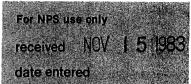
#### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Inventory**—Nomination Form



See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See attached continuation sheets.

#### METHODOLOGY

Iron County residents have long been involved in the preservation of landmark structures. For many years the Iron County Historical and Museum Society has been involved in operating a county historical museum at the site of the Caspian Mine complex which includes the mining buildings from that operation and other historic buildings moved to the site. In addition, in 1977, through the efforts of the historical society and individuals in the community, the Iron County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a state historic site marker was placed at the site. In recent years several other sites--including the Donald C. MacKinnon House and Iron Inn in Iron River, the Caspian Community Center and Italian Society Duke of Abruzzi Hall in Caspian, the Larson Roadside Park in Crystal Falls Township, and the Ojibway Indian village and burial ground site at Pentoga Park -- have also been listed in the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.

iron County has a decade long history of inventory work. In 1972 Philip E. Metzger carried out an Historic Site Inventory of Michigan's Western Upper Peninsula as a cooperative project of the Michigan History Division and the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources. In the summer of 1977 Dr. Charles K. Kyde, an expert in the history of technology on the faculty of Wanye State University, performed an inventory of historic engineering and industrial sites in the Upper Peninsula under the auspices of the Historic American Engineering Record. This inventory, published by HAER in 1978, includes mining facilities and two power plants, three depots, one bridge, and a water tower in Iron County.

The Iron County Historical and Museum Society complied in the 1970s a comprehensive list of individual sites and, to a limited extent, districts that had potential for national, state, and local registration. In 1975-76, con-currently with this effort, the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) of Houghton. Michigan, undertook a region-wide windshield survey which resulted in 1977 in a published Historic Preservation Plan. This survey covered all of the six counties of the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, including Iron County. The project's first stage in August, 1975, involved a general field survey of all settlement areas within the various counties. Areas found to have a high concentration of historic structures as well as individual sites of high visual and architectural quality were slated for further, more intensive survey work. During the second phase of the survey, the WUPPDR staff individually rated buildings within the previously mentioned areas of concentration which, for example, might be the entire older part of a city. Each building was individually scored on a 75/25 basis: 75% of the potential points being awarded for the extent to which the building was in its original condition and 25% based on its architectural merit in the Iron County context. Any district or individual site having a score higher than 50 was recommended as a candidate for historic designation. It should be pointed out that both groups, the WUPPDR and the Iron County Historical and Museum Society, cooperated with each other in undertaking the above mentioned surveys in order to insure comprehensiveness.

In the latter part of 1977, David K. Stewart, the staff person responsible for preparing the WUPPDR Historic Preservation Plan, took employment with the County of Iron as its planning director. The historical society and planning director agreed to collaborate on a multiple resource National Register nomination. The Michigan History Division assisted the porject with a FY-79 National Register Survey and Planning grant.

As previously mentioned, a number of potential districts and sites had been identified both in the County Historical Society Inventory and the WUPPDR Historic Preservation Plan. The historical Society list was primarily of individual sites and had an emphasis on significance in the history and culture of the Iron County community. Architecture, to a lesser extent, was also a consideration. The WUPPDR Historic Preservation Plan, while taking into consideration history associated with events and persons, was, because of its large survey area, limited primarily to architectural significance. These two inventories were then synthesized into one inventory for the purpose of field photography work. A field survey of all the sites and districts listed in either the WUPPDR Plan or the historical society list was done during the fall/winter of 1979 and spring/summer of 1980 by staff of the Iron County Planning Commission and a consultant/historian working with the cooperation of the Iron County Historical and Museum Society.

In January, 1980, a representative from the Michigan History Division, Kathryn Eckert, met with representatives of the county historical society, Marcia and Harold Bernhardt, and the project investigators, Steven Karpiak and David Stewart, to review the photographs and cards from this field survey and the information the Bernhardts could provide as to the historic significance of each property in the county's past. A tentative list of the properties to be nominated was developed. This included fourteen districts and eighty-four properties. At this point, it was also determined that the project would need to be broken into two phases: Phase I, involving completion of the field survey work, including notes and photographs, typing up of the survey cards, and obtaining property owner information, and Phase II, which would consist of historic research, primarily by Steven Karpiak and Marcia Bernhardt, regarding the background of the individual structures and districts. David K. Stewart would be responsible in Phase II for writing up architectural descriptions and for the preparation of the multiple resource nomination for submission to the Michigan History Division.

With the survey work defined, David Stewart and Steven Karpiak wrapped up the work of recording and locating the resources on cards and maps. Steven Karpiak and Marcia Bernhardt then completed the basic historic research on each site and district. When possible, the historians provided an exact or approximate date of construction and the earliest known owner's name for each documented site. For most sites, the team historians were able to provide information about notable people and events associated with the site. It is significant to note that the research and refinement of historic information continued through the actual drafting of the National Register nomination, in an effort to make the final document as factual and reflective an overview of iron County's past as possible.

From August, 1982, to August, 1983, the multiple resource nomination was extensively revised by the Michigan History Division. The bulk of the work was done by Catharine J. Farley, an intern from the Historic Preservation Program of Michigan State University, working under the supervision of Robert O. Christensen, the National Register Coordinator, and Kathryn Eckert, the Historic Sites Research Unit Supervisor, Historic Preservation Coordinator for the Upper Peninsula Region, and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. The work done included additional research on many sites, photography, and extensive revision of the text to make it fit the present-day National Register format and requirements. Ms. Farley spent several days in Iron County in November, 1982, reviewing the properties proposed for inclusion in the nomination. A new assessment of all the properties was made and a number of them were deleted from the nomination and several districts reduced in size because of losses of integrity and because of a lack of available historical documentation. An additional on-site inspection and review of the bulk of the nominated properties was made by Robert O. Christensen in early October, 1983.

This nomination should not be considered to contain the final list of National Register-eligible historic and architectural resources in Iron County. Additional churches, homes, and commercial, industrial, and public structures which may be eligible for the Register have not been included because they have not yet been sufficiently documented. Other historically and architecturally significant homes and commercial and other structures were not nominated because they had lost integrity due to insensitive remodeling; these could be nominated in the future if restoration work is carried out. Archaeological sites were not included because no archaeological survey work was carried out as part of the inventory project. Nor were the county's historic bridges inventoried at this time. Thus, we have every reason to expect that additional iron County sites will be nominated in future years.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE IRON COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Iron County is a wilderness county of 13,000 people in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. First surveyed in 1851 by Harvey Mellen, and set aside from Marquette County in 1885, Iron County, roughly squareshaped, contains 749,440 acres or 1,171 square miles, excluding surface water. The eastern, northern, and western borders of Iron County are section lines, while the southern border follows the Brule River, which also serves as the boundary between Michigan and Wisconsin.

Much of iron County consists of hilly terrain formed by glacial deposits which overlay iron ore deposits in the Menominee range. Recessional and ground moraines with gentle to moderate slopes are common. Small lakes abound, especially in the northern half of the county. Key hydrological features of the county include the Brule River valley in the south, the Iron River valley in the west, and, in the east, the Paint River basin, with the Hemiock River its main tributary, and the Michigamme River basin, with the Deer and the Fence rivers its main tributaries. The Michigamme River is utilized by the Wisconsin-Michigan Light and Power Company, which operates two dams; the Michigamme Reservoir, created in the 1950s by the firm's Way Dam, is the largest body of water on the east side of the county. Draining through the Menominee River basin, all of the main rivers in Iron County are in the Lake Michigan watershed, a factor Important for the lumbering of white pine in the county in the late nineteenth century.

Iron County's wilderness character is primarily derived from its vast areas of forested land. The western third of the county is part of the Ottawa National Forest, and large tracts of land in the northern half of the county are owned by companies engaged in forest management practices. Agricultural concerns are limited, due to the short growing season. Farms under cultivation are fairly small in number, and are confined to the southern half of the county.

Iron County is traversed from east to west by U.S. 2, which runs across the southern half of the county, and from south to north by U.S. 141, which runs from Crystal Fails to the Keweenaw Peninsula. Major railroad lines in the county are the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, which runs from Florence, Wisconsin to Crystal Fails and Iron River, and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, which runs north from Crystal Fails to the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Iron County has eight populated centers, seven of which are in the south, along or near U.S. 2. All are small (the population of the county's largest settlement, Iron River, is less than 2,500), and all share the appearance of small towns, with commercial structures rarely more than two stories in height, and with narrow, often tree-lined residential streets, containing a large collection of early twentieth-century and a smaller sampling of late nineteenth-century houses, most of which are constructed of wood. The populated centers may be physically divided into the "east side" and "west side" communities, a division which dates back to the bitter dispute over the location of the location of the county seat, and which is manifested to this day in a friendly rivalry between the east and west side communities.

The major community on the east side is Crystal Falls, the victor in the seat-of-county-government dispute. Situated on a high hill on the west side of the Paint River, and dominated visually by its Richardsonian Romanesque county courthouse, Crystal Falls, with its commercial center, provides employment, goods, and services for the other two east side communities, Alpha and Amasa. Six miles southwest of Crystal Falls, the Village of Alpha is a mining settlement characterized by its unusually well planned

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street pattern, with residential streets radiating outward from the village circle, and with its three well preserved civic buildings clustered in a complex which faces the circle. Amasa, another mining settlement sixteen miles north of Crystal Falls on the west bank of the Hemlock River, is the only populated center in the northern half of Iron County. It is distinguished by its business center, containing a large collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century, frame, commercial structures, most of which have bracketed false fronts.

Eighteen miles west of Crystal Falls as the crow files is the City of Iron River. Located on the west bank of a large, S-shaped curve in the Iron River, the City of Iron River is the principal west side community, and is immediately surrounded by a cluster of four smaller satelite settlements, which all trace their beginnings to the opening of iron mines in the area in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. For the most part mining activity centered along the Iron River Valley: to the southeast of Iron River are the smaller cities of Stambaugh, situated on a high hill on the east bank of the river, Caspian, on the south bank of the river, and Gaastra, on the east bank of the river. The incorporated limits of these cities are adjacent to each other; all were connected to Iron River by a street car line from 1906 to 1921. To the north of Iron River, on a high bluff overlooking the valley, is the Village of Mineral Hills, consisting of a cluster of unrelated mining locations. The City of Iron River is the commercial and civic hub of these west side communities. While all, except the Village of Mineral Hills, have small business centers, all rely heavily upon Iron River for goods and services.

In addition to these eight populated centers, Iron County contains several "junctions" or road crossings, such as Beechwood or Kelso Junction, both northwest of Iron River. These are extremely small, however, and contain only a handful of structures, thereby emphasizing the overall wilderness or rural character of the county.

## 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of SignificanceC archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic X agriculture X architecture art X commerce communications	heck and justify below X community planning X conservation economics X education engineering X exploration/settlemen X industry invention	law _X literature military music	e_X religion science sculpture _X social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1880s-present	Builder/Architect See	continuation sheets	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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INTRODUCTORY HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF IRON COUNTY

The land which became iron County was first surveyed in 1851 by Harvey Mellen. At that time, the area was populated by a small number of indians, principally of the Menominee, Chippewa (L'Anse), and Ojibway tribes. Mellen reported an abundance of white pine in the vicinity and also noted sighting an outcrop of ore ("a ledge of red granite") along the banks of the Iron River (then known as the Maple River). Excavation for this ore was delayed for thirty years, however, until the area became accessible by railroad, and until economic conditions, with a growing demand for iron by American industries in the late nineteenth century, were more favorable for development of mineral resources.

Iron ore prospectors began to venture into the wilderness of the Iron County area in 1875. Exploratory work was confined to the river valleys, where the mantle of glacial deposits was thin, and where outcrops of ore were more frequent. Early known explorers were John Armstrong along the Paint River on the east side of the county, and Donald C. MacKinnon (later joined by his brother Alexander) along the Maple (Iron) River on the west side of the county. Both were successful in striking enough ore in 1880 to warrant opening mines: the Crystal Falls Mine on the east side and the Iron River (Riverton) Mine on the west side. These initial strikes brought a wave of prospectors to both river valleys, where additional mines were rapidly developed. Iron ore mining quickly established itself as the primary industry leading to the development of the county. Eventually the county witnessed the opening of some seventy producing mines, with the center of mining activity gradually shifting to the west side.

Historically of secondary importance to the iron mining industry, but also a major contributor to the development of Iron County, is the lumbering industry. The influx of lumbermen seeking to harvest dense stands of white pine coincided with the commencement of mining activity in the area: logging first began in the county in 1875 along the banks of the Michigamme River. All of Iron County's rivers, as part of the Lake Michigan watershed, flow into the Menominee River, where, at the river's mouth, the Menominee River Manufacturing Company-commonly known as the Boom Company-operated huge lumber mills capable of handling over seven million board feet of pine annually. With such access to the Menominee lumber mills, Iron County's pine forests were soon being cleared wholesale, with little thought of reseeding for future growth.

Unlike the lumbering industry, the mining industry was dependent on the railroads to provide a means of transporting ore to Lake Michigan communities for smelting. (A single attempt to smelt ore locally was made in Iron River in 1884 by the Iron River Furnace Company, but was soon abandoned due to lack of profit.) The railroads were thus vitally important not only for the growth of mining but for the development of the county in general. In both Crystal Falls and Iron River, early developers of mines were closely connected with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. George Runkel and S. D. Hollister, operators of the Paint River Mine in Crystal Falls, were affiliated with the railroad, and gave the company assurances that enough ore awaited extraction in the immediate vicinity to make a line from Florence, Wisconsin to Crystal Falls a lucrative route. On the west side of the county, Iron River pioneers R. L. Selden and his son, William H. Selden, as well as Donald C. MacKinnon, were all associated with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, and ditional line from Stager to Iron River. With the completion of both these lines in 1882, mining in Iron County began in earnest, and the settlements of Crystal Falls and Iron River rapidly expanded.

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Local government was first established the same year, when Crystal Falls and Iron River townships were created under the supervision of Marquette County. In September of 1885, after much local agitation, the Marquette County Board of Supervisors agreed to set apart lands in southern Marquette County for the purpose of creating a new county, fittingly named after its most important natural resource. The same act which provided for the creation of Iron County also authorized the establishment of Mastodon Township (from Crystal Falls Township) and Bates Township (from Iron River Township). (Additional Iron County townships Include Stambaugh, set aside from Iron River Township in 1**1**86, and Mansfield and Hematite, both set aside from Crystal Falls Township in 1891, when Dickinson County was created.)

At the time Iron County was created, Iron River (then the only incorporated village in the area) was designated the county seat. However, rivalry soon developed between the east (Crystal Fails) and the west (Iron River) as to where the county buildings should be located and a four-year dispute ensued. Both sides resorted to tricks to secure the county seat. Most infamous is the "theft" of the county records, clandestinely moved by east siders from Iron River to Crystal Fails on a winter's night in 1887. The dispute was resolved in April of 1889 when a county-wide general election determined Crystal Fails to be the permanent county seat (due to the slightly greater voting power of the east side). The cornerstone of the Richardsonian Romanesque county courthouse, designed by J. C. Clancy of Antigo, Wisconsin, was laid the following spring. Rivalry of a more friendly nature has persisted between the east and west sides of the county since the great courthouse dispute.

Although the early growth of the county in general was rapid, the economic depression resulting from the Panic of 1893 was widespread, and lasted until the turn of the century. Almost all of the mines in the county closed (with the exception of the Mansfield Mine in Mansfield Township), and lumbering activities were also curtailed. During the 1890s, many early settlers, finding themselves unemployed, turned to agriculture for subsistance. The iron County Agricultural Society and the Upper Peninsula Grange Association both promoted agricultural concerns in the county, such as the iron County Fair, begun in iron River in 1899 and held there to this day. In the early twentieth century, these organizations helped initiate agricultural extension programs: Iron in 1912 became the first county in the Upper Peninsula to acquire an agricultural extension agent.

Beginning at the turn of the century, Iron County entered its greatest period of sustained growth, which lasted until the Great Depression. Major mining companies, such as the M. A. Hanna Company and the Pickands-Mather Company, began to move into the area, buying out small, local companies and independent producers, and assuming new exploratory work. With this shift in the administration of mining, the county's mineral resources were fully exploited, resulting in a tremendous boom in the mining industry: from 1900 to 1929, the Menominee Iron Range, of which the Iron County deposits are a major portion, contributed between ten and twenty percent of the iron ore produced in the United States during this same period. The lumbering industry, after entering its second phase of harvesting, also fueled Iron County's post-1900 growth. Although the wholesale harvesting of virgin white pines was completed by 1898, at the turn of the century the logging of hardwoods commenced, with transportation for these woods--which were too dense to be floated on the rivers--provided by the small logging railroads which increasingly penetrated Iron County's hardwood forests.

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With the combined influence of prospering mining and lumbering industries, the population of the county increased dramatically during this post-1900 period. The 1930 census recorded a county population of 20,805 (as compared with the 1890 census of 4,432), composed of settlers representing a wealth of ethnic backgrounds, including immigrants from ireland, italy, Poland, Scandinavia, Scotland, Wales, and many other countries. The number of population centers in the county also increased at this time. New settlements, all of which developed adjacent to operating mines, were platted, such as Alpha on the east side and Mineral Hills, Caspian, and Gaastra on the west side. Additional plats were recorded in Crystal Falls, iron River, and Stambaugh. Public buildings were constructed, and, on the west side of the county, public transportation was installed in the form of an electric street car line, which operated between 1906 and 1921, connecting the settlements of iron River, Stambaugh, Caspian, and Gaastra. While concentrations of nationalities occurred in some population centers (as, for example, a predominence of Swedes in Beechwood, or a majority of Italians in Caspian), most of the settlements attracted a diverse mixture of ethnic groups, each contributing various traditions, mores, and religions to create a particularly rich cultural heritage for the county as a whole.

Public schools built during this post-1900 period of growth are some of the finest examples of architect-designed buildings in iron County, and Illustrate a deep local concern for public education and educational facilities. In iron River, the Central School (1904, 1910), designed by Milwaukee architects VanRyn and DeGelleke, with its Flemish gable ends, is the premiere example of Dutch Colonial Revival-style architecture in iron County. The Lincoln School (1916), also in iron River, is a fine Neo-Classical building by local architect David E. Anderson. Educational architecture was most predominent in Stambaugh, which by the 1920s could boast of an educational campus of three large school buildings plus a Carnegie Library.

Iron County's early twentieth-century boom years ended abruptly with the arrival of the Great Depression, which had a particularly harsh effect on the local economy. All mining ceased, and the lumbering industry, in the process of implementing new conservation techniques, was unproductive. This left thousands without work; the locally severe unemployment qualified iron County for several "make work" projects sponsored by various federal relief administrations under the New Deal. The Cooks Run Trout Feeding Station (1933-34) and the Pentoga Park Office and Bathhouse (1936) are two labor-intensive projects which stand as visual reminders of federal efforts to combat high unemployment in iron County during the Depression. Camp Gibbs, built in 1934, is an extremely rare intact example of a housing camp constructed for workers employed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, another federal relief program.

World War II, and the insatiable demand for iron by the war industries, brought about a brief revival of mining in the area, thus ending the effects of the Great Depression. However, the end of the war signalled the close of the great mining era in iron County. Only a very few mines continued to operate until the 1960s and 1970s, with the Sherwood in Mineral Hills the last mine in the county to close, in 1979.

The lumbering industry still plays a major role in the economy of Iron County. Since the 1930s, forest conservation measures and better forest management, such as the selective harvesting of the vigorous secondgrowth timber, have assured the industry's continued vitality. Lumbering activities are primarily confined to the eastern half of the county; major employers are the American Can Company and the Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

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These large lumbering operations on the east side of the county and the Ottawa National Forest on the west side together continue to give Iron County a wilderness flavor, which is augmented by its small present population of 13,000 persons. (After an initial decline at the end of the mining era, the population of the county has remained stable over the last fifteen years.) There is a high level of awareness of the mining and lumbering heritage of the county, remembered by the large number of older people who remain from the post-1900 boom years. Interest in local history is also fanned by the Iron County Historical Society, which has an active and growing membership, and which encourages preservation of the architectural fabric of the county. The listing of the Iron County Courthouse in the National Register in 1975 has served as a beacon for recent preservation activities.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS

Although claims were filed on the property in southeastern Iron County along the Paint River, where Crystal Falls is now located, as early as 1866, no attempts were made toward the establishment of a settlement until early in the year 1880, when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad reached the village of Florence, just south of Iron County in Wisconsin. After receiving assurances from the railroad that any ores mined would have a rail outlet from Florence, Dr. D. M. Bond and Donald C. MacKinnon of Iron River began explorations and, in the late summer of 1880, opened the Paint River Mine. Two residents of Florence, S. D. Hollister, Sr. and George Runkel, reached the location in September of 1880. Runkel began operation of the Crystal Falls Mine, which was located on the western bank of the Paint River at the foot of the Falls. Together with Hollister and several other early explorers, he formed the Crystal Falls Iron Company, to enlist capital, explore for ore, and obtain leases.

The Crystal Falls Iron Company immediately established a sawmill, which, run by David Lockwood, brotherin-law of George Runkel, became the center of settlement activity in the area. Other mines opened in rapid succession in the Crystal Falls area, attracting a healthy supply of settlers. By 1881, enough ore had been unearthed to warrant extension of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad from Florence, fifteen miles to the south, to Crystal Falls.

The Crystal Falls Iron Company purchased and platted land along the railroad right-of-way on the side of a hill rising from the Paint River. With the arrival of the first train in April of 1882, the growth of the newly platted settlement was assured. According to the Lake Superior Mining Association Directory, there were seven mines in the Crystal Falls area shipping ore in the first year after the railroad opened. Collectively these mines employed more than 500 men. Crystal Falls was truly a mining settlement.

The town mushroomed to serve its mining population. Although Crystal Falls contained only four commercial structures in the spring of 1882, by 1884 it boasted of some twenty-five business establishments, including three hotels, two drugstores, two dry-goods stores, one hardware store, one bakery, three grocery stores, one restaurant, one barber shop, one jeweler, two public halls, and several saloons.

School District Number One was established in July of 1882 and the first school was constructed in 1883. However, the incorporation of the settlement as a village did not take place until 1889. In that same year Crystal Falls was also made the county seat of Iron County. The present county courthouse was built a year later.

In spite of the quick growth of Crystal Falls, operations at the mines during the town's early years were sporadic. For example, a strike of miners in 1883 brought about the temporary suspension of activities and, a year later, the depressed iron market forced the closing of all mines but one. Lumbering, on the other hand, provided a steady and constant means of employment. Logging operations in the Crystal Falls area expanded rapidly and, by the time the village was incorporated, lumbering of the vast stands of pine in the vicinity was carried on by crews from thirty camps.

The population of Crystal Falls grew to 3,231 by the 1890 census and the number of commercial establishments continued to grow. During its first year as a village, Crystal Falls had twenty-seven saloons doing a busy trade with the clientele of miners and lumberjacks. The village itself constructed a hydro-electric-power plant and water system in 1891.

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Crystal Falls was incorporated as a city in 1899. Entering into the twentieth century, the city continued to prosper. Public services were expanded with the installation of street lights and a sewer system in 1902. A city hall, including a fire hall and assembly hall for entertainment and recreational activities, was built in 1914. However, growth halted in the 1930s with the arrival of the Great Depression, when most of the mines were closed.

Although the mining industry in Crystal Falls briefly revived during World War II, it has since declined. Growth has been stabilized at a slow rate since the 1930s; Crystal Falls has become a quiet city that functions as the county seat and the center of the eastern half of Iron County.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF CITY OF IRON RIVER

Serious exploration for iron ore along the Maple River (soon known as the iron River) was begun in March of 1880 by R. L. Selden and his son, William H. Selden, who were following up on a surveyor's report of an ore outcrop in the iron River valley. After a period of about nine months, sufficient ore was discovered on property owned by the Seldens in Section 36, T43N, R35W, to warrant the opening of the iron River Mine, later known as the Riverton Mine. William Selden soon persuaded the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad to extend its line from Stager to Iron River, a distance of approximately fifteen miles. Anticipating an influx of miners to the area, the brothers Donaid C. and Alexander MacKinnon platted a village on the west bank of the Iron River, on land they had purchased three years earlier. This village, taking the name of the river, was the first settlement platted on the west side of what later became Iron County.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad line to Iron River was completed in the fail of 1882; after its completion, settlers and prospectors flocked to the new village. Many of the early houses and stores in the settlement were built of logs, as cut lumber had to be transported from Florence, Wisconsin. However, after the railroad arrived, the MacKinnon brothers erected a sawmill on the banks of the river.

Initial growth in the settlement was rapid. Iron River was incorporated as a village in 1885. In the same year Marquette County consented to the secession of her western lands to form a new county and Iron County was established. Iron River, the only incorporated village in the county, was designated as the county seat, a designation that was eventually lost, after a bitter dispute, to the Village of Crystal Falls on the eastern side of the county.

Although initial growth in the platted village itself was rapid, a land dispute temporarily slowed mining and settlement in areas surrounding iron River. Growth was additionally retarded in the iron River area in the late nineteenth century by the Panic of 1893. The effects of the Panic are reflected in the census figures of 1900, which indicate a population increase of only 243 in iron River since 1890. From 1889 to 1900, no ore was mined on the entire west side of iron County. During this eleven-year period of stagnation, residents turned to logging as a means of employment, and to agriculture, which resulted in a greater development of farms in the west of the county than in the east.

Commercial logging first began in western iron County in August of 1883, when William A. Holmes, Jr. of Menominee arrived in Iron River, established a logging camp nearby and began the harvesting of pine timber adjacent to the Iron River. Pine logs were floated down the Iron River, a tributary of the Menominee River, by way of the Brule River, to the Menominee sawmills. By the time the pine stands had been depleted, small logging railroads had penetrated parts of western Iron County, allowing for the continued harvesting of the abundant hardwood stands. The lumber industry, not as susceptible to economic slumps as the mining industry, played a key role in the development of Iron River in the late nineteenth century.

The importance of Iron River as the agricultural center of Iron County is reflected in the fact that, from its inception in 1899, the county fair has been held in Iron River Instead of In Crystal Falls, the county seat. Farming was promoted on the west side of the county by the Iron County Agricultural Society and by the Upper Peninsula Grange Association, with Iron River citizen Isaac W. Byers serving as its president for several years. Byers, a leader in agricultural development, encouraged the growth of agricultural extension programs in Iron County; these programs were especially strong in the west, or in the Iron River area.

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With the arrival of the twentieth century, Iron River and the surrounding vicinity entered its greatest period of growth. The turn of the century saw a steady increase in the consumption of pig iron by industry, which boosted the demand for the soft, phosphoric ores found around Iron River. Development of new mines took place at a rapid pace after ore was for the first time discovered outside of the Iron River Valley in 1905 at the James Mine, which later became Mineral Hills. In the years 1905 to 1912, the number of productive mines in the area increased from six to sixteen. Mining activity was reflected in the village of Iron River by the rapid expansion of housing and business establishments. The village responded to such growth by installing a sewer system in 1905 and electric light facilities in 1908. The great demand for laborers in the rapidly developing mines during the first decade of the twentieth century is evidenced in the census figures of 1910, which show a population increase of 5,436 on the west side of the county, for a total of 7,816.

While Iron River developed, other towns in the Immediate vicinity also grew, as each mine had its own "location" or settlement, which often became a distinct village. For example, Iron River encompassed the Beta and Nanaimo mines, and Stambaugh developed around the Iron River (Riverton) and Isabeila mines. Also clustered about Iron River were the smaller mining towns of Caspian and Gaastra to the southeast and Minerai Hills to the north. This cluster of towns was united by public transportation in 1913, when a street railway franchise was granted to the Iron River and Crystal Falls Street Railway Company. The installation of a four-and-one-half-mile long line, which operated until 1922, indicates the prosperity of the area, and the confidence in the future growth of mining.

Iron River was incorporated as a city, with a commission and manager form of government, in January of 1926. However, this was the tail end of the boom years. The Great Depression forced the closing of all mines and, although some reopened at the beginning of World War II, the mining industry never again regained its earlier high level of production. With the general decline of mining after World War II, Iron River settled down to become a quiet commercial and business center for western Iron County. The city has changed little over the past fifty years. Redevelopment has not occurred in Iron River, and thus the small town character and appearance of the city has been, for the most part, retained.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF CITY OF STAMBAUGH

In June of 1882, when the Iron River Mine had shown sufficient promise of producing large quantities of ore, R. L. Selden and his son, William H., along with partners Dr. Louis D. Cyr of Negaunee and Louis Stegmiller, an Escanaba jeweler, decided to plat a village on land east of the Iron River Mine, at the top of a hill overlooking the Iron River Valley. John V. Suydam was engaged to make the surveys, assisted by Lafayette McQuown. The new village was named Stambaugh in honor of John Stambaugh, president of the Tod, Stambaugh Company of Youngstown, Ohio, which had recently acquired rights to the Iron River Mine. A township taking the name of the new village was set aside from Iron River Township in 1887.

Initially, Stambaugh developed along Fourth Street, where the Tod, Stambaugh Company built a number of frame houses to accommodate supervisory personnel. Growth of the community spread from Fourth Street outwards and, in 1890, Stambaugh was incorporated as a village. That same year, a water system was installed and a fire department was organized.

As with virtually all of the mining communities in Iron County, Stambaugh's growth was stunted during the 1890s due to the Panic of 1893. At the turn of the century, Stambaugh, with a population numbering 695, consisted of a collection of widely scattered buildings, most of which were frame dwellings built on foundations of cedar posts. Most of the European nationalities were represented in the community, with Scandinavians making up the dominant ethnic background.

In the early twentieth century, with the stabilization of the economy and the operation of five mines in Stambaugh, the village expanded rapidly: five additions to the original plat were registered during the decade beginning in 1907. Electricity was introduced to Stambaugh in 1908 by the Menominee Range Power and Development Company; telephone lines had previously been installed in 1898 by the Michigan Bell Telephone Company. A town hall was erected in 1913 while the village was the seat of government of Stambaugh Township.

stambaugh has always been primarily residential in nature, with commercial development restricted due to the community's close proximity to Iron River's relatively large commercial center. A school was opened in 1883, when there were for the first time enough children to begin holding classes. That the school system showed only limited growth until the turn of the century again reflects the consequences of the Panic; the uncertain operations of the mines during the 1890s forced some families to move onto homestead lands and others to seek employment elsewhere. The school system grew steadily after 1900, however, and by 1930, when consolidation began, there were twelve schools in the township school district. By the 1920s, Stambaugh itself boasted an educational campus of three large public school buildings and a Carnegie Library.

In 1923, Stambaugh was incorporated as a city with a commission-manager form of government. Due to the inclusion of valuable mining properties on the tax rolls, the city has always been financially secure and has provided many civic improvements, including well paved streets, adequate lighting, water, and sewer systems, and a fine athletic field. In spite of the decline in western Iron County due to the closing of its mines during the Depression (growth peaked in Stambaugh in 1930, when a population of 2,400 was recorded), Stambaugh has remained a well kept residential community, with civic pride manifested in its uniformly neat and cared-for houses.

#### HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF VILLAGE OF MINERAL HILLS

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In the early twentieth century mining activity increased dramatically in the Iron River area of southern Iron County, when the notion that ore only existed in the Iron River Valley was proven false. Because the first ore in the area was discovered in outcrops in the valley, the assumption that the ore was confined to this area had persisted for years. Extensive excavation was required outside of the valley to remove enough of the deep glacial drift to reach the ore. This was reportedly first accomplished in 1905 by the homesteader William James. Some accounts claim he was digging a well on his property north of Iron River, and accidentally struck ore 100 feet below the surface. Other accounts reveal he was intentionally excavating for iron. In any event, the discovery of ore two miles north of Iron River unleashed a flurry of mining activity in the area which later became Mineral Hills, and helped to fuel the booming economy of the entire Iron River settlement.

In 1906 the Mineral Hills Mining Company, which operated the Nanaimo and Beta mines in Iron River, acquired the rights to the James Mine, the first to produce marketable quantities of ore in the Mineral Hills area. Mineral Hills at that time consisted of a few isolated farms. Due to the lack of accomodation near the James Mine site, the Mineral Hills Mining Company constructed twelve simple frame houses west of the mine at what became the West James Location. As five additional mines opened in the area, including the Wauseca in 1910-1911, the Forbes in 1911-1912, the Virgil in 1912, the Homer in 1914, and the Spies in 1916, the construction of housing by mining companies soon became a common practice. Each cluster of approximately a dozen houses was known as a "location." Housing in the locations usually lacked basements or indoor plumbing of any kind: water was obtained from a centrally located well in each location, and the structures were heated by wood-burning stoves.

In 1919, all of the locations in the area collectively became incorporated as the Village of Mineral Hills. A village hall was constructed in 1921. However, a business district never materialized and Mineral Hills has relied on nearby Iron River for its goods and services, with village services limited to road maintenance.

Mining continued in Mineral Hills until the 1960s, with the Wauseca the last mine to close in the county. Although most of the village inhabitants today work in nearby iron River, Mineral Hills is visually little altered since the closing of the Wauseca Mine.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF CITY OF CASPIAN

The development of the settlement of Caspian is closely related to the expansion of the mining industry on the west side of Iron County after the turn of the century, when the effects of the Panic of 1893 had subsided. For the most part, exploration was concentrated in the iron River Valley southeast of the settlements of Iron River and Stambaugh. In the first decade of the twentieth century, five mines opened in the area that was later incorporated as the Village of Caspian: the Baltic in 1900, the Caspian in 1903, the Youngs in 1904, the Fogarty in 1907, and the Berkshire in 1908. A sixth mine, the Buck, opened in 1922. The development of each new mine brought more miners to the area, where no previous housing existed. Thus, the mining companies constructed houses for their employees, beginning in 1904. The practice of building company housing continued in Caspian until 1929.

A small business center soon developed to serve the mining locations; in 1908 this consisted of two grocery stores, two hotels, a livery stable, a saloon, a shoe maker's shop, and a post office established that year. Two plats of forty-acre tracts near this business center were registered, one in 1908 and a second, by the Caspian Realty Company, in 1909. The first plat was variously referred to as Palatka, Spring Valley, or Old Caspian, and the second plat was known as New Caspian; however, by 1913 the entire settlement took the name of Caspian, after the most productive mine in the area.

By 1917, the population of Caspian had reached 1,860. Agitation for the formation of a separate village government resulted in Caspian being incorporated as a village in January of 1918. A variety of municipal improvements was soon inaugurated, including the installation of a village water system in 1919, the construction of a village hall in 1923, and the completion of a village sewer system by 1926.

The ethnic background of Caspian has always been predominantly Italian: the first settlers in the area were the Fedrizzis and the Tessadris, and these were followed by a number of other Italian families. The strength of the Italian cultural heritage is evidenced by the proportionately large fraternal order of the Duca Degli Abruzzi, founded in 1909. However, a variety of other ethnic and cultural groups are represented in the community, including Finns, Poles, and more than a dozen other nationalities. In spite of this broad ethnic make-up, Caspian is a cohesive settlement, whose citizens have developed a strong sense of community. This has been encouraged in part by the thriving Caspian Community Center, organized in the late Teens and still active today.

Caspian in its heydey, with six productive mines in operation, was a bustling mining village, connected from 1915 to 1921 by street car lines with Iron River and Stambaugh to the northwest and Gaastra to the southeast. Caspian was incorporated as a city with commission/manager form of government in 1949. As with all of Iron County's west-side settlements, Caspian declined after the closing of the mines. Today it is a quiet community, closely linked to Iron River for employment, goods, and services.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF VILLAGE OF ALPHA

The village of Alpha, located in southeastern iron County in Mastodon Township, began, like many other communities in the county, as a mining settlement. Although mining activity occurred in Mastodon Township as early as 1882 with the opening of the Mastodon Mine several miles south of the site that became Alpha, this and other early mining ventures were short-lived, not surviving the Panic of 1893. No attempt appears to have been made during the operation of the early mines to establish a real village. Instead, lodging for the miners was provided by boarding houses at the mine locations.

In 1910, however, the Pickands-Mather Company began large scale exploratory operations in the area, which in turn brought an influx of laborers. At this time, a settlement was platted north of the operations by the Nevada Land Company. This was unusually well planned for a mining settlement, with streets radiating east, west, and south from a central circle, located at the top of a small hill. In 1913, the first shaft of the Judson Mine was sunk, while the Balkan Mine began operating in 1915. With the development of these two productive mines in the vicinity, a boom began in the new settlement.

The community grew rapidly, fueled by the success of the mines and also encouraged by the Nevada Land Company. This company, which owned much of the platted land, promoted quick development of the area and the sale of lots through advertising and boosterism. In 1913, the growing settlement was given a post office named Alpha, one of several Michigan post offices given the name of a letter from the Greek alphabet. Soon the need for organized government was felt. A village charter was drawn up and the institution of village government overwhelmingly ratified in a general election in August of 1914.

Development of the settlement reached its peak the same year that the village was incorporated. During that year, the Nevada Land Company donated to the village and township school system a four-and-one-halfacre parcel of land on which the Alpha Village Hall, the water tower (part of the village water system), and the George F. Porter Public School were constructed. In 1914, also, a bank was organized, many stores and businesses were established, electric lights were installed, and a hotel opened. Six passenger trains a day serviced the bustling village, along the Chicago and Northwestern line which had been extended in 1882 through the area that became Alpha. The future looked bright, indeed.

However, although initial growth was rapid, the boom was short lived. By the early 1930s, all mining activity had ceased in the area. Passenger trains and bus service stopped. Since the closing of the mines, Alpha has become primarily a residential community, with few business establishments. Its citizens rely on Crystal Falls, six miles to the northeast, not only for employment, but for goods and services. Alpha's cycle of boom and decline provides a classic example of the historic pattern followed by many such mining communities, and is thus expressive of the rich mining-related history of Iron County.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF VILLAGE OF AMASA

The historical development of the village of Amasa, like the development of most of Iron County, is linked to the discovery of Iron ore in the area, and the subsequent mining activities. Ore was unearthed along the Hemlock River in Hematite Township in 1888 by Matthew Gibson and his son Thoburn. The Hemlock Mining Company, a Pickands, Mather Company subsidiary, acquired property just west of the village site in 1889. It began full mining operations in 1890, after the completion of a railroad spur by the Paint River Railway Company connected the mine site to Crystal Falls, sixteen miles to the south. The settlement which arose around the mining operations was known first as "Hemlock," but in 1892 the name was changed to Amasa, after Amasa Stone Mather, son of Samuel Mather of the Pickands, Mather Company.

The initial growth of Amasa was rapid, spurred by the opening of five additional mines in the area by the early twentieth century, and also by the development of a thriving lumber industry engaged in harvesting the local stands of white pines. In the first half of the 1890s, a township hall, a boarding house, the train depot, and several commercial structures were built. A post office was established in 1891. The fire department was organized in 1901, and gasoline street lamps were installed that same year. By 1905, the town boasted a water system.

Development of Amasa continued at a steady pace until the 1920s and 1930s, when the ore mining industry gradually declined. The Warner Mine, the last to operate in the area, closed in 1940; Amasa has changed little since then. However, the lumber industry did not wane after the virgin pine stands were initially harvested. Large lumber companies began practicing modern forestry techniques, such as reseeding and selective harvesting, to insure the continued future of lumbering in the area. A school of forestry established at the Amasa High School in 1932 reflects the growing interest at this time in encouraging the wise use of timber from Amasa's forests. Today the lumber industry, while not encouraging growth, continues to sustain Amasa and the American Can Company and the Pine River Lumber Company are the major employers.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheets

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83003723	33.	Hasselstrom, John, House	Matered In <b>123</b> National Register		Allows Byen 12/22/83		
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53003714	34.	House at 902 Seldon Road	Autored Co TA National Securior	Akeeper	AlousByen 11/23/8		
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\$300 3724	135.	Huse, Frank C., House	National Beginter	fkeeper	Allous Byen 12/22/8		
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0 - 3113	36.	Holmes, Nels A., Farmstea Suk	ad	Keeper	Bill Grosvenn 13/20/8		
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- 200 3710	37.	Iron County Fair Exhibiti	ion Halls	Keeper	Helme Byen 12/22/8		
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83003718	38.	Iron River Town Hall	Nation*1 Register		Xulout dyen 1-1-1		
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6 5300 3717	39.	Iron River Creamery	National Register	Keeper	Xelous Syen 12/23		
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+83003719	40.	Italian Society Duke of Abruzzi Hall	National Register	Keeper	Delores Byen 12/2		
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×83003720	41.	Jacobson, Jacob, House	Entered in The National Register	Keeper	Aclouspyer 12/23
\$3003721	42.	James Mine Historic Dis	trict Infored In Tile National Seguetor	Keeper Attest	Alours Sym 12/22/83
£830037 <b>33</b>	<b>43.</b>	Joseph, Joseph, House	Ratered in the National Register	/Keeper	Delous Byen 12/22/3
x8300 3725	44.	Levine, Louis, House	<b>Entered</b> in the <b>Intional</b> Register	Attest Keeper	Alores Byen 12/25/83
* 8300 372	<b>45.</b>	Lincoln <b>S</b> chool	Entered in the <b>Inticual Regis</b> ter	Attest Keeper	Alous Byen 12/2-/4
\$300 3720	46.	MacKinnon, Donald C., H	ouse Eantive Neview	Attest Keeper Attest	Beth 6105 vena 12/22/83
\$ \$300 3727	47.	MacKinnon, Alexander, H	ouseIntered In the Intional Register	{Keeper Attest	Albreegbyun 12/22/13
Kf300 3729	48.	McLean, John S., House	Entered In the	Keeper	Alloust Byen 12/02/83
(300 373)	49.	Mansfield Mine Location Historic District	Entered in the National Register	Attest Keeper	Allores Byer 12/22/03
X8300 3730	50.	McQuown, Lafayette, Hou	se Enferad in The Mational Begistor	Attest	Alilous Byen 12/2 2/4

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r3.00373452.	Moss, William, House	Entered in the National Register	Attest f Keeper	Heloughyen 12/22/8		
f 300 \$73653.	Munro-Hanna, M. A., Mining	Mattered 10 TER	Attest f Keeper	Allowal 12/20/8		
<i>, ç</i> ⊵ 54.	Company Office Building Pentoga Park Office and	NEGIONEX MOETSTOP	Attest Keeper	Zehon RTS		
ieu 374055.	Bathhouse Parks, John H., Company- Wills Hardware Building	Infered	•	Alouspin 14/22/8		
300 373956.	Por <b>¢</b> City Historic Distric	t Substantive Nevi	Attest Keeper	Bett Grosvena 13/25/8		
300374357.	Rau, Herman, House	Entered in the National Register	Attest {Keeper	Helmer Byend , 4/22/		
7300374358.	Ross, David M., House	Entered in the National Register	Attest fKeeper	Alelous Byen 1224		
300374459.	Royce, Steven, House	National Register	Attest Keeper	Helous Byen 12/22/8		
300374660.	Russell, William, House .	Batered the TTP Assions 1, Berlevel	Attest Keeper	Allow Byen 12/2018		

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×83003151	68.	Stolber	g, Charle	es, House	Entered National	In the L Register	Keeper	Au	outo	yen is	122/83
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3003760	71.	Van Platen-Fox Lumber Ca Historic Complex (Dis	mp	Keeper Attest	Beth Grosven Apolo
83003167	72.	Van Wagner, Harvey, Hous	e Battored an Mar.	f Keeper	AllourByen 12/20/8
3003768	73.	Wall-Seppanen House	Auferen II. The Berland L. Beaterro,	Attest Keeper	Allows Byen 12/22/
		Windsor, Joseph, House	arterat CE TE	Attest Keeper	Alous Byer 11/25
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