



Historic Walking Tour of Hillsdale

Enter Hillsdale on M 99 going south. As you approach downtown, you will see our 100 year old City Hall. Bear right onto Howell Street and go south. Take the second right onto McCollum Street. Proceed one block and start your tour at the Mitchell Research Center.

22 N. Manning St. **Mitchell Research Center (c.1868-1869)**

Begun by Charles T. Mitchell in 1868 and completed in 1869, this private residence was willed to the City upon Mitchell's death in 1899, to take effect upon the death of his wife, Harriett. A grand reception was held in 1908 designating the home as the Mitchell Public Library. Through updates, some of the original style of the building has been lost, but the character of the stately home remains, including the original hand carved front doors. Today the Mitchell Building houses the Mitchell Research Center and the new, all-Michigan Pulver Collection.

*Architectural Elements taken from the report which listed the City of Hillsdale on the National Register of Historic Places:

A.E.:* Three-story, brick, Second Empire style residence converted to library. Low hip roof replacing original mansard projects out beyond the front wall plane to cover a two-story modern portico of thin octagonal columns that now fronts the building. The building has a central, arched, double-door entrance and single and paired, round-head and segmentally arched windows with brick surrounds.

Start your walking tour by going north on Manning Street. As you pass, look at the buildings at the corner of Manning and McCollum streets.

34 McCollum St., **The Midtown Building (c.1922)** Built as one of the first commercial car dealerships, part of the second story housed a dance hall, recreation space, offices and other uses. By 1945, the building housed Montgomery Ward.

A.E.:* Originally, the Pinkham & Wright Ford Dealership, this two-story, rectangular building with a flat roof and brown brick walls is an excellent example of the "Commercial Brick" architectural style. A long rear wing has been demolished and a parking lot takes its place. The building's symmetrical facade is divided into a broad central and shorter side sections by brick piers and has a central entrance and a segmental pediment accent at the roofline. Bands of windows extend across the façade. The prism-glass transoms of the first-story show windows of the original sales floor remain. A low parapet has a simple concrete cap. It may be interesting to note that this building was built as a new automobile dealership; the new industry introduced new building types and new expressions were needed to suit the changing times. The building retained its character through its 1980's conversion to a business center.

33 McCollum St. former **Hillsdale Daily News Building (c.1930)**

Hillsdale County has had a newspaper since 1839. *The Hillsdale County Gazette* paper was originally printed in Jonesville, but when the county seat was located in Hillsdale, the paper followed. Other papers, both weekly and daily, were published in the 1860's and 1870's. The current local paper, *The Hillsdale Daily News*, is a direct descendant of the *Gazette* by way of several intermediate publications. The newspapers occupied several downtown buildings before the construction in the 1930's of an office and plant on McCollum Street. This building is being renovated and will soon house the Hillsdale County Courthouse Annex.

A.E.:* One-story-plus-raised-basement, broad-fronted, hip-roof, brick building in a Prairie School vein. A limestone ashlar entrance portal projects from near the west end of the facade.

Continue north on Manning Street one block. Look at each of the three buildings at the corner of Manning and North Street, the original northern boundary of the City.

60 N. Manning St. **Elks Club: Waldron-Barre House (late 1800's)**

One of Hillsdale's most prominent citizens, Henry Waldron built the stately Second Empire style home. Waldron was president of two different banks, was active in local real estate, and built the first railroad warehouse. Succeeding members of the Waldron family lived in the house, the most prominent of whom was Corvis Barre. Extensive remodeling of the original house has been done.

A.E.:* Much altered since it was built in the late 1800s by Henry Waldron and his wife, this structure is a two story brick Second Empire house with concave mansard roof. Projecting single-bay, second-story, central porches have thin post supports and gable roofs of concave form similar to the mansard profile. Tripartite central windows of Palladian form upstairs.

1 North St. **First United Presbyterian Church (c. 1900)**

The Presbyterians established the first regular and continuous religious organization in Hillsdale. Services were first held in a log cabin schoolhouse built by John Potter Cook and Chauncey Ferris. This building was a combination of Town Hall, Opera House, and Church. The second church home of the Presbyterians was on the present site of St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church and was used until destroyed by fire some nine years later, or about 1853. The third home of the congregation was on the same site as the present church, and was a brick structure built in 1853. It was occupied about forty-seven years until its destruction by fire in 1899. The building committee with C.F. Cook as chairman lost no time in planning a new church building. A gray Bedford (Indiana) limestone building was begun, with laying of the cornerstone on September 9, 1900. Families could rent their own pews and have their names in a card holder on the back of the seat. The church is noted for its Tiffany glass windows bearing the names of early members.

A.E.:* A cross-gable building of Neo-Tudor design with walls of rock-face limestone ashlar, the Presbyterian Church is an impressive example of the auditorium church type favored by Protestant congregations at the turn of the century. Square-plan towers containing the entrances project forward of the building's rectangular main mass, with a one-story, bow-front vestibule section connecting them. The street corner tower is taller and is topped with the belfry, which has two louvered Tudor-arch openings in each face. Crenellations cap both towers. Three Tudor-arch windows, a broad central window and more narrow side ones, pierce the auditorium's gabled front and side walls.

45 N. Manning St. **First United Methodist Church (c. 1865)**

Organized in 1842, this congregation is the second oldest in Hillsdale. The members sustained several fires in various meeting houses until the present church was built on this property after the original frame

church burned in 1863. This building has grown with its congregation, with a wing added in 1889-1892; the interior received alterations in 1908. A school wing was added in 1958. Though the original architect is unknown, the first addition is the work of E. E. Baer, Hillsdale; the interior alterations of 1908 are the work of a builder, Spencer J. Gier, also of Hillsdale. The 1958 school wing is a project of the Lansing firm of Manson & Carver.

A.E.:* This structure is a T-shaped, gable roofed, Round Arch Mode, brick church, with a three story square tower in the street side angle of the T- shaped gabled roof with deep overhang, deep pendant corbel table at eaves. The tower bears small buttresses, cobbled stringcourses and circular stained glass window with an entrance through tower base. Windows are circular arched. Tower roof altered, with short, narrow spire. Rear addition with flat roof, paired and tripled windows.

Now, proceed east on North Street one block to Howell Street. Cross onto “the Wedge” or the “Point.” From this vantage point, you can see many historic structures.

City Hall (1911-1913)

This building was built to house the growing city government after a long funding struggle. William Mitchell, a Cadillac lumberman and Hillsdale native donated \$5,000 toward the building effort. Before this building, Hillsdale government occupied a series of rented spaces and buildings. This Romanesque structure was constructed in 1911-1913 at a cost of \$45,000. The building is an unusual pentagonal-plan Classic Revival building with a large pillared portico. Placed on the former Railroad Square, the City Hall turns its back to the railroad and faces the business district and the County Courthouse. It was originally designed to house both city offices and the fire department. The interior contains mosaic tile, marble and faux marble wainscoting, with oak being used in casings, doors and the main staircase. A complete restoration in 1997 resulted in a 1998 Government Preservation Award, from the Historic Preservation Network.

A.E.:* The building is an unusual pentagonal-plan Classic Revival building on the former Railroad Square with a porticoed front facing south toward Hillsdale’s focal point the Howell/Broad/North streets intersection. The three-story, tiled hip-roof building has a first story finished in grayish sandstone ashlar which serves visually as a pedestal for the two-story upper portion, with its sandstone-trimmed brick walls and pediment, four-column, Tuscan portico. Built between 1911 and 1913, City Hall is the work of Edwyn A. Boyd, architect, and Frier Brothers, builders. The interior contains mosaic tile, marble and faux marble wainscoting, with oak being used in casings, doors and the main staircase. A complete restoration in 1997 resulted in a 1998 Government Preservation Award, from the Historic Preservation Network.

92-94 N. Broad St. **Engelhardt Block (c. 1882)** Listed c.1915 as the Engelhardt Barber Shop, with physicians’ offices and a cigar/tobacco shop in the upper floors and a barber shop on the first floor.

A.E.:* Two story, Panel Brick, street corner building with diagonal corner and flat roof. Second floor with segmentally arched windows grouped in threes within bays at front facade, twos in side facade. Side and front elevations are divided into bays by pilasters having recessed panels within them at the second story level. Central windows at front and all side elevation windows have continuous soldier course heads. Corbelled brick brackets above pilasters and double dogtooth courses above, at base of parapet. A cornice has been removed. Carved stone panel on chamfered wall carries inscription “ENGELHARDT.”

110 N. Broad St. Dawn Theatre (1919)

The Dawn has stood at the center of downtown Hillsdale, Michigan since it opened its doors on September 4, 1919 premiering with “Oh Boy!” a silent movie. One of the first stage productions at the Dawn was “Robin Hood” and the performers found it necessary to change costume among the tombstones

of the Tasker Monument store next door. Originally, the Dawn also housed a \$6,280 theater organ which still exists to this day. As the golden age of film began to fade and multiplex cinemas were built in every suburban community, the old glory of the Dawn Theater also declined. Despite its diminished popularity, many Hillsdale citizens fondly remember going to movies at the Dawn well through the 1980's. In the late 90's its name was changed to the Roxy Theater when owners renovated the venue as a dance nightclub. New owners purchased the building in 2008 and resurrected the Dawn Theatre name.

A.E.:* One story, brick theater with low gable roof. Suspended flat aluminum canopy over central entrance. Brick piers, fiberglass panels.

116 N. Broad – In September 1920, Mr. and Mrs. Paul DeRose opened the DeRose Arbor confectionery and ice cream parlor. They made most of their own candy, hand-dipped the chocolates and in 1930 started making their own ice cream and ice sherbets. A few years later the business was moved several doors south to 98 N. Broad St., a much larger place and sandwiches and light lunches were added. DeRose Arbor is remembered as a popular rendezvous for both young and old.

A.E.:* Three-unit, two-story, brick, Italianate building with segmental-arch second story windows, ventilated and paneled metal frieze below modallioned metal cornice. No. 116 retains an early 20th-C. storefront with recessed central entrance and wood trim.

U. S. Post Office (1911-1912)

In 1839, the first U.S. Post Office in what is now the City of Hillsdale was established in a log cabin. The first Postmaster for this location was John P. Cook, appointed by Martin Van Buren. In 1912, the Federal Building, containing the Post Office, completed a triangular arrangement of formal buildings in Hillsdale's downtown. Built from a post office design that the Post Office Department used elsewhere across the nation at a time when the department was building a great number of post offices nationwide as part of a policy to replace rented quarters subject to fire hazards with Federally owned, fire-safe buildings, the building is one of the best preserved of the state's early twentieth-century post office buildings. The Post Office's public interior space is virtually unchanged, with extraordinary paneling and service windows. Designed by the office of John Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, this property is the **oldest post office building in Michigan still in use as a post office today.**

A.E.:* One story Early Republican Revival building, rectangular with hip roof and central domed cupola. Granite foundation and basement walls and brick above, with limestone quoins and other trim. High arched windows at front facade, smaller square windows within arched recesses at sides. Central entry within slightly projecting central bay. balustraded parapet, segmental dormers. Interior impressive, with original wood paneling, counter signage, and flooring.

Look north towards Hillsdale Street and notice the transportation related buildings.

16 N. Hillsdale St. **Lake Shore & Michigan Southern/New York Central Railroad Freight House and Office Freight House (c. 1910).** The first train system to come to Hillsdale in 1843 was the Michigan Southern Railroad, later becoming the LS&MS. The building now houses a feed store.

A.E.:* Gable-roof, brick building with two-story office section at front and long, one-story, freight house strung out behind. Office section has entrance in center of gable end. Brick is detailed to produce pilasters and piers along long elevation, pediment at gable end. Two-over-two light wood sash with stone sills and heads, shed roofed canopy supported on open timber brackets at entry. Freight house has a linear plan with utilitarian wood brackets supporting broadly overhanging eaves. Four sets of loading doors face street. Parged foundation.

25 Hillsdale St. **Boyd's Hotel/Hillsdale Grocery Company Warehouse (c. 1905/c. 1920)**. This property consists of two attached buildings. The three story warehouse is a typical example of an early 20th century storage facility, but the attached building is an exuberant example of late 19th century ornamentation and massing.

A.E.:* Boyd's Hotel, which fronts on Hillsdale Street, is a two-story, L-shaped, Late Victorian, brick-wall building with a bracketed, pressed-metal cornice, double-decker Tuscan-column verandah in the angle, and bay windows at the second-story street-facing building corners. The building has segmental-arch-head windows and corbelled-brickwork-detailed friezes. The hotel was built or remodeled in its present form between 1900 and 1907.

The Hillsdale Grocery Co. constructed the large three-story brick warehouse building, with industrial steel sash windows, attached to the rear of the hotel between 1913 and 1922 to house its grocery wholesaling business. The former hotel housed the firm's offices. By 1945 the complex housed Scoville Brothers' hay, feed, and farm-supplies business.

Now continue your walking tour by walking south on Howell Street.

100-104 N. Howell St. **Keefer House/ hotel (1885)**

Built by Charles E. Keefer in 1885, the Keefer House soon became a social center for Hillsdale and many public and private functions were held there. The hotel boasted 54 guest rooms, a dining room, two saloons and a gambling room, the site of dances, weddings, receptions and funerals. Since Hillsdale was a major railroad stop, many travelers counted on the hotel for hospitality. A horse drawn carriage conveyed guests from the railroad depot to the hotel, including famous guests: William (Wild Bill) Cody, Annie Oakley, John Ringling, Jason Robards Sr. and Will Carleton. The Keefer House hotel remained a hotel until 1965 when it transitioned to a rooming house and finally closed in the early 2000's. The adjoining retail spaces were used for clothing stores, sporting goods stores, barbershops and an interior design studio.

A.E.:*The Keefer House is an exceptional example of the exuberant architectural expression of the Picturesque Eclectic. This large three-story, Late Victorian hotel building has three storefronts facing on Howell Street and extends along North Street all the way to the mid-block alley. Its facades are constructed of red-brown brick with yellow-buff brick used for the impost blocks for the second- and third-story window arches and to highlight soldier-course belt courses at window sill and lintel level in both the second and third stories. The second-story windows have segmental-arch caps, while the third story has triangular-arch caps. The building's eaves display paneled and corbelled brickwork in high relief supporting the cornice, which appears to be of pressed metal. Brick piers which subdivide the facades have horizontal bands of yellow-buff brick at belt course levels. A small gable directly above the hotel entrance displays the date "1885" and the name "C. E. KEEFER." The Keefer House hotel was a Hillsdale landmark.

73, 75, 77 N. Howell St. **Hillsdale Jewelers**

This building was built some time before 1915 when a fire prompted architectural changes. The building was used as a telegraph office and the post office, as well as a barber shop and photo studio. The building was identified in some sources as having been a printer's office, but no directory entries for that use were found.

A.E.:* This two-story, three-unit, almost triangular, Italianate building stands at "The Point" between Broad and Howell streets. Its brick walls are pierced by round-head windows in the second story which are linked by a stringcourse at spring point level. A corbelled stringcourse also separates the first and

second stories. The storefronts at grade are arcaded, with door separate from windows, all with arched heads, except that at 77 N. Howell, which has a large square plate-glass window and square-head, transformed door. The building has a paneled frieze and modillion classical cornice installed after a fire in 1915. Other changes to the apex facade, which may have been done after the fire, included conversion of a round-arch entrance into a square-head window and removal of a segmental pediment which crowned the facade, console-bracket- supported triangular pediment above the second-floor window, and a small balcony below the window.

92-94 N. Howell St. **Gelzer Furniture (c.1885)** A.E.: This is a two-story, two-storefront, brick, Late Victorian building with Panel Brick detailing. Upper story divided into two large segmental arched bays, each contains four, narrow, rectangular windows. Cut stone is used for spring blocks for the segmental arches, including a center giving the building's date of construction; alternate voussoirs (between brickwork voussoirs) for the arches; and for window-lintel-level string courses set within the segmental-arch-head recesses. Corbelled and saw tooth brickwork supports a metal cornice.

86 N. Howell St. This address is listed as the Coscarelli & Sons Fruit Market between 1925 and 1946. Members of the Coscarelli family still reside in Hillsdale and continue to own this historic building.

A.E.:* Three story, rectangular plan, brick building with very low gable displaying corbelled and saw tooth brickwork. The building has square-head windows with low pediment caps.

74-76 N. Howell St. **Toasted Mud:** This building was used as a mixed retail (butcher, dime store) and professional office (physicians, photographers) through the early 1930's. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall occupied an upper floor. A L.L. Cook Co. post card view from around 1950 shows the modern marquee of the Hill Theatre.

A.E.:* Two-storefront, two-story, Italianate building, with a rectangular plan, brick walls, and a flat roof. The second story has circular-arched windows with molded caps. Below a bracketed metal cornice, a broad frieze band displays an inset cross and vertical panel design.

73 N. Howell St. In 1912, this was the Carlisle Shoe Repair Shop, owned by Merton Carlisle.

70-72 N. Howell St. **City Bakery Building (c. 1881)** The building was listed with female tailors and milliners in 1915 and was the address given for the Western Union telegraph office in the 1920's. Later it housed Lambert's Christmas Meats. The bakery inferred from the building sign was not found in consulted directories.

A.E.:* This is a two-story, two-storefront, late Victorian building with an intricately detailed brick, stone, and terra-cotta facade. Above each storefront at the second-story level, the three side-by-side windows which span each bay are spanned by a stone cornice with pediment center section. Above is a band of terra-cotta blocks containing, above the south storefront, a stone panel with "CITY BAKERY" in raised lettering. A corbelled brick frieze above supports a bracketed cornice whose underside appears to be patterned after bamboo. The facade's elaborate detailing is suggestive of English Queen Anne design.

65-67 N. Howell St. **Moore Insurance** This space was occupied between 1913 and 1933 by the First National Bank. The 1888 and 1893 Sanborn fire insurance maps indicate that the building's street floor then contained three store spaces, with the north and south both housing banks. Look for the historic plaque on the wall of this site which describes the history of this centennial business.

A.E.:* Three-story, three-unit, nine-bay wide, Italianate building, with a trapezoidal plan and flat roof. The walls are of brick, but with a cut stone coursed ashlar veneer on the Howell Street side which,

together with the molded stone or iron caps on the segmental-arch-head second-story and round-head third-story windows must have given that facade an elegance far beyond that of any other facade in the city's downtown in the 1855-65 period in which the building was constructed. An imposing bracketed wood main cornice has been removed. The brick rear facade has segmental-arch-head second- and third-story windows with stone hoods. The street-level storefront for the northern two-thirds of the building is an early twentieth-century, symmetrical, Neo classical arrangement finished in limestone containing a central, window-flanked entrance set beneath a Doric entablature

62 N. Howell St. Served as a grocery in 1894, later as a jewelry and beauty shop.

A.E.:* Two story, rectangular plan, flat roof, brick building with tall and narrow windows with radii upper corners and ornate stone hoods with incised decoration. Deeply toothed corbel table and modern wood box cornice, replacing a more broadly projecting one with a simple bracket at each end.

61 N. Howell St. – 55 N. Howell St. – site of the first Hillsdale State Savings Bank, later relocated to the corner of Howell and McCollum in 1922. O'Meara and Co. moved to this site following the bank's move. The "oldest retail firm in the City of Hillsdale", O'Meara and Co., which supplied home and office decorating materials was founded in 1880 by brothers William and Matthew D. O'Meara. Originally, this building housed the Waldron House hotel.

A.E.:* Two-story, brick, seven-bay wide, Italianate building with square-head windows with low pediment iron caps and deeply paneled frieze. The southerly five bays are covered with modern metal-grill sheeting. The rear elevation on Broad has nine windows of similar design to the Howell Street ones and a low bracketed wooden cornice. This building is a remnant of a four-story building illustrated in a mid-1860s photograph of the Waldron Block. The upper two stories had been removed by 1888 when the earliest Sanborn maps show the building having its present height.

58-60 N. Howell St. **The Underwood Block/ Gelzer Hardware Store.** Originally a three-story building, the now removed third floor housed the Underwood Opera House, the city's leading meeting place in the late nineteenth century. This building also housed the Hillsdale firehouse.

A.E. :Originally a three-story building crowned by a mansard roof, this three-storefront, brick, Italianate building now is reduced to two stories, with a flat roof, but retains its second-story facade-Fenestration and some detailing. Brick piers subdivide the facade into three sections, with triple round-head windows in the center, the central one larger than the ones flanking it, and three broad round-head windows in each side section. Raised brick caps spring from piers between the windows.

56 N. Howell St. (c.1910) Hillsdale Hardware Store occupied the building's ground floor. During construction work in the summer of 1978, a "mystery room" equipped with "an old tank toilet, some old shelving, a hand truck and a rusty auto jack" was discovered at this address underneath the sidewalk. Interviewed by the Hillsdale Daily News, local resident Erwin Dennis remembers the underground room as the living space of the night watchman for G.N. Smith's hardware store.

A. E.: Three-story, brick, Italianate building with round-head windows. The facade is covered with the metal sheathing that also covers 50-52 and 54, giving the three buildings a common facade. Old photographs show florid cast-iron window caps, which may remain in place, and a boldly projecting bracketed wood cornice, which is certainly lost.

49 N. Howell St. (c.1860) **The Waldron Block/ The Hillsdale Savings Bank Building/Hillsdale County Courthouse Annex.** The history of this building is not clear. The Waldron Block, of which this building was a part, reportedly suffered a large explosion and fire in 1879. The 1888 Sanborn map notes

the building as having only two stories. Perhaps the earlier building was rebuilt after the 1879 damage with the Broad Street facade as it remains today above the first-story alterations. The 1888 and 1893 Sanborn maps locate the post office in the building's Broad/McCollum corner. By 1900, it had moved to the Sutton Block at the southeast corner of the Howell/Bacon intersection. Joseph Bonfiglio occupied the corner store from 1900-1907. About 1929 the building was purchased by the Hillsdale Savings Bank and remodeled. Later the building was purchased by Vannatter and Howell, CPA. The entire building now serves as the Hillsdale County Courthouse Annex.

A.E.: Two-story, Neoclassical, limestone and brick bank building with antae at corners of main, street corner mass which support a broad entablature and stepped parapet. The main entry is decorated with a classical urn, scrolls, and granite doorway surround with rope molding. The rear elevation on South Broad is Late Victorian in character and has brick walls with segmental-arch second-story windows with brick caps and corbelled brick detailing below the cornice. A photograph, probably from the mid-1860s, shows a three-story brick Italianate building with paired-bracket cornice and square-head, six-over-six-light windows.

50-52 N. Howell St./41, 45 McCollum St. **Masonic Temple Building**

The Masons have apparently used the third-floor space since the building was constructed and by the turn of the century expanded into the third floor of the adjoining building. A long-term tenant of this building was the Goodrich Drug Store (est. 1887), which passed through several incarnations between its first listing in 1894 and its listing in 1946 as McSherry's Drug Store. The upper floors were used for physicians' offices.

A.E.: This three-story, brick, Italianate building shows in the 1866 Hillsdale bird's eye view. The building has square-head window openings with slightly pediment stone or iron caps. The building's long side wall on McCollum with its highly inventive corbelled brick bracketing remains intact and visible. An addition along McCollum behind the building, 45 McCollum, now contains the main entrance to the Masonic Temple upstairs in 50-52 N. Howell. This lobby/stair hall section, probably dating c.1950, is a rectangular, brick-wall building with a limestone-trimmed portal entrance and, above it, a vertical window band rising to the third story.

Hillsdale County Court House and Public Square (1889)

The trapezoidal public square was set aside for public purposes in the 1839 "Original Plat" of the city. The square contains the county courthouse, a parking lot to its south and several monuments. The current courthouse was constructed in 1889 at a cost of \$45,000. The courthouse is one of four in Michigan designed by Jackson architect Claire Allen. The internal design was fashioned with intricate carvings, wooden wainscots, marble floors, a center rotunda and is enhanced by its symmetry. The clock tower contains a Seth Thomas clock with Menelly Westminster chimes.

A.E.: The yellow-buff sandstone, Renaissance/Classical Revival courthouse stands in the center of the courthouse square facing west on Howell Street. The building has three stories, including a partly below-ground basement and a high second story containing the courtroom. The building's lower two stories are treated as a basement, finished in rusticated masonry. The walls' upper two stories display pilasters with stylized Corinthian capitals. A projecting arcaded entrance block in the center of the facade supports a pedimented portico of four Corinthian columns. The courthouse's end walls also have projecting, pediment-capped, central masses. Above the main hip roof, a tower with a square-plan base and square- and octagonal-plan sections terminates in a copper-tile-sheathed-domed cupola with lantern.

44 N. Howell St. **Current Office Solutions**, formerly Hillsdale Grocery Co. (owner E.A. Dibble), then Hoover's Tavern, later J. C. Penney and Jill's Office Supply.

A.E.: One story modern brick building with rectangular plan, flat roof, and a suspended flat aluminum sidewalk canopy.

36-40 N. Howell St. **ODD FELLOWS HALL (1863) The Palace Cafe** whose interior with its pressed metal ceiling, old booths, and other woodwork remains largely intact since 1915 when previously occupied by a restaurant/confectionary known as the Palace of Sweets. Erected as the meeting hall for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, hardware store operator John Potter Cook is known to have kept an office on the second floor of the building later in the century, and the lower floor may well have housed this store. The building's third floor contained the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1903, Greece native Nick Cotsonis bought the building and opened Cotsonis Candy Kitchen. The 1907 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the local Grand Army of the Republic camp using the second story.

A.E.:*Three story, Italianate, brick building with rectangular plan and flat roof. The three bays with their segmental-arch second-story and round-arch third-story windows are the south end of a nine-bay, three-building grouping with unified facade. The north end of the building has been demolished. A corbelled brickwork frieze with arcaded lower extreme once supported a paired wood bracket cornice, but this has been removed.

30-34 N. Howell St. **Nash Drugs**. The first listing found was a real estate agent, J. R. Sutton, in 1894. The building also housed O'Meara paint & wallpaper store c. 1915. After moving his family from Yale, Michigan, Mr. Herbert T. Hennessy started Hennessy's Drug Store on September 10, 1923.. The first store was established at 53 N. Howell St., but in August, 1926, Mr. Hennessy bought the Sheffield Book Store at 30 N. Howell St. and moved the drug store to that location. Products offered at the store consisted of proprietary medicines, prescriptions, and cosmetics. Hennessy's also sold herbs and extracts to Chief Longwolf for his famous tonic. On June 30, 1974 the assets were sold and the corporation was dissolved. George W. (Bill) Nash then became the owner.

A. E.: Three story Italianate brick building, nine bays wide with rectangular plan and flat roof. Upper stories have circular arched windows, the two at the north end retaining plain molded stone or iron caps while the caps on the others have been removed and replaced with brickwork. Simple bracketed cornice over seven of the nine bays.

12-28 N. Howell St. **"Union Block"** This block of seven single-storefront-wide, two-story buildings having a common facade appears in the 1866 Hillsdale bird's eye view.

A.E.: The flat-roof, brick, Italianate buildings have circular-arched windows with soldier-course arch surrounds. A stringcourse above the window heads and corbelled brickwork in the frieze aligned directly above the window openings has survived, but a bracketed wooden cornice is no longer present.

28 N. Howell St. **Nash Hallmark Shop (1864)** This building was built following destruction of the block by a February 1863 fire. It is originally the site of Meade's Furniture Store which later became Hayes and Miner's Furniture and Undertaking. Then a news agency and bookstore until the late 1920s when it became the Hayes-Handy drug store, until the Nashes acquired it. Previously, the upper floor contained the Knights of Pythias Hall.

24 N. Howell St. Listed as the Perry Brothers clothing store between 1915 and 1936.

22 N. Howell St. (c.1894) listed as the Sheldon shoe & boot store; 1915-1925 as the Schmidt shoe store.

20 N. Howell St. Used as a hardware store for over fifty years, with the Gardner store (established in 1874) listed in 1894 and the Katzenmeyer store from 1915 to 1946.

18 N. Howell St. Listed as the Walworth dry goods store between 1915 and 1937.

14 N. Howell This building was owned throughout the years by many early Hillsdale County pioneers. It was purchased in 1925 by Maud Johnson. From around 1933 to 1937 it was an A & P grocery store but typically was occupied by clothing stores with physicians' offices above.

12 N. Howell St. Historically occupied by grocers/dry goods stores on the first floor with physicians' offices above. Marvin E. Hall established a men's clothing store in Hillsdale in the late 1880's in the building just south of the Hayes-Handy Furniture Store. Fred and Henry Perry became partners with Hall on August 1, 1902. Two years later, the Perrys bought Hall's interest and the name Perry Brothers was given to the firm. On August 1, 1936, the business was moved to 12 N. Howell St. This building had previously been a grocery store that had burned. Kenneth C. Montgomery of Detroit bought the firm from the Perrys in April, 1947 and changed the name to Perrys Men's Wear.

10 N. Howell St. **Maribeth's. (c.1880's)** This was the site of the First Methodist Church from 1845-1863. In February of 1863, the church and several adjacent buildings were destroyed by fire. Sometime prior to 1885, this building was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. French and was known as the French building. It housed a dressmaker in 1894 and the Farnsworth dry goods store between c. 1915 and c. 1946. In 1909, F. L. Farnsworth of Butler, IN purchased the dry goods and ladies' ready-to-wear business from a Mr. Duguid. Mr. Farnsworth moved his family to Hillsdale, and Hubert J. Farnsworth entered Hillsdale College. The business was operated under the name of The F. L. Farnsworth Company until 1913, when Hubert graduated from college and joined the firm. It then became known as F. L. Farnsworth and Son. In 1954, Gale Touse joined forces with Hubert Farnsworth. In 1960, Touse purchased stock in the corporation and changed the name to The Touse Company. The building now houses one of Hillsdale's finest gift shops named after Maribeth Watkins, who owns the business with her husband, Dan Watkins.

A.E.: A two story, rectangular plan, brick building with flat roof. Upper story has three bays separated by piers, tall narrow windows with pediment hoods detailed with—sunbursts, heavily toothed corbel table below the frieze, and a modest cornice with a bracket at each end.

8 N. Howell. Formerly Meyers Jewel Box/ 8 North. The Hillsdale Savings Bank occupied the premises from c. 1910 to c.1933. Although extensive renovations has changed much of the original architecture, a look inside reveals a mosaic floor that remains, a picture of the original Savings Bank, and a U.S. bank note with the signature of Charles Mitchell, one of Hillsdale's founding fathers.

A.E.: Two stories, brick with rectangular plan, flat roof. Modern brick facade altered, upper story blind with stepped parapet. Remodeled from the Hillsdale Savings Bank, which had a Neoclassical facade with four-column Ionic portico.

2-6 N. Howell St. **Jilly Beans** Formerly the Smith Hotel, built in 1873 by brothers, John H. and William H. Smith. In 1908, the Smith Hotel boasted a restaurant, bar, barber shop, and later billiards. The two main hotels, the Smith and Keefer House, had the same proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Watson, who lived at the Smith Hotel. From ca 1924 to 1957, the J.C. Penny Store occupied the building. Now reduced to two stories after a fire destroyed the third floor, there is a lovely "secret garden" in back, evidence of a portion of the building destroyed by fire.

A.E.: Three-storefront, three-story, brick, Italianate building, now reduced to two stories after a fire. Surviving second-story facade has five bays, the central one displaying tripartite, round-head windows

(repeated in now-removed third story), and the side ones square-head windows console-supported segmental-pediment hoods. The Bacon Street side features paired circular-arched windows.

Stop at the end of the block, at the corner of Howell St. and Bacon St. Look across the street at 2 S. Howell St, the Hillsdale County Community Foundation.

2 S. Howell St. Hillsdale County Community Foundation (c.1874)

This was a drug store and also the office of the telephone company.

A.E.: Two-story, Italianate, flat roofed, brick building with panelled, modillioned, and a bracketted wood cornice which contains a small pediment centrally located on the Howell Street side with "1874" in the frieze directly below. Round-head second-story windows with molded caps in the three-bay front and long Bacon Street side with its twelve second-story window openings.

Continue your tour by crossing Howell Street, and proceed one block east on Bacon Street. Cross to the east side of Broad Street. Stop here and look east to the Old Stock's Mill and south to the Stock's Mansion.

Stock's Mill



Though Frederick Stock did not arrive in Hillsdale until 1869, the impact of his industry and that of three generations of his family was enormous. Stock moved to Hillsdale and purchased the original grist mill begun by Ferris and Cook in 1869. By the 1850's the mill was producing 8,000 barrels of flour yearly.

Stock made many improvements in the mill-- deepening the mill race and completely replacing the old milling machinery with the newest available. He also acquired a new patent process whereby flour could be milled, "pure white and wholesome." No longer did cooks have to serve black sour bread or heavy biscuits. This was advertised as "Stock's Patent Flour." By 1879 with a rail spur connecting the mill to the Michigan Southern track, the mill was shipping freight cars loaded with flour, wheat, and oats and storing 23,000 bushels of wheat.

Even though the family sustained the loss of two young sons and two daughters, the remaining three sons were sent to MN and VA to expand the company. The mill became the largest family owned plant east of the Mississippi. Harold Stock, grandson of F.W. Stock, finally sold the mill in 1959 after he himself had managed the business for many years. Pillsbury sold the mill in 2003 to Mennel Milling Company who then closed the mill.

Stock/McCrie House: In 1902 Frederick Stock commissioned an architect to design a classic home to replace the frame house that had long stood across the street from the mill. The Neoclassical style home, as well as the charming summer house, remained in the Stock family until the death of F. W.'s grandson, Harold in 1987.

Mrs. Stock's Park

Following the deaths of four of her children, Wilhelmina, (Mrs. F.W. Stock) found solace in gardening. She began the transformation of the lowlands behind her home into, what she called, Willow Park. Hundreds of trees were planted, ponds were dug and formal gardens were established. The park was maintained by the Stock family but "open to all". Over the years the Park had deteriorated. In 2003, the Park was deeded to the City and revitalization efforts by the Hillsdale Garden Club and many dedicated volunteers have transformed this space into a place of pride in the City.

3 N. Broad St. St. Peter's Episcopal Church (1859)

Episcopals held their first service in 1839 in Howder's Tavern located on the present Fairgrounds and continued to hold services in various locations until 1859. This building housed the first pipe organ and the oldest bell in the city and still retains the beamed ceilings and colonial styled pews.

A.E.: Gable-roofed Gothic Revival brick church with low, shallow transepts. Square corner tower with large louvered circular arched openings and broach spire with louvered dormers. Small pent-roof narthex, with round-arch entrances through tower and beneath gable at other end of narthex.

Now continue walking north on Broad Street.

17 North Broad St. St. Anthony Catholic Church (1883-1884)

This church houses Hillsdale County's oldest and Hillsdale's only Roman Catholic congregation. The parish was organized in 1853 as a mission from Adrian, and the parish bought the old Presbyterian Church in 1856. This building was built in 1883-1884 and served Hillsdale's predominantly Irish Catholic congregation largely brought to Hillsdale while building the railroad.

A.E.: Brick Gothic Revival church, central square tower with broach spire, entrance through base. Old but added one story narthex sections flanking tower. Brick corbel tables at parapet rakes, tower cornices, and eaves. The stone for the church's foundation was brought by a parish family, the Rileys, and it was built by a local contractor, W. H. Myers, who also built the Keefer House hotel and the county jail. No mention was found of the architect in newspaper accounts of the church construction or in other entries on the Catholic Church.

27 N. Broad St. James W. Winsor Store (Weisel Seed Store).

The property was purchased by James Winsor from Elihu Martindale and wife in July, 1870. The Winsors operated a grocery here and later owners used the property as a drugstore, feed/seed store, and for other uses such as a machine shop. Most recently the building has held offices for local attorneys.

A. E.: Two story rectangular brick veneer building with flat roof. Simple storefront with wood piers, centered door, and side door to upper story. Three circular-arched windows with soldier-coursed hoods. Paneled brick frieze. Historic interior features include grain and feed cabinet, scale. This is reputed to be the oldest standing commercial building in Hillsdale, with a reported construction date of 1844. However, the building does not appear in the 1866 bird's eye view of Hillsdale. Given the building's Italianate character, it seems likely that owner either had the present structure constructed or an older gable-roof building extensively remodeled in the early 1870s.

29 N. Broad St. Used from 1915-1946 as a grocery; for many years the grocer, H. J. Cozzens, lived upstairs.

A.E.: Two story brick Italianate building. Four windows in second story with segmental brick arches, soldier coursed hoods. Stringcourse below small corbel table.

31-33 N. Broad St. **Natural Family Food Co-op**, was formerly one of the Hillsdale Daily Newspaper printing offices.

A.E.: Richly textured two story rectangular Commercial Brick building. Flemish bond panels between first and second floor windows and in frieze, edged with soldier-coursed bands. Second story windows transformed with paired sash below. Corbelled brick cornice.

41 N. Broad St. Most recently, Smith's Flowers and before that, Carlisle Shoes. Probably originally a grocery, this had been a shoe store or repair shop since ca. 1925.

A.E.: Two story brick Italianate building with rectangular plan. Five narrow, round-arch second story windows, central one wider. Denticulate stringcourse joins windows at imposts. Central, segmental pediment with oculus and denticulate corbel table. Interesting for its shaped parapet and oculus.

Before ending your walking tour here, look north on Broad Street. You will see:

45 N. Broad St. This address was listed as a billiards hall and Woodmen's Hall, American Legion, and motor sales. Two story rectangular brick and concrete block building with flat roof. Front elevation covered with aluminum siding, falling off in places to reveal brick below.

47 N. Broad St. This address was listed as the Newhousner Hatchery building. The Spoke Shop opened here on April 19, 1974 under the ownership of Ray Bentley, as a full service bicycle store.

A.E.: Two story rectangular brick and concrete block building with flat roof. Front elevation covered with aluminum siding. Wood shake roofed pent, connected to pent at No. 45. was listed as a billiards hall, offices, and motor sales.

55 N. Broad St. **Broad Street Market (mid-1920s)** This building was built as a new automobile dealership and was used for J.C. Decker Buick Sales between 1929 and 1946. The Broad Street Market displays the textural brickwork, medallion ornament, and simple expression of fenestration of the "Commercial Brick" style.

A.E.: Broad-fronted, one story, rectangular, brick building, flat roofed with soldier-coursed parapet; "Commercial Brick" detailing with contrasting tile lozenge band below parapet.

59-61 N. Broad St. One story "Commercial Brick" building. Between 1929 and 1946, it was used as a cleaners and laundry. More recently, this building housed Hart's Copier/Graphics 3 and the Bountiful Tree Christian Book Store. Notice the "Printer" entrance to the northern storefront.

A. E.: One story "Commercial Brick" building with rectangular plan, flat roof. Two-unit building with doors in outside bays. Soldier course above openings. Small keystone at center of header-course panel. Stone coping.

Now, you may return to your car by going two blocks west on McCollum Street. We hope you have enjoyed your Historical Tour of historic Hillsdale.