

**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 Winnibigoshish Resort

and/or common Bena Standard Oil Gas Station and Motor Court

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 2 ___ not for publication

city, town Bena ___ vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Minnesota code 22 county Cass code 021

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 type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Dahl

street & number Box 128

city, town Bena ___ vicinity of state Minnesota 56626

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cass County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Walker state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1979 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bena Standard Oil Gas Station and Motor Court is located on the north side of U.S. Highway 2, directly north of Bena's main street and commercial section and one-half mile south of Lake Winnibigoshish. The complex consists of a central store and filling station building and ten guest cottages, six flanking the main building and four situated to the rear. The main building is a long, wood frame rectangle approximately 100 ft. x 23 ft. It includes two stories at the front (south) end, where the store and gas station are located, and one story in the rear section, which originally included a restaurant area but now is entirely living quarters for the owners. The two story section has a hip roof with a wood roof cresting. A bracketed awning continues into the gable roof of the one story section. The building has white lap siding with trim of bright red and blue, the colors of the Standard Oil Company. Brackets, wood trim strips, doors and windows are painted in an eye-catching decorative pattern of geometric designs. Painted wood silhouettes of squirrels and other animals ornament the building. Directly in front of the main building is the gas pump canopy, an open, tile-roofed wood structure of modified pagoda design, painted in a manner similar to the main building. The animal decorations and the overall design may be an attempt to echo local Chippewa Indian motifs.

The main building is flanked by twin rows of east and west cottages. Individually and as a row, the east cottages mirror the west cottages. All are single story, wood frame with gable roofs. East and west number ones are each 25 ft. x 15 ft.; number twos are each 15 ft. square, and number threes are each 20 ft. x 15 ft., with a screened corner porch. All are painted similar to the main building, but utilizing green instead of blue.

To the rear of the main building and east-west cottage complex are four additional guest cottages (nos. 8, 9, 12, and 14) surviving from an original group of nine. An octagonal cottage, once a part of this group, has been razed. These cottages are similar in size and configuration to the east and west cottages but plainer in design and ornamentations, although number 14 has rustic, vertical half-log siding. A pump house and fish-cleaning house of similar design and construction are located in this rear cottage group.

All buildings in the complex are in good repair. The main building, gas pump canopy, and the east and west cottages underwent an exterior cleaning and repainting in 1979. With the exception of the above noted razed buildings and some missing animal decorations, the entire complex retains almost total integrity.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1933

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bena Standard Oil Gas Station and Motor Court is significant as an extremely well-preserved example of a commercial complex of buildings directly related to early automobile highway travel. It was built in 1933 along U.S. Highway 2, a major east-west artery crossing north central Minnesota which had received federal highway designation by 1927. In addition, located just south of Lake Winnigiboshish, the complex has always served a recreational function in the resort region of Minnesota from which it derives its original and formal name, Winnigiboshish Resort. Architecturally the complex is significant as an early and unique artifact from the period when filling station and motor court owners were experimenting with ways of making their buildings visually outstanding to catch the eye of passing motorists. This colorful group of buildings with its highway-oriented functions of gasoline service and overnight accommodation is appropriately styled to accomplish this task.

Although constructed within the last 50 years, the 1933 complex has exceptional significance because of its surprisingly well-preserved state, despite the fact that buildings such as gas stations and motor courts are inherently fragile artifacts and subject to rapid and dramatic changes in the commercial world of highway-oriented services. As a complex with three inter-related, highway-oriented functions -- filling station and store, motor court, and resort -- Bena Standard is an outstanding complex of regional significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 6.5 (approx)
 Quadrangle name Bena Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing				
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of Parcel #3 ("resort parcel"), NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 27, Township 145 Range 28, from map filed in County Assessor's Office.

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 Robert M. Frame III, Architectural Historian/Research Historian-Survey
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date March 19, 1980
 street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-9074
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

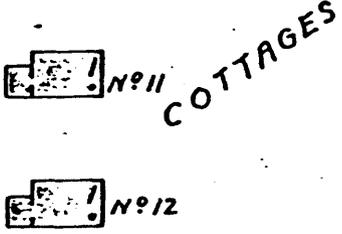
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

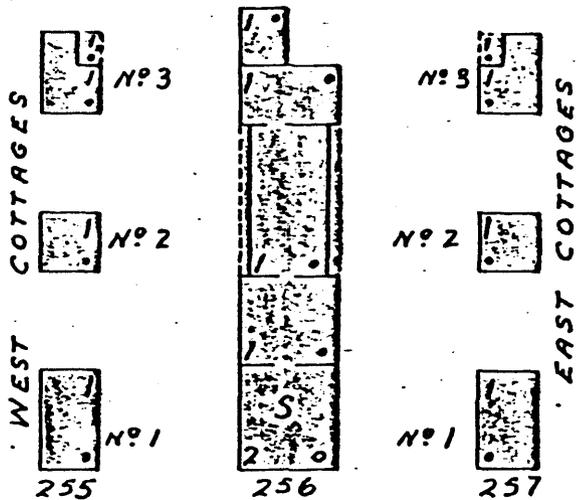
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/25/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
W. Ray Luce date 5/23/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Kristin J. O'Connell date 5/20/80
 Chief of Registration

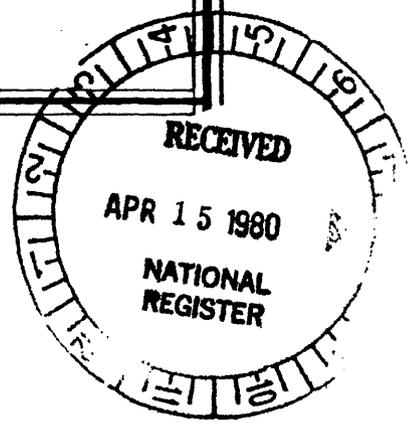


ACROSS HIGHWAY AT NORTH END OF FIRST AVE.



GASO. PUMPS

HIGHWAY No 2



WINNIBIGOSHISH RESORT, 1948
 Bena, Minnesota
 from the maps of the Fire Underwriters Inspection Bureau
 Minneapolis, Minnesota