

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

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

For NPS use only  
received **DEC 29 1982**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Finsted's Auto Marine Shop

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number Alley, <sup>and</sup> between Oak Avenue and Spruce Street, on Sand Bay } N/A not for publication

city, town Ranier N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Koochiching code 071

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Clara Finsted

street & number N/A

city, town Ranier N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56668

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Koochiching County Courthouse

street & number 4th Street and 8th Avenue

city, town International Falls state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July, 1982  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

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## 7. Description

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|  |                                       |   |   |            |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered              | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |            |

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

Finsted's Auto Marine Shop is located just north of the central area of the City of Ranier, on Sand Bay of Rainy Lake.

The boat works building, situated between the alleyway at the Bay, is a rectangular gable-roofed one-and-three-quarter story structure of concrete block. Fenestration on the building consists of double hung, six-over-six windows, placed both singly and in groups. There is a large double doorway on the side facing the alley. The interior of the building consists of a shop area on the ground floor and living quarters on the second level. The shop contains much of the machinery used in the maintenance work performed at the works. Belt driven from a central power source, many components of the system were developed by Dionne and Finsted.

Immediately to the east of the building, a track with a movable platform leads from the Bay across the alley to the boat yard. Several boats remain in storage in this area.

# 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/<br>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 checked="" 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)<br>tourism |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |   |  |

**Specific dates** 1911 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Finsted's Auto Marine Shop is significant for its association with an important facet of Koochiching County history - tourism and seasonal residents in the Rainy Lake area. The Boat Works were constructed by Jim Dionne in 1911. George Finsted worked for Dionne from 1922 until 1924, at which time he and his brother purchased the business. The establishment is situated in the town of Ranier, located at the point where Rainy Lake empties into the Rainy River. The townsite had been platted in 1907 as the Duluth Winnipeg and Pacific Railroad was constructed across the river (the international border) to the developing pulp and paper mills at Ft. Francis, Ontario. Ranier's proximity to International Falls and its location on the rail line and Rainy Lake made it the main access point to the lake on the American side. Boat traffic on the lake consisted of vessels serving the seasonal and tourist populations and well as those used by commercial fishermen. Because of its strategic location, Finsted's provided parts and repairs for much of this traffic, as well as winter storage. From early wealthy families such as the Dahlbergs, Robertses, and Backuses, to present day vacationers, the scenic labyrinth of Rainy Lake has played host to many seasonal residents. Finsted's central role in lake transportation, and its exceptionally well preserved belt driven machinery system, make it a significant remainder of this facet of the area's history and development.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Koochiching County Historical Society files, International Falls, MN.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Ranier, MN

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UTM References

A 

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| 1    | 5 | 4 | 7       | 4 | 3 | 9 | 0        | 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Ranier Plat, Block 4, Lots 13-22

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Gimmetad, Acting Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date December 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

## 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*  
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/15/82

### For NPS use only

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

*James Allous Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 1/27/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Finstad's Auto Marine Shop

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, Koochiching

DATE RECEIVED: 4/02/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/16/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83000906

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ ACCEPT \_\_\_ RETURN \_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Accepted**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER Edson H. Beall DISCIPLINE History  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 5.7.08

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Finstad's Auto Marine Shop

Name of property

Koochiching County, MN

County and State

Section number 1 & 2

Page \_\_\_\_\_

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

**Reference Number:** 83000906

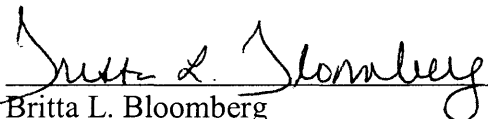
**State:** MN

**County:** Koochiching

**Resource Name (Historic):** Finstad's Auto Marine Shop

**Location, Street & Number:** 3475 Finstad Lane

**Comments:** The correct spelling of the name is Finstad with an a not an e. The property has been given an address.



Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/4/08  
Date