

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received SEP 26 1986  
date entered OCT 23 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Scott, Jim, Fishhouse

and/or common Scott Fishhouse

**2. Location**

street & number Off U.S. Highway 61, at Fifth Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Marais

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

code 22

county Cook

code 031

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b> N/A	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs Rauha Scott, Rollie King, and Terrance Scott

street & number N/A

city, town Grand Marais

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota 55604

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Court House

street & number Fifth Avenue West and Second Street

city, town Grand Marais

state Minnesota 55604

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society, Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent

deteriorated

good

ruins

fair

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date

N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Situated on the West Bay of Grand Marais Harbor, the Scott Fish House is a rectangular, wood-framed, gable-roofed structure measuring approximately 25 feet by 30 feet. A single-leaf, wood door is centered on the south facade; on the north facade, there is a wood-framed, shed-roofed structure measuring approximately 25 feet by 10 feet. The main building has wood-shingled exterior walls and tar-paper roofing. The shed has tar-paper-covered exterior walls and metal roofing. There are no plans or early illustrations documenting the original construction. Presumably, the shed is a later addition. A 1950 photograph shows the building in its present configuration.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1907

**Builder/Architect** James Garfield Scott

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Situated on the West Bay of Grand Marais Harbor, the Scott Fish House is historically significant for its close association with the commercial fishing industry of the upper North Shore of Lake Superior.

Fishing was a basic feature of the area's subsistence economy since initial settlement in the 1850s. It assumed commercial importance in the mid-1880s, when improved steamboat service on Lake Superior made it possible to ship smoked fish to Duluth for rail distribution to Minneapolis and St. Paul. In 1917, the first year for which the State of Minnesota collected statistics, it was estimated that there was "almost one fisherman for every half mile of shore all the way from Duluth to Grand Portage."<sup>1</sup>

James (Jim) Garfield Scott, the original owner of the Scott Fish House, was born in Grand Marais in 1889. His father, Andrew Jackson Scott, had settled in Grand Marais during the 1870s, making his living primarily as a trapper. About 1900, the elder Scott focused his energy on commercial fishing, and he was soon joined by his son Jim, who was to become one of the area's most successful fishermen. In 1907, Jim purchased waterfront property in Grand Marais and put up the Fish House, with an adjacent dock, that same year. During the fishing season, the building was used for dressing and packing fish. In the winter, it served for the storage and repair of fishing equipment.<sup>2</sup>

After Jim Scott's death in 1947, the Fish House remained in his family's possession and is currently owned by his daughter-in-law. Still fulfilling its original function, the building is highly representative of the small,<sup>3</sup> shingled, wood-frame fishes houses that once dotted the harbors of the upper North Shore.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> June D Renning Holmquist, "Commercial Fishing on Lake Superior in the 1890s," Minnesota History, 34 (Summer 1953), 246.

<sup>2</sup> Willis H. Raff, Pioneers in the Wilderness (Grand Marais, MN: Cook County Historical Society, 1981), pp. 26-30; Raff, Research Report on the Scott Fish House, unpublished, 1984, Scott Fish House File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>3</sup> Raff, Research Report.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Holmquist, June Drenning. "Commercial Fishing on Lake Superior in the 1890s." Minnesota History, 34 (Summer 1955), 243-249.

Raff, Willis H. Pioneers in the Wilderness. Grand Marais, MN: Cook County Historical Society, 1981.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 1/4 acre  
 Good Harbor Bay, Minnesota

Quadrangle name Good Harbor Bay, Minnesota Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing				Zone	Easting	Northing				
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is all that which is located on the east 125 feet of Government Lot one, Section 20, and on the west 14.6 feet of Government Lot five, Section 21, all located within Township 61 North, Range 1 East of the 4th Principal Meridian in Cook County, Minnesota

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey A. Hess

organization Jeffrey A. Hess, Historical Consultant date July 29, 1985

street & number 305 Grain Exchange Building telephone 612-338-1987

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55415

# 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 State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/19/86

**For NPS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register date 10-23-86

for Alan Byer  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

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Jim Scott Fishhouse, Grand Marais, Cook County, Minnesota

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Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number

8

Page

1

The Jim Scott Fishhouse nomination contains 1 contributing building.