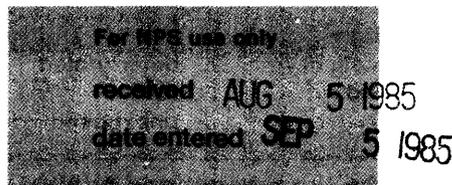


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Pine Tree Lumber Company Office Building

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 735 1st Street Northeast N/A not for publication

city, town Little Falls vicinity of N/A congressional district

state Minnesota code 22 county Morrison code 097

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 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" 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 Gail Berglund

street & number 735 1st Street Northeast

city, town Little Falls vicinity of N/A state Minnesota 56345

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Morrison County Courthouse

street & number 2nd Street Southeast at Broadway

city, town Little Falls state Minnesota 56345

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 Minnesota Historical Society
Ft. Snelling HistoryCenter

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 <u> N/A </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The office building of the Pine Tree Lumber Company is located on a wooded site on the east bank of the Mississippi River, approximately one-half mile north of the commercial center of Little Falls. The building faces east, overlooking 1st Street, the major north-south thoroughfare in Little Falls. On the north boundary of the site is a spur track and bridge of the Northern Pacific Railway. This line served the company's lumber processing facilities that were located on both the east and west banks of the river. The east bank mills were sited immediately north of the spur line.

The building is rectangular in form and measures approximately forty feet square. It is of brick construction, and contains two stories above a raised, quarried granite foundation. The roof is hipped, with a flat section at the top. Eyebrow dormers on the north and south sides of the roof provide light to the attic. Flat arched windows are grouped in pairs, and placed in bays defined by piers. A two story extension, measuring about fifteen by twenty-five feet is centered at the rear facade. Enclosed entry porches are placed before doors that are centered on the front and south facades, and at the northwest corner of the building.

The building has features that are symmetrically arranged and a cornice, headers, and sills that are defined by projecting brick courses, all of which are characteristic of the simplified Italianate and early Classical Revival styling common to commercial buildings in the area. The windows are the building's most prominent external feature, being oversized to indicate the commercial, rather than residential use of the building.

Only minor modifications have been made to the building and its site since 1891. The interior office rooms were converted into apartments following the sale of the building in 1927. Windows in the enclosed porches appear to have been replaced, with the original glass upper portions being replaced with wood panels. Aluminum-framed storm windows have been added to all the window openings. The brick on the piers, sills, and headers on the front and side facades was recently painted.

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/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1891 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Established in 1890, the Pine Tree Lumber Company was the company under which the lumber magnate Frederick Weyerhaeuser and his associates entered the Minnesota timber industry. Following the purchase of large tracts of timberland that were a part of the government land grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad, the firm selected Little Falls as the site for its processing facilities. Commercial operations began there on May 18, 1891. A small sawmill on the east bank of the Mississippi River, which had belonged to the Little Falls Lumber Company, was purchased, and construction was begun on a much larger facility located on the west bank. Employing as many as five hundred men, these processing facilities immediately became Little Falls' largest industry. Increases in employment following the establishment of the mills nearly doubled the population of the community. The office building, from which the Pine Tree and several related companies were run, is the only intact, remaining structure among what were extensively developed facilities. Most other associated buildings were destroyed following the closing of the plant in 1920.

Frederick Weyerhaeuser was perhaps the most significant figure associated with the lumber industry in the northern states. In partnership with a number of associates, Weyerhaeuser developed operations in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. By the 1880s, Minnesota, four-fifths of which had originally been forested, was judged to have the last great stands of timber remaining in the Midwest. By 1890, most of the St. Croix and Rum River stands had been cut, but forest in central and northern Minnesota remained relatively intact. (Hidy et al, Timber and Men, p. 104). That year, Weyerhaeuser and others were offered the timberlands contained in the land grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad -- 212,722 acres in eight counties. The Pine Tree Company, formed in June, 1890 to acquire and develop these lands, had stock owned by a number of lumbering families including the Mussers, the Lairds, the Nortons, as well as Weyerhaeuser. Richard Drew Musser and Charles A. Weyerhaeuser, sons of Peter Musser and Frederick Weyerhaeuser, were selected to head the firm's Little Falls' operations. (Hidy et al, p. 106).

Little Falls was selected as the site for the firm's processing facilities. The backwater of a dam built in 1888 provided ample boom and storage space for logs floated down the Mississippi. Little Falls also had well-developed rail facilities, and there was a small sawmill that could be purchased and operated while larger milling facilities could be constructed ("The Remarkable Growth of Little Falls," Northwest Magazine, November 1892, p. 24). Operations at the Pine Tree began May 18, 1891 at the existing mill. Soon after, work began on the construction of the west bank mills and related

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre.

Quadrangle name Little Falls East, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 15 394640 5093005
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 7, 8, and 9; Block 1; Steel's Addition to the City of Little Falls.

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 Thomas L. Jenkinson and Norene Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date March 20, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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
date 7/11/85

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/5/85

J. Delores Byer
Keeper of the National Register

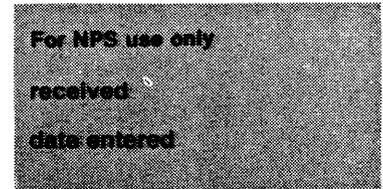
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Pine Tree Lumber Company Office Bldg, Little Falls, MN

Continuation sheet Significance, cont'd. Item number 8

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buildings, including the office building on the east bank. In keeping with Frederick Weyerhaeuser's emphasis on efficiency, the mills featured the most advanced equipment and even had electric lights, so that a night shift could be run.

The Pine Tree operations dominated the economy of Little Falls. The company was by far the largest employer in the city, employing about 400 men for the duration of the milling season. The plant, with its 127 foot tall brick smokestack, and the buildings and yards which covered over 100 acres, was dominant visually as well. Spin-off industries provided further economic growth for the community. Lumber products were used in a sash, door, and blind manufacturing operation, and the scrap wood provided economical sources of power for the several brickyards and a brewery. The growth of population in Little Falls in the early 1890s reflected its industrial growth, rising from 2,354 people in 1890 to 5,774 people in 1900. Much of the housing stock that currently exists in the city was constructed during this decade.

The Pine Tree Company was also involved in operations beyond the processing of timber. Numerous purchases of timberlands kept the company's supplies high. By 1906, the company had an available stumpage of 636,000,000 feet. Up to this time, the company had been sawing from 70,000,000 to 93,000,000 feet of lumber yearly (Hidy, p. 182). Several related companies were established that expanded the scope of the Pine Tree Company. These included the Immigration Land Company, which was formed to sell the cut-over lands of the Pine Tree (Hidy, p. 183). A local retail operation, the Morrison County Lumber Company, was organized in 1907. Expanding through the purchase and development of various companies, the Pine Tree became one of the largest lumber companies in the state.

The production of lumber at the Pine Tree plant reached a peak of 76 million board feet in 1902. From 1907 on, the average production fell to 45 million feet (Hidy, p. 186). The great timber reserves of northern Minnesota were slowly being exhausted and their transport to Little Falls increasingly difficult, so that in 1919, the mills made their last run. In its twenty-seven years of existence, the Pine Tree mills produced over 1.5 billion board feet of lumber. (Ahles, Wings, p. 257).

The office building is the only intact remaining structure among the extensive Pine Tree facilities. The building, which is nestled against the backwater of the Mississippi, remains in good condition.

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

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

Pine Tree Lumber Company Office Bldg, Little Falls, MN

Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number

9

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received

date entered

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"The Remarkable Growth of Little Falls." Northwest Magazine, November, 1892.