

## Tour created by...

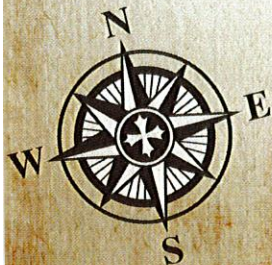
This tour is brought to you by the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) of Ely with support from the Ely-Winton Historical Society. The HPC is a committee of citizens authorized by the city to document and encourage the protection of historically significant buildings and sites. Preserving and celebrating a town's historic structures has been a proven technique in maintaining a vibrant city. All of the locations included in this tour are historic.

In the past these buildings contained boarding houses, and grocery stores and taverns – more than one might expect in such a small community. But in their histories, there are recurring themes – those of immigrants who did the back-breaking labor to build a better life for themselves and their children, those of the entrepreneurs who took the risks and sometimes succeeded, and those of all the pioneers who carved out a community in the wilderness of northern Minnesota.

The early settlers who built these buildings are gone now, but we honor their legacy through the appreciation of the buildings they built. We further appreciate the business owners of today who have chosen to save and maintain these buildings as a reminder of Ely's amazing past.

*Please join us in a tour of Ely's downtown history.*

**NOTE:** The walking distance from 1 to 56 is about 1.5 miles. The time it takes to walk the tour and read all the panels is estimated at 2.5 hours.



## Sponsors...

Ely-Winton Historical Society

c/o Vermillion Campus  
1900 East Camp Street  
Ely, Minnesota 55731



**Ely-Winton History Museum**

Summer Hours:  
12:00-4:00 Tuesday - Saturday

Heritage Preservation Commission  
of



Panel and map content written by Celia Domich.  
Map & panel design, creation & printing by:



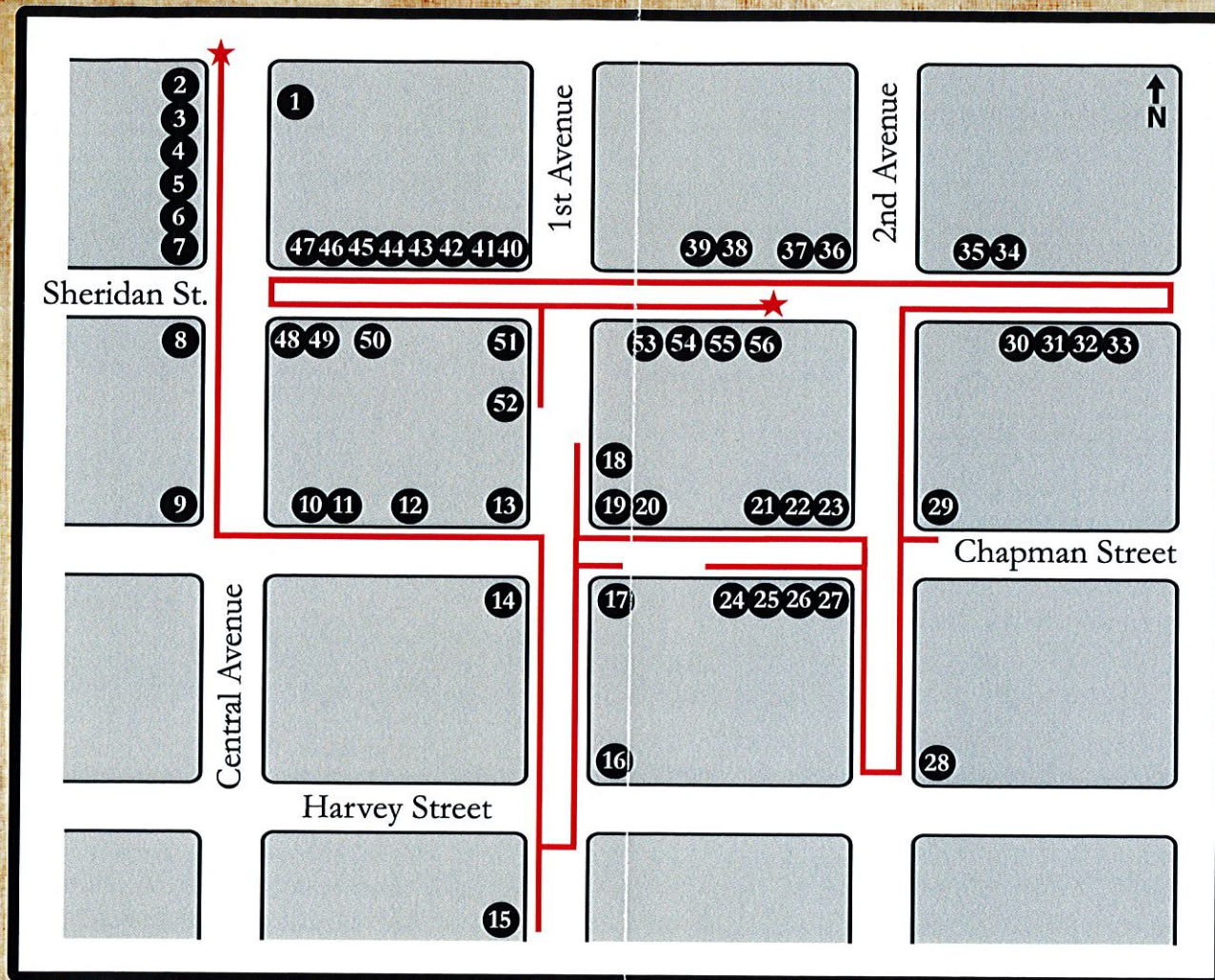
## Historically Rich ELY, MINNESOTA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



The old train depot building  
which is now used by  
"Wilderness Outfitters."

## How it all began....

Indian tribes occupied the Ely area for 1000's of years. The Sioux, followed by the Chippewa, were the most recent native inhabitants. In 1884 an early prospector discovered, what he thought was gold. The gold, however, turned out to be iron pyrite, commonly known as fool's gold. Soon, after a brief and disappointing gold rush, the massive iron ore deposits were discovered and Ely was born. The community, initially called Florence, was established in 1887 and renamed "Ely" on April 23, 1888. That same year, the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad reached Ely, allowing the mines to ship their ore and supporting transportation into the fledgling village. The population in March 1888 was just 177 people. Twelve years later in 1900, the population was 3717. Ely was a boom town. And the early years were rough and ready, with rooming houses, where the miners slept in shifts and saloons where brawls were common place. As the town grew, new businesses were needed, families formed, and schools and churches were built. In 1930, Ely reached its peak population of 6151. Learn more about Ely's history at the Ely-Winton Historical Society Museum located at the east end of town in the Vermillion Community College complex.



### Look for posters at these locations:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ① Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop - 124 N. Central    | ⑫ Ely License Bureau - 17 E. Chapman    |
| ② 141 Cash & Carry - 141 N. Central              | ⑬ NAPA - 45 E. Chapman                  |
| ③ Ely Surplus Store - 129 N. Central             | ⑭ Merhar's Ace Hardware - 48 E. Chapman |
| ④ Steger's Building - 125 N. Central             | ⑮ Ely Steam Bath - 127 S. 1st Ave.      |
| ⑤ A Taste of Ely - 117 N. Central                | ⑯ Ely Community Center - 30 S. 1st Ave. |
| ⑥ Piragis Northwoods Co.(north) - 109 N. Central | ⑰ Wells Fargo Bank - 104 E. Chapman     |
| ⑦ Piragis Northwoods Co.(south) - 105 N. Central | ⑱ Crapola - 16 N. 1st Ave. E.           |
| ⑧ Northern Grounds - 2 W. Sheridan               | ⑲ James Drug (west) - 101 E. Chapman    |
| ⑨ Legacy Toys - 5 N. Central                     | ⑳ James Drug (east) - 101 E. Chapman    |
| ⑩ Britton's Cafe - 5. E. Chapman                 | ㉑ Chapman Street Books - 139 E. Chapman |
| ⑪ Ely Design Works - 9 E. Chapman                | ㉒ Organic Roots - 141 E. Chapman        |

- ㉓ Second Chance Consignment - 145 E. Chapman
- ㉔ Kekekabic Studios - 118 E. Chapman
- ㉕ J&L Annex - 130 E. Chapman
- ㉖ The Cobweb - 138 E. Chapman
- ㉗ Evergreen Cottage - 146 E. Chapman
- ㉘ U.S. Post Office - 34 W. 2nd Ave.
- ㉙ Ely City Hall - 209 E. Chapman
- ㉚ Ely Steakhouse - 214 & 216 E. Sheridan
- ㉛ Ely's Old-Fashioned Candy - 228 E. Sheridan
- ㉜ JD Mills Company - 230 E. Sheridan
- ㉝ The State Theater - 234 E. Sheridan
- ㉞ Ely Folk School - 211 E. Sheridan
- ㉟ Wintergreen Northern Wear - 205 E. Sheridan
- ㊱ Insula Restaurant - 145 E. Sheridan
- ㊲ Pengals Basswood Trading Co. - 137 E. Sheridan
- ㊳ Roots Hair Salon - 129 E. Sheridan
- ㊴ Linda Trapkis Pottery - 127 E. Sheridan
- ㊵ The Boathouse - 47 E. Sheridan
- ㊶ Roth Chiropractic - 39 E. Sheridan
- ㊷ Steger's Mukluks - 33 E. Sheridan
- ㊸ Haircut Shop - 27 E. Sheridan
- ㊹ Ely Sportswear - 21 E. Sheridan
- ㊺ Dee's Bar - 17 E. Sheridan
- ㊻ Hand-Done T-shirts - 15 E. Sheridan
- ㊼ Brandenburg Gallery - 11 E. Sheridan
- ㊽ ElyWear - 2 E. Sheridan
- ㊾ Lake, Lodge & Cabin - 6 E. Sheridan
- ㊿ Portage Bar - 16 E. Sheridan
- 1 Northern Expressions - 48 E. Sheridan
- 2 Wildlife Liquor - 25 N. 1st Ave. E.
- 3 The Cabin (west) - 116 E. Sheridan
- 4 The Cabin (east) - 120 E. Sheridan
- 5 Mary's Spinning Wheel - 126 E. Sheridan
- 6 Kess Gallery - 130 E. Sheridan

Tour ends on October 1, 2017

