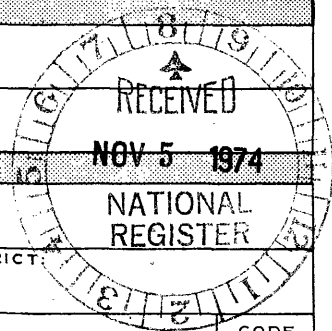


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	St. Louis
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 11 1976



1. NAME

COMMON: Kettle Falls Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC: Kettle Falls Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: E of Ray at Hamakoma Lake
Section 33, T70N, R48W

CITY OR TOWN: Ray Minn. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eighth

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: St. Louis CODE: 137

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Charles Williams

STREET AND NUMBER: 622 - 12th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: International Falls STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: St. Louis County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Ely STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 9/6/74 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: St. Louis

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 11 1976

DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kettle Falls Hotel is a simple two-storey frame structure constructed in an "L" plan. It retains its original configuration with the exception of a lean-to addition to the east facade.

The south facade forms the principle orientation of the building to the site and is approached from the landing dock two hundred yards south on the river. This facade is marked by a one-storey screened verandah which runs the entire length of the building. No ornamentation is used. Original cedar shingle roof has been replaced with asphalt roofing.

Through the years as the building settled and freezing and thawing occurred, bowing and sagging gave it a look of impermanence. In reality it remains structurally sound. Much of the settling occurred in the first years after construction and the result has added an unique feature to the site which no one wants to change.

A bar-room retaining fixtures and pictures of the 1920s is located at the west end of the first floor and leads to a storeroom which is part of the "L" to the north. The lobby is next to the bar-room and near the main entrance. The stairway to the second floor is located in the southeast corner next to the lobby door. All furniture, except for a hanging gas heater and TV set are of the 1920-1930 era.

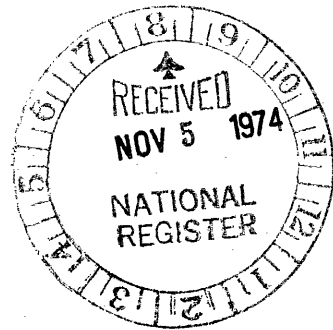
The dining room and kitchen are at the east end. Pantries are located at the north end of the kitchen. The lean-to addition houses some kitchen equipment and serves as storage space.

Originally eighteen sleeping rooms were provided for guests each containing two small beds. Two of the rooms have been converted to bath facilities; one for each sex.

Two small buildings near the hotel are used for storage and to house a generator. Also one modern storage building has been erected at the landing dock for storage.

The site is within the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park. It will be purchased, according to Myrl Brooks, NPS, Voyageurs National Park, International Falls in five or six years. It will be managed, if preserved, by NPS or leased to the present owners who would carry on the family tradition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1913**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>Recreation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of the Kettle Falls Hotel came in 1913, a year after E.W. Backes had completed the erection of two dams; one on the American side another on the Canadian side, where the waters from Lake Kabetogama and Namakon Lake flow into Rainy Lake through the Kettle River. Level of the waters in the International Lake area that forms the boundary between Canada and the United States are determined at these two strategically located dams. Kettle Falls on the American side and Squirrel Falls on the Canadian side prevent boats from passing between the lakes. An International Joint Commission sets the policy of operation.

The hotel was built by Ed Rose to provide accommodation and meals for the waterway travellers, commercial fishermen, buyers and the recreational fishermen and hunters. It was purchased by Robert S. Williams in 1918 and remains a family operation. Michael Williams and his parents, Charles and Blanche Williams continue the tradition established by Robert.

Fifty commercial fishermen from 1913-1920 operating fish camps in the area sold their 70 lbs. ice boxed catches to bidders from scores of major U.S. cities at the dock operated by the hotel owners just below the falls/dam. 5000 boxes of fish a week passed over the portage at the peak of the commercial fishing operations. And it wasn't unusual for 300 people to gather at the site in one day.

Freight brought overland from Ely, Minnesota to Crane Lake was moved by steamboat to Kettle Falls, portaged around the falls, reloaded on to boats from the trip across Lake Kabetogama and thence by rail to International Falls and Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mining equipment used in the unsuccessful and brief gold rush in the late 19th century reached its destination via the Kettle Falls portage.

A highway from Orr to International Falls made transportation of the fish by that route quicker and the use of the hotel dock for this purpose waned. Commercial fishing operations showed a marked decline shortly after the 1920s and was/is confined to licensed Indians.

Lumberjacks invaded the area in the second decade of the 20th century and until 1937 the hotel became a favorite spot for the woodsmen. The last tow of logs, according to Charles Williams, passed in 1937 and the last virgin timber was cut in 1965.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kettle Falls Hotel Register
 Charles and Michael Williams Recollections

151
 526620
 HF

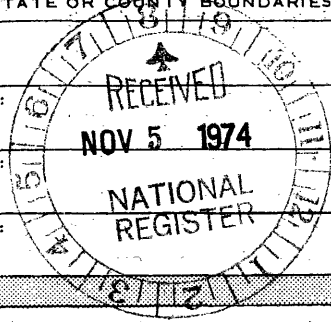
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		48° 30' 11"	92° 38' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Henry M. Harren, Survey Analyst

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **28 October 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: October 31, 1974

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

ACTIVE
[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/11/76

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12/31/75

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY St. Louis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 11 1976

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Situated in a strategic area accessible only by boat or air travel the hotel provided from May through November liquid refreshments, home cooked meals, and sleeping accommodations for the fishermen, buyers, lumberjacks, and tourists. As in any frontier settlement there were periods when girls made themselves available.

During the gold rush of the late 19th century prospectors used the hotel as headquarters as they searched the Kabetogama Peninsula and surrounding land area for all types of minerals especially gold and iron ore.

Sport fishermen after walleyes and northern pike in this wilderness area through the years have purchased two licenses as they made their casts in the International waters. To Kettle Falls they have always come to make the portage that leads from one large beautiful lake to a second and a third and hundreds of smaller lakes on both sides of the border. And there are some who come for a few days away from the auto, blacktop, brick and mortar, hurried pace of the Metropolitan scene.

The wilderness setting of the Kettle Falls Hotel in the 1970s leads one to think it was always that way. A visit to the site where the interior walls are covered with pictures depicting a once busy commercial operation gives a person a part of history not found in textbooks.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Kettle Falls Hotel in St. Louis
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 76000210

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: St. Louis

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Island View

ADDRESS: Kettle Channel in Voyageurs National Park

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date