



## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE  
Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE  
Outdoor Recreation

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Log  
Half-Log  
roof Asphalt  
other Shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Tettegouche Camp consists of fifteen log and half-log buildings on the west shore of Mic Mac Lake within the boundaries of Tettegouche State Park, a remote 4,650 acre parcel of land in northeastern Minnesota overlooking Lake Superior. Buildings comprising the Camp are clustered together within an isolated and outstanding area of the Northern Highlands Biocultural Region which contains a unique combination of natural features such as an undisturbed northern hardwood forest, one mile of Lake Superior shoreline, semi-mountainous terrain, four inland lakes, and cascading rivers and waterfalls. The extant cultural features represent the efforts of a group of sportsmen who acquired the land from the Alger Smith Lumber Company in 1910 to use as a private recreational camp.

The following summary description of the buildings in the Tettegouche Camp corresponds to a sketch map enclosed with the registration form.

### 1) Main Lodge, ca.1911, contributing.

The Lodge is a gable roofed, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> story structure built with two types of log construction. Six rows of horizontal, saddle notched logs rise from the sill to meet vertically placed timbers that are surmounted again by horizontal logs from the eaves to the ridge. All of the timbers are left in the round and have a tight fit with little or no chinking. The north gable has a pair of four-light windows, and the south and part of the west elevation have several 6/6 double hung sash. A shed roofed screen and half-log porch extends across the full length of the east (lakeside) wall. Attached to the southwest side is a large fieldstone chimney. In ca.1925 a gable roofed log and screen breezeway was constructed to link the Lodge with the Kitchen/Dining Hall.

### 2) Kitchen/Dining Hall, ca.1911, contributing.

The Kitchen/Dining Hall consists of a 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> story log section linked to a two story log section with an intersecting gable roof. The shorter Kitchen has unhewn log walls with saddle corner notches up to the ridge, and 6/6 double hung windows; the Dining Hall is the same as the Kitchen except horizontal clapboards extend the ridge from the top log. All of these buildings have wood shingle roofs.

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tettegouche Camp Historic District, Beaver Bay Twp., Lake Co., MN

Section number 7 Page 1

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3) Cabin A, ca.1911, contributing.

This is a one-story, rectangular-shaped, full log gable building with saddle corner notch joints. An elevated shed porch enclosed with half-log and screen extends the entire length of the east elevation. Double hung 6/6 sash windows punctuate all four walls. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A half-log privy with a gable roof and an outside entrance abuts the south gable end.

4) Cabin B, ca.1925, contributing.

Located southeast of the Lodge, this cabin is situated facing Mic Mac Lake. The one-story, rectangular building has a log foundation several tiers high topped by vertical logs up to the eaves. Wood shingles cover the gables to the ridge. The east-facing wall has an entrance flanked by two pairs of 6/6 double hung windows; a half-log and screen shed porch encloses this side of the building for its full length. Rolled asphalt covers the gable roof.

5) Cabin C, ca.1925, contributing.

Cabin C is a one-story building with walls of extremely tight-fitting hewn logs. Sturdy saddle corner notches exhibit chiseled ends that extend well beyond the wall surface. The full log gables have two log purlins and a ridgepole to help support the low pitched gable roof, which is covered with rolled asphalt. A variety of 6/6 and 8/8 double hung sash windows pierce the walls. A diminutive log and screen enclosed porch with a gable roof projects from the east side of the south gable end. A slightly larger enclosed shed porch with a south-facing door is linked to the east wall.

6) Barn, ca.1895-1905, contributing.

Located some fifty feet northwest of the Kitchen, the Barn is one of two extant buildings thought to be moved from the Alger Smith Logging Camp (located on the east shore of Nipisiquit Lake) by Tettegouche Camp members after they acquired the land. It is a rectangular shaped, unhewn log building with four log purlins a ridgepole, and saddle corner notches. The south gable features a double wagon door and separate entry (both of sawn lumber), and a pair of wooden doors that provide access to the hay loft. Small fixed windows pierce each wall. The gable roof is covered with rolled asphalt. During Clement Quinn's ownership, the barn was used to shelter cows and horses, the horses used to transport supplies to the camp.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tettegouche Camp Historic District, Beaver Bay Twp., Lake Co., MN

Section number 7 Page 2

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7) Filers' Shack, 1895-1905, contributing

Immediately east of the Barn is the Filers' Shack, the second building associated with the Alger Smith Company, and also thought to be moved to the Tettegouche Camp from Nipisiquit Lake. The Shack is a small, low log building with a gable roof and massive hewn timbers joined at the corners by crude half dovetail notches. Frames of former 6/6 double hung windows and a corner door are located in the south gable. Even though the lower logs in the southwest corner have rotted away, the remainder of the building is in good condition. The Filers' Shack function within the camp complex is not known.

8) Garage, ca.1925, contributing.

The Garage is a one-story, rectangular-shaped, half-log building with three stalls accessed by hinged doors made of half-logs. The gable roof is covered with rolled asphalt.

9) Outhouse, ca.1925, contributing.

The Outhouse is a diminutive building with tightly spaced, unhewn log walls featuring saddle corner notches. Horizontal planks cover the upper gables from the eaves to the ridge. A wood floor facing the lake provides access inside. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles.

10) Boat Shelter, ca.1925, contributing.

This is an open log structure on the shore of Mic Mac Lake. It has a board roof covered with rolled asphalt.

11) Root Cellar, ca.1911, contributing.

The root cellar is dug into the hillside west of the outhouse. It has interior stone walls and a wood door.

12) Sauna, ca.1972, noncontributing.

Located east of the Lodge on the shore of Mic Mac Lake, the Sauna is built of half-log on a concrete foundation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Tettegouche Camp Historic District, Beaver Bay Twp., Lake Co., MN

Section number 7 Page 3

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13) Cabin D, ca.1960, noncontributing.

This small, half-log building has a gable roof and is presently used as the camp office.

14) Bath House, ca.1950, noncontributing.

This is a square-shaped, half-log building with a low pitched hipped roof.

15) Dog House, ca.1950, noncontributing.

The kennel is a tiny, shed roofed, half-log building.

A small log shop and log ice house formerly stood northeast of the Filers' Shack. Both buildings were razed in ca.1970.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1910-1938

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

1911

ca. 1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Considered within the historic context Northern Minnesota Resort Industry, the Tettegouche Camp is historically significant as a superior example in Lake County of a privately sponsored and built sport and recreation club which, until 1977, remained in private ownership and today continues to be undeveloped. It also gains architectural significance as illustrative of the Rustic style, which became popular in resort areas throughout the Upper Midwest during the first half of the 20th century.

Serious commercial interest in the area around Tettegouche Camp was initiated in the last nineteenth century by the Alger Smith and Co., a Michigan-based lumber firm which owned vast amounts of timber in northeastern Minnesota. In ca.1895 the company moved their heavy equipment and lumberjacks to Duluth and opened up large sections of Lake County to harvest virgin stands of white and Norway pine. They built 152 miles of railroad to transport logs to their mills, including several spur lines and tracks along the north shore of Lake Superior. A logging camp was established some sixty miles northeast of Duluth near the east shore of Nipisiquit Lake which served the company until they left the area in 1905. Since the Alger Smith and Co. owners were originally from New Brunswick, Canada, they named several lakes around their logging camp after familiar Algonquin Indian words such as Mic Mac, Nicado, Nipisiquit, and Tettegouche. The Barn and the Filers' Shack are believed to have been moved from the Alger Smith Logging Camp into Tettegouche Camp after the purchase of the cutover land. It is thought that the Filers' Shack may be the only one of its kind extant in northern Minnesota.

In ca.1910 a group of Duluth men formed the Tettegouche Club and bought 1,000 acres of cutover land from the Alger Smith and Co. The group began with about fifteen members, allowing only men into the Club. The purpose of this private organization was to sensitively use the area's natural resources and to promote conservation of its scenic beauty and inherent wilderness qualities while allowing recreational fishing. A notice inside the Lodge indicated the group's interest in the property:

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Tettegouche Camp Historic District, Beaver Bay Twp., Lake Co., MN

Section number 8 Page 1

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It is the endeavor of this Club to propogate game birds to spread over the whole community. For this reason, hunting is not allowed on the premises by employees, members or officers of the Club, or anyone else.

Members constructed several permanent buildings of unhewn pine and cedar including a lodge and adjacent kitchen and dining facility, a sleeping cabin, barn, and boat house (the boat house is not extant). Partly because of World War I, the Club disbanded in 1921, selling the property to one of its members, Clement Quinn, a Duluth iron ore merchant. During the next fifty years when Quinn owned the property, he continued to uphold the traditions and values established by the Club, while also adding three guest cabins (B, C, and D), a garage, outhouse, bath house, and kennel. When Quinn became 85 years old in 1971 he sold the site to descendants of two early northern Minnesota lumbermen, John and Karl DeLaittre, who continued to preserve the area until it was acquired by the Nature Conservancy in 1977. Two years later the State of Minnesota purchased the property and established Tettegouche State Park.

Creation of the Tettegouche Club coincided with the development of northern Minnesota's resort industry, which began in the early twentieth century and flourished between 1920-1940. Club members were attracted to the Tettegouche area for the same reasons tourists and seasonal residents from the Twin Cities, the Midwest, and other regions traveled north - it provided relief from stifling summer heat and offered abundant opportunities for recreation and relaxation. More important, Tettegouche's 1,000 acres of remote terrain gave members an opportunity to fully explore and appreciate the natural and scenic attractions still in existence today. Unlike many resorts which began as a collection of tourist cabins constructed by a local resident for use by the general public, the Tettegouche Club is distinctive because it originated privately to serve a small group of Duluth men who recognized the potential of a truly unique landscape.

Other summer recreational clubs were developed in the northern part of the state during the same period. The Beaver Bay Club was organized in 1920 through the purchase of about 300 acres of land along the Beaver River in the town of Beaver Bay. While membership was limited to fifteen "adult males," the Club was established as a cooperative to provide social and recreational activities for families. Members initially paid \$1,000 for rent, security, meals, and water and sewer services, and by 1930 they had constructed a log lodge, dining room, and ten cabins. On a larger scale, the Encampment Forest Association was created in 1921 by a group of wealthy Minneapolis families who bought a tract of land seven miles north of Two Harbors with 1,575 acres and two miles of Lake Superior shoreline. Over 20 members contributed \$1,000-\$1,500 toward the organization, and then paid \$50 in annual dues. Those who leased land to build cabins agreed on a fixed yearly rental fee depending on

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Tettegouche Camp Historic District, Beaver Bay Twp., Lake Co., MN

Section number 8 Page 2

the number of feet of lakeshore or river frontage they occupied. A one-story log lodge which served as the focal point of activity was built based on a design by one of the Association's members who was an architect. While the Encampment Forest Association remains private today, it has grown to include about sixty families, with many cabins constructed since the 1940s. Another recreational property was built in the early 1900s by David Joyce, a very wealthy and prominent Chicago businessman. In 1918 Joyce constructed a large log summer house on Trout Lake in Itasca County with seven cottages, a garage, boathouse, barn, farmhouse, and electric light plant. This property also represents the Rustic style and tourism development, but it is unlike other sites because its primary function was as a seasonal home for a single family. Although the Tettegouche buildings are not as well preserved as these sites, the Camp is of equal or greater historical significance because of its association with the logging industry and, more importantly, as a distinguished type of private summer retreat designed for relaxation and recreation in a secluded environment.

All of the Tettegouche Camp buildings constructed by ca.1925 exemplify the vernacular Rustic design that was popularized in the Adirondack region of northern New York from 1870 to 1930. The Tettegouche buildings characterize the style through their use of log construction (horizontal and vertical) with open corner joints, overhanging roofs and wide eaves, simply proportioned, multi-paned, double hung windows, screened porches, and the use of native stone for the Lodge chimney and fireplace. Furthermore, the buildings combine the use of local craft traditions and readily available materials with a design appropriate to the natural setting of the unspoiled area. The Rustic style dictated that building materials possess certain inherent qualities of the forest, which eliminated the use of plaster, wallpaper, or paint - either inside or outside the building. The aesthetic point depended on the natural color, figure, and grain of the wood for decorative effects. Indeed, the Lodge, Kitchen, and cabins all have interior wood surfaces and exposed wood framing elements. Hand-made log furniture inside the buildings enhances the Rustic characteristics of the property.

The Tettegouche Camp is important for its representation of northern Minnesota's vital turn-of-the-century resort industry. Although several newer buildings have been added to the camp, these are diminutive and minor structures constructed of sympathetic half-log materials that allow the site to retain its historic architectural integrity, and thus accurately illustrate Rustic styling.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Blegen, Theodore C. Minnesota: A History of the State. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963.

Larson, Agnes M. History of the White Pine Industry in Minnesota. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1949.

Murphy, Patricia. The Public Buildings of the State of Minnesota: An Architectural Heritage. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1986.

Phone Interview with John DeLaittre, former owner, Beaver Bay, Minnesota, 16 August 1988.

Searle, R. Newell. "Crown Jewel of North Shore Parks," Minnesota Volunteer, vol. 42, no. 246 (October 1979): n.p.

See continuation sheet

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approx. 4 acres

### UTM References

A 

1	5	6	3	1	3	0	0	5	2	4	5	0	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	5	6	3	1	4	5	5	5	2	4	5	0	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	5	6	3	1	4	5	0	5	2	4	4	9	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	5	6	3	1	3	0	0	5	2	4	4	9	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Tettegouche Camp Historic District is shown as the broken line on the map entitled Tettegouche Camp Historic District, 1988, and drawn to a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet.

See continuation sheet 10:1

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Alger Smith and Co. Filers' Shack, and the Lodge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Cabins, and outbuildings that have historically been part of the Tettegouche Club and that maintain historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tettegouche Camp Historic District, Beaver Bay Twp., Lake Co., MN

Section number 10 Page 1  
Boundary Map

TETTEGOUCHE CAMP  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
1988

SCALE: 1" = 100'

BOUNDARY: — x — x — x

