

Historic Sites

A Deer Head Lodge - 109 Henry
Built by Sam Smith in 1913 this is probably a Sears Roebuck catalog house. Sam Smith started Mackinaw's first bank, owned the hardware and lumber company, was village president for 23 years and served in the state legislature.

B William Smith - 301 Etherington
Sam's brother William built this house. He owned and operated the Stimpson House, Mackinaw's first hotel.

C Parsonage - 210 Henry St.
In 1907 the first Catholic church and rectory were built on west Central Ave. The parishioners complained about the church being too far out of town and both buildings were moved to this site in 1921. Although the church has since been torn down, this private home is the original rectory.

D Bootlegger house - 212 Jamet
This was the home of a bank employee who committed suicide in 1926. His widow supported her family by selling illegal liquor out of this house during prohibition. Built around 1900 this house plan was used repeatedly in Mackinaw City. Notice the similar houses.

E Davenport house - 209 Sinclair
James Davenport was the lighthouse keeper at McGulpin Point from 1879 thru 1906. During the winter he needed an in-town home so his 9 children could get to school. Oral tradition says that he built this house from lumber rescued from ship wrecks.

F Frances Margaret Fox - 512 N. Huron St.
In the early 1900s village council asked Ms. Fox, a children's book author, to name the village streets. She used the surnames of people from Mackinaw's early fort era, hence the French sounding street names. Her stone house has been much expanded over the years.

G Marine Reporting Station - 308 N. Huron
From 1896 to 1960 the marine reporter watched passing ships from the lake-side windows of this house. He reported vessel passages using the telegraph at the railroad depot.

H Schepler House - 311 Langlade
William and Olive Schepler lived in this house. William was an eclectic businessman who ran a commercial fishery, an ice house and sold coal from their dock. Their son and grandson, started and built the Shepler Ferry line. Notice the simplified Shepler spelling.

I Village Hall - 102 S. Huron St.
Built in 1936 as a WPA project, this stone building housed the fire engine and village offices. It is still the seat of government housing the police department and administrative staff.

J Stimpson House - 301+ E. Central Ave.
In 1870 Edgar Conkling built a refueling dock to sell lumber to passing steamers. George Stimpson, Mackinaw's first permanent resident, ran the operation and received numerous requests for food and lodging. He built this building as Mackinaw's first hotel.

K Train depot - Crossings Drive
This depot was the heart of Mackinaw from the 1880s until 1988. The rail lines ran east past the depot to the railroad dock where the rail cars were loaded onto ferries for passage across the Straits.

Discover Mackinaw



Mackinaw City Historical Pathways



Circling the residential area is a pathway providing outstanding waterfront views as well as access to the Village's vibrant shopping district. This pathway is marked with interpretive signs at interesting historical points. The pathway contains artwork including six life-size wooden carvings of Mackinaw historical figures by Jerry Prior and two metal works by Tom Moran.

The purple loop takes you along the southern lake front where the comings and going of ferry boats is always fascinating. Both Conkling Heritage Park and the State Dock have benches where you can watch the waterfront activities.

BATHROOMS are available at Village Hall, on the north side of the Municipal Marina building, on DuCharme just north of Central Ave., in Wawatam Park on N. Huron Ave., at the DNR Trailhead, at the State Harbor, in Conkling Heritage Park, and at the Michigan Travel Center.



Historic Pathway Stops

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 Mackinaw, Mackinac? | 29 Old Mackinac Pt Lighthouse |
| 02 Colonial Boat Yard 1761-1781 | 30 Lighthouses |
| 03 Auto Ferries | 31 Building Mighty Mac |
| 04 Car Ferries & Ferry System | 32 Fort Michilimackinac |
| 05 NOAA Lake Level Station | 33 Fort Michilimackinac |
| 06 Mill Creek | 34 Michigan's 1st Jewish Settler |
| 07 Ice Harvesting | 35 The Colonial Suburbs |
| 08 Commercial Fishing | 36 Laurel Fishing Village |
| 09 Cutter Mackinaw & Dock | 37 Missionaries at Mackinac |
| 10 Railroad Ferries | 38 Indians at the Straits |
| 11 The Iron Horse at Mackinaw | 39 British Colonial Farm |
| 12 Civil War Cannons | 40 French House Ruin, |
| 13 The Algomah | 41 A New Look for Mackinaw |
| 14 Mackinaw City | 42 Tourism at Mackinac |
| 15 Passenger Ferries | 43 Winter at Mackinac |
| 16 First Business District | 44 Historic Mackinaw City |
| 17 The Water Highway | 45 Historic Mackinaw City |
| 18 A Bridge for Mackinaw | 46 The Dixie Highway |
| 19 Mackinaw Boat, Mackinaw Coat | ART |
| 20 The Lumbering at Mackinaw | 47. Edgar Conkling by Prior |
| 21 Building Bridge | 48. Chief Wawatam by Prior |
| 22 Historic Events at the Straits | 49. Alexander Henry by Prior |
| 23 Crossroads of the Great Lakes | 50. Perry Darrow by Prior |
| 24 Shipwrecks at the Straits | 51. Major Depeyster by Prior |
| 25 Marine and Weather Reporter | 52. Hattie Stimpson by Prior |
| 26 Graveyard of the Deep | 53. Ironworker by Moran |
| 27 Island Hopping the Straits | 54. Music and Water by Moran |
| 28 Fog Signal Station | |

To hear these signs, call the audio tour at 231-486-0003 and key in the matching audio stops 901-952. For additional audio information check the numbers on the signs or download all audio using the QRCode above.

MACKINAW CITY HISTORICAL PATHWAY WALKING MAP & BIKE MAP

