

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 11 1984

date entered NOV 8 1984

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

1. Name

historic Northeastern Hotel

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 115 St. Louis Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Cloquet N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Carlton code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sandra and Jerry Karppinen

street & number Route 1

city, town Culver N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55727

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Register of Deeds

street & number Carlton County Courthouse

city, town Carlton state Minnesota 55718

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date _____ N/A
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Northeastern Hotel is a simple two story brick structure (sixty by sixty feet in size) containing a bar and a hotel. It has a corner entrance which leads to the bar. The front of the building faces St. Louis Avenue and contains the entrance to the hotel. It is one of the few pre-1918 fire structures remaining in Cloquet and is also the major commercial structure from an area of bars and saloons originally developed on Dunlap Island in the early to mid-1880's. Ornamentation includes a pressed metal cornice and brick courses above the second floor windows.

The Northeastern Hotel was built in 1904 on the site of an earlier structure, built in 1885, which burned in 1904. It is on two parallel foundations joined by a tunnel through slate rock in the basement.

The bar, located on the west side of the main floor, is virtually unchanged from this description written by Stewart Holbrook in 1953:

"its drinking emporium is a piece of the past - not 'restored,' but an authentic period piece... Back of the rococo bar is one of the strangest allegorical murals you are likely to see, the work of an itinerant painter who worked for bed and drink. On a wall is the head of a moose; 'Killed by Hank Glassow 1 mile from town,' says a sign. On another wall is the blown-up photograph of a woods character, his sweeping mustache deep in suds, who is labeled 'Happy Days!'"

The barroom is twenty by fifty feet in size. It contains the thirty-foot long bar, original to the structure, and made of second-cut African mahogany. The original brass railing still runs its length. The backbar is also original, containing the original cooler, storage compartments and mirror.

The hotel side of the structure contains a lobby, two dining rooms, kitchen and owners' quarters on the main floor. The twenty visitors' rooms are located on the second floor of the structure, reached by stairways from both the bar and hotel lobby. There is a skylight in the center of the building on this floor.

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

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

Northeastern Hotel, Cloquet, MN; Carlton County

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

Item number 7 continued:

The building is structurally sound, but is in need of some repairs such as a new roof. The heating system for the building is contained in a small cement block outbuilding to the rear of the main structure.

The only structural change to the building is the brick-ing over a picture window on the hotel side of the building. This was done in the 1960's after repeated vandalism to the window. The metal awnings date from the 1950's. No other major structural changes have been made to this building.

NOTES

- ¹ Stewart Holbrook, "My Favorite Town - Cloquet, Minnesota," Ford Times (April 1953): 4-5.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Northeastern Hotel was built in 1904 on the site of an earlier structure which burned in that year. The original structure on this site was built in 1885 at the time of the development of Dunlap Island. At this time, the sale of intoxicating beverages was discouraged by land owners on both sides of the river, but not on the island. Dunlap Island thus became a well-known landmark in the area. During its heyday (ca. 1911), seventeen saloons and bars were built on St. Louis Avenue, the main street of the island, and the several streets intersecting it. The Northeastern Hotel was a major establishment on the island during this period.

Events of October 12, 1918, changed the history of the Northeastern Hotel. That day, a forest fire burned through much of Carlton County and the surrounding counties. It has been described as having generated "great heat and gale-force winds" which drove the fire "forward with frightening speed and momentum."²

In all, 1500 square miles were burned in an area of 8400 square miles in the counties of Carlton, St. Louis, Pine, Aitkin, Itasca, Cass, Wadena and Crow Wing. During this firestorm, the city of Cloquet burned to the ground. All that remained of Cloquet after the fire were three of the five sawmills in the city, one school building, several isolated scattered houses and the structures along St. Louis Avenue on Dunlap Island.

The decision was made almost immediately to rebuild the city. By August of 1919, this task was well underway. During the fall and winter of 1918, however, there were few structures available for fire relief efforts. During this time, the Northeastern Hotel became the Red Cross headquarters. It also served as a hospital for fire victims and for victims of the 1918 influenza outbreak, while its bar became the United States Post Office. In addition, it was used as a temporary shelter for laborers returning to work in the sawmills.³

Shortly after the fire, it was reported by the National Guard:

9. Major Bibliographical References

- "A Legacy of the St. Louis River Valley." Cloquet Pine-Knot, 8 August 1975.
 "City of Cloquet Wiped Out By Fire." The Duluth Herald, 14 October 1918.
 "Postal Facility After the Fire." Cloquet Pine-Knot, 10 October 1919.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one
 Quadrangle name Cloquet Quad., Minnesota-Carlton County Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1,2, & 3. Block 9. Dunlap Edition, Cloquet, Carlton County, MN

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sandra Karppinen Owner/operator of the Northeastern Hotel
 organization Northeastern Hotel date August, 1984
 street & number 115 St. Louis Avenue telephone (218) 879-9968
 city or town Cloquet state Minnesota 55720

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 date 9/26/84
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 11-8-84

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Northeastern Hotel, Cloquet, MN; Carlton County

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Item number 8 continued:

"Temporary quarters were established in the old buildings on the island. Sgt. Gus Apel, Sanitary Detachment, 4th Infantry, established a dispensary in the old Northeastern Hotel building, and a steady stream of refugees were given first aid there. Sgt. Apel was constantly on the job, for 36 hours without rest and dressed the burns of hundreds of refugees. For several days his dispensary was the only place in Cloquet that medical attention could be secured, and the service performed by him was of a very high order."⁴

The importance of the role the Northeastern Hotel played after the fire was highlighted in the "Fire Anniversary Number" of the Cloquet Pine-Knot:

"In common with everything else, the matter of handling the mail was in a chaotic condition for a few days. A considerable quantity of mail was burned in the local post office and immediately following the fire the railway service was disconnected on any sort of a definite schedule. Postmaster E. S. Scheibe, however, did not stop to consider future difficulties, but jumped into the job immediately and rented temporary quarters in the Northeastern Hotel building on Dunlap Island, which had providentially escaped the general conflagration. The clerks and carriers were scattered far and wide, and practically everybody to whom mail came here was living some place else. A temporary crew was assembled, mail was forwarded as addresses became known, order was brought

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Northeastern Hotel, Cloquet, MN; Carlton County
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Item number 8 continued:

out of confusion and in a surprisingly short time regular delivery service was again inaugurated here. This was an exceedingly hard job to handle but Mr. Scheibe got away with it in commendable shape and is deserving of full credit therefor."⁵

During Prohibition, the Northeastern Hotel continued to operate, with the bar becoming an ice cream parlor. After Prohibition, the bar again began to serve liquor. The hotel (ca. 1940's) became a well known family restaurant.

By the early 1960's, the restaurant was discontinued, although the bar and hotel continued to operate. The Northeastern Hotel continues to operate today as a bar and a hotel, serving as a reminder of both the logging and fire history of this city.

NOTES

² Francis Carroll, "'At the Time of our Misfortune': Relief Efforts Following the 1918 Cloquet Fire," Minnesota History, (Fall, 1983), : 271.

³ "City of Cloquet Wiped Out By Fire," The Duluth Herald, 14 October 1918.

⁴ Commanding Officer Duluth District 4th Regiment Minnesota Infantry National Guard Reporting Activities of Company "C" and "D" 4th Regiment Minnesota Infantry National Guard since October 12, 1918. October 27, 1918: 2. Roger M. Weaver Scrapbook. Northeast Minnesota Historical Center. University of Minnesota, Duluth. Duluth, Minnesota.

⁵ "Postal Facility After the Fire," Cloquet Pine-Knot, 10 October 1919.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Northeastern Hotel, Cloquet, MN; Carlton County



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 4

Item number 9 continued:

Carroll, Francis. "'At the Time of our Misfortune': Relief Efforts Following the 1918 Cloquet Fire." Minnesota History (Fall 1983): 270-282.

"Dunlap Island Development is Woman's Dream." Cloquet Pine Knot-Billboard, 1 March 1984.

"Dunlap Island is Birthplace of Cloquet." Cloquet Pine Knot-Billboard, 1 March 1984.

"Dunlap Island: Grows Out of Lumber Boom." Cloquet Pine Knot-Billboard, 15 March 1984.

Final Report of the Minnesota Forest Fires Relief Commission.
Duluth, 1921.

Holbrook, Stewart. "My Favorite Town - Cloquet, Minnesota." Ford Times (April 1953): 2-9.

Niemi, Allan. "History of Cloquet." Unpublished manuscript of the Carlton County Historical Society. Cloquet: Carlton County Historical Society, 1940.

O'Meara, Walter. We Made it Through the Winter. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1974.

Pelkonen, Matt. "Cloquet on Parade." Unpublished manuscript of the Carlton County Historical Society. Cloquet: Carlton County Historical Society, 1948.

"Restoration of Island Businesses Lies Ahead." Cloquet Pine Knot-Billboard, 22 March 1984.

"Spafford Park Graces River's Edge." Cloquet Pine Knot-Billboard, 29 March 1984.

"What Happened to William Dunlap?" Cloquet Pine Knot, 9 December 1976.