
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
1999



Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
Isle Royale National Park

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Edisen Fishery and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse component landscape is located in Keweenaw County, Michigan on Isle Royale National Park, an island archipelago, in the northwest corner of Lake Superior. The fishery and the lighthouse are located on opposite sides of a peninsula which forms the southern entrance to Rock Harbor. The lighthouse sits on a high wooded bluff overlooking the Middle Islands Passage which serves as the main entrance to Isle Royale. The Middle Islands and the lighthouse frame the entrance to the harbor as visitors access the park via ferry from Houghton, Michigan. The fishery is situated on the south shore of Rock Harbor, approximately one quarter mile west of the Rock Harbor Lighthouse. The landscape of Isle Royale is northwoods lake wilderness that was formed out of volcanic rock and shaped by glacier movement. The resultant striations of interbedded sedimentary rock tilt in a northeast/southwest direction which created a distinctive topography of ridge and valley formations described as “rocky fingers and drowned valleys” (Huber, 1983). The soils throughout the island are generally very thin and poorly developed and the valleys are frequently swamps and bogs. Mineral veins are found located in fissures in transverse faults within the volcanic rocks. Copper, in particular, fueled the first exploratory investigations of the island from 1843-1855. Most of the copper obtained by prehistoric and historic miners were extracted from these fissures. Also found on the island is the mineral, chlorastrolite or Greenstone, which is the official state gem of Michigan.

Northern boreal conifer forest is the predominate vegetation type composed of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), paper birch (*Betula alba* var. *papyrifera*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), white spruce (*Picea canadensis*), and white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). In addition, white pine (*Pinus Strobus*) and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) found on xerophytic slopes are common. Along the coast are rock beaches of varying widths and some shear rock faces on the western side of the island. The southeast facing slopes descend more gently when compared with the northwest facing slopes which tend to be precipitous (Huber, 1983). There is a temperate deciduous forest located along the central Greenstone Ridge which is composed of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), yellow birch (*Betula lutea*), and boreal red oak (*Quercus borealis*). The vegetation on the peninsula is typical to the boreal forest on coastal areas at the northeastern end of Isle Royale. The dominant species are of white spruce and northern white cedar. Balsam fir, formerly a dominant species of the forest, has been depleted in numbers and in overall sapling size due to the history of browsing by the moose population on the island.

Transportation and circulation throughout the island is governed by a close association with water. The only means of accessing the park is via ferry or seaplane from Houghton, Michigan, or ferry from Copper Harbor, Michigan, or Grand Portage, Michigan. Once on the island, access to fishery and the lighthouse on the peninsula is only by boat. A concession tour boat, the MV Sandy, leaves from Rock Harbor Lodge several times a week to bring tours to the site.

The Edisen Fishery and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse component landscapes represent the various layers of history that have shaped the landscape of the island. The fishery and the lighthouse each have separate periods of occupation. The lighthouse was used during the first and second copper mining rush on Isle Royale from 1855-1859, and then from 1874-1879. The fishery was in use during the period of the small-scale commercial fishing industry boom from 1895-1934. Since then, it has been

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse

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maintained by the National Park Service as a working interpretive site. Both sites were occupied concurrently from 1928-1939 when Arnold and Milford Johnson resided and fished from the lighthouse. The lighthouse has been unoccupied since 1939. The existing landscape of the fishery features a cluster arrangement of structures and reflects the historical functions of a working fishery. The lighthouse structure exists with few remnants of the historical landscape that surrounded it for the period of significance.

The period of significance for this component landscape is from 1855 to 1934 based on 1977 National Register documentation. The Edisen Fishery retains a high degree of integrity as a commercial fishing complex of seven buildings, constructed over a forty year span from 1895 to 1934. The structures on the site include those essential to a fishery operation; a fish house and dock, net house, and storage building. The structures are described as, “modest buildings, constructed and maintained over the years with locally available materials, are clustered on a semi-open site thick with wild flora and fauna and some cultivated shrubbery, including rose bushes brought to the island from Minnesota by Peter Edisen. Scattered throughout the site are wooden packing barrels, net dryers, fish cleaning tables, nets, floats and other objects from the fishing industry” (Frank, 1999). These modest buildings reflect the response to the need for shelter on this remote island typically occupied only six months out of the year. Both the fishery and the lighthouse were nominated for the National Register in 1977.

The fishery has been maintained as an interpretive site and a working fishery. While the lighthouse has high integrity as a structure, the landscape surrounding it has a somewhat reduced integrity due to the irregular history of use since 1879. The National Park Service stabilized the lighthouse tower in 1962 and conducted extensive preservation maintenance and restoration from 1980-1982. However, the landscape surrounding the lighthouse has not been maintained to the period of significance. A dense forest of cedar and spruce grows around the lighthouse. The encroaching forest would be considered an obstruction to the visibility of a light that once acted as a beacon for a busy harbor and was said to have been seen from fourteen miles out on Lake Superior. The lighthouse landscape that was maintained by a lighthouse keeper or his family would keep the forest further from the lighthouse. In 2002 trees were removed from the front of the lighthouse thus heightening integrity when viewed from the water.

The fishery and the lighthouse are joined by a quarter mile path through the woods across the peninsula. The path through the conifer forest is not paved but maintained and defined by use. A historical map dating to 1887 indicates the presence of a deliberate path connecting the lighthouse on Lake Superior to a “boathouse” on the other side along Rock Harbor. The map predates the structures and arrangement of the fishery but illustrates the use of the site while the lighthouse was in operation.

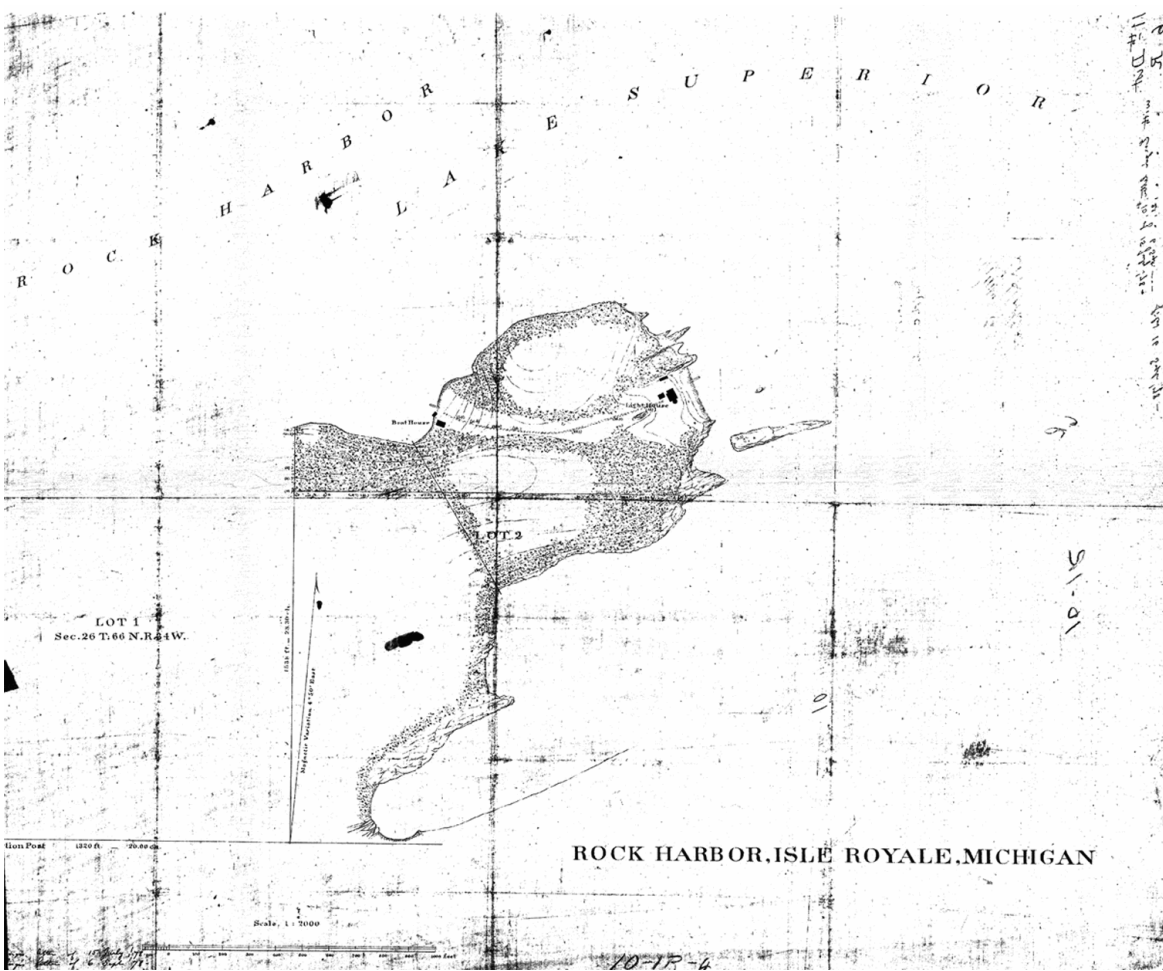
Both the Edisen Fishery and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse are significant in that they represent two of the islands most historically important resources; that of fishing and copper mining. The two sites reflect the historical economy and the settlement patterns of this region dating from the middle of the 19th century. While the sites did not share a concurrent period of significance, they are related by their close physical proximity and by their demonstration of the layering of history that served to shape the landscape on the island.

Site Plan



Map illustrating site plan and context of the fishery and the lighthouse on the peninsula at the entrance to Rock Harbor, 2008.

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
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United States Coast Guard map, Ninth Coast Guard District, Cleveland, dated 1887.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Initial research was conducted by seasonals Kathleen Fitzgerald and Richard Radford during FY99. Cultural Landscapes Program Leader Sherda Williams and Historical Landscape Architect Marla McEnaney reviewed the landscape hierarchy presented in the CLI. Initial research is part of the FY99 upload to the National Center. Fieldwork was completed in FY00. The landscape has significant integrity giving it a high priority for documentation. Further research and data entry was completed by Gail Galdstone in 2008-2009.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	11/06/2008
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	01/06/2009

Concurrence Graphic Information:



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Isle Royale National Park
800 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, Michigan 49931-1869

November 6, 2008

H3017(MWR-CR/HAL)

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Isle Royale

Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse
Landscape at Isle Royale

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse. We reviewed the document and concurred with the current landscape condition as "good" and the management category of "Must be Preserved".

Isle Royale Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources, Liz Valencia, reviewed the CLI and emailed her comments and suggestions directly to Gail Gladstone. Thank you for the assistance of Ms. Gladstone and Alesha Hauser this summer with documenting our cultural landscapes.

Phyllis A. Green



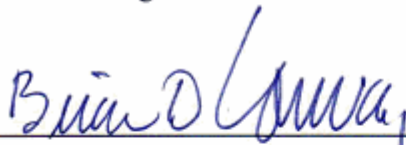
Superintendent letter dated 11/06/2008

(SHPO letter head)

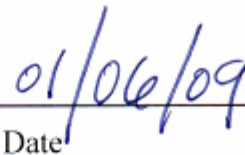
Name of Property: Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse

Location: Isle Royale National Park, Isle Royale, Michigan

The State Historic Preservation Officer or appointed designee concurs that the Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse is a cultural landscape for section 110 purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended. The character defining features associated with the cultural landscape documented in the Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse Cultural Landscape Report (2008) contribute to the body of knowledge and overall significance of the sites which were entered on the National Register in 1977.



State Historic Preservation Officer



Date

Michigan SHPO concurrence letter dated 01/06/09.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Revision Date: 11/06/2008

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

This boundary description of the inventory unit is quoted from the deed as "Tract no. 15, Township 66 North, Range 34 West, Section 26, Lot 2."

State and County:

State: MI

County: Keweenaw County

Size (Acres): 5.50

Boundary UTMS:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 16

UTM Easting: 382,242

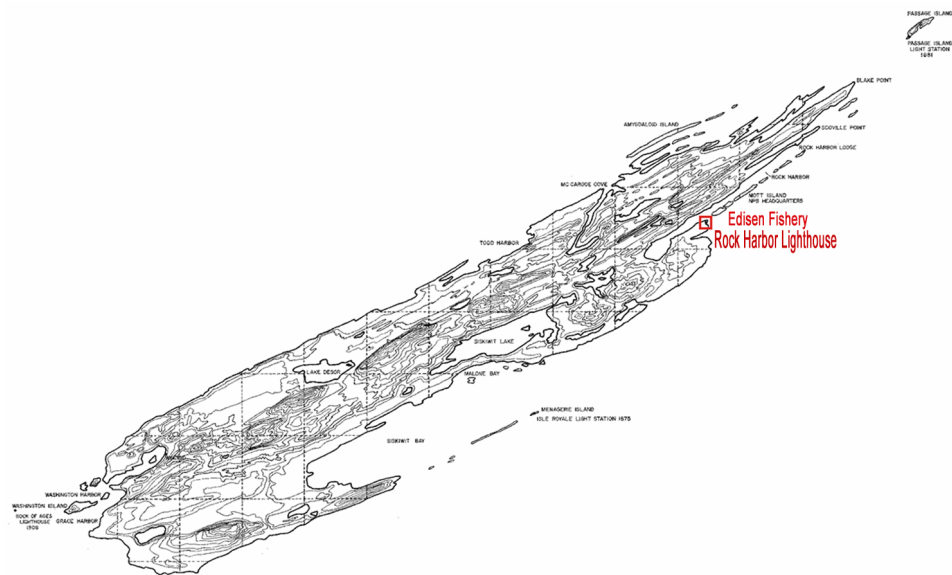
UTM Northing: 5,327,516

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
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Location Map:



Isle Royale National Park location map



The Edisen Fishery and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse are located on a peninsula at the southern entrance to Rock Harbor on the northeastern end of Isle Royale National Park.

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The historic structures associated with the peninsula reflect the cultural and economic occupation of Isle Royale National Park. The island was consistently inhabited by seasonal occupants who visited in order to harvest the natural resources of copper and fish. The time of historic occupation spans 4,000 years beginning with native groups and extending to the contemporary era of Scandinavian commercial fisheries.

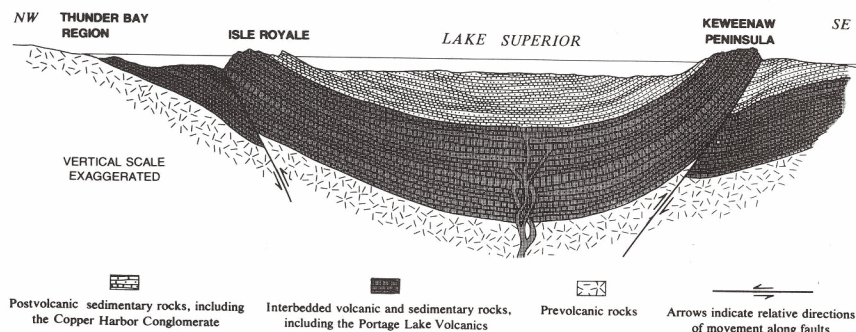
Today, the Edisen Fishery is maintained as an interpretive site by the National Park Service. The lighthouse has been restored by the National Park Service and the interior is maintained as an Isle Royale and Lake Superior maritime museum with the first floor available for exhibits.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse are located on opposite sides of a peninsula which forms the southern entrance to Rock Harbor. The harbor is on the northeastern end of Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior. The geology of the island is the result of volcanic and sedimentary rock acted on by glacier movement. Striations of interbedded sedimentary rock tilt in a northeast/southwest direction which created a distinctive topography of ridge and valley formations.

The lighthouse sits on a high wooded bluff overlooking the Middle Islands Passage which serves as the main entrance to the park. The fishery is on a sheltered beach at the southwestern end of the harbor.



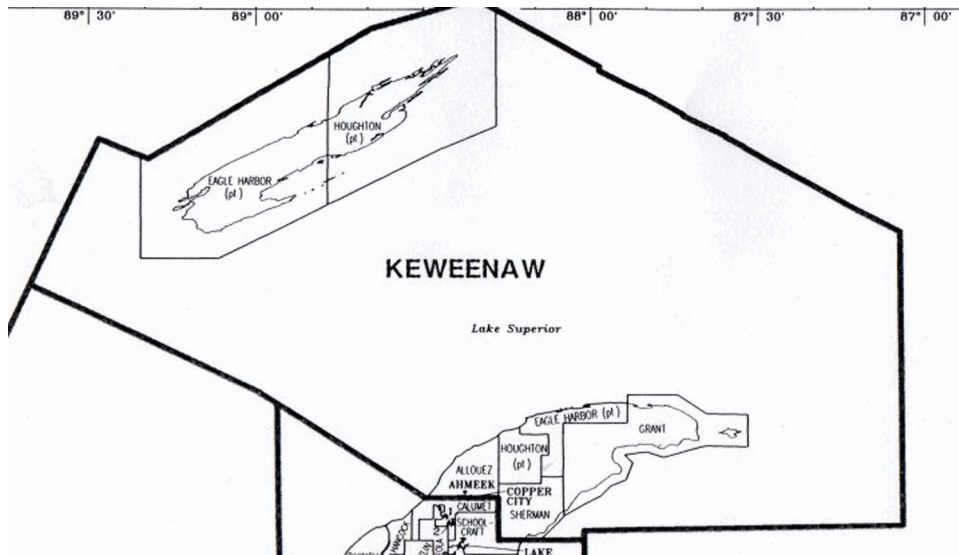
Geology of Lake Superior illustrating the volcanic and sedimentary uplift which formed Isle Royale.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse component landscape is located in Houghton

Township of Keweenaw County in the Upper Peninsula, Michigan. It falls within the boundaries of Isle Royale National Park, which was dedicated as a National Park and a protected wilderness in 1946.



Map illustrating the area of Keweenaw County and the township divisions within the county.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 03/08/1977

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse is a component landscape which contributes to the significance of the cultural landscape of Isle Royale National Park. Both the fishery and the lighthouse are on the National Register of Historic Places. The landscape is a setting for the culturally significant complex of structures which reflect the economic and social history of the island.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Public access to the site is by personal boat (including canoes and kayaks) and by concessioner boat.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The boundary of the park extends 4 1/2 miles out into the waters of Lake Superior.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The structures of the Edisen Fishery and of the Rock Harbor Lighthouse were listed on the National Register on 3/8/1977. The cultural landscape of the site is not adequately described or documented in the nomination.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Rock Harbor Lighthouse
NRIS Number:	77000154
Primary Certification Date:	03/08/1977
Name in National Register:	Edisen Fishery
NRIS Number:	77000152
Primary Certification Date:	03/08/1977

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Site
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1855 - 1934
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Agriculture
Facet:	Small-Scale Commercial Agriculture (Crops, Orchards)
Time Period:	CE 1855 - 1934
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Shipping and Transportation by Water
Facet:	Ships, Boats, Lighthouses, And Other Structures

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Agriculture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Industry
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Commerce
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

The Edisen Fishery and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse are significant as a cultural landscape under Criteria A: Events (fishery and lighthouse represent commerce activities that shaped the island's landscape over a period of time) and Criteria C (structures and landscape represent distinctive characteristics of a type and period specific to the history of Isle Royale).

Isle Royale's main economic activities have been copper mining, commercial fishing, and resort tourism. The Edisen Fishery is an example of the small scale commercial fishing operation which thrived on the island from the 1880s to the 1930s. The lighthouse is one of the oldest on Lake Superior. It was built in 1855 in response to the increased traffic in the harbor associated with the boom in copper mining in the area. The period of significance for the fishery and the lighthouse is 1855 to 1934.

Fishermen traditionally came to Isle Royale in mid-April and returned to the mainland, typically

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Minnesota, by November. They occupied fishing complexes already in existence, or erected their own buildings out of locally collected material. From 1895 to 1934, structures were erected and configured as necessity dictated. This was typical for development of fishery complexes on the island. The pattern of development resulted in “temporary” or seasonal structures intended for short term uses that were then recycled by later occupants for different uses. Materials selected for construction reflected economy and availability, “structures were simple, built out of materials that were inexpensive and found at hand, such as logs, salvaged lumber from shipwrecks, or buildings and materials salvaged from other sites and structures” (Franks, 1999). In addition, the remoteness of the island contributed to the vernacular character of the structures.

The first structures at the Edisen Fishery were constructed in 1895; these were the net house and the sleeping cabin. Both are one story structures of saddle-notched, horizontal log construction. The net house was used for storage of reels and net drying racks and the sleeping cabin was used as a shelter. In 1900, the fish house and the Edisen residence were constructed by two local fishermen, Mr. Mattson and Mr. Anderson. The fish house is a one story saddle-notched, horizontal log structure that extends out over the water and is surrounded on three sides by a log and plank dock.

A collection of fishing equipment illustrating the processes of a small commercial fishery operation exists on the contemporary site. These include nets, buoys, and barrels as well as some boats. The Mackinaw boat is an example of a design that positively impacted the fishing industry on the island and was used prior to the availability of the gas-powered engine. This boat was stable in storms and useful in both shallow and deep water. Net drying racks are also present on the site as a remnant of the “gill net” fishing technique, one of the oldest net fishing techniques, and was used on the island during the period of significance.

In 1905, Mike Johnson, Peter Edisen’s father-in-law, purchased the fishery. In 1916, Peter and Laura Edisen began fishing at the complex, sharing it with the Johnsons for a period of time. The net house was their main residence until 1951, when it was converted back to its original use. Peter Edisen fished continuously from the Rock Harbor complex until the 1970s. Fishing practices continued at the site after official acquisition by the National Park Service and the daily catch was often served in the dining room at the Rock Harbor Lodge.

Several factors, both environmental and regulatory, contributed to the demise of the fishing industry on Isle Royale. In 1926, the State of Michigan instituted the requirement that all fishermen be licensed in order to fish commercially on Lake Superior. At this same time, there was an introduction of smelt into the lake, which had a negative impact on the populations of lake trout and herring. Increased regulation and restrictions were imposed starting in 1931, when the National Park Service initiated the nomination of Isle Royale National Park as a wilderness. Isle Royale was dedicated as a National Park in 1946. Just prior to this, the sea lamprey, a native to the Atlantic Ocean, made its way into Lake Superior via Lake Erie and the Erie Canal. It was first identified in Lake Erie in 1921 and reached Lake Superior in 1938. The negative impact on the native fish population was significant, with up to 90% of the lake trout population decimated in certain parts of the lake. By the 1940s, it became increasingly difficult for fishermen to make a living on Lake Superior. As a result, by 1966 there were eight commercial

fishermen registered to fish on the island, down from the seventy-five fishing families registered at the peak of the industry in the 1920s. In 1983, there were three licensed fishermen and by 1991, the Sivertsons were the only licensed fishing family left. Stanley Sivertson died in 1994 at the age of 80.

At the Edisen Fishery, visitors to the island can view a way of life important to Isle Royale history. The collection of buildings, erected according to function, and the surrounding nets and dryers, floats, barrels and boats all illustrate the development of commercial fishing at Isle Royale and the larger environment of Lake Superior from the early 20th century.

The Rock Harbor Lighthouse is significant for the period from 1855 to 1879 as the earliest lighthouse structure on Isle Royale, and as one of the oldest remaining examples of lighthouse architecture on Lake Superior. Furthermore, the lighthouse is significant for its role in the copper mining history of Isle Royale, guiding boats through the Middle Islands Passage during Isle Royale's earliest period of historic mining in the 1850s, and during the period of second interest in copper mining in the 1870s. The lighthouse is a brick structure built in 1855 consisting of a keeper's house and a light mounted on a 61 ft. tower within an octagonal beacon house. The copper mining industry proved unprofitable toward the end of the 1850s, which decreased the need for the lighthouse such that it was abandoned in 1859. Interest in mining began again in the 1870s, at which point the lighthouse was reactivated until it was again abandoned in 1879. From this time, the lighthouse was then used transiently as a shelter by the growing summer resort community. From 1928 to 1939 the lighthouse was used as a small commercial fishery operation and residence by Arnold and Milford Johnson. Since 1939, the building has remained unoccupied. The lighthouse was restored for interpretive purposes by the National Park Service in 1980-1982.

The path across the peninsula which joins the two sites is significant as a corridor which ties the two built interpretive sites to the contiguous landscape of the peninsula and to the northwestern Lake Superior region as a whole. It is a small-scale element of a quarter mile length which enhances the spatial structure of these two historically significant economic resources of fishing and mining on Isle Royale.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular
Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Fishing Facility (Hatchery)

Primary Current Use: Interpretive Landscape

Other Use/Function

Lighthouse

Other Type of Use or Function

Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Edisen Fishery

Rock Harbor Lighthouse

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1843 - 1855	Mined	Start of first historically recorded copper mining boom.
CE 1855	Built	Rock Harbor Lighthouse construction completed.
US Lighthouse Service		
CE 1859	Abandoned	Rock Harbor Lighthouse abandoned after copper mining ventures folded in the area.
CE 1874	Inhabited	Renewed interest in copper mining leads to reactivation of the Rock Harbor Lighthouse.
CE 1879	Abandoned	Rock Harbor Lighthouse abandoned for a second time.
CE 1873 - 1881	Mined	Second recorded copper mining phase. Mining activity ended after continued period of low profits.
CE 1895	Built	Construction of the net house and sleeping cabin at the Edisen fishery.
Mr. Mattson		
CE 1880 - 1929	Farmed/Harvested	Era of the fishing boom and development of small, seasonally operated, commercial fisheries on the island.
CE 1900	Built	Construction of the fish house and the Edisen residence at Edisen Fishery.

Mr. Mattson and Mr. Anderson

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CE 1925	Built	Construction of the honeymoon cottage at the Edisen Fishery. Peter Edisen
CE 1928 - 1939	Inhabited	Rock Harbor Lighthouse used as a commerical fishery and residence. Arnold and Milford Johnson
CE 1931	Preserved	National Park Service nomination for Isle Royale as a wilderness.
CE 1934	Built	Construction of the privy and chicken coop at the Edisen Fishery. Mike Johnson
CE 1946	Established	Isle Royale is dedicated as a national park.
CE 1962	Stabilized	Rock Harbor Lighthouse stabilized by the NPS.
CE 1975 - 1976	Restored	Edisen Fishery Net House restored by the NPS.
CE 1980 - 1982	Restored	Lighthouse restored by the NPS.
CE 1987 - 1989	Restored	The Edisen Fish House, Residence and Sleeping Cabin restored by the NPS.

Physical History:

Historical Mining on Isle Royale

The following is from Franks pg 2-3, 5:

Historic mining activity on Isle Royale began as part of the Lake Superior mining boom of the 1840s, and occurred in three distinct eras, the last period ending in 1893. Due to the remote location of the island and the subsequent costs of refining and transportation, all three eras failed to produce profitable endeavors.

The Lake Superior basin had provided almost all the copper used by prehistoric Native Americans in the eastern portion of the United States. Native Americans began exploiting the copper deposits on the surface of Isle Royale around 3000 B.C. Over 1,000 pits dating to the prehistoric period have been found on the island, ostensibly in areas that proved most productive. Copper deposits were especially abundant along Minong Ridge. These prehistoric pits served as indicators for later mining ventures, providing evidence of where copper deposits might be found.

The first historically recorded mining boom on Isle Royale was one of speculative excitement, and occurred after the Lake Superior Land District opened in 1843. Although this period ended 12 years later in 1855, the mining company's shipping activities increased lake traffic and served as impetus for the establishment of the Rock Harbor Lighthouse, as well as other island development.

The second mining phase on Isle Royale began in 1873 and lasted only eight years. This period saw the exploitation of archaeological copper mines originally worked by prehistoric Native Americans. Though it brought year-round settlement to the island, the mining activity ended in 1881 due to low profits.

The mining activities of the second period also spurred the construction of the Isle Royale Light on Menagerie Island in 1875. Isle Royale's third mining era was based on new technologies, and was well financed by an English syndicate. This attempt lasted only four years, between 1889 and 1893. When the syndicate's venture failed, the company invested in island tourism and resort development. A number of the old mining buildings were adapted to serve the needs of this new industry.

During this first rush of mining activity on Isle Royale, operations appeared around the entire island. The Rock Harbor area showed the most promise, and was to become the communication and activity center of the island. Development in the Rock Harbor area included the Smithwick Mine (near the current site of the Rock Harbor Lodge), the Siskowit Mine across from Mott Island, and the Ohio and Isle Royale Company. On the northern side of the island, the Pittsburgh and Isle Royale Mining Company were developed in Todd Harbor, approximately 30 miles from Rock Harbor. Founded in 1843, the Smithwick Mine was the earliest mine on Isle Royale. It was located near the current site of the Rock Harbor Lodge. However, there was not much activity at this site until 1847, when a few miners' cabins and a

blacksmith shop were constructed.

In 1855, the Rock Harbor Lighthouse was constructed in Rock Harbor, in order to guide what had been an increasing number of ships traveling the shoal-filled Middle Islands Passage to the Smithwick and Ransom Mines. Congress had approved a \$5,000 appropriation in 1853 for the construction of the light. However, by 1855 all mining activity had ceased due to poor copper deposits and the high cost of transporting the mineral from the island. The lighthouse ceased operation in 1859, but would be repaired and relit in 1873 during the second mining boom.

Completion of the Sault Locks in 1855

The following is from Franks pg. 26-28:

The copper and iron ore mining ventures in Michigan's Upper Peninsula also served as a catalyst for the opening of the Sault Sainte Marie lock system in Michigan in 1855. Lake Superior was the last of the Great Lakes to be opened to direct access via connecting waterways. Before the opening of the locks, Lake Superior had no direct water connection with the lower Lakes, and the portage at Sault St. Marie was a navigational deterrent.

The construction of the canal at Sault Sainte Marie, together with the appearance of steamboats, greatly improved the connection between the remote Lake Superior frontier and the more industrialized and developed cities in the east. After the canal was opened, regular shipping routes were scheduled through Lake Superior from large cities such as Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, and Detroit, further advancing transportation and communication on the Upper Great lakes. Harbor facilities were developed at new urban centers on Lake Superior, such as Duluth.

American Fur Company Fisheries on Isle Royale: 1837-1839

The following is from Franks pg. 42-44

Commercial fishing began at Isle Royale in the wake of the fur trade. During the 1820s and 30s, the depletion of fur bearing animals in the Lake Superior region had prompted fur traders to search for other sources of revenue. In 1833 the American Fur Company, the nation's first transcontinental business, launched a large-scale commercial fishing enterprise for trout and whitefish on Lake Superior. The company planned to maximize profits by providing their own shipping, and would replace the long canoe and the Mackinaw boat with large load capacity schooners. High fish prices in 1836 and rumors of excellent fishing at Isle Royale encouraged the expansion of the American Fur Company's fishing operations, and company agents requested that another vessel be dispatched to Isle Royale.

In October 1837, the company founded its main depot at Checker Point in Siskiwit Bay on Isle Royale. Cabins were built, and two more schooners were commissioned to improve supply lines and communication with the island. The company spread out to six more fishing stations on Isle Royale, at Belle Isle, Merritt's Island, Duncan Bay, Hay Bay, Rock Harbor, and Card Point at Washington Harbor. By 1839, the Checker Point depot had a barracks, cooper shop, warehouse, salt storage shed, fish house, and a clerk's dwelling.

In 1839 the American Fur Company's Isle Royale fisheries employed 33 men, not including the Indian women who were hired to clean fish. The company operation employed coopers, onshore female workers, a clerk, voyageurs, and "free-men" fishermen. A number of small sailing craft were active in Siskiwit Bay alone. Each vessel caught 85 to 125 barrels of fish per season, and packing and barrel making could not keep up with fish harvesting. The company improved the docking facilities at Rock Harbor so as to accommodate large vessels.

Several problems plagued the success of the American Fur Company's Isle Royale fisheries, however. Just as the island's operations were being established, the economic panic of 1837 caused fish prices to plummet. Salt shipments necessary for preserving and curing fish for transport were irregular, Isle Royale's white pines (which were used for building barrels for shipping) were quickly being depleted, and shipments of barrel staves were irregular. The markets in the South, East, and in the Mississippi Valley could not absorb the supply of fish produced. The parent company was also experiencing financial problems due to the waning popularity of beaver hats. In the fall of 1839, the company reorganized operations, and pulled workers and their families off of the Isle Royale stations. The years 1840 and 1841 were very difficult for the American Fur Company, and in 1842 the company failed completely.

Growth of the Isle Royale Fishing Industry: 1840s -1880s

The following is from Franks pg. 44-45:

Even though the American Fur Company failed, Isle Royale maintained its reputation for good fishery resources. As the Lake Superior country was being inundated with miners and settlers in the mid-1840s, seasonal, small-scale fishing operations continued on or around Isle Royale. The American Fur Company's Checker Point Camp in Siskiwit Bay was re-occupied by independent fishermen by 1846. Small mining outposts on the mainland such as Copper Harbor, which had grown into economic centers during the copper mining boom of the 1840s, created a new, localized market for Isle Royale fishermen.

During this period Isle Royale was being promoted as an important location for commercial fishing in guide books, government reports, and other exploration literature. Surveyor Douglass Houghton promoted Isle Royale's value as a fishing ground in his 1841 legislative report on the mineral resources of the Upper Peninsula, in which he praised Lake Superior's fish as "better flavored" and worthy of higher prices than those from other places.

The federal government also served, inadvertently, to promote the development of commercial fishing on Lake Superior. Federal officials assisted early mining ventures by persuading the Ojibway to relinquish their title to upper Michigan and northern Wisconsin land. The influx of miners to the area caused an increase in Lake Superior shipping traffic. Accompanying the growing need to transport freight and copper ore, new sailing vessels joined the modern steam-powered ships. Commercial trade routes were added to the Sault, and later, to other regions. As a result, increased lake traffic provided better opportunities for commercial fishermen to market their goods.

The expansion of the western frontier in the 1850s opened a new, larger market for Isle Royale whitefish, trout, and siscowet. During this period Lake Superior had hundreds of commercial fishery operations, and in 1853 the lake's fish exports were an estimated 800,000 pounds. Between 1847 and 1870, the number of Isle Royale's seasonal fishermen remained close to thirty, increasing when large groups of Ojibwa made fishing expeditions to the island from Grand Portage and Thunder Bay.

Technological advances, especially in the form of improved transportation facilities, benefited Isle Royale fisheries during the 1850s. One important advancement came in 1855 with the construction of the canal that joined Lake Superior with the lower Great Lakes at Sault Sainte Marie. This new connection between the remote Lake Superior frontier and the larger eastern cities, together with the increased efficiency of steamboats, opened up new markets for Isle Royale fish. After the canal opened, regular shipping routes were scheduled through Lake Superior from major cities such as Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, and Detroit. Duluth and other new urban centers developed harbor facilities, creating additional destinations for Lake Superior shipping traffic.

Isle Royale Boom years: 1880s-late 1920s

The following is from Franks pg. 53-54:

During the mid-1880s the Lake Superior fishing industry experienced an unprecedented expansion. The number of fish steamers shipping in Lake Superior tripled between 1880 and 1885, and the number of small fishing craft quadrupled during this period. In 1885, over 4.5 million pounds of whitefish, just fewer than 1.5 million pounds of lake trout, and over three hundred thousand pounds of herring were harvested from Lake Superior. The Gulf States commercial fishing operations were rivaled in size and scale by the Great Lakes fisheries.

The growth of commerce between 1880 and late 1920s on Lake Superior brought a "golden age" for the Isle Royale commercial fisherman. This boom occurred in tandem with several other regional occurrences. The post-Civil War expansion of railroad lines connected the remote north country with larger areas of commerce. Technological advances in refrigeration, boat and engine technology, power-driven net lifters, and netting materials (i.e, cotton and nylon) all improved the ability of commercial fishermen to bring in large catches. Changes in market preferences for fish, lack of government regulation, as well as a general increase in Lake Superior shipping opportunities were also important factors in the growth of the fishing industry on Lake Superior, and Isle Royale.

Commercial Fishing Decline on Isle Royale: Late 1920s-1950s

The following is from Franks pg. 64-66:

As technology improved commercial fishing operations, Isle Royale fishermen would experience many more productive years. However, the Great Depression of 1929 precipitated the decline of the commercial fishing industry on Lake Superior. Fish prices fluctuated drastically, creating uneven market conditions. At times the price to ship was higher than the

price paid for the fish. As a result of the Crash, competition increased, and many fishermen left the business.

Advances in technology during the 1930s also increased fishing efficiency, and new techniques and equipment hastened the depletion of lake fish. Manufactured cotton nets were used rather than hand tied linen, and later, nylon replaced cotton as a net material, reducing the amount of onshore work that needed to be done to maintain the nets. Aluminum and then plastic corks replaced cedar. Improvements in nets, floats, and engines increased efficiency. Beach seines were used for fishing herring in shallow water, marine engines were improved and could generate greater amounts of catch, and smaller herring skiffs had outboard motors.

Other factors worked against Isle Royale fishermen during this period. The introduction of smelt in the Great Lakes decimated the populations of lake trout and herring. Smelt had been released in Crystal Lake Michigan in 1906 as a food for sport fish, and appeared in Lake Superior in 1930. Additionally, the development of the highway system along the north shore of Lake Superior in the early 1920s caused a decrease in Lake shipping traffic, making opportunities for Isle Royale fishermen to ship fish to market less available. As competition between shipping companies decreased, shippers were able to charge higher prices, which island fishermen had no choice but to pay. Additionally, sports fishermen added to an "anti-commercial" fishing attitude, and campaigned against the commercial fishermen, who they claimed were the cause of the depletion of lake fish.

Finally, further limitations were placed on fishery development with the initiation in 1931 of Isle Royale National Park. Because the National Park Service mission was to manage the island as a wilderness, many restrictions were put on commercial fishermen. For example, they could no longer use native materials for equipment, were restricted in some ways from maintaining equipment and structures. The National Park Service encouraged the donation or sale of property to the government. Fishermen could not transfer title to their holdings under National Park regulations, but some were offered leases, and even those who did not own their land were awarded life leases for their fisheries. However, the leases stipulated rigid restrictions, and could be revoked if violated.

With licensing, regulation, and the government's insistent pressure to sell, Isle Royale fishermen had little incentive to keep their fisheries in operation. Many fishermen retired, leaving abandoned buildings, many of which were burned by the Park Service. In an effort to return the area to "wilderness," in 1941 the National Park Service burned the Island House hotel, the Washington Harbor communal ice house, and the entire fishing enclave at Booth Island. In 1946, the year Isle Royale National Park was dedicated, the sea lamprey arrived, devastating native fish populations in Lake Superior. Within five years the lamprey had killed 90 percent of the trout in certain parts of the lake, creating an "economic disaster" for the Lake Superior fishing industry. The lamprey, smelt, and other introduced game fish affected the ecosystem of Lake Superior. The lake trout fishing industry was nearly dead by 1957, and by 1960 the lamprey had virtually wiped out the entire Lake Superior fishing industry.

Due to the ever-increasing regulatory mandates, many fishermen left the island, retiring their

businesses, and by 1966 there were only eight commercial fishermen left on Isle Royale. The state of Michigan closed Isle Royale trout fishing in 1960, and it remained closed until 1967, when limited "assessment" catches were allowed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Quota systems were enforced, which limited the size of fishermen's' catch. In 1986 only three commercial fishery owners maintained their licenses: Myrtle Johnson (Milford Johnson's widow), at the Johnson fishery on Amygdaloid Island; Elaine Rude (Sam Rude's widow), at the former Fisherman's Home on Houghton Point; and Stanley Sivertson, in Washington Harbor. Anti-lamprey programs were implemented, and fish stocking increased along the mainland shores. In 1991, scientists concurred that both the lake trout and herring populations on Isle Royale showed signs of recovery. By this time, however, the commercial fishing industry had virtually ended on Isle Royale.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Edisen Fishery and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse combine to create a landscape whose characteristics contribute to the period of significance in Isle Royale National Park. The site is predominantly characterized by its association with the historical island economy of small commercial fishing and of copper mining. The analysis of the fishery and the lighthouse indicate that they retain integrity in all aspects. There are few extant features at the site to contradict the period of significance of the late 19th and early 20th century island landscape features. Located on a peninsula, the fishery and the lighthouse represent a working landscape from the period. Features pre-dating the cultural landscape, such as topography, vegetation and water systems have remained consistent throughout the period and are still evident in the contemporary context.

The construction of the cultural landscape has evolved over time based on need and economic demands. The fishery site has persisted as a working landscape under the Park Service direction while the lighthouse landscape has reverted to the successional model that existed prior to the construction of the structure. Minimal landscape features have been developed by the park at this site, other than a careful restoration of the structures and interpretation of activities at the site. Access to the site has been traditionally by private boat with the addition of a Park Service ferry, the MV Sandy, that brings visitors to the site from Rock Harbor.

The Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse are significant for their association with the economic and cultural history of Isle Royale. The period of significance for this landscape is 1855-1934, based on the 1977 National Register documentation. While the fishery maintains its original association in the form of an interpretive site, the lighthouse no longer functions in its original capacity rather it functions as a museum containing exhibits that interpret the shipping history of the island. The landscape as a whole contributes to our understanding of the period of significance as well as contributes to the mission of the park. The cultural and physical landscape characteristics retain their integrity and must be preserved.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

The combination of natural systems and physical features contribute to the setting and feeling of the cultural landscape. The following descriptions are excerpted from the 1998 General Management Plan and the 1989 Statement for Management.

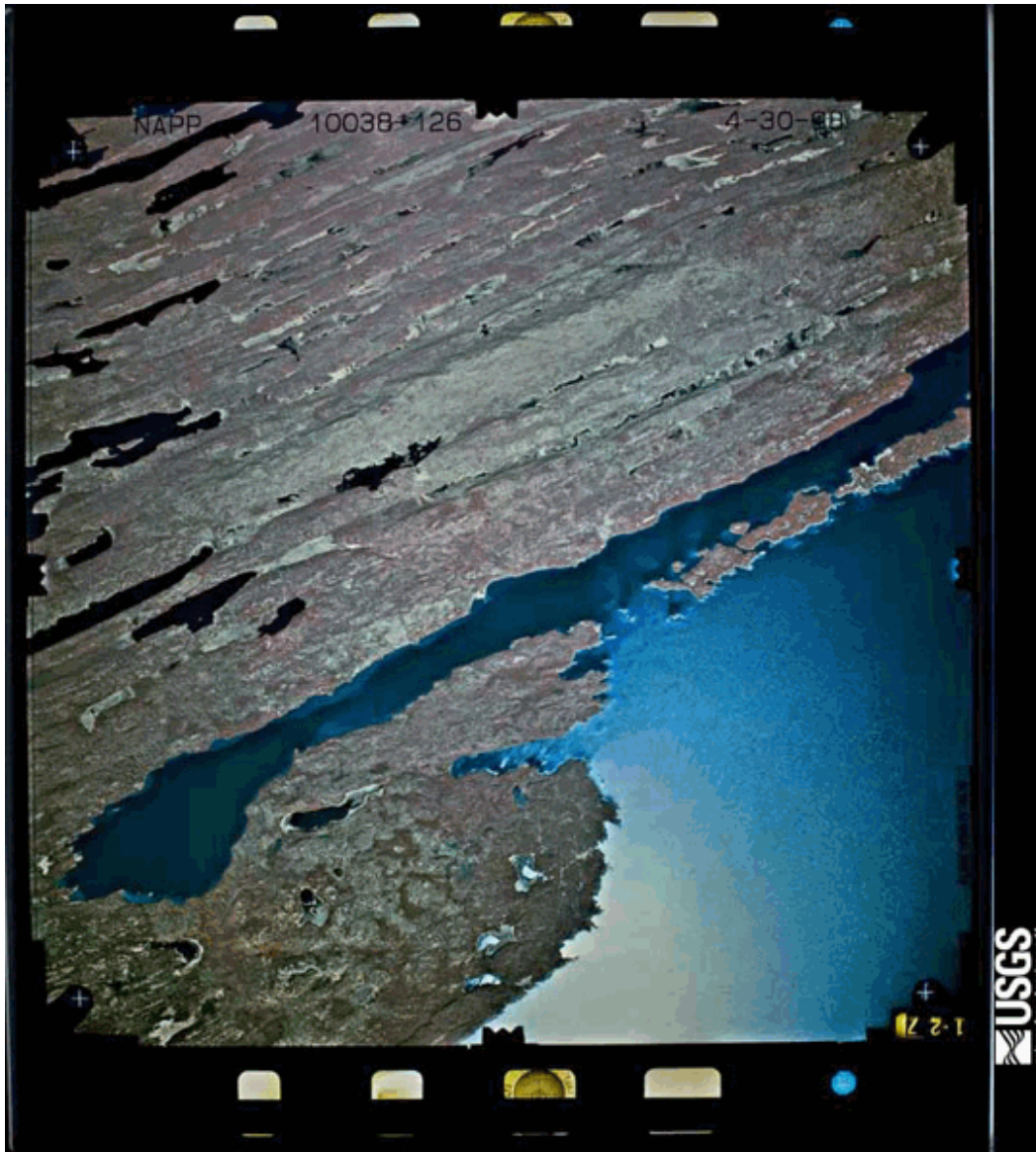
Isle Royale National Park lies in the Superior Upland physical province on the northwest rim of the great basin that forms Lake Superior. Elevation ranges from 600 feet at Lake Superior to almost 1,400 feet along Greenstone Ridge. The physiographic description of the park is a product of glacier movement modified by bedrock. The primary bedrock of the island is basalt lava flow. Action by the glacier in the last three million years have smoothed and eroded surfaces and gouged basins that formed the lakes and valleys. Between the valleys, rock beds of hard basalt form long ridges that, in the case of the Greenstone Ridge, extend the length of the island. Greenstone and Minong are the two major ridges that run parallel along the long axis of the island. Both ridges have steep escarpments with an elevation difference of several hundred feet.

Troughs between the ridges may have elongated bodies of water like Siskiwit Lake, Rock Harbor, and Tobin Harbor. Numerous low gradient stream systems drain the interior of the island into Lake Superior. Glacial activity is visible throughout the island in the form of bedrock outcrops, abrasions on bedrock, quarrying of rocks by plucking, striations across the bedrock, and deposits of glacial till. The soils on Isle Royale are derived from deposits and outwash left by the last retreat of the continental glaciers about 10,000 years ago. Glacial till deposits vary in thickness across the island and are much deeper toward the southwest end. Soils in the northeastern section are thin and highly organic; on the southwestern end, the soils are deeper, better developed, and less organic.

The climate of Isle Royale is similar to that of the rest of the Upper Great Lakes Region, There are some significant differences caused by the surrounding influence of Lake Superior. Temperatures are greatly moderated by the lake. Daily lows in the winter are commonly six degrees Fahrenheit warmer than those of the mainland, while in the summer, the island is much cooler than the mainland.

Isle Royale was formally designated as a U.S. biosphere reserve in 1980. This program is an international effort to protect examples of major ecosystems that provide a baseline of conditions against which human impact can be assessed.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Aerial image showing the ridge and valley features of the island. The Edison Fishery and the Rock Harbor Lighthouse are located on the end of the peninsula located in the center of the image.



Water, rock, and forest are the primary features of the island. (NPS, 2000)

Vegetation

Isle Royale is located in the transition biotic zone between the Canadian Zone and the Hudsonian Zone. Characteristics of both vegetative types are evident. In the cooler, damper regions close to Lake Superior and in the narrow northeastern part of the island, balsam fir and white spruce interspersed with paper birch and aspen comprise the mature forest. This is characteristic of the Hudsonian Zone and comprises just below 30 percent of the island's cover.

Approximately 700 species of vascular plants are found at Isle Royale. Most park land is covered by a continuous forest, broken only by marshlands or open bedrock ridges of brush and grass. Many examples of forest succession are evident on the island following fire, insect outbreaks, wind throw, and browsing. There are also over 600 species of lichen found on the island. This is the greatest diversity of lichen species in North America.

Lake Superior strongly influences the island climate; this influence in turn largely determines the forest vegetation patterns on the island. The cold Lake Superior water surrounding Isle Royale both cools and moistens the shorelines. Farther inland and upland this influence wanes, and drier, warmer conditions prevail. These two climates have produced two forest types: the boreal forest nearer the shoreline and the northern hardwoods of the interior uplands. Elements of each type are found across the island, but because the east end is narrow (averaging only 3-5 miles wide) and has shallow soils, the boreal forest there is widespread. On the west end, where the island is about 8 miles wide and soils are deeper, the northern hardwoods forest, associated with drier, warmer conditions, is more widespread.

The boreal forest includes balsam fir, white spruce, white birch, and aspen; mountain ash is also present, but less common. Common understory species are thimbleberry, large-leaved aster, and Canada dogwood. The northern hardwoods forest, found in the interior uplands, is typified by the sugar maple-yellow birch forest. The large sugar maple forest centered on Greenstone Ridge on the west end is perhaps the largest tract of undisturbed and unaltered forest on Isle Royale. Northern red oak also is found on dry hillsides. Herbaceous species include trillium, yellow clintonia, and twisted stalk.

Other significant forest types include jack pine stands, typically found on dry and open ridges and bluffs with a past history of fire. White and red pines are also found, but generally as individuals or in small patches, often along ridges or lake shorelines.

Wetland environments (beaver ponds, bogs, swamps, and marshes) are common on the island and are characterized by specialized vegetation. The ridge/valley topography has created swamp environments in most of the valleys. Beaver ponds can cause standing dead forests, but swamps that have developed without the beaver influence typically include white cedar or black spruce. Tamarack, once more widespread, is restricted today to scattered individuals in some swamps. Speckled alder is common in swamps as well.

There are two major bog types on the island. Sphagnum bogs have little or no drainage and are dominated by the sedge *Carex limosa*. Also present in these conditions are sphagnum moss, labrador tea, black spruce, and tamarack as common species. Cyperaceous bogs are dominated by the sedge *Carex lasiocarpa*. These bogs often have an active water outlet and less labrador tea and sphagnum cover, and have tamarack and white cedar as over-story.

Impact on the local vegetation occurred with the construction and establishment of the lighthouse and the fishery. This direct impact was manifested by the clearing of the forest cover in order to layout the arrangement of structures. The immediate area around the sites remained wooded, with maintenance going towards keeping the site clear and functional.

Domestic gardens were commonly planted by the fishing families. At Edisen, there is little evidence of the food garden that was maintained by Laura Edisen, but many domestic flowers

persist. Daylilies are found thriving around the house and there is a large rose bush behind the residence. Creeping bell flower has also spread in the cultivated area around the house. This flower may have been intentionally introduced but it is a non-native plant that can become invasive. This plant grows by rhizome and can be difficult to eradicate once established.

In the case of a cultivated landscape at the lighthouse, a lighthouse keeper or his family would have been available to maintain the clearing of the site and protect the views and visibility of the lighthouse and the beacon. Since the abandonment of the lighthouse for the last time in 1879, encroachment by the forest is seen around the lighthouse.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Northern boreal forest along the the northeastern coast of the island. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



A few of the many species of lichen found on Isle Royale. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)

Other

From the Final General Management Plan, 1998:

WILDLIFE

The mammals of Isle Royale reflect the influence of an island ecosystem largely isolated from the continental mainland. Currently 14 mammal species are found on Isle Royale. Many species common on the mainland, only 20-25 miles west, are not found on Isle Royale because they cannot swim across Lake Superior, do not cross on the occasional winter ice cover, or have not been introduced to the island by people. Several species on the island have disappeared since post-European humans arrived on the island -most notably the caribou, coyote, and the lynx. The timber wolf and the moose are two species that have arrived on Isle Royale in the 20th century.

Other mammals on the island include the red fox, snowshoe hare, mink, short-tailed weasel, beaver, deer mouse, and red squirrel. The river otter increased substantially in numbers in the 1990s, which is probably closely related to the upswing in herring populations around the island.

Less affected by the isolation of Isle Royale are the avian species, which mirror species found on the mainland (with the exception of the ruffed grouse and spruce grouse, which cannot manage the long flight across Lake Superior). Park staff continue to monitor bird populations in the park.

Bald eagle and osprey populations continue to rise. Also noted are the presence of white-throated sparrow, Nashville warbler, ovenbird, and the red-eyed vireo. Common loon species have established nesting activity on Lake Superior. The colonial water-bird (great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, herring gull, and ring-billed gull) populations on the island appear healthy.

There are three reptile (western painted turtle, red-bellied snake, and garter snake) and seven amphibian (blue-spotted salamander, American toad, spring peeper, chorus frog, green frog, mink frog, wood frog) species known on Isle Royale.

The diverse fishery of the Lake Superior and inland waters of Isle Royale represent the most nationally significant natural resources in the park. The lake trout is recognized as the best example of a rehabilitated lake trout population in Lake Superior. It is the most genetically diverse population in the lake. The coaster brook trout population, considered to be extremely rare, is the only known reproducing population in U.S. waters. Herring populations have rebounded in the park as they have elsewhere, enabling predators such as otters, eagles, osprey, common loons, and cormorants to improve. Lake trout, whitefish and herring were the primary fish of economic interest during the period of significance.

Circulation

Isle Royale National Park is maintained in a roadless condition and is accessible only by boat or seaplane. Both the lighthouse and the fishery occupy their respective sites within cleared areas in the landscape and surround on three sides by the wilderness of Isle Royale. The surrounding element on the fourth side is the water. The water becomes a significant feature that impacts all circulation on the island. The preferred mode of travel by fisherman would be via boat to get to almost any other spot on the island. The waters of Lake Superior are considered some of the most dangerous in the world between the sudden changes in weather and the hidden shoals that lay off the shore. Therefore, all circulation is often at the whim of the conditions of the lake. It is significant that park boundaries extend for four miles into the water surrounding the island.

Circulation to the site is thus limited by difficulty of access. Twice a week, tours are conducted to the site via the MV Sandy; a private concession boat that has a seating capacity for 42 passengers. Once on the peninsula, circulation exists between the structures of the fishery and the channel and also across the peninsula to the lighthouse via a ¼ mile path through the woods which joins the two sites. The path is a direct route that follows an easy grade across the peninsula. It is lined with dense trees of predominately fir and spruce and edged with moss, thimbleberry, bunchberry, and blue-bead lily. The path is unpaved and maintained by the park trail crew who remove trees that have fallen across the trail and trim back brush and trees that encroach on the trail as needed. The path serves as a corridor between the two interpretive sites. The two historically significant economic forces on Isle Royale, mining and fishing, are joined by this contiguous landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Path through the woods between Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



View from the tower of lighthouse grounds circulation. Capstan from the Monarch" shipwreck is in the upper right portion of the image. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)

Land Use

Land uses on the island are defined by the boundaries of the park. The waters of Lake Superior being the chief land feature governing use in and outside the park. The northern boundary of the park meets with the international boundary of the province of Ontario, Canada and the remaining boundary is entirely within the state of Michigan. Little commercial activity occurs outside the boundaries of the park with the exception of limited commercial fishing. The State of Michigan has retained the rights to both the fishing resource and mineral resources within the Lake Superior waters of the park. A major Great Lakes shipping lane runs through the park between the northeast corner of the main Island and Passage Island with freighter traffic between Thunder Bay, Ontario, and the lower Great Lakes.

Settlement of the area dates from the last 4,000 years predominately for the harvesting of copper and fish. Later, during the 1600s and 1700s, explorers came for the fur trade. Historically, settlement was always of a seasonal nature and involved visits to gather the abundance of natural resources that were accessible.

The primary changes in the function of the landscape have been manifest through the periods of use and vacancy at the site. Much of the site continues to be maintained as open lawn surrounded by forest. The lighthouse landscape, however, is no longer consistent with the period of significance due to the increased density and encroachment of the forest as a result of passive management techniques. The fishery continues to retain the significant character of the landscape.

Fishing operations on Isle Royale were operated seasonally with fishermen arriving in April, as soon as lake conditions permitted, and staying through until December. Families would often follow as soon as school let out in the summer. Structures built on the site were essential to the fishery operation and were at the mercy of the weather of Lake Superior. It was the families who were responsible for the daily chores on land which included planting small vegetable and flower gardens.

Location was crucial for the establishment of a commercial fishery. “The best sites would be near sheltered waters, in areas with favorable winds.” (Franks, 1999) Sites were reoccupied seasonally and passed down from generation to generation. Fishing grounds were divided among the fishermen based on past use and location. The division ensured that no fisherman encroached on another’s fishing grounds. Fishermen occupied sheltered coves or harbors, with water deep enough to accommodate their boats. (Rakestraw, 1967)

The Rock Harbor Lighthouse was located at the Middle Islands Passage which forms the entrance into the Rock Harbor channel. It was described as a, “small, well-sheltered, landlocked harbor, with good anchorage.” The location was selected in 1847 by a branch of the Treasury Department as the documentation of the presence of copper deposits on the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale spurred exploration. As a result, ships began moving through Rock Harbor and the Middle Islands Passage to bring mining equipment and supplies to the island.

Buildings and Structures

There are seven structures that remain in the fishery complex and one structure at the lighthouse site. Most structures on the island were built out of locally available and recycled materials. The lighthouse, however, built by the US Lighthouse Service, was constructed out of brick. All structures have undergone extensive restoration and retain good integrity as a result.

The lighthouse was constructed in 1855 and included a brick Keeper’s House and a 61-foot brick tower with a light mounted in an octagonal beacon house. The lighthouse had two phases of use that corresponded to copper mining activity in the area. The two phases were from 1855-1859 and from 1874-1879.

In the early 1900s, the lighthouse was used as a summer camp for fishing parties from Duluth. In 1910, Louis Broadwell added an addition on the north side as well as installed hardwood floors and added dormers. From 1928 to 1939 the lighthouse was used as a small commercial fishery operation and residence by Arnold and Milford Johnson. Since 1939, the building has remained unoccupied. The structure went through extensive stabilization by the Park Service in the 1960s, with the north addition being removed in 1962. It was restored for interpretive purposes by the National Park Service in 1980-1982.

The first structures at the Edisen Fishery were constructed in 1895, these were the Net House and the Sleeping Cabin. Both are structures of saddle-notched, horizontal log construction. The Net House is two-story and was used for storage of reels and net drying racks. The net

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
 Isle Royale National Park

reels were constructed of locally available pulp sticks and cedar logs. Fishermen used them as a frame for repairing nets as well as a place to dry them. The Net House was also used as the first home of Pete and Laura Edisen who resided there until 1951. The Edisens fished out of the site until 1976. The Net House was restored in 1975-1976 by the NPS.

The Sleeping Cabin is a single-story structure and was used as sleeping quarters first for hired fishermen and then for guests. It is believed the cabin was built in 1895 on Cemetery Island and then moved to the site, log by log, in the early 1900s by Mike Johnson's fishing partner, who also lived here.

In 1900, the Fish House and the Edisen Residence were constructed by two local fishermen, Mr. Mattson and Mr. Anderson. The Fish House is a one story saddle-notched, horizontal log structure that extends out over the water and is surrounded on three sides by a log and plank dock. It was used to clean and store fish until they were picked up for market in Duluth. The residence is a single story four-room frame and log dwelling. Additions were made to the house around 1915. The Fish House, the Residence and the Sleeping Cabin were restored by the NPS from 1987-1989.

The Honeymoon Cabin was so called because the bed inside was taken from the cottage reserved for honeymooners at Singer's Resort on Washington Island. The building was surplus from Rock Harbor Lodge and moved to the site in 1925. The building was used primarily as a tool shed and pantry by the Edisens while they were living in the Net House.

The Chicken Coop was built by Mike Johnson in 1915 and brought to the site in 1934. It was used until 1943 to keep chickens as well as goats and pigs at various times.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Rock Harbor Lighthouse

Feature Identification Number: 129346

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature UTM Source	Type of Point	Datum	UTM Zone	UTM Easting	UTM Northing
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	16	382,390	5,327,488

IDLCS Number: 5217

LCS Structure Name: Rock Harbor Lighthouse

LCS Structure Number: HS425

Feature: Net House

Feature Identification Number: 129348

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
 Isle Royale National Park

Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing				
Feature UTM Source	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	16	382,150	5,327,250
IDLCS Number:	5215				
LCS Structure Name:	Edisen Fishery Net House				
LCS Structure Number:	HS145				
Feature:	Sleeping Cabin				
Feature Identification Number:	129350				
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing				
Feature UTM Source	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	16	382,150	5,327,250
IDLCS Number:	5212				
LCS Structure Name:	Edisen Fishery Log Sleeping Cabin				
LCS Structure Number:	HS139				
Feature:	Fish House				
Feature Identification Number:	129352				
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing				
Feature UTM Source	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	16	382,150	5,327,250
IDLCS Number:	5213				
LCS Structure Name:	Edisen Fishery Fish House				
LCS Structure Number:	HS140				
Feature:	Edisen Residence				
Feature Identification Number:	129354				
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing				

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
 Isle Royale National Park

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Line	NAD 83	16	382,150	5,327,250

IDLCS Number: 5209
 LCS Structure Name: Edisen Fishery Residence
 LCS Structure Number: HS137

Feature: Honeymoon Cabin
 Feature Identification Number: 129356
 Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	16	382,150	5,327,250

IDLCS Number: 5211
 LCS Structure Name: Edisen Fishery Honeymoon Cottage
 LCS Structure Number: HS138

Feature: Chicken Coop
 Feature Identification Number: 129358
 Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	16	382,150	5,327,250

IDLCS Number: 5216
 LCS Structure Name: Edisen Fishery Chicken Coop
 LCS Structure Number: HS146

Feature: Privy
 Feature Identification Number: 129360
 Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
Isle Royale National Park

<u>Feature UTM Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	16	382,150	5,327,250
IDLCS Number:	5210				
LCS Structure Name:	Edisen Fishery Privy				
LCS Structure Number:	HS137A				

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



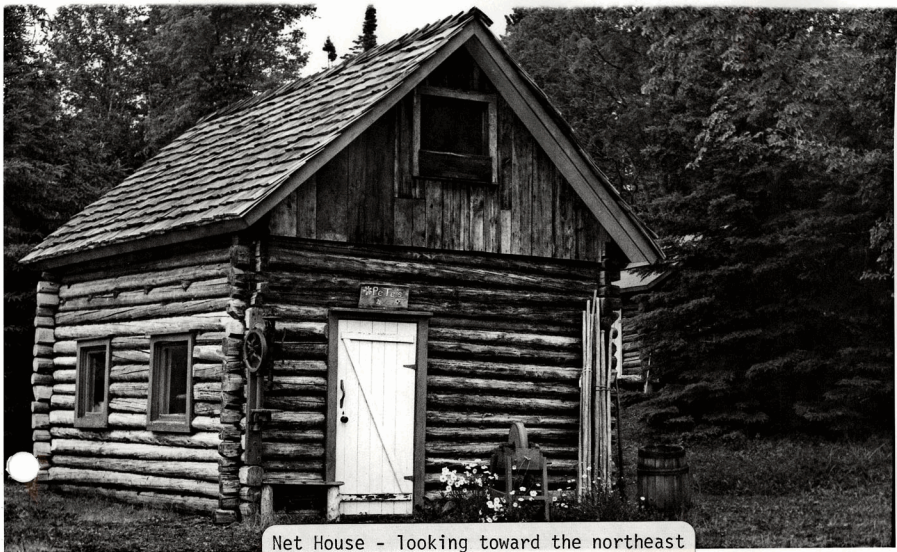
View of the Rock Harbor Lighthouse dated 1889



The Rock Harbor Lighthouse in 2008. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



Rock Harbor Lighthouse. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)

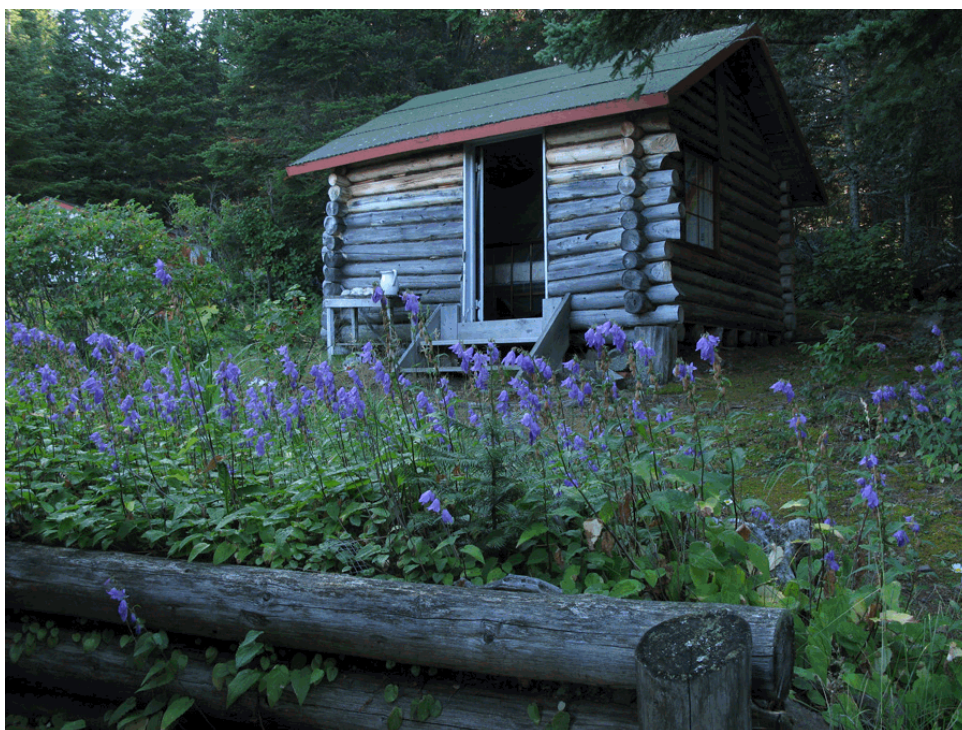


Net House - Looking toward the northeast

Image of Net House from NPS file dated 1965 or 1966.



The Net House. (Hauser for NPS 2008)



The Sleeping Cabin. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
Isle Royale National Park



The Fish House in 2008. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
Isle Royale National Park

Edisen Residence in 2008. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



The Edisen Residence and the Fish House looking west. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



Honeymoon Cabin in 2008. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Chicken Coop at the Edisen Fishery. (Hauser for NPS 2008)



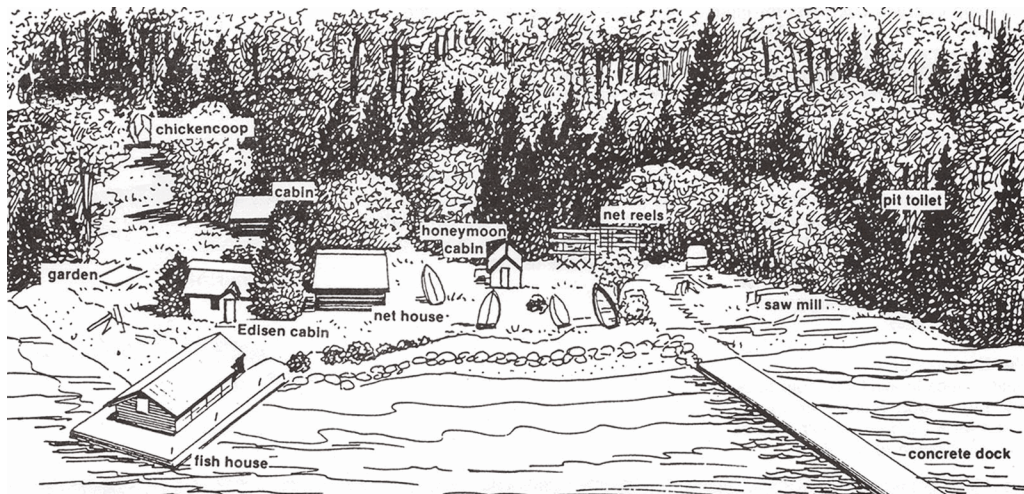
Privy at Edisen Fishery. (Hauser for NPS, 2008).

Cluster Arrangement

The buildings and landscape features are clustered in a clearing on a peninsula between the Rock Harbor channel and Lake Superior. The buildings are located and arranged according to the function and needs of a fishery. The arrangement evolved over time as the fishery developed a need for seasonal and more residential shelter. The structures are arranged following the contours of the shoreline and do not extend beyond the forest edge except for the privy and the chicken coop. The space between the buildings emphasizes the functional needs of the fishery but also contains small domestic landscape features such as a garden and some ornamental plantings. Access to the site is via a concrete dock or via the wooden dock around the Fish House.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Edisen Fishery & Rock Harbor Lighthouse
Isle Royale National Park



Perspective map of the Edisen Fishery from an NPS brochure



View of the Edisen Fishery when approached from the east. (From an NPS file photo dated 1965 or 1966).



Edisen Fishery viewed from the concrete dock. (Hauser for NPS 2008)

Views and Vistas

The Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse are situated on a peninsula overlooking Rock Harbor and the Middle Islands Passage. The lighthouse has a commanding view of the harbor as it sits on a wooded bluff overlooking the Middle Islands Passage which serves as the main entrance to Isle Royale. The Middle Islands and the lighthouse frame the entrance to the harbor as visitors access the park via ferry from Houghton, Michigan. The vegetation at the lighthouse has not been maintained to the period of significance. As a result, the encroaching forest possibly obscures views from the lake of the beacon. In 1859, T.S. Thompson in "Coast Pilot for the Upper Lakes", described the Rock Harbor light as being visible from fourteen miles out on the lake when approaching from the northeast end of Isle Royale and visible from twelve mile out when approaching from the eastern end.

The views from the lighthouse retain good integrity while the view from the lake to the lighthouse may be diminished due to the encroachment of vegetation. The views to and from the fishery retain integrity and contribute to the cultural landscape.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Lighthouse as viewed from the Middle Islands Passage. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Through the Middle Islands passage. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



View from the lighthouse tower looking over the Middle Islands Passage. (Johnson, Tim for NPS 2000)



View from the lighthouse tower looking over Lake Superior to the south and west. (Johnson, Tim for NPS 2000)

Cultural Traditions

The following is excerpted from "Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park", by Katie Franks for the National Park Service, 1999.

Isle Royale fisherman, up until 1885, had represented an ethnically mixed population consisting of individuals of German, Irish, English, French-Canadian, Chippewa, and American backgrounds. Fishermen were occasionally drawn into the business after working in the local copper mines. By the 1890s, Isle Royale fishermen were largely Scandinavians.

The Scandinavian fishermen brought well-established maritime skills to Isle Royale and to Minnesota's north shore. European techniques, especially those related to hook-line and gill net use and small boat handling were brought to Isle Royale.

Typically, hook-line fishing took place in deeper waters from April until July, after which time the lake trout would move into the shallower reefs around the island. The process of hook-line fishing involved a main line, 1,600 feet long, suspended just under the surface of the lake, parallel to the water surface and anchored at each end. Every 40 feet, a line with a large weighted Snell hook baited with herring hung 100 to 200 feet down. Fisherman would often connect several main lines together, which would then stretch over three to five miles. The majority of the day was then spent checking and re-baiting the lines.

Gill nets were the mainstay on Isle Royale and Lake Superior. Adaptable in shallow or deep water, fish would become caught in the mesh; the fishes' girth prevented them from swimming through the mesh, and their gills stopped them from escaping backwards. The depth and location of the nets, as well as the size of the mesh opening, determined the size of fish caught.

A typical gill net ran roughly 200-300 feet. Two or three gill nets composed a "box." Island fishermen typically worked two men to a boat, handling 10,000 feet of nets a day during good weather. Gill nets were set for trout during the late summer and in the peak fishing season, from August through November.

Much of the gill net fisherman's equipment was made by hand. Nets were made of linen and hand-tied. Fishermen carved their own buoys and "corks" from cedar, and then rubbed warm linseed oil on the corks to preserve and seal them. Lead sinkers, which were used to keep the net vertical, were made in the hand forge. The nets would be dried on "net drying reels" to prevent them from rotting, and were then stored in net houses. A large number of net drying reels at a fishery signified a large gill net operation.

By 1875, innovative fishermen, who could afford them, were using pound nets on Isle Royale. Initially introduced from Scotland in 1836, pound nets were first used on Lake Ontario. While pound nets gave a tremendous boost to the commercial industry, they also ultimately hastened the decline.

Pound nets (pronounced "pond and often-spelled "pond") were set in the shape of a box and held in place by 25 ft. to 50 ft. long stakes. A large net was then run from this container out perpendicular to the shoreline. Fish were directed by the long net into a small opening in the pound net. Pound net fishing would begin in the spring after the breakup of the ice.

The pound nets themselves were expensive and required the use of specialized equipment such as stake drivers and flat decked boats. The operation of driving the stakes into the lake bottom to secure the net required a pound net boat, a stake driver, and 40 to 60 stakes. These stakes would be driven into soft-bottomed bays with a stake driver, or "scow," which looked something like a small oil derrick. The "scow" consisted of a central tower floated on a platform which centered and steadied the stake, while above it, a pulley held a heavy wooden hammer which pounded the stake into the lake bottom. This task was performed with man-power in early days; later the hammer was powered by gasoline engines. The use of pound nets decreased on Isle Royale after the turn of the century due to the expense and maintenance requirements.

The Scandinavians also brought changes to the social life of the fishermen. Because of the distribution of the Scandinavian population, the new fishermen on Isle Royale began to establish permanent residences in Minnesota's North Shore communities, rather than in Michigan or Wisconsin as earlier Isle Royale fishermen had done. Some even tried to winter on the island. The new arrivals stimulated a cordial social life as fishing communities sprang up around the island. Picnics and gathering occurred regularly, particularly as motorized small craft became available.

Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are found all around the Edisen Fishery and serve to represent the daily operations of the fishery. They contribute greatly to the feeling and association of the period of significance. Two net drying reels are present with a net mounted on one reel as demonstration. Net reels were a Swedish innovation used to dry the nets without them becoming tangled. They were also used as supports for the nets while they were being repaired. Around the site, there are multiple examples of the nets that had been used for fishing stored in boxes and hanging in the net house. There are two 'line holders' positioned outside the net house. These wooden devices were used to hold rolls of fishing line. The roll was placed on the holder and ensure that the line would unroll without getting tangled so that no line was wasted. Fishermen would make them out of whatever scrap was available.

Nets were originally made of cotton then later of nylon. Net floats, originally carved out of wood and then later made from plastic, were used in the water to keep the nets on or just below the surface. Nets and floats varied in size depending on for what was being fished. Both the Fish House and the Net House are filled with small-scale features which were the tools of a working commercial fishery.

On the grounds of the fishery are several wooden and metal boats of varying sizes. Most significantly is the gas boat, named the "Belle". The gas boat is a wooden boat which is a similar design as that of the Mackinaw boat only powered by a gasoline motor instead of by oars or sail. The gas boat is important because it represents an evolution in the small-scale commercial fishing industry allowing for greater efficiency and range of fishing practices. The gas boat at Edisen Fishery is weathered and faded but it helps to convey the atmosphere of daily life on the island. Also present is a wooden boat named the "Tern" that was acquired from the Holte Fishery at Wright Island. The "Tern" was been restored and used by Leslie

Mattson in the 1980s and 1990s. This gas boat is smaller than the "Belle" and has a square stern.

There are few small-scale features associated with the lighthouse. The structure is maintained as a maritime museum and there is usually no interpreter present on site so the features of the museum must be self-contained and free from temptations of vandalism or theft. On the grounds of the lighthouse, there is the capstan that was salvaged from the shipwreck of the "Monarch" and on the path leading to the fishery, there is the reproduction of a gravestone memorializing Arthur Lee Scott, a miner who died in the area during the second mining boom of the 1870's.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Gas Boat, the "Belle"

Feature Identification Number: 131018

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Net Reels

Feature Identification Number: 131020

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Line holders

Feature Identification Number: 133866

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Nets

Feature Identification Number: 131024

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Net Boxes

Feature Identification Number: 131048

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Various tools of fishing, work clothes, outboard motors, etc.

Feature Identification Number: 131026

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Small wooden and aluminium hulled boats

Feature Identification Number: 131050

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: The "Tern" gas boat

Feature Identification Number: 131044

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Net mounted on net reel. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Line holder outside the Net House. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



Inside the Net House. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Net box and nets. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



Tools of the fishery. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



Net detail with net floats. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



Gas boat, the Belle,"at the Edisen Fishery. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Inside the Fish House. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Old outboard motors in the Fish House. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



Oars in the Fish House. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)



The Tern'gas boat. (Hauser for NPS, 2008)



Boat at the Edisen Fishery. (Gladstone for NPS, 2008)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/11/2008

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Structures on the site should be evaluated annually to ensure stability and management of vegetation. Trails and views should be cleared of overgrown and fallen down vegetation.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: The harsh winters and wet summers of Isle Royale increase the rate of deterioration of features at both the fishery and the lighthouse.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Due to climactic extremes and limited occupancy, structures and landscape suffer from deferred maintenance.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation
Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan
Document Date: 08/17/1998

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Based on the 1998 General Management Plan (GMP), the Proposed Action would be to "Emphasize diversity of experiences and natural quiet to improve the quality of visitor experiences. Rock Harbor and Windigo continue as focal points for visitor orientation and visitor services. Continue interpretive sites and programs; expand outreach and environmental education programs."

"Preserve historic structures and landscapes in priority order according to significance. Stabilize and seek adaptive uses for historic commercial fishing sites." (GMP, 1998, 63)

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) states "Completing cultural landscape reports for the Edisen Fishery and Rock Harbor Lighthouse is a high priority. The Edisen Fishery could be a vibrant reminder of the island's historic fisheries. We need the guidance of a cultural landscape report to manage the area for future use and preserve its integrity." (RMP, 1999, 38)

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 08/17/1998

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

- Citation Author:** Brown, Clair A.
Citation Title: Ferns and Flowering Plants of Isle Royale Michigan
Year of Publication: 1933
Citation Publisher: NPS
Citation Type:
Citation Location: Midwest Regional Office Library, NPS
- Citation Author:** Clark, Caven
Citation Title: Archeological Survey and Testing at Isle Royale National Park, 1987-1990 Seasons
Year of Publication: 1995
Citation Publisher: NPS
Citation Type:
Citation Location: Midwest Archeological Center
- Citation Author:** Kathryn E. Franks, Alanen, Arnold R.
Citation Title: Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park: Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location: Midwest Regional Office library and Isle Royale National Park library and on file in the CLI/LCS program files
- Citation Author:** Gale, Thomas P. and Kendra L.
Citation Title: Isle Royale: A Photographic History
Year of Publication: 1995
Citation Publisher: Isle Royale Natural History Association
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: 95 77959

Citation Author: Huber, N. King
Citation Title: The Geologic Story of Isle Royale National Park
Year of Publication: 1983
Citation Publisher: USGS
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: 75 619126
Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location: This text is located in the Cultural Landscape Inventory files in the Midwest Regional Office.

Citation Author: Janke, Robert A.
Citation Title: Annual Report of the Research Project : The Ecology of the Boreal Forest-Type of Isle Royale National Park
Year of Publication: 1978
Citation Publisher: Submitted to NPS
Citation Type:
Citation Location: Midwest Regional Office Library, NPS

Citation Author: Midwest Regional Office
Citation Title: Presevation Maintenance Plan: Rock Harbor Lighthouse and Pete Edisen Fishery, Isle Royale National Park
Year of Publication: 1980
Citation Publisher: NPS
Citation Type:
Citation Location: Midwest Regional Office Library, NPS

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Final General Management Plan - Environmental Impact Statement
Year of Publication: 1998
Citation Publisher: Department of the Interior National Park Service
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: S916 I81
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Midwest Regional Office library and Isle Royale National Park library

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Resource Management Plan
Year of Publication: 1999
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: S916 I8 1999
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Midwest Regional Office library and Isle Royale National Park library

Citation Author: Parratt, Smitty and Welker, Doug
Citation Title: The Place Names of Isle Royale
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Publisher: Isle Royale Natural History Association
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Walewski, Joe
Citation Title: Lichens of the North Woods
Year of Publication: 2007
Citation Publisher: Kollath + Stensaas Publishing
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal