

**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. Name**

historic Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Raspberry Island

and/or common Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Navy Island

**2. Location**

street & number 1 South Wabasha Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of 4th congressional district

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Athletic

**4. Owner of Property**

name Minnesota Boat Club

street & number 1 South Wabasha Street

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 West Kellogg

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date 1980 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Ave.-Hill House

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### A. THE BUILDING

The Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Navy Island (formerly Raspberry Island) overlooking 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. The boathouse, estimated to cost \$26,000, was considered 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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	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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Athletic

**Specific dates** Site: 1870-present **Builder/Architect** H.G. Carsley/  
 Building: 1910-present George J. Grant Construction Company

**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

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.17

Quadrangle name St. Paul East Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A	1 5	4 9 2 7 8 0	4 9 7 6 3 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Upstream portion of Navy Island from Wabasha Street Bridge to tip of island.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas L. Holmberg, Civil Engineer

organization Member of Minnesota Boat Club date March 1981

street & number Apt. #207, 1449 - 10th Street N.W. telephone 725-7638

city or town New Brighton state Minnesota 55112

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/2/81

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Brashers

date 2/4/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Sandra McCullum

date 2/4/82

Chief of Registration