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# Alcona County Self-Guided Driving Tour C

Mikado, Curtis, Mitchell and  
Millen Townships.



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2023 Edition

**1. St. Raphael Church** (F-30 at F-41, Mikado Township)

This faith community was begun in about 1888 when Father P.C. Winter of the AuSable Parish began saying mass periodically at the nearby McDonald home. Construction of the church began in 1893 under the direction of Father J.A. Doucet. The building was constructed from material from an unused Oscoda school-church. The finished church was dedicated on Sunday, August 18, 1895 by Bishop Richter from Grand Rapids, with some 600 people in attendance. Father Doucet became the Pastor, with Father Poulin as his Assistant. At that time, it was the only church structure in this part of the county.



**2. Klondike School Site** (Northwest corner of F-30 at Buhl Road , Mikado Township)

Klondike School was one of the 5,100 one-room schools in use in Michigan in 1931. The original one-room, wooden structure at this location burned to the ground in September 1906, destroying all contents and furnishings. The following year, Seth Bell & Son won the contract to rebuild the school on the same location. Today only the foundation remains.



**3. Original Bailey School Site** (F-30 just east of Bean Hill Rd., Mikado Township)

Bailey School was one of the 5,100 one-room schools in use in Michigan in 1931. The 18 x 24 foot building was made of locally cut Norway Pine. It was built in 1907 for the children of the logging crews at the C.A. Johnson Logging Camp near Mikado. After logging ceased there, the building was moved northeast to a site west of Mikado. The structure was moved to Sturgeon Point in 1998. Only portions of the original foundation remain intact and visible.



**4. Rearing Ponds at CCC Camp Glennie** (Rearing Pond Road, just north of Pine River)

The rearing ponds can be seen near the campground pavilion that was built by the boys from CCC Camp Glennie. They also built the roads to and beyond this site. This was the site of the first fish hatchery in the state, built to provide the fingerlings that restored fish to the Pine River after the depredations of the loggers who had used the river to float logs to the saw mills. The logs scraped the



stream bottom, thereby wiping out the fish habitat. CCC boys from Camp Glennie also planted the countless trees that restored the surrounding area. Stump land became the forest of today. (The CCC planted a total of 480 million trees nationwide!)

**5. CCC Camp Glennie Barracks** (South on Rearing Pond Road to Kings Corner Road, turn west, about 5.5 miles from Rearing Ponds)

The actual location of the CCC Camp Glennie barracks is in Iosco County a few miles from the rearing ponds. A U.S. Forest Service sign pays tribute to the work of Companies 664 and 1687 of CCC Camp Glennie. The photo below shows Bob Reames next to the sign. Bob spent many years with the U.S. Forest Service. He was the source of much of the information recorded here. Over 3.5 million young men were enrolled in the CCC during the Great Depression. The boys were required to send their earnings home to their families – it kept many of them from starving.



**6. (Former) Glennie United Methodist Church** (5088 Bamfield Rd., Glennie, Curtis Township)

The church was organized on December 25, 1903 by Reverend W.F. Gawn, with 17 charter members. The cornerstone was laid in 1905 and the church was dedicated on December 5, 1907. In 1923 central heating was installed to replace the original wood stoves. A basement was built and the structure was moved onto it. The horse shelter has been replaced with a parking lot and in 1955 an addition was completed.



**7. Curtisville Cemetery** (Clouse Rd., Curtis Township)

The earliest tombstone is dated 1892, but the cemetery is much older than that. (The records were destroyed by a fire at the home of the sexton.) A number of war veterans are interred here, beginning with Civil War and continuing through every war since.



**8. Curtisville Civic Center** (Curtisville School) (Curtisville Rd., Curtis Township)

In 1884 a one-room log schoolhouse was built, at the site now occupied by the Curtisville Civic Center. The land was donated by the lumber company of Moore and Tanner. It was the first school built west of the Au Sable River in Curtis Township. Later the



school moved into another larger log building, also built in 1884, on the same site. The logs were eventually covered with clapboard.

**9. Curtisville Baptist Church** (3165 Curtisville Rd., Curtis Township)

The church was organized in 1880. The church building was built shortly thereafter on land donated by Ebenezer Duncan Curtis, founder of Curtisville. About forty volunteers, using hand-hewn logs, put up the building in the manner of a “barn raising.” Many of the building materials were donated. Members had canvassed for donations all over the region (Oscoda-Au Sable, Lincoln, Harrisville, Alpena, Tawas, Prescott and Hale).



**10. LaForge Centennial Farm** (6688 N. M-65 Mitchell Township) **\*\*\*\*Please note this is a Private Residence\*\*\*\*\***

This eighty acre Centennial Farm has been in the LaForge family since 1887. It was originally owned by James and Emilie LaForge, one of many Ontario families that came during the lumbering era. When the lumbering ended they chose to buy some pine-stump land, to clear the stumps and become farmers. The present dwelling dates from 1961.



**11. Wiedbrauk Centennial Farm** (6825 Ritchie Rd., Mitchell Township) **\*\*\*Please Note this is a Private Residence\*\*\*\***

In 1890 this eighty acre Michigan Centennial Farm was purchased by Lewis Weidbrauk from the L.C. Smith Lumbering Company. He constructed a three room log cabin that was demolished and replaced in 1965. His log barn haymow is still standing and the spring, at which he watered his livestock, is still flowing. He was a lumberman until the lumbering era ended. He chose not to “follow the timber” but to clear the stumps from his land and to become a farmer.



**12. Original Sunnyside United Methodist Church Site** (Reeves Rd., just north of Small Rd., East of M-65, Mitchell Twp)

In 1910, a Ladies Aid Society was formed to raise money to build a United Methodist Church in Curran. On November 19, 1919 the church was dedicated. The Reverend C.S. Brown was the first pastor. In June of 1965 the church moved to its present site. The front steps and hand railings of the original building are still visible.



**13. Hardy Station** (M-72 & McCollum Rd., Mitchell Twp.) Hardy Station was located near the intersection of McCollum Road and Highway M-72. It was a stop on the AuSable and

Northwestern railroad serving logging camps in the region. A large station, it housed a post office and general store, as well as providing lodgings and food for travelers.



**14. Flynn Valley** (Flynn Valley Road, west of M-65, Mitchell Twp.) **CAUTION: Two-track sand road unsuitable for many vehicles**

From 1906 to 1940, Flynn Valley was the site of a prosperous farm community of over 30 families. In 1906, the first settlers, Art and Ruth Flynn came to homestead 160 acres in the McGinn Creek valley. Over the next few years, on the site depicted in the photo on the left, Art Flynn built a house, two barns, a granary, a chicken coop and a blacksmith shop, all log structures. Between 1914 and 1918, Flynn built a frame house and acquired a dairy herd of 145 cows. He employed, and housed, as many as 22 men to work his farm. The farmers and farm buildings are long gone, but some Alcona Historical Site signs have been placed to designate significant locations. **(Daisy Dell School, Ponca Post Office, the Fitch Store)**



**15. Flynn Valley Cemetery** (Cemetery Road east of M-65, south of Flynn Valley Road)

Arthur Flynn and many other Flynn Valley settlers are interred in Flynn Valley Cemetery.



**16. Trinity Lutheran Church** (2096 Trask Lake Rd., Barton City)

In 1907, several German Lutheran families organized a congregation near Mud Lake. The first church was a one-story shingled log house. A tower was added to house a large and beautifully toned bell. A Baptist congregation bought an empty church in Mikado and had it moved to Barton City using six teams of horses and log rollers. When the Baptist congregation failed, the church was purchased by Augusta Kohlman and given to the Trinity Lutheran Church. It was dedicated in 1937.



**17. Mud Lake Lumbering Center** (Barton City Community Park, 1757 Trask Lake Rd, Barton City)

Mud Lake Village (now Barton City) was the center of the great logging boom around 1880-1910 in Alcona County. Cloud sweeping giant trees, 125-200 feet tall, with large trunks two to five feet in diameter, were cut, banked, and transported by railroad to Black River on Lake Huron, then rafted to lower Great Lakes cities.

