



Front - Title/Description

Lake Shore Drive Bridge

This bridge, completed in 1915, was one of two bridges erected simultaneously by the Michigan State Highway Department across the Eagle River. The second was located in nearby Phoenix. Prior to 1915 a Pratt through truss bridge crossed the fifty-three-foot gorge here. It deteriorated and was replaced with this structure. The highway department designed the bridge, which was constructed by the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Company of Milwaukee. The Smith-Byers-Sparks Company of Houghton provided the concrete abutments for this steel riveted Warren deck truss bridge, which is 139 feet long. The main span measures 105 feet long and 17 feet wide. In 1990 this bridge was converted to pedestrian use when the adjacent timber bridge opened.

Significant Date:

Two World Wars and the Depression (1915-1945)

Registry Year: 1990 **Erected Date:** 1991

Marker Location

Address: Lakeshore Drive (M-26) at the Eagle River

City: Eagle River

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Keweenaw

Township:

Lat: 47.41240700 / **Long:** -88.29720400

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Eagle River

In 1843 the Lake Superior Copper Company purchased several land leases for mining. Two years later the Cliff Mine, alleged to be "the first great copper mine in the Western Hemisphere," was opened by the Pittsburgh and Boston Company. The mines attracted large numbers of Germans, Cornishmen, and Irishmen and gave rise to other industries. On August 29, 1846, the Lake Superior News and Miners' Journal boasted that Eagle River had "the appearance of a thriving village." In 1850 Prussian immigrant Frank Knivel opened the Knivel Brewery, and in 1862 the Eagle River Fuse Company was established southeast of here on the river. The company manufactured twenty-five thousand feet of fuse per day for use in the mines. In 1861 Keweenaw County was set off from Houghton County, and Eagle River became the county seat.