

# DATA SHEET

3.281

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	APR 17 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Louis J. Moser Homestead (known as Louie's Camp)

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*NW 1/4 Sec 10 T12N R10W*  
Government Lot #9, Thorpe Township, Big Mantrap Lake,  
SE, SE, 31-142-33

CITY, TOWN

Nevis *mi*

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Hubbard

CODE

057 ✓

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Recreation

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Fremont and Karen Gruss

STREET & NUMBER

6300 Smithtown Road

CITY, TOWN

Excelsior

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hubbard County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Park Rapids

STATE

Minnesota

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Louis J. Moser Homestead is situated near Nevis, Minnesota, on a low peninsula which separates the east arm from the south arm of Mantrap Lake. The peninsula is designated "Louie's Point."

The structure is a one story vertical log building measuring 16 feet by 24 feet. A wood frame addition measuring 12 feet by 18 feet and a porch are attached to the log structure.

The log portion of the building was constructed of coniferous logs seven to ten inches in diameter. They were placed vertically. The base plate logs were hand hewn and notched for 6 inch floor joists placed approximately two feet apart. A sub floor of one inch boards was covered by four inch tongue and groove pine flooring. The roof of the log portion of the building was constructed of over-sized, rough cut joists spaced approximately two feet apart. They were covered by 1 inch by 12 inch planed pine boards and cedar shingles.

Various repairs were made to the building in 1928. A joist was inserted under the log floor. New cement chinking was placed between the logs. A concrete footing was laid around the building.

The log base plates and a number of the logs on the east and south sides of the building have deteriorated. The logs on the north and west sides are in good condition, with only minor deterioration at the base. Both the floor and the roof have sagged slightly. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles.

The addition is "butted onto" the north exterior wall of the log structure. It is of standard frame construction and has been sheathed with asphalt composition siding. The roof is also of asphalt composition. An interior link between the log structure and the addition was provided by the removal of approximately four of the vertical logs. The date of the addition is not known.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES    ca.1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Louis J. Moser

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Louis J. Moser was an early pioneer and resort owner in the area near Mantrap Lake in Hubbard County. His log home is significant as a surviving example of a homesteader's cabin and an early Minnesota resort. The vertical post and sill construction of the structure is unusual in the area.

Early maps and guest registers indicate that Moser's camp may have been one of the first fishing camps in this portion of Minnesota.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Registers and documents in possession of Fremont Gruss, present owner.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	3	5	5	6	8	0	5	2	1	4	3	2	0
ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING							

B 

ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Fremont and Karen Gruss - owner

ORGANIZATION

DATE

April 28, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

6300 Smithtown Road

TELEPHONE

612-445-4121

CITY OR TOWN

Excelsior

STATE

Minnesota

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Russell W. Fridley*

TITLE Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles A. ...*

DATE 4.17.79

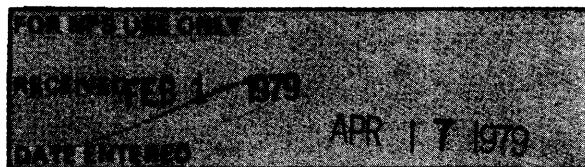
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *Cheryl P. ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4.16.79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Louis J. Moser Homestead

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A structure which possesses great similarity to the Louis J. Moser Homestead Cabin near Nevis, Minnesota, is illustrated in Peter N. Moogk's publication Building A House In New France (pub. McClelland and Steward Limited, Canada - 1977). Moogk's illustration is that of a "piquet" hut found in French fishing settlements of Newfoundland and Cape Breton. Although this is not the "post-sur-sill" or "poteaux-sur-sole" construction found in the Moser Cabin, the similarities are none the less clearly evident. Moogk states that the "vertical fill consisted of round posts or 'piquets' that were chinked... and that 'piquets', whether framed or planted directly into the ground, were the hallmark of the French fishing communities on Newfoundland and Cape Breton."

In the case of the Moser Cabin, the round posts are placed directly on a sill rather than implanted into the ground; a feature which retards the rotting of the post bases, common to the "piquet" huts mentioned by Moogk. (Moogk's illustration shows a system of bracing applied at specified places along the length of the side-walls; this treatment is not found in the Moser Cabin. A xerox copy of the "piquet" hut as illustrated by Moogk is included with this nomination.)

Moogk places the dates of popularity of the "piquet" hut at the early eighteenth century, although it is certainly probable that the practice survived into the later part of that century. Moogk's dating of this building type indicates that the Moser Cabin represents an architectural style which was more than a century out of context at the time of construction.

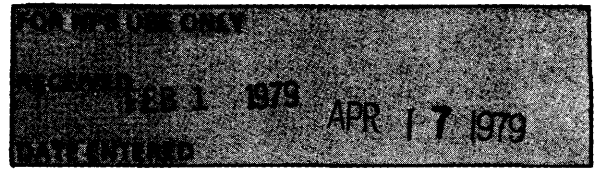
In Minnesota there are basically two enclaves of vertical log construction. Both are tied to the French Canadians who settled in the Saint Croix River Valley and along the fur trade route from Grand Portage to Baudette, Minnesota. One vertical log structure is known to remain in the Saint Croix Valley; this structure is a curious composite of French and Scandinavian log construction techniques. There are five known vertical log structures in the Baudette area. None are known to have survived between Baudette and Grand Portage.

The Community of Nevis is approximately one hundred miles due west of Duluth and approximately one hundred miles due south of Lake of the Woods. Nevis is adjacent to the Crow Wing River (Au Rivière de Corbeau) which was a fur trade route, a fact which may explain the influence of early French log construction techniques. In that Louis Moser was of French-Canadian extraction, it is certainly possible that he knew of these techniques; the building, however, is out of context for its historical period, and as such it is an unusual resurrection of a "forgotten" log tradition.

The Louis J. Moser Homestead was locally known as Louie's Camp. Research undertaken by the Hubbard County Historical Society indicates that the camp was one of the first fishing camps in this region of northern Minnesota. Registers and records document the operation of the camp to the first decade of the twentieth century - prior to the influence of the automobile on the growth of Minnesota's resort industry.

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Louis J. Moser Homestead

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Moogk, Peter N., Building A House in New France, McClelland and Stewart Limited  
(pub.) Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (1977) pp.30-31.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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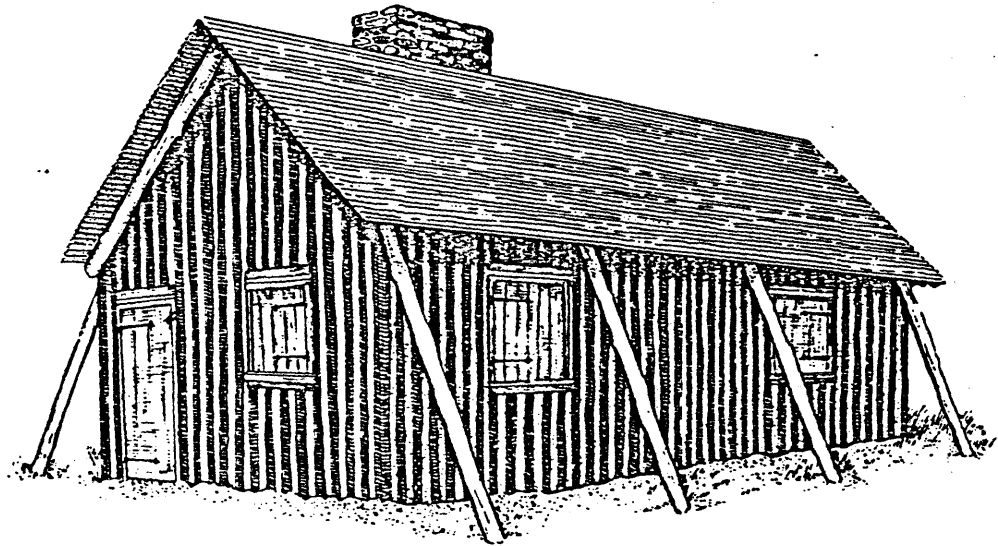
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This *piquet* hut was typical of the rough dwellings built in the French fishing settlements of Newfoundland and Cape Breton.

The illustration above is found on page 31 of Peter N. Moogk's publication, Building A House in New France.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman  
1/19/89



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Moser, Louis J., Homestead in  
Hubbard County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 79001250

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Hubbard

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Moser, Louis J., House

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:** off Co. Rd. 90

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*

**Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer**

**JUN 17 1988**  
**Date**