

## Founding of the City of Grand Haven

Rix Robinson had a trading post for his fur business when Rev. William M. Ferry, his family, and a few others arrived from Mackinac Island on November 2, 1834.

Rev. Ferry wished to name the town Stuart, in honor of his friend, and for a few months he was Postmaster of a town by that name. Robinson's plat, recorded in April, 1835, preceded Ferry's application and the name Grand Haven became official on August 12, 1835. Ferry remained Postmaster of Grand Haven until 1853.

Grand Haven was incorporated as a City on March 30, 1867. At the first election, held two days later, George Parks was named Mayor; Charles T. Pagelson, Recorder; Jacob De Boe, Treasurer; and William M. Ferry and Dr. Vanderveen, School Inspectors.



Members of the first Grand Haven City Council. P. VanWeelden, J.H. Sanford, H.S. Clubb, Wm. Wallace, George Parks (mayor), Chas. T. Pageham, Jas. A. Rice, A. VanderVeen, Jas. W. Hopkins, and Harmon Bosch.

For a listing of current board members please visit:  
[www.grandhaven.org](http://www.grandhaven.org)

The public is invited to attend board meetings to ask questions or share information about their home and neighborhood. If you have any questions; contact the Building and Planning Department for details.

Grand Haven Historic Conservation Commission meetings take place at the Grand Haven City Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm.

For more information about the history of this area visit: [www.loutitlibrary.org](http://www.loutitlibrary.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
**GRAND HAVEN**  
**BUILDING AND PLANNING**  
616-847-3490



City of Grand Haven  
519 Washington Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
[www.grandhaven.org](http://www.grandhaven.org)

## Grand Haven Historic Conservation Commission



Drawing of Washington Street, looking west. Dewey Hill is in background. The Cutler House Hotel can be seen on the left and the W.C. Sheldon Magnetic Mineral Springs on the right. c. 1880

## Mission Statement

The purpose of this commission is to:

1. Safeguard the heritage of the City of Grand Haven by preserving landmarks and sites which reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history
2. Stabilize and improve property values
3. Foster civic beauty
4. Strengthen the local economy
5. Identify and promote the use of historic resources for the education, pleasure and welfare of citizens of the City of Grand Haven
6. Provide advice and/or management of public historical properties and resources and
7. Unify historic preservation efforts in this area.

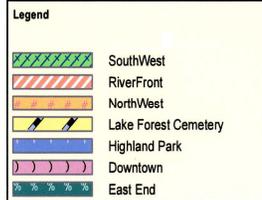
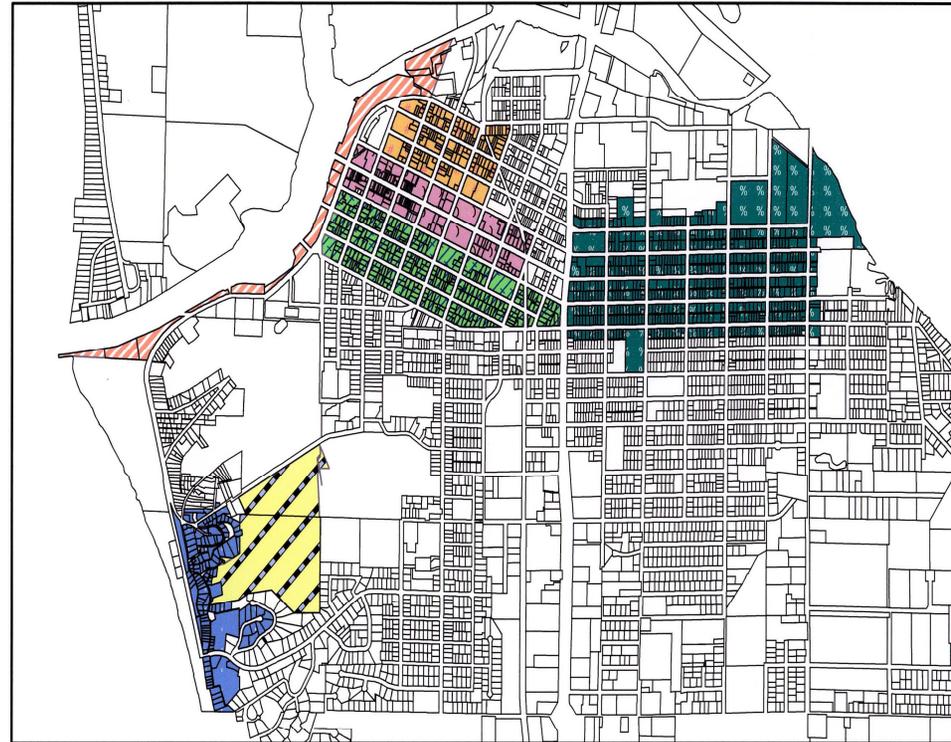


Captain William R. Loutit Home at 333 Washington Street, built in 1894 and torn down in 1959.

**East End Neighborhood Historic District:** all parcels within the area bound on the west by Beacon Blvd., on the east by Beechtree St., on the north by Fulton St. and on the south by Pennoyer Ave.

**Southwest Neighborhood Historic District:** all parcels within the area bound on the east by Beacon Blvd. on the west by Harbor Dr. on the south by Howard St. and Pennoyer Ave. and on the north by Franklin St.

**Downtown Historic District:** from the intersection of Columbus Ave. and Harbor Dr., then south along Harbor Dr. to the intersection Harbor Dr. and Franklin Ave., then east along Franklin Ave. to the intersection of Franklin Ave. and Sixth St. then north along Sixth St. to the intersection of Columbus Ave. and Sixth St. then west along Columbus Ave. to the point of the beginning.



## Grand Haven Historic Districts

**Northwest Neighborhood Historic District:** all parcels within the area bound on the north by Jackson St., on the west by First St., on the east by Fifth St. and on the south by Columbus St.

**Riverfront Historic District:** all parcels with the area bound on the south by Jackson St. and Harbor Dr., on the north by the Grand River and the south channel, on the east by Second St., and on the west by the end of the

**Lake Forest Cemetery Historic District:** the area defined by the City of Grand Haven as Lake Forest Cemetery.

**Highland Park Historic District:** all the part of Highland Park Addition lying east of Harbor Dr., excepting lots 48 and 49 and exceptions 1 and 2, also excepting that part of Reserve No. 4, described as beginning at the intersection of the westerly line of Dale Court and the northerly line of Grand Ave. Also included in the district is the east 155 feet of lots 1, lots 17, 22 and 23 of the plot of "Lake View"