

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

received **AUG 5 1985**
SEP 5 1985
date entered

**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 Charles A. Weyerhaeuser and Richard Drew Musser Houses

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Highland Avenue, north of 6th Avenue Southeast N/A not for publication

city, town Little Falls vicinity of N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Morrison code 097

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Laura J. Musser, c/o 1st National Bank of Minneapolis

street & number 120 South 6th Street, P.O. Box A700

city, town Minneapolis vicinity of N/A state Minnesota 55480

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Morrison County Courthouse

street & number 2nd Street Southeast at Broadway

city, town Little Falls state Minnesota 56345

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society
Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Weyerhaeuser and Musser Houses occupy a wooded site along the Mississippi River, approximately one-half mile south of the commercial center of Little Falls. The site extends from the river, on the west, to 1st Street Southeast, on the east. 6th Avenue Southeast forms the southern boundary of the site. To the north is an oxbow of the Mississippi River and, near 1st Street, the Burton - Rosenmeier House.

Both houses are placed alongside an entry drive which forms an extension to Highland Avenue. The houses lie at the top of a bank that drops down to a level plain adjacent to the river. A garage and service building is located at the southern end of this area, which also contains a playhouse, gazebo, and several vine-covered trellises. Sited on the bank adjoining the oxbow is a carriage house, which contains living quarters on its upper floor. In front of the houses, a lawn extends out to 1st Street. A pool, enclosed by a screened pavillion, is placed near the center of this lawn. A tennis court is adjacent to the pool.

All ground area well-tended, and are planted with a variety of shrubs and flowers. Trees were planted over the entire site to provide a forest-like setting.

Both the Weyerhaeuser and Musser Houses were built in the Shingle Style. The houses were relatively compact in 1898; neither Weyerhaeuser nor Musser were yet married. Each has been enlarged, but the additions that were made have been in keeping with the materials, styling, and proportions of the original houses.

Similar materials are used on both houses. Exterior walls are clad primarily with shingles. The shingles are bellcast at the bottom of the second floor so that the floor line becomes clearly defined. Both are of wood-frame construction, and have two stories, large attics, and full basements, which are raised so that the main living rooms on the first floor are several feet above ground level. The buildings differ in plan, and in several of their details.

The Weyerhaeuser House lies to the south of the Musser House. The main body of the house is rectangular. A front porch, originally open but now enclosed with glass panels, lies in front of a bay that projects out at the center of the main facade. Beside this entry is a smaller projecting bay that encloses the main stair. Both bays and the porch have gabled roofs, while the main body of the house is covered with a hipped roof. The house was extended to the north and south about 1910, with a sun room being constructed on the south side and a music room on the north. These extensions replicate the shingle siding, stone foundations, and the roof and dormer configurations of the original house.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1898

Builder/Architect A. D. Harrison, builder.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The adjoining houses of Charles A. Weyerhaeuser and Richard Drew Musser are a direct physical manifestation of the lumbering era in Minnesota, a time when a small group of powerful individuals, responding to expanding market conditions and technological advances, could gain control of and develop vast supplies of rich, virgin resources. These two men, sons of lumber magnates Frederick Weyerhaeuser and Peter Musser, managed the processing facilities established in 1891 by the Pine Tree Lumber Company, the organization formed to further the interests of the Weyerhaeusers, Mussers, and others in developing the timber resources of northern Minnesota.

As the frontier of available timber resources progressed northward, the forest covered lands of central and northern Minnesota became an important component for the continuing operations of any lumber organization. The Pine Tree Lumber Company, formed to develop these resources, established mills and other processing facilities in Little Falls in 1891. Charles Weyerhaeuser and Richard Drew Musser were selected to direct the operations at this site.

These two men had known each other since their childhood days in Iowa. In the early years of the company, Musser, as Secretary, was in charge of the office and sales. Weyerhaeuser, as General manager, handled the logging, sorting, and milling affairs of the plant. The two worked well together. Musser later wrote to F.E. Weyerhaeuser, "The thought that your father and my father had in mind was to make an investment in timber with which your brother Charlie and I would be connected" (Hidy et al, Timber and Men, p. 106). For the first years of the plant's operation, Weyerhaeuser and Musser lived in rooms in the attic of the company office building. By 1898, the operations of the plant were stable enough so that they could afford to build more permanent living quarters. A site overlooking the Mississippi River was chosen, and the two houses, similar in style and in size, were constructed. Appropriately, wood was extensively used in the houses. A. D. Harrison, of Little Falls, was the contractor for the buildings' construction. Available records do not mention the name of the architect. The site was thickly planted with deciduous and evergreen trees. Today these mature trees provide a forest like setting for the houses.

Weyerhaeuser and Musser were both married following the construction of their homes. With growing space need for raising children and for entertaining, it was soon necessary to expand the houses. The additions, made between 1910 and 1930, conceal much of the original fabric of the houses, but were executed to maintain the houses' original style and detailing, so that today, it is virtually impossible to detect that any changes or additions have occurred.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9 acres

Quadrangle name Little Falls East, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	9	4	1	8	0	5	0	9	1	5	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas L. Jenkinson and Norene Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc. date March 20, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55410

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

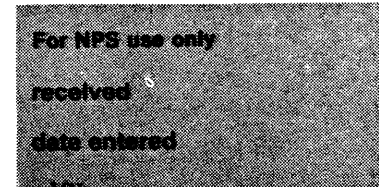
title Russell W. Fridley date 7/11/85
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Melrose Byers Entered in the date 9/5/85
Keeper of the National Register National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Charles A. Weyerhaeuser & Richard Drew Musser Houses, Little Falls, MN

Continuation sheet

Description, cont'd.

Item number 7

Page 1

The Musser House, like the Weyerhaeuser house, has a front entry porch projecting from the front of the main body of the house. Its exterior differs from its neighbor in that clapboards, rather than shingles, are used to clad the first floor exterior walls. Its roof is hipped, as are the tops of the dormers at attic level. The porch, originally open but now screened, has squared piers and hammer beam supports for the framing above. By 1930, several additions had been completed which made the house several times its original size. These additions were executed in a manner in keeping with the original styling and detailing of the house. The porch was enlarged to wrap around the north side of the entry bay. Rooms were added above the porch, and on wings extending from the south and west sides of the house. The windows in both houses have double hung sash which contain upper lights that are divided by diagonal mullions.

Outbuildings on the site include the Musser carriage house, a large garage and service building, a playhouse, a kindergarden, and the pool pavilion. The carriage house, square in plan, contains two stories and a basement, and is covered by a pyramidal roof. The garage, connected to the service building by an enclosed passage, is undistinguished. Both parts are rectangular in form and are covered with simple gabled roofs. The kindergarden is located on the bank adjacent to the entrance to the site. This building is rectangular and contains a single room. It is built out over the slope, and a bay window on its west facade provides a view of the river. The pool, on the front lawn, is of post and beam construction, and has a low-sloping gabled roof and screened panels at its sides. Dressing rooms are located in enclosed sections along the north wall.

Minor structures on the grounds include a small playhouse, which has two swinging chairs beneath the roof of its front porch, and an screen enclosed, octagonal gazebo, which has rustic timber columns. Vine-covered trellises are placed in planted gardens below the Musser House, adjacent to the carriage house, and at several points in the front yard. A six foot high chain link fence currently surrounds the site.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Charles A. Weyerhaeuser & Richard Drew Musser Houses, Little Falls, MN

Continuation sheet Significance, cont'd. Item number 8

Page 2

As the timber resources of northern Minnesota grew scarce, the milling operations of the Pine Tree Lumber Company were discontinued. By 1919, the last year of the Little Falls plant's production, both Weyerhaeuser and Musser had become involved in other activities. Weyerhaeuser, who had been involved in the Idaho operations of the lumber families from an early date, had become president of the Potlatch Lumber Company in 1903. Musser headed the Morrison County Lumber Company, the retail branch of the Pine Tree that had been established in 1907. Weyerhaeuser became president of the Pine Tree in 1913, but retained his position as general manager while the processing facilities were still in operation.

As the operations in Little Falls came to an end, Weyerhaeuser relocated to St Paul, and directed the affairs of the companies in which he had interests from his home there. Musser remained in Little Falls, involved in the local retail operations and other family interests.

Following the move of Weyerhaeuser, his house was occasionally rented to officers and employees of local firms with which Musser was associated. The Weyerhaeuser house is currently occupied by Laura Jane Musser, Richard Drew's daughter. Since his death in 1958 the Musser House has been vacant. Both houses, and their surrounding grounds, have been well-maintained, being attended to by a resident, professional staff.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Charles A. Weyerhaeuser & Richard Drew Musser Houses, Little Falls, MN
Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9

Page 3

Hidy, Ralph W., Frank Earnest Hill and Allan Nevins. Timber and Men:
The Weyerhaeuser Story. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1963.

Larson, Agnes. The White Pine Industry in Minnesota. Minneapolis:
University of Minnesota Press, 1949.

Musser, Laura Jane. Interview, July 13, 1984.

Nichols' Headlight: Souvenir of Little Falls and Morrison County.
Chicago: C.S. Nichols, 1899.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Charles A. Weyerhaeuser & Richard Drew Musser Houses, Little Falls, MN

Continuation sheet Boundary Description Item number 10 Page 4

Beginning at a point at the southeast corner of Lot 1, Subdivision to the Mississippi Addition, at an angle 10 degrees north of due west westerly 244 feet 6 inches, thence north 50 degrees northwesterly about 80 feet to a point on the shoreline of an inlet from the Mississippi River, thence along this shoreline in a northwesterly direction to its intersection with the Mississippi River, thence in a southwesterly direction along this shoreline to the southern boundary line of Section 7, Township 40 North in Range 32 West, thence due east along this line to the section line, thence along the southern boundary line of Section 8, Township 40 North in Range 32 West due east 440 feet, to a point lying along 1st Street Southeast, thence north along 1st Street Southeast at an angle 10 degrees east of due north 210 feet to the point of beginning.