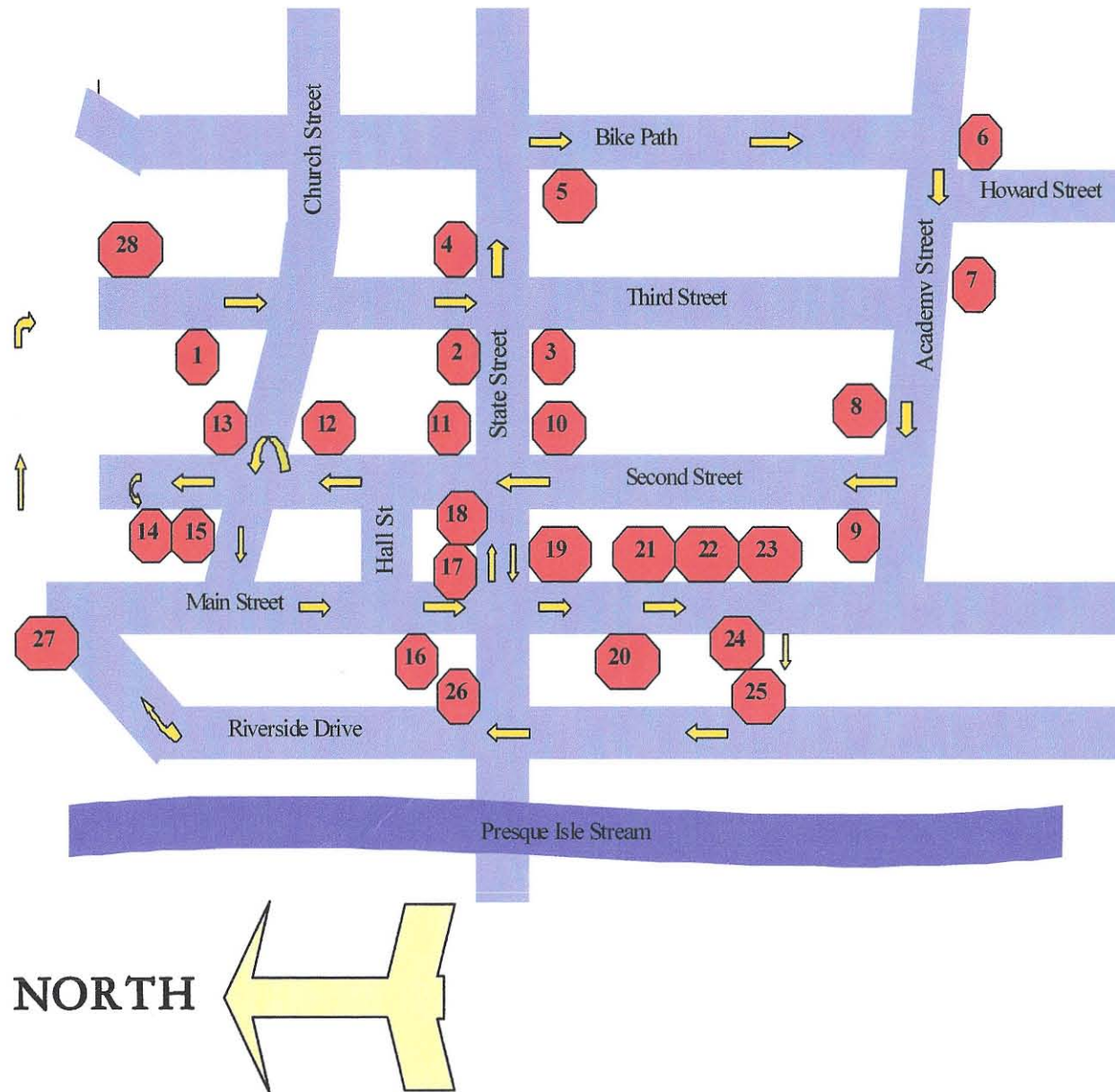


# Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Presque Isle, Maine

## Historical Significance Key



### 1. Vera Esrey House, 16 Third Street:

This circa 1875 home was willed to the Presque Isle Historical Society by Ms. Estey and represents a fine example of life in that era. Vera Estey was a unique female entrepreneur for her time. Tours of the home are available by appointment.

2. Allen House: This home was built in the early 1890s by attorney Charles Allen, the president of our 1st bank, and lovingly restored by the current owners.

3. The Daggert/Downing House, 234 State Street: Built in the 1890s by attorney Charles Daggert. Later the home of the Downing family who ran Downing's Saw Mill on the west side of the Presque Isle Stream.

4. Caprain Cook/Glidden House, 239 State Street: Built in the 1870s, this is the former home of Captain Sydney Cook, who was on the forefront of the marine salvaging industry in the 1800s. The home is currently owned by the Glidden family who played a key role in television and radio stations here in Presque Isle.

5. Downing Park: Named in honor of the Downing family.

6. Former site of the Canadian Pacific Railway station, southeast corner of Howard and Academy Streets: This railway came to the Presque Isle in the 1870s and played a key role in area growth providing a means to get goods to market in New York more quickly than the 10 days required by horse-drawn wagon.

7. Site of 1st City Hall, then Academy (Training) School, 28 Academy Street: Site of original City Hall, a two-story wooden structure later moved to Main Street. The Academy Street School was built here in 1860, burned and was rebuilt twice. Current structure rebuilt in 1927 and operated as school until 1978. Now apartments for seniors.

### 8. Phair/Freeman House, 21 Academy Street:

This home was built in the late 1890s and was the home of James Phair, brother of Starch King Thomas Phair. James Phair was the owner of the Phair Hotel and our first Postmaster.

9. St. John's Episcopal Church, 52 Second Street: Oldest public building in Presque Isle.

### 10. Mark & Emily Turner Memorial Library, 39 Second Street:

Built in 1908 on land donated by Starch King Thomas Phair with a \$10,000 Carnegie Foundation grant.

## Historical Significance Key (cont.)

11. **State Street Baptist Church, 225 State Street:** Second oldest public building. Steeple removed in October of 2004 due to lighting and dry rot damage.
12. **Post Office, 23 Second Street:** Construction began in spring 1933 and was completed in May 1934. The cornerstone contains a copper time capsule. Note the unusual carvings on the upper corner stones.
13. **Congregational Church, 25 Church Street:** Charles Stowe, son of famed author Harriet Beecher Stowe served as pastor here for 6 months in 1879.
14. **City Hall/Old Hospital, 12 Second Street:** Built in 1918, opened in 1920, and served as the hospital until 1960. Became the municipal offices in the 1960s as they moved from the Historic Fire Station.
15. **Historic Fire Station, 11 Church Street:** Built in 1912 and served as fire station, police department, and municipal offices. "Sold" to the historical society in 2001 when the fire and police departments moved to their new location on North Street.
16. **Former site of Presque Isle Opera House, 493 Main Street:** Opened in 1901 and closed in 1947. Had a 22' X 56' stage, heated with steam, had electric lights with gas lighting for back-up. Used for theatre and also hosted dances and basketball games.
17. **Former site of Northern National Bank, 187 State Street:** Built here following fire across the street in 1946.
18. **Former site of State Theatre, parking lot east of 187 State Street:** Built here following fire across the street in 1946. Closed in 1961.
19. **Original site of Perry Opera House, 190 State Street:** Established between 1894 and 1890. Became Perry Theatre in 1903 and failed in 1930. Building bought by Northern National Bank in 1930s. The Perry Theatre later became the State Theatre.
20. **Fred P. Stevens clothiers, 431 Main Street:** American spies were allegedly clothed here late in night during WWII before being sent overseas. Clothing tags were cut off so not to be identified as American.
21. **Allen Building, 428 Main Street:** Built in 1890 and served as site of first post office. One of few buildings to survive fires.
22. **Maine Farmers Exchange, 422 Main Street:** Built in 1887, third oldest public building in town. Also survived fires. Originally housed our first bank, Presque Isle National.
23. **Braden Theatre, 400 Main Street:** Town Hall, a two-story wooden structure building, was relocated here from its original site on Academy Street. Used as school, town hall, hardware store, and funeral parlor. Destroyed by fire in 1927. The Braden Theatre, named after a beloved local harness race horse, was opened in 1950.

24. **Wilder's Jewelry Store, 407 Main Street:** This building served as office of Thomas Phair, Starch King and was site of 1st telegraph office. Wilder's Jewelry store (1932) moved here in the 1950s.
25. **Former site of Phair Hotel and Bangor & Aroosrook Railroad Depot, 399 Main Street:** Original site of the Phair Hotel (James Phair) which was sold in 1894 to the B & A Railroad for the site of the passenger depot. First train arrived December 31, 1894. Passenger service discontinued in 1959.
26. **Aroosrook Valley Railroad Depot, 141 State Street:** Electric Railroad connecting local towns founded by A.R. Gould.
27. **Railroad tracks at Blake and Main Street, 612 Main Street:** former boundary between township of Maysville and township of Presque Isle, combined in 1883 to become double township of Presque Isle.
28. **Former site of Cunningham School, southeast corner of Blake and Third Streets:** Presque Isle High School built on this site in 1910. This was the first school in the area built specifically as a high school, others were typically one-room schoolhouses. Burned in 1921 and re-built in 1922. Served as the high school until current high school built in 1949. Became middle school and was named in honor of Franklin Cunningham, Principal from 1923 - 1965. Continued to serve as middle school until 2005. Cunningham was demolished in March of 2007.

## Other Sites of Interest

**Mantle Lake Park** - Originally built in 1887 as Town's water reservoir. Now a beautiful park with lake, picnic sites, and tennis courts.

**MicMac Museum** - Experience the culture of Native Americans indigenous to this area. (207) 764-1972.

**Air Museum** - Self-guided tour. Located at Presque Isle Airport.

**Trans-Atlantic Balloon Site** - Spragueville Road.

**James School** - Spragueville Road

Please look for historic plaque at each site containing historic photos and write-up outlining the historical significance.

The Presque Isle Historical Society, founded in 1963, is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to study, preserve, and promote the history, heritage, culture, and physical artifacts of Presque Isle, Maine for future generations.

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PRESQUE ISLE

*historical society*

*Estey House and Yre Station*

# A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Presque Isle, Maine

A joint program of the  
Presque Isle  
Historical Society and the  
City of Presque Isle

A costumed, guided walking tour may be arranged by appointment by calling (207) 762-1151. Kindly give 36 hours notice, if possible.