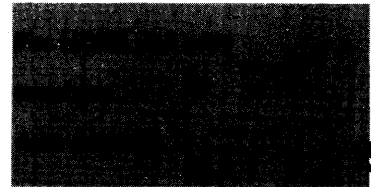


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Winnibigoshish Lake Dam

and/or common "Winnie" Dam

2. Location

SR 9

street & number Itasca County Highway 9 at Mississippi River not for publication

city, town Deer River vicinity of congressional district 8th, 7th

state Minnesota code 22 county Itasca (also in Cass County) code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: dam

4. Owner of Property

name Department of the Army, St. Paul District Corps of Engineers/
United States Department of Agriculture, Chippewa National Forest

street & number 1135 United States Post Office & Custom House/none

city, town St. Paul/Cass Lake vicinity of state Minnesota/Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Itasca County Courthouse/Cass County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Grand Rapids/Walker state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 federal state county local

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

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Winnibigoshish Lake Dam is located on the Mississippi River at the outlet of Winnibigoshish Lake approximately fourteen miles northwest of Deer River. The Winnibigoshish Reservoir is the largest in the Upper Mississippi Reservoir System. It has a capacity of 42.5 billion cubic feet of water and controls the runoff from a 1442 square mile drainage area.

The present concrete structure, constructed in 1899-1900 replaced an experimental rock-filled timber crib dam constructed between 1881 to 1884. The dam consists of an 800' earthen dike with a timber diaphragm core filled with puddled clay. Dike slopes are protected either by sod and stone riprap or concrete slab. The control structure consists of reinforced concrete abutments and five piers resting on timber piles set in clay. The distance between abutments is 162'. Seven bays are situated in the structure -- five 14' sluiceways, each of which is divided into three sections of stop logs, for regulating the reservoir discharge; a 12' log sluice; and a 5' fishway constructed landward of the north abutment in 1912-14. The log sluice and the fishway are no longer in use. The control structure supports a 20' wide highway bridge (County Road 9) constructed in 1934 when an earlier 1909 structure was replaced. The bridge's treated timber deck rests on stringers supported between abutments by six steel bents and one concrete pier.

The original steel tainter gates, log sluice reversed Parker bear trap gate, and operating machinery were removed in 1931. The dam was operated solely by stop logs until 1966 when five stop log bays were fitted with slide gates. The timber aprons were replaced with a concrete agron in 1964-66.

A one story frame dam tender's residence, constructed in 1901, is located a short distance north of the dam.

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 checked="" 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Public Works

Specific dates 1899–1900 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Winnibigoshish Lake Dam is associated with the first and largest reservoir constructed in the regionally significant Upper Mississippi Reservoir System. Proposals for construction of a series of dams in the Mississippi headwaters region to stabilize the Mississippi's erratic flow were advanced as early as 1852. Between 1866 and 1880 Congress and the United States Army Corps of Engineers seriously considered the concept. Surveys were conducted and proposals formulated. An 1870 Corps report, which influenced future policy decisions, recommended that 41 reservoirs be constructed on the Mississippi, St. Croix, Chippewa, and Wisconsin Rivers. The reservoirs were intended to improve navigation between St. Paul and St. Louis during low water periods and, secondarily, to aid in flood control. Water power advocates, particularly Minneapolis millers, enthusiastically endorsed the concept which would result in a constant water flow. (Prominent Minneapolis miller William D. Washburn ardently sponsored creation of a federally-funded reservoir system while a member of Congress from 1879 to 1885. His efforts earned him the title "father of the reservoir system".) In 1880 Congress authorized construction of an experimental dam at Winnibigoshish Lake on the Upper Mississippi River. Funds for three additional dams (Leech Lake - 1884, Pokegama - 1884, and Pine River - 1886)¹ were appropriated during the ensuing decade. Due to the wilderness state of the region, the dams, including the Sandy Lake Dam completed in 1895, were of timber construction. Plans for additional reservoirs in the system were abandoned in the late 1880s and 1890s. In 1898 the Corps decided to replace the deteriorating timber structures with reinforced concrete dams. The Winnibigoshish Dam was the first to be replaced in 1899–1900; the others were replaced between 1903 and 1909. With completion of an additional dam at Gull Lake in 1913, the reservoir system encompassed a watershed of 4535 square miles and had a storage capacity of 94,834,000,000 cubic feet of water. The system's original objective of improving river navigation diminished in the 1930s with completion of the nine-foot channel project and the system of locks and dams. Since the thirties the reservoirs have been regulated primarily for flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, and water supply.

¹All dates are completion dates.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 6
 Quadrangle name Little Winnibigoshish Lake, Minn. Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	1 5	4 2 0 6 7 0	5 2 5 3 1 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet - page 1

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Haidet, Research Historian
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date March 1981
 street & number 240 Summit Avenue telephone 612-296-9075
 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
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/6/81

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Bill Goodwin date 4/1/82
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Judi McClelland date 5/10/82
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Winnibigoshish Lake Dam

CONTINUATION SHEET

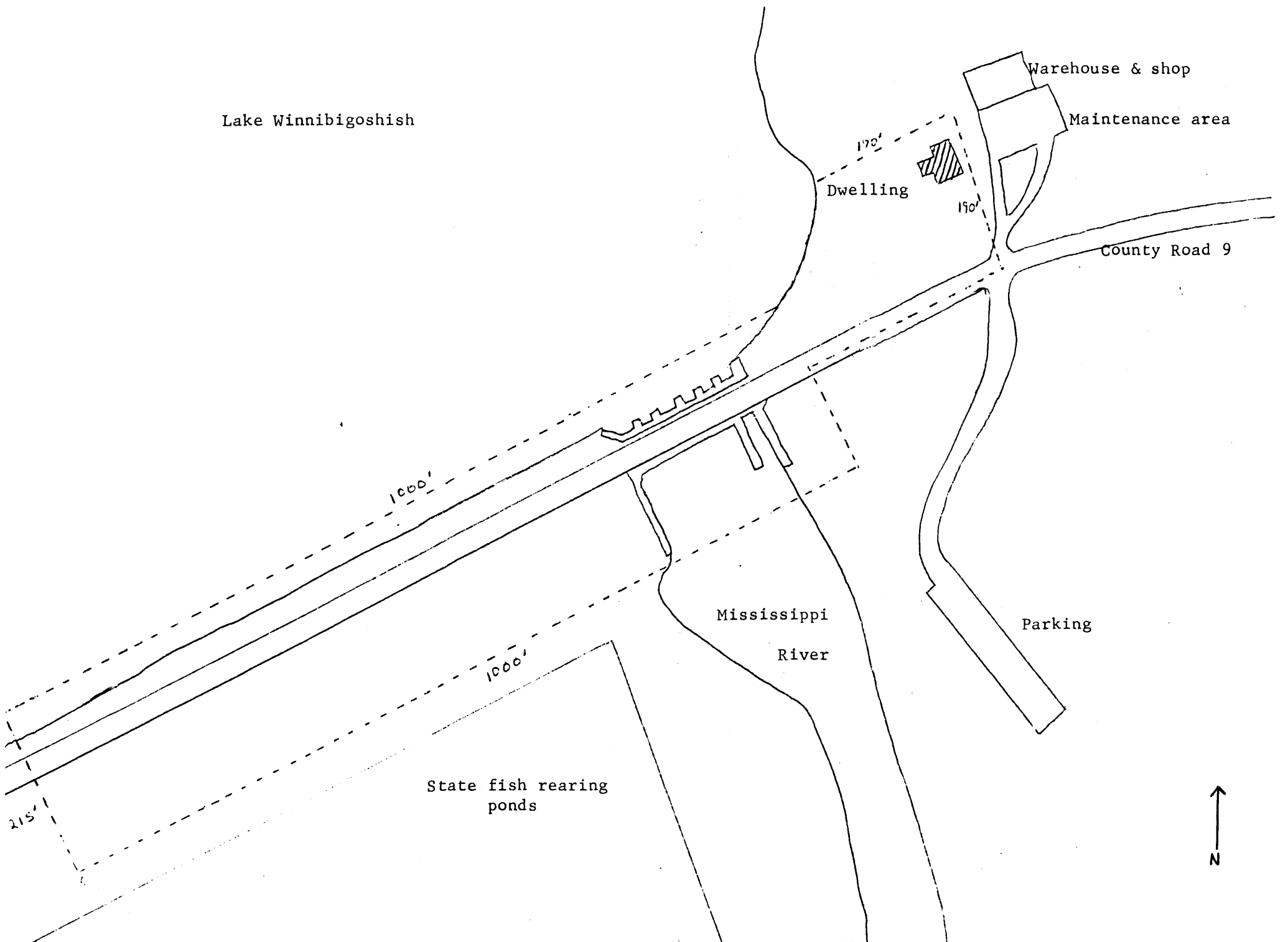
ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

- Merritt, Raymond H. Creativity, Conflict and Controversy: A History of the St. Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1979. pp. 67-80.
- St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Annual Reports, 1869-1980.
- _____. Winnibigoshish Lake Dam files.
- _____. Winnibigoshish Lake Dam maps including copies of the original timber dam construction drawings.

Verbal Boundary Description: (see sketch map)

That part of Section 25 of T146N, R27W described as follows: Beginning at the center of the intersection of County Road 9 and parking-service road northeast of Winnibigoshish Lake Dam, thence northwesterly 190', thence southwesterly approximately 170' to the shoreline of Lake Winnigiboshish, thence southerly along the shoreline to a point 75' northwest of the center line of said County Road, thence southwesterly parallel to said highway 1000', thence southeasterly 215' to a point 140' southeast of the center line of said highway, thence northeasterly parallel to said highway 1000', thence northwesterly 140' to the center line of said highway, thence northeasterly along said center line to point of beginning.

Winnibigoshish Lake Dam Verbal Boundary Description Sketch Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Winnibigoshish Lake Dam in Itasca
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82004629

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Itasca

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Bena

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 9 at Mississippi River

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS: Also located in Cass County

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date