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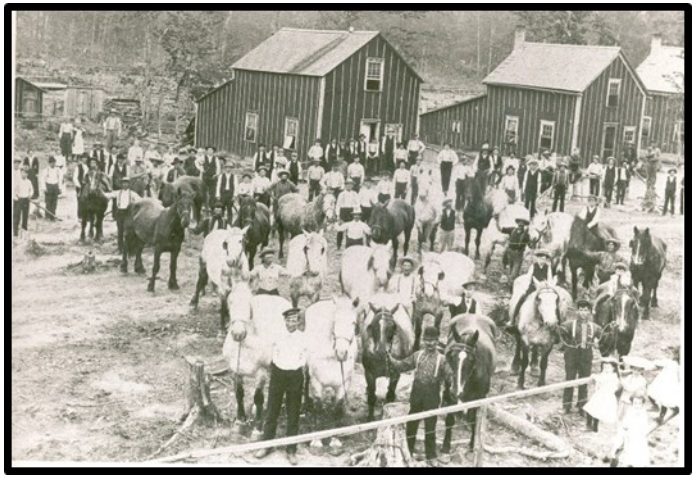
Preservation 50

Fifty Years of Historic Preservation

The National Historic Preservation Act established the federal review process for protection of historic properties. Under Section 106 of the law, federal agencies must consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, approve, or fund, and must consult with interested parties in order to try to minimize adverse effects. Logging camps represent one of the most prevalent archaeological site types managed by the Hiawatha National Forest. In 2016, the Hiawatha partnered with Michigan Technological University to sponsor a Passport In Time (PIT) project at the former logging settlement of Coalwood. The site was occupied by Finnish immigrant families who cut cordwood for the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company between 1900 and 1912. One goal of the project was to assess the damage caused by recent looting activities.

2016 Passport In Time Crew



Coalwood logging settlement, ca. 1910

PIT crew excavates the rear yard associated with one of the immigrant boarding houses

PIT volunteer displays the artifacts she recovered during the excavation of a privy