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2 **Figure II - 2: Locations of indigenous mines in the Keweenaw, mapped by Charles**
3 **Whittlesey, 1862** (source: Whittlesey, 1863)
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6 **1840s – 1870 First Copper Boom and Establishment of C&H**
7

8 ***Keweenaw Copper Boom***
9

10 In 1840, Douglass Houghton, acting as the state geologist for Michigan, surveyed the
11 copper deposits of the Keweenaw. Although cautious in nature, Houghton’s 1841 report
12 to the state legislature provided exciting news for prospectors regarding the extent of
13 mineral resources in the region. Enthusiasm grew to a fever pitch in 1843 when three
14 events heightened interest in the area: the Treaty of LaPointe went into effect, a mineral
15 land office was opened at Keweenaw Point, and the Ontonagon Boulder was taken to the
16 east coast. “Copper fever” took hold of the region and thousands of miners were drawn
17 to the area. Between the 1840s and the 1860s at least 300 mining operations were
18 launched as miners staked claims and initiated digging, often obliterating American
19 Indian workings in the process.⁴⁹ In fact, miners sought out American Indian mine sites
20 as indicators of promising copper deposits. A map prepared in 1862 illustrates known
21 locations of indigenous mines in the Keweenaw, see Figure II-2.
22

23 During this period, “explorers and speculators flocked to [the Keweenaw] from all
24 quarters, and in 1845 the shores of Keweenaw Point were whitened with their tents.”⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Lankton, *Cradle to Grave*, 9.

⁵⁰ Whittlesey, “Ancient Mining on the Shores of Lake Superior,” 4.

1 The United States government established Fort Wilkins near Copper Harbor in 1844.
2 Infantry were on hand to keep the peace. The land office received over 700 requests for
3 permits to explore for minerals by 1845. There was no accurate land survey and the
4 permit system was not patrolled. As a result, speculation and corruption were
5 widespread.⁵²
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Origins of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company (Industrial Corridor)—1840s-1870

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10 The Calumet Conglomerate lode was discovered by surveyor Edwin Hulbert, who
11 surveyed the upper portion of the peninsula for a wagon road in 1858-59. Hulbert
12 discovered promising specimens of copper in a pit which he originally suspected was an
13 ancient Indian digging at the top of a copper lode. In reality, the pit Hulbert found was a
14 hidden cache of copper that had been extracted elsewhere. The pit was situated directly
15 above the mineral deposit that would eventually be renowned as the Calumet
16 Conglomerate copper lode.⁵³
17

18 Hulbert formed the Hulbert Mining Company and, with funds from Boston capitalist
19 backers, began to purchase promising mineral land in the Keweenaw. The Civil War
20 interrupted activity for a few years, but in 1866 Hulbert formed the Calumet Mining
21 Company to develop the lode in the Calumet area. Later the same year the Hecla Mining
22 Company was incorporated. Although nominally separate companies controlling separate
23 properties, they had the same leadership and were mining the same lode.⁵⁴ The Calumet
24 location was developed to the north of Red Jacket Road and the Hecla location was
25 developed to the south of the same road (see Figure II-3). Shafts for each location were
26 numbered starting with number one being the first and closest to Red Jacket Road. Shaft
27 numbers for the Calumet location increase moving toward the northeast and shaft
28 numbers for the Hecla location increase as they extend toward the southwest.
29

30 Initial attempts at mining by Hulbert used an open-pit approach that was neither
31 organized nor successful. Huge open pits were sunk into the mineral lode, with no
32 attempts made to support the walls or roof. This work would have had a tremendous
33 impact on the landscape.⁵⁵
34

35 Despite his initial discovery and development of the Calumet Conglomerate lode, Hulbert
36 did not remain in control for long. His Boston-based investors were frustrated with the
37 lack of early profits and sent one of their own, Alexander Agassiz, to the Keweenaw to
38 evaluate Hulbert's work. By 1867 Hulbert was replaced by Agassiz who became the

⁵² David J. Krause, *The Making of a Mining District: Keweenaw Native Copper, 1500-1870* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1992), 138 and 140.

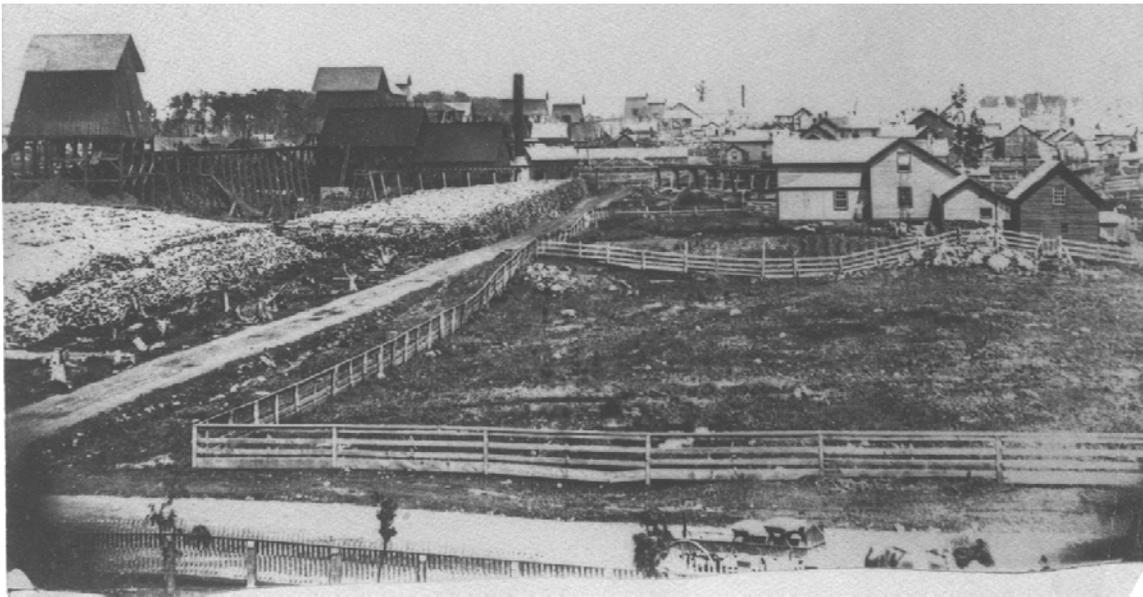
⁵³ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 75-76.

⁵⁴ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 75-77.

⁵⁵ Agassiz, G. R., ed. *Letters and Recollections of Alexander Agassiz with a Sketch of his Life and Work* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913), 58-65.

1 resident agent of the company.⁵⁶ In 1867 the first mine office building was developed on
2 the east side of Mine Street northeast of Red Jacket Road.

3
4 During these early years of development, Mine Street was the central hub for
5 development. The corridor included a great variety of uses. There were commercial
6 establishments including stores providing dry-goods, meats, hardware, a bank, and a
7 school, hospital, and churches, all tightly interwoven with miners housing, mine
8 management facilities and extensive industrial development. Other elements in the
9 landscape included outbuildings, expansive stockpiles of lumber, a variety of types of
10 fences, elevated tram roads, dirt roads and paths, standing timber and evidence of cutover
11 areas (see Figure II-3). Living and working along Mine Street included the sounds,
12 smells, and vibrations associated with mining. Homes and businesses would shake when
13 railroad cars rolled by, large amounts of timber were moved, monumental structures were
14 erected, and holes were blasted underground. Unpaved roads meant dirt and dust were
15 ubiquitous in the community.
16



17
18 **Figure II - 3: Mine Street looking north, ca. 1875** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP,
19 Coppertown collection, Box 20, Folder 36, Mines, Mills, Smelters)
20

⁵⁶ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 76-77.

Railroads and Transportation—1840s-1870

Travelling and transporting materials to and from Calumet was extremely challenging. Transportation of mine products between Calumet and the portage at Hancock utilized wagons or sleighs pulled by workhorses or oxen. Soon after its establishment, the Hecla mining company began using steam locomotives to transport materials between its various mines and mills.⁵⁷

In 1873 the first regional railroad reached Calumet, the Mineral Range Railroad. The route included connections to Hancock, Calumet, and later, Lake Linden and Gay. The Hancock and Calumet line was also established in 1873. By 1877 the Copper Range Railroad connected from Ontonagon County to Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul (see Figure II-4). These developments, and others, helped to establish easier transportation and access to supplies for people living and working in Calumet.⁵⁸

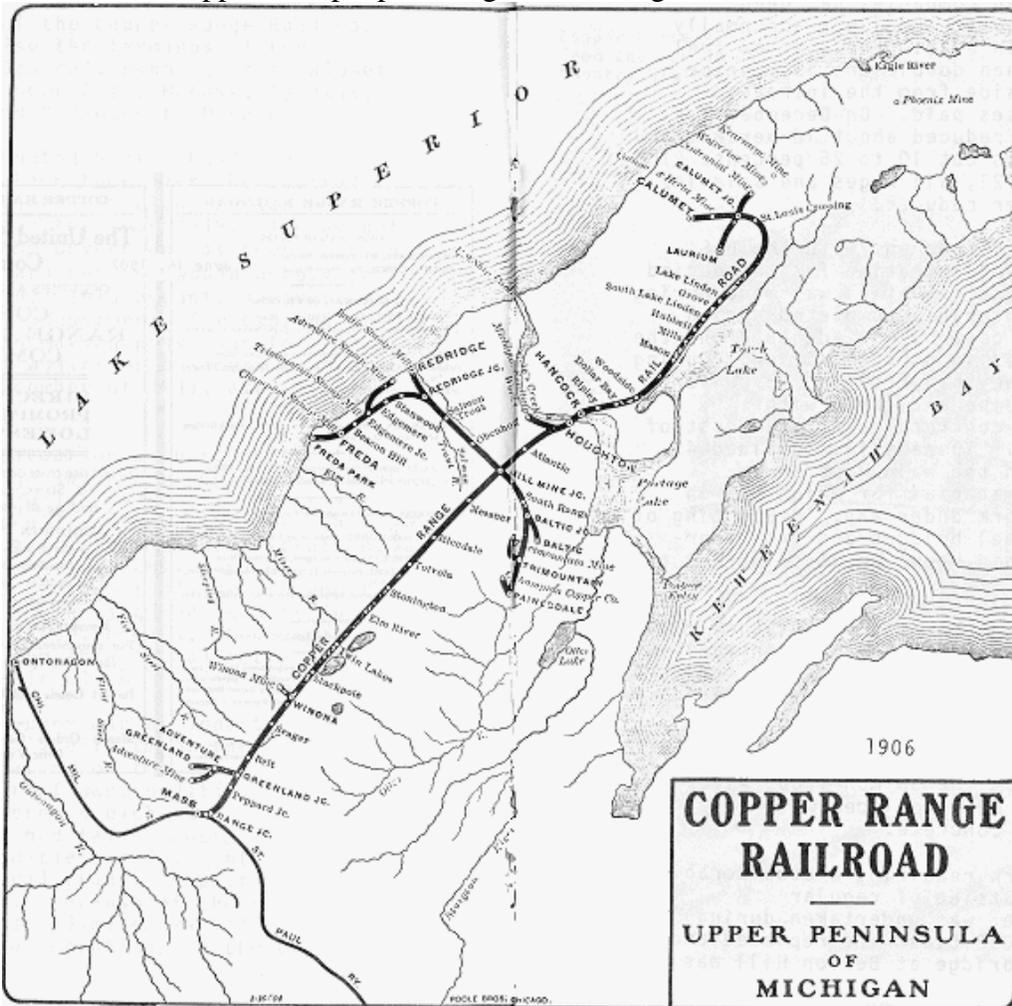


Figure II - 4: Copper Range Railroad System Map, 1906
(source: <http://www.copperrange.org/map.gif> accessed 1/28/2012)

⁵⁷ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 69.

⁵⁸ www.copperrange.org, accessed 28 January 2012.

1 ***The Village of Red Jacket (later Village of Calumet)—1840s-1870***
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3 By the mid 1860s, the village of Red Jacket (later Calumet) had been platted on a 90 acre
4 L-shaped plot, and the first wood-framed structures were constructed to house the miners
5 working the lode.⁵⁹ Hulbert played an important role in the establishment of the village.
6 He selected the level landscape west of the Calumet Conglomerate lode as the location
7 for a commercial district that would serve the needs of the local miners and their families.
8 Being a surveyor by trade, Hulbert possessed the skills necessary to plat the village. He
9 did so using an ordinal (or north-south oriented) grid upon which the property lines and
10 streets were laid. This differed from the development that occurred along the industrial
11 spine of the area, which was oriented at an angle that corresponded to that of the
12 underground copper deposit (see Figure II-7, Period of Change Plan, 1866-1870). The
13 two juxtaposed grids clearly indicated the departure from company owned land to
14 privately owned land in the Calumet area.

15
16 The village streets were graded dirt and boardwalks were provided at some storefronts for
17 pedestrians (see Figure II-5). The majority of the original buildings in the village of Red
18 Jacket were constructed of wood. On 17 May 1870 a devastating fire engulfed much of
19 the downtown. The fire originated on the west side of downtown and “the flames
20 travelled eastward, eating their way through the woods and underbrush that bordered
21 close to the village limits.” There were old slashings near the intersection of Elm and
22 Sixth Streets that erupted when the fire reached them. The fire proceeded through the
23 village at a quick pace. The two blocks between Elm and Portland Streets, the main
24 developed areas of the village, were completely leveled. The village did not have a
25 formal fire fighting organization, so attempts to halt the blaze were made by individuals
26 with water buckets. At least one building was saved by covering it with wet blankets.⁶⁰
27

28 The village was quickly re-built over the summer of 1870. Although some of the new
29 buildings were constructed of fire resistant materials, for the sake of expediency and cost
30 many were reconstructed of wood frame. A fire department established before the end of
31 the year, was housed in a new brick building that also served as the Town Hall (see
32 Figure II-8).
33

⁵⁹ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 75-77.

⁶⁰ *Calumet News*, 17 May 1921. A summary of the article is recorded in an image located in the Keweenaw NHP archives, Curto Album 12, #001.



1
2 **Figure II - 5: Fifth Street, 1875** (source: courtesy of Dave Sprenger)
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4
5 **Figure II - 6: Birds eye view of Calumet, Hecla and Red Jacket, facing northwest,**
6 **1871.** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series
7 A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #016)
8

1 **Worker Housing—1840s-1870**
2

3 The mine operations required large numbers of workers that had to be imported to this
4 remote location. Mine companies attracted workers by offering adequate wages and
5 amenities including housing, health care and schools.⁶¹ The paternalistic approach of the
6 Copper County mine companies had a definite effect upon the landscape.⁶² Housing
7 constructed for workers covered large areas of the landscape with small-scale residential
8 structures closely spaced and associated with streets, outbuildings and other necessary
9 features. The large number of workers necessary to operate the mines, and the small
10 scale of the majority of the residences, resulted in a large portion of the landscape being
11 dedicated to this use. By the end of this period worker housing locations were developed
12 at Blue Jacket, Hecla, and Calumet (see Figure II-7, 1866-1870 Period of Change Plan).
13 Houses in these areas were often constructed as groups utilizing a typical design. The
14 uniform scale, set-back, spacing, materials, and workmanship of these buildings created a
15 strong sense of character at each location. Figure II-6 is a birds-eye view of the
16 community in 1871. Uniform rows of houses can be seen along the streets.
17
18
19

⁶¹ Alison K. Hoagland, *Mine Towns: Buildings for Workers in Michigan's Copper Country*, (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), ix.

⁶² The topic of paternalism among the Keweenaw mine companies is covered in several publications including: Hoagland, *Mine Towns*; Lankton, *Cradle to Grave*; Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*; Thurner, *Strangers and Sojourners*; and Arnold R. Alanen and Katie Franks, *Remnants of Corporate Paternalism: Company Housing and Landscapes at Calumet, Michigan* (Calumet, MI: Keweenaw National Historical Park, 1997).

1 Next page:

2 **Figure II - 7: Calumet Period of Change Plan, 1866-1870**

3

4 **Sources for Figure II-7: Calumet Period of Change Plan, 1866-1870**

- 5 • Lithograph, Birds Eye View of Calumet, Hecla and Red Jacket, 1871
6 (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series
7 A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #016)

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Calumet Unit

Keweenaw National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report & Environmental Assessment

1866-1870 Period of Change Plan

Legend

- (A) Calumet Rock House
- (B) Hecla Rock House
- (C) Calumet Mill
- (D) Blue Jacket Housing Location
- (E) Hecla Housing Location
- (F) Calumet Housing Location
- (G) Calumet Hotel, 1870
- (H) First Mine Office
- (I) School

Chronology

1859

Edwin Hulbert discovered a Native American copper carbonite cache in the area.

1866

Calumet Mining Co. founded.

1867

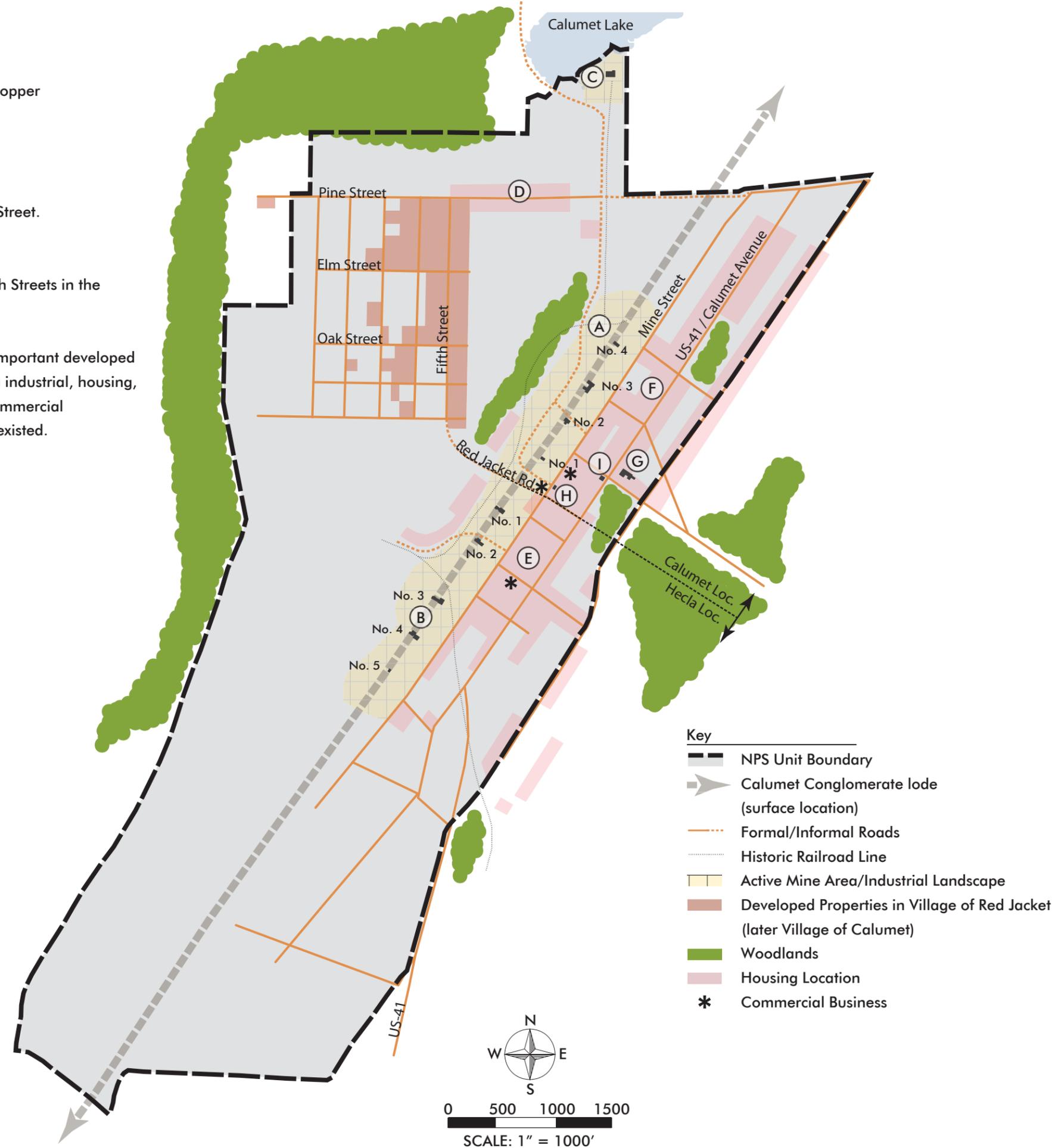
First Mine Office building developed on Mine Street.

Calumet Mill established at Calumet Lake.

1870

Red Jacket Fire destroys much of Fifth and Sixth Streets in the Village of Red Jacket.

During this period, Mine Street was the most important developed corridor including a wide mix of uses including industrial, housing, and commercial. Locations of a few known commercial establishments are indicated, but many more existed.



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.

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