

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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

2. Location

street & number off County Highway 7  not for publication N/A  
city, town Unorganized Territory Bigfork  vicinity  
state Minnesota code MN county Itasca code 061 zip code 56628

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>6</u>	<u>        </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>0</u> Total

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 R. Stewart Date 4/13/92  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
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.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Boland 6/8/92  
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 Log/Stone

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

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Continuation Sheet

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DESCRIPTION

The Scenic State Park CCC/Rustic Style Historic District includes the public use area of the park located on the western shore of Coon Lake. The 16 acre district contains four buildings and two structures which were built among stands of virgin Norway and White Pine. Architects for the park buildings were from the National Park Service.

Department of Natural Resources building identification numbers are placed after the name of each building.

1. Building: Shelter Pavilion 2-113 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1934-35

The Shelter Pavilion is a 55' x 30' structure with a 20' x 11' projection to the rear for a concession. The building rests on a concrete foundation with a split stone face and is constructed with 10" peeled logs with saddle-notched corners. Native stone is also employed in the construction of a massive fireplace on the south wall and a flagstone terrace of random flat stones. The structural system consists of log trusses which support the gable roof. The building features two centrally located pairs of plank doors with strap hinges flanked by eight light casement windows.

The Shelter Pavilion was featured in a 1935 National Park Service publication entitled Park Structures and Facilities and received the following comments from author Albert H. Good, "In this example Minnesota justifies her advantage of superior native timber resources by the fine character of the log construction.... No one region seems to have been blest beyond its fair share of natural resources of the first flight. An imagined ideal park structure....would assuredly specify logs and log construction from Minnesota."

The Shelter Pavilion contains a large collection of Rustic style furniture including tables and benches constructed with split logs and log slabs, log seats with picturesque branches used for the backs, and massive tables constructed with giant tree trunks. Ole Evensen, a local

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woodsman who was hired by the C.C.C., supervised the construction of the Rustic style furniture as well as many of the park buildings. The shelter also contains a C.C.C. constructed woodland scene housed in a glass case with a rustic log frame. The miniature scene contains carved trees, plants, birds, and animals, all painted in a realistic manner. Three paintings executed by C.C.C. enrollee Willian Lewis hang in the north gable of the shelter. The paintings depict a forest scene before, during, and after a fire.

Also located at the park are several hand crafted chairs of split log construction with carved and painted designs featuring a loon or ladyslipper. A carved wooden plaque was also executed by the C.C.C. and was apparently designed for one of the park's rental cabins. The plaque is inscribed "This cabin constructed and decorated by C.C.C. Co. 1722 1933-34." The plaque is hand painted and depicts the E'Toile Du Nord scene.

2. Building: Naturalist's Cabin 2-110 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935

The Naturalist's Cabin is a 24'8" x 18' rectangular structure covered with a gable roof. The building rests on a concrete foundation with a split stone face which supports walls constructed with 10" peeled logs with saddle-notched corners. Remaining structural members including joists and purlins are also constructed with 10" logs.

A massive split stone fireplace with a segmentally arched opening and split log mantel divides the cabin into a living room, which extends the width of the building, and a bedroom and kitchen to the rear. Four light casement windows are located on all four facades. The original shingle roof has been replaced with asphalt.

3. Building: Comfort Station 2-111 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1934-35

The Comfort Station and Toolhouse building is a 30' x 21'6" rectangular structure covered with a gable roof. The building is constructed with 10" peeled logs with saddle-notched corners. A recessed entrance features flagstone paving and logs which project from the sidewall and extend beyond the eaves. The gable end windows are screened.

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A projection on the east facade constructed with stone once housed a tool room. A water tower was built above the tool room with 10" horizontal logs. The projecting upper structure and its hip roof gave the tower the appearance of a blockhouse. The tower was removed in 1963 and the original roof of heavy shakes has been replaced with asphalt.

4. Building: Shelter & Latrine 2-114 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935

The overall dimensions of this building are 48'10" x 37'8" and it once included rest rooms, a pump house, a laundry, and a kitchen shelter. Original drawings indicate that the latrine and pump house were initially designed as a separate unit but the plans were later expanded so that a kitchen shelter was included and connected to the earlier building by a covered passageway which housed the laundry. The final plan resulted in an H-shaped structure with the central section containing the pump house and covered passageway flanked by the rest rooms and the kitchen shelter.

The building rests on a stone faced foundation and is built with 10" peeled logs. A gable roof covers the structure. The north and south walls of the kitchen shelter once featured split stone chimneys each containing four cast iron stoves. Counters, sinks, and a wood box were also provided. During a 1963 remodeling, the stonework was removed and replaced by board and batten siding and showers and storage areas were installed. An unusual design feature of the building is the horizontal log screens placed in front of the entrances to the restrooms.

This building was pictured in a 1938 National Park Service publication and author Albert H. Good stated, "In plan and in externals the building is excellent."

5. Structure: Water Tower 2-112 Builder: CCC  
Architect: National Park Service Date: 1935

The Water Tower features a 12' square base which rests on a concrete foundation 4'6" below grade. The tower consists of a 10' high section constructed with 20" thick reinforced concrete walls faced with native split stone boulders. Originally, the upper section of the structure was enclosed with log palisades 11' long with louvers and screens on the front and rear facades. The structure was capped by a hip roof supported by 6" log rafters and was covered with shakes. However, the upper

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section of the tower was removed during a 1965 remodeling and the log palisades were replaced with 1" x 8" boards which were lapped and spaced. The tank was also replaced. As a result of these alterations, the overall height of the tower was reduced. The entrance door is constructed with planks with strap iron hinges.

6. Structure: Stone Steps Builder: CCC  
Architect: National Park Service Date: 1935

Twelve stone steps lead from the Shelter Pavilion to the nearby beach on Coon Lake. The broad stairway is approximately 12 feet wide and is constructed with native split stone.

**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

1934-35

Significant Dates

1935

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service

Civilian Conservation Corps

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

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Scenic State Park CCC/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. The Civilian Conservation Corps, in particular, is considered the most popular and successful of these programs and is also considered one of the great conservation programs in the history of the United States. Scenic State Park is also historically significant for its association with the development of the Minnesota state park system.

The Scenic State Park CCC/Rustic Style Historic District is architecturally significant for its unique and distinctive Rustic style construction featuring irreplaceable labor intensive methods and finely crafted detailing. These buildings and structures are characterized by nonintrusive and environmentally sensitive designs based on National Park Service design philosophy and master planning. The park buildings are particularly significant for their exceptional log construction which received considerable acclaim from the National Park Service. In addition, the Shelter Pavilion is remarkable for its intact collection of Rustic style furniture and decorative artwork constructed by the C.C.C. The building contains the best developed interior in the state park system and retains an interior space which has remained virtually unchanged since the period of significance.

Scenic State Park originally consisted of 2,121 acres when the land was first acquired in 1921. Large scale development began in 1933 when C.C.C. Camp SP-3 Company 1722 was assigned to the park. The camp was occupied on June 21, 1933 and was the first C.C.C. state park camp to begin operation in the state. A temporary tent camp was established south of the park until a permanent facility could be constructed on Lake of the Isles. After just 18 months of operation the Department of Conservation reported "The ECW\*camp has constructed 1.3 miles of telephone lines, 12 miles of fire breaks, 6 miles of road improvement and construction, 7 miles of roadside clearing and 16 miles of foot trails. Eight buildings including shelter pavilion, garage, warehouse, ice house and trail shelters have been erected. Fire hazard reduction has been

\* Emergency Conservation Work



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extended to 295 acres, 6 miles of trail side have been cleared and forest improvement extended to 84 acres. Sixteen acres have been planted to trees, blister rust control extended to 1,327 acres and 35 acres have been landscaped. Bank protection has been carried on to the extent of 1,500 square yards and the equivalent of 1,147 man-days spent on forest fire fighting.....The work already completed by this camp has made this park the most ideal of any now under the control of the Conservation Commission."

The C.C.C. camp was terminated in January 1936 when development of the park was nearly finished. The nearby Link Lake forestry C.C.C. camp completed several projects.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Department of Natural Resources. Working Drawings and Specifications for the Buildings at Scenic State Park. Bureau of Engineering. St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Good, Albert H. Park and Recreation Structure: Part I - Administration and Basic Service Facilities and Part III - Overnight and Organized Camp Facilities. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1938.
- Good, Albert H. Park Structures and Facilities. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1935.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 16 Acres

UTM References

A	1,5	4,5,7	0,4,0	5,2	8,5	5,2,0	B	1,5	4,5,7	4,8,0	5,2	8,5	5,2,0
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
C	1,5	4,5,7	4,8,0	5,2	8,5	0,4,0	D	1,5	4,5,7	0,4,0	5,2	8,5	0,4,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Scenic State Park CCC/Rustic Style Historic District is shown as the heavy cross-hatched line on the accompanying map entitled "Scenic State Park." It is defined by Coon lake to the south and east and the park road to the north and west.

See continuation sheet

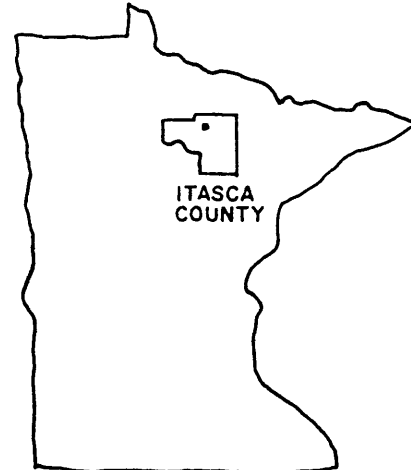
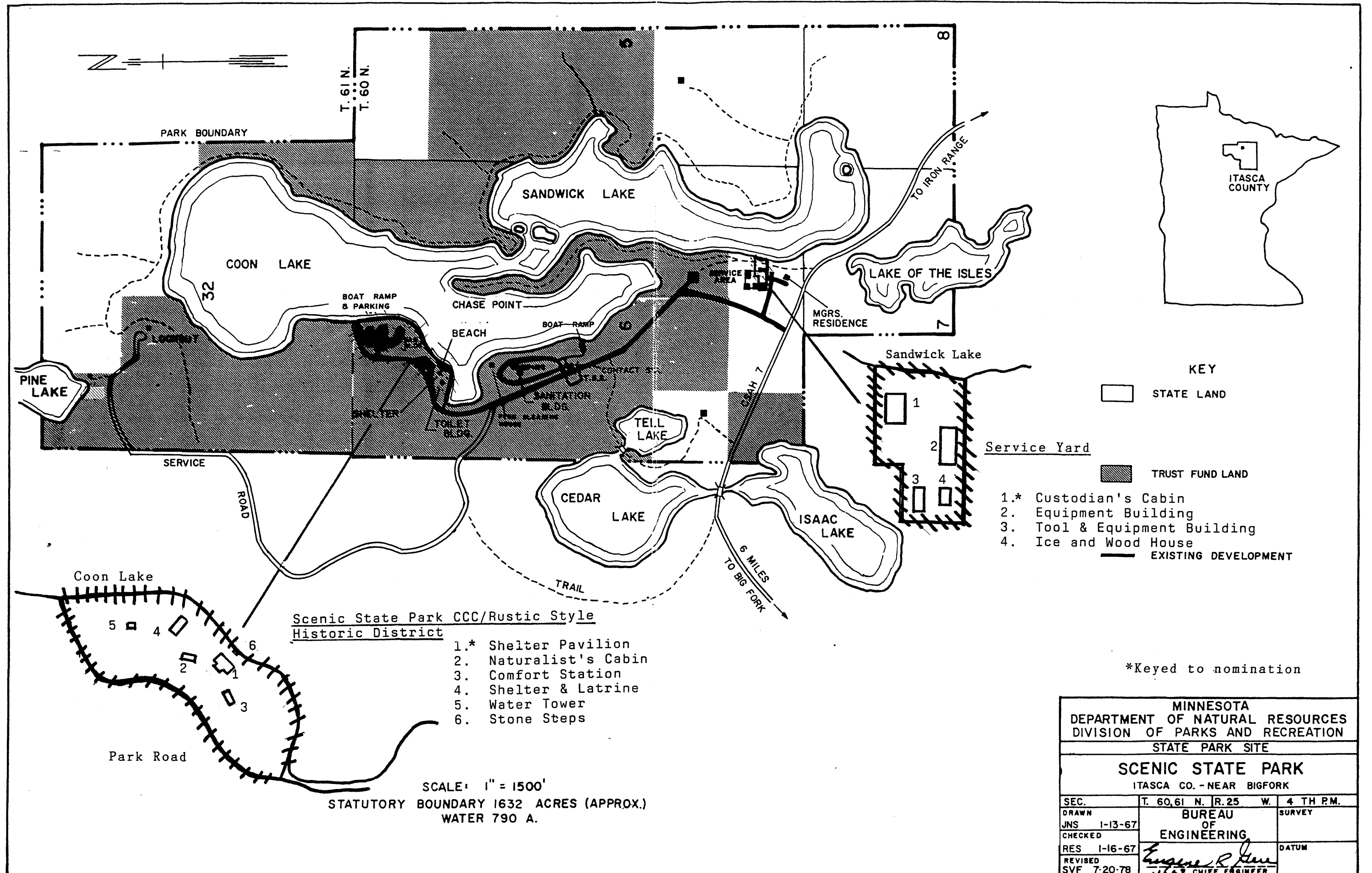
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings and structures that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain historic integrity. The boundary defines an area of the park developed by the CCC.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rolf T. Anderson  
organization N/A date March 8, 1992  
street & number 212 West 36th Street telephone 612-824-7807  
city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55408



- KEY**
- STATE LAND
  - TRUST FUND LAND
  - 1.\* Custodian's Cabin
  - 2. Equipment Building
  - 3. Tool & Equipment Building
  - 4. Ice and Wood House
  - EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

- Scenic State Park CCC/Rustic Style Historic District
- 1.\* Shelter Pavilion
  - 2. Naturalist's Cabin
  - 3. Comfort Station
  - 4. Shelter & Latrine
  - 5. Water Tower
  - 6. Stone Steps

\*Keyed to nomination

SCALE: 1" = 1500'  
 STATUTORY BOUNDARY 1632 ACRES (APPROX.)  
 WATER 790 A.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION STATE PARK SITE			
<b>SCENIC STATE PARK</b> ITASCA CO. - NEAR BIGFORK			
SEC.	T. 60,61 N.   R. 25 W.	W. 4 TH P.M.	SURVEY
DRAWN	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING		DATUM
JNS 1-13-67			
CHECKED			
RES 1-16-67	<i>Engineer R. Lane</i>		
REVISD	CHIEF ENGINEER		
SVF 7-20-78			
REQ.	SHEET	FILE	
66-102	6	P.042.00.01	