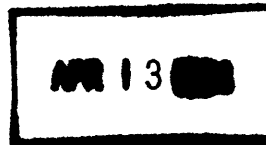


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OMB No. 10024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in view to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Marcell Ranger Station

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Minnesota Highway 38 not for publication N/A

city or town Marcell Township, Chippewa National Forest, Bigfork vicinity

state Minnesota code MN county Itasca code 061 zip code 56657

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Evan J. DeBlois 3/17/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Forest Service **Federal Preservation Officer**

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ian R. Stewart 2/1/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Eileen H. Beale

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action

5.19.94

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) | Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	3	buildings
		sites
2	2	structures
		objects
5	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Federal Relief Construction
in Minnesota, 1933-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic Architecture

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, STONE

walls WOOD: Log

roof ASPHALT, WOOD: Shingle

other STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Marcell Ranger Station
Name of Property

Itasca County, MN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1934-1943

Significant Dates

1934

1935

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Forest Service

Civilian Conservation Corps

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Marcell Ranger Station
Name of Property

Itasca County, MN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 13 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
---	---

4	4	8	2	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	7	1	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

1	5
---	---

4	4	8	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	7	1	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

2

1	5
---	---

4	4	8	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	7	1	5	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	5
---	---

4	4	8	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	7	1	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rolf T. Anderson

organization _____ date December 29, 1993

street & number 212 West 36th Street telephone 612-885-1229

city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55708

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

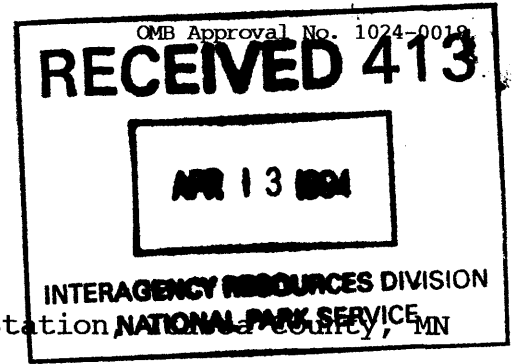
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Marcell Ranger Station, National Park Service, MN



Description

The Marcell Ranger Station is located in the northeastern portion of the Chippewa National Forest, in north central Minnesota. The 13 acre complex is situated along the northern shore of Lake Ranier, off Minnesota Highway 38, in Marcell Township. Consisting of five Rustic Style buildings and structures, the Ranger Station was constructed between 1934-35 by the Civilian Conservation Corps from the Mack and Day Lake CCC Camps under the direction of the United States Forest Service. The facility was built to serve as the administrative headquarters for the Marcell Ranger District which was established in 1933-34. Unless otherwise noted, all buildings at the station are built with peeled Norway Pine, horizontally-laid, with all timbers left in the round. The construction features tight-fitting, unhewn logs with saddle-notched corners which extend beyond the exterior wall surfaces and terminate in chiseled ends. The logs vary from 7" to over 14" in diameter and feature a dark, reddish-brown stain.

In addition to the three contributing buildings and two contributing structures located at the Ranger Station, the site also contains three non-contributing buildings and two non-contributing structures. However, the non-contributing resources are typically small in scale and located to the north or west of the historic complex and do not significantly impact the integrity of the site. The only major change to the original complex was the removal of a log office building in 1967.

1. Ranger's Residence - The Ranger's Residence is a one and one-half story building with overall dimensions of 38'6" by 38'8" which is prominently sited overlooking Lake Ranier. It features horizontal log construction with saddle-notched corners resting on a stone-faced foundation and is covered with a medium pitch gable roof which tapers along the south slope as it extends to cover an enclosed porch. Unless otherwise noted, all windows are 8-light casements which rest on hewn sills.

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Section number 7 Page 2 Marcell Ranger Station, Itasca County, MN

Paired entrance doors are centered on the south facing principal facade and are flanked by six casement sash to both the east and west which are arranged in pairs. Other prominent features of this elevation include stone-faced entrance steps, a gabled dormer with paired 4-light casement sash which projects from the south slope, and a stone faced chimney.

A vine-covered fieldstone fireplace is located on the west facade and penetrates the broad overhanging eaves which gradually extend outward as the roof rises to the ridge. The roof is supported by eight log purlins while the ridge pole rests on five stacked logs with each successive course projecting further from the side wall. Single casement sash flank the fireplace while two pairs of casements are located in the porch to the south and one pair of casements is located to the north. Paired 4-light sash are placed in the gable. The position of two interior partitions is clearly apparent since the full log walls are notched through the exterior wall surface. The east facade is similar to the west in terms of the roof structure and window openings although a side entrance and adjacent paired casements are placed in the position corresponding to the fireplace. Stone-faced entrance steps lead to the door which is built with vertical planks with hand-wrought straps and hinges. The north facade includes paired casements to each side and a single sash in the center. However, the principal features of this facade are four closely spaced partition walls which are notched through the exterior wall.

The projecting logs of all the exterior walls are generally characterized by protruding ends which extend in increasing length as they rise to meet the eaves. However, this particular treatment is somewhat varied on both the southeast and southwest corners of the porch where the log ends also alternate in depth, with the wider ends protruding out further than the narrower ones.

The interior spaces of the first floor are organized with an enclosed porch extending the full length along the south facade. The living room is located to the west and the kitchen to the east, with their windows originally opening directly into the porch. Two bedrooms separated by a bath are located to the rear. A stairway with a log baluster ascends to the second story and opens into the projecting dormer located on the south slope. A

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bedroom is located in each of the two gable ends. The basement, with poured concrete walls, is organized as a single space except for a small room for cold storage. The building's structural system, consisting of log posts left in the round and hewn beams, is exposed in the basement.

Finely crafted detailing throughout the interior includes full log partition walls which define even the closet spaces, exposed log beams, hardwood flooring, and doors built of vertical planks with hand-wrought straps and hinges. However, the log ends protruding from any saddle-notched walls of the interior are cut flat rather than chiseled in the dovetail pattern found on the exterior. All interior surfaces are varnished. The living room features a split stone fireplace with a stone hearth and a log mantel with round light fixtures placed on either end. The stacked logs which support the ridge pole are also exposed in the second story bedrooms. A stone-faced chimney is located in the kitchen.

Changes to the exterior include the replacement of the building's wood shingles with asphalt, the addition of aluminum combination windows, and the infilling of a steep stairway on the north facade which led to the basement. The most notable change to the interior was the removal of the log wall and associated casement sash which separated the porch from the living room and kitchen in order to expand the size of each room. Frame partition walls were also installed in the porch to form a central entrance hall. The original kitchen cabinets have also been replaced. The building remains in excellent condition and is currently used as a residence for seasonal help.

The Ranger's Residence appears to be based on a standardized plan designed by the U.S. Forest Service, the drawings for which are found in the office at the Marcell Ranger Station. The plans are identified by the following logo:

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service Region 9
 Log Cabin
 Ranger Dwelling
Regional Office Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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The plans are dated February 20, 1935, with revisions dated January 30, 1936. The two page set of drawings which include plans, sections, and elevations were drawn and traced by an individual with the initials EHA and approved by H. Coleman. They are referred to as Plan No. 48 with an additional notation of B40-01, 08. The plans describe a one and one-half story log building of similar dimension and overall design to the residence at the ranger station. However, if in fact these plans were used as the base design, considerable modification occurred, particularly in respect to interior layout, door and window placement, and construction details. For example, the plans indicate a separate dining room and only one bedroom on the main level which was not the case at the Marcell Ranger Station. In addition, frame construction is specified for many of the interior walls, while all partitions at Marcell feature full log construction.

2. Ice House and Woodshed - The Ice House and Woodshed is a one story structure 24' in length and 13' in width located immediately to the east of the Ranger's Residence. The building is sited on a hillside such that the lower level is completely exposed to the east. The west facing entrance to the Woodshed is positioned on the end wall, diagonally from the side door of the residence, while the entry to the Ice House is located on the lower level, on the opposite wall. Norway Pine laid horizontally with saddle-notched corners is utilized in the construction of the main level while the exposed foundation walls and basement feature fieldstone. The building is completed with a medium pitch gable roof covered with cedar shingles which appear to be original.

The entrance door to the Woodshed is built with vertical planks with hand-wrought straps and hinges. The interior consists of a single room with rough wood flooring which was used to store firewood. Curved fieldstone retaining walls, which extend from both the northeast and south east corners of the building, flank the entrance to the Ice House. This door, however, contains a screened panel. Once inside, a short stairway descends to a dirt floor which is still covered with sawdust where the ice was stored. From within this basement, the building's unusual construction method for the foundation and basement walls is seen.

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The walls are poured concrete to grade level only, with full stone masonry construction above. A typical design solution would have specified poured concrete walls with only a stone facing above grade level.

Other details include two log purlins and a log ridge pole which support the 12/7 pitch roof, wide overhanging eaves on the gable ends which also gradually extend outward as the roof rises to the ridge, and a single window opening on east wall of the Woodshed which has now been boarded over. The projecting logs of the saddle-notched corners alternate in depth, with the wider ends protruding out further than the narrower ones. Now used for storage, the building remains in excellent condition, although sections of the poured concrete walls are beginning to separate from the stone masonry.

Drawings for the building are located at the office and include a plan and three elevations showing certain construction details and sectional views. The plans are undated and there is no logo as is found on the drawings for the residence, although they are identified as follows:

Ranger Station
Woodshed - Ice House
Marcell - Dora Lake
Chippewa National Forest

The drawings indicate a small log cupola, possibly for ventilation, which is centered on the east gable end. It does not appear that this detail was ever executed, although it may have been removed.

3. Garage - A three stall vehicle garage is located to the west of the Ranger's Residence and is one of three buildings which comprise the service yard. The building is a rectangular structure, 51' in length and 28' in width, featuring full log construction and a medium pitch gable roof. The garage rests on a poured concrete foundation which supports a 6" concrete floor. The west facing principal facade includes 5 bays. Each of the

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three center bays is defined by a large door providing vehicular access while each of the outer bays is defined by paired 8-light casement sash. A concrete apron projects 4' from the building. An interior log partition wall is positioned between the stall to the north and the one adjacent. The wall protrudes out and is saddle-notched through the exterior.

The north facade features one pair of centrally positioned 8-light casement sash, while the south facade features two pairs of sash, one located to each side. The east or rear facade includes paired sash to the south and an entrance door positioned near the center. The door is built with planks and hand-wrought straps and hinges. Two stacked logs in the gable end, placed perpendicular to the wall surface, support the ridge pole while 8 log purlins spaced 3' apart support the roof. Log beams span the interior. The projecting logs of all the exterior walls are generally characterized by protruding ends which extend in increasing length as they rise to meet the eaves. However, the lower courses alternate in depth, with the wider ends protruding out further than the narrower ones.

The building remains in excellent condition. Alterations include the replacement of the wood shingle roof with asphalt and the installation of overhead lift doors in place of each of the original paired doors that were built with vertical boards which opened outward. Interior alterations include the installation of partitions in both end bays to provide shop or storage space.

Drawings for the garage include two elevations depicting the south and west facades. The plans are undated and there is no logo as is found on the drawings for the residence, although they are identified as follows:

3 Car Garage
For
Marcell Ranger Station
Chippewa National Forest

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4. Warehouse - Located north of the Garage, the Warehouse is a one and one-half story, rectangular building, 70' in length and 32' in width, covered by a medium pitch gable roof. The building is surfaced with pre-milled, half-log siding and is the only structure in the complex featuring this treatment. The Warehouse rests on a poured concrete foundation, exposed along the north facade, which supports a 6" concrete floor. Five garage doors are centered on the south facing principal facade. The four stalls to the east are used for vehicular storage while the one to the west is partitioned off to provide a shop area for mechanical repairs. A canopy projects from the roof and extends over the concrete apron and shelters the five entrance doors. Other principal features of this facade include a broad cross gable with paired 6-light casement sash which is centered on the south slope, and an entrance door to the shop located just the west of the garage door. A red brick chimney rises from within the shop near the west end wall.

Both the east and west ends walls include a band of four 6-light casement sash on the first story and paired 6-light sash in the gables. Detailing on the north facade, beginning on the east end, includes a group of four 6-light sash, a group of two 6-light sash, an entrance door built with vertical planks and cross-framing in both the upper and lower panels, and a final group of four 6-light sash.

From within the interior of the Warehouse, the structural system is exposed and includes a series of 4" x 6" posts infilled with standard 2" x 4" framing, all covered with diagonal sheathing. Massive truss beams with steel rods connected to the ridge are spaced throughout the second story. A number of original benches and storage cabinets are still in place as well as as an I-beam hoist in the shop. A large trap door providing access to the second story is still in use.

Alterations include the replacement of the original cedar shingles with asphalt and the installation of two-light overhead lift garage doors in place of the original doors built with vertical planks and cross-framing. The first story windows on the west end have been replaced with new casements and the window on the east end has been boarded over. The Warehouse remains in excellent

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condition although a section of the north foundation wall is beginning to separate from the building.

The design for the warehouse is based on a standard plan by the Regional Office in Milwaukee and versions of this building are found at ranger stations throughout the Chippewa National Forest. A series of drawings, including plans, elevations, and sections, describe a "Warehouse with or without Shop" and are identified as Plan #14. The drawings are dated January 26, 1935 with a number of revisions completed February 3, 1937. The plans were drawn by NHO and approved by HC. However, the plan for the warehouse at Marcell is reversed from those described. Additional plans dated October 17, 1935 provide instructions for converting Plan 14 to an "Equipment Repair Depot" and are identified as Plan No. 14A. Another drawing dated November 8, 1935 provides the plans for a reinforced concrete basement for Plan #14.

5. Oil House - The Oil House, located to the west of the Warehouse, is a one story log structure, 18' in length and 10.5' in width, covered by a medium pitch gable roof. Double entrance doors, built with vertical planks and hand-wrought straps and hinges, are centered on the south facade and open onto a concrete apron. The doors provide access to a room, 10.5' x 12', used for oil storage. This space is completely separated from room to the rear by a log partition wall which is notched through both the east and west side walls. An entrance door to this 10'5' x 5' space is located at the north end of the east side wall and also features vertical planks and hand-wrought hardware. According to the original plans, this room was to have been a latrine, although it appears the space was always used for storage. One 6-light casement sash is located on the north facade with a screened louvered vent placed above in the gable end. The building's gable roof is supported by two log purlins and a log ridge pole. A broad canopy is formed on the south facade as the roof extends a full 7' from the building. Both gable ends gradually extend one foot outward as the roof rises to the ridge. Three inch V-joint boards form the ceiling material.

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The projecting logs of all the exterior walls generally alternate in depth, however, the protruding ends on the south facade extend in increasing length as they rise to support the broad canopy.

Alternations include the replacement of the original wood shingles with asphalt. The building remains in excellent condition although the exposed portions of the poured concrete foundation are covered with metal, apparently because of some deterioration.

Drawings for the building include a plan and three elevations showing certain construction details. The plans are undated and there is no logo, although they are identified as follows:

Oil House - Latrine
Marcell - Dora Lake
Ranger Station
Chippewa National Forest

This building was constructed at both the Marcell and Dora Lake Ranger Stations. The structure at Dora Lake was said to have been built at a cost of \$2,232.15.

6. Residence II - The Residence II is located along the north shore of Lake Ranier, west of the garage, and on the site of the original CCC built office. The building is a one story, rectangular, frame structure with overall dimensions of 60' by 24' and covered by a hip rrof. It contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, a bath, and garage. It is believed the house was moved to its current location in 1967 from the Bena Ranger Station. Because the Residence II was moved to the site after the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing. The building is now used for office space.

7. Tree Cooler - The Tree Cooler is a small, rectangular, frame structure covered by a gable roof which is located just to the north of the Oil House. The structure is essentially a refrigeration unit in which seedlings are stored for their protection prior to planting. Because the Tree Cooler was constructed in the modern era, it is considered non-contributing.

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Continuation Sheet**

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8. Shop - The Shop is a rectangular, frame building covered by a gable roof which is located to the north of the Tree Cooler. The building features board and batten siding and one vehicle bay. Because the Shop was constructed in the modern era, after the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

9. Oil House II - Located to the north of the warehouse, the Oil House II is a small, rectangular frame structure with overall dimensions of 10' x 16' which was built in 1956. The building's gable roof extends to the south to form a protective canopy supported by three posts. The Oil House II is sheathed with half-log siding. Because the structure was built after the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

10. Office - Located immediately to the south of Minnesota Highway 38, the Office is a one story rectangular building with approximate overall dimensions of 69' by 26'. The building is covered by a gable roof with asphalt shingles and is faced with a combination of wood, stone, brick, and concrete block. Because the building was constructed in 1963, after the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

The Marcell Ranger Station continues to serve its original function and retains excellent historic integrity.

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Statement of Significance

The Marcell Ranger Station is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the contexts of conservation and politics and government for its association with the expansion and development of the Chippewa National Forest during the Great Depression. Dramatic increases in federal funding and the tremendous manpower offered by the Civilian Conservation Corps, offered an unprecedented opportunity to expand the boundaries of the forest and implement active management policies. The Marcell Ranger Station is representative of the development which occurred during the Depression Era for its association with the administration of newly acquired lands, the construction of operational facilities and recreational areas, and the implementation of extensive conservation programs.

The Marcell Ranger Station is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C as an intact and well-preserved example of the administrative facilities constructed by the United States Forest Service during the Depression Era and for its Rustic Style construction. The complex represents a uniquely American architectural expression as developed by the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service reflecting the non-intrusive and environmentally sensitive design philosophy which was intended to symbolize the land management policies from the period. Each of the buildings at the Marcell Ranger Station features finely crafted Rustic Style construction, remarkably including those structures with completely utilitarian functions such as the Garage, Warehouse, and Oil House. The Ranger's Residence in particular illustrates the craftsmanship, detailing, and labor intensive construction methods characteristic of the Rustic Style with its split stone fireplace, interior log partition walls, and hand-wrought hardware. Collectively, the buildings at the Marcell Ranger Station remain outstanding examples of the high quality log construction for which northern Minnesota was recognized. The facility represents the only surviving example of a Rustic Style ranger station on the Chippewa National Forest and represents one of the best examples of a Rustic Style ranger station in the state.

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The establishment of the Chippewa National Forest dates from 1889 when Congressman Knute Nelson of Minnesota introduced a bill under which the Chippewa Indians ceded their lands and timber to the United States in exchange for their net value upon sale plus individual allotments of land. However, as a result of numerous irregularities in the sale of the lands and timber and growing sentiment for creating a forest reserve, the Morris Bill was passed on June 27, 1902. It provided that the Forester of the Department of Agriculture, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, should select 200,000 acres of pine land and 25,000 acres of agricultural land from four Chippewa Indian Reservations to become a National Forest Reserve. This was the first Forest Reserve created by direct Congressional action rather than Presidential Proclamation.

The timber on the 200,000 acres was to be cut and sold for the benefit of the Chippewa under the rules prescribed by the Forester. However, 5% of the timber had to remain standing for purposes of reforestation. In addition, an area equal to ten sections (6,400 acres) had to be preserved. These included Star Island in Cass Lake, the islands in Leech Lake and land on Sugar and Pine Point, and lands which surround Pike Bay on Cass Lake and extend northward to include the area known as Norway Beach. On May 23, 1908 the name of the reserve was officially changed to the Minnesota National Forest and the amount of pine to be left standing was increased from 5% to 10%. In 1928 the name was changed to the Chippewa National Forest to more accurately reflect its history.¹

The Chippewa National Forest originally consisted of lands surrounding Lake Winnibigoshish and extended south to Leech Lake with ranger stations located at Cass Lake, Bena, and Cut Foot Sioux. During the Depression Era the forest dramatically increased in size to both the north and south of the original lands. An Executive Order dated August 31, 1933 approved what became known as the North Purchase Unit, a 675,000 acre expansion to the north of the original forest. From these lands were created the Marcell, Blackduck, and Dora Lake Ranger Districts.

¹Gifford Pinchot, Breaking New Ground (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1947), pp. 203-212.

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On January 21, 1935 a 356,236 acre expansion, known as the South Purchase Unit, was approved and the Walker and Remer Ranger Districts were subsequently established. (Refer to Exhibit I for a map of the Chippewa National Forest in 1937.) Each ranger district averaged 180,000 acres. This brought the total forest area to over 1.2 million acres, although only roughly half was federal land with the remaining acreage consisting of lands which were state or privately owned. However, unlike the original forest, the newly acquired lands were generally cut-over or burnt-over, some of which had been left tax delinquent by the logging companies, and in need of all aspects of forest improvement.

Construction of the Marcell Ranger Station was announced in the Grand Rapids Herald-Review on March 28, 1934 with the following article:

Improvements on Chippewa Forest

New Forestry Towers and Ranger Stations Scheduled for Spring

According to information given out by James M. Walley, supervisor of the Chippewa National Forest, after his return to Cass Lake from a recent trip to the regional offices at Milwaukee, there will be extensive improvements on the enlarged forest area in Itasca county, and two ranger stations built in this county.

The new fire towers which are to be built will be located at strategic points in Grattan, Bass Lake, Stokes and Day Lake. The new ranger stations will be built at Dora Lake and Marcell. It is expected that they will be of the usual type of all United States forest ranger stations, with quarters for a forest ranger and his family

Another improvement on the Chippewa will be the extension of forest telephone lines. Many miles of new metallic line will be constructed this summer, largely through work by CCC boys in the various camps.

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From the establishment of the Marcell Ranger District in August 1933 to November 1934 the area was administered as part of the Cut Foot Sioux Ranger District. In 1934 acquisition began of lands to both the north and south of Minnesota Highway 38 in Marcell Township for the construction of a ranger station which would serve as the administrative headquarters for the district. The parcel consisted of lands which border Ranier Lake to the south and Little Ranier Lake to the north, with the ranger station sited on the northern shore of Lake Ranier.² According to a site plan by J. H. Trestrail dated March 15, 1934, a second site located on the eastern shore of Lake Ranier was also considered. Construction began in the summer of 1934 based on designs by the U.S. Forest Service with labor provided by the Mack and Day Lake CCC Camps.³ Logs utilized in construction had previously been harvested as part of a Civil Works Administration project on the Chippewa National Forest which was described in the Deer River News dated May 31, 1934.⁴ The article noted that, "A number of house logs were cut and secured from road right-of-way cutting for the purpose of construction the new Marcell Ranger station, which will be located at Marcell." An Office, Ranger's Residence, Icehouse and Woodshed, Garage, Warehouse, and Oil House were built. The facility was completed in February 1935 and Wayne Sword was appointed District Ranger. Sword had been the assistant ranger on the Bena Ranger District and later served as superintendent of both the Mack and Day Lake CCC Camps.

²The Marcell Ranger Station is located on portions of Government Lots 8 and 9, Section 18, Township 59 North, Range 26 West. Two separate purchases were transacted. The portion of Lot 8 was purchased from the Itasca Lumber Company, Case #1352 dated September 1, 1934. The portion of Lot 9 was purchased from the Gilbert Land Company, Case #974 dated May 15, 1935, although an option for this parcel was acquired on April 30, 1934.

³The Day Lake Camp was located south of Marcell along the western shore of Day Lake, immediately adjacent to Minnesota Highway 38. The camp was first occupied by Company 786, which consisted of a group of black enrollees from Kansas. They returned to Kansas in early 1934 and the camp was later occupied by Company 1724 from 1934-1941. The camp was used to house prisoners of war from 1943-45. Several foundation walls and concrete slabs from the camp's buildings survive.

⁴The Civil Works Administration was a federal relief program which remained in effect from November 9, 1933 through March 31, 1934. The purpose of the program was to offer work to those who had not been employed by the existing relief programs. During its brief existence over 4 million workers were employed who received minimum wages rather than relief payments.

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By the spring of 1935 there were three CCC Camps operating on the Marcell District; Day Lake, Stokes, and Mack. At times the camps were known to have been at full capacity, with a total of 200 men per camp or 600 men on the district. A "Ranger District Job Load" dated May 20, 1935 described the wide variety of projects which were occurring. These included land and timber surveys, stand and roadside improvement, planned land acquisitions, an annual planting program of 5 million trees, an analysis of the fire protection problem, pest control, erosion work, fish restocking, wild life activities, and the construction of Forest Service truck trails and roads. Statistics were compiled concerning the local forest industries, unemployment on the district was studied, and even the number of livestock was estimated. There were also two rural rehabilitation projects which involved 440 families. These projects were presumably operated in conjunction with the Resettlement Administration, the federal relief agency which administered such activities, and would have involved the relocation of settlers from submarginal agricultural lands through land exchanges or direct purchase, the increase in the size of individual farmsteads so that they could become economically feasible, or loans and advice on farm management. This report also describes these same projects and activities as they were occurring on the other seven ranger districts on the forest.

By 1942 construction projects on the Marcell District included the Marcell Ranger Station, lookout towers at Day Lake, Wabana, Stokes, and Jessie Lake, campgrounds and picnic areas at Caribou Lake located south of Marcell off Highway 38 and at the Farm Camp⁵ located 7 miles northeast of Marcell, and an organization, or group camp, on Ruby Lake for use by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and 4-H and other organized groups. The camp remains in use to this day and consists of 23 buildings organized in three separate units of dormitory cabins which were built featuring vertical board and batten construction. One of the district's most intriguing construction projects, and one which clearly

⁵The term Farm Camp was actually a local name which referred to the headquarters camp of the Keewatin Lumber Company which had logged the region. During the summer livestock was kept at the site and gardens were maintained to grow some of the vegetable staples needed during the logging season. Because the camp was much like a farm, it was described as a "farm camp."

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demonstrates the possibilities offered by the manpower of the CCC, was an immense overlook built with fieldstone above a picturesque stream, but located on a remote, dirt forest road northeast of Marcell.

Similar improvements were occurring throughout the Chippewa National Forest. New ranger stations were built at Blackduck, Dora Lake, Walker and Remer, while new buildings were constructed at the existing Cass Lake, Bena, and Cut Foot Sioux stations. Twenty-three lookout towers were built for fire protection, as well as 23 camp and picnic grounds, including the Norway Beach camp ground on Cass Lake which included a log community building. A picnic ground on Lake Cut Foot Sioux featured a partially enclosed shelter built with huge logs which has now been moved to the Rabideau CCC Camp. A wayside was built on Willow Lake which included a log bath house and the Shingobee Winter Sports Area was constructed. The forest's most impressive building was the Supervisor's Office at Cass Lake, a three story structure with 8,500 square feet which was built with 20,000 lineal feet of logs, and included a 180 ton stone fireplace.

These conservation efforts and structural improvements were indicative of broader changes in management philosophy on the forest from one which was essentially custodial in nature to one of intensive management. This change was described in the Grand Rapids Herald-Review in an article dated October 31, 1934 which included the following comments from forest supervisor James M. Walley.

The Chippewa National forest spreads over a large area, reaching from Cass Lake on the west and nearly to Bigfork on the northeast. From the forest communities in and about the Chippewa, the regular CCC organization of about 3,000 men is augmented by some 230 local men who are enrolled as local woodsmen. In addition to these local woodsmen, nearly 50 local men out of 150 foremen and camp superintendents are employed on the Chippewa. This is a far cry from the dozen or fifteen men who found employment in the old days on the forest. In the old days before the CCC force was created by President Roosevelt, three rangers and a few lookout men

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formed the administrative organization. A few other men were given seasonal work at the nursery or in the maintenance of roads. Although logging and some planting took place, the far-reaching projects of today were merely ideals and mostly subjects for textbook writers. The CCC's have given us the opportunity to put into practical application the principals of forestry on a large scale and realize the ambitions of every forester.

This was further reiterated by H. Basil Wales, the chief of the Division of Timber Management in the North Central Region who described the evolution of management on the Chippewa National Forest:

The (CCC) program enabled the foresters in charge to give cultural treatment to young stands and to develop physical improvements on the forest far beyond their hopes and anticipations...

From the standpoint of forest management, one had to start from scratch to restore and build up forest productivity. The CCC program helped greatly. At first the job was one of establishing protection facilities--lookout towers, communication lines, and roads--for more rapid transportation for fire-fighting crews...

As land was purchased, the process of restoring the forest became a more important part of the program...At the same time, other resource values were enhanced. The camp work plans included projects for the protection and the administration of the forest, recreational development, and better food and habitat for wildlife. Land use plans were prepared to strengthen the agricultural communities through the transfer of settlers from poor and isolated tracts... The process of rebuilding a fully productive forest is not completed but is well under way. The value of good management has been demonstrated and will become even more apparent as the trees grow toward maturity.⁶

⁶H. Basil Wales, "Evolution of Management on Chippewa," Trees: The Yearbook of Agriculture, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1949), pp. 314-319.

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The Rustic Style architecture of the Marcell Ranger Station is representative of the design philosophy practiced by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service during the Depression Era. The theory upon which this unique architectural style was based was largely developed by the National Park Service. Early Rustic Style buildings in our National Parks, such as the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone, had generally been built by the railroad companies, and by the time the Park Service began operations in 1917, the national parks offered buildings in styles ranging from Swiss Chalet to Indian Pueblo. "If there was a lesson available from the sample, it was that park buildings properly designed to harmonize with their natural setting were distinctly more appropriate."⁷

Park Service engineers and landscape architects experimented with a variety of styles including pueblos, traditional log cabins as well as combination frame and stone structures and gradually perfected what became known as National Park Service rustic architecture.⁸

This little noticed movement in American architecture was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, about our country's western frontiers...The conservation ethic slowly took hold in this atmosphere of romanticism. Part of this ethic fostered the development of a unique architectural style. Perhaps for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature...Early pioneer and regional building techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment...No (other) single government agency has to

⁷William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942 (San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977), p.16.

⁸Refer to the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources" with particular reference to the section on Rustic Style Architecture.

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date been responsible for such a revolutionary break in architectural form.⁹

Prior to the Depression, the U.S. Forest Service building program was limited, buildings were erected when and where they were needed and there had been no particular reason to develop a specific architectural philosophy. Once increased funding and extensive manpower became available in the 1930s, the Forest Service began to emphasize comprehensive, planned development and the prevailing Rustic Style design philosophy of the Park Service was found to be appropriate and adopted.

Each Regional Office was responsible for the preparation of site plans, the design of individual structures, and for landscape plans. The design of each building was based on the predominant native building materials as well as the climatic conditions of the area, vegetation, and forest cover. An architectural expression emerged from each Region that was distinctive to that particular Region.

In order to train newly hired architects and landscape architects in the Rustic Style design philosophy, the National Park Service issued a textbook in 1935 entitled Park Structures and Facilities which was edited by Albert H. Good, an architect for the State Park Division. This book was expanded to a three volume edition in 1938. Similarly, the the Division of Engineering of the Forest Service published a manual entitled Acceptable Building Plans: Forest Service Administrative Buildings compiled by W. Ellis Groben, the Chief Architect of the Forest Service.¹⁰ The manual consists of a written description of regional styles, site locations, orientation, building materials, and a series of existing and future building plans. Groben states in the foreword, "No matter how well buildings may be designed, with but few exceptions, they seldom enhance the beauty of their natural

⁹Tweed, p. i-ii, citing Merrill Ann Wilson, National Park Service Historical Architect.

¹⁰In 1945 Groben authored a booklet for the Forest Service along with Clyde P. Fickes entitled Building with Logs. Identified as Miscellaneous Publication No. 579, it includes a variety of photographs of Forest Service administrative sites with detailed instructions on log construction methods.

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settings." He suggests, "...erecting only such structures as are absolutely essential...and then only of designs which harmonize with, or...are the least objectionable to nature's particular environment." He claimed that earlier buildings constructed by the Forest Service had failed to possess an identity associated with the Forest Service or to adequately express its purposes. Another important guidebook from the period was the Recreation Plans Handbook published in 1936 which included plans for recreational structures of all types.¹¹ Rather specific publications were prepared as well such as a book from 1937 entitled Camp Stoves and Fireplaces which was intended to serve as a guide to forest officers and others responsible for planning and constructing recreational improvements. The book was authored by A.D. Taylor, a consulting landscape architect for the Forest Service and was published by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Once a Forest determined the location of an administrative site, standard building plans were selected from the various guidebooks based on the needs of the facility. These were submitted to the Regional Office for approval and the corresponding site plans were completed. Log construction was logically chosen for the Marcell Ranger Station as the appropriate architectural expression for northern Minnesota, a building method which was to receive high praise for its fine craftsmanship. Three log buildings from Scenic State Park, located within 20 miles of the Marcell Ranger Station, were featured in the Park Service publication Park Structures and Facilities. In reference to the Shelter Pavilion Albert Good commented:

In this example Minnesota justifies her advantage of superior native timber resources by the fine character of the log construction...No one region seems to have been blest beyond its fair share of natural resources of the first flight. An imagined ideal park structure...would assuredly specify logs and log construction from Minnesota.

¹¹Alison T. Otis, William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, and Kimberly K. Lakin. The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps. USDA Forest Service 1986. p. 209.

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In reference to an Equipment and Maintenance Building Good stated, "A mere facilitating building glorified by the excellent log work almost invariably found in Minnesota."

The construction of the finely crafted log buildings at the Marcell Ranger Station was supervised by Ike Boekenoogen, who also supervised the work on the Supervisor's Office in Cass Lake and the Norway Beach community building. Labor was provided by the CCC from both the Mack and Day Lake Camps. The design for the Warehouse was based on a standard plan designed by the Regional Office of the Forest Service in Milwaukee. The Ranger's Residence also appears to have been based on a standard plan, although modifications were made and the overall quality of the design was improved. However, it is not clear where the designs for the Ice House and Woodshed, the Garage, and the Oil House originated. They may have been designed on the Chippewa National Forest since a certain amount of design work could occur on an individual Forest. In any event, they do not appear to be standard plans. Based on the drawings, the Garage may have been designed especially for Marcell, and the Ice House and Woodshed and the Oil House may have been designed for both the Marcell and Dora Lake Ranger Stations. The ranger station at Dora Lake was probably quite similar to Marcell, and the Oil House at Dora Lake, which was identical to the one at Marcell, was featured in a government publication entitled Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration 1933-39 and included the following description:

This oil station, erected by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, illustrates one type of log construction frequently used in the buildings in our National Parks. Its rustic character fits its forest setting. It was built at a cost of \$2,232.15 which came out of a PWA allotment of \$782,525 to the Forest Service for physical improvements and control of blight and insects in the forests of Minnesota.

A detailed landscape design was also prepared for the site in 1937, although the plans indicate revisions in both 1938 and 1945. A variety of trees were specified such as norway, white, and jack pine, paper birch, and American elm. Foundation plantings for the

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Ranger's Residence and the Office included highbush cranberries, leatherwood, arrowhead, dogwood and roses. Sumac and mountain ash were among the items to be planted along the roadway. However, based on the type and position of the trees at the ranger station, and the current foundation planting around the Ranger's Residence, it is not clear whether the plan was ever executed.

New ranger stations were also built on the Forest during the Depression Era at Blackduck, Remer, and Walker, and buildings were also constructed at the existing stations at Cass Lake, Bena, and Cut Foot Sioux. However, although the National Register eligibility of these sites has not yet been evaluated, none were constructed in the Rustic Style and all buildings are standard frame construction. Marcell and Dora Lake were the only ranger stations to feature Rustic Style design, and when the Dora Lake Ranger District was consolidated with the adjacent districts in 1967, all buildings at the ranger station were sold and moved.

Additional ranger or forestry stations were constructed in state forests as well as urban settings where district headquarters were built, all for the Division of Forestry of the Minnesota Department of Conservation. Full log construction was not common and more simplified versions of the Rustic Style were the typical design solutions. Among the most interesting examples are the Kabetogama Ranger Station built by the CCC in the Kabetogama State Forest which includes a well-developed collection of board and batten buildings with stone-faced foundations, and the Clear River and Norris Ranger Stations built as part of the Beltrami Island Project, an extensive federal relief effort undertaken by the Resettlement Administration near the Canadian border. A small one-room cabin with horizontal log construction was built at Clear River, while the residence at Norris was a five-room building with a full basement featuring split-log palisade construction. Both stations included 26' x 41' storage buildings to house fire fighting trucks and equipment which were also faced with vertical split log walls. The WPA built forestry stations at Bemidji, Hibbing, Park Rapids, Hackensack, and Brainerd. Each station typically included a one story office building which featured a stone-faced foundation, bracketed gable roof, and log siding, as

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well as one or more frame service buildings. However, two sites may be considered similar to the Marcell Ranger Station in terms of design and development, namely the Isabella and Tofte Ranger Stations built by the CCC in Minnesota's Superior National Forest. They represent well-developed administrative facilities including a variety of residential and service buildings, all featuring full-log Rustic Style construction.

The Marcell Ranger Station meets the registration requirements for Conservation Structures as established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled, "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941." The complex was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and federal funding was utilized for labor, materials, and supervision. Construction was completed in 1935. The Ranger Station is associated with a significant expansion of the Chippewa National Forest and the implementation of intensive conservation programs. The facility retains historic integrity and represents one of the high points of Rustic Style design among the surviving Depression Era ranger stations in the state.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

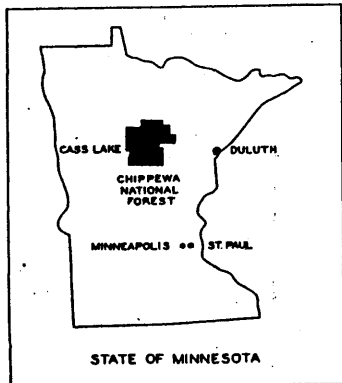
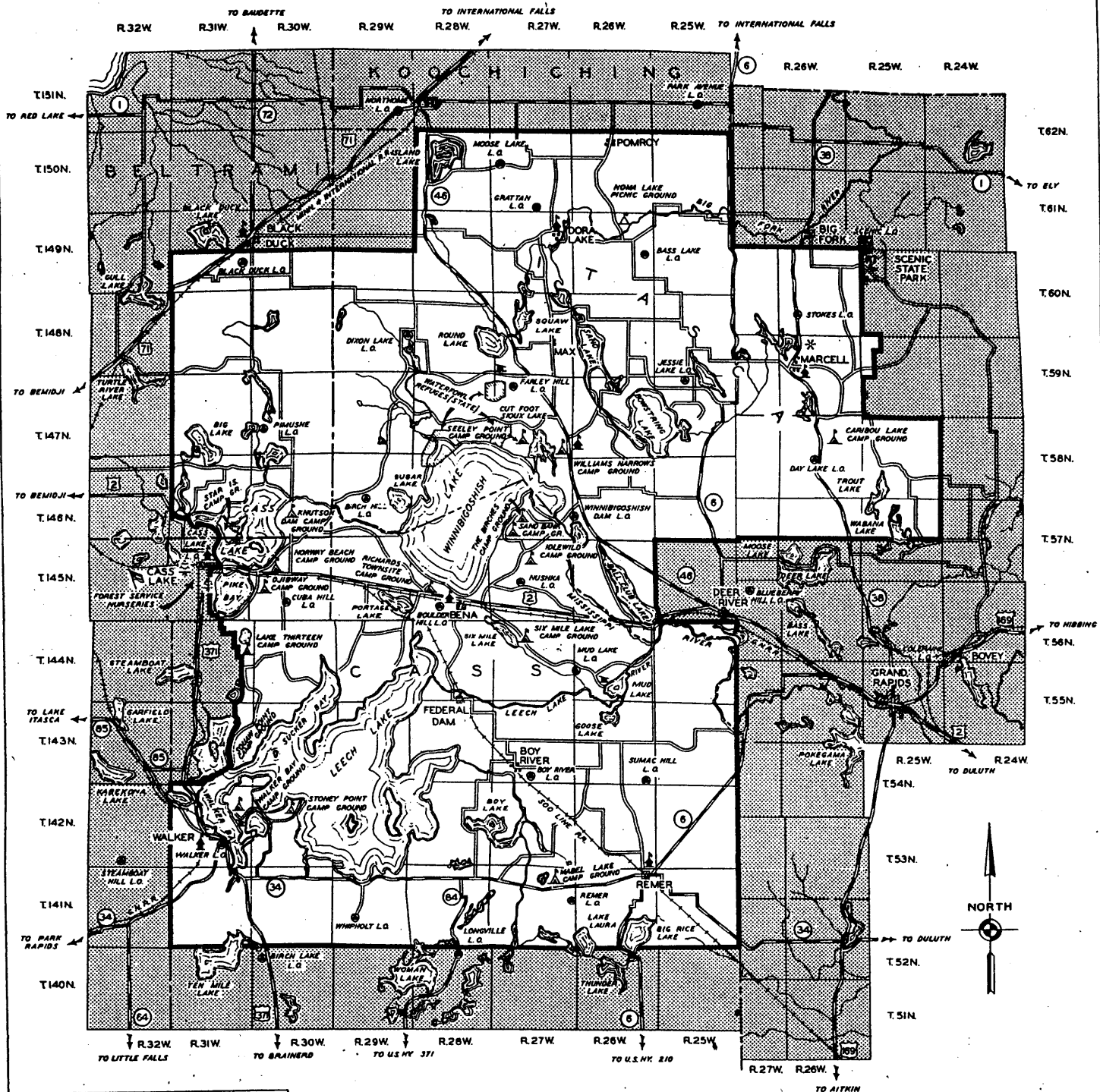
The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Marcell Ranger Station." It is defined by Minnesota Highway 38 to the northwest, Lake Ranier to the southeast, and the legal boundary of the property to the north, south, and east.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings and structures that have been historically associated with the Marcell Ranger Station and which maintain historic integrity. The land located northwest of Minnesota Highway 38 has been excluded because it was not developed until the modern era.

PREVENT FOREST FIRES EXHIBIT I

*Marcell Ranger Station



- LEGEND**
- NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
 - ▬ RESERVATION, PARK, OR REFUGE BOY
 - 71 FEDERAL HIGHWAY
 - 2 STATE HIGHWAY
 - OTHER MOTOR ROAD
 - ⬮ GUARD STATION
 - 🌱 FOREST SERVICE NURSERY
 - ⬮ IMPROVED CAMP GROUND
 - ⬮ IMPROVED PICNIC GROUND
 - ⬮ PERMANENT LOOKOUT STATION
- HEADQUARTERS**
- ⬮ SUPERVISOR'S, CASS LAKE, MINNESOTA
 - ⬮ RANGER STATIONS:
 - BENA, MINN.
 - BLACK DUCK, MINN.
 - CASS LAKE, MINN.
 - CUT FOOT SIOUX, MINN.
 - DORA LAKE, MINN.
 - MARCELL, MINN.
 - REMER, MINN.
 - WALKER, MINN.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE
 F.A. SILCOX, CHIEF
 T.W. NORCROSS, CHIEF, DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

RECREATION MAP OF
CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST
 MINNESOTA
 1937
 SCALE
 0 2 4 MILES

PUT YOUR CAMP FIRE OUT WITH WATER

1. Ranger's Residence
2. Ice House and Woodshed
3. Garage
4. Warehouse
5. Oil House
6. Residence II (NC)*
7. Tree Cooler (NC)
8. Shop (NC)
9. Oil House II (NC)
10. Office (NC)

*Non-Contributing

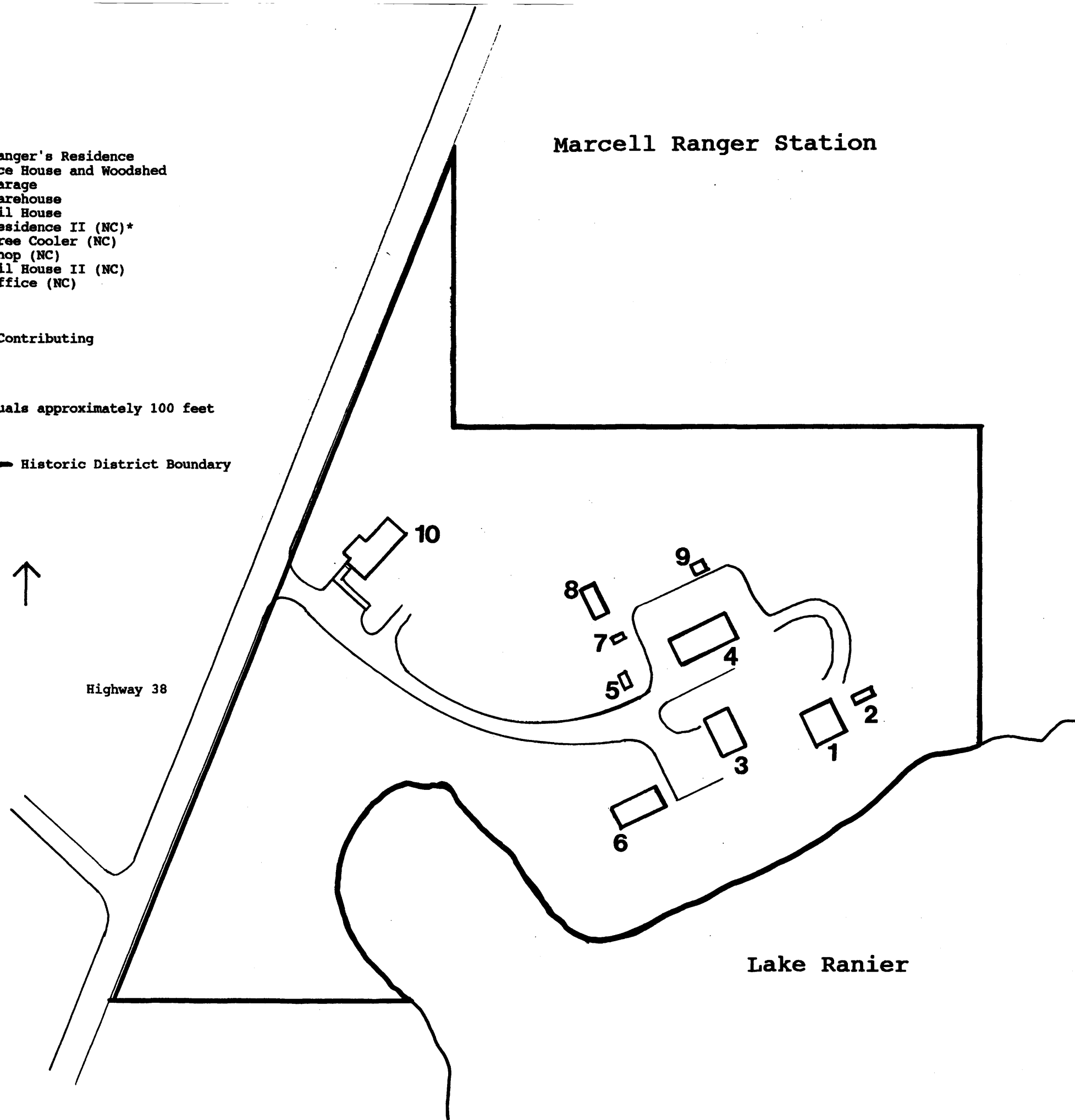
1" equals approximately 100 feet

— Historic District Boundary

North ↑

Highway 38

Marcell Ranger Station



Lake Ranier