

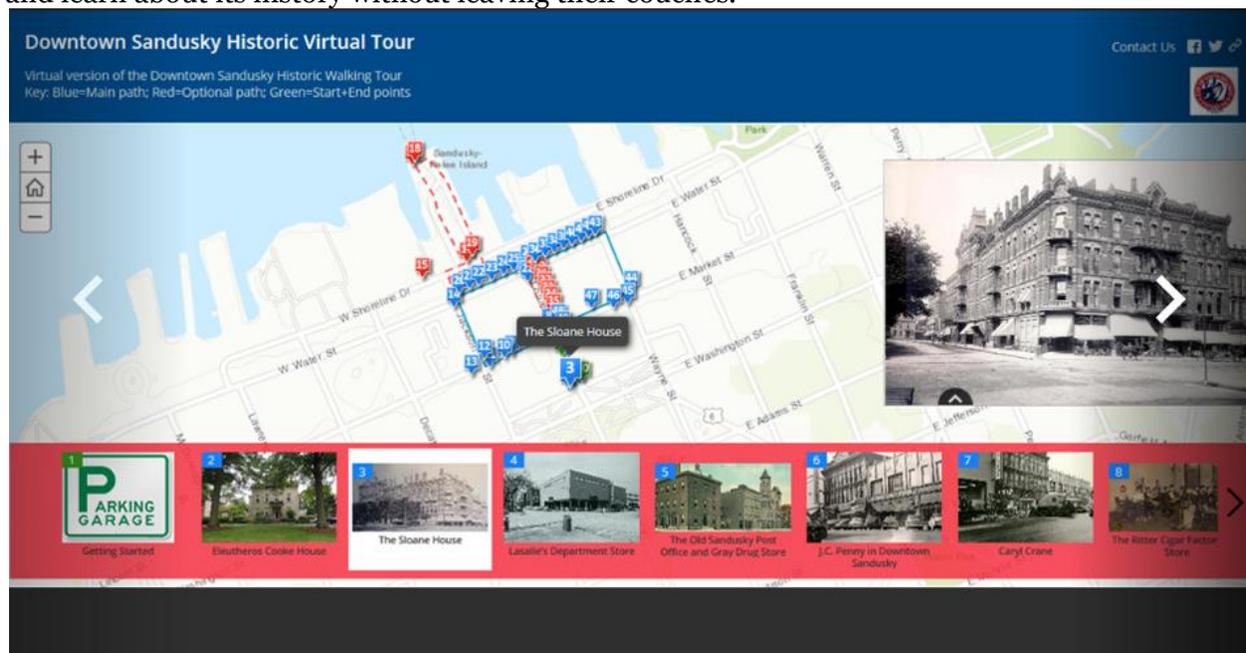
Historical society unveils new online walking tour for Sandusky's downtown

9/28/2017 Tom Jackson, Sandusky Register



Thomas Hutsler sits in the engineering office at City Hall in Sandusky on Monday, Sept. 25, 2017. Hutsler created an interactive map of historical locations in downtown Sandusky. -- Register photo/ERIN McLAUGHLIN

SANDUSKY — As Sandusky approaches its 2018 bicentennial celebration, the Erie County Historical Society wants to help the city celebrate. The site at eriecountyohiohistory.com has added a new "[Virtual Downtown Historic Walking Tour](#)" under the "Resources" section of the website, for history buffs who want to "walk around" downtown and learn about its history without leaving their couches.



Thomas Hutsler, an intern for the City of Sandusky, put together the new item in a couple of days work. Working with an existing walking tour of Sandusky in the "Historic Walking Tours" area of the website, Hutsler put together a new version of the walking tour, mapping the locations and putting together a series of links to provide more information about the various locations. It's an attempt to provide a more user-friendly version of the tour. "I was mostly trying to reach tourists and people who live in the city of Sandusky who want to learn more about their city's history," said Hutsler, 22, who graduated from Bowling Green State University in May with a bachelor's degree in ecology and conservation biology.

People can walk around downtown using their phone for the tour, he said. "It's smart phone compatible," he said. "They'll be able to follow the tour on their phone."

Tiffany Taylor, the City of Sandusky's GIS analyst, suggested the project. Taylor said revamping the online walking tour to make it more accessible has been discussed for awhile. "I think he did fantastic," Taylor said. The new walking tour works equally well when accessed by computer, tablet or mobile phone, she said.

Hutsler has been working as a intern for the City of Sandusky's engineering department. He began in May and ended the internship this week. Starting Oct. 16, he'll start a six-month job

with the Audubon Society, battling invasive species in Trabuco Canyon, California, about an hour's drive east of Los Angeles.

The Erie County Historical Society's website also has added a Kelleys Island Walking Tour, a YouTube video put together by [Leslie Korenko](#). Korenko is a member of the historical society's board, is a resident of the island and is the author of several books on Kelleys Island history.