

MAR 15 1982

STRUCTURE INVENTORY

Historic Name: Oliver Boarding House	Bldg. #
Current Name:	County: Itasca
Legal Desc.: Lots 7 & 8, Block 4, First Addition to Marble	City/Twp.: Marble City
Date Constructed: c. 1909	Address: Jessie Street North of Alice Avenue
Original Owner: Oliver Iron Mining Company	Original Use: Boarding House
Owner's Name and Address: Raymond Rychart Box 335 Marble, MN 55764	Architect/Builder: Unknown
	Acreage: less than 1 acre X
	UTM Reference: Calumet Quad. 7.5 15 / 477185 / 5240765

Oliver Boarding House

The Oliver Boarding House, located on Jessie Street in Marble's residential section, is the only known Oliver Mining Company boarding house remaining on the Western Mesabi. Prior to 1930 every Range community had a number of boarding houses. Many were privately owned; others were owned by the mining companies and operated by lessees. Boarding houses provided needed shelter during the Range's initial boom period (1901 - mid 1920s) when housing shortages were a perennial occurrence precipitated by the constant influx of miners, many of whom were immigrants. Most boarding houses ceased operation by the 1930s after mining activity had sharply declined, and have since been razed or substantially altered.

The Oliver Boarding House, one of four constructed in Marble, was built c. 1909 when Marble was frequently referred to as "Tent City". It is a two story gable-roofed rectangular frame structure sitting on a stone foundation. Double-hung 2/2 windows are situated throughout the structure. An unadorned porch extends the length of the east (front) facade. A portion of the porch has recently been enclosed.

The interior retains its original design integrity. Spacious first floor rooms include a kitchen, sitting room, and dining room where nearly forty miners received their meals. The second level consists of four small sleeping rooms on each side of a central hall and two larger rooms at the west end.

The Oliver Boarding House was closed in the late 1920s. The structure is currently used as a residence.

Bibliography:

Kavanagh, Madeline (Daughter of an early lessee). Letter to Mark Haidet of January 5, 1981.
(In Minnesota SHPO files).

_____. Phone conversation with Mark Haidet, February 1981.