

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Itasca	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 7	1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

S of Inger

STREET AND NUMBER: **18 1/2 miles Northwest of Deer River on State Highway
off MN 46 No. 46 then one mile East on Gravel Road**

CITY OR TOWN:
Inger Vicinity

STATE Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Itasca	CODE 061
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
U. S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
Chippewa National Forest

CITY OR TOWN: **Cass Lake** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Itasca County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Grand Rapids** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

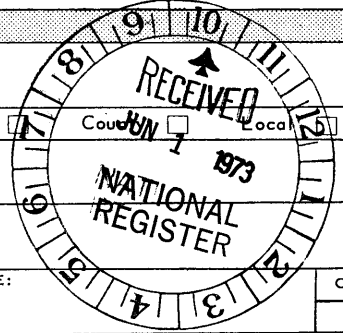
TITLE OF SURVEY:
none

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A structure has been built completely enclosing the station. An early picture which has disappeared showed the original station as having a split shake roof and what appeared to be clay chinked walls. The size of the building is 22 feet by 14 feet.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

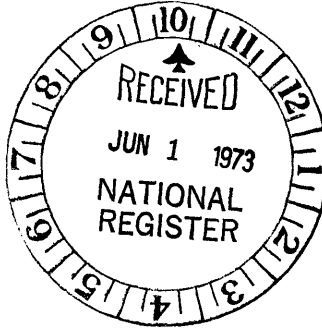
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Built in 1904 or 1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This station is believed to be the oldest, if not the oldest, remaining in the United States. It remains as a symbol of the first National Forest in Region Nine, the "Minnesota," which grew from the Minnesota Forest Reserve established by passage of the Morris Act in 1902. The station is located about one half mile Southwest of Turtle Mound.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

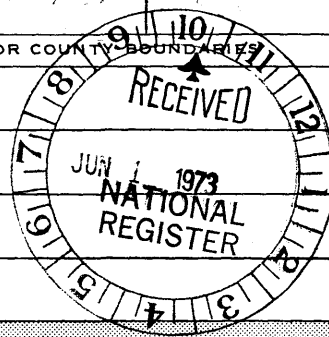
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47° 30' 57"	094° 02' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			1' 55"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO VIM CD SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Clifford B. Senn

ORGANIZATION: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service DATE: 3/29/73

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Coast Lake STATE: MN CODE: 2833

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley

Title: Director, Minn Historical Soc.

Date: 4-4-73

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

R. W. Wooten
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/7/74

ATTEST:

W. J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8.1.74

6/6/73 Date

USDA - Forest Service
Director of Recreation

Federal Representative Signature
[Signature]

Approved 5/17/73
R. K. Kelly, Acting Regional Forester

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. Description

The old Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station is a one room log structure, built in 1904. Two men went from Cass Lake to this site by boat, taking only tools, some hardware and lumber for a floor and door. Local trees in the area provided the logs.

About 1913 the old station was modified by cutting a garage door in one end.

During the 1930's the old station was converted into a museum. Indian artifacts, relics of the fur trade and early logging days, were assembled for display and are still retained in this building.

To protect the logs from further deterioration, a protective building was constructed of plywood in September, 1969. This outer building protects the old log structure from the elements and also provides adequate ventilation to keep the inner log building dry. Photos enclosed.

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8. Significance

The old Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station was built at the end of the Turtle Mound portage on a campsite used by travelers since prehistoric times. The portage trail runs from Bowstring Lake to Little Cut Foot Sioux Lake, The Turtle Mound is an exceedingly rare intaglio effigy mound in the form of a turtle. This type of mound indicates ceremonial or religious origin. It is believed the mound dates back 2000-4000 years, and was adopted by historical tribes. Nomination forms on the Turtle Mound were submitted to State Liaison Officer on August 31, 1973.

The attached four page history of old Minnesota Forest Reserve and Minnesota Chippewa National Forest was taken from the Lake Winnibigoshish Recreation Composite compiled by E. Farrell Creech, 8/8/68, and on file with the U. S. Forest Service, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

10. 94° 1' 56"

OLD CUT FOOT SIOUX RANGER STATION

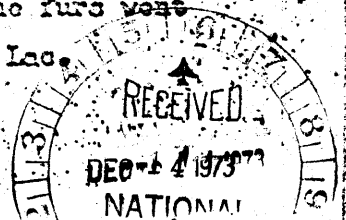
This station is believed to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest, remaining in the United States. It remains as a symbol of the first National Forest in Region Nine, the "Minnesota", which grew from the Minnesota Forest Reserve established by passage of the Morris Act in 1902.

Even the building site of the old station has a rich background extending back through early history to prehistoric time.

The earliest known inhabitants of the area included in the Forest were roving hunters of the Woodland culture. They crossed the divide between the Hudson's Bay and Mississippi watersheds and camped on the shore of what was later to be called Little Cut Foot Sioux Lake. With the passage of centuries the portage trail was etched deep into the sandy soil by countless bare and moccasined feet. An unknown people established the Turtle Mound on a hill-top a short distance from the lake. On the lakeshore an opening in the endless Forest became evident. Broken pottery, stone artifacts and other debris of an early civilization accumulated and were covered by humus.

In early historic time the early French explorers and fur traders found the Woodland Dakota or Sioux occupying the area. By 1748 the Ojibway, or Chippewa, pushed westward by the Iriquois, and aided by the French; gained control of this area and the greater part of what is now Minnesota. The war party of Chippewa who repulsed the final attempt of the Dakota to regain their homeland passed over the portage and past the campsite on their way to the battle of Cut Foot Sioux.

In the years that followed, the Chippewa and their allies, the coeur de bois, crossed the portage and used the campsite as they carried furs to the storehouses at Montreal and Fort Charlotte. Some traveled to the east and fought with Montcalm against General Wolfe at the battle of Quebec. From 1760 until after the War of 1812 they came under control of the English. The Hudson's Bay and Northwest Fur Companies replaced the French posts and the furs went north to Rat Portage (now Kenora) and south and east to Fond du Lac.



After the War of 1812, John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company gradually replaced the old French and English posts in the area. As the rich harvest of furs dwindled, small independent traders gathered the scattered remnants left by the giants of the trade.

By a series of treaties through the 1800's the Chippewa were gradually settled on reservations including this area. In 1884 the Winnibigoshish dam was constructed to create one of a chain of reservoirs to provide a constant supply of water for downstream navigation from St. Paul. Part of the portage and old campsite on Little Cut Foot Sioux Lake was flooded.

By 1890 the lumber industry was pressing against the boundaries of the four Chippewa reservations surrounding Leech, Cass and Winnibigoshish Lakes. The Federal Government was empowered to sell timber and land other than that allotted to individual Indians. Receipts were to be paid into tribal funds. Since the pine within the reservations was of more than usual value there was pressure to place it on the market.

Politically appointed cruisers were set to work appraising the land and timber. The results were grossly inaccurate. A better class of practical cruisers was appointed and the estimates for the reservation hurried to completion. The sale date was set for March, 1899.

In the meantime the impatient loggers secured passage of a bill which, under the guise of benefit to the impoverished Chippewas, permitted logging of "dead and down" timber on the reservation. Through poor administration more green than dead timber was cut and at very little benefit to the Indians. Much timber was stolen outright. In one case the Government recovered \$85,000.00 in a suit against one logging company. Another logger was convicted and sent to prison for setting a fire which created a huge area of "dead" timber. Many others, equally guilty, escaped without detection.

One Indian Agent, a Mr. Walker, protested against this slipshod management and the forth-coming sale. From his efforts to protect the rights of the Chippewas finally emerged the Minnesota National Forest.

As the date of sale approached, agitation arose to save the area as a park. An organization headed by Dr. Cyrus Northrup was formed to work for this measure. The Federated Women's Clubs of Minnesota under the leadership of Mrs. Lydia P. Williams and Mrs. William E. Branhall were in the vanguard.

Through the efforts of this group, seeking a practical solution whereby the cash value of their land and timber could be harmonized with the objective of establishing a public park or Forest, the Secretary of Interior was induced to postpone the sale indefinitely. Three years went by with no action.

In the fall of 1901 Senator Page Morris of Duluth introduced a Bill which, after some modification was passed in 1902. It provided for setting aside an area of 275,000 acres, reserving 5% of the standing red and white pine for seed trees and preserving all pine on Star Island and within the Ten Section Area surrounding Pike Bay and along the east side of Cass Lake. Management of this "Minnesota Forest Reserve" was to be vested in the newly created Bureau of Forestry under Gifford Pinchot. A National Forest was to be created when payment was made for the reserve pine and lands.

Eugene Bruce, an Adirondack lumberman associate of Pinchot was placed in charge of the Minnesota Forest Reserve. The efficiency of his management, especially in convincing the hard-headed lumbermen of the wisdom of slash disposal and respecting "seed trees"; did much to influence Congress in passage of the Act which transferred jurisdiction of the Forest Reserve from the Department of Interior to Agriculture.

At this point in time it became evident that an outpost was needed to serve as a base for closer supervision of the Cut Foot Sioux area. George Marshall who succeeded Bruce, and became the first supervisor of the Minnesota National Forest, recalled that in 1904 or 1905 at the time he took over from Bruce; two men, Sewell Tibbetts and Billy McKinnon, were sent from Cass Lake to build a station. They went by boat taking only tools, some hardware and lumber for a floor and door.

The old campsite at the end of the portage was still open so it was the logical place to build a one room log structure.

In a 1933 letter to Ranger Gerald S. Horton, Mr. Marshall recalled that he and Mr. W. B. Greeley, then District Forester at Missoula, went by launch from Cass Lake to Cut Foot Sioux and slept on the floor of the Station. No bed or bunks had been provided at that time.

Horace Lydick was the first Ranger to occupy the Station. He was followed in 1911 or 1912 by George Henderson who built a two story log dwelling and the Round Lake Ranger Station. His daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Thompson, recalls living in the new dwelling with the old Station serving as a tool shed. Their nearest neighbors were William Fairbanks, who ran a trading post on the site of the present Cut Foot Sioux Inn; Bob Mosomo and Bowstring Jack. Bob was the last hereditary chief of the Winnibigoshish band of Chippewas and as such, guardian of the Turtle Mound, entrusted to the care of the Chippewa by the Sioux through a treaty in 1751. Bowstring Jack was a Sioux captured and adopted in infancy by Mosomo's family. These two lived on the site of the present Mosomo Point campground. The outlines of their cabins are still visible alongside the campground road.

As time went on, the old station was modified by cutting a garage door in one end. This was probably the work of Ranger George Farley who came there in 1913 or 1914. He was known to have owned one of the first "model T's" in the area.

During the 1930's the old station was converted into a museum by Ranger Gerald S. Horton. Indian artifacts, relics of the fur trade and early logging days, and natural curios were assembled there. This is essentially the present status of the building. Although it is not advertised, a substantial number of visitors come each year to see what they have only encountered in books or old settlers tales.

In summary: The old Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station is probably the oldest in the United States. It was built at the end of the Turtle Mound portage on a campsite used by travelers since prehistoric times.