



The Springport Route

A Huron Shores Heritage Route Bike Tour

Total Trip: 16.5 miles



Overview Map of Alcona Bike Tours



Trailhead

Harrisville Harbor on Lake Street



Travel the "Springport Route"...



Historical Marker: Presbyterian Church

0.16 mi From the trailhead, turn south (left) on Lake Street to Church St. Right on Church St to 2nd St.

0.3 mi Turn left on 2nd St to Jackson St. Presbyterian Church (Historical Marker 2) on NW corner of Jefferson & 2nd.

0.3 mi Turn right on Jackson to 3rd St. Turn left on 3rd St to entrance to Harrisville State Park.

1.3 mi Continue on bike path through the park to merge onto Lake Huron Shore Rd. Turn right onto Springport Rd to US 23. Springport Inn (Historical Marker 7) on the corner of Springport Rd & US 23.

3.7 mi Left (south) on US 23. Springport Cemetery (Historical Marker 8) at corner of US 23 & Wallace Rd (0.9 miles from Springport Inn).

0.2 mi Turn right onto Campbell Rd, cross Cedar Lake Rd, continue on Campbell to Greenbush School Quilt Panel.

0.6 mi Backtrack on Campbell to Cedar Lake Rd. Left (north) on Cedar Lake Rd to F-30.

1.1 mi Left on F-30 to Poor Farm Rd.

5.5 mi Right (north) on Poor Farm Rd to Walker Rd.

2.6 mi Right (east) on Walker Rd to US 23.

0.5 mi Right (south) on US 23 to Washington St.

0.5 mi Left (east) on Washington St to Lake St. Right on Lake St to the trailhead at the Harbor. Harrisville Depot (Historical Marker 1) at the end of Dock Street (right off Lake Street).

★ Quilt Trail Panel

Organized in 1878 by Rev. Van Dyke, Westminster Presbyterian Church was built in 1879 on land donated by George W. Colwell, a civic leader and one of the owners of the Harrisville saw mill. It was described in the Alcona Review at the time as "one of the handsomest little churches on the shore." The Church continued until 1895 when the building was used for five years by the Episcopalians. In 1906, it was reopened as Westminster Presbyterian Church with Reverend C.M. Boyce as pastor until 1933. He and his successors have served, and continue to serve, the "yoked" Presbyterian churches in Alcona County: Harrisville, Haynes (until 1969), and Spruce.



Historical Marker: Springport Inn

The Inn was built in 1877 as the home of Joseph and Mary Van Buskirk. They had moved to Harrisville from Clio, Michigan in 1864 after Joseph was discharged from the Union Army after 3 ½ years of service. (He had enlisted as a Private and rose to the rank of Captain, participated in 20 battles and been wounded twice.) He acquired 1,800 acres of timberland and became wealthy as a lumberman. His settlement at Springport became a one-man town, with a sawmill, a shipping pier, a general store, a farm, residences for employees, and his mansion from where he could see all of his holdings. Van Buskirk died in 1905. In 1918 the mansion was sold to Carl Schmidt, the original architect. He operated it as the Springport Resort and Restaurant, a luxury hotel, until 1949. Frank and Kathleen Wyman bought it in 1951 and operated it as the Springport Inn and Restaurant until the 1980s. Ownership passed to Ken and Rebecca Stratton who reopened it as a bed and breakfast. Urs and Sue Schaffleutzel acquired and restored the mansion in 2003.



Historical Marker: Springport Cemetery

Springport Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Alcona County, was also known as the Harrisville South Cemetery. Headstones indicate burials from the mid-nineteenth century. Among the earliest is Elsie Foster, an infant, who died on August 3, 1861, and Caroline Briggs who died in 1864. Sixteen Civil War veterans rest in Springport. Those from Michigan companies bore the names of Aird, LaChapelle, Mitchell, Noyes, O'Connor, Richmond, and Van Buskirk. Early settlers interred here include such names as William Conklin, Isaac Wilson, Olive Independence Wilson, George Hamilton, Joseph Van Buskirk, George Rutson, George W. Colwell.



Historical Marker: Harrisville Depot

The Detroit and Mackinac Railroad made its first regularly scheduled passenger run to Harrisville on Sunday, December 15, 1901, running on a new stretch of track from Lincoln Junction (at present day US-23 and F-41). The cut limestone depot at Harrisville was completed the following month. The people of Harrisville donated stones for the construction of the only stone depot built along the line of the D&M Railroad. The interior curved wood wall which fronts the building and traces the curve of the cut stone exterior remains a remarkable feat of craftsmanship. In 1906, four southbound trains (Detroit from Cheboygan) and three north bound trains (Detroit or Bay City to Alpena) arrived and departed from Harrisville daily. Train travel was considered fast in those days. A train trip would begin at 3:25 a.m. in Harrisville and end at 5:30 p.m. in Detroit. In those days, a car trip from Detroit took two days! The last passenger train left the depot on March 31, 1951. The railroad is still an active freight line.

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www.heritage23.org

Before You Ride



Water is only available at trailhead. Bring your own water on the trip.



Cell phone reception varies and does not exist along some route segments.

County roads have gravel shoulder. US 23 has paved shoulder.

Be predictable and operate like a vehicle.

Always wear an approved helmet.

Ride with traffic.

Use hand signals.

Be mindful of other traffic.

Wear appropriate clothing.

Use lights at night.

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