



Quincy Mine

Underground Mine Tours,
Museum and Tram Ride

Quincy Mine National
Historic Landmark District

The Copper Rush

In 1843, six years before the California Gold Rush, one of the nation's first mineral rushes occurred here. Prospectors came to the Keweenaw not for gold, but for copper. As the United States entered the Industrial Revolution, the demand for copper increased. The Keweenaw contained a wealth of pure elemental copper.



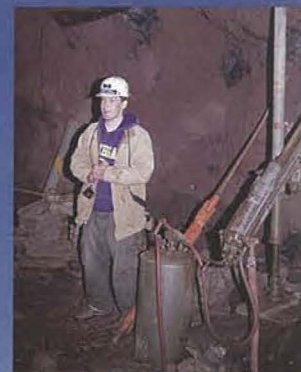
Mine workers pose in front of the old #2 Shafthouse.

A Company Called Old Reliable

Established in 1848, Quincy Mining Company was an early mine in the Portage Lake area. Quincy's hope for wealth was a copper bearing rock called the Pewabic Lode. The Civil War increased the demand of copper for munitions and allowed the Quincy Mining Company to grow. Though ups and downs occurred in production and prices, Quincy had become the second largest mine in the Lake Superior region by the late 1880s. From 1862 to 1920, Quincy paid dividends to investors, earning the nickname "Old Reliable." Immigrants from across the world came for the jobs that copper mining provided. The city of Hancock grew to provide services for the miners. Labor unrest in 1913 and the rise of strip mining for copper in other locations started Quincy's slow decline. After nearly 100 years, mining operations ceased in 1945.

Deep in the Earth

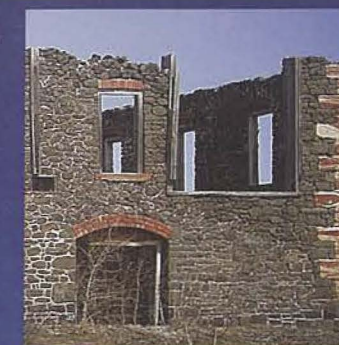
Quincy's No. 2 shaft descended 9,260 feet into the earth, making it the deepest inclined shaft in the world at one time. Moving men, ore and water out of the mine required innovation and engineering. Today visitors explore a section of the seventh level and learn what life was like for miners as well as changes and development in technology that impacted the community as a whole. Mining operations ceased in 1945, and all 85 levels below the seventh level have filled with water.



Guides show different drills used to free the copper rock from the underground.

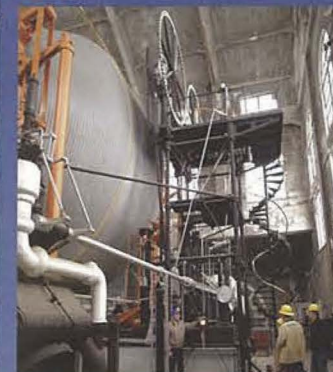
Preserving the Past

The Quincy Mine Hoist Association was formed as a non-profit organization in 1961 to preserve the mining structures and technology and to educate visitors about the site. Quincy Mine was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989 and in 1992 became a partner with the Keweenaw National Historical Park. The Association manages a key part of the Park's Quincy Unit.



Ruins of the No. 7 Boiler house are preserved at the Quincy Mine.

Pride of the Company



The Nordberg Steam Hoist fills the cavernous space of the hoist house.

To transport men into and ore out of the deepest levels of the mine, Quincy Mining Company commissioned construction of the Nordberg Steam Hoist in 1918. As the world's largest steam hoist, it represented the success and power of the company. The hoist and its reinforced concrete building with brick veneer and Italian-tiled walls cost over \$370,000 but was only used for production for 11 years.



Original map courtesy of Peter Schierloh

General Information

Please visit our website at www.quincymine.com for the most up-to-date information on hours, tours, ticket prices and other details. Operational hours may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Tour reservations are highly recommended and can be made online or by calling the Gift Shop at (906) 482-3101.

Gift Shop hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Regularly scheduled tours start at 9:00 am and continue throughout the day. Private tours are available with advance notice.

Open Friday through Sunday from mid-April to June; daily from June to November. Tours are available on an on-demand basis from November through April—call for details.

Guided Tours

Full Tour: includes the 1918 hoist house, transport to the mine via cogwheel tram, walking tour of underground mine workings, and guided tour of the Quincy Smelter in Ripley. Please allow approximately 2 1/4 hours for the full tour, plus approximately one hour for the Smelter. Note: appropriate footwear and light jackets or sweatshirts are recommended!

Surface Tour: includes a guided tour of the 1918 hoist house. Please allow approximately 35-40 minutes for this tour.

Quincy Smelter: no reservations are required for the Smelter; tours start at 10:00 am and continue throughout the day.

Self-Guided Tours: please consult the map at left and allow plenty of time for your explorations.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop features a large selection of Lake Superior and world-wide mineral specimens in addition to a variety of native copper and other local geology specimens, Copper Country gifts, books, videos and items related to the Northwoods.

Accessibility

The mine tour and several buildings are fully accessible. Some assistance may be required. Please see the list to the left for more details



Where We Are



- Visitor information
- Gift shop
- Picnic area
- Rest rooms
- Parking

National Historic Landmark District Features

Note: some sites are located on private property.

- 1 Supply Office (1893) (Gift Shop and Ticket Office)
- 2 Oil House (rest rooms)
- 3 No. 2. Shaft-Rock House (erected in 1908)
- 4 1882 Hoist House (operated 1882-1894)
- 5 1894 Hoist House (operated 1894-1920) (Museum)
- 6 1918 Hoist House/Nordberg Hoist (operated 1920-1931)
- 7 Cog Rail Tram (1996)
- 8 No. 5 Boiler House (1912)
- 9 Cooling ponds for steam hoists
- 10 Remains of company community of Lower Pewabic
- 11 Machine Shop (1900)
- 12 Blacksmith Shop (1900)
- 13 Ruins of North Quincy (No. 6) Dry House (pre-1890)
- 14 Remains of North Quincy (No. 6) Shaft (worked 1891-1945)
- 15 No. 8 Shaft, head frame and Hoist House (worked 1896-1945 and 1976-1977)
- 16 Mine Captain's Office (ca. 1860)
- 17 Man-Engine Shaft (1866-1892) (Bat entrance)
- 18 No. 4 Shaft (capped) (1856-1909)
- 19 Ruins of No. 4 Boiler House (1882)
- 20 Ruins of No. 4 Hoist House (1885)
- 21 Ruins of No. 7 Boiler House (1898)
- 22 Locomotive Engine House (1889)
- 23 Locomotive Water Tower (1889)
- 24 Quincy Mine Office - NPS Property (1897)
- 25 Company House (ca. 1870)

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Visitors to Quincy Mine disembarking from the unique cogwheel tram.

Quincy Mine Hoist Association Membership

The Quincy Mine properties are owned and operated by the Quincy Mine Hoist Association, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. The Association exists to educate the public and preserve the Quincy Mine site. Memberships are available. Inquire at the Gift Shop or contact the Association by phone or mail.

Quincy Mine Hoist Association
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www.quincymine.com • email: info@quincymine.com
 (906) 482-5569 • (906) 482-3101



Use caution when exploring the Quincy Mine site. Numerous hazards exist. Do not enter any abandoned buildings or ruins. Watch out for trip hazards, open holes, loose rocks and unstable ruin walls. Collection of artifacts or copper specimens is strictly prohibited.