

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. Croix Boom Site

AND/OR COMMON  
St. Croix Boom Site

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
on the St. Croix River

CITY, TOWN  
Stillwater

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
001 (First)

STATE Minnesota

VICINITY OF  
CODE 27

COUNTY Washington  
CODE 163

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: scenic waterway

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
multiple (John Hackett, Survey Specialist, Minnesota Historical Society)

STREET & NUMBER  
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN  
St. Paul

STATE

VICINITY OF  
Minnesota

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Stillwater

STATE  
Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When the St. Croix Boom was built in 1856, the river banks were dense with hardwood trees; elm, ash, and cottonwood grew in the swamp bottoms. By 1914, when the Boom was closed, these banks were entirely denuded. Mills, pens, and all other traces of the lumber industry entirely disappeared.

By 1975 reforestation efforts has been completely successful. The river banks are once again thick with a variety of trees. Aspen, birch, and poplar predominate. Very few houses were built in sight from the river, and motorboat use upstream of Stillwater is severely restricted. Half-a-dozen state parks and forests border the river on the Minnesota side alone between Lake St. Croix and Stillwater. In 1975 a survey was begun by the National Park Service to identify historic resources along the river in preparation for designation of the St. Croix as a National Scenic Waterway. No trace of the St. Croix Boom was known to exist prior to that survey.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES    1856-1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Croix Boom Site was the earliest, most important, and longest-lived of the major log storage and handling areas in Minnesota. From 1880 until 1910 the state trailed only Michigan and Wisconsin in lumber production. The St. Croix Boom, opened in 1856, was the major factor in this output, passing over three and a half billion feet of lumber by 1874 and nearly eight billion more between 1875 and 1903.

The St. Croix Valley includes about 8,500 square miles or approximately 5,440,000 acres; at least 70% of the area was originally covered with heavy growths of white and Norway pine. The forests were readily accessible for commercial exploitation by means of the St. Croix River, which provided cheap water transportation for the logs from the forests to the sawmills and then to the markets downstream in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

From 1856 until 1914, the St. Croix Boom served as the terminal point for the great Minnesota log drives down the St. Croix River and its tributaries. Here million of logs were stored each year. They were then sorted, scaled, measured, and their ownership determined. "Fitting-up crews" made the logs up into rafts and sent them further down river to the mills. At the peak of the drives the stored logs sometimes covered a stretch of river nine miles in length.

From 1856 until June 12, 1914, when the last log went through the boom, the St. Croix Boom had handled more than fifteen and a half billion feet of logs. By 1907, however, Minnesota's great forests had been almost entirely cut over and the lumber industry in the state declined rapidly after that.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Holmquist, June D. and Jean A. Brookins, Minnesota's Major Historic Sites, A Guide, 1963.  
 Larson, Agnes M., History of the White Pine Industry in Minnesota, 1949.  
 Dunn, James Taylor, The St. Croix: Midwest Border River, 1965.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 26.10

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	5,1,7,2,4,0	4,9,9,2,5,2,0	B	1,5	5,1,7,2,5,0	4,9,9,1,4,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,5	5,1,5,6,5,0	4,9,9,1,5,2,0	D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The St. Croix Boom Site is located in the narrows of the St. Croix River above Stillwater, Minnesota. All that part of the Minnesota Highway 95 right-of-way bounded by the northwest right-of-way line, on the southwest at the point of leaving the adjoining land now or formerly owned by Floyd A. Sherrard, et ux, on the southeast by the St. Croix River and on the northeast at the point of adjoining the land now or formerly owned by Bernard J. Gaffney, et ux, containing 26.10 acres, more or less.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	Minnesota	CODE	27	COUNTY	Washington	CODE	163
STATE	Wisconsin	CODE	55	COUNTY	St. Croix	CODE	109

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

7/28/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L. Street, NW

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

**Landmark Designated**  
 Nov-13-1976  
 date  
**Boundary Certified**  
 Jan 11/1979  
 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL LANDMARKS)