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7.	DESCRIPTION								
					(Chee	ck One)			
	CONDITION	Excellent	Good	🗌 Fair	Det	eriorated	🕅 Ruins	🔲 Unexposed	
	CONDITION		(Check O	ne)			(Che	eck One)	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The approximately 6-acre site of Minnesota's first commercial sawmill is the same size as it was in 1839 when the first mill was built. The land is located in the village of Marine on St.Croix. During the mill's heyday, all of the property was occupied by the sawmill itself, the planing mill, numerous storage sheds, and areas for the stockpiling of lumber, shingles, laths, etc. (see photo #1). The steamboat levee was also located on this property. The extensive buildings of the 1873-1888 period are graphically depicted in The mill failed in 1888 and by 1895 all the photo #2. numerous frame mill buildings had been torn down and the machinery carted away, thus marking the end of Marine as a lumber village. Today, all that is left of this important historic site is a crumbling stone engine house and large wheel dating from 1873 (photo #3). The mill stream still runs through the property, which consists of low shoreline along the St. Croix River subject to flooding, steep bluffs, and an area of high ground paralleled by the village's main thoroughfare, Judd Street. The acreage, in addition to the mill ruin, has a large number of trees, both standing and fallen, and heavy At the top of the 40-foot bluff is a small cotunderbrush. tage-type home and metal garage constructed in the 1940s. The land in block # 47 and the Mill Reservation is zoned commercial.



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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)	The L	
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔲 18th Century 🗐	20th Century
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REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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statement of significance The Marine mill site is important as the birthplace of Minnesota's white pine lumbering industry - the area's first major industry. The original Marine Lumber Company sawmill at this location, constructed in 1839, cut the first commercial lumber in Minnesota from trees felled in the vast white pine forests of the upper reaches of the St.Croix River.

Throughout its most prosperous years, the sawmill company was known as Walker, Judd & Veazie. The village of Marine Mills, first settled by eastern lumberjacks by way of Marine Settlement, Illinois, remained a major lumber producer from 1839 when the first mill was built until 1888 when it closed forever.

forever. The first Marine sawmill was torn down in 1852, and a new water-powered mill with a forty-foot overshot wheel was built. On September 16, 1863, the second mill was destroyed by fire. Many men in the village were without employment until a new sawmill was constructed on the same spot three years later. This 1866 mill, to keep up with competition, was again almost completely rebuilt in 1873. The sawmill failed in 1888, marking the end of Marine Mills as a lumber village.

By 1895, all that remained was the native stone engine house of the 1873 period which stands today as a reminder of the great industry which helped build Minnesota and the treeless plains states to the west and south.

In 1964, the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission (MORRC) recommended that "the site should be acquired by the state. A study of the possibilities of this site as a place to erect a museum to tell the significant story of lumbering in Minnesota should be made."

The site is also important in telling the transportation story of the state, especially in the St.Croix Valley. It was one of only three good steamboat landings (Marine,Osceola, and Taylors Falls) on the St.Croix, north of Stillwater. For many years, the river was the major (frequently the only) route for travelers, pioneers from the eastern states, and the on-rush of Swedish immigrants who began settling the valley in the 1850s.

Contiguous to the site, is the Walker, Judd & Veazie "company store," a frame building constructed in 1870 and still in use, and the Village Hall, built in the 1880s and still in good condition. Also, on adjoining property is a home (now privately owned) built by one of the company's founders in 1848. Thus, the millsite area, if preserved, offers a fine location for telling the story of Minnesota's important contribution to the history of lumbering in the United States.

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGR	APHIC	AL RE	FEREN	CES									
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		NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTO	RIC PLACES	COUNTY Washington
		PROPERTY MAP FORM	٨	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HIS	STORIC PLACES	COUNTY
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