18 Martins Cove Road

Built in 1955 and designed by Roger Williams, 18 Martins Cove Road was the fifth of ten mid-century modern homes constructed along the road between 1950 and 1960. The neighborhood emerged from the subdivision and sale of Brewer family property associated with World's End Farm in 1944.

Roger Williams designed the house. He was an MIT-trained civilian and military engineer whose service included South America and Europe before and during the Second World War, followed by service as a lieutenant colonel in Okinawa during the Korean War.

The single-story house expresses the mid-century modern emphasis on flowing living spaces, exposed timber framing, and connections to the landscape. A 2011 renovation preserved the original footprint, core fireplace, and principal structure while opening the interior. Larger windows were installed, a porch became living space, and the former garage became an office. Two smaller rooms were incorporated into the living room, with matching ceiling beams added. A raised kitchen ceiling accommodated transom windows.

Langlee Island, prominent in the harbor view, takes its name from 18th century Hingham settler, John Langlee. Its history is linked to his daughter Sarah Langlee Hersey Derby, benefactress of Hingham's Derby Academy, one of the nation's oldest coeducational schools. Langlee and Sarah Islands were donated to Hingham by Helen Brewer Walker and William Walker in 1944.

Nearby World's End was long a seasonal fishing and shellfishing ground of the Massachusett people. John R. Brewer established an agricultural estate there in the nineteenth century. In 1886, he commissioned Frederick Law Olmsted to plan a residential subdivision. Although the houses were never built, the tree-lined carriage roads remain. World's End was also considered for the United Nations headquarters and a nuclear power plant; neither proposal was pursued. Community fundraising helped The Trustees of Reservations acquire and preserve the core 251 acres in 1967.