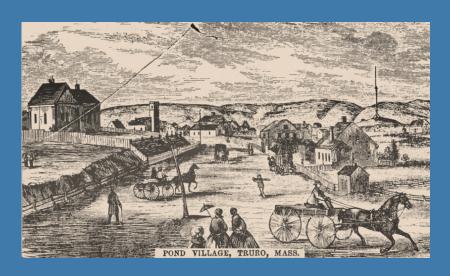
HISTORIC TRURO

Landmarks and Legends Self-Guided Tours





Please respect the privacy of property owners as you tour Truro's historic sites.

Tour Routes A, B and C

HISTORIC TRURO SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Route A – PILGRIM HEIGHTS

Start at the Truro Public Library, (7 Standish Way, N. Truro, MA 02652). Turn right on Shore Road/Route 6A. You pass cottage colonies built in the 1920-30s –Prince of Whales (1), Topside Cottages (2), and Days' Cottages with their flower names (3). Beyond Days' Cottages turn right to Route 6. After going left crossing Route 6, take an immediate right on High Head Road. You will pass along East Harbor (4), which until 1869 opened into Cape Cod Bay and was traversed along the ocean side by Old King's Highway. The "new" road and the railroad closed the harbor, so that it was renamed Pilgrim Lake until recent years. Shebnah Rich's Truro -Cape Cod, or, Land marks and sea marks takes us back to 1620: "As the Mayflower heads toward the harbor, you behold steep banks, oak, pine and cypress crowning all the heights...The headland, well-rounded, is High Head (5); the unbroken forests then so commanding in the eyes of the Pilgrims, are now the bare table-



1-Prince of Whales 104 Shore Road



2-Topside Cottages 150 Shore Road



3-Days' Cottages 276 Shore Road



5-High Head



6-Bike Path to Pilgrim Springs

lands of Truro...Here they entered a deep valley after passing a long creek, which so accurately describes East Harbor as to leave no doubt of the place. Says the [Edward Winslow 1622] journal: 'There we saw a deer and found springs of fresh water, of which we were heartily glad, and set us down and drunk our first New England water with as much delight as ever we drank in all our lives." Follow High Head Road to a fork and go left through a parking lot to a paved bike path. Follow the bike path to Pilgrim Springs (6). The bike trail ends at the Head of the Meadow Beach (7 on map), part a Cape Cod National Seashore beach and part a town beach. Go to Route 6 to

complete the circle.



4-East Harbor

6-Pilgrim Springs Bronze Plaque 1926

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Route B – POND VILLAGE

Start at the Robert Cardinal Studio and Gallery (54 Shore Road, N. Truro, MA 02652) where Pond Road leaves Shore Road (8). This building housed Tiny Worthington's famous Fishnet Industries. It was one of seven Truro schools built in 1856 at a total cost of less than \$2,000. At one time North Truro was called Pond Village, and it was the center of the town's population during the 18th century. Pond Road was called Main Street then. The pond was originally a tiny harbor, closed by tidal action, and finally sealed off by the railroad embankment around 1873. The Millstone/Cornwall House (9) was moved in 1970 to its present location from the Highlands area (Route C). The Chapel on the Pond,



11-Pilgrim Pond Plaque 1920

formerly Our Lady of Perpetual Help (10), was built in 1915. The park by the pond on your left has a 1920 Tercentenary bronze plaque on a granite stone marking the spot where the *Mayflower* explorers spent their second night on land (11).



8-Robert Cardinal Studio 54 Shore Road



9-Millstone/Cornwall House 9 Pond Road



10-Chapel on the Pond 17 Pond Road

Across from the park, the "Twine Field" (12) was used by 19th- and early-20th-century weir fishermen to repair, dry, and tar their twine fishing nets. Here, the Tercentenary *Pilgrim Pageant* attracted some 3,000 people to surrounding hillsides overlooking Pilgrim Pond to what became a great amphitheater to see a show with a cast impersonating pilgrims, Indians and period sailors that included 158 summer residents and townspeople – at a time when the year-round population was 554. The former Farnsworth School of Art is on the site of the old icehouse (13). Before you turn left on Bay View Road you may want to walk up the hill (14) straight ahead of you to where the old North Truro railroad station once stood. Later, a fish



12-Twine Field Pond Road



13-Farnsworth School of Art, 24 Pond Road

cannery/cold storage building stood just to the left. Out in the bay, was a steel and concrete tower from which the catch was delivered to the cold storage building in buckets suspended from a connecting cable. At the outset of the Revolutionary War a British ship anchored off





this spot. Truro's small militia formed a circle and kept marching over the top of this hill. The ruse worked and the British left without attacking.

Continue on Bay View Road to view several restored early-20th-century shingled cottages (15). Turn left on Priest Road and then right on Hughes Road. On this corner is a large Victorian house, now the Moorlands Inn (16). It was built by Captain Atkins Hughes (1828-1919), a successful mariner, businessman and legislator. As you turn left on Shore Road/Route 6A you see on your left the original house (17) of Captain Hughes, which was moved from the site of his new house you just passed. Artists Courtney

and Erma Allen purchased the house in 1930. His versatile works can be seen in the Truro Historical Society's Highland House Museum where she actively volunteered. His miniatures, replica of the Sandwich Glass factory, artwork, and duck carvings are especially noteworthy.



15-Edward Hopper watercolor Cottages at North Truro



16-Moorlands Inn 11 Hughes Road



17-Captain Hughes/ Courtney Allen House 16 Shore Road

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18-Truro Vineyards 11 Shore Road



18-Edward Hopper painting *Rich's House*



19-William Chandler/ Blakeman House 24 Shore Road

The large two-story ca. 1802 Federal house on the right was built by John Hughes, later owned by Michael A. Rich, and now home of Truro Vineyards of Cape Cod (18). The smaller ca. 1795 Federal sea captain's house on your left, the William Chandler House (19), was superimposed upon a 1740 Cape, which forms portions of this gracious house. The Christian Union Church (20) on your right dates back to 1840 as its Gothic Revival detail shows. This was one of the first Christian *Union* churches, a combination Methodist and Congregational formed to appease both sects – the ministers alternated over the years. In the early 1870s the church building was lifted to provide a lower floor for Sunday school, meetings, church suppers, and now a food pantry delivering meals to Truro

residents.

20-Christian Union Church 27 Shore Road



The parsonage, now a private residence, is across the road (21). The house (22) opposite the Truro Beach Office was built ca. 1740 for the sea. captain John Hughes, one of the several Truro Hughes families. His great-granddaughter Anna married William H. Young, owner of an insurance company and bank and founder of the Provincetown Art Association. In the 1920s the Youngs held many social gatherings for artists and members of the Association. In front by the road is a Truro-Provincetown-Plymouth Milestone with the bronze Plymouth Colony Seal installed for the 1920 Tercentenary. On the left past the curve is the whimsical "Susan Baker Memorial Museum," the artist's gallery and residence (23). Formerly called "The Willows," it was the only restaurant/tea room between Orleans and Provincetown in the 1930s. Return to your starting point.



22-Truro-Provincetown-Plymouth Milestone (granite with bronze seal) 31 Shore Road, 1920

TRURO
TO PROVINCETOWN

4 MILES
TO PLYMOUTH
73 MILES



21-Christian Union Parsonage, 32 Shore Road



22-John Hughes House 31 Shore Road



23-Susan Baker Memorial Museum, 46 Shore Road

Route C – THE HIGHLANDS



2 Highland Road



25-Coast Guard Station North Truro (1905 postcard)



26-Ocean Farm 90 S. Highland Road

Start at Salty Market (2 Highland Road, N. Truro, MA 02652) at Highland Road and Shore Road/Route 6A in North Truro. Salty Market (24) was formerly Dutra's Market that had long been a commercial focus in the village having accommodated a post office, a barbershop, and a dry goods store in addition to the ongoing general store. Travel east on Highland Road to the end of the road. You are approaching the area where the Reverend John Avery, Truro's minister from 1709 to 1754, was given "five and thirty acres of land at Tashmuit alias Clay Pounds," 20 pounds toward his building, and an annual salary of 60 pounds. Truro could incorporate in 1709 only when it had a meeting house and a minister. At the end of Coast Guard Road to the left was a Coast Guard Station (25), built in 1872 for the Life Saving Service whose mission was to patrol the beaches on foot and launch rescue boats to assist ships in trouble. Turn right on South Highland Road past Ocean Farm (26) that provided milk and produce for much of Truro.

Take a left to the Highland House Museum (27) that was a summer resort hotel for many years and now managed by the Truro Historical Society. The museum is open from June through September and is worth a stop to see art, period rooms, ship models, Native American artifacts, a Wampanoag wetu, and relics of Truro's past. Behind the museum are the Highland Links (28), in use since 1891. The Cape Cod (Highland) Light (29) beyond was built in 1797, rebuilt in 1853, moved 450 feet away from the eroding cliff in 1996, and now operates automatically.



29-Edward Hopper painting Highland Light



27-Highland House Museum (early postcard view of Highland House)



27-Ross Moffett Stone Age, Highland House Museum Collection



28-Road to Golf Links (early postcard view of the Highlands)



30-Jenny Lind Tower



31-Tashmuit 84 S. Highland Road



33-Old North Cemetery Aldrich Road and Route 6

In the distance the Jenny Lind Tower can be seen (30). Before it was moved from its Boston location, the tower is where Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," reportedly sang in 1850 to please concertgoers unable to get in the auditorium below. "Tashmuit" (31), the house opposite Highland Light Road, is reputed to have been built in 1715. That date is scratched on a windowpane, supposedly by a newly affianced young lady testing the authenticity of her diamond. The house was relocated from directly alongside the road back to a man-made pond that was then excavated as a source of clay for our early roadways. For an optional visit, take Old Dewline Road to the former North Truro Air Force Station, built in 1951, now Highland Center at Cape Cod National Seashore and Payomet Center for the Performing Arts, (32 on map). Follow South Highland Road and go right on Aldrich Road. You will pass the Old North Cemetery (33) where gravestones date from 1713 to the present. Here on the Hill of Storms, the first Truro Meeting House was built in 1709. Take a right on Route 6, the left fork on Shore Road, and return to the starting place.

Route D – CORN HILL, CASTLE HILL, AND TRURO CENTER

Start at the Corn Hill Beach town parking area (34) (Corn Hill Road, Truro, MA – see map page 27). Take the optional route up the hill beyond the public beach to view the iconic Corn Hill Cottages (35) that top the horizon. The cottages were built in 1901 and made famous by an Edward Hopper painting. At the base of the hill stands a monument (36) to the Pilgrims' discovery of corn. As reported in Mourt's Relation (1622), they found buried baskets filled with "goodly eares of corne; some of yellow, some of red, and some mixed with blue, which was a goodly sight." Before taking the corn they consulted, and concluded that when they should meet the Indians, they would "parley with them...and satisfy them for their corn." The vow was only partially fulfilled years later. A second monument (37) honors the record-breaking glider flights made here in 1929. Return to Castle Road and continue uphill to the right. You pass Tom's Hill Road that has several fine old houses overlooking the Pamet.



34-John Dowd painting Corn Hill and Roseville Cottages



35-Edward Hopper painting Corn Hill



36 & 37-Corn Hill Monuments



38-Sladeville Cottages 46 Castle Road



39-"Snow Farm" now Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill (early photo)



40-A large tent sheltered a Methodist gathering at the old parsonage above Snow Village (early photo)

Continuing on Castle Road you will pass Sladeville (38), a late-19th-century cottage colony once owned by artist C. Arnold Slade. Sharp curves lead into "Snow Village" where most of the houses were built by members of the Snow family. One house was purchased by Margaret Sanger, founder of the birth control movement. Visiting here with the prominent socialist John Reed, they found the Provincetown art colony "littered with easels and smocks" and sought sanctuary in Truro. Reed purchased the house overlooking the Pamet but soon left for Russia and sold it to Sanger in 1917 for \$1,000. The cluster of Snow family farm buildings are now home to the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill (39).

The ca. 1900 windmill pumped water into cisterns on the hills to serve nearby houses in Snow Village. Truro witnessed the rise of the most evangelical movement in New England – Methodism. An early photo shows a Methodist gathering at the old Methodist parsonage (built ca. 1845 and destroyed by fire in 2008) on the now wooded

hillside (40) below Town Hall. Follow Meeting House Road to the top of the hill to the Methodist and adjoining Catholic cemeteries. You are now in the area known as the "Hill of Churches." People coming into town could see the landmark and seamark spires of the Congregational and Catholic churches, and the Town Hall cupola, a view much changed by the growth of trees. Take the right on Bridge Road, which soon crosses Town Hall Road, Union Hall (now Town Hall, 41) was built in 1848 by a fraternal order and it later housed both a hat and a shoe factory for short periods of time. Town meetings were traditionally held in the Congregational Church, then for a few years in the Methodist Church, and finally in Union Hall, which the town purchased. The First Parish of Truro Congregational Meeting House (42) has a Revere Foundry Bell, and for that reason was sometimes called "the Bell Church." The steeple used to have oil lanterns hung in it that served as beacons for ships entering Pamet Harbor. Erected in 1827, it is the oldest remaining house of worship on the outer cape. The Congregational



"Hill of Churches" (early postcard view)



41-Truro Town Hall Town Hall Road



42-First Parish of Truro Meeting House



43-Truro Veterans



44-Cobb Archive 13 Truro Center Road



45-Blackfish Restaurant 17 Truro Center Road

Cemetery, which surrounds the church, contains a marble obelisk "sacred to the memory of fiftyseven citizens of Truro who were lost in seven vessels, which foundered at sea in the memorable gale of October 3, 1841." The adjacent Snow Cemetery contains headstones of prominent Truro and Provincetown artists. Continue down Bridge Road and turn left on Castle Road. At Truro Center Road is the Truro Veterans Memorial (43), dedicated to the men and women who served our country during WWI, WWII, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam. Included were citizens who served but died from the 1918-19 deadly Spanish Flu pandemic, during which Truro's schools, libraries, and churches were closed to check the spread of the disease. Across the street is the Cobb Archive (44), now housing the archives of the Truro Historical Society. Listed in the National Register as the Cobb Memorial Library, it was built in 1912, a gift of Elisha W. Cobb who left Truro to make his fortune in the leather business. Turn left on Truro Center. Road. On the right the Blackfish Restaurant (45) began as a blacksmith shop in the early 1800s.

On the corner of Town Hall Road stands the former Sacred Heart Catholic Church (46). This building started its existence as the Obadiah Brown school on Old County Road (probably in 1856) and later became a roller-skating rink. In 1895, it was purchased by the Catholic diocese and "flaked" into sections, moved to its present location, and reassembled. For the first several years all services were in Portuguese. Continue to Route 6, turn left on it, then 2nd right on Atwood Road to Longnook Road near Higgins Hollow Road. As an optional route, both roads are worth exploring for early Truro houses. There is a public beach at the end of Longnook Road. En route you pass the house of Shebnah Rich (47), Truro's historian who wrote *Truro – Cape Cod*, or, Land marks and sea marks, published in 1883. In the first half of the 20th century it was the home of artists William and Lucy L'Engle. Take Higgins Hollow Road to the National Register listed Jedediah Higgins House c.1830 (48), partially visible from the road. Follow Longnook Road back to Castle and Corn Hill roads to your starting point.



46-Former Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Obadiah Brown School 48 Town Center Road



47-Shebnah Rich House 50 Longnook Road



48-Jedediah Higgins House 26 Higgins Hollow Road

Route E – PAMET ROADS



49-Former Truro Congregational Parsonage 10 N. Pamet Road



50-Cranberry Bog House CCNS, N. Pamet Road



51-American Youth Hostel 111 N. Pamet Road

Start at Jams Gourmet Grocery (12 Truro Center Road, Truro, MA 02666). According to Shebnah Rich: "The Indian name of Truro was Pamet from the Indian tribe Pamets, sometimes Pawmits, Payomets and Pamoits [a band associated with the Wampanoag]. The first seems to be the accepted name, but from a study of the words, I incline to the opinion that Payomet is the more rightful and better name." Follow signs to Pamet Roads east of Route 6. Take North Pamet. As the road makes a sharp right, a private driveway straight ahead leads to the former Congregational parsonage (49), a handsome Federal two-storied house built around 1830. It was here that Robert Nathan. wrote *Portrait of Jennie*. After passing through an area developed in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, you will see a cranberry bog on your left. The Bog House (50), built ca. 1830 originally as a one-story Cape, was lifted to create storage space below. Continue to the American Youth Hostel (51), formerly a Coast Guard Station. It now houses cyclist travelers and visiting school children studying ecology.

Just across from the parking lot is a trail for a self-guided Cranberry Bog walk maintained by the Cape Cod National Seashore, and a trail to the top of a hill covered in bearberry (52) with views of the Pamet River valley and Ballston Beach. Near the hostel, a stone marker is dedicated to S. Osborn "Ossie" Ball who served in WWI. Ballston beach was named after the resort of cottages and the community center/ dining hall/bowling alley near the dunes, started by Ossie's father and operated from 1900 to 1960. There are two "cottages" (53) at the top of the hill, which were the setting for a made-for-TV movie starring Henry Fonda. Ballston Beach on your left is a Truro public beach. The Pamet River source and headlands washed out to sea; what remains continues to Cape Cod Bay. In the early 19th century the river was navigable and supported whaling ships, shipbuilders and salt works. Houses could be floated on it to new locations. Recently, major nor'easters breached the connection between North and South Pamet Roads leaving a wash of sand; however, pedestrians can continue, or you can retrace your route to the far end of South Pamet Road by car.



52-View of Ballston Beach from Bearberry Hill CCNS (trail opposite Youth Hostel)





53-"Robbins Roost" and Helen and Mary Eastman House 116 & 118 N. Pamet Road



54-Benjamin Collins House 104 S. Pamet Road



Lee Falk, Mandrake



Near Long Dune Lane, hidden down a private driveway, is the ca. 1725 Benjamin Collins house (54) where Hector, the last enslaved person in Truro, was born, raised, baptized a Christian and lived to an old age. Continuing, you will pass the former homes of E. J. Kahn, Jr, a staff writer with the New Yorker for five decades, Lee Falk, the creator of *The Phantom* and *Mandrake the* Magician, and Joseph Anthony, Broadway and Hollywood director. At Collins Road (formerly Old King's Highway) the house on the southwest corner (55) was a stagecoach stop. A previous owner embellished the house with Victorian turrets, gingerbread, and porches that were featured in a painting by Edward Hopper, Cape Cod Afternoon (56). The house has been restored to its original Cape appearance. Return to your starting point.

55-Jonathan Collins House, 51 S. Pamet Road

56-Edward Hopper painting *Cape Cod Afternoon* 51 S. Pamet Road



Route F – DEPOT ROAD, THE HOGSBACK, AND SOUTH TRURO

Start at the commercial building (57) (8 Truro Center Road, Truro, MA 02666) that was constructed as the Wilder Elementary School in 1856. In 1930 it became the Truro Post Office and in the early 1970s was repurposed into offices. Travel west on Depot Road to Holsbery Square where Old County and Holsbery roads intersect. A unique monument there (58) says, "In memory of Betsy H. Holsbery a teacher in our schools for 50 years, dedicated 1934." (She retired in 1907). An option is to follow Old County Road. You will see a large gray Federal house, circa 1835 (59) on the left. This building is known as the "Thoreau House" because the author, while walking the outer beach, reportedly stayed there in 1857 when it was part of the Highland House Hotel near the Cape Cod Light. It was moved here in 1962.



59-The Lodge, Highlands, N. Truro (early postcard view of Thoreau House and Highland House Hotel)



57-Wilder School 8 Truro Center Road



58-Holsbery Monument



59-Thoreau House 24 Old County Road



60-Gingerbread House 42 Depot Road



61-George Hamilton Store and Telegraph Office, 73 Depot Road



Lucy L'Engle 1935 painting Workers Crossing the Pamet

Continuing on Depot Road from Holsbery Square you pass the ca.1875 Gothic Revival "Gingerbread House" (60). While similar to Greek Revival style end-gable houses, its more steeply pitched roof and Gothic trim make it unique in Truro. Before going left on Mill Pond Road, an optional route to the end of Depot Road leads to the parking and launching area at Pamet Harbor. On your right is a house that was once a sundries store and railroad depot telegraph office (61). It is also reputed to have been used by rumrunners during Prohibition. Take time to imagine Truro's bustling port from 1830 to 1855. Here were the wharves, breakwaters, fish-packing house, sail-loft and outfitting store, the salt works, banks and insurance companies. Here were the shipyards, rushing new craft to the sea and making old craft sea-worthy again. Union Hall and the Congregational Meeting House commanded a nearby hill. Later came the railroad with its train station and trestle bridge. The tragic loss of many of Truro's men at sea, the advent of the railroad, and silting of the harbor changed Truro's way of life. Even now with ever-increasing seasonal residents, Truro has a smaller year-round population than it had in those years of prosperity.

From Mill Pond Road go right on Old County Road. After crossing Mill Pond dike you will head up a hill. On your right will be Fisher Road, another option to a public beach (62), where if you walk to the left you can see the studio and house lived in by Edward Hopper from 1934 to 1967 near what was then Cobb Farm. Back at Fisher and Old County roads, on your right is a "Mid-20th Century Modern" house designed by Charlie Zehnder for Gary Becker in 1963 (63). On the top of the next hill a sandy road leads to the right to a monument commemorating Truro's third Methodist Meeting House built in South Truro in 1851 and destroyed by lightning in 1940 (64).



64-Edward Hopper painting South Truro Church



62-William L'Engle 1943 painting Airplane Spotter, Cobb Farm, with Edward Hopper house on bluff



63-Charlie Zehnder designed house, 61 Old County Road



64-Monument for Methodist South Truro Meeting House



65-Pine Grove Cemetery Old County Road



South Truro Station ca. 1910, first passenger service on July 23, 1873, passenger service ended July 1938, freight service continued until 1960

66-"Hogsback" in Edward Hopper painting Hills, South Truro A short way along Old County Road on the left is the road to Pine Grove Cemetery where 93 Cobbs and 225 Riches are among the 900 plus graves (65). Old County Road is one of the most scenic in Truro. To early seamen the bunched up hills and ridges resembled animals in a pen and the area is called "Hogsback" (66). The intersection of Old County Road and Ryder Beach Road on the right marked the center of old South Truro, which had a post office and railroad station for several decades. The beach at the end of Ryder Beach Road is public.



From Old County Road turn left on Prince Valley Road. The road is pleasantly wooded, has little traffic, and has two notable early houses, the ca. 1880-95 Solomon Rich House (67), a Victorian eclectic end-gable house, and the ca. 1727-30 Rich-Cobb House (68), an early Cape. They are tucked in the woods on private driveways and not publicly viewable.

At Route 6 turn left. Just before the Pamet Roads exit you will see Edgewood Farm on the right (69), an historic farm with buildings dating from 1898, acquired by the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill for artist workshops and residencies. Return to your starting point.





67-Solomon Rich House 88 Prince Valley Road



68-Rich-Cobb House 84 Prince Valley Road

69-Edgewood Farm photograph by Samuel Chamberlain, *Cape Cod in* the Sun, 1937

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



National Register of Historic Places Listings:

- Highland House (27)
- Truro Highlands Historic District (27-29)
- Highland Light Station (29)
- Lighthouses of Massachusetts Thematic Group Nomination (29)
- Old North Burial Ground (33)
- Union Hall –Truro Town Hall (41)
- First Congregational Parish Historic District (42)
- Cobb Memorial Library (44)
- Jedediah Higgins House (48)
- Pine Grove Cemetery (65)

MORE

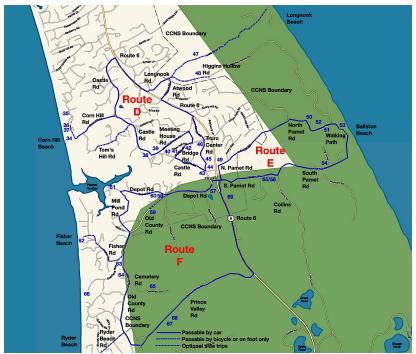
For an online historic overview go to:

www.truroma.gov/historicalcommission

For detailed historic survey information go to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) database: www.mhc-macris.net

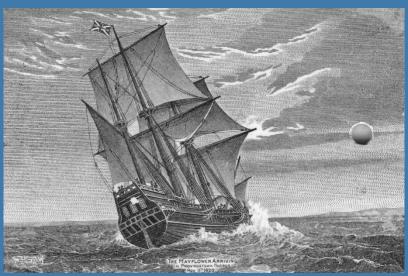
Printed copies of this booklet will be available at the Truro Town Hall, Truro Public Library, Truro Historical Society Highland House Museum and Cobb Archive, and the Truro Chamber of Commerce.

June 2023



Please respect the privacy of property owners as you tour Truro's historic sites.

Tour Routes D, E and F



The Truro Historical Commission and Truro Historical Society commemorated the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower in Cape Cod Bay in 1620 with this update of the 1984 Guide that celebrated the 275th anniversary of the founding of Truro. The third printing of this updated Guide was funded with the assistance of the Town of Truro's Community Preservation Act Revenues. We dedicate this printing to the late Susan Stolberg Howe, former President of the Truro Historical Society and member of the Community Preservation Committee during the update of this Guide. As Chair of the Commission on Disabilities, Susan advocated for the needs of the community making Truro accessible to people of all abilities.

Chuck Steinman, Vice Chair, Truro Historical Commission Editor and Graphic Design