

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 15 1989

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 Blue Mounds State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources
other names/site number Blue Mounds State Park

2. Location

street & number off U.S. Highway 75 not for publication N/A
city, town Mound Twp. Luverne vicinity
state Minnesota code MN county Rock code 133 zip code 56156

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>4</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>5</u>	_____ objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources
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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Nina M. Archabal 9/15/89
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date
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:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet. Beth Boland 10/25/89
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/State Park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/State Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone/Wood

roof Shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Blue Mounds State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources consist of an historic district which includes four structures and one building constructed along Mound Creek. One non-contributing building is also included. Development in the park centers on two dams which create two lakes. Between the lakes Mound Creek tumbles over a rocky gorge composed of brightly colored Sioux quartzite which is same stone utilized in the construction of the park structures. Architects include the National Park Service and the Division of Drainage and Waters of the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

Department of Natural Resources building identification numbers are placed after the name of the building.

Blue Mounds State Park Historic District

1. Structure: Upper Dam Builder: WPA
Architect: Division of Drainage & Waters Date: 1938

The Upper Dam consists of a 61' spillway and a 65' dike constructed with native stone which blends with the existing quartzite along Mound Creek. A stone abutment is constructed on the west side of the spillway and extends 200' in the form of a riprapped dike with a 50' stone core wall. An 18" sluice gate is placed at the base of the spillway.

The dam was constructed through the cooperative efforts of the Works Progress Administration, the Emergency Relief Administration, and the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

2. Structure: Upper Mound Lake Builder: WPA
Architect: Division of Drainage & Waters Date: 1938

Upper Mound Lake is created by the Upper Dam. The lake is roughly 2,250 feet long and averages 250 feet wide.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

3. Building: Latrine 4-77 Builder: WPA
Architect: O. Newstrom Date: 1939-42

The Latrine is a 32' x 18' gable roofed structure which follows a standard design used in many state parks. However, the building is one of the most striking visually in the state park system because of the bright rose colored quartzite used in its construction. Stone walls, 5'9" x 9'6", extend from the sidewalls to form entrance screens. Each screen is 5' high. Paired six light casements are placed on both principal facades and are separated by rough clapboard siding. Three 6" x 8" lookouts project from each gable and four 6" x 10" openings pierce the sidewalls to provide ventilation. The building still retains its original plank entrance doors. The interior was remodeled in 1964 and skylights were added. Although construction was begun in 1939, the Latrine was not completed until 1942 due to difficulty in obtaining WPA funding.

4. Structure: Lower Dam Builder: WPA
Architect: Division of Drainage & Waters Date: 1938

The Lower Dam creates a second artificial lake located in the park and is located just east of the swimming beach. The dam is 107'6" long and 28' wide and consists of a massive structure constructed of native stone and concrete. The structure is flanked by a 300' riprapped dike on the south side and a 500' dike to the north. A 500' emergency spillway is located next to the northern dike and leads to the river bed just below the dam. In 1972 the riprapping was repaired and the flashboard slots were adjusted. Reconstructive work was completed on the piers, walkways and railings. The dam was built through the cooperative efforts of the Works Progress Administration, the Emergency Relief Administration and the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

5. Structure: Lower Mound Lake Builder: WPA
Architect: Division of Drainage & Waters Date: 1938

The Lower Mound Lake is created by the Lower Dam. The Lake is 2,000' long and averages 500' wide.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

6. Building: Picnic Shelter Builder: Unknown
Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: c1960s

The Picnic Shelter is a 42' x 22' structure covered with a gable roof supported by eight stone columns. The building is noncontributing

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)

Architecture
Recreation
Government

Period of Significance

1937-42

Significant Dates

1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service
MN Division of Drainage & Waters
Works Progress Administration

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

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blue Mounds State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are historically significant for their association with the social, political, and economic impact of the Great Depression and the subsequent development of the various Federal Relief Programs such as the Works Progress Administration which was responsible for their construction. Blue Mounds State Park is also historically significant as an important link in the state park system which provided recreational facilities to the extreme southwestern corner of Minnesota.

Blue Mounds State Park Historic Resources are architecturally significant as outstanding examples of rustic style construction built with a remarkably bright rose quartzite. Of exceptional significance are the park's two dams which incorporate rustic style features in their construction. The Upper Dam in particular is an extremely successful example of rustic design applied to a park structure. The dam consists of a stepped spillway built with native stone which blends and merges with the rocky ledges of the natural landscape. (Refer to the Statement of Exceptional Significance on page F34 of the Multiple Property Documentation Form.)

Blue Mounds State Park was originally called Mound Springs Recreational Reserve when the park was established in 1937. The name was changed to Blue Mounds, which is the term for a nearby outcropping of red Sioux quartzite which forms a cliff about one mile long and up to 100 feet high. The cliff, with the sun setting behind it, appeared blue to settlers going west in the 1860s and 1870s. They named the prominent landmark Blue Mounds.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Department of Natural Resources. Working Drawings and Specifications for Buildings and Structures at Blue Mounds State Park. Bureau of Engineering. St. Paul, Minnesota.
Searle, R. Newell. Gardens of the Desert. Minnesota Parks Foundation. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1983.
State of Minnesota. Minnesota State Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study. 1938.

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 60 Acres

UTM References

A 14 726140 4844960
 Zone Easting Northing
 C 14 727500 4843750

B 14 727470 4844990
 Zone Easting Northing
 D 14 726180 4843720

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for Blue Mounds State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Blue Mounds State Park." It is defined by Mound Creek and Lower Mound Lake to the north, Lower Mound Dam to the east, the inside edge of the park road to the south, and Upper Mound Lake to the west. The boundary line is crosshatched.

See continuation sheet

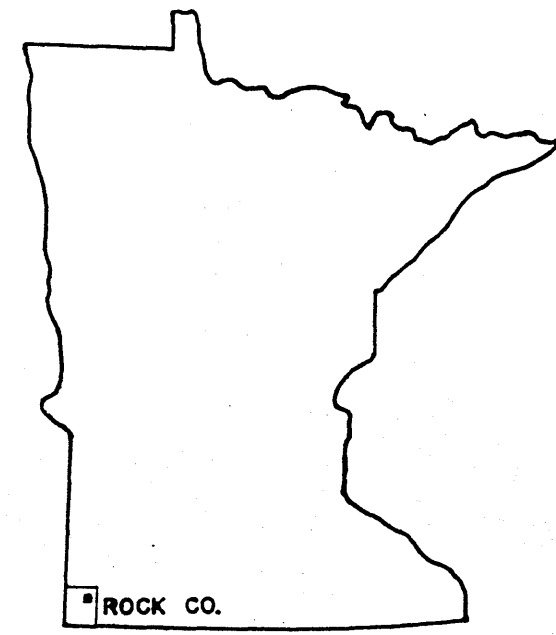
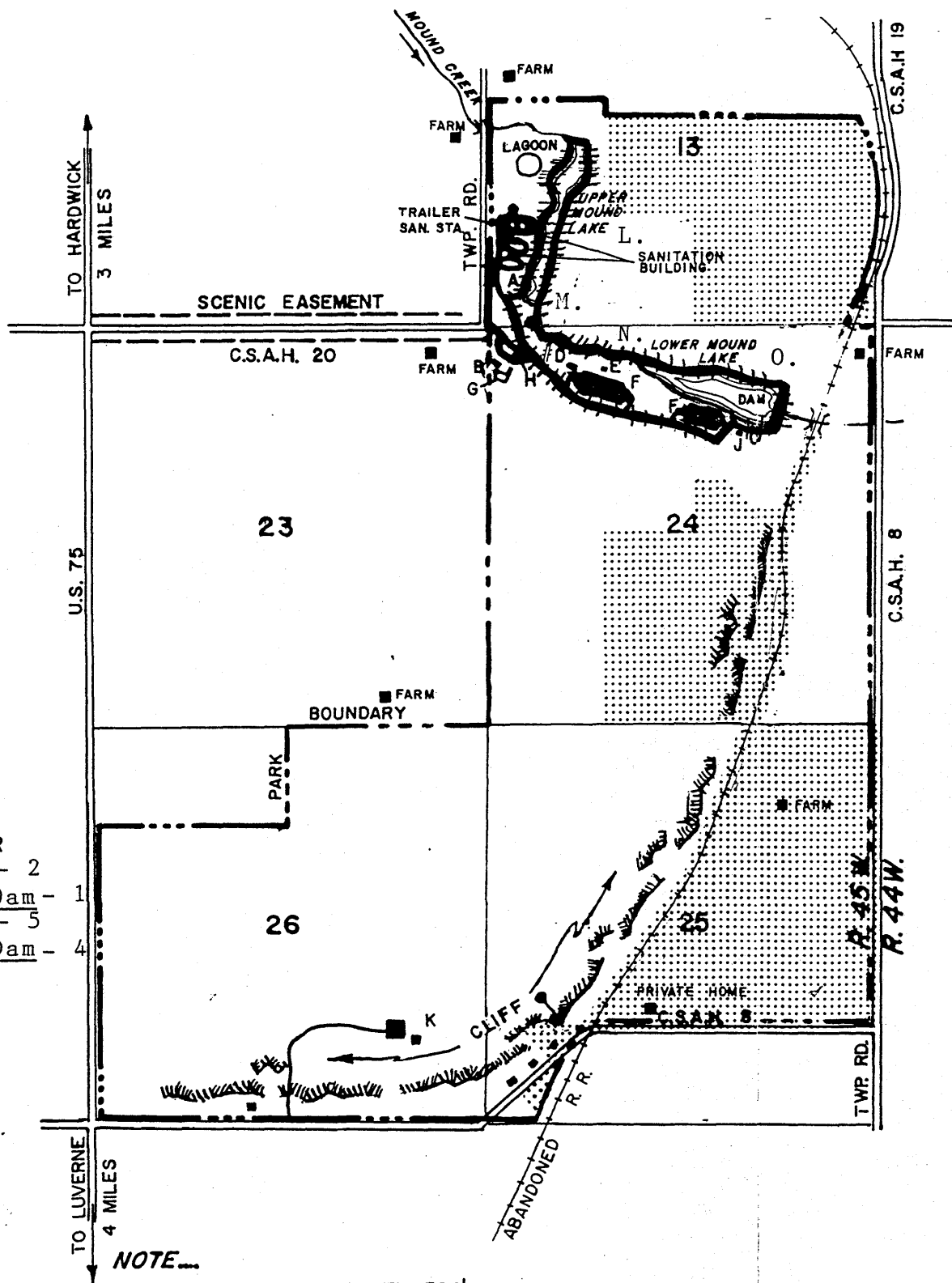
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings and structures that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain historic integrity. The boundary defines the areas of the park developed by the WPA.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rolf T. Anderson
 organization N/A date August 31, 1988
 street & number 3632 Park Avenue South telephone 612-824-7807
 city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55407



- A. CAMPGROUND
- B. SERVICE AREA
- C. SWIMMING
- * D. # SHELTER - 6**
- * E. TOILET - 3
- F. PICNIC AREA
- G. BUFFALO PENS
- H. CONTACT STATION
- J. BATHHOUSE
- K. INTERPRETIVE CENTER
- * L. Upper Mound Lake - 2
- * M. Upper Mound Lake Dam - 1
- * N. Lower Mound Lake - 5
- * O. Lower Mound Lake Dam - 4

**Keyed to nomination
#non-contributing

- KEY
- STATE LAND
 - PRIVATE LAND
 - EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

NOTE...
SCENIC EASEMENT WIDTH 300'
TO BE USED FOR AGRICULTURAL
PURPOSES ONLY. (SIGNS, COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENTS, ETC. PROHIBITED).

SCALE: 1" = 2000' (APPROX.)
STATUTORY BOUNDARY 1995 ACRES

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION STATE PARK SITE		
BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK ROCK CO. - NR. LUVERNE		
	T. 103 N. R. 45 W. 5 TH P.M.	
DRAWN EJL 11-27-62	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING	SURVEY
CHECKED HRP 11-29-62		DATUM
REVISED SVF 7-20-78	<i>[Signature]</i> CHIEF ENGINEER	
OWNERSHIP REV.	REQ	FILE