

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **JL** 9 1986
date entered AUG 13 1986

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

1. Name

historic Bally Blacksmith Shop

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Broadway and First Street

N/A not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	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 type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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. Owner of Property

name William Bally

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
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bally Blacksmith Shop is a wood-framed, wood-sided, one-story, gable-roofed structure measuring approximately 23 feet by 46 feet. The principal, or southwest, facade exhibits an unadorned false front with double-hung, wooden sash flanking a central entrance consisting of oversized, wooden, strap-hinged double doors. The entrance was designed to be "wide enough to take a team and wagon" into the interior of the building.¹

A small gabled dormer juts from the rear of the northwest facade. The southeast facade is surmounted by a brick chimney near the rear of the building and a metal stovepipe near the front. The stovepipe marks the location of the original forge in the western corner of the building. Adjoining the forge is the original anvil "anchored to the end of a log that goes through the floor into the solid earth."² A photograph, taken shortly after the building's completion in 1911, shows the structure in its present configuration. The only significant alterations have the replacement of the original wooden piles with a concrete-block foundation in 1971, and, at an undetermined date, the replacement of the original metal stovepipe with the present brick chimney.³

NOTES

¹Joe Hennesy, "Grand Marais Smithy Still at Anvil." Undated Minneapolis Star clipping, attached to Mrs. Sverre Mathisen to Mark E. Haidet, July 25, 1981, Bally Blacksmith Shop File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

²Hennesy.

³Willis H. Raff, Research Report on Bally Blacksmith Shop, unpublished, 1984, Bally Blacksmith Shop File.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911

Builder/Architect ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Sam Bally

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bally Blacksmith Shop is architecturally and historically significant as a rare, intact, operating example of an early twentieth-century blacksmith shop.

The building's original owner, Sam Bally, relocated from Bayfield, Wisconsin to Grand Marais in 1903. Originally employed as a blacksmith with the Cook County Manufacturing Company, which established the first sawmill in Grand Marais, Bally went into business for himself in 1911, purchasing a parcel of land on Broadway and erecting the Bally Blacksmith Shop. After Bally's death in 1922, the shop was taken over by his son C. Albert, who in 1946, bequeathed it to his own son William, the present owner and operator.¹

Since its founding, the Bally Blacksmith Shop has been the only blacksmith operation in Grand Marais. It has chronicled through its repair work the city's general economic history, progressing from horse-drawn, lumber-camp equipment to motorized commercial fishing rigs to tourists' automobiles and snowmobiles. The building is highly representative of utilitarian, commercial, false-front architecture, which once lined the streets of small-town Minnesota. Equally important, the building preserves in unusually intact condition the interior plan and fixtures of an early, twentieth-century, general-purpose blacksmith shop.²

NOTES

¹ Willis H. Raff, Research Report on Bally Blacksmith Shop, unpublished, 1984, Bally Blacksmith Shop File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

² Raff.

Major Bibliographical References

Hennessy, Joe. "Grand Marais Smithy Still at Anvil." Undated Minneapolis Star clipping attached to Mrs. Sverre Mathiesen to Mark E. Haidet, July 25, 1981, Bally Blacksmith Shop File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

Raff, Willis H. Research Report on Bally Blacksmith Shop. Unpublished, 1984. Bally Blacksmith Shop File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Grand Marais, Minnesota

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11 and 12 of Block 32, Village Plat of the Village of Grand Marais

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 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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

6/30/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/13/86

for *[Signature]*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

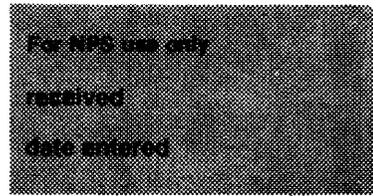
date

Chief of Registration

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

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

Bally Blacksmith Shop, Grand Marais, Cook County, Minnesota



Continuation sheet Resource Count Item number 8

Page 1

The Bally Blacksmith Shop Nomination contains 1
contributing building.