



**New England Electric Railway Historical Society
Seashore Trolley Museum
195 Log Cabin Road, PO Box A, Kennebunkport, ME 04046
TrolleyMuseum.org**

Trolleys in the Kennebunks and Atlantic Shore Line - Quick Facts



*An Atlantic Shore Line Railway trolley passes through downtown Kennebunk in the early 1900's
Rick Russell Collection*

Trolley service, in the area where the Seashore Trolley Museum is located today, was initially provided by a small electric trolley line called The Mousam River Railroad, which began operating in 1893. It was a short, two mile line between Sanford and Springvale, Maine, just west of the towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel.

The line was built by the owners of two mills in Sanford to haul coal to power the mills and deliver the necessary raw materials from a connection with the Boston & Maine Railroad in Springvale. The trolley line also moved the finished products back to Springvale to be shipped to market by the railroad.

In 1899, the mill owners extended the trolley line 20 miles east from Sanford to an ocean port at Cape Porpoise near Kennebunkport. It was much cheaper to move coal to fuel the mills by ship or barge than by the Boston & Maine Railroad. This line was called the Sanford & Cape Porpoise Railway. In addition to providing freight service, both lines also provided trolley passenger service to the area.

In 1904, both lines were combined into the Atlantic Shore Line Railway. Through extensions and mergers the Atlantic Shore Line became one of the largest interurban, or inter-city electric railway, in the state of Maine. The Atlantic Shore Line provided service to the entire southern Maine seacoast; connecting Kittery, York, Ogunquit, Wells, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport.

From Kennebunkport the line continued along Log Cabin Road (the road the Museum is located on), leaving the road near where our driveway is located. The line then passed through what is today the Seashore Trolley Museum's property and ended in downtown Biddeford just north of the Museum.

A connection was made in Biddeford with the trolleys of the Biddeford & Saco Railroad Company and you could ride from there out to Old Orchard Beach.

Atlantic Shore Line - Quick Facts

Incorporated:

February 9, 1900

Purpose:

To build a trolley line from Biddeford to York Beach via Kennebunkport, Kennebunk and Wells.

Trackage Constructed:

Opened July 4, 1900 Town House Square to Dock Square, Kennebunkport, 1.5 miles.

Opened August 15, 1904 Town House Square, Kennebunkport to City Square, Biddeford, 8.5 miles.

Opened July 21, 1907 Kennebunk to York Beach, 16.92 miles.

Opened December 7, 1923 Springvale to Central Square, Sanford via Main Street, 2.14 miles.

Trackage Acquired:

Mousam River Railway - Springvale to Central Square, Sanford via River Street, 2.44 miles.

Sanford & Cape Porpoise Railway - Central Square, Sanford to Bickford Island, Cape Porpoise, Kennebunkport, 20.89 miles.

Portsmouth, Dover & York Railway - Portsmouth to Kittery (ferry), Kittery to York Beach, Kittery to South Berwick, South Berwick to Dover, NH, and Eliot to York, 40.16 miles.

Connected With:

Boston & Maine Railroad (Western Division) at Kennebunk Station.

Boston & Maine Railroad (Eastern Division) at West Kennebunk.

Boston & Maine Railroad (Sanford & Eastern) at Springvale.

Biddeford & Saco Railroad at Alfred and Birch Streets, Biddeford

Abandoned:

March 17, 1923 All routes of the Portsmouth, Dover & York

March 21, 1924 Kennebunk to York Beach

June 28, 1925 Town House Square to Dock Square and Cape Porpoise

September 15, 1927 Central Square, Sanford to Proctor Road, Arundel via Town House Square (Remainder to City Square operated by Biddeford & Saco Railroad)

September 24, 1927 Proctor Road, Arundel to McKenney's, Biddeford (by B&S RR)

January 30, 1928 McKenney's to West Street, Biddeford (by B&S RR)

June 30, 1928 City Square to West Street, Biddeford (by B&S RR)

April 3, 1935 Springvale to Central Square, Sanford via Main street, 2.14 miles

April 1, 1947 Springvale to Central Square, Sanford via River Street, 2.44 miles

Electric Freight Service continued until June 1949

Sidings:

Proctor Road – near Proctor road crossing, passing siding for passenger cars.

Harris – near the present entrance to the Seashore Trolley Museum, this siding was used for emergencies, freight and special moves.

Connections:

To Biddeford & Saco RR at Birch and Alfred Streets in the northeast quadrant.

To other ASL lines at Town House Square.

Fare Zones:

1 - City Square, Biddeford to Granite and West Streets, Biddeford.

2 - Granite and West Streets, Biddeford to Gregoire's Crossing, Kennebunkport.

3 - Gregoire's Crossing, Kennebunkport to Town House Square, Kennebunkport.