



Pasture Point, one of Hampton's oldest neighborhoods, has deep roots in Virginia's colonial history. It was part of the sprawling plantation land acquired by Miles Cary, who emigrated from England in 1645. The area is bordered on the east by Hampton River and on the north by Bright's Creek. This land, known as "Pasture Tract," was a grazing area for cattle and also encompassed an orchard. During the Revolutionary War, it included several country homes, some of which may have been used as winter quarters for French officers after the British defeat at Yorktown in October 1781.

A reference to "Pasture Point" appears in 1849 deeds. When the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway built a station at the end of Washington Street in the 1880s, a number of distinctive homes began to appear. Hampton's seafood business was booming then, and roads between the port and station thronged with commerce. In the late 1880s, Jefferson Sinclair's Pasture Point Farm was subdivided into lots. Charles Taylor Holtzclaw, who built several Hampton landmarks including the first Chamberlin Hotel, teamed with his brother William to develop the neighborhood. Many of these elegant Victorian and American Foursquare houses, the earliest dating to about 1890, still exist today.

It was a typical "streetcar suburb," with a spur that extended from downtown along North King Street. The streetcars turned right on what is now Pembroke Avenue, rambled three blocks along the median, then turned north on Washington Street and ended at the C&O Station. Many of Hampton's most prominent families called Pasture Point home. Shopkeepers, ship captains, and others could hop the streetcar and walk or ride carriages to downtown and the waterfront.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

As you are strolling through Pasture Point, notice the variation in each home. These unique architectural elements distinguish this neighborhood from others of its time. Although many of the historic homes have been modified, the styles listed below are still depicted in Pasture Point.



Colonial Revival

This style reuses Georgian and Colonial design in the USA in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most homes are symmetrical with decorative elements drawn from Greek and Roman classical architecture.



Gothic Revival

This architectural style from the 1840s is mostly seen in rural domestic buildings. It is contemporary with Greek Revival and Italianate styles.

Italianate Style

The eclectic form of the country-house design, fashionable in the 1840s and 50s, and characterized by low-pitched, heavily bracketed roofs, an asymmetrical informal plan, square towers and often rounded arched windows.



Prairie

This style originated in Chicago early in the twentieth century suburbs. It is an indigenous American style known as the Prairie School. The home consists of mostly two-story houses built of wood or brick. The distinguishing feature is the hipped attic dormer window at the top of the home.



Victorian

These homes look much like dollhouses with elaborate trim and bright colors. The Victorian styles evolved largely from the imposing, elaborate Gothic style, which appealed to the romantic Victorian idea that fashion, architecture and furnishings should be beautiful rather than practical. The term "Victorian architecture" specifically refers to styles that emerged in the period between 1830 and 1910, during the reign of Queen Victoria.



Queen Anne

An eclectic style of domestic architecture of the 1870s-1900, this style is based on Elizabethan architecture. It is characterized as a blending of Tudor, Gothic, English Renaissance and Colonial elements. The style sought to be charming with an asymmetrical plan, complex roofline, and corner towers and gables. Patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows and other devices are used to avoid a smoothed-wall appearance.



PASTURE POINT HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

Walking Tour

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For additional information about Hampton's historic neighborhoods, visit the **Hampton Visitor Center**
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