

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Hartley Sugar Camp

COUNTY: Itasca

MAR 15 1982  
Coleraine, MN

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Trout Lake Twp.

LEGAL DESC.:

W 1/2 of Gov't. Lot 3 and S 1/4 of W 1/2 of Gov't Lot 2  
T55, R24, Sec. 9

ADDRESS: SE of Coleraine  
East shore of Trout  
Lake south of Coleraine

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Industry</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Recreation</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u> Restricted ___	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes ___ No <u>X</u>	
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No ___	same

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1904-9	ORIGINAL USE: Sugar Camp
ORIGINAL OWNER: G.G. Hartley	ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Hartley Trusts 740 E. Superior St. Duluth, MN 55802	ACREAGE: Less than one acre Approx. 8 acres
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Itasca County Historical Society PO Box 664, Old Central School, Grand Rapids, MN 55744	UTM REFERENCE: Bovey Quad. 7.5 15 / 469840 / 5234000
FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet	
DATE: February 1981	

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Hartley Sugar Camp is situated in a picturesque sugar bush on the east shore of Trout Lake approximately three miles southeast of Coleraine. The camp, hidden from the township road by dense forest, is accessible by a private drive. The complex includes five well-preserved log structures constructed by local Finnish settlers.

The "Lookout" or three room Lodge constructed in 1909 is the southernmost structure on the property. The 1 1/2 story rectangular structure is covered by a gable roof with a shed dormer on the west side. Constructed of varnished cedar logs mortised by dovetail corner-timbering, the Lodge features multi-paned windows, a full length open veranda on the north and west facades, and decorative shingles in the gable ends. A large exterior stone and brick chimney is located on the north facade. Directly east of the Lodge is a gable-roofed frame shed also with shingles in the gable ends.

The principal camp buildings constructed in 1904-05 are located several hundred feet north of the Lodge. All camp buildings are of log construction with double notch corner-timbering. A small frame cottage of recent construction (intrusion) is situated on the path between the Lodge and camp structures.

The evaporator building, the primary structure, measures 18' by 39' and is covered by a hip roof with a gabled ventilator at its peak. A 13' by 18' open wood shed at the north end shelters cordwood needed in the boiling process. An early hip-roofed frame addition is located on the northeast corner. The building originally housed the evaporator, kitchen, and a small sleeping room above the kitchen.

Other log camp structures include a hip-roofed warehouse, a hip-roofed bunkhouse with room for four bunks, and a hip-roofed outhouse.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hartley Sugar Camp is significant as a unique complex of well-preserved log structures associated with the hobby-type cottage industries established by wealthy Minnesotans. G.G. Hartley, a Duluth newspaper proprietor with substantial investments in Duluth real estate and iron ore lands, purchased the 200 plus acre sugar bush in 1904. He hired John Black, an experienced Vermont maple syrup producer, to establish and operate a successful maple syrup operation. Camp buildings were erected in 1904-05 and the first syrup was produced in 1906. By 1909 several hundred gallons of syrup were produced each spring from approximately 3000 tapped trees by a minimum crew of eight individuals. Although a large portion of the syrup was reserved for family

members and close friends, approximately 175 gallons were marketed each year throughout northern Minnesota under the name Shogomac Maple Syrup. The commercial aspect of the operation ceased in the late 1920s when production was curtailed. Syrup continued to be produced for family members and friends into the early 1950s when the camp was abandoned for several years before David Hartley, G.G. Hartley's grandson, managed the operation. Today, David and others produce approximately thirty gallons of syrup yearly from 150 tapped trees.

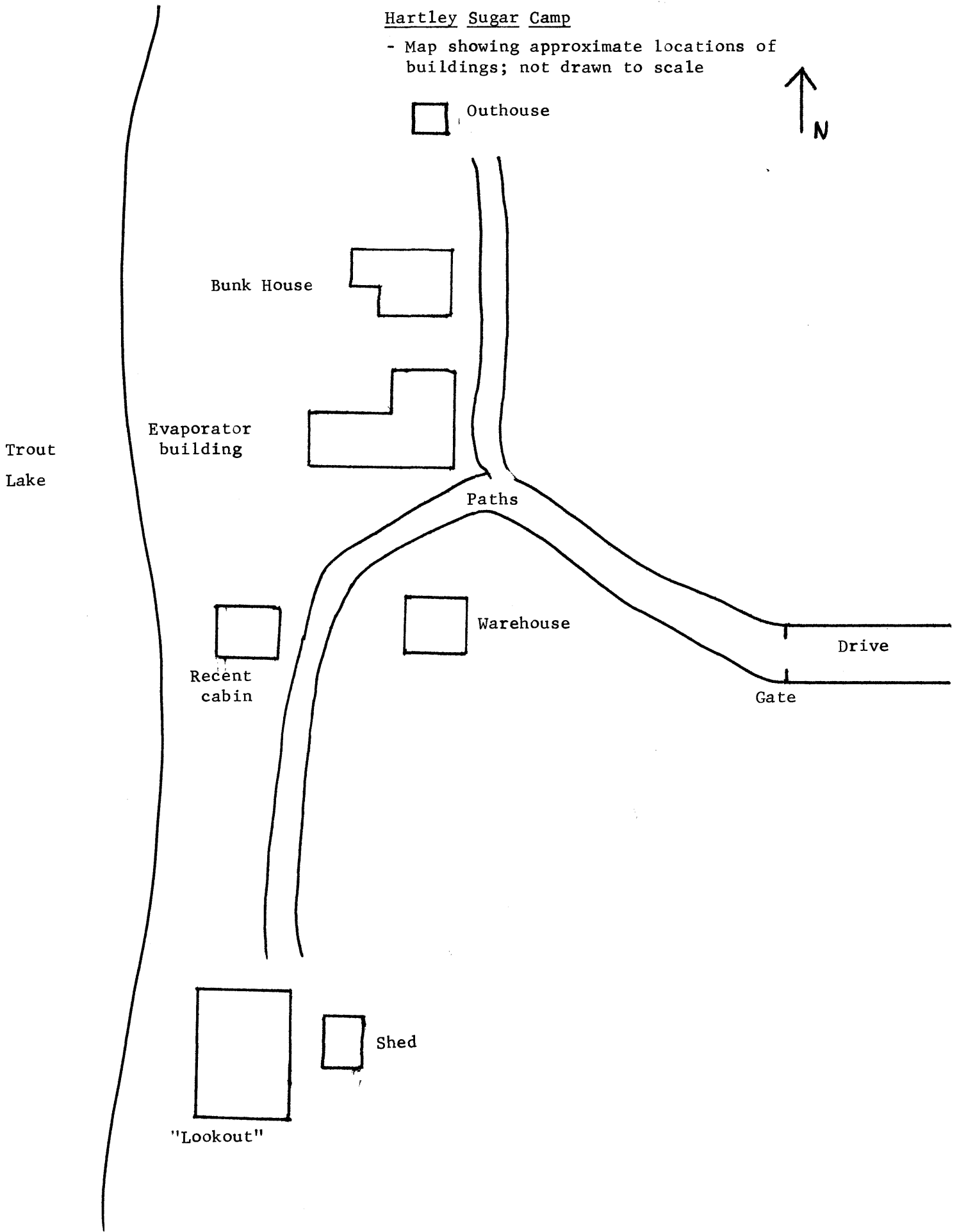
Bibliography:

Hartley, David. Conversation with Mark Haidet, February 1981.  
Itasca Iron News (Bovey, MN). April 3, 1909; April 24, 1909; and September 11, 1909.  
Shogomac Company Record Books, 1905-1918.

Hartley Sugar Camp

- Map showing approximate locations of buildings; not drawn to scale

□ Outhouse



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper *Helene Lynn*  
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Hartley Sugar Camp in Itasca  
County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 82002973

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Itasca

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):**

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:** Bovey

**ADDRESS:** off Co. Hwy. 10

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*

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**Nina M. Archabal**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**