

OMB NO. 1024-0018

EXP. 10/31/84

For NPS use only
received JUL 28 1982
date entered

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Naniboujou Club Lodge

and/or common Naniboujou Lodge

2. Location *E of Grand Marais on US 61*

street & number U.S. Highway 61 N/A not for publication

city, town *Grand Marais vic.* Grand Marais
(Unorganized territory) vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Minnesota code 22 county Cook code 031

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name Christian Corporation, Inc.

street & number 107 4th Street S.W.

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Cook County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Grand Marais state Minnesota 55604

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1973 N/A federal state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-- Fort 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Designed as an exclusive recreational club and constructed according to designs by Duluth architects Holstead and Sullivan, Naniboujou Lodge is located on a wooded site where the Arrowhead River flows into Lake Superior. Erected in 1928-29, the club controlled 3000 acres on the north shore of Lake Superior with direct access to 5200 feet of shoreline. The original scheme called for a clubhouse or main lodge with 150 sleeping rooms, a hunting lodge, cabins, swimming pool, tennis courts and a golf course. The success of the club was greatly over-estimated, resulting in the actual construction of the present, greatly simplified and smaller lodge. Today, property holdings directly associated with the original club are 20 acres.

Naniboujou Lodge is a two story wooden structure which is comprised of east and west wings intersecting at the main lodge or dining section; this central section measures 30' by 80'. Fourteen pairs of French doors provide direct access to the outdoors and a view of the Arrowhead River. The points where the wings meet the main lodge are marked by 'polygonal towers'. The structure has a dormered gambrel roof and is totally sheathed in natural wooden shingles. Windows are multi-paned; large windows with sharply pointed tops are utilized on the second floor of the main lodge section and are positioned directly above the French doors to convey an impression of a two story arcade.

The Lodge as constructed contained 35 rooms, 28 of which are for guest use. These rooms, some of which have now been remodeled, are for the most part very plain, the major emphasis on decoration being relegated to the main dining room. This room is a two-story ceiling space highly embellished with painted polychromatic and geometric patterns. The design is said to have been based upon motifs found in Cree Indian art. The motifs range in pattern from simple zig-zags to a variant on the classic Greek key. The dominant feature of the room is a massive stone fireplace, constructed totally of rounded, water-washed stones arranged in band and circular (ie. flower petal) patterns. The fireplace rises twelve feet and is estimated to weigh 200 tons. Many of the furnishings and the decor of the lodge are original.

Naniboujou Lodge is noted for retention of original design integrity in a good state of preservation. No longer a private club, the lodge continues to function as a recreational/resort facility.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1928-29

Builder/Architect Holstead & Sullivan, Duluth

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Naniboujou Lodge is significant both for its unique design features and as one of northern Minnesota's most elaborately conceived recreational developments. Northern Minnesota's tourist industry flourished between World War I and the Great Depression. Resorts, platted recreational communities, individual lakeshore cottages, seasonal estates and private recreational clubs were developed throughout the region. Lake Superior's scenic North Shore was opened to recreational development in the mid-1920s following completion of the North Shore highway. Formed in 1927 by a group of 31 Duluth businessmen, the club was designed as a retreat for America's wealthy elite. The Naniboujou Holding Company purchased 3000 acres on Lake Superior at the mouth of the Brule (Arrowhead) River and obtained an option to purchase 8000 acres of wilderness near the Canadian border. Club founders envisioned a membership of 3300 and stipulated that no more than 25% of the members could be Minnesota residents. The club architects, Holstead and Sullivan of Duluth, designed plans for a clubhouse with 150 sleeping rooms, a rustic hunting lodge on McFarland Lake, and elaborate grounds which included cabin sites, a swimming pool, tennis courts and an eighteen hole golf course. While several prominent Americans joined the exclusive club, the membership drive was not as successful as anticipated. When the club opened a simplified version of the originally-designed clubhouse (35 rooms) in July 1929, only 750 memberships had been sold. The Great Depression sealed the club's fate. In 1932 the club, faced with a declining membership and poor attendance, opened its lodge to non-members. The club's financial difficulties continued, however, and the club closed in 1939. Since then it has been operated as a popular resort. Today, it remains a popular North Shore resort known for its lobby-dining hall with its brilliant Cree Indian geometrics and its enormous fireplace constructed of native rock.

(Note: "Naniboujou", in the lore of the Cree and Chippewa Indians, is a legendary good spirit who lives in the forests on the north shore of Lake Superior and watches over hunters and travellers.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brochure: "The Tip of the Famous Arrowhead Country: The Naniboujou Club", written by John Stone Pardee, c. 1927.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 20 acres

Quadrangle name Marr Island Quad. Minn.-Cook Co.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	7	2	0	9	6	0	5	2	9	9	9	0	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

See continuation sheet - page 1

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 Charles W. Nelson, Historical Architect; Mark E. Haidet, Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date 5 May 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone 612-726-1171

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/23/82

For NPS use only

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

Alvin Byers
Keeper of the National Register

10/21/82
National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

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

Naniboujou Club Lodge



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

That portion of Land known as Naniboujou Lodge defined as being bounded on the north by Trunk Highway No. 61 as it is now located and constructed, on the West by the Brule (Arrowhead) River, on the South and Southeast by Lake Superior on the East by a line formed by producing the West boundary of Lot 1, Subdivision "B" southerly to Lake Superior and Northerly to the aforesaid Trunk Highway, in Government Lot One (1) Section Thirty-four (34) and Government Lot One (1) and Two (2), Section Twenty-seven (27, Township Sixty-two (62) north, Range Three (3) East of the Fourth Principal Meridan.

Subject to reservations, restrictions and easements of record.