

1941

# Maine The Place to Live, 1941

Maine Department of Economic Development

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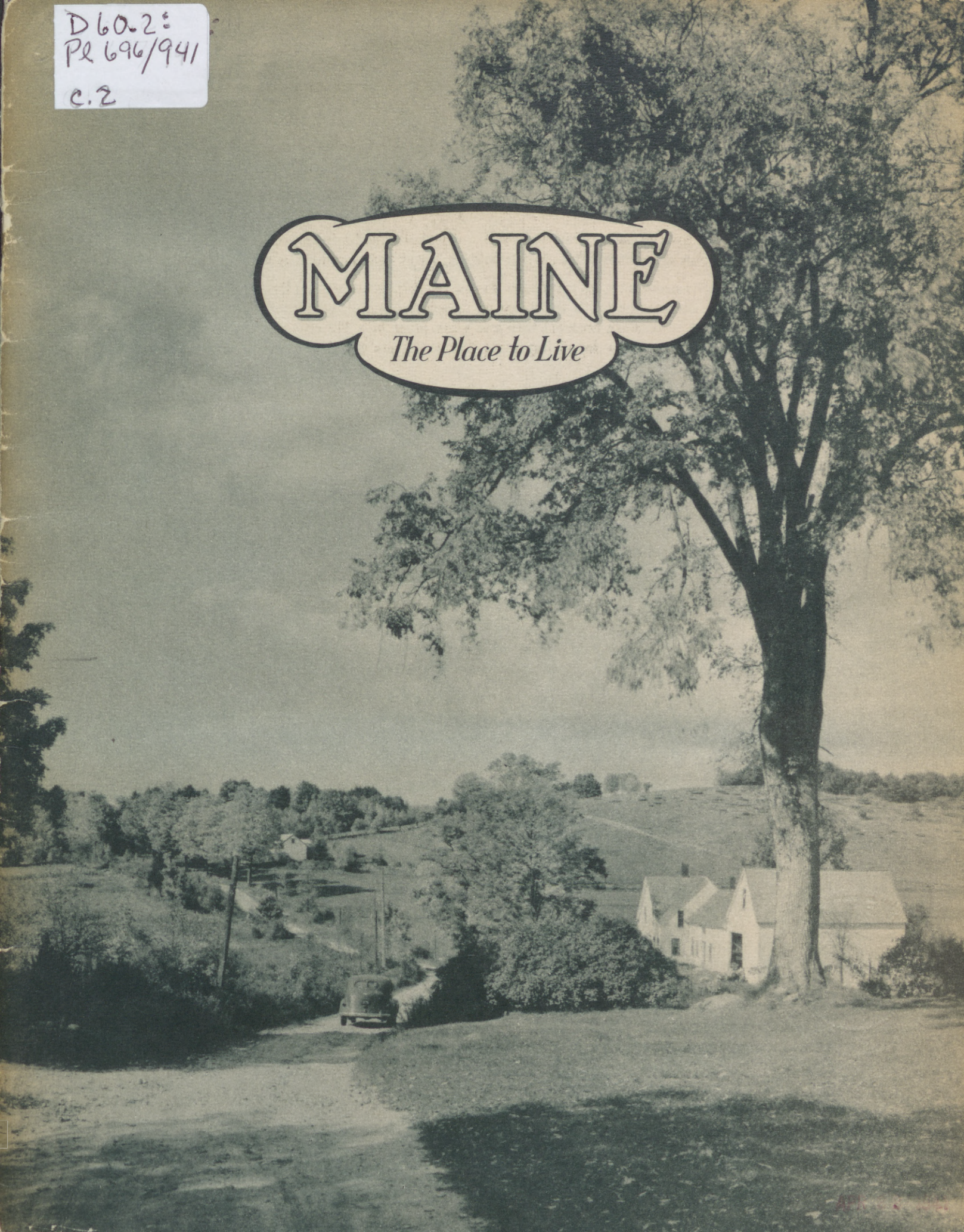
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# MAINE

*The Place to Live*





## MAINE THE PLACE TO LIVE

The 1940 census has brought to light a highly significant trend. For the past 110 years people had gravitated towards the large cities, leaving the towns and villages and farms where they were born. Now they are going back. The spell of the city has been broken. America is "going home."

Thus in our time we are witnessing the end of one era and the beginning of another. This new era is to be a good one from every viewpoint. It will be more happy and more healthy than the old order.

There are many reasons why, as the census shows, the drift is away from the large centers of population. For one thing, decentralization is the theme of industry today. Smaller production units in smaller centers have been found to be more practical than one giant plant in a big city. Better roads and faster means of transportation have been found important factors in the decentralization of industry and of population.

Back of this trend that is attaining the proportions of a mass movement is a spiritual revolution that is taking place. Americans have awakened to the sanctity of the home from which all of our great traditions originated.

But what is a home? Certainly it is not a few rooms in a crowded apartment house in a big city where every influence tends to break down family life.

Home means a place where living can be gracious and unhurried; a place where friends and neighbors are nearby; a place where trees and green fields instead of brick walls greet the eye; a place where quiet and peace instead of noise and turmoil prevail.

In looking for a real home consistent with the best ideals of Americanism many are turning to Maine. From the very beginning Maine has been a state of homes. Here, in the cradle of American liberty, the home has always ranked first in the thoughts of its citizens.

Those who have settled down in Maine find that they can live more comfortably, happily and economically here than anywhere else. They find it is an ideal state in which to work or play.

The person coming to Maine finds that he can select a location to his liking. He can choose the coast, the lake country, a farming region or a city, town or village in which to settle down. If he builds or buys a place outright he will find that he will get much for little. He will find that taxes and upkeep are extremely reasonable.

But there are many less tangible things that go to make up a home as those who are moving here to Maine find out.

Maine people are hospitable and friendly. They heartily welcome their new neighbors. Before long, the new arrival feels that he has always belonged to the community. He becomes part of the social and business life of the place. He finds that he is wanted and respected. Life takes on a new meaning and a new value where a person can live surrounded by friends.

You are cordially invited to move to Maine; to come "back home" where life moves more slowly than it does in the city. Here in Maine we "put a lot of store" in the words home, family, friends and neighbors. We think they are just about the most beautiful words in our language.

Here in Maine you will find peace and happiness and all of the other things that go to make up a full measure of living. Best of all, you will find that you are wanted here for, if you are "a homelover," you will be among kindred spirits in Maine.

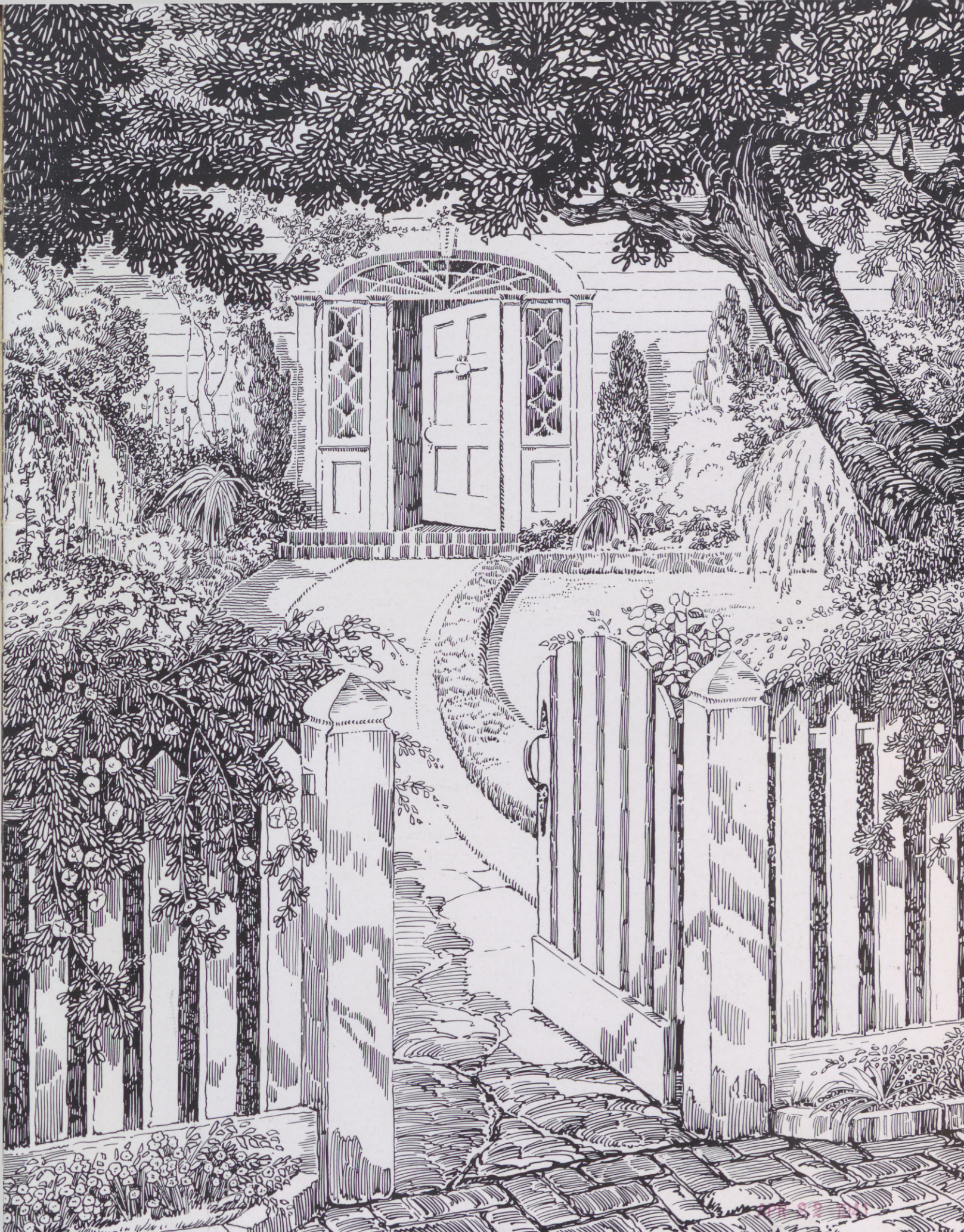
MAINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

STATE HOUSE

AUGUSTA, MAINE

[1941]









✧ When the rigors of early Colonial life became tempered by the growing wealth of the young nation, Maine folk went about the business of building enduring homes.

In the process they built permanent monuments for themselves; monuments of impeccable taste and lasting charm.

The procedure was as simple as all great things are. They simply added a full measure of charm to equal parts of grace and dignity. The result—a home, in all that the name implies.

Within their walls dwelt the happiness that is bred of a Maine man's love for his home and family. From them came men and women who added immeasurably to the wealth and glory of America.

Even today they are not old; they have only mellowed. With the passing years they have only gained in beauty. They are not only the shrines of those who built them; they are still the cherished homes of their descendants.

Occasionally one of them may be purchased by a fortunate buyer who thus secures not only a house but a home as well.





✧ Almost as famous as the ships they sailed on the seven seas are the homes that Maine sea captains owned ashore.

Most of these old homes are exceptionally fine examples of Georgian architecture. They were built by the village carpenters of those days; incredibly fine artisans whose craftsmanship has remained as a standard of excellence to this day.

As in the house pictured, a notable feature of old Maine coastal houses is the "captain's walk" on the roof. Tradition has it that captains ashore would pace the walk as if it were a quarterdeck. When they were afloat, and homeward bound, their wives would utilize it as a vantage point from which to peer out to sea for the first sign of their sails glistening in the sunlight.

Inside they were often veritable treasure chests filled with valuables from the Orient; rare vases, prints, silks and bric-a-brac picked up when the captain went ashore in strange ports.

Today their original owners have gone on the longest voyage of all but these, their homes ashore, rest in the mellow shade of spreading elms dreaming, perhaps, of those colorful men of Maine who went down to the sea in ships.







Sculptors in wood, these old craftsmen might be called, for the beauty and delicacy of their work required not only cunning skill with tools but an artistic sense that has not been fully appreciated until fairly modern times.

Today those who love things of enduring beauty will travel many miles to see the magnificent work that was done on doorways by these village carpenters who, by rule of thumb, created masterpieces out of wood.

✧ The charm of an old doorway holds an irresistible appeal to all those who are conscious of beauty.

In Maine the artisans of old outdid themselves when they fashioned these gracious portals. To their undying credit it can be said that even today a good copy of their work is something to be treasured.

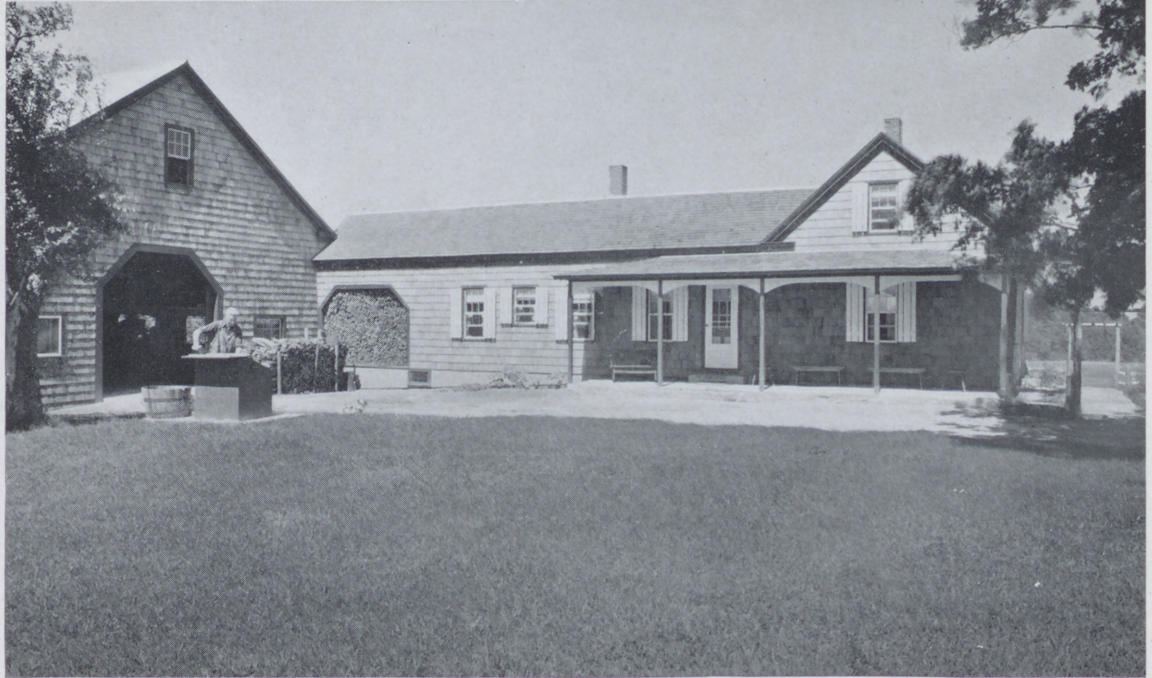






✧ The Georgian Period, the Golden Age of American architecture, is perpetuated in these old doorways, typical of so many that are to be found throughout Maine, principally in the coastal regions. Individual treatment of common motifs are noticeable in these portals that thus reflect the originality of the old time artisans.





✧ Almost like magic is the way an old, abandoned house can be transformed into a neat, trim, comfortable little home at a small cost.

Inherent in many of these old buildings is the sturdy workmanship that characterized the work of old time builders. Sturdy sills, beams and rafters—substantial enough for a house three times its size—timbers that would cost a small fortune at present—form the enduring framework on which the renovator can rebuild with every confidence that when he is done he will have a home of which he can be truly proud.

Maine carpenters are trustworthy, highly competent and take pride in their superior workmanship. Building materials of all kinds are available everywhere at economical prices.







❖ A rare treasure for those interested in Early American architecture was this little house shown before and after it was rebuilt.

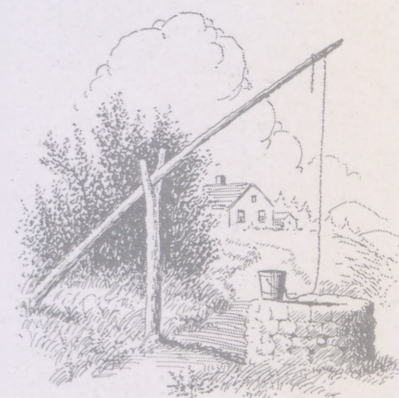
Wisely enough, the changes that have been made serve only to enhance its simple lines and its homey atmosphere.

For a summer home or for a permanent residence a place of this sort will bring a lifetime of enjoyment to its owner.

There are many such places in Maine that can be bought economically and made to blossom forth under the understanding care and ingenuity of the buyer.

When completed they possess that indefinable attribute that marks the difference between a home and just a house.

Cosy, homelike and comfortable, they are havens of rest and happiness against which the tribulations of the world cannot prevail.







✧ A little white church with its glistening spire reaching toward the heavens is the first object to be seen as one approaches a Maine village.

As simple and staunch as faith itself, the little place of worship dominating the skyline bears witness to the uncompromising trust that Maine people have always placed in a benevolent Creator.

The sound of its bell breaking the stillness of a Sunday morning brings a message of hope and cheer to those who cling to the faith of their fathers.

Many changes have occurred in the world since they were fashioned from the pines of Maine by men of old. Within their walls, however, all is as unchanged and unchanging as eternity itself.

Maine people have no liking for the strange doctrines that are rife in the world. Today, as yesterday, they place their faith in the God who dwells in the little white church on the hill.





✧ There are few places in the entire world that hold the charm of a little Maine village.

There are many reasons why this is so. In the first place, many of them are very old, having been built prior to the Revolution. Thus they contain many unrivalled examples of Early American and American Georgian architecture. Then, too, Maine villages are invariably scrupulously clean and well-kept. They are quiet and in them life goes on at a leisurely pace.

While they are quaint, charming and sometimes very old, they do not lack the touches of modernity that add to the comfort of living. In fact, every modern comfort to be found in the city is part and parcel of every Maine town.

Many of those who have come to Maine to visit have later settled down in these little Maine villages. There, among new-found friends and neighbors, life has taken on a new meaning and a new purpose.





❖ If Maine has any special virtue among the many that it possesses it is the extreme diversity of its scenic charms.

Every mile throughout the length and breadth of Maine has its own unmatched vistas of beauty.

Woven into the pattern of Maine are gently rolling hills, imposing mountains, fertile farmlands, lakes, streams and verdant woodlands. In the settings of the valleys are the towns of Maine; warm, shining jewels that enhance the glory of their surroundings.

It is small wonder that Maine people are never entirely happy when they are away from home; that the call of the villages in the valleys eventually brings them back.

It is understandable, too, that once having visited Maine so many persons adopt it as home. Here, away from the troubles and the turmoil of the crowded places, life becomes a new experience.







✧ Stately elms that stand guard along Maine village streets add immeasurably to the charm of these little towns.

Their branches meeting overhead form a living canopy spread out protectively to shelter the homes on either side.

Their kindly shelter filters the glare of the sun and induces a feeling of contentment and restfulness in those who dwell beneath their branches.

As long as there have been Maine villages there have been elms to shade them. Beginning with the Revolution, men of Maine have marched down their elm-shaded streets to defend their country and have marched back again at war's end to the reward of living again under the shelter of the elms.







✧ Little factories such as this are the backbone of Maine industry. Blending into the pattern of a Maine town, instead of dominating it, they enhance rather than detract from the completed picture.

In the great decentralization of industry that is taking place throughout the country, many manufacturers are becoming aware of the assets of Maine as an industrial state.

With one of the greatest playgrounds in the world at their very doors to furnish them with recreation, Maine workers are happy, contented, industrious and highly intelligent.

A Maine worker takes a keen interest in the welfare of his employer. He wishes him well and does everything in his power to help him.



✧ In addition to being a good place in which to play  
Maine is an ideal state in which to work.

Those who are engaged in the industrial field find that they have a new zest for work in a state where the hours off duty afford so many healthful distractions. Then, too, the knowledge that one's family is in happy, healthful surroundings adds much to the joy of work.

Professional and business people find that the same things hold true in their case. Living in a friendly town or city where one feels himself a part of the community a person can do better work.

Writers, artists and musicians find that there are quiet retreats on every hand that inspire genius and help them to attain new heights.

Living in Maine is far more economical than living in a big city. Fresh foods in bountiful supplies, comfortable living quarters and excellent means of transportation make living in Maine a new and pleasant adventure.





✧ "My reasons for living in the State of Maine are intensely personal,—it is my natural home; I know and love it, am part of it, belong to it; whenever I have been away from it, whether for a long time or a short, whether in Switzerland or only across the line in a neighboring state, I have been continually conscious of that restlessness, sometimes pleasurable and sometimes not, which one feels in a foreign country. For me, the Maine skyline, terrain, human voice and features, philosophy, day and night sights, sounds, smells are the only skyline, terrain, voices, features, philosophy, sights, sounds and smells which forever bring me joy but never incredulity, excitement but never perturbation, and which I never for an instant doubt will endure, whatever the temporary emergency."

*Gladys Harty Carroll*







✂ “We left the village and came out into the meadows that lie above the river. There is a peculiar sweetness to this section of the world—some singular quality to the atmosphere, like that which gives the leaves their added brilliance in the autumn. The very grass has a perfume of its own, and the land is redolent of sea and pines; of strength and freshness.”

—*Rabble In Arms* by Kenneth Roberts.

With all good wishes I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Kenneth Roberts

KR:MM





✂ "There are so many reasons why Mrs. Damrosch and I live in Maine during the summer. It is endeared to us first of all because our house was built by Mrs. Damrosch's father, James G. Blaine, in 1885, and it is of course still known as "Blaine Cottage". We have occupied it almost continuously for many, many years. To us Maine is the most beautiful State in all America. Its climate, its forests, and its exquisite scenery make Mt. Desert an ideal summer resort, and as the winter wanes, we count the days until we can again return to our summer home.

As my only hobby is landscaping, I have been able to indulge myself in it very successfully because Nature there is so kind as to cloak even my mistakes, with beauty."

Walter Damrosch





✂ "We like Maine for its wonderful coast line, for its hundreds of beautiful lakes and streams, and especially its natural scenery which is accessible from so many points within the state.

"We are pleased with the location of our home which combines the pleasures of a Summer place with the advantages of a year-round residence."

Very truly yours,

*Frank H. Mason*





✧ Excellent roads that penetrate deep into the hills and woodlands bring the motorist close to Maine's magnificent, unspoiled back country.

The cool, restful green of the forest trees bring pleasant relief to eyes tired of the glare of city pavements.

In the autumn, with the turning of the leaves, these drives are beautiful beyond any power of description. At that time nature puts on her most striking raiment for a last fling at gaiety before her long winter sleep. From blazing crimson to subdued purple, the woodlands are a symphony of magnificent color. To see Maine in autumn is to see Nature at her glorious best.

Even during the winter these roads are plowed and sanded after every storm, making travel safe and comfortable all during the snowy season.







✂ Off the beaten path is this little road that leads to a sheltered haven far from the rush and hurry of modern life.

Tired of living where there is not plenty of "elbow room", many persons are seeking places like this in Maine.

Here are fields to roam and woodland paths along which to wander where the daily miracles of sunrise and sunset may be viewed in all their glory.

For the sportsmen there are game birds in the hunting season; deer in the surrounding woods. Streams and lakes abound in trout, salmon and bass.

For the person who wants to "work" a farm, these out of the way places offer an endless variety both small and large.







✧ Typical of the thousands of well kept farm buildings in Maine is this picture of a potato farm in Maine's famous potato growing region.

The person who settles down on a Maine farm soon finds that the excellent soil and the ideal growing season combine to produce fruits and vegetables of superior quality.

Whether a person just wants to "putter around" at farming as a hobby or, on the other hand, desires to go into it on a large scale, he will find that there is a spot in Maine that is ideal for his purpose.

The friendly atmosphere of a Maine farming community brings a new meaning to life, especially to those who have existed previously in the cold, impersonal atmosphere of the large cities.







✧ Highly fortunate is the child who has the great good luck to be brought up in Maine. Here the broad countryside is his heritage and the fields, the hills, the streams and the woodlands are his playground.

His friends are the little people of the fields and forests, the squirrels and rabbits and woodchucks and birds.

He knows where trout lurk in a woodland stream. He knows where berries grow the sweetest. His, in the warmth of summer, is the grateful coolness of the old swimming hole.

He grows healthy and strong close to the heart of nature and sinking deep into his consciousness are the memories of happy, care-free days that he can recall when he takes on man's armor and the complexities of life bear strongly upon him.







❧ As shadows lengthen and steal across the fields to join the coming night, the barefoot farm boy leads the patient cows to the security of the sheltering barn.

Scenes such as these found in Maine renew one's faith in the infinite goodness of things and bring a sense of stability into an otherwise troubled world.

Nations may rise to transient power and glory and crumple into the dust from whence they came but somewhere today, tomorrow and a thousand years hence a farm boy will seek his cows at twilight in the manner of farm boys when civilization was young.





❖ Scenic highways that allow the motorist to enjoy the rugged beauty of Maine are found from one end of the state to the other.

There are so many places to go and so many things to see in this State that it is a hopeless task to enjoy them all to the fullest in the short space of a lifetime.

One can never grow tired of Maine scenery for every turn in the road, every hill that is climbed, unfolds some new phase of its natural beauty.

Along the coast the magic spell of the sea holds the traveler in its grasp. The quiet beauty of the farm country has its own particular charm. The thousands of lakes nestled in their surrounding green-clad hills have an irresistible appeal. The long stretches of majestic forests as viewed from the hilltops are unforgettable.

No long trips are necessary in order to reach these spots of scenic beauty. They are at the very doors of those who live in Maine.







✱ A relic of bygone days, this old covered bridge brings back a rush of memories to those who remember yesterday. Approaching it, the motorist involuntarily slows down as if to avoid disturbing its dreams of a golden age when men pursued their ways in a more leisurely manner.

Now resigned to the roar of automobiles, it once echoed to the clop-clop of horses' hoofs and the carefree laughter of young people out for a Sunday ride. Bicycles built for two paused in its shade and riders carved their initials in its sturdy beams.

Impersonal, efficient bridges of steel now span most of the world's little streams. Few indeed are the covered bridges that are left to link yesterday and today. Like men who are old they have been brushed aside in the hurry of modern life. Those that remain, however, are precious symbols of yesterday; "old folks" who are cared for tenderly in their declining days.







❖ Life is not all work in a Maine coastal town unless one wants to make it so. Recreational opportunities are many and varied.

Sailing in and out of the harbors and among the thousands of islands that dot the coast is a highly enjoyable pastime. Fishing for tuna, striped bass, cod, haddock, mackerel, pollock and even flounders affords excellent sport for the angler.

For those who like seafoods, the Maine coast offers the best in the entire world. Maine lobsters, scallops and clams are noted for their unexcelled quality.

The climate along the Maine coast during the summer is ideal. Soft sea breezes temper the heat of the summer sun so that days are just right for outdoor activities. Nights are cool and induce complete rest.







✱ Many Maine coastal towns are among the oldest habitations in the entire country.

Here adventurous spirits from Europe settled down long before the Revolutionary War to found a tradition that will live forever in the memory of man.

These men of Maine were followers of the sea and their ships sailed into every port in the civilized world to establish the foreign commerce that was to play a great part in the eventual prosperity of the new nation.

For their daring and for their seamanship Maine sailormen have never been excelled. Rare indeed was the deep water sailing ship in the days of old that did not have at least one Maine man on its roster.

Even though sail has given away to power, Maine ships and Maine men still carry on the tradition of supremacy on the seven seas.

The person who settles down in a Maine coastal town cannot remain unaware of the part it has played in the building of a nation. It is inherent in the very life of the community and in the character of the inhabitants.







✧ Snug harbors for ships or for humans who are tired of the buffeting of the outside world are the little coastal towns of Maine.

Here the slow rise and fall of the tides is a metronome that sets the unhurried tempo of life characteristic of these quaint little places.

Life here is comfortable and secure and happy indeed is the person who can settle down for life with the sea for a neighbor.

Citizens of Maine coastal towns are noted for their friendliness and for the way they take the new resident into their lives once he has shown that he has the attributes of a real human being.







✧ The Maine coast with its endless variety of rugged scenic charms is admittedly one of the most beautiful regions in the entire world.

No two miles along the Maine coast are alike for it is a place made up of sandy beaches, rugged headlands, quiet harbors, myriad islands and long, beautiful peninsulas.

Thousands of persons visit the Maine coast year after year and many have become so enamoured of its beauty and desirability that they have settled down for life in this most pleasant of all coastal regions.

Typical of the coast is this view of a little town nestled around its harbor while little islands off-shore add their picturesque touch to the setting.







✂ Those interested in the fine workmanship of Colonial artisans are keenly attracted to the simple beauty and utility of Maine churches. Built by village carpenters, they reflect not only their cunning with the tools of their craft but also their bent toward innovation.

No two churches are exactly alike. Each has its own departures from the common standard. They also reflect the changing times in the early history of the state. Many are as austere as the lives of the early Colonial settlers who built them. Others show the classic influence of the Georgian Period when Maine builders were noted for their ability to interpret the beauty and delicacy of design that marked this period.

To the many who have adopted the interesting hobby of photographing early churches, Maine is a treasure chest indeed for each village church has an appeal of its own; an appeal that is not duplicated elsewhere.





✧ Trim, comfortable and inexpensive is this new little home built in Maine by one of the many who are "settling down" in the Pine Tree State today.

Located near an excellent highway, it is still far enough away from other buildings so that the occupants can have plenty of "elbow room."

The retired couple, in particular, can have the time of their lives in a place like this. Excellent farm lands tempt the owner to experiment with raising flowers and vegetables. A village where churches, a library, a theatre and stores are located is "just a piece down the road", as we say in Maine.

Fashioned by Maine builders, this little house is as sturdy and permanent as the good old State of Maine itself.







❖ Extreme good taste is shown in this reproduction of a nineteenth century Maine house built by a person who has moved to Maine. Roomy, substantial and "homey" it is a place in which the owner can take just pride.

It is also typical of the type of home being built in every section of the state by former residents of other states who are moving to Maine so that they may enjoy the simple art of living to the utmost.

In a place like this far from the roar of traffic and the clatter of the big city the occupants enter a new life, one marked by peace and utter contentment.

Years ago this transition from city to country would be impossible. Nowadays, however, excellent roads make the city just a few hours away, just conveniently close for necessary visits.







✧ A crooked little street that meanders here and there like a boy on an errand accentuates the unhurried life of this little Maine village.

No rumbling trucks or speeding cars disturb the calm of this little street. No street cars screech and grind to turn its curves.

A horse and buggy traversing its length would not be out of keeping. In fact, it has changed little since this mode of travel went out of fashion.

It is much the same as it was yesterday and the day before. It will be the same a hundred years from now.

To the world of trouble and strife and change the little street brings a message of hope; one born of its calmness, its serenity and its changelessness when everything else has changed.

The little street's name is legion. Its counterpart will be found in every Maine village. Those who live along these little streets are happy people.

They have adopted the calm, unhurried philosophy of the little street.



JUL 28

In turning the pages of this booklet it is hoped that we have been able to portray some of the many advantages that go with living in Maine. We hope that, as a result, you will want to join the many who have become permanent residents of our state within the past few years.

If so, you have probably built up a mental image of what this new Maine home of yours will be like. There remains now the task of finding this dream home of yours.

The Maine Development Commission will be glad to be of assistance to you in this quest. If you will let us know your preferences we will be glad indeed to suggest where what you are seeking can be found.

In addition, there are probably many other things about Maine living conditions that you will want to know such as social, educational and religious advantages to be found here.

It will give us great pleasure to help smooth the path that lies between your present residence and your new home in Maine.

A communication addressed to the Maine Development Commission at the State House, Augusta, Maine, will bring a prompt answer.



# MAINE

*The Place to Live*

