

1 **1890-1915-- C&H's Golden Age**

2
3 ***C&H Activities (Industrial Core)—1890-1915***

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5 From 1890 to 1915, the Company entered into a boom period both economically and in
6 terms of new construction. Numerous contractors built thousands of buildings during this
7 period. In 1890 the population of Calumet Township was 12,529 and Red Jacket
8 included 3,073 additional residents.⁷⁹ The majority of the area's residents either worked
9 for C&H, or provided support to C&H workers. In the 1890s the C&H surface plant was
10 considered to be second to none in the United States and many additions were made
11 during the next decade (see Figures II-29, II-30, and II-31, the Period of Change Plan for
12 1890-1915). The machinery operating at C&H by 1900 was able to handle production
13 for the remainder of the company's operational years.⁸⁰

14
15 As the mine operations became more established, the appearance of the landscape
16 changed. By 1890 the landscape in the heart of the C&H operations was highly
17 developed. The edge of the forest surrounding the mine site was pushed back, and to
18 provide level surfaces for railroad tracks, the topography was leveled using poor rock to
19 fill low areas. As greater amounts of waste rock accumulated, large poor rock piles
20 mounted up. Stockpiles of coal to fuel the steam engines were ubiquitous. Changes in
21 technology also affected the landscape.⁸¹

22
23 Mines hoisted from fewer shafts, but each shaft accounted for larger
24 tonnages than before and by now had its own dedicated hoisting engine.
25 Twin wire ropes ran from the hoists to the head sheaves in the
26 shafthouses; the ropes hummed day and night as they crossed over
27 wooden pulley stands and then down into the mine, where they raised and
28 lowered skips. The shafthouses still had virtually no machinery in them
29 but kept the head frame, skip tracks, and skip dumps out of the weather.
30 Kilnhouses were gone, replaced by rock-houses. Air compressors for
31 powering underground rock drills represented a new and important class
32 of machinery on the surface. As the mines mechanized more, they often
33 built larger machine, blacksmith, and drill-sharpening shops to perform
34 essential maintenance and fabricating operations. The look of these
35 buildings changed, too, as fewer of them were constructed of wood.
36 Wooden structures lacked the cachet of permanence, and more than a few
37 had burned to the ground. More and more, companies turned to poor rock
38 and then to brick and dressed stone for construction.⁸²

39
40 The physical plant at the original mine site expanded considerably. In addition, the
41 company operated two stamp mills at Torch Lake, in Lake Linden, and two smelters, one

⁷⁹ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 97.

⁸⁰ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 129 and 131.

⁸¹ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 69-70.

⁸² Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 69-70.

1 at Torch Lake in Hubbell and one near Buffalo, New York.⁸³ Figure II-26 illustrates the
2 proximity of the Torch Lake sites to Calumet. In addition to mining the Calumet
3 Conglomerate lode, the company was mining other deposits and expanding its territory in
4 the Keweenaw.⁸⁴ The profitability of the original lode was diminishing and the company
5 continued to explore new areas in hopes of locating another large copper deposit.⁸⁵ C&H
6 owned some land that included portions of the Osceola and Kearsarge Amygdaloid lodes,
7 which ran parallel to the Calumet Conglomerate lode (see Figure II-31 1890-1915 POC
8 plan). The company sunk shafts to explore where they could, and gradually acquired
9 controlling interests in adjacent mining companies, including Centennial, Tamarack, and
10 Osceola. These companies were operated independently during this time period, but
11 were later merged into C&H itself. This allowed C&H to further explore the Osceola
12 Kearsarge lodes. C&H owned a majority of the developed land in Calumet Township,
13 which included mining, railroad, and residential structures. These developments were
14 arranged on the landscape to correspond with the underlying copper lodes. Streets and
15 buildings were laid out parallel or perpendicular to the copper lodes.⁸⁶

16
17 Upon realizing that inadequate rockhouses were slowing down production, the company
18 built equipment for sorting and crushing rock directly over the shafts. From 1891-1893
19 C&H built eight combined shaft-rockhouses along the Calumet Conglomerate lode and
20 added more later.⁸⁹ Shaft-rockhouses dramatically changed the landscape. Their height
21 created a vertical presence that was surpassed in height only by the smokestacks. Their
22 distinct form and large mass was repeated at somewhat regular intervals providing a
23 distinct visual indicator of the alignment of the underground mineral lode.

24
25 Figure II-24 depicts a typical shaft-rockhouse at a Hecla location. This style was
26 regularly used by C&H Mining Company during the 1880s and 1890s. The small
27 building in the foreground is a collar house located above the shaft opening. It is
28 connected by rail to the separate and taller rockhouse. The connecting rail is exposed to
29 allow moisture to escape from below, helping to prevent moisture problems common
30 with wood collar houses. Figure II-25 illustrates a plan view showing the relationship
31 between the collar house and the rockhouse. Rail lines served both sides of the mine
32 operation. One side hauled rock, mineral and copper, while the other side was used for
33 materials like logs, timbers and lumber. The Osceola No.13 structure was constructed
34 later, and this more modern assembly was similar to the earlier arrangement with the
35 added amenity of an attached dryhouse. Providing the dryhouse in this location improved
36 worker comfort before and after shifts.

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⁸³ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 90.

⁸⁴ Alanen and Franks, *Remnants of Corporate Paternalism*, 59; and Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 137.

⁸⁵ Horace Stevens, *Copper Handbook*, 1910-1911. The handbook indicates that C&H's life span is 10-15 years at the current production rate, followed by 5-10 years of scrambling (robbing pillars and searching abandoned stopes).

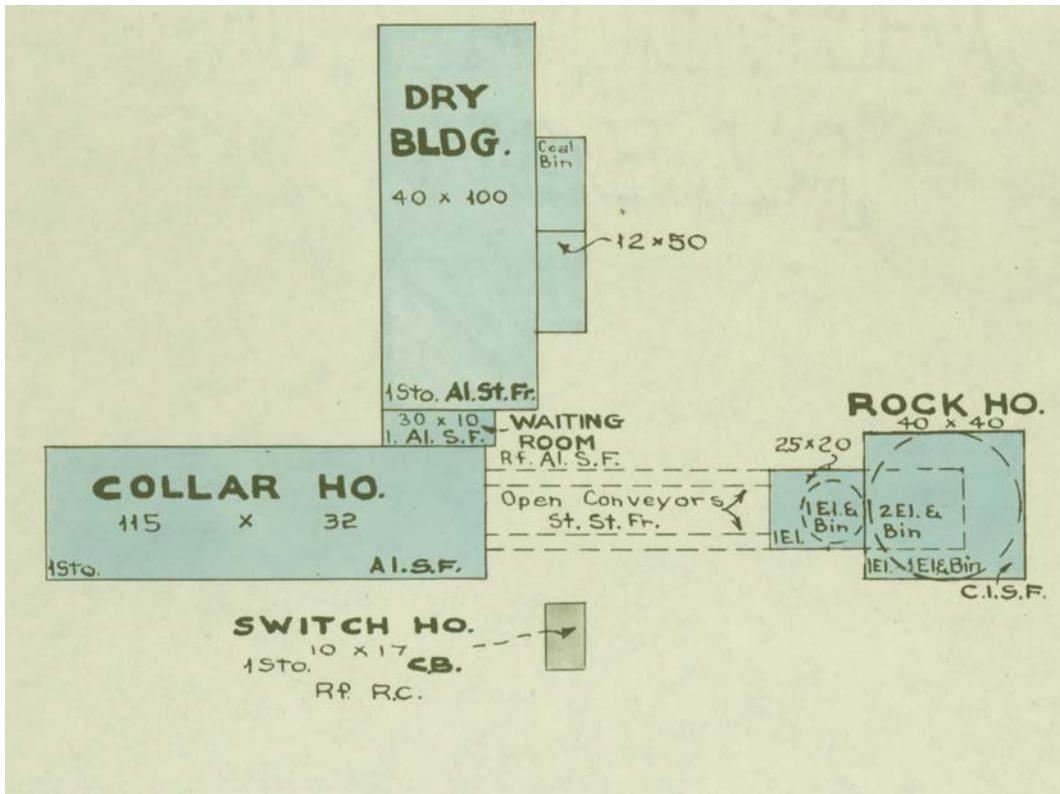
⁸⁶ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 97.

⁸⁹ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 129-130.



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Figure II - 24: Hecla Shaft-rockhouse, date unknown (source: courtesy of Scott See)



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2 **Figure II - 25: Osceola No. 13 Shaft-rockhouse plan, 1955** (source: courtesy of Scott
3 See)
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5 In 1897 C&H opened the Osceola No. 13 shaft and soon after No. 14 and No. 15 were
6 sunk. Osceola shafts No. 16 and 17 were added in 1899 and No. 18 was added in 1906.⁹⁰
7 In 1903 C&H began to explore the Kearsarge lode, located to the east of the Osceola
8 lode. The company sunk shaft Nos. 19, 20, and 21 and conducted testing to determine if
9 the mines merited full development. The shafts were not determined to be profitable and
10 production efforts were not pursued.⁹¹
11

12 The company had a need for, and generated, a tremendous amount of power. In 1899, the
13 company produced “as much power as is now being generated by the great electric plant
14 at Niagara Falls, and about equal to the power used in an average manufacturing city of
15 200,000 people.” C&H began to use electricity to power selected machinery in 1891.
16 Large electrical generating facilities were installed in the old gearhouse (now a
17 powerhouse). The landscape took on a new look when a line of electric power poles and
18 overhead lines extended the length of the surface plant. In addition to electricity, the
19 company continued to use enormous quantities of steam produced in over fifty steam
20 engines at the surface plant.⁹² By 1906, C&H replaced its two original wood-frame mills
21 with “thoroughly modern steel-and-concrete mills clad in corrugated metal.”⁹³

⁹⁰ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 132 and 198.

⁹¹ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 132.

⁹² Kathleen Lidfors, Mary Jo Hrenchir, and Laura Feller, “National Register of Historic Places, Calumet Historic District, Calumet, Houghton County, Michigan,” National Register #412258, 1988, Section 8, 2.

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Figure II - 26: Calumet and vicinity. (source: QEA)

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Company Sponsored Community Amenities—1890-1915

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The Calumet and Hecla Mining Company thought of itself as a generous provider for its workers. In order to attract workers to the remote area, and to encourage them to stay once they arrived, C&H provided housing as well as community amenities for its workers. The company constructed libraries, bathhouses, schools, hospitals and office buildings for the community and provided land and support for numerous churches. During this period of prosperity for the company, the number of public facilities and churches grew rapidly. In 1893 C&H had twenty churches on company property scattered around the Township. By 1913 the company had provided sites to more than thirty churches.⁹⁷ Support of churches was considered to be support of a work force that included families and strong morals. Other facilities provided to support healthy living and personal betterment included schools, a hospital, library, bathhouse, YMCA, and Colosseum, all of which were constructed or improved using company funding during this period.

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In 1897-98, C&H Company made a grand gesture that it would herald as one of its finest achievements in expressing its concern for and generosity toward its workers. In mining country, the construction of a library for workers was “One of the great symbols of a company’s largesse and paternalism... . Not classified as a necessity, it is an amenity—

Lidfors cites Michigan Commissioner of Mineral Statistics, Mines and Mineral Statistics for 1899 (Lansing, Michigan) 276.

⁹³Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 134.

⁹⁷ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 167.

1 a gift to the workers.”⁹⁸ C&H Company constructed a substantial library for the
2 community. The handsome building was constructed using the same ‘mosiac’ stone
3 walls as the C&H general office building. The library included a large reception room,
4 two floors of open stacks, a reading room, and a men’s smoking room (the latter was later
5 converted to a children’s room). The basement housed baths which quickly became very
6 popular--so popular, in fact, that the company soon determined to construct a purpose-
7 built bathhouse. That building was completed in 1911 and included separate tubs and
8 showers for men and women, as well as a swimming pool.⁹⁹

9
10 The library and bathhouse were both located within one block of the C&H general office
11 and Alexander Agassiz’s house on Red Jacket Road. This area also included the
12 Congregational Church. The buildings and landscape associated with these facilities
13 were more refined than those seen in the industrial corridor, downtown Red Jacket, or the
14 workers’ housing locations. Ornamental fences surrounded the properties, and lawns
15 with formally arranged paths had a manicured appearance. To the north of the C&H
16 general office the formal landscape was not as distinct, but the fences, walkways and
17 lawns associated with the school and hospital were definitely more refined than those in
18 the adjacent industrial corridor.¹⁰⁰



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21 **Figure II - 27: Calumet looking south from Superior Stack, 1893.** (source: NPS,
22 Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series A (C and H), Sub-
23 series (01) Library, #031)

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⁹⁸ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 173.

⁹⁹ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 181-183.

¹⁰⁰ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 187 and 190-191.



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2 **Figure II - 28: Library and Armory at Mine Street, ca. 1905** (source: NPS,
3 Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Album 1, #066)
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7 **Figure II - 29: Industrial core along Mine Street, gear house in foreground, facing**
8 **south, 1889.** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001),
9 Sub-series A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #407 (7~1))
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2 **Figure II - 30: Shoveling snow from the railroad track in Calumet, ca. 1910** (source:
3 NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Foster Glass Plate
4 Negatives, 174)
5

6 ***Workers Strike—1890-1915***

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8 In 1913-1914, the landscapes of Calumet became the backdrop for a bitterly fought
9 workers' strike. The strike resulted from years of worker dissatisfaction with corporate
10 paternalism, particularly among recently arrived immigrant workers who were excluded
11 from many of the benefits of that paternalism. Led by the Western Federation of Miners,
12 the strike began on July 23, 1913, and would last for eight and a half months.¹⁰¹
13

14 Public parades and rallies were a tactic of both strikers and the company, and Red Jacket
15 Road from the village to the C&H headquarters was a frequent route. Strikers were
16 naturally prevented from rallying on company property, meeting instead in the village
17 and in public buildings like Italian Hall, where a Christmas Eve stampede in 1913
18 claimed the lives of seventy three people, including fifty eight children. This and other
19 deaths during the strike led to public funeral processions, used by union organizers to
20 elicit sympathy for the strikers.¹⁰²
21

22 One of the most visible changes to the landscape as a result of the strike, albeit
23 temporary, was the quartering of the National Guard in Calumet. Ostensibly present in a
24 non-partisan capacity to keep the peace, in reality the Guard became an extension of
25 C&H company security. The Company made room for Guard tent encampments on its
26 property, across from the main administration building and between the library and

¹⁰¹ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 55.

¹⁰² Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 56, 66.

1 Warehouse No. 1. The Company also provided amenities to the soldiers, including access
2 to facilities such as the bathhouse.¹⁰³
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4 Unlike other strike locations, Calumet was not home to worker tent camps, as most of the
5 strikers were not evicted from company housing. C&H did, however, set up temporary
6 frame boarding houses near the shafts to accommodate the strikebreakers it imported
7 from outside of Calumet.¹⁰⁵
8

9 The United States Bureau of Mines was created in 1910, introducing a new era of
10 regulation and inspections of mines. In 1912 the state of Michigan enacted legislation
11 requiring companies to provide workers compensation for employees injured or killed in
12 the mines. As a result of the regulations and inspections, C&H began to become more
13 actively concerned about worker safety.¹⁰⁶
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¹⁰³ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 61.

¹⁰⁵ Hoagland, *Mine Towns*, 71, 85.

¹⁰⁶ Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 184-185.

1 Next Page:

2 **Figure II - 31: Calumet Period of Change Plan, 1890-1915**

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4 **Sources for Figure II-31: Calumet Period of Change Plan, 1890-1915**

5 • Photos:

- 6 ○ Hecla 3, ca. 1890 (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Non-KEWE Collection
7 Images, Mason Collection, eBay, Web Collection, Calumet Area
8 Miscellany, Aerials)
- 9 ○ View to northwest from Superior smokestack, ca. 1893. (NPS,
10 Keweenaw NHP, Non-KEWE Collection Images, Mason
11 Collection, eBay, Web Collection, Calumet Area Miscellany,
12 Aerials)
- 13 ○ View to north from Superior smokestack, ca. 1893 (NPS,
14 Keweenaw NHP, Non-KEWE Collection Images, Mason
15 Collection, eBay, Web Collection, Calumet Area Miscellany,
16 Aerials)
- 17 ○ Hecla 4, ca. 1893. (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Non-KEWE Collection
18 Images, Mason Collection, eBay, Web Collection, Calumet Area
19 Miscellany, Aerials)
- 20 ○ Hecla 1, Birds-eye view of the C&H Mining Location, Isler, ca.
21 1893 (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Album
22 12, #006)
- 23 ○ View west from Superior smokestack with lumber 189? (NPS,
24 Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, album 12, #006)
- 25 ○ Calumet and Hecla mine locations, May 1901
- 26 ○ Colosseum, 1915 (NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Non-KEWE Collection
27 Images, Union Building Historic Photos, UB-back0c1915)
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2

Chronology

1890-1915

Economic and construction boom period in Red Jacket.

1890

Fire near Hecla shaft No. 3 closes all C&H operations except South Hecla

1891-1893

C&H installed enlarged electrical generating facilities. C&H builds 8 combined shaft rockhouses along Calumet Conglomerate Lode.

1893

Commons includes a fenced baseball field with small section of covered bleachers in one corner. Paths from the village to the mine are apparent in the southwestern corner. The C&H Warehouse No. 1 was constructed and the Calumet Rockhouse was removed.

1897

C&H opens Osceola shafts No. 13, 14 & 15.

1898

New fire station built on Sixth Street. C&H owned company houses and another 1,000 private homes on Company land. C&H built library and bathhouse for employees.

1898-99

Construction companies were continuously busy building hundreds of buildings in Red Jacket and the surrounding area.

1899

Addition to Village Hall includes an Opera House. C&H opened Osceola shafts No. 16 & 17. St. Anne's Catholic Church constructed.

1900

Village of Red Jacket population 4,500. Streetcar tracks along Oak and Pine Streets and on Sixth Street from Scott to Pine.

1901

Houghton County Traction Company Streetcar line extended from Houghton to Calumet.

1906

C&H opened Osceola shaft No. 18. C&H Opened Kearsarge Lode and includes shaft No. 19, 20 & 21.

1908

Italian Hall constructed.

1910-1915 and beyond

Rate of new construction slows.

1913

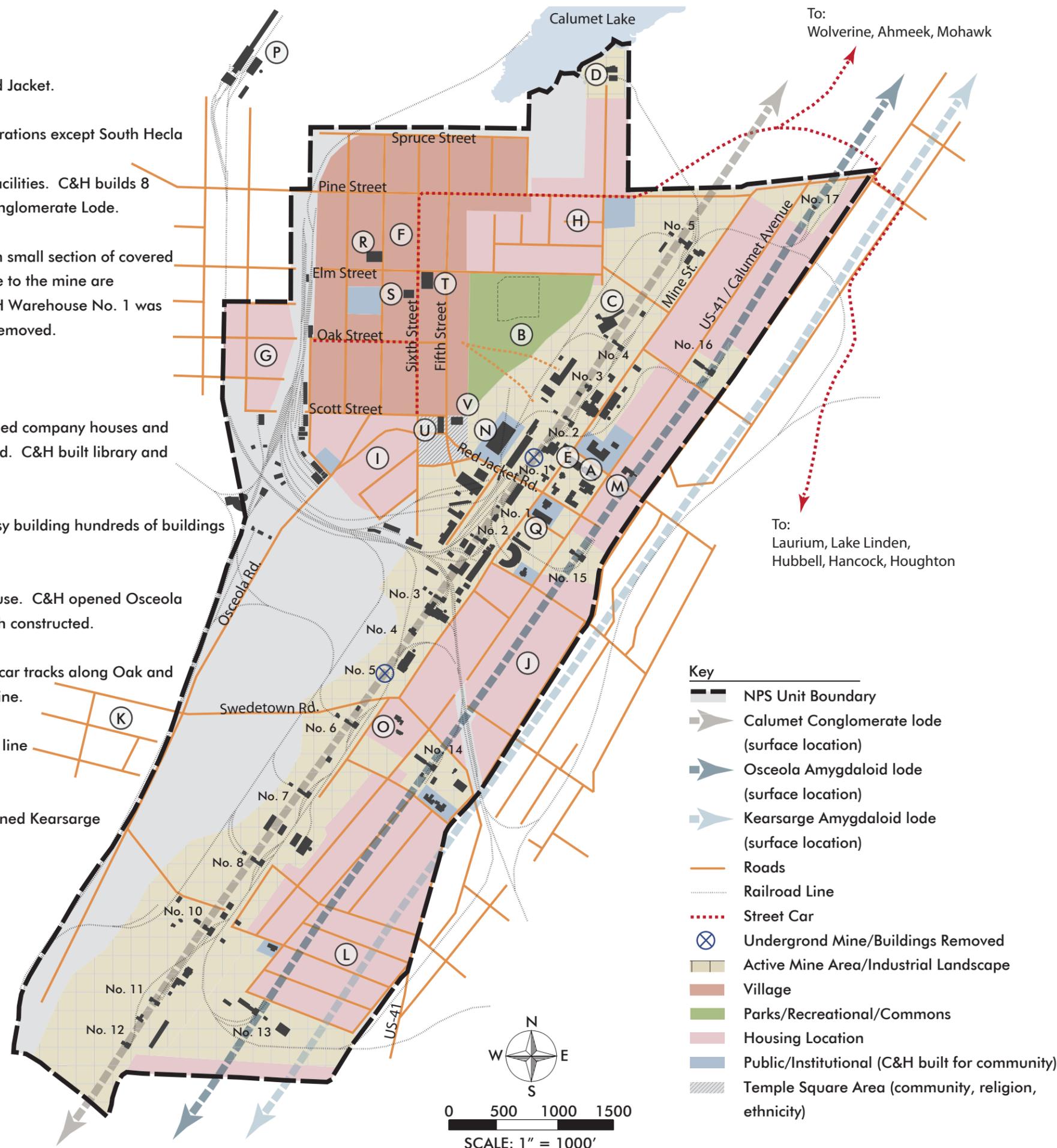
Italian Hall tragedy occurs on Christmas Eve.

1914

WWI begins in Europe, district-wide labor strike in Copper County ends in April.

1915

Price of copper rises due to wartime demand.



Calumet Unit

Keweenaw National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report & Environmental Assessment

1890-1915 Period of Change Plan

Legend

- (A) Old Washington School
- (B) Commons
- (C) Calumet Rock House
- (D) Calumet Water Works
- (E) C&H Gear House
- (F) Village of Red Jacket (later Village of Calumet)
- (G) Yellow Jacket Housing Location
- (H) Blue Jacket Housing Location
- (I) Newtown Housing Location
- (J) Hecla Housing Location
- (K) Swedetown Housing Location
- (L) Raymbaultown Housing Location
- (M) Calumet Hotel
- (N) Colosseum
- (O) Hecla Agent's House
- (P) Red Jacket Shaft
- (Q) Armory
- (R) Italian Hall
- (S) Firehall
- (T) Calumet Theater
- (U) St. Anne's Church
- (V) Union Building

Key

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

Map Notes

1. 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-31