

1                    **Village of Red Jacket (Village of Calumet)—1890-1915**

2  
3 The Village of Red Jacket mirrored C&H, experiencing a tremendous period of growth  
4 from 1890 through 1915. As C&H and other nearby mines including Tamarack and  
5 Osceola grew, the Villages of Red Jacket and Laurium expanded to serve the needs of the  
6 miners and their families. The close proximity of the villages to the industrial landscape  
7 was unique to the Calumet area. At other Keweenaw mine locations, the industrial  
8 activities were more distinctly separated, in a physical sense, from the commercial  
9 districts. Zones of industry, commerce, housing, and transportation were adjacent and  
10 integrated, yet they were also clearly identifiable. There were municipal and  
11 governmental boundaries, but they were apparent, for the most part, only on maps. “Out  
12 on the land itself, this was one place, a populous community built around an industrial  
13 core, a place where life and work were hardly separated at all; where the spires of  
14 churches competed for attention with smokestacks; where railroad lines intersected  
15 streets; and where a school had boilerhouses and engine houses for neighbors.”<sup>107</sup>  
16



17  
18 **Figure II - 32: Fifth Street, facing north at Oak Street, Red Jacket, ca. 1910. Note**  
19 **the concrete sidewalk and curb.** (source: image courtesy of Dave Sprenger)

20  
21 By 1890 Fifth Street was Red Jacket’s main commercial street. A few village streets  
22 included residential sections, but the majority of the village was dedicated to providing  
23 goods, services, and entertainment to the area’s population.<sup>108</sup> Growth in the village  
24 included several substantial additions including a new fire station in 1897, and an

---

<sup>107</sup> Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 96-97. Lankton noted “No other mines on the Keweenaw had as much town right next to them as did C&H,” 96.

<sup>108</sup> Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 97.

1 addition to City Hall and construction of the Opera House in 1899.<sup>109</sup> Underground  
2 utilities were installed during the 1890s, including water, sewer, and gas lines. Power  
3 poles were erected and overhead telephone and electric lines lined the streets.  
4

5 In 1900 the population of the Village of Red Jacket was approximately 4,500. The  
6 village served the wider settlement area, which housed approximately 30,000 people.<sup>110</sup>  
7 By 1910, sidewalks were added along the commercial streets in the village (see Figures  
8 II-32 and II-33). The dirt streets were paved with wooden pavers, brick, asphalt and  
9 concrete and automobiles became more prevalent on the village streets.<sup>111</sup> In 1912 Fifth  
10 and Sixth streets were illuminated with electric lights, giving the village a new  
11 appearance.<sup>112</sup> The overhead streetcar lines ran between poles apparent in Figure II-33.  
12



13  
14 **Figure II - 33: Sixth Street, Village of Red Jacket, ca. 1910** (source: courtesy of Dave  
15 Sprenger)

### ***Railroads and Transportation—1890-1915***

16  
17  
18  
19 Railroad tracks dominated large portions of the landscape during this period. Throughout  
20 the industrial core, tracks provided links to routes that connected the location with the  
21 mills and smelters at Torch Lake as well as supply sources to the south. Tracks, sidings,  
22 roundhouses, areas for stockpiling materials and other related facilities crossed through  
23 the industrial core and wrapped around the Village of Red Jacket/Calumet on its south  
24 and west edges. The Village was essentially surrounded by railroad corridors.  
25

26 In 1901 the Houghton County Traction Company established streetcar service between  
27 Houghton and Calumet, providing convenient, inexpensive public transportation  
28 throughout the peninsula (Figure II-34). The route eventually provided links from  
29 Mohawk to Houghton, with a spur route to Lake Linden, Wolverine and Hubbell. The

---

<sup>109</sup> *Village of Calumet Civic and Commercial Historic District Design Guidelines*, 2006, 6.

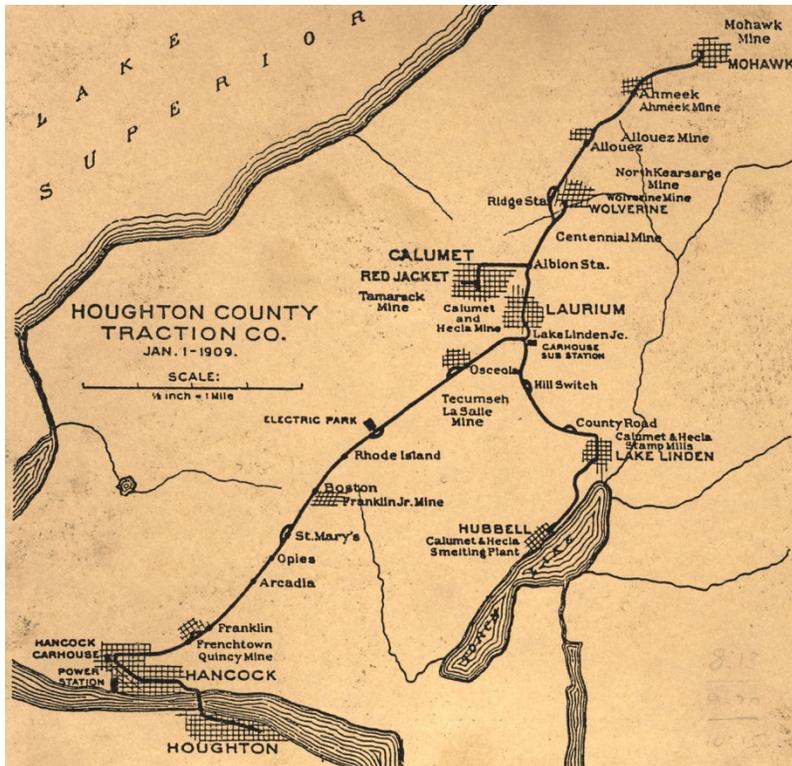
<sup>110</sup> *Village of Calumet Civic and Commercial Historic District Design Guidelines*, 2006, 6.

<sup>111</sup> Lankton, *Hollowed Ground*, 178-180.

<sup>112</sup> Thurner, *Calumet Copper and People*, 78.

1 route utilized a private right of way in the countryside, and ran on streets in towns.  
2 Tracks in Red Jacket ran along Sixth Street from Scott to Pine, with a spur along Oak  
3 Street. Other tracks connected Laurium to Red Jacket and the mines, making it easier for  
4 Laurium residents to get to work and leading to more growth for that village. The  
5 presence of the streetcar increased commercial growth along the corridor. The streetcar  
6 operated until May 1932.<sup>113</sup>

7  
8 In 1891 the Mineral Range Railroad was acquired by the Duluth, South Shore and  
9 Atlantic Railroad, providing connections to a nationwide network. The Mineral Range  
10 Railroad passenger depot, located at the intersection of Oak and Ninth Streets, was  
11 constructed in 1908. The building contained waiting rooms, ticket offices, toilet rooms,  
12 and offices for the dispatcher, superintendent, and clerks.<sup>114</sup> The building served as a  
13 gateway to Calumet as the major arrival and departure point for people travelling beyond  
14 the region. Its location on Oak Street contributed to the prominence of this route.  
15



16  
17 **Figure II - 34: Houghton County Traction Company routes, 1909** (source: Copper  
18 Range Railroad website, [www.copperrange.org/traction.htm](http://www.copperrange.org/traction.htm), accessed 28 January  
19 2012)  
20

<sup>113</sup> Wally Weart, *History of the Houghton County Traction Company*, no date. Copper Range Railroad website, [www.copperrange.org/traction.htm](http://www.copperrange.org/traction.htm), accessed 28 January 2012; and Lidfors, et., al., "National Register of Historic Places, Calumet Historic District," Section 8, page 3.

<sup>114</sup> Alison K. Hoagland, "Frank W. Hessenmueller," in *Copper Country Architects*. Michigan Technological University web site, [www.social.mtu.edu/CopperCountryArchitects/hf\\_build.htm](http://www.social.mtu.edu/CopperCountryArchitects/hf_build.htm), accessed 30 January 2012.

**Calumet Commons (later Agassiz Park)—1890-1915**

1  
2  
3 During the 1890s residents of Red Jacket and the adjacent housing locations desired  
4 additional park space. In 1897, C&H allocated a parcel of land bounded by Seventh,  
5 Eighth, and Elm Streets (later the site of Morrison School) for recreational use. A Boston  
6 landscape architect, Franklin Brett, was hired to design a park for the site including a  
7 lawn, pedestrian paths of crushed stone, and a bandstand.<sup>120</sup>  
8

9 The Commons continued to be used for recreation and the baseball field was fenced and  
10 included a covered grandstand by 1893 (see Figure II-35). The ball field was worn bare  
11 and the remainder of the commons had rough turf and bare patches. Additional fences  
12 extended around the perimeter of the Commons, although there must have been gates or  
13 openings since paths from the village to the mine location were present. An area south of  
14 the baseball field was fenced. All of the fences were built of wood board construction.  
15 The southeastern portion of the property was utilized to stockpile a large quantity of  
16 lumber and two pedestrian paths cut through the site, connecting the industrial area to the  
17 village of Red Jacket (see Figure II-36).  
18



19  
20 **Figure II - 35: Calumet Commons (later Agassiz Park) looking northwest, 1893.**  
21 (source NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series A (C  
22 and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #006)  
23

<sup>120</sup> Thurner, *Calumet Copper and People*, 78.



1  
2 **Figure II - 36: Southern portion of Calumet Commons (later Agassiz Park), facing**  
3 **west, ca.1895.** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Andrew C. Curto Collection, Album 12,  
4 #006)  
5



6  
7 **Figure II - 37: Calumet Commons (later Agassiz Park) facing northwest with view**  
8 **of ball field, 1902** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001),  
9 Sub-series A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #105 (1~1))  
10

1 During the devastating strike of 1913-1914, a tent camp was established at the Calumet  
2 Commons, providing housing for Michigan militiamen who came to protect company  
3 property and curtail violence. This was one of several sites used to house the militia.  
4

5 As already mentioned, this period was a time when public events and gatherings were an  
6 important part of American culture, and in Calumet, land set aside for public and  
7 recreational purposes was at a premium. In addition to the Commons, community events  
8 utilized public streets (in the form of parades and processions) and other open spaces. An  
9 example is seen in the Calumet Grade School May Day celebration of 1914. Several  
10 photographs illustrate the large event that occurred on C&H property south of Red Jacket  
11 Road and West of Calumet Avenue (see Figures II-39-41). An image of the commons in  
12 ca. 1915 shows the area surrounded by banners in preparation for a celebration (see  
13 Figure II-42).  
14  
15



16  
17 **Figure II - 38: Congregational Church, Calumet Elementary School May Day**  
18 **Celebration, 1914, facing northeast, Red Jacket Road is on the left side of the image**  
19 **and Calumet Avenue on the right.** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster  
20 Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #378)

1



2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

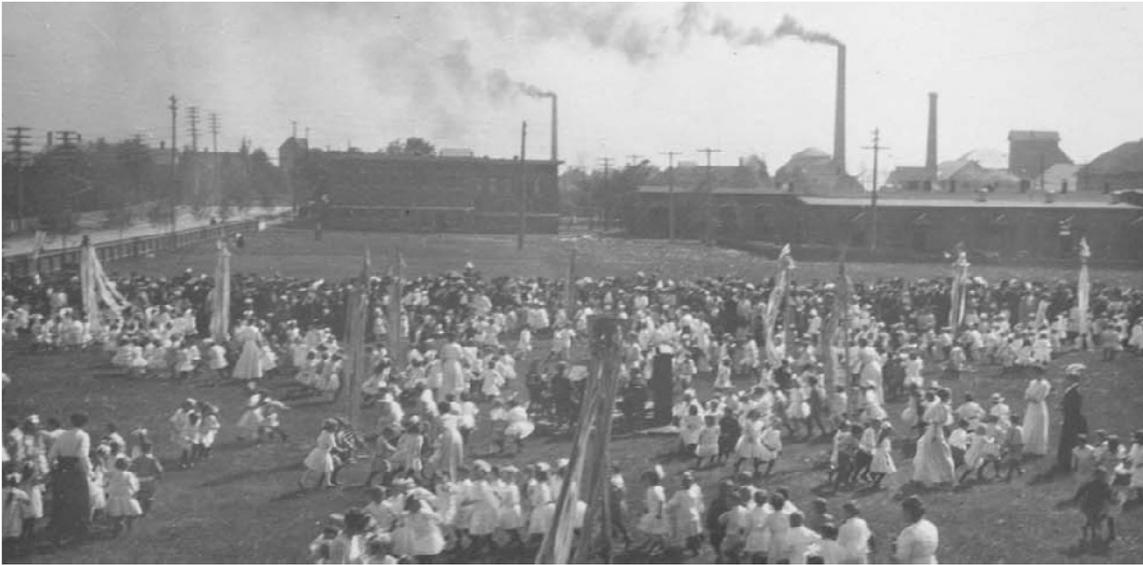
**Figure II - 39: Calumet Elementary School May Day Celebration, 1914, facing east toward Calumet Avenue.** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #378)



8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15

**Figure II - 40: Calumet Elementary School May Day Celebration, 1914, facing southwest, the Armory is on the right.** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #379)

1



2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

**Figure II - 41: Calumet Elementary School May Day Celebration, 1914, facing south, Calumet Avenue is on the left.** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Jack Foster Collection, Series I (001), Sub-series A (C and H), Sub-series (01) Library, #379)



8  
9  
10  
11

**Figure II - 42: Calumet Commons, facing southwest, ca. 1915** (source: NPS, Keweenaw NHP, Non-KEWE Collection Images, Union Building Historic Photos)