

Kinsale Walking Tour

1706 Colonial Port

Start your tour at the (1) **Kinsale Museum** to learn about the village's early beginnings as a colonial port.

Afterwards follow **Great House Road** to the dirt lane leading to (2) **The Great House**. There you will discover a stunning view which looks out the Yeocomico River across the Potomac to Maryland. In 1667, the General Assembly ordered a fort built on the Yeocomico River for the defense of the Potomac. That same year the original "Great House" was built by Stephen Bailey. It remained in the family until 1778. Over the next 49 years it had five owners including Catesby Jones and John James Maund, the Superintendent at the Port of Yeocomico.

During the War of 1812 the USS *Asp* was attacked by British forces just offshore the "Great House". Her commander, Midshipman James B. Sigourney, was killed defending Kinsale. His body was brought ashore and buried in the (3) **Bailey Cemetery**.

Following the war the ledgers from Robert Bailey's store showed a rising economy. In 1827 the "Great House" was reacquired by the Bailey family and the parts of the main house damaged in the War of 1812 were rebuilt. Today it is home to the 11th generation of Baileys. Other homes along the lane were built by the Baileys as well: (4) **Capt. R.M. Bailey-1880** and (5) **Capt. R.M. Bailey-1908**.

At the turn of the century, the (6a) **George P. Bailey Canning Factory** was operating at the end of Sigourney Drive. Three other tomato canneries were operating as well: (6b), (6a), and (13).

The introduction of the steamboat in the early 1800s turned Kinsale's deepwater port into a bustling transportation center. Across the field at the top of Steamboat Hill sits (7) **The Little House**. Built in 1840, it is one of the few homes to have survived the burning of the village during the War between the States.

The first regularly scheduled steamboat service began in 1855, the earliest in the county. Steamboat Drive was crowded with stores, taverns and warehouses including the (8) **Bailey and English Store**, (9) **Kinsale Tavern**, and the (10) **W.J. Courtney Co. Store**. On July 4, 1934 the tavern was destroyed by a fire set by festive roman candles. During the steamboat era, a passenger waiting room (11) and warehouses sat near the (12) **Steamboat Wharf** where Southern States granary sits today.

Just before the bridge was (13) **S.B. Hardwick Canning Factory**. In 1916 it became the **Parks Brothers Canning Factory**. Today, it is the location of the Kinsale Harbour Yacht Club.

Returning up Kinsale Road to the corner of Yeocomico Lane and Bank Street you once again pass (7) **The Little House** and the homes once occupied by (14) Capt. A.W. Parks-1912, (15) W.D. Parks-1920, (16) B.A. English-1885, and (17) Mrs. George Murphy-1880.

On the opposite corner, (18) **The Hardwick Hotel** stood from 1885 until the 1950s. Across the street were the Hardwick Store, barns and barroom. The store was replaced with an (19) **Ice Cream Parlor** in 1922. By then the barroom next door had become the Holliday Meat Market. It would later serve as a seamstress shop and eventually the (1) **Kinsale Museum**.

Along **Kinsale Road** stand reminders of Kinsale's prosperous steamboat days. These homes housed several of the village's leading citizens during that era: (20) **Courtney-1900**; (21) Site of former George Vasant Store-1885; (22) Capt. J.P. Bailey-1895; (23) Capt. Charles U. Courtney-1885; and (24) S.B. Atwill-1880.

Turn on **Capnap Lane** past Great House Road to view the (25) **Masonic Lodge** originally built in 1901 and then rebuilt after a fire in the 1960s. Also see the former homes of (26) Mrs. Sydnor-1895; (27) Mrs. Frank A. Dameron-1915; and (28) A.T. Rowe-1922.

Afterwards follow Great House Road back to **Kinsale Road**. In 1936, the building on the corner once housed (29) **C.C. Thrift Store & Post Office**. Kinsale's first Post Office was established in 1792 and was the first in the Northern Neck. Across Kinsale Road was (30) **Thurston & Rowe Store and Soda Fountain** built in 1916. The vacant lot on the corner is the site of the (31) **Kinsale Methodist Church**. Built in 1879, the 90-year old church was destroyed by fire in October 1969.

For an extended tour continue on Kinsale Road to view the (50) **Methodist Parsonage** and other turn of the century homes: (45) J.S. Hardwick House-1885; (46) A.S. Jones-1910; (47) H.C. Moss-1928; (48) site of H.C. Moss Store-1932; (49) F.M. Thrift-1910; (50) Methodist Parsonage-1906; (51) J.L. Owens-1919; (52) Morley Norris-1906; (53) J.F.II. Sisson House-1894.

Across Kinsale Road from the church site stands the former (32) **H.C. Moss Hotel**-1920. At the corner of **Yeocomico Lane** and Kinsale Road stood S.C. Beale's blacksmith and wheelwright shops in 1872. When the horse and buggy were replaced by the horseless carriage, the buildings were torn down to make way for (33) **J.C. Moss & Son Chevrolet**-1919. In 1931 the dealership expanded to fill the entire corner (34) and (35). Years earlier (35) had been the site of V.B. Hardwick Store and Post Office. Next door was (36) V.B. Hardwick's home built in 1898.

Chevrolet was the second car dealership in the village. The first was a Ford dealership, (44) **Palmer & Moore Kinsale Motor Corp.** built in 1918 on **Bank Street** next door to the (43) **L.E. Mumford Banking Co.** (1907).

At the corner of Yeocomico Lane and Bank Street is the former house of (33) Mrs. George P. Bailey-1903. The property included a (38) large barn which has since been converted to a residence.

At the turn of the century a primary school (39) sat on the west end of Yeocomico Lane. In 1909 **Kinsale High School** was built where the (40) **Firehouse** sits today. In 1912 Kinsale became the first accredited high school in the Northern Neck.

Next door (41) is a house owned by Cromwell Hardwick in 1900. On the east end of Yeocomico Lane sits the former home of (42) L.W. Courtney-1895. Cromwell Hardwick also owned the land where **Kinsale Foundation Park** is today. Once a pasture for sheep and goats, it also is thought to have been a horse racetrack at one time. Today the park is owned and maintained by the Kinsale Foundation as a place for residents to gather for community events and to enjoy the village's rural charm.

