

ABOUT HISTORIC CHATHAM

Chatham, a town steeped in history, is home to wonderful museums, hidden architectural gems, natural history, and significant Native American settlements.

Historic Chatham is a collaborative effort between Chatham's museums and history organizations. Through our website, we provide a gateway for connecting all aspects of Chatham history – museums, organizations dedicated to history, preservation, celebrations, tours, etc.

Our most significant cooperative effort is the annual History Weekend, when residents and visitors are encouraged to visit the Town's historic organizations and help keep our rich Chatham history alive.

The unique historical significance of Chatham is exemplified by the recognition of the twenty *National Register of Historic Places*, including the Old Village Historic District, the Historic Business District, and the Marconi-RCA National Register District.

Six of the National Register sites are venues which are open and available for tours as part of "Historic Chatham."

Celebrate Chatham's
History Weekend
In June

Visit our website at:

www.Historic-Chatham.org
for dates & details

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chatham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



HISTORIC CHATHAM TIMELINE

- ◆ 1606 Samuel de Champlain lands at Stage Harbor.
- ◆ 1620 Chatham is the "Turning Point" for the Mayflower voyage, changing the course of history.
- ◆ 1664 William Nickerson moves to Monomoyt lands.
- ◆ 1712 Town is established and named Chatham.
- ◆ 1782 Battle of Chatham Harbor is Chatham's only hostile activity during the Revolutionary War.
- ◆ 1797 Colonel Benjamin Godfrey's Windmill is built.
- ◆ 1808 Chatham Light is erected with two lights to distinguish it from the Highland Light.
- ◆ 1862 About 270 Chatham men serve in the Civil War.
- ◆ 1877 The current Chatham Light is built as one of the replacements of the old Twin Lights.
- ◆ 1918 Chatham Naval Air Station opens to defend the coastal waters of the United States during WWI.
- ◆ 1926 Chatham Historical Society purchases the home of Captain Joseph Atwood built in 1752.
- ◆ 1942 US Navy Radio Station at Marconi site intercepts radio traffic from German U-boats.
- ◆ 1944 Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge is established.
- ◆ 1952 Coast Guardsman Bernie Webber and three crewmen in the CG36500 motor lifeboat rescue 32 sailors from the wrecked tanker Pendleton during a fierce winter nor'easter.
- ◆ 1961 Cape Cod National Seashore is established.
- ◆ 1973 Chatham's Old Harbor Life Saving Station is moved from North Beach to Race Point Beach.
- ◆ 1987 A winter storm breaks through North Beach, creating a new entrance to Chatham Harbor.
- ◆ 2012 Town celebrates 300th anniversary.

For additional information about Chatham timeline events,

Go to: www.Historic-Chatham.org

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ATWOOD HOUSE & MUSEUM

The Atwood House, originally built in the 1750's by Joseph Atwood, was purchased by the Chatham Historical Society in 1926. Today, the greatly expanded Atwood House & Museum is a vibrant institution showcasing eleven galleries, special events, compelling local speakers, and rich, research opportunities for history enthusiasts.

347 Stage Harbor Rd • 508-945-2493

www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org



MARCONI - RCA WIRELESS MUSEUM *

The museum of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center features exhibits about Guglielmo Marconi's global wireless vision and its 20th-Century legacy, RCA's Ship-to-Shore Chatham Radio WCC - "Largest US coastal station in the marine service" and Chatham Navy Radio - intercepting critical WWII U-Boat messages, all on Marconi's restored 1914 site.

847 Orleans Rd • 508-945-8889

www.ChathamMarconi.org

CHATHAM LIGHTHOUSE *

The iconic landmark of the town, Chatham Light is a US Coast Guard Lighthouse, one of the few in the US that still operates 24 hours a day. The original Chatham Light was established in 1808, and became the single lighthouse on this site in 1923. The Coast Guard Auxiliary conducts tours of the lighthouse from May thru October.

37 Main St

www.chathamlight.info



CALEB NICKERSON HOMESTEAD

The Nickerson Family Association invites you to tour the Caleb Nickerson Homestead, a.c. 1829 Cape. Walk the grounds of this historic landmark where Chatham's first English settlers purchased the land from the Monomoyicks in 1664.

1107 Orleans Rd • 508-945-6086

www.nickersonassoc.com



CHATHAM RAILROAD MUSEUM *

The Chatham Railroad Museum is located in the beautifully restored 1887 railroad depot that served Chatham residents and visitors for nearly fifty years.

The building contains hundreds of exhibits and the New York Central model locomotives used at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

153 Depot Rd • 508-945-5100

www.chathamrailroadmuseum.com



ELDRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY *

The Eldredge Public Library is an historic icon in Chatham (1896) that continues to fulfill the current needs of its community members. The Library is more than books and movies, providing technology, meeting space, youth programs, lifelong learning opportunities and much more.

564 Main St • 508-945-5170

www.eldredgelibrary.org

CHATHAM SMARTPHONE TOURS

Virtual Tour Guide to Historic Chatham
www.etourchatham.org

CHATHAM WINDMILL *



Windmills were once an integral part of life in Chatham. There were about eleven wind-powered grist mills located in the town from the early 1700s through the 1800s. The Chatham Windmill, also known as the Col. Benjamin Godfrey Mill, was one of the last of the town's grist mills to be built.

125 Shattuck Pl.

www.chathamwindmill.com



MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE *

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge consists of a dynamic coastal wilderness ecosystem, providing vital habitat for many threatened and endangered species. Come enjoy Monomoy's rich history and unique recreational opportunities offered throughout the Refuge. Including the Monomoy Point Lighthouse.

30 Wikis Way • 508-945-0594

Fws.gov/refuge/monomoy



MAYO HOUSE

The Josiah Mayo House owned by Chatham Conservation Foundation, located at 540 Main Street is an excellent example of life on Main Street in the 1800's. It was built between 1818 and 1820 by Josiah Mayo, a Blacksmith by trade, who was Postmaster in Chatham for 40 years, Treasurer for 27 years and Selectman for two years.

540 Main St • 508-945-4084

www.chathamconservationfoundation.org

Celebrating our town's past

* Listed on the National Register of Historic Places