

PH0366242

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 28 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 11 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Minong Mine Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Isle Royale National Park

— VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

+ 11th

STATE

Michigan

CODE

21

COUNTY

Keweenaw

CODE

083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

National Park Service, Midwest Region Office

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Eagle Harbor Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Eagle Harbor

STATE

Michigan

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Midwest Region
National Park Service

DATE

August 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Midwest Region, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

68102

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Michigan's Statewide Survey

August 1976

X State

Michigan History Division
Department of State
Lansing, Michigan 48918

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Minong Mine Historic District is an area of approximately 275 acres,

[REDACTED] The district is comprised of a large area of open pits, several vertical mine shafts, piles of rock tailings, a former wagon road, the ruins of a log dam, stamp mill and blacksmith shop, and the sites of a small village settlement, a cog railroad, and ore dock and several horizontal shafts, all dating from the decade between 1875 and 1884. Around the mine area are scattered fragments of ore cars. Except for extensive natural deterioration, the district remains largely undisturbed.

[REDACTED], the site of the 1875 mining village of Cove. The district's only intrusion occurs in this area where there is presently [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There are no visible ruins of the settlement which consisted of a warehouse, office building, store and numerous dwellings.

A wooden National Park Service marker identifies the former wagon road which travels .8 mile through both meadowland and denser areas of birch, aspen and thimbleberry bushes to the copper mine site.

[REDACTED] the site of prehistoric Indian pits, which marks the northern boundary of the district. The dirt wagon road, kept clear by visitors walking to the mine site, terminates at a large (approximately 6 acres) area of rock tailings and open pits, also marked by a National Park Service wooden sign. About 500 feet west are several vertical shafts, about 3 feet in diameter and of undetermined depth, with no cribbing remaining. Also within this area are the scattered remains of ore cars and the ruins of the former blacksmith shop.

The blacksmith shop, built directly on the ground in an area which is presently woodland, is of double dove-tailed pine log construction. It is approximately 18 feet across its west elevation and 25 feet deep. A section of each wall remains with the north wall, only two logs high, the most deteriorated, while the east and south walls are six and seven logs high, respectively. On the west elevation, a doorway or window opening is centered between the remains of a wall four logs high on the north, and five logs high on the south. A foundation of a forge, six feet square, is still present.

[REDACTED] is a former log dam. Built in the 1870s, the dam is constructed of both full cedar logs and some lap-jointed log sections. Until the spring of 1974 when a beaver dam built on top of it caused such back pressure that it broke, the dam remained almost intact. A nine-log section remains, but no longer functions as a dam.

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[REDACTED] of the log dam are the ruins of the foundation of a steam-powered stamp mill. A pond created by the log dam was used as its water source. Several iron bars and some wooden debris protruding from the dense undergrowth are the only visible remains of the stamp mill. Across from the stamp mill is a large area of bare ground. It is possible that this is the site of horse stables, the salty urine of the horses preventing any subsequent growth of vegetation. This area is frequented by moose who come to lick the soil.

In 1964 Professor Lawrence Rakestraw of Michigan Technological University, conducted research at the Minong Mine site and a comparison of his findings with the present condition of the site follows. Further natural deterioration of existing ruins, the alteration of the site by beaver dams, and the dense vegetation at the time of the field investigation (August 1975) all contribute to differences in observations outlined here as compared to Rakestraw's.

[REDACTED] Rakestraw located the remains of an ore dock, which were not visible in 1975 but are possibly apparent aeri-ally. Rakestraw also located a large section of the grades and cuts of the trackbed of the former cog railroad which ran from the site of the ore dock [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], with a spur to the stamp mill. In 1975 a portion of the trackbed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 1975 with dense vegetation growing to its edges.

At the mine site, Rakestraw located an adit, or horizontal shaft, which was not visible in 1975.² In 1964 the deteriorated blacksmith shop was approximately twice as many logs high as it was in 1975, with framing for a door or window on the west and south walls still intact.³ The log dam was still partially functioning with the flume gate by which water was released for use at the stamp mill, still intact.⁴ Between the former wagon road and the site of the cog railroad, [REDACTED], Rakestraw located a building foundation which was not apparent in 1975, possibly due to the thick growth of thimbleberry bushes in the area.

(See Continuation Sheet 7-2)

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Several archeological investigations dating from the late nineteenth century have determined that mining was also a prehistoric activity at the Minong site, with radiocarbon dates averaging 1500 B.C. on wood charcoal collected from a Minong fissure mine being identified in 1961.⁵ Some artifacts, mostly hammerstones, have been identified as well as prehistoric tailings,⁶ which have been distinguished by their smaller size, from historic tailings.⁶ These findings indicate that copper may have been mined at the Minong site from Archaic through Middle Woodlands time,⁷ with the latest aboriginal use of the mines by the Algonquin and Iroquois ceasing with the advent of white men to Isle Royale.⁸

(See Continuation Sheet 7-3)

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Footnotes:

1. see photograph on p. 11 of Historic Mining on Isle Royale, by Lawrence Rakestraw, Isle Royale Natural Historic Association, 1965.
2. ibid.
3. ibid., p. 13.
4. ibid., p. 12.
5. Bastian, Tyler, "Prehistoric Copper Mining in Isle Royale National Park, Michigan", 1963. p. 55. Manuscript.
6. ibid., pp. 32-8.
7. ibid., abstract.
8. Hakala, Robert. Isle Royale Primeval Prince. National Park Service. 1953; 1955. p. 5.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1875-84 (circa 1500 B.C.) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Minong Mine, established in 1874 and worked until 1883, is significant as the largest mining operation on Isle Royale and also because current archeological evidence indicates that the mine is located on the site of Isle Royale's most extensive prehistoric copper mines. Except for extensive natural deterioration, the site remains in a relatively undisturbed state.

Prehistoric copper pits began attracting white miners to Isle Royale in the 1840s. The Minong Company, formed in Detroit in 1874, established a mine at [REDACTED] in 1875. A dock and warehouse were built along with a wagon road and cog railroad running between them and the mines for transporting copper ore to lake steamers traveling to the mainland. [REDACTED] the village of Cove was established where several dwellings, a store and an office building were constructed, probably of logs cut from the surrounding area, as was common practice on Isle Royale.

Vertical and horizontal shafts were excavated, though most copper was quarried from open pits. A blacksmith shop was located near the mine to serve the horses used in hauling ore carts to a steam-powered stamp mill, [REDACTED]. In the late 1870s, the mine reached its peak years, employing about 150 men, with the village settlement of Cove, at the [REDACTED] becoming a separate township.

However, the copper deposits did not prove rich enough, and the stamp rock, about 1½% copper, was unprofitable to stamp and transport. Though the mine yielded 498,650 pounds of refined copper in its ten years of production more than twice the yield of Isle Royale's second largest mine, the Island Mine, operation ceased completely in 1885.

Since that time, the site has remained relatively undisturbed except for the [REDACTED] consisting of several frame and log structures, on the site of the village settlement of Cove. However, a comparison of field observations in 1964 to those made in 1975 indicates that rapid deterioration of the site is occurring, with a consequent loss of significance. Data concerning both prehistoric and historic activities at the site has been gathered for many years and together with the two most recent studies of the area, in 1964 and 1975, could aid in a significant study of the rates and processes of decomposition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9 - 1

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 275

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [REDACTED]

D [REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jane A. McLuckie, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Department of Art

DATE

May, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Michigan State University

TELEPHONE

1-517-355-7610

CITY OR TOWN

East Lansing

STATE

Michigan 48824

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature]
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is Local National State Local Regional

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE JUN 23 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST [Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/1/77

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Bastian, T. "Prehistoric Copper Mining in Isle Royale National Park, Michigan," 1963, Manuscript.

Dustin, Prehistoric Copper-Mining on Isle Royale. National Park Service, Manuscript.

Hakala, Robert. Isle Royale Primeval Prince-A History. National Park Service. 1953; 1955.

Rakestraw, Lawrence. Historic Mining on Isle Royale. Isle Royale Natural History Association, 1965.

U. S. Department of Interior, NPS, Archeological Survey of IRNP, Michigan, 1960-62. Vol. I-II 1963.

ed., Griffin, James B. Lake Superior Copper and the Indians: Miscellaneous Studies of Great Lakes Prehistory. Ann Arbor: 1961 pp 8-31.

Interview with Colonel T. S. Cawthorne on August 26, 1975 at Isle Royale National Park.