

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 22 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Supervisor's Office ~~Headquarters~~², Chippewa National Forest

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 16, Township 145 North, Range 31 West
off US 2 on the Chippewa National Forest.

CITY, TOWN

Cass Lake

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Cass

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Forest Supervisor, U. S. Forest Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cass Lake

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cass County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Minnesota and 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

Walker

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Minnesota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

August 1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Level Minnesota Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Ft. Snelling, Building 25

STATE

St. Paul, Minnesota 55111

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
 GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
—ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST LOG HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

The log building is located on National Forest land on the west edge of the Village of Cass Lake.

The unique character of this building is immediately evident in observing its interesting structure. This building was constructed in 1935 of native red pine, logged from Star Island and Lake Thirteen areas. It was built in Finnish log construction style, by Finnish craftsmen, with the help of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Work Project Administration (WPA) laborers. This type of chinkless log construction is considered to be a lost art, and perhaps would be impossible to actually duplicate.

This building, constructed entirely of Minnesota forest products, contains 8,500 square feet of floor space. More than 16,000 lineal feet of red pine logs 10 to 16 inches in diameter were used for outer walls and partitions, while birch, oak, maple and white pine were used as finishing materials. The building was erected under supervision of Ike Boekenoogen, a master woodsman.

By March 1935, foundation work was done, and log work was started. Many of the logs were over 100 years old when cut. The logs are notched and grooved, requiring no chinking. Heavy wooden pegs hold many of the floor beams in place.

The 50 foot high fireplace and chimney which runs up through the air court in the center of the building is very unusual. The fireplace is made of split and matched glacial boulders, native to this area, and is 14 by 14 feet at the base, tapering to 10 by 10 feet at its top. More than 265 tons of rock were used in its construction by Nels Bergley of Walker, Minnesota, its designer and builder.

There was a two month delay in the construction in the summer of 1935, due to lack of funds. Builders had to work into December of 1935 to complete the log construction. After that came the fireplace, stairway, ironwork, plumbing and wiring which continued until spring of 1936.

The stairway railing was constructed by hand fitting selected maple trees and limbs that were damaged by frost. The frost contributed to the railing's gnarled appearance. The steps are built of split logs, hand-hewn with a broad axe, and planed smooth.

The ironwork on the door hinges and fireplace tools is of hammered iron, all done by hand. The heavy doors were made by a process of lamination.

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Original construction included wood shakes on roof. This has been replaced with regular composition type roofing. Exterior maintenance has included sand blasting and preservative treatment as needed.

Landscape work was in progress when the Forest Service moved into the building on April 8, 1936. Large trees were moved from the Forest on special designed sleds that would carry the huge balls of frozen dirt to protect the roots.

It has been claimed that the cost at the time of construction was approximately 225,000 dollars. Money could not mark its value today.

Today, this building, headquarters of the Chippewa National Forest, stands as a monument to the pride and skill of the craftsmen who built it. Because of their knowledge and skill, this sturdy work of art, believed one of the largest log buildings in existence, should stand for many years to come.

The structure is located at the west end of the principal business street on a site of the former Lydick tree nursery of the Chippewa National Forest. The building is flanked on either side by frame warehouses used for storing cars, trucks, and forest supplies.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1935 -- Depression era BUILDER/ARCHITECT WPA/CCC Programs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Log Headquarters Office of the Chippewa National Forest represents two areas of significance. The building is significant as an example of the old Scandinavian art of chinkless log construction, built by Finnish craftsmen and as an example of the relief projects administered by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Work Project Administration (WPA) programs utilized during the Depression era by the United States government.

The log building, housing the personnel of the Supervisor's Office Headquarters of the Chippewa National Forest, is an excellent example of the old Finnish art of chinkless type of log construction.

The red pine logs were obtained from historic area of Star Island in Cass Lake. Construction was started about forty years ago by dedicated craftsmen who designed many of the hand tools used in completing most of the work by hand.

Construction was started in 1935. Workers from the CCC and WPA programs contributed greatly in the construction of this building.

Ironwork on doors and stair rail construction are examples of the unique skill necessary to complete this unusual structure.

A history of the building has been compiled and covers photographs of the various stages of construction, interviews with construction workers covering detailed information regarding various construction details.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The unpublished history of this log building is on file at Supervisor's Office, U. S. Forest Service, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Oral history interviews with the following: (Transcripts on file at U. S. Forest Service, Cass Lake, Minnesota)

Clarence Parmenter, Cass Lake, MN	Feb. 8, 1974
Sulo Koski, Bemidji, MN	Nov. 10, 1972
Lawrence Lundberg, Cass Lake, MN	Aug. 17, 1972

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 Acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	378	180	524,8360	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C					D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stanley A. Johnson
Stanley A. Johnson

ORGANIZATION

Supervisor's Office, Chippewa National Forest

DATE

7/30/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

335-2226

CITY OR TOWN

Cass Lake

STATE

Minnesota

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Russell W. Fridley
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Peter W. Wagoner
Acting Director of Recreation Mgmt.

DATE

9/15/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

acting

DATE

1/31/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

1-29-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

acting