

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SAG HARBOR

1760 Colonial Harbor

The "Harbor of Sagg" emerged as a coastal port serving the surrounding agricultural region in the early 18th century. Trade between Sag Harbor and the West Indies was initiated in the years 1760-70.

1776 Revolution

The British occupied Long Island throughout the Revolution. Like the Thomas Dering family, many Long Islanders fled to Connecticut. In 1777 Lieutenant Colonel Meigs led a number of these patriotic refugees across the Sound in whale boats, raided British held Sag Harbor and burned 12 vessels!

1789 Federal Port of Entry

In the first session of the U.S. Congress, George Washington approved the act establishing Sag Harbor an official Federal Port of Entry. He appointed Henry Packer Dering Sag Harbor's Custom Master.

1800 Cosmopolitan Community

On Henry Packer Dering's invitation, David Frothingham moved to Sag Harbor where he established Long Island's first newspaper, The Long Island Herald, in 1791.

1812 War

When the War of 1812 was declared, H.P. Dering was put in charge of the Sag Harbor Arsenal. Sag Harborites overcame the 1813 British attack on their town.

1820 Recovery

The war brought hardship to Sag Harbor and the disastrous fire of 1817 made economic recovery difficult. It was only in the late 20's that the port began to regain its former importance due to the increase in whaling activities.

1840 Whaling

From the early days when the Indians taught settlers how to hunt whales off shore, the growth of that industry paralleled the growth of Sag Harbor. However, the greatest activity occurred in the third and fourth decades of the 19th century. At its peak in 1845, the Sag Harbor whaling fleet totaled 63 vessels.



Baron's Cove Inn and Yacht Club, the luxury resort serving Sag Harbor, and the Sag Harbor Savings Bank have provided partial funding for this brochure.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE

SPLIA



SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK

Sag Harbor was already a thriving maritime community when it became one of the first American seaports to be designated an official Port of Entry in 1789. For the next three decades, Henry Packer Dering, U.S. Custom Master, would be in charge of meeting the trading vessels and whaling ships which sailed into local waters. In this Federal house Dering not only conducted customs business but raised nine children. The flavor of life in early Sag Harbor is revealed in every room of the Custom House. Illustrating the lifestyle of a sophisticated Long Island family, the furnishings include Dering and other Sag Harbor pieces, many of which were fashioned by "East End" craftsmen. The building was saved from demolition in 1948 by the late Governor Charles Edison of New Jersey who summered in Sag Harbor and was maintained until 1966 by the Old Sagg Harbour Committee. In 1971, the United States Customs Service designated it the first Customs Historic Landmark.

To get there: Take Exit 70 off the LI E to Sunrise Highway. Follow Montauk Highway to Bridgehampton and turn left at the war monument onto the Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike. In the village, turn left on Garden Street.

Guided tours are given Tues.-Sun.
Memorial Day - Labor Day, 10-5.
Weekends June & Sept.
Groups by appointment call
(516) 941-9444.

Adults: \$1.00 Children: \$.25