United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Nam	e				
historic	Minnesota Boat	Club Boathou	ıse on Rası	pberry Island	·
and/or common	Minnesota Boat	Club Boathou	ise on Navy	y Island	
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	1 South Wabash	a Street			not for publication
city, town	St. Paul	vi	cinity of 4th	congressional district	
state	Minnesota	code 22	county	Ramsey	code 123
3. Clas	sification			÷	
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considere	Accessib <u> </u>	cupied in progress le	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: Athletic
name street & number	Minnesota Boat 1 South Wabash	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
city, town	St. Paul		icinity of	state	Minnesota
	ation of Le				,
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Ramsey Count	ty Courtho	use	
street & number	15 West F	Cellogg			
city, town	St. Paul			state	Minnesota
6. Repi	resentatio	n in Exi	sting 9	Surveys	
	de Survey of His	toric	has this pro	perty been determined ele	egible? yes no
date 1980				federal X stat	e county local
depository for su	urvey records Minr	esota Histor	ical Socie	ty - 240 Summit Ave	eHill House
city, town St.	Paul			state	Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X_ original site	
x good	ruins	x altered	moved date	
_x fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A. THE BUILDING

The Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Navy Island (formerly Raspberry Island) over-looking the Mississippi River and a developing downtown St. Paul is the same building that was constructed in 1910.

The Club's first quarters was a floating boathouse anchored at the foot of Robert Street on the Mississippi River. This crude floating structure was first occupied in 1870, the same year in which the Club was organized. In 1885 a new two-story wooden structure was erected on Raspberry Island (now Navy Island) and served as a clubhouse until it was replaced by the present building in 1910.

The present building was designed by H. G. Carsley of St. Paul and constructed by George, J. Grant, Construction Company, also of St. Paul. o The boathouse; estimated to cost \$26,000, was consdiered to be one of the best rowing facilities in the nation.

The present building, of Spanish design, consists of two stories and a hip roof with 3-foot eaves. The structure measures 67 feet wide by 86 feet long and 23 feet to the eaves. The footings (2 feet by 7 feet), first and second floor bases (8-inch), and 28 16-inch diameter columns supporting the second floor are all of steel reinforced concrete.

The first and second floor walls are constructed of tile bricks (10-inch). Damage to portions of the east and south first floor walls during the 1965 flood necessitated replacement of this brick with concrete block (12-inch).

The ground floor serves as a storage area for rowing shells and equipment, a maintenance area for damaged equipment and a men's and women's locker room. A concrete block wall (8-inch) separates the locker rooms from the storage and maintenance area. A wrought iron spiral staircase (5-foot diameter) leads from the storage area to the second floor.

Five arched double doors (8 by 10 feet and 3 inches thick) allow access of rowing shells to floating docks on the Mississippi River. The doors are constructed of Douglas fir and are supported by wrought iron strap hinges (4 feet by 4 inches by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch) firmly bolted in place.

A wooden (fir) stairway gives access to the second floor area, which served as a meeting, dining, and recreation center for club members from 1910 to about 1950.

8. Significance

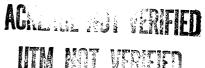
Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation Athletic
Specific dates	Site: 1870-present	Builder/Architect a	H.G. Carsley/ e J. Grant Construct	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Minnesota: Boat Club occupies an important place in the social and recreational history of St. Paul. The club was founded in March 1870 and has occupied the site on Raspberry Island continuously since that date. The Minnesota Boat Club is the oldest athletic organization in Minnesota. The Minnesota Boat Club was one of two charter members of the Minnesota and Winnipeg Rowing Association (NWIRA) founded in 1915. The club has won the Sir Thomas Lipton Grant Aggregate trophy at the NWIRA regatta more times than any other club in the Association's history. The club was founded as a center for the healthful sport of rowing, both morally and physically beneficial to members, young and old, who could participate vigorously or mildly in their sport. It continues to serve that purpose and is enjoying a resurgence of interest among young men and women of St. Paul who recognize both the historical and recreational significance of the club. The present membership is strongly interested in the restoration of their clubhouse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

None



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10. Ge	ograp	hical	Data					
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List all states	and countie	es for prope	rties overla	apping state	or county bo	oundaries -		
state			ode	county			code	·
state		C	code	county			code	
name/title organization street & number	Member o	L. Holmbe of Minneso 07, 1449 -	ta Boat (Club	date telephone	March 1981 725 - 7638		
city or town	New Bri	ghton			state	Minnesota	55112	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
12. Sta	ate His	storic	Prese	ervatio	n Offic	er Cer	tificat	tion
As the designate 665), I hereby no according to the	national ed State Histo minate this p	X standard S	ate ion Officer fo	local or the National e National Reg	ister and certi	fy that It has be	en evaluated	
State Historic Pr	reservation O	fficer signatur		ssell	W. Fr	Sley		·
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