

PETOSKEY

WALKING TOUR



STROLL
THROUGH
PETOSKEY'S
COLORFUL PAST.

DOWNTOWN

WALKING TOUR

Most of the buildings you will see during this walking tour were constructed during the 1870s through 1930s, when the Victorian style of architecture was popular. The buildings are original structures, restored to their former elegance. This walking tour will take about 45 minutes to complete, with highlights including the Gaslight District and a former souvenir shop operated by the son of Chief Pe-to-se-ga. In 1873, village officials selected the name "Petoskey," in honor of the chief and his family, as the official name of the growing community.

*Enjoy your stroll through
Petoskey's colorful past.*

*Be sure to visit the
statue of Ignatius
Pe-to-se-ga, Petoskey's
namesake, located
on the bay side of
Stafford's Perry Hotel.*



1. Begin at the **Little Traverse History Museum**.
(Detailed building descriptions are below.)

2. Walk through the tunnel under U.S. 31. Continue up Petoskey Street for one block. You will be at the corner of Petoskey and East Lake streets. Stop in at **Grandpa Shorter's Gifts**, to your left. Turn left on East Lake Street. You are now entering the historic **Gaslight District**, with more than 60 specialty shops in authentic Victorian buildings.

3. Continue down East Lake Street one block to Howard Street, and stop into **Symons General Store**, which was Petoskey's first brick building.

4. Go north one block to the corner of Bay and Howard Streets. Turn right and continue one block to **Stafford's Perry Hotel** on your left.

5. Go across the street to **Penn Plaza**.

6. Follow the railroad tracks south one block to the **City Park Grill**, which is on the south side of Lake Street.

7. Right next door is the **Penn-Dixie** building.

8. Continue east on East Lake Street, and turn right on Division. Walk up one block, and at the northeast corner of Division and Mitchell is the **First Presbyterian Church**.

9. The **Crooked Tree Arts Center** is at the northwest corner of Division and Mitchell.

10. Turn right onto Mitchell Street. The **Carnegie Building** is next to the Crooked Tree Arts Center.

11. Follow Mitchell Street west to the **Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce** for additional information on area activities and attractions.

12. Continue west down Mitchell Street and cross Howard Street. Look across to the tin façade of the **Cook Building** on the south side of the street.

13. Follow Mitchell Street west one block to Petoskey Street, and turn right. Go to the alley at the back of Grandpa Shorter's and make sure to go just around the corner to the right to see the historic mural on the east side of the building.

14. Come back up the alley to Petoskey Street. Turn right and return to the Museum via the tunnel.



1. **Little Traverse History Museum** was built in 1892 by the Chicago and West

Michigan Railroad to accommodate passenger and freight traffic from Michigan's western shore. Two other train companies ran the depot until passenger service stopped in the 1960s. The Historical Society restored it as a museum in 1970.

2. **Grandpa Shorter's Gifts** has been a location for gift shops for years since the son of Chief Pe-to-se-ga purchased the souvenir shop in 1880. At the turn of the century, Petoskey Street was lined with souvenir shops and oriental bazaars.



3. **Symons General Store** was Petoskey's first brick building and a local business landmark for many years. Built in 1879, it is early Victorian Italianate, with simple exterior decoration.



4. The **Perry Hotel** was built in 1899 by Norman J. Perry. It is the first brick hotel in Petoskey and the only remaining one from the era of elegant hotels. Most were destroyed by fire. It has been remodeled and now is owned by Stafford's Hospitality.



5. **Penn Plaza** became the site of the first train depot in 1875.

The original structure was lost to fire in 1899, and rebuilt with brick. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad operated here until 1920, when the line became the Pennsylvania Central Railroad.



9. The **Crooked Tree Arts Center**, formerly the United Methodist Church, was built in 1890 to replace the original structure built in 1877. The Crooked Tree Arts Center has maintained the building since 1980,

preserving its Gothic Revival features.



6. The **City Park Grill** once included an outdoor cafe to the east, with two landscaped gardens, fountains and an open air tent. The Billiards Hall and Bar, reportedly frequented by Ernest Hemingway, was inside. In the spring and

summer, the garden cafe was the site of bare-knuckle boxing matches. The interior has a pressed tin ceiling, wood columns, arches and swinging doors. The hand-carved Brunswick Bar is made of black walnut, cherry and hickory.

7. The **Penn-Dixie** building is Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, characterized by the rounded arch window treatment and the rusticated sandstone surface. At the turn of the century, it housed the Grill Café, billed as the finest in European-style cafés.



10. The **Petoskey Public Library** was built in 1909, partially funded by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. On the front lawn is a memorial to Civil War historian and Petoskey native, Bruce Catton.



11. Continue down Howard Street and stop in the **Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce**, which was incorporated in 1920. This is the Visitor Information Center for the area, with materials on lodging, attractions, events, restaurants and maps.

12. The **Cook Building** was built in the late 1800s. Originally it was the Bump and Walrond Hardware and Plumbing business. In 1912, the business was purchased and its name changed. In 1928, the upstairs was occupied by an attorney, the Michigan State Liquor Control Commission and Mac's Tea Room and Bake Shop. Now the Cook Building has various retail tenants and businesses.



8. The **First Presbyterian Church** established a mission and school in 1852. This church was built in 1888, a Victorian-style wood building with a tall bell

tower. It was remodeled in 1952, using brick in the American-Colonial style.

13. This **mural**, completed in 2005, depicts three generations of the Shorter family who have occupied this historic building since 1946.



Following are buildings that aren't on the walking tour, but should be noted for their history or interesting architecture. You may want to seek out some of these structures on your own.

St. Francis Xavier Church, at the corner of State and Howard streets, was completed in 1909 after the original wood church there was moved. The bricks were made in Boyne City, shipped to Petoskey by rail and brought to the site by horse-drawn wagons. The rafters were made with Petoskey's elm trees, and the interior decorative painting was done by six artists.



Mitchell Street Frameworks, next to J.C. Penney's on East Mitchell Street, formerly Lyon's Grocery and more recently, The Chemist Shop, is a classic Victorian Italianate style building with window hoods and upper cornices and brackets. The building was constructed in 1895.



The **Henika Building**, 436 East Mitchell Street, is neo-classic revival with brickwork in the upper building façade. The building was constructed in the early 1900s boom period, making space for Mr. Henika's furniture and art goods business.

Author **Ernest Hemingway** told friends he stayed at Eva Potter's rooming house on State and Woodland streets to get away from his parents and to do some serious writing. In Petoskey in 1919 and 1920, Hemingway gathered much of the material for his novel *The Torrents of Spring*, which alludes to several Petoskey locations.



The **Connable Building** at Lake and Howard streets, which now houses Pappagallo, was built in 1900 in the commercial style of the late Victorian period. Ralph Connable came to Petoskey from Chicago in the late 1800s to get relief from his asthma. He became an established resident as the owner of several Great Lakes shipping stations, was also the town postmaster and the owner of Petoskey's first stationery shop.

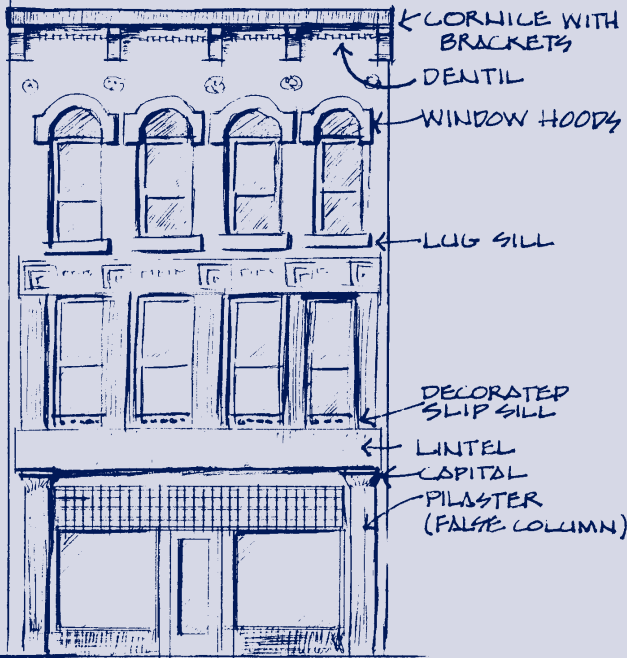


The **G & A Building**, 309 and 307 E. Lake Street, was built in 1907. The second floor was the Petoskey Normal Business College (you can still see the old poster art on the building) and the first floor was a souvenir bazaar operated by local Armenian families. These families began the Petoskey waterfront Midway-style shopping bazaar. The building is Neo-classic Revival, with piers and decorative capitals.





The **St. Francis Solanus Indian Mission** on West Lake Street was the first Catholic church in Petoskey. Built in 1859, it is the oldest building in the city. Special masses were held at the church until 2004 when this practice was suspended because of the building's condition. A committee is working towards total restoration of the building which is on the State Registry of Historic Sites.

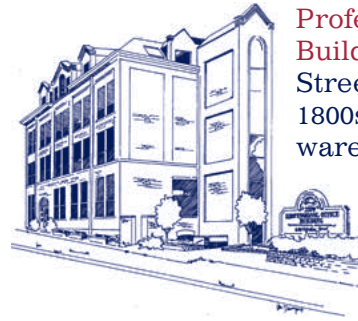


On your tour, note the interesting details of many Petoskey buildings.

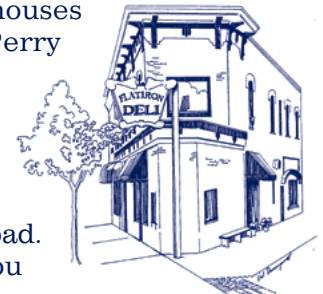
A GUIDE TO ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES



The **Emmet County Professional Office Building**, 616 Petoskey Street, was built in the late 1800s and was a grocery warehouse until purchased by the Zipp family. The building then housed the Zipp Lumber Co. which was in the building for many years.



The **Flatiron Building**, 313 Howard Street, was built at the turn of the century. It was constructed in a triangular shape to allow for the railroad right-of-way, and is one of the many unusually shaped buildings in downtown Petoskey. It currently houses the Flatiron Deli. The Perry Hotel, the J.C. Penney Building and Meyer Hardware were also constructed in an angular shape to accommodate the railroad. You'll note others as you tour Petoskey.



Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau
 401 E. Mitchell St.
 Petoskey, MI 49770
 800-845-2828 • 231-348-2755