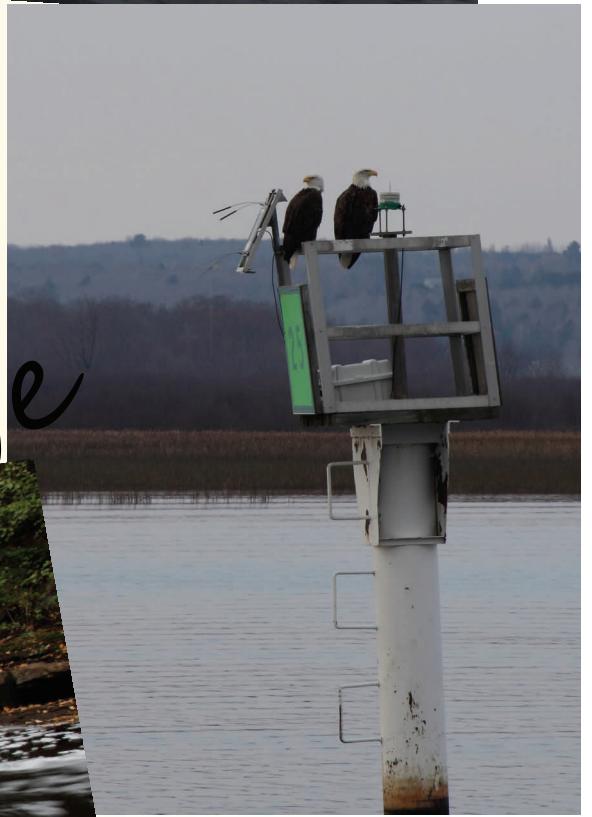
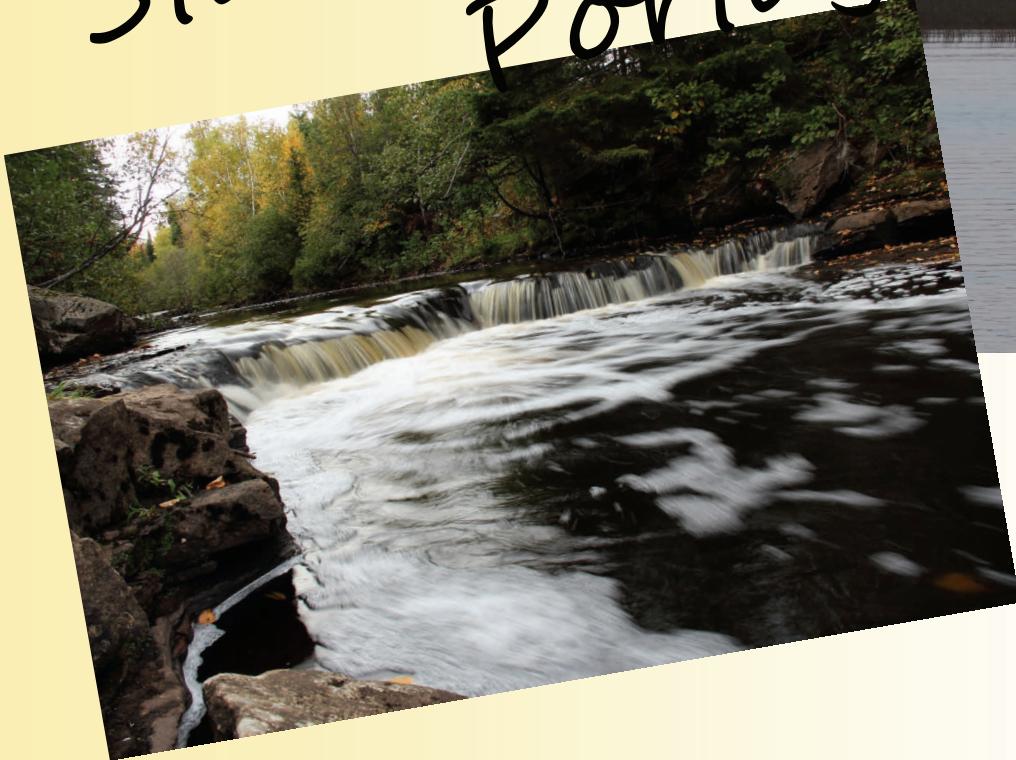


Welcome
Aboard



Welcome
To
Station
Portage



How it all started

Located in the Northernmost portion of Michigan's upper peninsula is an area rich in history. The Keweenaw Peninsula projects into Lake Superior some 50 miles and was the site of the first copper boom in the United States. Initially, Native Americans dug copper from the southern shore of Lake Superior. This development was possible because large deposits of copper were easily accessible in surface rock and from shallow diggings. Native copper could be found as large nuggets and wiry masses.

The Keweenaw's rich deposits of copper (and some silver) were extracted on an industrial scale beginning around the middle of the 19th century. The industry grew through the latter part of the century and employed thousands of people well into the 20th century. This vigorous industry created a need for educated mining professionals and directly led to the founding of the Michigan Mining School (now Michigan Technological University) in Houghton.



The copper industry was, for over 100 years, the life blood of the Copper Country. Numerous towns including Calumet, Houghton, and Hancock existed primarily due to copper mining. Annual production peaked in 1916 at 266,000,000 pounds of copper. Most mines closed during the great depression as a result of depressed copper prices. Many mines reopened during World War II, when wartime demand pushed copper prices higher. The end of the war brought an end to high prices, and nearly all companies closed. As the mines began to close, the Copper Country lost its major economic base. The population declined sharply as miners, shop owners, and others supported by the industry left the area, leaving many small ghost towns throughout the peninsula. Michigan's native copper industry was essentially dead, after producing 11,000,000,000 pounds of copper.

Tourism, education, and logging are now the major industries. The copper industry left many abandoned mines and buildings across the Copper Country. Some mines, such as the Adventure mine, Quincy Mine, and the Delaware mine, are open as tourist attractions. Many other mining lands are simply left abandoned.

Copper mining also took a significant impact on the environment. Mine rock processing operations left many fields of stamp sand, some of which grew so large as to become hazards to navigation in the Keweenaw Waterway. Stamp Sand is a coarse sand left over from the processing of ore in a stamp mill. In the United States, the most well-known deposits of stamp sand are here in the Copper Country, where it is black or dark grey, and may contain hazardous concentrations of trace metals.



Many metal mines used stamp mills to process ore-bearing rock. The rock was brought to a stamp mill to be crushed. After crushing, the material was mechanically separated to extract metals, or chemically treated if the metal could be leached out. In the Copper Country the sand was then usually disposed near the mill. As mills often relied on steam power to operate they were built on the shore of lakes and rivers. The stamp sand was thus dumped into the water, sometimes growing deep enough to create entirely new land. Stamp sand discarded into the water was sometimes reclaimed with dredges to be re-stamped when more efficient stamping technology was developed.



One such dredge, the **Quincy Dredge Number Two** is currently sunk in shallow water in Torch Lake, in the Keweenaw Waterway. It was constructed to reclaim stamping sand from the lake for further processing, and was designated a Michigan State Historic Site in 1978.

The Keweenaw Waterway is a partly natural, partly artificial waterway which cuts across the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan; it separates Copper Island from the mainland. Parts of the waterway are variously known as the Keweenaw Waterway, Portage Canal, Portage Lake Canal, Portage River, Lily Pond, Torch Lake, and Portage Lake. The waterway connects to Lake Superior at its

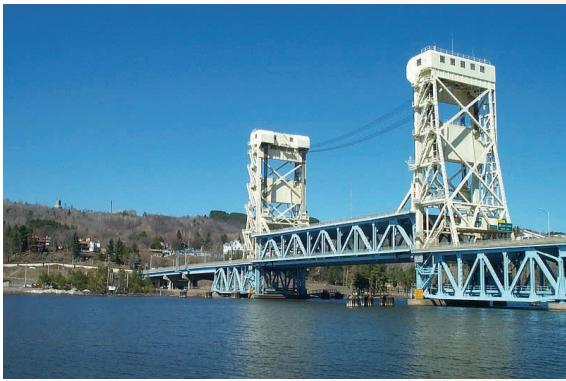
north and south entries (upper and lower portage entry lighthouses), with sections known as Portage Lake and Torch Lake in between. U.S. Coast Guard Station Portage is located on the Keweenaw Waterway.

The waterway was dredged in the 1860s, extending a small river previously used by natives for transportation and fishing. The effort was a joint venture between the United States Government and several mining corporations



The canal starts at the mouth of Boston Creek and continues on to Lake Superior.

The expanded canal allowed freighters to haul copper from the rich copper mines of the Keweenaw Peninsula out through Lake Superior to larger cities. It also enabled supply boats and freighters to reach the cities of Houghton and Hancock, which supplied goods to most of Michigan's copper region. The expanded canal and shipping lane has a depth of 25 feet. The area north of the waterway is known locally as Copper Island, because the waterway separates the northern part of the Keweenaw Peninsula from the mainland. The Keweenaw Waterway is part of the Keweenaw Water Trail, a designated loop route around and through the Keweenaw Peninsula for canoes and sea kayaks. The Lake Superior coast line is craggy and varied. Uninhabited wilderness, occasional nature preserves and parks, are interspersed with sheltered harbors that offer weary paddlers the option for a warm bed, hot meal and shower. An average paddler can cover the route in six to eight days.



The only land route across the waterway is US 41/M-26 across the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. The Portage Lake Lift Bridge (officially the Houghton–Hancock Bridge) connects the cities of Hancock and Houghton.

Lake Superior is known for violent storms and hurricane force winds. The Keweenaw waterway was an excellent refuge for shipping traffic before modern maritime advances. Initially, the entrances to the waterway was narrow and proved very difficult to enter during inclement weather. In response, the U.S Lifesaving service established a life saving stations on the peninsula. Since 1885, Coast Guard Station Portage has been in five separate locations.

In 1885, the Northern (upper entrance) was only 100 Ft wide. This was like threading a needle for many ship captains and resulted in numerous groundings and collisions with the sea wall. The U.S. Life Saving service built a station on the Houghton Side (West Bank) approximately 3/4 of a mile from the entrance. The facility housed the crew and boats powered by oars and sail. There was no lookout tower and the canal entrance could not be seen from the station which led to the relocation to the Hancock side (East Side) in 1902.

Upon the move to the opposite side of the canal in 1902, it was renamed Portage Lifesaving Station. Here a first class station was built which included a boat house and residences for the keepers and their families. The new location allowed 24 hour monitoring of the canal entrance. This was also the 1st Portage station to receive a motorized life boat.

In 1935, the station was again moved. To facilitate widening of the Canal entrance from 100 ft to 500 ft, the station was moved further south along the Hancock side of the canal. The station housed crew quarters and a separate house for the Officer in Charge and his family. The boat house was built to launch directly into the canal. Boats types ranged from the 36 ft motorized life boat to the 44 ft motor lifeboat. This facility was used for recruit training during World War II, training up to 50 men at a time. After World War II, Portage ceased training recruits and shifted to the traditional search and rescue missions. Operations continued until 1990 when the unit was abandoned and temporarily moved into the City of Hancock adjacent the Houghton - Hancock Lift Bridge.

Seven years after 1990, the present U.S. Coast Guard Station Portage was established in Dollar Bay, MI. 13 miles from where it all started over 100 years ago. The current building houses an entire 3rd floor of berthing, numerous offices, and crew workshops. Additionally, six 3 and 4 bedroom houses are located on the station grounds for members' families. Station Portage has two 47' Motor Life boats and one 25' Response Boat Small. Station Portage provides the only heavy weather SAR coverage on Lake Superior where wave heights can exceed 30 ft.

- Wikipedia, and various historical documents cited for this brief history.



Important *Houghton & Hancock* Contacts & Websites



Houghton & Hancock Contacts

City of Hancock: www.CityofHancock.com

City of Houghton: www.CityofHoughton.com

The cities of Houghton and Hancock are separated by the Keweenaw Waterway. Each is its separate city. The Michigan Technological University is located in Houghton. The major shopping centers are also on the Houghton Side. Each city is tucked into the steep hillsides which provide a unique driving experience. During the winter months numerous roads are simply closed down during snowfalls since they are too steep to be negotiated safely until plowed.

Helpful Websites

Utilities:

WWW.UPPCO.COM Upper Peninsula Power Company provides the areas electrical service.

WWW.SEMCOENERGYGAS.COM SemcoEnergy provides the areas natural gas service.

WWW.CITYOFHANCOCK.COM Water, wastewater, and garbage for the city of Hancock.

WWW.CITYOFHOUGHTON.COM Water, wastewater, and garbage for the city of Houghton.

Cable/Internet

WWW.CHARTERTV.COM/MI/HOUGHTON Charter is the primary source of internet, phone, and TV

Local Area Knowledge

WWW.KEWEENAWNOWN.BLOGSPOT.COM Keweenaw Now blog keeps you up to date on local events.

WWW.MININGGAZETTE.COM Covers Houghton and the Northern Upper Peninsula daily news.

WWW.KEWEENAW.ORG Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce

WWW. KEWEENAW.INFO Keweenaw Visitor Bureau

WWW.EXPLORINGTHENORTH.COM Additional information on the area.



Coast Guard Contacts

Station Portage

Station Main Line

906-482-1520

Officer in Charge

BMCS Edward Iversen
906-482-1520

Executive Petty Officer

Email: Casey.G.Mcdonald@uscg.mil

BMC Casey McDonald
906-482-1520
906-231-3219 (cell)

Engineering Petty Officer

Email: Daniel.A.Clark@uscg.mil

MKC Daniel Clark
906-482-1520

Address:

USCG Station Portage
P.O. BOX 350
22911 Chippewa TR
Dollar Bay, MI 49922

OPFAC: 09-30405

Sector Sault Ste Marie Contacts

Relocation Assistance Manager

Email: David.N.Bolanz@uscg.mil

Mr. Dave Bolanz

216-906-6291

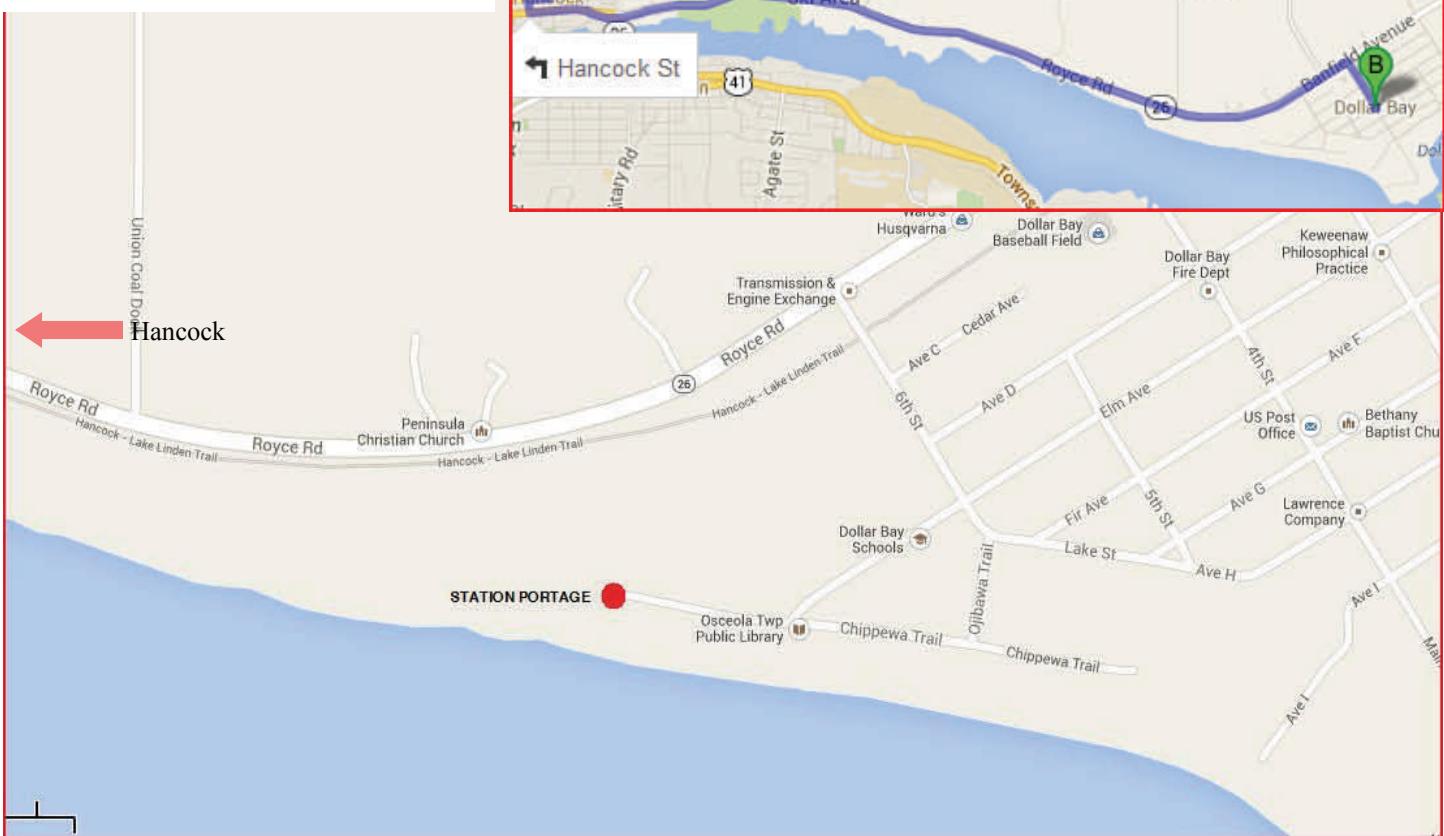
SPO Yeoman

YN3 Carlos Rodriguez

Email: Carlos.A.Rodriguez@uscg.mil

906-253-2401

Dollar Bay is 4.5 miles from downtown Hancock, Mi. Drive time is approximately 10 minutes.

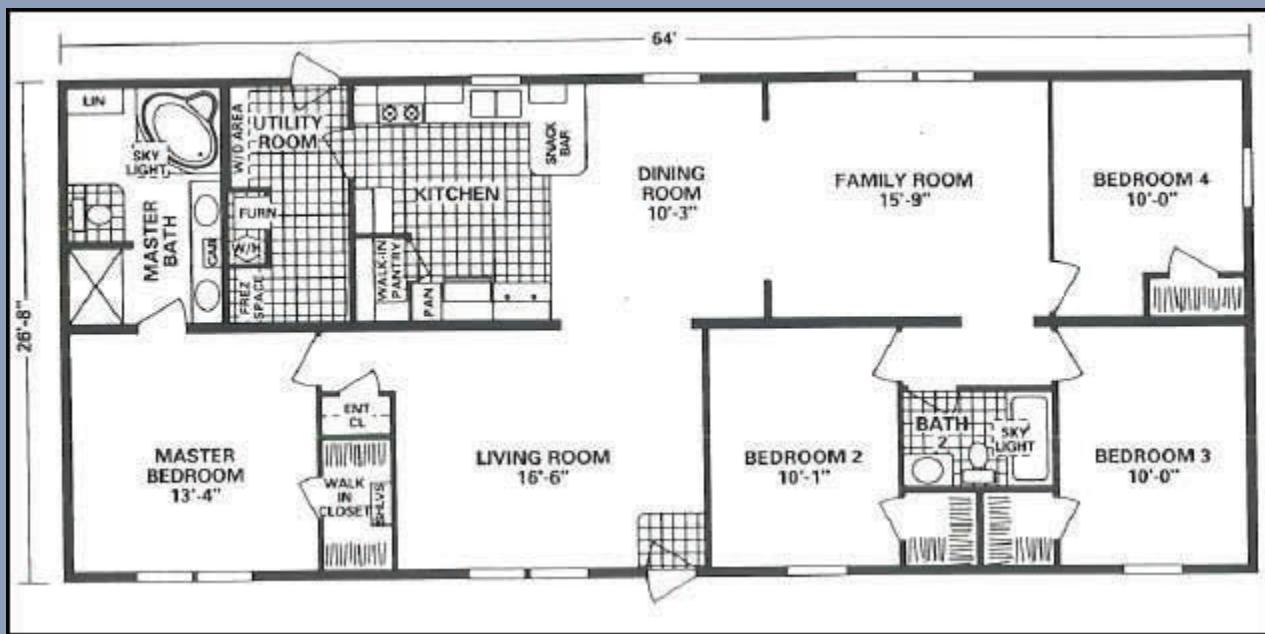
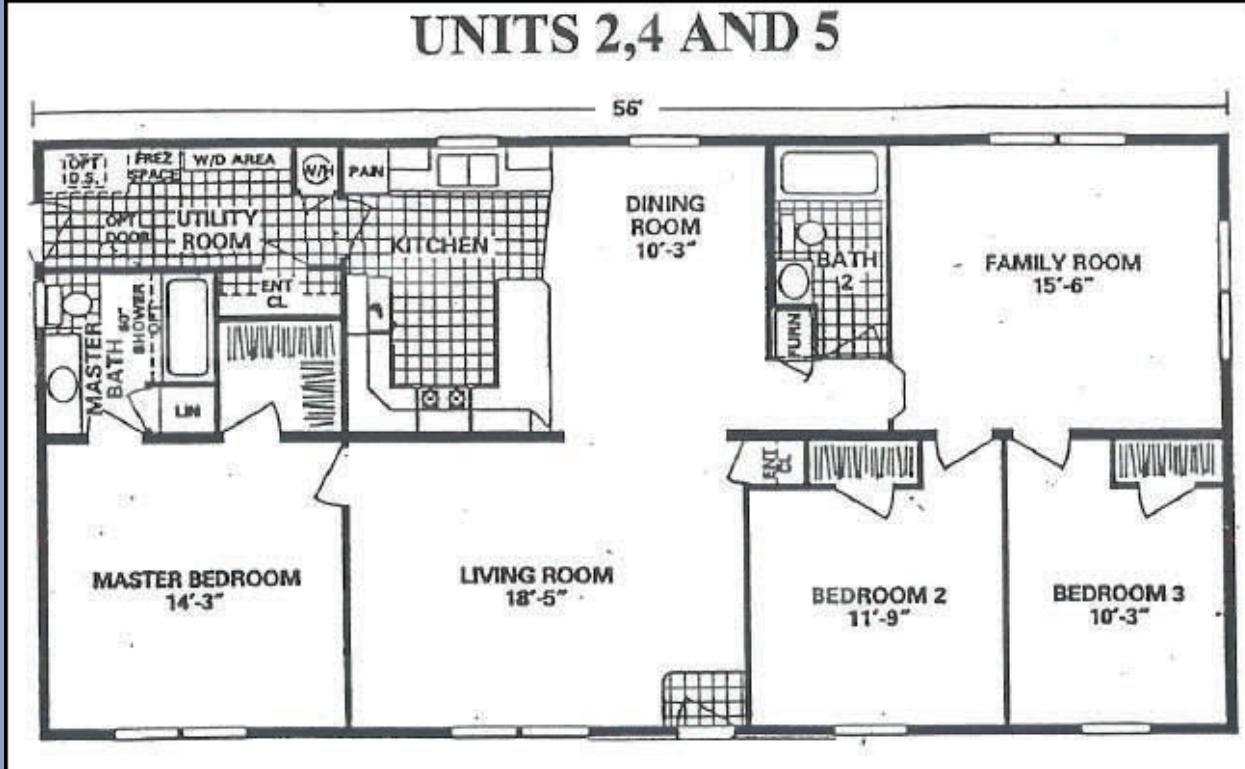




Housing

Station Portage has 6 single floor ranch style family homes located on the unit grounds. These range in size from 3 to 4 bedroom homes. Each are located on the unit grounds in a row along the northern portion of the property. All have a fenced in backyard and garage. They do not have basements. The houses do not have central air, however window units can be installed during the summer months. Floor plans are provided below for some of the units.

UNITS 2,4 AND 5





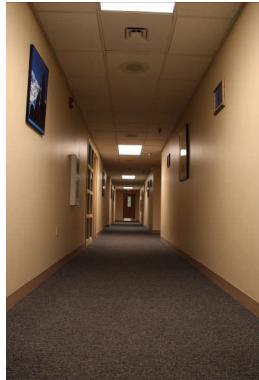
Housing



Above is one of the six Coast Guard owned houses located onboard Station Portage.



Housing



UPH is available for members without dependents E-5 and below on the Station grounds. The rooms are located on the station's 3rd deck. Each room has its own bath. A twin sized bed, refrigerator, and wardrobes are provided.





Housing



Searching for housing on the economy in Houghton/Hancock can be challenging. Available options include apartment complexes, duplexes, studios, and single family homes. A 3 Bedroom single family home will tend to rent anywhere from 450 to 1500 a month, not including utilities. House types range from new construction to fixer uppers. Michigan Technological University (MTU) students number in the 7000's and quickly absorb available housing during the college year. Students return to college each August through May.

When deciding on a location to live members should weigh numerous impacts including:

- *Winter Driving*
- *School Districts and busing limitations*
- *Spousal employment and commute time*

The best sources for locating rentals include:

The Daily Mining Gazette: Local newspaper published daily. The classifieds section is available online and provides rentals/houses from across the Northern Upper Peninsula.

Craigslist: There is no specific search for the local area. Its called “ Craigslist Yoopers”.

Michigan Tech
Off-Campus Housing

Home
Information
Search Listings
Add a Listing
View all Listings
ISO Login
(to see e-mail on listings)
Remove Listing



RAS Apartments: www.RasApartments.com lists quite a few apartments, duplexes etc.

Michigan Technological University: MTU offers a website where local landlords post apartments and houses for rent. Primarily targeting the college student, yet 3-4 bedroom houses are advertised.

WWW.mtu.edu/international/admissions/faq/housing/off-campus/

OR

WWW.aux.mtu.edu/usghousing



Local Schools

Houghton

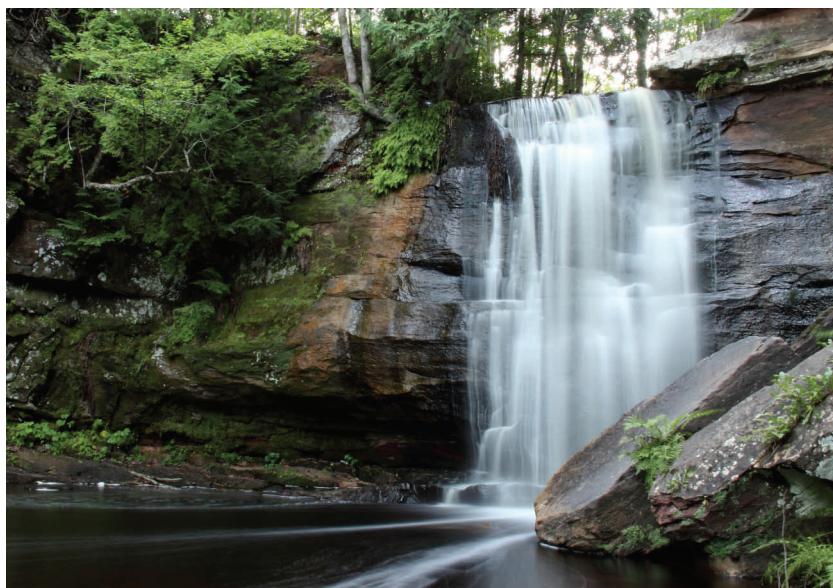
The Houghton side has three separate schools. Elementary , Middle and High school. School information is located on their website at www.hpts.us

Hancock

The Hancock side has two separate schools. Elementary in one and middle and high school students combined in another. School information is located on their website at www.hancock.k12.mi.us

Dollar Bay

Dollar Bay has one building which houses K-12. School information is located on their website at www.dollarbay.k12.mi.us The School is located just around the corner from the station approximately 300 yards away. Buses arrive each morning to the housing area around 0800.





Health Care

Station Portage is under the Tricare North Region. Active duty members will be enrolled into Tricare Prime Remote (TPR). Either Prime Remote or Standard is available for dependents. You are responsible for selecting a Primary Care Manager (PCM) for you and your families care. Your Primary Care Manager is a medical doctor of your choice who accepts our insurance in the local area. This is the person/office you will see for all routine care and who you must request specialty care through.

Hospitals:



Portage Heath: WWW.PORTAGEHEALTH.ORG The Main campus located in Hancock includes the Medical Group offices (Surgery, Family Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine), visiting specialty clinic, rehab, inpatient unit, audiology, emergency department, diagnostics, family birthing center, dialysis and other services.

They also offer primary care physicians to patients of all ages. Services range from general physical exams, immunizations, and disease management.

Portage Health is located at 500 Campus Dr. Hancock, Mi 49930. Phone: 906-483-1000

Pharmacies:

There are 3 pharmacies that accept Tricare insurance in the area.



Portage Heath has a pharmacy with drive thru service open 7 days a week.
906-483-1919



Houghton's 24 hour Wal-Mart supercenter Pharmacy is open 7 days a week.
906-482-5988



Houghton's Shopko Pharmacy is open 7 days a week.
906-487-9000

Optometrist:

The nearest optometrist is Meyer Family Vision (906-524-7114) located in L'Ance, MIA small town 40 miles to the south. Several other optometrists are located in Marquette, Mi approximately 100 miles East of Houghton/Hancock.



Health Care

Dental:

Active Duty members receive dental care under the Active Duty Dental Program (ADDP). Annual appointments are required and a local dentist may be located through the ADDP website.

Dependants receive dental care through a dentist of their choosing who accepts the Metlife Tricare Dental Insurance. The following dentists in Houghton/Hancock accept Metlife Tricare Dental Insurance.

Leonard W. Beesley
1111 Hecla ST
Hancock, MI 49930
(906) 482-8602

Useful Health care Websites:

Tricare Metlife website where you can enroll, view benefits and locate dentists.

Www.mybenefits.metlife.com

Tricare North region where you can view benefits and locate providers for specialty care/primary care managers.

www.hnfs.com



Child Care

There are numerous Child care program available in Houghton, Hancock, and Dollar Bay areas. Below is a list of some options in the area. This is not an exhaustive list. Feel free to contact your sponsor to get recommendations from the local Coast Guard Families.

Houghton, MI

Michigan Tech Preschool (906)487-2720

www.mtupreschool.org

Little Red School House(906)482-1697

Portage Family Place(

Rod Liimatainen Center(906)482-3663

Hancock, MI

Barkell Elementary School (906)487-9030

Little Huskies Child Care Center(906)487-3528

Ryan School (906)482-6653

Dollar Bay, MI

Dollar Bay Head Start (906)482-6504

The Great Explorations (906)482-5812

Calumet, MI

Centennial Child Development Center (906)337-3030

CLK Elementary Explorers Club (906)337-0311

Little Gippers Child Development Center(906)337-3144

Lake Linden

Lake Linden Hubbell Latchkey (906)296-6221

Lake Linden Preschool(906)296-9170

Chassell, MI

Chassell Preschool (906)523-4491



Outdoor Recreation

There is no shortage of outdoor activities regardless of the season. The Keweenaw Peninsula has numerous state parks, over 100 miles of shoreline, countless waterfalls. The main outdoor activity in the summer months is trail riding on the 4-wheeler or dirt bike. With 100's of miles of trails connecting unique northern towns it always an adventure. The same trails are then invaded with snow mobiles during the winter. The Keweenaw Peninsula is constantly blanketed with fresh snow almost daily. The Lake Superior waters surrounding the peninsula bombard the area with lake effect snow. It's not uncommon to receive 4-8 inches a day at times. Annual snowfall exceeds 25 ft from December into May.

Water sports: Here at station portage there is more to do in the summer than you have time to do. There are beaches located along the Keweenaw canal where relaxing, grilling out, volleyball and bonfires make for a great afternoon. And if that doesn't do it you can go jet-skiing, kayaking, go out on the boat and wake board, water ski or tubing. Anything you want to do in the water up here you can do! If you want to relax and bring your fishing pole to the beach you can do that too!

Camping/Hiking: The most amazing part of living in the Upper Peninsula is the fact that you live in a gigantic park. You can go hiking anywhere and everywhere. There are over 30 places to camp/hike that fit anyone's lifestyle from a walk in the park to extreme terrain. Misery Bay, The Porcupine Mountains and Pictured Rocks are some of the most beautiful places in the Midwest and once in awhile you'll come upon beautiful waterfalls.

Power sports: The Upper Peninsula has more trails than roads. You can get anywhere you want on a dirt bike, 4-wheeler, or in the winter, snow mobile. It is nationally known for its trails and power sports. There are more visitors who are here to snow mobile than anything else. The Houghton County Lift Bridge becomes a state trail for snow mobiles in the winter. If you like power sports you will love it! People drive their power sports to work, to the store, even to dinner.

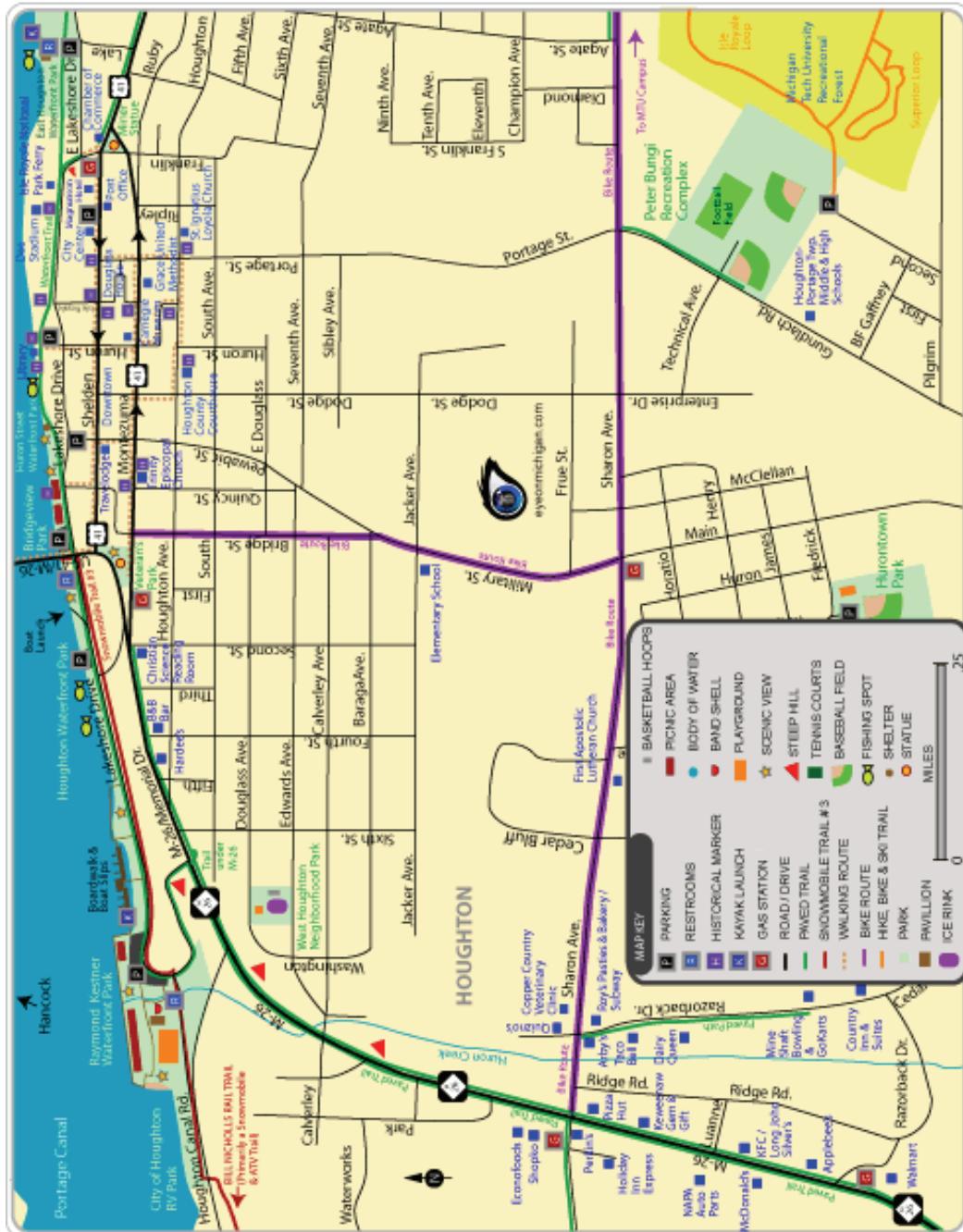
Snowboarding/Skiing: There is a lot of snow in the winter in the Upper Peninsula. Luckily for us there is Mont Ripley for those who love to ski and snowboard. There is also a mountain in Marquette which is only 2 hours away and Mount Bohemia only one hour away and they do not groom! There are a few more mountain throughout the Upper Peninsula within driving range you can explore as well.

Hunting/Fishing: This is one big park and it is full of animals of all kinds and fish of all kinds. For those who like to hunt it doesn't get much better. Bow season and rifle season are something to look forward to up here. Especially being so close to Canada you get all those Canadian geese flying south! Even the fishing is exciting because you get to fish here year round. Come winter grab yourself a shanty, a pole, and relax while fishing!

The Seasons: Here in the Upper Peninsula there is nothing like seeing all four seasons. I know in many parts of the U.S. seeing all four seasons doesn't happen. Up here it happens and it happens big! Being on the lake the winters here are extreme, but they are beautiful and there is a ton to do in the winter. Then the snow melts and everything becomes green and the flowers bloom just in time for summer. Summer is filled with warm days and little humidity. Not to mention the sun is out forever! It's up at 7 and goes down at 10; you never want the day to end. Then there is fall which is the most beautiful part of being up here. Everything in sight is bright red, orange, and yellow it is breath taking. The seasons here make this place so unique and so amazing because each season offers something different, something exciting, something you can't get anywhere else.



Houghton Side Map





Area Map

