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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 23 1988

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 Burntside Lodge Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number off Co. Hwy. 88 not for publication
city, town Ely (Morse Twp) vicinity
state Minnesota code MN county St. Louis code 137 zip code 55731

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>19</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u>2</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>19</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

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 5/17/88
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

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. Added in the National Register 6-23-88
 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:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Recreation and Culture/resort

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Recreation and Culture/ resort

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood/ log piers Stone/fieldstone

walls Wood/ log Stone/fieldstone

roof Asphalt; roll or shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheets.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7:1 Page 1Burntside Lodge Historic District, Ely, MN

Burntside Lodge is located in Section 23, T63N R13W on the south shore of Burntside Lake approximately six miles northwest of Ely, Minnesota. The Burntside Lodge property is 21.29 acres, approximately 2/3 of which is within the boundaries of the National Register district. The property has some 2300 feet of shoreline, with a natural cove on the west which contains the lodge's marina and some 300 feet of natural sand beach on the east which borders a swimming area. The shoreline is rocky, with a gentle slope up to a fairly level area which holds the main lodge and a number of cabins. The terrain is rocky and irregular in elevation, with flat spots here and there which have cabins built on them. The southeasterly part of the property is a rocky bluff 30-40 feet higher in elevation than the first "terrace" where the lodge sits. On the south and southwest, the property is approximately midway between the first terrace and the top of the bluff in elevation. Except for the areas close around the cabins, the property is covered with a fairly dense stand of primarily second growth Norway pine, white pine, balsam, cedar, birch, aspen, and maple trees. On much of the property, the land surface is dotted with plentiful rock outcroppings. The rocky terrain makes it infeasible to bury pipes and electrical lines in many places, so it is quite common to see pipes and electric lines running over the ground. The road between the marina and the entrance to the property is blacktop, and the entrance road intersects with another blacktop road, County Road 88, approximately 1/4 mile north of the intersection of County Roads 88 and 404 northwest of Ely.

In its heyday in the 1930s and 1940s, Burntside Lodge had 44 cabins as well as 14 sleeping rooms in the main lodge. Today Burntside Lodge has a total of 31 buildings, including 22 cabins. Of the 22 cabins, 6 are newer cabins which were built to replace cabins which burned or deteriorated. These newer cabins are outside the boundaries of the district. The sleeping rooms in the main lodge are used for storage today, and are not rented to guests.

THE MAIN LODGE (contributing)

The 1914 lodge is the oldest building in the resort complex. Its construction in April and May 1914 by Meitunen and Peterson, contractors, marked the beginning of the tourist industry in the Ely area, a part of Minnesota whose economy depends heavily on tourism today. The lodge is built of horizontally-laid round pine logs which were, according to tradition, cut on the property. The corner joints are of the common saddle-notch variety. The lodge and most of the cabin exteriors are finished in a warm light-orange stain covered with a glossy shellac finish. The lodge is supported by a full foundation of native fieldstone. The log-rafter gabled roof is covered in asphalt

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Continuation SheetSection number 7:2 Page 2 Burntside Lodge Historic District, Ely, MNMain Lodge (continued)

roll roofing. The main lodge was completed to virtually its present floorplan within a year or two of its beginning in 1914. The floorplan is rectangular, with a central, roughly east-facing front portico with steps which lead up to a porch and the main level of the lodge. The entry leads to a lobby with an enormous two-sided fieldstone fireplace on one wall. The other side of the fireplace serves the dining room, which is on the left as you face the back of the lodge. The dining room has continuous windows facing Burntside Lake on two walls. A bar area on the west and a long north wing of former rental rooms complete the floorplan, except for a small, wood sided utility wing on the south which was built sometime after 1927 (a 1927 photograph shows the lodge very much as it is today with the exception of this small wing built to facilitate the operation of the kitchen). Much of the furniture in the lobby is part of the original rustic furniture built in the late teens and early 20s. The building has been changed slightly through the years. One windowed wall of the dining room includes a former veranda which was enclosed to enlarge the dining room. The windows in the bar area have been converted to casement windows finished to blend into the historical fabric. The portico has been slightly modified, probably over 50 years ago. The modified portico is constructed of the same materials as the lodge (and the old portico), and has the same exterior finish as the rest of the building. The interior of the lodge is highly original, with open log rafter construction visible in the lobby and bar area. The dining room, with its strict health requirements, has long ago had a painted beaverboard ceiling installed. The building is sited on an irregular rocky hillside. The rise and fall of the site allows ventilating voids under the floors which have kept the stone foundation, the sill logs, and the wall logs in excellent condition. The lodge (and all the buildings on the property except the owner's residence) are used only during the summer season, so these buildings have not been subjected to severe differences between interior and exterior temperatures. Along with their excellent state of maintenance, this pattern of use has been kind to most of the resort's log buildings. The main lodge building is in excellent condition, and its historical integrity is also excellent. The minor changes it has undergone detract in no way from its historic character.

Most of the other buildings in the district are cabins with numbers. The numbering system, however, does not follow a geographic pattern, but, as is true at many older resorts, it approximates the order of construction.

CABIN 1 (contributing)

A 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom log cabin built ca. 1923-1925. In the

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Cabin 1 (continued)

1930s a large screened porch to this cabin was enclosed with 2 X 4 type construction to become a living room. The main part of the cabin is built of round logs with saddle-notched "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the bottom which fit snugly over the top of the log below). The old porch is sheathed in half-log siding. The entire building sits on a native fieldstone foundation. The windows have been changed, probably in the 1950s, to crank-out casements which are finished to blend with the historic fabric. These casements are used sparingly in the cabins, and they do very little harm to their historic character. The casements closely resemble many of the original window types, and they have been finished the same as the original windows in the other buildings. The gabled roof is of asphalt roll roofing. Cabin 1 is the northernmost building on the property, and is surrounded on 3 sides by views of Burntside Lake.

CABIN 6 (contributing)

This log cabin probably predates 1920. Its walls are of vertical peeled log stockade construction supported by horizontal log sills and joists resting on log piers. The cabin is foursquare in floorplan, with a gabled roof covered in asphalt roll roofing. Its windows are original. This building is original as built.

CABIN 4 (contributing)

A horizontal log cabin with saddle-notched "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the bottom which fit snugly over the top of the log below). Its gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. It is supported on lumber joists carried on log piers and small cribs made of pieces of railroad ties. This cabin has been updated, but great pains have been taken to keep its historical character intact. The lumber joists and the railroad tie cribs are not visible because lattice panels cover the space between grade and sill log. The windows are recent casement types which are similar to many of the original single pane windows and finished to match the historic fabric. The front of the cabin is a porch that has been enclosed to make a living room. An entry door was removed from the gable end as part of the update. The infill for the door is logs carefully matched in size to the wall logs, and finished to match the rest of the building. The infill is barely noticeable. Despite the update, the building feels substantially original.

CABIN 9 (contributing)

Built ca. 1920 of horizontally-laid pine logs with "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the

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Cabin 9 (continued)

bottom which fit snugly over the top of the log below). Its gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The support system is log piers and small railroad tie cribs. Its windows are original. Its historical character is original as built.

CABIN 8 (contributing)

Built in the 1930s of horizontal pine logs with "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the bottom which fit snugly over the top of the log below). Its gabled, log-raftered roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The building is supported on concrete block piers. Its windows have been changed to swing-our casements compatible in character with the original windows in the other buildings in the district. In this case the window area was reduced somewhat, so that there are small infills of half-log siding around the windows in places. These infills have been carefully matched to the wall logs, both in dimension and in finish. Despite the changed windows, Cabin 8 is substantially original in feel.

CABIN 16 (contributing)

A large 2-bedroom cabin constructed of native fieldstone in the 1920s, this cabin was originally the first owner's residence. Its windows are the original swing-in casements. Its gabled, log-raftered roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

CABIN 12 (contributing)

This cabin from the late teens sits partway up the bluff which occupies the southeast part of the Burntside Lodge property. It is perched on a fairly steep slope which descends perpendicular to the ridge line of the building. To anchor the cabin securely to the bluff, the support for the uphill side is a solid stockade of vertical log piers surrounded by poured concrete. On the downhill side it is supported on log piers. The cabin is of vertical peeled log stockade construction, with a porch of 2 X 4 construction covered in half-log siding. The porch is from the same era as the rest of the cabin. The gabled roof of the building is covered in asphalt shingles. The porch has been enclosed to make a glassed-in sitting area and entry. The windows of the porch are later than the cabin (probably from the 1940s). One wall of the porch has a large 9-light picture window which gives a beautiful view of the lake from 40-50 feet higher than the shoreline. This picture window is not particularly harmonious with the historic character of the buildings in the district. It can only be seen, however, by climbing a steep wooded hill to within a few feet of the building, or by viewing it with binoculars or telescope from the surface of the lake. For practical purposes, it is invisible, and hence does not violate the historic character of the

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Cabin 12 (continued)
cabin.

CABIN 7 (contributing)

This cabin from the 1920s is constructed of horizontal logs with saddle-notched corners. For decorative effect, the free ends of the logs which protrude beyond the corner joint are squared on the sides. The building is supported on log piers. Its gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The log part of the cabin has a half-log sided addition that is probably over 50 years old. The windows are original. Highly original in character.

CABIN 26 (contributing)

This cabin from the early 1920s is one of the showpieces of Burntside Lodge, and has appeared in several publications promoting the resort industry in the Ely area and in Minnesota. It sits on a solid rock outcropping at the shoreline with a view of the lake. This cabin is a particularly good example of the work of the Finnish craftsmen who were primarily responsible for constructing the buildings in the Burntside Lodge district. It is constructed of round pine logs with saddle-notched corners and sits on log piers. The interior is open log, with the inner edges of the logs adzed and broadaxed to a smooth, flat surface with a rich texture imparted by the marks of the tool edges. The gabled roof of the cabin is covered with asphalt shingles. One edge of the roof has a semicircular notch which used to accommodate the trunk of a tree. In the wall facing the lake is a four-light picture window that is not original. It was probably installed in the 1950s. The window was well chosen in that its four lights make it only a slight intrusion into the historic character of the cabin. Cabin 26 has had a number of prominent guests. Film actress Mabel Normand stayed in Cabin 26 in 1924. Her name has come to public notice again in the 1980s because of the book and movie Cast of Killers. Miss Normand was wrongly suspected of the scandalous 1921 Hollywood murder that is the subject of the book and movie. During WWII, the FBI arrested a suspected German spy in Cabin 26. When then-Vice President Walter Mondale stayed with a friend on Burntside Lake, Cabin 26 was used to accommodate members of his Secret Service detail.

CABIN 27 (contributing)

Another showpiece from the early to mid 1930s. This round log saddle-notched cabin has a north-south ridge line which is parallel to the shore. The main cabin is on two levels: a higher level on the south, and a slightly lower level on the north which follows a slope in the shoreline. The two-level floorplan works ingeniously to make the two parts of the cabin private from each

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Cabin 27 (continued)

other. At the southwest corner of the building, a porch projects out toward the lake. The porch has a view of the lake on three sides. The cabin is supported on a large, heavy fieldstone foundation that, like the cabin, is an outstanding example of the work of the craftsmen who built most of the buildings in the district. The gabled roof is covered in asphalt roll roofing. The interior is completely furnished in the original rustic furniture constructed of pine logs and birch twigs. The rustic theme extends to the toothbrush holders and wall shelves, and small rustic-style footstools, as well as beds and dressers. The windows are original. This completely original cabin is a favorite of honeymooners, and one of the most popular with guests.

CABIN 24 (contributing)

One of two twin cabins (the other twin is Cabin 23) built in the 1920s. It is constructed of horizontal logs with saddle-notched "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the bottom which fit snugly over the top of the log below). The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building is supported on log piers. The windows are original, as is the entire cabin.

CABIN 23 (contributing)

One of two twin cabins (the other twin is Cabin 24) built in the 1920s. It is constructed of horizontal logs with saddle-notched "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the bottom which fit snugly over the top of the log below). The only difference between the two cabins is that the free log ends at the corners have been squared on the sides. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building is supported on log piers. The windows are original, as is the entire cabin.

KNOTTY PINE (contributing)

This cabin from the late 1920s or early 1930s has never been numbered. It is named for its distinctive knotty pine interior. It is built on log sills and joists, and supported by log piers. Otherwise its construction is 2 X 4. It is sheathed in half-log wood siding, and its gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The floorplan is that of a duplex with porches at each end. Its windows are original, as is the entire cabin.

CABIN 19 (contributing)

Built in the 1920s, this duplex cabin is constructed of round logs with saddle-notched "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the bottom which fit snugly over the top of the log below). The main cabin sits on a poured concrete

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Burntside Lodge Historic District, Ely, MN

Cabin 19 (continued)

foundation, while the porch sits on log piers. The windows are original. Its gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. While the poured foundation may be from a later period, it appears old enough to have been original. Excepting the possibility that the foundation is later, the building is original as built.

THE POST (contributing)

The Post, having been built in the late teens or early 1920s, is nearly as old as the main lodge, and is almost as important as the lodge in establishing the historic character of the district. Originally called "The Trading Post", the original purpose of this native fieldstone building was to provide groceries and supplies to the people using the road to the lodge, the fine natural cove, and the lodge's marina (originally put in in the late teens or early 1920s) for access to Burntside Lake. Its use today is as the laundry and game room. Though it is built of fieldstone, the building was sheathed in half-log siding in the 1930s. A photograph taken at the Midwest Governor's Conference in 1940 shows The Post with the rock walls covered with siding. The main part of this building is gable-roofed, with the ridge line running roughly southwest-northeast. It has been added to on the back with a large shed-roof addition which appears to be over 50 years old. Its northeast end terminates in a hip roof rather than a gable. This hip roofed section could be an addition, but is more likely original. The roof is corrugated metal, and the windows are original.

CABIN 15 (contributing)

Built in the late teens, this vertical log cabin sits on log sills and joists supported by log piers. Its gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Its windows are original. This cabin and Cabin 14 occupy the highest part of the property, with an excellent view of the lake. Cabin 15 is completely original inside and out.

HOT WATER BUILDING (non-contributing)

This small concrete block building sits approximately 15-20 feet east of Cabin 19. Its purpose is to provide hot water to the cabins without subjecting these wooden buildings to the fire hazard of individual water heaters. It is one of three noncontributing structures in the district (the other two are a granite barbecue and a granite serving table on the lakeshore behind the main lodge).

CABIN 14 (contributing)

Sits with Cabin 15 on the highest point on the property. Commands an excellent view of the lake. Built of horizontal round logs with "cat" corners (that is, round logs whose free ends have semicircular grooves in the bottom which fit snugly over the top of

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Cabin 14 (continued)

the log below). Its gabled roof is covered with asphalt roll roofing, and its windows are original. The building is supported on log piers. Completely original. Constructed in the 1920s.

GARAGE (contributing)

The garage is roughly contemporaneous with the main lodge and The Post. It was built of poured concrete in 1914 (a display ad from the Ely Miner of August 14, 1914 mentions a "Garage for Automobiles"). The roof is carried on the walls and on an internal structure of mixed logs and lumber. The rafters are 2 X 6 lumber. The gable ends above the concrete walls are of log. Access is through sliding doors which are original. Natural light comes in through dormers let through the roof. The roof is covered in asphalt roll roofing. The windows are original.

BARBECUE (non-contributing)

A noncontributing structure, this barbecue was built of granite blocks in the early 1950s by John Brown, a local Finnish craftsman who did particularly good stone work. Mr. Brown also built a large stone addition to the current owner's residence and a stone front yard fence to the owner's residence in the 1950s. The barbecue is a simple firebox with grate and a chimney which sits on the lake shore at the back of the lodge.

SERVING TABLE (non-contributing)

This granite marble-topped serving table sits near the barbecue. It too was built by John Brown in the early 1950s. It is one of three noncontributing structures in the district (the others are the barbecue and the hot water building).

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/recreation
Architecture

Period of Significance

1914-1937

Significant Dates

1914

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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:

Minnesota Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approx. 8 acres

UTM References

A

1	5	5	7	8	4	4	0	5	3	0	8	3	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	5	5	7	8	2	0	0	5	3	0	8	0	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	5	5	7	8	4	4	0	5	3	0	8	0	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	5	5	7	8	2	0	0	5	3	0	8	3	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Burntside Lodge Historic District is shown as the solid black line on the accompanying map entitled: "Burntside Lodge Historic District."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet: Item 10, Geographical Data

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe and Norene Roberts, Ph.Ds

organization Historical Research, Inc. date August, 1987

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Burntside Lodge Historic District, Ely, MN

Burntside Lodge is significant from two important vantage points: historically, it is the most important resort in northern St. Louis County because it is the earliest fullscale commercial resort operation in this part of the county. Before this business was begun, there were outfitters renting tents and selling supplies to campers and other people using the lakes around Ely for recreation. But there was no resort industry until this resort went into the business. The Burntside Lodge district is also significant because it contains the finest, and the largest, collection of log resort buildings of high integrity in northern St. Louis County. Built of local materials by excellent local craftsman, these buildings are a remarkable architectural achievement in an outstanding state of preservation.

Burntside Lodge began operations in 1911 as the Ely-Burntside Outing Company under the direction of Phineas Terry Brownell and Thomas Miller. The site was operated as an outing site for three years with Brownell as treasurer of the outing company before construction of the main lodge was begun in April 1914. Brownell, who arrived in Ely in 1889, was an early merchant in Ely, and was largely responsible for developing the Ely region into an early resort area before his death in 1920. In the years following the erection of the main lodge, cabins were constructed along the shore and scattered over the back land. Most of the cabins were constructed of logs either cut on the property or in the Ely vicinity, and the workmen who built them were local artisans. Among these artisans were excellent stone masons, who built a stone owner's residence (now Cabin 16) that was converted to a cabin. Another, much larger, native fieldstone owner's residence sits near the entrance to the property. The Post (an old store which now functions as a recreation building) is also constructed of fieldstone, though it has been sheathed in half-log siding for over 50 years. A number of other buildings on the property have fieldstone fireplaces and foundations built by these excellent local masons.

In its heyday in the 1930s and 1940s, Burntside Lodge had 44 cabins as well as 14 sleeping rooms in the main lodge. Today it has 22 cabins, and the sleeping rooms in the main lodge are not rented to guests.

The key to the history of this site is its access to Burntside Lake and its relationship to the transportation system. The cove at the lodge property was one terminus of a portage between Burntside River (roughly a mile to the south) and the lake. This much-used portage was known as the "plank portage" because it had planks laid over the swampy parts of the trail. Because of this portage, the Burntside Lodge property was widely known around Ely as one of the

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#8. Significance (continued)

finest recreation sites in an area with a splendid profusion of recreation sites. For the property to play its role as a pioneer resort, however, it had to be accessible to tourists arriving by train and automobile.

The rail link to Ely was completed in the period 1886-1890 when the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad extended its rails from Tower to Ely. A road connection was made in 1901, when a road and a 350-foot wooden bridge across the Burntside River were put in.

Once there was convenient rail and auto access to the old portage, it was a matter of only a decade before owner P.T. Brownell began operating an outing company at the site in 1911.

In 1914, the wooden bridge across the Burntside River was replaced by a new steel bridge. In April of that year, Ely contractors Meitunen and Peterson began construction of the main lodge. Early construction at the site acknowledged the importance of the transportation system: among the buildings put up in this first resort (and construction) season was a garage of some 10,000 square feet to accommodate the cars of motor tourists.

The importance of the transportation system was not lost on the writer of a short item in the Ely Miner of July 21, 1916, who said "Tourists are arriving on every train and by all over the country and are enjoying the canoe trips, the camping on the lakes and the Burntside facilities to the utmost."

With its powerful combination of an excellent cove, a longstanding portage, a highway to the door, and a rail link to Ely (only 6 miles away), Burntside Lodge was blessed by geography.

The early resorters at this site not only took advantage of its fine location. They also took advantage of the presence of excellent first-growth white pine logs, both on the property and around the Burntside Lake area. A 1914 photograph shows a huge boom of logs on Burntside Lake. While the Burntside Lake area was substantially logged off by 1920, there were ample first-quality materials for the construction of a large group of log buildings made of the finest materials.

To employ these materials, the owners used primarily Finnish craftsmen from the Ely area. Working through the period of significance (1914-1937), these fine craftsmen erected many buildings, including a total of 44 cabins when the resort business was at its peak on the site. Through the years, about half of these cabins have been removed by fire and by demolition. The demolitions were in most cases to get rid of deteriorated buildings, but a few of them were to

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remove cabins which were too close to other buildings. The principal areas where demolished buildings have not been replaced is on the high bluffs northwest of the owner's residence and along the beach to the southwest of the marina.

The buildings which are in the district are the surviving works of these craftsmen, and they constitute the finest group of high-integrity log buildings in northern St. Louis County. This building type was quite common in northern St. Louis County during the period of significance, and this is the finest surviving group of this common building type. They are distinctive because their materials are local (unlike the logs from the Pacific Northwest which were shipped in to build Grandview Lodge on Gull Lake at Brainerd). They are distinctive because they were built by excellent local craftsmen to accommodate a prosperous and discerning clientele. They are distinctive because they have been carefully maintained and their integrity has been carefully preserved by a succession of owners: Brownell (1914-1920), William Alden (1920-1941), and Ray and Nancy LaMontagne (1941-), the present owners.

With exceptions such as Burntside Lodge and Camp Van Vac (also on Burntside Lake), resorts in northern St. Louis County are largely a development of the 1930s. Comparing Burntside Lodge with the other pre-1930 resorts in northern St. Louis County puts its significance in comparative context. The buildings in the Burntside Lodge district are all in harmony with the historic character of its period of significance. The few new buildings around the perimeter of the district are quite similar to the historic buildings, though they are of 2 X 4 construction and of more recent materials. They are the same in scale, fenestration, and exterior finish as the buildings in the historic district. The overall effect of the entire property is that great care has been taken to preserve the historical flavor of the site. Camp Van Vac, which is roughly contemporaneous with Burntside Lodge, has a number of log buildings of high integrity, and the entire site has high integrity. Burntside Lodge's log buildings, however, are considerably superior in quality to those of Camp Van Vac. Another group of 6 log buildings at Deer Horn Resort at Lake Kabetogama is surrounded and significantly compromised by cabins of more recent construction type. At Northland Lodge in Orr, whose earliest buildings are contemporaneous with the oldest buildings at Burntside Lodge, there is an excellent group of buildings whose construction dates span the same period of significance. The Northland complex is slightly lower in integrity and architectural harmony, however, because the buildings mix 2 X 4 and log construction somewhat

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Significance (continued)

randomly, and their log buildings tend to be from the later years of the period of significance. Though Northland's log buildings were constructed by fine craftsmen trained in the same tradition as the workmen who erected the buildings in the Burntside Lodge district, the log buildings there need to age somewhat to fit comfortably into the 50-year National Register requirement. These are the only notable groups of log resort buildings in northern St. Louis County, and the group in the Burntside Lodge district is easily the best of the building type, and the group with the best historical integrity, in northern St. Louis County.

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#10. Geographical Data/Boundary Justification

The buildings inside the boundaries of the Burntside Lodge district were chosen because they were over 50 years old and because their historical integrity was substantially intact. If there was any doubt whether a building was 50 years old or of high historical integrity, it was excluded from the district. The boundaries were also drawn so as to insure that the contributing buildings in the district were as nearly contiguous as possible. With its present boundaries, the district includes only 1 noncontributing building and 2 noncontributing structures. As a consequence, there is an unbroken group of buildings in the heart of the property with a highly uniform historical character. The buildings on the property that are outside the district are one cabin (#25) along the western lakeshore just west of the main lodge and three cabins (#s2, 3, and 5) and a sauna along the northern shore. These buildings are recent replacements of buildings which were destroyed by fire or demolished because of their deteriorated condition. Two buildings near the lodge were excluded because they were not 50 years old. One of these is a small fish-cleaning house, and the other a small cabin where the staff stays in season. The owner's residence near the entrance to the property was excluded because a large addition to this fieldstone house was added in the early 1950s.

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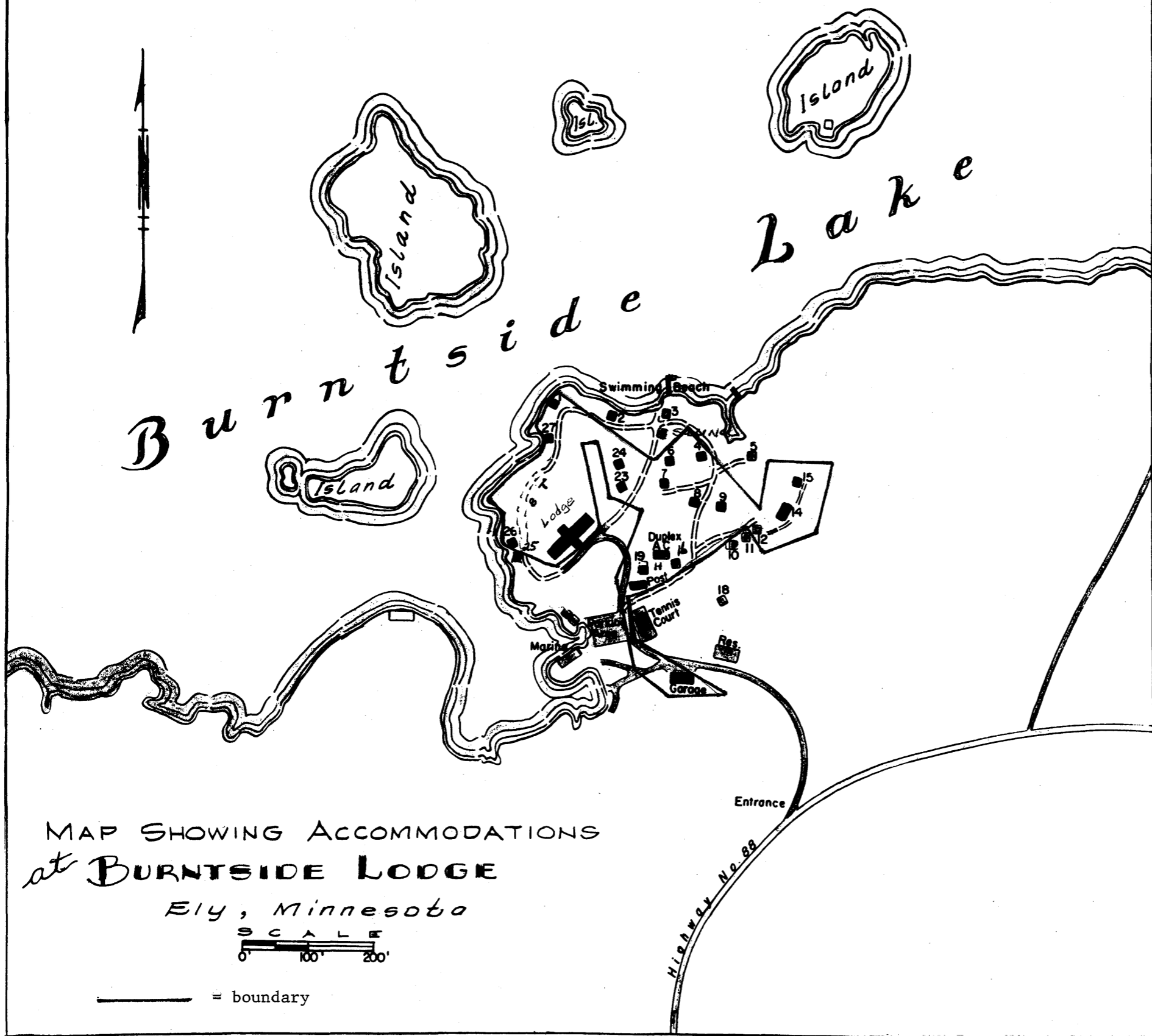
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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

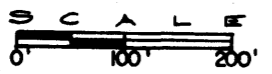
The photographs included with this nomination include every contributing and non-contributing resource located within the district boundary. The rocky and very irregular terrain of the district combined with a dense stand of Norway pine, white pine, balsam, cedar, birch, aspen and maple trees make it virtually impossible to take a "steetscape" photo, usually easy to shoot in a conventional commercial or residential district. Aerial photography was not possible.

BURNTSIDE LODGE HISTORIC DISTRICT



MAP SHOWING ACCOMMODATIONS
at BURNTSIDE LODGE

Ely, Minnesota



— = boundary