

Richard I. Bong WWII Heritage Center

PUB-RR-732

July, 2005

Richard I. Bong WWII Heritage Center

305 Harbor View Parkway
Superior, WI
Douglas County

1 Acre

**Location: Downtown Superior,
overlooking Barkers Island and
Superior Bay.**

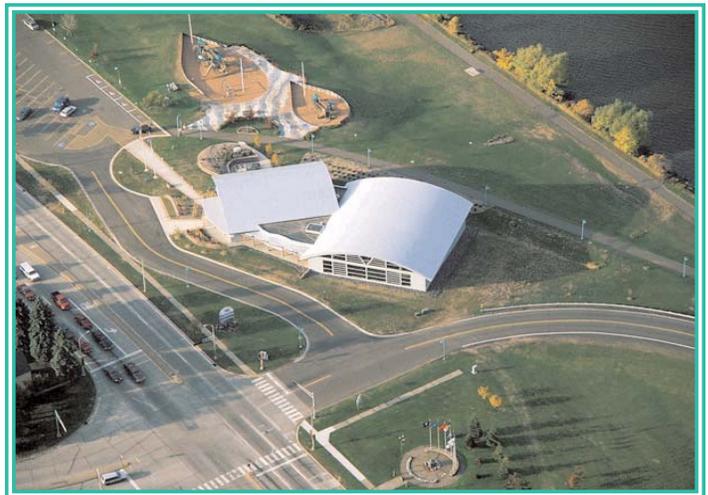
In the brownfield arena, you often hear about new office complexes, restaurants or coffee shops replacing old, broken-down factories, gas stations or scrap yards. Rarely, however, does the legacy of a World War II flying ace come into discussion. Not so for the small, northern Wisconsin community of Superior.

History

From 1871-1920, this property in downtown Superior served as a public wharf owned by the city, and included a railway running along the edge of the property. Most recently, the Superior Chamber of Commerce ran their tourist center at the site until the city moved the building in 2000.

Investigation & Cleanup

Before the site could be redeveloped, investigations showed the soil contaminated with arsenic and low levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Workers removed and disposed of approximately 10,000 yards of contaminated soil at a licensed solid waste landfill.



Aerial view of the Bong WWII Heritage Center, located in Superior, Wisconsin. The area was a public wharf for 50 years, and recently was a tourist center for the Superior Chamber of Commerce (photo courtesy of the Bong Heritage Center).

Redevelopment

City officials were convinced they did not want this value piece of downtown property to sit idle or underused as it had in years past. Working with veteran and other community groups, they decided to create a museum honoring those who served in World War II, including one of Wisconsin's most famous sons.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>



Major Richard I. Bong was the greatest flying ace of WWII. Hailing from nearby Poplar, Wisconsin, he shot down a record 40 enemy aircraft in the Pacific Theatre and received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The museum is a 14,000 square foot facility that houses approximately 25 exhibits. Inside sits a restored 1945 vintage P-38 Lightning, the kind Major Bong flew and a favorite among Allied fighter pilots.

Contacts

James Hosch
Project Manager
WI DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program
715-392-0802

Richard I. Bong
WWII Heritage Center
715-392-7151



The Bong Memorial and World War II Heritage Center hosts a refurbished P-38 Lightning, the type of plane Richard Bong flew during his missions in the Pacific (photo courtesy of the Bong Heritage Center).

Financial, Liability, Technical Assistance

The Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program provided technical assistance and oversight on the cleanup and redevelopment of the property.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Remediation and Redevelopment Program

PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>