



The Ingot

Summer, 2003

Featuring the Cooperating Sites of Keweenaw National Historical Park

National Park Preserves Copper Mining History

Copper Country heritage is legendary across the nation. Oddly enough, however, the Keweenaw Peninsula and its rich history is not well-known throughout the country, or even within Michigan for that matter. In spite of this incongruity the mannerisms, culture, and foods of this remote region are familiar throughout the country.

The reasons for this familiarity run deeper than the mildly amusing linguistic nuances or the famous (infamous?) pasty, the popular meat-and-vegetable-dinner-wrapped-in-a-pastry-crust introduced by Cornish miners more than a century ago. Passing through Ellis Island, thirty-eight different ethnic groups paused only long enough to earn passage before heading for the famed mines of the Copper Country. The Keweenaw was the site of the first major influx of European immigrants to a non-metropolitan destination. As these immigrant populations ultimately spread throughout the country, so spread Copper Country heritage.

The 93rd Congress of the United States of America enacted legislation that became law on October 27, 1992, which created a national park to preserve and interpret the rich history of hardrock (underground) copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Under the direction of the American people, they found that the cultural and geological resources of the Keweenaw Peninsula's mining heritage were of national significance. Congress, however, envisioned a national park unlike any before it, a park that would operate on a partnership premise.



An underground copper miner drills to prepare for blasting. Keweenaw NHP Archives.

The Great Keweenaw Fault

The most prominent geological feature of the Keweenaw Peninsula is the high ridge that extends the full length of the 150-mile land mass. The rock base of the fault is comprised of Portage Lake Volcanics, one of the oldest exposed lava flows in any national park. The result of pressure from below the earth's crust, and lateral pressure from colliding continents 1.2 billion years ago, the ridge was formed and is now known as the Great Keweenaw Fault.

The lava flows, intermixed with conglomerate deposits consisting of gravel and sedimentation, provided the perfect structure for the formation of the largest deposit of native elemental copper known in the world today.

The legislation set down a mandate that the interpretation of those resources would be accomplished through cooperative efforts with local governmental units, private and non-profit entities of the area. As a result, Keweenaw National Historical Park has developed formal working relationships with seventeen official Cooperating Sites. The sites range from Michigan state parks to local historical societies to local governmental units to significant, privately-owned historical sites. Each of the independently operated Cooperating Sites provides interpretation of its element of the story of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Experience the diverse heritage of the Copper Country; share the experience with your family and friends; enjoy the beauty and rich history that is Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Reading Company Housing Alison K. Hoagland

The Keweenaw Peninsula's landscape is both natural and cultural. While we are somewhat attuned to reading the natural landscape—birds in the spring, ravages of winter, and the effects of rocky soil—we are usually less adept at reading the cultural landscape. One of the most obvious signs of the cultural landscape is its architecture. Buildings are all around us, telling us about our past.

From prominent buildings in our villages and towns we know that there was wealth here at one time; from industrial buildings we know that the copper mining industry was responsible for that prosperity; and from the multitude of modest dwellings we know that there was a large working

class that carried that industry. By examining these houses, we can gain insight into the lives of the people who lived in them and their relationship to other facets of life in the Keweenaw.

Company houses—houses built by a company for its employees—are a readily identifiable subset of worker housing. By 1913 there were more than 3,000 company houses in the Copper Country, sheltering about half of the workforce. Generally, mining companies built houses in locations, dedicated areas on company property that had few services. They laid the locations out in simple grid plans, giving each house a yard of about 50 by 100 feet. To simplify the construction process, they built identical houses at

one time, so that even after many alterations company houses are apparent because of their similar forms.

Company houses reveal the status of the worker within the company. Some houses were built for management employees; these had more rooms and more ornament than houses for lower-level employees. Company houses for workers were simple, small, and cheap. They were also desirable, being cheaper than housing off company property. In the houses that they built, companies declared their preference for certain workers: they wanted married men, believing them to be a more stable workforce. Because there were fewer houses than employees, companies also selected tenants in order to favor skilled workers and English-speaking ethnic groups. If a worker lost his job, he would of course lose his housing too.

Company houses are less instructive as to differences between companies. Over time, each of the larger companies built a variety of houses: saltboxes and front gables, double houses and single, log and wood frame. Only one housing form can be identified with just one company: the distinctive gambrel-roofed houses that Calumet & Hecla built around 1900. Generally, houses got bigger as time went on, with small low log buildings replaced by upright wood-frame ones. Initially, the saltbox,

with its two-story front and one-story rear, developed naturally as rooms were added onto a simple rectangle. Later, circa 1900, the saltbox was built as a whole, possibly representing a revival of interest in American Colonial style. In the first few decades of the 20th century, front-gable houses became more complex, with halls and pantries and three or four bedrooms.

Despite the mix of housing forms that comprises company housing, the houses are recognizable because of their repetition. These modest houses have a lot to tell us about the workers of the Copper Country and their relationships to their companies, to their families, and to each other.

While the company houses that exist today are privately owned, feel free to explore neighborhoods and look for other evidence of the copper industry story. These explorations may lead to new questions begging for answers, not only of the Keweenaw Peninsula, but of your own neighborhood and local community.

NOTE: The Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's will present an exhibit called *Minor Houses/ Miner Houses: Copper Country Company Housing* this summer. Open every day from July 1 to September 1. Call (906) 337-4579 for more information.



These houses at Delaware Mine represent two generations of company housing. Across a muddy street, low log buildings face newer, upright frame ones. Photo courtesy of Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Cooperating Sites Locations, Hours

A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum

(906) 487-2572



One of the finest mineral collections in the country is housed on the fifth floor of the Electrical Resources Center (EERC) on the campus of Michigan Technological University in Houghton. Open year-round, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm; July-September on Saturday 12 noon - 4 pm. Donation requested. Accessible. Gift shop with minerals, kits for children, books. Mineral identification service by appointment.

www.geo.mtu.edu/museum

Calumet Theatre

(906) 337-2610

The oldest municipally-built opera house in the country is on Sixth Street in the village of Calumet. A variety of theatrical and musical events are scheduled throughout the year in this beautiful turn-of-the-century theater. Guided tours are offered mid-May to mid-October, Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm.

www.calumettheatre.com



Copper Range Historical Museum

(906) 482-6125



The museum is located in the village of South Range on M-26, and relates the stories of the Copper Range Mining Company, its workers, and the community life associated with this historic company town. The nearby community of Painesdale is one of the best preserved company towns in the Copper Country. Open June through mid-October, Monday through Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm.

pasty.com/crhm

Coppertown USA

(906) 337-4354

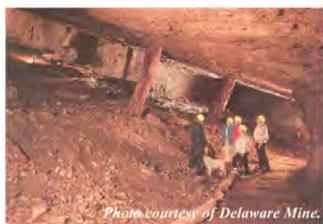
The exhibits at Coppertown provide a glimpse of the operations at the copper mining giant, Calumet & Hecla (C&H). The building housed the former C&H Pattern Shop, a key historic element in the Calumet industrial landscape. Open June through mid-October, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday, 12:30 pm to 4 pm. Adults: \$3; with National Parks Pass: \$2; teens: \$1; under 12: free. Free parking. Public restrooms.

www.uppermichigan.com/coppertown



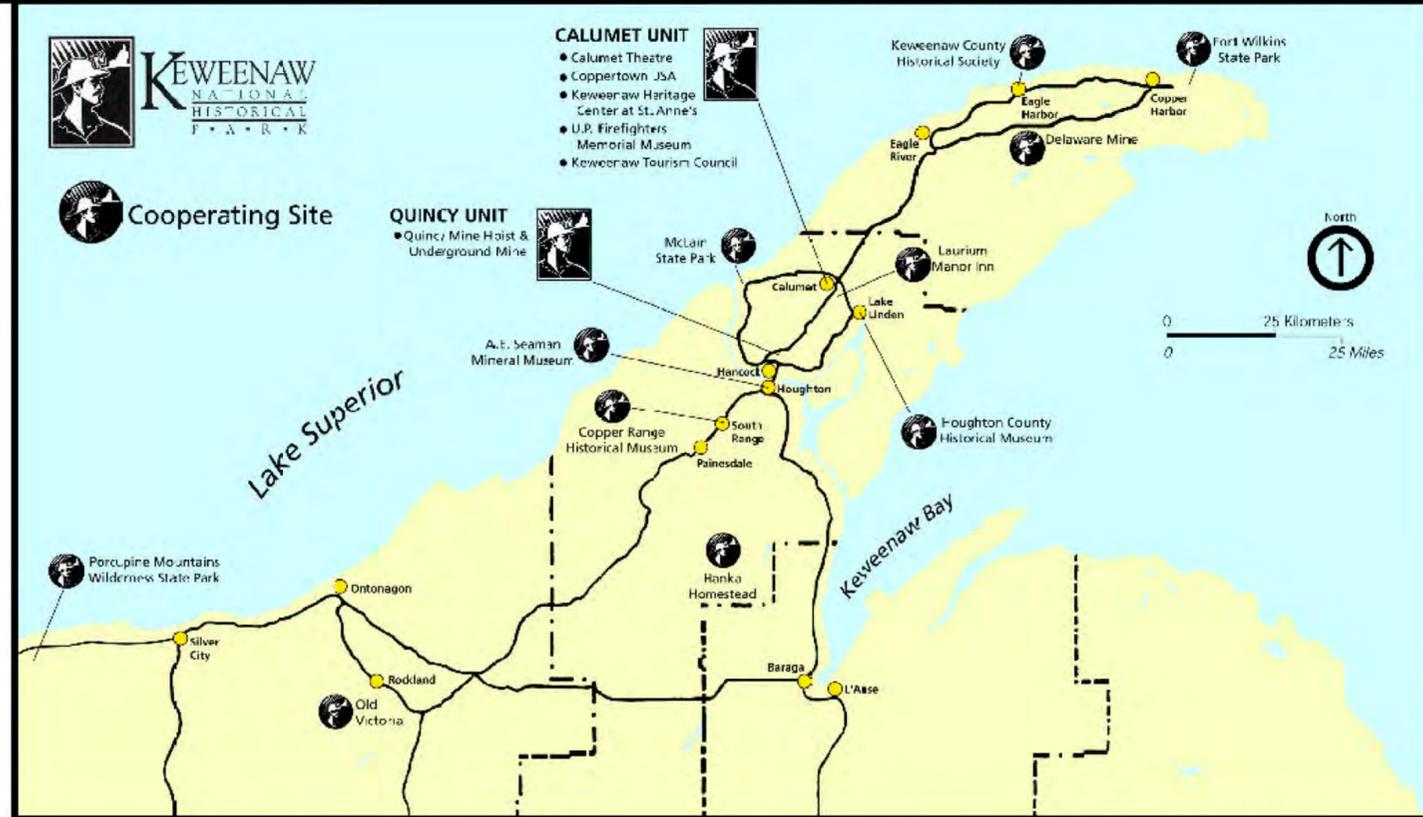
Delaware Mine

(906) 289-4688



This privately-owned mine site provides self and guided tours through one of the oldest underground mines on the Keweenaw. Guided tours include a tour of the surface works. Open July and August, 10 am to 6 pm; May, June, September and October, 10 am to 5 pm. Admission.

copperharbor.org/Business/ads/delawaremine/home.html



Fort Wilkins State Park

(906) 289-4215



This fine example of a nineteenth-century military fort was built in 1844 to provide order on the Keweenaw frontier. Its costumed interpreters, restored buildings, and museum exhibits explore daily routine in the military service. Open mid-May through mid-October, 8 am to dusk. Motor vehicle permit required.

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Hanka Homestead

(906) 353-7116

While mining provided job security, many Finns longed for the farming lifestyle of their home country. Hanka is a fine example of this element of Finnish heritage in the Copper Country. Volunteer tour guides. Flexible hours.

pasty.com/crhm/pages/hanka.html



Houghton County Historical Museum

(906) 296-4121



Located in the former C&H mill office in Lake Linden, the museum offers visitors numerous artifacts and photographs spanning 100+ years of mining life. Open June through September, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday, noon to 4 pm. Adults: \$5; Seniors (over 65) & Students (12-18): \$3; Youth (6-12): \$1; and under: Free.

habitant.org/houghton

There are seventeen Cooperating Sites working with Keweenaw National Historical Park at the present time. Each site provides interpretation for its element of the story of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula. The Cooperating Sites are owned and

Keweenaw County Historical Society

(906) 296-2561

The society administers five sites throughout Keweenaw County including the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse, Central Mine & Village, Phoenix Church, Rathbone School, and the Bammert Blacksmith Shop. Open mid-June to early October. Lighthouse: \$3. Donations are requested at other facilities.

www.keweenawhistory.org



Photo courtesy of T.M. Baker

Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's

(906) 337-4579



This majestic Jacobsville sandstone structure, with magnificent stained glass windows, is situated at the entrance to the downtown Calumet Historic Landmark District. It provides a fitting setting for interpreting the heritage of the Keweenaw. A special exhibit examining the life of miners' families living in company houses will be offered this summer. Access is on an 'Open House' basis as volunteers are available. Normally, it will be open every day, July 1 through September 1.

www.pasty.com/heritage

Laurium Manor Inn

(906) 337-2549

Built by a wealthy mining captain in the village of Laurium at 320 Tamarack Street, this 45-room inn offers lodging year-round and guided tours during the summer months. Nominal fee for tours. Self-guided tours are available during the winter by calling ahead to make arrangements.

www.lauriummanorinn.com



NPS Photo.

operated by local governments, private businesses, and non-profit community groups. Experience the diverse heritage of the Copper Country; share the experience with your family and friends; enjoy the beauty and rich history that is Keweenaw National Historical Park.

F.J. McLain State Park

(906) 482-0278

A sandy stretch of Lake Superior beach provides the setting for camping and family recreation. The park is situated at the north entry of the Keweenaw Waterway. The canal, dug in the mid-19th century along a Native American portage route, provides water passage through the Keweenaw Peninsula. 103 modern sites. 6 mini-cabins. Reservations: 1-800-447-2757.

www.michigan.gov/dnr



Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

(906) 885-5275



Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.

Michigan's largest state park contains numerous historic mining sites. The 59,000-acre park offers day-hiking, backpacking, camping, remote cabins, canoeing, kayaking, biking, and winter sports. Wilderness Visitor Center is open mid-May through mid-October, daily from 10 am to 6 pm.

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Old Victoria

(906) 886-2617

The site, with ongoing restoration, preserves a group of small log houses that provided lodging for early miners. One of the earliest mining sites, its setting will bring a new appreciation for the rigors and solitude of mid-19th century mining life. On Victoria Road, five miles southwest of Rockland. Open by volunteers, summers only, daily from noon to 5 pm.



NPS Photo.

Quincy Mine Hoist & Underground Tours

(906) 482-3101



NPS Photo.

The Quincy No. 2 Shaft House is the most prominent feature on the Keweenaw's historic mining landscape. Visitors ride a cog-wheel tram down the hillside to tour the underground mine workings, and enjoy a tour of the surface works afterwards. Ruins may be enjoyed from a distance. Tours fill quickly during July and August. It is recommended that tickets be purchased early in the morning to guarantee your place. Museum displays, gift shop, 17' tall copper boulder! Open summers, Monday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 5 pm; Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Abbreviated hours after Labor Day. (906) 482-5569 off season.

quincymine.com

U.P. Fire Fighters Memorial Museum

(906) 337-4579

Housed in the former Red Jacket Fire Station, this historic Jacobsville sandstone structure was completed around the turn of the century. Exhibits dedicated to the history of firefighting are on the second floor. 327 Sixth Street, Calumet (across from the Calumet Theatre). Open June through September, Monday through Saturday, noon to 3:00 pm.



NPS Photo.

482-5240 - Houghton
337-4579 - Calumet

Keweenaw Tourism Council
Providing travel information services for Keweenaw NHP.

Call Toll-Free
1-800-338-7982

Visitor Information



Location

Keweenaw National Historical Park is located north of Houghton-Hancock along US-41 on the Keweenaw Peninsula. The park consists of two units: the Quincy Unit to the south and the Calumet Unit to the north, approximately 8 miles apart. Refer to the center section for Cooperating Site locations, or contact the Keweenaw Tourism Council at 482-5240, 337-4579, or call toll-free at 1-800-338-7982.



Hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails run through the Keweenaw Peninsula. During the summer, a number of these trails, and lightly traveled rural roads, provide an excellent network for mountain and road bikes. A water trail for paddlers and small power craft is under development along Torch Lake, the Keweenaw Waterway, and circumnavigating the peninsula.

Good highways connect the Cooperating Sites, and provide a scenic overview of the natural and human history of the area. Brockway Mountain Drive, near Copper Harbor, is consistently rated as one of the top scenic drives in the United States.

Recommended Stay

Three days should be allowed to visit all of Keweenaw National Historical Park's Cooperating Sites. You may wish to add a few more days to fully enjoy the beauty of the Copper Country as well as the rest of the western Upper Peninsula.

Reservations & Permits

Advance reservations are recommended for performances at the Calumet Theatre, although tickets may be available at the door. Tickets for the Quincy Mine often sell out during July and August. It is recommended that visitors obtain tickets early in the morning from the Quincy Mine Hoist Visitor Center and Gift Shop.

Reservations for modern campgrounds at Fort Wilkins, McLain, and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Parks may be made through state travel information: 800-447-2757. Cabin rentals are available at McLain and Porcupine Mountains State Parks. Permits may be obtained for backcountry camping in the Porcupine Mountains.

National Parks Nearby

Isle Royale National Park: Wilderness island located about 50 miles north by water. Ferries leave from Houghton and Copper Harbor.
(906) 482-0984 www.nps.gov/isro

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore: Three hours east, 42 miles of Lake Superior shoreline.
(906) 387-2607 www.nps.gov/piro

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: Three hours west, kayak/hike off-shore Superior islands.
(715) 779-3397 www.nps.gov/apis

Visit your National Parks online! Information, tours, and Junior Rangers. www.nps.gov

Weather Conditions

Summer: Early summer can be cool, especially near Lake Superior. By mid-summer, temperatures are usually mild, with daytime highs in the mid-to-upper-70s (°F) with cool nights. Two weeks of daytime hot, humid weather are not unusual in early August.

Fall: September and October are normally quite mild. Autumn foliage colors peak from the last week of September through the first week of October. Brief light snows may occur, but the temperature quickly rises, moderated by the waters of Lake Superior, which are at their warmest annual level during autumn. Reminder: Lake Superior *always* controls the Keweenaw Peninsula's weather!

Winter: True winter snows begin in mid-to-late-November; the ground is normally snow-covered from mid-November to mid-April. Lake Superior's gradually cooling waters create an average annual snowfall which ranges from about 180 inches to 250 inches in different parts of the peninsula. While creating abundant snowfall, the relatively warm lake waters keep temperatures much milder than inland surrounding areas of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario.

Spring: A beautiful although quick season on the Keweenaw Peninsula, spring may offer sunny, warm days and cool nights as easily as persistent cold rain. Best practice: dress in layers to accommodate rapidly changing weather. This is good advice throughout the Upper Peninsula!

Healthcare

Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center
(906) 337-6500 Emergency, primary care physicians, urgent care, acute care.

Portage Health System
(906) 483-1000 Emergency, primary care physicians, urgent care, acute care.

Western Upper Peninsula Dialysis Center
(906) 483-1720

Private Property

Only a small portion of the property within the park's boundaries is owned and operated by the National Park Service; therefore, visitors are asked to respect private property rights. Many important industrial buildings of the Quincy Mining Company and the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company are in declining physical condition. Entry into these buildings without the consent of the owners is illegal and may result in serious injury.

Transportation

Daily Air Service is provided to the Houghton County Memorial Airport (CMX) by Northwest Airlink, 800-225-2525. Bus service is provided by Greyhound Bus Lines, 800-231-2222. Charter bus service is available through Superior Coaches & Delivery of Houghton, (906) 487-6511. Cab service is available in the Calumet, Hancock, and Houghton areas. Rental cars are available at the airport and from local car dealers. Excursion boats operate on the Keweenaw Waterway during the summer.

Lodging & Camping

A full range of hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns, and public and privately owned cabins and campgrounds are found throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. Contact the Keweenaw Tourism Council for further details: 1-800-338-7982; 482-5240; 337-4579, www.keweenaw.org.

Trails & Roads

Walking tour guide brochures for the Calumet Historic Business District, the Calumet & Hecla Core Industrial Area, and the Laurium Historic Residential Area are available at the Keweenaw Tourism Council office on US-41 in Calumet.

Hiking and cross-country ski trails are available at Fort Wilkins, McLain, and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Parks. Extensive ski trails in the Porcupine Mountains are served by chairlifts for the downhill ski area. The Swedetown Ski Trails, adjacent to the Calumet Unit of Keweenaw National Historical Park, provide a section of lighted cross-country ski trails.



The Ingot is published with support from Isle Royale Natural History Association.

Visit our website and online store at www.irnha.org



for products related to Keweenaw NHP, including this commemorative, solid copper medallion for \$9.95!

If you would like to work in partnership with the National Park Service to promote the public's understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park, become an IRNHA member today!

Isle Royale Natural History Association
(906) 482-7860 or 1-800-678-6925

Visit our gift shop at the Isle Royale National Park Visitor Center in Houghton.