

When the railroad was completed through Highland in 1871, the depot on East Livingston Road greatly stimulated development of the surrounding area. The following year Almon Ruggles and Germain St. John platted a new village between Milford Road and the railroad tracks which soon began to fill with stores, shops and homes. In 1874 the post office was moved from the old Village of Spring Mills to the new community which was thereafter called Highland Station. By the 1880s construction of Highland's first pickle factory and grain elevator gave rise to even more growth, including construction of both Congregational and Methodist churches.

In the early 1900s Highland Station saw a rapid increase in automobile traffic. Livingston Road was part of the main route between Pontiac and Howell, while Milford Road was part of the "New Hudson-Holly Auto Trail." As a result, several filling stations and other auto-related businesses were opened and the township's first traffic light was installed at the Milford-Livingston intersection.

When M-59 was constructed in 1936 it by-passed Highland Station to the north, while residential development around White Lake and Duck Lake gave rise to a new commercial center at East Highland which soon eclipsed the old village. As a result, however, many of Highland Station's historic buildings were spared from demolition and redevelopment, thereby preserving its "small town" charm. As the unique value of these structures has become more apparent in recent years, both the Township and the Highland Downtown Development Authority have pursued policies designed to encourage their restoration, renovation and adaptive reuse.



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This tour brochure was produced by the Highland Downtown Development Authority and the Highland Township Historical Society.

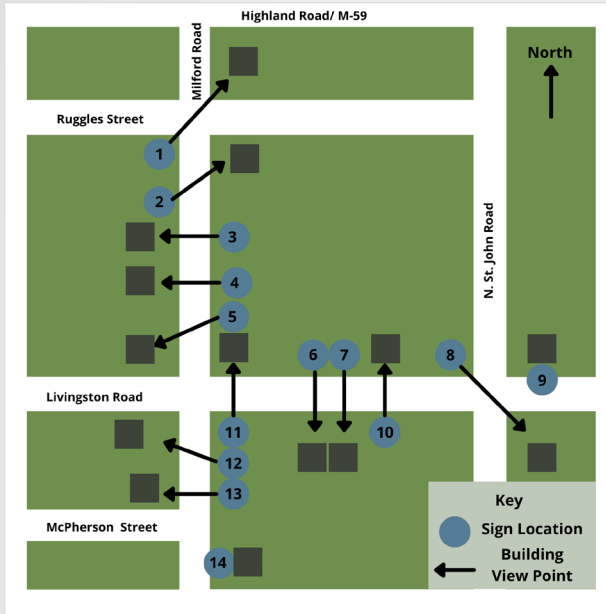


# HISTORIC HIGHLAND STATION

FOUNDED IN 1872  
PRESERVING THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND'S HISTORY



## HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



**1. 105 W. RUGGLES STREET**  
**Highland Congregational Church**  
**Wee Friends Preschool & Childcare**

*This elegant building has been a place to “congregate” for well over 100 years, whether for worship, community gatherings, or giving Highland’s youngest residents a good start in life. Take a moment to learn about one of Highland Station’s historic church buildings.*

**2. 280 MILFORD ROAD**  
**England House / Private Residence**

*While it may look like many other historic wood frame homes in and around Highland Station, this home has one subtle difference. Can you spot what sets it apart?*

**3. 179 MILFORD RD.**  
**St. John House / Private Residence**

*Not only is this the oldest residence still standing in Highland Station, but it was also home to one of the two men who originally platted the village. Stop by and learn more about the historic St. John house.*

**4. 125 N. MILFORD ROAD**  
**Hulbert Gas Station / Ace Party Store**

*It began in the 1920’s as a place to pump gasoline, but has evolved and grown into a popular party store. Take a moment to learn more about it’s history.*

**5. 105 N. MILFORD RD.**  
**Smith House / Gas Station**

*It’s been a local landmark for over 90 years - a gas station built on the side of an ornate Victorian home. But while many pass it by every day, not everyone knows it’s history and the story of the beloved couple who made it the “face” of Highland Station. Here’s your opportunity to learn more!*

**6. 118 E. LIVINGSTON ROAD**  
**Highland Garage / Home Again Decor**

*From a place that once fixed Model T Fords to a store that now sells unique furnishings, this building has undergone a lot of changes over the years. Take a moment to learn it’s history.*

**7. 118 E. LIVINGSTON ROAD**  
**Highland Township Hall / Home Again Decor**

*This simple building was once the heart of the Highland community - a place to hold town meetings, plays, concerts, lectures and other civic events. As if this were not enough, it was also once home to Highland’s library and first fire station. Discover why this building was so important to the entire township.*

**8. 182 E. LIVINGSTON ROAD**  
**Grain Elevator & Scale House / Sniffer Station**

*It was originally part of a large grain elevator that served the needs of Highland area farmers. Now it’s almost hidden away as part of a business that serves the needs of Highland area dog owners. Here’s the chance to learn the story of the Highland Elevator scale house.*

**9. 217 E. LIVINGSTON ROAD**  
**Highland House / Maher Feed and Pet Supply**

*Few places in Highland Station have as much history as the northeast corner of East Livingston and St John Street. Since 1872 it has been the site of a general store and produce house, a hotel and livery, a dance hall and tavern, and various business serving Highland’s farmers, ranchers and pet owners. Discover why this corner is so historic.*

**10. 211 E. LIVINGSTON ROAD**  
**The Johnson Block Building / Stratus Financial**

*Arguably the “newest” historic building in Highland Station, it is also one of the few built with brick. Over time it has been home to retail stores, a doctor’s office, a saddlery shop and financial offices. Learn more about this unique structure and it’s history.*

**11. 101 LIVINGSTON ROAD**  
**The Needham Building / Office Building**

*Discover how a big fire in 1912 paved the way for the head of the Domestic Pickle Works to build this Highland Station landmark, and it’s transition from a general store, to a grocery store and an office building.*

**12. 112 MILFORD ROAD**  
**The Highland Centre House / Office Building**

*Who would have thought that Highland Station once had three hotels? It’s true, and the oldest one is still standing right in the heart of the town! Take a moment to learn the story of how it came to be.*

**13. 144 S. MILFORD ROAD**  
**Burley Motor Sales / Odds & Ins**

*This building’s arched facade is familiar to most Highland residents, but how many know the number and variety of businesses that have called it home? Learn about the uses this Highland Station landmark has seen over the years.*

**14. 233 S. MILFORD ROAD**  
**Hollingdale House / Fragments**

*Many Victorian houses were embellished with ornate and delicate trim known as “gingerbread”. In the case of this otherwise classic wood frame farmhouse, however, the ornament in the gables is quite different. Stop by to see what sets it apart.*

