





# EAST HOMES

BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THE EAST HISTORIC DISTRICT



**TOTAL TOUR TIME:** 2-3.5 hours   
**TOTAL SITES:** 15 Historic Homes  
**TOUR START/DETAILS:**

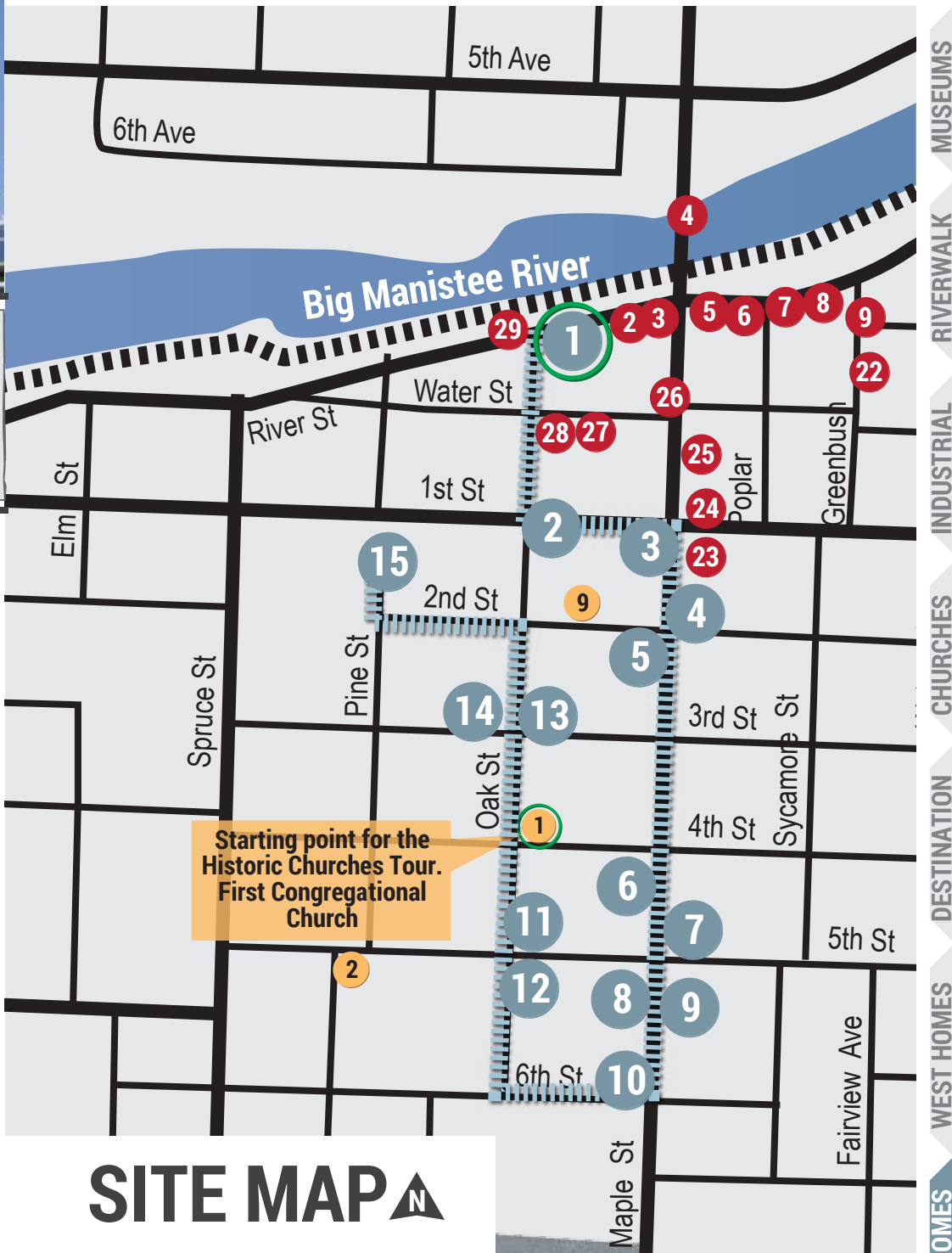
Begin the tour at the Manistee County Historical Museum on River Street  Here you will begin your walk on this historic East Homes Tour. All of these sites may be walked, however, you may also drive if you prefer. The only area of difficulty will be the hill between River Street and 1st Street. If you like, you may begin at site 2, the Andrew Dovel Home and park on Pine Street and walk from there. The only homes that are accessible to the general public are the Aarons home, which is currently an office building for Century 21 Boardwalk, and the Dempsey Mansion, available for patrons of the onsite Bed and Breakfast. Please be respectful of the home owners private property when exploring the grounds.



**www.Manistee.com**  
OFFICIAL TOURISM BLOG FOR THE AREA





Access hundreds of stories and tourism articles and tips about traveling in the Manistee County Area. You may also request the latest copy of: Visit - Manistee County's Official Visitors Guide as well as request other self-guided tours, maps, and much more!

**MANISTEE.com**  
SHARING EXPERIENCES ABOUT THE REGION



## SITE MAP

### OTHER TOURS IN THE AREA

-  = Start Location for the Historic Church Tour.  Indicates sites nearby.
-  = Start Location for the EAST HOMES and Downtown Sites Tour.
-  Indicates sites nearby Downtown Tour Historic Sites.

## RECOMMENDED START LOCATION

### 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 west on River St. until reaching Oak St.  
Turn south and proceed up the hill to 1st St. where  
the next site is on the southeast corner of 1st St.  
and Oak St.

### 2 The Andrew Dovel Home

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1881-1882  
**LOCATION:**  
421 First Street, Manistee, MI

This home was built in 1881-82 by prominent Manistee lawyer, Andrew (A.J.) Dovel. With a keen interest in political matters, Dovel served as city mayor, county prosecutor and in the state legislature.

In 1881, A.J. commenced construction on what was to be this large home at 421 First Street. When the house was first being built Dovel told the local newspaper that he was going to be putting up, "a kind of a shanty."

However, as the newspaper noticed the amount of stone that was ordered for the foundation, they changed the description to, "a kind of elegant shanty."

Dovel partnered for several years with R.W. Smith, son-in-law of local lumberman Louis Sands, to form a law firm. By the early 1900s, Smith exited the partnership and Dovel went into business with his son Charles, forming the partnership of Dovel and Dovel.

**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 2 3  
Proceed east on 1st St. until reaching Maple St. The  
next site is on the southwest corner.



### 3 The Mead Home

**ARCHITECT:** R.J.B. Newcombe  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1887  
**LOCATION:**  
403 First Street, Manistee, MI

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



This Queen Anne style home was built in 1887 by Dr. Richard Mead, prominent physician and surgeon, and his wife Jennie A. Mead. Described at the time as a home of "quiet elegance," it still showcases fine Victorian workmanship and design. Born in New York in 1839, Richard Mead graduated from Hobart College in 1863 and immediately was commissioned in the army during the Civil War, receiving an appointment as first assistant surgeon. After the war Mead accepted an appointment as a civil surgeon at the Grant General Hospital in New York.

Dr. Mead and his wife, Jennie, arrived in Manistee in the 1870s and later purchased the lot on the corner of First and Maple streets where this elegant home still stands. Built by local contractor R.J.B. Newcombe, the home was converted into a rooming house in the late 1940s.

After 50 years as a rooming house, it is once again a single family home and by the late 1990s, it was meticulously restored to a single family residence.



**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 3 4  
Proceed across the street to the northeast  
corner of 2nd St and Maple St.

### 4 The Aarons Home

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1872-1873  
**LOCATION:**  
113 Maple Street, Manistee, MI

**TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE**  
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Just one block south of the Ramsdell Theatre you will find the beautiful Gothic-Style Victorian House built in 1872-73. Clark D. Gardner and a business







partner bought two corner lots on the corner of Second and Maple streets and had two identical houses built.



Gardner sold his immediately. Over the next 10 -12 years, there were many owners who expanded and altered the house on Maple Street. In 1886 Mike Engelmamn bought it and gave it to his daughter for a wedding present.



Gus Kitzinger and Sara Engelmamn lived there for 10 years. Jacob Aarons, a successful merchant from Flint, Michigan, bought it in 1898 and lived there for 30-40 years. It then became the Robert Topping Residence until the early '70s.

After the Toppings moved out, the home switched hands a few more times. Robert Palmer and Suzanne Riley purchased the home in 1994. At the time of the purchase, no one had lived in the home for over 25 years. You'll be amazed at the preservation and rehabilitation that has been done.

**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 4 5  
Proceed across Maple St. to the southwest corner of the block.



## 5 The Noud Home

**ARCHITECT:** Holabird and Roche  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1894-1895  
**LOCATION:**  
202 Maple Street, Manistee, MI



Local lumberman, businessman and former mayor, Patrick Noud, had this elegant mansion constructed for his family during the late 1890s.



Noud was born in Ontario, Canada in 1845 and arrived in Manistee about 1866. He went to work as a logger, soon becoming camp foreman, and finally started logging on his own account.

In the late 1870s, Noud worked for another local lumberman, R.G. Peters, supervising his entire logging operation. Several years later, he became connected with several other lumbermen, eventually becoming president of the State Lumber Company and later the Noud Lumber Company.

In 1894, Noud announced that he was going to construct a "magnificent residence" on Maple Street. Designed by the nationally famous "Chicago School" architects, Holabird and Roche, construction began on the home in that spring and by November of the following year, Noud and his large family of moved in.



The red brick, three-story home in the Colonial Revival Style served as one of Manistee's most popular community centers for both young and old and it was the site for many lavish parties and dances.

In the 1940s, the home became the Adams Funeral Home and remained as such for several years before once again being restored as a single family residence.

**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 5 6  
Proceed south on Maple St. to the next site.



## 6 The Laird Home

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1882  
**LOCATION:**  
402 Maple Street, Manistee, MI



Born to Scottish parents in England, world-renowned ship captain John Laird arrived in Manistee in 1868 to begin survey work around Lake Michigan. It was here that Laird was superintendent of harbor improvements. In 1882, Laird purchased a lot at 402 Maple Street and built this beautiful Victorian Gothic home.

Laird did not live long to enjoy his new home as in December 1886 he passed away. Today, his home remains as an elegant monument to Manistee's first harbor superintendent.

**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 6 7  
Proceed south on Maple St. to the next site.



## 7 The Larsen Home

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1902-1903  
**LOCATION:**  
415 Maple Street, Manistee, MI



Born in Denmark, Hans B. Larsen, along with his two brothers, arrived in Manistee in the mid-1860s. About 1874, the three Larsen brothers opened a small store in Manistee dealing in second-hand goods. Through careful business management the store continued to expand. By 1880, Hans had moved into a new store on River Street where he would continue selling dry goods and clothes for over 35 years.

This two and one half story home is built in the Colonial Revival Style. In 1902, construction commenced on this home and by the following year, Larsen and his family had moved in.

**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 7 8  
Proceed south on Maple St. to the next site.





8 The Dempsey Mansion

ARCHITECT: Holabird and Roche  
CONSTRUCTED: 1894  
LOCATION:  
506 Maple Street, Manistee, MI

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



James Dempsey, lumberman, built this Queen Anne style home in 1894 on the corner of Maple and Fifth streets.

Born in Ireland in 1832, Dempsey immigrated to America with his parents in 1847. He arrived in Manistee years later where he quickly became associated with the logging industry. After working for the Canfield family river-driving logs, he entered into partnership with numerous area lumbermen.

Dempsey grew to become one of the most well-known lumbermen in Manistee and was very civic-minded. He served as mayor for one term and was appointed to postmaster in 1857 and 1886.

In addition, James and his wife Mary were the parents of 12 children.

Originally constructed at a cost of \$30,000, this unique, red brick home was described in the Manistee newspapers as being one of the handsomest and coziest residences in Manistee.

A variety of different woods highlight the interior and the edifice was described as being of “elegance and convenience.”

The home was later converted into an apartment house and served that purpose for several years before becoming a bed and breakfast. The current owners have continued to invest in the restoration of this amazing property, and it is arguably one of the most beautifully restored examples of 1800s architecture in the City of Manistee and West Michigan.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 8 Proceed directly across Maple St.



9 The Engelmann Home

ARCHITECT: Various  
CONSTRUCTED: Circa late 1860s  
LOCATION:  
515 Maple Street, Manistee, MI

This Italian Villa style home was probably built shortly after the Civil War. Around 1878, it was occupied by Michael Englemann, who had arrived in Manistee in 1848. After working for lumberman Joseph Smith, Engelmann began investing his money in vessel properties, later acquiring his own sawmills. Engelmann eventually became mayor and purchased this home; adding rooms every year until it reached the extensive proportions seen today as an apartment building.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 9 Proceed south on Maple St. to the next site.



10 The Duncan Home

ARCHITECT: Ferry and Class  
CONSTRUCTED: 1903-1904  
LOCATION:  
516 Maple Street, Manistee, MI

Lumberman and businessman James Duncan began the construction of this three-story home in 1903. Detailed in elegance, the home was designed by well-known Milwaukee architects, Ferry and Class while local men Charles Gerlach had charge of the masonry and Gore Brownrigg the carpentry.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 10 Proceed west on 6th St. and north on Oak St.



11 The Sands Mansion

ARCHITECT: Unknown  
CONSTRUCTED: 1881-1920s  
LOCATION:  
Oak and Fifth streets

In 1881 lumber baron Louis Sands had constructed a large, three-story brick mansion on the corner of Fifth and Oak streets. Heralded as one of the most spacious homes in all of Manistee, his family continued to occupy the home until the late 1910s.

Due to the relocation of the family and because of the upkeep of the large mansion, the house was torn down in 1920. However, the brick was reused to construct four homes on the property; one on Oak Street and three on Fifth Street, all of which are still standing today.



DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 11 Stay on the Oak/5th St. block.





## 12 The Leonard Home

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1874  
**LOCATION:**  
 421 Fifth Street, Manistee, MI

Born in Vermont in 1823, Azro B. Leonard learned the lumber trade spending over 15 years in Wisconsin. Through his Milwaukee contacts, Leonard purchased property in Manistee and commenced operations locally. Azro was sent to Manistee as a local manager for the firm.

A decade after his arrival here, he invested in a hardware store which became known as A.B. Leonard & Son.

This home was purchased by Azro Leonard in 1878. Following the death of Mrs. Leonard in 1893, the family home was sold and Azro settled into retirement in another area.



**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 12 ➡ 13  
 Proceed north on Oak St. to the northeast corner of 3rd and Oak St.



## 13 The Babcock Home

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1882  
**LOCATION:**  
 420 Third Street, Manistee, MI

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



Constructed by wealthy lumberman Simeon Babcock in 1881, this home was described in the local newspapers of the time with a variety of adjectives such as "large," "elegant," being "furnished with all modern conveniences," "one of the finest," "a credit to the owner," "an ornament to the city," and "one of the handsomest residences in the city."

Babcock was born in 1832 near Utica, New York but at an early date moved with his parents to Ohio and later to Wisconsin. On reaching maturity, Babcock moved to Milwaukee where he took up the trade of carpenter. It was here that Simeon Babcock came into the employ of Michael Engelmann; building an elegant passenger cabin for the steamboat "Manistee". A few years later Babcock was in partnership with Engelmann as well as Manistee lumberman Ernest Salling.



**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 13 ➡ 14  
 Proceed across Oak St.

After a mill was constructed in Manistee for the firm, the primary lumber yard for the partners was moved to Chicago. Babcock moved to that city for a short while but by 1877 had returned to Manistee after Salling withdrew from the partnership in turn, allowing Babcock the chance to operate his local operation.

The ornate brick residence, embellished with a turret and three bay windows, and constructed by Babcock, remained in the family until 1915 when it was sold to R.W. Smith, manager of the extended properties of the Sands Salt & Lumber Company.



## 14 The Wente Home

**ARCHITECT:** F.W. Hollister  
**CONSTRUCTED:** 1889  
**LOCATION:**  
 212 Oak Street, Manistee, MI

Born in Germany, William Wente arrived in Manistee by the mid-1860s and found employment as a bookkeeper for the sawmills of D.L. Filer. Wente continued in the role as a bookkeeper, working for various lumber companies for the rest of his life. Saginaw architect F.W. Hollister made numerous changes to Wente's home including renovating the structure into the Italianate style with a mansard roof with wrought iron-fencing as well as the addition of two towers. The Wente family continued to live in the residence through William's passing in 1915. The home was later renamed The Curtis Hotel after it was purchased by the Curtis family, who divided it up into apartments. Since then it has remained an apartment building under various owners.



**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:** 14 ➡ 15  
 Proceed west on 3rd St. Turn south on Pine St. and continue to the end of the street.



## 15 The Douville Home

**ARCHITECT:** Unknown  
**CONSTRUCTED:** Circa 1880  
**LOCATION:**  
 111 Pine Street, Manistee, MI

This Carpenter Gothic-style house was constructed in 1881 by local businessman, Eugene E. Douville. Douville arrived in Manistee in 1865 from his native Milwaukee as a very ambitious young man. It was in Manistee that he pursued the trades of a photography, a bookstore owner, insurance agent, an abstract office and real estate. Over the course of his many occupations, Douville invested heavily in pine timber both locally and around the country. He later moved to Louisiana where he passed away. After his death, his widow returned to Manistee and lived in the home for many years.

**EAST HOMES TOUR COMPLETE**  
 Site 15 completes the East Homes Tour. Please reference the table of contents to begin one of the other self-guided tours in this booklet.