

Edward B. Blaisdell – Architect and Builder, York Harbor, ME

Edward B. Blaisdell (1845-1924) – was by far the most important local architect and builder in York Harbor. He is credited with many of the large shingle style cottages in the area, and he had a very wide range of work including hotels, clubs, private cottages, churches, bridges, and banks. His commissions for cottages included: Stonecroft (1895), Brambles (1899), Tyn-Y-Coed (1899), Millbury Cottage (1899), Hubbard Brown Cottage, Youngholm (1900), Twin Cottage and Mayfair Cottage (1901), and Stetson House (1901). His hotels and clubs included the Albracca Hotel, the Passaconaway Inn (1892), and the York Country Clubhouse.

In April 1901, FC Watson announced that he was no longer associated as an architect with E.B. and S.T. Blaisdell, Builders, but had established himself as architect in his own name. Watson was a graduate of the State Normal Art School of Boston.

Watson stated that while he was associated with EB and ST Blaisdell he designed the Roaring Rock Inn, which was not built, the summer residences of Mr. George L. Cheney of New York, Mr. H.B. Dominic of New York, the clubhouse of the York Country Club, the reconstruction of the old colonial mansion belonging to the Honorable E.O. Emerson of Titusville, PA., and the summer home of M.W.R. Mercer, also the private stables of Mr. J.D. Vermule and E.O. Emerson. We probably will never know how many of these cottages were the design of EB Blaisdell or his understudy FC Watson.

One construction contract to EB Blaisdell that received much attention was a bridge that across the York River to connect York to Kittery Point and points south. Because of the cost there was a lot of opposition among the selectman, bridge committee and the townspeople. In 1906 it was passed to build the drawbridge. The contract was awarded to E. B. Blaisdell for \$39,500. It was completed in 1908 for \$49,756, which the selectman refused to pay. E. B. Blaisdell took the case to the Maine Supreme Court, which ruled for the town to pay. The final bill was \$51,066 and was paid in 1913. This 1908 bridge was one of the “three bridges.” The other two parts were built to connect the islands to the mainland, Route 103.

Hotels, Clubs

- Albracca Hotel – Architect & Builder - Hotel burned in 1924
- Passaconaway Inn, a huge hotel, built in 1892 and demolished in 1937
- Marshall house electric plant – 1895. In 1910 it became a year-round operation under the ownership of the Agamenticus Electric Light Co.
- York Country Club overlooking the York River and Sewall’s Bridge

Private Cottages

- Tyn-Y-Coed – Fremont Varrell’s cottage – July 20, 1899 – Architect & Builder
- Stonecroft – 1895 – Architect & Builder
- On-The River – Jos. W. Simpson - Nov. 23, 1899 – Architect & Builder
- Youngholm, a large home on Cider Hill - built around 1900 - Architect
- Brambles Cottage (1899) – George L. Cheney is owner – Architect
- Stables at Red Gate Cottage – 1892 - Architect
- Hubbard Brown Cottage – Architect & Builder
- Cook Cottage – 1890 - Architect & Builder
- The Mount – Architect & Builder
- T. Goodwin Cottage – 1895 – Architect & Builder
- Rivermere Cottage – Architect & Builder
- Twin Cottage & Mayfair Cottage – owner is Dominick – Architect – Sept. 5, 1901
- Stetson House – Francis Stetson – Architect - Oct. 3, 1901
- Millbury Cottage – EB is architect and builder – 1899
- Orchardside Cottage – York Cliff - EB is architect, EW Baker is builder - 1896

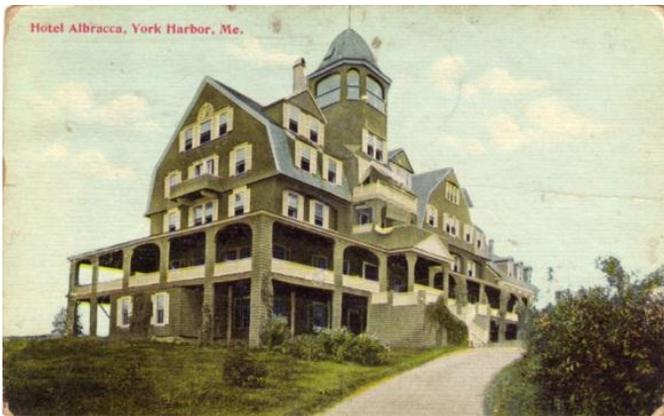
- Brown Cottage, Biddeford Pool, 1900
- Harper Cottage, Biddeford Pool, 1900
- Baker Cottage, York Harbor, 1907-08
- Moody Cottage, York, 1908
- Bradford Cottage, Biddeford Pool, 1908
- Vealie Cottage, York Beach, 1908

Churches

- Union Church – York Beach – Architect & Builder - 1895
- St. George’s Church – EB is builder, H. M. Stephenson is architect
- York Street Baptist Church – Architect & Builder - 1891.
- St. Peter’s Episcopal Church on Shore Road in 1898, ED is builder

Public Buildings (Libraries, Bridges)

- Ogunquit Library – Charles Burns is architect, and EB Blaisdell is builder
- Lancaster Building - EB is architect and builder - 1895
- York County National Bank – 1893. Building is now the Old York Historical Society Offices
- Town Farm (for the poor) – Date? – Architect & Builder
- Drawbridge – York to Kittery – Builder – 1908



Hotel Abracca



Passaconaway Inn - 1892



Mayfair Cottage - 1901



Hubbard Brown Cottage



The Brambles - 1899



Twin Cottage - 1901



T. Goodwin Cottage - 1895



Cook Cottage - 1890



Tyn-Y-Coed - 1899



Stetson House - 1901



Stonecroft - 1899



Youngholm - 1900



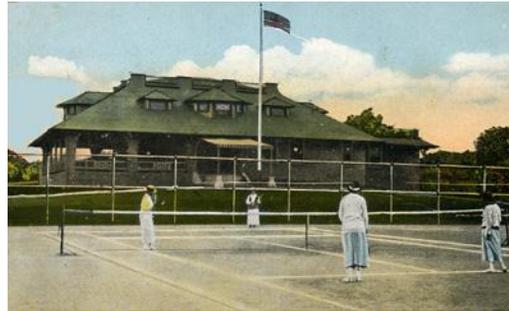
Millbury Cottage - 1899



Marshall Cottage



York County National Bank – 1893



York Golf & Tennis Clubhouse

E. B. BLAISDELL,

ARCHITECT.

York Village, Maine

MAKES A SPECIALTY OF DESIGNING
SEA-SIDE COTTAGES, HOTELS, AND
COUNTRY BUILDINGS GENERALLY.

PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF E. B. BLAISDELL, YORK VILLAGE,
*Architect and Builder. Carefully drawn plans and estimates submitted at
short notice.*

Architectural features of a Blaisdell design



One 'signature' feature of EB Blaisdell is the alternating of arch and square openings on the porches. This is shown to the left on the Hotel Albracca, and below on Cook's Cottage.



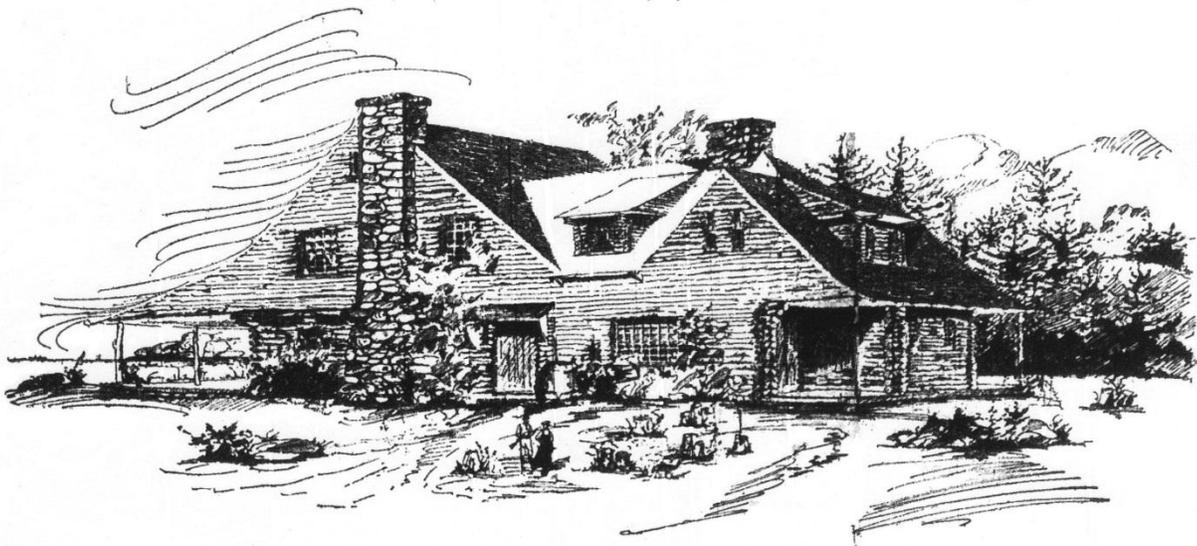
The Old York Transcript published a number of EB Blaisdell's renderings which are shown below.



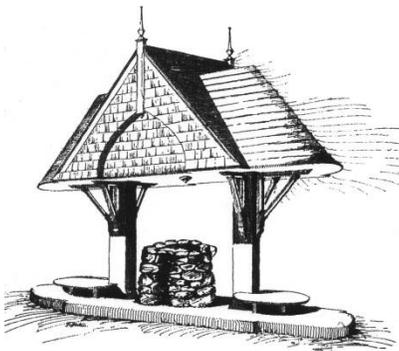
The Old York Transcript – February 8, 1900. Design for Summer Cottage – Drawn by Architect EB Blaisdell. The above design was drawn by EB Blaisdell for a prominent summer client who contemplates building in York. The erection of a beautiful residence like the above would be a great acquisition to this resort and it is not unlikely that this cottage will be built here at no distant day. To the architecture of this locality this would be a _____.



The original rendering above was reversed and is shown compared to an old photo of the Harborside Cottage in Biddeford Pool, ME (Mr. Brown – original client). These images are very similar – two structures connected together – large porch in front facing the water, side entryway, and two large stone chimneys on either end of the main house.



The Old York Transcript – November 30, 1899. A Log Cabin. The above cut is a log cabin. The design was made three years ago by EB Blaisdell for Mr. Fred Ellis of York Beach. It is a radical departure from the usual style of architecture observed here, and the erection of such a cottage as this would provide a most pleasing diversion. It fairly illustrates the versatility of Mr. Blaisdell in architecture design, who seems equally capable of producing the design of any kind of construction on where a suitable suggestion is offered.



The Old York Transcript – November 2, 1899. Among the things suggested this summer by the York Village Improvement association to add to the grace and dignity of the old town of York and to prove useful as well, was the drinking fountain to be established near the village green. In compliance with this suggestion Mr. EB Blaisdell has drawn the design published above. Its acquisition would be most valuable to the town both for its usefulness and ornamentation.

The Old York Transcript – October 19, 1899. A Handsome Stable. The above cut of the private stable for JD Vermeule Esq., President of the Goodyear Rubber Company of New York City. It will be erected on the York Cliffs Property near Mr. Vermeule's residence. The material will be of frame, excepting part of the front wall which will be field stone, and will be fitted with the latest stable conveniences. Mr. EB Blaisdell is the architect and to him much credit is given.



To the left is the rendering of JD Vermeule's stable, and to the right is how the structure appears today.



The Old York Transcript – March 8, 1900. New High School Building designed by EB Blaisdell. (Partial text from the article – note that this design was not built). Plans for a building such as a school demands have been generously furnished by Architect EB Blaisdell which will without being extravagant present a modest beauty of architecture worth of the architecture of the originator.



The Old York Transcript – November 23, 1899. JW Simpson's New Cottage. The above is a design which will be built by JW Simpson on Eastern Point. It will be located on Mr. Simpson's land on the edge of a beautiful walnut grove which extends to the verge of the sea. The view is magnificent and the spot presents every advantage of retirement and exclusiveness. The house will contain ten sleeping room, modern throughout and the exterior of field rock work. A wide veranda, one side open, extends around two sides of the house. The arrangement of the cottage is convenient and presents many attractive features seldom realized in a summer residence. The floor design above gives an idea of the detail of arrangement. The architect is EB Blaisdell, through whose courtesy the design is published. The house will be finished before next season.



The Old York Transcript – December 21, 1899. The Mercer Mansion, York Harbor. The above cut shows the Mercer Mansion at York Harbor after the changes have been completed. When finished it will be one of the finest summer residences in this vicinity. The location of the house which now occupies a high eminence overlooking the river and harbor cannot be surpassed and the grounds are spacious and will be extensively improved. The style of this house with its attractive columns is something that will be particularly pleasing in York where so little character prevails. EB and ST Blasdel are the architects and builders.



Mercer Mansion – also call Diaha’s Cottage – rendering at left, and photo of cottage today.

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