

# Center offers walking tours

BY MELANIE BOLTHOUSE  
Summer Guide Editor

If the history of Traverse City were to be summed up in six words, they might be: Indians, trappers, missions, logging, farming and tourism.

The city's history is simple, says Ann Hooper, a volunteer at the Grand Traverse Heritage Center. Each milestone led to the next, while leaving a distinctive mark on the landscape.

To honor these landmarks, the Heritage Center is offering historic walking tours of downtown Traverse City Tuesdays and Saturdays through the end of August. "It's just a part of our

expanding interpretive program here at the Heritage Center to help teach the community more about the history of Traverse City," said Dan Truckey, executive director of the Heritage Center. "We find a lot of people come in who want to know more about the buildings and the streets and the history and have requested (walking tours)."

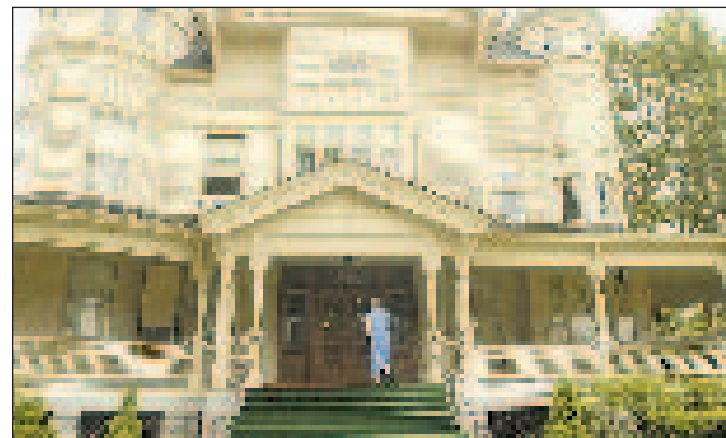
Truckey said Hooper and former mayor Carol Hale, also a Heritage Center volunteer, were selected to lead the walks because of their knowledge of the city's history and the community itself.

The tours meet at the center at 1 p.m. and start with a

short walk through the museum. From there, the guides give a brief history of the city's beginnings that covers the tribes who lived in the area, the trappers who came and left in the 1700s and Peter Dougherty, the first Presbyterian missionary who established Old Mission and the largest church and mission school in Omena.

When their narrative approaches the logging industry, the tour begins in earnest — with the Perry Hannah house on Sixth Street, currently the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Hannah, often called the father of Traverse City,



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**Tour guide Carol Hale walks up the steps of Perry Hannah's mansion, now a funeral home, on Sixth Street.**

began the logging boom with his purchase of Henry Boardman's sawmill on what is now the Boardman River. He also developed the downtown area with two other buildings seen on the tour: the Perry Hannah Bank, now 5/3 Bank on the

corner of Union and Front, and Hannah-Lay Mercantile on the opposite corner.

Other points of interest include the churches of Park Street, the Park Place and Whiting Hotels (the two oldest operating hotels in the area) and the City Opera House, currently being renovated.

Along the way, the guides share historic photographs of buildings, making history come alive for walkers.

Truckey said the center modeled its 90-minute tour after a walking tour the area school system developed.

"We used that as kind of a basis and then we expanded it from there with research that other people had done here at the Heritage Center," he said.

Tour fees are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Children ages 12 and under walk for free. For more information or reservations, call the Heritage Center at 995-0313.



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