

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Saint Louis
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 16 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON: Kitchi Gammi Club

AND/OR HISTORIC: Kitchi Gammi Club

### 2. LOCATION

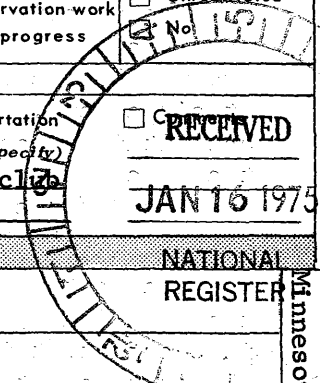
STREET AND NUMBER: 831 East Superior Street

CITY OR TOWN: Duluth CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8th

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Saint Louis CODE: 137

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) private club



### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Kitchi Gammi Club

STREET AND NUMBER: 831 East Superior Street

CITY OR TOWN: Duluth STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Registry of Deeds - Saint Louis County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 5th Avenue West at First Street

CITY OR TOWN: Duluth STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Saint Louis
ENTRY NUMBER:	APR 16 1975
DATE:	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kitchi Gammi Club at 831 East Superior Street in Duluth is an imposing three and one-half storey brick and stone structure which is set upon a well landscaped lot. The front (or south facade) is afforded an unobstructed view of Lake Superior. Stylistically, the design embodies features of both the Medieval "Gothic" of Elizabethan England and the Georgian. Both styles are skillfully combined to form a cohesive and complementary appearance.

The front of the building is basically symmetrical in massing. The central or entry bay is gabled and boasts a Jacobean type oriel window at second storey level. This bay is balanced by two wide bays which terminate in projecting wings. (The seven-part composition is a Georgian feature.) The entire building is roofed with thick green slate. On either side of the main entry are carved figures of Indians which serve as holders for lanterns. All gutters, downspouts, valleys, exterior lighting fixtures and windows are either copper or lead. All trim around windows and doors is of cut stone. Windows are of the casement type and imported from England.

The interior is finished in chestnut and oak which has been varnished in all major rooms. Minor rooms have been painted. The ground floor consists of a long hall with meeting rooms and lounges at either end. Directly opposite the entry is a massive fireplace set within a recessed inglenook. No major changes have been made in the appearance of the building interior or exterior since construction and much of the furnishings still in use were chosen for the building by the architect.

The most impressive room in the club is the ballroom (also used as the main dining room) on the second floor in the east wing. Paneled in chestnut, this room is thirty feet wide, fifty-four feet long and almost three storeys in height. Large ornately fashioned wooden trusses with carved pendants appear to support the steeply-pitched roof, however they are reported to be non-structural and function primarily as ornamentation. A magnificent fireplace is located on the north wall below a projecting balcony or music loft. On the south wall are expansive two-storey metal casement windows which afford a view of Lake Superior.

The remaining portions of the building are devoted to small private dining and meeting rooms, kitchen and service facilities, and guest rooms, several of which are provided with fireplaces. These rooms occupy one-half of the second storey and the entire third storey. The heating plant, card room, storage, and gymnasium are located on the basement level.

The building continues to serve its original function as a social club and is maintained in an excellent state of preservation. No plans for future alteration or change in usage have been expressed by the club. Excellent maintenance of the grounds enhance the architectural character although increased vehicular traffic on adjacent Superior Street does present problems of noise and air pollution. Future plans to divert much of this traffic from Superior Street will be advantageous to the future preservation of this site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1883, 1912

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kitchi Gammi Club was organized on 1 October 1883 and was the first social club of its kind to be incorporated in Minnesota. Originally it occupied quarters on the fourth floor of the old Grand Opera House located on the northeast corner of Fourth Avenue West and Superior Street. When this building was destroyed by fire the club moved two subsequent times until it finally moved into the present club house completed in 1913.

For the design of the new Kitchi Gammi Club, the members commissioned the eastcoast architectural firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson, Architects. This firm is also credited with the design of three other Duluth Buildings among them Saint Paul's Episcopal Church at 1710 East Superior Street. While drawings for all four bear the name of the firm, the designs are credited to Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue.

Goodhue was, in addition to being an accomplished architect, an accomplished musician, lecturer, author, and designer of type, bookplates, and ink, watercolor and crayon renderings. He was not college trained but began his career at the age of fifteen as an apprentice in the New York office of Gothicist-architect James Renwick. Almost from the beginning of his career, Goodhue was respected for his remarkable skill in draftsmanship.

Between 1891 and 1914, Goodhue worked with Ralph Adams Cram, the leading ecclesiastical architect of the period. Cram firmly believed that the English Gothic Style was the proper church style and many of his works at such institutions as West Point and Princeton University attest to this fact.

Goodhue's design for the Kitchi Gammi Club called for a variant on the Gothic style which resulted in the image of an Elizabethan manor house with both Gothic and Georgian detailing. Construction began in 1912 and upon completion the total cost of construction, furnishing, and landscaping was recorded at over \$225,000.

The Kitchi Gammi Club is regarded today as one of the finest examples of its style in Duluth. The Duluth News Tribune of 25 April 1954 described the building as "one of the last buildings built which embodies so many ancient handicrafts and as much detailed handiwork in wood, metal, and stone". The building not only attests to skill in craftsmanship in materials for the most unreproducible by modern standards, but to the accomplished architectural design of Bertram G. Goodhue. In addition the club remains active to carry on the tradition of "the oldest social club in Minnesota".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Records of Saint Louis County Historical Society  
 Sommer, Lawrence: Landmark Structures of Duluth: Their History and Architecture, 1971  
 Duluth Historic Buildings Report - City Planning Department, 1974  
 Interview with Dr. William Coventry, member Kitchi Gammi Club.  
Duluth News Tribune, October 6, 1963; April 25, 1954

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

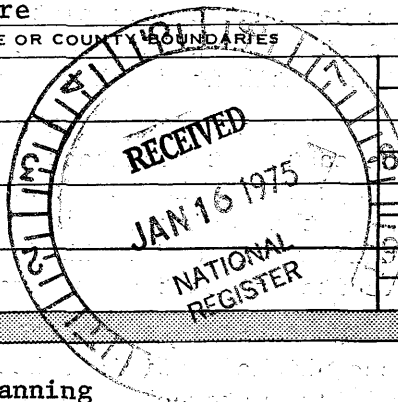
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		46° 47' 43"	92° 05' 17"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

15/569620  
 5182630  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approx. 1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Charles W. Nelson, Historic Sites Survey and Planning**

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **5 December 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Building 25, Fort Snelling**

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley  
 Russell W. Fridley

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 12/30/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Al P. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/16/75

ATTEST:

W. M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 8 1975