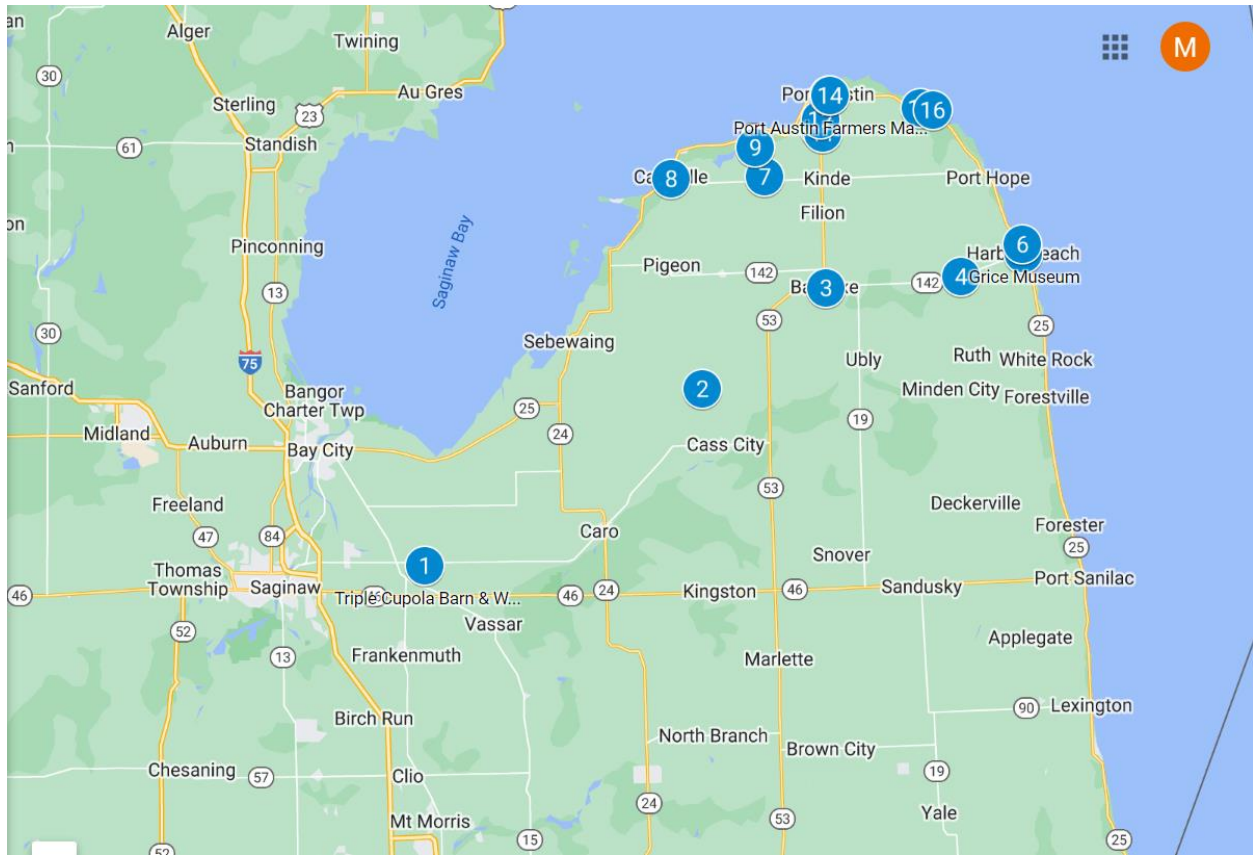


Michigan Thumb Drive-by Barn Tour



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Please note that barns on private property are drive-by only and should be viewed from the road. Some stops on the tour are museums, parks or farm markets that are seasonal or have limited hours of operation. To avoid disappointment, check with the site in advance to confirm if it is open.

1 Three Cupola Barn & Windmill

Private Property –Wadsworth Rd in Blumfield Twp, ¼ mile west of Reese



Depending on where you're coming from and where you want to start the tour, there are several ways to enter the Thumb. (Eastbound on M-25 from Bay City or M-81 from Saginaw; northbound from M-15, M-24 or M-53)

If you're traveling east from Saginaw, this charming barn with 3 cupolas is just outside the village of Reese.

2 Thumb Octagon Barn Museum

6948 Richie Road, east of Gagetown



James Luther Purdy, who joined his father at the Bank of P.C. Purdy & Son in Gagetown, Michigan in 1890, was determined to build an octagonal barn similar to a structure he had seen while traveling through Iowa. In 1895 he bought a parcel of farmland just east of Richie Road for that purpose.

One of the subsequent owners had the foresight in 1977 to place the farmstead on the Michigan Registry of Historic Sites. In 1991, when the Michigan Department of

Natural Resources acquired the property and wanted to demolish the deteriorated house and barn, local residents organized to save the structures. They raised the funds to restore and maintain the site as an agricultural museum and educational center.

Today the nonprofit known as "Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn" welcomes visitors to the site from June through September, Wed-Sat 11am – 5pm and Sun noon-5pm. Check dates/hours of operation at <https://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>. The annual fall festival is held the weekend after Labor Day.

3 Pioneer Log Barn

205 S Hanselman St, Bad Axe, MI 48413



This historic village has the largest collection of authentically restored pioneer log buildings in Michigan. The six individual museums include a pioneer home, general store, one room school, chapel, barn and a blacksmith shop. They were originally built between 1875 and 1900 and moved to this site from elsewhere around Huron County, Michigan, in the 1980s. Each contain period artifacts and antiques that let the visitor step back in time and look into this area's past.

The last Sunday in June each year is Log Cabin Day in Michigan and is a special event at the Bad Axe village.

The village is open Sunday afternoons from 2:00pm to 4:00pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Admission is free.

Contact: (989) 269-7416 or (989) 269-8325.

http://www.thehchs.org/badaxe/pioneer_village.htm

4 Gothic Arch Roofed Barn

Private Property: 3574 Sand Beach Road, east of Bad Axe



Gothic arch roofed barns are fascinating. According to the Michigan Farm Project: Phase II, Structural Preservation and Adaptive Reuse of Michigan Barns by Hemalata C. Dandekar, Robert Darvas, and Eric Allen MacDonald, two different methods were used to build the rounded roofs. Originally, builders would nail together 2x12's that were 3 to 4 feet long and then sawed to the desired curvature. Another method was developed using 1x4's laminated together and bending

them to the desired curvature. For more information, check out Agricultural Engineering 8(1) 1927, pages 12-14 by F. E. Fogle.

5 Frank Murphy Museum Barn

142 S. Huron Ave, Harbor Beach, MI 48441



Where can you visit the 146 year-old birthplace of a Michigan governor and Supreme Court justice, or a circa 1880-1926 law office? Where will you find the largest collection of Philippine cultural artifacts in the United States, while also touring a beautiful 1870s Victorian Gothic Revival style home? All of this and more can be found at the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum in Harbor Beach, MI.

Frank Murphy is arguably the most famous man in Huron County's history. In fact, no other person from the state of Michigan has held so many high offices in government at so many different levels. He was a Democrat who was named to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1940 after a political career that included serving as U.S. Attorney General, 35th governor of Michigan and Mayor of Detroit.

<https://www.harborbeach.com/frank-murphy-memorial-museum>

6 Grice Museum Complex

865 N. Huron Ave, Harbor Beach, MI 48441



The museum complex now includes the Grice House, the old Adam's schoolhouse moved from the outskirts in the county, and a barn moved from across M-25 during the fall of 2015. More than 2,000 artifacts are displayed, including agricultural machinery and implements.

The complex is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend, Wed-Fri 1-4pm and Sat. 10am-4pm. Also the Sundays of

Memorial and Labor Day weekends and by appointment. Call: (989) 551-4327.

<https://www.harborbeach.com/grice-house-museum>

7 Secret Sky Art Barn

5201 N. Pinnebog Road, Kinde, MI 48445



One of the Port Austin art barns, this installation is on private property. Please stay away from, and off of, the structures. Property owners are not responsible for personal injury.

With Secret Sky, artist Catie Newell has re-configured the skin of a barn, making its visual appearance delicate and porous to light at both day and night, and allowing the sky to enter and cut through the building. The

piece is indented to be illuminated from within for nighttime lighting effects and viewing. The project was completed in the summer of 2019.

Barn donated by Michael Schoenhals.

<https://www.portaustinart.com/catie-newell-secret-sky>

8 Caseville Historical Society

6733 Prospect St, Caseville, MI 48725



Founded in 1993, the Historical Society of Caseville was an offshoot of the Caseville Kiwanis. In 2002 the Maccabees Hall was donated to the Society as a home for the future museum. After undergoing a major renovation it was opened in 2008. The Society holds a monthly meeting on the third Thursday of each month. Annual events include a Harvest Fall Dinner, Ladies Luncheon, The Ice Cream Social and the Cheeseburger Museum celebration.

Open noon - 4:30pm Wednesday through Saturday. Phone (989) 856-9090.

<https://www.casevillemuseum.org>

9 Emergency Ark

3460-3598 Fehner Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467



This art installation is on private property. Please stay away from, and off of, the structures. Property owners are not responsible for personal injury.

Scott Hocking's piece, Celestial Ship of the North (aka Emergency Ark), involved disassembling a rapidly deteriorating gothic-style 1890s barn, and re-building it to create a boat-like, free-standing sculpture. It's an object that reorients time-

tested materials from their former context and turns them into something entirely different. The barn was donated by Bill and Lorraine Goretski.

<https://www.portaustinart.com/scott-hocking>

10 Port Crescent Barn

Private Property - 55 Port Crescent Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467



The clipped corners of this unique barn make it appear even taller than its already tall stature. The pointed arches carrying the roof load, as well as its proportions are reminiscent of Gothic Cathedrals. This barn was likely built in the late 1800s to early 1900s when the Gothic Revival was popular.

According to the nearby Port Huron Area History & Preservation Association's website, Stick Gothic (1860 – ~1890) was popular for the area's home construction

and perhaps was inspiration for the barn. It's very similar to Gothic Revival, but linear trusses make for less obviously elaborate gable decorations. Vertical boards along the door, windows, and often at the corners of walls are common as well as other decorative wooden elements on the exterior. This is a wooden version of high Gothic that precedes the more popular, or common, Queen Anne style.

11 Hygienic Dress League Barn

52 Stoddard Road, south of Port Austin in Dwight Township



This installation is on private property. Please stay away from, and off of, the structures. Property owners are not responsible for personal injury.

“Walden” and “American Gothic” were completed in 2013 by art duo the Hygienic Dress League (HDL) aka Steve and Dorota Coy. The two-sided mural lives on a barn on Ziel Farm, located on the corner of Stoddard and Van Dyke Road. “Walden” can be seen from the road and is meant to mimic the kind advertisements that used to appear on barn sides. The now-fading, blue-grey pigeon and the HDL logo advertise a corporation that proudly provides no products or services. Perhaps the more controversial of the two -- a spoof on Grant Woods’s “American Gothic,” can be found on the opposite side of the barn. It depicts two subjects in gas masks -- a common element found in many public art pieces by the HDL.

Barn donated by Hank and Jeannette Ziel.

<https://www.portaustinart.com/hygienic-dress-league>

12 Empkie Farmstead & Market
7541 N Van Dyke Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467



Located on M-53, 2 miles south of Port Austin and ½ mile north of Port Crescent Rd, is the Empkie Farmstead (1867). It is designated by the Historical Society of Michigan as a Centennial Farm, owned by the same family for over 100 years (actually 5 generations and 156 years)!

The family has a seasonal home market with a beautiful flower garden next to the parking lot, if you make it there in season. They also have a stand at the Port Austin Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. <http://www.empkiesfarmmarket.com>



From the road you can see the tulip pattern quilt block on the Empkie Barn. Also at 7542 N. Van Dyke is the Murawski Barn which has a stars and cube quilt block. These, along with the ones at the Grice Museum in Harbor Beach and the Caseville Historical Museum are among the more than 100 you can see on the Thumb Quilt Barn Trail, which covers Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties. <http://www.thumbquilttrail.com/Thumb-Quilt-Trail-Map>

13 Port Austin Farmers Market

14 W State St, Port Austin, MI 48467

<https://portautinarea.com/about-the-farmers-market>



The Port Austin Farmer's Market is located in the heart of the city center and offers produce, handmade goods, meat, fish, cheese, eggs, fresh flowers and herbs. Edibles include maple syrup, honey, jams, seasonings, baked goods, oils, sauces, salsas, dips, and fudge, while art, antiques, crafts and collectibles are also available.

Open every Saturday, May to October, 9am to 1pm.

14 The Glenn Royal Barn Venue

8692 Bridge St, Port Austin, MI 48467



The Royal Glenn Barn Venue, which opened in 2023, is a wedding and event space in Port Austin offering a rustic and elegant experience.

The 425-person venue is large enough for big weddings as well as a space for anniversaries, reunions and other event gatherings. The venue also can hold up to 80 people for the entire weekend in one of its six cabins on site as well as a groom's suite and bride's suite with each holding 10 people. There is lodging available in the downtown area as well as an RV resort right next door.

<https://www.facebook.com/theglennroyal/>

15 Huron City Museums

7995 Pioneer Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467



The museum is location on M-25 half way between Port Austin and Port Hope at the “Tip of the Thumb.” Port Huron was founded as a lumber town in 1854 by Langdon Hubbard, who descendants are keeping its history alive through the William Lyon Phelps Foundation.

Today, the General Store, Rooming House known as the Community Inn, Langdon's home, Seven Gables House, the Church and a Log Cabin are still standing. When the Life Saving Station was put up for sale, the Huron City

Museums purchased the building and had it moved to its present location.

The museum is open for guided tours on Fridays and Saturdays in July and August from 11 am to 4pm. <http://www.huroncitymuseums.org/>

16 Lighthouse County Park

7320 Lighthouse Rd., Port Hope 48468



Lighthouse County Park is a lakeside park and campground located between Port Austin and Port Hope on M-25. It is home to the historic Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse, which is a Great Lakes navigational point on Lake Huron. A museum and gift shop are open in season (May 1 – Oct. 15) with limited hours. The campground is open year-round. Call (989) 428-4749.

Of interest nearby at 7635 Lighthouse Rd is a barn and large corn crib on private property.

<https://www.huroncounty.com/beaches-parks-and-trails-in-huron-county-michigan/lighthouse-county-park>