

EXHIBIT QUARRY
Pipestone National Monument
36 Reservation Avenue
Pipestone
Pipestone County
Minnesota

HAER MN-120
HAER MN-120

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Interior Regions 3, 4, and 5
U.S. Department of the Interior
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

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EXHIBIT QUARRY

HAER No. MN-120

Location: Pipestone National Monument, 36 Reservation Avenue, Pipestone, Pipestone County, Minnesota

USGS Pipestone North Quadrangle – Minnesota 7.5 Minute Series, 2010
UTM: Zone 14, Easting 714434, Northing 4876811 (NAD 83)

Significance: Originally developed by the Civilian Conservation Corp-Indian Division (CCC-ID), the Exhibit Quarry was remodeled by the Mission 66 project and remains part of the trail exhibit as part of the Mission 66 development. The development is eligible under National Register of Historic Places criterion A, as the Mission 66 program changed Pipestone from an underdeveloped park to a classic National Park Service (NPS) visitor experience. Moreover, park managers used Pipestone as a success story to promote Mission 66 to Congress and to the public. The development is also eligible under criterion C, as an example of “Park Service Modern” design at a small park. The planning and development at Pipestone epitomized the team design process of Mission 66, featured a design by a leading architect, and reflected understated contemporary architecture in harmony with the park landscape.

Description: Mission 66 is the largest program for park improvements and expansion ever initiated by the Park Service and is one of the most significant federally-sponsored post-World War II national building projects. The Mission 66 development at Pipestone National Monument, Minnesota, completely altered visitor facilities and well as the physical orientation and access to the park trails and resources in the heart of the monument. It featured construction of the visitor center/park headquarters and maintenance facilities, a new entrance loop road originating from the southeast corner of the park, an adjoining parking lot, trails, and housing.

The Visitor Center, the centerpiece of the Mission 66 projects, was to be “the hub of the park interpretive program where museum exhibits...and other graphic devices would help visitors understand the meaning of the park and its features, and how best to protect, use, and appreciate them.”¹ Following this logic, the Pipestone National Monument Mission 66 Outline states: “The [Visitor Center] site was selected primarily because of proximity to that portion of the pipestone quarry intermittently being worked to show visitors how the Indians obtained the product in its soft, easily carved form. This exhibit, at a natural source of the pipestone responsible for the Monument’s existence, together with the interpretive facilities in the nearby Visitor Center, will provide at one spot essentially all that the visitor needs to derive full benefits from the Monument values-an important feature for the appreciable percentage of Monument visitors who are elderly or otherwise physically indisposed to walking more than a few hundred feet. Through the close relationship of this Visitor Center and quarry exhibit, and the tie-in with trails leading out into the Monument area, one parking area is all that the public will require for convenient access.”²

¹ Ethan Carr, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000), 111.

² “Master Plan Outline: Pipestone National Monument, Minnesota,” National Park Service, “P” Personnel-Master Plan Development Outline, Pipestone National Monument, 3.

The park Mission 66 Prospectus acknowledges the quarry's importance as well: "The primary interpretive feature at Pipestone is the catlinite quarry itself, which extends for several hundred yards in a north-south direction. One quarry pit has been opened for display purposes, while other pits are in use by Indian permittees. The present quarry exhibit should be considerably enlarged on an *in-situ* interpretive display provided."³ As part of the Mission 66 Visitor Center project, the exhibit quarry was remodeled and fully incorporated into the Visitor Center plan.

The Exhibit Quarry is located directly outside the Mission 66 Visitor Center. Situated down a flight of Sioux quartzite, rough cut steps, the quarry displays the layer of undisturbed pipestone, also called catlinite, and shows the layers of earth and rock which must be excavated to access the pipestone.

History: Located in the southwest corner of Minnesota, the Pipestone area had been a sacred place for American Indians for hundreds of years. Long before it became a national monument, tribes from around the country traveled miles to the site to quarry sacred pipestone. On August 26, 1937, Pipestone National Monument was established, officially opening the site to the public. As a small, cultural park, and the first NPS site in Minnesota, Pipestone National Monument experienced a level of isolation sometimes associated with early NPS sites and took years to build a meager administrative infrastructure, retaining its pre-National Monument designation appearance until the late 1940s. While the Pipestone Reservation's members of the CCC-ID cleared underbrush, managed Pipestone Creek and Lake Hiawatha with the creation of a dam, and created a campground and trails, the last projects ended shortly after the national monument was created.

The end of World War II brought an onslaught of visitors to the National Parks, with families using their automobile to visit America's cultural treasures and natural beauty. Pipestone, with a pre-war visitation around 2,000 individuals per season, counted more than 5,000 visitors in 1946. This influx of interest in the National Parks taxed many site's resources and Pipestone was no exception. When U.S. Representative H. Carl Andersen reported that the park's current state was a local embarrassment and park oversight should be transferred to local interests, NPS responded to local criticisms by gradually implementing the park's long-term plan, created in the 1940s. The first permanent park equipment, a used pick-up truck, was purchased in 1947 and the first year-round employee, Lyle Linch, hired in early 1948.⁴

Linch, a ten-year veteran of the Park Service, immediately recognized Pipestone National Monument's shortcomings and began clearing the site and improving its amenities and interpretive offerings. In 1948, shortly after accepting the supervisor position, Linch discovered an exhibition quarry covered by underbrush overgrowth and brambles. This quarry exhibit, paired with archaeology research from NPS Midwest Region and the University of Minnesota, shaped

³ "Mission 66 Prospectus: Pipestone National Monument," June 6, 1956, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, General Files 1952-1960, Box A-34, File A98, National Archives Records Administration-Central Plains.

⁴ Hal K. Rothman and Daniel J. Holder, *Managing the Sacred and the Secular: An Administrative History of Pipestone National Monument*, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1992, 84.

Pipestone's interpretive offerings. In 1949, Lynch hired George Bryan, an Ojibway who quarried in the monument, as the site's first seasonal interpreter.⁵

Larger changes came to Pipestone when Conrad Wirth became Director of the National Park Service (NPS) in 1951. In the interest of both modernizing the national parks and making them available to larger crowds of visitors, Wirth spearheaded the development of the Mission 66 program. It was under this program that Pipestone received funding for major developments addressing the problem of inadequate development to properly serve growing visitation numbers.⁶

Sources:

Corbett, William P. "A History of the Red Pipestone Quarry and Pipestone National Monument." M.A. Thesis. University of South Dakota, July 1976.

"Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Pipestone National Monument." National Park Service, 2007.

Fitzgerald, Kathleen. "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Pipestone National Monument." Internal draft, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska, 2006.

_____. "Pipestone National Monument: Ethnographic Landscape Report." U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2007.

"List of Classified Structures." Internal Assessments. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska. Accessed 5 July 2012.

Rothman, Hal K. and Daniel J. Holder. *Managing the Sacred and the Secular: An Administrative History of Pipestone National Monument*. U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1992.

Webb, Paul L. and Paul L. Beaubien. "Mission 66 Prospectus: Pipestone National Monument." Internal document. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1956.

Wilkins, JoAnn and Donald L. Stevens. Pipestone National Monument. National Register of Historic Places Nomination. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington D.C. Listed 2003.

Historian: Pipestone National Monument was recorded from 2009-10 by Katherine Kaliszewski, National Park Service Midwest Regional Office (MWRO) intern with supplemental material provided by Donald L. Stevens, Jr., Chief of History and National Register Programs MWRO.

⁵ Hal K. Rothman and Daniel J. Holder, *Managing the Sacred and the Secular: An Administrative History of Pipestone National Monument*, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1992, 91.

⁶ "Mission 66 Prospectus: Pipestone National Monument," National Park Service, June 6, 1956, General Files 1952-1960, Box A-34, File A98, National Archives Records Administration-Central Plains.

Photographs were taken by Daniel R. Pratt in July 2009. Interns Hilary Retseck and Kayla Hassett and MWRO historian Alesha Cerny completed the report narratives in 2012. The survey was reformatted and edited for transmittal in 2021 by Cerny.

Project Information: This report was commissioned in order to comply with a stipulation in a programmatic agreement between the National Park Service and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the treatment of historic structures at Pipestone National Monument. The CCC Dam (HAER No. MN-118) and Footbridges (HAER No. MN-119), the Nicollet-Fremont Marker (HABS No. MN-171), the Circle Trail (HALS No. MN-3), South Quarry Line Trail (HALS No. MN-4), and the Sioux Quartzite Steps (HALS No. MN-5) also will be retained and preserved as part of the programmatic agreement that implements the preferred alternative of the general management plan. However, the Mission 66 Pipestone Visitor Center (HABS No. MN-167), Residence (HABS No. MN-168), Restroom (HABS No. MN-169), and Entry Road (HAER No. MN-116), as well as the 1950 Residence (HABS No. MN-170) and the Residence Access Road (HAER No. MN-117) will be demolished. The buildings and structures interfere with the spiritual significance of the Pipestone quarries and associated natural/ethnographic elements of the National Monument. The ethnographic landscape will be restored to a more natural appearance. HABS, HAER, and HALS documentation will be completed on several buildings, structures, and landscapes in the park to mitigate the adverse impacts of this extensive landscape restoration project.

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Scale stick in photographs in 4 feet long.

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Daniel R. Pratt, photographer, July 2009

MN-120-1	Context view of Exhibit Quarry, looking southeast along Circle Trail (HALS No. MN-3).
MN-120-2	View of Exhibit Quarry, looking east.

HAER No. MN-120-01





HAER No. MN-120-02

QUARRY PIT FLOOR
SLIPPERY WHEN WET

