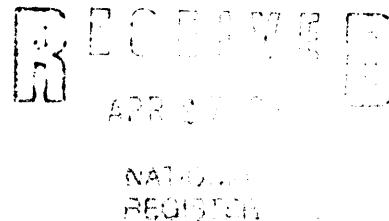


6039

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Interstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District
other names/site number Interstate State Park

2. Location

street & number off U.S. Highway 8
city, town Shafer Twp. Taylors Falls
state Minnesota code MN county Chisago code 025 zip code 55084

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-rows for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

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.
Signature of certifying official Ian K. Stewart, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 4/20/92
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.
determined eligible for the National Register.
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

Asphalt

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

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

1920-1939

Significant Dates

1920
1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service
State of Minnesota
Works Progress Administration

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

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Department of Natural Resources. Working Drawings and Specifications for Buildings and Structures at Interstate State Park. Bureau of Engineering. St. Paul, Minnesota.
Dunn, James Taylor. State Parks of the St. Croix Valley. St. Paul: Minnesota Parks Foundation. Minneapolis: Minnesota. 1982.
Hazzard, George H. Minnesota State Park of the Dalles of the St. Coix. Report of the Minnesota Park Commissioner. 1895-96.
State of Minnesota. Minnesota State Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study. 1938.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Six Acres

UTM References

A | 1 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Interstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District is shown as the heavy, cross-hatched, line on the accompanying map entitled, "Interstate State Park." The boundary is defined by the park boundary to the north, the St. Croix River to the east and south, and the outside edge of the park road to the west.

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 includes the Rustic Style buildings which predate the Depression Era and those areas of the park developed by the Works Progress Administration.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rolf T. Anderson
 organization N/A date March 22, 1992
 street & number 212 West 36th Street telephone 612-824-7807
 city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55408

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetInterstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District
Shafer Township, Chisago County, MinnesotaSection number 7 Page 1DESCRIPTION

The Interstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District is located at the edge of the town of Taylors Falls and adjacent to the St. Croix River. It consists of a six acre area also known as the Glacial Gardens. The district includes three buildings, two structures, and one object which were built by the Works Progress Administration and from development which preceded the Depression Era. Local basalt stone was utilized in the construction of the park buildings and structures. The stone used in the WPA construction was probably quarried at a site near the boundary of the park at a place where Highway 8 had cut through a section of rock in 1931. A CCC crew may have quarried the stone for the WPA. Architects for the buildings and structures built by the WPA were from the National Park Service and the Design Office of the Minnesota Division of State Parks.

This area of the park was developed along a rocky gorge which rises perpendicularly up to 30 feet from the water's edge and which contains stratified and precipitous igneous rock formations containing spectacular examples of pot holes. Development was oriented toward the enjoyment of the geologic formations and this area of the park was actually considered an outdoor museum. Facilities for intensive recreation such as camping and picnicking were not provided.

1. Building: Women's Rest Room Builder: Unknown/WPA
Architect: Unknown Date: c1920

The Women's Rest Room is the oldest surviving building in Interstate Park and its Rustic Style construction predates the Federal Relief Programs of the Depression Era. The building strongly influenced the later WPA construction in the park.

The original appearance of this 42'4" x 52'3" building resembled a pavilion with eleven rounded columns resting on battered stone piers supporting a low pitch hip roof. This colonnade in turn encircled a centrally located enclosure. The single room enclosure served as a lounge and its exterior was covered with stucco. The building drops a full 2 stories at the rear and the Women's Rest Room was entered from this rear facade on the lower level. A 1941 remodeling by the Works Progress Administration extended the enclosure to the rear of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Interstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District
Shafer Township, Chisago County, Minnesota

Section number 7 Page 2

building and created a new rest room on the main level. The stone piers were also extended to the roof line and replaced the original columns. The working drawings state "match exterior wall with existing masonry." The lounge is now used for a museum.

The stone used in both the construction and remodeling of the building is local basalt or trap-rock which was probably quarried in the park. The stonework has a dry laid appearance.

2. Building: Men's Rest Room Builder: Unknown
Architect: Unknown Date: 1928

This 22'9 " x 16'6" building is constructed entirely of native basalt stone. The structure is capped with a hip roof and still retains its original casement windows. The interior was remodeled by the WPA in 1940. This is the second Rustic Style building in Interstate Park which predates the Depression Era and its careful siting within the existing landscape is particularly notable. The building was influenced by the earlier Women's Rest Room and in turn influenced the later WPA construction.

3. Building: Refectory Builder: WPA
Architect: H. Petersen Date: 1939

The Refectory building consists of a 29' x 43' shelter, a 28' x 14' rectangular projection to the north which served as the concession, and a 29' x 14' terrace which extends toward the St. Croix River at the rear of the structure. Both the building and the retaining walls of the terrace are constructed with native basalt rock. There is a 5" batter in the stonework from the base of the building to the eaves and all window openings feature corbelled masonry. The building is covered by a hip roof supported by log trusses.

The entrance is flanked by log posts resting on stone piers which support a canopy. The entrance doors are constructed with vertical V-groove shiplap with strap hinges.

The concession originally included counter space, a kitchen, and a storage area. In 1946 the concession was expanded to include a portion of the shelter. However, the concession was later eliminated and in 1981 rest rooms and an office for the present interpretive center were constructed. All windows were originally open, however, during a 1957 remodeling sliding sash was installed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetInterstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District
Shafer Township, Chisago County, MinnesotaSection number 7 Page 3

4. Structure: Stone Curb Builder: WPA
Architect: State of Minnesota Date: 1937

The 120' x 400' parking lot was expanded to its present size in 1937 as a WPA project. The lot was extended 80' toward the river and was "cut in rock to form (a) barrier" on the east edge. The remaining parameters of the lot were defined by a curb of local basalt rock and a low masonry wall was constructed in the middle of the parking area. Two stone piers are located at the southern edge of the lot in order to define the entrance to a walkway leading to the river.

5. Object: Drinking Fountain Builder: WPA
Architect: State of Minnesota Date: 1938

A Drinking Fountain is located at the southern edge of the parking lot near the Refectory. The fountain is built with basalt rock and is 2'6" square at the base and rises to height of 3' with a slight batter. A faucet is located at the side of the fountain while the bubbler is placed on the top. A stone step is also placed on one side so that children might reach the fountain.

6. Structure: Retaining Wall Builder: WPA
Architect: State of Minnesota Date: 1938

A Retaining Wall is constructed at the boat landing along the St. Croix River. The wall is approximately 150' long and is constructed with native basalt. The retaining wall is 8' to 10' high and its present appearance may date from two separate periods of construction. The upper portion was completed by the WPA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Interstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District
Shafer Township, Chisago County, Minnesota

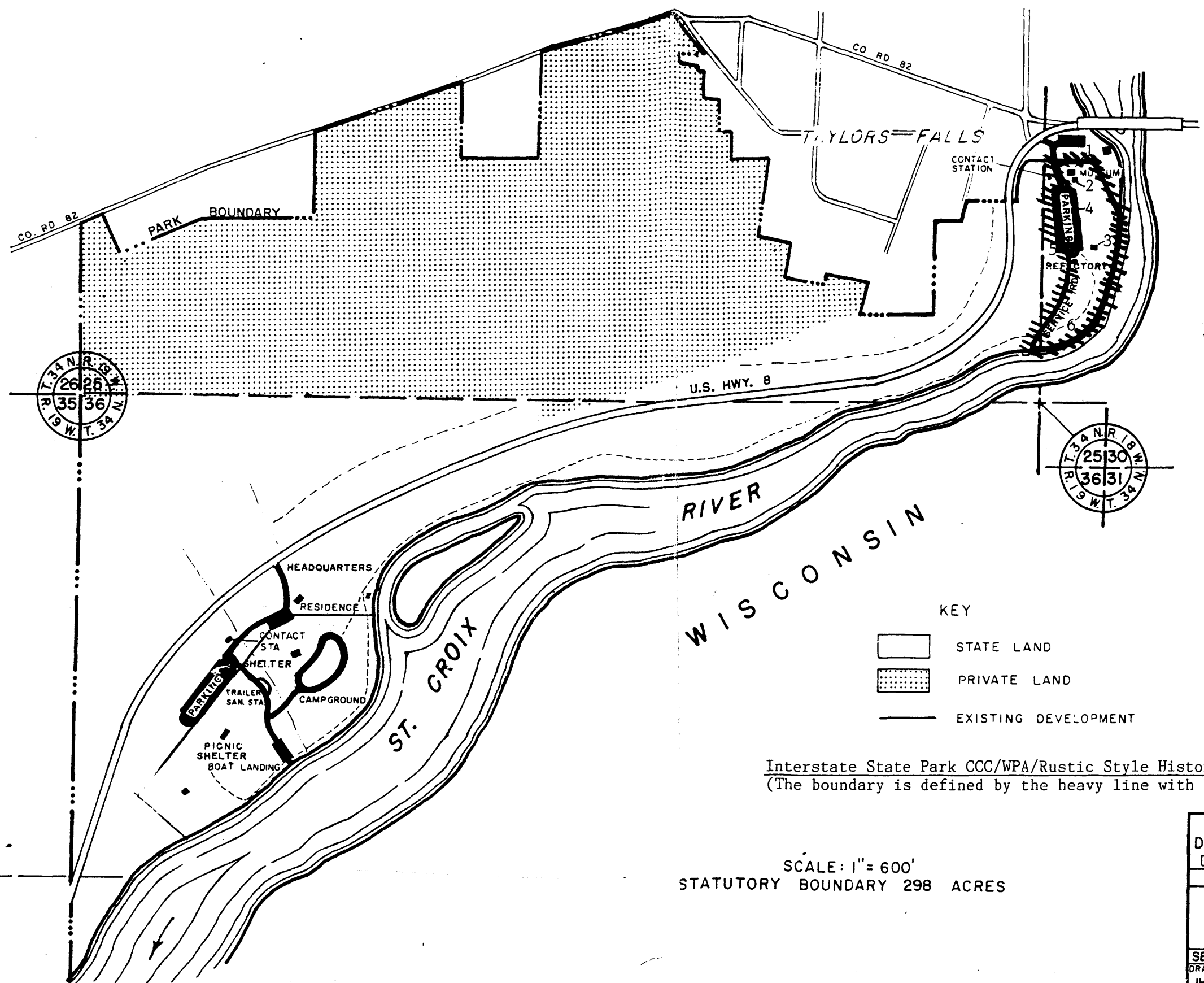
Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Interstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District is historically significant for its 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 its construction. Interstate State Park is also historically significant for its association with the development of the Minnesota state park system. The park is one of the oldest parks in the state and was established in 1895 when Minnesota and Wisconsin created separate interstate parks across from each other on the St. Croix River. This was the first example of an interstate collaboration in the country. During the period of significance, Interstate State Park received the highest number of visitors of any park in the state, 327,496 in 1937 alone, which was comparable to the attendance at several National Parks.

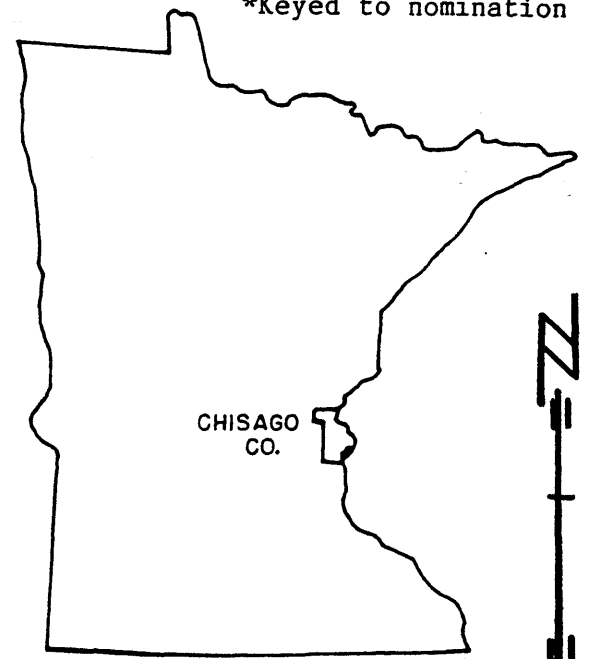
The Interstate State Park Historic District is architecturally significant for its exceptional examples of finely-crafted Rustic Style construction featuring native basalt rock quarried from within the park. Of particular significance are the Men's and Women's Rest Room buildings which predate the Relief Programs of the Depression Era. The buildings are significant as early examples of state park Rustic Style construction and are notable for their influence on the later WPA development. The Men's Rest Room in particular is significant for its sensitive placement within the rocky outcroppings of the existing landscape.

The functional division of the park into the Glacial Gardens and the Campground, located one mile to the south, is a significant example of landscape design based on National Park Service master planning.



1. Women's Rest Room*
2. Men's Rest Room
3. Refectory
4. Stone Curb
5. Drinking Fountain
6. Retaining Wall

*Keyed to nomination



KEY

STATE LAND

PRIVATE LAND

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Interstate State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District
 (The boundary is defined by the heavy line with cross-hatches)

SCALE: 1" = 600'
 STATUTORY BOUNDARY 298 ACRES

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION STATE PARK SITE		
INTERSTATE STATE PARK CHISAGO CO. - AT TAYLORS FALLS		
SEC.	T. 34 N. R. 18-19 W.	4TH P. M.
DRAWN JHP 12-6-62	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING	SURVEY
CHECKED MWR 12-10-62		DATUM
REVISED SVF 7-21-77	<i>[Signature]</i> CHIEF ENGINEER	
REQ.	SHEET	FILE
58-3	8	P.020.00.01