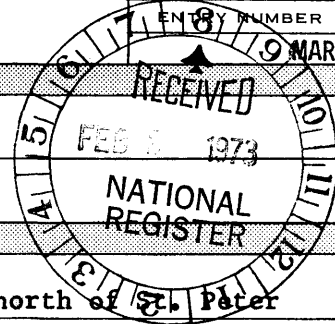


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Nicollet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	



ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	9 MAR 20 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Traverse des Sioux State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Traverse des Sioux

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Accessible from U.S. Highway #169, two miles north of St. Peter

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Peter

STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Nicollet** CODE: **103**

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of Minnesota

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Nicollet County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Minnesota Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Peter** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **580**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Minnesota State Register

DATE OF SURVEY: **1965** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **23**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Nicollet
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 20 1973
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Traverse des Sioux State Park is a 580 acre tract bordering the Minnesota River in Nicollet County. The wayside area and 1851 treaty site are located on the west side of the highway at the north end of the park. A plaque commemorating the treaty was placed at the site soon after its acquisition by the state in 1906. In 1931 the state moved a log cabin from a nearby farm to the site to represent Louis Provencalle's trading post.

The townsite is located on the east side of U. S. Highway #169 in an open area edged along the river by a grove of deciduous trees. Markers locate and describe the steamboat landings, the well, and the cellar depressions of fourteen structures that once lined the main street.

Portions of the farm which once occupied the village site have been cultivated and the farm house and barn are still being used by the park ranger.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

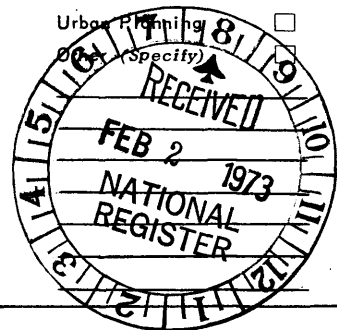
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Traverse des Sioux was the scene of one of the most important events in Minnesota history. On July 23, 1851, thirty-five Dakota chiefs approved the treaty which, with a similar agreement signed at Mendota two weeks later, opened to the white man nearly twenty-four million acres of rich land encompassing most of what is now southern Minnesota as well as parts of Iowa and South Dakota.

The "crossing of the Sioux" was already well known in Minnesota when the treaty commissioners journeyed there in 1851 to meet the Wahpeton and Sisseton Dakota. For years the Indians had forded the Minnesota River at that point, and fur traders had operated posts off and on at the Traverse since the early 1800's; perhaps even before. In the 1820's trader Louis Provencalle maintained a permanent fur station there, and later a small settlement of voyageurs and mixbloods grew up about it. In 1843 Stephen R. Riggs established a mission to the Indians, the first of several operated at Traverse des Sioux.

The crossing gained a permanent place in the annals of Minnesota when it was chosen as the site of the 1851 treaty negotiations. By the treaty, the Sisseton and Wahpeton relinquished all their lands in the territory, except for a small reservation on the upper Minnesota River between Lake Traverse and the mouth of the Yellow Medicine River, for a consideration of \$1,665,000. The money was to be divided into a fund of \$275,000 to settle their affairs and a second fund earmarked for schools and farms, and the remainder was to be invested at five per cent interest for fifty years.

With the treaties taken care of, there remained one important problem to settle - the payment of the upper Dakota's debts to traders and a settlement for the mixedblood members of the tribe, most of whom were the children of traders. Serving as the vehicle to accomplish this was the infamous "traders' paper", which the chiefs had signed at Traverse des Sioux. Thinking it was a duplicate of the treaty, the Indian chiefs had put their marks on a paper that later proved to be a list of traders' claims. By signing it, the chiefs promised to satisfy those claims with money received from the treaty. Despite the angry protests of the upper Dakota that they had been tricked, the government declared the paper valid and tried to collect the money late in 1852 by withholding the annuity payment until the Indians agreed to the settlement. The traders' paper was irrevocable and \$250,000 was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gresham, William G., History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, Vol. I, B. F. Bowen and Co., Inc., Indianapolis, 1916.

Holmquist, June Drenning and Jean Brookins, Minnesota's Major Historic Sites, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1972.

Le Duc, William G., Minnesota Yearbook for 1851, W. G. LeDuc, St. Paul, Minnesota Territory, 1851.

A Brief Sketch and History of the Signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, Captain Richard Somers Chapter, DAR, St. Peter, Minnesota, 1944.

NW 15/423 550
 4912 460
 NW 15/425 680/4912 420
 SE 15/425 670/4909 740
 SW 15/423 520/4909 760
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	44° 24' 48"	93° 57' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	44° 24' 48"	93° 55' 59"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	44° 20' 20"	93° 57' 33"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	44° 20' 20"	93° 55' 59"		° ' "	° ' "	

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diana Mitchell, Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **January 25, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **023**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Title: Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Date: 1-26-73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/20/73

ATTEST:

Wm Newby
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-29-73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Nicollet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 20 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

paid directly to the claimants. This bit of sharp dealing is widely cited by historians as one of the causes of the Dakota rebellion in 1862.

Long before the Dakota had moved from the land ceded at Traverse des Sioux, white settlers rushed in to homestead farms and build villages. The Traverse des Sioux Land Company quickly platted a townsite near the treaty grounds and by 1855 the thriving village had some three hundred inhabitants and at least seventy buildings. At its peak Traverse des Sioux was the principal debarkation point for settlers moving into the newly acquired territory. In one year, records show that 431 boats made round trips up the Minnesota to Traverse des Sioux. In 1857 the village lost its bid for the permanent county seat to nearby St. Peter and within a few years the area was largely deserted.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Nicollet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 20 1973	

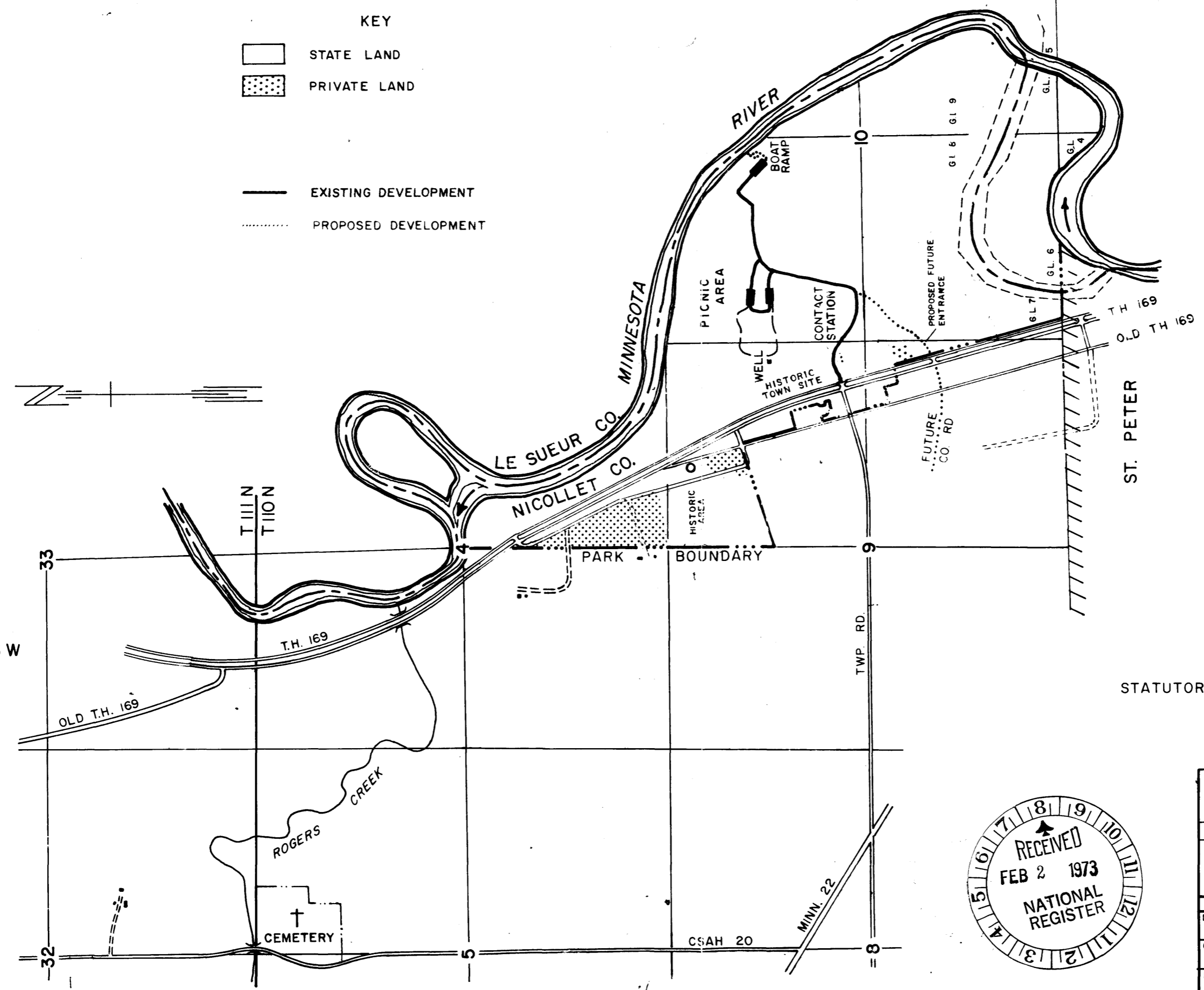
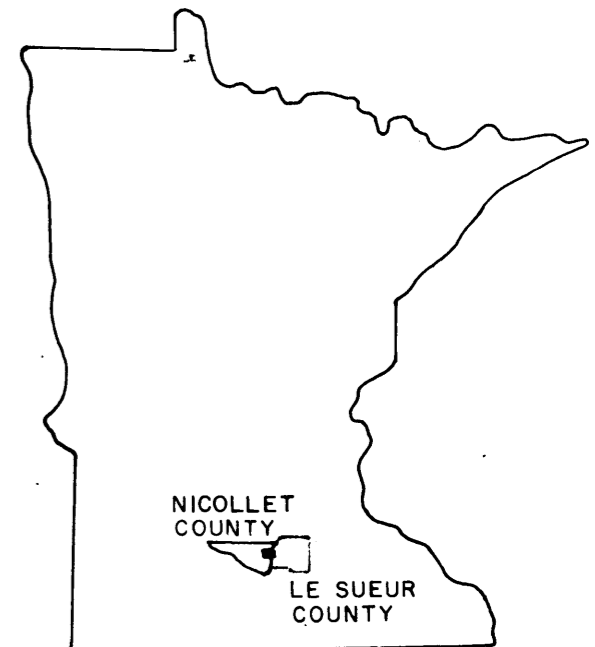
(Number all entries)

10. Geographical Data -(corrections)

NW	44° 21' 48"	93° 57' 33"
NE	44° 21' 48"	93° 55' 59"
SE	44° 20' 48"	93° 57' 33"
SW	44° 20' 48"	93° 55' 59"



- KEY
- STATE LAND
 - PRIVATE LAND
 - EXISTING DEVELOPMENT
 - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



R 26 W

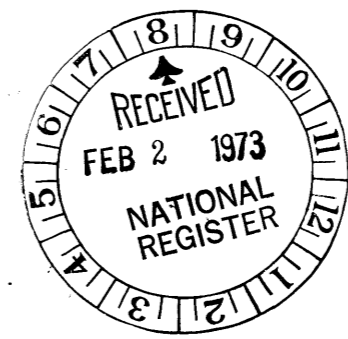
33

32

T. 110 N.
T. 110 N.

TWP. RD

SCALE: 1" = 1320'
STATUTORY BOUNDARY 580 ACRES (APPROX.)



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION		
STATE PARK SITE		
TRAVERSE DES SIOUX STATE PARK		
NICOLLET & LE SUEUR CO.-NEAR ST. PETER		
T. 110 N. R. 26 W. 5 TH. P.M.		
DRAWN JAJ 3-17-65	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING	SURVEY AIRPHOTO '55
CHECKED DAD 3-26-65		DATUM
REVISED RES 7-14-69	<i>D. J. GOWENA</i> CHIEF ENGINEER	

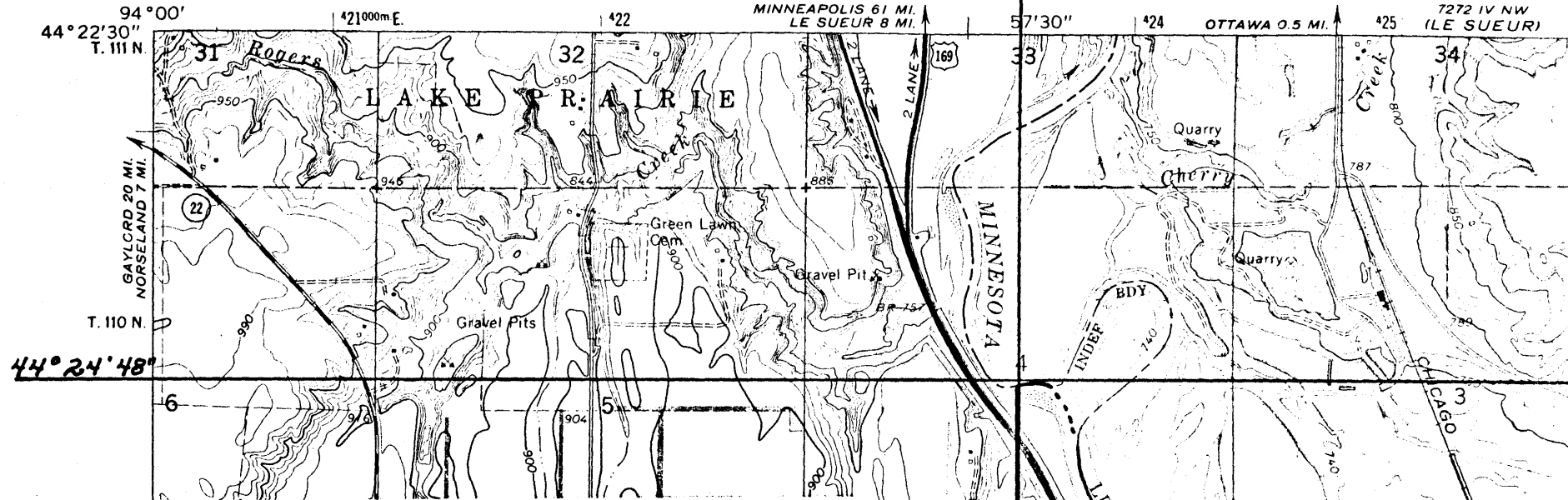
OWNERSHIP REV. REQ. RES 10-31-72	60-35	SHEET 4	FILE P.047.00.01
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7 1/2 INE
(NORSELAND)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

93° 57' 33"

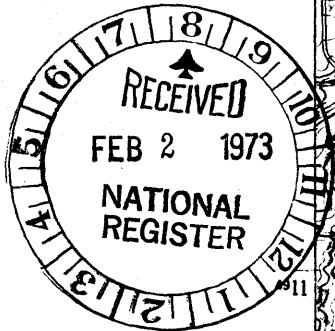
STATE OF MINNE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMIN



44° 24' 48"

4912000m.N.

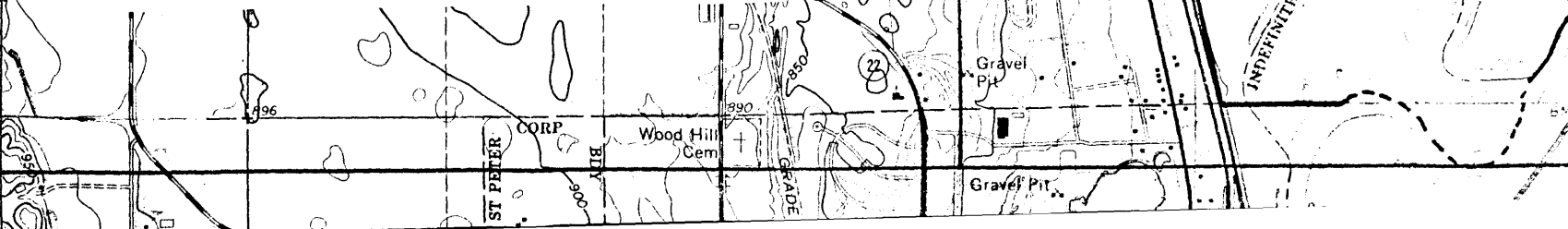
USGS 7.5 Quadrangle
St. Peter, Minn. (1965)
Traverse des Sioux State Park



Latitude	Longitude
NW 44° 24' 48"	93° 57' 33"
NE 44° 24' 48"	93° 55' 59"
SE 44° 20' 20"	93° 57' 33"
SW 44° 20' 20"	93° 55' 59"

44° 20' 20"

4910



Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Nicollet	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 20 1973	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Traverse des Sioux State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Traverse des Sioux			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Accessible from U.S. Highway #169, two miles north of St. Peter			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Peter			
STATE: Minnesota	CODE 23	COUNTY: Nicollet	CODE 103
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle St. Peter, Minn.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

