

4 RESORT LIFE AT MACKINAC

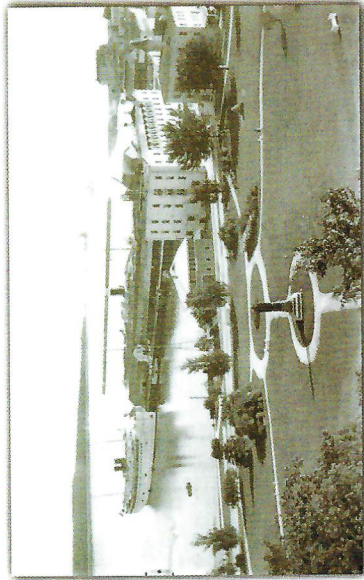
Walking or bicycle, 1 to 2 hours

Tourism became the dominant industry on Mackinac Island in the years following the Civil War. The face of Mackinac changed dramatically in the second half of the nineteenth century as the island was transformed from a fur and fishing village to a popular summer resort.

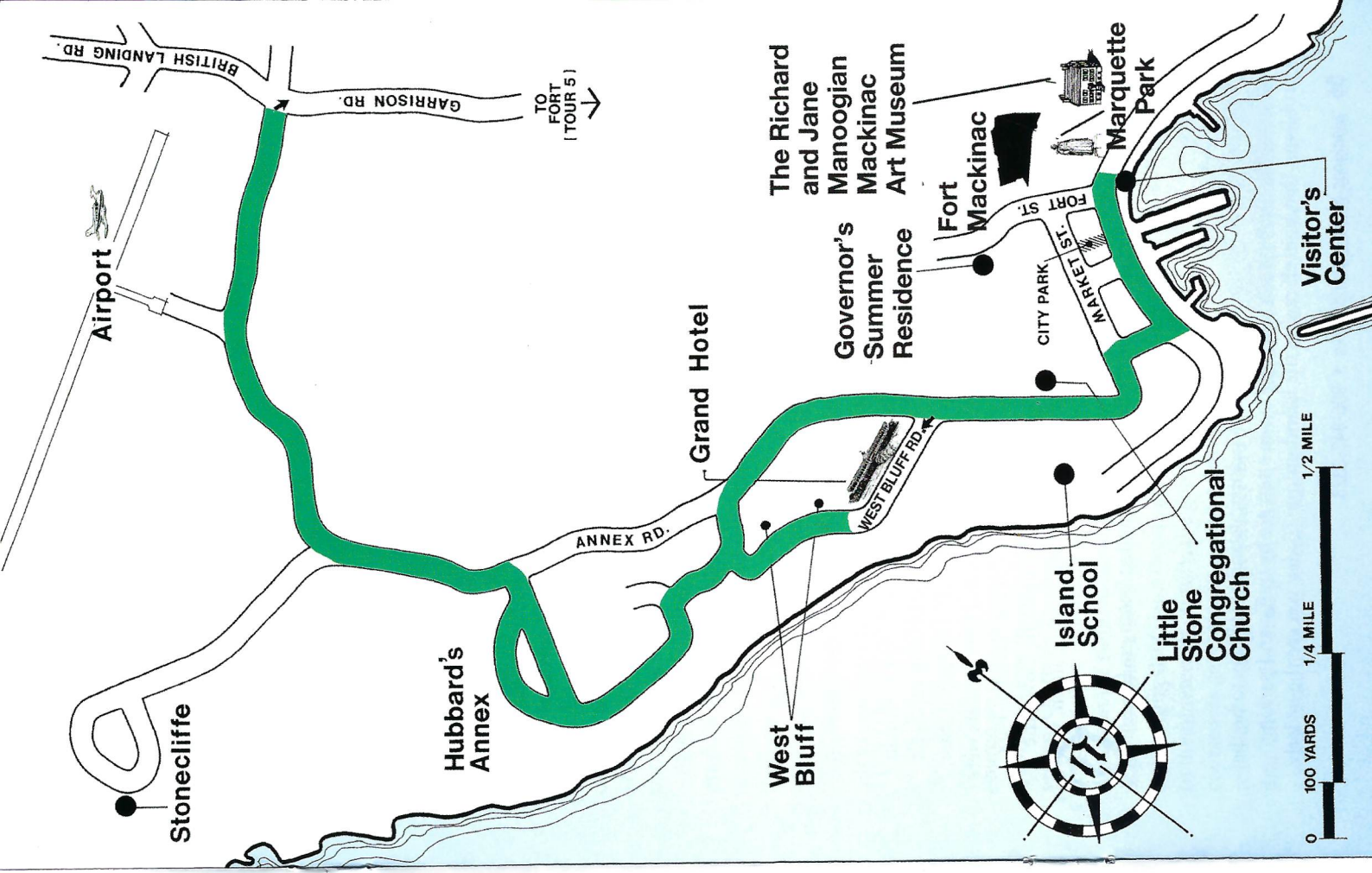
MARQUETTE PARK

The park across from the Visitor's Center is a pleasant place to stretch out on the grass and watch boats and people go by, but it also has a long history. For decades this area was used by soldiers as the fort garden. Despite the short growing season in northern Michigan, this plot of land usually produced a bountiful crop of vegetables that greatly enhanced the soldiers' meals and provided necessary nutrition.

Soon after the army abandoned Fort Mackinac in 1895, plans were



Marquette Park, ca. 1925



launched by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to transform the garden into a memorial park honoring the Jesuit missionary Father Jacques Marquette. By 1907 the landscaping was completed and, two years later, the Marquette statue was erected and dedicated. Over the years new plantings have been added including the bountiful array of lilac trees. Lilacs on Mackinac Island bloom in mid-June and are the occasion of the annual week-long Lilac Festival.



MAIN STREET

Main Street has always reflected the major industry of Mackinac Island. During the fur trade era, the beach was lined with fur-laden birch bark canoes and small shops, taverns and homes used by traders, voyageurs and fur company clerks lined the dirt street. Large docks used for shipping whitefish and lake trout appeared during the fishing boom on Mackinac Island. Coopers, plying their trade in Main Street shops, provided barrels for transporting the fish. With tourism came resort hotels, curio shops and candy stores, many of which are still standing today.

The Chippewa Hotel (1902) was built on the site of the United States

Custom House. Here, federal officials collected customs duty on items being imported into the United States from Canada. Across the street is the Murray Hotel, constructed twenty years earlier by Patrick Murray, one of the island's many mid-nineteenth-century Irish immigrants. Fellow Irishman Stephen Doud established Doud's Mercantile, which has been in business for over one-hundred years. A shop nearby was originally Fenton's Bazaar, where locally made Indian reed mats, cornhusk dolls and fiber baskets were favorites of nineteenth-century tourists. Stereoviews of the National Park were popular, as was Gardiner's photographic studio upstairs. Down the street the store next to the small city park was the White Star Saloon, where thirsty tourists could wet their whistle.

Public restrooms and the **Tourism Bureau information booth** are located in the city park.

NO CARS ALLOWED

If visitors know only one thing about Mackinac Island, it is likely to be that automobiles are banned. Harassed as we often are by traffic and parking problems, that in itself makes the island unique. Today you see the orderly

line of horse-drawn carriages on the main street, all waiting their turn to move to the loading area. It was not always so. Until well after the turn of the twentieth century, independent hack drivers maneuvered their rigs close to the docks and accosted visitors with a hard sell of the best ride at the lowest cost. It was free enterprise, but a little too enterprising for the relaxing and carefree visit most tourists wanted. Eventually the drivers formed Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, Inc. and offered a prescribed tour with fixed rates. Today, the tour covers many of the natural and historical attractions in a 1½ hour ride with a final stop at Fort Mackinac. Livery carriages, which can be rented by the hour, line up in front of Marquette Park. Saddle horses and drive-yourself carriages are also available. Inquire at the Visitor's Center or Tourism Bureau information booth.

FUDGE

From its humble beginnings in Murdick's 1880s Main Street "Candy Kitchen," fudge became a phenomenal Mackinac Island success story. The idea of island tourists buying "sweets" dates to early travelers who purchased birch bark mokus of maple sugar. Many late nineteenth-century stores carried "choice candies" among their wide assortment of tourist goods. Murdick's store was the first to exclusively sell candy and they soon learned that the fascinating process of making slab fudge attracted visitors who couldn't resist the creamy confection. Ever since, fudge has been the perfect product for tourists. It can be eaten on the spot, carried along for a snack or mailed home to the less fortunate. More than a dozen shops turn out thousands of pounds for summer visitors. An astonishing variety of flavors are mixed in huge copper kettles, cooled on marble slabs, and cut into rectangular pieces – all before your nose!

TO THE GRAND

At the head of Shepler's dock, turn right onto Hoban Street and then left onto Market Street. A block further the road turns right onto Cadotte Avenue and leads to Grand Hotel. You will pass **Little Stone Congregational Church** on the right, with attractive stained glass windows depicting scenes from Mackinac history. Little Stone Church is only open during the tourist season. On the left is the public school where children of the 500 winter residents are enrolled in a K-12 program. Again, on the right, notice a good view of the **Governor's Summer Residence** overlooking the Grand Hotel golf course. In the nineteenth century, the golf course was government pasture where residents' cattle grazed peacefully and drank from the small pond which is now a water hazard on the seventh fairway.



Governor's Summer Residence

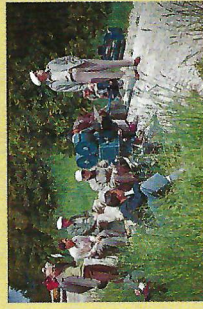
GRAND HOTEL

Ahead is Grand Hotel, one of the island's principal landmarks. The showplace of 1887 to accommodate the late nineteenth-century swell of summer visitors who arrived by railroad and steam-powered passenger boats. In the early days of the century, wealthy patrons dressed for tea and promenaded on its 660-foot porch in their annual summer-long escape from the heat and hay fever of the city. Today,



Hollywood at Mackinac

Hollywood has filmed two full-length motion pictures at Mackinac Island. Esther Williams and Jimmy Durante starred in the 1947 film *This Time For Keeps*. The film featured both summer and winter scenes on the island, including several scenes at the Grand Hotel swimming pool with Olympic swimmer Miss Williams taking a dive.



Filming This Time For Keeps

of a man who goes back in time to meet the woman of his dreams. Mackinac Island's Victorian scenery and palatial Grand Hotel made the perfect backdrop for the story set in 1912. The former MR-A soundstage at Mission Point Resort was used for creating and filming several interior scenes.

railroads and steam boats are long gone and the typical guest is likely to be a delegate attending a convention, but gentlemen are still required to wear ties and jackets at dinner. There is an admission fee to enter the hotel grounds for those not registered as guests.

Historical Marker

WEST BLUFF TO HUBBARD'S ANNEX

Beyond the hotel the hill leads to "Four Corners." Directly ahead on the right are the Carriage

Tour barns and the road to "Harrisonville," also called "the Village," where the majority of year-round residents live. To continue the tour turn left on Annex Road and keep to the left until you reach the West Bluff. To the left again along the bluff is a row of private cottages built on land leased from the National Park (1875-1895) and today the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

Typically Victorian in style, they were built with from ten to twenty rooms

to house large families and a full contingent of servants arriving for extended summer vacations. Many of these are second generation homes, the earlier modest cottages having been replaced by magnificent mansions. The construction and success of Grand Hotel transformed Mackinac Island into the most fashionable resort in the upper Great Lakes and cottage owners remodeled or replaced their homes beginning in the late 1880s to keep up with "The Grand."

Retrace your path a few hundred feet, turn left and pass behind some cottages to **Hubbard's Annex**.

HUBBARD'S ANNEX

This is a community of summer cottages developed in the 1880s at the same time the bluff homes were built. The land is privately owned and, in at least one case, by the same family who came over a century ago. The road will end at Annex Road. Turn left here for the airport.

STONECLIFFE

The road to the left leads to the private Stonecliffe-Woodbluff area. Stonecliffe was constructed by Michael Cudahy, a wealthy meat packer from Chicago. The turn-of-the-twentieth-century mansion, once the largest summer cottage on the island and now a hotel, is an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture. The grounds around Stonecliffe include several condominiums, private homes, Grand Hotel's Woods Restaurant and a nine-hole golf course. Our main tour goes right, to the airport.

AIRPORT

This Mackinac Island State Park facility has a 3,500-foot paved runway for propeller planes and small jets. Open all year, it is the only link with the mainland from early January until mid-April when the ferries start



operating again. Small charter aircraft fly to St. Ignace in four minutes.

Recreational flying in recent years has made Mackinac Island a favorite weekend destination. **Restroom** facilities and vending machines are available at the terminal.

Pilots should check ahead for landing and parking fees and the Mackinac Island flight pattern.

Beyond the airport, Annex Road ends at Garrison Road. Turn right to return to town via Fort Mackinac.