

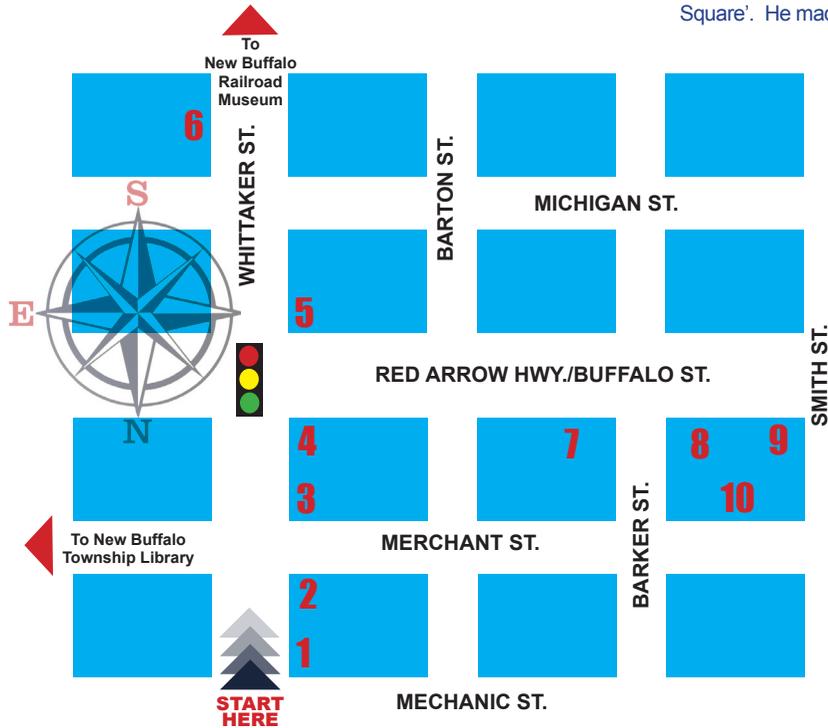
Russell 1. Goodrich Hotel, first hotel site
Block 12 Lot 2

Russell Goodrich was closely associated with Capt. Wessel Whittaker in the settlement of New Buffalo. Goodrich's sister Maria was married to Wessel Whittaker's brother, Capt. Harry Whittaker of Detroit.

A noted innkeeper from Hamburg, NY, Goodrich built and occupied the city's first hotel in the summer of 1835. In the style of that era, the Goodrich Hotel provided rooms and also contained a tavern and dining room.

The hotel became a center of activity, including the first election in the township on March 23, 1836, and regular church services by the Elder Hascall in the dining room starting in 1837.

During the winter of 1841, only two families remained residents of New Buffalo: – the Russell Goodrich and



Jacob Gerrish Families. Goodrich died Oct. 17, 1850, and is buried in New Buffalo with his wife, Comfort. Now the site of Casey's Bar & Grill, the old ice house remains on the patio that was used to store ice cut from the river during the winter.

Continue south to Site 2 at 100 N. Whittaker St.

2. Site of the First Log Cabin
Block 12 Lot 6

"The first settlement was in April 1835 by four settlers: Wessel Whittaker, Henry Bishop, Truman A. Clough and William Hammond. The log house was occupied by these four men for two or three months.

"Their bed consisted of the tops of pine trees laid

across one side of the building. Captain Whittaker occupied position number 1, while Henry Bishop occupied number 2. They were favored with a buffalo robe and a comforter, while the traveler only had what nature had furnished for his share of the bed, unless he carried it with him." *From "New Buffalo Recollections 1985" by David Savage*

Continue south, crossing Merchant Street. Site 3 is on the southwest corner of Merchant and Whittaker Streets.

3. Seaman's Square
Block 21

Seaman's Square, also designated as the entire Block 21, as described in "The New Buffalo Story 1834-1976:" "... and no one worked harder than Wessel Whittaker as he continued to promote his dream. He laid out Block 21 bounded by Buffalo, Whittaker, Merchant and Barton and called it 'Seaman's Square'. He made gifts of these lots to Great Lakes captains, hoping they would make New Buffalo their home port. Unfortunately, none did so, preferring to sell the lots for profit."

According to local historian David Savage: "Captain Whittaker laid out a block as a gift to twelve men: Abi Allen, Levi Allen, James L. Baxter, Samuel Chase, Lester Colton, HF Day, Charles Ludlow, John P Ludlow, George Miles, Ira Perkins, Robert Wagstaff and Stephen R. Walker."

Continue south to Site 4 at 26 N. Whittaker St.

4. Whittaker House
Block 21 Lot 4

Whittaker House occupies one of the oldest commercial buildings in New Buffalo, built in 1871 by Frederick Gerdes and operated by him as a grocery store until his death in 1914.

Between 1920 and 1936, 26 N. Whittaker was Rymal's Plumbing Shop with space also provided for Winfield Redding's real estate office and Martin Littlejohn's office, where he kept books for New Buffalo Savings & Loan.

During the 1940s, Bartley's and then Reese's Sport Shop occupied the building, followed by Angie Rizzo's Petite Salon from 1953 to 1984.

During a 1984 remodel, then owner Marjorie Bloom restored the building's original tin ceilings and ship's siding tongue and groove paneling.

Continue south crossing Buffalo Street. Site 5 is at 24 S. Whittaker St.

5. United Methodist Church Building
Block 28 Lot 4

From 1861 until its sale in 2015, this church building housed the congregation of the United Methodist Church. Some changes and additions have been made over the years, but

the original lines of the building remain little changed." Until the congregation relocated to a new building on the south edge of town in 2014, it was the oldest continuously used religious house in New Buffalo.

Across Whittaker Street and one block further south is Site 6 at 115 S. Whittaker St.

6. Little Bohemia
Block 36, Lot 11

Most recently the site of Hannah's Restaurant, the building that stood here until it was razed in 2014 was built as a summer home in the late 1800s for prominent landholder and faith healer August "Doc" Birkholz. Among other features, the structure was known for its hand-finished cherry wood staircase in the entry way.

In the late 1920s, the building became part of the New Buffalo summer resort scene as the Fairview Hotel which lasted until the early 1940s when it was bought by Anna and James Janota who converted it to the Little Bohemia Restaurant in 1951. It later was refurbished and became the Little Bohemia Bed and Breakfast Inn by Phil and Laura Potter.

In the mid-1980s, it became Hannah's Restaurant owned by Lee and Sherri Waddle until its closing in 2009.

Return to the light.

Cross Buffalo Street and head west to Site 7 at 120 W. Buffalo St.

7. Jacob Gerrish Homestead Site
Block 22 Lots 7 & 8

Built around 1836, the original house was 28 x 16 feet and two stories tall with a cellar and adjacent 18- by 20-foot stable, "the best built in the village." Gerrish's daily diary (which can be found at the New Buffalo Township Library) serves as the foundation of New Buffalo's early history. The buildings were greatly modified over the years, housing in later years the popular Country Mates Christmas and Gift Store. It was razed in 2014.

Gerrish came to New Buffalo in 1835 and kept a record of events from that time to his death in 1858. His desire to see New Buffalo prosper led him to advance money to every undertaking he thought would advance the interest of the community and his home was open to all who came. The poor and suffering had only to ask to receive.

"Settling on Barker Street, Jacob Gerrish soon became a mainstay of New Buffalo, serving as storekeeper, blacksmith, farmer and real estate agent. Described as a 'Puritan of Puritans,' he was an ardent supporter of church and school and held many village and township offices, including postmaster, treasurer and inspector of schools. In the eyes of historians, however, Jacob Gerrish's most important accomplishment was the keeping of a daily diary. The 'Journals of Jacob Gerrish,' preserved and compiled by the Chamberlain family, best tell the story of early life in New Buffalo." *From "The New Buffalo Story 1834-1976"*

Continue west to Site 8 at 200 W. Buffalo St.

8. St. John United Church of Christ
Block 23, Lot 6

Now called St. John United Church of Christ, this

congregation was organized in 1858 by Reverend Charles Haas of Michigan City, Ind., as the German Evangelical Church. Originally built in 1862 across the street, the building was moved to its present site in 1890. The church has been modernized greatly over the years, including the addition of the annex, which was the Little German School on the old parsonage grounds.

St. John Church is a registered Michigan Historic Site No. L1153B.

Continue west to Site 9 at 224 W. Buffalo St.

9. Site of the First School House
Block 23 Lot 7

The first school in southwestern Berrien County was opened on this site in 1836 and had the distinction of being built of boards instead of logs. A new two-story brick school on this site was built in 1945 which later housed City Hall. The current City Hall was built on this site in 1998.

Turn south on Smith Street. At the next corner, Merchant Street, turn right. Site 10 is at 213 W. Merchant St.

10. First Doctor's House
Block 23 Lot 1

The house now standing on this site is believed to have been built around the remains of the home of Dr. Reuben Pierce, New Buffalo's first physician, making it one of the oldest home sites in New Buffalo.

Reuben Pierce and Simeon Pierce were listed in the 1840 Federal census of New Buffalo. They were cousins to Wessel Whittaker and Wessel's sister Prudence Abbot who also appeared in the 1840 census. Wessel and Prudence's mother was Mary 'Polly' Pierce.

11. First Lighthouse
(Not included on the tour map.)

Completed in 1840, the lighthouse and keeper's quarters were constructed of whitewashed brick and limestone. It was located on a high point of land a quarter mile south of where Lighthouse Creek enters Lake Michigan in Sunset Shores. Unfortunately, the site was on a sand dune and the foundations collapsed in 1857, undermined by wind and wave action.

The site had been selected and stakes set in September of 1839 following a favorable survey by Army Lieutenants Berrien, Stockton and Rose. The lighthouse included keeper's quarters and was constructed of whitewashed brick and limestone, using local boulders and bricks made by Isaac Adams. The first tender was Timothy S. Smith, appointed by Pres. Van Buren.

We hope you have enjoyed this brief glimpse of New Buffalo's past. If you would like to learn more about our community, stop by the New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker, new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org; or visit the New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St., newbuffalotownshiplibrary.com.

Our Historic Plaques and Walking Tour

This walking tour provides a glimpse into New Buffalo's history while introducing you to our lakefront community. Sites of major significance are designated by bronze plaques made from woodcuttings by fifth generation artist Terry Hanover and were sponsored by the city's volunteer Sesquicentennial Committee in 1986. The narrative and map were reissued in 2015 to mark the city's 50th anniversary.

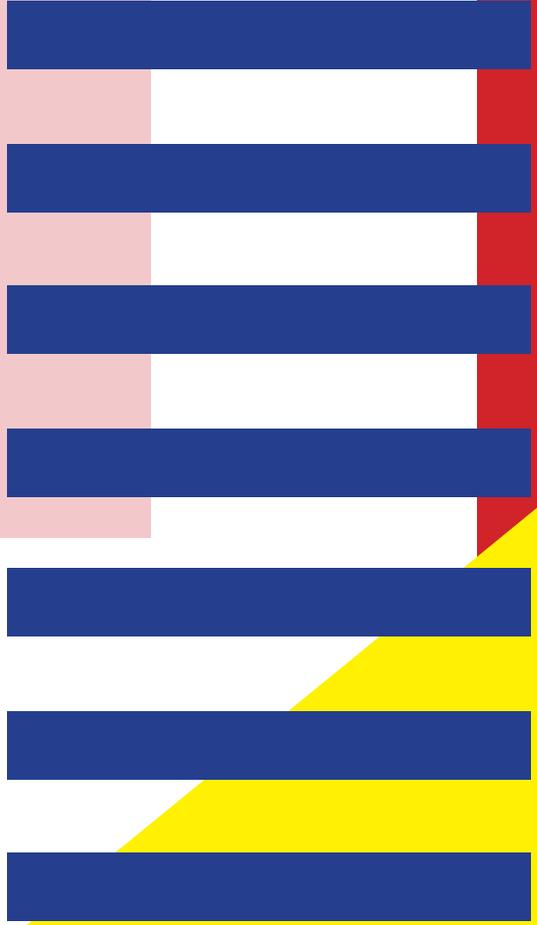
To learn more about New Buffalo's rich history, visit New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., where "The New Buffalo Story, 1834-1976" and "The New Buffalo Story, 1977-2012" are available.

The tour begins at New Buffalo's lakefront park and encompasses 11 blocks in the downtown area. (The Lighthouse at 333 N. Eagle St. is not within convenient walking distance and is not shown on the map, but its history is described under Site 11.)

As you cross the bridge, imagine what Capt. Whittaker saw. To the east, where condos and boat slips now stand, was a body of water referred to as "Lake Potawatomi" on an 1853 map.

According to diarist Jacob Gerrish, the Potawatomi Indians camped on the beach near the river and created an Indian trading post where Nancy's Hot Dogs now stands.

Continue south to Site 1 at 136 N. Whittaker St., crossing Mechanic Street which, at the time of the early settlers, was the main road, built on an Indian trail from the Indiana state line north to St. Joseph, MI.



CITY OF
NEW BUFFALO
MICHIGAN

WALKING
TOUR OF
HISTORIC
INTEREST

In the Beginning

After his schooner "Post Boy" was destroyed by a violent 1834 autumn storm, Capt. Wessel D. Whittaker was inspired by the advantages and beauty of New Buffalo's natural harbor surrounded by dunes and woodland. After settling his affairs in his native Buffalo, NY, Whittaker returned to create his dream of a lakeport city he called New Buffalo.

Even before Michigan became a state, New Buffalo was recognized as a township which at that time included all of today's New Buffalo, Chikaming and Three Oaks Townships. Chikaming and Three Oaks Townships incorporated separately in 1856 and the City of New Buffalo was chartered in 1965.



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