

### **Northern State Bank Building** 319 Main Street West

This finely-detailed rectangular bank, built in 1921, of reinforced concrete after designs by Thomas Shefchik of Ashland features the Neo-Classical Revival style expressed through the Ionic Order. Located on the northeast corner of Main Street and 4th Avenue West, the building's west facade continues the Neo-Classical mode with six engaged Ionic columns between the rectangular windows. A well-designed, compact, modern addition was built to the east in the 1980s and connected to the original bank building.

Northern State Bank was originally the Northern National Bank, which was forced to close in 1933 due to devastating economic conditions following the Great Depression. This management change is evidenced by the replacement blocks in the name and date stone on the building. It reopened as Northern State Bank and the building's altered facade is significant as a legacy of the Depression era in Ashland's commercial district.

### **Ashland Historical Museum** 216 Main Street West

Drop by the Ashland Historical Society Museum to learn even more about all of these buildings, and the city's fascinating past.

### **Masonic Meeting Room** 522 Main Street West

Although its first floor is currently the home of Huhn Rx Drug, Ashland's Masonic Temple building initially housed two retail businesses – a hardware store and a pharmacy – while its second floor contained 16 separate offices with polished maple floors. According to a 1946 booklet published by the Northland College Press, the cornerstone of the Romanesque Revival-style building was laid on July 15, 1895, by Grand Master Eugene S. Elliott of Milwaukee. The architect was Charles McMillan of Duluth, Minn.

Completed at a cost of \$32,000, the four-story building was dedicated on December 29, 1895. Familiar names on the Masonic Temple building committee was Samuel S. Fifield who, along with Dr. Edwin Ellis, was also a charter member of Ashland Lodge #210. The first story of the building was constructed of brownstone with the balance being of pressed brick with sandstone trimming. The building features decorative elements and round stained glass windows bearing Masonic emblems.

The third floor was used exclusively for Masonic purposes, being subdivided into lodge rooms, a ladies' dressing room, and a large banquet hall in the rear with musicians' gallery and kitchen. The main lodge room measured 36 ft. by 74 ft. with a majestic

21-foot-high ceiling. Newspaper accounts of the time describe a large stage on the east side of the third floor and a gallery to the west. Across the front of the stage was "an arch, entirely composed of oak, and built with Ionic columns...making a beautiful effect. This handsome hall is acknowledged to be the finest in Ashland."

### **Ashland City Hall Building** 601 Main Street West

Construction on this building was completed in 1893. The building was built as the Post Office, made of native brownstone that was obtained from quarries near Ashland. The steps were built of St. Cloud granite. In 1940, the post office moved out and the building was used as the Ashland Vocational School until 1970, when the WITC Ashland Campus was finally completed.

Then the building sat empty for a number of years. In 1974, it was named to the National Register of Historic Sites, and in 1975, the City of Ashland was the recipient of a grant from the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission for restoration of the building to use as the City Hall. The newly renovated building was dedicated in 1977 as the Ashland City Hall, and is still used as such today!

### **Wilmarth Mansion Building** 522 Chapple Avenue

Recognized as the most architecturally significant property in the City of Ashland, the historical importance of the Wilmarth Mansion is equally impressive. Built in 1886 by Lewis Cass Wilmarth, one of Ashland's most storied businessmen, this grand Georgian Revival residence remains a beacon of the city's 19th-century economic boom.

Wilmarth lived in the stately home until his death in 1907. His family resided there for another decade when ownership passed to Ashland General Hospital. Following two years of renovations and the completion of an extensive three-story addition, the new hospital opened its doors in 1919. Over the next 74 years, the Wilmarth Mansion functioned primarily as a medical facility.

### **Ellis Fire Station** 300 Stuntz Avenue

The Ellis Fire Station located on Stuntz Ave was built in 1920. Although remodeled and modernized over the years, the building served as the home of the Ashland Fire Department until 2015. The first mechanized pumper was a 1923 American LaFrance.

### **Ellis School** 310 Stuntz Avenue

Built in 1900, the Ellis School was added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 17th, 1980. It is noted for its architecture – the design of Henry Wildhagen. The school closed in 1990.

# ASHLAND

## Architec-tour

**Saturday • May 13, 2017**  
**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

*This special FREE event is being held as part of a statewide Downtown Open House. Residents and others will enjoy the opportunity to visit and explore local attractions, many of which, or parts of which, are not usually open to the public.*

**Participate in the Scavenger Hunt at these businesses:**

CHEQUAMEGON FOOD CO-OP, RED BICYCLE, NEW ENGLAND STORE, HITT'S FINE FURNITURE, MOORE'S ARMY NAVY, SHOE SHACK, SOLSTICE, GABRIELE'S GERMAN COOKIES & CHOCOLATES, BOB'S FACTORY OUTLET, DESIGNER'S OUTLET, A 2ND LOOK, ASHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM, HOME EXPRESSIONS, COLOR CENTER, COPY THAT

*For more information:*

**715-682-2500**  
**www.visitashland.com**

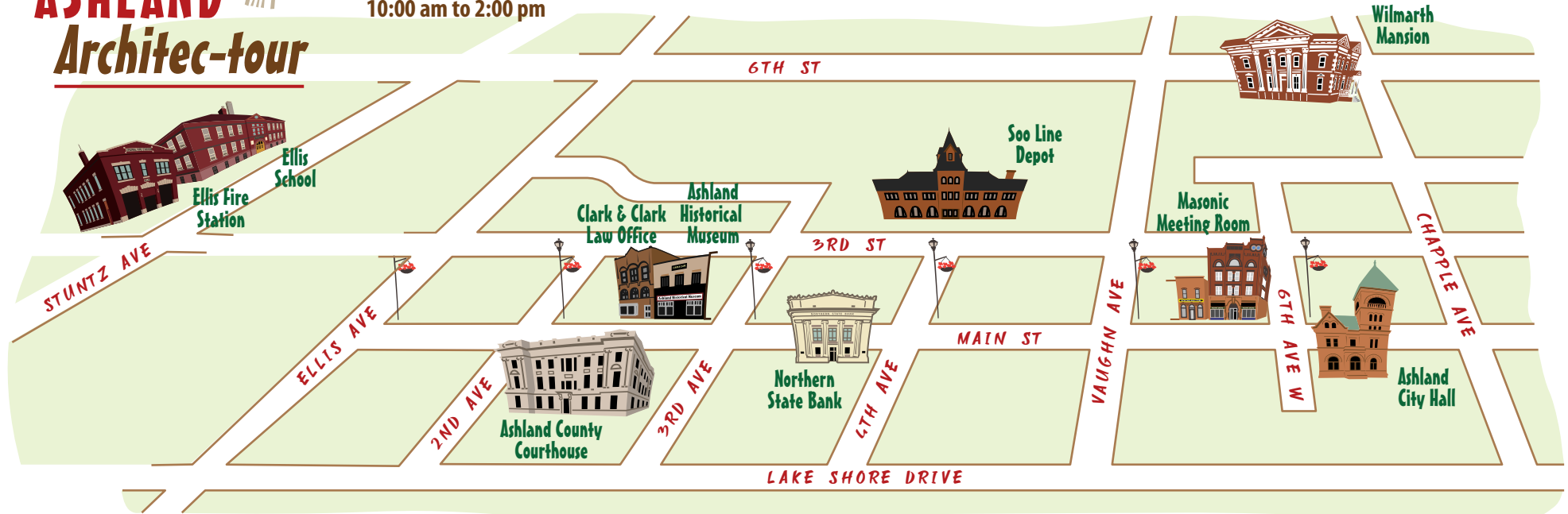
*Find yourself next to the water.*

ASHLAND 

# ASHLAND Architec-tour

Saturday • May 13, 2017

10:00 am to 2:00 pm



*Tour these nine historic Ashland commercial and public buildings, and visit the Ashland Historical Museum*

## **Soo Line Depot Building** 400 3rd Avenue West

Constructed by the Wisconsin Central Railway from locally quarried brownstone, the Soo Line Depot, as it later was known, opened to the public for passenger and freight service in 1889. Rooms in the original Depot included a smoking room, ladies' waiting room and an elegant dining room. There also was a lunch counter, loading dock for local dairy products, as well as the stationmaster's living quarters.

For a time, the Richardsonian Romanesque-style depot building housed the South Shore Brewery and two restaurants, one aptly named the Railyard Pub, until the interior was destroyed by fire in April 2000. It has since been fully restored and converted into office and retail space. A most impressive Baldwin "Decapod" (10-wheel) locomotive engine is on display across the street. It was the world's largest steam engine at the time it was built in 1900.

## **Ashland County Courthouse Building** 201 Main Street West

The county of Ashland was established in 1860, and its present courthouse, of a severe Neo-Classical design interpreted in the Beaux Arts manner, was completed in 1915, at a cost of \$134,363. White Bedford sandstone was chosen for the exterior to complement the three-story building's location close to the old Chequamegon Hotel site. One of the structure's architects was local businessman Henry Wildhagen, who also designed Ashland's Ellis and Wilmarth schools.

Floors and wainscoting in the courthouse are still the original Vermont gray-veined marble. The wide stairs at the north end of the first floor lobby are marble, with an ornamental steel balustrade and wood railing. The original circuit courtroom in the center of the third floor retains its original maple and oak-trimmed judge's bench, jury box and benches. With its back to Lake Superior and front facing the business district of Ashland, the county courthouse is a symbolic link between the natural and manmade identity of the area. The community celebrated its centennial on July 10, 2015.

## **Clark & Clark Law Office Building** 214 Main Street West

Completed in 1889, the former Security Savings Bank building is a three-story commercial storefront built in a heavily-ornamented, Richardsonian Romanesque style. Allan D. Conover and Lew F. Porter, of the successful Madison firm of Conover & Porter, were the architects. The first story has been remodeled over the years to conform to commercial needs, but the second and third stories are original. Each of these upper stories has three round-arched openings, and the third-story openings are separated and flanked by round columns with Romanesque capitals which rest on ornamented brackets. The main façade is executed in indigenous brownstone and red brick.

The side façade, which is exposed, is brick with brownstone trim. On this façade, the third-story windows have straight lintels, while the second-story windows are boldly arched with brick voussours. In 1986, the building housed LeRoy Lee's North Wisconsin Abstract Co., in addition to the century-old law firm of Clark & Clark, which still occupies its second floor. Its ground floor also was the home of The Iverson Agency, Inc., in a photo from 1974.

*The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), Wisconsin Main Street, and Wisconsin Downtown Action Council (WDAC) are collaborating on this event designed to showcase unique historic and cultural assets of Wisconsin downtowns. There are over 15 communities and 80 sites participating in the one-day event.*