

HOUGHTON COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Houghton County was originally laid off in 1845, but was later officially organized in 1848. The county coordinates are Ranges 31 West through 37 West (31W-37W) and Townships 47 North through 56 North (47N-56N). Adjacent counties include Keweenaw (northeast), Baraga (east), Iron (south), and Ontonagon (west). Lake Superior is on the northwest and northeast border of Houghton County.

Original records from Houghton County are available at the Archives of Michigan. The list below is organized by record type; each record type lists specific records, the years of coverage and the record group (RG) number assigned to that collection. A more detailed list of each collection can be found in finding aids at the archives.

Some of the collections below are housed at the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper County Historical Collections in Houghton - these are indicated with a * after the RG number. For assistance with these records, please contact the Michigan Technological University Archives directly.

BUSINESS RECORDS

- **Annual reports, from 1869 to 1972** – RG 89-464*
- **Appointment of resident agent, from 1931 to 1971** – RG 89-464*
- **Articles of incorporation, from 1853 to 1938** – RG 89-464*
- **Change of agent or office, from 1934 to 1972** – RG 89-464*
- **Houghton County Copper, Iron and Tin Manufacturing Company minute book, from 1871 to 1897** – RG 77-105*
- **Ledger, Max H. Mandlebaum, from 1873 to 1874** – RG 77-105*
- **Lists of stockholders, from 1882 to 1928** – RG 89-464*
- **Monthly accounts of male individuals with Calumet & Hecla Mining Co., from 1877** – RG 56-11*
- **Record of log marks, from 1887 to 1913** – RG 89-464*

- **Register of assumed names, from 1907 to 1949** – RG 89-464*
- **Stock ledger (Dover Mining Company), from 1864 to 1882** – RG 77-105*
- **Stock ledger (Edwards Mining Company), from 1864 to 1882** – RG 77-105*
- **Stock ledger (Mesnard Mining Company), from 1874 to 1893** – RG 77-105*
- **Stock ledger (Pontiac Mining Company), from 1859 to 1896** – RG 77-105*

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Houghton County files, from 1962 to 1979** – RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **Federal census, from 1860 and from 1870** – RG 56-11
- **Federal census (Adams Township), from 1880** – RG 56-11
- **State census, from 1864 and from 1874** – RG 56-11

COURT RECORDS

- **Appeal docket, from 1931 to 1938** – RG 89-465*
- **Chancery journal, from 1874 to 1948** – RG 89-465*
 - from 1948 to 1957 – RG 97-343*
- **Chancery order book, from 1863 to 1905** – RG 89-465*
- **Chancery rule book, from 1875 to 1904** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court attachments, from 1866 to 1868** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court calendars, from 1865 to 1950** – RG 89-465*
 - from 1950 to 1969 – RG 97-343*
- **Circuit Court case files, from 1865 to 1950** – RG 89-465*
 - from 1950 to 1962 – RG 97-343*
- **Circuit Court civil case files, from 1963 to 1977** – RG 97-343*
- **Circuit Court civil docket, from 1963 to 1974** – RG 97-343*
- **Circuit Court commissioner docket, from 1914 to 1935** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court convictions, from 1865 to 1867** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court criminal case files, from 1963 to 1983** – RG 97-343*
- **Circuit Court discharged cases, from 1867** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court exhibits, from 1871** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court indictments, from 1855 to 1856** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court inquisitions, from 1865 to 1867** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court journal, from 1849 to 1871 and from 1876 to 1953** – RG 89-465*
 - from 1953 to 1977 – RG 97-343*

- **Circuit Court judge orders**, from **1865 to 1869** – RG 89-465*
- **Circuit Court notes of issue**, from **1865 to 1875** – RG 89-465*
- **Civil docket (Chassell Township)**, from **1911** – RG 80-60*
- **Common rule book**, from **1855 to 1956** – RG 77-105*
- **Criminal docket (Chassell Township)**, from **1911 to 1915** – RG 80-60*
- **District Court calendar**, from **1849 to 1864** – RG 89-465*
- **District Court case files**, from **1849 to 1864** – RG 89-465*
- **District Court journal**, from **1858 to 1867** – RG 89-465*
- **Exemptions from jury duty**, from **1903 to 1906** and from **1916 to 1917** – RG 56-11*
- **Inquests, Record of**, from **1890 to 1967** – RG 89-464*
- **Journal orders dismissing cause**, from **1916** – RG 89-465*
- **Justice civil docket (Hancock)**, from **1918 to 1943** – RG 82-114*
- **Justice criminal docket (Hancock)**, from **1925 to 1934** and from **1955 to 1956** – RG 82-114*
- **Justice docket (Hancock)**, from **1954 to 1957** – RG 82-114*
- **Justice docket (Houghton)**, from **1889 to 1891** – RG 74-73*
- **Justice docket (Portage Township)**, from **1867 to 1886** – RG 77-103*
- **Justice record (Hancock)**, from **1902 to 1903** – RG 82-114*
- **List of petit jurors approved**, from **1879 to 1895** – RG 56-11*
- **Recorder's Court docket (Houghton)**, from **1862 to 1903** – RG 74-73*
- **Transcript of judgements**, from **1898 to 1928** – RG 89-465*

HEALTH RECORDS

- **Ambulance run record (Hancock)**, from **1963 to 1964** – RG 82-114*
- **Copper Country Sanatorium patients' medical records**, from **1926 to 1964** – RG 85-74*#
- **Copper Country Sanatorium outpatient summaries**, from **1932 to 1951** – RG 89-464*#

Death certificate required to view records

LAND RECORDS

- **Chattel mortgages (Hancock Township)**, from **1893 to 1909** – RG 82-114*
- **County land patents**, from **1865 to 1916** – RG 89-464*
- **Personal property statements (Chassell Township)**, from **1920 to 1963** – RG 80-60*
- **Property assessment surveys**, from **1937 to 1973** – RG 77-105*

- **Swampland purchases, from 1865 to 1872** – RG 89-464*
- **Treasurer's receipt of county lands, from 1865 to 1891** – RG 89-464*

MILITARY RECORDS

- **Burial of veterans, from 1913 to 1921** – RG 89-464*
- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records, from 1876 to 1945** – RG 63-19
 - *Houghton County GAR posts: Post 174 (Hancock), Post 354 (Calumet)*
- **Lists of individuals serving in Michigan National Guard exempted from jury duty, from 1888 to 1906 and from 1916 to 1917** – RG 56-11*

See also Guide No. 4: War Records, Guide No. 7: Post-War Records, Guide No. 4 c: Spanish American War, and Guide No. 4 d: World War I

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

- **Circuit Court naturalizations, from 1857 and from 1863 and from 1868** – RG 89-465*
- **Declarations of Intention, from 1853 to 1971** – RG 2022-70
- **Naturalization calendars, from 1906 to 1916** – RG 2022-70
- **Naturalization record, from 1848 to 1906** – RG 2022-70
- **Order book, from 1930 to 1936** – RG 2022-70
- **Petition and record, from 1902 to 1966** – RG 2022-70
- **Repatriation record, from 1956 to 1960** – RG 2022-70
- **Transfer petition, from 1956 to 1973** – RG 2022-70

OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

- **Applications for admission to the Bar, from 1878 to 1886** – RG 89-465*
- **Chiropodist certifications, from 1952** – RG 77-105*
- **Chiropractors** , from 1934 to 1980 – RG 89-464*
- **Dentist certifications, from 1903 to 1973** – RG 77-105*
- **Insurance agents, from 1876 to 1918 and from 1943** – RG 89-464*
- **Justices of the Peace, from 1896 to 1965** – RG 89-464*
- **Liquor license tax records, from 1912 to 1917** – RG 77-105*
- **Nurses** , from 1910 to 1960 – RG 89-464*
- **Oaths, deputy sheriff, from 1895 to 1957** – RG 77-105*
- **Optometrists, from 1910 to 1982** – RG 89-464*
- **Physician certifications, from 1870 to 1976** – RG 77-105*
- **Physicians, not dated** – RG 89-464*

- **Real estate brokers, from 1920 to 1943** – RG 89-464*
- **Township officers, from 1891 to 1919** – RG 89-464*
- **Veterinarian certifications, from 1957** – RG 77-105*

ORGANIZATION RECORDS

- **Civilian Conservation Corps records, from 1934 to 1940** – RG 59-11*

POLITICAL RECORDS

- **Board of Canvassers election records, from 1868 to 1902** – RG 89-464*
- **Board of Supervisors member directory, from 1937 to 1962** – RG 89-464*
- **Bonds and oaths of office (Chassell Township), from 1921 to 1959** – RG 80-60*
- **Nominations for township posts (Chassell Township), from 1949 to 1951** – RG 80-60*
- **Notaries, from 1895 to 1968** – RG 89-464*
- **Oaths and bonds, from 1904 to 1924** – RG 89-464*
- **Oaths of office (Houghton), from 1921 to 1934** – RG 74-73*
- **Record of nominations, from 1910 to 1938** – RG 89-464*
- **Township officer election lists, from 1894 to 1898** – RG 77-105*
- **Township/Village officers returns, from 1920 to 1955** – RG 89-464*

POOR HOME / RELIEF RECORDS

- **Mother's pension records, from 1915 to 1931** – RG 89-464*

PRISON RECORDS

- **Index to jail records, from 1909 to 1940** – RG 77-105
- **Jail records, from 1874 to 1902** – RG 77-105

See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

PROBATE RECORDS

- **Calendars, from 1894 to 1962** – RG 2019-69
- **Case files, from 1872 to 1968** – RG 2019-69
- **Foreign wills, from 1917 to 1954** – RG 2019-69
- **Index, from 1872 to 1889** – RG 2019-69
- **Journals, from 1900 to 1945** – RG 2019-69

- **Orders** , from **1857 to 1955** – RG 2019-69
- **Probate record**, from **1872 to 1968** – RG 2019-69
- **Record of mothers pensions**, from **1927 to 1931** – RG 2019-69
- **Record of widows' pensions**, from **1913 to 1918** – RG 2019-69

RECREATION RECORDS

- **Bounties on animals**, from **1883 to 1919** – RG 89-464*
- **Douglas House hotel register (Portage Township)**, from **1881 to 1894** – RG 77-103*

SCHOOL RECORDS

- **Admission cards (Osceola Township)**, from **1912 to 1931** – RG 87-77*
- **Census cards (Osceola Township)**, from **1923 to 1967** – RG 87-77*#
- **Census field sheets (Osceola Township)**, from **1927 to 1967** – RG 87-77*#
- **Census sheets (Osceola Township)**, from **1907 to 1920** – RG 87-77*
- **Entry and withdrawal sheet (Osecola Township)**, from **1935** – RG 87-77*
- **School census, District #1 (Copper Harbor Township)**, from **1856 to 1881** – RG 77-62
- **School census records (Adams Township)**, from **1910 to 1968** – RG 86-25*

Student records are restricted for 75 years.

TAX RECORDS

- **Assessment rolls (Chassell Township)**, from **1926 to 1955** – RG 80-60*
- **Assessment rolls (Hancock)**, from **1866 to 1880** – RG 82-114*
- **Assessment rolls (Houghton)**, from **1864 to 1920** – RG 74-73*
- **County assessment records**, from **1867 to 1925** – RG 77-105*
- **Meter books (Houghton)**, from **1897 to 1912** – RG 74-73*
- **Tax and assessment rolls**, from **1925 to 1945** – RG 82-113*
- **Tax rolls**, from **1943 to 1969** – RG 86-86*#
 - from **1970 to 1972** – RG 93-124*
- **Township and village assessment rolls**, from **1873 to 1904** – RG 77-105*
- **Township assessment records**, from **1858 to 1972** – RG 77-105*
- **Village assessment rolls**, from **1895 to 1925** – RG 77-105*

Some of these records are also held on microfilm at the Archives of Michigan, Lansing.

VITAL RECORDS

- **Affidavits for license to marry**, from **1936 to 1937** and from **1956** – RG 2019-69
- **Death records (Portage Township)**, from **1901 to 1917** – RG 77-103*
- **Deaths, Return of**, from **1867** – RG 89-464*
- **Marriage records (Portage Township)**, from **1913 to 1959** – RG 77-103*
- **Record of divorce**, from **1897 to 1921** – RG 89-465*

See Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Party enrollment (Hancock)**, from **1912 to 1913** – RG 82-114*
- **Party enrollment sheets**, from **1906 to 1913** – RG 56-11*
- **Poll books**, from **1888** – RG 56-11*
- **Register of assisted voters (Chassell Township)**, from **1916 to 1922** – RG 80-60*
- **Register of electors (Hancock)**, from **1890 to 1908** and from **1928 to 1932** – RG 82-114*
- **Register of electors (Chassell Township)**, from **1888 to 1941** – RG 80-60*
- **Register of women electors (Hancock)**, from **1919** – RG 82-114*
- **Village registration (Hancock)**, from **1897 to 1902** – RG 82-114*
- **Voter registration books (Houghton)**, from **1888 to 1936** – RG 74-73*
- **Voter registration records (Hancock)**, from **1908 to 1928** – RG 82-114*

CONTACT INFORMATION

[Archives of Michigan](#)
Michigan History Center
Michigan.gov/mhc/archives
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915
archives@michigan.gov

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