

HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

KEY TRENDS

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Historic Settlement Pattern

The first settlement in Cape Elizabeth was a trading post established on Richmond Island in 1627 by Walter Bagnall. Mr. Bagnall was killed by nNative aAmericans in 1631, apparently in response to his poor treatment of the nNative aAmericans. Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts characterized Mr. Bagnall as “a wicked fellow” who “had much wronged the Indians.”

Richmond Island remained a settlement and was established as a fishing and trading station by John Winter in 1632. The fishing station was successful and in 1637, the first vessel built on Richmond Island, a 30 ton bark named the Richmond, was launched. John Winter’s daughter, Sara, later married the Reverend Robert Jordan, an Anglican clergyman from England. Descendants of Sara and Robert settled in Cape Elizabeth and members of that family still farm in Cape Elizabeth and serve as community leaders.

From 1675-1715, the area went through a cycle of settlement and evacuation due to wars with nNative aAmericans and an attack by pirates. In 1718, the Massachusetts General Court established the boundaries of Falmouth, which included Cape Elizabeth. In 1765, Cape Elizabeth was incorporated as a separate district. Cape Elizabeth was named after Princess Elizabeth, the sister of King Charles I of England. In 1775, Cape Elizabeth was incorporated as a town.

Fishing and farming were the main occupations for the town through the 1800s. Farms were established throughout the town and some still survive today. Farming evolved from subsistence crops in the 1700s to money crops in the 1800s as the City of Portland grew.

In addition to fishing the waters of Cape Elizabeth, many Cape residents also participated in the shipbuilding occurring in the Knightville and Ferry Village areas (now located in South Portland). In the winters, Cape Elizabeth men, in a few cases accompanied by their wives and families, sailed with lumber and fish to the Caribbean Islands and brought back rum and sugar. Letters from Cuba to relatives in Cape Elizabeth indicate that several families worked in Cuba for part of the year.

As the City of Portland's shipping trade grew, navigational aids were needed to guide vessels into Portland Harbor. In 1791, the first lighthouse constructed by the federal government was built at Portland Head in Cape Elizabeth. Following in 1811, the first lighthouse at Two Lights (as it was named years later) was constructed. In 1827, this lighthouse was torn down and two lighthouse towers were erected between Dyer and Staples Coves.

Cape Elizabeth's close proximity to Portland made it desirable as a summer cottage community and spurred the first planned developments. Delano Park was the first recorded subdivision in 1855 and includes several examples of shingle style architecture designed by John Calvin Stevens.

At the same time that the northeastern corner of Cape Elizabeth experienced residential development, land assembly was underway establishing Fort Williams. The first 14 acres of what is now Fort Williams was purchased in 1872 and a total of 90 acres were assembled over the next 25 years. Fort Williams was fully manned during WWI and provided harbor defense during WWII. The west light at Two Lights was reconstructed as an observation tower and a battery intended to provide harbor defense was also constructed in 1944.

From 1775 to 1895, the Town of Cape Elizabeth included the areas now known as Cape Elizabeth and the current City of South Portland. Within the area now known as South Portland was clustered the majority of the infrastructure (roads, sewer, municipal buildings) and more modernization was on the way. Cape Elizabeth residents, however, were farther from the City of Portland and unwilling to pay for additional infrastructure improvements or abandon their rural lifestyle. In 1895, Cape Elizabeth and South Portland split into two municipalities.

~~The attached map shows the progression of subdivision development in Cape Elizabeth from the mid 1800s to 2017.~~ Subdivision development concentrated along the Cape Elizabeth/South Portland border and along the coastline until the middle 1900s. Elizabeth Park is the first non-coastal neighborhood, built in the center of town as shipworker housing in the 1940s. In the 1950s and 1960s, the greatest increases in town population occurred as the Great Pond (north side), Broad Cove, Brentwood, Two Lights and other neighborhoods. Some of these neighborhoods illustrate significant development of inland areas.

While these neighborhoods greatly added to the population base, the lots themselves were relatively modest in size at less than ½ acre. The development of the 1980s, however, jolted the town with the large amount of land (due to both the number of new lots and the increased size of the lots) converted for development. The amount of development has continued at a slow pace since the 1980's.

As Cape Elizabeth has continued to develop, recurring themes of rural character, preservation of farmland, and ties to the water, themes that are rooted in the earliest history of the town, continue to influence policy debates.

Town of Cape Elizabeth Comprehensive Plan 2019 Historic & Archaeologic Resources



Historic Structures

- Cemetery
- National Register
- Potential Eligibility
- Goddard Mansion
- Archeological Sensitive Areas



Map Created by: Planning Department
May, 2018

See 2019 Comprehensive Plan for further discussion.

Historic and Archeological Resources

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has provided the following information on historical resources located in Cape Elizabeth. If a town has been professionally surveyed for prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, sites may be shown as 1/2 km squares. The 1/2 km scale is a compromise, providing some location information but not allowing someone who might want to loot a site to walk exactly to the location. (*Source: Maine Historic Preservation Commission Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Growth Management Planning, January 2013*)

Prehistoric Archaeological Sites

Prehistoric archaeological sites are areas with potential **nNative aAmerican** historic value that predate **eEuropean** arrival. Based on the documented conflicts in Cape Elizabeth between **nNative aAmericans** and early **eEuropean** settlers, it is likely that prehistoric sites, such as camp or village locations, are located in Cape Elizabeth. MHPC reports that 16 prehistoric sites are known in Cape Elizabeth, an increase from the 12 identified in 2006. The majority are located on the shoreline of salt water, with a few associated with nearshore marshes. Professional archaeological reconnaissance survey has concentrated on the east-facing shoreline and around Crescent Beach, and on Ram Island. As part of the installation of a pedestrian bridge project at Pollack Brook, Phase I archaeological survey test pits were dug in 2017 on the south side of Pollack Brook with no artifacts found. (*Source: Pollack Brook Greenbelt Trail Bridge Replacement and Trail Extension Project, Archaeological Phase I Survey, Northeast Archaeological Research Center, Inc., December 7, 2017*)

MHPC recommends that reconnaissance archaeological survey is needed around Great Pond, Alewife Brook, the Spurwink River and the southwestern shore of the town. No mapped information is available for Cape Elizabeth at this time.

Historic Archaeological Sites

Historic archaeological sites are mostly **eEuropean-aAmerican** and after written historic records began in about 1600. Based on early settlement activity, it is likely that historic sites such as cellar holes from houses, foundations for farm buildings, wharves and boat yards, and shipwrecks are located in Cape Elizabeth. In 2006, 5 historic archaeological sites and 77 shipwrecks, for a total of 82 sites were identified. In 2016, the following 86 historical archaeological sites are documented for the town by MHPC. Except for the Dominicus Jordan homesite, all additional sites are shipwrecks.

Maine Historic Preservation Commission Town of Cape Elizabeth Historic Site					
Site Name	Sitenum	SiteType	Periods of Significance	NationalRegister Status	Town
Richmond's Island	ME 076-001	fishing station	1627 - 1675+	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Spurwink Settlement	ME 076-002	settlement	1636 - 1676	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Parrot Point	ME 076-003	contact	c. 1600 - c.1700	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Annie C. McGuire	ME 076-004	wreck, vessel	December 24, 1886	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Oakey L. Alexander	ME 076-005	wreck, vessel	3-Mar-47	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
"Australia"	ME 076-006	wreck, schooner	January 28, 1885		Cape Elizabeth
Novadoc	ME 076-007	wreck, screw	3-Mar-47	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Lochinvar	ME 076-008	wreck, schooner	October 15, 1932. (October 4?)	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
William L. Elkins	ME 076-009	wreck, schooner	December 6, 1915.	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Wabash	ME 076-010	wreck, schooner	March 13, 1920.	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Sarah C. Smith	ME 076-011	wreck, schooner	July 8, 1905.	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Pochasset	ME 076-012	wreck, schooner	21-Nov-20	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Piedmont ("Potomac")	ME 076-013	wreck, screw	June 6, 1865	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Nellie Bowers	ME 076-014	wreck, schooner	February 25, 1888	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
John Cadwallader	ME 076-015	wreck, schooner	18-Nov-10	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
'James Young'	ME 076-016	wreck, schooner			Cape Elizabeth
Helen	ME 076-017	wreck, schooner	March 4, 1891	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
George W. Cushing	ME 076-018	wreck, schooner	December 27, 1888	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Francis Goodnow	ME 076-019	wreck, schooner	April 29, 1923 (Apr. 28?)	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Fiherman	ME 076-020	wreck, schooner	22-Jan-07	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Empress	ME 076-021	wreck, schooner	8-Jan-12	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth

Donna T. Briggs	ME 076-022	wreck, schooner	5-Sep-16	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Bay State	ME 076-023	wreck, side-wheeler	23-Sep-16	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Battery 201 and Fire Control Tower	ME 076-024	military, battery	1942 - 1945	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
City of Rockland	ME 076-025	wreck, vessel	1904	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Laura Jane	ME 076-026	wreck, vessel	1866	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Jessica Ann	ME 076-027	wreck, trawler	Feb. 20, 2000	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Bohemian	ME 076-028	wreck, steam bark	February 22, 1864	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Nellie	ME 076-029	wreck, brig	May 7, 1864	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Herman F. Kimball	ME 076-030	wreck, schooner	5-Sep-18	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
S-21	ME 076-031	wreck, submarine	After September 14, 1942 (date during war uncertain) [1945]	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Abigail	ME 076-032	wreck, schooner	1858	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Alton A.	ME 076-033	wreck, dragger	4-Dec-72	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Andarte	ME 076-034	wreck, dragger	19-Feb-60	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Annie and Mary	ME 076-035	wreck, dragger	8-Aug-39	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
M. G. Morgan	ME 076-036	wreck, schooner	Registry closed October 17, 1938.	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Catherine Beals	ME 076-037	wreck, schooner	October 14, 1866	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Cora B. Lillian (Cora and Lillian?)	ME 076-038	wreck, schooner	8-Dec-02	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Emily	ME 076-039	wreck, schooner	September 8, 1869	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth

Etna	ME 076-040	wreck, schooner	January 1, 1884	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Fannie Belle	ME 076-041	wreck, schooner, dragger	8-Nov-48	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
G.B.B. Morse (or G+B Morse)	ME 076-042	wreck, schooner	March 19, 1884	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Glenrosa	ME 076-043	wreck, barkentine	22-Sep-02	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Harriet Newell	ME 076-044	wreck, schooner	March 25, 1876	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Idaho	ME 076-045	wreck, schooner	January 1872	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
James Barbour	ME 076-046	wreck, schooner	18-Nov-23	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Jessie MacGregor	ME 076-047	wreck, barkentine	11-Aug-01	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Kate Aubrey	ME 076-048	wreck, schooner	1868	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
K. P.	ME 076-049	wreck, steamer, seining	13-Aug-24	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Little Fanny	ME 076-050	wreck, schooner	March 1, 1875	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Marine Merchant	ME 076-051	wreck, ship Liberty	Apr-61	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Heather Bell	ME 076-052	wreck, vessel	December 1897	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Middlesex	ME 076-053	wreck, steam collier	18-May-22	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Pamela D.	ME 076-054	wreck, trawler	16-Apr-81	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Resolution	ME 076-055	wreck, sloop	October 24, 1811	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Sarah	ME 076-056	wreck, schooner	August 1871	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Susan	ME 076-057	wreck, schooner	1861	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
St. Patrick	ME 076-058	wreck, trawler	31-Jul-73	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Tasmania	ME 076-059	wreck, bark	March 19, 1857	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Wendall Burpee	ME 076-060	wreck, schooner	7-Apr-01	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
unnamed vessel	ME 076-061	wreck, schooner	October 29, 1836	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth

unnamed vessel	ME 076-062	wreck, schooner	September 8, 1869	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
unnamed vessel	ME 076-063	wreck, schooner	September 8, 1869	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
unnamed vessel	ME 076-064	wreck, bark	March 1865	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
P.E. 56 "Eagle 56"	ME 076-065	wreck, Eagle boat	23-Apr-45	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Charles	ME 076-066	wreck, schooner	sank July 12, 1807	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Nancy	ME 076-067	wreck, schooner	1780	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Pinta	ME 076-068	wreck, gas screw	Feb-40	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Eastern Queen	ME 076-069	wreck, schooner	Oct-00	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Apollo	ME 076-070	wreck, brig	April 7, 1804	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
C. B. Harrington	ME 076-071	wreck, gas screw	1871-1913, 1945	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Nellie F. Wotton	ME 076-072	wreck, gas screw	19897-1916	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Nordest	ME 076-073	wreck, gas screw	1949-1962	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Sandy Pt.	ME 076-074	wreck, schooner	1899	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Southwind III	ME 076-075	wreck, gas yacht	1906-1925	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Gypsie Queen	ME 076-076	wreck, schooner	1879-1913	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Mary Alice	ME 076-077	wreck, schooner	1869	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Nellie Florence	ME 076-078	wreck, schooner	1888	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Fortuna	ME 076-079	wreck, schooner	1894-1907	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Mary S.	ME 076-080	wreck, schooner	1929-1949	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
N.J. Miller	ME 076-081	wreck, schooner	Abandoned at sea at Cape Elizabeth on August 31, 1872.	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Safford Homestead	ME 076-082	domestic	mid to late 19th century	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth

Dominicus Jordan	ME076-083	domestic	1680-1703	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Acadia	ME076-084	wreck, gas screw	September, 1940	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Vidia M. Brigham	ME076-085	wreck, schooner	11-Nov-04	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth
Racine	ME076-086	wreck, schooner	July 30, 1890	undetermined	Cape Elizabeth

Source: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 2016

MHPC reports that no comprehensive professional historic archeological survey has been conducted to date in Cape Elizabeth. MHPC recommends that further archaeological survey should focus on the identification of potentially significant resources associated with the town's maritime, agricultural, residential, and industrial heritage, particularly those associated with the earliest Euro-American settlement of the town in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Historic Buildings/Structures/Objects

Cape Elizabeth has six sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the Department of the Interior. Listing requires nomination of a site and finding that one or more of the criteria has been met. Once a property is listed, any alteration of the site *using federal funds* must comply with historic preservation guidelines. No sites have been added since the 2007 comprehensive plan. The following sites are listed on the National Register:

Spurwink Congregational Church, Spurwink Ave (R06-8)
 Portland Head Light, Capt. Strout Circle (U48-2)
 C.A. Brown Cottage, 109 Delano Park (U07-13)
 Two Lights, Two Lights Rd (U15-54)
 Beckett's Castle, Singles Rd (U08-7)
 Dyer Hutchinson Farm, 1148 Sawyer Rd (R04-54)

MHPC reports, based on preliminary architectural survey data, that the following properties may be eligible for listing in the National Register:

997, 1107, 1151, 1221, 1062, 1134, and 1160 Shore Road
 Town Hall, Ocean Avenue
 Thomas Memorial Library, Scott Dyer Road
 Cape Elizabeth Middle School, Scott Dyer Road

Cemeteries

The Historic and Archaeologic Resources map depicts four cemeteries. Two are associated with houses of worship and two are private.

In 2017, the town completed a phase 1, prehistoric archaeological survey on both sides of Pollack Brook west of Spurwink Ave. During that survey, it became clear that there is

an extensive cemetery located on the north bank. There is a small Jordan family cemetery located near the point with the Spurwink Marsh that includes several traditional upright headstones. Closer to Spurwink Ave, there is a second and larger cemetery of 35+ markers that dates to the late 1700's. The markers are slate, and only one has any readable marking, dating to 1796. No other markers appear to have any inscriptions. At the conclusion of the Pollack Bridge project, the town will evaluate how to appropriately mark this cemetery.



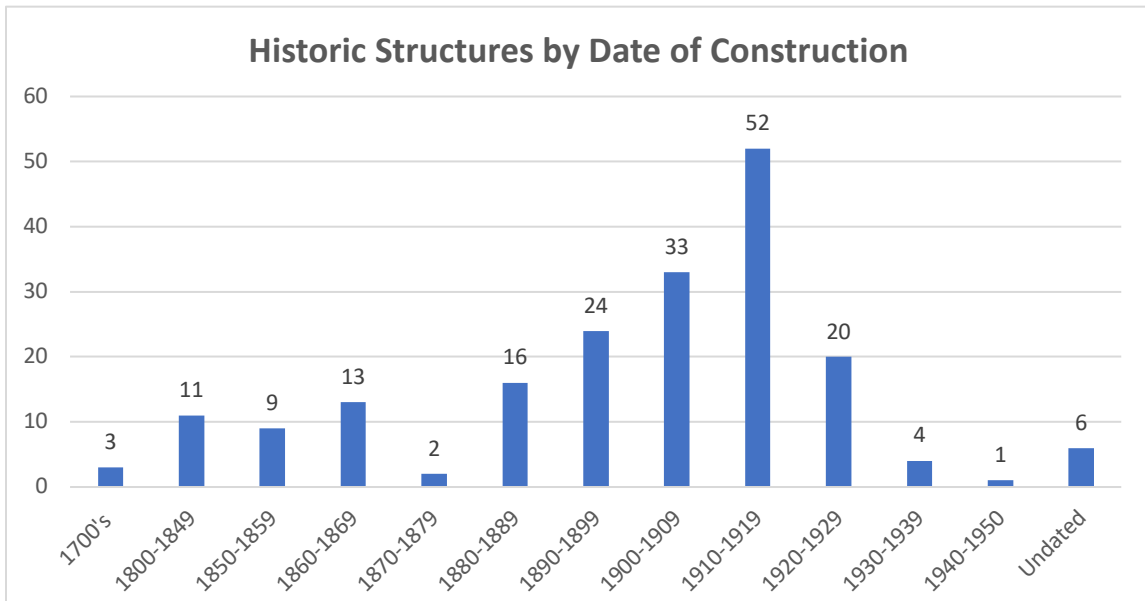
Phase 1, Prehistoric Archaeological Survey at Pollack Brook, 2017.



Pollack Brook Cemetery, 1794 headstone

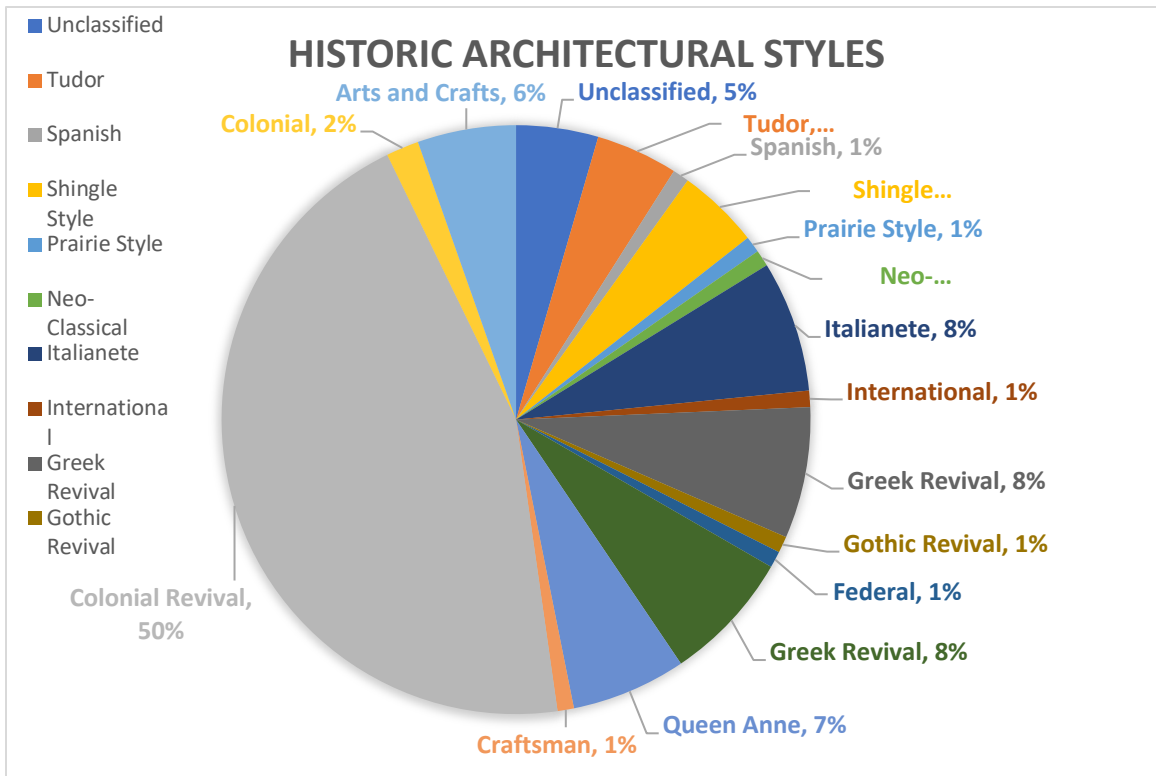
Historic Structures Survey

In 1999, the Town of Cape Elizabeth commissioned Barba Architecture and Preservation, certified historic preservation consultants, to conduct a town-wide analysis of possible historic structures. Using National Register criteria, an initial survey of 750 structures was reviewed and categorized as significant, contributing, or non-contributing. One hundred and ninety-five structures were identified as significant and a brief summary of each structure's historic character was prepared. Structures spanned 3 centuries and ranged from early colonial settlement homes to post-modern. Below is a chart displaying structures by age.



Source: Historic Structures Survey, Town of Cape Elizabeth, 1999

Although fifty percent of the structures were classified as colonial revival, the town also includes an impressive range of styles. Below is a chart showing the distribution of styles.



Source: *Historic Structures Survey, Town of Cape Elizabeth, 1999*

Local historical publications

The Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS, see below) both stores and generates local historical publications. The most popular local history is Cape Elizabeth, Past to Present, (2nd edition). A Culinary History of Cape Elizabeth, Maine is the most recent publication. Archaeological surveys by the Jordan Family and the George Cleeves Association are also noteworthy.

Threats to and Preservation of Historic Resources

Following the completion of the Historic Structures Survey, the tTown drafted a Historic Preservation Ordinance. After an extensive public comment process including public forums, an opinion survey, historic structure survey posting on the website and public hearings, the tTown chose not to adopt a historic preservation ordinance and eliminated private properties from the demolition delay provisions in the Zoning Ordinance.

To date, the tTown is unwilling to restrict private property rights by mandating preservation of historic buildings. The tTown has advocated a position that private property owners can be relied upon “to do the right thing” and that the tTown should undertake efforts that promote voluntary preservation of historic structures.

Some of the most important local historic structures, such as Portland Head Light and the Spurwink Church, are listed on the National Register and further protected through

municipal ownership. The Cape Courier, a local newspaper, regularly prints articles about town history.

The town continues to experience "tear downs" of existing structures to make way for modern construction. (See Existing Land Use Chapter)

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society

The Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS), an independent, private, non-profit organization, stores and preserves historical town records and articles, as well as performs historical research. The Town of Cape Elizabeth provides annual funding of \$500 to CEHPS.

In 2006, CEHPS occupied 380 sq. ft. of space in the basement of the Thomas Memorial Library. Historical records were stored in a climate controlled area and storage was at 90% of capacity. Workspace to research records was limited and no display space was available.

In 2015, in conjunction with the remodel and expansion of the Thomas Memorial Library, CEHPS was moved into the former dispatch space in the Public Safety Building. With an estimated 680 sq. ft., more space is available for research and storage.

The Thomas Memorial Library expansion resulted in vacating the adjacent Spurwink School. The town surveyed residents, who support keeping the Spurwink School in public use. The town established a Spurwink School Reuse Committee to evaluate repurposing the building. Proposals were solicited and reviewed, and cost estimates for building renovation prepared. During the process, some proposals were subsequently withdrawn, but the CEHPS remains interested in moving into the building. The Spurwink School Reuse Committee report ~~was is expected to be~~ submitted to the ~~f~~Town ~~c~~Council in May, 2018.

Local Regulations

The Cape Elizabeth Zoning Ordinance includes Section 19-8-6, Archaeological and Historic Resources, which is intended to prevent the disturbance of sites with potential or identified archaeological significance until their importance is documented. There is also a demolition delay waiting period of 45 days for the following structures.

The following buildings and structures are identified as historic resources and are subject to the provisions of Sec. 19-8-6, Archaeological and Historic Resources

Map/Lot	Structure	Street Address
R03-59	N. Dyer (Superintendent's House)	Two Lights State Park
R03-59	World War II Bunker	Two Lights State Park
R03-59	World War II Observation Tower	Two Lights State Park
R06-8	Spurwink Meeting House	533 Spurwink Avenue
U11-17	Town Hall	320 Ocean House Road
U21-12	Thomas Memorial Library	6 Scott Dyer Road
U21-12	Middle School	Scott Dyer Road
U21-2	Community Center	343 Ocean House Road
U48-1	Goddard Mansion	Fort Williams
U48-1	Field Officers Quarters	Fort Williams
U48-1	Bachelor Officers Quarters	Fort Williams
U48-1	Militia Storehouse	Fort Williams
U48-1	Gun Shed	Fort Williams
U48-1	Portland Head Light	Fort Williams

Source: *Town of Cape Elizabeth Zoning Ordinance, Appendix C*

As noted above, Fort Williams Park includes several historic structures. See the Recreation and Open Space chapter regarding Fort Williams Park. In the Subdivision Ordinance, information on historic areas on or adjacent to a proposed subdivision must be submitted. A subdivision standard of review requires historic spots must be preserved as part of the subdivision, whenever practical.

Historic and Archeological Resources Goal

Goal 1: The tTown shall preserve, to the extent feasible, local historical resources.

Recommendations

1. Consider opportunities to expand space for the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, such as but not limited use, repurposing of the Spurwink School.
2. Retain existing local ordinance provisions that require evaluation of archaeological resources as part of new development.
3. Historical Surveys? Encourage the Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society to seek non-municipal grant and private funding to conduct archaeological surveys.