

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000139

Date Listed: 3/2/89

Flint Creek Farm Historic District
Property Name

St. Louis
County

MN
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

5/17/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

"Lumbering," listed as an area of significance, falls under the broader category of "industry" in Bulletin 16's list of areas of significance. Therefore, the two areas of significance are agriculture and industry.

This information was verified by Susan Roth of the MN SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 30 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Flint Creek Farm Historic District
other names/site number Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company Summer Farm

2. Location

street & number Off MN. Hwy. 1 not for publication N/A
city, town Field Twp. Cook vicinity
state Minnesota code MN county St. Louis code 137 zip code 55723

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Nina M. Archabal 1/23/89
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Alvina Byers Entered in the National Register 3/2/89

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single DwellingAGRICULTURE/Storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single DwellingAGRICULTURE/Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete Blockwalls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt Shingleother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Flint Creek Farm Historic District is a group of frame buildings and a windmill tower located on a working farm in the southeast quarter of Section 7, T62N R19W. By road, the property is on the north side of MN Highway 1 approximately 3/4 mile east of the intersection of MN Highway 1 and 481, about 1/2 mile north and 5 1/2 miles west of the city of Cook.

This nomination consists of three contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and two noncontributing buildings.

The relationship between these buildings and the other buildings on the farm is a fortunate one. As you turn off MN Highway 1 onto the property, the driveway separates the old Flint Creek Farm buildings, which are east of the driveway, from the rest of the farm's buildings, which are west of the driveway. As a consequence, the historic buildings stand together and form a small unit of cohesive historic character even though the site has a good many later farm buildings.

The three contributing buildings are two houses (one of which was used to house the farmhands and one for visiting company managers), and a small warehouse which sits behind the houses. The contributing structure is the old windmill tower. The two noncontributing buildings are garages, one of which is contiguous to the contributing buildings and one which is across the driveway to the west (see sketch map).

1) FARMHANDS HOUSE

The Farmhands House, which sits beside the driveway on its east side, was built ca.1910-1915. It is a front gable frame house with a glazed porch on the front. The front facade faces south. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has a faced poured concrete foundation and a basement. The glazed porch on the south sits on piers rather than a foundation. The porch has a shed-type roof covered with asphalt shingles. Around 1980 the house was re-sided with 8" masonite siding, and a small back porch was added on the north. At the same time the west windows of the house were changed to metal windows covered with metal storm windows. The rest of the windows in the house are original wood sash. The windows in the glazed porch are original. The house is in excellent condition. The original use of this house was to lodge farmhands, while the Managers House was used as temporary quarters for visiting Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company managers.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

LUMBERING

Period of Significance

1915-1933

Significant Dates

1915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Cusson, Samuel J.; Rogers, Chester H.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Flint Creek Farm Historic District is significant within the historical context of Northern Minnesota Logging and Lumbering. It is only the second summer farm identified with a major lumber company in Minnesota being nominated to the National Register (the other is the Bronson Farm near Mora in Kanabec County, owned by Isaac Staples, a Stillwater, Minnesota lumberman who operated his farm during the 1880s and 1890s). This farm produced hay and some feed for the livestock used in lumbering and supplied large quantities of root-crops, and, by some accounts, a vegetable garden to feed lumber employees in the woods during winter lumbering operations. It is the only summer farm identified in northern St. Louis County associated with the county's major lumber company (or any lumber company in the northern part of the county): the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company. Its period of significance is 1915-1933. Only three buildings and one structure remain from the mid-'teens on Flint Creek Farm: two houses (one for the farmhands and the other for the visiting company managers), a small warehouse, and an old windmill tower. These buildings are also associated historically with two important men in the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company: Samuel J. Cusson and Chester H. Rogers, who owned and operated the farm from 1916-1933 as a private venture aside from their jobs in the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company.

The summer farm was a patchwork of discreet parcels from the beginning. Only the parcel containing the nominated buildings is being nominated. The Abstract of Title indicates that Samuel J. Cusson and Chester H. Rogers obtained a Warranty Deed on an adjacent parcel on August 21, 1915 (Lot 3 of Section 12 and the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 7, T62N R19W) and used this land until Samuel Cusson died on May 15, 1919. As to the nominated property in the SE 1/4 of Section 7, Rogers and Cusson bought this property from the original government patent holder in 1915. This is the date presumed to be the time of erection of the nominated buildings. Cusson willed a portion of this property to Rogers in 1919 when he died and Rogers retained a partial ownership by virtue of a contract for deed (with Cusson's heirs) until April 28, 1933, when Rogers died. In addition, Cusson and Rogers owned a parcel in the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 18 T62N R19W from 1917 until Rogers died in 1933. Altogether, the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title, in possession of owner, Walter Enzmann.

Aguar, Charles E. Exploring St. Louis County's Historical Sites. (Duluth: Aguar Jyring Whiteman Moser, Inc., 1971) pp. 35, 51, 52.

Daily Virginian. May 16, and May 19, 1919, p. 1.

Duluth Herald. April 29, 1933, p. 10.

Personal communication with Edward Nelson, archivist, Iron Range Historical Society, 1987.

Personal communication with Walter and Sophie Enzmann, 1987.

Virginia Daily Enterprise. April 29, 1933, pp. 1, 4.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 1.3 acres

UTM References

A 1,5 5,1,4,2,2,0 5,3,0,0,8,8,0
Zone Easting Northing

C 1,5 5,1,4,3,0,0 5,3,0,0,8,1,0

B 1,5 5,1,4,3,0,0 5,3,0,0,8,8,0
Zone Easting Northing

D 1,5 5,1,4,2,2,0 5,3,0,0,8,1,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A 15 514220 5300880, B 15 514300 5300880, C.15 514300 5300810, D 15 514220 5300810, Linden Grove, MN Quad. Photorevised 1986.

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to as to include the historic buildings associated with the old Flint Creek Farm which stand together and form a small cohesive unit on the east side of the driveway from the later buildings on the farm on the west side of the driveway.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Drs. Joe and Norene Roberts

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city or town Minneapolis

date November 4, 1987

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state MN zip code 55445

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2) Managers House

The Managers House, built ca.1910-1915, sits approximately 40 feet east of the Farmhands House. The front facades of the two houses are set back the same distance from the road. The Managers House is a gable roofed frame building sheathed in wood lap siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. On the south (front) facade of the building is a shed roof screened porch. The porch roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete block, added in 1957 when the house was raised, a basement dug, and the concrete block foundation put in. A fireplace was removed from the west wall of the building at the same time. The part of the wall where the fireplace had been was re-sheathed in the same siding, so that the outside wall looks completely original. The building's windows are original. For the last 50 years, the occupants of the house have used the rear entry as the main entry. The building is in excellent condition.

3) Windmill Tower

Erected ca.1910-1915, the windmill tower sits approximately 30' north of the Farmhands House. The tower is constructed of angle iron, with a circular wooden platform at the top. The platform has boards missing. The windmill machinery has been removed and replaced by a television antenna. At the ground level, the old windmill-powered pump has been replaced by electric well machinery enclosed in a small wood-sheathed frame enclosure. Since the windmill tower is part of the original Virginia and Rainy Lake complex, it is a contributing structure. The structure is in good condition.

4) Warehouse

The Warehouse, built ca.1910-1915, is a small, shiplap-sided frame building with a gable roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. This building originally sat approximately 10' north of the Farmhands House. Around 1940, it was moved to its present location approximately 40' north of the Farmhands House and placed on a new poured concrete foundation. Its windows are original, and the building is in excellent condition.

5) Garage

To the north behind the Managers House is a noncontributing garage built ca. 1940. It is a frame, shiplap-sided structure with a gable roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building sits on a concrete slab, and is in good condition.

6) Garage

To the west of the Farmhands House and across the driveway is a noncontributing building that is quite interesting in its own right. This garage was moved to its present site from the CCC camp at Cusson around 1940. It was either part of the original Virginia and Rainy Lake company town at Cusson (ca.1910-1915) or a later construction from the 1930s put up by the CCC itself. The garage is a frame building on a concrete foundation. It has a gable roof, and wood siding. Since it was moved here after the period of significance, it is noncontributing.

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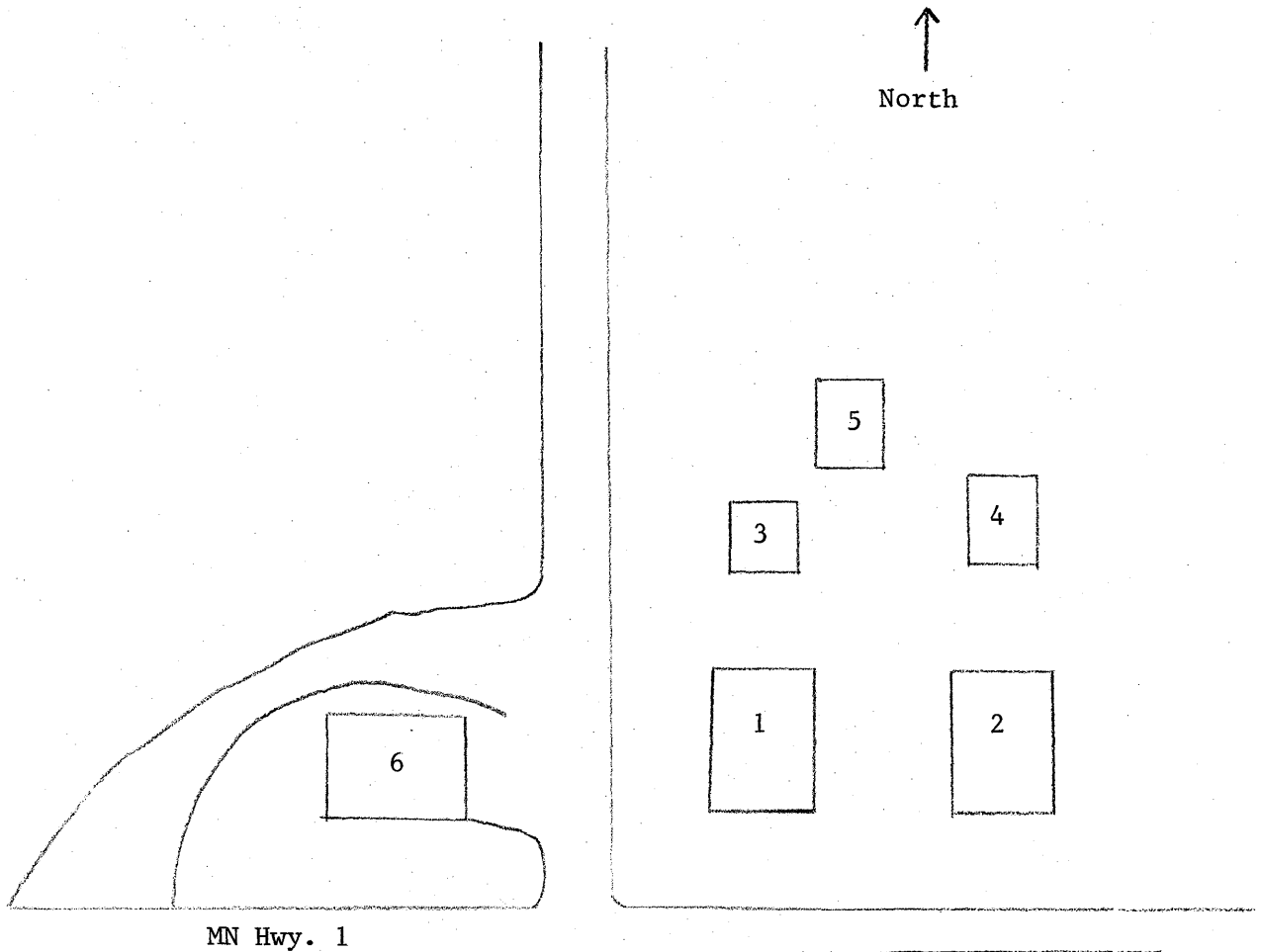
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Vicinity of Cook, MN SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 7 T62N R19W

MAP NOT TO SCALE

- 1) Farmhands House Contributing
- 2) Managers House Contributing
- 3) Windmill Tower Contributing
- 4) Warehouse Contributing
- 5) Garage Noncontributing
- 6) Garage Noncontributing



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two men owned considerable holdings for this farm during the years 1915-1933.

According to obituaries in the Duluth Herald and the Virginia Daily Enterprise, Chester H. Rogers was born on December 2, 1866 in Menomonie, Wisconsin. His father, an important lumberman in Wisconsin, was associated with Frederick Weyerhaeuser in Hayward, Wisconsin. Chester went to work for Weyerhaeuser at the age of 12, moved to the Weyerhaeuser operations at Little Falls, Minnesota, and then moved to Scanlon, MN. In 1909, Rogers became the general superintendent of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Company mill in Virginia. He retired from active work for the company in 1930 and died on April 28, 1933. At the time of his death, Rogers was a member of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, a director on the board of the State Bank of Virginia, and a leading businessman in the city of Virginia.

Samuel J. Cusson was initially a cruiser for the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Co. when it founded its headquarters at the village of Cusson, named in his honor, in 1909. Until 1929, the village of Cusson was the headquarters of the company operations. For 20 years the company cut white pine in some 32 townships in northern St. Louis County and had as many as 5,000 woodsmen employed at one time. It is estimated that some 4 million board feet was cut by the company during these two decades, including unknown quantities of railroad ties, pulpwood, and cedar products. According to the obituary in The Daily Virginian, Cusson was only 57 when he died and was the active general manager of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Company. At that time, the company was the largest white pine manufacturer in the world. The Cusson family had lived in Virginia for 11 years (or since 1908) when Cusson died on May 15, 1919, and both Mr. Cusson and his wife were civic and social leaders in Virginia.

Now to the summer farm: Apparently, Cusson and Rogers bought land in T62N R19W between 1915 and 1917 as a side operation, accumulating some large holdings of land for the summer farm. The land which the nominated buildings sit on today was acquired by the two men on March 31, 1915. The Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company never actually owned this land or the farm operation. Cusson and Rogers seem to have operated the farm as entrepreneurs "on the side," because the company is not listed in the Abstract of Title. The summer farm is also not listed as part of the operations of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company's camps and headquarters between 1910-1929. In fact most of the company operations during these years were located between 4 and 7 townships directly north of the summer farm. It was strictly a convenience to the lumber company, who supplied the farm hands during the summer months when logging operations were at a near standstill.

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The current owners, Walter and Sophie Enzmann, tell that the farm was known as "The Company Farm" and that the hands who worked there were on the payroll of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Company. It was Walter Enzmann's father, Albert, who bought the farm from Rogers in 1932. This appears to be accurate information, because Albert Enzmann took out a mortgage (in the form of down payment and a contract for deed) from Chester H. Rogers less than a year before Rogers died, according to the Abstract of Title, and the information comes from Enzmann's son, Walter. The farm has been in the Enzmann family since 1932 and is now owned by Walter Enzmann and his wife and son (Albert's son and grandson). The Enzmann information is also substantiated by the Abstract of Title and an early undated photograph (ca.1918) from the Enzmann's, titled "Flint Creek Farm: owners and operators, S.J. Cusson and C.H. Rogers."

Although Chester Rogers and Samuel Cusson lived in the city of Virginia and never inhabited the two farmhouses on the property, one of the two houses was used when company officials, including probably Cusson and Rogers, visited on routine inspections. The farmhands bunked in the other house. There is no known extant information on the nature of the business arrangement which made this farm possible so that two employees of the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company owned and operated the summer farm for the company. In a comprehensive accounting of lumbering camps and operations of the company, this property is not listed. Therefore it was never owned by the company while operated as a company summer camp. The historic photograph from ca.1918 shows a large three-story barn which burned in ca.1930 and which was used to winter horses and livestock. The operation involved growing hay and feed for the livestock used seasonally for the lumbering company's operations. One building, a garage, outside the nominated area, but on the current Enzmann farm, was moved from the townsite of Cusson ca.1940. It was originally a CCC building during the 1930s.