




DOWNTOWN

BEAUTIFUL STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT THE HISTORIC DISTRICT



TOTAL TOUR TIME: 2-3.5 hours 
TOTAL SITES: 27 historic buildings & 2 bridges
TOUR START/DETAILS: Begin the tour at the Manistee County Historical Museum on River Street  Here you will begin



TOUR DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

your trip throughout the downtown historic district region of Manistee, Michigan. We recommend beginning and ending at the Museum, as the experienced staff can assist you with any questions that you may have about any of the properties you have an interest in after taking the tour.

NOTE: The route between site 14 & 15 will require a walk up a fairly steep hill. Persons with limited mobility, we recommend proceeding back down River Street (west) to site 20 and continuing the tour from there. You may drive to each of these sites after concluding the walking portion of the tour.

SITE MAP 



1 Manistee County Historical Museum:
A.H. Lyman Company

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1883 & 1885
LOCATION:
425 River Street | Manistee, MI
231-723-5531

Begin your tour of Manistee's historic downtown at the Manistee County Historical Museum: A.H. Lyman Company, where you will also be able to learn more about the area's abundant history and historic structures.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: **1** **2**
Proceed East on River Street.



Historic photo

2 The Haley Sisters Block

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1883
LOCATION:
419, 421, 423 River Street | Manistee, MI

The three Haley sisters came to Manistee before the Great Fire of 1871 to start a millinery shop. It was destroyed in the fire and was quickly reestablished.

The business was to burn down four more times in the next 12 years. During 1883, for example, most of the block burned. In the spring of 1883, they began to build the store at 419 River and a month later, two storefronts at 421 and 423.

Upon completion, an iron cornice was shipped from Wisconsin and placed on top, uniting the three buildings. The cornice was described as the most ornate in Manistee. Since then the three storefronts have housed a variety of stores.

Ownership of the building remained in the hands of the Haley Sisters family up until the 1930s.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: **2** **3**
Proceed East on River Street.



3 Lucas & Nungesser Block

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: Circa late 1870s
LOCATION:
401 River Street | Manistee, MI

This building was built by Lucas and Nungesser and is one of the oldest buildings in Manistee. The original structure was 48 x 70 feet and three stories tall. It housed the Lucas and Nungesser furniture business, a drug store, and several offices. In the late 1870s River St. was graded, leaving the front entrance to the building four feet above the ground. Stairs were used to reach the front door until the spring of 1883.

At this time 268 screw jacks were placed under the building and it was lowered down onto its new foundation. All of the offices were left intact during the lowering and nothing moved from its place. Not even the glass windows were disturbed, incredibly, since they measured 36 x 52 inches, the largest panes in town.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: **3** **4**
Proceed across the street to the Riverwalk Access and explore the sub-structure from below and return to street level to view the top of the bridge.



4 Maple Street Bridge

ARCHITECT: Hazelet & Erdal
CONSTRUCTED: 1964
LOCATION:
Maple Street | Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



Due to a population boom in the mid-1860s it was suggested that a bridge over the Manistee River Channel be constructed on Maple Street to connect both parts of town.

While early local government officials made the decision that the construction of a bridge was beyond their means, a group of local businessmen organized the Manistee Bridge Company for the goal of building and operating a bridge across the river.

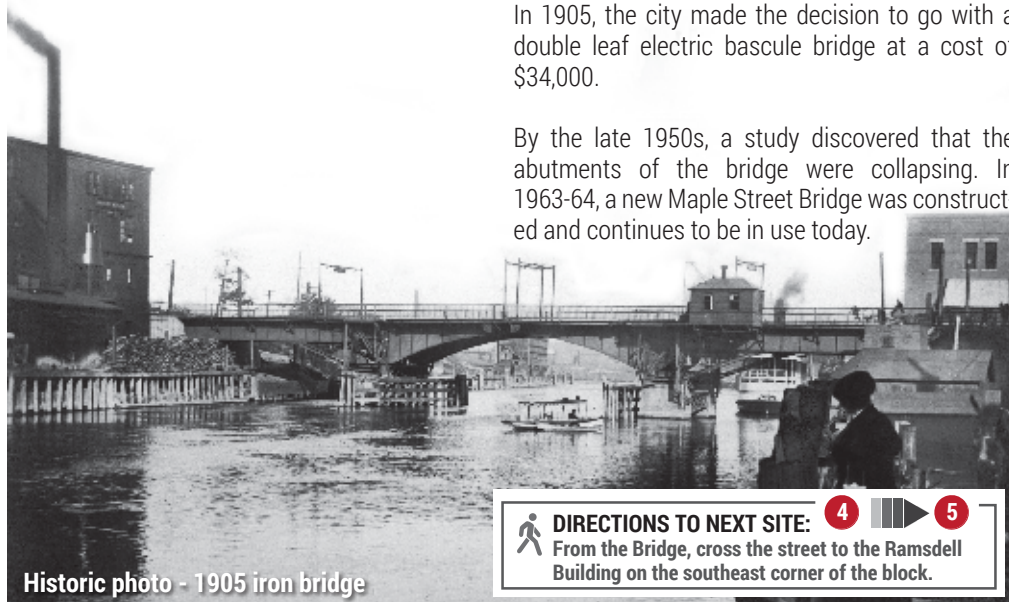
In 1866 a wooden swing bridge was constructed



but soon burned in the Great Fire of 1871. Two years later a new iron bridge was constructed at a cost of nearly \$18,000. It had a swing portion that was 160 feet long, and a span between piers of 46 feet.

Nearly three decades later the iron bridge was deemed to be unsafe, requiring either major reconstruction or the building of a replacement bridge. In 1905, the city made the decision to go with a double leaf electric bascule bridge at a cost of \$34,000.

By the late 1950s, a study discovered that the abutments of the bridge were collapsing. In 1963-64, a new Maple Street Bridge was constructed and continues to be in use today.



Historic photo - 1905 iron bridge

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 4 → 5
From the Bridge, cross the street to the Ramsdell Building on the southeast corner of the block.

5 The Ramsdell Building

ARCHITECT: F.W. Hollister
CONSTRUCTED: 1891-1892
LOCATION:
399 River Street | Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



Once the site of a wood framed building which housed a popular general store called "Lumberman's Store", ownership of this lot eventually landed in the hands of local lawyer and philanthropist, T.J. Ramsdell. Ramsdell had the general store torn down in April 1890 and began construction of a new building. Famed Saginaw architect, F.W. Hollister (who also drew up the plans for the Manistee Fire Hall) drew up the plans for the building you see today.

Work continued on the structure through 1891 and when it was finally complete in early 1892, the red pressed brick, granite and terra cotta-trimmed



Storage space under the sidewalk access from the lower level/pub

building was considered one of the most ornate buildings in all of Manistee.

One of the first occupants of the Ramsdell Building was the Manistee County Savings Bank which had leased the second floor of the new building. This news came as a surprise to the community because Mr. Ramsdell was president of the First National Bank which was located directly across the street.

The upper floors were originally occupied by the law offices of T.J. Ramsdell, E.E. Benedict, and George Hilliker.

On the lower floor of the building, Jacob Hanselman opened the City Drug Store with stock he had purchased from another pharmacy.

About 1898, one of Hanselman's employees, A.J. Piotrowski, purchased the drug store business, which he operated inside the building until 1975. In 1976, City Drug Store moved to 401 River St.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 5 → 6
Proceed East on River Street.

6 The Pabst Building

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1892
LOCATION:
395 River Street | Manistee, MI

Built by the Pabst Brewing Company of Milwaukee for the purposes of a saloon, this building commenced construction in January 1892 and was finished by July of that same year. Called, "the finest saloon building in the city and furnished in grand style" by one of the local newspapers, the ornamental accoutrements that accompanied this building were lavish. While many of those elements are no longer on the building, the structure continues to remain one of the many gems of River Street.

The building remained a saloon for over 30 years and then a café for over 35 years. For several decades it has housed a jewelry business under various owners.



DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 6 → 7
Proceed East on River Street to the end of the block.



7 The Vogue Theatre

ARCHITECT: Pereira and Pereira of Chicago
CONSTRUCTED: 1938
LOCATION:
 383 River Street | Manistee, MI



TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
 Scan the QR code here to view
 a detailed tour video of this site



Built in 1938, in the then popular Art Deco Style, the Vogue was part of a large Midwestern chain owned by Butterfield Theaters. The 935 seat building was one of the first air conditioned in the city utilizing water for that purpose from a well near the building.

The theater continued to operate as a single screen until Butterfield Theaters sold it in 1985. That year it was transformed into a two-screen theater by splitting off the balcony portion of the theater complex from the main auditorium, thus creating a downstairs theater and upstairs theater. Over the next two plus decades the theater saw little improvement and was eventually closed in 2008.

In 2010 the Vogue property was purchased by the Manistee Downtown Development Authority and was subsequently sold at a nominal price to the newly formed non-profit, the Historic Vogue Theatre of Manistee (HVTM).

The capital campaign began in 2011, the contractor was selected in 2012 and restoration began concurrent with fundraising in October of that year.

In December 2013, the two-screen renovated Vogue, considered one of the most state-of-the-art in all of Michigan, reopened.

Despite much of the building being renovated, there are still elements that remain intact today from the original construction such as the tiled floors inside the lobby and the murals on the walls in the second story projection room.



DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:
 Proceed East on River Street.

7

8



Downtown - Late 1930s



8 Manistee County Savings Bank Building

ARCHITECT: Albert Colcord
CONSTRUCTED: 1906-1907
LOCATION:
 373-377 River Street | Manistee, MI



After spending 15 years in another location, Manistee County Savings Bank built this building in 1906.

Upon completion of the first concrete floor, 23 men stood on the floor to test the structure. It sagged three sixteenths of an inch without cracking. Neo-Classic in design, the pillars on the bank are covered with scagliola, a marble-type substance.

The mosaic floor marked the completion of the building in October 1907. The building was designed by Albert E. Colcord of Chicago.



DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:
 Proceed East on River Street to the end of the block

8

9



9 The Aarons Building

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1910
LOCATION:
 359 River Street | Manistee, MI

In April of 1910, well-known clothing proprietor, Harry Aarons, revealed his plans for the demolition of two buildings on the corner of River and Greenbush streets and the construction of a brand new, three-story structure where he would open a new clothing store.

On April 1, 1911, Aarons' store had its grand opening. Since then the building has housed many types of businesses including: drug stores, insurance offices, dentist offices, law offices, and radio stations.

At one time, the upstairs housed the business offices of Edward Buckley, a prominent Manistee lumberman.



DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:
 Proceed East on River Street, two blocks.

9

10



10 Winkler & Barry Block

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1894
LOCATION:
 312-318 River Street | Manistee, MI

Constructed in 1894, the Winkler and Barry Block was built in the final portion of the business district to be developed on River Street. The Winkler Building, located on the eastern portion of the block, was described by a local newspaper as being, "the pride of that end of the street."

Sadly, Robert Winkler, a steamboat engineer, passed away before the building was completed. A short time later, Thomas Barry's building was finished with one of the first occupants being the tailor, M. Borowitz, whose last name continues to adorn the brick frontage of the building.

Much like its original ideal of being "the pride of that end of the street," many locals still view this building as one of River Street's most unique structures.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 10 → 11
 Proceed down the side of the building to the Riverwalk access. Proceed East on the Riverwalk to the Memorial Bridge (Site #11).

11 Memorial Bridge

ARCHITECT: Storm Construction Company
 Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge Company
CONSTRUCTED: 1932-1933
LOCATION: Highway US-31 | Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
 Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



Since there was only one bridge to cross the Manistee River Channel, officials came to the conclusion that if the Maple Street Bridge were open for boating traffic or by some chance damaged, then there would be no way for fire trucks to cross the river.

Additionally the population of the city was growing and it was deemed that a second bridge was in great demand. In 1893, a new bridge was

constructed and opened the following year. This second bridge was named the Smith Street Bridge because it was built between Smith Street on the south and Arthur Street on the north.

In July 1931, an accident occurred when a barge became grounded in the river near the bridge. Not realizing how close the overpass was to the barge, the tenders lowered the structure which then allowed the ship to destroy the underpinnings of the bridge and in turn made it collapse.

Construction of a new bridge commenced in July 1932 and continued through the following year. Once finished the bridge came in at a whopping cost of \$325,000. Since it was a state-owned structure, the state put up the brunt of the money but the city still had to pay five percent of the total cost.

In November 1933, the bridge was renamed Memorial Bridge to honor the area's war veterans. It opened to traffic later that month.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 11 → 12
 From the Bridge Area, you may take River Street (east) to sites 12-14, or you may also take Mason St. to Jones St. to sites 12-14. See map for various ways to get to these sites.

12 The Jones Building

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: Circa 1872
LOCATION:
 258 River Street | Manistee, MI

In July 1872, local businessman Peter Jones contracted for the construction of a brick building to serve as a combination dwelling and grocery/drug store. Over the next several years, Jones developed a large business among his German brethren.

After Jones passed away his wife continued the operation of the store until it was leased to the Manistee and North Eastern Railroad Co. and served as their "River Street Station and Ticket Office".

The dwelling portion of the building was used as a residence by the family until 1952.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 12 → 13
 Proceed across the street to the next site.

13 Manistee Iron Works

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1907
LOCATION:
254 River Street | Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view
a detailed tour video of this site



Specializing in casting, fitting, and machinery repair, the Manistee Iron Works was birthed on the corner of River and Smith streets in 1871 by Manistee residents John Bowie and Nels Johnson. After Johnson left, Bowie had a string of different partners in the burgeoning business. By 1883 the firm was incorporated with Bowie as President and George Ray as Vice President.

However, after a dispute that included legal proceedings, Ray eventually became President of the company and constructed a new building on the corner of Ashland and Jones streets in 1887. In 1907 the firm expanded again and another building was constructed on land located south of the 1887 structure.

In 1953 both the business and the building were acquired by the Michigan Tool Company which operated machine shops in both Detroit and Traverse City.

By the mid-1960s, Michigan Tool had been bought out by Ex-Cell-O, a Troy based company which specialized in making small machine parts for other machines.

Ex-Cell-O later expanded the original 1907 building and continued to operate out of the Manistee Iron Works until late July of 1981, when the company announced they were ceasing operations in Manistee due to a lack of business.

Today, the building has been used by a Michigan Movie/Production Company as a studio space, and has also housed a cafe and with adjacent outdoor community garden.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 13 Proceed across the street to the next site. 14

14 The Milwaukee House

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: Circa 1872
LOCATION:
259 River Street | Manistee, MI

Built shortly after the Great Fire of 1871, the Milwaukee House was used as a hotel for mill-hands and woodsmen working in Manistee who needed a place stay.

With a basement that at one time included a saloon, the hotel reportedly was a place for many rousing fights during the lumbering days of Manistee. Once the mills began to close, the building became a boarding house and was later used as a warehouse for the Manistee Iron Works. The building has since undergone remodeling.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 14 Proceed south, up the hill (Jones St.) to Hancock St. The Glen of Michigan is on the east side, on top of the hill. 15
DRIVING DETOUR: If you wish, you can proceed back + down River St. to site 20. Continue from there and return via car to sites 15-19.

15 Glen of Michigan

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1908-1909
LOCATION:
77 Hancock Street | Manistee, MI

In 1908, the site for a new shirt factory on Hancock Street was announced in Manistee. The land, originally owned by the estate of local lumber baron Louis Sands, was offered to the city as a market site. However, local entrepreneur Maurice Goldberg agreed to purchase the land from the estate and within the year Goldberg was operating the Goshen Shirt Factory out of a newly constructed building.

By 1935, the Manistee Garment Company was operating here as a division of the Rhea Manufacturing Company, a garment operation from Wisconsin. While working at the garment company, Lester Goldstein was employed as office and employment manager. In April of 1950, Goldstein, who had changed his last name to Glen, purchased the Manistee Garment Company to operate it as a separate business called Glen of Michigan, which



went on to become one of the country's leading manufacturers of women's and children's sportswear.

At its peak, the company employed about 500 people and had a payroll of \$2 million. The company also produced four different size ranges with each size range including twenty to forty styles per line. Sales operations were conducted in New York where a permanent showroom was on display. Additionally, the clothes were sold in 48 states and the line was represented by many major clothing outlets.

The company ceased operations in the fall of 1981 but would later be occupied by other garment companies such as Swan Industries, Ltd. and Great Lakes Stitchery.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 15 16
Proceed to 1st St. and turn right



16 Historic Red Schoolhouse

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1880
LOCATION:
284 First Street | Manistee, MI

Originally constructed in 1880 as the Third Ward School and later known as the Garfield School, this building became the home of the Schoolhouse Store which sold fabric, clothes, and materials from the Glen of Michigan factory that was located across the street.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 16 17
Proceed across the street to the Fire Hall.



17 Manistee Fire Hall

ARCHITECT: F.W. Hollister
CONSTRUCTED: 1888
LOCATION:
281 First Street | Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



By the late 1880s, a major topic of discussion at the local city commission meetings was the need for a proper municipal building to house the fire department.



ment. To that end, a Saginaw architect, F.W. Hollister was hired to draw up specifications for a new building. In early October 1888, bids were advertised with the low bid coming from the local firm of Gore A. Brownrigg & T.N. Reynolds.

The building was completed the following spring and seems to have been occupied with little fanfare.

The two-story, pressed-brick and cut-stone structure is flanked by a two and one half story copper domed tower. The unique structure is a cross-gabled Romanesque Revival style building and has not undergone any alterations in usage or design since it was built.

The fire hall is thought to be the oldest fire station in Michigan which is still in use in its original form, a fact for which every resident of Manistee can be justifiably proud.

The fire hall also houses a small display, complete with artifacts and photos, on the history of Manistee's Fire Department. It is open for tours daily except during mealtime or in an emergency.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 17 18
Proceed west on First St.



18 Manistee County Visitors Center

ARCHITECT: Mark Krauskoph
CONSTRUCTED: 2002-2003
LOCATION:
310 First Street | Manistee, MI

Stop in and ask the local tourism experts about the area. Find info on lodging, dining, things to do, and get the latest visitors guide for Manistee County.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 18 19
Proceed across US-31 on First St. Turn right on Division St.



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OFFICIAL TOURISM BLOG FOR THE AREA

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MANISTEE.com
SHARING EXPERIENCES ABOUT THE REGION

19 Wahr Hardware

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: Current building is a composite of structures
LOCATION:
87 Division Street | Manistee, MI

One of Manistee's longest owned family businesses, Wahr Hardware began in 1914 when John Wahr and John Meyer partnered to purchase a livery stable on Division Street where they sold farm implements.

The current building is a composite of several buildings that were in the area. In 1954, John Meyer was bought out by the Wahr family and the business became Wahr Hardware.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 19 20
Proceed two blocks north on Division St.

20 Briny Building

ARCHITECT: Davidson & Weiss
CONSTRUCTED: 1917-1918
LOCATION:
50 Filer Street | Manistee, MI

Because Manistee was said to be one of the major salt manufacturers in the United States, the Briny Inn became an offshoot of that industry. Originally used as a bathhouse, the Briny Inn offered mineral baths, from the brine substance pumped up from area salt wells, that were thought to relieve arthritis, rheumatism, and other illnesses.



Opening in 1904, the bathhouses quickly became a popular attraction for visitors and residents alike. Three years later the building became a hotel and significant alterations to the original building took place, including the addition of a third story.

In February 1917, fire broke out in the boiler room eventually engulfing the entire building in flames. When the owners chose not to rebuild, the local Board of Commerce worked together with the owners of the Cooper Underwear Company to purchase the property and construct a building to use as a factory. Additionally, the building was built to match the former Briny Inn.

After Cooper Underwear discontinued local production in 1928, the building was sold in a public auction for \$1 to the Board of Commerce. In 1932 the Manistee Shoe Manufacturing Company purchased the property for back taxes and operated inside until 1959. The building later became a warehouse for Ex-Cello-O Manufacturing Services and was renovated in the mid-1990s.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 20 21
Proceed west on Filer Street to the next two sites.

21 Larsen's Wholesale Grocery

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1894
LOCATION:
61 Filer Street | Manistee, MI

In 1894, local businessman, F.C. Larsen had this mammoth solid brick building constructed for his wholesale grocery store. Upon completion it housed the first cold storage facility in the city. The building later went on to house a furniture store and an auto parts store.

Much of the utilitarian detail that existed in the late 1800s still remains intact today. Even though the building may not be that much to look at, its 100+ year age makes it one that is well worth the mention on the historic buildings tour.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 21 22
Continue West on Filer Street.



22 The Larsen Block

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1914
LOCATION:
76 Filer Street | Manistee, MI



The Larsen Brothers were the sellers of second hand goods. So flourishing was their business that in 1879 they leased the brand new Taber Block. It was then reputed to be the largest and finest showroom on the “east coast.”

Two of the three brothers ran this business, expanding it in 1899 to the east, adding a clock tower and one of the first elevators in town. Their merchandise included everything from dry goods to clothing. In 1913 the original building burned and the existing building was built. The remaining Larsen brother rented the building to F.J. Zielinski and Co. It has since housed an A & P grocery store, Quality Discount, Bear Furniture, and Jackpine Business Centers.



DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 22 23
Proceed South on Greenbush St. until you reach 1st St. From there, turn right (west) on 1st St. until you reach the Ramsdell Theatre.

23 Historic Ramsdell Theatre

ARCHITECT: Solon S. Beman
CONSTRUCTED: 1903
LOCATION: 85 Maple Street | Manistee, MI



TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



After the Scandinavian Opera House was destroyed by fire; local lawyer and philanthropist, Thomas Jefferson Ramsdell decided to invest \$100,000 in order to build a new opera house on the corner of First and Maple streets.

Solon Beman, a prominent Chicago architect, was contracted to design and build this unique building which not only included a theatre but also incorporated an assembly hall as well. The theatre and hall are separated by a solid wall of masonry, making the buildings distinct from each other.

The building has six large columns supporting the portico over the main entrance to the theatre on Maple Street – a very classic Colonial design. While the hall portion of the building was completed first, the theater followed and on September 4, 1903, a full house viewed the play, “A Chinese Honeymoon” on opening night.



The most striking feature of the green and gold interior is the horseshoe balcony supported by numerous pillars that extend to the tin-plated ceiling. The interior decoration was completed by some very famous artists in their own right. Walter Wilcox Burrige, a renowned scenic painter (who did the original “Wizard of Oz” scenery), painted the front drop curtain, entitled “A Grove Near Athens.”

Frederic Winthrop Ramsdell, Ramsdell’s son, painted the two lunettes in the lobby and the lavish dome in the house, depicting Venus riding her chariot through the heavens surrounded by cherubs. The building is listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.



DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 23 24
Proceed north on 1st St. (across the street).

24 Manistee County Public Library

ARCHITECT: George L. Havey
CONSTRUCTED: 1903-1904
LOCATION:
95 Maple Street | Manistee, MI



TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



This Andrew Carnegie Library is a registered State Historic Site and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1885 a group of Manistee society ladies formed the Lakeside Club, whose primary goal was to create a library.

In 1902 the Lakeside Club joined forces with city officials and the local literary society and successfully campaigned for a public library that was to be funded in large part by The Andrew Carnegie Foundation.





The work of raising funds to purchase a site for the library was continued by the Lakeside Club and by 1903 construction commenced.

The cornerstone for the new building located on Maple Street was laid on August 21, 1903. Work continued through 1904 and on April 28, 1905 the library was dedicated and opened to the public.

Designed by Port Huron Architect George L. Harvey, the building, with its grand entrance pavilion, reflects Beaux Arts Classicism and houses the "Great Colonial Clock," a gift from lumber baron Edward Buckley, as well as other historic memorabilia.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:

24

25

Proceed north on 1st St.



25 Masonic Temple

ARCHITECT: Osgood & Osgood
CONSTRUCTED: 1911-1912
LOCATION:
 81 Maple Street | Manistee, MI

Before moving into the building on Maple Street, the Masonic Lodge met in ten different places around Manistee. In 1909, the building in which they met was destroyed by fire and it was decided to build a Masonic Temple.

In the spring of 1911, construction commenced on a new home for the lodge and was completed by the fall of 1912 at a cost estimated at \$55,000. The building was constructed with funds provided largely by the estate of lumber baron William Douglas, as well as from gifts from other local businessmen and the members. It was designed by Osgood & Osgood, Grand Rapids.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:

25

26

Proceed across the street.



26 City Hall

ARCHITECT: James Knox Taylor
CONSTRUCTED: 1909-1910
LOCATION:
 70 Maple Street | Manistee, MI



TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
 Scan the QR code here to view
 a detailed tour video of this site



The building that houses Manistee's City Hall was originally built for the purposes of a new post office in 1909.

Often referred to as the Federal Building, the construction of the building took two years to complete and was constructed under the direction of a Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury Department at a cost of \$88,000.

The style of the building is Grecian and was adapted to then early 20th Century needs. For over 50 years the Federal Building housed the post office as well as various governmental offices on the second floor.

However, by the early 1960s, it was decided that a more modern (and smaller) building would better accommodate the post office. A new building was constructed on Filer Street for those purposes which opened in 1962.

Two years later, the city purchased the former Federal Building and in 1965 remodeled it to house the city offices.

In 2003, a complete renovation helped restore the grandeur of the building's architecture. One of the main enhancements was the creation of beautiful city council chambers in the existing attic space. Roof lines were altered and a panoramic view to Lake Michigan was created. You can see this in the photo below.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:

26

27

Proceed west on Water St.

27 Field Apartments

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1872
LOCATION:
 64 Water Street | Manistee, MI

Smith W. Fowler, who was the editor of the Manistee Times and a civil rights lawyer, built this home in 1872. Originally it was an Italianate building with a central tower and a widow's walk.

In 1910 it was purchased by Dr. James King who remodeled it into a private home and hospital. It is one of the two buildings remaining in Manistee that has a mansard roof.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 27  28
 Proceed west on Water St. to the corner of the block.



28 Michigan Bell Company

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1906-1907
LOCATION:
 427 Water Street | Manistee, MI

In the early days of telephone usage in Manistee, the local telephone company operated out of an office on River Street. However, after a large increase in telephone subscribers, it was announced in February 1906, that the telephone company would be constructing a new two-story building on the corner of Water and Oak streets that would house the offices as well as the local switchboard. In the late 1920s, Michigan Bell Company took over local telephone operations.

In 1957, a new building for the company was constructed on Oak Street which is located directly behind the Water Street structure.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 28  29
 Proceed north on Oak St. to River St.



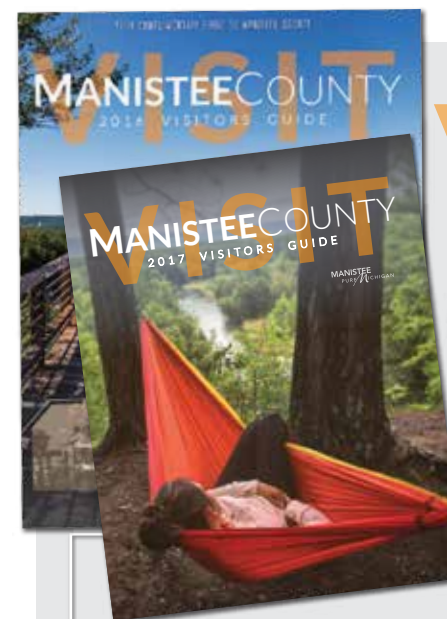
29 Elks Temple

ARCHITECT: George L. Harvey
CONSTRUCTED: 1905
LOCATION:
 432 River Street | Manistee, MI

After moving from building to building over the years, the membership of the local Elks Lodge was increasing at a high rate and it was decided that a new, large clubhouse was needed in order to satisfy the increasing need for more space.

In late June of 1905, construction began on the new home of the Elks Lodge on River Street. Designed by Port Huron architect, George Harvey, the clubhouse was completed one year later and since then has continued to be the home of Manistee's Elks.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN TOUR COMPLETE
 Site 29 completes the Downtown Historic Tour. Please reference the table of contents to begin one of the other self-guided tours in this booklet.



VISIT

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