I am Manny the Moose, HSM Magazines’ mascot. I explore off-the-beaten-track historical sites along the byways of Michigan and share my discoveries with you. Please contact locations for exact hours of operation and entrance fees, and if you know of any cool places I should visit, please let me know at manny@hsmichigan.org.

**Beaver Island Harbor Light Tower.** The light tower and attached keeper’s house were built in 1856 at a cost of $5,000, and the tower was outfitted with a fourth-order Fresnel lens. After the first keeper, Clement Van Riper, died in 1872 while trying to rescue the crew of the schooner *Thomas Howland* after she sank in the harbor, his widow, Elizabeth, took over his post and served until 1884. The lighthouse was automated in 1927, which led to the keeper’s house falling into disrepair. It was demolished in the 1940s. The light tower, now owned by St. James Township, underwent a complete restoration in 2013.

**Beaver Island Marine Museum.** This museum commemorates the island’s commercial shipping and fishing era. It is housed in a 1906 fishing net shed and filled with artifacts and exhibits about Beaver Island’s maritime heritage. The museum’s largest artifact, the fishing boat *Bob S.*, was built in 1935 and, for many years, harvested the waters off Beaver Island. Many exhibits describe the heroic rescues and tragic loss of life that accompanied various shipwrecks near the island. [beaverislandhistory.org/marine-museum](http://beaverislandhistory.org/marine-museum) • (231) 448-2254

**Beaver Island Historical Society Old Mormon Print Shop Museum.** This museum is housed in a former print shop built in 1850. The Mormon followers of James Jesse Strang established a settlement on Beaver Island in 1846 and erected the shop to print religious works and two newspapers: *Northern Islander* and *Daily Northern Islander*. Today, the museum’s exhibits explore Beaver Island history, including Native Americans, Mormons, Irish immigrants, and island life. [beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop](http://beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop) • (231) 448-2254
Holy Cross Church. Father Frederic Baraga first came to Beaver Island as a missionary in 1832. In 1860, Father Baraga—then Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie—consecrated the island’s new Holy Cross Church. The church originally stood a mile south of the village of St. James beside the parish cemetery. In 1957, parishioners had the church cut in half, moved to its present location in St. James, and reassembled. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

Protar’s Home. Feodor Protar was Beaver Island’s most beloved—and enigmatic—resident. He came to the island in 1893 and lived in a simple log house near the village of St. James. A helpful man, islanders came to rely on him for medical treatment. Protar refused to accept either the title of “doctor” or any payment for his services. Only after his passing in 1925 did people learn his true identity as a former newspaper publisher and actor. beaverislandhistory.org/protars-home • (231) 448-2254

Protar’s Rock and Grave. Protar’s visitors often found him seated on a large boulder, staring into space and thinking. When he died of a stroke in 1925, grieving islanders interred him in a tomb they built beside “Protar’s Rock.” They learned that he was really Friedrich Parrot, an Estonian immigrant who had performed in German-language theaters in Europe and then in America. A bronze plaque on his tomb bears his image, placed there “in imperishable gratitude and adoration” by “his people of Beaver Island.”

Beaver Head Light. The Beaver Head Light stands at the island’s southern tip. Built in 1858, the 46-foot tower replaced an earlier one built in 1852. An attached, yellow-brick keeper’s house was added in 1866, and a wood-frame addition was erected in 1910 to accommodate assistant lighthouse keepers. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1962 and is open for tours during the summer.

Beaver Island is 13 miles long and 6 miles wide.