

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

For NPS use only

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

received **JUN 26 1986**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lars and Guri Endreson House

and/or common Guri Endreson Cabin

2. Location

street & number off County Highway 5 N/A not for publication

city, town Dovre Township X vicinity of Willmar

state Minnesota code 22 county Kandiyohi code 067

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Kandiyohi County Historical Society

street & number 610 Highway 71 NE

city, town Willmar N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kandiyohi County Courthouse

street & number Becker Avenue W.

city, town Willmar state Minnesota 56201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984-85 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Guri Endreson House is located in a wooded area near the shore of West Solomon Lake in Section 19 of Dovre Township, about 4 miles northwest of Willmar. The cabin, accessible via a twisting gravel road, is open to the public on a restricted basis and has been enclosed within a tall chainlink and wooden fence to deter vandals. Also within the fence are granite markers erected by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Kandiyohi County Historical Society which commemorate Lars and Endre Endreson (who were buried near the cabin) and Guri Endreson. On the north side of the fence are signs and maps interpreting the history of the site.

The Endreson House, built circa 1858, is a small 1 1/2 story gable roofed house built of square hewn oak logs, attached with dovetail joinery and now chinked with concrete. The main (north) facade of the house has a central single leaf door and an adjacent rectangular window. There are additional single leaf doors on the south and west facades, and rectangular window openings on the east and south facades. The ends of the timbers which support the attic floor are visible on the north and south facades. Beneath the cabin is a rock walled cellar. The interior log walls, once covered with plaster, are now exposed. The interior ceiling is covered with narrow tongue and groove panelling and the interior stairway or ladder to the attic level has been removed.

The Endreson House has been altered somewhat in an effort to preserve the site. A new board and batten roof now covers the cabin and all window and door openings with the exception of the main entrance have been covered with wooden planks. Rough vertical plank siding has been installed in the west gable end and a low concrete base has been poured around the cabin. The Endreson Cabin is in good condition and is being maintained by the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 Circa 1858 - 1862 **Builder/Architect** Lars and Guri Endreson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Guri Endreson House, built circa 1858 in Dovre Township, Kandiyohi County, is historically and architecturally significant as one of Kandiyohi County's oldest extant buildings on its original site and a rare survivor of its pre-Uprising (Dakota War of 1862) period of settlement, as one of few buildings still standing which have strong historical links to the events of the Dakota War of 1862, and as one of the county's few remaining examples of log construction.

The first white settler to what is now Kandiyohi County, E.T. Woodcock, arrived in 1856. Lars and Guri Endreson, Norwegians who immigrated to the U.S. in 1856, numbered among the first settlers who followed Woodcock into county when they filed a claim on this wooded site on West Solomon Lake in 1857. The Endresons and their six children erected this house of hand hewn logs circa 1858 and cleared land for a farm. By 1862 the eldest daughter, Gjaertru, was married and lived on a nearby farm and Lars and Guri Endreson had 17 head of cattle, 8 sheep, 8 pigs, several chickens, and several acres of land under cultivation.

By 1862 Kandiyohi County had an estimated population of 600 people living on subsistence farms scattered among the county's lakes and woods, and small townsites had been planned or platted at Kandiyohi (Capitol Hill), Whitefield, Columbia, Irving, and Fullerville. The Dakota War of 1862, which began August 17 and lasted through September of 1862, effectively depopulated the entire county as settlers fled in panic from Kandiyohi to eastern settlements such as Forest City, Paynesville, and St. Cloud. On August 20 and August 21 various groups of Dakota attacked and killed or captured settlers in many parts of the county, burning houses and stealing possessions. The Lutheran church congregation to which Guri and Lars Endreson belonged lost 20 members during the two days of violence. By August 23 almost all whites had left the county. Burial and relief parties were organized and sent back to retrieve livestock and household goods and to bury settlers, and the area was patrolled by the Eighth Minnesota Regiment. In 1863 three military posts which were manned until 1865-1866 were established in the county, one about 2 miles from the Endreson Cabin on the south end of West Solomon Lake. Although some crops were sown and harvested by a few settlers in the northern parts of the county during the summer of 1864, resettlement of the region did not occur until 1865 and 1866 as settlers slowly moved back to reclaim their farms. Many people permanently abandoned their claims and did not return to the county, and several of the earliest townsites were never reestablished.

Guri and Lars Endreson were surprised by a group of Indians who attacked their cabin on August 21. Lars and the eldest son Endre were killed, son Ole was seriously injured, and daughters Brita and Guri were taken captive. The mother Guri and her baby daughter, Anna, escaped by hiding in an outside cellar hole. The next day Guri, Ole, and Anna travelled to the nearby Erickson cabin (home of Guri's married daughter) where two men had been killed, others had fled into the woods, and two men were seriously wounded inside. During the next few days Guri Endreson brought the three wounded and her daughter on a ox-drawn wagon about 15 miles to safety at Forest City, where she found Brita and Guri who had escaped from the Indians and been picked up by whites.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Endreson, Guri. Letter to daughter in Norway, December 2, 1866, reprinted in Theodore C. Blegan, "Notes and Documents," Minnesota History, December, 1939.
A Guide to Historical Sites in Kandiyohi County. Willmar: Kandiyohi County Historical Society, ca. 1967.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.2

Quadrangle name Solomon Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing					

C

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H

Zone				Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger/Contract Historian

organization State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society

date July 1985

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date

6/20/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

7/24/86

for Alloeus Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Dovre Township (vic. of Willmar, MN) Kandiyohi County
Continuation sheet Guri Endreson Cabin Item number 8, 9

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

Like most other victims of the War, Guri Endreson stayed away from Kandiyohi County until the summer of 1866 when she went to live with neighbors about 2 miles from her farm. She eventually reclaimed the farm and lived there with Anna and Brita. (Ole had died in 1863 and Guri and Gjaertru then lived away from home). She died on June 20, 1881.

The Endreson Cabin was eventually incorporated into a frame farmhouse. A later owner, Paul E. Anderson, demolished the house and reexposed the cabin. In 1962 it was acquired by the Kandiyohi County Historical Society and in 1970 it was restored and fenced by the Ekeberg Foundation as a memorial to Victor E. Lawson (1871-1960), a prominent local historian, newspaperman, and legislator. The site is now maintained by the Kandiyohi County Historical Society and the area within the fence is accessible to the public on a restricted basis.

The Endreson Cabin is one of the oldest buildings standing on its original site in Kandiyohi County and is one of the county's few remaining examples of log construction. It is the only known surviving dwelling of the pre-Uprising period of settlement which is intact and on its original site. The cabin is one of Kandiyohi County's most important sites associated with its pre-railroad period of settlement, as discussed in the "Early Agriculture and River Settlement" context unit of the Resource Protection Planning Process (RP3), a comprehensive planning program developed recently by the State Historic Preservation Office to aid in the study and assessment of the state's historic sites. The Endreson Cabin was included in an eight month historic sites survey of Kandiyohi County conducted recently by the State Historic Preservation Office. The Endreson Cabin was the oldest and most intact log cabin standing on its original site identified by the survey in the county, as well as being the site with the strongest links to the events of the Dakota War. (Other log structures with exposed interior walls included 2 cabins moved into townsites and two cabins identified on farmsteads. A few log structures which have been incorporated into later frame structures also exist in the county.)

Item #9 (Bibliography) continued:

"Anniversary Album, 1859-1944, Lebanon Lutheran Church, New London, Minnesota."
New London: 1944.

"10,000 Years of Indian History in Kandiyohi County." Kandi Express, Special Issue,
September, 1984, (newsletter of Kandiyohi County Historical Society).

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Lars and Guri Endreson House, Dovre Township, (vicinity of Wilmar),

Minnesota

Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number

8

Page

2

The Lars and Guri Endreson House Nomination

contains 1 contributing building.

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

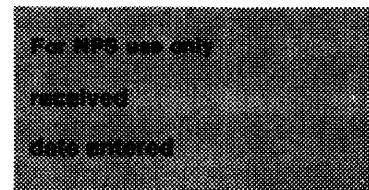
**National Register of Historic Places
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Dovre Township (vic. of Willmar, MN) Kandiyohi County

Continuation sheet Guri Endreson Cabin

Item number 10

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Item #10 (Verbal Boundary Description):

That part of Lot 5 of Government Lot 5, Section 19, Township 120, Range 35, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Lot 5, thence westerly along the north line thereof a distance of 315 feet; thence deflecting to the left 90° a distance of 330 feet to the point of beginning, thence continuing on said last described southerly line a distance of 378 feet; thence deflecting 90° right in a westerly direction a distance of 400 feet more or less to a point on the West line of said Lot 5, thence deflecting 97°19' right in a northerly direction on said West line a distance of 215 feet; thence deflecting to the right in a northeasterly direction on said West line a distance of 174.4 feet; thence deflecting 70°46' right in an easterly direction a distance of 315.3 feet more or less, to the point of beginning, containing 3.2 acres, more or less.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
4/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Endreson, Lars and Guri, House in
Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86001920

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Kandiyohi

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Willmar

ADDRESS: off Co. Hwy. 5

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date