

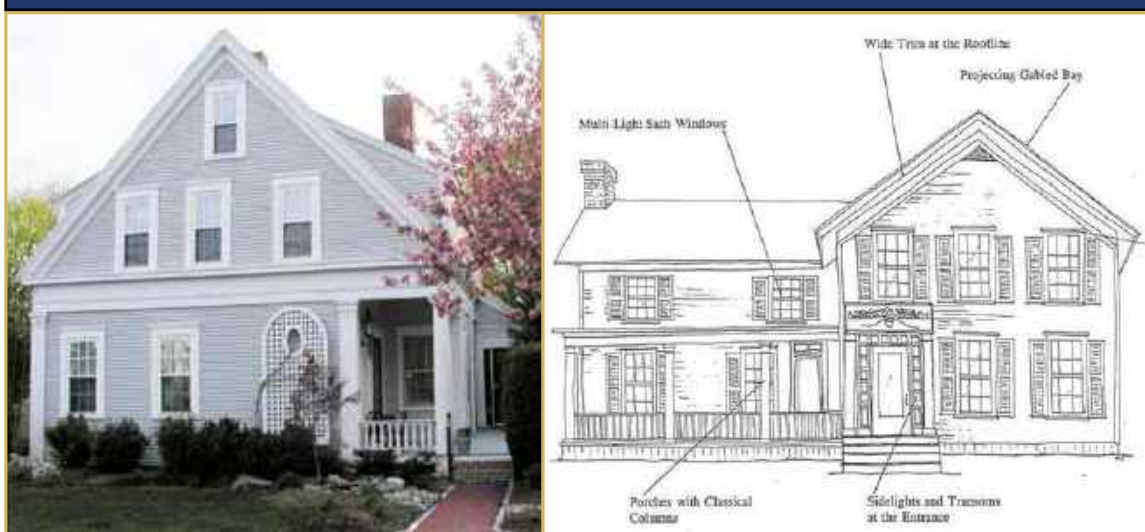
# Main Street

IN THE 1800s more than  
*150 Sea Captains* called  
**HYANNIS** home.

Tree lined streets, such as  
Pleasant Street, or Sea Captains Row,  
link **MAIN STREET** to the **HARBOR**.

The Old Colony Railroad originally extended  
to a wharf in **THE OUTER HARBOR**  
along what is now  
**OLD COLONY ROAD**.

## Sailing the Seven Seas



35 Pleasant Street

Greek Revival Architectural Details

**Capt. Allen Crowell** ( 1821-1891), whose home was built at 35 Pleasant Street in 1852, is famous for having sailed the SEVEN SEAS. His home remains a fine example of the Greek Revival architectural tradition popular in that era and found throughout the historic neighborhood of Pleasant & School streets. Crowell began his career on the sea at the age of 10. In 1847, with Captain Alan Baxter, he sailed on the *Cabot* & the *American Belle*, bringing grain to a famished Ireland. On his return, Baxter set the record of that era for an Atlantic Ocean crossing.



Main Street, Hyannis, Mass.

## Old Colony Railroad

In the summer of 1854, the railroad tracks for the Old Colony Railroad were extended a mile and a half from Main Street to South Hyannis shore, to a stone wharf where the steamer *Nebraska* could take the rail passengers to Nantucket. The rail ran until 1872. Old Colony Road marks the path of these original tracks.

## President Grant & the River Queen



In 1874 President Ulysses S. Grant arrived in Hyannis on the *River Queen* to inaugurate the extension of the *Old Colony Railroad* from Hyannis to Provincetown. With fanfare, he addressed crowds at the corner of Pleasant and Main streets, as well as at each stop on his way to Provincetown. The *River Queen* was the floating headquarters for General Grant, President Lincoln and General Sherman during the Civil War. It was later operated by the Nantucket and Cape Cod Steamboat Co. in New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.



This postcard from 1884 shows an aerial view of Hyannis looking south towards the harbor.  
Can you find where the Old Colony Railroad continued all the way to the outer harbor?  
Can you find Pleasant Street and Sea Captains Row? The postcard was printed by AF Poole in Brockton, and the lithograph drawing done by Geo H. Walker & Co. in Boston.



**The Cash Block** building was built in 1829 by **Captain Alexander Baxter**, with F.C.Tobey. Baxter is often referred to as “the Father of Hyannis,” for his commitment to developing the village in the early 19th century.



**27 Pleasant Street** was built before 1770 by Captain Allen Hallett. It is the oldest residence in Hyannis still on its original foundation and location.

Photos courtesy of Hyannis Public Library

## Can you name the Seven Seas?

Pacific Ocean ↔ Atlantic Ocean  
Mediterranean Sea ↔ Caribbean Sea  
Indian Ocean ↔ Arctic Ocean  
Gulf of Mexico



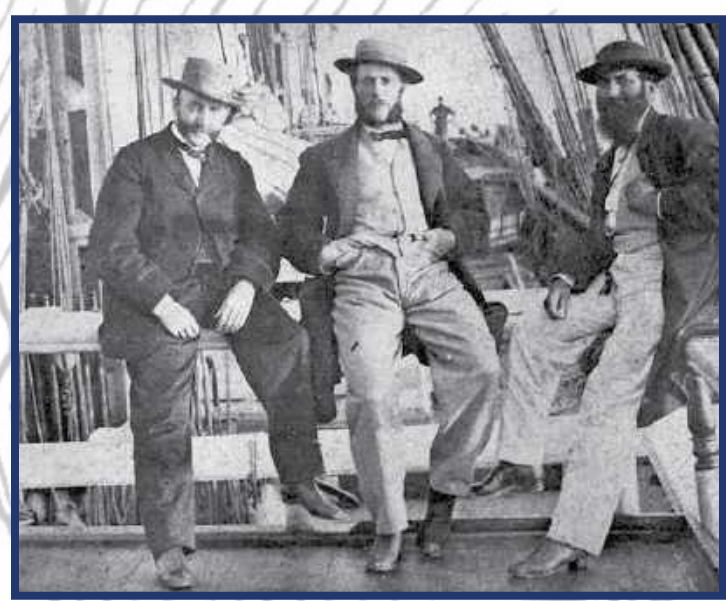
### THE HERITAGE TRAIL

Follow the **i** and look for these symbols to discover fun things to do, how to get there, and historical facts about Hyannis.



# Ocean Street

Through **HISTORIC EVENTS &**  
ever-changing times,  
**HYANNIS MAIN STREET**  
continues to be a center  
for recreation,  
commerce & culture.



Courtesy of Hyannis Public Library



## *The Mayflower Block*

The block containing the Federated Church is known as the “Mayflower Block,” for the famous Mayflower Restaurant, at 334 Main Street. The Mayflower flourished there from 1932 to 1987. One writer called it the “signature stop for diners in Hyannis.”

## *Megathlin’s Pharmacy*

Megathlin’s Pharmacy, seen in the photo, was a mainstay of Main Street for decades. It was owned by CW Megathlin, the first president of the Chamber of Commerce.

*From the Barnstable Patriot, 1905*  
“C. W. Megathlin’s new drug store was opened on Thursday and was lighted for the first time on Thursday evening. Since then Mr. Megathlin has been the busiest of men, ... acknowledging congratulations for his store, the newest and best this side of Boston ... It has a very fine large soda fountain ...built by the Puffer Co. of Boston especially for Mr. Megathlin. This handsome marble structure in soda fountains ... attracts already crowds of visitors.”



*The north side of Main Street looking west c. 1910-1920*

Courtesy of Barnstable Historic Society



*The north side of Main Street looking east, showing Megathlin’s*

Courtesy of Barnstable Historic Society



*Main Street, Hyannis, Cape Cod, Mass.*

*Main Street 1950s*

## *The Fire of 1904*



Courtesy of Barnstable Historic Society

On December 2, 1904, a devastating fire began in the east end of town near Center Street, across from the railroad depot. The sound of church bells ringing & train whistles blowing alerted the residents of Hyannis. An east wind blew the fire down Main Street through the wooden structures to Barnstable Road. More than 15 buildings were destroyed, including the telephone exchange, post office and First Universalist Church (later rebuilt as Federated Church, now at 320 Main St.). It was reported that this was the third time that Augustus B. Nye’s paint shop had burned down in 12 years.

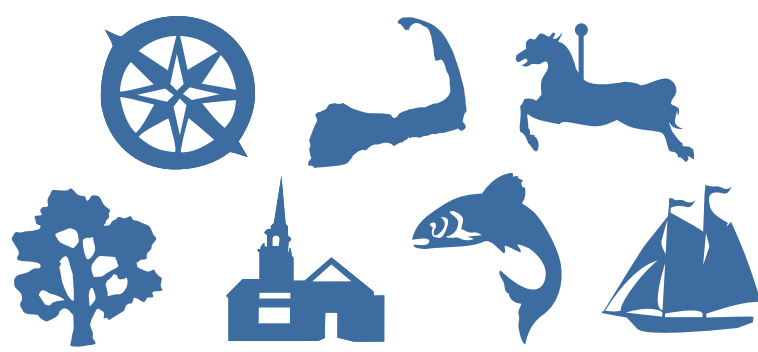
## *Why Pineapples?*

Sea captains travelling the world would bring pineapples home as a source of vitamin C . They would put a real pineapple outside their homes, on fence posts, to show it was available inside to the people of the town. Hence, it has become a symbol of hospitality.

## *Reverend Sarah Dixon*



The Reverend Dr. Sarah Dixon ( 1866-1939) was the first minister of the Federated Church, and one of the first women pastors on Cape Cod - along with Reverend Anna Howard Shaw ( 1847-1919) in Dennis. The current building, built in 1958, is the 5th on the site since the first meetinghouse was built in 1830. One was destroyed in the Fire of 1904. The congregation is nicknamed *The Friendly Church* with the traditional gilded pineapple over the main door.



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# Hyannis Harbor

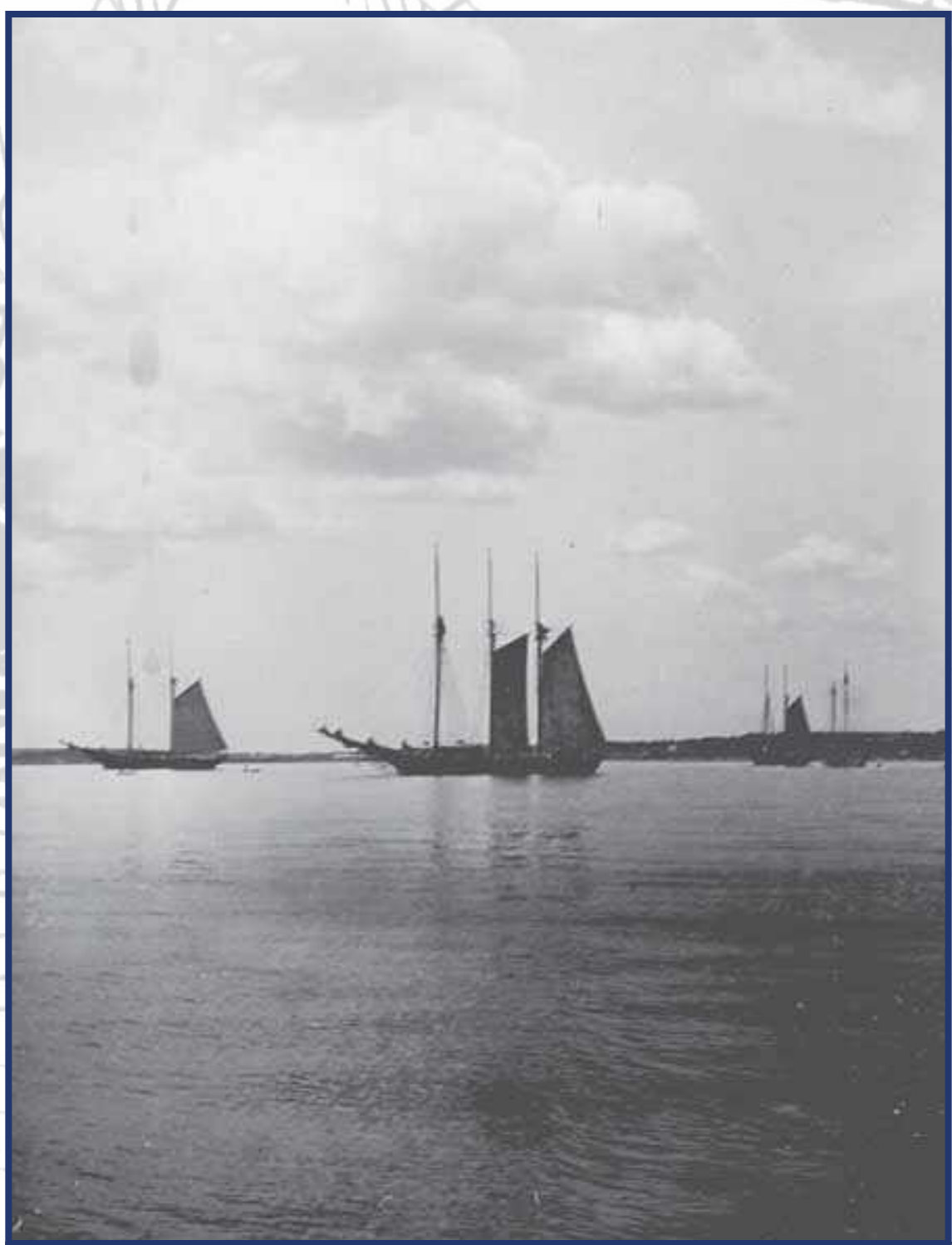
**WELCOME TO THE  
WORKING WATERFRONT  
HYANNIS HARBOR**, bustling with  
all the activities of a working harbor.  
In the second largest  
commercial fishing port  
on **CAPE COD**, visitors can  
watch local fishing fleets  
off load their cargo & enjoy  
recreational boating.



English farmers who settled in Hyannis in 1639, took to fishing for a livelihood. During the 19th century, wind-powered vessels dominated the commerce of the seas. By 1840 more than 150 sea captains had made their home near the village's sheltered harbor. The age of sail lasted until the advent of steamships & the railroad in 1854. Until 1872 the Old Colony Railroad's tracks extended to a stone wharf where passengers could debark to catch the boat to Nantucket.



*Photos courtesy of Hyannis Public Library*



A **schooner** is a sailing ship with two or more masts.

## *THE Wampanoag Tribe*

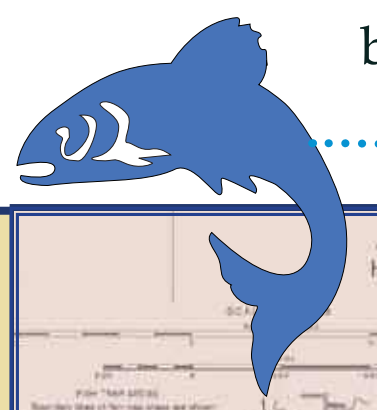
The Wampanoag Indians, members of the Algonquian Nation, were among the first settlers in the area. They were here for thousands of years before the European influx to North America in the 1600s.

The Cape offered a plentiful sea harvest & temperate climate to its native inhabitants.

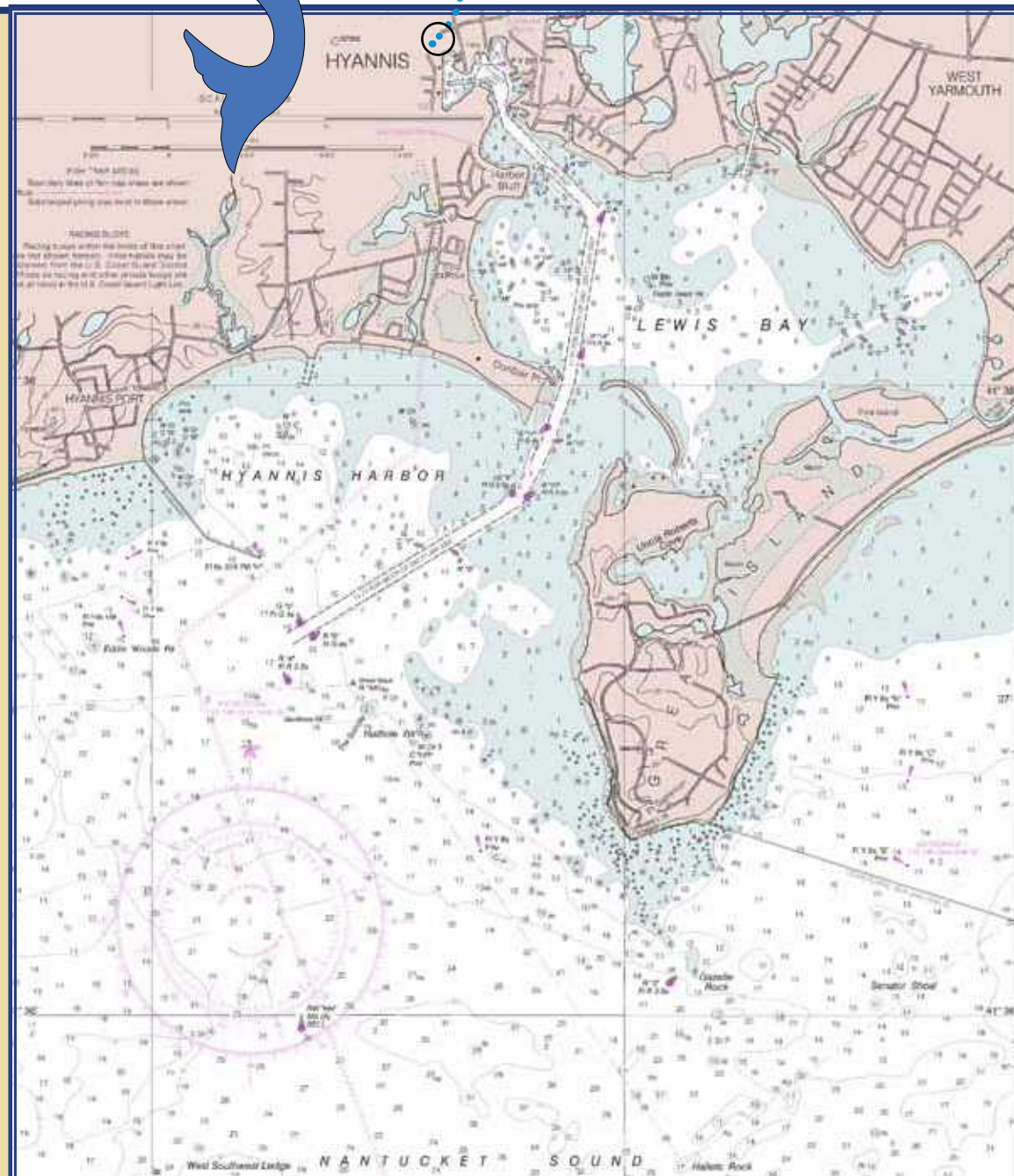
**Iyannough** was leader of the Mattakeese tribe of Cummaquid, a sub-group of the Wampanoag.

The village of Hyannis and the Wianno section of Osterville are named after Iyannough.

His statue stands at the head of the village green.



YOU ARE HERE.



HYANNIS HARBOR is protected by a breakwater which divides the harbor into Lewis Bay, to the north, and the outer harbor. The Hyannis Harbor Light, built in 1849 & decommissioned in 1929, can be seen from the outer harbor, outside Lewis Bay. A privately owned replica of the Brant Point lighthouse in Nantucket is located in the inner harbor and can be seen from the north shore near Aselton Park.

## What kind of fish are in Hyannis Harbor?

From inshore fish and deep sea fish, to lobsters and bottom fish, you'll find endless species living in the Atlantic Ocean waters off Cape Cod. Inshore you will find fluke, pollock, sea bass, and scup, while deep sea charters will see cod, halibut, bluefin & yellow fin tuna.



## *The Catboat Sarah*

The first boats in and out of the harbor were build of wood, from canoes to ketches to catboats. In 2004 a building overlooking Hyannis Harbor opened as the **Cape Cod Maritime Museum**, focusing on the history of these early boating traditions. A replica of the **1886 Herbert Crosby catboat, the Sarah**, was built in the museum's boat shop and is moored in the **Hyannis Harbor**.



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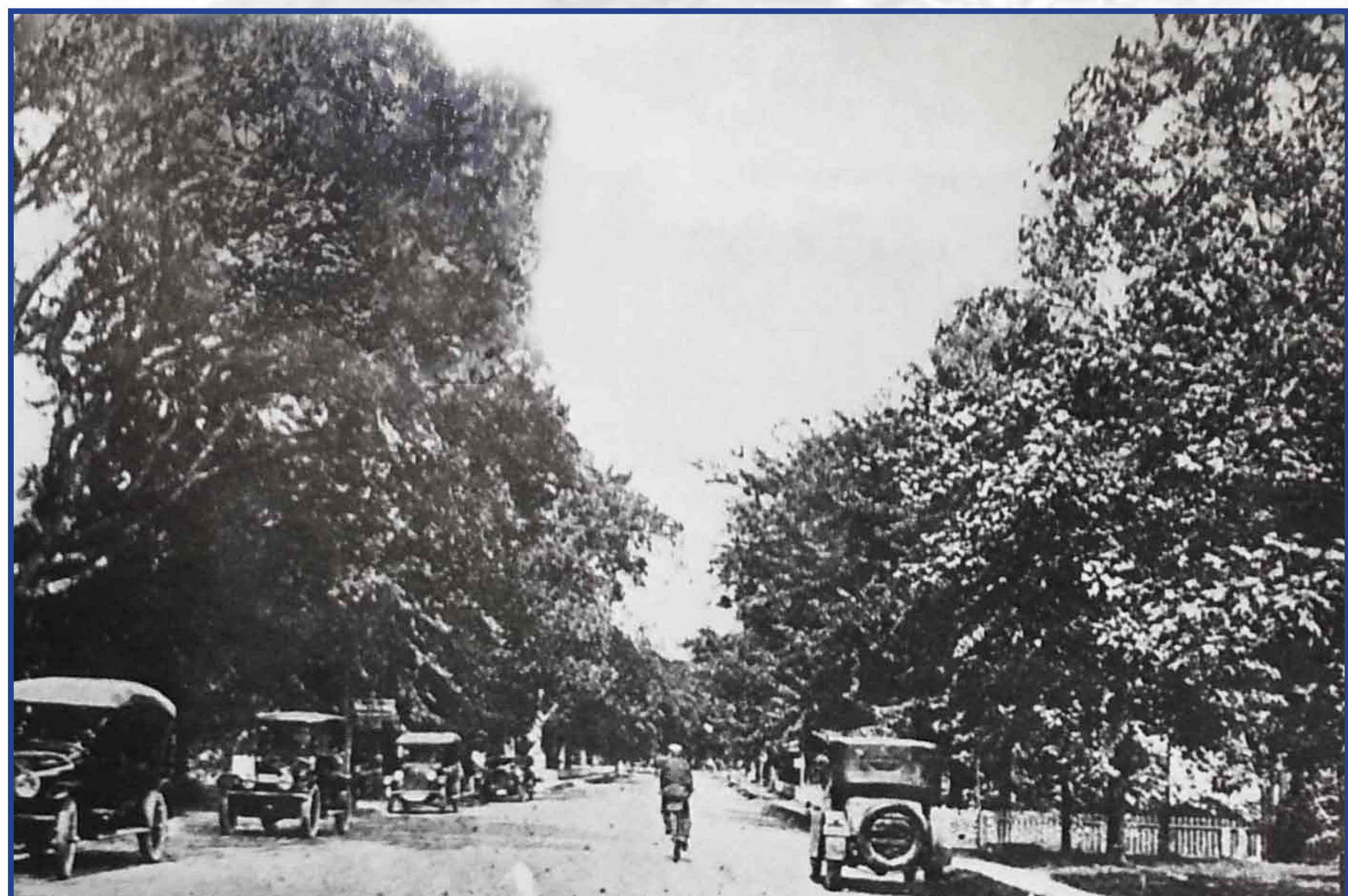


# Town Center

The **TOWN CENTER** of Hyannis —  
where town business & commerce  
meet culture & history.



400 Main Street, Hyannis



Hyannis Main Street from High School Road looking east

*Images courtesy of Hyannis Public Library*

Kennedy Museum

*Courtesy of Kennedy Museum Archives*

*“We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether is it to sail or to watch it, we are going back from whence we came.”*

*President Kennedy, September 1962*

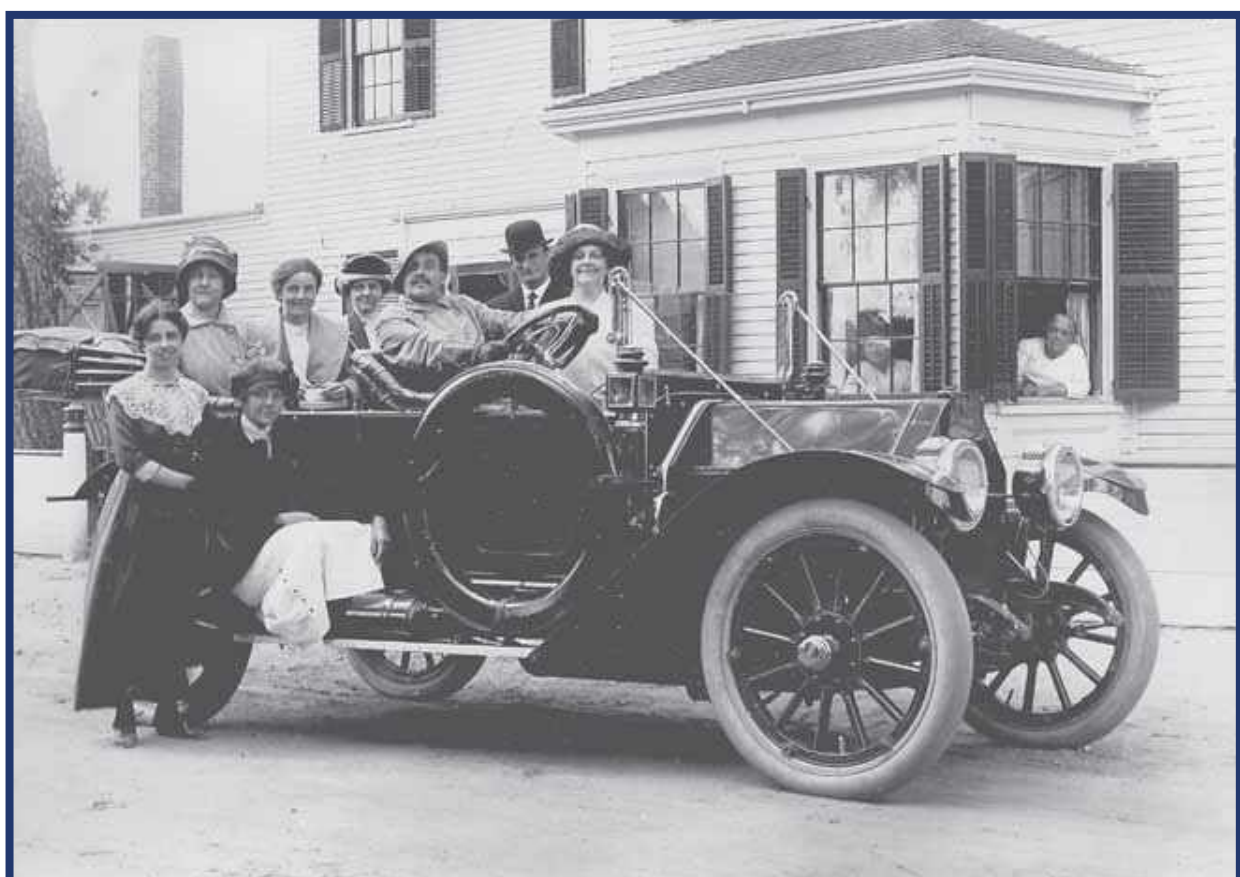
President Kennedy loved returning to Hyannis Port. Looking for rejuvenation, he enjoyed sailing his Wianno Senior, *Victura*, gifted to him by his father when he was fifteen years old, wherever the day’s breeze would take him: Hyannis Harbor, Lewis Bay, and Nantucket Sound. In 1992, the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum was founded, attracting visitors of all ages desiring to connect with the President and his family. The museum serves as ambassador to the legacy of President Kennedy, inspiring people of diverse cultures, and preserving the iconic connection with President Kennedy. Travel back in time, experience the Kennedy family through the museum’s exhibits and artifacts. Be sure to follow the Kennedy Legacy Trail, “return from whence you came,” and enjoy the salt air at the Kennedy Memorial overlooking beautiful Lewis Bay.

Walkway to the Sea

The Village Green was originally designed as a common for the school buildings that are now town offices. It is a place to relax, play & hosts a variety of entertainment year round. The bandstand was contributed by the **Hyannis Rotary Club** in 1998. The **Walkway to the Sea**, marked by the red brick & granite path, winds through the Village Green & the Overlook artist shanties to Hyannis Harbor.

Crossing South Street, to the right ( west), is the Hyannis Armory (225 South St.). Built in 1958, it is where President-elect John F. Kennedy presented his victory speech on Nov. 9, 1960, on the morning after his election.

It is on the National Registry of Historic Places.



A jaunty ride in Hyannis

*Courtesy of Hyannis Public Library*

Barnstable Town Hall

367 Main Street is a Romanesque Revival-style building, designed by Boston architects Hartwell, Richardson and Driver. Initially it was the site of the three-building campus of the Hyannis Normal School, built in 1897 to train elementary school teachers.

In the main entry is a mural depicting the schooner **Red Jacket**, painted by local artist **Vernon H. Coleman (1898-1978)** who created more than 100 murals for FDR’s WPA program in the 1930s. Rumor has it that the ship changes course as the viewer moves position.

**The Old Town Hall**, presently the location of the Kennedy Museum, is a neo-Federal two-story brick building, with a five-bay main block flanked by symmetrical single-story wings. Its entry is distinguished by a semi-circular portico supported by Corinthian columns. It was built in 1926.

The Hyannis Public Library

The library was founded in 1865 by a group of 14 women, led by Rosella Ford Baxter. She became its first president. From 1909 until 1943, Ora Adams Hinckley was the librarian. The library building at 401 Main Street was a former Hallett family residence, built c. 1800. It is a full-Cape structure over 250 years old.

It was purchased in 1908 for use as a library, and, with two additions in 1939 & 1974, is still an important part of the library today.

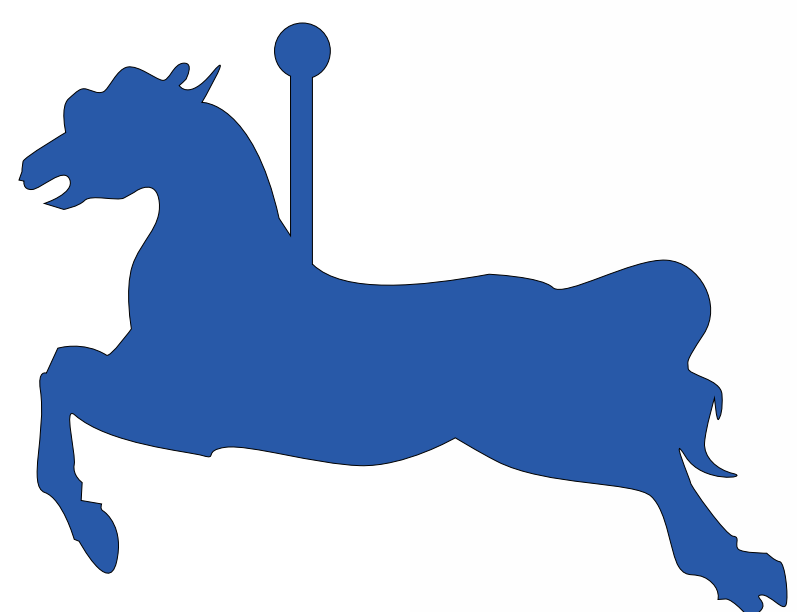
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# High School Road

**HYANNIS** holds a special spot  
in the hearts of residents & visitors,  
who love TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY in  
**CAPE COD’S DOWNTOWN**  
year round.



*The carousel at 541 Main Street was built in 1957  
by the Allen Herschell company,  
one of the primary carousel makers in the U.S.  
It was moved to its present spot in 1996.  
Many fondly remember Lorania’s Toys and Books,  
which was located in the arcade building. It was a  
popular stop for JFK & his family when  
vacationing on the Cape.*

## Born in Hyannis

**Paul J. Pena** (1950 – 2005) was a  
American singer, songwriter  
and guitarist who wrote the song  
“ Jet Airliner “ in 1977.

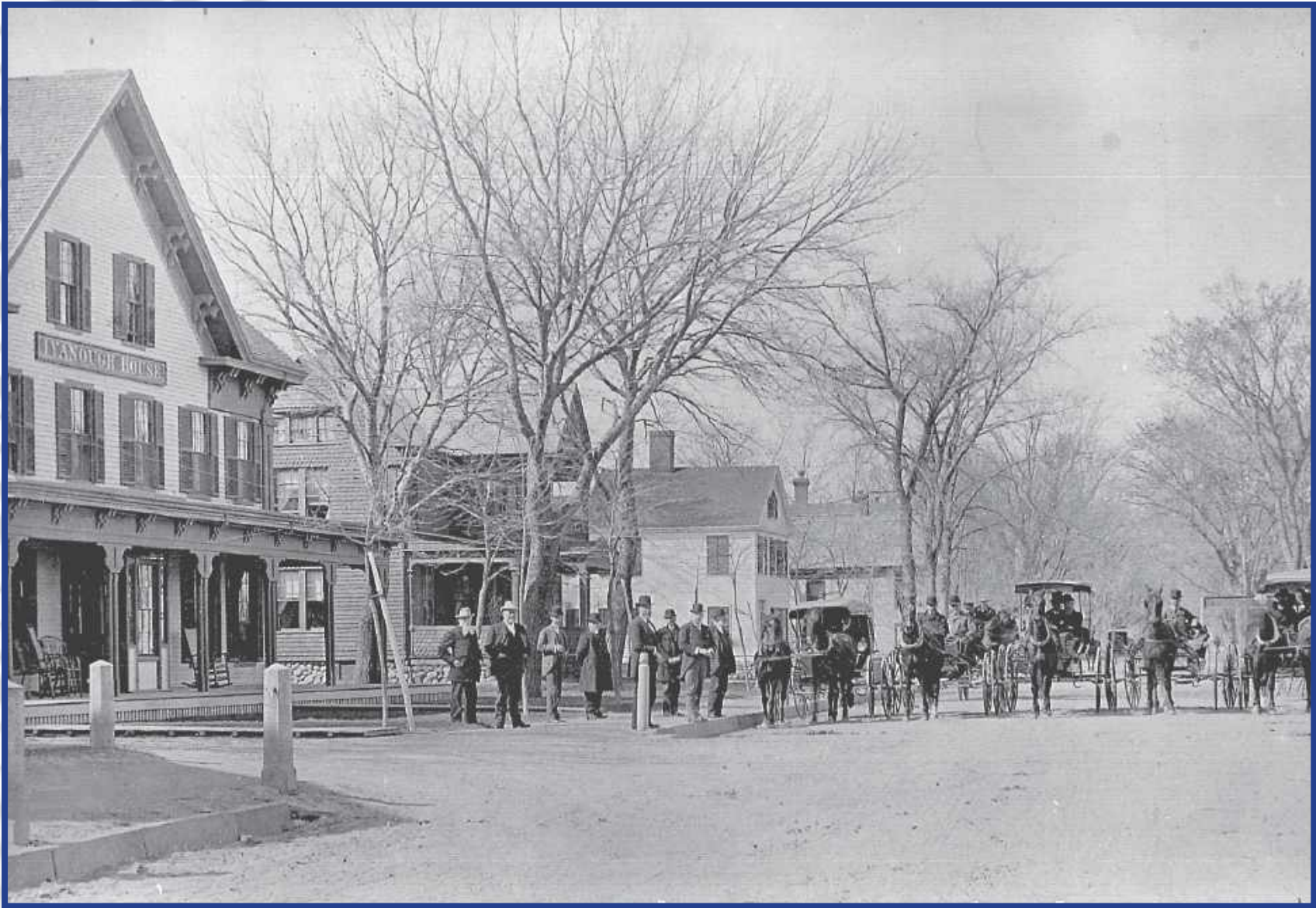
**John Henry Alvin** (1948-2008) was an  
American cinematic artist & painter.  
Alvin’s work included the movie  
posters for *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*,  
*Blade Runner*, *Gremlins*, *The*  
*Goonies*, *The Color Purple*, *The*  
*Little Mermaid*, *Batman Returns*,  
*Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and  
*The Lion King*.

**Zered Bassett** is a professional  
skateboarder.

**Robert Bridge Richardson, ASC**  
(1955) is an American cinemato-  
grapher. He has won the Academy  
Award for Best Cinematography  
three times, for his work on *JFK*,  
*The Aviator* and *Hugo*.

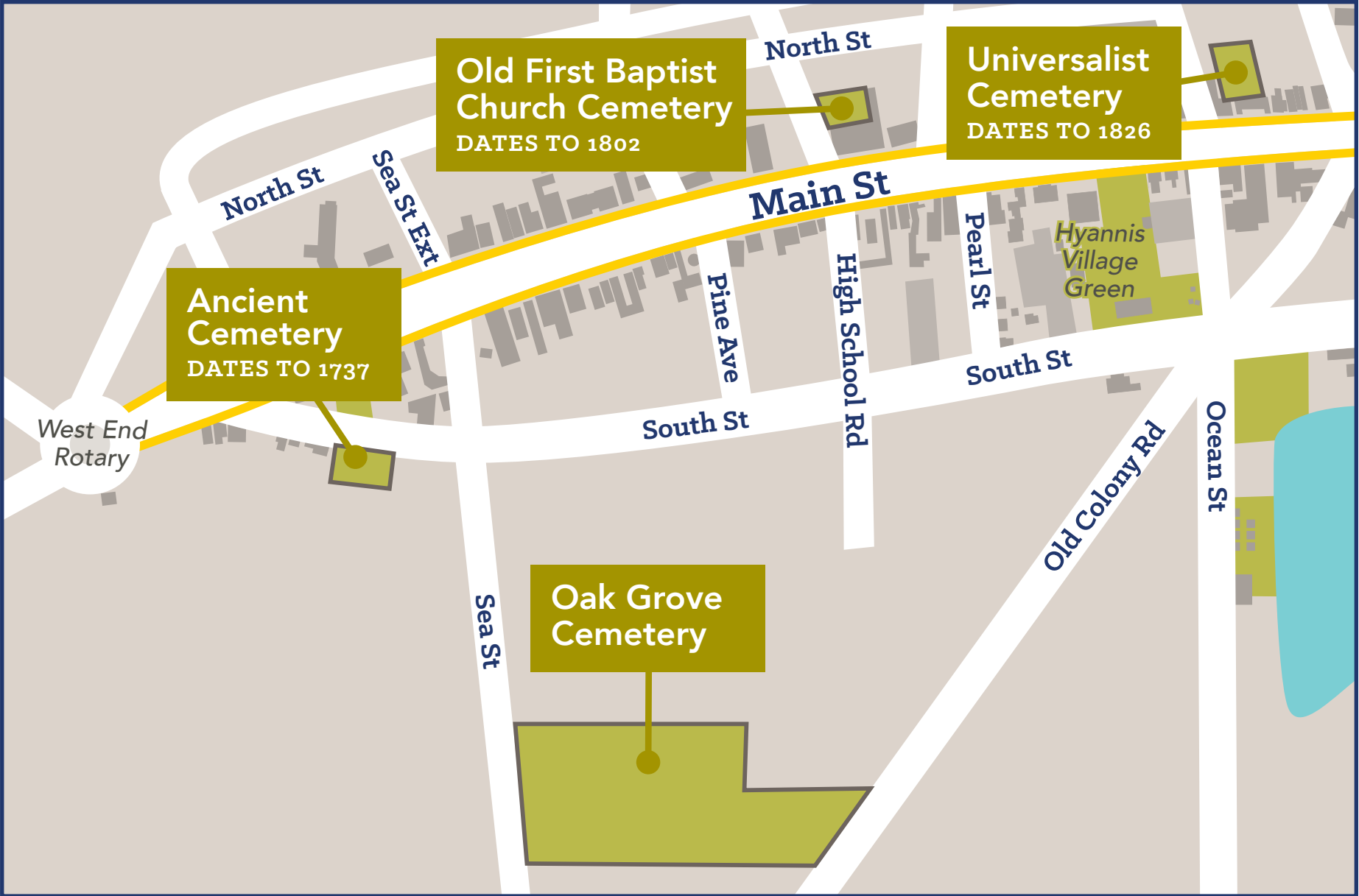
**Edward Francis Gleason** (1869-1944)  
was an American sport shooter  
who competed in the  
1912 Summer Olympics.

**Casey Sherman** (1969) is an  
American author, journalist and  
screenwriter most famous for his  
2009 novel *The Finest Hours*.



Main Street, Hyannis

Courtesy of the Hyannis Public Library



## Cemeteries & Burial Grounds

Within the Main Street area of Hyannis there are 4 historic burial grounds.  
**Please respect the sanctity of these spaces.**

**Ancient Cemetery**  
509 South Street  
dates to 1737

**Old First Baptist Church  
Cemetery**  
Main Street & High School Road  
dates to 1802

**Universalist Cemetery**  
between Main and Elm Streets,  
behind the Federated Church  
dates to 1826

**Oak Grove Cemetery**  
dates to 1828



## Dr. Charles E. Harris

Dr. Harris (1868-1947) came to Hyannis to start  
his medical practice in 1898. He played an  
active role in establishing Cape Cod Hospital.  
Years before the new hospital was built, he  
would host circus fund-raisers in his back yard  
where local residents dressed up as animals and  
clowns to entertain the guests.

## Sports

The Hyannis Harbor Hawks of the Cape Cod  
Baseball League play at McKeon Park from  
mid-June to early August.  
Hyannis is home to the Cape Cod Seadogs, a  
semi-pro football team which plays its home  
games at Barnstable High School.

## Historic Homes on & near Main Street

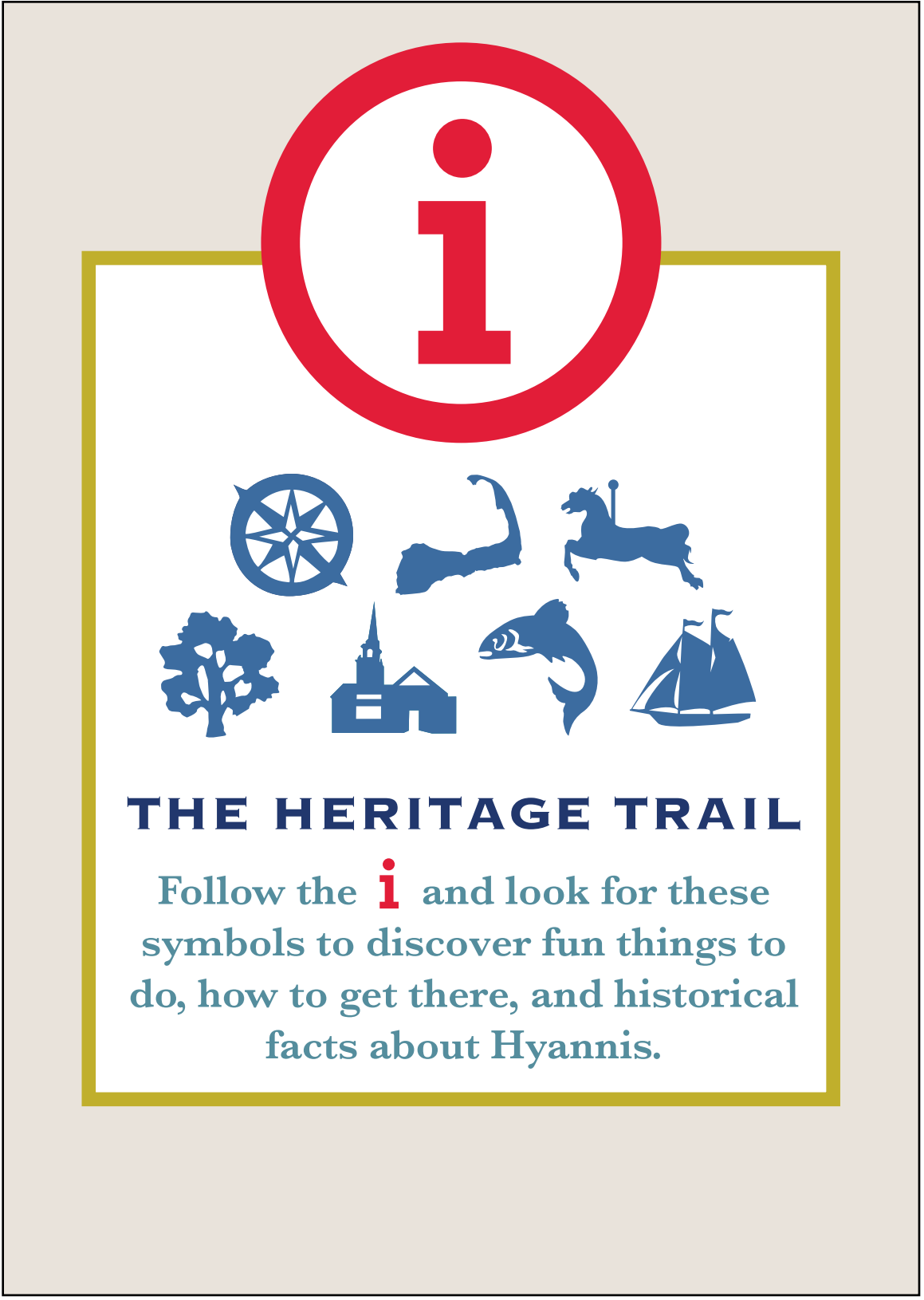
**Saturday Night Club Building**, 257 Main Street,  
c. 1910. Also known as the Furman Building. The  
building was once known as the Saturday Night  
Club, where men from the Hyannis Board of  
Trade went to talk shop.

**The Crowell/Guyer Barn**, 250 South Street,  
is a 1-1/2 Cape wood frame structure with a  
front-gable roof that has decorative brackets un-  
der the eaves. It was built c. 1865 and its earliest  
documented owner was Captain Sidney  
Crowell, a ship master active in the coasting  
trade. It is now the center of the HyArts campus  
with galleries & shows planned all season.

**Captain Allen Hallett House**, 27 Pleasant Street,  
was built before 1770. It is the oldest residence  
in Hyannis still on its original foundation and  
in its original location.

**Captain Asa Bearse House**, 419 Main Street,  
built 1840 and purchased in 1879 by local doctor  
Samuel Pitcher for his home. Pitcher was famous  
for inventing a medicine called castoria, a  
compound used as a substitute for castor oil.  
After his death in 1907 the house was purchased  
and became the Beechwood Inn.

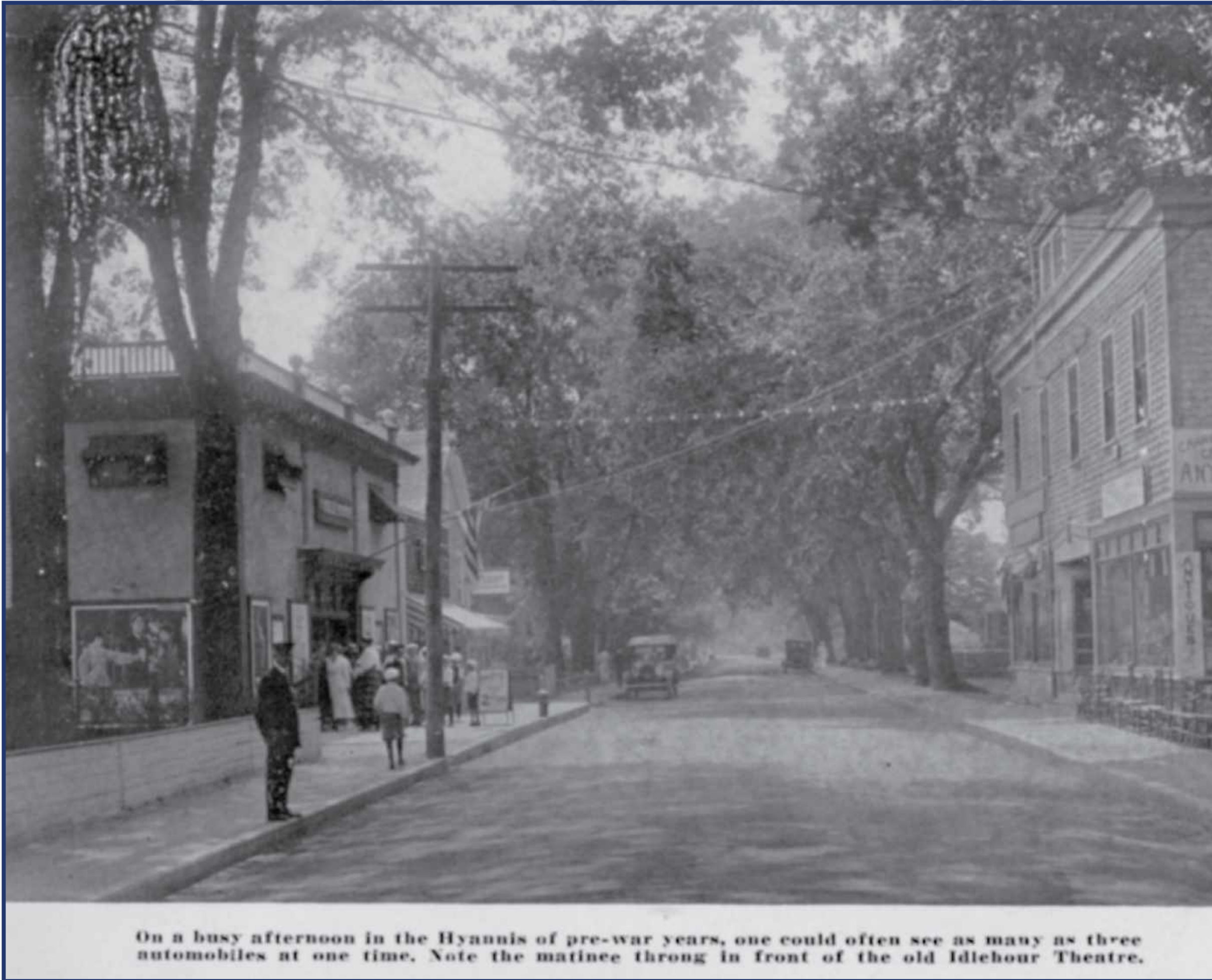
**Captain William Hallett ( 1805-1872) House**,  
568 Main Street, is a full Cape cottage rising  
from a low granite foundation to a gable roof  
with a center chimney. Some Queen Anne  
remodellings include a bay window on the west  
facade & a full shed dormer with an eyebrow  
curve over the central windows. Captain Hallett  
was a master of deep water schooners.





# The Arts in Hyannis

Artists have always been inspired by the beauty of Cape Cod & the **CHARM OF DOWNTOWN.**



*Idlehour Theater, 1913 (razed 1970)*

*The caption of the Barnstable Patriot photo reads*

*“On a busy afternoon in the Hyannis of pre-war years, one could often see as many as three automobiles at one time. Note the matinee throng in front of the old Idlehour Theater.”*



*Guyer Barn, HyArts Campus & HyArts Artist Shanties*

The historic Guyer Barn (1865) anchors the **HyArts Campus** as a community art space. The Campus also features a gallery & artist work studios.

Steps away, along Ocean Street, the **HyArts Artist Shanties**, inspired by the fishing shanties originally located by the harbor, feature Cape Cod artists who work & sell their wares in their ‘seaside studios’.



*The Cape Cod Music Circus, originally located on North Street and now the Cape Cod Melody Tent, began presenting musical shows in 1950.*

## The WPA Arts Program

Artwork on Main Street completed under FDR’s WPA Program include:

### Vernon Coleman, painter

1. oil mural, of the ship *Red Jacket*, Barnstable Town Hall, 367 Main Street
2. wrap-around mural high on the wall, 474 Main Street
3. half round murals on wall, representing scenes of Cape Cod, 334 Main Street
4. Other WPA murals by Coleman are held in non-public locations across Cape Cod.

### Benjamin Hawkins, sculptor

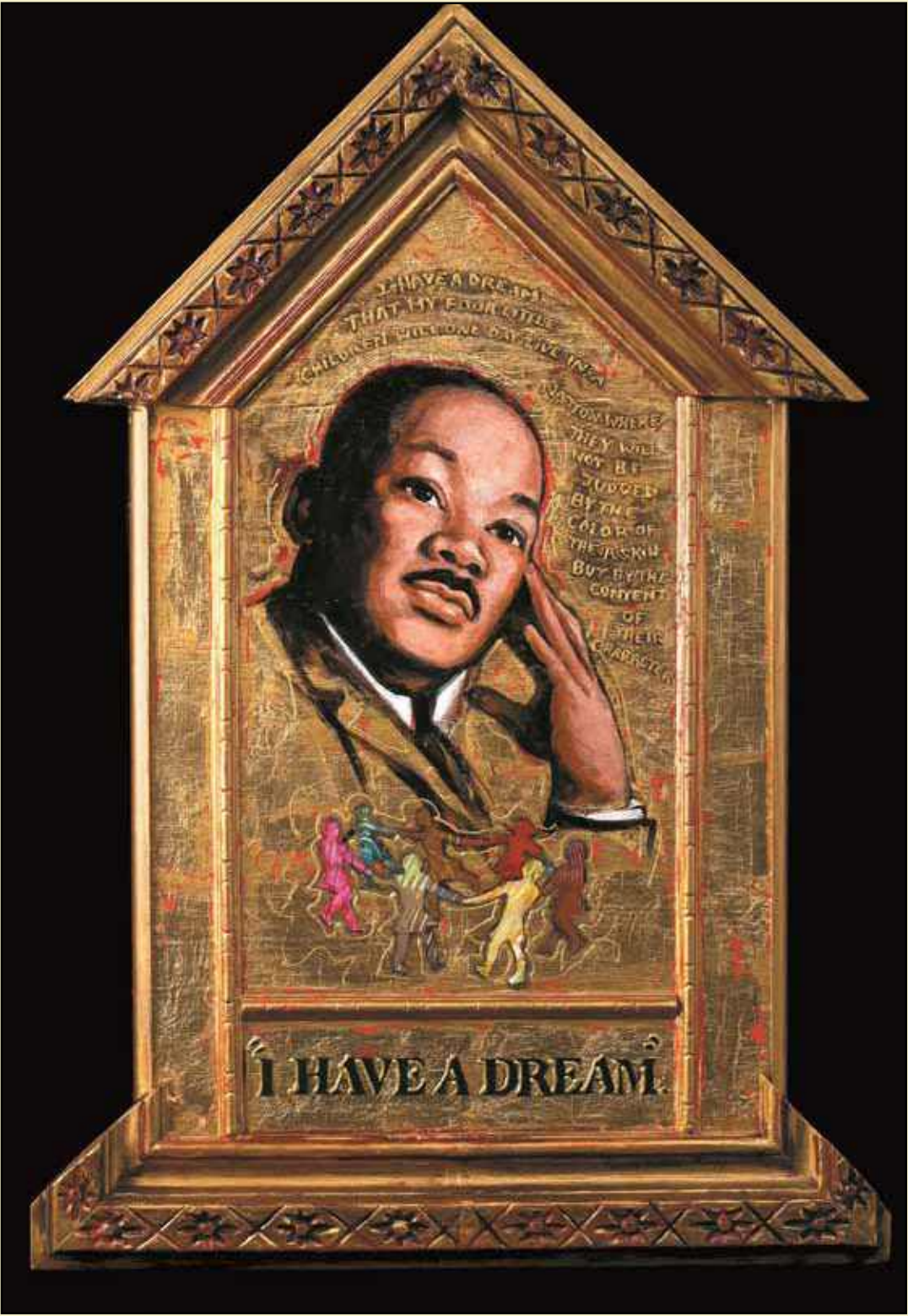
1. a bas relief sculpture titled “Cape Cod Fishermen,” hangs inside the front door at Hyannis Post Office, 385 Main Street

## Lou Colombo

Trumpet player & jazz giant Lou Colombo (1927-2012) made his home in Hyannis. He traveled the world with Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie & Tony Bennett, and was often seen playing in Hyannis, sometimes accompanied by other jazz greats, including pianist Dave McKenna (1930-2008) who moved to Cape Cod in 1966.

## Zion Union Heritage Museum

The **Zion Union Heritage Museum** at 276 North St. is an African-American, Cape Verdean and Native American museum and cultural center. The building was originally the home of the first interracial non-denominational church located in Hyannis. The museum has 10 artists-in-residence who create unique works of art that reflect perspectives of people of color on Cape Cod.

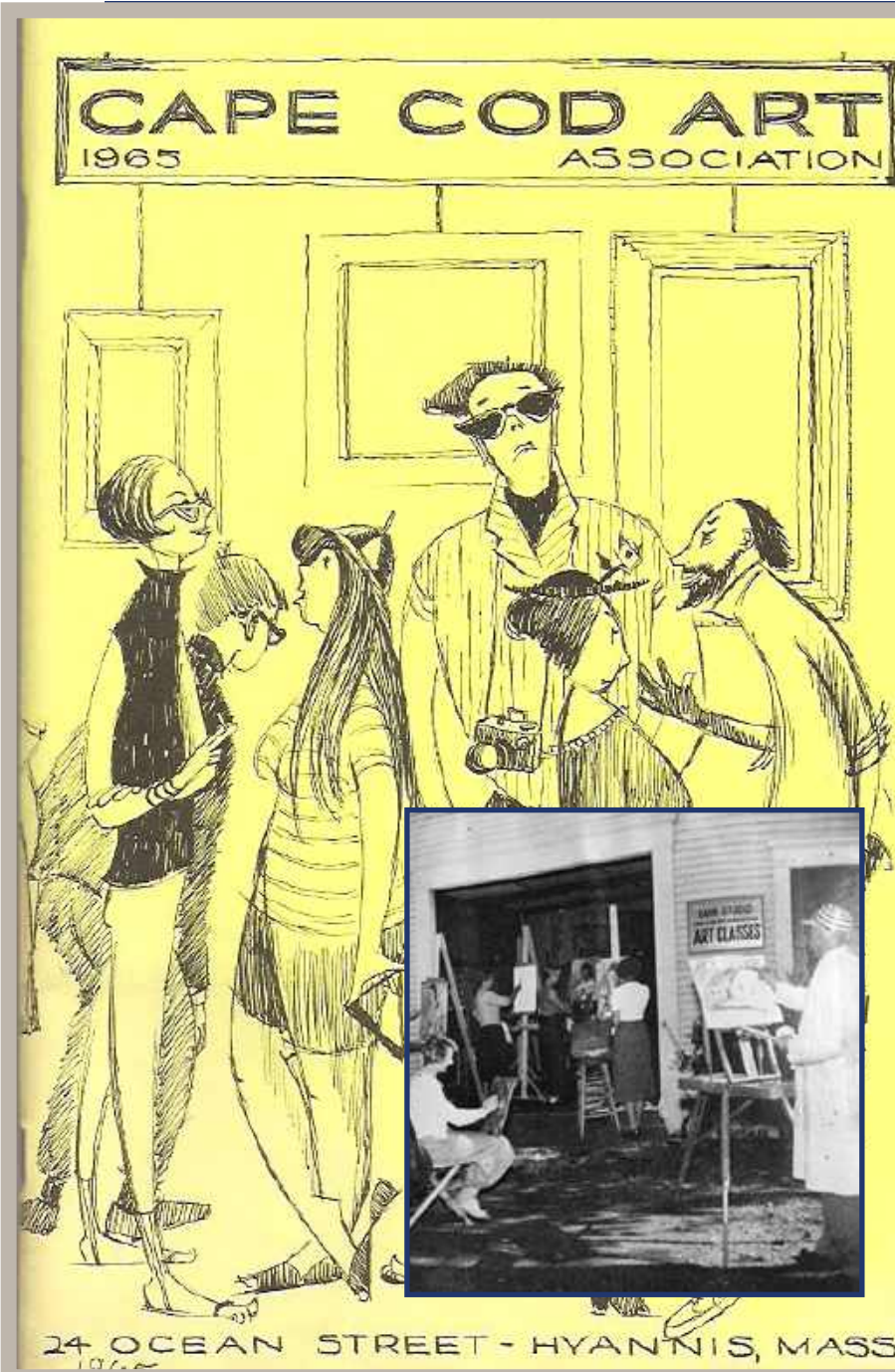


*I Have a Dream, Pamela Chatterton-Purdy*



*Coltrane, Sean Cassidy*

*Courtesy of Zion Union Heritage Museum*



*Courtesy of the Cape Cod Art Center*

## Cape Cod Art Association

The Cape Cod Art Association, founded in 1948 and still active as the Cape Cod Art Center (Route 6A, Barnstable), was originally located in Hyannis. Association founding members included artists Hans Hensche, William Littlefield, Vernon Coleman & Vernon Smith, who served as supervisor on Cape Cod for FDR’s 1930s-era WPA Federal Art Project. Renowned artist Ralph Cahoon, from Cotuit, opened one of his first solo shows on Ocean Street. The Association was an art hub and a link with the Provincetown art scene during a post-war art period of great change.



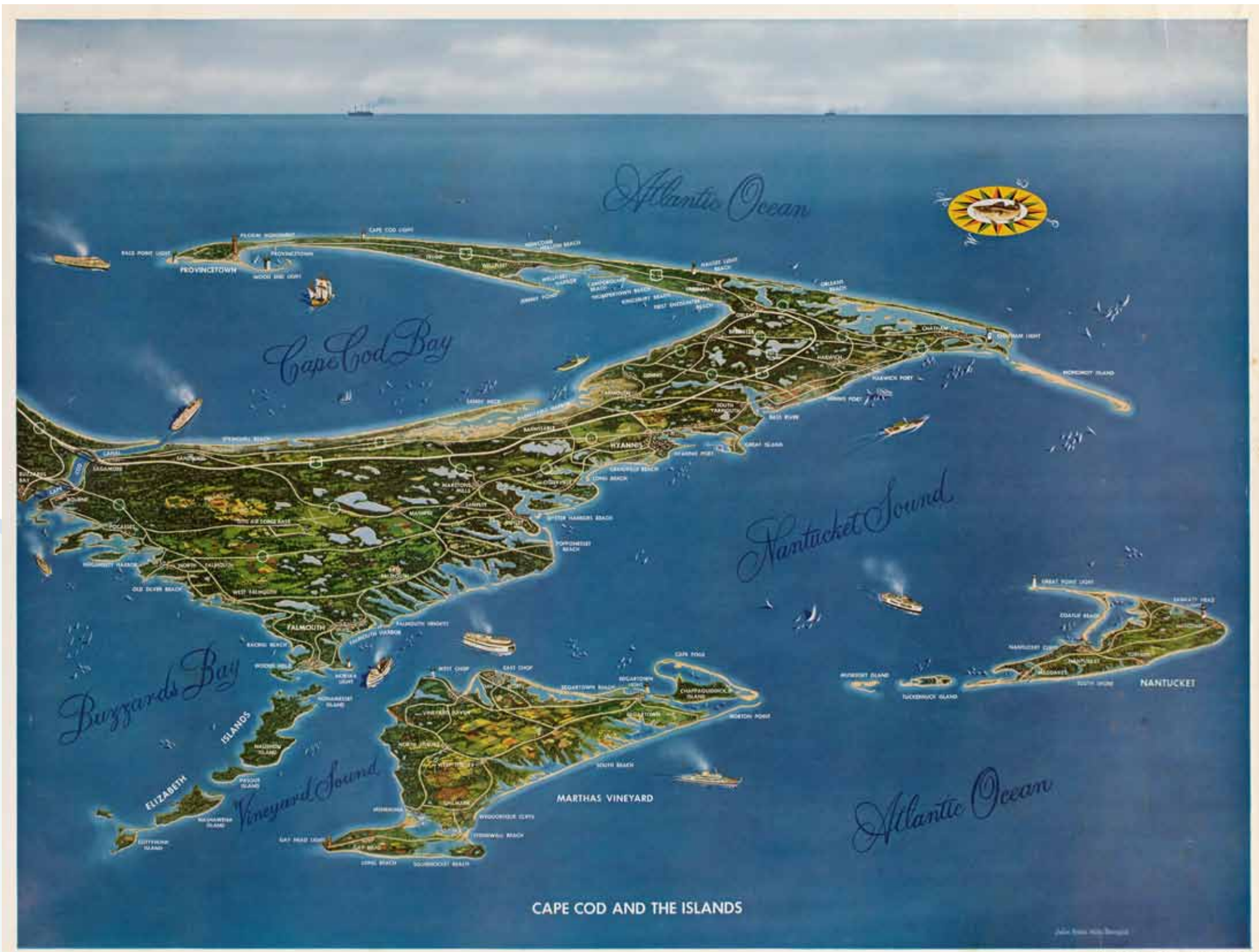
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# Sea Street

The sandy peninsula of **CAPE COD**,  
reaching into the Atlantic Ocean,  
was initially created by glaciers  
during the ice age  
**MORE THAN 23,000 YEARS AGO.**



### The Native Pearl

Manufactured from the Essence made by the

## ONLY NATIVE

CAPE COD PRODUCER

FULLY GUARANTEED

HYANNIS

### The Cape Cod Pearl

Cape Cod pearls were invented about 85 years ago by a resourceful and mysterious chemist, Edward I. Petow, a Russian immigrant born in Odessa in 1877. Using fish scales from local herring and a process inspired by the pearl industry in France, Petow perfected his formula. In 1917, he refurbished the Hyannis Yacht Club on Pleasant Street for his factory. The new venture was called Cape Cod United Products Co. The Cape Cod pearl was an instant hit, with product selling internationally as far as India. Style changes & inexpensive options eventually caused the factory to close. But many still cherish their pearls as an heirloom & memento of Cape Cod.




Boardman & Polando with their plane called Cape Cod.

## Hyannis Airport | Polando & Boardman

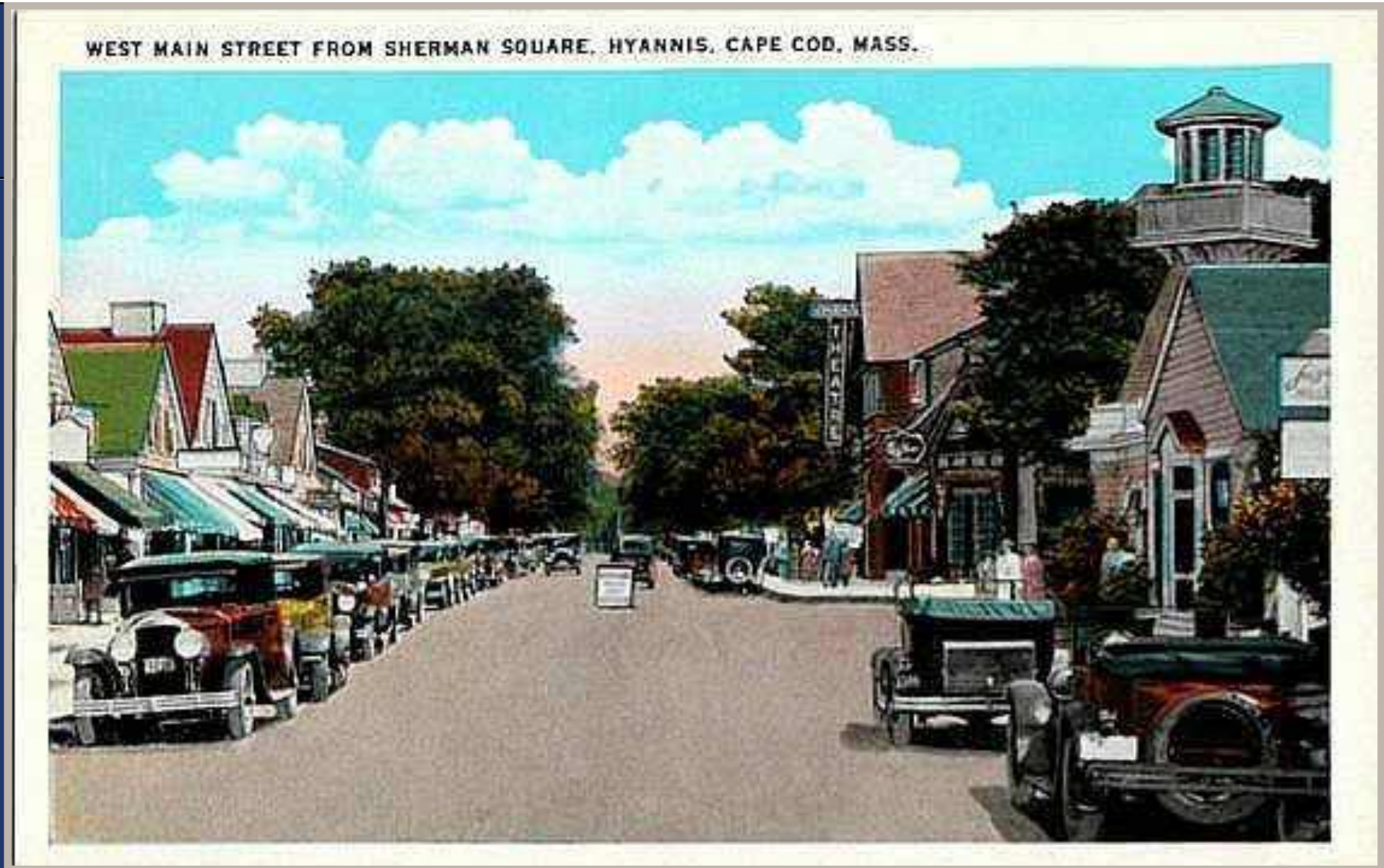
In 1928 Robertson Ayling bought & cleared the Waggoner Farm to build a runway. On June 17, 1928, the first plane landed in Hyannis. The airport quickly became a community gathering spot for watching air shows. It ultimately became the gateway for many, including John F. Kennedy and his plane called Caroline, during his presidential campaign.

**Boardman-Polando Field** is named after two aviators, Russell N. Boardman & John L. Polando, who, in 1931, set a new non-stop distance world record for transatlantic flight. They considered the Hyannis airport their home base, even naming their plane, *Cape Cod*. They trained here for their record-breaking flight, starting in the summer of 1930.


### Fortes Beach



**Civil rights activist Eugenia Fortes** (1911- 2006) was born in Cova Joana Brava, Cape Verde Islands. At nine years old she immigrated to New Bedford, MA, later moving to Hyannis to work at the pearl company. An outspoken activist for the poor & for racial equality, Fortes founded the Cape Cod chapter of the NAACP in 1961. In 1945, when asked to leave the beach at the end of Sea Street, she refused, and later advocated for it to remain public and unsegregated. In 2004, the beach was renamed **Fortes Beach** in her honor.




Main Street as seen from Sherman Square



*photo courtesy of B. Clarke*

From Fortes Beach you can see the stone trace of the Old Colony Railroad wharf.



### Clara Hallett & the Idlehour



**Clara Jane Hallett** 1858-1959, was a Hyannis historian who, for 40 years, until she was 100 years old, wrote a weekly column in the *Barnstable Patriot*. She was a suffragist & president of the League of Women Voters. She was also a prolific poet, including the song for the opening of the Idlehour movie theater:

*“Hyannis—dear Hy-an-nis  
we’ve dreamed of halls like this,  
where we might spend an “Idle Hour”  
learning of the great world’s power.”*

Barnstable Patriot 4 August 1912



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