



Historic Homes

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 and was village president for 23 years. He was also the only Mackinaw resident to serve in the state legislature.

B William Smith - 301 Etherington
Sam's brother William built this house. He was the owner and operator of 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 all of the similar houses and the varied modifications.

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 10 children could get to school. He was also a carpenter. Oral tradition says that he built this house from lumber rescued from ship wrecks.

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

G Marine Reporting Station - 310 N. Huron
From 1896 to 1960 the marine reporter watched passing ships from the lake-side windows of his house. His job was to report vessel passages to newspapers and vessel owners using the telegraph at the railroad depot.

H Scheppler House - 311 Langlade
William and Olive Scheppler lived in this house. William was an eclectic businessman who ran a commercial fishery, an ice house and sold coal from their dock which is now the Bell's Fishery dock. Their son and grandson, both named William, started and built the Shepler Ferry line. Notice the simplified Shepler spelling.

Points of Interest

1 Village Hall - 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 for Mackinaw City housing the police department and administrative staff.

2 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. Today it houses a collection of stores.

3 Colonial Michilimackinac - N. Huron
An 18th century fort. It is open to the public and has reenactors and extensive exhibits. It is the site of the longest ongoing archeological dig in the U.S.

4 Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers - 707 N. Huron
This non-profit organization restores lighthouses and narrates lighthouse tours. Their gift shop also houses a Chamber of Commerce information booth.

5 Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse - N. Huron
This lighthouse replaced McGulpin Point Lighthouse which is situated on the far west end of town. Both lighthouses are open to the public.

6 Ferry lines - Huron Ave.
There are three ferry lines serving Mackinac Island. Their boats are intentionally designed to look different. See if you can identify the three types from shore.

7 Icebreaker Mackinaw - 131 S. Huron
The icebreaker was built during WWII to assure that iron ore could reach the steel mills for war production. Retired from active duty in 2006 it is now open to the public for tours.

8 Conkling Heritage Park - S. Huron
This park honors the village's founder Edgar Conkling. This is also the location of the Performance Shell with concerts Tuesday and Saturday nights during the summer.

9 State Dock - S. Huron Ave.
Fishing Pier - Water level station
This dock was originally built in 1923 for ferries to shuttle autos across the Straits to St. Ignace. The tall building on the end of the dock was a car elevator which lifted cars onto the top deck of a ferry. This dock was totally rebuilt in 2008 and contains numerous interpretive displays.

10 McRae Park
A short nature trail featuring native plants, water fowl, and a beaver dam.

11 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.



Walking 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 45 interpretive signs at interesting historical points. The pathway contains six life-size wooden carvings of historical figures associated with Mackinaw City's history. These carvings have been featured in several publications. A Historical Pathway brochure is available at the Chamber of Commerce or Village Hall.

The Ferry Loop Pathway takes you along the southern lake front where the coming and going of ferry boats is always interesting. Both Conkling Heritage Park and the State Dock have benches where you can watch the waterfront activities. There are several picnic tables on the Fishing Pier for your picnic lunch. Return up the DNR Trail through the woods or back along Huron Ave.

BATHROOMS are available at Village Hall, on the north side of the marina building, on DuCharme just north of Central Ave., in Wawatam Park on N. Huron Ave., and at the Michigan Travel Center.



Mackinaw City

Hike & Bike

MAPS

Culture & Nature Pathways









LIVING HISTORY. MAKING HISTORY.

