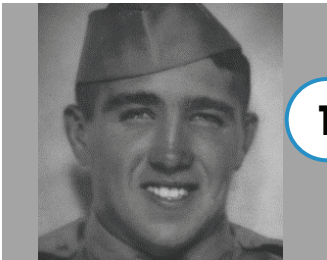




**SCONSET VIA MILESTONE ROAD**



**1.** Milestone Rotary



**5.** Sankaty Head Lighthouse



**2.** Milestone Marker #4



**6.** Old Siasconset Golf Course



**3.** Serengeti



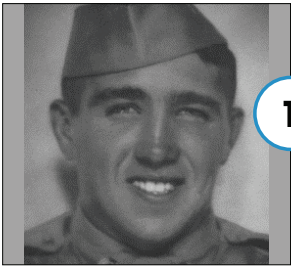
**7.** Main Street



**4.** Milestone Cranberry Bog



**8.** Sconset Rotary & Casino



1.

**Milestone Rotary.** Officially the James Coffin Memorial Rotary, in honor of the Nantucket resident who was killed in the Korean War at the age of 18, this is the start of the first, state-funded bike path, although not the first to Sconset. This path runs along the “North Pasture” parcel of state forest, once the site of logging operations. The bluish-green “white” pines you will see create a unique forest habitat on Nantucket. At the north end, a water tower, hidden from view, holds two million gallons of water from Nantucket’s single source aquifer, which is right beneath your feet.



2.

**Milestone Marker #4.** As you bike to Sconset you will see 7 numbered milestones. Whale-oil merchant Peter Ewer planted the markers in 1824, to time horse races between the town and Sconset. Keep an eye out for wildlife as you pedal along, including the newcomers to the island - the squirrels! Unlike deer and cottontail rabbits, Eastern gray squirrels were not native to the island. Rather, conservationists believe they hitched a ride via a lumber truck.



3.

**Serengeti.** The Serengeti is Masai for “endless plain.” During the 18th and 19th centuries, this site featured grasslands created by grazing sheep. That shrubby-looking tree you see out there is a scrub oak, which grows all over Nantucket. Watch for the northern harrier, a rare bird of prey -- a hawk, with an owlish face, which flies with its wings in a V, hunting for small mammals and songbirds. The Nantucket Golf Club, just down the road, has teamed with local conservation groups to maintain and expand the harrier habitat in land surrounding the course.



4.

**Milestone Cranberry Bog.** This is the oldest, largest continually operating farm on the island. Here cranberries grow on vines in bogs – beds layered with sand, peat, gravel, and clay. Water irrigates bogs and protects the buds and berries. In fall the bog is flooded for harvest. A machine called a “water reel” beats the vines with paddles. The berries detach, float to the surface, and are pulled to the side by wading workers using “booms.” Milestone Bog used to be a world record holder as the largest contiguous cranberry bog. Today, it is divided into dikes, which allows farmers to conserve and better manage water.



5.

**Sankaty Head Lighthouse.** Beyond the cranberry bogs, in a distance, you can see the red-striped Sankaty Head Lighthouse. For 157 years, this sentinel stood to the right of its current location by 450 feet. Threatened by beach erosion, the lighthouse was moved to safer ground in 2007. Sankaty’s light has always been one of the strongest in New England. The original Fresnel lens of the light set an American standard and can be seen today at the Nantucket Whaling Museum.



6.

**Old Siasconset Golf Course.** Built in 1899, it is the oldest privately owned, publicly accessible golf course in the US. You will hear islanders call it “Skinner’s” after a former owner. The 200-year-old house on top of the rise is Bloomingdale. Originally a farmhouse, the building then served as a summer home before becoming the golf course clubhouse. The swampy area behind the course is traversed by Philips Run, a long, man-made ditch connecting the bogs to the ocean. The name is based on legend that Native American leader Metacom, AKA King Philip, came to Nantucket in the 1660s to confront a Wampanoag preacher. When his plan was thwarted, Metacom retreated to the ocean via this ditch.



7.

**Main Street.** During Nantucket’s whaling heyday, in the 1830s and ‘40s, leading citizens built the cottages you see lining Sconset’s Main Street. Many owners also had homes on Main Street in town. Find 27 Main Street which was Nantucket’s first tourist hotel. Built in 1848, the Atlantic House catered to island visitors. Now find 36 Main Street. This is the site of the first Marconi Wireless Station, which delivered messages between ships and shore. In 1901 the station received the first wireless communication from a transatlantic liner. The station was also the first US mainland station to receive distress calls from the Titanic.



8.

**Sconset Rotary & Casino.** You’re now in Siasconset, nicknamed Sconset. The name means “the place of great bones” in Algonquin, presumably a reference to whale bones. This rotary is Sconset’s commercial hub. Shops, restaurants, and the post office sprung up in the late 19th century and the flagpole and the rotary itself were installed in 1929. To your left is the Sconset Casino. Summering entertainers teamed up with other seasonal residents to build a “Hall of Amusement” which opened in 1900. It featured performance space inside and tennis courts outside. Islanders were mad for masquerades in the 1920s and ‘30s. Dances at the Casino included the Circus Ball, Neptune Ball, Black and Gold Ball, Advertising Ball, and the Western Hemisphere Ball.