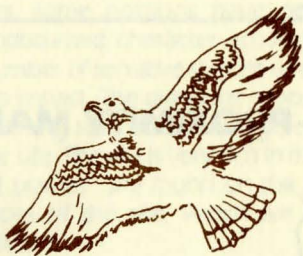
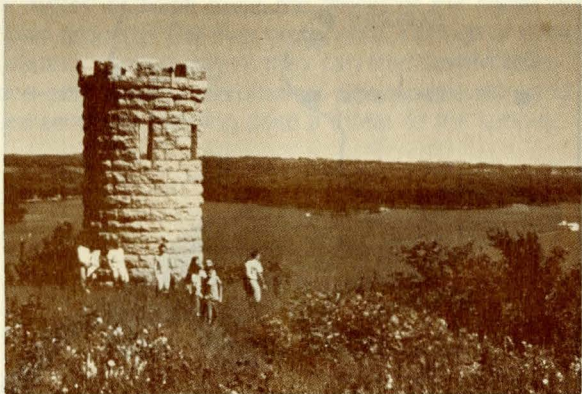


MINES OF SPAIN

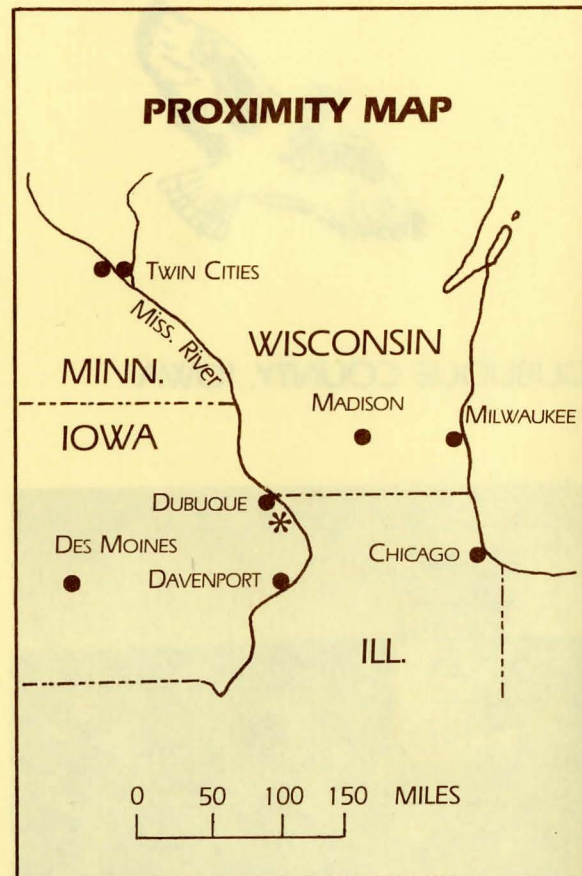


DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA



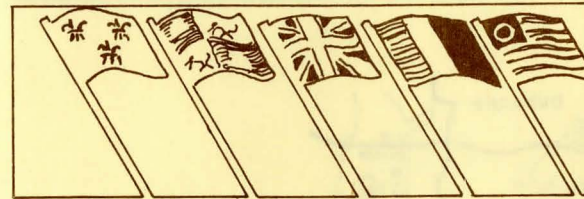
OVERVIEW AND LOCATION

The purchase of the Mines of Spain property in Dubuque County has ensured the preservation of an important part of Iowa's historical and natural heritage. The features of the site make it one of the most significant areas acquired by the state in recent years. The 1260 acre area is located along and south of Catfish Creek immediately south of the City of Dubuque. The eastern boundary is formed by the Mississippi River. The federally designated Mississippi Great River Road crosses the Mississippi River at Dubuque and the Iowa Great River Road Alternate Route, Highway 52, lies to the southeast providing ready access to the Mines of Spain site. The Julien Dubuque Monument is a focal point for the area. From its prominent vantage point, the Mines of Spain property can be seen to the south, on the Iowa side of the Mississippi, as far as the eye can see.



HISTORY OF THE AREA

The area has a long and interesting history. The earliest known inhabitants of the Dubuque area are believed to have been the Fox Indians. The Fox village that preceded the Dubuque settlement was the second largest of the Fox villages. Burial mounds in the area are speculated to date to 5000 B.C. The City of Dubuque is known as the "City of Five Flags". From 1693 to 1803, the territory flew the flags of the Bourbon Kings of France, the Royalty of Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, the empire of Napoleon, and finally, the United States.



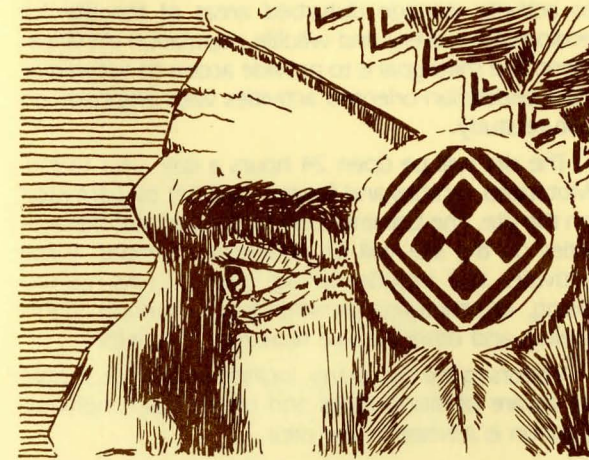
French voyagers traded furs, mined and smelted lead ore here for decades before the Revolutionary War. Marquette and Joliet's Journal refers to the minerals of the area. Lead mined here is said to have been used by George Washington's army during the Revolutionary War.

Julien Dubuque settled at Prairie du Chien in 1783 and made many voyages to the Fox Indian village at the confluence of Catfish Creek and the Mississippi River. Dubuque steadily ingratiated himself into the goodwill of the Foxes and on September 22, 1788, they granted him possession of the mines. Dubuque eventually married Potosa, daughter of the Fox Indian Chief, Peosta.



Dubuque named the mines area in memory of the Spanish government of the Governor-General Carondelet. The Dubuque settlement near Catfish Creek was the first non-Indian settlement in the State of Iowa and Julien Dubuque is considered the founder of the City of Dubuque.

Dubuque died in 1810, and after his death the Indians regained the area. The Indians began to work the mines but deserted the area in 1830. The Black Hawk Treaty officially opened the area for settlement in 1832. Soon after, White settlers moved into the area and resumed mining. While some information is known, much additional research is needed to fully document the prehistoric and historic significance of the area.

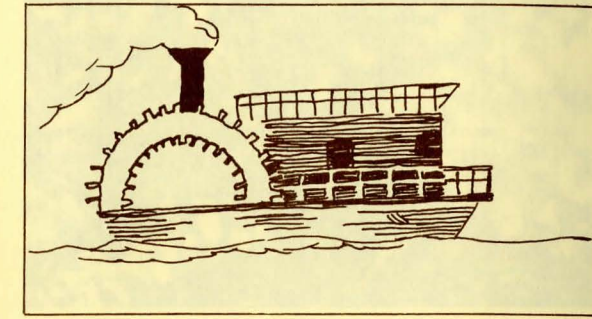


NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA

In addition to the historical significance of the area, the property has a variety of landforms which give shelter to numerous plant and animal species, some of which are on the endangered species list. The Upper Mississippi River is recognized as one of the largest, most diverse, most productive river environments in the World.

Much of the Mines of Spain site is characterized by rugged topography and deeply dissected ravines. Steep slopes and rock outcrops are common sights. The geology of the area is composed of dolomite bedrock of the Silurian and older Ordovician Ages (formed 425-500 million years ago). Mineral resources include deposits of iron, lead, zinc, pyrite, as well as limestone, gypsum, sands, and gravels.

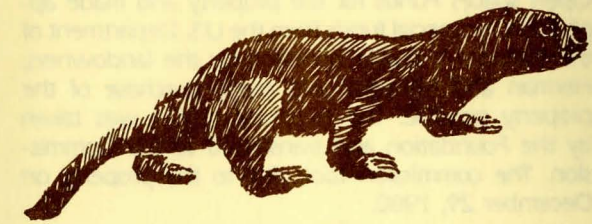
Much of the site is heavily forested and contains a number of rare and unique plant species and communities. The oak-hickory forests on the property are possibly the best remaining in Iowa. Except for the removal of some walnut logs in the 1950's the area has not been logged since the original logging for the steamship trade in the 1800's.



The woodland areas have not been grazed by cattle for many years; some portions have never been grazed. This undisturbed character accounts for the presence of a number of sensitive species which have a low tolerance to impact. The glandular wood fern and the jeweled shooting star, both endangered species, are found on the site. The site is very rich in mosses and liverworts. "Hill prairies" are found on the upper dry west-facing slopes of the site, which are felt to be extremely significant.

A variety of animal species are found on the property. The trees along Catfish Creek are used on a regular basis as a winter roost by the bald eagle as are the trees in the steep ravines along the Mississippi side of the site. These habitats are important for the survival of this threatened species.

The river otter, another threatened species, regularly makes its home along the creeks of the Mines of Spain property. The river otter needs a refuge of small tributary streams where they can feed, form "slides" and play without disturbance. Stream pollution and unintentional trapping pose a threat to the species.



The red shouldered hawk, an endangered species, is another regular resident of the site. The red shouldered hawk has only five known nest sites in Iowa. The site is also home to numerous common species including a diversity of songbirds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals.



Portions of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge area are adjacent to the property. The Mississippi River bluffs, portions of which are within the property, have long been of inter-state concern for preservation. Additional ecological studies are needed to fully document the significance of the area.

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN ACQUISITION

Acquisition of the Mines of Spain property required the combined efforts of public and private groups. For years, the Iowa Conservation Commission had been interested in the site but had been unable to secure funds and negotiate the purchase. In January, 1980, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation initiated a comprehensive preservation assistance program for the property. The Foundation is a private non-profit Iowa corporation dedicated to the preservation and wise management of Iowa's natural resources. The Foundation also undertook a public awareness program and began negotiating a sale option with the owners.

The Conservation Commission designated State Open Spaces Funds for the property and made application for special funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior. A sizable donation by the landowners, Herman and Marcella Lott, made purchase of the property possible. The purchase option was taken by the Foundation and transferred to the Commission. The commission took title to the property on December 29, 1980.

MANAGEMENT — PRESENT AND FUTURE

The main concern for the management of the Mines of Spain is the protection of the natural and cultural resources of the site.

There are no immediate plans for facility development on the site. The Conservation Commission is initiating the necessary studies of the site which will reveal the areas most in need of attention.

The Commission currently has three goal concepts for the management of the land. The first goal is to protect and preserve the site's unique, rare, and significant cultural and natural resources. The second goal is to actively manage disturbed areas of the site for ecological recovery and wildlife population enhancement. The third goal is to provide access to accommodate pedestrian-oriented activities with emphasis on nature study.

The site will be open 24 hours a day, year round. Motorized vehicles and firearms will not be permitted on the site. The Commission emphasizes that the activities on the site will be pedestrian-oriented. These activities will include fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, unstructured picnicking, bowhunting, sight-seeing, and other passive recreational activities.

Visitors to the old quarry, located on the site, should be aware of falling rocks and hazardous conditions. Caution is advised in the area.

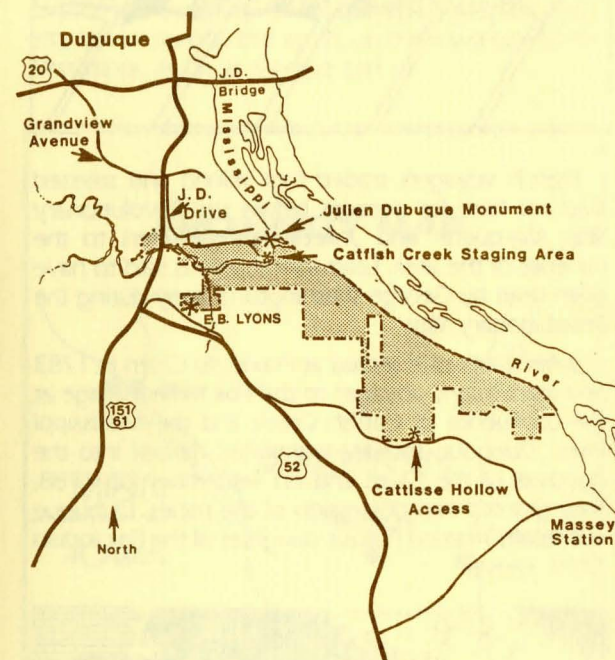
The Commission will encourage nature study programs on the site and manages the E. B. Lyons Nature Center and Preserve for that purpose. The Preserve adjoins the Mines of Spain and has established hiking trails and is the site of the 19th century Junkerman Farm, a partially restored homestead. That nature center is open year-round and offers programs in cooperation with its Dubuque County Conservation Board, local schools and colleges and other conservation related groups.

Mines of Spain Conservation Area
E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center
R.R. 2 Old Bellevue Rd.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
319-556-0620

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