

1. Harrisville Depot
2. The Old Place Inn
3. Hollyhock Emporium
4. Westminster Presbyterian Church
5. Harrisville United Methodist Church

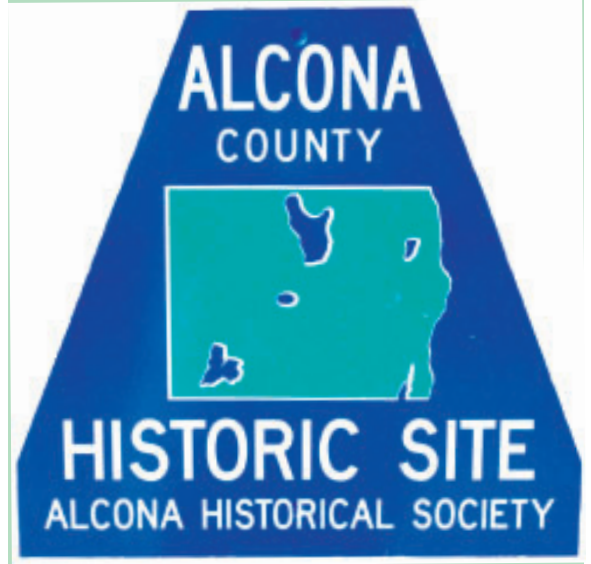
6. Alcona County Review
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# Alcona County Self-Guided Driving Tour B

Harrisville and Lincoln



Alcona Historical Society  
P.O. Box 174,  
Harrisville, MI 48740  
[www.alconahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.alconahistoricalsociety.com)  
2023 Edition

**1. Harrisville Depot** (West end of Dock Street in Harrisville)

In 1883 Russell Alger formed the Detroit, Bay City and Alpena Railroad. In 1895, he combined it with the Alpena and Northern to form the Detroit and Mackinaw Rail Company. In 1900 depot sites were selected at Greenbush and Harrisville. Scheduled passenger service began on December 15, 1901. The following month the new cut stone **Harrisville Depot** was completed. Service between Bay City and Alpena continued until March 31, 1951.



**2. The Old Place Inn** (309 E. Main St., Harrisville)

The building was constructed in the 1870s as a private residence for Joseph Evans, the first sheriff of Alcona County. Upon his death in 1899, his wife had the building remodeled and it became the Cottage Hotel until 1935, the Harrisville Hotel until 1964, the El Dorado Restaurant until 1973, the Harbor Lights Restaurant until 1981, and the **Old Place Inn** in 1988. The restaurant is currently closed.



**3. Hollyhock Emporium** (301 E. Main St., Harrisville)

The land was purchased by Joseph Evans on March 26, 1875. He erected the Alcona House hotel. In 1907 the building was remodeled and became a drug store. In 1909 it became the site of the Citizens Telephone Company.



**4. Westminster Presbyterian Church** (201 Second St., Harrisville)

The congregation was organized on September 10, 1878 by the Reverend D. van Dyke. The church was built in 1879 on land donated by George W. Colwell, one of the owners of the Harrisville sawmill. The church closed in 1895. In 1906, the church reopened with the Reverend C.M. Boyce as pastor until 1933. Boyce and his successors have served the “yoked” Presbyterian Churches in Alcona County: Harrisville, Haynes Township [until 1969], and Spruce.



**5. Harrisville United Methodist Church** (217 N. State St., Harrisville)

The Reverend Joseph P. Merchant came to Harrisville as a missionary in 1861. He formed membership classes that met in a one story house at the foot of Church Street, then at a new school house on Court House Square.

The present church, the first in Alcona County, was built in 1867. Membership included early settlers named Conklin, Colwell, LaChapelle, Rutson and Van Buskirk. The organ dates from 1891.



**6. Alcona County Review** (111 Lake St., Harrisville)

The first edition of the Review was published on April 27, 1877 by founding publisher James K. Fairchild, who brought a wagon load of printing material from Standish. The original building burned down in 1907, but was rebuilt in 1908 using updated materials (brick and tin), to make it the first “fireproof” building in Harrisville. It has the distinction of being the oldest operating business in Alcona County.



**7. Harrisville Business District** (sign at East end of Main St.)

In 1846, Simeon Holden & others were driven ashore by a northwest gale to the High Banks of the AuSable, now called Springport. These men purchased pine lands and built a small water mill, and commenced the first manufacture of lumber in Alcona County. This sign commemorates the variety of businesses established throughout the years in Harrisville, including that very first sawmill.



**8. Craftmakers’ Cabin** (217 N. State St., Harrisville)

The cabin was built as a WPA project in 1936 to house the Resort and Information Bureaus. The rustic 22’ x 32’ log structure features a staircase with a large curved log for a handrail, flattened log steps, and a massive stone fireplace with a log mantel. On July 31, 1982 it became an outlet for homemade arts and crafts.



**9. St. Anne Parish** (110 S. State St., Harrisville)

Father Frederic Baraga, the “snow shoe priest,” was an early settler in Michigan’s upper peninsula and on its northeastern Huron shore. Baraga was already proficient in tribal Indian languages by the time he was ordained a priest in 1823. In

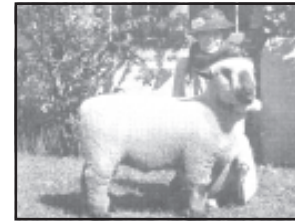


1853, Father Baraga was elevated to bishop and became the first bishop of Sault Sainte Marie. In 1867, he accepted the deed to the property that Francis La Chapelle donated for the building of the first Roman Catholic church to be built in Harrisville, in 1868.

**10. Seaver Country House** (311 S. McLean Rd., Harrisville Twp.)

\*\*\*Please note this is a Private Residence\*\*\*

Bertha Moe “Birdie” Seaver, recently widowed, vacationed at Springport Inn in 1929. She bought a vacant 120-acre farm and immediately hired contractors to begin to enlarge and renovate the



farm house into a lavish new house. In 1930 Bertha went to Europe and brought back furnishings for the house. Before coming to Alcona, Mrs. Seaver had never lived or worked on a farm. Nevertheless, she named her acquisition “Five Trees Farm,” With the help of Percy Somers, she became a sheep rancher. They became agricultural pioneers in Alcona County. A flock of purebred Hampshire sheep was started and Five Trees Farm became a truly world-class sheep ranching operation for 27 years.

**11. Springport Inn** (659 S. US-23, Harrisville Township)

Joseph van Buskirk built the Inn in 1877 to become his home. Joseph had moved to Harrisville in late 1864, after 3½ years of Union Army service during the Civil War. In Harrisville, van Buskirk



acquired 1800 acres of timber, became a lumberman and soon became wealthy. His settlement at Springport had a saw mill, a lumber shipping pier, a general store, and a dairy farm. The Inn was situated where he could oversee it all.

**12. Springport Cemetery** (US-23 at Wallace Rd, Harrisville Township)

Dating from before 1852, this is the oldest cemetery in Alcona County. The wife of carpenter William Higginson was the first person to be interred here. Many other early settlers are interred here, including: William Conklin, First Supervisor of Greenbush. Isaac Wilson, the first white settler in the Huron Shore Region. Olive Independence Wilson, the first white child born here. George Hamilton, early civic leader in Harrisville. Joseph van Buskirk, builder of roads and of



Springport Inn. George Rutson, First County Clerk, Mayor of Harrisville. George W. Colwell, Harrisville saw mill owner (1876-88).

**13. Lincoln Depot and Museum** (Lake Street at Fisk Street, Lincoln)

The Lincoln Train Depot, once called the “**West Harrisville Depot**,” was built in 1886 by the Detroit, Bay City and Alpena Railroad. It is the last



remaining depot of its type, and is a standing reminder of Michigan’s former dependence on the railroads. The village was renamed Lincoln in 1889. The railway served the community until 1929. The depot became a private residence from 1930 to 1996 and was restored as a depot under the leadership of George Byelich and Dick Gillies.

**14. Lincoln United Methodist Church** (101 E. Main St., Lincoln)

The Methodist Church Society was organized prior to 1890. A weekly Sunday School was established to meet in private homes. On October 3, 1896, the Society bought a lot and proceeded to build the church. It was completed in 20 months. The



men donated the labor and the women raised the money. The Rev. F.S. Ford held the dedication service on June 27, 1898.

**15. First Baptist Church of Lincoln** (202 E. Main St., Lincoln)

In 1891, Alice Walker secured a minister to preach to the men at the Robert Walker Lumber Camp. West Harrisville Baptist Church was established with 16 charter members. The church building was built in 1893 and dedicated in February 1895. In 1897 the Harrisville and Lincoln congregations were merged to become the First Baptist Church of Lincoln.



**16. Alcona Brew Haus** (676 N. U.S. 23, Harrisville)

In May of 1939, the Alcona Beach Dining Room was opened at the Alcona Beach Resort by owners Mabel Zimmerman and Captain & Armanda Pearson. In 1954, the dining room and cocktail bar was leased, then sold, to Alfons & Hermine Muehlbeck. They renamed it Muehlbeck’s Bavarian Village, specializing in Bavarian cuisine. With several name changes after 1997, the restaurant closed in 2008. It was remodeled extensively and opened as the Alcona Brew Haus in May of 2019.

