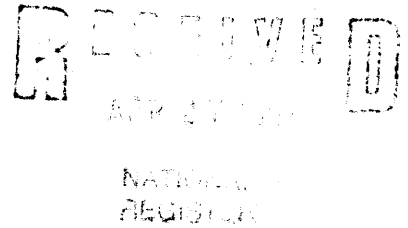


641

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District  
other names/site number Jay Cooke State Park

2. Location

street & number off Minnesota Highway 210  not for publication N/A  
city, town Twin Lakes Township Carlton  vicinity  
state Minnesota code MN county Carlton code 017 zip code 56718

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style  
Historic Resources

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. Boh Boland 6/11/92
- 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:

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/Outdoor Recreation

LANDSCAPE/State Park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/Outdoor Recreation

LANDSCAPE/State Park

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetJay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District  
Twin Lakes Township, Carlton County, MinnesotaSection number 7 Page 1DESCRIPTION

The Jay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District is a 6.5 acre area which includes one building and one structure located just east of the town of Thompson. The park includes land on both sides of the St. Louis River which is a highly turbulent stream running through a very picturesque rock gorge. The gorge consists of basalt rock which is generally inclined 45 degrees from the horizontal and pitched toward the south. Additional rock formations are scattered throughout the park. Architects for the park buildings were from the National Park Service.

Department of Natural Resources building identification numbers are located after the name of each building.

1. Building: The River Inn 2-57 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1940-42

The River Inn is one of the largest buildings constructed in the state park system with an overall length of 123' and a width of 48'6". The stone structure is considered a combination building and contained rest rooms, a shelter, a refectory, a dining room, and kitchen. It was one of the few park buildings which contained a full scale restaurant. The 32' x 50' shelter is located in the center of the building and features a massive stone fireplace and a heavy timber truss system. The shelter is flanked by rest rooms on the west and by the restaurant on the east.

The River Inn is basically rectilinear in form and is constructed entirely of dark, local gabbro with the exception of the gable ends which contain 1" x 10" rough horizontal boards. The building is covered by a cross-gable roof. An 11' x 32' entrance porch on the north facade is paved with slate flagging and is covered by a shed roof supported by three round, stone columns, each 3' in diameter. A 16'6" x 70' terrace flanks the south facade along the St. Louis River. The terrace is paved with stone and is defined by a low stone wall. Window openings are all casements, generally with six lights.

The refectory, or concession, was located in the restaurant wing of the building and featured a service window which opened into the shelter and there was also a counter which opened to the exterior on the south facade.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetJay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Distri.  
Twin Lakes Township, Carlton County, MinnesotaSection number 7 Page 2

In 1945 a souvenir counter was installed in the dining room and in 1958 the kitchen was repositioned. Major alterations in 1983 removed the kitchen entirely and offices were installed. The dining room and refectory were converted into one large space to house interpretive exhibits. The canopy of the fireplace in the shelter was also completed with the installation of copper panels based on the original plans which have never been executed.

2. Structure: Swinging Bridge Builder: CCC  
Architect: Oscar Newstrom Date: 1934

The Swinging Bridge is a suspension bridge with a 126' span over the St. Louis River. The bridge is supported by two massive pylons consisting of reinforced concrete piers faced with native stone laid in a rustic ashlar design. The suspension cables are anchored in a solid rock ledge on the south side and in concrete anchorage on the north. Stone piers on both sides of the bridge support walkways which lead to the suspended section. Originally, 8" or 10" peeled cedar logs were used as approach railings and the bridge deck was constructed with 2" white oak flooring laid 1/2" apart. The bridge is 200' long in its entirety.

The bridge was originally 18' above the St. Louis River. However, the bridge deck was raised in 1941 due to a problem with washouts. The bridge was again modified in 1953 by extending the existing concrete cores of the pylons. This further increased the distance from the bridge deck to the river in order to minimize the possibility of a washout. In 1977 the spalled concrete caps were repaired.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Landscape Architecture  
Recreation  
Government  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1934  
1940-42  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1934  
1940  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

National Park Service  
Civilian Conservation Corps  
Works Progress Administration  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Jay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District  
Twin Lakes Township, Carlton County, MinnesotaSTATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District is historically significant for its association with the social, political, and economic impact of the Great Depression and the subsequent development of the various Federal Relief Programs which were responsible for its construction. The Jay Cooke State Park Historic District is also significant as a major recreational facility which received intensive use from residents of the surrounding communities and the City of Duluth.

The River Inn and the Swinging Bridge are architecturally significant as outstanding examples of Rustic Style construction featuring a dark native stone which blends with the rocky gorge of the adjacent St. Louis River. The River Inn is one of the largest and most fully developed buildings in the state park system, and specific features such as the rounded columns on the entrance porch and canopy above the shelter fireplace have no counterpart in any other state park buildings. The Swinging Bridge is also significant as the best example of a suspension bridge in the state park system, and one of only two examples. The landscape design for the district is architecturally significant for its ability to successfully concentrate the intensive use areas of the park which had been previously scattered along the entire 7 mile park drive. Surviving master plans for the park also document both the sophistication and precision of the design. A vicinity map was prepared as part of the development scheme and describes the surrounding area within a 50 mile radius. A remarkable amount of information is contained on the map including facts about the nearby population, mean temperature, average rainfall, as well as the location of roads, trails, power lines, historical sites, etc. A detailed site plan was prepared for the area containing the River Inn and the Swinging Bridge which also included a "tree key" that located the position of every white pine, white spruce, white birch, and maple tree in the area. Instructions on the plan stated that, "All trees planted to be native to the area and in same proportion as surrounding woods so as to blend with existing plant growth." Specific plants and shrubs were also suggested for plantings in shady areas and along man-made rock outcroppings.

Jay Cooke State Park was established in 1915 when the St. Louis Power Company donated 2,350 acres of land for that purpose. Large scale development began in 1933 when C.C.C. Camp SP-2 occupied the park on June 22, 1933. This camp constructed the Swinging Bridge, the Service

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Jay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District  
Twin Lakes Township, Carlton County, Minnesota

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Yard, and began development of the Oldenburg Point Picnic Grounds. They were also involved in eliminating soil erosion and in landscaping the Skyline Parkway so that the road would blend with the natural setting. However, due to declining C.C.C. enrollment on a nationwide basis, this camp was one of three in Minnesota which were terminated unexpectedly in October 1935. At that point, the picnic shelter at Oldenburg Point was only about half finished. However, the Lake Shore C.C.C. Camp SP-18 located north of Duluth provided the manpower to finish a number of incomplete projects.

A second C.C.C. Camp SP-21 Company 1171 was established in the park in May 1939. This camp continued development at the park and rebuilt the Swinging Bridge and constructed the River Inn. This camp was terminated on March 25, 1942 just before the C.C.C. came to an end. The WPA was also active in the park on a limited basis and was mainly involved with road work.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Department of Conservation. Report of the division of State Parks for October-November, 1935.  
Department of Natural Resources. Working Drawings and Specifications for the buildings and structures at Jay Cooke State Park. Bureau of Engineering. St. Paul, Minnesota.  
Fritzen, John. "The History of Fond du Lac and Jay Cooke State Park." St. Louis County Historical Society, 1962.  
Schwartz, George M. "The Geology of Jay Cooke State Park." The Conservation Volunteer  
State of Minnesota. Minnesota State Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study. 1938.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 6.5 Acres

UTM References

A 15 548120 5166750  
Zone Easting Northing  
C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Jay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled, "Jay Cooke State Park."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building and structure that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain historic integrity. The boundary defines an area of the park developed by the Federal Relief Programs.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rolf T. Anderson  
organization N/A date March 29, 1992  
street & number 212 West 36th Street telephone 612-824-7807  
city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55408



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 23 1992

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 1

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Jay Cooke State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District (89001665)  
Carlton County, Minnesota

The township information is wrong on the form. Please change the township name to  
Thomson Township

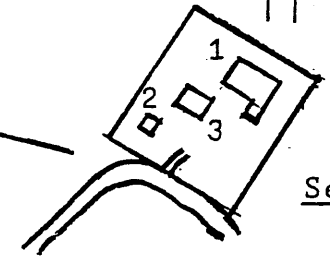
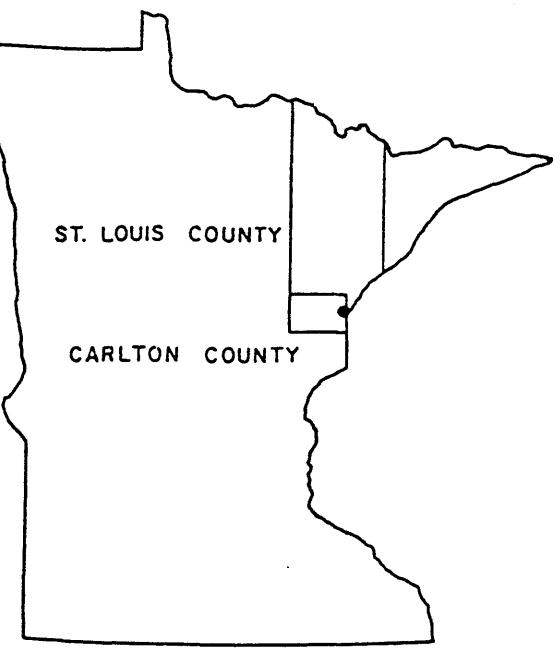
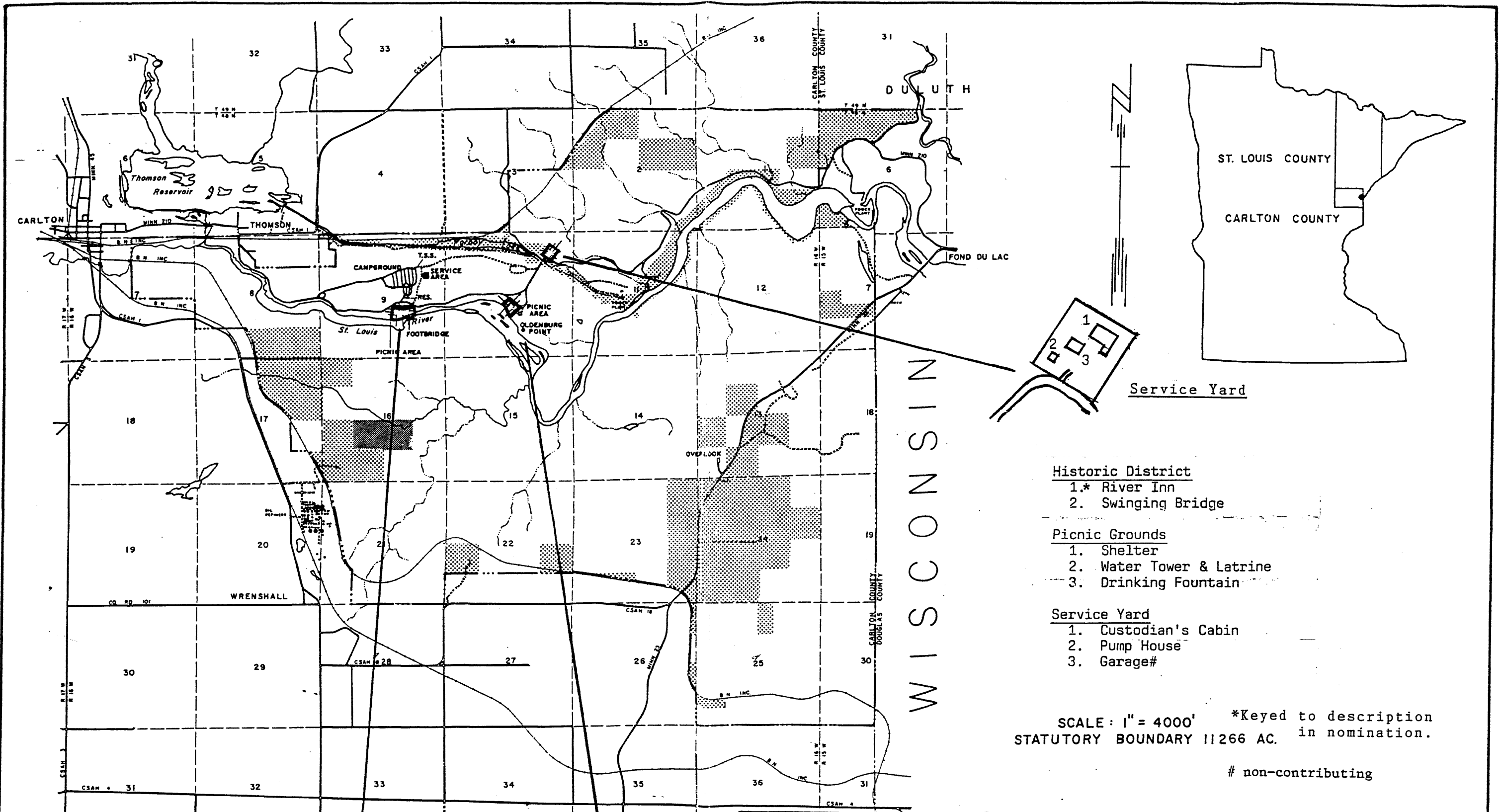


Signature of certifying official

Oct 16, 1992

date

Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Service Yard

Historic District

- 1.\* River Inn
- 2. Swinging Bridge

Picnic Grounds

- 1. Shelter
- 2. Water Tower & Latrine
- 3. Drinking Fountain

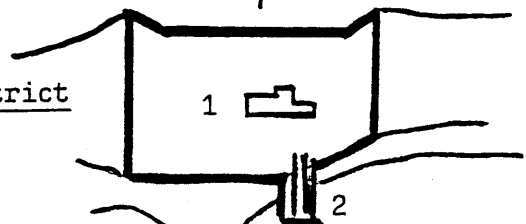
Service Yard

- 1. Custodian's Cabin
- 2. Pump House
- 3. Garage#

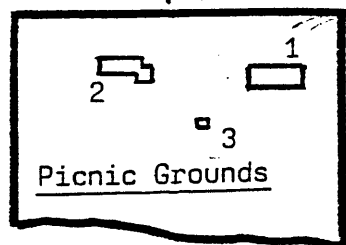
SCALE: 1" = 4000' \*Keyed to description  
 STATUTORY BOUNDARY 11266 AC. in nomination.

# non-contributing

Historic District



Picnic Grounds



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES			
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING		DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION	
STATE PARK SITE MAP		<b>JAY COOKE STATE PARK</b>	
CARLTON & ST. LOUIS COUNTIES - NEAR DULUTH			
Designed	Drawn 11-2-76 L.D. SWENSON	Sec.	T. 48 N. R. 15 & 16 W.
Survey	Checked 10-14-77 R.E. SMITH	Dept.	Req. 74-7
Ownership Revised	Revised 7-20-78 RES 6/20/78 S. V. FEESL	File	15
Date	10-17-77 <i>Eugene L. Heres</i> Administrator		P.022.00.01