

APPENDIX S

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Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report: CHR 5, West Shore of Springpole Lake, Kenora District, Ontario

Springpole Gold Project
First Mining Gold Corp.

ONS2104

Prepared by:
WSP Canada Inc.

October 2024



Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report: CHR 5, West Shore of Springpole Lake, Kenora District, Ontario Springpole Gold Project

Red Lake District, Northwest Ontario
Project #ONS2104

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

First Mining Gold Corp. (FMG) proposes to develop, operate and eventually decommission / close an open pit gold and silver mine and ore process plant with supporting facilities known as the Springpole Gold Project (Project). The Project is located in a remote area of northwestern Ontario, approximately 110 kilometres (km) northeast of the Municipality of Red Lake and 145 km north of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

An environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (SC 2012, c. 19, s. 52) and the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (RSO 1990, c. E.18) is required to be completed for the Project. This report is one of a series of Technical Support Documents prepared by WSP Canada Inc. on behalf of FMG to describe the predicted environmental effects of the Project.

In 2022, WSP Canada Inc. prepared a Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (Cultural Heritage Report) for the Project and identified the CHR 5, a wood cabin, as a potential built heritage resource. The cabin (the Study Area) is located on the west shore of Springpole Lake, in the unorganized District of Kenora, Ontario and is owned by FMG. The Study Area contains a wood cabin previously used as a recreational hunting and fishing outpost, wood walkways, and a wood dock. Based on historical research, architectural style, and construction materials, it is estimated that the cabin was constructed in the late 20th century or early 21st century. The built elements of the Study Area are in a general state of disrepair. The Study Area is approximately 1 km south of the Springpole Lake exploration camp operated by FMG and is approximately 110 km northeast of the Town of Red Lake. The Study Area has no known heritage recognitions and is not protected at a municipal, provincial, or federal level.

Based on historical background research, community engagement, and the property inspection, it was determined that the Study Area does not meet the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) prescribed in O. Reg. 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (RSO 1990, c. O.18). Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Study Area does not possess CHVI, and no further cultural heritage work is recommended.
2. Acknowledging FMG's ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities as part of the EA process, the results of this Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report will be included as part of the final Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment submission to the federal and provincial government and will be circulated to those Indigenous communities participating in the EA process..

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	percent
CEAA 2012	<i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i>
CHER	Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
CHVI	Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
EA	environmental assessment
FMG	First Mining Gold Corporation
ha	hectare
HBC	Hudson's Bay Company
km	kilometre
MCM	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
O. Reg.	Ontario Regulation
WSP	WSP Canada Inc.
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adjacent lands:	Those lands contiguous to a protected heritage property or as otherwise defined in the municipal official plan (MMAH 2024).
Built Heritage Resource:	A building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured or constructed part or remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including an Indigenous community (MMAH 2024).
Conserved:	The identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value or interest is retained. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment that has been approved, accepted or adopted by the relevant planning authority and/or decision-maker. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches should be included in these plans and assessments (MMAH 2024).
Cultural Heritage Landscape:	A defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association (MMAH 2024).
Heritage Attributes:	In relation to real property, and to the buildings and structures on the real property, the attributes of the property, buildings and structures that contribute to their cultural heritage value or interest (RSO 1990, c. O.18)
Protected Heritage Property:	Property designated under Part IV or VI of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> ; property included in an area designated as a heritage conservation district under Part V of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> ; property subject to a heritage conservation easement or covenant under Part II or IV of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> ; property identified by a provincial ministry or a prescribed public body as a property having cultural heritage value or interest under the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties; property protected under federal heritage legislation; and UNESCO World Heritage Sites (MMAH 2024).
Significant:	In regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest. Processes and criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest are established by the Province under the authority of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> (MMAH 2024).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

First Mining Gold Corp. (FMG) proposes to develop, operate and eventually decommission / close an open pit gold and silver mine and ore process plant with supporting facilities known as the Springpole Gold Project (Project). The Project is located in a remote area of northwestern Ontario, approximately 110 kilometres (km) northeast of the Municipality of Red Lake and 145 km north of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout (Figure 1-1).

An environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (SC 2012, c. 19, s. 52) and the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (RSO 1990, c. E.18) is required to be completed for the Project. This report is one of a series of Technical Support Documents prepared by WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) on behalf of FMG to describe the predicted environmental effects of the Project.

In 2022, WSP prepared a Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (Cultural Heritage Report; Appendix S-6 of the Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment) for the Project. The Cultural Heritage Report identified the cabin as a potential built heritage resource and recommended that a CHER be completed since direct impacts are anticipated to the cabin as a result of the Project. The FMG-owned wood cabin was historically used for hunting and is located on the west shore of Springpole Lake, Kenora District (the Study Area). Based on available information, architectural style, and construction materials, it is estimated that the cabin was constructed in the late 20th century or early 21st century.

This Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) was prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM 2010) *Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties* and the *Ontario Heritage Act* (RSO 1990, c. O.18).

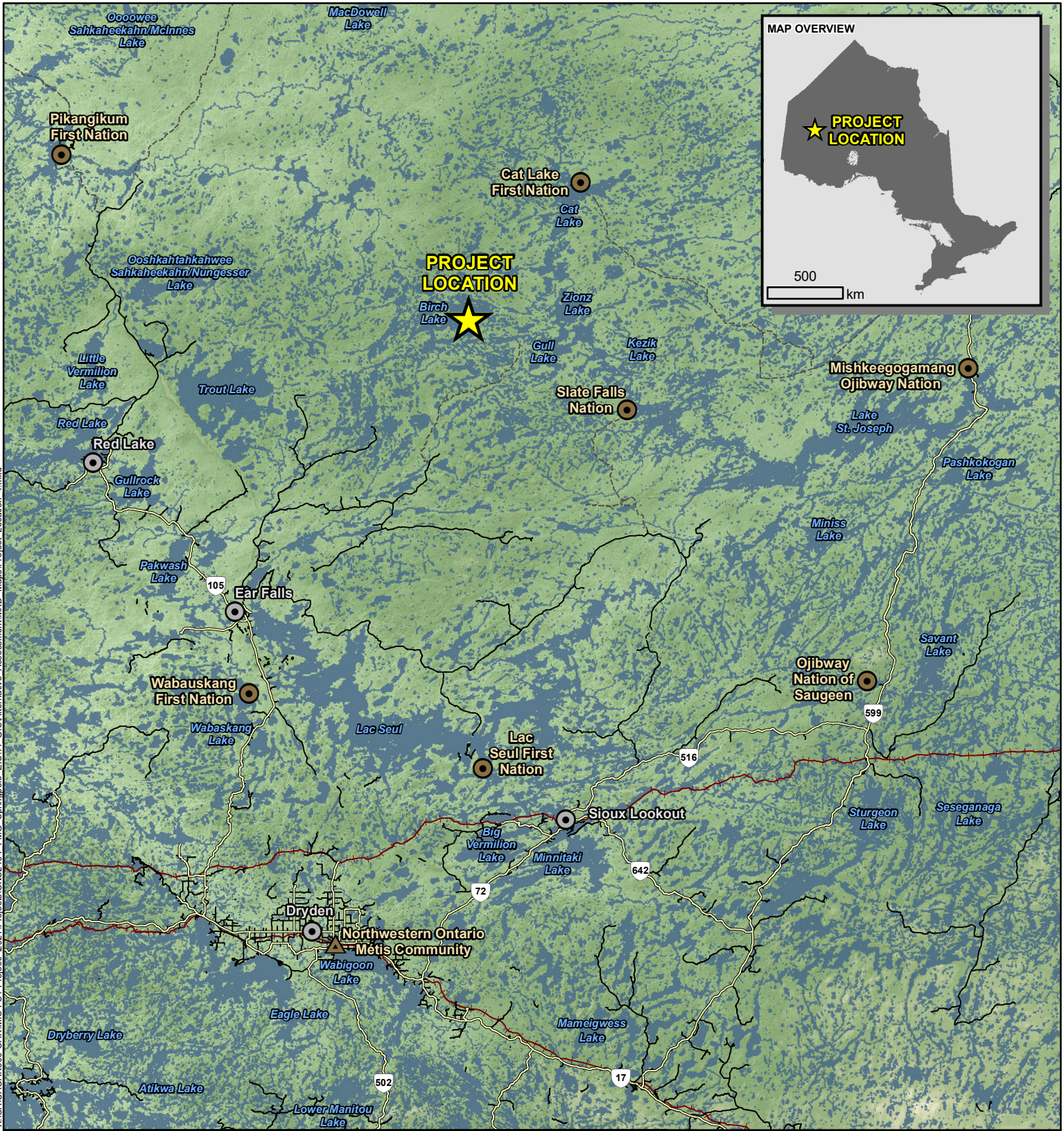
The purpose of this CHER is to determine if the Study Area possesses cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) through an evaluation of the property against the criteria of Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 9/06, Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. This CHER documents the results of the background research, site visit, evaluation of the property and, if warranted, a draft statement of CHVI.

1.1 Description of the Property

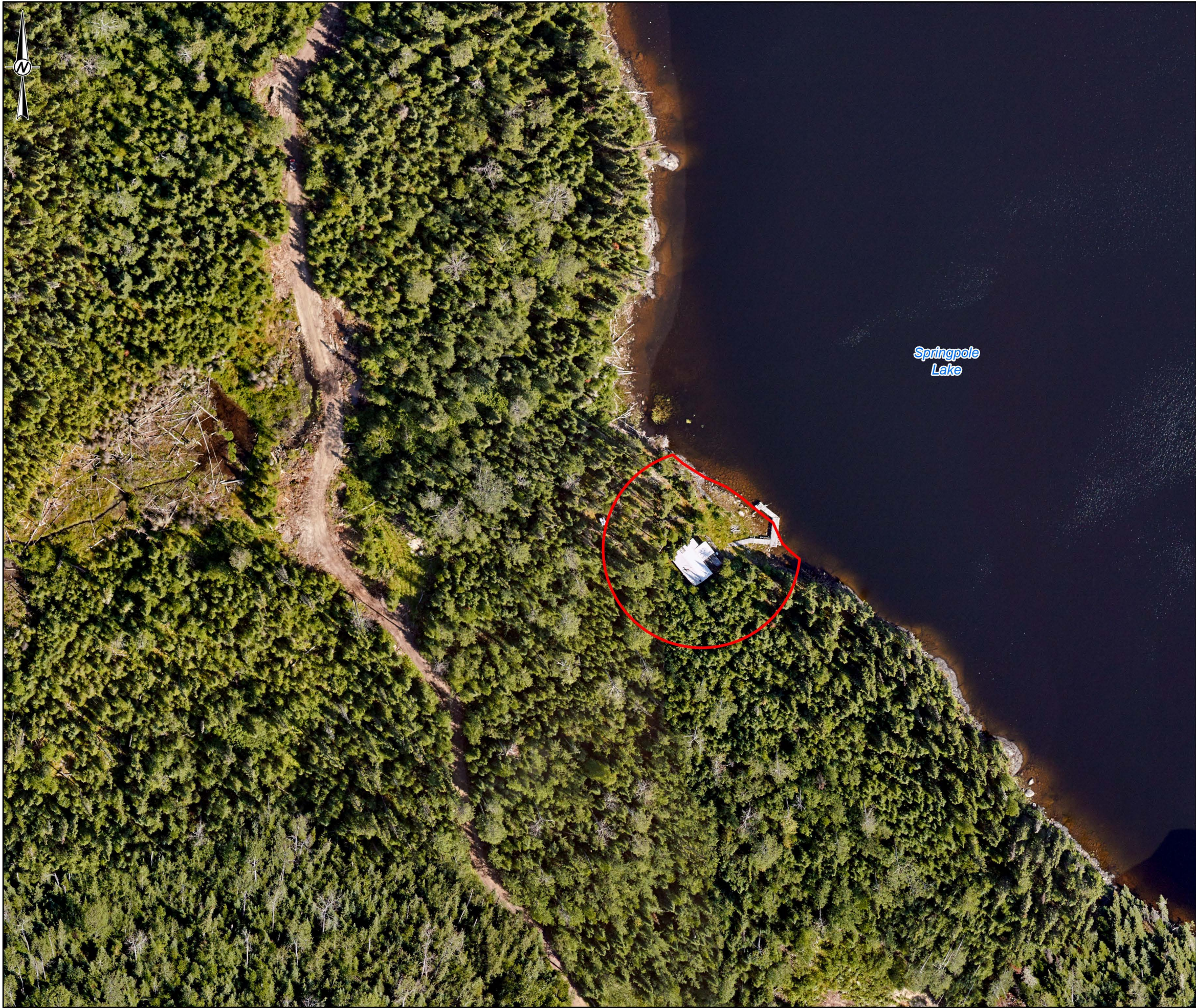
The Study Area is an irregularly shaped parcel of land located on the west shore of Springpole Lake in the unorganized Kenora District, Ontario (Figure 1-2 and Figure 1-3). The Study Area features a single storey wood cabin likely historically used for hunting and fishing. The Study Area is surrounded by Springpole Lake to the east and dense forest to the north, west, and south. The Study Area is approximately 150 km north of Sioux Lookout and 110 km northeast of the town of Red Lake.

The Study Area covers approximately 0.1 hectares (ha) and is generally bounded by Springpole Lake to the east and thick forest to the south, west, and north (Figure 1-2, Figure 1-3). The Study Area contains a wood cabin previously used as a recreational hunting and fishing outpost, wood walkways, and a wood dock. The built elements of the Study Area are in a general state of disrepair. The Study Area is approximately 1 km south of the Springpole Lake exploration camp operated by FMG. The Study Area has no known heritage recognitions and is not protected at a municipal, provincial, or federal level.

X:\CA\CAOAK300-OAK\MIS-FS1-Project\2021\Projects\ONS2104_FMG_Springpole_EIS\11 GIS\Alternative_Assessment\MXD_Maps\Project_Location_4.mxd



LEGEND ★ Project Location ⊙ Town ⦿ First Nation Reserve ▲ Northwestern Ontario Métis Community — Highway — Secondary Road --- Resource / Winter Road —+— Railway 012.5255075100 Kilometres	NOTES: - Topographic information extracted from LIO, MNRF.	 FIRST MINING GOLD 	
	SPRINGPOLE GOLD PROJECT		
	Project Location		
Datum: NAD83 Projection: UTM Zone 15N		PROJECT N°: ONS2104 SCALE: 1:1,500,000	FIGURE: 1-1 DATE: September 2024



SCALE 1:115,000

LEGEND

Study Area



NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY FIRST MINING GOLD, 2020.
3. KEY MAP: WORLD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP: ESRI CANADA, ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS, AAFC, NRCAN
IMAGE:
4. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

CLIENT

FIRST MINING GOLD

PROJECT

CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT: CHR 5

TITLE

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2024-10-24
DESIGNED	####	
PREPARED	####	
REVIEWED	####	
APPROVED	####	



PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
ONS2104	0001	A	1-3

2.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012

CEAA 2012 calls for the consideration of physical and cultural heritage when assessing environmental impacts. The requirements to consider environmental effects on physical and cultural heritage under CEAA 2012 are outlined in Section 5(1)(c)(ii), and any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance is subject to Section 5(1)(c)(iv). The requirement to address environmental effects on cultural heritage is also addressed under Sections 5(2)(b)(ii) and (iii) of CEAA 2012, with Section 19(1) of CEAA 2012 outlining the factors that must be considered in an EA, including potential environmental effects.

2.2 Ontario Heritage Act

The *Ontario Heritage Act* provides a framework for the protection of cultural heritage resources in the Province. It gives municipalities and the provincial government powers to protect heritage properties and archaeological sites. The *Ontario Heritage Act* includes two regulations for determining cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI): O. Reg. 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22) and O. Reg. 10/06 Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of Provincial Significance. O. Reg. 9/06 provides criteria to determine the CHVI of a property at a local level while O. Reg. 10/06 provides criteria to determine if a property has CHVI of provincial significance.

Per O. Reg. 9/06, a property may be designated under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* if it meets two or more of the following criteria:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
4. The property has historical or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.
5. The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
6. The property has historical or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

2.3 Guidance Documents

The *Technical Guidance for Assessing Physical and Cultural Heritage or any Structure, Site or Thing* (Government of Canada 2015) provides preliminary guidance to address Sections 5(1)(c)(ii)(iv) and 5(2)(b)(ii)(iii) of the CEAA 2012.

The MCM is responsible for the administration of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and has developed checklists, information bulletins, standards and guidelines, and policies to support the conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage resources, including built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological sites. For the purpose of this CHER, the *MCM Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties – Heritage Identification & Evaluation Process* (MCM 2014) was used as a guidance document since it provides detailed direction on the application of O. Reg. 9/06.

3.0 Historical context

3.1 Physiography

The Study Area is situated within the Canadian Shield physiographic region, which consists of a large mass of crystalline Precambrian rock that covers 48 percent (%) of Canada's land surface, extending south from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut into the northern portions of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. Most of the Canadian Shield is forested, with 16% covered by freshwater lakes and Arctic islands. Approximately half of the Canadian Shield is classified as upland, defined by its relative elevation to the Hudson Bay lowlands and interior plains (The Canadian Encyclopedia 2023).

The Study Area is also situated within the Canadian pre-Cambrian peneplain of the Patricia portion of Kenora District characterized as an extensive belt of pre-Cambrian Keewatin greenstones and sediments (Harding 1936). Furthermore, the topography of the Study Area was described by Northwest Archaeological Assessments (2021) as variable, ranging from moderately to steeply sloped bedrock to low, moist sites.

The Study Area is surrounded by bodies of water, of which the most prominent are Birch Lake and Springpole Lake. Historically, the drainage of the area flowed through Birch Lake to Springpole Lake, to the Cat River and finally to Lake St. Joseph (Harding 1936). On April 9, 1958, however a tri-party agreement between Canada, Manitoba and Ontario was enacted that authorized the diversion of water from Lake St. Joseph by way of the Root River into Lac Seul in order to provide additional waterpower to hydro-electric facilities on the Winnipeg River (LWCB 1958).

3.2 Indigenous History

In early archaeological syntheses, the pre-contact Indigenous cultures of northern Ontario were often described as isolated and conservative, their ways of life a product of the harsh environment and limited resources. Today, however, archaeologists recognize northern Ontario's cultural history as dynamic, both influenced by and influencing developments to the south and west (Hamilton 2013; Fagan 2019). The following provides a brief overview of the Indigenous history in the boreal forests of the Canadian Shield from the earliest arrivals to the fur trade period at contact with Europeans. In this summary, "culture"—the term archaeologists use to describe a shared material culture that identifies a time period or group—is substituted with "way of life" to reflect the direct Indigenous lineage from those living in the earliest periods to the present day (Julien et al. 2010).

Around 9,500 years ago, hunter-gatherers following the Plano way of life began moving into northern Ontario, following the foraging herds of bison, muskox, moose, elk, caribou, and deer, as well as smaller mammals such as muskrat and beaver attracted to the freshwater lakes and tundra grasses left in the wake of the receding Laurentide Ice Sheet. To hunt these animals the Plano used lance-shaped stone projectile points hafted to wood spears, then used large stone scrapers and knives to cut the meat and bone and clean hides (Hamilton 2013). Plano-type tools are remarkably similar across large areas, although there are local variations identified in northern Ontario called the Lakehead and Interlakes Composite complexes (Hamilton 2013; Langford 2018). The few known Plano sites suggest these people were highly mobile and favoured lakeshores or the high ground near rivers (Hamilton 2013).

As people following the Plano way of life grew familiar with their surroundings around 8,000 years ago, they developed local adaptations known as the Archaic way of life. In northern Ontario, the Archaic toolkit was originally thought to represent a unique "Shield Archaic" culture descended from Plano people moving south from present-day Nunavut, but today the Archaic way of life on the Canadian Shield is understood to have been influenced from developments to the south and may not be that different from other Archaic lifeways (Wright 1972a; Hamilton 2013; Langford 2018; Fagan 2019). However, Shield Archaic remains a useful label because it typifies the larger developments in the Archaic. Like their Plano ancestors, Shield

Archaic people lived in widely dispersed bands of hunter-gatherers, but their local knowledge meant they could restrict their annual round to a smaller area and both their economy and material culture were more diverse (Fagan 2019). Archaic projectile points became shorter through time and were made with distinctive side-notches, and there were a range of single- and double-bladed stone knives, endscrapers and sidescrapers (Clark 1991). Whetstones and adzes suggest Archaic people were shaping bone and wood, respectively, and the presence of archaeological sites on islands and along waterways suggests people were using snowshoes and watercraft (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004).

Another key development during the Archaic in Ontario's north was copper mining and manufacture. As early as 6,000 years ago Archaic people had found copper sources in the upper Great Lakes and used this copper to create implements such as socketed lance heads and knives, adzes and fishhooks, as well as decorative items such as bracelets and disc pendants (Wright 1972b; Hamilton 2013; Langford 2018). Copper was also widely traded, with some making its way to the Indian Knoll Archaic site in Kentucky (Fagan 2019).

People living in northern Ontario adopted ceramics around 2,200 years ago, during what is known in southern Ontario as the Middle Woodland Period (Hamilton 2013). Despite this marked shift in material culture, known as the Laurel tradition, archaeologists have not found evidence that pottery made a major impact to those continuing an Archaic way of life across most of the region (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004). The same is true of the bow and arrow, which first appear on Laurel tradition sites; it is unclear whether archery was a distinctly Laurel hunting adaptation or practised much earlier but the bone and wood used to make bows and arrows have fully decomposed in the boreal forest conditions (Clark 1991).

Yet for those living immediately west of Lake Superior, adopting pottery does appear to have caused a substantial shift in their economic and spiritual existence. In addition to greater reliance on foraging plants such as wild rice, the Laurel way of life as it developed into the Late Woodland Period included farming maize, establishing extensive trade networks, and building large ceremonial burial mounds that may have been influenced by the Hopewell culture far to the south (Hamilton 2013).

The Late Woodland way of life in the Canadian Shield of northern Ontario is defined by changes in pottery types, which are assumed correspond to the linguistic and cultural diversity seen in the contact and post-contact periods (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004; Hamilton 2013). Found across the Shield in the upper Great Lakes and into Manitoba are Blackduck ceramics, thought to have developed from the Laurel way of life and used by the ancestors of the Anishinaabeg. Farther north is Selkirk type pottery, used by people who would become known as Cree (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004). However, these direct lineages are complicated by Sandy Lake pottery found overlapping the Blackduck area, which are thought to have been made by Siouan speaking people, sites in northern Ontario found with both Blackduck and Selkirk wares, sites in the northeast with Huron and other Iroquoian pottery, or ancestral Cree sites that lack pottery altogether (Conway 1981; McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004; Hamilton 2013).

In contrast to earlier ways of life, far more material evidence survives from the Late Woodland way of life and includes not only hunting tools such as barbed bone harpoons but also stone pipes and amulets with imagery linked to religion (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004). In the Blackduck (known at contact as Anishinaabeg) way of life, religious beliefs are also reflected in the low burial mounds found west of Lake Superior and the pictographs created in red ochre on numerous rock outcrops across northern Ontario (Ministry of Culture and Recreation 1980; Conway 1981; McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004).

At contact with Europeans in the 17th century, the Anishinaabeg had a varied diet of moose, deer, bear, numerous fish species, and plant foods such as maple sap, berries, and wild rice (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004). To access these resources Anishinaabe were seasonally mobile, and this mobility influenced the form and materials of their lightweight "wigwam" housing and development of birchbark

canoes (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004). As European commercial interests in northern Ontario expanded into the 18th century, the Anishinaabeg way of life pivoted to trapping, visiting fur trade posts, and adopting European material culture. The fur trade marks a beginning of a substantial shift in the economy of Indigenous communities.

After the British colonial regime gained control of Canada in 1763, treaties were established between the Crown and Indigenous communities for lands across Ontario (Ferris 2009). It is now recognized that the British—and later Canadian governments—and Indigenous communities had different understandings of these treaties, but they remain legally binding agreements that form the basis of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people (Government of Canada 2024).. The Project lies within the traditional territories of Cat Lake First Nation, Slate Falls Nation, Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation and Lac Seul First Nation, within the Treaty No. 9 area. Other Indigenous communities that may hold historical connection to the area include Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Pikangikum First Nation, Wabauskang First Nation and members of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (Northwest Archaeological Assessments 2021). Treaty No. 9, also known as the James Bay Treaty, was an agreement signed in 1905 and 1906 between representatives of certain Ojibway (Anishinaabe), Cree (including the Omushkegowuk) and other Indigenous communities (Algonquin) and the Crown (Long 2010; Ministry of Government and Consumer Services 2015).

Between 1905 and 1906, the following nations signed the Treaty No. 9: Osnaburgh Post (Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation), Fort Hope Post (Eabemetoong First Nation), Marten Falls Post (Ogoki First Nation), Fort Albany Post (Kashechewan First Nation), Moose Factory Post (Moose Cree First Nation), New Post (Taykwa Tagamou First Nation), Abitibi Post (Abitiwinni First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation), Matachewan Post (Matachewan First Nation), Mattagami Post (Mattagami First Nation), Flying Post (Flying Post First Nation), New Brunswick House Post (New Brunswick House First Nation) and Long Lake Post (Ginoogaming First Nation). The treaty commissioners (Duncan Campbell Scott, Samuel Stewart and Daniel G. MacMartin) spent only a few days with the Nations to select representatives to sign the document. The treaty was only written in English and was explained to the representatives via interpreters. No negotiations took place, and no copies of the document were left with the Nations for review. Treaty No. 9 covers most of present-day Ontario north of the height of land dividing the Great Lakes watershed from the Hudson and James Bay drainage basins (Long 2010; Ministry of Government and Consumer Services 2015).

Despite government efforts at assimilation and settlement through 19th and 20th centuries, many Anishinaabe in northern Ontario continue their traditional land use, cultural and belief practices, and artistic expression.

3.3 Post-contact History

3.3.1 18th and 19th Century Fur trading

The Study Area is situated in what was known to early French Traders as Le Petit Nord or the Little North and encompasses the fur trade routes to the north and west of Lake Superior. The Little North was bounded on the southwest by the fur trade trunk lines that linked the Lakehead with Lake Winnipeg and to the northwest by the main transport line to Lake Winnipeg from Hudson Bay (Lytwyn 1981).

Traders from the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) came to the Little North by expanding inland from the Albany Fort on James Bay and from Severn House/York Factory on Hudson Bay while the St. Lawrence traders entered via Lake Nipigon. Fur trade competition in the area increased during the 1790s and early 1800s resulting in settlements along the Albany and Severn that later facilitated trade route expansion into the westward flowing rivers of the East Winnipeg Country (Lytwyn 1981; Plate 3-1).

A 1786 map from the HBC Gloucester House Post Journal depicts a trade route between Lake St. Joseph and Lac Seul and depicts the mouth of a river called Crows Nest Lake (HBC 1786). The name appears again on 1792 and 1816 mapping (HBC 1792, 1816). On the 1816 mapping an outpost labelled as “Canadian House” is depicted on Crow’s Nest Lake (HBC 1816). Lytwyn (1981) theorizes that Crow’s Nest Lake is the present-day Springpole Lake.

3.3.2 20th Century Mineral Exploration

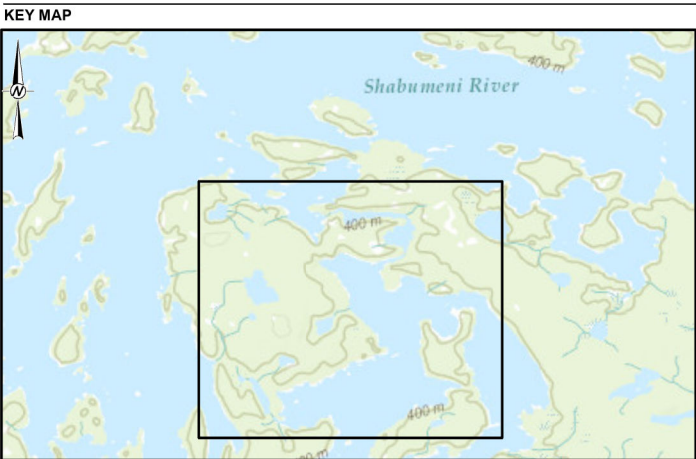
Large-scale mining exploration in Northern Ontario began in the late 19th century when, during the process of blasting rock to construct the transcontinental railway, copper and nickel deposits were discovered in Sudbury (Innis 1934). This was followed with the discovery of major veins of gold in Kirkland Lake and Porcupine and silver in Cobalt (MacDowell 1984).

Mineral exploration of the Birch-Springpole area began in the 1920s and continued until 1945 as a direct result of initial exploration in the Red Lake area, which by 1926 was directed to the areas near Woman Lake, Narrow Lake, and Birch Lake (Harding 1936). Mining/mineral exploration work ceased in the area until the 1980s at which time airborne geophysics, mapping, geochemistry, and ground geophysics activities took place. Between 1995 and 2013 diamond drilling commenced at the Springpole Lake property (Ontario Mineral Inventory 2022). In 2015, FMG acquired the property from Gold Canyon Resources, and has continued mineral exploration activities at the property. A Preliminary Economic Assessment report for the Project was filed in 2017 (Ontario Mineral Inventory 2022) and a Preliminary Feasibility Study was published in 2021.

3.3.3 Site-Specific History

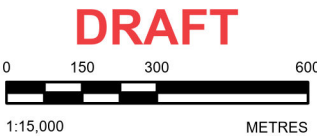
Due to the remote nature of the Study Area and its location in an unorganized township, property-specific mapping, photographs, and historical sources are sparse. Early-mid 20th century mineral exploration in Kenora District yielded geologic maps of the Springpole Lake area however, none of the mapping reveals information specific to the cabin (Figure 3-1, Figure 3-2). Similarly, only recent aerial photographic is available for the Study Area.

The cabin was historically used primarily as a fly-in recreational hunting and fishing outpost, a common activity in the surrounding area. Signage on the front entrance of the cabin indicates the building was operated by Lac Seul Airways Ltd. Background research has revealed Lac Seul Airways is closely associated with Amik Outposts, with some sources using the two names interchangeably (Canadian Fly In Fishing 2022). Photographs shared by Amik Outposts demonstrate the cabin’s use as a recreation hunting and fishing lodge (Plate 3-2 and Plate 3-3). Gold Canyon Resources purchased the cabin from Lac Seul Airways Ltd. in 2011 and is currently under a land use permit (Mullin 2023). Based on the construction materials and methods used, the cabin was most likely constructed in the late 20th to early 21st century.



LEGEND

Study Area



NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. IMAGERY CREDITS: WORLD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP; ESRI CANADA, ESRI, © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, HERE, GARMIN, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS, AAFC, NRCA
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

CLIENT

FIRST MINING GOLD

PROJECT

CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT: CHR 5

TITLE

1936 ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF MINES MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2024-10-24
	DESIGNED	----
	PREPARED	####
	REVIEWED	----
	APPROVED	----



PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
ONS2104	0001	A	3-2

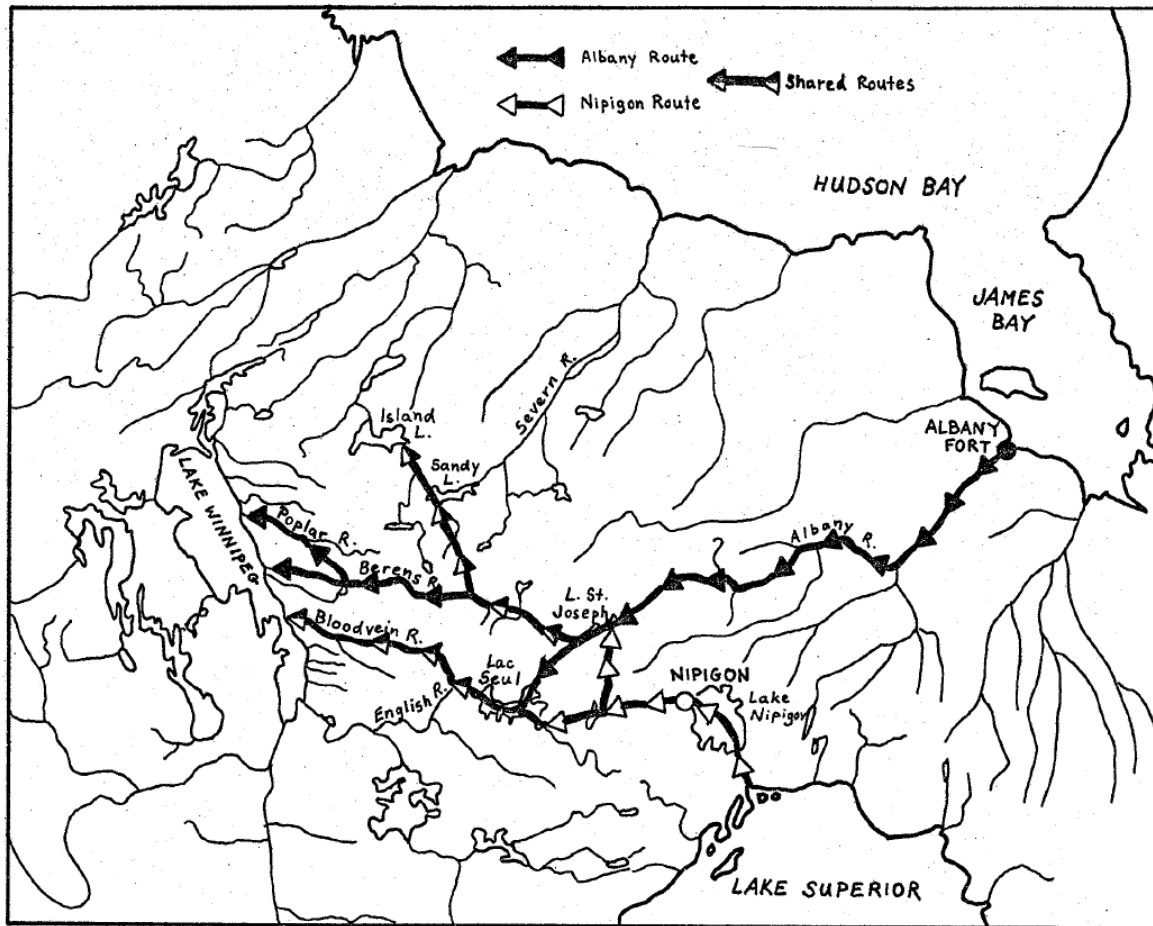


Plate 3-1: Albany and Nipigon Trade Routes to East Winnipeg as Defined by Lytwyn (1981: 10)



Plate 3-2: Historical photo of wood walkway (Canadian Fly In Fishing 2022)



Plate 3-3: Historical photo of Float plane in front of Cabin (Canadian Fly In Fishing 2022)

4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following description of the subject property is based on a field survey conducted August 23, 2023, by Robert Pinchin, Cultural Heritage Specialist with WSP, and Chelsea Dickinson, Cultural Heritage Specialist with WSP.

The Study Area is located on the west shore of Springpole Lake, Kenora District, and features a wood hunting cabin surrounded by forest (Figure 4-1).

4.1 Surrounding Landscape

The Study Area contains a wood hunting cabin. The Study Area is bordered on the west by thick forest and mixed vegetation with small sections of roughly cleared paths extending for a small distance away from the cabin (Plate 4-1, Plate 4-2). On the east, the Study Area is bounded by the rocky western shoreline of Springpole Lake (Plate 4-3, Plate 4-4). The topography of the Study Area is slopes downwards from the cabin to the shore of Springpole Lake.

4.2 CHR 5

The main structure within the Study Area is a utilitarian wood cabin. A wood plank walkway travels up the towards the cabin from a wood dock on Springpole Lake (Plate 4-5). The dock, walkway, and cabin are all in a state of deterioration from a lack of maintenance and exposure to the elements. The cabin is primarily of wood construction with glass windows and sheet metal cladding across the roof. The cabin is a simple side gable design with an extension projecting outward from the structure to create a front sunroom (Plate 4-6). The cabin's front entrance is accessed through a flight of stairs offset to the left (south) of the cabin that leads to the sunroom extension and a front porch (Plate 4-7). Five matching 12-pane fixed windows face the porch on the front (east elevation) of the cabin (Plate 4-8). The interior of the cabin was unable to be accessed due to safety concerns, however, signage on the front door indicates the cabin's use as a fly-in fishing and hunting outpost utilized by Lac Seul Airways (Plate 4-9). There are mesh screen windows on the sunroom extension and two small sliding windows on the north elevation of the cabin (Plate 4-11).

Structurally, the cabin is composed entirely of wood, utilizing a mix of rounded beams, dimensional cut timbers, and wood plank cladding (Plate 4-10, Plate 4-12). Large rounded posts, driven into the ground, act as supports for horizontally stretching floor joists (Plate 4-13, Plate 4-14). Smaller pieces of timber are used for cross bracing between adjacent posts.



LEGEND

Study Area

Cabin

DRAFT

0102040

1:1,000METRES

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY FIRST MINING GOLD, 2020.
3. KEY MAP: WORLD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP: ESRI CANADA, ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS, AAFC, NRCAN
IMAGE:
4. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

CLIENT

FIRST MINING GOLD

PROJECT

CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION REPORT: CHR 5

TITLE

EXISTING CONDITIONS

	CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2024-10-24
	DESIGNED	----	
	PREPARED	####	
	REVIEWED	----	
	APPROVED	----	

PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
ONS2104	0001	A	4-1



Plate 4-1: Thick forest West of the Study Area



Plate 4-4: Mixed Vegetation West of the Study Area



Plate 4-2: Unmaintained Grass



Plate 4-3: Rocky Shoreline of Springpole Lake



Plate 4-5: Wood Plank Walkway



Plate 4-6: Oblique View of Hunting Cabin



Plate 4-7: Cabin Porch and Entranceway



Plate 4-8: Cabin Fenestration



Plate 4-9: Lac Seul Airways Signage



Plate 4-10: Timber Construction



Plate 4-11: Side Fenestration and Wood Beam Wall Construction



Plate 4-12: Dimensional Lumber and Wood Beam Cabin Supports



Plate 4-13: Cabin Floor Joists



Plate 4-14: Dimensional Timber Construction

5.0 INFORMATION GATHERING AND ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, the Ontario Heritage Trust, MCM, and Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Natural Resources were contacted to gather information on known heritage properties within, and adjacent to, the Cultural Heritage Study Area for the Project, which included CHR 5.

The MCM reported that there are no properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* within, or adjacent to, the Cultural Heritage Study Area for the Springpole Gold Project.

At the time of writing, no response was received from the Ontario Heritage Trust, Ministry of Mines or Ministry of Natural Resources however it should be noted that these ministries have reviewed and provided comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment including the Cultural Heritage Report.

Additional information-gathering letters were prepared as part of this CHER and distributed to the Ontario Heritage Trust, MCM, and the Recreation and Heritage Department of Sioux Lookout to gather local perspectives on the potential historical or contextual significance of the travel route.

The Ontario Heritage Trust has confirmed there are no properties subject to a Trust easement or Trust ownership in the Study Area and, as the Study Area is not located in an organized township, there are no records to indicate it is designated under Part IV or Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The MCM has confirmed there are no provincial heritage properties within or adjacent to the Study Area.

The Recreation and Heritage Department of Sioux Lookout has confirmed that the Study Area falls outside the Sioux Lookout municipal boundaries and the department has no information or knowledge of any associated cultural heritage value.

As part of the Project, FMG has undertaken coordinated consultation activities required by the provincial and federal EA processes to maximize opportunities for engagement with Indigenous communities, government agencies and the public. In striving to take a meaningful approach to consultation, FMG has, and will continue to, gather feedback and promote environmentally responsible decision-making in a collaborative manner with local Indigenous communities, government agencies and the public.

As part of the Project's ongoing Indigenous engagement process, Indigenous communities participating in the EA process were provided the opportunity to provide TLRU information. To date, seven Indigenous communities (Cat Lake First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, Pikangikum First Nation, Slate Falls Nation, and Wabauskang First Nation) have produced either Indigenous knowledge and land use studies or community land use planning documents (PFN 2006, CLFN/SFN 2011, Morin et al. 2014, MNO 2021, NWES 2020, MON 2023, CLFN 2024, LSFN 2024, SFN 2024). These reports were reviewed during the preparation of this CHER. To date, no information is available or has been provided by communities suggesting that the Study Area has been or is currently used by the Indigenous communities.

6.0 EVALUATION¹

6.1 Ontario Regulation 9/06

The Study Area was evaluated against O. Reg 9/06 to determine whether it has CHVI at a local level. If a property meets one or more of the criteria in O. Reg. 9/06, it is eligible for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Table 6-1 presents the evaluation outcome for the Study Area using O. Reg. 9/06.

Based on the above it is concluded that the Study Area does not meet the criteria for CHVI prescribed in O. Reg. 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

6.2 Results of the Cultural Heritage Evaluation

Based on the evaluation of the Study Area, WSP has made the following conclusion:

- The heritage evaluation using the criteria of O. Reg. 9/06 determined that the Study Area did not meet the criteria of O. Reg. 9/06 and does not have design/physical value, historical/associative value, or contextual value.

Therefore, a Statement of CHVI and list of heritage attributes has not been prepared.

¹ WSP recognizes that Stakeholder and Community Consultation as part of the Project is ongoing. Therefore, the following O. Reg 9/06 Evaluation reflects the information available to date however should additional information become available that reveals the Study Area to be of significance to a community this evaluation should be updated accordingly.

Table 6-1: O. Reg 9/06 Evaluation

Criteria	Outcome	Rationale
1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.	No	The Study Area is not considered to be a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method. The cabin is constructed of common materials and uses a utilitarian design. The estimated construction date is late 20th century/early 21st century.
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	No	The Study Area does not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit. The cabin is built of common wood materials and uses a utilitarian design.
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	No	The Study Area does not demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement. The Cabin was a utilitarian fly-in fishing and hunting outpost utilized by Lac Seul Airways.
4. The property has historical or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.	No	No association has been found between the Study Area and a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community.
5. The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	No	The Study Area does not have the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
6. The property has historical or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.	No	The Study Area has not been found to be associated with any architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community. Accordingly, the Study Area does not meet this criterion.
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	No	The Study Area is not important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area. There are no known or potential built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes in the surrounding context that support the cabin from a cultural heritage perspective.
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	No	The Study Area is not physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings. The cabin was likely constructed in the late 20th century/early 21st century as a fly-in fishing and hunting outpost utilized by Lac Seul Airways. No historical themes or contextual links have been identified.
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark, O. Reg. 9/06, s.1 (2).	No	The Study Area has not been found to be a landmark. The cabin is located in a remote location and is largely screened from view by vegetation. It is not known to function as a landmark.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

In 2022, WSP prepared a Cultural Heritage Report for the Project (Appendix S-6 of the Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment) and identified the cabin as a potential built heritage resource. The cabin is located on the west shore of Springpole Lake, in Kenora District, Ontario. The Study Area contains a wood cabin previously used as a recreational hunting and fishing outpost, wood walkways, and a wood dock. Based on historical research, architectural style, and construction materials, it is estimated that the cabin was constructed in the late 20th century or early 21st century. The built elements of the Study Area are in a general state of disrepair. The Study Area is approximately 1 km south of the Springpole Lake exploration camp operated by FMG and is approximately 110 km northeast of the Town of Red Lake. The Study Area has no known heritage recognitions and is not protected at a municipal, provincial, or federal level.

Based on historical background research, community engagement, and the property inspection, it was determined that the Study Area does not meet the criteria for determining CHVI prescribed in O. Reg. 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Therefore the following recommendations are made:

1. The Study Area does not possess CHVI, and no further cultural heritage work is recommended.
2. Acknowledging FMG's ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities as part of the EA process, the results of this CHER will be included as part of the final Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment submission to the federal and provincial government and will be circulated to those Indigenous communities participating in the EA process.

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