

1658

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 15 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 Flandrau State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources
other names/site number Flandrau (Cottonwood River) State Park

2. Location

street & number off County Highway 13 not for publication N/A
city, town Cottonwood Township New Ulm vicinity N/A
state Minnesota code MN county Brown code 015 zip code 56073

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style
Historic Resources

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 9/15/89
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date
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. Beth Boland 10/25/89
 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)

Recreation/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/State Park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/State Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone/Wood

roof Shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page .1

DESCRIPTION

Flandrau (Cottonwood River) State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are included within an 805 acre historic district located adjacent to the city of New Ulm in the valley of the Cottonwood River. The district is defined by the present day boundaries of the park which were also the boundaries during the period of significance. The district contains 24 contributing elements located within the concentrated use area, the service yard, and the Works Progress Administration transient camp. Also included within the district are 5 non-contributing buildings and 2 non-contributing structures. Architects for the buildings were from the Minnesota Central Design Office of the National Park Service.

Department of Natural Resources building identification numbers are placed after the name of each building.

Flandrau State Park Historic District

1. Objects: Entrance Portals Builder: CCC
Architect: National Park Service Date: 1941

Two massive stone piers mark the entrance to the park. The portal to the right of the entrance is 9'8" high and rises from a 7'6" square base which tapers to 6'6" at the top. The left portal is approximately 5' high and rises from a 5'6" square base which tapers to 4'6" square at the top. The piers once served as gate posts although the gates have been removed.

2. Building: Contact Station 4-30 Builder: Unknown
Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1960s

The Contact Station is a small frame structure with a projecting porch. The exterior is sheathed with horizontal siding to the sill level with plywood siding above. The building is non-contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

3. Building: Combination Building 4-46 Builder: WPA
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1938

The Combination Building is a sprawling T-shaped structures which contains a beach house, shelter, and concession. It is one of the largest buildings constructed in the state park system with overall dimensions of 87' x 84'. The building features battered quartzite stone laid random ashlar, a steeply pitched roof with clipped gables, a shed dormer, and small pane casement windows. The building is divided into three distinct sections based on function: a centrally located concession with a large U-shaped counter, a shelter to the west, and rest rooms and changing wings to the east. A central entry allows passage through the building and leads to a terrace along the south facade which is defined by a low stone wall.

The major design feature of the shelter is an open beamed ceiling with huge timber trusses constructed with 10" x 12" chords with scissors joints. A third beam is suspended vertically from the peak of the gable and connects with each scissors truss. Three lighting fixtures built from heavy timbers hang from the ceiling. The shelter also contains a stone fireplace with a massive timber mantel.

The remainder of the building contains a checking room, rest rooms, utility space, and changing areas. When seen from the east facade, the checking room is located in the center with a counter which may be closed with overhead doors and it is flanked by windows with wooden grills. Mens' and womens' rest rooms are located on either side of the check room and are entered through large doorways which were originally designed with rolling steel doors. Open changing wings enclosed by stone walls extend from the rest rooms. The mens changing wing is set at a 45 degree angle from the building.

This was one of the first buildings designed for winter use in the state park system. It retains it original use with the exception of the concession which is now used for interpretive purposes.

4. Structure: Pool & Maintenance Bldg Builder: Unknown
Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1987

The oval shaped pool is roughly 120' x 320' and covers 27,400 square feet. It features a sand bottom and is 5' deep at the lowest point. The filtration system can provide 3 complete turnovers of water per day. The adjacent maintenance building is a 48' x 16' partially enclosed structure

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

with a clipped gable roof resembling that of the nearby Combination Building. The filtration equipment is enclosed by a mesh fence on two sides and a plywood screen on the remaining sides.

Although the Pool and Maintenance Building are considered non-contributing elements, the construction of the pool has resulted in a return to the visual effect created by Lake Cottonwood which was a 209 acre lake originally formed by a dam across the Cottonwood River.

5. Object: Drinking Fountain Builder: CCC
Architect: National Park Service Date: 1940

The park contains one drinking fountain which rests on a 10'5" square based constructed with flagstone pavers. The quartzite fountain is 3' high with a faucet placed at the side. The structure is 2'5" square at the base and tapers to 2' at the top.

6. Building: Sanitation Bldg 4-34 Builder: Unknown
Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1965

The Sanitation Building is a rectangular wood frame structure with a gable roof. The exterior is covered with vertical siding. This building is non-contributing.

7. Structure: Check Dam Builder: CCC
Architect: National Park Service Date: c1940

Stonework lines a channel which leads to a culvert under the road to the picnic grounds. It was constructed for erosion control purposes.

8. Building: Kitchen Shelter 4-47 Builder: CCC
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1940

The Kitchen Shelter is a 27'9" x 17' rectangular building constructed with battered quartzite walls and a steep hip roof with a 15/12 pitch. The building is divided into shelter and kitchen areas by a massive centrally located fireplace. The shelter contains a large hearth with a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

5' x 2'10" opening and originally included a "crane and plate" with the iron crane still in place. Built in seats line the walls and 5'10" wide window openings are located on the north and south facades. Both the window openings and the 7'6" wide east facing entrance were open during the summer with standard sash provided for closing during the winter.

The kitchen is entered from the west facade and included 4 cast iron cook stoves built into the rear wall of the fireplace. The stoves were separated by brick corbels which supported a canopy over the stoves. The stoves have been removed, however, the original sink and counters are still in place. Two window openings, 2' high and 3'8" wide, are covered with wooden grills.

The roof is covered with wooden shingles which are doubled every six courses.

Service Yard

9. Building: Residence 4-33 Builder: CCC
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1941-42

The Superintendent's Residence is a 50' x 25' structure which includes a 12' x 8' entrance which projects from the east facade. Constructed with local quartzite, the corner masonry flares out approximately 6". The house is covered with a steep hip roof with the same 15/12 pitch employed in many of the park buildings. An 18' wide shed dormer with 3 sets of paired casements windows is located on the north pitch of the upper story. A decorative brick hood caps the chimney. A gabled dormer on the south facade was added in recent years.

The entrance contains a 42 1/2" square panel with header bricks and 8 3/4" square glass blocks. The interior includes an L-shaped living and dining room, a kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bath. The living room and dining room feature oak flooring, V-joint paneling, and a brick fireplace with a wooden mantel supported by brackets. Window openings are either six or eight light casements although three double hung windows are located on the west facade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5

10. Building: Garage & Workshop 4-32 Builder: WPA
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1939

The Garage & Workshop is a 43' x 25' building containing a two stall vehicle garage as well as a shop area and space for a well and pump. The building is constructed with colorful native quartzite and features a steep hip roof with a 15/12 pitch. The original shingled roof has been replaced but the new shingles are still doubled every 6 courses as specified on the original plans. The original garage doors were built with 2-ply dressed boards with V-joints and each door contained three 4 light windows from stock sash. The garage doors have been replaced. Window openings are six over six double hung sash.

The second story is reached by a ramp at the rear of the building leading to a shed dormer containing a door flanked by two window openings. The ramp is built with 2" x 8" joints, 2" planking, and 4" x 4" posts and rails.

11. Structure: Retaining Wall Builder: WPA
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1939

A Retaining Wall is constructed against a steep hillside behind the garage and workshop. Built of dry laid quartzite, the wall is constructed in two tiers with the ramp to the upper story of the garage resting on a level section separating the two sections of masonry.

12. Building: Shop/Warehouse 4-51 Builder: Unknown
Architect: Unknown Date: c1950s

The Shop and Warehouse building is a large rectangular frame structure resting on a concrete block foundation and covered by a gable roof. The building may have been moved to the park from St. Croix State Park. The building is non-contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6Works Progress Administration Transient Camp

13. Building: Barracks (4-35)-(4-42) Builder: WPA
Architect: Unknown Date: 1935

Eight Barracks were constructed for the transient work camp and were later converted for group camp use. The buildings are 40' x 18' rectangular frame structures with gable roofs. The exteriors are sheathed with a simulated log siding known as log cabin siding. Entrance doors are placed on each end wall and are covered by a small gable roof. Four double hung sash are located on each of the side walls.

14. Building: Latrines 4-43 & 4-44 Builder: WPA
Architect: Unknown Date: 1935

Two Latrines were constructed for the transient camp. The buildings are 20' x 18' frame structures with gable roofs and log cabin siding.

15. Building: WPA Office/Staff Quarters 4-53 Date: 1935
Architect: Unknown Builder: WPA

The Office and Staff Quarters is rectangular building resting on a full basement constructed with battered walls of poured concrete.. The frame structure is covered with a gable roof which projects over the entrance to form a covered porch. The building is sheathed with log cabin siding and a stone fireplace is located on the south facade.

16. Structure: Stone Steps Builder: WPA
Architect: Unknown Date: 1935

Seven stone steps and a landing of stone flagging are all that remain of the mess hall from the transient camp. The T-shaped building was located on a hillside overlooking the camp. The building was removed in 1969-70.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7

17. Structure: Stone Bridge Builder: WPA
Architect: Unknown Date: 1935

A Stone Bridge crosses a stream adjacent to the transient camp. The bridge is approximately 9' long and is built of local split stone.

18. Site: Foundation Builder: WPA
Architect: Unknown Date: 1935

A Foundation is all that remains of a rectangular building which provided sleeping quarters at the transient camp. The Foundation is separated from the remaining camp buildings by a stream which passes along the edge of the camp to the west.

19. Building: Mess Hall 4-45 Builder: Unknown
Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1970

The Group Camp Mess Hall was built in 1970 after the original mess hall from the transient camp was removed. The new structure is a 72' x 36'7" rectangular building covered by a gable roof. The exterior is sheathed with 2" x 6" horizontal tongue and groove redwood. The building is non-contributing.

20. Structure: Swimming Pool Builder: Unknown
Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1960s

A Swimming Pool was constructed at the Group Camp by diverting water from a nearby stream. The pool is formed by an earthen dike with three sides. The structure is non-contributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

21. Structure: Dam Builder: CCC & WPA
Architect: National Park Service Date: 1936-39

A massive dam was constructed across the Cottonwood River just east of the W.P.A. transient camp. The dam was the principal project at the park and created a 209 acre lake with the resulting expansion of the Cottonwood River. Construction generally required all of the manpower at the C.C.C. camp although the W.P.A. transient camp was involved in certain phases of construction such as the completion of extensive riprapping adjacent to the dam and along the nearby river banks. However, devastating flood waters destroyed the dam three times, the last in 1969. A collapsible dam was later installed, however, this was disassembled in 1983 and the dam's center piers and baffles were removed. Since then, the river has been allowed to return to its natural state and only the spillway and massive concrete abutments remain.

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)

Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Recreation
Government

Period of Significance

1934-42

Significant Dates

1934

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service

Civilian Conservation Corps

Works Progress Administration

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

See Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Flandrau State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are historically significant for their association with the social, political and economic impact of the Great Depression and the subsequent development of the various Federal Relief Programs which were responsible for their construction. The park was developed by both the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration, two of the most popular and successful relief programs from the period. Flandrau State Park Historic Resources are also significant for their association with the development of the Minnesota state park system. The site for the park was selected based on its location in a densely populated agricultural section of Minnesota not otherwise served by a large recreational area.

Flandrau State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are architecturally significant for their unique and distinctive rustic style construction featuring a colorful native quartzite. These buildings and structures are characterized by nonintrusive and environmentally sensitive designs based on National Park Service design philosophy and master planning which carefully located the various functional areas of the park in relation to the newly constructed Lake Cottonwood. The buildings at Flandrau State Park are also significant as the most unusual architectural designs in the state park system. They feature picturesque, steeply pitched rooflines with dormers and chimneys, as well as small pane casement windows. This style was chosen by architect Edward W. Barber to reflect the German heritage of the nearby New Ulm community. The buildings are therefore exceptionally significant as the best representation in the state park system of an important principle of National Park Service Rustic Style design philosophy which stated that a park building was expected to harmonize not only with its surroundings but also with the park's cultural context as well. (Refer to the Statement of Exceptional Significance on page F34 of the Multiple Property Documentation Form.)

Land for the park was purchased in 1934 by the State Executive Council for unemployment relief purposes. The principal improvement in the park was the construction of a concrete dam in order to create a 209 acre lake in a widening of the Cottonwood River which flows into the Minnesota River a few miles below the park. Since there are very few lakes in this section of the state, the lake was intended to provide a recreational outlet in the form of canoeing, boating, swimming, and fishing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The park became one of three in the state which contained both a C.C.C. camp and a W.P.A. transient camp. C.C.C. camp SP-14 first occupied the park in June 1935 and remained until March 1942. The camp was responsible for the construction of the Dam, the Custodian's Residence and the Kitchen Shelter. The W.P.A. transient camp WC-12 was located at a separate site in the park and was responsible for the construction of the Office & Garage as well as the Combination Building, one of the largest buildings constructed in the state park system. The W.P.A. also cooperated with the C.C.C. on the construction of the dam. The W.P.A. camp was housed in buildings overlooking Lake Cottonwood which were intended to serve as an underprivileged group camp after abandonment by the relief agency. The buildings were designed for group camping as an end use and were also used to house German prisoners of war during World War II.

Cottonwood River State Park was renamed Flandrau State Park in 1945 to honor Charles E. Flandrau, a prominent lawyer and Indian agent of the Minnesota River country during the 1860s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Department of Natural Resources. Working Drawings and Specifications for Buildings at Flandrau (Cottonwood River) State Park. Bureau of Engineering. St. Paul, Minnesota.
State of Minnesota. Minnesota State Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Study. 1938.
A Summary of the Management Plan for Flandrau State Park. 1981.

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

Acreege of property 805 Acres

UTM References

A

1	5	3	8	1	6	2	0	4	9	0	6	8	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

1	5	3	8	4	3	7	0	4	9	0	3	2	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

1	5	3	8	4	4	2	0	4	9	0	5	1	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

1	5	3	8	1	5	0	0	4	9	0	3	2	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for Flandrau State Park CCC/WPA Historic Resources is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Flandrau State Park." It is defined by the historic and present day park boundary. The boundary line is crosshatched.

See continuation sheet

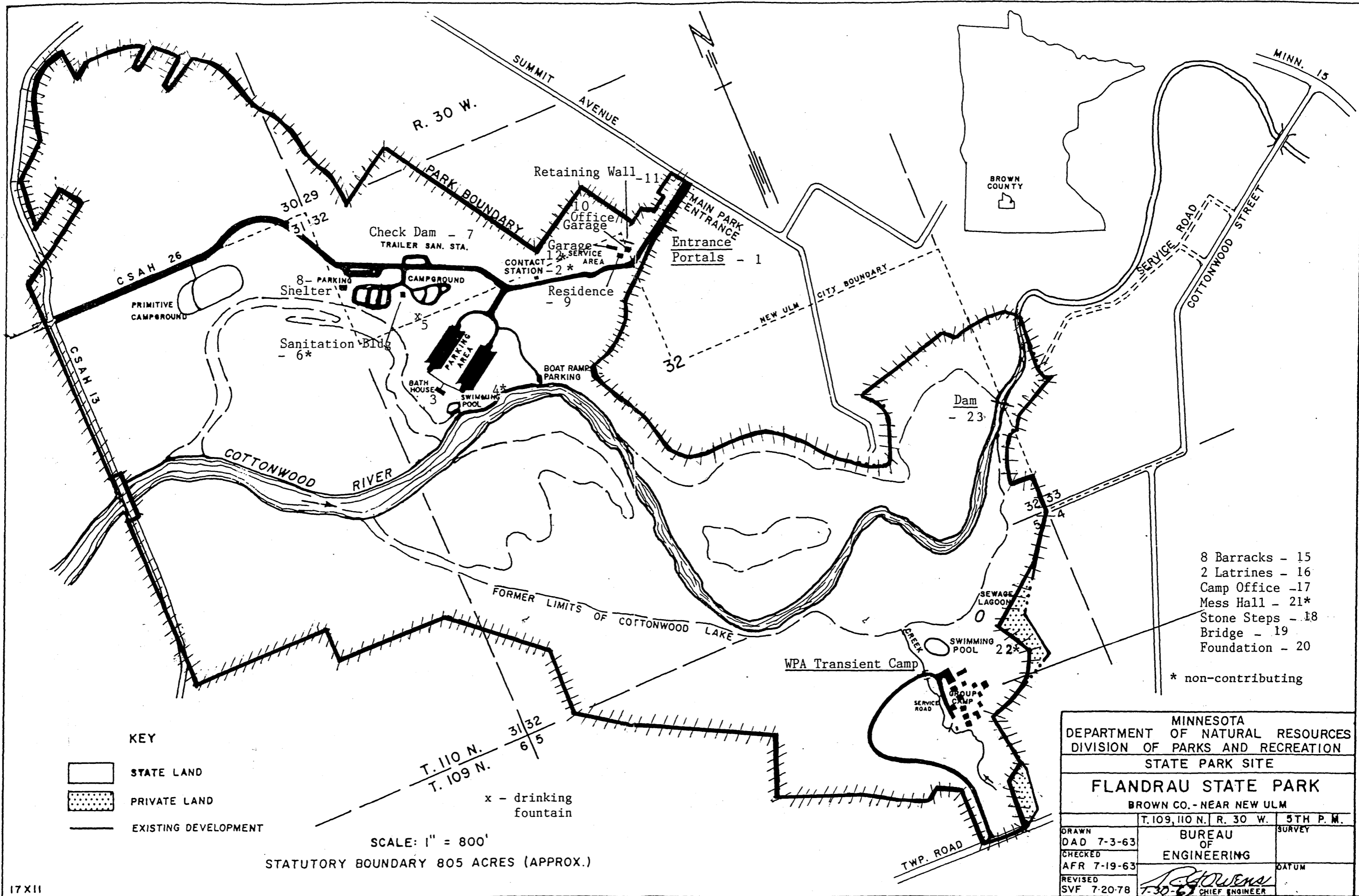
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings and structures that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain historic integrity. The boundary defines the development by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rolf T. Anderson date September 8, 1988
 organization N/A telephone 612-824-7807
 street & number 3632 Park Avenue South state Minnesota zip code 55407
 city or town Minneapolis



- 8 Barracks - 15
 - 2 Latrines - 16
 - Camp Office - 17
 - Mess Hall - 21*
 - Stone Steps - 18
 - Bridge - 19
 - Foundation - 20
- * non-contributing

KEY

STATE LAND
 PRIVATE LAND
 EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

SCALE: 1" = 800'
 STATUTORY BOUNDARY 805 ACRES (APPROX.)

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION STATE PARK SITE		
FLANDRAU STATE PARK BROWN CO. - NEAR NEW ULM		
DRAWN DAD 7-3-63	T. 109, 110 N. R. 30 W.	5TH P. M.
CHECKED AFR 7-19-63	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING	
REVISOR SVF 7-20-78	R. J. OWENS CHIEF ENGINEER	
REQ.	SHEET	FILE
61-29	12	P.014 00.01