

Partridge Creek and the Cedar Swamp



Photo: Superior View

Earliest known photograph of Ishpeming, then known as the Lake Superior Location. The name Ishpeming was not chosen until 1862.

Two Mining Locations Develop into a Town

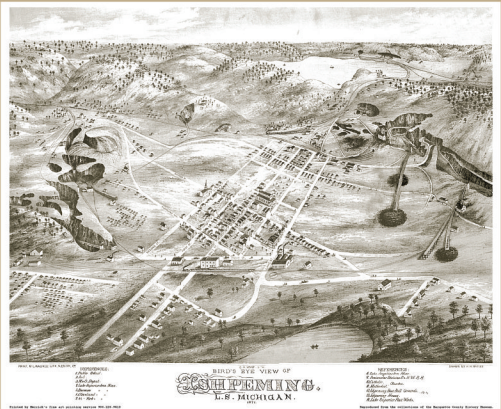
There could hardly be a more unfavorable location for a town site. It was in the middle of a large cedar swamp with Partridge Creek meandering through.

By 1860, two settlements developed next to the earliest iron mine sites: The Cleveland Mine (east of here) and The Lake Superior Mine (south of here). Waste rock from the mines eventually filled the cedar swamp.

In the next decade, the mines expanded to meet demand for iron during the Civil War. The population was exploding with an immigrant work force. 5000 people now resided in what the miners termed "The Lake Superior Location". In 1869, Robert Nelson, butcher by trade, recognized the need for a business district and purchased the surface rights of the built-up swamp. He platted the land and sold the lots. Within four months ten businesses were operating.

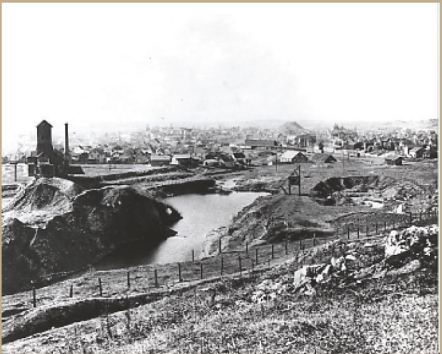
Ishpeming, as we now call it, grew from a cedar swamp to a booming iron ore town.

Ishpeming gets its name from the Ojibwe language. In Frederic Baraga's "A Dictionary of the Ojibway Language" the exact word 'Ishpiming' means above, on high, at the summit, in the air.



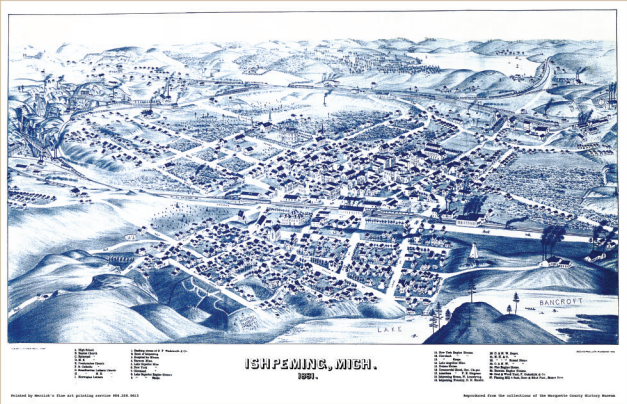
Birdseye View of Early Ishpeming, looking south - 1871.

Map: Marquette Regional History Center



New York Mine

Photo: Superior View



Birdseye View of Early Ishpeming, looking south - 1881.

Map: Marquette Regional History Center



Cleveland Iron Mining Company Open Pit Mine 1870.

Photo: Emory Marquette Regional History Center