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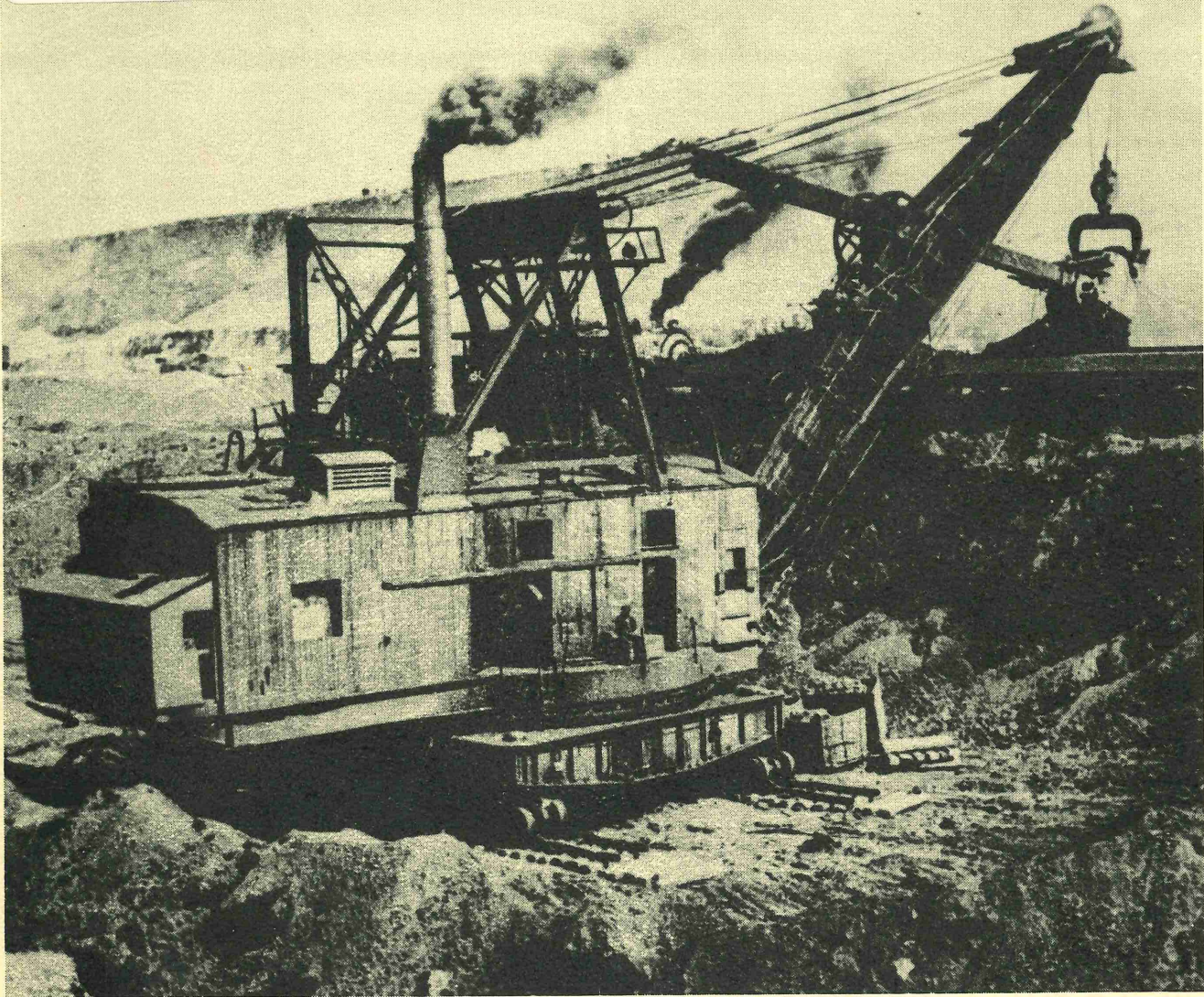


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iron range regional research center

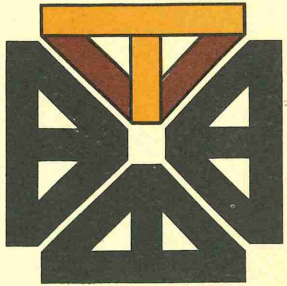
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Consultant's Report to *Oct 1977*
IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHAB. *BD*

A.I.A. Architects



Thomas and Vecchi

cover photo:

Mesabi steamshovel, turn of century

**IRON RANGE REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

prepared for the
Minnesota Department
of
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation

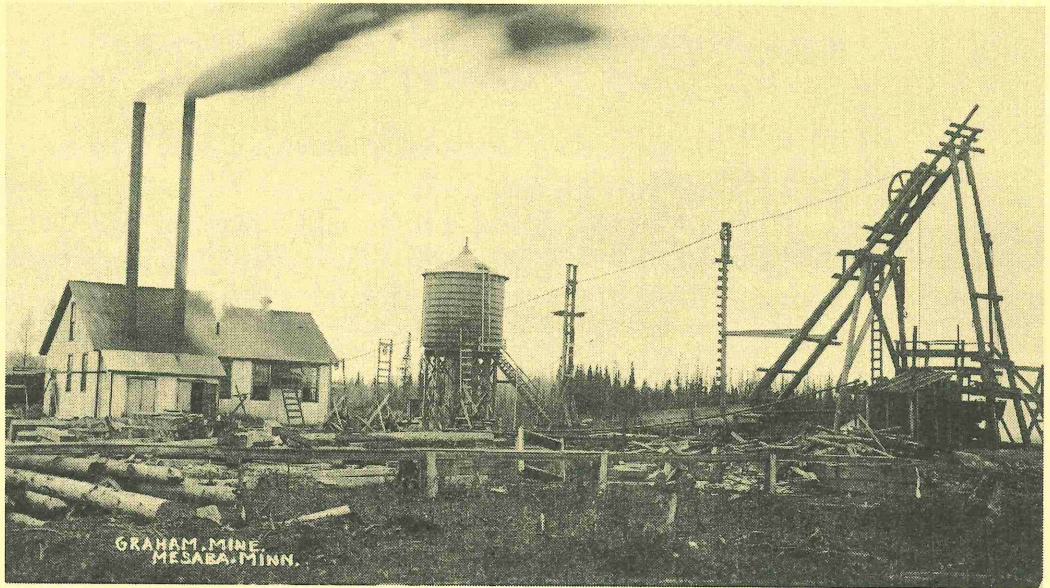
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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE OF MINNESOTA
October, 1977

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Graham Mine, Mesaba, Minnesota

introduction

INTRODUCTION

The late Theodore Blegen, Dean of Minnesota historians, once described the story of Minnesota's iron ranges as:

One 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 they have not spawned legends dwarfing even those of Paul Bunyan. ¹

Blegen only touches upon the significance of Minnesota's iron mining regions. In addition to the story of the mining processes themselves, the Vermilion, Mesabi and Cuyuna Iron Ranges are geologically among the most complex mineral formations in the world. The region's cultural development, flavored by diverse ethnic groups, is without parallel in Minnesota. Northern Minnesota's iron mining industry represents one of the largest single elements of the state's economy, and mining's physical impact upon the Minnesota landscape has also been immense.

Together all of these elements result in a drama of industrialization, settlement, and community development unique to America. ²

In recent years there has been substantial interest in the iron ranges and the role of iron ore mining in Minnesota history. During the late 1960's the Minnesota Legislature and the Minnesota Resources Council established an Iron Range Trail across the state's three iron ranges and organized an Iron Range Interpretative Program designed to generate a greater tourist economy in Minnesota's mining regions. Key elements of this program included:

1. The development of a major Iron Range Interpretative Center.
2. The development of a series of Gateway Interpretative Centers.
3. Mining activity observation areas.
4. Iron Range Country tours.
5. Geological and national history interpretation.

1. Theodore C. Blegen, Minnesota, a History of the State (1967), p. 359.

2. Aguar, Jyring, Whiteman, Moser, Inc., Iron Range Interpretative Program, a Report to the Legislature, Duluth, 1971.

A major Iron Range Interpretative Center has been built at the Glenn Mine at Chisholm. Planning and development work related to other elements of the program including a Gateway Interpretative Center at Crosby has also been completed.

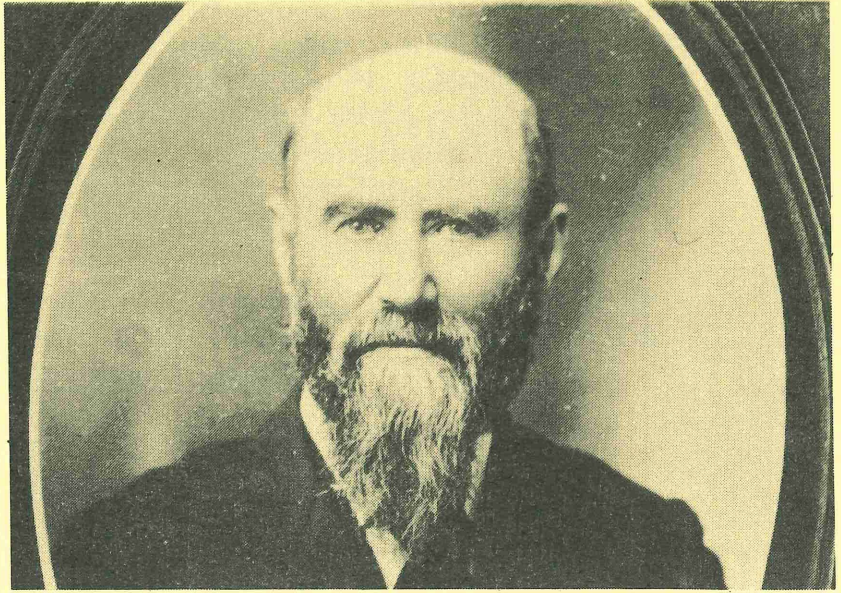
Efforts to collect the documentary evidence of iron range history have been spearheaded by the Iron Range Historical Society and its 300 members. This active organization publishes a journal, Range History, collects manuscripts, photographs, oral history and other documentary evidence of mining region heritage and has also developed the Longyear Drill Site of 1890, the first diamond drill site on the Mesabi Range.

Just recently the Society received the E. T. Carlstedt library of historic books and papers pertaining to Minnesota and the Iron Range. This collection contains hundreds of rare books, manuscripts and printed material, some of which are "one of a kind." The Society has also received the Biwabik city records, the papers of State Senator Douglas Johnson and the Finnish Archives from the Immigration History Research Center at St. Paul.

As interest in Minnesota's three iron ranges grows and as programs to interpret the state's mining heritage develop, the demand for historical research information will increase and the need for an adequate depository of archival resource material will become more apparent. Such interest and needs should not be surprising. Throughout the state, and indeed throughout the nation, public interest in historical sites, museums, local history, family history and historic preservation has increased dramatically during the past few years.

Recognizing the need to respond to public demand for historic site interpretation and better access to historical research material, the Minnesota Historical Society has developed a broad and excellent historic sites program throughout the state. The Society has also been innovative in working with local historical societies to expand and improve the services they provide. In the field of scholarly research and writing the Society has long been a leader, and in a major effort to improve access to the raw material of historical research, archival resources, the Minnesota Historical Society, in cooperation with local historical societies and state universities, established a series of historical research centers and archives located on a regional basis throughout the state. The purpose of these centers is to collect, process and preserve relevant archival source material from public and private sources within the area served by each center. Even though the program is relatively new, its success has been remarkable.

It is within the context of the state's regional historical research center program that the need and concept for an Iron Range Regional Research Center has been developed.



Elisha Morcom, first Cornish mining captain, Soudan Mine

the minnesota research center system

THE MINNESOTA REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER SYSTEM

The Minnesota regional research center system was started during the late 1960's with branches at Mankato and St. Cloud. It has since expanded to the point where there are now a total of eight centers throughout the state. Besides Mankato and St. Cloud, regional centers are located at Marshall, Morris, Moorhead, Bemidji, Winona and Duluth.

The following excerpts are from an article by James E. Fogerty entitled "Minnesota Regional Research Centers" that appeared in the Spring, 1974 issue of Minnesota History.

The regional centers collect private manuscripts, oral history, and photographs of special interest to the areas in which they are located; the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul collects like materials of state-wide and national importance . . .

Minnesota centers are located in outstate colleges because of their accessibility, their facilities, and the supply of student help they offer for collecting and processing of materials. In fact, the centers provide students experience and training in archival work in addition to making available materials that might not otherwise be preserved . . .

Each center has been assigned a region of the state (see map) as a collecting area. Assignments were made to reduce confusion in collecting and to facilitate work with other collecting agencies. The directors have defined various fields of collecting interest for the centers - largely in subject areas which have been neglected, overlooked, or developed haphazardly . . .

All centers in the MRRC system have received manuscript collections and, through active collecting programs, have arranged to receive many more . . . Organizing and preparing the collections for use, even with a streamlined processing system designed to make materials accessible in the shortest possible time, require considerable care and time. Since the backbone of the MRRC network is its collections, plans at all centers call for continued active collecting and an enlarged processing program to match . . .

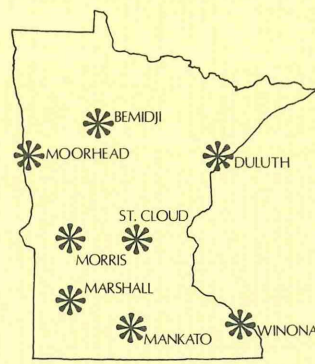
One of the objectives of the MRRC set up is to produce a resource inventory of the holdings of county and local historical societies . . . The inventory work will form the basis for a continuing project leading to a Minnesota Union Catalog of Manuscripts . . .

The value of the center's involvement in regional development is increasingly apparent. The centers have been strengthened by the participation of students and staff members in regional activities. Directors have talked to local groups, conducted oral history clinics, helped sponsor regional meetings, participated in local activities, and in general have made the centers into identifiable and important assets in their geographic areas . . .

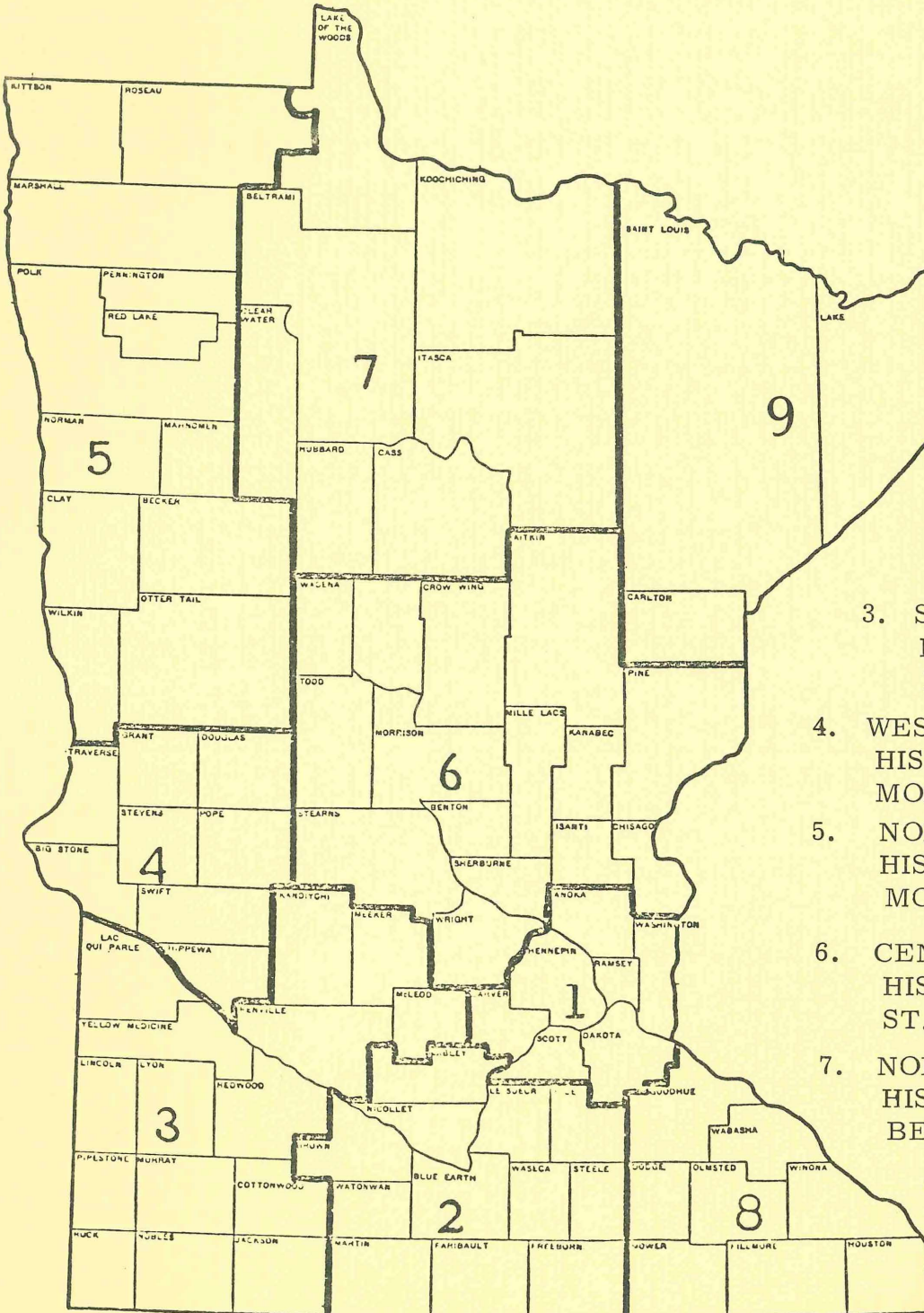
In practice, the centers serve as regional extensions of the Minnesota Historical Society; together they represent an effort by the Society to reach everyone in the state . . . Through the programs of all its divisions, including the regional centers, it is working to ensure that Minnesota history, whether of local, county, regional, state, national, or international significance, is adequately preserved and made accessible to all. ¹

¹. James E. Fogerty, "Minnesota Regional Research Centers", in Minnesota History (Spring, 1974) pp. 30 - 32.

MINNESOTA REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTERS



A Joint Effort of Minnesota Colleges and the Minnesota Historical Society



1. METROPOLITAN AREA
2. SOUTHERN MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER MANKATO
3. SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER MARSHALL
4. WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER MORRIS
5. NORTHWEST MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER MOORHEAD
6. CENTRAL MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER ST. CLOUD
7. NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER BEMIDJI
8. SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER WINONA
9. NORTHEAST MINNESOTA HISTORICAL CENTER DULUTH



Sparta, Minnesota, 1909

planning for an iron range regional research center

PLANNING FOR AN IRON RANGE REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER

PURPOSE

Stated quite simply and concisely, the purpose of the proposed Iron Range Regional Research Center would be to collect, catalog, preserve and make available to the public all types of historical research material related to the iron range regions of Minnesota.

The development and function of such a center would be consistent with the aims and purpose of Minnesota's regional research center program and the eight other regional centers already in operation throughout the state.

ROLE OF THE PROPOSED CENTER

The role of the proposed Iron Range Regional Research Center would be to function as a focal point for historical research related to Minnesota's iron ranges. Specific objectives of the proposed center include:

1. To provide a central depository for historical resource material related to all aspects of iron range history.
2. To actively seek out and collect iron range historical resource material.
3. To properly catalog, index, document and preserve the various types of resource material deposited at the center.
4. To provide a central facility, located within the iron range region itself, where scholars and students from throughout the state and nation could come to pursue their research.
5. To function as a resource center for the Iron Range Interpretative Center as well as for other elements of the overall Iron Range Interpretative Program that may be developed.
6. To increase general awareness of and interest in the significant and fascinating role iron mining has played in Minnesota and U. S. history.
7. To function as a unique type of educational facility for the Iron Range region.

LOCATION

One of the initial reasons for developing the concept of regional research centers and archives throughout Minnesota was the inability of the Minnesota Historical Society to effectively serve as a central historical resource depository for the entire state. The truly overwhelming volume of material that was potentially available posed a severe threat to the Society's ability to process and store it. The Minnesota Historical Society also realized that they were probably not learning about many potentially valuable collections simply because there were not the time and staff available to cover all parts of the state at once. Sometimes an individual, organization or local community refused to allow archival resources to be moved to St. Paul. As a result, valuable material was lost because there was no alternative depository that provided the proper processing and storage facilities.

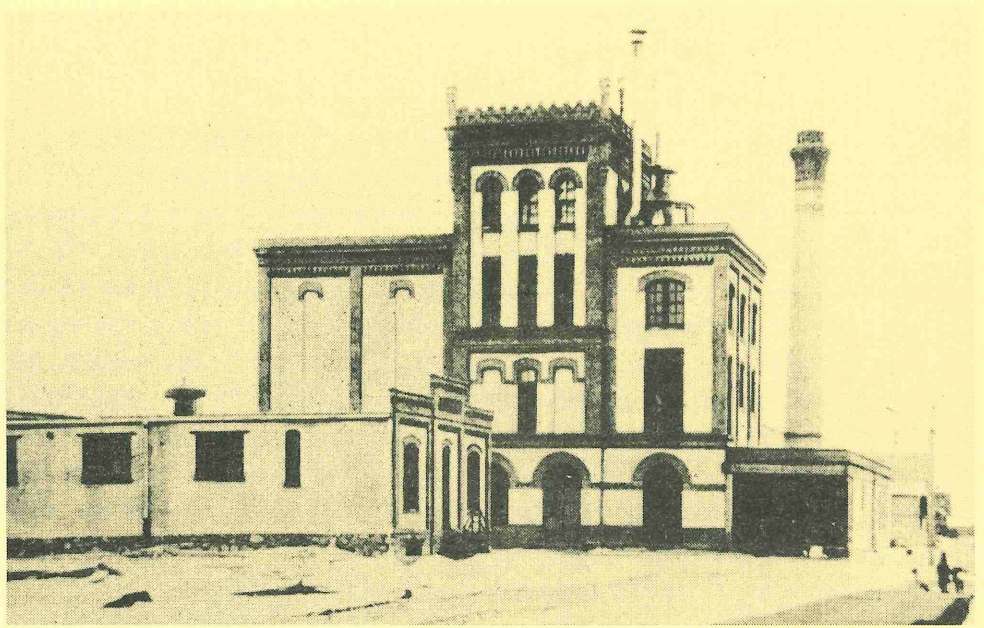
The concept of a regional research center system, then, grew out of the need to address these problems by providing an alternative to one statewide archives.

As planned, the regional research center system has developed to include eight centers distributed within broad geographical regions throughout the state. Each regional center is responsible for collecting within several counties, and to date, each existing center has been affiliated with a college or university which provides space and other assistance. All of the regional centers also work closely with existing local historical societies within the regions they serve. In several cases local historical societies have contracted with the centers for joint administration and care of their research collections.

Because of the particularly significant role iron mining has played in Minnesota and because of the unique identity and character of the iron range region, the establishment of a separate research center to deal only with iron range related material has been proposed. Because there is also no four-year college or university on the iron range an alternative location for the proposed center had to be found. After study by the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Iron Range Historical Society and others interested in the project, the site of the existing Iron Range Interpretative Center at Chisholm was selected as the location of the proposed Iron Range Regional Research Center.

Several considerations support the choice of this facility as the most suitable site for the proposed center.

1. The Iron Range Interpretative Center is the major focal point and facility for public interpretation of the iron range story.
2. The concept of developing an "educational complex" in conjunction with the Iron Range Interpretative Center was outlined as early as 1971 in the initial Iron Range Interpretative Report to the Legislature.
3. The development of a research center in conjunction with the Interpretative Center would add another dimension to the overall Iron Range Interpretative Program and would bolster the programs of each.
4. Chisholm is centrally located with respect to regional population, schools, communities and sites of interest related to iron range history.
5. Chisholm enjoys convenient access to automobile, bus and air travel facilities.
6. Because the Iron Range Interpretative Center is within one of the region's major communities, it enjoys adequate police and fire protection as well as other public facilities and services.
7. Chisholm is already widely known as the home of the Iron Range Interpretative Center and the Minnesota Museum of Mining. The proposed regional research center would enjoy the same advantages of locational identity.
8. By developing the proposed regional research center as part of the Iron Range Interpretative Center complex, savings and efficiencies in construction, utility service, administration, staffing, security and parking can be achieved.



Virginia Brewery, 1907

space and facility needs

SPACE AND FACILITY NEEDS

REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER CONCEPT

As proposed and as already discussed in relation to the existing system of regional research centers, the concept of the Iron Range Regional Research Center would be to serve as a facility for collecting, processing and preserving all types of historical research material related to the iron range regions of Minnesota. In functional arrangement the center would be quite similar to a small library with space and facilities for processing and storing the research collections, staff offices and work space, study areas and related facilities. The major structural need is for secure, climate-controlled storage of archival resource material. As planned, the center would be an addition to the existing Iron Range Interpretative Center and would be designed to be architecturally compatible with the existing structure.

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

Preliminary plans indicate a need for a possible total of six full time and possibly one additional part-time staff members to operate the center. This staff breakdown by position may be summarized as follows:

- 1 center director
- 1 head librarian/archivist
- 1 reading room supervisor
- 1 receptionist/secretary
- 1 assistant archivist
- 1 clerical assistant
- 1 custodian (part-time)

It is likely that the clerical assistant could also serve as reading room supervisor and that the existing custodial staff at the Iron Range Interpretative Center could also service the research center thereby reducing the total manpower requirements. It is also possible that, at least during the initial period of center operation, the assistant archivist and clerical assistant positions could be part-time. Even if the initial staff complement totals only three or four, however, space and facilities for an ultimate total of five or six persons should be provided for in the design and construction of the center.

SPACE AND FACILITY NEEDS

The proposed Iron Range Regional Research Center should include space and facilities to serve the following functions:

1. Reception area
2. Administration
 - a. Director's office
 - b. Head librarian's office
 - c. 1 additional private office
 - d. Work space for 2 secretaries or clerical assistants
3. Manuscript processing/work room
4. Reading room
5. Small meeting room
6. Environmentally controlled and secure archival storage space

The specific and facility requirements for each of the major segments of the proposed research center may be outlined in the following manner:

1. Reception Area
 - a. Provide small waiting area with chairs, coat rack, etc.
 - b. Provide small locker units for patrons to check their belongings before entering the reading room.
 - c. Receptionist/secretary should have desk in this area.
2. Administrative Offices
 - a. Provide 3 private offices.
 - b. Provide space for 2 secretaries/clerical assistants.
 - c. Provide space for approximately 4 - 6 file cabinets, copying machine and other standard office equipment.

3. Manuscript Work Room

- a. This should be a large, well-lighted room.
- b. Long, narrow work tables (movable) are required.
- c. Space for 1 or 2 standard size desks is required.
- d. Along one wall a built-in counter with sink, storage cabinet and drawers is needed.
- e. One or two units of metal storage shelving is needed.
- f. Space for 4 - 6 book carts is needed.
- g. Generally, this space should be large, well-lighted and open in character. Flexibility is a key.

4. Dark Room

- a. This room should be in proximity to the Work Room and should be equipped with sinks, etc.

5. Reading Room

- a. This room should be quiet and comfortable.
- b. Individual tables for 4 - 6 patrons should be provided.
- c. A desk for the reading room supervisor should be provided.
- d. A separate area that can be darkened should be provided for 2 microfilm readers.
- e. Another separate area (possibly glassed-in) should be provided with electronic (or "wet") carrels for oral history tape users.
- f. Space for book carts (1 per patron) should be provided.
- g. Space for library-type card catalogs is needed.

6. Meeting Rooms

- a. A meeting room large enough for 20 - 25 people should be provided. It should have a moveable divider that would allow two smaller meeting rooms to be created.
- b. Conference tables and chairs should be provided. The room should have a blackboard and projection screen. Lighting should be controllable and the room should be designed to be darkened for showing slides or movies.

7. Archival Storage Area

- a. Approximately 5000 linear feet of shelving should be provided. The shelving should accommodate standard record boxes. Steel microfilm storage cabinet is also required.
- b. Floor construction should be designed to take heavy loads.
- c. Storage area must be totally fireproof. Floors should be concrete or tile. The room should be vault-like in construction.
- d. Standard steel shelving is required for holding the record boxes.
- e. The archival storage area must be totally environmentally controlled (68^o temp. and 50% humidity) at all times.
- f. Good access to the processing room and reading room is required. There should probably be only one entrance, however, for security purposes.
- g. Control is needed to keep unauthorized people out of the storage area.
- h. Aisles and doors should be large enough to allow for easy passage of book carts, etc.

8. Loading Dock and Receiving Area
 - a. Provide an enclosed area with loading dock for two trucks.
 - b. Loading dock to be equipped with adjustable dock ramp.
 - c. A receiving area is to be provided at loading dock area. A roll-up door is to be incorporated between the loading dock area and the receiving area.
 - d. The loading dock and receiving area is to be located adjacent to the archival storage area.
 - e. Control is needed to keep unauthorized people out of this area.

OTHER PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. The proposed research center addition should be designed to be architecturally compatible with the existing Iron Range Interpretative Center.
2. For security and environmental control purposes the entire facility should have a minimum number of access points and windows.
3. Fire protection system is desirable but totally fireproof construction of storage area particularly would be better to prevent possibility of water damage to archival material in the record boxes.
4. Some type of security system is required for the facility. The design, however, should also build in controls for limiting access of most patrons to the reading room and possibly the office-conference room section.
5. Rest room facilities to serve about 4-6 people are necessary. Remember, however, that the Interpretative Center also has large rest rooms so minimal facilities can be provided in the research center.
6. A small employee lounge or lunch room should be considered. No food or beverages should be allowed in the reading room, work rooms or storage areas. Patrons would probably have to eat lunch some place else, either outside or in Chisholm.
7. A small loading dock and receiving area is necessary for deliveries. The receiving area should have direct access to the manuscript processing/work room. There should be no direct access to the storage area.



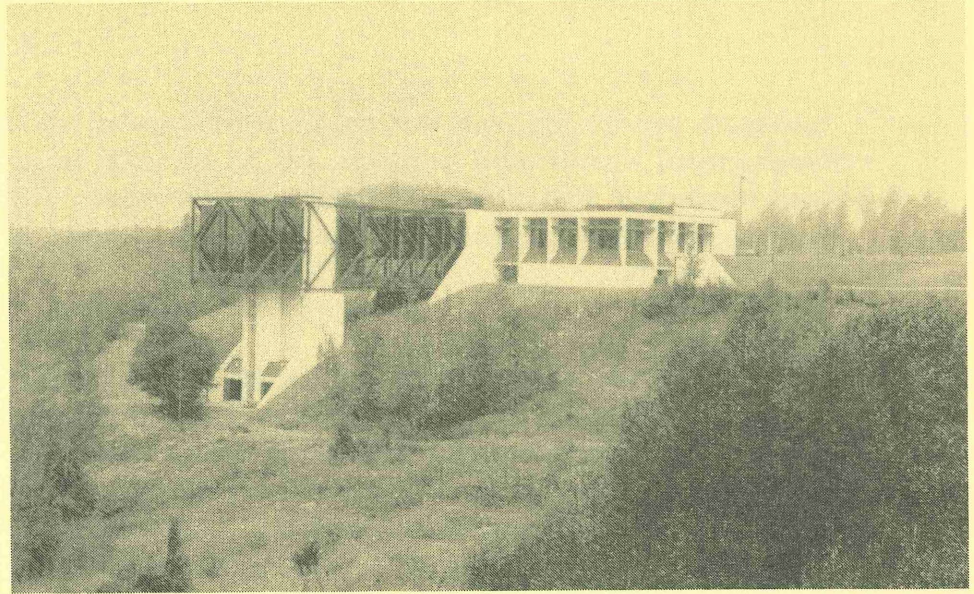
Coleraine, Minnesota, 1918

estimated building area analysis

ESTIMATED BUILDING AREA ANALYSIS

1.	Reception Area - - - - -	400 sq. ft.
2.	Administrative Area - - - - -	600 sq. ft.
	Director's Office - - -	200 sq. ft.
	Head Librarian's Office	150 sq. ft.
	Private Office- - - - -	130 sq. ft.
	Secretarial Area - - -	120 sq. ft.
3.	Manuscript Processing/Work Room (including Dark Room) - - - - -	500 sq. ft.
4.	Reading Room - - - - -	1,000 sq. ft.
5.	Dark Room - - - - -	100 sq. ft.
6.	Meeting Rooms - - - - -	600 sq. ft.
7.	Archival Storage Room - - - - -	6,700 sq. ft.
8.	Loading Dock and Receiving Area - - - - -	1,800 sq. ft.
9.	Non-assignable Area - - - - -	3,000 sq. ft.
	Circulation, corridors, walls, toilet rooms, janitor rooms, mechanical equipment room, entrance vestibules, etc.	

ESTIMATED TOTAL GROSS BUILDING AREA - - - - 14,700 sq. ft.



Iron Range Interpretative Center, Chisholm

building design

BUILDING DESIGN

PHYSICAL DESIGN

As stated earlier, the proposed location for the Iron Range Regional Research Center is at the site of the existing Iron Range Interpretative Center at Chishom. As part of the IRIC complex, the research center should be designed to be architecturally compatible with the existing facility. This can be accomplished through sensitive use of the elements of scale, materials, and texture.

Strong consideration should be given to site planning and the spatial relationship of the Research Center to the existing Interpretative Center. Access to the Research Center should be handled in a manner that would simplify pedestrian traffic flow between the three major site elements: the Interpretative Center, the Research Center, and the parking area. A strong pedestrian link would tie the two buildings together visually as well as physically, while making the entire complex more efficient in terms of access, shared facilities, personnel, etc. Careful planning will optimize the advantages of locating the Research Center on this site.

The image of the Research Center should be essentially the same as that of the existing Interpretative Center. Achievement of this objective would lend the Research Center a vital sense of identity. It is of utmost importance that the Research Center does not in any way compete with the Interpretative Center in terms of visual impact. The existing Center makes a strong visual statement which is pleasing to the eye, and should remain the dominant visual element on the site. Careful attention should be given to the selection and use of materials for the research center. Primary materials should include poured in place concrete, tinted insulating glass, and copper flashing and coping as used on the Interpretative Center.

SECURITY & PROTECTION

Fire safety equipment should include a complete fire alarm system, and in addition, fire protection should be provided in the archives storage area. It is recommended that this be a dry system such as a carbon dioxide or Halon system, both of which provide a clean, dry means of fire extinguishment, thereby preserving irreplaceable records.

For Security purposes, an alarm system should be installed for detection of intruders. A separate lock system should be installed on the archives storage vault, with keys issued only to authorized personnel.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Every effort must be made to keep operating costs and energy consumption to the minimum. Even considering solar, wind and other energy, conservation remains the primary cost effective direction at this time. As included later, we recommend considering solar collectors for the heating of the domestic water for this structure as this energy use is constant throughout the year. The use of heat pumps and storage system is the energy efficient system recommended.

Insulation - Walls should be designed with a "U" factor of .08 and with consideration of the mass effects available. Ceiling-roof construction should be designed with a "U" factor of .06 and also with consideration of "mass" effect to allow heat absorption in the day time and elimination during non-sunshine hours.

Window Areas - Window areas must be controlled due to energy considerations and all windows should be fixed and be triple glazed. Provide exterior platforms or other means of window cleaning by permanent staff.

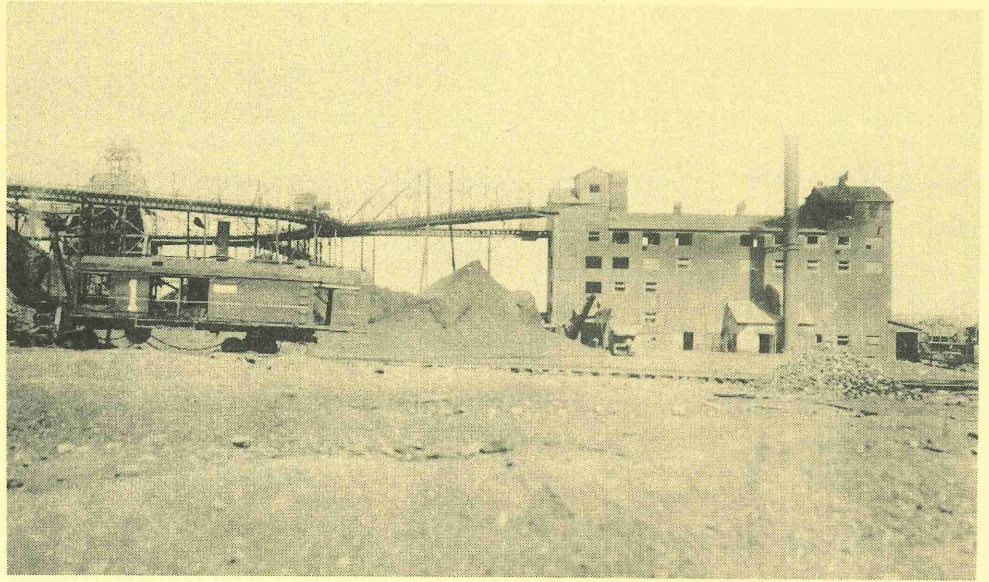
Solar Energy Use - Solar energy system for the heating of domestic hot water appears favorable for this structure due to the use of this energy requirement throughout the year and the heavy emphasis on it during the summer tourist season. It does not appear that solar space heating can be economically justified at this time, but connections for future solar equipment can be installed in the heating system.

Heat Pumps - Heat pump systems allow the storage of heat from the lights, equipment and people to be stored for use other times of the day or at the same time in other parts of the building. Heat pump systems can be designed to exhaust heat from ambient air or water sources. The heat pump system appears to be a logical choice for this facility and calculations should be made to verify this when plans are complete enough to determine heat losses, lighting heat loads and air conditioning requirements.



Bruce Mine and headframe near Chisholm, 1920's

**estimated
project cost**



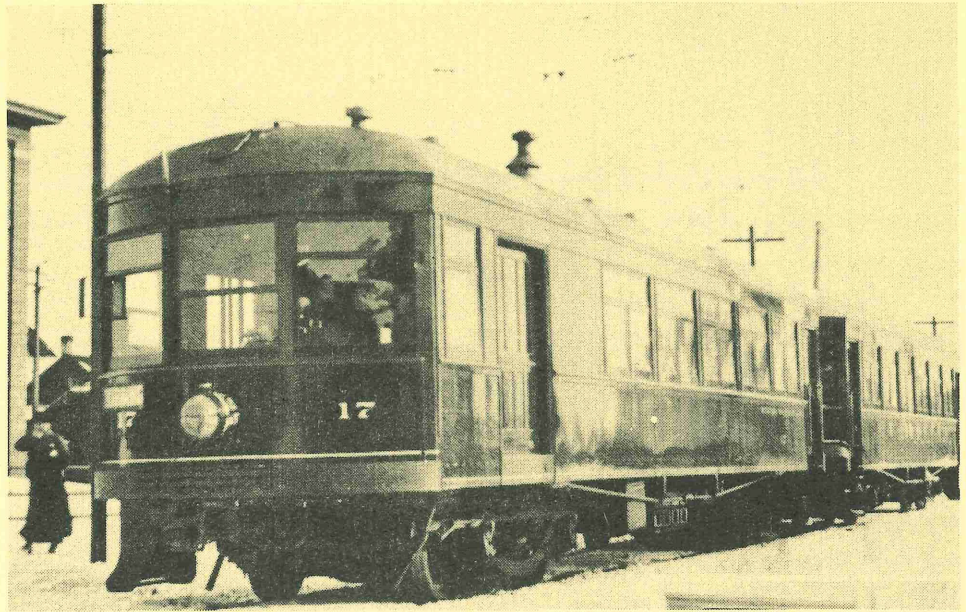
Bruce Mine and headframe near Chisholm, 1920's

**estimated
project cost**

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST

Building Construction - - - - -	\$588,000
Loose Equipment and Furnishings - - - - -	\$100,000
Architectural and Engineering Fees - - - - -	\$ 41,200
Legal and Administrative - - - - -	\$ 3,000
Site Surveys and Soil Investigation - - - - -	\$ 2,000
Contingency Reserve - - - - -	\$ 34,400
<hr/>	
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST - - - - -	\$768,600

Note: The above estimates are based on 1977 costs.



Mesaba Railway streetcar system

appendices

APPENDIX I

Letter to Marvin Lamppa, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation,
from James E. Fogerty, Minnesota Historical Society, dated
April 11, 1977.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Division of Archives and Manuscripts, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 • 612-296-6980

11 April 1977

Mr. Marvin Lamppa
Iron Range Resources and
Rehabilitation Commission
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734

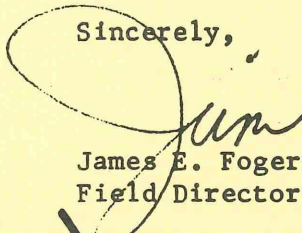
Dear Marvin:

Enclosed are a few thoughts on what you should consider building in to your new building proposal. Obviously, the basic storage area plan I've included could be substantially modified, but it does include features that should be present in any plan. The plan as it stands includes room for nearly 3,750 linear feet, with space for 400 additional feet. Any building you build, though, should have the flexibility to allow for future additions to storage and other space.

For a processing room (to handle cataloging of manuscripts material) you need only a large, well-lighted work area, with sufficient work tables, chairs, book trucks, etc. If you are going for a complete funding, that is - for a package that includes equipment and furnishings, I can work up a list of those relating to the processing area and reading room.

Good luck with your plans!

Sincerely,


James E. Fogerty
Field Director

JEF:bs

Enclosures

St. Paul

RECEIVED
APR 12 1977
IRON RANGE RESOURCES
AND REHABILITATION BOARD

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ARCHIVAL RECORDS STORAGE AREA:

The attached plan assumes:

12 stack rows (back-to-back; 24 single rows) and 2 single rows (one at each end). Each stack row consists of eight (8) sections of shelving, each with seven (7) shelves. Shelving Specs:

1. Each section: 81" high - 6 shelves each 13" high, 15" deep, 36" long, 3" base
2. Each stack row: 24" long
3. Aisles: 3' wide
4. Main aisle: 11' wide (allows for installation of extra shelving along wall, creating additional 400 linear feet of shelving in future)
5. Ceiling height: 18" to 24" ABOVE top of shelving
6. Bottom shelf should be 3" to 6" above floor (minimum 3" base allowed above in item No. 1)
7. Shelf load capacity should be 25-50 lbs. each
8. Nuts and bolts shelving is easiest to install and most economical; clip-type shelving is flexible but has problems.

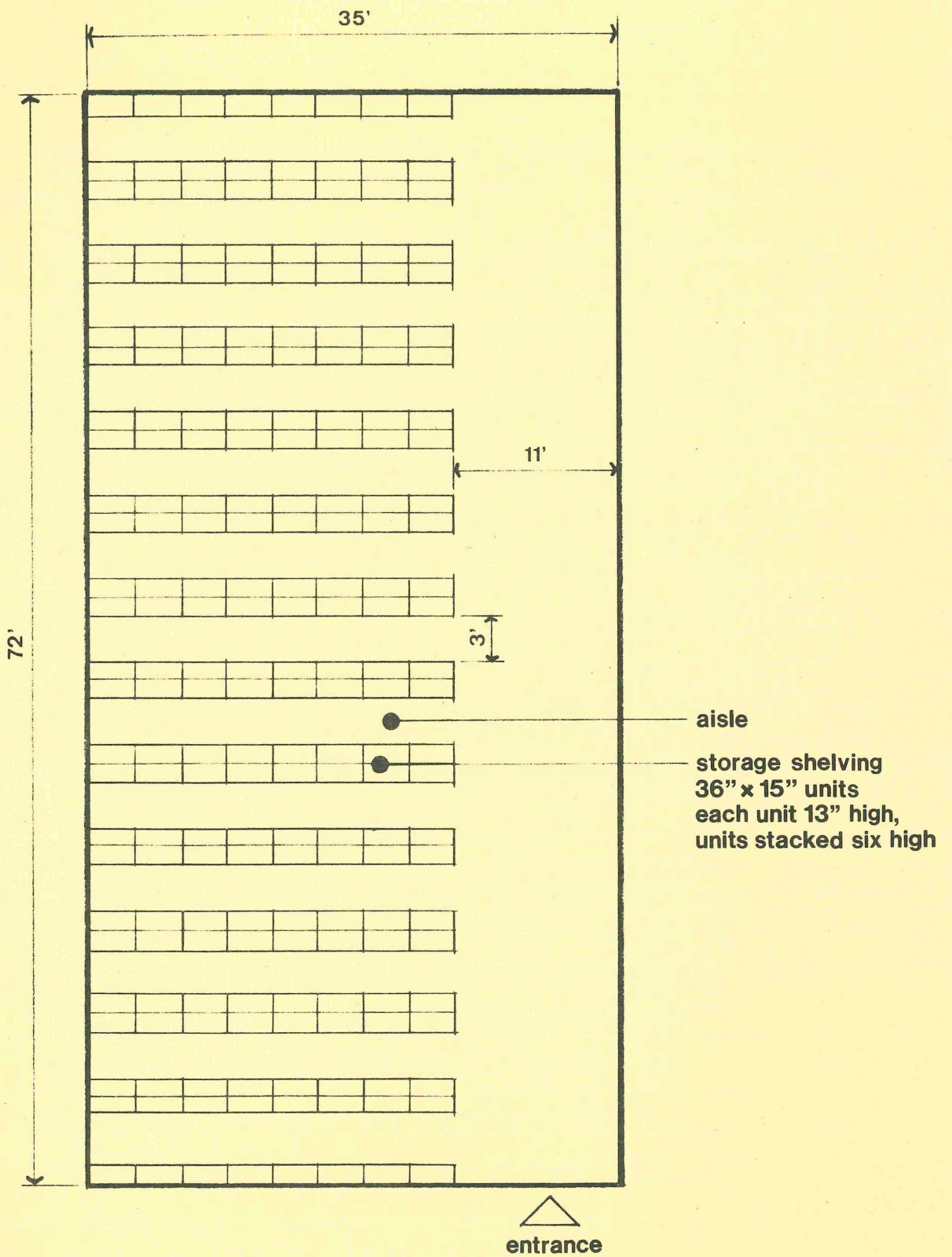
Any brand of shelving meeting the above specifications should be good.

BUILDING: The building itself should be fireproof, with capacity for air-conditioning and humidity controls. Optimum conditions are 65° - 70° temperature and 50% humidity.

Processing area: should be separate from storage and reading room areas.

Reading room: Should provide for good control of users by room supervisor (i. e. : no pillars, or other obstructions).

Security: Storage and processing areas should be able to be locked if the building is used for meetings at night. Persons attending meetings should not be able to stroll into the secure storage and processing areas without permission and attendance by a staff member.



Archives Storage Vault:
 minimum space and shelving requirements



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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TO: GOVERNOR RUDY PERPICH, DR. ROBERT HELLER, SUBJECT: VIEWS ON PROPOSED
JOHN HEARDING, ALBERT STIMAC, MARVIN LAMPPA, IRON RANGE RESEARCH
DR. ALVIN HALL CENTER

FROM: RUSSELL W. FRIDLEY *Russell W. Fridley* DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 1977

I have been requested to set down my views about the proposed Iron Range Research Center. This project has received a planning grant from the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board and is to be located adjacent to the Iron Range Interpretative Center in Chisholm. Concern has been expressed by the St. Louis County Historical Society and the University of Minnesota-Duluth over the relationship of this proposed center to the newly established Northeast Minnesota Research Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

The Minnesota Historical Society has been approached by the Iron Range Historical Society and the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board to make recommendations for the development of such a center. Mr. Marvin Lamppa, who is associated with the IRRRB and the Iron Range Historical Society and is a member of the Board of Governors of the St. Louis County Historical Society, has discussed the project with me several times over the past few months.

The proposed Iron Range Research Center introduces a number of new elements that are not now present in the statewide research center system. They are:

- 1) Locating a center apart from an academic institution.
- 2) Creating a center around a region primarily delineated by an economic resource and deep ethnic consciousness.
- 3) Developing a center that in all likelihood would be administered by a regional historical organization -- the Iron Range Historical Society -- and funded by a state agency that serves the northeast region of Minnesota -- the IRRRB.

Mr. Lamppa, an energetic and able historian himself, has been most emphatic in his discussions with me to point out that the planned-for

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center must be staffed by professional archivists and historians. He also urges that the center be linked with the Minnesota Historical Society's statewide system of regional research centers that now numbers eight. They are, in addition to the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center at Duluth:

Southeast Minnesota Historical Center, Winona
West Central Minnesota Historical Center, Morris
Southwest Minnesota Historical Center, Marshall
Southern Minnesota Historical Center, Mankato
Central Minnesota Historical Center, St. Cloud
Northwest Minnesota Historical Center, Moorhead
North Central Minnesota Historical Center, Bemidji

In order for the proposed Iron Range Research Center to become a part of the state system, it would have to agree to the basic requirements and policies of the Minnesota Historical Society which are:

- 1) Title to the collections will be retained by the Minnesota Historical Society.
- 2) The institution housing the collections of the regional research center shall provide storage facilities, personnel, and retain supplies and services.
- 3) The host institution and the Minnesota Historical Society must agree on any undertaking that shall involve cost in excess of minimal services; for example, space, utilities, security, etc.

The proposed center also would have to be officially linked to the Northeast Regional Research Center whose sponsors are the St. Louis County Historical Society, the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

It seems to me that the best way to resolve questions about this proposal is to call together the organizations concerned -- St. Louis County Historical Society, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Iron Range Historical Society, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board, and Minnesota Historical Society -- and discuss mutual concerns and opportunities presented by this proposal.

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In conclusion, let me state my personal opinion, that none of the new elements introduced by this center and mentioned earlier in this letter strike me as problems. Locating a center off the campus of an academic institution would not reduce its accessibility and utility to the general public. Defining a center in terms of ethnic composition and an economic resource seems to me to possess as much plausibility for the sake of history than do county and regional political boundaries. The distinctive and rich ethnic composition and consciousness of Minnesota's iron range is well known and requires no further comment. The administration of a regional research center by a regional historical society also strikes me as perfectly legitimate. A strength of our Minnesota system is that it includes a variety of strong institutions -- six state universities, two University of Minnesota campuses, and a county historical Society (St. Louis County). The system should remain open to new opportunities. Finally, the prospect of funding the center through the IRRRB is attractive.

The area of disagreement, I sense, will be over territorial jurisdictions in Northeastern Minnesota. The area of the Northeast Minnesota Regional Center is well defined and includes the following counties: St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, and Cook.

I agree with Mr. Lamppa that the project will only succeed, and will deserve to, if it is carried out on a professional level. This means that those who administer the center and choose its employees are true professionals as archivists and historians. Any political considerations for employment would not only undermine the purpose of the center but would be sufficient reason for the Minnesota Historical Society not to be associated with it.

The proposal calls for our best thought and advice as we consider it. I hope you will give it yours. This letter represents a first attempt to put mine in writing.

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