

HISTORICAL AREA DESIGNATED
NATIONAL CITATION FOR PETOSKEY

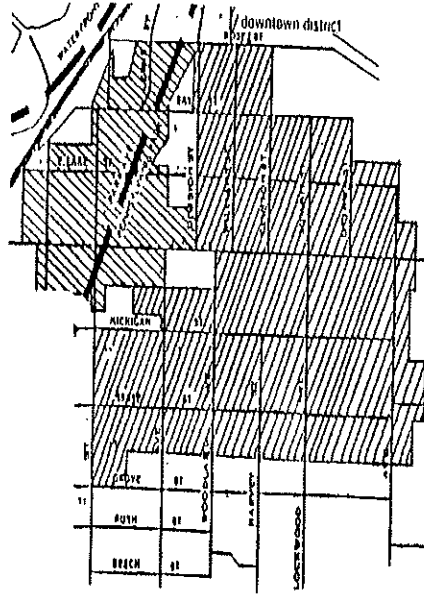
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HISTORICAL AREA DESIGNATED

Petoskey News Review
Friday, February 13, 1967, front page



HOMES ALONG Mitchell Street are included in the East Mitchell historic district.



DOWNTOWN DISTRICT shaded at left; East Mitchell at right

National citation for Petoskey

By **KENDALL P. STANLEY**
News-Review staff writer

Two large sections of Petoskey have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

City officials were notified of the designation for the Petoskey Downtown Historic District and the East Mitchell Street Historic District. Thirty-five other individual properties in the city also have been listed as historic sites.

The designation of the districts caps a six-year effort by the city.

The districts are considered multiple resource, including both residential and commercial properties. Not all properties in the districts are historically significant and those properties are considered non-contributing buildings in the district.

"You bet it feels great after all these years," city Planner Brad Leech said of the designations.

"I think largely it calls attention to the significance of these areas," Leech said, "not just as a collection of historic buildings, but a portion of the city that has an ambience to it, both the East Mitchell area and downtown."

THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT encompasses an area bounded roughly by Rose Street to the north, Division Street to the east, Michigan Street to the south and Petoskey Street to the west.

The East Mitchell district runs east of the downtown district to the city limits, south to State Street and west to Howard Street.

The designation allows the city to pass laws calling for the preservation of historic structures, but Leech has indicated that is not the city's intent.

The city does hope people maintain the character of their homes and businesses on their own, he said.

"We hope to get into education, like the Area Development Committee has gotten into on restoring and rehabilitating downtown buildings," he said.

He said some property owners have been awaiting the designation, because of tax benefits available for commercial property owners who restore to the original condition. Among them is the Perry Hotel, which is being restored to its turn-of-the-century glory.

Leech said the city eventually hopes to get designation plaques and markers to identify the districts. Individual property owners also can get markers indicating their building is listed as a historic site.



PETOSKEY'S GASLIGHT district is included in the downtown historic district. (NEWS photos by Kendall P. Stanley)