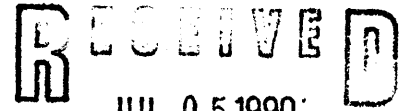


1164

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



JUL 05 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sugar Loaf

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number off U.S. Hwy. 61

not for publication N/A

city, town Winona

vicinity N/A

state Minnesota

code MN

county Winona

code 169

zip code 55987

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
[X] public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
[X] site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Ian R. Stewart

Date

6/27/90

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- [X] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.

Entered in the National Register

Mark Z. Baker

August 3, 1990

- [] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/ natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Sugar Loaf rises about 500 feet above the Mississippi River in Winona, the seat of Winona County, in southern Minnesota. It is similar in height and general appearance to a number of bluffs in this area, but its striking feature is an exposed mass of Oneota dolomite--the sugar loaf--which is the remnant of a nineteenth-century quarry.

The feature lies south of the central portion of the city, and the base of the bluff is reached by Highway 43 (Sugar Loaf Road). It is easily seen from Highway 61 and is opposite a popular stopping point, the Hot Fish Shop. A tourist information center, occupying a former brewery building known as the Sugar Loaf Brewery (NRHP) is located at its base adjacent to Highway 61.

Access to the summit of Sugar Loaf is not by an improved trail, and although visited by many persons each year, the slopes and summit are precipitous and dangerous. In recent years there has been a local effort to erect a barrier to protect hikers, but none exists.

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)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1870-1939

Significant Dates

ca. 1870

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Federal Writer's Project, Minnesota. Minnesota: A State Guide. (American Guide Series.) New York: Viking, 1938, 266.

History of Winona County, Together with Biographical Matter, Statistics, etc. Chicago: H.H. Hill and Co., 1883, 86.

Lewis, Henry. The Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated. Trans. from the German by A. Hermina Poatgieter. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1967, 116.

Winona Republican Herald. January 13, 1899.

Winona Daily News. May 12, 1975.

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

Acreage of property 18 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

6	0	9	7	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	7	5	8	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

B

1	5
---	---

6	0	9	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	7	5	9	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	5
---	---

6	1	0	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	7	5	7	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D

1	5
---	---

6	1	0	2	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	7	5	5	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Quadrangle name: Winona East and West 1972
Quadrangle scale: 1: 24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the 850 foot contour line on the enclosed USGS maps (Winona East, Wis.-Minn. and Winona West, Minn.-Wis.) and is noted by a series of small arrows.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carole Zellie
 organization Landscape Research date 5/31/89
 street & number 1466 Hythe Street telephone (612) 641-1230
 city or town St. Paul, state Minnesota zip code 55108

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Sugar Loaf is significant for its association with nineteenth-century travel and tourism in Minnesota. It is one of the best-known geographic features in the state and is one of two Mississippi River bluffs in this vicinity that have received considerable interpretation over the past century. Like Barn Bluff sixty miles upriver at Red Wing, it has served as the subject of dozens of widely-circulated stereopticon views, and as the subject of travel literature. Its Indian lore and other anecdotal material have been promoted by local residents and woven into tourist guides. For over one hundred years, Sugar Loaf has been regarded as an important feature by rail and automobile travelers along the scenic river road that stretches from Red Wing to LaCrescent.

Historical Background

The Dakota believed that at the top of this feature the cap of Chief Wah pa sha (Wabasha) was transformed into stone. Other accounts state that each year the Mdewakanton Dakota gathered at the foot of the peak to celebrate the ceremonies of Ke-ox-ah, the Homestead. Signal fires were kept burning at the summit.¹ White settlers reportedly found graves and burial scaffolds at this site but there is no recent verification of such remains.

Winona's first permanent white settlement occurred in 1851. Sugar Loaf is not mentioned in an early account of the city published in 1858,² but was named and identified for its scenic value by the mid-1870s, when the first of many stereopticon views were published. It is possible that the promoters of the stereopticon series named the site; it was regularly featured in series such as "Zimmerman's Artistic Minnesota Views."³ It appears on Alfred T. Andreas' "An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota," published in 1874.

At about the same time as travelers and photographers became interested in the site, a quarry began operation at the top of the bluff. The Oneota Dolomite found here is also known as Winona Travertine. Although fine-textured and considered a good grade of⁵ architectural stone, it is not travertine but a marine limestone. The stone crusher and a lime kiln were apparently located at the base of the western slope of the bluff, off present-day Glen Oaks Road.

The damage done to the face of Sugar Loaf by the quarry was soon criticized by local residents. In the mid-1880s and 1890s, efforts to

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purchase the site from owners John and Stephen O'Dea did not succeed.⁶ By 1899, an effort to preserve Sugar Loaf was organized by Winona ladies' clubs.⁷ The quarry ceased operation before World War I, but it was not until 1950 that it was purchased by the St. Wenonah Chapter of the D.A.R. for purposes of preservation.⁸ Few permanent improvements have been made to the site, and it is hiked by many visitors each year.

Sugar Loaf has been the focus of many development proposals in the twentieth century. They have included those for a lighted cross, a chairlift, a restaurant, and a scenic drive linking Garvin Heights (to the northwest) with Sugar Loaf.

Beyond the Winona area, Sugar Loaf has become well known through a variety of tourist literature. Although some mid-nineteenth century travelers such as artist Henry Lewis, (author of The Valley of the Mississippi, first published in Germany in 1852) seem to have been confused about its location it was a standard stop on late nineteenth-century river tours.¹⁰ (Several Minnesota hills and bluffs were named Sugar Loaf in the nineteenth century, including those in Lake City and Rochester.)

Sugar Loaf appears in nearly all tourist guides from 1880 to 1938, including the WPA Guide to Minnesota (1938). Although early geologists did not pay particular attention to Sugar Loaf, after the quarry exposed the Oneota Dolomite it was also included in a number of geological texts, including Daniel W. Willard's The Story of the North Star State (1922). It is a standard feature of most of Minnesota's current travel books, and also appears in many works on the general geology of the state.

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NOTES

1. Federal Writer's Project, Minnesota. Minnesota: A State Guide (American Guide Series.) New York: Viking, 1938, 266.
2. Minnesota: A State Guide, 266. See also History of Winona County, together with Biographical Matter, Statistics, etc. Chicago: H.H. Hill and Co. 1883, 86. The Minnesota Historical Society has no record of any burial sites.
3. See City of Winona and Southern Minnesota. Winona, Minnesota: n.p., 1858.
4. Published by Zimmerman, St. Paul, Minnesota. Minnesota Historical Society Audio Visual Collection.
5. Schwartz, George M. Minnesota Rocks and Waters. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1954, 307.
6. Winona Republican Herald, January 13, 1899.
7. Winona Daily News, May 12, 1975.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Lewis, Henry. The Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated. Trans. from the German by A. Hermina Poatgieter. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1967, p. 116.

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Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

This 850 foot contour line is enclosed in a polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM Reference Points: A 15 609750 4875820; B 15 609780 4875930; C 15 610260 4875770; D 15 610250 4875590; E 15 610070 4875540.

UTM References (continued):

E 15 610070 4875540