



Three miles east of Ely on 169 (Sheridan St.) brings you to Winton. A city almost totally surrounded by the waters of Fall Lake and Shagawa River, it once had more residents than Ely and a semi-pro baseball club. Bolstered by the 1,200 men in lumber camps nearby, the city had two large lumber mills producing millions of feet of lumber. These were shipped out by railroad to sites and cities throughout the Midwest. The photo above is of a lumber camp north of Burntside Lake. Logs traveled down the Burntside River, through Shagawa Lake and Shagawa River to Fall Lake. The 1911 photo below shows the Swallow & Hopkins mill built in 1898. The silo seen far left belonged to the St. Croix Lumber Company which was built in 1888. That site now belongs to the Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club and its Long-branch facility. The city of Winton owns the Community Church on Main Street and has built a city hall on the site of the former Winton School, later hospital and nunnery, at the city's entrance.

The Voice of the Wilderness & Ely Since 1972:

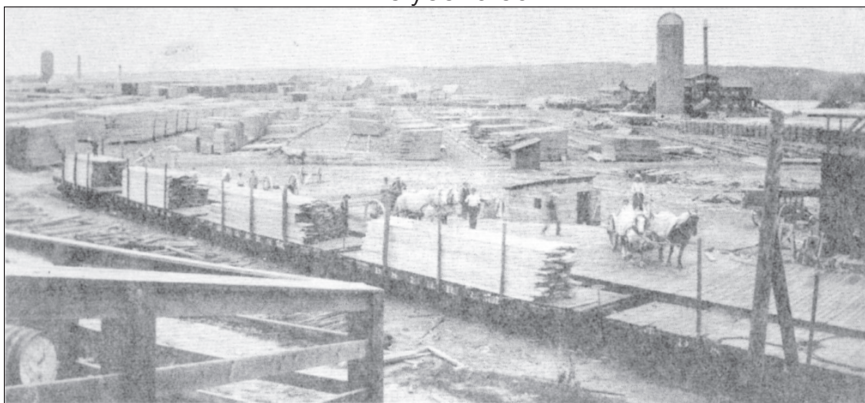
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SWALLOW & HOPKINS LUMBER COMPANY'S MILL YARD IN 1911

Touring Historic Ely



Let's start at the Ely Chamber of Commerce, 1600 East Sheridan Street. This log building was once a part of Basswood Lodge on Basswood Lake and later served as the cook shack for F.B. Hubacheck's Wilderness Research Foundation on Fall Lake. It was selected as the Ely project for the nation's Bicentennial in 1976 and donated to the city for Chamber offices.



2016 - PILLOW ROCK, MAIN ST.

Pillow Rock is located on Main Street, three blocks north of Sheridan Street. This outcropping of Ely Greenstone originated as pillow lava around 2,700 million years ago. The city is surrounded by outcroppings of Ely Greenstone.

Heading west, the Mining Pay House at 915 East Washington was once the headquarters for mine business activities. It features a main floor walk-in vault and now is in private ownership.

Trezona House, 315 East Washington Street, was the site where the first white child was born in Ely, Charles Ely Polkinghorne; later home to one of Ely's mining captains, Charles Trezona.

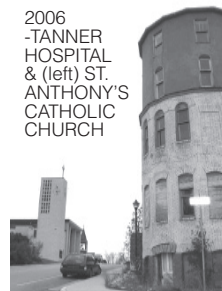
The Pengilly House, 24 and 26 East Washington Street, is a duplex built by Captain John Pengilly for his family and mother, who had accompanied the family from Cornwall, Great Britain. It was the first house in Ely with running water and a flush toilet.

Ely Bowling Center, First and Camp Street started its existence as the Finnish Opera House with performances by professionals and amateurs; later it served as a silent movie theater.

Winding back East on Camp Street is the Tanner



2006
-TANNER
HOSPITAL
& (left) ST.
ANTHONY'S
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



Hospital, 200 block of Camp Street. Opened in 1905, this unusual hospital was the dream of a radical Finn socialist, Antero Tanner. Later in life Tanner quit his job with the Finnish Workers Magazine and went back to school to become a doctor. The window-filled turret was where patients recovered from surgery, enjoying the room's therapeutic view of Shagawa Lake and the five iron ore mines nearby. In 1907 Dr. Carroll C. Carpenter took over the hospital and it became known as the Carpenter Hospital. Local residents now sometimes call this structure the "castle" and hope that it will soon be renovated by its new owners

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 East Camp Street, was named for the patron saint of mining. The top of this hill was called "Church Corner" since there were originally four churches located here. Father Joseph Buh, a Catholic missionary who served the region, arrived in 1887 to start the parish and he is regarded by some as being saintly. The present day St. Anthony's was built in 1958.

United Methodist Church, 305 East Camp Street, is Ely's oldest church building and has served area Methodists for over 100 years on the same site.

Turning south and west to Sheridan Street, you pass Insula restaurant, 145 East Sheridan which started its life as a dry goods store and became the Piggly Wiggly grocery store before becoming a restaurant known as Vertin's. A painting by Carl Gawboy in City Hall shows the corner on a winter's night with a Greyhound bus awaiting passengers.

Boathouse Brewpub, 47 East Sheridan Street, was built in the 1880s by M.E. Gleason who sold it in 1924 to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows who had been renters of the upstairs meeting rooms. The Scandinavian Fraternity of America, chartered in 1894, and the Masonic Lodge also met there. It was operated as a hardware store and mortuary by Gleason, Laing and Lynn in succession. It became Gibson's, the forerunner to Shopko, in the 1970s before being turned into Cranberry's, a bar and restaurant.

Next door to the west is the First State Bank building which failed in 1929. Steger Mukluks now occupies what once was the Finnish Stock Building next door. The Finnish Stock opened for business in 1914 and carried a full line of grocery items with the exception of meat products and passed most of the savings back to members of the cooperative who owned stock in the store.

Central Avenue housed bars and hotels which catered to people arriving at the DM&IR (Duluth Mesabi & Iron Range Railroad) depot nearby. Portage Bar had been the Hotel Ely and on the corner where Tony's gas station now stands was the Vail Hotel which burned down in 1905. Across the street to the west was the Veranth Hotel which had a



1900 - CENTRAL AVENUE LOOKING NORTH TO VAIL HOTEL

Ely's iron mining history.

The site is on the National Register of Historic Places and was the largest and last of United States Steel's underground mining operations on the Vermilion Range. It closed on April 1, 1967 after producing 42 million tons of Bessemer



2016 - MINERS DRY HOUSE AT PIONEER MINE

grade iron. It is now operated by Ely Greenstone Public Art as the Ely Arts & Heritage Center. During the summer, the mine's Shaft House is open to visitors two afternoons each week. Art activities are held at the Miners Dry House, accessed by the Miners Lake Landing Road.



PRE-1950 ZENITH MINE WORKERS CELEBRATE SAFETY AWARD

But Ely's historic sites are more than just the Pioneer Mine overlooking Miners Lake. Although it is on the National Historic Register, it is not the only place that bears that designation. Burntside Lodge, off of Country Road 88, on the shores of Burntside Lake is also on the National Historic Register.



1880S - OJIBWAY INDIANS LIVED ON THE SHORES OF BURNTSIDE LAKE.

many years as the heart of Ely's social life, hosting hundreds of weddings, banquets, pancake breakfasts and church rummage sales. In the early days, before running water in homes was the rule, showers for men and women were offered here.

One block to the south is the Ely Steam Bath, 117 South 1st Avenue East. Built by Emil Ahola and open for business in 1917, the Ely Steam Bath has been providing people with sauna and shower facilities for eight decades. People counted on the Ely Steam Bath every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday night; along with the Steam Bath's long standing tradition of being open every Christmas and New Year's Eve so people could look and smell their best on those two special days.



2006 - ELY STEAM BATH

An alternate to heading west from the Chamber of Commerce would be to head northeast on 169. The present day City of Ely Cemetery is adjacent to Dorothy Molter Museum, under the pines on the right, in the east end of Ely. Some of Dorothy Molter's cabins from the Isle of the Pines on Knife Lake have been relocated here and the museum is a remembrance of one of the Boundary Waters most famous citizens, and one of the last non-native people to call it home.

Next road on the right leads to Hidden Valley ski complex where cross country ski trails provide winter fun, and the Michael Forsman Joint Public Works Facility. The International Wolf Center provides insight into the legendary animal and has an enclosed compound for a small pack of wolves.

Across the highway is the U.S. Forest Service Kawishiwi District's headquarters and its bunkhouses.

Turning left on County Road 88, also known as Grant McMahan Boulevard, you could circle Shagawa Lake and be able to return to Ely from the West.

However, instead turn left on Pioneer Road before the river and you'll see a long low building which was part of the Sibley Mine. Continue on until you reach the Pioneer Mine A-Shaft and Mining Complex on Pioneer Road across from the Grand Ely Lodge. The Pioneer Mine is where iron ore was explored in Ely in the summer of 1885. This is the last and best example of



2016 - PIONEER MINE HEADFRAME & SHAFT HOUSE, NOW ELY ARTS & HERITAGE CENTER.



1982 - OBERSTAR BOARDING HOUSE, LEFT, TRAIN DEPOT (CENTER) & ENGINE HOUSE, RIGHT, ARE THE ONLY BUILDINGS WHICH STILL REMAIN TODAY ADJACENT TO CHANDLER LOCATION.

ballroom on the top floor. The Chocolate Moose is located on the site now.

By 1917 the city had 52 liquor licenses issued. By 1930 the city had reached its population height: 6,151 living within the city. The train depot was where the majority of visitors and workers arrived. To the east was the oblong "round house" where train engines were repaired.

Let's turn around here and head south two blocks on Central. Turn East on Chapman Street and you see Merhar's Ace Hardware, 48 East Chapman St. Built in the last century and known first as Berglund Brothers Hardware and Furniture Store. Mortuary services were also included since caskets at the time were simple pine boxes for the most part. The Merhars have owned it for five generations.



2016 - CHAPMAN STREET LOOKING WEST

A drug store was located at 101 East Chapman Street and was incorporated as a business partnership in 1898 between Dr. Shipman and Alijah James, an apothecary, who dispensed the latest medicines from the main floor while the upstairs served as the town's first hospital until 1895 when Shipman built a wood frame hospital across from Ely City Hall where the new Ely Public Library is now located.

The building kitty-cornered across the street housed the Kaleva Hall upstairs, a meeting room for the Ladies and Knights of the Kaleva, a Finnish social group.

Ely's City Hall is built on the same site as the original wood frame city hall. It houses the police and fire departments. The city council meets on the top floor in the former courtroom. The present building was renovated in 2015,

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2016 ELY CITY HALL- POLICE DPT

adding an elevator wing.

Next door (east) is the Fenske House, 233 East Chapman Street. One of the oldest homes in Ely, it was built in the early 1890s by A.J. Fenske who owned the second hardware store in town. It was especially constructed to please his bride Ella Wilson Fenske, the first school teacher in town.



1909- SHIPMAN HOSPITAL

The Ely Public Library, was built on the site in 2015.

A half block to the east is the Holmes house, at the southeast corner of 3rd Avenue and Chapman. Built around the turn of the century, this three story brick building made the statement that Ely was here to stay. While the active timber industry was producing lumber for our expanding country, building



2016 - ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY



2016- REST ROOMS, PAVILION & PLAYGROUND AT WHITESIDE PARK.

a home of bricks sent the message that Ely had come of age.

Whiteside Park can be reached by continuing east on Chapman Street until it dead ends at the park. It occupies the 700-800 blocks between Sheridan and Harvey streets. The park was a gift to the city from R.B. Whiteside, the fee holder of the Pioneer Mine, whose family made a fortune mining iron ore. Whiteside Park has become home to our city's many festivals. The band shell was made possible through funding from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust while the pavilion was a gift from area loggers and log home builders. The park is home to several festivals and events.

Turning right on Seventh Avenue takes you to Ely's baseball fields off Harvey Street. Turn right on Harvey and you'll pass Ely Public Schools in the 300-600 blocks. Starting with the original high school in 1906, Independent School District 696 is now made up of three buildings which were among the first examples of a campus concept for public schools in northeast Minnesota.



2006 - Ely Public schools, ISD 696, at 600 E Harvey St.

Olson was Dean, was torn down in the 1960s.

Across the street to the west was the American Fraternal Union, at the corner of 4th and Harvey. This building was home to an insurance firm which traced its legacy to the turn of the century when a group of Slavic miners pooled their resources to form the South Slavic Union. The AFU provided insurance and helped miners gain badly needed financial security. Ely was the national headquarters of the insurance company which sold policies through fraternal lodges nationwide.

Presbyterian Church, 220 East Harvey Street. While not the oldest building, the brown brick church sits on the oldest church site in the city. Back in 1895 the original wooden building was almost destroyed in a forest fire which reached what was then the southern limits of town. A fortunate shift in the wind moved the conflagration to the east, and the church and town were both saved the ravages of fire.

U.S. Post Office, Harvey and Second Avenue. New Deal money went into upgrading Ely's postal facility during the 1930s. The two story brick building has murals by WPA artist Elsa Laubach Jemne: "Wilderness" and "Iron Ore Miners" depict nature and underground mining, gracing the building's lobby.



2006 - US Post Office at 34 s 2nd Ave S.

The Ely Bottling Works, in the middle of the hundred block of East Harvey Street, was started in 1906. It was run by Charlie Lampi along with his brother Jack. Mirrors with a pair of big red lips on it with the words, "Get Kissed Pop" written on it, were the trade mark of the Ely Bottling Works which closed in the late 1970s.



2006 - Community Center at 1st & Harvey

Ely's former Community Center, 1st Avenue East and Harvey Street was built in the mid 1930s and dedicated in 1938. Built on the site of the old Central School, the brown sandstone building is adorned with bas relief sculptures depicting the local area. The Community Center served for

ta. The Washington building was built in 1906, the Industrial Arts Building in 1912 and present-day Ely Memorial High School in 1922. The original high school, which later became the Ely Junior College where Sigurd