

## 15th-17th Century

**c. 1500:** Ojibwe migrate to Great Lakes from East Coast  
**1600s:** Europeans arrive  
**1622-23:** Etienne Brule circumnavigates the Lake, probably visits the Islands

**1663-69:** Father Allouez founds La Pointe de Saint Esprit mission. Father Marquette arrives.  
**1693-1698:** Island established as center of Ojibwe Nation. French fort & trading post established

## 18th-19th Century

**1759:** Chief Buffalo born, future chief of La Pointe Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
**1793-1824:** Michel Cadotte founds first European settlement with wife Madeline (Equaysayway) daughter of Chief White Crane. Founds trading post for NW Fur Co.

**1831-35:** Missions established  
**1834-35:** La Pointe moves from Grant's Point to present location. Island population approx. 600  
**c. 1836:** Ojibwe Cemetery established. Chief Buffalo & Michel Cadotte burial site

**1842, 1854:** First & 2nd Treaties of La Pointe  
**1848:** Wisconsin is 30th State  
**1855:** Chief Buffalo dies at estimated age of 96.  
**1861-65:** Civil War

**1860s:** Brownstone quarries, lumbering  
**1890s-early 1900s:** Nebraska Row begins  
**1897:** Mission transformed into Old Mission Inn

## 20th Century

**1902:** St. Joseph's Church built  
**1905-14:** Tourism growth brings mail and ferry improvements  
**1909:** Town Hall built  
**1915:** Telephone service arrives  
**1925:** St. John's Church dedicated

**1929:** Electricity arrives on Island  
**1958:** Leo & Bella Capser and Al Galazen open Historical Museum  
**1963:** Big Bay State Park established  
**1970:** Nichevo Ferry Line and A.I. Ferry Service merge to form Madeline Island Ferry Line

### CAPSER TRAIL ROUTE *Approx. 1.5 miles*

#### START AT THE FERRY DOCK

- 1 Begin at Ferry Landing.** The Post Office is half of the original Old Mission dining room, which was added to the Old Mission Inn in 1900. *Walk up Colonel Woods Ave.*
- 2 Madeline Island Museum:** Cedar post stockade and log architecture. Treasured objects illustrate island history. Exhibits & lectures. *Left on Whitefish Street*
- 3 La Pointe School:** Quintessential two-room school house with 12 students in 2021. *Right on Big Bay Road. Sidewalk leads to Trailhead.*
- 4 La Pointe Town Hall** designed in 1909
- 5 Trailhead** is at your right. Trail is 1.2 miles.

### CAPSER TRAIL ROUTE OPTION *Approx. one mile*

- 1 Begin at Ferry Dock** *Endazhi-aazhawa'ooniding. Right on Main Street. Left on Middle Road. Walk one mile on road shoulder.*
- 6 Trailhead** starts on your left.

**TRAIL NOTE:** The wooden bridge was designed by Rick Erickson's Bayfield High School Advanced Science Class with help from Jim Berry. **Nucy Meech Trail**, within the Trail walk, is not maintained. Observation Deck with interpretive sign is a great place to view wildlife. **Sitting areas, benches, and storytelling spot** are compliments of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve. Parking is available at each Trailhead. No ATVs, or motorized vehicles allowed. Trails accommodate wheelchairs, however please note that trails are gravel.

### GRANTS POINT ROUTE - WALK OR BIKE *Approx. 2.1 miles one way*

- 1 Madeline Island Museum** *Gete-gegoo endazhi-waabanda'idind:* Established in 1958, the museum was the dream of Leo and Bella Capser. Explore the Island's rich history. Operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Admission fee
- 2 St. John's Church, Parsonage, and Woods Hall:** Tudor Revival church built in 1925 for Evangelical and Reform Church. Protestant missions began in 1831.
- 3 Joni's Beach:** (public) picnic, playground, restrooms



**4 The Inn and Pub** are .5 miles from Ferry Dock.

**5 Ojibwe Cemetery** *Anishinaabe jiiabayaki:* Please view respectfully from outside the fence. *Miigwech ... Thank you.*

**6 Rock/brass plate:** Site of the first Catholic Mission, established by Reverend Fredric Baraga, 1835

**7 Ojibwe National Prayer Pole/Memorial Park:** Sacred cedar and other trees surrounding a peaceful pond honors Ojibwe Island history and culture.

**8 Madeline Island Chamber Music Clubhouse:** Chamber Music performance venue  
**1 mile from Ferry Dock**  
*Walk or ride single file to share the road safely.*

**9 Mission Hill area:** Hill with a moderate grade

**10 Michel Cadotte Fur Trade Post 1792 (stone & brass plate):** **2 miles from Ferry Dock.** Michel Cadotte married Equaysayway (Madeline) daughter of Waubijekau (Chief White Crane). The Cadotte family traded, farmed and welcomed visitors here for half a century. *(Private property)*

**11 Grant's Point:** Grant's Point sand beach *(NOT public)* provided safe landing in early times. Much early Island history took place here and on nearby Long Island. *Please respect the private property on each side of the 60' wide access.*

Funding for bilingual signs was provided by a grant from the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund and Town of La Pointe.

Mooringwanekaaning – Home of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker – is the Island's Ojibwe name. Madeline Island is the first off-reservation location in Wisconsin to install bilingual signs. Anishinaabemowin signs recognize the Ojibwe's sacred ties to Mooringwanekaaning.



Map courtesy of  
**Madeline Island Ferry Line**  
 © 2021 Map not to scale.

#### FERRY SCHEDULE:

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**Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce:**  
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