



The architecture of Tomales is a study of the town's past. From the earliest pioneer era dwellings and Italianate commercial buildings to the simple, turn-of-the-century Queen Anne cottages, from the early 20th century industrial buildings, Craftsman bungalows, and Spanish Colonial Revival school to the pair of 1960s-era duplexes, the evolution of the village is evident in its built environment.

Though few of these buildings are architect-designed, the unaltered parts of most of them exhibit a simple dignity of style and proportion. The theme which runs through these disparate styles and unites them in harmony is their guileless quality, their modesty of style and scale. An example of this is the "slit post," seen on several houses: an economical yet decorative use of plain lumber to function as support posts, a vernacular theme present as early as the pioneer era, and documented to have been used on at least ten buildings here.

The fact that these historic buildings are lived and worked in today, that they have changed over the years to accommodate other lives but, in many cases, retain much of their original essence, keeps them—and the history they represent—alive.



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a self-guided walking tour of the village of **TOMALES**

Maire Strael c. 1880



1. Old Tomales High School auditorium, 1921 (remainder of school lost to fire 1977). Now home of Tomales Regional History Center.
2. Simple stucco bungalow, built c. 1926 for THS principals.
3. Stucco bungalow built c. 1929.
4. c. early 1860s. Side-gabled portion one of town's oldest dwellings, and home of pioneer Andrew Fisher family. Originally had open verandah at south-facing façade, with slit posts and crenellated roof.
5. Queen Anne style Catholic Rectory, built late 1880s/early '90s.
6. Gothic Revival Church of the Assumption, built 1860. Buttresses were added after 1906 earthquake.
7. Originally Ed. Bean's Meat Market. Built 1920 to replace its predecessor, destroyed by fire the same year.
8. Town plaque
9. William Tell House, established 1877. Original building lost in 1920 fire; rebuilt same year. *Remodeled c. early 1950s*. One of oldest saloons in Marin County.
10. Originally a bank, built in 1920 to replace predecessor lost to fire. Now a private dwelling.
11. Original building on this site was U.S. Hotel, lost in 1920 fire. Rebuilt in 1987 to resemble the original.
12. Piezzi Building. 1919. Originally Piezzi's Garage, the open portion at SW corner was once an enclosed showroom for the Buicks and Fords that proprietor Silvio Piezzi sold.
13. Built 1924 as New Sonoma Creamery. Teleme cheese was first developed and produced here. Operated through 1960.
14. Spanish Colonial Revival. Built 1930 as two-room school to replace 1869 Tomales Grammar School, demolished 1929.
15. Built 1867, this Italianate building has housed a general store all its life; second story was originally Odd Fellows' Hall.
16. c. early 1870s. This was originally the office of pioneer physician George W. Dutton, M.D.
17. c. early 1870s. In its early days this served as a physician's office (side entry) as well as the doctor's residence. Note distinctive, over-scale bracket at facade. The building originally had a bracketed false front (see cover photo).
18. c. early 1870. Originally, and for many years, this was a bakery with living quarters for proprietor's family in rear.
19. c. early 1860s. This well preserved, side-gabled early dwelling was home of Reed Dutton, Upper Town's first blacksmith.
20. c. 1860s. Home of pioneer David Thrasher, early blacksmith and beekeeper. As did most of earliest dwellings, this has side-gabled roof.
21. This served as a creamery receiving station, probably for cheese factory (#13). It originally had a false front.
22. c. early 1870s. Typical late pioneer-era cottage. Slit posts at verandah were a common vernacular theme in village.
23. Cottage with slit posts. c. early 1870s
24. c. early 1870s. This dwelling of unusual plan served, simultaneously, as the local telephone office (front room with square bay), office, drug store, and surgery for Dr. Witt, and the Witt family home. Dr. Witt's sister was the original switchboard operator.
25. c. 1870s Home of Ella and Fred Jorgensen. Ella was a prolific amateur photographer who documented much of Tomales in early 20th century, developing prints in her pantry here.
26. Family home of local historian Ables Bray Dickinson. Built c. 1880. Slit posts at porch.
27. c. 1915. Somewhat unusual version of Craftsman style. Second-story windows at façade originally had window boxes.
28. c. 1879. Typical of the earliest pioneer-era dwellings, this house has a side-gable roof.
29. Tomales Town Hall. Built 1874 as Temperance Social Club. Enlarged and remodeled 1931, with stuccoed façade added. One of oldest, continuously operated public halls in California.
30. 1872. Originally this was parsonage of Presbyterian Church.
31. see #32, below
32. Two surviving of four identical dwellings built (1875-6), in a row, by Kowalsky & Co. These were often occupied by railroad men and their families.
33. c. late 1870s/early 1880s. This dwelling's hip roof was originally truncated and had a widow's walk.
34. c. 1896. Originally home of Daisy B. Lawton, Tomales Grammar School teacher, principal, and first Rural School Supervisor of Marin County. Slit posts at porch.
35. Queen Anne inspired, built first years of 20th century.
36. Queen Anne cottage, built 1904.
37. Queen Anne inspired, built very early 20th century.
38. Craftsman style bungalow built in 1925 for Isadore and Martha Cerini (see # 41).
39. ~~Small c.1880 commercial building, demolished 1998.~~
40. Originally small, pioneer-era cottage (c. late 1870s/early '80s) *Significantly remodeled*.
41. 1915. Built as Tomales Garage & Machine Shop, first Tomales business devoted to automobile industry. Isadore Cerini was proprietor. Note acorn-patterned ridge crest.
42. Site of Plank Hotel where 1920 fire began. Current structure built 1920 as Cornett Store. *Significantly remodeled 1990s*.
43. see #44, below
44. Two originally identical dwellings, c. 1870s. Originally built in Lower Town and moved c. 1920s. #43 has west-side addition.
45. Craftsman bungalow designed by noted Petaluma architect, Brainerd Jones, for Henry Goudy, local rancher and Marin County Supervisor. 1924
46. c. 1874. Side-gabled home of pioneer Hans Guldager family. Verandah roof originally had crenellated trim. Two slit posts are extant.
47. 1868 Tomales Presbyterian Church and cemetery. Listed on National Register.
48. c. 1860s. Originally home of pioneer Thomas J. Ables family. Ables was Marin's first School Superintendent. *Significantly remodeled*.
49. c. 1911. Home of community leader and local merchant, Ed Cornett, and his family (see #42).
50. Site of narrow-gauge railroad yard 1875-1930. Depot building, warehouse, turntable, water tanks occupied the yard. Roadbeds are still visible along Highway One north and south of town.