

7. The Karn House 2 Irving Ave.

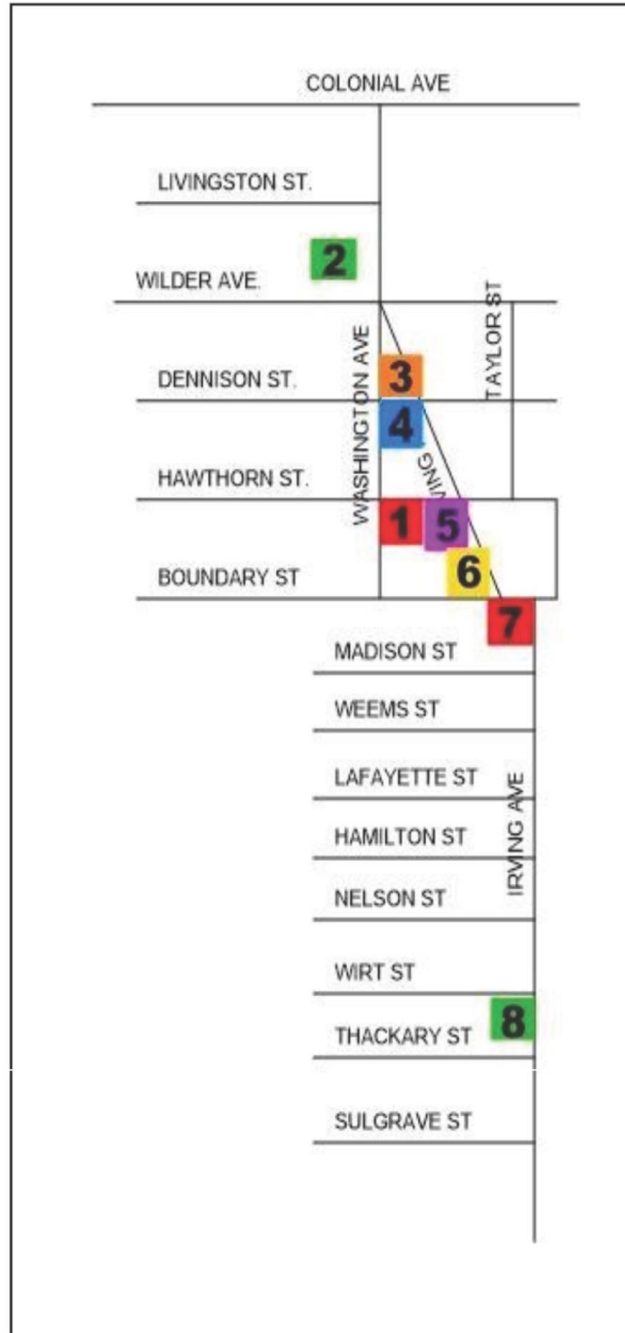


Also known as Fox Merchandise, this was a general merchandise store in the early 1900s. The building was donated to St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church by Frances Karn.

8. The Bell House 821 Irving Ave.



A number of 1800 and early 1900 homes look out on the Potomac along Irving Ave. Bell House, which is on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, was built in 1870. Alexander Melville Bell, father of Alexander Graham Bell, bought it soon afterward for a summer home. A. M. Bell was active in the planning of our town and operated a summer home for children, Children's Salt Air Home, located on Monroe Bay Ave. and Hamilton St.



COLONIAL BEACH WALKING TOUR



Welcome to Colonial Beach!

Start your tour at the Colonial Beach Museum
128 Hawthorn St.

(Public parking is available next
to the museum on Hawthorn St.)

Permission is given by owners to feature
the outside of the included properties.
None of the private homes on the tour
are open to the public.

Tour created by
Colonial Beach Historical Society
with Downtown Colonial Beach 2017

1. The Colonial Beach Museum (on front)

The Colonial Beach Museum building dates from 1892 when it was built by William Billingsley who purchased the property at a tax sale in 1890 for 44 cents. Billingsley was an elected official in Colonial Beach for years. Built as a two-story commercial building, the museum building has housed a school, a newspaper, doctor's offices, a clothing store, a barber shop, a lunchroom and an antique shop. This was the electric company, telephone company with a well-used pay phone and the gas company. Billingsley was the owner until 1931; the Rollins family then owned it until 1941; and the Cooper/Hoffman family from 1941 to the 1993 when it was given to the town. It was designated as one of the town's historic buildings in 1999.

2. St. Mary's Episcopal Church 203 Dennison St.



St. Mary's is a gothic style church which has original stained glass windows. The building was consecrated in 1911. There is a large triple stained glass window in the front of the church with beautiful antique wooden trim and pews inside. The Moeller Tracker pipe organ is more than 100 years old and was transferred here from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Washington D.C.

3. Tides Inn B and B 200 N. Irving Ave.



Built in 1905, this Victorian house was once a 10-bedroom inn called The Saco House. (The original owners were from Saco, Maine.) It was renamed "Tides Inn" by one of the past owners and has maintained that name to the present time. Through the years it has housed many guests. It has been reconfigured inside and is now a B and B.

4. Dennison St. Inn 100 Dennison St.



The Dennison St. Inn, formerly Breakers, is the remaining Queen Anne Victorian of two that dated to 1883. The second home once existed around the corner on Washington Ave. Both houses were built by Frank Schwartz, the first mayor of Colonial Beach. Now a lovely B and B, this building was first a home and then a boarding house for the visitors who came on steamboats in the early 1900s.

5. School Board Office 16 Irving Ave.



This circa 1913 building is known as "the old school house" and "the old town hall." The building once served as a fire house with the fire truck in the right front corner. It was the police department, the office of the town clerk and the treasurer's office. It is now the Colonial Beach School Board Office.

6. The Klotz Building 6 Irving Ave.



The early 1900s Klotz Building has had numerous commercial uses. It has been Town Hall as well as a school, a pants factory, the W. D. William's law office, a child development center, the Humane Society and the Chamber of Commerce building. This building is currently owned by the town.