diesel engines heading out to sea in the wee hours of the morning.

Most of the downtown buildings that still hug our harbor were built in the 1800's. Before the construction of the bridge in 1939, 30 stores lined the harbor. The stores sold everything from patent medicine, furniture, clothing, chandlery, to groceries, plus all the necessary services.



Granite

Stonington boasted 12 operating quarries in the 1890's; some were right here in town. In 1865 Job Goss started the first quarry on Greenhead. Ten years later he bought Crotch Island for \$200. The quarry he started there is still in operation today. Work in the quarry was hard and dangerous, often with 60 hour work weeks. The quarry employed stonecutters, sharpeners, paving cutters (who cut stone into loaf shaped blocks for roads), blacksmiths, teamsters, and laborers. Many were experienced foreign workers from Italy, Scotland, Sweden and Norway. Oxen, A-frame derricks, and rail lines were used to move stone to the water where it was loaded onto sailing schooners, and in later years freighters.

On Deer Isle, just about every foundation, wharf, and road bed from this era was made from Stonington granite. Local granite was also used for the John F. Kennedy memorial at Arlington Cemetery, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, the New York County courthouse, and the foundation of the Triborough Bridge.

The Crotch Island quarry is known for having cut the largest object from one piece of granite. The Rockefeller fountain is a 50 ton bowl, with a pedestal weighing 225 tons. It is located on the Rockefeller property in Tarrytown, New York.





1 STONINGTON OPERA HOUSE
1 OPERA HOUSE LANE
Russ's Music Hall, seating 900, was built in 1886. Renamed the *Opera House* in 1899, the building burned in 1910 but was rebuilt in 1912 with 256 seats. Entertainment included plays, silent movies, vaudeville, basketball games, dances and roller skating. Reopened in 1999 as *Opera House Arts*.



2 ISLAND FISHING GEAR
8 WEST MAIN STREET
 Site of the *Arcadian House*, a store with rental rooms above. Destroyed by fire; rebuilt as the *Stonington Hotel*. In 1919 *Webb's Auto Supply* was constructed on the site.



WEST MAIN ST.
54, 58, 60 WEST MAIN STREET
54: Pre -1910, this home was a 5&10 cent store. Otis Eaton sold grain to customers from a 60 foot sloop located behind the building.
58: A one time the funeral parlor, now *Marlinspike Chandlery*.
60: Known as *Gott's store* which sold various asundries.

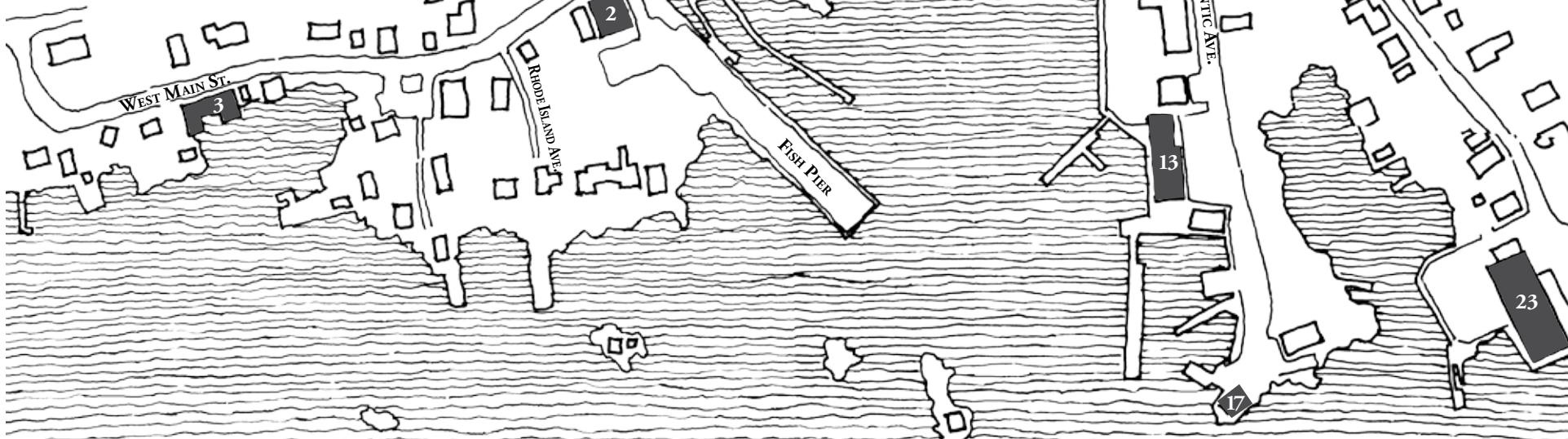
PHOTOS: Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society



4 DR. NOYES HOUSE
39 MAIN STREET
 Built using granite quarried from the site in 1906. His patients joked, "Hope you're not too sick for the climb". Dr. Noyes had the first x-ray machine in Maine, 10 years after it was invented. Burnt in 1981, but rebuilt in 1986 on the same foundation.



5 ISLAND APPROACHES
50 MAIN STREET
23-27 MAIN STREET
 At one time, the small buildings were the first printing press and a blacksmith shop, then a garage, and now a restaurant.



6 THE ISLAND AGENCY
26 MAIN STREET
 The building was built with a ground level store front and sided with cedar clapboards to add class to the clothing emporium, which later became the general store, *Sturdee & Co.*



7 TOWN HALL
32 MAIN STREET
 Built in 1885 as a schoolhouse with a bell tower. Then became the fire station and town hall. The third floor was the meeting place of the *Eastern Star* (for women) and *Masons* (for men.)



8 PEOPLES PHARMACY
50 MAIN STREET
 Built in 1896 with a "store front". *Peoples Pharmacy* carried garden supplies, seed, and the usual drug store items.



10 HARBOR CAFE
36 MAIN ST.
 Originally a boarding house for granite workers, with 20 rented rooms in the upper floors. *Union Deposit & Securities Bank* and a dentist office were on the first floor.



12 AMERICAN LEGION HALL
40 MAIN STREET
 Originally called *Sunset House*. The first floor was a bakery and lunchroom. Upstairs was a hall for the Knights of Pythias & Pythiaon, whose motto was "Honor, Loyalty, Freindship".



14 PENOBSCOT BAY PRESS
69 MAIN STREET
 In the 1880's, a patent medicine shop run by E.L. Frink, selling homemade cures. Later, *Jim Stinson's Auto Repair* and Stonington's first new car dealership. The westerly building was a stable, and quarry owner Job Goss's office.



16 PUBLIC LIBRARY
60 MAIN STREET
 This 1897 building once a millinery and shoe shop, has one of few remaining covered porches in town.



17 CO-OP II
21 ATLANTIC AVE
 Site of the ferry dock until the 1890's. Later, schooners delivered coal and oil here. Now the lobster co-op, it is the second oldest co-op in the state.



18 68 MAIN ST. (GWATSON GALLERY)
 Built as a large department store in the late 1800's it sold a full range of clothing and accessories on two floors!

19 70 MAIN ST. (44 NORTH COFFEE)
 In the 1800's Seth Webb had a hennery on Tea Hill. He cut it into sections and used them to make this building.



20 MINIATURE VILLAGE
74 MAIN STEET
 Built by Everett Knowlton starting in 1948. After his death, the buildings you see were donated to the town for everyone's enjoyment. The houses are "adopted" and maintained every winter by local residents.



20 OCEANVIEW HOUSE
3 SEABREEZE AVENUE
 This 1883 building once had it's own windmill and water tank. The Lion's Club, who were instrumental in getting the bridge built, met here.



21 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
6 THURLOWS HILL ROAD
 Originally built as a private residence, this building had a bay window and a covered porch. It has been remodeled several times.



22 METHODIST CHURCH
10 SEABREEZE AVENUE
 Built in 1893, it has extensive tin work on the walls and ceiling. In 1915 Rev. Blake and a boy scout troop hand dug the basement creating a community room. At one time 200 children attended Sunday school.



23 ISLE AU HAUT BOAT COMPANY
27 SEABREEZE AVENUE
 In the early 1900's, it was the *Eastern Steamship Lines* ferry terminal. Later, the *North Lubec Sardine Canning Factory* was built. It produced up to 100,000 cases a year until closing in 1992. Now the *Isle au Haut Boat Services*.



9 THE ODDFELLOWS HALL
19 MAIN STREET
 Built in Deer Isle; taken apart barged and reassembled in Stonington. As *Redman's Store*, products were unloaded from ships into the basement and hoisted to the first floor.



11 INN ON THE HARBOR
45 MAIN STREET
 An early version of a strip mall; including the first telephone office, a fish market, barbershop, post office, grocery, meeting hall and dentist office. The left hand building was brought in by barge.



13 MAINE CENTER FOR COASTAL FISHERIES
13 ATLANTIC AVENUE
 This site in 1890 was the *Thurlow-Knowlton Lobster Company* then *Flye Brothers* sardine factory; then *Atlantic Hardware*. Now MCCF, serves the fishing community.



15 BOYCE'S MOTEL
44 MAIN STREET
 This early 19th century block frame house was a grocery store before the family built *Boyce's Motel* in front of the old house.