

27. Tower Lakeview Cemetery – 100 Cedar St – Tower
 Lakeview Cemetery has existed since 1888. Cemetery burial records can be accessed at www.cityoftower.com/cultural

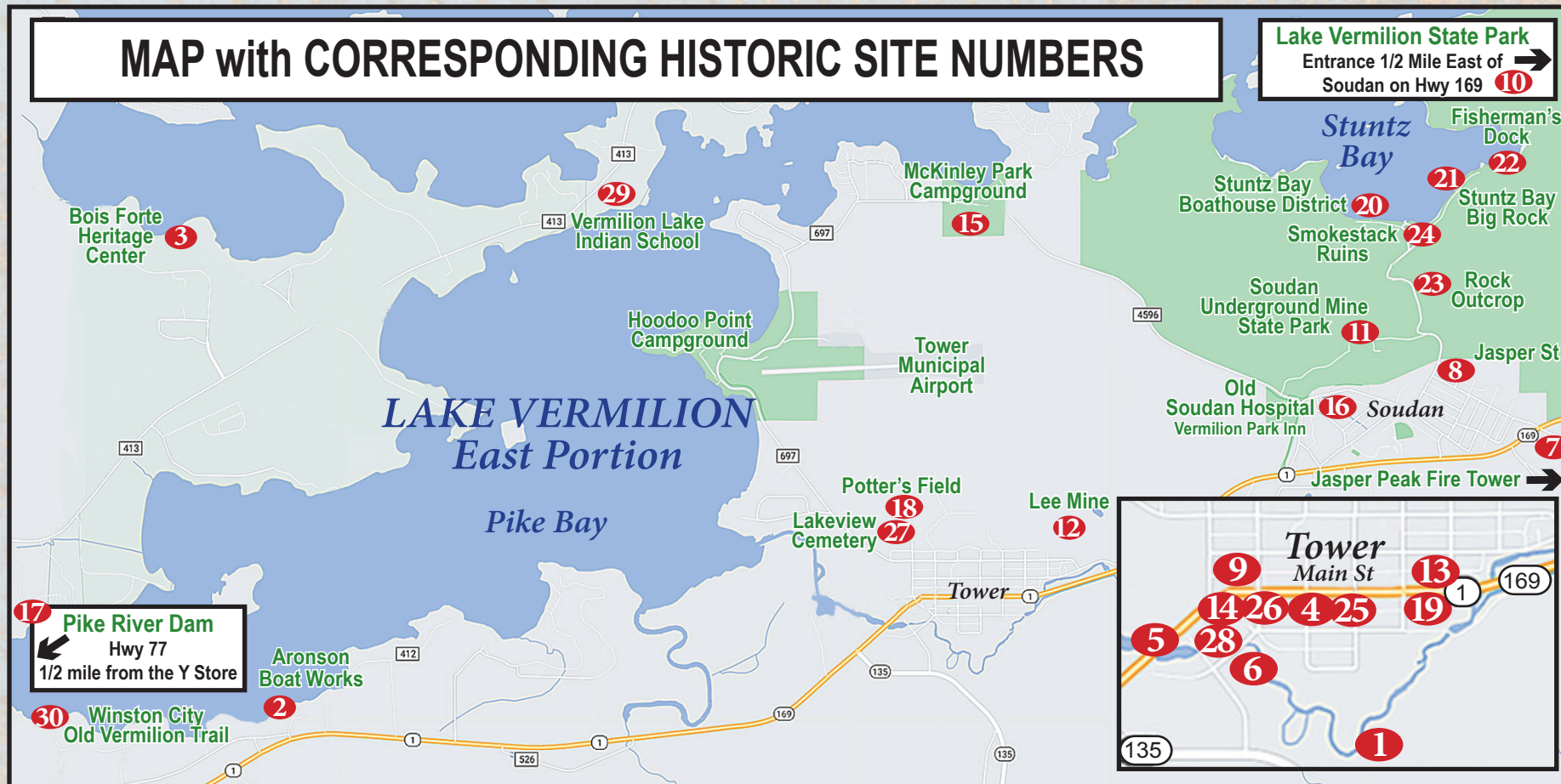
28. Tower Train Station Museum
404 Pine St – Tower
 The train depot, built in 1916, facilitated the development of the resort and tourist industry throughout the early part of the twentieth century. The depot is now a museum and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. www.towersoudanhistory.com

29. Vermilion Lake Indian School/ Hoodoo Point Campground – 5788 Hoodoo Point Rd – Tower
 Hoodoo Point beach provides a view across the lake to an unused field of the Nett Lake Reservation Vermilion Lake District near the community center which holds the remains of a long-closed Indian boarding school. <http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/58/v58i04p224-240.pdf>

30. Winston City and Old Vermilion Trail
Highway 169 and Pike Bay Drive – Tower
 In 1866, Winston City was a log cabin and shack community created by gold prospectors. In 1867, disgruntled gold miners deserted the digs and Winston City became the first ghost town of the Vermilion Range. <https://waymarking.com/waymarks/wm6J8TheOldVermilionTrailandWinstonCity>

HISTORIC LANDMARKS and Places of Interest

Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion A Self-Guided History Tour Map



This Self-Guided History Tour Map is a compilation of historic landmarks in the Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion area. Enjoy your experiences as you discover the history of this area, the places, the stories, and the people.

Tower Train Museum
 404 Pine Street - Tower
Historic Fire Hall
 504 Main Street - Tower

The Historic Fire Hall, constructed in 1895, tells the story of the early days of the City of Tower and surrounding area. The unique building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is being restored by the Tower-Soudan Historical Society. We invite you to donate to the Historic Fire Hall Restoration Fund.



Become a Member to Support our Operations!
 Tower-Soudan Historical Society • P.O. Box 465, Tower, MN 55790 • \$15/Individual Membership
 Website: www.towersoudanhistory.com Email: towersoudanhs@gmail.com

Tower-Soudan-Lake Vermilion Historic Landmarks and Places of Interest • Self-Guided History Tour Map

1. Ancient Cedars Trail – Tower

This hiking trail, just off the Mesabi Trail near the train depot, features an old growth white cedar stand that grew back following a forest fire around 1880. www.queticosuperior.org

2. Aronson Mail Boat Route 6143 Pike Bay Dr – Tower

This mail boat service has operated out of Aronson Boat Works for over 100 years delivering mail on an 80-mile route to Lake Vermilion properties. www.aronsonboatworks.com

3. Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum 1500 Bois Forte Rd – Tower

The museum is dedicated to teaching the history and culture of the Bois Forte Ojibwe Band. www.boisforteheritagecenter.com

4. Historic Tower Fire Hall – 504 Main St – Tower

The historic fire hall was the first fire hall built on the Iron Range (1895), and is the oldest existing public building north of Duluth. www.towersoudanhistory.com

5. Historic Tower Harbor – West entrance to Tower

In the early days, the Tower Harbor was a transportation hub and bustling commercial center with a hotel, outfitters, boat builder and passenger steamboats that pioneered Minnesota's resort industry. www.cityoftower.com

6. Ice House/Range Brewery – Iron Ore Bar 715 Pine St – Tower

From 1894 to 1920, this three-story concrete structure served as the ice house for the Iron Range Brewing Company. www.timberjay.com Archives: search "brewing"

7. Jasper Peak Fire Lookout – Tower Eastern outskirts of Soudan – Old Highway 1

This 60 ft lookout tower, built in 1934, was used by the state forestry service into the 1990's. www.minnesota-firetower.blogspot.com www.lakevermillion.net

8. Jasper St – Soudan at the junction of Jasper St and Stuntz Bay Rd

Soudan was a residential company-owned mining town. The first seven houses built on Jasper Street with the mine's head frame in the background still stand today. www.breitungtownship.org

9. Lake Vermilion Cultural Center – St. Mary's Hall 705 Main St – Tower

Initially a mission church built in 1889, the former St. Mary's Episcopal Church is one of the oldest existing structures in Tower. It was moved from its original location on Tower's east end to the current site. www.vermillionculturalcenter.org

10. Lake Vermilion State Park Half mile east of Soudan on Highway 169

The Lake Vermilion State Park was established in 2010 with 3,000 acres of old growth pine forests and five miles of shoreline. www.dnr.state.mn.us

11. Soudan Underground Mine State Park 1302 McKinley Park Rd – Soudan

The Soudan Underground Mine, Minnesota's first iron ore mine, opened in 1882 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. www.dnr.state.mn.us

12. Lee Mine – North Hill – Tower

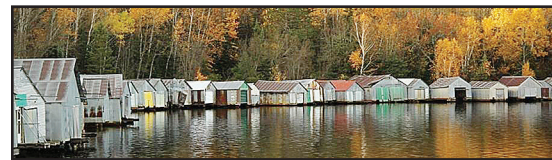
In 1882, the Minnesota Iron Company started mining the rich vein of iron ore that became known as the Lee Mine. It shut down unexpectedly, leaving the 300 workers who showed up for work the next day stunned that all the surface machines and railroad tracks had been removed. www.timberjay.com Search archives "Mystery Mine"

13. Masonic Hall – Ghost Sign 307 Main St – Tower

A ghost sign is an old hand-painted advertising sign that has been preserved on a building for an extended period of time or has faded. One can be seen on the exterior brick wall of the former Masonic Hall on Tower's Main Street.

14. McKinley Monument – Poirier Rd – Tower Adjacent to the Tower Train Museum

After the assassination of President McKinley in 1901, a monument was built by the National Iron Company, whose owner was a childhood friend of McKinley. <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/32296>



Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District

15. McKinley Park Campground 5563 Hoodoo Point Rd – Soudan

US Steel deeded McKinley Park to Breitung Township. Each July, the Vermilion Range Old Settlers Association, established in 1914, hosts a picnic, as Range locals gather to enjoy "booyah," a traditional lumberjack stew. www.breitungtownship.org

16. Old Soudan Hospital – Vermilion Park Inn 30 Center St – Soudan

The Soudan Hospital was built in 1891 to provide medical services to Soudan miners and their families. Today, it has been transformed into a bed and breakfast. Tours are offered free of charge by the owner. www.vermillionparkinn.com

17. Pike River Dam – Highway 77 One-half mile from the Y Store

The hydroelectric dam was built in 1912 by the City of Tower to provide electricity. Local citizens opposed it as they feared the Pike River lacked sufficient water supply, which proved to be true. In 1924, Minnesota Power replaced water-generated electricity with power lines. www.lakesnwoods.com/TowerGallery.htm

18. Potter's Field – Lakeview Cemetery 100 Tamarack Dr – Tower

In sections 2 and 3 of Lakeview Cemetery rest 400 unmarked graves, an area allocated for those who had no family, whose family could not afford the burial cost, or those who were not permitted to be buried in another part of the cemetery in the early 1900s. www.findagrave.com/cemetery/82692/lake-view-cemetery

19. Skala Bar – Good Ol' Days Bar and Grill 316 Main St – Tower

Established in 1894, the Skala Bar is one of Tower's oldest buildings. In 1893, at a time when the population was 3,000 and growing due to the mining and timber industries, the city issued 22 liquor licenses. www.goodolddaystowermn.com

20. Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District Foothill of Stuntz Bay Rd – Soudan

One hundred and forty-five "wet" boathouses line the south shoreline of Stuntz Bay on Lake Vermilion. The Oliver Mining Company leased land to workers to build boathouses for lake access. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/getAsset/dc2338c6-6a72-4dcf-9b98-5f9c49de027c>

21. Stuntz Bay – "Big Rock" – Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District – Soudan

A natural outcropping of greenstone is located about mid-way along the east line of boathouses and serves as a local fishing spot and way-finding landmark for lake travelers. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/getAsset/dc2338c6-6a72-4dcf-9b98-5f9c49de027c>

22. Stuntz Bay – "Fisherman's Dock" Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District – Soudan

A point of land near the east side of Stuntz Bay forms the eastern terminus of the boathouse row. A stone foundation and the ruins of a cabin built by early settlers are visible in the woods to the south of the outcropping. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/getAsset/dc2338c6-6a72-4dcf-9b98-5f9c49de027c>

23. Stuntz Bay Rock Outcrop – Stuntz Bay Rd – Soudan

On the right side of Stuntz Bay Road is a clearing where one can view the glacially eroded outcrop of jaspilite banded iron formation found in the Vermilion Range from 2.7 billion years ago. <https://queticosuperior.org/blog/lakevermillion-state-park>

24. Smokestack and Compressor Building Foundation Ruins – Stuntz Bay Boathouse Historic District – Soudan

Stone ruins of a building which housed a steam engine and air compression equipment for the Soudan Iron Mine remain near the base of the intact brick smokestack. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/getAsset/dc2338c6-6a72-4dcf-9b98-5f9c49de027c>

25. "Tippet" Steam-Powered Fire Engine – Tower

After a series of dangerous fires in 1891, city officials purchased a horse-drawn steam-powered fire engine. Named after the Tower mayor, it served the area until 1928. It will be the featured centerpiece in the restored Historic Fire Hall. www.towersoudanhistory.com

26. Tower – Minnesota Historical Marker Herbert R. Lamma Tower Civic Center – Tower

This historic marker commemorates the history of Tower. An original ore crusher used in the search for gold sits on the top. https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm956F_Tower_MN

Historic Sites continued on
other side of brochure...

