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IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM
A Progress Report

January 1979

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IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM A PROGRESS REPORT

INDEX

TITLE	PAGE
Introduction	1
History	4
Iron Range Interpretative Program Rationale	7
 INTERPRETATIVE CENTERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	
Existing Iron Range Interpretative Program - 1979	10
The Iron Range Interpretative Center	13
Regional Research Library	15
Education Program	18
Hall of Geology	20
Ethnic Crafts, Music and Folklore Pods	23
Conference-Convention-Performance Arts Center	25
Aerial Tram System at the Glen Mine	26
Glen Mine Trails and Site Development	27
Planetarium	28
Hill Annex Interpretative Area	30
Oldtown-Finntown Interpretive Area	32
Vermilion Range Interpretative Center	36
Other Planned Interpretative Centers	38
 IRON RANGE COUNTRY PROGRAM	
Iron Range Country Program	40
The Croft Mine Historical Park	43
Bruce Mine Headframe - Chisholm	44
Pioneer Mine - Ely	46
Mine Overlooks and Interpretative Observation Stands	48
Historic Trails	49
Mt. Itasca Winter Recreation Area - Grand Rapids	52
Hibbing Winter Recreation Area	53
Tioga Mine - Grand Rapids	54
Coordination with Local Museums and Organizations	55
Grant Mine Historic Preservation - Buhl	56
Iron Range Country Tour Guide	57
Iron Range Historical - Cultural Survey	58

TITLE	PAGE
Marking Program	60
Private Developments	61
Other Site Developments - Iron Range Country	62
MINELAND RECLAMATION PROGRAM	
Mineland Reclamation	63
ABSTRACTS	
Iron Range Interpretative Program - Progress Abstract: 1977-78	66
1979 Goals for the Iron Range Interpretative Program	71
Summary of Findings	74

INTRODUCTION

The North Country of Minnesota, with its lakes, canoe country and Voyageurs Park is fast becoming a major attraction for America's vacationing public. Completion of the Circle Route around Lake Superior, a new Canadian highway in the north, the "Great River Road" (through the interior of the state), plus the interstate system linking Minnesota to major population areas, are funneling a tremendous amount of traffic to the region creating increased demand for activities, services and accommodations. This demand is projected to grow, placing a heavy burden on Iron Range communities to provide these services.

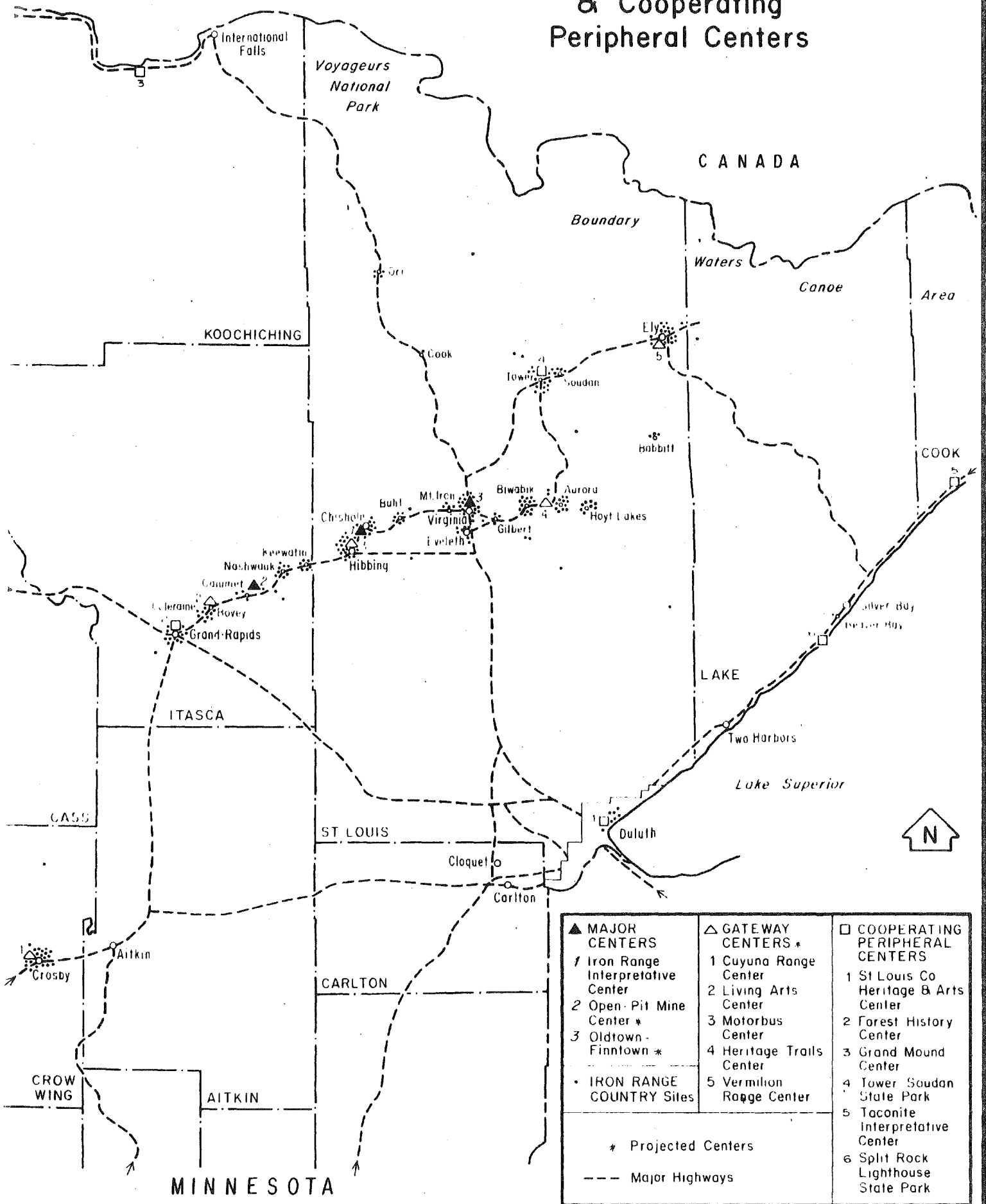
These communities have relied on mining for their existence and, therefore, stand today in the midst of a great wasteland of abandoned pits, mine dumps and industrial ruins. As things stand now, the Iron Range is not ready to become part of the projected tourism boom. At the same time, the region has a magnetism of its own. Its history is unique, its geology interesting, its industry fascinating and its scenic and recreational possibilities are practically unlimited. If these can be presented to the touring public in an organized, well-researched and dynamic way, a new dimension of experience will result and a strain on the wilderness region will be relieved. The Iron Range Interpretative Program exists for this purpose.

The Iron Range is unlike most places in America. Its industry is finite and all know mining prosperity must eventually come to an end. A gradual transition to another industrial base is essential and as far as the program is concerned, tourism will make up a large part of this base. A change has occurred in this country, - people are now in search of roots - they want to know their forefathers - they want to know about the kind of lives they led. Much of America's industrial heritage lies rooted in Minnesota's mining districts. From the revegetated pitwalls of the Old Section 30 Mine near Ely to the industrial remains of the Hill Annex Mine near the Grand Rapids of the Mississippi River, change has been at work on the Iron Range. Man-made mountains and canyons, decaying buildings and rusting headframes bear mute testimony to an earlier time - a time when mining was an art and a multitude of tongues were heard on the boardwalks of frontier towns. At the same time, the Iron Range exists today on the edge of memory. Although the steam plants and engine houses of the past are now silent, there are those who still remember: the long retired hardrock miners and immigrant trammers. Maybe here in this part of America we can capture for posterity some of this colorful past - before change destroys it forever.

The Iron Range Interpretative Program views northeast Minnesota as a vast outdoor museum of natural history, geology, history and archaeology. Museums have flourished in large urban areas because they have been a refuge from mundane industrial society with its noise, traffic and complexities. People visit these museums because within their walls are housed collected vestiges of other cultures which provide them with alternative experiences.

The Iron Range Interpretative Program, with its location in one of the most beautiful, fascinating and wild parts of America, can give a tourist a completely different experience. Instead of housing collections within walls, people gather at a number of interpretative centers and are encouraged to travel outward - to hike, canoe and cross country ski along trails, streams and lakes to discover natural history, beauty and roots among the remnants of some of mankind's greatest earthmoving efforts.

IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE CENTERS & Cooperating Peripheral Centers



HISTORY

In 1969, the Minnesota State Legislature established an Iron Range Trail across the State's three Iron Ranges and related points on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The purpose of this act was to interpret, mark and promote the cultural, geographical, industrial, historical and recreational characteristics of this part of the state. In June, 1970, the Iron Range Trail became the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources, and they published a map marking a certain number of sites in northeast Minnesota to help guide the traveling public. Although the actual production was minimal, it was enough to spur great excitement over tourism possibilities in the region. A survey conducted in late 1970 showed a significant rise in visitations to the area, particularly from the Twin Cities area where most of the maps were distributed. It also showed a great visitor's demand for increased interpretive sites relating to the area's physical make-up, history and culture. ¹

The 1970 Interim Report to the Legislature recommended that a full Interpretative Program be developed to include a major interpretative center, gateway centers, iron range trail reorganization, a tour guide, related support facilities, a survey of the historical and cultural aspects of the region, geological interpretation, the marking of historical sites, mine observation stands, tourist information centers, museums and the promotion of commercial recreation attractions. (A summary of findings is included as Addendum A.) Since that time, I.R.R.R.B. has taken the lead in bringing this program about. Today a major interpretative center stands at the Glen Mine near Chisholm. During its first year of operation, with very little promotion, over 100,000 people visited the new center. Comments have been very favorable.

In 1977, the scope of possibilities for the region was broadened considerably when the concept of a Regional Research Center was developed to gather public and private documents for authenticating all aspects of the program.

As of December, 1978, the following projects have been established:

1. The Regional Research Library.
2. Ethnic pods.
3. The Hall of Geology Museum.
4. A definitive historical-cultural survey.

1 Iron Range Interpretative Program - Interim report to the Legislature, Minnesota Department of Economic Development, December, 1970.

5. A reorganization of the Iron Range Trail is underway giving its management control to I.R.R.R.B. and the concept of an "Iron Range Trail" is being changed to an "Iron Range Country" Program.
6. Planning has been completed for a cable car-tram system across the Glen Mine.
7. The Hill Annex Mine has been acquired.
8. A number of area sites have been placed on National and State Registers of Historic Places.
9. A tour guide is being produced.
10. A program of promotion is being developed
11. Iron Range Country sites are being identified.
12. Two new mine observation stands are being planned.
13. An effort is being made to unite area historical groups and Chambers of Commerce to promote the region.
14. An Iron Range Education Program has been launched to present credit courses for area people in the history and culture of the region.
15. Successes have been made in attracting outside sources of money for Iron Range interpretative projects.
16. Initial work has taken place to unite concepts of the Iron Range interpretative programs with projected downtown economic developments.
17. A roadside tourist facility has been developed at Anchor Lake and aspects of the program will be advertised there.
18. An "Oldtown" outdoor pioneer museum is planned for Virginia.
19. A Vermilion Range Interpretive Center is being planned for Ely.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Minnesota's three great Iron Ranges and surrounding regions possess vast potential for capturing the interest of large segments of America's population. Mysterious mounds, prehistoric habitation sites tell of a time so long past that it is difficult

to imagine. History abounds everywhere. Remains from the days of the fur trade, the great sawmills, mining camps, ghost towns, gold mines, and remnants of mining testify to the rapid advance of industrialism across the region. A great chapter in America's industrial story is rooted in the mines and industrial remains that dot the land. And the Iron Range's immigrant story is attractive to all.

It is here that great excavations provide unique views into the planet's geological past, and it is here that some of the oldest rock formations in the world can be seen. The slopes of the Mesabi, -"The Sleeping Giant"- provide unlimited possibilities for hiking and cross country skiing with spectacular views of natural and man-made beauty that are unparalleled in the Midwest. The entire region is a vast outdoor museum awaiting discovery. The Iron Range Interpretative Program is dedicated to providing area people and visitors alike access to this museum and the opportunity to combine recreation, participation and adventure with the thrill of discovery. The diversity of experiences that can be provided here, along with the fact that the region holds two national attractions - - Voyageur's National Park and the B.W.C.A. - - will keep visitors returning again and again to northeastern Minnesota. The result, of course, will be a significant broadening of the economic base for areas traditionally bound to a single industry - - mining.

IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM RATIONALE

In approaching the difficult problem of tying together various public and private institutions in a united effort to interpret and promote the vast treasury of scenic, geological, historic, and cultural potential of northeast Minnesota, the Iron Range Interpretative Program assumes the following premises:

1. Maximizing Dollar Impact: As the public becomes more and more sensitive to public spending, it becomes increasingly apparent that partnerships must be created to bring about effective, dynamic, and worthwhile projects. Local, county and private groups must combine their funds and efforts in planning and organizing so as to avoid waste and duplication. The Iron Range Interpretative Program serves as a coordinating agency for efforts generated by many active agencies, local governments and other groups serving public needs. It has earned its place as a leader in bringing together the kind of funding and expertise needed to bring about successful interpretive projects. City governments, Chambers of Commerces and historical and cultural organizations cannot do the job alone. For instance, if city governments are to be funded separately for historic interpretation and no coordination of efforts occur, the result must certainly be a series of ill-planned mediocre museums that are repetitious in nature and of little help in promoting the area and broadening its economic base. The centralization of funds through I. R. R. B.'s Interpretative Program develops the greatest benefit from public funds through planning and wise investment.
2. Complimenting Industry and Business: The Iron Range Interpretative Program is sensitive to the economic needs of the area and at all times works closely with business and industry in creating an atmosphere that is unique, attractive and positive toward expanding long range economic development in Minnesota.
3. Protecting Our Nation's Heritage: It is well known that a significant part of the story of the growth of a strong industrial America is rooted in the mines and people of Minnesota's Iron Range. The late Theodore Blegen touched on this significance when he wrote:

It is a story of dusty red earth, iron men, titans of finance, workers from the four corners of the earth, and laboratories where ideas were formulated and tried out. The state's iron ore and the industry to which it gave birth have such gigantic dimensions that it is surprising that they have not spawned legends dwarfing even those of Paul Bunyan. 2

2 Theodore Blegen, Minnesota, A History of the State, p. 359

4. Realizing the Great Tourist Potential in Northeast Minnesota: It is inevitable that increasing numbers of people from all parts of the nation will be drawn to this wild and beautiful part of Minnesota - if for no other reason, the fact that we now have a National Park in the area will bring them here. Iron Range towns must be ready for them and be able to provide not only accommodations but a variety of experiences that will make their visit to Minnesota one that will be long remembered. The Iron Range Interpretative Program is dedicated to bringing this about.
5. Sensitivity to the People and Culture: The region's cultural development, flavored by diverse ethnic groups, is without parallel in Minnesota. Folklorists and historians from as far away as the Smithsonian Institution have found on the Iron Range a special kind of culture that is both unique and interesting. Interpretation must be sensitive to this fact and the story of the people must be a vital part of the program.
6. Planning and Coordination: The program at all times stresses planning and coordination as key features of all projects it participates in. Only the highest standard of development is accepted.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Planning and developing an innovative program of interpretation that emphasizes the geological, archaeological, historic, cultural, recreational, and scenic qualities of Minnesota's three Iron Ranges.
2. Maintaining a continuous documentation program including collection, archival preservation and dissemination of materials so as to enhance the credibility of all interpretive endeavors.
3. Working closely with the Minnesota Historical Society and other historical groups to preserve and protect America's mining heritage in Minnesota.
4. Expanding efforts to identify, preserve, and develop all sites possessing interpretive potential.
5. Establishing a priority order for all program components so as to facilitate an orderly integrated developmental scheme.
6. Emphasizing at all times the long-term economic prospect of northern Minnesota so that this area can realize a more viable and diversified economy.

7. Generating the greatest possible measure of community involvement and cooperation in accomplishing interpretations.
8. Assisting public and private projects which fit in with the theme of the Iron Range Interpretative program to obtain funding from Federal, State, County and private sources.
9. Establishing a broad-based network of interpretive areas, centers, historic sites, geological sites, observation sites and other tourist interest areas so as to maximize the visitor experience in northern Minnesota and develop an appreciation of its heritage.
10. Promoting the concept, "Participation is the key to interpretation"; in all project development and promotion.
11. Initiating public information programs that will expand awareness of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.
12. Coordinating public and private participation in the planning and implementation of programs.
13. Provide leadership and direction for all components of the program.
14. Providing advice and leadership for local community groups to help them to work together to promote an awareness of community history and culture and to help them coordinate their efforts to maximize their potential.
15. Developing the highest level of accountability in every aspect of the program, its management of public monies, and staff professionalism.
16. Providing professional assistances to community improvement projects that fit in with the goals and purposes of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

**INTERPRETATIVE CENTERS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

EXISTING IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM: 1979

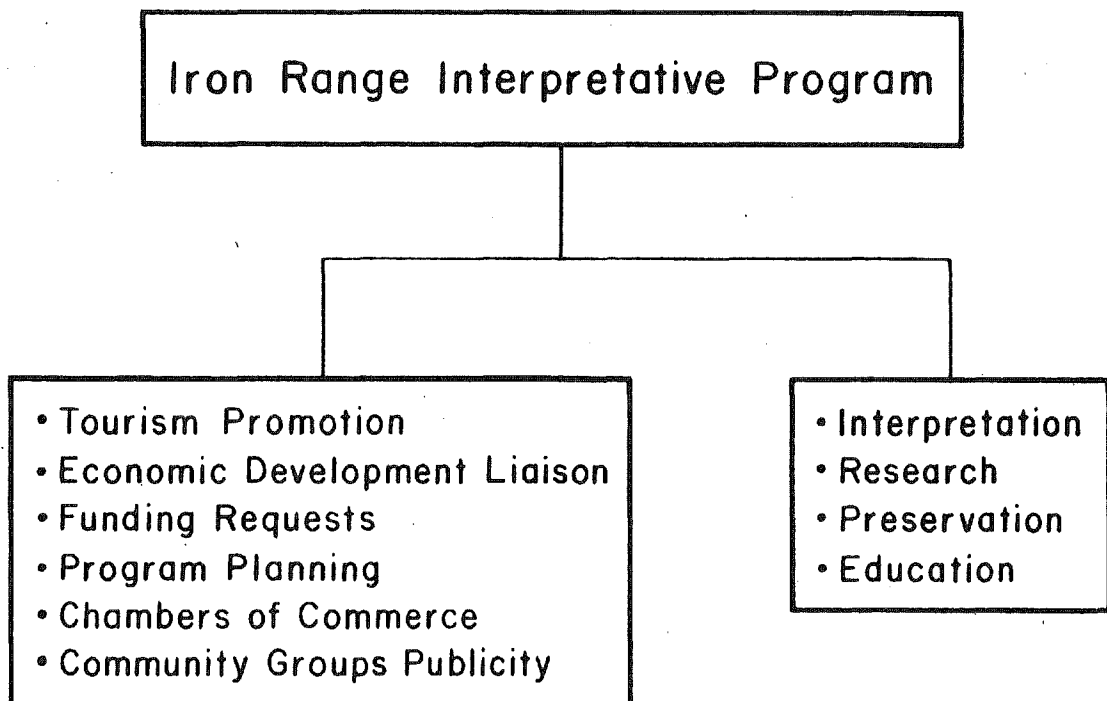
Today a dynamic and successful Interpretative Program is in existence in north-eastern Minnesota. It has already received statewide and national attention and promises to make the Iron Range region a national model of what can be done with mining wasteland through planning and a coordinated effort of groups from both the public and private sectors of society. A vast outdoor museum is emerging, featuring the best in recreation, hiking, camping, canoeing and cross country skiing combined with cultural, historic and geology discovery. It is fast solidifying the base for sound private investment and economic development.

The program is primarily funded from portions of IRRRB's general budget and environmental protection fund budget. However, grants from E.D.A., Upper Great Lakes, Minnesota Historical Society, Department of Interior, Historic Preservation, American Bicentennial Committee, National Endowment for the Humanities, the Lake Superior Industrial Bureau, Longyear Company, Shenango Furnace Company and various mining related industries and other groups have added much to the development of various aspects of the existing programs. Further help from these sources is expected.

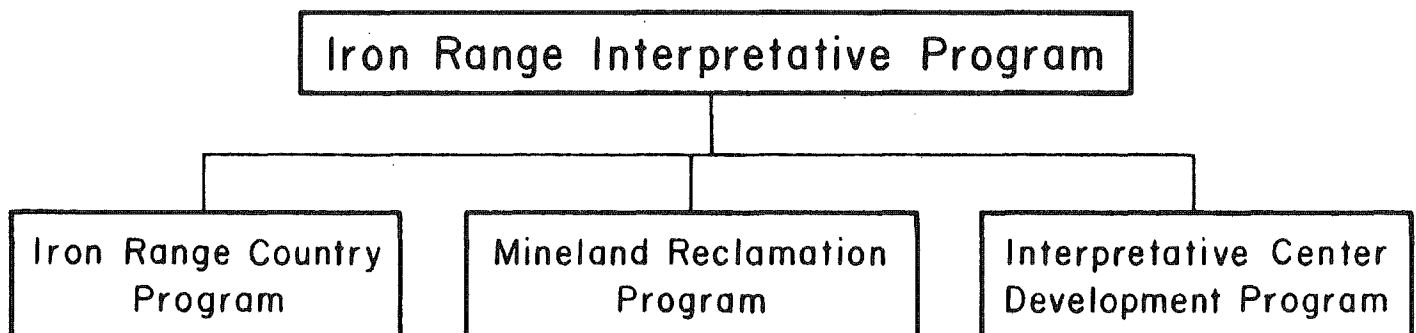
The two major parts of the program are:

1. Interpretative Center and Area Development
2. The Iron Range Country Program

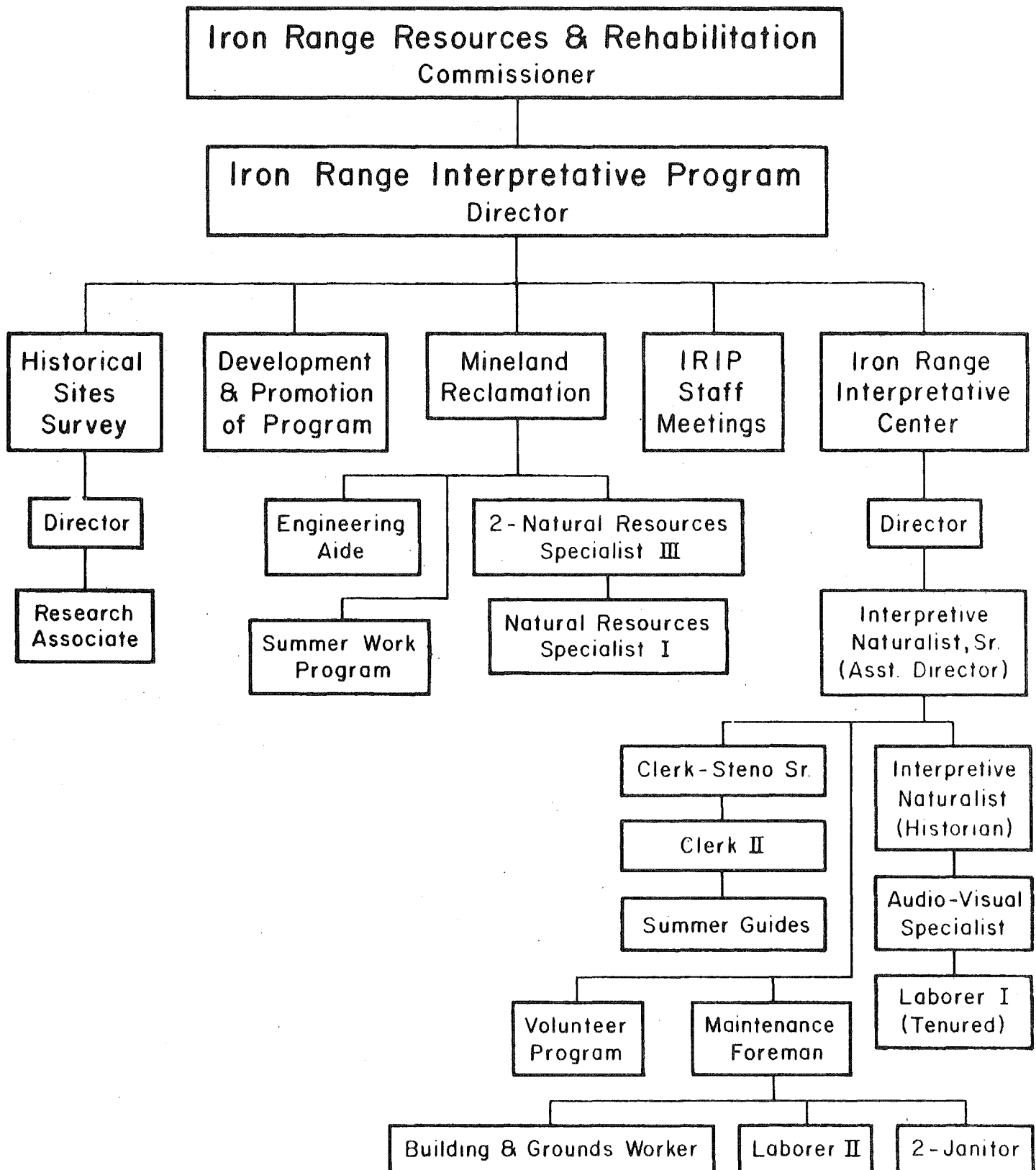
Conceptual Organization
IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM



APPROACH TO CONCEPTS



Organizational Chart
IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM
STAFF



THE IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE CENTER - CHISHOLM

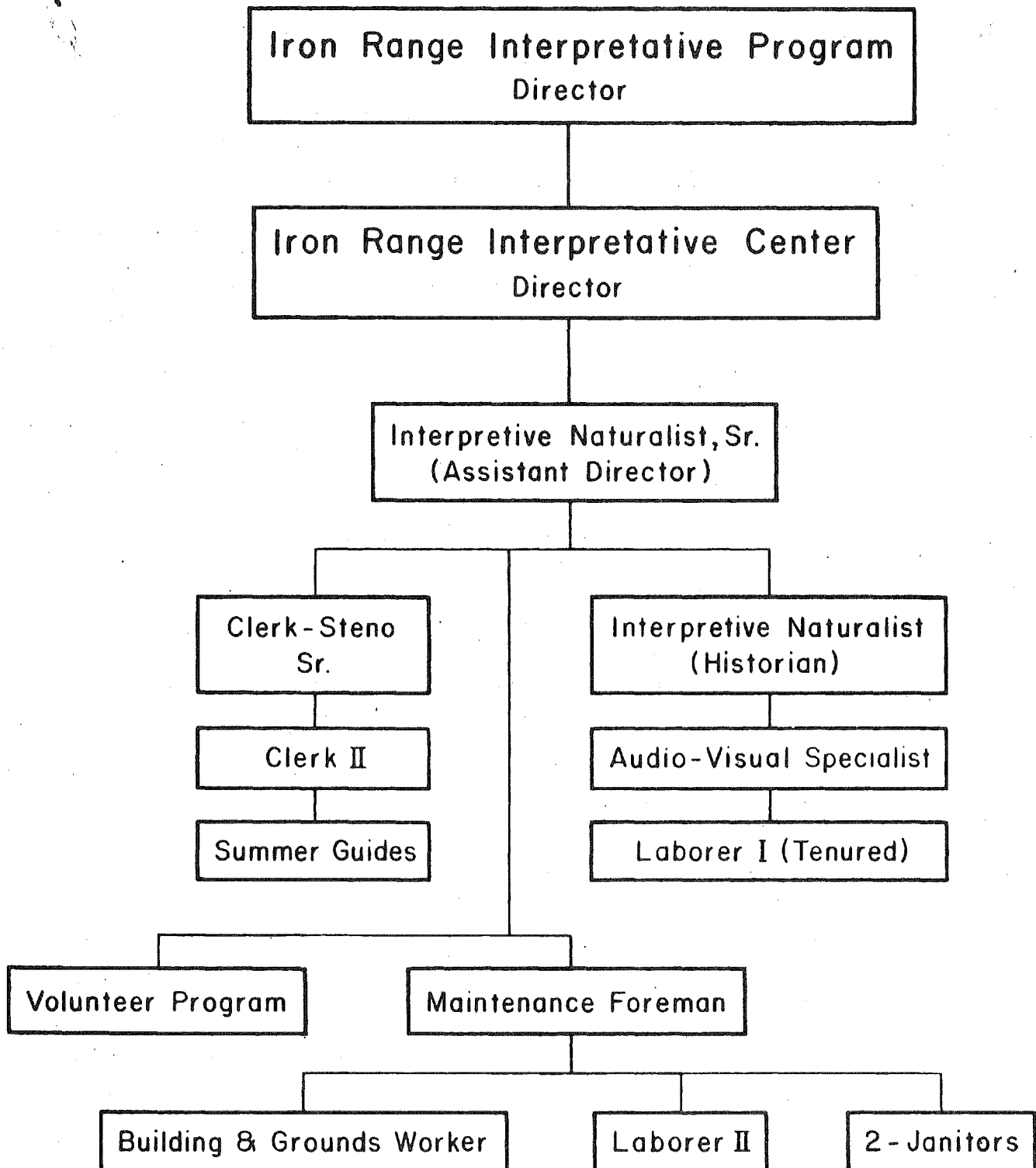
The Iron Range Interpretative Center has been designed to be a major tourist attraction for Minnesota to interpret and present the story of the people and industry of the Iron Range, and to direct people to a variety of experiences with the vast outdoor museum known as "Iron Range Country". Inside, the visitor encounters the exciting story of Minnesota's mining regions. Displays include an introduction to the natural and human history of the area in addition to its mining aspects, and directs people to places they can go to discover the real beauty, natural history, culture, and history of northeast Minnesota's great outdoors.

During the past year over 100,000 people from all over the world visited the Center, and it is not unreasonable to assume that visits will rise to as many as 225,000. A major emphasis has been placed on imaginative, participatory and self-guided activities within the facility and space has been provided to do everything from handing out literature to exhibiting enormous pieces of mining equipment. The Center has four functions:

1. Introducing people to geological and natural history interpretation.
2. Introducing people to historical and cultural interpretation.
3. Interpreting the mining industry.
4. Providing general visitor information service and relaxation facilities.

Presently, a dynamic Hall of Geology is being completed which will not only give the visitor an understanding of the Geology of Minnesota, but provide participation activities that give people insights into what geology is really about. Also, a series of ethnic craft and music areas are being built to preserve and present the ethnic traditions of the Iron Range. These two components will add new dimensions to the "Iron Range experience".

Organizational Chart
IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE CENTER



REGIONAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Regional Research Library has been established for numerous reasons:

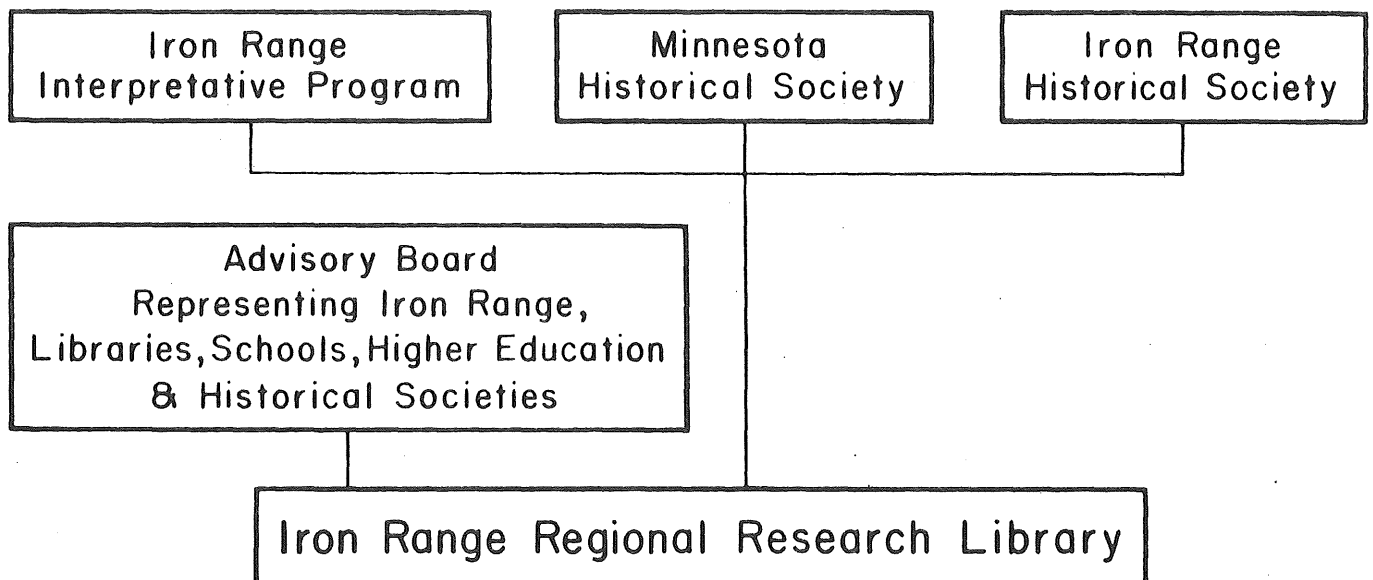
1. To give the Iron Range Interpretative Program and its established Center needed depth, validity, reliability and authenticity.
2. To form the nucleus of an educational program which will bring the exciting story of the Iron Range to area schools, libraries, and colleges, and provide in-service training programs for area professionals.
3. To provide a complete research facility for Minnesota scholars and writers.
4. To provide storage for a large amount of the public record. This is becoming an increasing problem as society becomes more complex.
5. To become part of Minnesota's Regional Collecting Center System which is administered locally under the guidance of the Minnesota Historical Society.
6. To provide storage of personal and business documentation for participating members and groups from the private sector of society.
7. To be a major genealogy center for America's midwest.
8. To be a major resource center for staff and officers of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, Iron Range Interpretative Center, foresters, Iron Range cities, Iron Range organizations, city planners and other individuals seeking grants, working on public projects, and communicating with the public.
9. To promote understanding and appreciation of the great contributions the Iron Range has made to American life.
10. To develop lectures, seminars and publications promoting the area, its people and industry.
11. To provide research materials for developing programs of economic development, urban renewal and providing necessary material for promoting the diversification of area industry.
12. To improve the quality of life on the Iron Range with a major cultural resource.

It is important that the Center be managed by an organization that is close to the people of the region and can communicate with them so that a great amount of oral and written documentation can successfully be gathered. It is also important that this facility be as far removed from politics as possible so that collecting, purpose and function are not affected by political pressures.

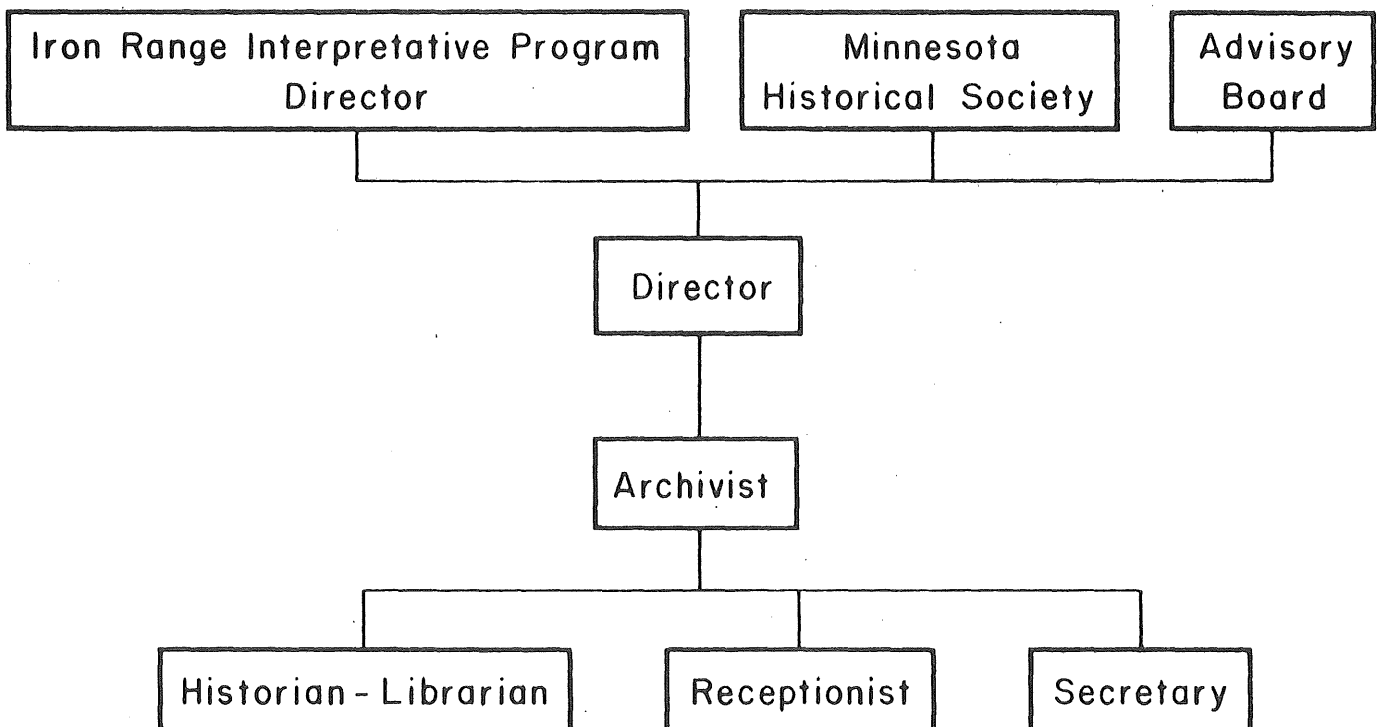
The Iron Range Historical Society and the Minnesota Historical Society are willing to take on the complete responsibility for the operation of the building. They will collect, store, classify, and place for public use manuscripts, publications, documents and papers dealing with all aspects of the Iron Range. They are willing to assist the Iron Range Interpretative Program by providing the necessary research for projects and to assist in the development of a multitude of activities for the Center and the Iron Range.

In return, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board will maintain the building and provide assistance to the operation of the facility as part of its environmental protection program. The cost will be minimized because the Iron Range Historical Society will help pay part of the costs of operation and the Minnesota Historical Society will assist by providing all library materials and document conservation services as well as assistance in obtaining grants for special projects being developed around this facility. It is truly an exciting partnership, and one that can benefit all groups participating as well as the broad segment of people on the Iron Range.

Organizational Chart
IRON RANGE REGIONAL RESEARCH LIBRARY



Staff Arrangement



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The entire Iron Range Interpretative Program can be considered an educational experience. The designation, development and marking program with the kinds of dynamic interpretation now being planned can be a model for the State and nation.

However, along with this, there is now a definite attempt being made to bring the story to the classroom of area schools and colleges, and to have the schools use all aspects of the program in their curriculum. The story is truly an epic, and covers a multitude of happenings from prehistoric times to present successes in pelletizing the region's vast taconite resources. It portrays the passing of an ancient culture, the struggle of kings and companies to control a trade in furs, the founding of embryonic communities in a wilderness and the lusty, brawling life in old Range towns. The story of the "Range" establishes unique insights into the industrial development of America as it traces the rise and fall of empires in steel and rail, and fortunes made and lost - sometimes overnight. Interwoven into all this is the saga of the immigrant with all his hopes, sorrows, joys, misgivings - and raw courage.

The program has proceeded in this way:

1. A four credit course, A General History of the Iron Range, is presently being taught at various localities and is heavily attended by area teachers. This course is coordinated with Bemidji State University through the office of Area Services. Assisting in its development was the Regional Office of the Higher Education Coordinating Committee.
2. A four credit course, The Area Immigrant, has been organized in the same way.
3. A four credit course, Folklore and Culture on the Range, has been organized and will be taught for the first time in Eveleth during the Spring quarter.
4. A fourth course, A People's Geology of the Range, is in the palnning stages. It is expected to begin in the Fall of 1979.

These four courses will begin using the Regional Research facilities as soon as they are completed. Along with this, an Ethnic Studies Program is being designed for area schools. Finally, meetings are now taking place to have area schools set aside a block of time in their curriculums for teaching Iron Range history and culture. In-service training programs for teachers will be provided by the program.

At present, a winter lecture series is taking place at the Iron Range Interpretative Center and brings to the public a large number of historians and experts in many fields. Once the Regional Research Center is operating, nationally advertised seminars and workshops will be planned around it and it is expected to attract well-known experts in industrial archaeology, mining history, immigrant history, geneology and geology.

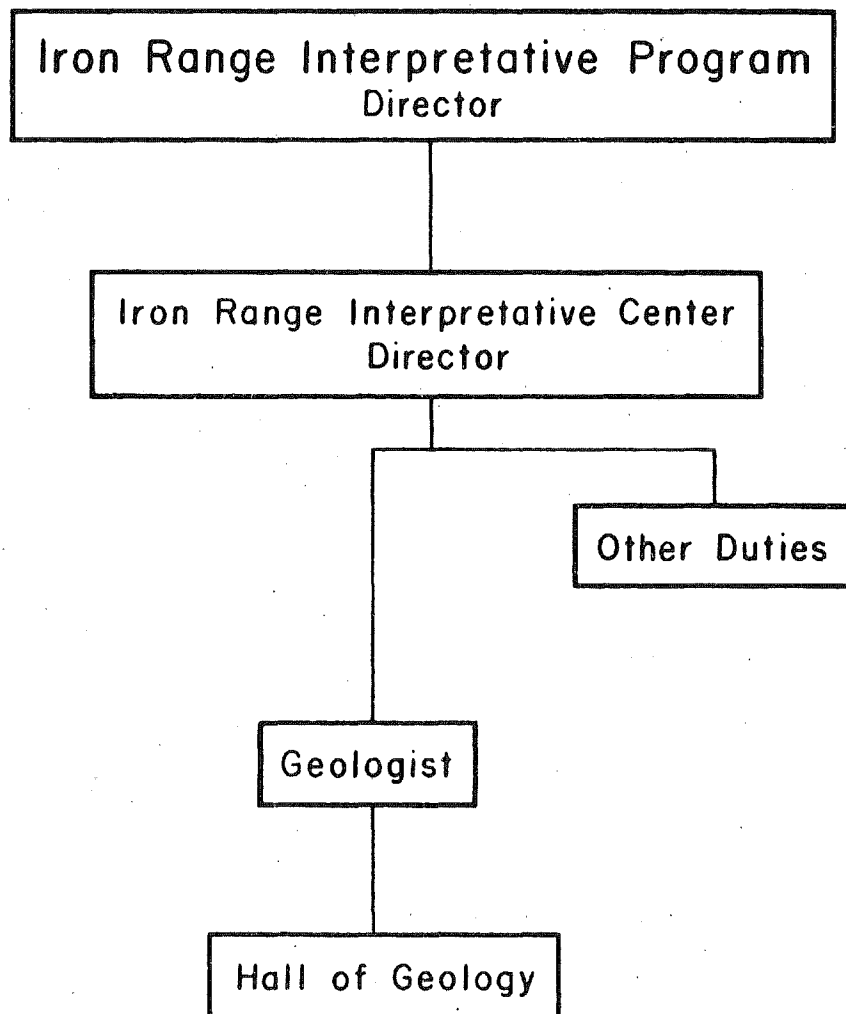
HALL OF GEOLOGY

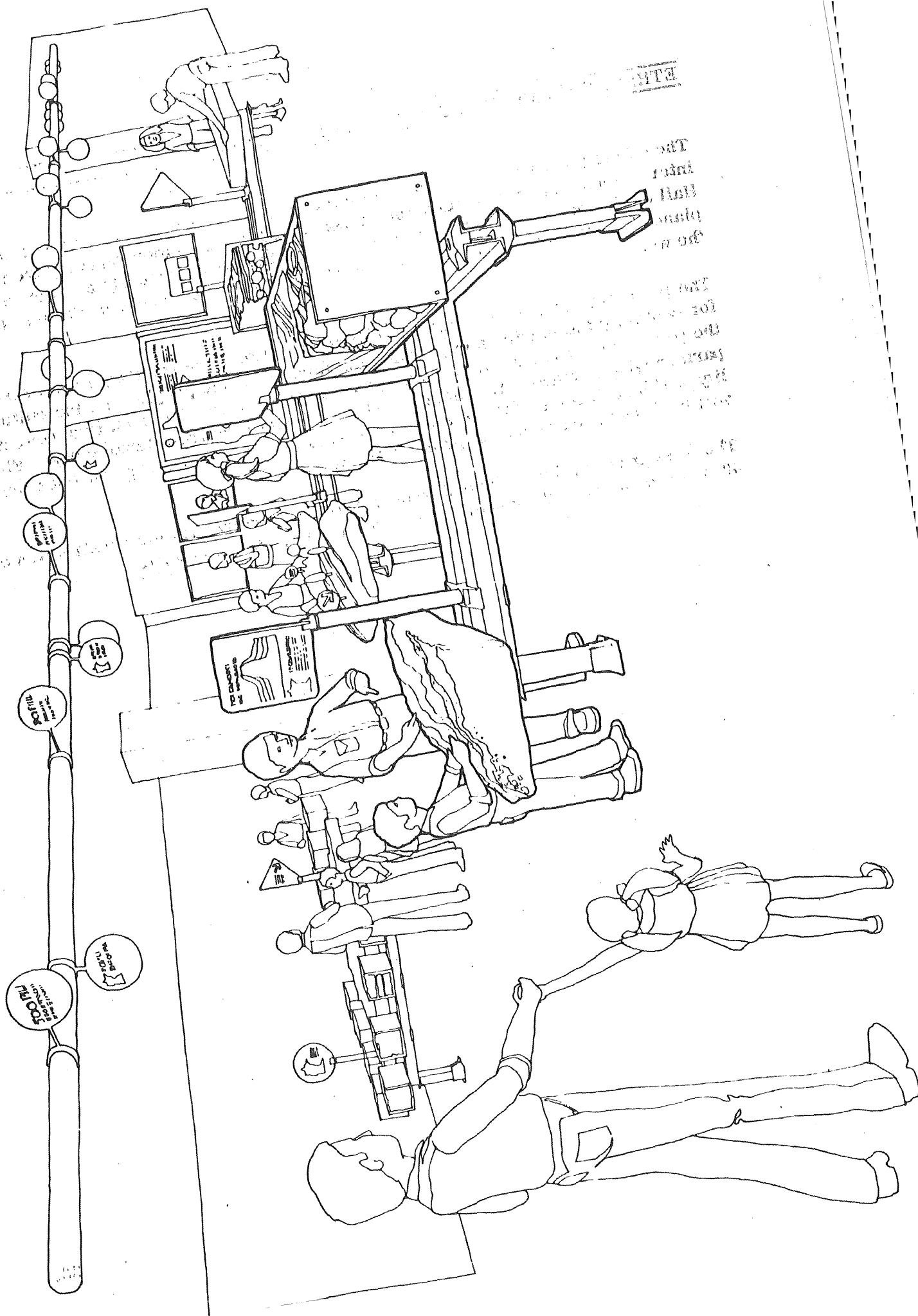
A visit to the Hall of Geology at the Iron Range Interpretative Center is expected to be an unforgettable experience as innovative geological displays found here become models to follow for museums and universities nationwide. A visitor entering the area is immediately attracted by displays of spectacular minerals including goethites, copper-nickle ores, quartz crystals, and pyrites brilliantly illuminated with ceiling spotlights. From this point, he proceeds through a geology primer course in which he becomes a partner with the geologist in a search for clues which reveal the identity of minerals and develop insights into their make-up. In this area, actual methods devised by geologists in the field are used to discover properties of minerals and develop understandings of geology seldom achieved in textbooks.

From this point, participants proceed through displays that will allow use of basic tools learned for personal detective work, or simply let one enjoy the visual impact of an exciting array of fluorescent minerals, rock samples, metals and crystals. The next experience is a confrontation with the immensity of geologic time, as drill cores drawn from deep within correspond to geologic epochs and earth history. Related to all of this are displays of various aspects of Minnesota geology.

In the hall, a complete workshop will allow geologists and mineral clubs to lecture and provide live demonstrations of cutting and polishing gems and semi-precious stones.

Organizational Chart
HALL OF GEOLOGY





ETHNIC CRAFTS, MUSIC AND FOLKLORE PODS

The ethnic pods element of the Iron Range Interpretative Center is a series of inter-connecting underground rooms connected to a corridor reaching from the Hall of Geology. It is intended that this corridor will eventually connect to the planned Convention-Performance Center some three hundred and fifty feet to the west.

The pods focus attention on the various ethnic cultures of the Range and preserve for posterity the music, food, crafts and folklore of the people. As the culture of the past is displayed in multi-media demonstrations and live performances, a comparison will be made with customs and traditions of the Iron Range today. Flexibility will be a feature of these spaces and it is expected that many new uses for them will be discovered as the program evolves.

The first phase of three planned phases is now underway with the construction of four 30' x 30' modules and connecting corridor to the Hall of Geology.

Organizational Chart ETHNIC CRAFTS PROGRAM

**Iron Range Interpretative Program
Director**

**Iron Range Interpretative Center
Director**

**Iron Range Ethnic
Organizations
Advisory Board**

**Crafts Program
Coordinator**

Ethnic Pods

CONFERENCE-CONVENTION-PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

A Conference-Convention-Performing Arts Center is planned as a final component of the Interpretative Complex at the Glen Mine. It will be a completely flexible 43,000 square foot facility located approximately 350 feet west of the existing Iron Range Interpretative Center.

It is proposed that the structure be linked to the existing facility by a series of underground pods for demonstrating ethnic crafts, customs and traditions. Additional visitor activities include an aerial tramway system traversing the expanse of the Glen Mine, an outdoor amphitheater and a series of nature trails. .

The proposed facility is expected to attract a variety of activities and will conveniently accommodate both large and small audiences alike. In addition, the building will provide a central meeting place for conferences, conventions, banquets, performing arts and generating an additional stimulus to the economy of the area. The anticipated cost of the entire facility is around \$3 million. Funding is being sought through the Economic Development Administration, Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, Minnesota Resource Commission, Carnegie Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Lake Superior Industrial Bureau.

It is recommended that a feasibility study be done to decide what the actual impact of such a facility would be. This study would guide future investment in this particular project.

AERIAL TRAM SYSTEM AT THE GLEN MINE

2010

It is planned that an aerial tram system be constructed to span 1700 feet of the Glen Mine open pit. From this, visitors can experience a panoramic view of the tremendous expanse of mining not visible from the Iron Range Interpretative Center. The ride across the pit is expected to last about five minutes to a landing area and mine-view on the opposite side of the pit.

There is no doubt that this facility will provide an exciting experience and will add much to the total experience of a visit to the Iron Range Interpretative Center.

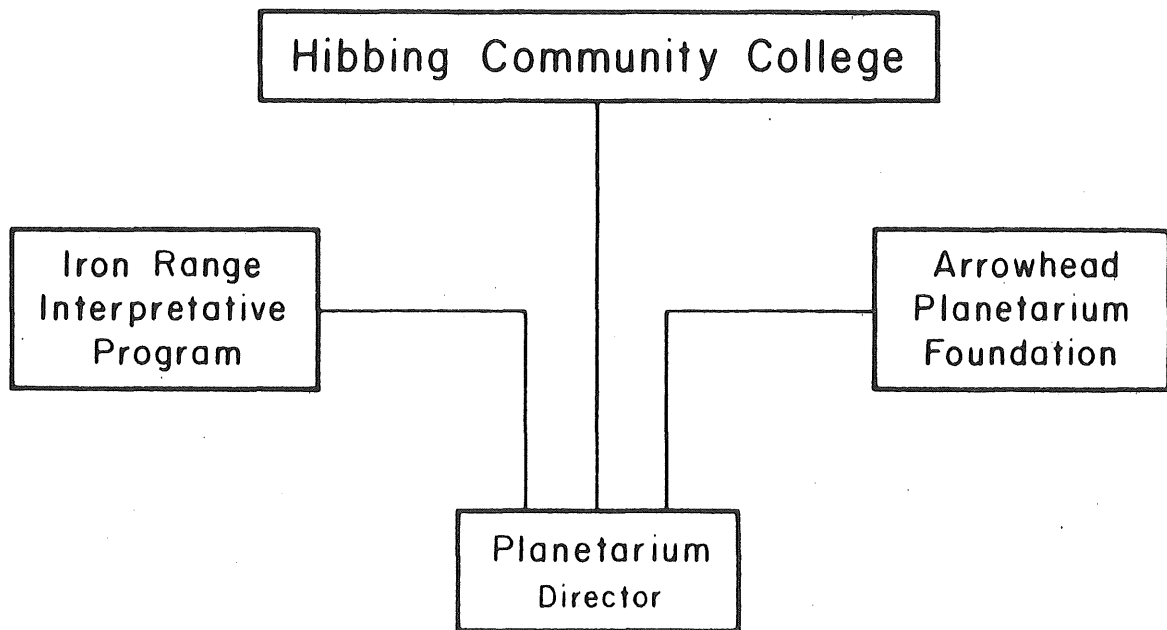
GLEN MINE TRAILS AND SITE DEVELOPMENT

Trails to various viewpoints about the Glen Mine can add much to the experience of a visit to the Interpretative Center. The views are spectacular and include a visit to the Old Glen Location, now a ghost town with only old foundations remaining. These trails can provide a unique experience for hikers and skiers.

PLANETARIUM

The planetarium facility at Hibbing Community College is related to the Iron Range Interpretative Program only in the area of planning for programs to be presented in the facility. These programs will be for the public, deal with various aspects of the Iron Range, its industry and people. Promotion of the planetarium will be part of the package being developed for the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

Organizational Chart PLANETARIUM



HILL ANNEX INTERPRETATIVE AREA

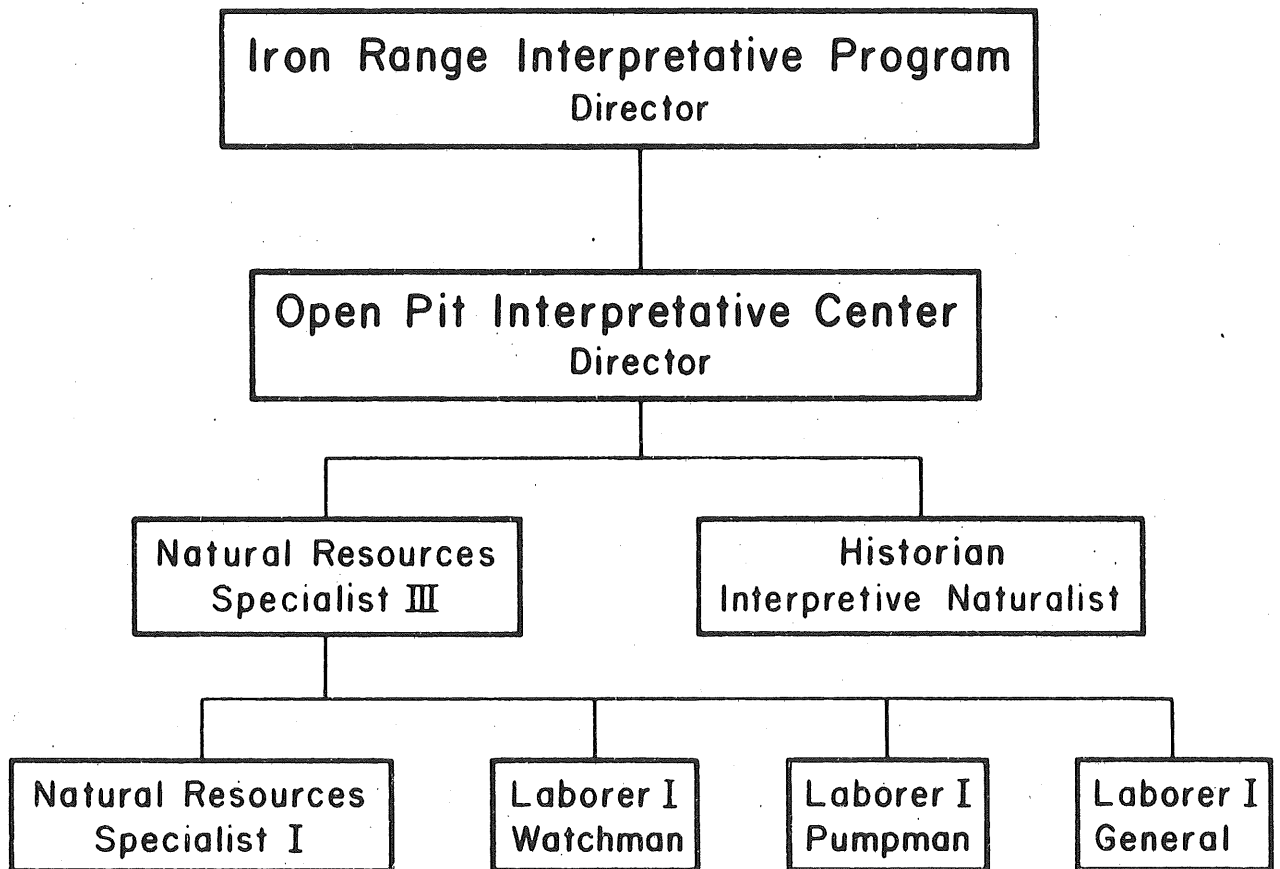
On December 28, 1978, Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation turned over their complete inventory for the Hill Annex open pit mine to Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board with the idea of having it developed into a major interpretative facility for the Iron Range Interpretative Program. This includes the following:

1. Their complete heavy media plant
2. "D" pocket Surface Screener
3. Pit Screener and Conveyor
4. Reject Stacker System
5. Machine Shop
6. Truck Garage
7. Oil House
8. Electrical Shop
9. Office Building
10. Pit Service Garage
11. Pit Storage Building
12. Chem Lab and Ore Dressing Building
13. Tire Storage Building
14. A Sub-Station
15. Idler Repair Building
16. Storage Building
17. Steel Storage Building
18. Battery and Miscellaneous Storage
19. Two Electric Shovels
20. Two Euclid 40 Ton Hauling Trucks
21. A Michigan 280 Rubber Tires Tractor-Dozer
22. Two Forklift Trucks
23. A Mustang $\frac{1}{4}$ Cu. Ft. Loader

The 680 acre site is already owned by the State of Minnesota and here is an excellent opportunity to preserve for posterity the era of the great open pit hematite mines on the Mesabi. The inventory will become part of a major program of interpretation featuring mining machinery, history of mining, geology and mining methodology. Guided tours to the bottom of the pit and through the very interesting heavy media plant will offer the public a unique and exciting experience.

The project is an excellent example of cooperation between the public and private sectors of society to reclaim an abandoned mine and present the mining study to people in a way that promotes tourism, provides an excellent educational opportunity and broadens the areas economic base.

Organizational Chart
OPEN PIT INTERPRETATIVE CENTER



OLDTOWN-FINNTOWN INTERPRETIVE AREA

It has long been recognized that Virginia is one of the more historic cities of the Mesabi Range. Having never been moved, its buildings, streets, and physical make-up give the place an historical integrity unequaled in the Mesabi. Its location on Highway #53 to Canada make it an ideal spot to develop a major component of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

In cooperation with the city of Virginia and its duly appointed Oldtown Committee, an outdoor pioneer life museum commemorating pioneer businesses of early Range towns is now being planned. Initial planning monies have been obtained through the Iron Range Interpretative Program from the Iron Range Historical Society and the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission.

The area designated as the focal point for development is Virginia's Finntown. The Oldtown will consist of a reproduction of an Iron Range town at the turn of the century complete with boardwalk, wooden streets, general merchandise stores, shop of 19th century vintage and a functioning blacksmith shop. All components will be thriving places of business and it is expected that the area will be a major tourist draw, spur the local economy and create many jobs through expanded activities in the following areas: general merchandise, drug stores, apparel shops, sporting goods, camera shops, gift shops, and novelty shops.

The designer is a nationally recognized professional commissioned to work with reputable historians to determine what businesses will best fit the scene and to design an authentic "main street". It is intended that all completed Oldtown buildings will be leased to private business firms and they will cooperate with the Iron Range Interpretative Program in all promotion.

The area picked for the Oldtown development is sadly in need of improvement, particularly in unutilized second floors of buildings, streets, alleys, pedestrian facilities and general appearance. Thus, not only will the economy be spurred but a depressing section of Virginia will receive a new face.

Functioning as an integral part of the Iron Range Interpretative Program, the Oldtown will be advertised nationally. Television productions by professionals are planned for the entire program with all its components for distribution to various stations in Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. As the program becomes known to the American public, the result should be a swelling of tourist flow and a solid growth in Range economy. Virginia's Oldtown will be a major catalyst in bringing this about.

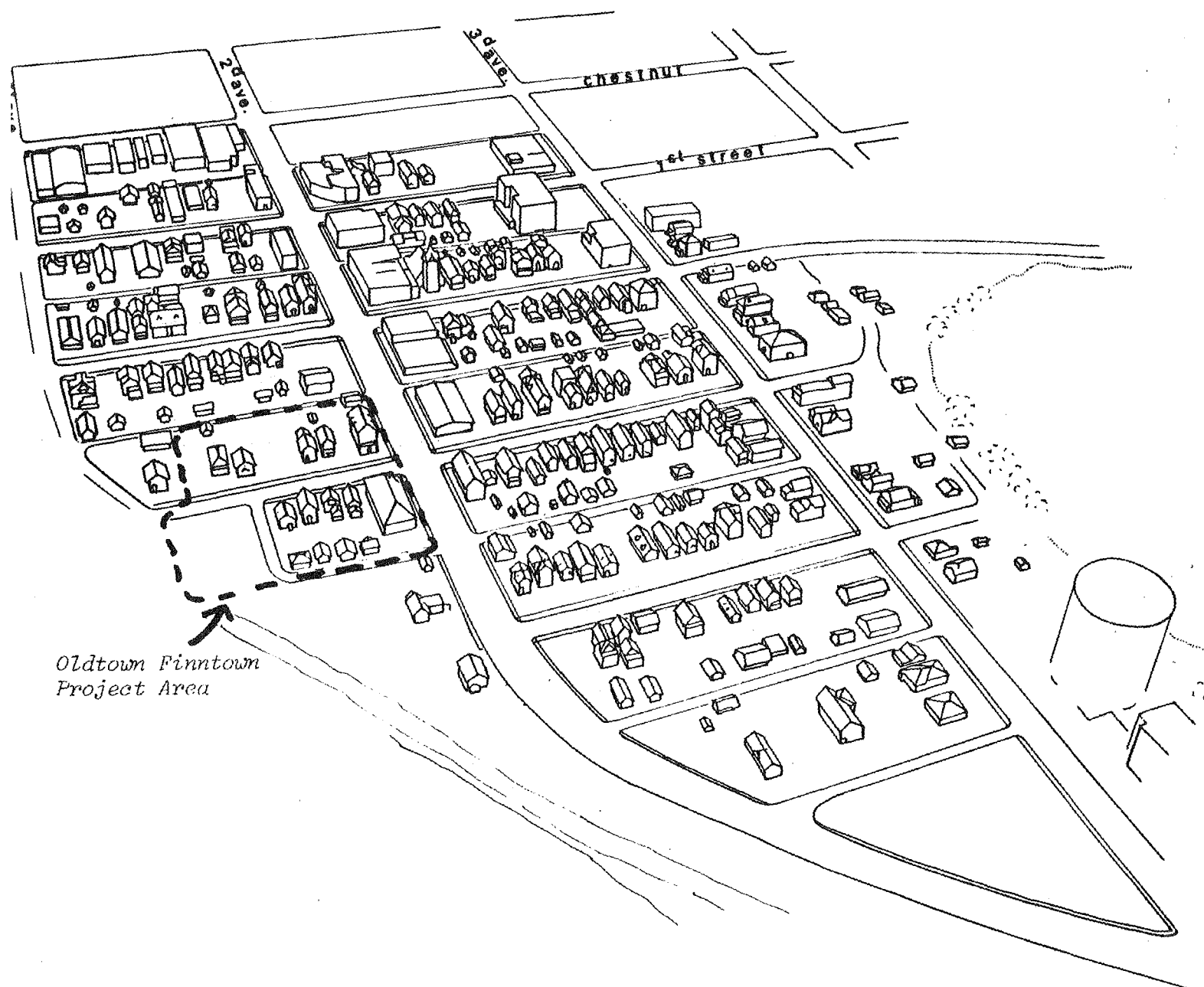
Projected Components (1905 Vintage)

1. Finnish Temperance Hall
2. Blacksmith Shop
3. Candy Shop
4. General Merchandise Store
5. Boarding House (Hotel)
6. Restaurant
7. Restaurant - Saloon
8. Pioneer Home Museum
9. Drug Store
10. Livery Stable
11. Public Sauna
12. Bakery and Coffee Shop

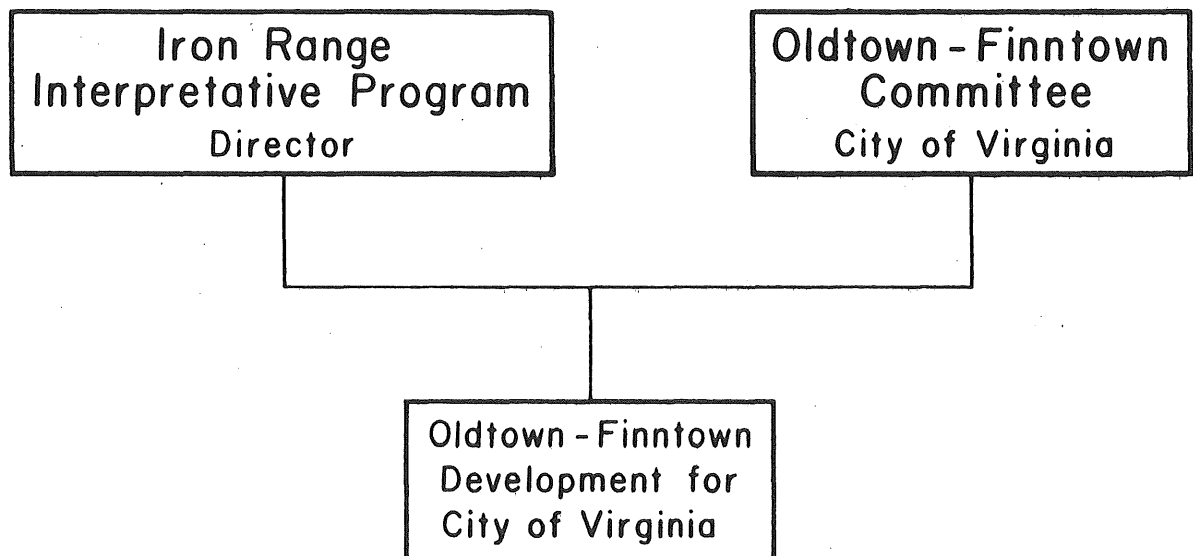
All will be functioning places of business displaying artifacts from the past.
Consultant:

Townscape
30 Public Square
Medina, Ohio 44256

FINNTOWN



Organizational Chart OLDTOWN-FINNTOWN



VERMILION RANGE INTERPRETATIVE CENTER

The Vermilion Range Interpretative Center is a functioning part of the Vermilion Cultural Center being constructed at Vermilion Community College. The interpretative portion of settlement on the Vermilion Iron Range, features the towns of Tower, Soudan, Ely and Winton. These photographic murals will be drawn from the famous collection of Ely's citizen-historian, Lee Brownell.

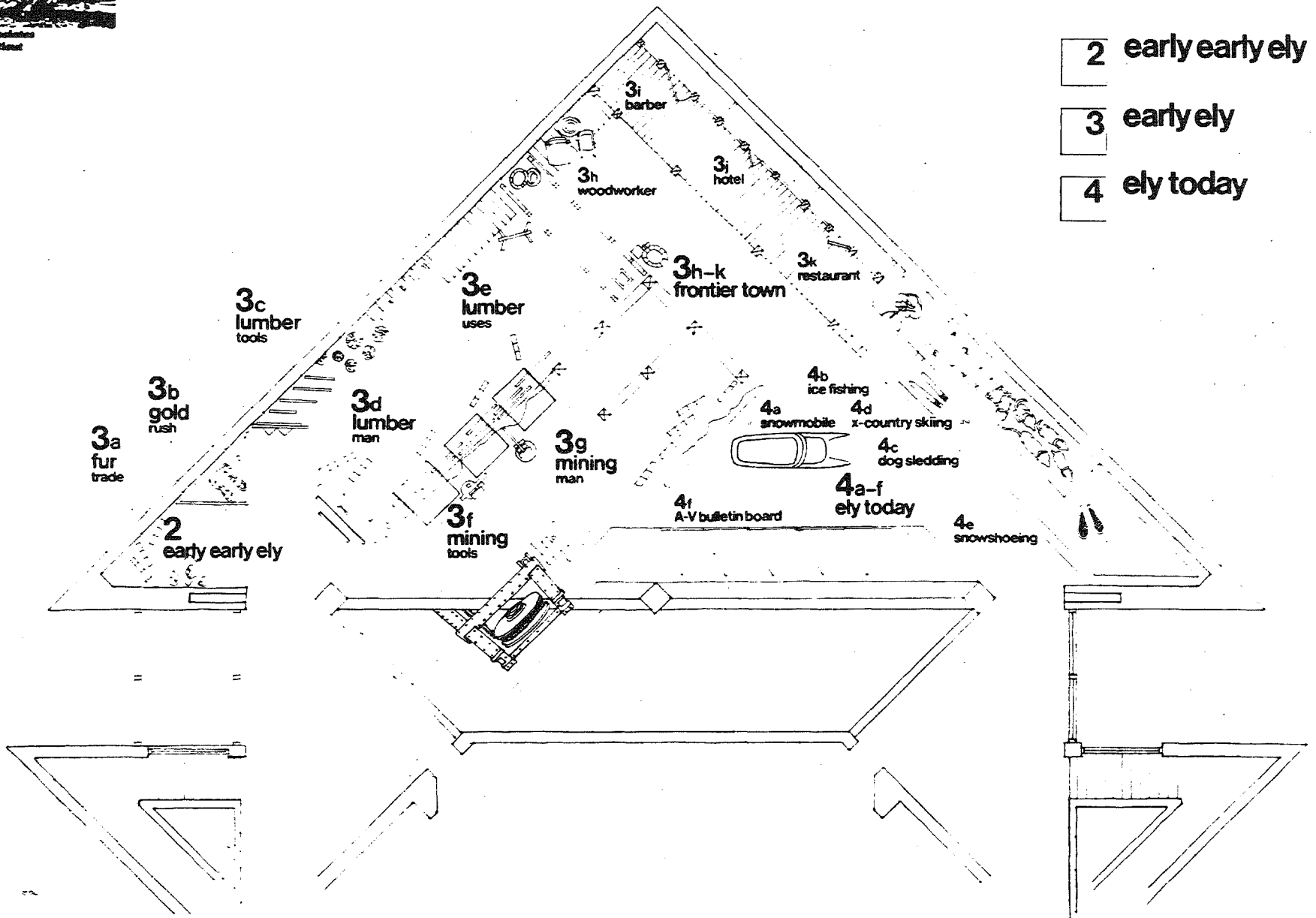
The basic theme featured here will be "Man and His Land" and will stress ways man lived with and made use of his environment, from the days of the Ojibway to the present day city of Ely, situated next to one of America's great vacationlands, the Superior-Quetico Wilderness Region.

The Center is designed to lead people on local tours featuring historic Ely building, industrial archaeology, lumbering areas, geologic formations, abandoned mines, Indian trails and encampments and other sites unique to the area. These tours will be designed and promoted by the Ely-Winton Historical Society in conjunction with the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

The Center is designed to house the very active Ely-Winton Historical Society which will manage the Center.



Joseph Wilson Association
Stanford, Connecticut



OTHER PLANNED INTERPRETATIVE CENTERS

Suggested Priority Order:

1. Cuyuna Gateway Center: Crosby

Interpreting the culture, people and industry of the Cuyuna Iron Range.

2. Split Rock Lighthouse Center: North Shore of Lake Superior

Featuring the specifics of lighthouses on the lakes and the shipping of iron ores by the long ships.

3. Heritage Trails Center: Biwabik

Designed to promote appreciation of early water and land transportation, and promoting hiking and canoe trips along the ancient waterways of the St. Louis, Embarrass, Vermilion River System.

4. Taconite Mining and Processing Interpretative Center: Silver Bay

An Interpretative Center telling the exciting story of taconite development.

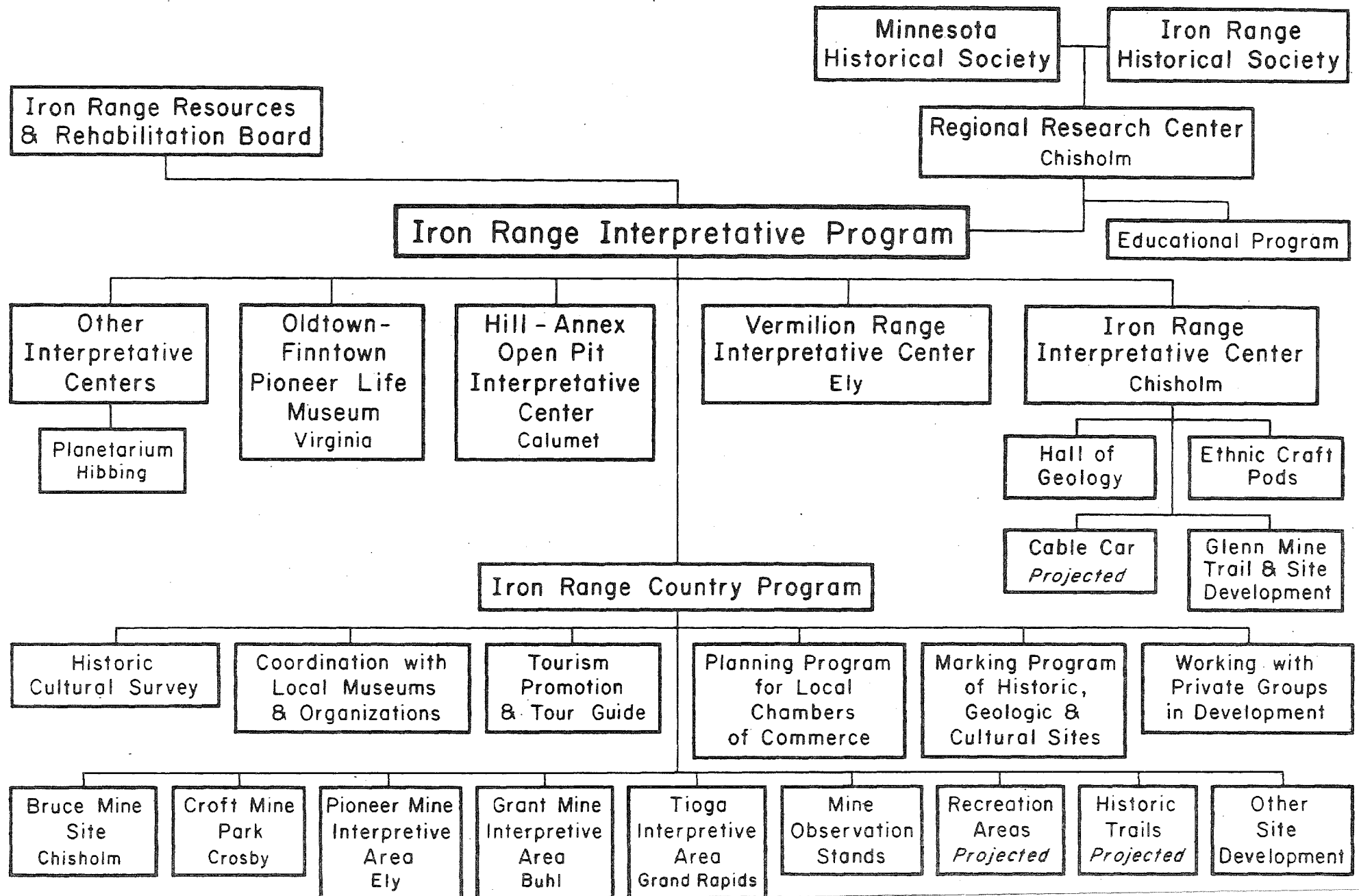
5. Motorbus Transportation Center: Hibbing

Commemorating Hibbing as the birthplace of the motorbus industry, displaying early coaches and buses and tied in with Hibbing downtown development.

6. Grace, A Living Arts Center: Bovey

Commemorating the nationally known photograph Grace and providing displays of Iron Range artists and photographers and providing space for seminars and workshops in art.

EXISTING IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM 1979



**IRON RANGE COUNTRY
PROGRAM**

IRON RANGE COUNTRY PROGRAM

The very heart of the entire interpretative program's major approach to regional development lies with the "Iron Range Country Program". Its major aspects have already been established by law, M. Statutes 1077, Section 298.22, Subdivision 1:

(4) In recognition of the unique combination of cultural, geographical, industrial, historical, recreational, and scenic characteristics of Minnesota's Iron Ranges, the "Iron Range Trail" program is hereby established on the Vermilion, Mesabi and Cuyuna iron ranges and at related points on Lake Superior. The Commissioner shall establish, develop and maintain those places of interest under his jurisdiction and control, for the purposes specified in this subdivision. The area shall be developed to coordinate places of interest between the ranges. The Commissioner, in cooperation with other state agencies, local governments and private organizations and individuals shall mark and, where necessary, interpret places of cultural, geological, industrial, historical, recreational, and scenic interest. In cooperation with state and local road authorities, local governments, and private organizations and individuals, the Commissioner also shall mark access, where available, to those places of interest from public roads and highways. The Commissioner may acquire by gift or purchase necessary easements and related interest in and across lands needed for development. The Commissioner also may enter into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the operator or the owner of active or inactive mine areas and with the person having the right of possession thereof for the use and development of these areas for the "Iron Range Trail" program. The Commissioner may develop, maintain, and operate such areas or may enter into contracts with third parties for the development, maintenance or operation of the areas. If the Commissioner enters into such a contract with a third party, the contract shall provide that the operator, owner and any person entitled to possession or control of the area shall be held harmless and indemnified by the third party from and against any and all claims for injuries or damage to person or property, from such use or development. Nothing in this section prohibits a person from asserting any claim for alleged damages which may be presented to the Legislature commission on claims pursuant to sections 3.732 to 3.84.

At the joint request of the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation in 1978, the Governor by executive order transferred the powers and duties of the Iron Range Trail from the DNR to the IRRRB.

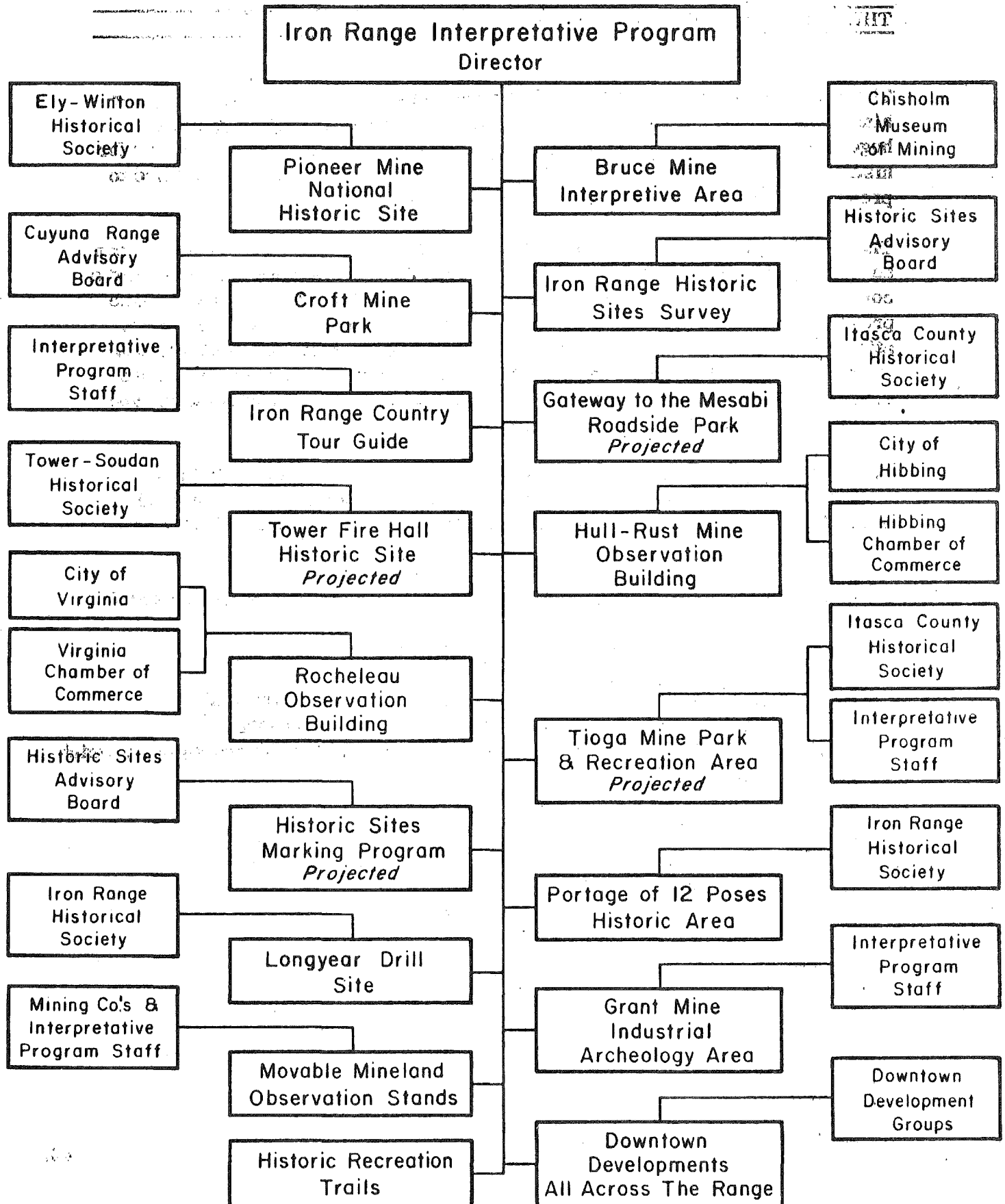
This is a logical step in keeping with all the accomplishments made by the Iron Range Interpretative Program in establishing, designating and developing sites of historic, geologic, scenic, industrial and recreational significance. It is now necessary that the order be upheld.

In order that confusion be avoided between area recreational trails and the Iron Range Trail program as established in M.S. 1977, Sec. 198.22, it is recommended that the term "trail" be dropped and the term "country" replace it. Thus, the program will be known as the "Iron Range Country" program. It is intended that legislation be sought to make this change.

The Iron Range Country Program not only establishes a network of sites of interest across northeast Minnesota, but allows the advancement of coordination between groups of the public and private sectors in such ventures as promotion, downtown development, and other forms of economic promotion for the area.

Organizational Chart

IRON RANGE COUNTRY PROGRAM



THE CROFT MINE HISTORICAL PARK

The tall stack of the old Croft Mine has been a landmark in the Crosby area for almost seventy years. A part of the old system of underground mining, the huge stack from the engine house and nearby dry house made a unique setting for historical interpretation. A historical park of 179 acres is being established to preserve and display these interesting ruins.

The property was acquired by the State in 1978 to demonstrate how wasteland can be developed for public use. The mining remnants are now being stabilized and a complete program of historic interpretation is being planned around them. The program features displays and descriptions of Cuyuna mining, early transportation, Croft Mine ore, mine productivity, sand hogs, subsidence, underground drifts, timber shafts, and other aspects of the industry. Truly, this is a spectacular piece of mining industrial archaeology, one worthy of preservation, and close to the hearts of the people of Crosby.

The park not only preserves a part of the Cuyuna Range's heritage, but also encourages tourist traffic to the community. There is a strong base of local support for the project and a Cuyuna Range advisory board is hard at work promoting this development.

When completed the Croft Mine Historical Park will serve five major purposes:

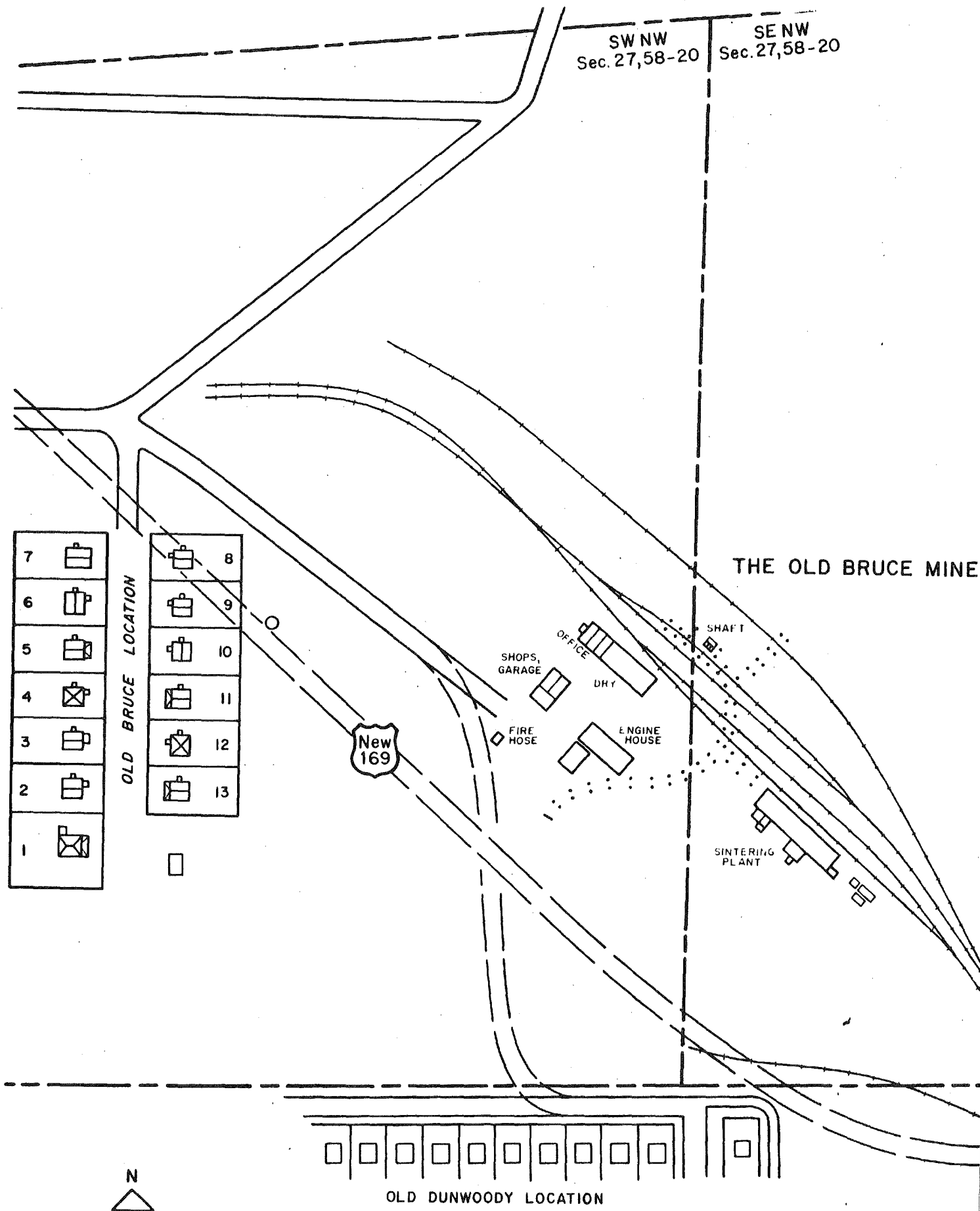
1. An interpretive area for the Cuyuna Range
2. A major Minnesota historic landmark.
3. A regional cultural area for Crosby, Deerwood and Ironton.
4. A tourist information center for all northeast Minnesota.
5. A catalyst for broadening the economic base of Crosby and vicinity, which is much needed in that area.

BRUCE MINE HEADFRAME - CHISHOLM

The Bruce Headframe remains today as one of the last vestiges of the kind of underground mining that once flourished on the Mesabi Range. Located near Chisholm, Minnesota, the old mine was operated by International Harvester Company and in 1925 this company constructed a tall, riveted, steel headframe over their shaft so that crews, timber, and ore skips could be lowered and raised from drifts far below the surface of the earth. When high silica ore was found in the mine, a very unique sintering plant was added to the complex - the only such plant on the Mesabi to handle underground ores.

An industrial archaeological preservation effort was initiated by the Iron Range Interpretative Program, and foundations of the mine's engine house, shops, dry-house and sintering plant were exposed for interpretation. Simultaneously, a team of researchers was put to work gathering the details of the mine's operation and interviewing long retired miners who worked there. As a result, the headframe was recognized as a valuable piece of industrial archaeology and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Through cooperation with the United States Steel Corporation, easements were secured across their properties so that an approach could be made to the site. Now, the construction of a parkway, service road and walkway is in the making and an interpretive brochure is being developed for distribution to tourists. The installation of interpretive signage, landscaping and picnic tables will make this a pleasant rest for travelers and add significantly to the total tourism impact of the region.



PIONEER MINE - ELY

The Pioneer Mine building and "A" headframe are the last such structures remaining on the Vermilion Iron Range with the exception of the buildings and structures of the Soudan Mine. The mine, which opened in the 1880's, is the first mine to operate in the Ely area. It produced ore with two shafts from depths of up to 1,700 feet until it finally closed in 1967.

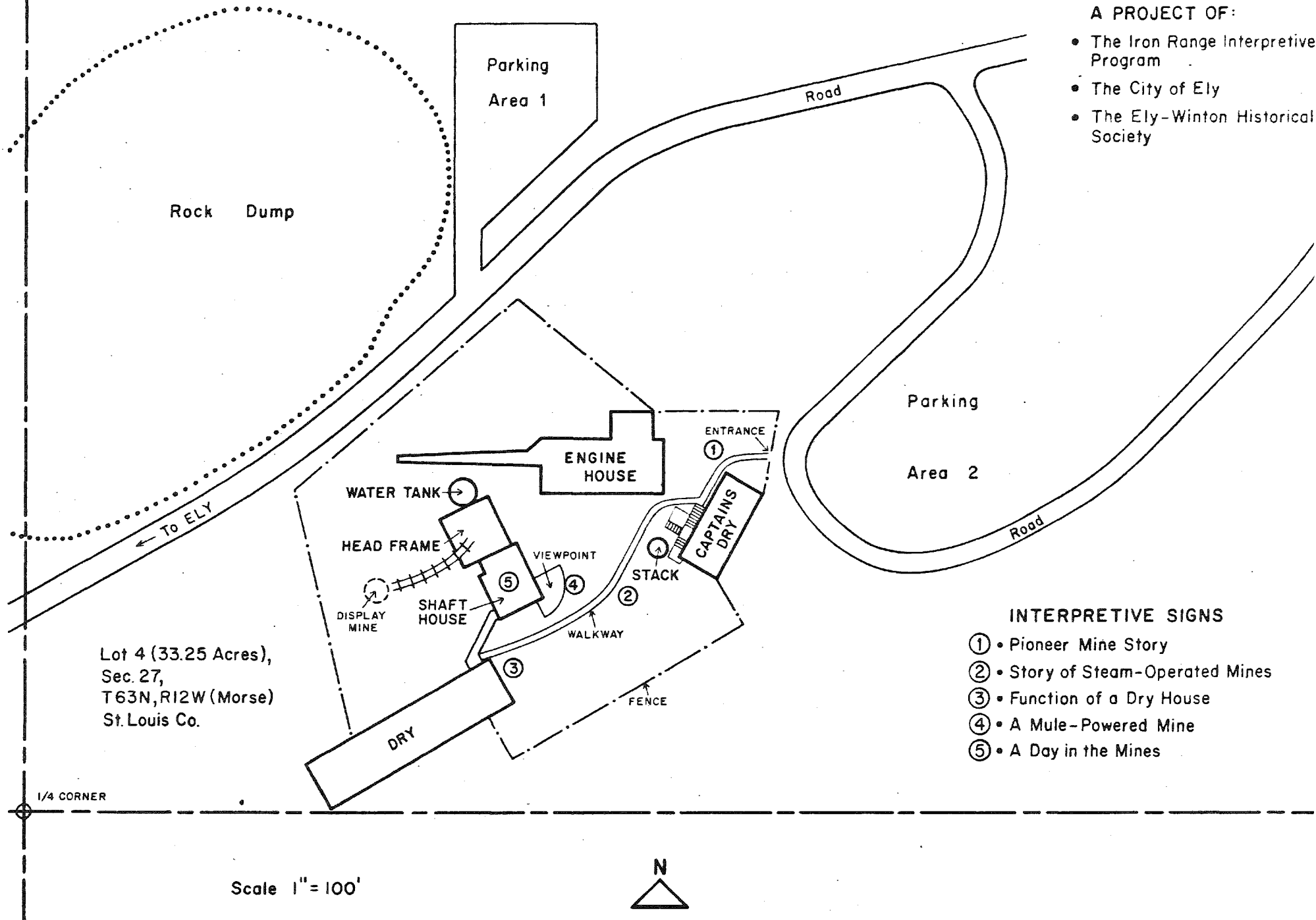
The headframe is typical of the kind used all across the region, and is one of two still standing on the Vermilion Range. The yellow brick captain's dryhouse, engine house and smoke stack date from the turn of the century and are some of the oldest structures to be seen in the area.

The project involves the city of Ely, owner of the mine, the Ely-Winton Historical Society and the Iron Range Interpretative Program. Research has identified the mine building as a major State historical resource. It is expected that these surface buildings will make an ideal addition to Iron Range Country and provide an alternative experience for tourists in the Ely-Winton area of Minnesota.

THE PIONEER MINE INTERPRETIVE AREA

A PROJECT OF:

- The Iron Range Interpretive Program
- The City of Ely
- The Ely-Winton Historical Society



INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

- ① • Pioneer Mine Story
- ② • Story of Steam-Operated Mines
- ③ • Function of a Dry House
- ④ • A Mule-Powered Mine
- ⑤ • A Day in the Mines

MINE OVERLOOKS AND INTERPRETATIVE OBSERVATION STANDS

INTRODUCTION

The Mesabi Range has earned international acclaim for its vast deposits of iron ore. For almost ninety years it has played a vital role in America's industrial development, national defense, and in improving the standard of living for people of many nations. It can truly be said that parts of the region are scattered across the globe—in buildings, rails, and bridges, — and the wreckage of planes and war equipment lying rusting on half-forgotten battlefields or ships lying at the bottom of the sea.

Today the pits remain, beautiful and vast, testimony to the tremendous energy expended in shaping America's industrial destiny. They are a delight to tourists. People see beauty in their man-carved walls, and are curious about their story. It is time a coordinated attempt is made to allow people access to their beauty and story.

A series of mine observation stands, interpreting the story of Mesabi mining, some permanent, some temporary, should be constructed at abandoned and active mines.

The establishment of an organized system of mine overlooks featuring interpretive materials, improvements in landscape design and color schemes, and community and industry involvement is an essential part of "Iron Range Country". An important feature of the mine overlook system is the relationship of each unit to the mine, to other units and to the Iron Range as a whole.

Two kinds of mine overlooks are needed:

1. An interpretive observation structure which includes space for the following:
 - a. Summer guide service
 - b. Distribution of materials on all aspects of the Iron Range (pamphlets, brochures, printed matter, etc.)
 - c. An interpretation of the mine and its significance
 - d. Rest room facilities

Programs of usage for these structures will be coordinated with activities of community tourism groups.

2. A movable observation stand that can be set up at short notice to observe special activities in mining. A program of usage will be planned for these stands.

All stands will be built to be moved as mining advances. The following places are fitting sites for placement of interpretive observation structures:

1.	Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mine	Hibbing	Mesabi Range
2.	Rouchleau Complex	Virginia	Mesabi Range
3.	Hill Annex Mine	Calumet	Mesabi Range
4.	View of Butler Taconite Plant	Cooley	Mesabi Range
5.	Reserve Mining Observation Area	Silver Bay	North Shore
6.	Erie Mining Company Plant	Hoyt Lakes	Nesabi Range

Movable observation stands can be placed anywhere activity dictates, but the following sites are accessible and fit well into plans:

1.	Sherman Mine	Chisholm	Mesabi Range
2.	Lind-Greenway Mine	Coleraine	Mesabi Range
3.	U.S. Steel Operations	Mt. Iron	Mesabi Range
4.	Mt. Iron National Landmark	Mt. Iron	Mesabi Range
5.	Eveleth Taconite Operation	Eveleth	Mesabi Range
6.	At the top of a mine dump	Crosby	Cuyuna Range

Previous studies indicate that observation stands and overlooks of mining activities attract more visitors than other Iron Range attractions. ³ Therefore, special efforts are needed to assure that high standards of design appearance, operation, and maintenance are inherent in each.

Plans for 1979 include:

1. The design of the two types of observation structure
 - a. Interpretive observation structure
 - b. Movable observation stand
2. The construction of two observation structures

THE HULL-RUST-MAHONING MINE

This site has been designated a national historic landmark and at present the site is in deplorable condition. Visitors to the Range can only have a disappointing experience viewing what is considered the largest open pit hematite operation in the world.

3 Iron Range Interpretative Program, A Report to the Legislature, 1971 prepared for the MN Department of Economic Development.

The following agreement has been worked out:

1. The city of Hibbing will secure a lease on the approach to the site and on the area in which the interpretive viewing structure will be built.
2. The Hibbing Chamber of Commerce will operate and maintain the facility.
3. I. R. R. R. B. will plan and construct the facility
4. I. R. R. R. B. Interpretative Program will train and supply a summer guide as part of its summer work program.
5. I. R. R. R. B.'s Interpretative Program will make the site part of its national program of promotion.

THE ROUCHLEAU MINE

There is not a more spectacular view of mining and surrounding country than from the top of the mountain of overburden overlooking the Rouchleau Mine. Its location is just off Highway #53, a major tourist route to the north.

The following agreement has been work out:

1. The city of Virginia will maintain and operate the facility
2. The city of Virginia will secure a lease to the approach and site.
3. I. R. R. R. B. will plan and construct the facility
4. I. R. R. R. B.'s Interpretative Program will train and supply a summer guide to work in the facility.
5. I. R. R. R. B.'s Interpretative Program will make the site part of its national program of promotion.

If the two mine view points are successful, a number of movable stands will be built for use in 1980.

HISTORIC TRAILS

Minnesota's Iron Range Country is unquestionably an area of tremendous historic, geological and natural interest. It is one vast outdoor museum filled with countless possibilities for discovery and adventure. It is fitting, therefore, to begin looking into the possibilities of combining hiking, canoeing, and cross country skiing with visitation to sites of geologic significances, scenic views and historic sites that are off the beaten path - sights that would not normally be visited by the average passer-by.

Historic trails combining hiking, canoe and skiing can provide an opportunity for the young, - the adventuresome to discover places seldom seen by the average traveler. A summer hike would allow one to study first hand the effects of the glacier on the area. An example of this kind of trail is the suggested "Beyond the Ranges Trail into the Past" described in A Report to the Department of Natural Resources on the Historic and Cultural Aspects of the Vermilion, Cuyuna, and Mesabi Ranges, 1977.

"Along this trail one would hike or ski through boulder strewn country and tall white pine forests that still line the north slope of the Mesabi, cross the historic Vermilion Trail of 1861, and see the Embarrass River plunging into Sabin Lake - both bear names which date back to a time before there ever was a United States of America. Here could be viewed the remains of 19th century paths so ancient that they were old even when the Ojibway arrived in the region."

This type of adventure could be developed through self-guided tours originating from the Iron Range Interpretative Center and could be promoted through the Iron Range Country Program.

This approach to Iron Range Country is only in its initial planning phases, but has much potential for capturing the interest of a substantial segment of the State and Nation populace.

MT. ITASCA WINTER RECREATION AREA - GRAND RAPIDS

An old mine stockpile is to be converted into a winter tubing area (sliding on inner tubes) adjoining the existing Mt. Itasca ski area. This involves reshaping the overburden stockpile to provide for proper sloping. The area will be hydro-mulched and landscaped. A building will be constructed on the site to provide for storage of equipment, warming facilities and concessions. The old mine stockpile will then provide a family-type winter activity. Promotion will be through the "Iron Range Country Program".

HIBBING WINTER RECREATION AREA

An old mine stockpile adjoins land being acquired by the Joint Recreation Board for winter recreation. A tubing area is to be developed on this stockpile, providing family winter recreation for the Hibbing area. A building will be constructed that will be similar to that at Mt. Itasca and managed and maintained by the Joint Recreation Board. Promotion of the site will be through the "Iron Range Country Program".

TIOGA MINE - GRAND RAPIDS

Revegetation has and is being established around this once completely denuded mining area near Grand Rapids. The old mine pit has been filled with beautiful clear water in which have been planted trout. Some early attempts at reclaiming abandoned mines were organized by locals, sometimes spontaneously.

This is an ideal place to tell the story of mineland reclamation, and it can be told simply with tasteful signs, trails and viewpoints. It is here that the mineland reclamation story can be preserved as part of the "Iron Range Country". A three-phase development program will be launched in July, 1979. Developments include keeping one area completely barren, partially developing another, and fully developing a third using the water-filled pit as a lake and developing a beach along one side. Picnic tables and a hiking trail to various areas will complete the project.

COORDINATION WITH LOCAL MUSEUMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Seven local museums are located within the area of the Iron Range Interpretative Program. They are:

1. The St. Louis County Historical Museum - Heritage and Arts Center, Duluth.
2. Lake County Museum - Two Harbors
3. Itasca County Museum - Grand Rapids
4. Abrahamson Museum - Tower
5. Minnesota Museum of Mining - Chisholm
6. Cuyuna Range Museum - Crosby
7. Hibbing Museum - Hibbing

Along with this, two major museum facilities are also located in the area:

1. Voyageur's Center - Ely, U.S. Forest Service
2. Forest History Center - Grand Rapids, Minnesota Historical Society

Of the local museums, the Minnesota Museum of mining possesses the greatest collection of significant artifacts and the greatest potential for helping to interpret the story of the Iron Range. It is a privately run facility and is open during the summer months. An admission fee is charged and present collections include a wealth of mining equipment, displays and related items. Some of the materials on display have absolutely no relationship to the Iron Range story. The materials are not put together in an organized way and display techniques are weak. The other local museums are extremely limited. This does not mean that they are not interesting places. However, because of low operating budgets, these groups have not been able to develop interpretive techniques that are worthy of their collections.

The Interpretative Program should relate to local museums in this way:

1. Help them to obtain grants to improve their interpretations.
2. Provide the technical help much needed for improvement.
3. Develop a closer liaison with the leadership elements to eventually achieve more comprehensive interpretation and provide an increased number of experiences for area people.

Of the two major museum facilities, it is recommended that joint programs of promotion be worked out on a cooperative basis. Both of these two facilities are quality productions and well worthy of anything being done in the Iron Range Interpretative Program

GRANT MINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION - BUHL

Probably no undertaking was ever more commented on by mining men than the grab system of open pit mining established at the Grant Mine near Buhl in 1907. A gigantic clamshell-like device was invented to dig ore from the ground and people came from miles around just to see it operate. The remains of the operation are still there and should be preserved for posterity just as they are now. Around the remains, a park is planned featuring the story of how nature reclaims the land. A series of interesting naturally revegetated mine dumps surround the ruin, and it possesses great potential for arousing the curiosities of travelers.

A parking lot next to a picnic area is planned. Connected to this is a nature trail called "Man's Imprint on the Land", dealing with modern day problems of ecology. A secondary story describing how nature can sometimes defeat man's most ingenious inventions will be developed around the ruins of the old grab system ended in utter failure and bankruptcy in 1910.

IRON RANGE COUNTRY TOUR GUIDE

A guide to "Iron Range Country" has been developed under the direction of the Iron Range Interpretative Program. This guidebook of approximately three hundred pages filled with descriptions, essays, maps, drawings and photographs is designed to motivate people to visit the Interpretative Centers and all elements of the Iron Range Country Program. It will be sold to the public at the Iron Range Interpretative Center, the Forest History Center, the Vermilion Range Interpretative Center and at other places in Minnesota, and all costs should be recovered.

It is expected to go to the printers in the Spring of 1979 and should be ready for distribution during the 1979 tourist season. It is a well-written, well-designed and attractive production of quality in keeping with all Iron Range Interpretative efforts.

IRON RANGE HISTORICAL-CULTURAL SURVEY

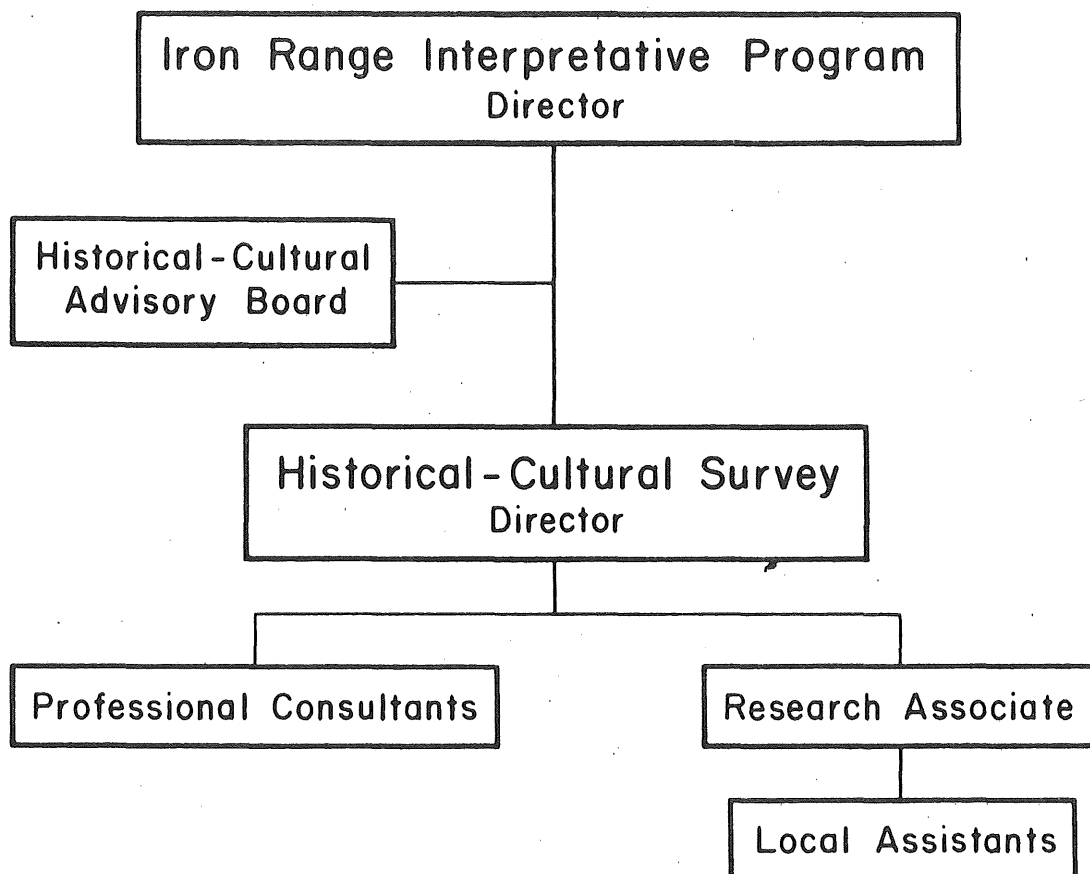
The Iron Range Historical-Cultural Survey was designed and funded to accomplish four major goals:

1. To provide an inventory of historic resources (i.e. structures, groups of structures, artifacts and areas) that exist on the Iron Range and information about their significance, condition, and ownership status.
2. To gather pertinent facts and resource materials on the history of the Iron Range and surrounding country so that criteria for assessing significance can be established for future planning and interpretation.
3. Promote interest in future efforts at conservation and development of regional historic resources.
4. To help develop more sound methods and sounder practices for the statewide preservation program, to achieve greater productivity per tax dollar expended and to obtain a more lasting and valuable product.

The Iron Range Historical-Cultural Survey, jointly sponsored by the Iron Range Interpretative Program, I.R.R.R.B., and the Minnesota Historical Society, is unique in several ways:

1. The scope of the project area crosses many civil and county boundaries. Ninety-eight percent of surveys conducted nationwide are restricted by such boundaries, leading to great inefficiencies, waste, and duplication of efforts.
2. The history of people is a basic criteria for assessing significance. Although architecture is important to the survey, it is not the only criteria being considered. Ninety-nine percent of such surveys nationwide are more concerned with buildings than the people who use them.
3. The survey directly involves the local community as well as professional historians. Therefore, unlike surveys conducted elsewhere, the populace is afforded a major voice in the definition of their legacy.

Organizational Chart
HISTORICAL - CULTURAL SURVEY
1978-79



MARKING PROGRAM

When the Historical-Cultural Survey is completed in October 1979, a number of Iron Range sites, structures, buildings and areas will be designated as part of the Iron Range Country Program. They should be marked and coordinated with an Iron Range Country Tour Guide. Local organizations and Chambers of Commerce will be encouraged to develop tours of the towns and surrounding region. A pilot tour project is now being developed in the Hibbing area by the Hibbing Chamber of Commerce in close cooperation with the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS

Private development should be encouraged, but the Iron Range Regional Development Plan summarizes well some dangers involved:

"Every effort should be made to avoid 'tourist traps' which are often attracted to scenes of natural beauty and historic preservation efforts. At the present time, the region has but one imported shell business with one or two caged bears for an attraction and one children's 'fairy-land'. Under consideration are several tourist stopping projects including a giant moose, a mountain sized four-faced figure, a jungle of plastic prehistoric animals and a 40 foot iron miner. Sponsors should realize how much authentic culture there is to promote." ⁴

There are a great many commercial developments that can result out of providing tourists alternatives to the wilderness experience in the region. Some downtown development schemes could be coordinated with elements of the Iron Range Interpretative Program, such as tying the Motorbus Center concept with Hibbing downtown development. They should be explored further.

4 Iron Range Regional Development Plan

OTHER SITE DEVELOPMENT - IRON RANGE COUNTRY

Out of the vast number of sites being identified to play a role in the Iron Range Country Program, it is estimated that no more than forty will be eventually recognized as national historic places. A larger number will undoubtedly be placed on the national register of significant industrial sites and still more are destined to become part of the nation's heritage of industrial archaeology.

As far as the Iron Range Country Program is concerned, a large number of these entities will not be developed beyond simple marking and promotion through tour guide service. However, a few stand as candidates for future development. They are:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Section Thirty Industrial Remains | Ely |
| 2. | Inter-Urban Streetcar Buildings | Virginia |
| 3. | Marvelous Mesabi Gateway | Coleraine |
| 4. | The Milford Mine | Crosby |
| 5. | Prehistoric Burial Mounds | Biwabik |
| 6. | Adams Mining Camp | Eveleth |
| 7. | Steamboat Landing | Grand Rapids |
| 8. | Babbitt Sinter Plant | Babbitt |

**MINELAND RECLAMATION
PROGRAM**

MINELAND RECLAMATION

A major aspect of the Iron Range Interpretative Program is mineland reclamation. I.R.R.R.B. has been charged with the responsibility of finding positive uses for wasteland produced by iron mining and enhancing other areas adversely affected by mining and changing mining technology. It is well established that mining has converted vast areas of the Iron Range into a "no-man's-land" of crumbling mining structures, debris, abandoned pits and eroded heaps of unusable lean ore and overburden. At the same time, rapidly changing mining technology left in its wake a string of mining towns of varying degrees of economic stability and aesthetic appeal.

When discussing "mineland reclamation" it is important to make a distinction between Department of Natural Resources Reclamation involving present mining and Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Reclamation involving past mining. These are two completely different approaches to mineland reclamation. While the DNR faces modern problems of fencing, sloping, revegetation, rules and regulations, I.R.R.R.B. is charged with the responsibility of finding ways to use for the public good, wasteland created sometimes by long defunct mining companies.

Mineland reclamation as a form of environmental protection is relatively new to the country. Little really has been done in the field, except in the narrow area of attempting to restore previously existing environments. The Department of Interior is extremely interested in expanding reclamation to meet greater and more immediate public needs.

It is important to note a statement of policy by the 95th Congress in its Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, which reads in part:

Sec. 101: "Many surface mining operations result in disturbances of surface areas that burden and adversely affect commerce and the public welfare by destroying and diminishing the utility of land for commercial, industrial, residential, recreational, cultural and forestry properties..." (The thrust of the act as stated in its entirety is to counter-effect a long series of negative effects including those stated).

It is important at this early stage of development that I.R.R.R.B.'s approach to environmental protection and mineland reclamation be bold and broad. The following definition of reclamation should be at the heart of all future reclamation endeavors:

RECLAIM: To rescue from an undesirable state.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

Along with this, all approaches to reclamation should be from this viewpoint.

The whole environmental protection fund charged to I.R.R.R.B. is as stated in MS 1977, Sec. 20, 298.23:

"A fund...created for the purpose of reclaiming, restoring and enhancing those areas of northeast Minnesota adversely affected by the environmentally damaging operations involved in mining taconite and iron ore..."

The following purposes are among those set by law:

1. To initiate investigations into matters the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board determines are in need of study and which will determine the environmental problems requiring action.
2. Reclamation, restoration or reforestation of mineland not otherwise provided for by State law.
3. Local economic development projects including sewer and water systems, and other public works.

Upon setting directions for reclamation, restoration and determining environmental problems, it is important to note that Bryon Starns, Chief Deputy Attorney General, State of Minnesota, received a request from Russell Fridley, State Historic Preservation, in January, 1978, to review the status of Minnesota's historical resources.

Deputy Attorney General Starns stated as follows:

"Historical resources are unquestionably included with the definition of natural and environmental resources under Minnesota law."

He specifically cited:

1. MS 1978, Chapter 1160.02, Subd. 2, d

"Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity, and a variety of individual choice.

2. MS. 1963, 78 Chapter 86.02 (Omnibus Natural Resources Act)

"Such resources include, but without limitation, forests, parks, historic sites, wildlife areas, access to an improvement of lakes, rivers, streams, scenic areas and camping grounds."

With this ruling, historic survey, historic preservation, cultural resources, scenic development, historic resources would all qualify as forms of environmental protection. Therefore, the use of mineland reclamation environmental protection funds for the kinds of developments being promoted by the Iron Range Interpretative Program is, indeed, proper and fitting.

ABSTRACTS

IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM - PROGRESS ABSTRACT: 1977-78

1. All exhibits completed at the Iron Range Interpretative Center. (Exhibit Designer: J. Wetzel, Assoc., Boston. Construction: General Exhibits and Displays, Chicago.)
2. An Iron Range Interpretative Program planning staff was organized. (Weekly meetings held through 1977-78.)
3. Establishment of a public listening area and an Oral History Library at the Iron Range Interpretative Center.
4. Completion of construction of a Hall of Geology as an extension of the Iron Range Interpretative Center. Architect: Architectural Resources, Hibbing. Contractor: Concraft Builders, Inc., Hibbing.
5. Completion of design for all displays for the Hall of Geology. Iron Range Interpretative Center. Designer: J. A. Wetzel Assoc., Boston. Consultant: Dr. Henry Lepp, Macalester College.
6. Completion of a preliminary hiking trail to mine views of the Glen Mine at the Iron Range Interpretative Center.
7. All planning completed and construction begun on an Iron Range Regional Research Library. Architect: Thomas and Vecchi, Duluth. Contractor: Max Gray Lumber & Construction, Inc., Hibbing.
8. Preliminary agreement reached between the Iron Range Interpretative Program, Minnesota Historical Society and the Iron Range Historical Society over management of the Regional Research Library as part of Minnesota's system of collecting centers.
9. Architectural planning completed and construction begun on four ethnic craft pods (Phase 1) to be added to the Iron Range Interpretative Center. Architect: Architectural Resources, Hibbing. Contractor: Ray Risberg, Inc., Duluth.
10. All planning completed for two more sets of ethnic pods (four each) to be added to the Iron Range Interpretative Center. Architect: Architectural Resources, Hibbing.

11. All planning completed for a cable car to cross the Glen Mine from the Iron Range Interpretative Center to Glenn Location, a ghost town. Architect: Architectural Resources, Hibbing.
12. 80% planning completed to construct a convention/performing art center in the vicinity of the Iron Range Interpretative Center.
13. A purchase of mining property near Crosby, Minnesota, for the purpose of establishing a park-outdoor museum featuring the industrial archaeology remaining from the days of the old Croft Mine.
14. An oral history program launched on the Cuyuna. Major purpose to gather reminiscences of the days of underground mining on the Cuyuna.
15. Planning begun for the Croft Mine Park, Crosby, Minnesota. Architect: Amenity One, St. Paul.
16. The concept of an Iron Range Country Program developed to be a major functioning arm of the Iron Range Interpretative Program. It is to be developed as an expanded version of the Iron Range Trail Program set up by the State Legislature.
17. A tourguide developed featuring historical, cultural, scenic, geological and recreational aspects of Iron Range Country. Consultant: Midwest Visuals, Brimson. (This is ready to go to the printers in 1979.)
18. Agreement reached between the Department of Natural Resources and I.R.R.R.B. that control and management of the Iron Range Trail be turned over to the Commissioner of I.R.R.R.B. The Commissioner then would ask for legislation in the 1979 session to have the name changed to Iron Range Country. A joint memo is sent to the Governor asking for the change.
19. An intensive historical-cultural survey is begun to fully define "Iron Range Country" and identify sites of significance across the three Ranges. I.R.R.R.B. received a Federal grant to help pay the cost. Surveyors: Dr. Joseph Stipanovich, Ms. Catherine Rukavina.
20. By executive order, the Iron Range Trail becomes the responsibility of I.R.R.R.B.
21. Planning completed to make the Bruce Mine headframe, Chisholm, part of the "Iron Range Country Program".

22. The Bruce Mine headframe is accepted as a candidate for the National Register of Historic Places.
23. First preservation work completed for the Bruce Mine headframe by I. R. R. B. 's summer work program.
24. Planning completed to make the Pioneer Mine, Ely, part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
25. Preservation study for the Pioneer Mine completed.
26. First preservation work completed for the Pioneer Mine by I. R. R. B. summer work program.
27. Pioneer Mine accepted as a candidate for the National Register of Historic Places.
28. The Finnish Temperance Hall, Virginia, is accepted as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
29. The Finnish Temperance Hall is accepted as a candidate for the National Register of Historic Places.
30. An Oldtown for Virginia is accepted as an "outdoor-pioneer like museum" for the Iron Range Interpretative Program.
31. An Oldtown-Finntown committee is organized to plan an oldtown business street in Virginia's Finntown area.
32. The Oldtown-Finntown committee receives an initial grant for organization from the Iron Range Historical Society.
33. To Oldtown-Finntown committee receives a preliminary planning grant from the Minnesota Historical Society.
34. The Oldtown-Finntown committee joins with Virginia's Downtown Development Committee in an economic feasibility study for the city.
35. The Oldtown-Finntown committee received a major planning grant from the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission. A consultant was hired to work with the Oldtown committee to plan the project. Consultant: Townscape, Inc., Medina, Ohio.

36. A Vermilion Range Interpretative Center to be part of Ely's planned Cultural Center is accepted as part of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.
37. A planning committee is organized to plan the interior of the Vermilion Interpretative Center.
38. Hibbing Community College Planetarium is accepted on a cooperative basis to be part of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.
39. A combined geologist-planetarium director is hired jointly by Hibbing Community College and I.R.R.R.B. to spearhead work on the Hall of Geology, Iron Range Interpretative Center, and on the planetarium.
40. I.R.R.R.B. makes major funding contributions to the Hibbing planetarium.
41. A major publicity campaign program is established for the Iron Range Interpretative Center. Consultant: JFP Associates, Duluth.
42. A public information program is begun for the Iron Range Interpretative Program. Consultant: JFP Associates, Duluth.
43. The Iron Range Educational Program is expanded to two four-credit courses:
 - a. A General History of the Iron Range
 - b. The Immigrant Experience on the Iron Range
44. Curriculum materials are planned to make the Iron Range Interpretative Center an extended classroom of public schools.
45. A winter lecture series is planned for the Iron Range Interpretative Center to begin in 1979.
46. A major mineland reclamation program is launched to experiment with revegetation on public minelands, to find uses for abandoned mine areas, and to preserve historic landmarks and industrial archaeology on the three mining districts as part of the Iron Range Country Program.
47. The concept of historic-recreational hiking trails is accepted as part of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.
48. Long range planning is begun for the "Iron Range Country Program."

49. The concept of mining observation areas is added to the "Iron Range Country Program".
50. An architect is hired to make plans for two kinds of observation stands:
 - a. Permanent
 - b. Temporary

Consultant:
Thomas and Vecchi, Architects
Duluth, MN
51. The concept of an open pit mine interpretive area is accepted to become a part of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.
52. I.R.R.R.B. acquires the Hill-Annex Mine from Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation to be developed into a major interpretive facility by the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

1979 GOALS FOR THE IRON RANGE INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAM

1. Completion of all displays and the Grand Opening of the Hall of Geology by summer, 1979.
2. Completion of construction and interior for the Iron Range Regional Research Center by early fall, 1979.
3. Negotiation and acceptance of contracts by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Iron Range Historical Society to operate the Range facility as part of Minnesota's Regional Research System, summer, 1979.
4. Organization of a functioning advisory board for the Regional Research Center.
5. The development of a program of use and planning of interior for the four ethnic pods to be completed in the late summer of 1979.
6. The construction of Phase II, ethnic pods, to begin in the early fall of 1979.
7. The establishment of an over-all feasibility study to consider all aspects of the Interpretative Program. This will be used to seek further Federal funding for various components of the Iron Range Interpretative Program. A priority order of development should be established by this and a logical sequence of development followed. (Should be completed by early fall, 1979.)
8. Completion of the historic-cultural survey and demographic study to clearly define boundaries for the "Iron Range Country". The final identification of all places of significance for a site marking program to begin in the late fall of 1979.
9. Completion of the Croft Mine Park as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
10. Completion of the Pioneer Mine Park as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
11. A planning study to determine how to best present the Open Pit Interpretive Area to the public.
12. Preservation work and restoration of the industrial remains at the Hill Annex Mine.

13. Development of the Tioga Mine, Grand Rapids, as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
14. Development of the Grant Mine Park at Buhl as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
15. Development of an interpretive observation structure at the Hull-Rust Mine as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
16. Printing and distribution of the Iron Range Country Tour Guide as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
17. Development of an interpretive observation structure at the Rouchleau Mine as part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
18. Development and promotion of all mineland reclamation projects.
19. Expansion and diversification of uses for the Iron Range Interpretative Center.
20. The promotion of Interpretative Centers in other areas, according to priority.
21. The feasibility of acquisition of Section 30 properties at Ely be studied with the idea of making the property part of the "Iron Range Country Program".
22. Appropriate legislation to place responsibilities for the Iron Range Trail with the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and to have the name changed to "Iron Range Country".
23. The expansion of the Iron Range Educational Program to include a family and neighborhood course and a folklore course. This will make four four-credit courses for Iron Range people.
24. Acquisition of properties to develop the Oldtown in Virginia.
25. Completion of preliminary planning for Virginia's Oldtown.
26. The development of a methodical approach to obtain funding for Virginia's Oldtown.
27. Construction of the Vermilion Cultural and Interpretative Center.
28. The completion of a master plan for the entire Interpretative Complex at the Glen-Pillsbury property.

29. An active program to seek outside funding sources for all aspects of the program.
30. The development of as much of the Iron Range Interpretative Center complex as funding will allow.
31. A strong nationwide promotion of all aspects of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.
32. Increasing assistance to local groups, societies, chambers of commerce, to promote tourism and broaden the economic base of the Iron Range.
33. Seek and obtain a clear ruling on environmental protection, particularly in the areas of historic preservation and economic development.
34. The development of a trails system combining the best in hiking, canoeing and cross country skiing with unique geologic, historical, natural history and scenic sites.
35. Meetings and liaison with all entities involved in similar undertakings, especially funding sources including, but not limited to, the Department of Interior, HUD, the Community Development Block Grant Program, the National Trust, the Smithsonian Institution, the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, and Minnesota Humanities Commission.
36. The development of a strong organized publicity, promotion and public relations program.

ADDENDUM A

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS IN 1970

Major Interpretative Site

In order to bring interested tourists into the heart of the region served by the Iron Range Trail system, a major interpretative center of "star attraction" should be developed at or near the site of the existing Minnesota Museum of Mining at Chisholm, Minnesota. Preliminary investigation indicates that this strategic site has great potential to become a major tourist attraction which might include such features as:

1. Displays of modern mining equipment such as 200 ton dumptrucks that visitors could view close-up
2. Working scale models of taconite plants, etc.
3. A passenger tramway or similar device that could carry visitors across an open pit mine giving a bird's eye view of this spectacular "man-made landscape".
4. Jeep or miniature train tours through mining areas in coordination with plant tours, etc.
5. Multi-media audio-visual interpretation of Minnesota mining and the iron range regions.

Detailed proposals for the major interpretative site will be included in the final portions of this program.

Gateway Interpretative Centers

In order to divert visitor traffic and promote interest in the Iron Range Trail system, a series of gateway interpretative centers are proposed at such places as the following: 1) civic center, museum, information center complex being proposed for downtown Grand Rapids, 2) the Eveleth area along Highway 53, 3) the Thompson Hill information center being built by the Minnesota Highway Department in Duluth, and 4) other strategic locations.

Iron Range Trail Reorganization

Realizing that the present Iron Range Trail system was certainly not regarded as the final system, several changes are proposed in order to strengthen the overall impact of the Trail and to provide connecting links between its various segments. Some new sites are recommended while certain existing sites which have no relation to Iron Range Interpretation should be removed from designation as Iron Range Trail sites.

Guide Book and Brochure

An attractive but inexpensive brochure is proposed in order to inform the casual visitor of the attractions the region has to offer. For those visitors who are interested, a more detailed and comprehensive guidebook should also be developed. This guidebook could be offered for sale at a nominal fee and will include in-depth discussions of mining, geology, the region's history and cultural attractions as well as provide a comprehensive directory of tourist facilities, places of interest, etc.

Related Commercial Support Facilities

Great potential exists for developing commercial tourist operations related to the authentic lumbering, mining, and ethnic history or character of the region. By highlighting this potential, private entrepreneurs could fulfill an important need as well as integrate commercial attractions into the overall Iron Range Interpretative Program.

General Recreation Facilities

One of the greatest strengths of an expanded Iron Range Trail system is its location in the major resort and recreational lake region of the midwest. The Lake Superior circle route, Chippewa and Superior National Forests, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Isle Royale National Park, Grand Portage National Monument, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the proposed Voyageur's National Park are among the major tourist attractions of the region.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Few areas of Minnesota can claim as dramatic and significant historical backgrounds as the Iron Ranges. French voyageurs, early missionaries, explorers, surveyors, land speculators, lumberjacks, titans of finance and industry as well as laborers from the four corners of the world all played important roles in the development of this area.

An important part of the Iron Range Interpretative Program will be to focus attention on the historical and cultural aspects. Promotion and interpretation of historical attractions, ethnic foods, folk festivals, etc., can be important elements in expanding the tourist economy of northeastern Minnesota.

Geological Interpretation

Minnesota's Iron Ranges are geologically among the most complex in the world. Open pits and mine shafts have exposed the structure of the earth's crust as in few other places. Displays, guided tours, movies, guidebooks and other means should be used to effectively interpret the region's fascinating geological attractions. A variety of geological sites will be developed to suit the needs and interests of everyone from the casual visitor to the serious student. An Iron Range Trail guidebook should contain a major section on geological interpretation.

Present Iron Range Trail Markers

There are presently 38 Iron Range Trail markers in place. Thirteen of these markers are located at sites which do not necessarily fit into the overall scheme of the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

Recommendations for relocating a number of signs as well as establishing new sites are being prepared. Special emphasis will be given to the need for upgrading the displays and quality of brochures, as well as the knowledge and "sales techniques" of staff members who man many of the observation stands, tourist information centers, etc.

Mine Observation Stands

Existing mine observation overlook areas are located at sites of at least minimal interest. Access is usually good, and attendants are present at many sites.

Improvements needed center around such items as the need for better-trained personnel, more imaginative displays and interpretative techniques, dust control on access roads, better parking arrangements, and rest room facilities at major observation areas. Long range opportunities could include the establishment of overlook areas in conjunction with mine land reclamation efforts and the creation of a "super-observation stand" at a major overlook area such as "Viewpoint in the Sky". Detailed proposals are being prepared for the final report.

Tourist Information Centers

There is a general need for a more enlightened and sophisticated outlook on the part of local and regional chambers of commerce and other tourist promotion agencies. Too much of the existing tourist promotion ignores the unique facets of the Iron Range, an area which has nearly unlimited tourist potential. Such things as an annual seminar for tourist promotion personnel, information stand operators, etc., can do much to improve the level of area-wide promotional efforts.

Museums

Of the seven historical society museums within the study area, four are planning the construction of new facilities. Even though all of these agencies operate on extremely limited budgets and staffs, historical museums are very popular tourist attractions. The Lake County Museum at Two Harbors, for example, receives over 25,000 visitors annually.

Considerable potential exists for upgrading the quality of displays and interpretative techniques. Museums should no longer be regarded as merely collection agencies for old junk, but rather as places where the region's cultural and historical heritage can come alive.

Commercial Recreation Attractions

Places of historical significance, natural beauty or unique interest offer opportunities for the development of commercial recreation attractions which are consistent with the region's character. Minnesota's iron ranges have a great deal to offer without caged animals, giant plastic statues, and other similar attractions which have no relation to the region.

Visitor Survey

During late August a sample visitor survey was conducted at nine places across the Iron Range Trail. Although the sample was small, responses soon became repetitious and were consistent with the findings of previous studies and work currently underway.

Most of the groups interviewed were vacationing families with one to five children. They came primarily from Minnesota and other nearby midwestern states, the area Minnesota has traditionally drawn its tourist trade from.

A surprising number of visitors questioned had no definite goal for their trip but were merely traveling to "see what the area had to offer". These "aimless vacationers" represented an especially attractive target for the Iron Range Interpretative Program.

Visitors from other states were generally unaware of the location and extent of Minnesota's iron ranges, but expressed interest in learning about mining and in seeing related attractions. Many persons interviewed had stopped while traveling through the area. They often thought that once they had visited the Viewpoint in the Sky, for example, that they had seen the Range.

Nearly all the visitors expressed a liking for the beauty of northern Minnesota. Relatively few listed tourist attractions as drawing cards. Generally, they were getting away from disagreeable home area environments rather than being attracted to specific attractions. Such findings present a strong case for developing and promoting in a quality manner that which is unique and authentic.

Very few visitors expressed a dislike for anything in the area. Those that did were reacting to an unfavorable personal experience such as a poor meal or unsatisfactory accommodations.

Only a handful of visitors were aware of or had been following Iron Range Trail signs, and few had maps or brochures.

Generally, the findings of the survey indicated the increasing popularity of camping as a family activity as well as the fact that northeastern Minnesota is not a major tourist destination. Over 60% of the persons interviewed were staying in the area less than three days.

Surprisingly few came to specifically view mining activities, again emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and "total" approach to Iron Range Trail interpretation and promotion.

An overwhelming number of visitors indicated that they would probably return to northern Minnesota for another visit.

Special interviews were conducted at the Minnesota Museum of Mining at Chisholm and at the Tower-Soudan State Park in order to determine responses to various types of activities and exhibits offered.

Accommodations Survey

Based upon directories, guidebooks and other sources, a survey of accommodations was compiled. As might be expected and as pointed out in several earlier surveys, the overall quality of available accommodations are currently far below what they should be. Without a well-established accommodations base, no amount of tourist promotion, recreational facilities or anything else will keep visitors in the areas or bring them back for repeat visits.

The findings of this limited survey, which included motels, hotels, resorts and campgrounds, closely corresponded with earlier findings and other work now underway by such groups as the University of Minnesota. Complete results of other surveys now underway will be incorporated into the final report.

During interviews with tourist officials the comment most frequently heard was that "we need more good places to stay and eat".

Major efforts should be directed toward upgrading the quality of tourist accommodation facilities. This will have to be done if northern Minnesota is going to continue to serve as a major recreation and tourist area.

The level of accommodations available are not adequate to serve present needs let alone take care of any future expansion or development.