

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received JUL 29 1985
date entered AUG 29 1985

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 Cloquet-Northern Office Building
and/or common Potlatch Northwest Paper Division General Offices

2. Location

street & number Avenue C and Arch Street N/A not for publication
city, town Cloquet N/A vicinity of
state Minnesota code 22 county Carlton code 017

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Potlatch Corporation
street & number Avenue C and Arch Street
city, town Cloquet N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carlton County Courthouse
street & number 3rd Street and Walnut Avenue
city, town Carlton state Minnesota

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 State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center
city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

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	N/A
<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 Cloquet-Northern Office Building, completed in 1919, is located in the heart of the west end of the Cloquet business district. The building occupies the end of a city block and is located on the northwest corner of Avenue C and Arch Street. It is surrounded by contemporary business structures all built immediately after the Northeastern Minnesota fire of October 12, 1918 burned the city of Cloquet.

The building is a rectangular structure built of brick trimmed with white Bedford cut stone, a prevalent combination used in post fire construction of public, educational and commercial buildings in Cloquet, Minnesota. The structure is two stories high with double hung windows. A stone cornice embellishes the facades of the building facing Arch Street and Avenue C. On the Arch Street facade, where the First National Bank occupied space, four fluted Doric pilasters rise the full height of the structure. The lettering "First National Bank" was originally engraved in a stone frieze above the pilasters. It has been removed.

Originally the Avenue C sections of the ground floor housed the offices of the Cloquet Lumber Co., the St. Louis River Mercantile Co., and the Duluth & Northeastern Railroad Co. John C. Campbell, in charge of logging and woods operation of the local lumber companies also had an office on the first floor. The space occupied by these offices was 60' by 100'. A stairway from the Avenue C entrance led up to the second floor. The Northwest Paper Co. and its subsidiary the Cloquet Tie & Post Co. occupied 6000 square feet of floor space. The Northern Lumber Co. occupied a space 50' by 48'. The basement, 60' by 100', contained the heating plant and fuel rooms and fire-proof storage vaults. Each office was provided with a steel and concrete vault located in the basement. The interior was furnished with hardwood paneling and with glass partitions separating various offices. Each office had a large accounting room and private offices of department heads of different companies.

The First National Bank was housed on the east end of the building, occupying floor space of 48' by 54'. The front entrance for this area was on Arch Street. The interior finish was marble and mahogany. Cages for cashiers and tellers were steel construction. Interior space included a spacious lobby and banking room, a private officers room and officers quarters. Two vaults were installed -- one 8' by 22' for general banking business and safety deposit and one, 6.5' by 22', for use of book storage.

The windows and entrances of the building have been altered. Original double hung windows have been replaced with smaller windows and some window space on the first level has been filled in. On the Avenue C facade one of the original entrances two entrances has been replaced by windows. The original main entrance to the First National Bank on Arch Street has also been replaced by windows. Two brick appendages were added to the office building in recent years to accommodate the space now occupied by the Potlatch Northwest Paper Division General Offices.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1919 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cloquet-Northern Office Building, completed in 1919, is historically significant as the location of the offices of the early core of Cloquet's chief industries, owned principally by the Weyerhaeuser family. The Cloquet-Northern Office Building also housed the First National Bank, one of the major banking institutions in the surrounding area. The structure was the largest business building constructed in Cloquet after the Northeastern Fire of October 12, 1918 destroyed the city of Cloquet.

The Cloquet-Northern Office Building was constructed during the early spring and summer months of 1919. On October 12, 1918 a fire destroyed the majority of settlements in Carlton and southern St. Louis Counties. Numerous factors contributed to the intensity of the range of this inferno. The area was experiencing an extensive drought, the driest in forty-eight years. Numerous small peat bog fires, high winds, and carelessness of trains and campers ignited several larger fires that merged to form a wide front. Lack of a large enough force of men trained in fire prevention contributed to the devastating results of the fire. The city of Cloquet was burned except for three of five sawmills, the pulp and paper company, a school, several residences and saloons. The rebuilding of the town began immediately with the Cloquet-Northern Office Building completed the next summer.

The building was occupied by the offices of the Cloquet Lumber Co., the Northern Lumber Co., the Northwest Paper Co., the St. Louis River Mercantile Co., the Duluth & Northeastern Railroad Co., the Cloquet Tie & Post Co., and the Knife Falls Boom Co.

The first sawmill site at Cloquet was built during 1878-1879 by Charles D. Harwood. It later became Knife Falls Lumber Co. In 1883 the name was changed to Renwick, Shaw, and Crossett after being purchased by the three businessmen and Frederick Weyerhaeuser. In 1886 the name changed one more time to the Cloquet Lumber Co. After George Shaw's death in 1897, Frederick Weyerhaeuser became the president and general manager of the Cloquet Lumber Co.

In 1896 Frederick Weyerhaeuser and other associates formed the Northern Lumber Co. to acquire the holdings of C.N. Nelson, another important lumberman with mills on the river. In the fall of 1896 Rudolph Weyerhaeuser, Frederick's second son, moved to Cloquet to take over the management of the Northern Lumber Co. Both companies, the Cloquet and Northern Lumber were interests of the Weyerhaeusers, processing enormous amounts of white pine on the St. Louis River.

In 1898 another type of wood processing plant formed. In the spring of that year C.J. McNair, R.D. Mussen, and Charles Weyerhaeuser met with Rudolph Weyerhaeuser in Cloquet. They decided to build a pulp and paper mill on the St. Louis River. Named the Northwest Paper Co., it began as a newspaper print producer and later produced high quality grade paper. (continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cloquet Pine Knot, October 12, 1919.

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

King, Frank A. Minnesota Logging Railroads. San Marino: Golden West Books, 1981.
See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Cloquet Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	5	4	0	9	2	0	5	1	7	4	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 & 2 and 11 & 12, Block 20, Original Plat City of Cloquet

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 Liz Holum -Field Assistant

organization State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society

date December 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

7/5/85

For NPS use only

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

for Allison Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/29/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In 1903 the St. Louis River Logging Co. was formed by the Cloquet and Northern Lumber Companies. It scaled logs at both river landings just before their arrival in Cloquet and then supervised the distribution. In 1905 the company was renamed the St. Louis River Mercantile Co.

At this same time the Cloquet Tie & Post Co., a subsidiary of the Northwest Paper Co. was set up to help in log production by dealing with trees the main companies were unable to handle. Cedar and tamarack were not highly regarded by white pine loggers. The demand for tamarack ties and cedar posts was supplied by this company and it proved to be quite profitable.

Another company housed in the Cloquet-Northern Office Building was formed in 1871 as the Knife Falls Boom Co. This company carried out the planning of logging stumpage and driving the cut down the St. Louis River and marketing it in Duluth. The company was part of the C.N. Nelson properties bought by Weyerhaeuser interests in 1896.

The Duluth & Northeastern Railway Co., founded in 1898, was surveyed extensively by Weyerhaeuser interests as a suitable railroad for logging purposes. In 1899 the Cloquet Lumber Co. acquired a two-thirds interest in the Duluth and Logging Contracting Co. which had the lease to the Duluth & Northeastern Railroad and the logging contract. By April, 1904, a new line had been completed from Rush Lake to the St. Louis River at Cloquet. The Northern Lumber Co. acquired fifty percent interest in the railroad that year. Subsequently the railroad was owned by both lumber companies. Large tracts of land were widely scattered with trees and remote from good driving streams which made the use of a railroad imperative.

The First National Bank was also housed in the Cloquet-Northern Office Building. The institution began as a private bank by Prince, Sheldon & Co. established in 1888. In 1896 it was incorporated under state law as the Merchants Bank of Cloquet. In 1896 Rudolph M. Weyerhaeuser became the president of the bank. In 1900 the bank was reincorporated and received a charter as the First National Bank of Cloquet. Before the fire the bank was housed in rooms in the Nelson Block on Arch Street. After the fire, temporary quarters were set up near the intact vault in a rough board shack while the new building was being completed.

The Northern Lumber Co. mills ceased operation in 1919 and in 1927 the Cloquet Lumber Co. ceased operations. With the decline of lumber milling Rudolph Weyerhaeuser suggested, in 1929, all operations of all companies be combined and the Northwest Paper Co. took over the property of the others. Also in 1929 the

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control of the Duluth & Northeastern passed to the Northwest Paper Co. Today's Northwest Paper Division of Potlatch, Corp. comprises a complete pulp and paper agency with two mills producing fine grades of coated and uncoated printing and business papers.

The Cloquet-Northern Lumber Office Building was the largest office building in the post-fire building boom in Cloquet. Founders of the companies housed there were lumbermen who sought ways of utilizing trees that were not suitable for lumber to manufacture building products and who established several new businesses to take the place of lumber mills. The office building held an array of influential businesses, controlling the economy of Cloquet during a crucial period in its development.

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Bibliography: continued

"A Brief History: Potlatch in Minnesota." Potlatch Times. Vol. 11, No. 6,
December 1983.