

1 **1961-2011: The Decline of Mining and Evolution of Heritage Tourism**
2

3 ***C&H Mining Company and Universal Oil Products***
4 ***(Industrial Core) – 1961-2011***
5

6 During the 1960s and 1970s, copper mining declined and members of the community
7 continued to hope that mining would eventually rebound as a primary economic
8 enterprise. In 1969 mining ended in Calumet and the community sought to find new
9 endeavors to boost the local economy. Two approaches emerged as major, and frequently
10 contradictory, influences of landscape change. One sought to enhance the local economy
11 by drawing new business and modernizing through new development. The other focused
12 on the preservation of historically and environmentally significant resources, as a basis
13 for an economy founded on heritage tourism and recreation. Efforts by the community
14 over the last fifty years have supported these goals, but not without conflict. Some efforts
15 toward modernization have impacted the historic integrity of the Calumet Unit and
16 preservation of the historic resources has stretched local finances. Tourism and recreation
17 have proved to be of great importance to the regional economy but the probability of any
18 one industry providing the sole support for the community ever again is unlikely. As
19 community leaders seek to find appropriate economic bases, they frequently find
20 themselves undertaking a delicate balancing act between preservation and development.
21 This section provides a synopsis of the changes to the landscape in the Calumet Unit that
22 have occurred as a result of the end of mining, cultural heritage preservation efforts, and
23 new development over the last fifty years.
24

25 By 1968 the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company was a shadow of its former self. This
26 had a profound effect on the local community. The Calumet community evolved as a
27 consequence of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, and neither the company nor
28 the community had ever existed in the absence of the other. This changed on 30 April
29 1968 when the Universal Oil Products Company purchased the Calumet and Hecla
30 Mining Company. By that time, the workforce dedicated to the mine had declined to
31 1,000 employees and the copper deposits that could be profitably extracted using the
32 current technology were exhausted. Soon after the change in ownership, the workers
33 went on strike. When no compromise could be reached, Universal Oil Products closed the
34 remaining operating mining works in August 1968. Although the mines reopened for
35 exploration purposes, active mining was never resumed. The Calumet Division of
36 Universal Oil Products closed in 1969 and the company began to liquidate its holdings.
37 These included 234,000 acres of land and associated developments in Houghton and
38 Keweenaw Counties.

39 ***Local Efforts to Preserve Historic Heritage and Reinvigorate the***
40 ***Economy***
41

42 After 1969, a non-profit organization, the Copper Country Area Industrial Council, was
43 formed to attract new industry to the area. Local efforts also focused on developing the
44 area as a tourist destination. These occurred both at a local and a regional level. From a

1 broad scale perspective, planning focused on the entire Upper Peninsula (UP) of
2 Michigan has affected the Calumet Unit. This unique portion of Michigan exists as an
3 area removed and different from the rest of the state (figure II-72). The peninsula is
4 surrounded by the waters of three Great Lakes: Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake
5 Huron. The region includes a broad wilderness of dense woods with beautiful streams
6 and waterfalls spread across over 300 miles of landscape. Michigan's northernmost
7 territory provides a compelling location for four seasons of outdoor activities including
8 hiking, camping, kayaking, canoeing, boating, fishing, biking, cross country skiing,
9 snowshoeing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, all terrain vehicle use, and exploration of
10 the rich mining, shipping and logging heritage of the region.¹⁴²
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12
13
14 **Figure II - 72: Regions of the state of Michigan**

¹⁴² *Pure Michigan*, Michigan's Official Travel and Tourism Site, <http://www.michigan.org/Places-to-Go/Locations/Upper-Peninsula/Default.aspx>, accessed 30 January 2012.

1 The first regional tourism plan for Michigan's Upper Peninsula was prepared in 1966.
2 This early report identified an array of natural and cultural resources, and the fact that
3 they had been preserved due to their isolation and large scale. The remoteness and
4 abundance of resources were seen as challenges for attracting tourism to the region,
5 leading to recommendations aimed at educating and drawing people to the area. The plan
6 identified eight zones across the UP with significant attractions that could be visited from
7 centralized communities. The Keweenaw was identified as a zone of industrial attraction
8 where a copper mining historic complex, scenic tour complex and second home
9 subdivisions were recommended.¹⁴³ At the time, the C&H Mining Company was still
10 operating mines in Calumet and the idea of replacing the mining industry with tourism in
11 the Keweenaw was not widely accepted.

12
13 Within a few years, this changed. When Universal Oil Products closed Calumet mining
14 operations in 1969, the end of mining as the major economic industry in Calumet was a
15 stark reality. Heritage tourism was now seen as a potential economic opportunity for the
16 region and Calumet was well situated to serve as a center for these activities. Promotion
17 of tourism in the Western Upper Peninsula continued through the 1970s and people who
18 had previously moved away for work opportunities began to retire. Many returned to
19 Calumet.¹⁴⁴ Over the past four decades, efforts to preserve the historic character of the
20 community while enhancing the economy have continued. These efforts have
21 experienced a mix of success and failure related to the preservation of the historic
22 landscapes in the Calumet Unit. A list of formal planning reports that have produced by
23 the community and NPS since 1975 is provided in Table II-1.

24 ***Industrial Core – 1961-2011***

25
26 Although mining ended in Calumet, Universal Oil Products (UOP) continued to own a
27 large amount of industrial property. Many industrial buildings and landscape features
28 were removed from the landscape, but a large quantity of substantial mining structures
29 remained. The company considered the potential of developing the area's rich history
30 into a new economy. As the nation's bicentennial approached, UOP developed and
31 promoted a plan to create a history-centered theme park on company owned land in the
32 industrial core. The scheme, entitled Coppertown USA, was envisioned as a public-
33 private partnership that would be directed by a local non-profit organization. When
34 federal funding was not available, the plan was abandoned. The plan's one manifestation
35 was the establishment of a non-profit mining museum in the C&H pattern shop. The
36 Coppertown museum was established in 1972 and continues to operate today, providing
37 visitors with an overview of Calumet's mining past.¹⁴⁵

38
39 In 1976 Sixth Street was extended to meet U.S. 41, cutting through the former industrial
40 corridor with a broad curve, creating a new circulation route, the Sixth Street Extension.

¹⁴³ Uel Blank and Clare A. Gunn, *Guidelines for Tourism in the Upper Peninsula* (Johnson Johnson & Roy, Inc., 1966).

¹⁴⁴ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 240-241; Thurner, *Calumet Copper and People*, 105-107; and Thurner, *Strangers and Sojourners*, 285-287.

¹⁴⁵ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 240-241.



1
2 **Figure II - 62: Surface plant at Tamarack, ca. 1920s** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP,
3 Jack Foster Collection, Series II Assembled Albums (002), Book 3, #016)
4

5 **1931-1960**
6

7 During the 1930s, the Great Depression severely impacted the region. C&H continued to
8 operate on a reduced scale, attempting to balance production costs and market returns. The
9 Second World War brought some economic relief, in the elevation of copper prices, but it
10 was short-lived. In 1943 the Keweenaw miners unionized, joining the International Union of
11 Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Worker-
12 management relations were stressed, and a series of strikes occurred in the 1950s. C&H
13 attempted to develop other enterprises outside the Calumet area, and miners were
14 discontented with their insufficient wages and lack of opportunities. Workers demanded
15 increased compensation leading to a sixteen week strike in 1955. During this period, the
16 company's board of directors threatened twice to close down the Calumet operations. In the
17 ensuing years, these threats loomed in the minds of workers. With each drop in the price of
18 copper, rumors of the closing of the mines were rampant. The company's focus on other
19 activities continued to grow, and mining became a secondary focus for C&H. Many young
20 people left Calumet for school and work prospects. By 1970 the population of Calumet had
21 declined to approximately one-third of its size in 1890.¹³⁴
22

23 As the mining operations and local population were shrinking, the appearance of the
24 landscape changed. The removal of active railroad lines, tram routes, stockpiles of materials,
25 and utility corridors, resulted in large open areas within the industrial core. Where these
26 were once highly active, dirty, noisy locations, they gradually evolved into quiet openings of
27 level land between the large industrial buildings that remained in place (see Figures II-67-
28 69).

¹³⁴ Thurner, *Calumet Copper and People*, 105.

1 Beginning in the late 1930s, C&H divested itself of housing stock. Houses, but not the
2 land under them, were sold to individuals for five to one-hundred and twenty five dollars.
3 The transfer of ownership of housing from the company to individual owners caused a
4 major shift in the concept of residential ownership in the area.¹³⁵
5

6 Beginning in 1934, Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal program brought work projects to the
7 Keweenaw. Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) projects included building
8 sidewalks, repairing streets, constructing a new post office, and other projects aimed at
9 drawing tourists to the area.¹³⁷ The post office was the only building project in the Village
10 of Calumet during the 1930s. The late 1940s saw several new construction projects that
11 represented the last new building activity in the Village of Calumet until the 1960s.¹³⁸
12
13
14

15 Next Page:

16 **Figure II - 63: Calumet Unit Period of Change Plan, 1931-1960**
17

18 **Sources for Figure II-63: Calumet Period of Change Plan, 1931-1960**

- 19 • Map, C&H Surface Maps ca. 1950 (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster
20 Collection, Series II Assembled Albums (002), Book 10)
- 21 • Aerial view of Agassiz Park, ca. 1935, Mason Collection, Web Collection,
22 C&H Non-Industrial, Agassiz Park)
- 23 • Aerial photograph, Calumet Avenue, Calumet Michigan, 1938 (NPS,
24 Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Album 5, #041)
- 25 • Aerial view facing south, Red Jacket Road and Calumet Avenue, 1938
26 (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Album 3, #043)
27
28

¹³⁵ It is not clear if these transfers included the land upon which the houses were situated.

¹³⁷ Thurner, *Calumet Copper and People*, 102.

¹³⁸ *Village of Calumet Civic and Commercial Historic District Design Guidelines*, 2006, 6.

Chronology

Many buildings downtown lost to fire and demolition.

1932

Houghton County Traction Company operations ended in May due to loss of business attributed to the Great Depression.

1939

The Federal Work Relief program builds a post office in Calumet Village.

1940s

Several new construction projects were completed in the late 1940s with a lull in new building until the 1960s. Removal of surface plant associated with Conglomerate Lode workings and Osceola Amygdaloid Lode slightly later.

1942

Armory burns.

1944

Library closes and is renovated. The collection moves to school.

1949

Congregational Church burns.

1950

Bathhouse closes.

1953

ME church burns and is replaced.

1955

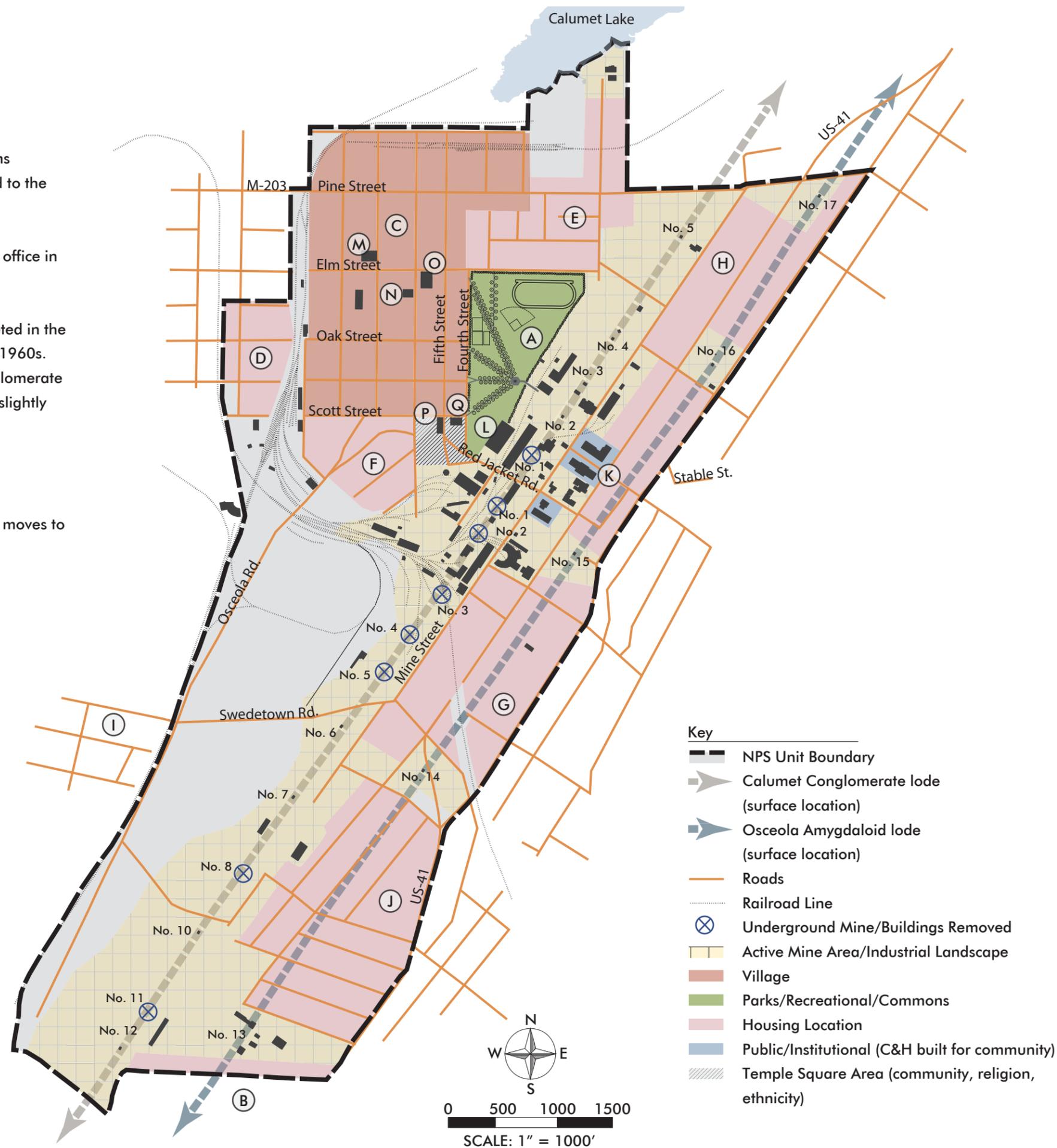
Osceola Project - dewatering, construction, etc. Removal of Agent's House (MacNaughton House). C&H Hospital closing and demolition.

1957

New Sacred Heart Central grade school built on Calumet Avenue.

1960-1962

Old Sacred Heart Grade School closing and demolition.



Calumet Unit

Keweenaw National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report & Environmental Assessment

1931-1960 Period of Change Plan

Legend

- (A) Agassiz Park
- (B) Osceola Housing Location
- (C) Village of Calumet (formerly Village of Red Jacket)
- (D) Yellow Jacket Housing Location
- (E) Blue Jacket Housing Location
- (F) Newtown Housing Location
- (G) Hecla Housing Location
- (H) Calumet Housing Location
- (I) Swedetown Housing Location
- (J) Raymbaultown Housing Location
- (K) Calumet Public School
- (L) Colosseum
- (M) Italian Hall Site
- (N) Firehall
- (O) Calumet Theater
- (P) St. Anne's Church
- (Q) Union Building

Map Notes

1. Locations of elements on plan are approximate based on best available sources. Plan sources are provided in the adjacent CLR narrative.
2. Mineral lodes are indicated on diagrams only for periods during which they were actively mined.

Created/Revised

June 2012



Figure II-63

1 Throughout the industrial core, many buildings and landscape features have been
2 removed, including all of the shaft houses and most railroad tracks. The corridor includes
3 foundations of industrial buildings, landscape features, machinery, and vegetation that is
4 encroaching in areas that are not maintained.

5
6 Knowledge and recognition of the area's historic significance evolved during the 1970s
7 and 1980s. In 1974 a National Register survey focusing on the Calumet Civic &
8 Commercial Historic District and the Calumet Industrial District was conducted. The
9 information from the survey was supplemented by a report prepared in 1987 and
10 developed into a National Register of Historic Places nomination in 1988. The role of the
11 Calumet and Hecla Mining Company and the Village of Calumet in the development of
12 the copper mining industry in the United States was clearly documented. In 1989 the
13 property was designated a National Historic Landmark, having the highest level of
14 significance obtainable.¹⁴⁶

15
16 The failure of the Coppertown USA scheme seems to have resulted in resignation by
17 UOP that the large amount of industrial land they owned in Calumet was not inclined to
18 be put to profitable use in the near future. Their pursuit of redevelopment plans ended and
19 a local, grass-roots effort to preserve the heritage of the community gained steam. During
20 the 1980s interest grew in the concept of establishing a national park in the Keweenaw.

21
22 The grassroots efforts of numerous individuals and organizations resulted in the
23 establishment of Keweenaw National Historical Park in 1992. The park is a partnership
24 park with limited federal ownership. The park's enabling legislation and General
25 Management Plan stipulate that only a small portion of the land within the park
26 boundaries may be owned by the federal government. The remaining property is owned
27 and managed by several organizations and multiple private property owners.

28
29 In 1995 Mine Street Station was developed on the west side of the Sixth Street Extension.
30 The development includes a fast food restaurant, gas station, large parking lots, grocery
31 store, chain hotel and other strip-type developments. The character of the structures and
32 layout of the development are not compatible with the historic character of Calumet, but
33 the facilities are important to the daily lives of the community and visitors.

34
35 The school campus for the Public Schools of Calumet-Laurium-Keweenaw is located
36 north of the C&H General Office building (now Keweenaw NHP Headquarters) between
37 Calumet Avenue and Mine Street. Two historic buildings are included in the central
38 school district campus. The 1907 high school and 1929 Washington School were
39 constructed by C&H. The buildings have evolved into combined use as a kindergarten
40 through twelfth-grade school for the merged school district that includes Allouez,
41 Mohawk, Ahmeek, Calumet, and Laurium. The original building is still in use and has
42 been expanded to serve the school needs. A major addition was completed in 1997,

¹⁴⁶ Lidfors, et al., National Register of Historic Places, Calumet Historic District, 1988; Kathleen Lidfors, *Potential National Historic Landmark Eligibility of Historic Copper Mining Sites on the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan: A Report to the History Division, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.*, 1987.

1 providing a new elementary school, library, gymnasium, and multi-media center.¹⁴⁷ The
2 addition extends into the area that formerly was part of the C&H industrial corridor. The
3 addition bisects Mine Street in a location where the vehicular circulation route was
4 crucial to mining activities historically. Its placement changed the spatial organization
5 and views in the area as well. In 2012, the grade school was expanded and a commons
6 area was added. The school playground and student gardens are located between the
7 school building and the C&H dryhouse and drill shop. The school parking lot is situated
8 between the school, the C&H gearhouse, dryhouse, and surrounding the powderhouse.
9 Prior to the development of the parking lot, the area included dirt trails and volunteer
10 vegetation.

11
12 A few other buildings were constructed during this period. They include the Township
13 Hall, ATT Central Office, and Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance structures, all located
14 along the north side of Red Jacket Road, and the Calumet Electronics building that was
15 constructed as an addition to the C&H roundhouse located on Mine Street. Also, in the
16 northern portion of the Calumet Unit the Peterson Funeral Home was constructed at
17 57265 Mine Street, just north of the school property, in 1974. At the intersection of Elm
18 and Mine Streets, the Still Waters Assisted Living Community was constructed in 1982.
19 The facility was closed in 2006 and reopened in 2011 as Garden View Assisted Living
20 and Memory Care.¹⁴⁸

21
22 Other changes to the landscape have included the growth of volunteer vegetation in
23 portions of the industrial corridor that are no longer actively used and the establishment
24 of informal recreational trails in the south Mine Street area. Also, the southwestern
25 portion of the Calumet Unit is currently used as an area for stockpiling dirt and stone and
26 possibly for extracting stone for construction projects.

27
28 In 1998, the National Park Service, in consultation with the Keweenaw National
29 Historical Park Advisory Commission, prepared a General Management Plan (GMP) to
30 help guide managers in “opening the park to the public, managing the park’s resources,
31 and telling the copper mining story.”¹⁴⁹ Since then, the National Park Service (NPS) has
32 acquired four buildings within the Calumet Unit. Three have been rehabilitated and
33 rehabilitation plans for the fourth are underway. The NPS also purchased the Russell
34 Snow Plow, located on Red Jacket Road west of Warehouse No.1. The NPS is currently
35 contracted with Quinn Evans Architects to prepare a plan for an accessible route to the
36 snow plow and interpretive information regarding the role of it and similar machines in
37 historic industrial activities.

38

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.clkschools.org/history-of-clk>, accessed 8 February 2012.

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.pasty.com/faq.html> accessed 8 February 2012, and *The Daily Mining Gazette, Garden View Assisted Living & Memory Care opens; announces ties with Northridge Pines*, 5 January 2011 (www.mininggazette.com accessed 8 February 2012).

¹⁴⁹ NPS, *Final General Management Plan*.

1
2
3

Table II-1: Planning Documents Related to the Preservation of Calumet Unit Landscapes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Prepared by</u>
1975	HABS documentation of Agassiz Park	Kevin Harrington
1976	UOP Development Plan for Coppertown USA	Barton-Ashman Associates
1979	Calumet Civic & Commercial Historic District Plan	Preservation Urban Design in association with John Roger Johansen Architect
1981	Calumet Civic & Commercial Historic District Plan	John Roger Johansen Architect
1987	Potential National Historic Landmark Eligibility of Historic Copper Mining Sites on the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan	Kathleen Lidfors, Historian, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
1988	National Register Nomination, Calumet Historic District	Kathleen Lidfors, Historian, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (with assistance from Mary Jo Hrenchir and Laura Feller)
1990	Agassiz Park Development Project	Village of Calumet
1991	Agassiz Park and Fourth Street Redevelopment Plan	U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., for Village of Calumet
1992	Village of Calumet Recreation Plan	Village of Calumet
1995	Housing Preservation Issues Workshop Keweenaw National Historical Park	NPS
1997	Remnants of Corporate Paternalism: Company Housing and Landscapes at Calumet, Michigan	Arnold R. Alanen and Katie Franks
1998	Keweenaw National Historical Park General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement	NPS
1998	Village of Calumet Recreation Plan	Village of Calumet
1999	Agassiz Park Master Plan	U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., for Village of Calumet
1999	Preliminary Historic District Study Committee Report, Calumet Village Civic and Commercial Historic District	Village of Calumet Historic District Study Committee
1999	Preliminary Historic District Study Committee Report, Calumet and Hecla Corporate and Industrial District	Calumet Township Historic District Study Committee
2001	Historic Preservation & Interpretation Projects	Forum, Lansing, Michigan
2002	Calumet Civic and Commercial District established January 15	Village of Calumet

4

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Prepared by</u>
2002	Village of Calumet Downtown Development Authority Downtown Development Plan	U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc.
2002	Historic Structure Report, Union Building (Calumet Visitor Center)	NPS
2004	National Register Nomination for Laurium Historic District	Jane C. Busch, Cleveland, Ohio
2004	Keweenaw National Historical Park Visitor Study	NPS
2004	Cultural Landscape Inventory, General Office Building (update)	NPS
2004	Cultural Landscape Inventory, Warehouse No. 1 (update)	NPS
2005	Cultural Landscape Inventory, C&H Library (update)	NPS
2005	Keweenaw National Historical Park Fire Management Plan	NPS
2006	Cultural Landscape Inventory, Union Building (update)	NPS
2006	Keweenaw National Historical Park Alternative Transportation	Jonathan Church, Transportation Planner, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
2006	Village of Calumet Civic and Commercial Historic District Design Guidelines	Village of Calumet HDC and NPS
2008 (draft)	Historic Structure Report, Keweenaw History Center (C&H Library)	NPS
2010	Keweenaw National Historical Park Motorist Guidance Sign Drawings	NPS
2010	Draft Long Range Interpretive Plan	NPS
unknown	Walking tour brochure – Downtown Calumet	NPS
unknown	Walking tour brochure – Calumet Industrial Core	NPS
2011	Historic Structure Report, Calumet & Hecla Warehouse No. 1	Quinn Evans Architects
2012 (predicted)	Keweenaw National Historical Park Collection Management Plan	NPS
draft	Keweenaw National Historical Park Resource Stewardship Strategy	NPS

1
2

Village of Calumet – 1961-2011

1
2
3 The physical conditions of properties in downtown Calumet declined when mining ended
4 in the community in 1969. Many businesses were closed and buildings were vacant.
5 Large quantities of buildings were no longer maintained and their condition declined
6 steadily. Other buildings had to be demolished. Despite this, a large proportion of the
7 historic buildings in downtown Calumet remain today and many have been rehabilitated
8 over the last several decades. The historic street grids, building setbacks, massing of
9 buildings and overall character of the Civic & Commercial Historic District remain
10 intact.

11
12 Historic preservation efforts related to the Calumet Civic & Commercial Historic District
13 were set into motion by a project focused on rehabilitation of the Calumet Theater in
14 1971. The project was followed by the listing of the property on the National Register of
15 Historic Places, establishment of a nonprofit Theater Company, and additional
16 rehabilitation projects through 1988. The efforts instilled great pride into the community
17 and seemed to energize local sentiment in favor of historic preservation.¹⁵⁰

18
19 Plans for the Civic & Commercial Historic District were prepared in 1979 and 1981,
20 solidifying goals focused on preserving and rehabilitating historic resources in the
21 Village. The Calumet Civic and Commercial District was established in 2002 (figure II-
22 73) and design guidelines for properties within the district were published in 2006.¹⁵¹
23 These plans set forth recommendations for private property owners and the Village to
24 implement to improve the conditions within the historic district. The Village secured
25 grants to help implement numerous projects including: sidewalk replacement and lighting
26 restoration on Oak and Sixth Streets; brick street restoration and lighting on Fifth Street;
27 reconfiguration of Fourth Street, creating additional off-street parking; repaving of Sixth
28 Street; and brick street restoration on Pine Street. Private investors have rehabilitated
29 downtown buildings and established numerous commercial businesses and residential
30 units.¹⁵²

31
32 The community has established a Main Street program focused on revitalizing the
33 historic downtown district so that it is vibrant and attractive to residents and visitors.¹⁵³
34 The program is part of the Michigan Main Street Program within the Michigan State
35 Housing Development Authority and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's
36 National Main Street Program. The National Park Service developed a walking tour
37 brochure for downtown Calumet that it distributes from its Visitor Center.

38
39 Despite all of these efforts, Calumet's downtown still is home to several dilapidated
40 buildings, vacant lots, historically incompatible storefronts, and vacant structures.

¹⁵⁰ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 238-240.

¹⁵¹ *Village of Calumet Civic and Commercial Historic District Design Guidelines*, 2006.

¹⁵² U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., *Village of Calumet, Downtown Development Authority, Downtown Development Plan*, no date (latest plan according to Sue Dana, Village Comptroller).

¹⁵³ www.mainstreetcalumet.com, accessed 9 February 2012.

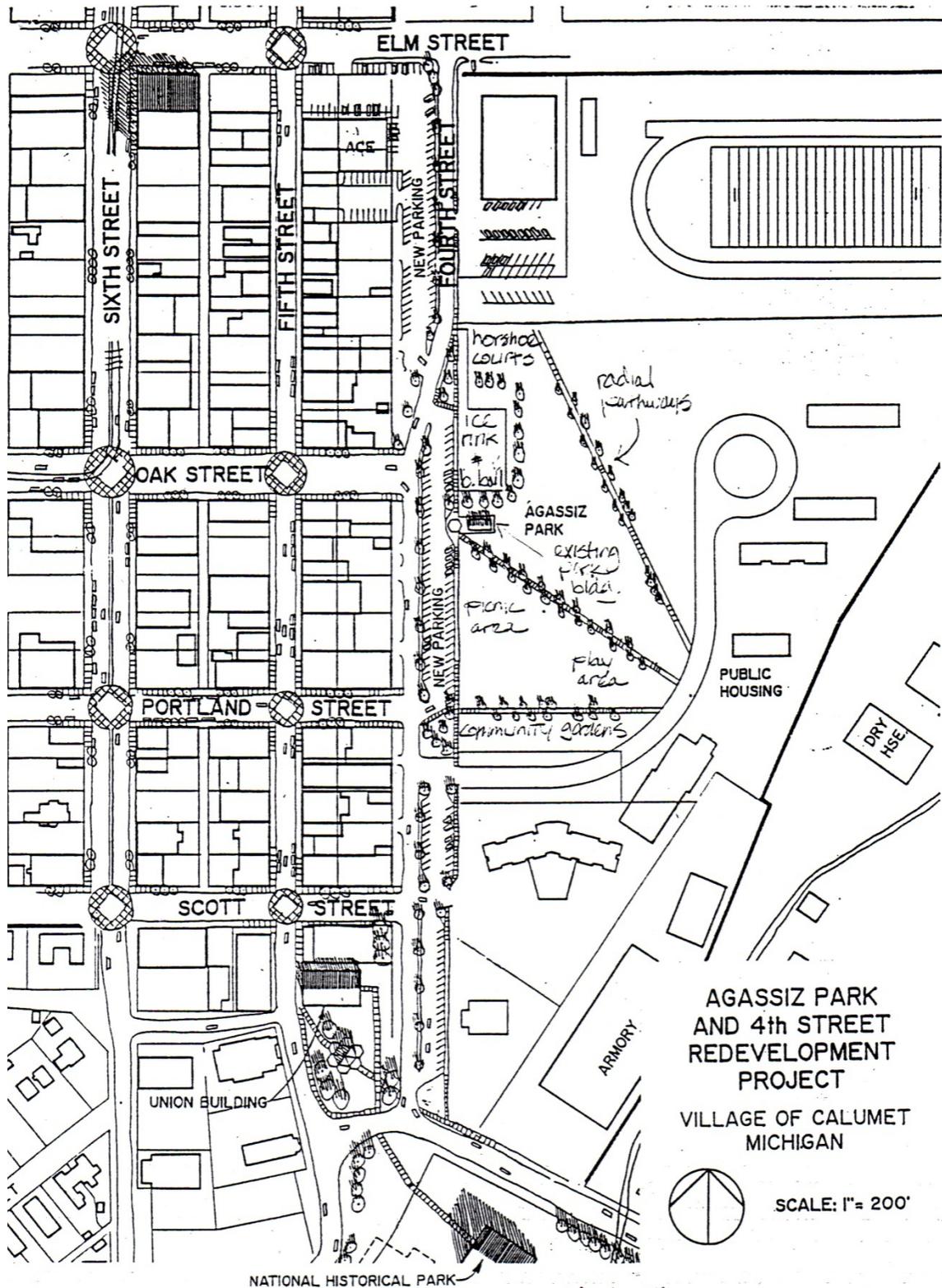
1 Specific issues and opportunities related to downtown Calumet are outlined in the current
2 Downtown Development Plan.¹⁵⁴

3
4



5
6 **Figure II - 73: Calumet Civic and Commercial District Boundary, est. 2002**
7 (source: Village of Calumet Civic and Commercial Historic District Design Guidelines,
8 2006)
9

¹⁵⁴ U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. *Calumet Downtown Development Plan*.



1
 2 **Figure II - 74: Agassiz Park and Fourth Street Redevelopment Project, 1995**
 3 (source: attached to *Agassiz Park Master Plan*, prepared by U.P. Engineers & Architects,
 4 Inc., and cited in the *Village of Calumet Recreation Plan*, 1998)

1 **Agassiz Park—1961-2011**

2
3 When Agassiz Park was built the paths in the park connected directly to Scott, Portland,
4 Oak and Elm Streets as well as paths along the western, eastern and northern sides of the
5 park. Flanking both sides of the paths along the western, northern, and north portion of
6 the eastern paths, Manning provided hedges of shrubs. These served to enclose the park
7 by providing a strong definition of its edges. Although not all of the park plan was
8 implemented, it appears that some of these hedges were planted. A cedar hedge is extant
9 along the northern portion of the eastern boundary of the park. Photographs indicate that
10 hedges were also planted along the western side of the park. In 1964, the corridor along
11 the western side of the park was altered. Where there had been a pedestrian corridor,
12 Fourth Street was added as a vehicular circulation route.

13
14 From the time it was constructed, Agassiz Park was maintained by C&H Mining
15 Company as a tribute to Alexander Agassiz, the company's founder. The final years of
16 C&H operation were financially difficult and it is likely that the maintenance of the park
17 suffered. When the company was sold to UOP in 1968, the financial situation was dire
18 and mining operations ended within one year. It appears that upkeep of the park was
19 neglected. UOP sought financially rewarding ways to utilize the land they owned in the
20 community, and proposals for new development within the park were considered. The
21 community was in need of senior housing facilities, and a portion of the park was sold to
22 the Calumet Housing Commission for the development of a four-story senior housing
23 facility in 1969. The project was supported with federal funding from the United States
24 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

25
26 Following the abandonment of Agassiz Park's maintenance by C&H, a series of
27 incremental changes degraded the historic property. Several parcels have been divided
28 from the park property and used for new development. A grocery store, insurance
29 company, townhouses, road (Park Avenue), and apartment building now occupy sites that
30 were formerly portions of the park.¹⁵⁵

31
32 In 1974, a parking lot was constructed for the senior apartments on the site where the
33 statue of Alexander Agassiz stood, necessitating the relocation of the statue. It was
34 moved to a site on the eastern side of the 1898 C&H-constructed public library, which is
35 currently owned by the National Park Service and used as a research facility, referred to
36 as the Keweenaw History Center. The statue sits in the side-yard with no paths or other
37 connections to the surrounding landscape.

38
39 The northwest corner of the park was sold for development of a grocery store in 1976.
40 The lot was developed with a large flat-roof building that is surrounded by pavement.
41 There are no ornamental features or plants remaining on the grocery store site.

42
43 The first Calumet Civic & Commercial Historic District Plan was prepared in 1979 by
44 Preservation Urban Design, Inc (see Figure II-75). The plan identified Agassiz Park as a

¹⁵⁵ Alanen and Bjorkman, *Plats, Parks, Playgrounds and Plants*, 57-58.

1 valuable community amenity and recommended that it be “defended vigorously against
2 any further development.”¹⁵⁶ Three years later, in 1982, a second apartment building for
3 elderly residents and four townhouse structures, a street with a cul-de-sac, and three
4 parking lots were constructed on park land. The project provided much needed housing
5 for elderly residents, as well as units for families. Undertaken by the Calumet Housing
6 Commission, funding was provided by the Department of Housing and Urban
7 Development (HUD). An office building was constructed, to the south of the original
8 elderly apartment complex, by Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. All of these
9 structures remain and are being utilized for their original purpose.

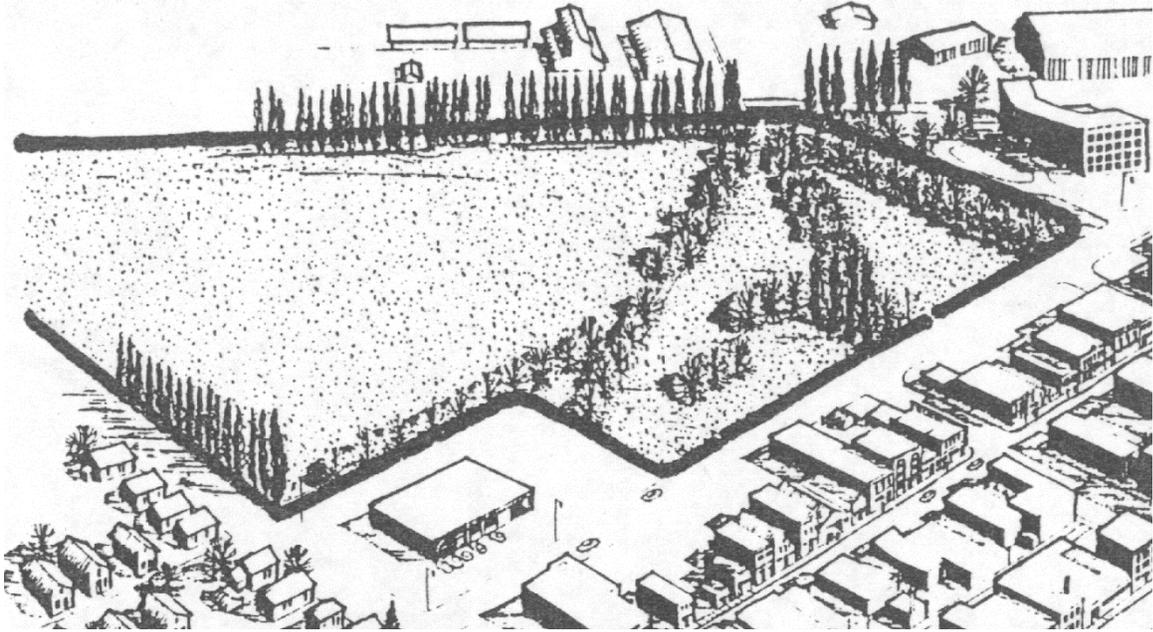
10
11 In 1990, the Village of Calumet applied for a Community Development Block Grant
12 (CDBG) to assist in acquisition of Agassiz Park, procurement of the triangular lot next to
13 the Union building (see Red Jacket Road Park section), purchase of a fourteen foot wide
14 strip of land along the west side of Fourth Street, and funding of improvements to Fourth
15 Street. Using funds from the grant, the Village of Calumet purchased 4.5 acres of the
16 formerly 25 acre Agassiz Park to ensure that it would not be developed in an
17 incompatible manner with downtown. A plan entitled “Agassiz Park and 4th Street
18 Redevelopment” was prepared, and is illustrated in Figure II-74. The plan was not
19 approved; however, the Village uses it as a guide for making decisions about the park.

20
21 In 1991, a park building including restrooms and an activity area was constructed on the
22 western side of the park. Improvements to Fourth Street included construction of parking
23 lots along the west side of Agassiz Park from Oak Street to the South. The proposed
24 medians with trees were planted with ground cover, as the Village Council was
25 concerned that trees would inhibit snow plowing, but the plants died and were not
26 replaced. The ice rink and parking/street alignment at the northern block of Fourth Street
27 were not implemented. The parking on Fourth Street is used by downtown businesses and
28 for overnight parking by residents. It is considered a vital element in the rehabilitation of
29 downtown Calumet.

30
31 The Village prepared a Recreation Plan in 1992 (updated in 1998) to provide guidance
32 for managing recreational properties, including Agassiz Park. Recommendations for
33 Agassiz Park included restoration of the radial walkways and plantings consistent with
34 Manning’s design, and installation of an outdoor ice rink, children’s play area, picnic area
35 and outdoor stage. The Village Recreation Plan did not give specific direction for the
36 form or locations of these facilities, other than including a copy of a 1995 “Agassiz Park
37 and 4th Street Redevelopment Project” plan in the 1998 update (see Figure II-74). In
38 1998, U. P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., was hired to develop a master plan for the park.
39 The goal of the plan was to provide direction for the redevelopment of the park in a way
40 that reflects the design intent of the original Manning plan while accommodating present
41 day needs.¹⁵⁷ Specific recommendations provided in the report are outlined in Chapter 6:
42 Recommended Treatment, of this cultural landscape report.

¹⁵⁶ Preservation Urban Design, *Calumet Downtown Historic District Plan*, Public Space Improvements, 1979.

¹⁵⁷ *Village of Calumet Recreation Plan*, 1998; and U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc., *Agassiz Park Master Plan*, 1998.



1
2 **Figure II - 75: 1979 Conditions at Agassiz Park** (source: Calumet Civic &
3 Commercial Historic District Plan prepared by Preservation Urban Design, excerpt from
4 plan titled “Public Open Space Improvements” 1979)
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6
7 **Figure II - 76: 2012 Conditions at Agassiz Park**
8 (source: GoogleEarth accessed February 2012)
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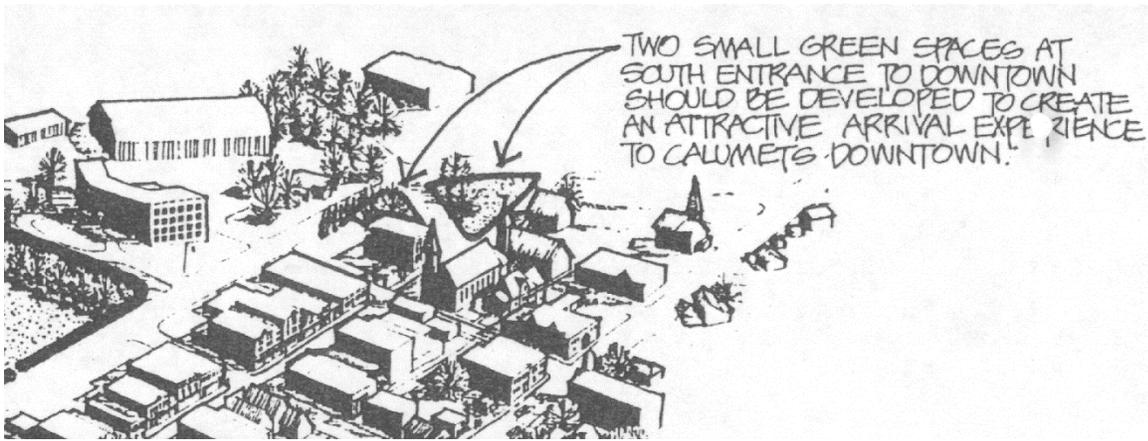
Red Jacket Road Park—1978-2011

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Red Jacket Road Park, is a triangular shaped open space located at the northeast side of Red Jacket Road, adjacent to the Calumet Visitor Center (Union Building) between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The 1979 Public Open Space Improvement plan prepared by Preservation Urban Design identified this space as one that should be developed to create an attractive arrival experience to Calumet’s downtown (see Figure II-77). The property was purchased by the Village of Calumet in 1990 to ensure that it be maintained as open space. The park is meant to provide a central gathering place for visitors and residents as they walk between downtown Calumet and other attractions. The current Village Recreation Plan indicates that the older trees on this property should be pruned or removed.

A 1995 plan entitled “Agassiz Park and Fourth Street Redevelopment Project” provided a conceptual landscape plan for the Red Jacket Road Park (figure II-78). The plan was not adopted by the Village, and the concept for this area has not been pursued. The plan included the development of a path, gazebo, and ornamental plantings in the small park. The plan also indicates that Red Jacket Road be re-aligned in this area, making the park larger and eliminating Armory Street.¹⁵⁸

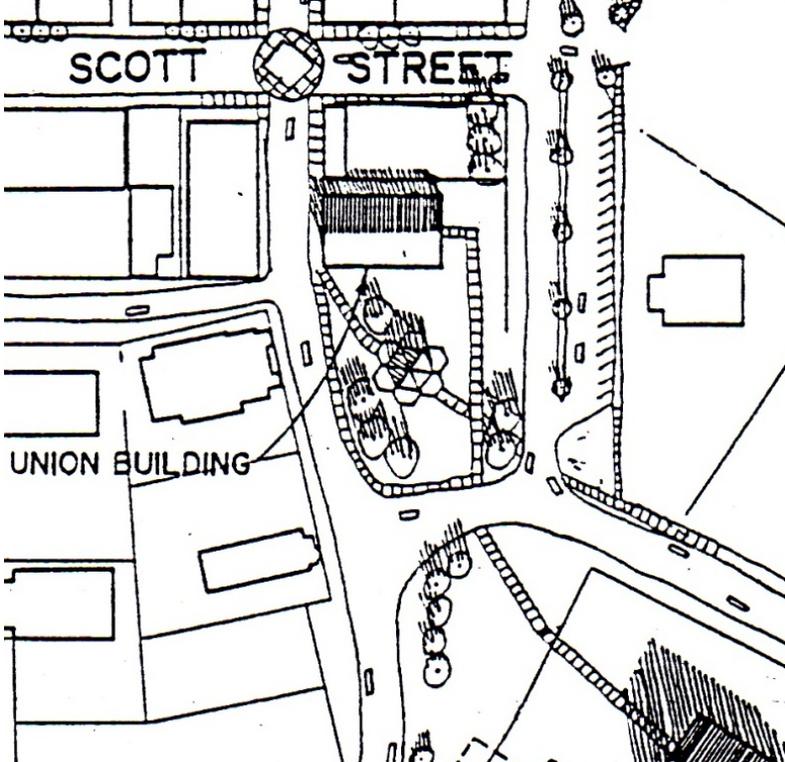
In October 2011 the new Calumet Visitor Center was opened in the historic Union Building adjacent to this property. The site is an important physical and visual connector between the Red Jacket Road corridor and the Calumet Civic & Commercial Historic District.



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Figure II - 77: Recommendations for Red Jacket Road Park, 1979
(source: Calumet Civic & Commercial Historic District Plan prepared by Preservation Urban Design, excerpt from plan titled “Public Open Space Improvements” 1979)

¹⁵⁸ Village of Calumet Recreation Plan, February 1992, updated December 1998; also telephone conversation with Sue Dana, Village of Calumet Comptroller, 8 February 2012. Ms. Dana indicated that the concept for this area was an idea put forth by the consultant, but that the Village did not ever consider it viable.



1
2 **Figure II - 78: Red Jacket Road Park Plan, 1995**
3 (source: attached to *Agassiz Park Master Plan*, prepared by U.P. Engineers & Architects,
4 Inc., and cited in the *Village of Calumet Recreation Plan*, 1998)
5

1 ***Italian Hall Memorial Site—1989-2011***
2

3 The Italian Hall Memorial Site commemorates the site of the Italian Hall disaster in
4 Calumet on December 24, 1913. The building remained in use for decades after the
5 disaster. Eventually it was vacated and gradually deteriorated. By 1980 the building was
6 in poor condition. The village threatened to condemn the building in 1980 and a Friends
7 group was formed with the goal of preserving the building. Unfortunately, estimated
8 stabilization costs were well beyond the capacity of the group, and the building was
9 demolished in 1984.¹⁵⁹

10
11 Through the efforts of local volunteers and the Village of Calumet, a memorial site was
12 created at the former building location in 1989. The site includes a simple landscape of
13 mown lawn, a few shrubs, benches, a brick path, and the arched doorway from the
14 building, which was relocated when the park was implemented. The story of the Italian
15 Hall disaster is interpreted through a State of Michigan historical marker at the site.¹⁶⁰
16

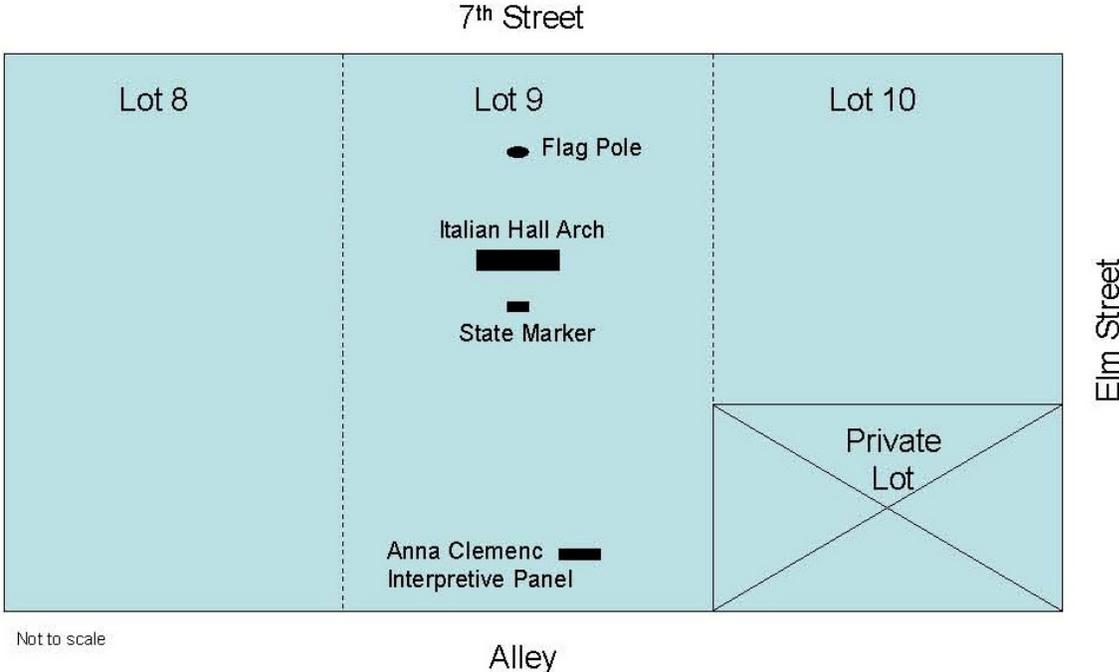
17 Currently, three lots are reserved for the memorial site. These include: Lot 9 on Seventh
18 Street, the site of the existing memorial site and former location of the Italian Hall
19 building; and lots 8 and 10, both adjacent to Lot 9 and currently vacant (see Figure II-79).
20 Lot 9 is owned by the Village of Calumet and lots 8 and 10 are owned by the National
21 Park Service. The Village and National Park Service plan to enhance the current
22 memorial site in the near future. This is partially due to the need to enhance the site and
23 in part necessary for the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the disaster, which will occur
24 on December 24, 2013.
25

26 In January 2011, a *Front-end Planning Report for Italian Hall Memorial Park* was
27 completed. Preparation of the report included a series of pre-planning exercises with
28 historians and local citizens to inform an “enhanced re-design of the Italian Hall site.”
29 The report provides recommendations for design approaches and content for the
30 development of a plan for the memorial site.¹⁶¹
31

¹⁵⁹ *Village of Calumet Recreation Plan*, February 1992, updated December 1998.

¹⁶⁰ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 222-229.

¹⁶¹ Wells Resources, Inc., *Front-end Planning Report, Italian Hall Memorial Park, Calumet, Michigan*, 2011. The report is included as Appendix E herein, and the recommendations are summarized in Chapter 6: Recommended Treatment, of this report.



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Figure II - 79: Italian Hall Memorial Site Lots
(source: Wells Resources, Inc., *Front-end Planning Report, Italian Hall Memorial Park, Calumet, Michigan*, 2011, 3)

1 ***Preservation and Change in Historic Housing Locations –***
2 ***1961-2011***

3
4 With the decline and end of mining operations in Calumet, the residential population
5 decreased. The need for housing also declined, and many houses were vacated and
6 eventually demolished. However, a large quantity of historic miners’ housing remains in
7 the Calumet Unit and adjacent Village of Laurium. Privately owned and maintained,
8 historic houses are an important part of the historic landscape but present a challenge to
9 preservation. The local economic conditions, severe climate, large quantity of resources,
10 and historical integrity of the housing in the Calumet area make the challenge even more
11 difficult.

12
13 Preservation of historic housing in the Calumet Unit has mirrored trends throughout the
14 Copper Country. Although a great deal of intact housing remains, this is mainly due to a
15 lack of resources to make changes, and an absence of development pressures. When the
16 mines closed, the mining companies sold the houses to their occupants for minimal sums.
17 “Although not particularly valued for their history, the company houses continue to serve
18 as single-family houses. There is little preservation awareness in terms of the value of the
19 architecture, and vinyl siding, smaller windows, and attached garages tend to distort the
20 original buildings, but their survival rate is high.”¹⁶²

21
22 Following the establishment of the National Historic Landmark District in 1989 and
23 Keweenaw National Historical Park in 1992, the Western Upper Peninsula Planning &
24 Development Regional Commission (WUPPDR) and the National Park Service became
25 concerned regarding the way that Section 106 review was coordinated for housing
26 rehabilitation projects. In response to the concern, in 1995, the Michigan State Historic
27 Preservation Office and Keweenaw National Historical Park organized a workshop to
28 identify problems and potential solutions related to the accommodation of both historic
29 preservation concerns and efforts of residents to improve the quality and condition of
30 their housing. The workshop resulted in a list of character defining features related to
31 housing, alternative treatment standards to be utilized for housing rehabilitation projects
32 in the Keweenaw, and a recommendation that the Michigan State Historic Preservation
33 Office and WUPPDR work in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic
34 Preservation to develop a programmatic agreement for HUD assisted housing
35 rehabilitation programs that incorporates the alternative treatment standards.¹⁶³

¹⁶² Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 244-245.

¹⁶³ *Housing Preservation Issues Workshop, Keweenaw National Historical Park*, 1995. (unpublished)

1 Next page:

2 **Figure II - 80: Calumet Unit Period of Change Plan, 1961-2004**

3

4 **Sources for Figure II-80: Calumet Period of Change Plan, 1961-2004**

- 5 • Calumet and Hecla Consolidated Copper Company, Mine Location, 1981
- 6 • Photo, Calumet, ca. 1964 (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Non-KEWE Collection
- 7 Images, Mason Collection, eBay, Web Collection, Calumet Area
- 8 Miscellany, Aerials)

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Calumet Unit

Keweenaw National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report & Environmental Assessment

1961-2004 Period of Change Plan

Chronology

- 1964**
Construction of Fourth Street along the edge of Agassiz Park.
 - 1968**
Calumet copper mine operations closed and many industrial buildings were removed.
 - 1969**
Nursing Home Development - four story senior housing.
 - 1972**
Coppertown Mining Museum established.
 - 1974**
Statue of Alexander Agassiz moved from its original location in Agassiz Park to a new site adjacent to the former C&H library.
 - 1976**
Sixth Street Extension implemented. Agassiz Park grocery store development.
 - 1982**
Calumet Housing Commission Park Avenue Apartments addition and townhouses constructed.
 - 1989**
National Historic Landmark boundary established.
 - 1992**
Keweenaw National Historical Park establishment.
 - 1995**
Mine Street Station developed on west side of Sixth Street Extension impacting the NHL.
 - 1997**
CLK Elementary School addition constructed.
 - 2000**
Calumet and Hecla Corporate and Industrial Historic District established by Calumet Township local ordinance.
 - 2002**
Calumet Village Historic Civic and Commercial District established by Calumet Village local ordinance.
- During this period, the Calumet Township Office and the AT&T Calumet Central Office were constructed on the northwest side of Red Jacket Road in between the Agassiz House and Warehouse #2.
- Also, rock was extracted from the southwest portion of the district, south of Swedetown Road and west of Mine Street.



Legend

- (A) Red Jacket Road Corridor
- (B) Mine Street Industrial Corridor
- (C) Agassiz Park
- (D) Osceola Housing Location
- (E) Colosseum
- (F) Historic Railroad Corridor
- (G) Village of Calumet (formerly Village of Red Jacket)
- (H) Yellow Jacket Housing Location
- (I) Blue Jacket Housing Location
- (J) Newtown Housing Location
- (K) Hecla Housing Location
- (L) Calumet Housing Location
- (M) Tamarack Housing Location
- (N) Swedetown Housing Location
- (O) Raymbaultown Housing Location
- (P) Village of Laurium
- (Q) CLK Public School
- (R) Italian Hall Site
- (S) Firehall
- (T) Calumet Theater
- (U) St. Anne's Church
- (V) Union Building

Map Notes

1. Locations of elements on plan are approximate based on best available sources. Plan sources are provided in the adjacent CLR narrative.
2. Mineral lodes are indicated on diagrams only for periods during which they were actively mined.

Key

- NHL Boundary
- NPS Unit Boundary
- ▲ Calumet Conglomerate lode (surface location)
- ▲ Osceola Amygdaloid lode (surface location)
- Roads
- Railroad Line
- ⊗ Underground Mine/Buildings Removed
- In-active Mine Area/Industrial Landscape
- Active Mine Area/Industrial Landscape
- Village
- Parks/Recreational/Commons
- Housing Location
- Public/Institutional (C&H built for community)
- Non-historic Development
- ▨ Temple Square Area (community, religion, ethnicity)

Created/Revised

June 2012

QUINN EVANS
ARCHITECTS

Figure II-80