

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

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

For NPS use only
received JUN 17 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Minnesota State Reformatory for Men Historic District

and/or common Minnesota Correctional Facility

2. Location

street & number off Minnesota Highway 301 N/A not for publication

city, town St. Cloud N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Sherburne code 141

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Penal

4. Owner of Property

name Minnesota Dept. of Corrections - Orville B. Pung, Commissioner

street & number 300 Bigelow Bldg.; 450 North Syndicate

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55104

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sherburne County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Elk River state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State-Owned Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977-1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town Saint 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

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Minnesota State Reformatory for Men (St. Cloud Reformatory) is situated approximately two miles south of St. Cloud on U.S. Highway 10. The main building complex consists of structures constructed between 1887 and 1933 and is executed in Romanesque-revival and Tudor-revival designs. Principal buildings include the Administration Building, five Cell Houses, education and training buildings, and support facilities. A tall, free-standing wall encloses athletic fields and former granite quarries as well as two sides of the building complex. In spite of the diversity of ages and designs, the buildings and the wall present a unified complex, primarily due to the use of rock-face granite and compatible cut-granite trim. The historic district covers approximately 65 acres and includes 26 buildings, 6 structures, and two sites; of these, 10 buildings and 1 structure most of them minor, are considered to be noncontributing elements.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The principal buildings at the St. Cloud Reformatory were constructed in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries following Romanesque-revival designs. Although the first building (Cell House B, 1887-89) was constructed of brick, rock-face granite became the norm for construction during the following sixty years. Other early buildings included the Administration Building (1920), Cell House A (1898-99), and Cell House C (1893), which were constructed to create a "T" with Cell House B. These buildings all present a Romanesque revival design including grouped windows with round-arched heads; massive, articulated walls; and towers with conical roofs.

Subsequent construction, including Cell House D (1914-16), a School Building (1933), Cell House E (1915-1926), and a second Cell House E (1929-1933) resulted in an "E" shaped complex which later was enclosed by lower buildings. These buildings present a Tudor-revival appearance, including flat and hipped roofs, flat-headed windows grouped both horizontally and vertically, and bay windows. The rock-face granite, nevertheless, ties them with the earlier buildings so the complex presents a unified appearance.

Outdoor areas, including a granite quarry and recreational fields, originally were enclosed by a wood fence surrounding 22 acres. Construction of a 22' high granite wall was completed in 1919 and encloses 55 acres including a second quarry and expanded recreational facilities. Early buildings within the walls included an Ice House (1910, now demolished), Root Cellars (1910, some of which have been removed), a Greenhouse (1910, now substantially altered), and several support structures (1915).

(See Continuation Sheet)

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Mr. William McRae, Warden
St. Cloud Security Facility
Box B
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302

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Principal construction outside the walled area included the Superintendent's Residence (1891), several other staff residences (c. 1905-1933), a farm complex (1930s to 1950s), and storage facilities (c. 1905) for goods manufactured in the Reformatory. The staff residences are removed from primary Reformatory area and have been altered from their original designs; the farm complex, which also is physically separated from the built-up area, is later than the period of significance for the Reformatory. Neither area, therefore, is included within the historic district.

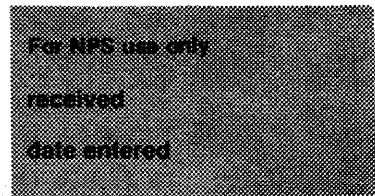
DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (Descriptions based on 1985 field survey. Building/structure numbers are adapted by the author from maps of the Reformatory and refer to numbers on the sketch map.)

(* = noncontributing building or structure)

- Building 1 Administration Building (1920) - modified c. 1921 and later). Five story rectangular building with projecting bay at front and octagonal corner towers. Rock-face, coursed, ashlar granite exterior with cut-granite trim. Flat roof with gable at projecting bay. Romanesque revival detailing including round-head arches, grouped windows, and conical tower roofs (now removed). Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- Building 2 Cell House A (1898-99). Four story rectangular building with slight projection at south end; adjoins south side of Administration Building. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Gabled roof with hipped roof at projecting bay; hipped dormers. Romanesque revival detailing including round-head arches, horizontally grouped windows, and small upper story windows creating the appearance of a deep corbel table. Attributed to J. Walter Stevens, architect.
- Building 3 Cell House B (1887-89). First masonry building constructed at the Reformatory. Four story rectangular structure adjoining the east (rear) side of the Administration Building. Brick exterior with granite base and sandstone trim. Gabled roof with shed-roof dormers; dormers originally had pyramidal roofs. Romanesque revival detailing similar to Cell House A. J. Walter Stevens, architect.
- Building 4 Cell House C (1893). Mirror image of Cell House A. Attributed to J. Walter Stevens, architect.

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- Building 5 Cell House D (1914-16). Four story rectangular building adjoining east end of School Building. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Vertically grouped windows with flat heads. Hipped roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.

 - Building 6 Cell House E (1929-1933) (Note that this is the second building with this designation.) Four story rectangular structure adjoining southeast corner of Cell House A. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Vertically grouped windows with flat heads. Flat roof.

 - * Building 9 Dining Room - Warehouse (1971). Irregularly shaped, one-story, concrete block building. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.

 - * Building 10 Food Service and Laundry (1968). Irregularly shaped, one-story reinforced concrete building. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.

 - Building 11 South Dining Hall (now Day Room E; c. 1930, remodeled 1971). Three story rectangular structure connecting east ends of Cell Houses B and E. Rock-face granite with cut-stone trim. Vertically grouped windows. Flat roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.

 - Building 12 North Dining Hall (1920). Three story rectangular structure extending north from east end of Cell House B. Rock-face granite with cut-stone trim. Vertically grouped windows. Flat roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.

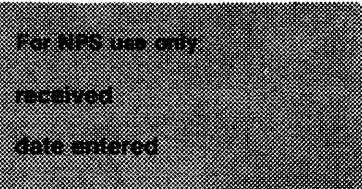
 - * Building 13 Security Corridor (1971). Narrow, one story structure along backs of Administration Building and Cell Houses A and C. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.

 - Building 14 Cell House E (now Industry Shops; 1915-1926). (Note that this is the first building with this designation.) Four story rectangular structure extending north from School Building. Projecting bay on each side near north end. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Tudor-revival design created by horizontally and vertically grouped windows, belt courses, and flat roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.

 - * Building 15 Recreation Center and Music Rooms (1961). Rectangular building projecting to west from School Building. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.

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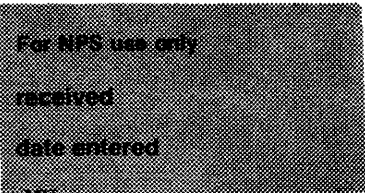
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- Building 16 Intermediate Building (now called School Building; 1933). Four story "L" shaped building connecting the Industry Shops Building and Cell Houses C and D. Projecting bay on each side near north end of "L." Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Tudor-revival design created by horizontally and vertically grouped windows, belt courses, and flat roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- * Building 17 Metal Shop - Furniture Finishing Building (1953). Two story rectangular building adjoining west end of License Plant. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Regularly spaced individual windows. Flat roof. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.
- Building 18 License Plant (1915). One story rectangular building adjoining Metal Shop - Furniture Finishing Building and Auto Repair Building. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Windows grouped vertically and horizontally. Flat roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- Building 19 Power Plant Building (1915). Similar to License Plant. Located between License Plant and Maintenance Shops - Auto Body Shop. Clarence H. Johnson, architect. Now Car Repair Bldg.
- Building 20 Maintenance Shops, Auto Body Shop (1915). One story rectangular building adjoining east end of Auto Repair Building. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Horizontally and vertically grouped windows. Low-pitch gable roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- * Building 21 Cannery (ca 1950-54). One story brick and concrete block structure. NON-CONTRIBUTORY. Now Masonry Building.
- * Building 22 Greenhouse (now Electric & Machine Repair Shop; 1910 with later alterations). Originally one story "X" shaped building, now in "L" configuration. Former glass portions replaced with concrete block and gabled, shingle roofs. Clarence H. Johnson, architect for original design. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.
- Building 23 Infirmary (1931). One story irregularly shaped building. Rock-face granite exterior with cut-stone trim. Gabled roof with cross gables at the end bays. Cupola-like ventilators at gable intersections. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.

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- Structure 26 Root Cellar (1910). One story rectangular structure. Rock-face granite entry leading to vaulted, earth covered storage area with low granite retaining walls. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- Structure 28 Old Water Tower(1911 & 1928)Free-standing octagonal tower approximately 25' wide and 100' tall. Rock-face granite with cut-granite trim. Romanesque corbel table near top. Surmounted by cylindrical water tank with conical roof.Built in 2 sections. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- Structure 29 Aggregate Storage (Outside Storage - c. 1905). High, one story rectangular structure. Rock-face granite lower portion with later, wood frame upper portion. Low pitch gable roof. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- * Building 30 Plumbing Shop (1979). Narrow, one story buiding. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.
- * Building 33 Outside Canteen (1971). Small one story building. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.
- * Structure 35 Steel Storage (1969). Rectangular one story metal building. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.
- Building 41 Superintendent's Residence (Business Office) Moved in 1891. Irregularly shaped two story building; screened porch to north. Wood frame with horizontal wood siding; simple wood belt courses. Regularly placed double-hung windows. Steeply pitched cross-gabled roof with gabled dormers; asphalt shingle roofing. Classical detailing includes decorative cornice along eaves, cornice returns at gable ends, and Palladian window in east gable.Moved across the river from St. Cloud.
- * Structure 42 Garage and Storage (1957). One story rectangular structure. NON-CONTRIBUTORY.
- Structure 50 Perimeter Wall (1918). Rock-face granite wall enclosing Reformatory compound. Twenty-two feet tall by 4 1/2 feet wide at base. Metal-frame Guard Towers 1 through 8 are located at corners and intermediate locations along the wall; these towers have glass on all sides and have flat roofs. Entry gates for trains and trucks have heavy metal doors. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.

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- Building 109 Guard Tower 9 (c. 1915, modified 1973). Square rock-face granite tower with enclosed observation area on top. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- Building 110 Guard Tower 10 (c. 1915). Square rock-face granite tower approximately four stories tall. Bracket supported metal balcony surrounds top floor. Clarence H. Johnson, architect.
- Site 201 Quarry (established 1868). This is the former Breen & Young Granite Quarry, the first commercial quarry in Minnesota. The site of the Reformatory was selected specifically to include this quarry.
- Site 202 Quarry (established c. 1910). This second quarry was established when the Reformatory grounds were enlarged in conjunction with construction of the stone perimeter wall.

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Resource Count

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The Minnesota State Reformatory for Men Historic District contains 16 contributing buildings.

Administration Building
Cell House A
Cell House B
Cell House C
Cell House D
Cell House E (1929-1933)
South Dining Hall
North Dining Hall
Cell House E (1915-1926)
Intermediate Building
License Plant
Power Plant Building
Maintenance Shops, Auto Body Shop
Infirmary
Aggregate Storage
Superintendent's Residence

The District nomination contains 5 contributing structures.

Root Cellar
Water Tower
Guard Tower 9
Guard Tower 10 and Perimeter Wall

The District nomination contains 2 contributing sites.

Quarry (1868)
Quarry (c. 1910)

The District nomination contains 10 non-contributing buildings.

Dining Room-Warehouse
Food Service and Laundry
Security Corridor
Recreation Center-Music Rooms
Metal Shop-Furniture Finishing Building
Cannery
Plumbing Shop
Outside Canteen
Steel Storage
Garage and Storage

The District nomination contains 1 non-contributing structure.

Greenhouse

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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) Penal
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1887-1933 **Builder/Architect** J. Walter Stevens (first architect)
 Clarence H. Johnson, Jr., (most significant buildings)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Minnesota State Reformatory for Men Historic District (St. Cloud Reformatory) is an architecturally and historically significant building complex located in Sherburne County just south of St. Cloud. Authorized in 1885 as a second prison, the planned institution was changed to a Reformatory in response to penal reforms of the 1880s. This institution was to serve first-time offenders between 16 and 30 years of age, providing them with job training and character improvement before they became hardened criminals. To facilitate job training, the Reformatory was to be located at an appropriate quarry site. The site selected incorporated the oldest quarry in Minnesota, which remained in operation using inmate labor until the 1960s; the Reformatory, therefore, has direct associations with the development of quarrying in central Minnesota. While legislative action limited the retail outlets for Reformatory produced stone, much of the stone and gravel used for state projects came from the Reformatory quarries. The extensive use of granite for the Reformatory buildings has resulted in the creation of an unusually cohesive building complex including administrative and training buildings, cell houses, and the enclosing wall; most of these buildings have remained relatively unaltered since completion. The St. Cloud Reformatory thus is significant for its associations with the penal reform movement and with the development of the stone industry in Minnesota, and for its architectural cohesiveness and integrity.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The St. Cloud Reformatory had its origins in 1885 state legislation which formed a citizens' committee to select the site for a second state prison; this prison was necessary to alleviate overcrowding at the existing prison in Stillwater. This same legislation mandated that the prison be located near a stone quarry to provide appropriate work for the prisoners. The committee recommended the site of the Breen and Young Granite Quarry, an established quarry near St. Cloud, for the institution. In response to the growing penal reform movement, the committee also recommended development of a Reformatory, similar to one previously established at Elmira, New York, rather than a prison for strict punishment. Such an institution would provide job training and character development before young offenders became hardened criminals;

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Minnesota Historical Society State-Owned Buildings Survey." Unpublished. No date; no place.
 O'Neill, Todd. "Minnesota State Reformatory." Unpublished. No date; no place.
 Quackenbush, Orville F. "The Development of the Correctional, reformatory, and Penal

10. Geographical Data

Institutions of Minnesota." Unpublished PhD thesis at the University of Minnesota, 1956.

Acreage of nominated property 65

Quadrangle name Cable, Minnesota

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 5	4 1 3 0 0 0	5 0 4 3 9 8 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 5	4 1 2 5 2 0	5 0 4 3 2 8 0
E			
G			

B	1 5	4 1 3 2 9 0	5 0 4 3 6 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 5	4 1 2 5 2 0	5 0 4 3 9 8 5
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert C. Mack, Partner, and Barbara E. Hightower, Research Associate

organization MacDonald and Mack Partnership

date September 25, 1985

street & number 305 Grain Exchange Building

telephone (612) 341-4051

city or town Minneapolis

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

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/9/86

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

for Andrew Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
 National Register

date 7-17-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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only first-time offenders between the ages of 16 and 30 would be accepted. These recommendations being approved, the state purchased 240 acres and began construction in 1887 following the designs of J. Walter Stevens. The Reformatory officially opened on October 15, 1889, with the transfer of 75 young men from the state prison.

The first cell house (Cell House B; 1887-89) was built by contractors using bricks. Subsequent buildings were constructed by the inmates using granite quarried on the site. Other early buildings, mostly wood framed, included a kitchen, laundry, chapel, hospital, and class rooms. These buildings and the adjacent outdoor recreational areas and quarry were enclosed by a 16' high board fence. A frame house for the superintendent was located outside the enclosed area.

Use of the Reformatory as a commercial quarry not only was to provide employment for the inmates but also to provide income to the state. Low wages paid to the inmates resulted in what was seen as an unfair price advantage for Reformatory produced stone, so the state legislature restricted the production of "open market" products in 1891. This restriction did not apply to stone for state use, so most of the stone quarried after 1891 went for construction of additional buildings on the Reformatory grounds. This practice, which continued until the mid-1960s, provides the building complex with an unusual homogeneity in spite of age and design differences among the buildings.

The same year saw the legislature designated funds for a second cell house (Cell House A, started 1898), a dining room, and an electric lighting plant. Vegetable gardening and garden-seed industries were started at the same time, taking advantage of the rural backgrounds of many of the inmates.

The early twentieth-century saw a variety of changes in response to the continuing penal reform movement. Case histories were developed for each inmate so that officials could deal more effectively with the needs of each individual. In addition, wearing of traditional striped inmate suits was terminated, lock-step marching was eliminated, and rules of strict silence were eased. A recreational baseball league was organized, providing the first outdoor sports at the institution. These changes were designed to make the Reformatory a more humane, and, therefore, more effective, institution.

Physical changes initiated in 1903 included authorization and construction of a new granite wall around the complex. Construction on the wall was completed in 1919. This new wall enclosed 55 acres including a second quarry and an enlarged recreational area.

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The twenty-five years between 1910 and 1935 saw continued growth of the institution. Clarence H. Johnson served as architect for most of these buildings as well as some of the earlier ones. Cell Houses D and E (now the Industry Shops Building) were begun in 1916-17 to accommodate continued increases in the inmate population. Additional facilities constructed at the same time included a hospital, shops buildings, and a new power plant. These buildings, along with Cell House C, were connected by a school building completed in 1933. The final cell house (the current Cell House E) was finished in 1933, completing major development of the Reformatory.

Recent development has included a recreation center, completed in 1964, and dining and food service facilities completed 1968-1971, along with several small support structures.

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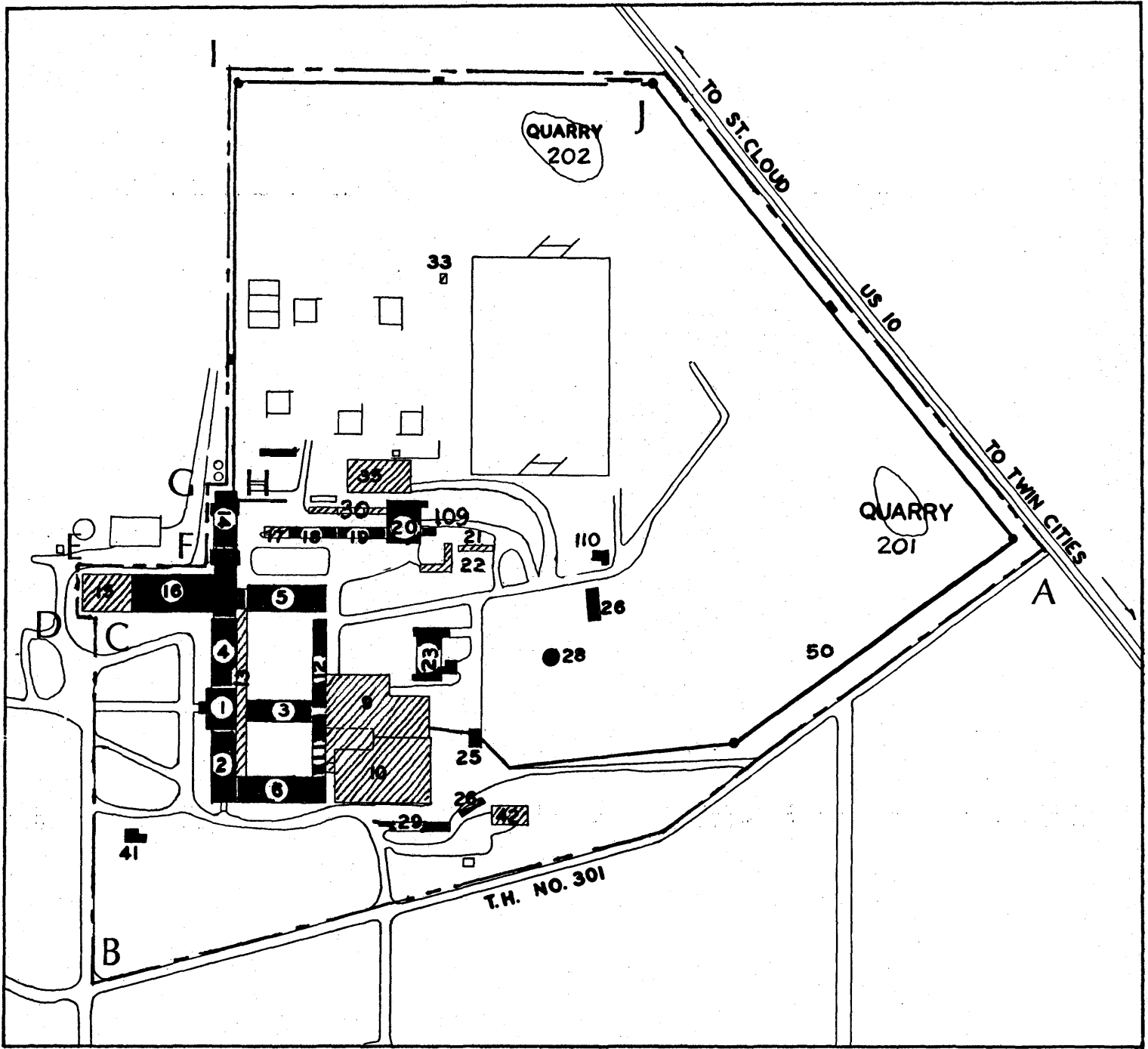
Item number 10

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification

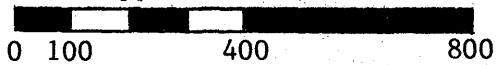
Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a Point A at the western curb of the intersection of U.S.Route 10 and State Trunk Highway 301; then southeast along the norethern curb of T.H. 301 to a Point B at the intersection with the service drive; then north along the eastern curb of the service road to a Point C, 5' south of the intersection with the Recreation Building; then west to a Point D, 5' to the west of the Recreation Building; then north to a Point E, 5' to the north of the Recreation Building; then east to a Point F, 10' to the west of the School Building; then north to a Point G, 5' to the north of the Industry Shops Building; then east to a Point H at the eastern shoulder of the perimeter road; then north along the eastern shoulder of the perimeter road to a Point I at the bend in the road; then east along the south shoulder of the perimeter road to a Point J at the intersection with U.S. Highway 10; then southeast along the southern shoulder of U.S. Highway 10 to the point of origin. (LETTERED POINTS REFER TO SKETCH MAP.)

Boundary Justification: The Saint Cloud Reformatory Historic District includes all the Reformatory buildings within the granite walls plus principal support structures outside the walls. For the most part, the boundaries follow existing highways and service roads. Other Reformatory grounds and support buildings are not included because they are physically removed from the main building complex, have been altered, and postdate the period of significance for the reformatory.



St. Cloud Reformatory Historic District

Scale approximately 1" = 350'



■ = Contributing building

▨ = Noncontributing building

Source: Minnesota Department of Corrections map, "State Reformatory for Men, St. Cloud, Minnesota," c. 1975