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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Norris Camp

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number off Norris-Roosevelt Forest Road not for publication
Red Lake Wildlife
city or town Unorganized Territory / Management Area vicinity Roosevelt
state Minnesota code MN county Lake of the Woods code 077 zip code 56673

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Sam Mader 3 June 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)
Ian R. Stewart 1/20/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper <u>Bob Poland</u>	Date of Action <u>8/19/94</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Norris Camp
Name of Property

Lake of the Woods, Minnesota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
14	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
14	6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota
1933-1941

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/conservation area

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
Wood

walls

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Conservation

Social History

Period of Significance

1935-1942

Significant Dates

1935

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

Resettlement Administration

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Norris Camp
Name of Property

Lake of the Woods, Minnesota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 30 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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3	38	9	60
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5	38	6	38	0
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3

1	5
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3	39	3	60
---	----	---	----

5	38	6	06	0
---	----	---	----	---

2

1	5
---	---

3	39	3	60
---	----	---	----

5	3	86	3	70
---	---	----	---	----

4

1	5
---	---

3	3	8	95	0
---	---	---	----	---

5	38	6	08	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rolf T. Anderson

organization _____ date April 30, 1993

street & number 212 W. 36th Street telephone 612/824-7807

city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55408

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

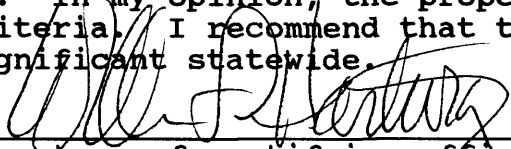
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide.



Signature of certifying official/title

7/29/94

Date

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Norris Camp, Lake of the Woods County, MN

DESCRIPTION

The Norris Camp is located eighteen miles south of Roosevelt Minnesota, off the Norris-Roosevelt Forest Road, in the heart of the Beltrami Island State Forest. The camp consists of a collection of straightforward, one-story, wood-frame buildings which were first constructed in 1935 to serve as a camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps. Camp layout was typical of CCC camps built throughout the country which were designed by the U.S. Department of the Army. Several common use buildings, including the Mess Hall, Recreation Building, and the Wash House, were organized on an north-south axis and encircled on three sides by the various bunkhouses. A second ring of buildings included the service and support structures to the south and additional residential buildings and the camp's hospital to the west. Beginning in 1936 the camp was occupied and expanded by the Resettlement Administration, which utilized the facility as the operational headquarters for a federal relief effort known as the Beltrami Island Project. By the late 1930s the camp had grown into an extensive complex with over 50 buildings and structures, many of which were portable or of a sectional design. Yet even as the project was ending in 1942, the gradual removal of many of the buildings began. Portable or sectional buildings were dismantled and other structures were removed which were not needed for the future operation of the camp, such as the coal shed, ice stockade, and various storage buildings and warehouses. Even as late as the 1950s the camp remained relatively intact in terms of its original layout, but buildings continued to be removed at intervals until today when 14 contributing buildings remain. These buildings share many common design characteristics and are generally rectangular buildings with low-pitched gable roofs and shiplap siding, all of which are painted green except for the Blacksmith Shop and Mess Hall which are dark brown. Six non-contributing buildings are also included. Department of Natural Resources identification numbers are placed after the name of each building.

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1. Building: Power House I-37 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

The Power House is 20' by 20', one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is capped by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The entrance door is located on the south facade while a single 9-light casement sash is placed on each of the north, south and east facades. The Power House contained the camp's well and electrical generator.

According to a Narrative Report from the Department of Conservation, Division of Game and Fish, Bureau of Game, for the period from July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949, a new foundation featuring rusticated concrete block was placed under the Power House, as well as a new concrete floor with a drain, and the roof was replaced with "green slate" asphalt. A new 5,000 watt Fairbanks Morse generator was installed because the original unit was not able to handle the required load. A new 1,000 gallon water tank with an automatic electric pump was also installed which still remains in place to this day. The report also noted that the "old water tank was torn down as it was of no further use. The lumber was saved for use in further camp construction. This had been a hazard since the foundation was not safe and a danger to workmen." The original tank was constructed near the Power House by the CCC in 1935 and featured a 10' by 10', round, wood-stave tank resting on an 11' square platform which was supported by a 16' high frame constructed with 6" posts.

2. Building: Mess Hall and Kitchen I-35 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

When originally constructed, this one-story, L-shaped building consisted of a 20' by 110' section which served as the Mess Hall and Kitchen, and an extension to the north which provided additional kitchen space and a room for cold storage. Paired entrance doors were located on the south facade and three additional doors were placed on each of the remaining facades. The building featured thirty-two 9-light casement sash, and nine

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6-light sash. A variety of built-in serving counters, cabinets, and shelves were installed in the interior. The electrical service included 17 electric light drop cords with rosettes and sockets.

Between 1950 and 1951, a new foundation was installed under the building. However, the structure was severely damaged during the winter of 1965-66 when a heavy snowfall caused the roof above the eastern portion of the building to collapse. With the removal of the damaged section, the overall length of the building was shortened to 45'; however, it appears that the east end wall was saved, shifted to the west, and reattached to the undamaged portion of the building, although it is also possible that the east facade was simply reconstructed from salvaged materials. The concrete foundation of the original structure still remains in place. The surviving portion of the structure remains sheathed with its original shiplap siding and the building's gable roof is covered with rolled asphalt.

The kitchen remains relatively intact with original cabinetry still in place and a wood or lignite-burning water heater. The cold storage room, which projects to the north, features an insulated door with six inch thick cork and large compartments designed for hanging sides of meat. The walls, ceiling, and floor are also insulated with cork. Two small doors are located at the top of the north end wall to allow ice to be loaded directly into the cooler. Each door is attached with wrought iron hinges which were produced in the blacksmith's shop. A 20' square vegetable cellar is located in a partial basement under the kitchen.

The Mess Hall and Kitchen continued to serve its original function until 1978.

3. Building: Wash House and Latrine I-32 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

The Wash House and Latrine is a 20' by 62', one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is capped by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. Paired entrance doors are centered on the south facade. The building features eleven 9-light casement sash; three

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on the south wall, four on the north wall, and two on each end wall. One 6-light sash is located in each of the gable ends. The building features a concrete floor and foundation.

The interior of the building has remained remarkably unaltered since construction. It includes a changing room with the original wood-burning hot water heater; the shower room with 13 shower heads still in place; the washroom with laundry tubs and a 20' galvanized sheet metal wash stand; and the toilet room with 14 wooden seats positioned immediately adjacent to each other, a tip-trough flush system, and 2 galvanized sheet metal urinals. An indentation in the floor near the shower room was designed to hold disinfectant so that each man could treat his feet before entering the shower. The building presently provides storage space and contains a number of original tools which are stamped "Resettlement Administration" or "WPA."

4. Building: Recreation Building I-83 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

The Recreation Building is a 20' by 74', one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is capped by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The east facade contains paired entrance doors toward the south and a single entry to the north. An entry door is also located on the south end wall. Ten 9-light casement sash are spaced along the west facade and identical sash are also installed on the east facade. One 6-light sash is placed in each of the gable ends. The Recreation Building was originally divided into two rooms by a 20' wood partition, however, the building presently contains one single room.

At some point in the modern era, probably in the 1970s, the width of the building was increased from 20' to 30'. A new foundation was installed and the roof was reconstructed. However, these changes are virtually undiscernible because the building materials used in the remodelling were salvaged from original camp buildings which had been dismantled.

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5. Building: Shop, Office and Utility Bldg I-34 Date: 1969
Builder: Dept. of Natural Resources

The Shop, Office, and Utility Building is a one and one-half story frame building with overall dimensions of 60' by 28'. The building is covered by a gable roof although a large shed dormer projects from the west slope. The first story includes a three stall vehicular garage and an office. The upper story contains a kitchen and additional office space which appears to have been originally planned as a bunkroom. An exterior stairway is located along the north end wall. Because the building was not constructed during the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

6. Building: Field Office & Supply Room I-84 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

The Field Office and Supply Room is a 20' by 74', one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is capped by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. Four entrance doors are located along the southeast facade, two paired doors near the center and one located near each end. An additional entrance is centered on the northwest end wall. Twenty-one 9-light casement sash are organized somewhat asymmetrically along the facades, and one 6-light sash is placed in each gable end. The building contains 6 rooms which were utilized for administrative space and supplies.

A concrete foundation was installed under the building sometime between 1948 and 1949. The building still retains its original interior layout although it now provides space for storing tools, grain, and safety equipment. Some of the hand tools, including shovels, axes, and scythes are original to the site.

7. Building: Bunkhouse I-43 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

Now known as the Duplex, this building was one of seven identical bunkhouse buildings at the site, and the only one remaining at its original location. Originally, each bunkhouse was a 20' by 74',

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one-story, frame building with shiplap siding and a gable roof covered with asphalt. Eight 9-light casement sash were spaced along the principal facades while each end wall featured a central doorway with one 9-light sash placed to each side. One 6-light sash was located in each gable end. The walls were lined with "insulation board" although the ceilings were open to the rafters. A 20' wood partition divided the interior into two rooms. The electrical service included "5 electric light drop cords with rosettes and key sockets, 1 rotary snap switch, (and) 1 porcelain fuse block."

Between 1949 and 1950, this Bunkhouse was remodelled into a duplex to provide accommodations for two forest patrolmen and their families. Each unit includes a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bath. The building is believed to have been placed on a concrete foundation during the previous year. In 1950-51, a small projecting central entry with a gable roof was added along the south facade. The shiplap siding has also been either replaced or covered with clapboards and two of the casement sash have been removed from the north facade.

8. Building: Trailer House

A large, rectangular, trailer house was moved into the camp on the location of the original Staff Quarters building. The building is privately owned, and because it dates from the modern era, it is considered non-contributing.

9. Building: Forestry Quarters I-39 Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

Date: 1935

The Forestry Quarters is a 20' by 50', one-story, frame building which is capped by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. A single entrance door is centered on the east facade. Six 9-light casement sash are spaced along each of the principal facades and two sash are located on each end wall. One 6-light sash is placed in each gable end. The original shiplap siding has been either replaced or covered with clapboards.

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The building apparently provided living quarters for the administrative and supervisory staff which directed the conservation and forestry activities on the Beltrami Island Project. The interior originally included seven rooms used for sleeping quarters, one reading room, and a bath with a shower and its own hot water heater. A concrete foundation was installed under the building between 1948 and 1949 and the interior was remodelled and insulated. The extent of the alterations is somewhat unclear although an annual report from 1948-49 indicates that "new rooms were divided off (7 rooms in all); with the necessary bath room fixtures installed for hot and cold water; the whole interior of the building being painted two coats; a new brick chimney built, this building being used for the help required for work on the refuge." Today the building houses seasonal help and is currently known as the Wolf Shack.

10. Building: Bunkhouse I-28 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

This Bunkhouse was moved from the "inner ring" to its present location in about 1963-64 as described in an annual report from that period which stated, an "old barracks (was) removed and remodelled into a...carpenter shop." The building was apparently shortened by about 20' to accommodate the existing foundation. The one-story, rectangular, frame building with shiplap siding is covered by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. Six 9-light casement sash are spaced along the east and west facing principal facades while the north end wall features a central entrance flanked by single casement sash. A large sliding door has been installed on the south end wall, which is sheathed with clapboard siding. A small gable-roofed projection to the west encloses a stairway which descends to a partial basement.

The original building on this site was the camp's hospital with overall dimensions of 20' by 55'. The hospital included two rooms for the orderly, a dispensary, an 8-bed ward, a bath, and one room for storage. A concrete foundation was placed under the building in 1948-49 and the interior was "divided off into a kitchen 14' by 20', for feeding the extra help; two bed rooms, front room, bath room, and private kitchen, also a store room for supplies...The

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small ice house (8' by 8') from Oakes Camp was moved up and put on a concrete foundation and joined to the kitchen..."

By the late 1950s the building was used as the manager's residence. During that same time period, a second addition appears to have been made to the west facade. However, in February 1962 a fire destroyed the building as well as the camp's records and the Bunkhouse was moved onto the surviving foundation. The foundation walls from the two additions are also still visible today. The building continues to serve as the carpenter shop.

11. Building: Bunkhouse I-45 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

This Bunkhouse was moved to its present location in about 1963-64 as described in an annual report from that period which stated, an "old barracks (was) removed and remodelled into a...garage." It is believed that this building was originally located in a grove of pine trees immediately across the roadway at the southwest corner of the "inner ring."

The one-story, rectangular, frame building with shiplap siding is covered by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. Six 9-light casement sash are spaced along the north and south facing principal facades while the west end wall features a central entrance flanked by single casement sash. A large sliding door has been installed on the east end wall. The building appears to have been shortened by about 20'. It rests on a wood foundation and features a dirt floor. This building continues to serve as a garage for the camp's employees.

12. Building: Blacksmith Shop I-36 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

The Blacksmith Shop is a 24' by 32', one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is capped by a gable roof with rolled asphalt. The north facade features both a single entrance and large 8' by 8' double doors to permit vehicular entrance. Two 6-light casement sash are located on both the east and west facades

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and a single 9-light sash is located on the north facade. The entire structural system, including posts, beams, studs, and rafters are all hand-hewn logs. The building rests directly on the ground with no foundation. Half the building features wood plank flooring while the remaining space is simply dirt. Originally, it appears that four skylights were installed in the roof. The building is now used for storage.

The brick base for the original blacksmith's forge is still in place. The forge and the associated working tools were transferred to the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society in 1987. An original poster from the Resettlement Administration is tacked to the south wall and has remarkably survived to this day. The poster features a geometric graphic with the wording, "Whatever You Do, Do It With Care," the "Resettlement Administration."

13. Building: Oil House I-44 Date: 1936
Builder: Resettlement Administration

The Oil House is a one-story, frame building, with overall dimensions of 7' by 12'. The building is clad with wood shingles and is covered by arched roof with rolled asphalt. The entrance door is centered on the north facade and a single 4-light casement sash is located on each side wall, although both have been boarded over. This building was considered portable and has no foundation. The Oil House is now used to store gasoline and is the only building at the camp with a shingle exterior.

14. Building: Oil House I-33 Date: 1936
Builder: Resettlement Administration

The Oil House is a 10' by 10', one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is covered by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. Entrance doors are located on both the north and south facades. This building was considered portable and rests on a wood sill. It appears that the Oil House was originally located approximately 40-50' to the south of the Blacksmith Shop and was later moved in line with the remaining service buildings.

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15. Building: Storage Garage I-437 Date: 1982
Builder: Department of Natural Resources

The Storage Garage is a large, rectangular, metal-clad building covered by a gable roof. It was apparently moved to the site in 1982 to replace the Toolhouse Building, constructed by the CCC in 1935, which had been demolished. Because the Storage Garage was not constructed during the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

16. Building: Repair Garage I-38 Date: 1935
Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

The Repair Garage is a 44' by 36' one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is capped by a shed roof with rolled asphalt. A 14' by 28' addition to the rear dates from early 1942. The north facing principal facades originally included four sets of double doors for vehicular entrance, but these have since been replaced with large sliding doors. Thirteen 9-light casement sash are spaced along the remaining facades and entrances are located on the south and west facades. The building was originally equipped with a trolley truck hoist, a work bench and storage cabinets, piping for carrying out gas fumes from the motors, and a compressed air distributing system; some of which still remains in place. The inside walls were lined with "red rosin paper."

A Narrative Report covering the period from July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949 states that, "The Equipment Garage was divided off and insulated with planer's shavings making it better to work in during the winter months."

17. Building: Manager's Residence I-24 Date: 1962-63
Builder: Department of Natural Resources

The Manager's Residence is a one-story, frame building capped by a hip roof with overall dimensions of 72' by 26'. The building

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includes living and dining rooms, a kitchen, two bedrooms, an office, and an attached garage. Because the building was not constructed within the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

18. Building: Cabin No. 3 I-42 Date: c1936
Builder: Resettlement Administration

Cabin No. 3 was one of three identical buildings located just to the north of the Manager's Residence. The Cabin is a 20' by 24' one-story, frame building with shiplap siding which is capped by a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Entrance doors are located on the south and west facades and the building features eight 4-light sash and two 9-light spaced asymmetrically along the facades. The Cabin includes a living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bath.

Although the Cabin was clearly constructed during the period of significance, it's original use is not known. A building inventory from 1940 lists five buildings with identical dimensions to those of the Cabin. These include the Wildlife Administration Building, the Wildlife Warehouse, two Storage Warehouses, and a Paint Shop. Because of its distance from the service area, it seems likely that the building may have been associated with wildlife projects and administration rather than a service or maintenance function. Or, it is also possible that the three buildings were moved to the site from another location in the camp and converted into residence cabins. There also appears to be evidence of remodelling. Correspondence from 1942 concerning the camp refers to a "cabin" and a letter from the United States Department of the Interior to the Norris Camp dated April 15, 1943, which is attempting to verify an extensive inventory of property and equipment at the camp, refers to, "two sinks...used in the construction of residence cabins at Norris Camp." Any such activity would have occurred prior to June 30, 1942, when the camp closed.

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19. Buildings: Latrines Date: c1937-40
Builder: Resettlement Administration

Two latrine buildings are located in a large clearing to the north of the Mess Hall and Kitchen. It is believed they were moved to the site between July 1, 1948 and June 20, 1949 as reported in Narrative Report from that time period by the Department of Conservation, Division of Game and Fish, Bureau of Game, which stated, "Two toilets were moved in from Gate(s) Camp and Winner Cabin, for use by Boys Scout, Girls Scout, 4-H Clubs, and like organizations that come to Norris Camp from time to time for an outing. These were given two coats of paint. This was a necessary addition at Norris Camp." As early as 1945-46 it is known that 250 4-H club members used Norris as a summer camp and they also returned in 1946-47. Presumably, their tents were pitched in the large clearing.

Each building is 6' by 6' square, 7'6" high, with shiplap siding and a gable roof covered with wood shingles. The gable ends include a vent with wooden louvers. The latrine to the east includes an entrance screen constructed with vertical boards. Their design is based on plan P-6649 by the Resettlement Administration dated May 3, 1937 and revised December 22, 1937. It is known that the latrine at the Winner Cabin was built in 1940. The date of construction for the latrine from the Gates Camp cannot be verified although the other buildings at the camp were built in 1936.

It has not been possible to determine which of the two buildings originated from the Gates (Side) Camp, although that building would represent the only known surviving structure from the four side camps which operated out of the Norris Camp at remote locations within the Beltrami Island Project. However, even though the buildings were constructed by the Resettlement Administration and have a clear historical association with the project, because they were moved to the site after the period of significance, they are considered non-contributing.

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The buildings at the Norris Camp retain historic integrity although a large number of buildings have been removed from the site and four buildings have experienced significant alteration.

Prior to the conclusion of the Beltrami Island Project, plans were made to transfer the Norris Camp from the federal government to the Minnesota Department of Conservation under a 50 years lease agreement which is currently being renegotiated. Today the camp is used as the headquarters for the Red Lake Wildlife Management Area, although the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources plans to cease operations at the camp once a new facility is constructed in nearby Warroad.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Norris Camp is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the context of social history and conservation for its association with the Beltrami Island Project, an extensive federal relief effort encompassing a 740,000 acre tract of land located in Beltrami, Roseau, and Lake of the Woods Counties. From 1936 to 1942 the Norris Camp served as the project's operational headquarters which involved the relocation of settlers from submarginal agricultural lands, the restoration of those lands to their natural condition, and the establishment of economic stability for the area through the development and management of forestry, wildlife, and recreational resources. The project was the first of the demonstration resettlement projects in the United States to begin the actual removal of its settlers and it became a pioneer experiment in settler relocation and land use planning. It represents the largest known project in the state of Minnesota by the Resettlement Administration, whose efforts were assisted by every major federal relief program of the Depression Era including the State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (FEAPW). Through resettlement, the financial position of the settlers was improved and the project relieved the serious financial problems encountered by the adjacent county governments through the reduction of tax delinquency, relief payments, and by facilitating the centralization of public services. Significant employment was also generated with an average of 500 men housed at the Norris Camp and nearby side camps in 1936, 400 in 1937, and 200 to 300 between 1938 and 1942.

The Norris Camp is also significant for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which was responsible for the initial construction of the facility. The camp is one of only two relatively intact CCC camps in Minnesota, and it may represent one of the few surviving camps in the entire United States. It contains the only known surviving work camp buildings constructed by the Resettlement Administration and remains remarkably

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evocative of the historic period with a number of intact interior spaces, tools and equipment stamped by the Resettlement Administration and the Works Progress Administration, and original signage from the Depression Era.

The lands included in the Beltrami Island Project are low and flat, consisting of vast open bogs and swamplands, and lowland conifer forests, occasionally interrupted by sandy beach ridges, formed from the shorelines of glacial Lake Agassiz whose waters once covered the area. The area also features upland islands or elevations, with coniferous-deciduous forests, which were originally islands in the glacial lake. Early geologists called the largest of these elevations Beltrami Island, in honor of Count Giacomo Beltrami, an Italian nobleman who explored northern Minnesota in 1823 searching for the source of the Mississippi River. Beltrami Island was once near the eastern shore of Lake Agassiz, and is presently located in the center of the project area. These lands are said to contain the largest peat fields in the United States and were referred to as "Mid-America's Last Great Wilderness" in 1939 by the United States Department of Agriculture.

In spite of the large swamplands, much of Beltrami Island was covered with forests of commercially valuable timber which resulted in the initial settlement of the area. The sale of forest products began on a small scale as early as 1898 but was confined to the northern edge of the project area. Beginning in 1906, with the construction of the big saw mills at Baudette and Spooner, heavy logging began on the Rapid River in the eastern portion of Beltrami Island. In 1910 and 1911 the first log drives were undertaken in the North and South Branches of the river and consisted primarily of spruce and pine saw logs and tamarack railroad ties. Within the context of Northern Minnesota Lumbering, from 1910 to 1919 timber remained an important export from the area, but was of minor importance after 1927. By the Depression Era it was estimated that over 31,000,000 board feet of cedar poles, fence posts, railroad ties, and saw logs had been harvested as well as 500,000 double cords of pulpwood. At that time it was believed that 24 percent of the project area was still covered with timber but much of this represented remote stands

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consisting of species which were low in value. In this typical cut-over area, the forest cover which resulted in the original settlement was gone.¹

The conditions which led to the establishment of the Beltrami Island Project date from 1912 when an enormous project of land drainage was inaugurated in an attempt to transform the peat fields into agricultural lands. The decline of logging after the turn of the century brought a growing demand for agricultural lands and pressure mounted for the development of drainage projects to reclaim the swamplands. State legislation in 1877 had already authorized the organization of county drainage districts to be financed by bonds issued by the county. Subsequent legislation also subjected state and federal lands to ditch assessments. With this encouragement, by 1917 over 1,500 miles of ditches were built in Beltrami and Lake of the Woods Counties, at a cost of approximately 3 million dollars.²

Principal settlement in the area occurred between 1910 and 1920, with land dealers and newspaper and direct mail advertising suggesting that this was the "last chance" to acquire a homestead. The results were disastrous. The soil was poor and unproductive and could not provide the settlers with an adequate income, particularly once the timber was depleted. Although the minimum physical needs of the settlers for food, clothing, and shelter may have been met, there was simply insufficient cash to pay for public services. Tax delinquency was so high that schools and roads were almost entirely paid for by the state and those people living on better land outside the area. Children were practically denied education beyond the grade school level. Medical service was distant and often unavailable because of road conditions. The 300 families in the area absorbed \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year above what they paid in taxes for the support of schools, roads, and relief.

¹R.W. Murchie and C.R. Wasson, Beltrami Island Minnesota Resettlement Project (University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 334, December 1937). p. 7-11.

²Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Red Lake Wildlife Management Area Master Plan, 1980-1989 (December 1980), pp.1-3.

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When Lake of the Woods County was formed from a portion of Beltrami County in 1922, it came into existence heavily burdened with ditch bond obligations which later led to financial crisis. By 1938, over 70 per cent of Lake of the Woods County assessed for ditches was delinquent and by 1931 this had increased to nearly 90 per cent. To prevent the counties from default, the State Legislature created the Red Lake Game Refuge in 1929 and acquired all delinquent lands within the designated area and assumed the bonded indebtedness to the extent of 2.5 million dollars. The 1931 legislature also designated six and one-half townships as the Beltrami Island State Forest, but permitted those settlers already there to remain. Because of the state action, the financial position of the counties improved but the finances of the associated townships was such that the 1933 legislature authorized the dissolution of any townships whenever tax delinquency exceeded 50 percent of its assessed valuation or when the state acquired title to 50 percent of the real estate. Accordingly, all of the townships in Lake of the Wood County were dissolved in 1933 and 1934. Thus, the financial problems were somewhat alleviated, and the area was finally withdrawn from homestead entry in 1934 to prevent future settlement of submarginal lands, but the problem remained of what was to become of the settlers already there.³

The problem was well known, and as early as 1932, Governor Floyd B. Olson appointed a committee "to study and outline a plan for land use, particularly in the northern part of the state, where taxes are delinquent on several millions acres." The Beltrami Island area was considered one of the worst and was selected for intensive study by O.B. Jesness and R.I. Nowell. When the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration started experimenting with the retirement of submarginal farm land, the Beltrami Island area was one of several tentatively choosen. The area had an important advantage in that adjacent lands contained very good soil and were available for resettlement. Thus, the distance the settlers needed to move would be short, and the readjustment could be kept to a minimum. A.D. Wilson, the former director of extension at the University of Minnesota, who had a great deal of personal experience in the agriculture of the cut-over region of northern Minnesota, was

³Murchie, pp. 7-15.

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asked to review the proposed project with the idea that he might direct the effort. Wilson made a careful survey of the area and agreed to accept the position of project director in August 1934.⁴

Funds for the purchase of submarginal lands in the amount of \$300,000 were appropriated by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, through its Rural Rehabilitation Division, while an additional \$385,000 was set aside for loans to help the settlers become established on their new lands. Responsibility for the project was delegated to the State Emergency Relief Administration while technical direction of the land retirement program was provided by the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

The Baudette Region reported the project on August 31, 1934 with an article which described a "new project by the government under the direction of the Rural Rehabilitation Administration to get men off relief and onto small farms." A later article from January 18, 1935 announced that the government had opened an office in Baudette in the Rex Hotel under the direction of A.D. Wilson and J.W. Taylor, his assistant. They were to "begin the work of removing (farmers) from remote sections to farms closer to villages.....260 have signed up (who will be) moved to better farms or bought out." It was expected that the actual moving would begin in the spring. Surviving correspondence from the State Emergency Relief Administration from October 19, 1934 to March 4, 1935 describes the inspection of eighty-eight 40-acre tracts of land in order to test the soil and estimate the cost to clear the land and obtain title opinions. Instructions to begin taking options on land purchases were also included.⁵

On April 30, 1935, a major administrative reorganization occurred when Franklin D. Roosevelt, by executive order and under the very broad authority granted in the Emergency Relief Act of 1935, established the Resettlement Administration under Rexford G. Tugwell, the undersecretary of agriculture. This move

⁴Ibid., p. 31-34.

⁵This correspondence, which is generally addressed to R.W. Murchie, the Director of Rural Rehabilitation of the SERA, is located in the files of the Division of Fish and Wildlife at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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consolidated three complementary programs under one organization, the Rural Rehabilitation Division of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Division of Subsistence Homesteads of the Department of the Interior, and the Land Policy Section, Program Planning Division, of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

The Beltrami Island Project was thereby transferred to the newly created Resettlement Administration and was designated as project LD-MN-3 or LA-MN-3. This change would ultimately result in a dramatic increase in funding for the project as described in an article in the Baudette Region dated August 9, 1935 which stated that Rexford Tugwell was requesting \$987,424 for Beltrami Island.

The project was first reported in the Improvement Bulletin, a regional construction periodical, on November 8, 1935 with an article which noted:

Approval of the first federal resettlement project in Minnesota has been announced by R.I Nowell, regional director of resettlement at Madison, Wis. Mr. Nowell is completing the purchase plans with Minnesota officials. Two removal projects are contemplated, the acquisition of sandy soil farms at Beltrami Island and Pine Island in the extreme northern part of the state, and the removal of the residents of both areas to the Rainy River Valley where good agricultural land exists. The government will purchase the area for about \$670,000 and plans to transfer the families within two years to the valley strip along the Canadian border. The Beltrami Island area includes 370 farms in southwestern Lake of the Woods County. The Pine Island area, in western Koochiching County involves 160 farms and includes the villages of Margie and Big Falls. Of the owners approached, 95 percent have signed options on their land and 75 families have already selected new farms in the Rainy River Valley.

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By late 1935 a significant number of settlers had moved to farms located to the north and northeast of the project area in both Lake of the Woods and Roseau Counties. The Baudette Region reported on October 4, 1935 that the Resettlement Administration had "relocated 60 of 420 settlers in the forest area." By the end of 1936 resettlement was nearly complete. (Refer to Exhibit I for a map of the project area which includes both the original farmsteads and the relocation farms for 91 settlers.) The total number ultimately resettled is somewhat unclear although it is believed that the project area originally included about 310 families with a total population of 1,050. Of these, two-thirds are believed to have been moved to relocation farms where farming remained the principal occupation; between 25 and 50 families were moved to subsistence homesteads where farming was intended to supplement a primary source of income; and it was estimated that 50 to 75 settlers who were considered relief cases were moved into towns, or close to them, where they could be easily reached by relief services.⁶

The first person to relocate was described as "a middle-aged widow with two sons and a brother living with her" who moved in the spring of 1935. She holds the distinction of being the first settler in the United States to be relocated under the resettlement program. Her case study provides considerable insight into the entire resettlement project with its detailed information on her background, original farmstead, and relocation farm. It clearly indicates a well-planned and carefully executed program of resettlement which was designed to insure success for its participants.

This client properly heads the list, for she was the first settler to be relocated in the United States, under the resettlement program. She had moved in the spring of 1935. Prior to its residence in the forest area, this family had farmed in North Dakota. Desiring a homestead tract both for its timber and its soil, this woman's husband acquired 160 acres of land in the east

⁶Alton A. R. Anderson, A Study of the Beltrami Island Resettlement Project. (A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Minnesota. July 1937), p. 73.

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portion of the area in 1914. A total of 12 acres of it had been broken since that time. Records show a year's net income of a little less than \$400, over three-fourths of which was pension, and only \$10 farm income. The remainder of that year's (1933) income was relief aid. Land and improvements had been appraised at \$1,222, personal property at \$245, but liabilities had reduced the equity to \$500.

The new tract, a rather well developed one, 40 acres in size, had been purchased for \$21.25 per acre. It is situated in a vicinity of fine sandy loam close to the village of Williams. Its soil rated 75 per cent. In the case of a small, developed tract such as this one, the soils inspection is very important. Although this woman's equity was not large, it was sufficient to entitle her to a small but well-developed tract. It seems that her two sons, together with her brother, will be able to break up most of the land not already under cultivation. Later on, the farm can easily be managed by one man, if necessary.

A house of frame construction and some log buildings stood on the tract when it was purchased. Since then, the house had been remodeled, attractively painted and neatly furnished. A total of \$365 had been loaned this client--a conservative investment, it seems. The members of this family seemed contented upon their new location, expressing satisfaction with the services rendered by the resettlement workers. Though the amount of cultivated acreage of the new farm was about the same as that of the old one, there undoubtedly are greater possibilities in the soil. The problem of isolation has been solved, as the farm lies even within easy walking distance of the village of Williams. For a client who has a small but steady outside income, such as this one has (a pension) this farm set-up is suitable.⁷

⁷Ibid., pp. 81-83.

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Between July 1935 and November 1939, the federal government acquired a total of 80,616.92 acres of land in Beltrami, Roseau, and Lake of the Woods Counties, representing 704 separate purchases. The majority of the transactions occurred between 1936 and 1937, and while the typical parcel was 160 acres, some were as small as two acres.⁸ The federal land together with state and private lands (much of which was tax delinquent and was expected to revert to the state) represented a total project area of approximately 740,000 acres.

By late 1935, with the settler relocation well underway, the Resettlement Administration began to turn its attention to land development and utilization projects. Not only were the vacated farmsteads to be razed, but the extensive lands which had been drained and logged were to be restored to their natural condition. During the homestead period there had been a reduction in game populations and even the extermination of several species of wildlife. Forest fires were also common and thousands of acres of timber had been lost. The purpose of the development program was to establish economic stability for the retired submarginal lands through the development and proper management of forestry, wildlife, and recreational resources. The Baudette Region reported on November 8, 1935 that "Mr. Edgerton and a staff of 15 have arrived and will be in charge of engineering work on the Red Lake Game Refuge and the Beltrami Island State Forest...(this is) part of the Resettlement Plan (and they) will build dams, cabins, roads...." On January 17, 1936 it was noted that "26 men were put to work in the game refuge area under the resettlement project. Farmers in that area being employed first."

On February 7, 1936 the Baudette Region announced that the Norris Camp was to be used by the Resettlement Administration. Located in the heart of the Beltrami Island Project, the camp had been built for the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 but had closed in early 1936 after just six months of operation.⁹ Construction of

⁸A complete listing of all land transactions is attached to the lease agreement between the federal government and the State of Minnesota dated August 1940 when the lands were leased to the state under a 50 year agreement.

⁹The number of CCC camps in operation at any one time was determined by national enrollment and as the number of participants increased or decreased, the number of camps allocated to each state was modified accordingly. These

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the camp had been approved in May 1935, apparently after local legislators had lobbied to obtain a camp for the region. Forty men and several officers had arrived at the camp in late June 1935 and it was reported that "the men will build highways and dams, cut underbrush and dead timber, and will engage in other projects." New enrollees were said to be arriving daily. By July there were eighteen buildings under construction, which could accommodate 200 men. Named for an early settler by the name of Norris, Camp S-56, Company 3721, held an open house for the public on August 18, 1935.¹⁰

In February 1936 the staff of the Resettlement Administration visited the vacated camp and decided to utilize the facility. On February 14, 1936, the Baudette Region reported that "The former CCC Camp in Norris Township is being put in condition to be used by the resettlement crews. Loren White and a crew are cutting wood and getting the camp in shape for the new crews. It is expected that the resettlement crew will move in the next week." By early March there were 200 men housed at the camp.

The closing of the camp offered the Resettlement Administration a large-scale and centrally located facility complete with barracks, officer's quarters, a mess hall and recreation building, service and support buildings, and even a blacksmith shop. For the next six years the Norris Camp would serve as the operational headquarters for the Beltrami Island Project. The camp was extensively expanded and four side camps also were constructed to provide operational facilities in remote areas of the project. These included the Ludlow Island, Gates, Oaks, and Shilling Camps. Narrow dirt roads, remote locations, and difficult weather conditions would have made daily commuting from the Norris Camp to distant project locations both difficult and impractical. Even if a direct route had existed, the Ludlow Island Camp would have been a full 36 miles from the Norris Camp. During 1936, 500 men were employed at the camps of the Beltrami Island Project.

adjustments occurred at six month intervals which corresponded to the CCC enrollment periods.

¹⁰Baudette Region, May 3-August 16, 1935.

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The administrative headquarters remained north of the project lands, first in Baudette and later in the adjacent town of Spooner. This staff also administered the Pine Island Project, a similar resettlement project in nearby Koochiching County. The Works Progress Administration, which often furnished the labor for many of the nation's resettlement projects, opened an office in Spooner as well.

On December 31 1936, Rexford G. Tugwell, the colorful administrator of the Resettlement Administration, resigned amid criticism for his organization, which had always been one of the New Deal's most controversial programs. At the same time, the Resettlement Administration was transferred to the Department of Agriculture by executive order. Tugwell was replaced by his assistant, Dr. Will W. Alexander, who later visited the Beltrami Island Project in July 1937 along with his assistant, C.B. Baldwin. That same month Congress passed the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act which authorized a program to assist tenant farmers in purchasing lands, and also included the first specific congressional mandates for the Resettlement Administration program. On September 1, 1937, the Farm Security Administration was established to carry out the tenant-purchase program and also absorbed the Resettlement Administration. In reality this was just the Resettlement Administration under a new name, for the personnel remain unchanged. At the same time, the Land Utilization Division of the Resettlement Administration returned to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture.

These administrative changes in Washington had no immediate effects on the Beltrami Island Project since there were no changes in the staff and work on the same projects continued. However, in January 1938 the administrative staff was reorganized; those involved in actual resettlement projects remained in Spooner under the Farm Security Administration, while those working on land development moved to Baudette. A.D. Wilson remained in charge of resettlement in Spooner while Colonel Fierro, who directed the development program, moved to Baudette along with his staff which included Jack Manweiler, who headed the wildlife projects on the Beltrami, as well as trained foresters, game managers, and engineers. They were the first occupants of the front, second-

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story offices of the new Moderne-Style Baudette Municipal Building which had just been completed by the Works Progress Administration.

On January 14, 1938 the Baudette Region reported that \$600,000 had been spent for development work on the Beltrami Island Project, land acquisition had cost about \$400,000, and loans totaling about \$230,000 had been made to assist the newly relocated settlers. In late 1938 the responsibility for administering the land utilization and submarginal land programs was transferred from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to the Soil Conservation Service.

Sometime in 1939 the regional office of the Soil Conservation Service in Milwaukee, Wisconsin prepared a descriptive job report for the Beltrami Island Project including all work completed from the project's inception up to June 30, 1939. Work planned for the fiscal year from July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940 was also described. The following citations are among the extensive list of activities included in the report:

Cover Survey - A total of 210,940 acres has been completed. This job consists of inventory of the merchantable timber as to volume, size, age and species, the amount, size, age and species of reproduction, and the amount and kind of shrubs, grasses and sedges. Information and data gathered are necessary in carrying on present and future forestry and wildlife development on the project.

Topographic Survey - Forty-eight square miles have been completed. This work consisted of surveys and making maps essential for locating dams, determining flowages and in connection with the location of administration buildings, truck trails, firebreaks, and other improvements.

Marking Boundaries - Eighteen miles have been completed. This job consisted of marking the boundary between the Beltrami Island Project and the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

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Obliterating Farmsteads - One hundred ten farmsteads have been completely obliterated. This work consisted of razing farmsteads, salvaging usable materials and burning the remainder¹¹, and filling in old wells on lands owned by the Government. (20 farmsteads were to be razed during the coming fiscal year.)

Seed Collection - One hundred fifty pounds of coniferous and hardwood seeds were collected and used on the project.

Vehicular Bridges - Twelve bridges, varying in size from 12 to 56 foot spans, have been completed. These bridges were built in connection with truck trail construction in order to give accessibility to areas where administrative and development work is being carried on.

Impounding Dams, Timber - This job consists of 173 completed dams, of which 4 are located on streams and 169 on drainage ditches. (30 were planned for the coming fiscal year.) Twenty-two dams have been strengthened by raising and extending the wing walls and addition of sheet piling.

Dikes - Four thousand two hundred lineal feet of standard dike have been constructed in connection with the Roseau River, Manweiler Dike, and the Keller and Schilling Dams.

Telephone Lines - One hundred fifty-two miles have been completed. These lines were built to connect existing state conservation lines between ranger stations, lookout towers and contact buildings on the project and to connect with the telephone exchanges adjacent to the area.

Truck Trails - Fifty-four miles of truck trails have been completed. This job included clearing, grubbing,

¹¹Many farm buildings were also moved by the settlers to their newly relocated farmsteads.

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grading and graveling according to approved plans. Truck trails are located in various parts of the project to supplement existing roads...and to provide access to present and future administrative and development work.

Road Maintenance - This job consists of grading, repairing, light surfacing, necessary hand drainage ditches and general upkeep of approximately 150 miles of existing truck trails within the project.

Fire Breaks - Sixty miles of fire breaks have been completed along the west, north, and south boundaries of the project.

Fire Hazard Reduction - Two hundred ten acres have been completed which consisted of the removal and disposal of all dead and down timber and debris along roads, trails and around development jobs. (150 acres of fire hazard reduction were planned for the coming fiscal year.)

Nursery - This job consisted of establishing a 20-acre forestry and wildlife nursery with a capacity of one million trees and game food and cover stock.

Stand Improvement - One hundred fifty acres have been completed. Treatment consisted of removing dead, down, diseased and insect-infested trees, also, the thinning out of overstocked stands of white pine, Norway pine, and white spruce.

Tree Planting and Seeding - Four hundred sixty acres have been planted to white pine, Norway pine, white spruce, and jack pine....To date the survival is approximately 85 percent of all plantings.

Timber Harvest - One hundred seventy-seven thousand board feet of timber were harvested and manufactured into lumber and material during the winter of 1936-37 and the manufactured products were used on the various development jobs. (A 100,000 board feet timber harvest was planned for the coming fiscal year.)

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Fire Protection - This work is carried on from April 1 to November 1 of each year. It consists of patrolling dangerous areas, manning lookout towers, patrolling and maintaining water levels behind impounding dams, and maintaining telephone lines.

Public Camp Picnic Grounds - This job consisted of developing approximately 5 acres at the Bemis Hill recreational grounds. It involved the removal and disposal of dead and down trees, underbrush, and low hanging branches, and construction of a 6-foot fire break around the areas, driveway and overnight parking areas. Six outdoor fire places, 14 log stools, 12 campground seats, and 6 campground tables have been constructed and placed. (Two additional units of 3 acres each were planned for the coming fiscal year.)

Biological Conditioning - Eighty-three beaver were trapped in cooperation with the State Conservation Department, banded and transplanted behind new dams within the project area. Ten woodland caribou were introduced from Saskatchewan, Canada, and cared for at Ludlow Island. This job included gathering mosses and lichens and feeding calves five times daily. Twenty-seven elk were introduced and studied. Moose, bear and deer were studied to determine trends.

Biological Reconnaissance - Detailed studies were made of caribou, elk, deer, moose and bear, sharptailed grouse and snowshoe hares to determine extent and kind of recommendations to be made to the State Conservation Department regarding legislative action. Predator control was carried on each winter. Warden patrol was maintained throughout the year to assist the state. Inventory was taken of all fur bearers and fur harvest was taken wherever warranted. Four hundred fifty sharptail grouse and 425 snowshoe hare were trapped, banded and released in cooperation with the Lake States Banding Association. The following papers were published from data accumulated on this subject:

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"Minnesota's Deer Problem", "Parasites of the Snowshoe Hare", "Woodland Caribou Study in Northern Minnesota", "Woodland Caribou from Saskatchewan", "Wildlife Management in Minnesota", "Minnesota's Big Bog", "Caribou of Minnesota"....

Food and Cover - One thousand four acres were planted. Upland - six hundred thirty acres were planted to buckwheat, sweet clover, alsike, alfalfa, black amber cane, corn, and vetch. In addition to acreage mentioned above, 1,800 pounds of sweet clover, alsike, and alfalfa seed were planted broadcast along ditch grades. Fifteen thousand black spruce 12-inch seedlings were transplanted to create swamp islands; 10,000 willow shoots, 5,000 smilax roots, 20,000 Norway pine; white pine and white spruce seedlings were planted in cover patches. Thirty nursery beds were planted to food species. Five hundred pounds mountain ash, 75 pounds choke cherry, 25 pounds highbush cranberry, 140 pounds bittersweet, 4,000 pounds buckwheat, 800 pounds alfalfa, and 400 pounds of alsike seed were collected locally and replanted. One hundred five tons of hay were cut, baled and distributed for emergency winter feed purposes. Aquatic - These plantings included 424 acres of sage pondweed tubers, wapato duck potato, celery, wild duck millet, wild rice and water smartweed. In addition, large quantities of seeds and tubers were scattered sparsely along ditches and in potholes to initiate plantations.

Clearing and Posting Refuges - A strip 8 to 12 feet wide was cleared along one hundred forty miles of refuge boundary and was posted every eight miles. One new refuge of 4 square miles and one water fowl sanctuary of 4 square miles were established and the boundaries cleared and posted. Sixteen hundred refuge boundary

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signs prepared by burning and lettering also were posted.¹²

Lake and Pond Development - Six small dikes were constructed and 10 water holes dynamited to establish fly protection for moose, caribou and deer. Small dikes were built across old streambeds for bass and brown trout fingerlings and lake and pond shores were planted to protect vegetation. Manweiler and Keller flowages were completed.

Stream Improvement - Four miles of trout stream were improved by the construction of pools, spillways, single and double wing deflectors, riffles, spawning beds, floating islands, digger logs and planting dense cover along the banks. Fifty-eight cans of fish fry, 34 cans of brook trout, 12 cans of brown trout, and 14 cans of large mouth black bass were planted in 11 different streams and flowages.¹³

One humorous account of one of the development projects was described in an article by the Baudette Region dated August 6, 1937 which was entitled, "Beavers Join Construction Crew of Resettlement Project." The article stated:

Beavers have in effect joined the construction crews of the resettlement administration near here in the program of operations restoring 1.5 million acres of submarginal land for forestry, game and recreation. Spreading out from their formerly restricted aquatic habitats, the "trowel-tailed engineers" have taken up abodes in the 340,000 acres of swamps and bogs newly flooded by 176 dams built by the resettlement administration workers. About 1/4 of the flowages back of the dams show signs of beavers moving in....

¹²Many of these original signs still exist throughout the project area. They read, "BOUNDARY, STATE GAME REFUGE, NO HUNTING, NO TRAPPING, U.S. RESETTLEMENT ADM. D.A. RED LAKE WILDLIFE REFUGE."

¹³This report is located in the State Archives within a file on the Beltrami Island Project from the Division of Game and Fish, Minnesota Department of Conservation.

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Many of the dams reveal that the beavers have gone over them carefully and placed the stamp of approval on the construction. To some they have decided to add wings of mud and sticks. At several places they have piled up superstructures of their own design....

Past experience (according to Jack Manweiler) on reflooding led us to count on the beaver for any minor repair work that might occur over the years and we are glad to see that they are ready and able....

According to the Soil Conservation Service, less than \$1 per acre had been spent on development within the Beltrami Island Project, although in June 1938 it was stated that approximately one million dollars had been expended on development work alone. It was believed that the revenue derived from the future sale of timber and furs would not only repay the cost of development but also pay for future administrative costs.

In addition to conservation projects and their associated structural components such as dams and bridges, large scale construction had been occurring throughout the project lands, not only to meet the current operational needs but also to provide permanent facilities from which to administer the future operation of the area. This included all buildings and structures located at the Norris Camp, the four associated side camps, two forestry stations, three recreation areas, and nine contact cabins.

The contact cabins were established at strategic locations throughout the project area and were intended to serve as temporary operating bases for game wardens, forest rangers, and fire fighting crews. Several of the cabins featured full log construction while others were sectional buildings which were portable. The buildings were complete with cupboards, tables, benches, a wash stand, cooking range, heating stove, two double deck bunks, dishes and cooking utensils, and emergency supplies. A well and latrine were also provided. All designed by the Resettlement Administration, the largest were 20' x 24' three-room buildings although the typical structure was a 10' x 24' one-room cabin. The cabins were identified as follows: Stony Corner, North Boundary Refuge, Schilling, Winner, Lovedale, Winter Road, Gate Archway, Ludlow, and Hillman Lake.

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The Clear River and Norris Ranger Stations were constructed. A small one-room cabin with horizontal log construction was built at Clear River, while the residence at Norris was a five-room residence with a full basement featuring finely crafted split-log palisade construction. Both stations included 26' x 41' storage buildings to house fire fighting trucks and equipment which were also built with vertical split log walls. The Norris Station included an 80' high lookout tower, and at least two others were built on project lands. The Bemis Hill, Norris, and Faunce Recreational Areas were also constructed. Bemis Hill was the most fully developed with a shelter, caretaker's cabin, two latrines, a well and pump house, six rubblestone fireplaces, and a variety of log constructed tables and seats.

Under the Resettlement Administration, the Norris Camp was expanded into an extensive complex of buildings and structures to serve as the operational headquarters for the entire Beltrami Island Project. The Resettlement Administration also constructed four side camps to facilitate development in remote areas of the project. A complete inventory from the Norris Camp and the four side camps is listed below in order to provide an understanding of the size and scale of these extensive complexes as they existed in 1940. All buildings are considered to have been constructed by the Resettlement Administration except those noted which were built by the CCC.

Norris Camp

Bunkhouses (7) - 20' x 74' frame structures (CCC)
Field Office & Supply Room - 20' x 74' frame structure (CCC)
Warehouse - 20' x 74' frame structure (CCC)
Officers Quarters - 20' x 40' frame structure (CCC)
Forestry Quarters - 20' x 50' frame structure (CCC)
Hospital - 20' x 55' frame structure (CCC)
Storage Garages (2) - 25' x 70' frame structure
Storage Garages (2) - 26' x 76' frame structures (CCC)
Blacksmith Shop - 30' x 36' frame structure (CCC)
Toolhouse - 24' x 40' frame structure (CCC)
Repair Garage - 36' x 44' frame structure (CCC)
Mess Hall & Kitchen - 20' x 110' & 20' x 40' fr. struc. (CCC)

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Power House - 20' x 20' frame structure (CCC)
Water Tower - 16' high frame structure with tank (CCC)
Latrine & Wash House - 20' x 62' frame structure (CCC)
Recreational Building - 20' x 74' frame structure (CCC)
Ice Box - 6' x 6' portable structure
Storage Shed - 8' x 12' portable slab structure
Meat Cooler - 19' x 30' log slab exterior
Storage Buildings (4) - 10' x 24' portable frame structures
Loading Platform - 8' x 32' log construction
Oil House - 12' x 16' portable frame structure
Oil House - 10' x 10' portable frame structure
Storage Building - 7' x 12' portable frame structure
Wildlife Admin. Building - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Wildlife Warehouse - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Shed - 20' x 20' log structure (CCC)
Storage Warehouses (2) - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Storage Warehouse - 10' x 24' portable frame structure
Paint Shop - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Survey Building - 7' x 12' portable frame structure
Root Cellar - 21' x 32' log construction
Coal Shed - 8' x 12' slab construction
Ice Stockade¹⁴ - 59' x 61' palisade pole construction
Barn - 14' x 26' frame construction
Storage Building - 10' x 26' frame structure
Warehouse - 12' x 24' portable frame structure
Warehouse - 12' x 16' portable frame structure
Dynamite House - 7' x 9' log construction
Oil House - 7' x 12' portable frame structure
Ice Box - 5' x 7' portable frame structure

Oaks Camp - This camp was established in May 1936 as a tent camp until 12 portable buildings were moved in to house 50 men.

Barracks (4) - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Barracks (3) - 10' x 24' portable frame structures
Dining Hall - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Kitchen - 10' x 24' portable frame structure
Bath House - 10' x 24' portable frame structure

¹⁴In February 1942 the crews hauled and packed 208 tons of ice (520 cakes @ 800 pounds each) for the ice house.

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Latrine - 10' x 16' portable frame structure
Tool House - 10' x 24' portable frame structure
Meat House - 12' x 12' portable frame structure
Dynamite Sheds (2) - 6' x 6' portable frame structures
Garage - 12' x 24' sectional construction
Oil House - 12' x 12' log construction
Ice Box - 5' x 7' portable frame construction
Ice House - 20' x 40' slab and pole construction

Ludlow Island Camp - This camp was established in June 1937 by moving 14 buildings from the Little America Camp in the Pine Island Project to house 50 men. In August 1937, when the facility was not yet complete, the Baudette Region reported that a cyclone hit the camp and had blown down 8 tents, moved the recreation building 15 feet, and had blown the roof off a warehouse.

Barracks (2) - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Kitchen - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Mess Hall - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Latrine - 10' x 14' portable frame construction
Pump House - 10' x 12' portable frame construction
Ice Box - 5' x 7' portable frame construction
Storage - 4' x 6' frame construction

Gates Camp

Dining Hall - 20' x 24' sectional construction
Kitchen - 10' x 24' portable frame construction
Latrine - 10' x 16' portable frame construction
Ice Box - 5' x 7' portable frame construction
Tool Shed - 6' x 6' portable frame construction

Shilling Camp - This facility was established in June 1936 as a tent camp with the initial purpose of constructing the Schilling Flowage which consisted of a 900 foot dike, a timber dam, and an emergency spillway. It is known that a 10' x 24' portable frame barracks building was located at the camp and it is believed that other buildings were constructed as well.

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The Norris Camp could house over 200 men plus administrative and support staff. It appears that each of the side camps could accommodate approximately 50 men. Depending on project needs and road and weather conditions, the side camps would often temporarily close with the crews transferred back to Norris until a camp would reopen. The average project laborer was paid \$44 per month with \$20 withheld for board.

Beginning in 1939, the Soil Conservation Service initiated plans to transfer the entire Beltrami Island Project to the Department of Conservation of the State of Minnesota. Discussions were held concerning the future administration of the project, the estimated costs for the state, and the coordination of activities between the Divisions of Forestry and Game and Fish. The SCS also developed recommendations for staffing.

The Soil Conservation Service ended its association with the Beltrami Island Project on June 30, 1940. However, several months earlier, officials of the SCS approached the Department of Conservation relative to leasing all federally purchased lands and improvements to the state. State officials were openly surprised by this offer since it had been believed that all lands would be simply turned over to the state. As a result, several months were required before a satisfactory lease could be drafted. A 50 year lease was finalized on August 2, 1940 between the United States of America through the Department of Agriculture and the State of Minnesota through the Commissioner of Conservation.¹⁵ In addition to the expected conditions and regulations, the lease contained a listing of all land purchases as well as all improvements made on the project lands which were being made available to the State of Minnesota.

From July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1942, the Division of Game and Fish of the Minnesota Department of Conservation with the assistance of the Division of Forestry operated the entire Beltrami Island Project as sponsors of a Works Progress Administration project

¹⁵Administration of the lease agreement was later transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Division of Fish and Wildlife. The lease expired in 1992 and is currently being renegotiated.

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which was identified as Work Project No. 8547. Development work continued much as it had under the Resettlement Administration and the Soil Conservation Service. Surviving monthly narrative reports compiled by the WPA from April 27, 1941 through May 31, 1942 provide a detailed description of the project operation and land development activities. The following excerpts were included in the report for April 27, 1941 to May 27, 1941:

Camp Operation - Norris (5562 man-hours) - Housing and feeding an average of 165 men; daily courier and mail service between all camps; minor repairs and maintenance to camp buildings.

Camp Rehabilitation - Norris (876 man-hours) - Painted 2486 sq. ft. exterior residence cabins, 260 lin. ft. trim, windows and frames; painted 6848 sq. ft. exterior of garage; built new ice box for Norris Kitchen; cut and set posts for camp parking areas; hauled rock and gravel for walks in Norris Camp yard.

Equipment and Shop Operation (2418 man-hours) - Servicing and repair of 33 units of motorized equipment, operation of blacksmith shop, parts warehouse and tool house.

Truck Trail Constr. & Reconstr. (654 man hours) - Hauled and spread 258 cu. yds. gravel, 60 cu. yd. rock and 148 cu. yds. dirt on road in Secs. 12, 14 & 22-160-38, completed 1 1/2 miles of reconstruction.

Fire Hazard Reduction (19 man-hours) - Crew from Gate Camp burned brush piles on an area of 1 1/2 acres in Sec. 24-158-37.

Tree Planting (14578 man-hours) - Crew working out of Norris, Gate and Oaks Camps started tree planting on May 2. Planting sites plowed by two WPA tractors and plows and by two owner-operated outfits. Nursery stock hauled from the Badoura State Nursery at Akeley. Planted the following seedlings: Norway Pine - 434,768; White Pine

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- 72,891; White Spruce - 40,465; Tamarack - 6,812; Blue Spruce - 14,000; Black Spruce - 2,000. A total of 570,936 seedlings of all species planted on an area of 680 acres. Weather conditions have been favorable for successful planting. One mile of "live snow fence" was planted in Sec. 4-160-35, using native willow and aspen cuttings.

Moving Lookout Towers (414 man-hours) - One 94-foot steel ladder type tower was erected on Sec. 20-159-30. One 80-foot steel ladder type tower was erected on Sec. 32-160-38. Crews out of Norris Camp erected both these units under direction of Division of Forestry construction supervisors.

Food and Cover Planting (497 man-hours) - Plowed 10 acres new ground; disced and dragged 225 acres; planted 55 acres buckwheat, 37 acres alfalfa, 14 acres sweet-clover; picked 240 bushels moss for Caribou; set 20 marker stakes around planting sites.

Clearing and Posting Refuges (939 man-hours) - Burned 112 brush piles along north side of Secs. 20, 21 & 22-159-36; posted 7 miles with refuge signs along north and west sides of refuge in T159 R36.

Control Measures (425 man-hours) - Care of woodland Caribou; removal of beaver from areas damaging roads; control of beaver dams where damage was imminent.

Refuge Archways (120 man-hours) - Procuring Norway Pine logs for archways; peeled 25 logs.

General Conditions (2003 man-hours) - Repairing roads, bridges and culverts leading to camps and work areas; maintenance of roads by dragging. Placed three steel culverts and three wood box culverts. Worked on fence enclosure for storage of equipment and material.

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Side Camp Operation (3493 man-hours)

- (1) Oaks Camp - Personnel required to house and feed an average of 40 men.
- (2) Gate Camp - Personnel required to house and feed an average of 38 men.
- (3) Schilling Camp - One watchman required to protect property. This camp will re-open June 15 for 25 men.
- (4) Ludlow Camp - Will open about June 15 for housing and feeding 25 men to be used on clearing and posting refuges.

Expenditures for the two year period while the project was administered by the WPA totaled \$594,262.81. This represents the cost of labor furnished by the WPA in the amount of \$423,770.58, funds of \$27,291.02 provided by the Minnesota Department of Conservation, and what appear to be in-kind contributions of materials and services from the Soil Conservation Service and the Divisions of Game and Fish and Forestry for \$143,201.20.¹⁶

The final monthly report by the Works Progress Administration from May 1, 1942 to May 31, 1942 describes the last days of the Beltrami Island Project:

...cleaned up all rubbish, piled and burned same, at Oaks, Schilling, Ludlow and Norris camp, lumber yard cleaned and debris burned, with all salvageable materials used in construction of packing boxes; sawmill dismantled, loaded and hauled to center camp (located in the Pine Island Project); all equipment removed from side camps and stored at Norris Warehouses; two carloads, weighing 52,400# and 33,600#, of building material and portable buildings and other equipment were crated, when necessary, transported to Roosevelt and shipped to Ft. Snelling; all WPA mobile equipment, excepting the semi were hauled to Ft. Snelling with equipment and left.

¹⁶The WPA monthly reports and a summary of project expenditures are located in the State Archives within a file on the Beltrami Island Project from the Division of Game and Fish, Minnesota Department of Conservation.

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The report ended with the following:

Field operations on the Beltrami ceased on May 19, excepting a few small items that cropped up and needed completion. This camp is being closed according to schedule, with no needed work remaining. Weather conditions have been ideal for closing and the only obstacle has been that of securing cars on time. The third car has not arrived according to schedule and final loading will be withheld pending its arrival.

Thus came to an end one of the state's most extensive projects in conservation and land-use planning. The project was cited as "the pioneer resettlement project in the United States," by R.W. Murchie and C.R. Wasson of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in their 1937 publication Beltrami Island, Minn Resettlement Project. The Baudette Region reported on January 27, 1939 that "The Beltrami Island project...has been recognized by authorities as one of the most outstanding resettlement projects in the country." The immediate effects of resettlement were also a positive indication of the project's success. Even as early as 1937, a study of those settlers on relocated lands with better soils concluded that there had already been an increase in their net worth. As part of the land acquisition, the federal government paid a total of \$34,237 in delinquent taxes which would not have been paid without resettlement, and it is unlikely that future taxes could have been paid if the settlers had remained on their original lands. Maintenance of 48 miles of county-aid roads within the project area was discontinued at an estimated savings of \$1,317 per year. Through the increased concentration of settlers the per-capita costs of public services, especially in regard to schools, tax rates in the relocation areas of Lake of the Woods County decreased in just two years time from 1934 to 1936 by an average of \$12.27 per \$1,000 of valuation.¹⁷ Total project costs, although inconclusive, appear to be in excess of \$2,000,000, since it is believed that the Resettlement Administration and the Soil Conservation Service expended approximately \$400,000 for land

¹⁷Anderson, pp.69-72, 94.

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acquisition and perhaps as much as \$1,000,000 for land development by the late 1930s. A portion of the funding came from the Public Works Administration which allocated \$61,650 to the project in July 1938 under Project No. O.P. 752-01-50 which was described as a supplement to funds provided under O.P. 701-2-34¹⁸. Between 1940 and 1942, \$600,000 was expended while the project was being operated with WPA assistance. According to the records of the Soil Conservation Service, substantial employment was generated throughout the entire project years with an average of 500 men employed at Norris and the various side camps in 1936, 400 in 1937, and 250 in 1938; all in addition to the administrative staff located in Baudette and Spooner. Under the WPA, employment averaged between 200 to 300 from 1940 until the project ended in 1942.

The Beltrami Island Project is believed to be the largest of the several projects completed in the state of Minnesota by the Resettlement Administration.¹⁹ Three of these were housing projects, including the Austin Homesteads, a 44-unit "Industrial" type project originated by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, and Albert Lea Homesteads, a 17-unit "Industrial" type project initiated by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.²⁰ Both projects were essentially completed by the time these two programs were absorbed by the Resettlement Administration. The third project was the Duluth Homesteads, an 84-unit "Industrial" type project originated by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, although only land acquisition had been completed by the time the project was transferred to the Resettlement Administration. The Resettlement Administration completely redesigned the project and substantially improved the quality of design and construction. The purpose of the housing projects was to provide affordable housing to industrial workers who might be unable to purchase their own homes. Each house included a large tract of land so that through gardening or small-scale farming the homeowners might provide a significant portion of their subsistence needs.

¹⁸Improvement Bulletin, July 29, 1938. p. 26.

¹⁹Refer to the section on the Resettlement Administration within the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled, "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941."

²⁰Paul K. Conkin, Tomorrow A New World: The New Deal Community Program. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1959), pp. 333-334.

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The state's remaining projects by the Resettlement Administration involved resettlement and land utilization projects more comparable to Beltrami Island than subsistence housing. One such project was the St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area, one of 46 RDAs in the United States whose purpose was to convert large tracts of submarginal agricultural lands into prototypical state parks.²¹ The initial land acquisition was begun by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, but once the Resettlement Administration was established the project area was significantly enlarged with an allocation of \$126,000 which was used to purchase an additional 19,000 acres. However, once the land purchase was complete, the entire project was turned over to the National Park Service for development. In addition, it is believed that only seven families were relocated from the lands.²²

Other resettlement activities were undertaken near Mud and Thief Lakes in Marshall County, Twin Lakes in Kittson County, and Rice Lake in Aitkin County. Although information on these projects is not conclusive, according to the First Annual Report of the Resettlement Administration from 1936, the scale of these projects was considerably less than Beltrami Island. Only the Pine Island Project, located to the east of the Beltrami Island Project in Koochiching County and which shared the same administrative staff, is believed to have been of comparable scale. In fact, the project area of 816,000 acres was actually larger than Beltrami Island, however, in terms of the number of settlers relocated and the land development activities, it appears the project was no more than half the size of Beltrami Island.

With the conclusion of the assistance by the WPA, over six years of federal support came to an end on the Beltrami Island Project. Although the area was now in state hands as planned, there naturally was a dramatic decrease in funding as well as the operational staff. In fact, there were only three people living

²¹The most famous of the Recreational Demonstration Areas was called Shangri-la during the Roosevelt Administration and later named Camp David.

²²Additional information concerning the St. Croix RDA is found in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled, "Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources," and the associated National Register nominations for the park.

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at the Norris Camp from 1942 to 1943. These changes marked the beginning of the gradual removal of many of the buildings at the camp. This actually began when the WPA was closing the camp in May 1942 as plans were quickly made to remove 11 buildings at the Norris Camp and 13 buildings at the Oaks, Gates, and Ludlow Island Camps while the necessary manpower was still available. A number of the sectional buildings were dismantled while others were salvaged or demolished. Other buildings were sold or demolished over the years until today when not one building survives at any of the side camps and 14 contributing buildings remain at the Norris Camp.

Generally this might be considered a significant loss of integrity, however, a Depression Era work camp is clearly a fragile resource and any surviving examples may be considered a rare anomaly. Work camps, which were usually constructed for the CCC, were temporary facilities of minimal frame construction which were almost always destroyed or dismantled after a particular project was completed. They were never considered permanent facilities. Of the 2,600 CCC camps built in the United States, only a few are known to have survived relatively intact, including Minnesota's Rabideau Camp, considered the most intact of any CCC camp in the United States, although the majority of its buildings are now in deteriorating condition and all of the service and support buildings have been removed. The state's only other example of a somewhat intact facility would be the WPA transient camp at Flandrau State Park which was later used as a group camp. Of the buildings at the Norris Camp, only the Power House and Latrine are known to have been originally constructed on foundations, and if the state had not added foundations in the late 1940s and 1950s to the buildings which now survive, it is questionable if any would have remained structurally sound. To this day the Blacksmith Shop rests directly on the ground as do the two Oil Houses which are the only remaining examples of buildings of a portable design. The surviving buildings remain in excellent condition and the feeling of a complex of buildings is maintained. In addition, there are surviving representative examples of each of the major work camp building types including public use buildings such as the Mess Hall and Recreation Building, residential facilities such as barracks buildings and staff quarters, and a variety of service and support structures.

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A number of intact interior spaces, original tools and equipment stamped by the Resettlement Administration and the Works Progress Administration, and various original signs, are all able to successfully evoke the operation of the camp during the Depression Era.

The Norris Camp was selected for nomination because it is believed that it is the best representation of the Beltrami Island Project. However, other associated sites may also be eligible such as the Norris Ranger Station, which could possibly qualify solely because of its finely crafted Rustic-Style design. In addition, an historic landscape, representative of the conservation efforts on the project lands, which might include a dam, flowage, and restored wetland, would also be an eligible resource.

The Norris Camp meets the registration requirements for Institutional Buildings and Social Welfare Projects as set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled, "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941." The camp was constructed by the federal government, and federal funds from nearly every major federal relief program of the Depression Era were utilized for labor, materials, and project operation. Construction was completed by the end of 1941. It represents a rare surviving example of a Depression Era work camp and it retains major components of its original design, layout, and spatial and functional relationships. The camp had a significant association with the Beltrami Island Project, an extensive relief effort providing a major source of employment and which brought a new and innovative approach to solving the problems relating to submarginal lands, both in terms of its solution for the distressed settlers but also for its environmental solutions involving land use planning and conservation.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Section 8, Township 159, Range 35

SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$
E $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$
SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$
S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$
SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$
W $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$

See also accompanying map entitled Norris Camp whose boundary is shown as the heavy black line. It is drawn to a scale of 1 inch equals 50 feet and corresponds to the above verbal boundary description.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings that have historically been part of Norris Camp the headquarters directly associated with the operations of the Resettlement Administration's Beltrami Island Project. The boundary does not include the 740,000 acre tract of land known as the Beltrami Island Project as it requires further survey and evaluation before a registration process can be initiated.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MAP

FOR THE
NORTHERN MINNESOTA
BELTRAMI ISLAND SETTLER RELOCATION PROJECT

LD-MN-3



SCALE 1" = 1 MILE

DATE - AUGUST 15, 1935
REVISED DATE - AUGUST 29, 1935
DECEMBER 1, 1935
MAY 29, 1936

LEGEND

JOB NO.	TYPE OF WORK	SYMBOL
101	COVER SURVEY	250,000 A.
104	TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY	
106	MINING BOUNDARY	20 M.
108	COLLECTING STRUCTURES	25
110	SEED COLLECTOR	1,000 LBS.
109	VEHICULAR BARRIERS	12
107	LOOKOUT TOWER	1
121	STORAGE HOUSE	1
122	RANGER STATION	1
205	SPOONSHED DAMS-TIMBER	250
230	TELEPHONE	24 M.
240	CONSTRUCTION CAMPS - PERMANENT	1
	MOBILE	7
304	TRUCK TRAILS	98 M.
401	FIRE BREAKS	60 M.
408	TREE PLANTING AND SEEDING	225 A.
509	FIRE PROTECTION	
709	PUBLIC CAMP AND PICNIC GROUND	20 A.
707	WAYSIDE PARK	1
908	BIOLOGICAL RECONNOISSANCE	
904	FOOD AND COVER	250 A.
906	BIG GAME FENCE	20 M.
907	LAKE AND POND DEVELOPMENT	1,000 A.
909	CLEARING AND POSTING REFUGE BOUNDARY	152 M.
	BELTRAMI STATE FOREST BOUNDARY	
	RED LAKE WILD-LIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY	
	PROJECT BOUNDARY	
	PRESENT DRAINAGE DITCHES	
	EXISTING TELEPHONE LINES	
	EXISTING MINOR ROADS	
	WATERFOWL REFUGE	

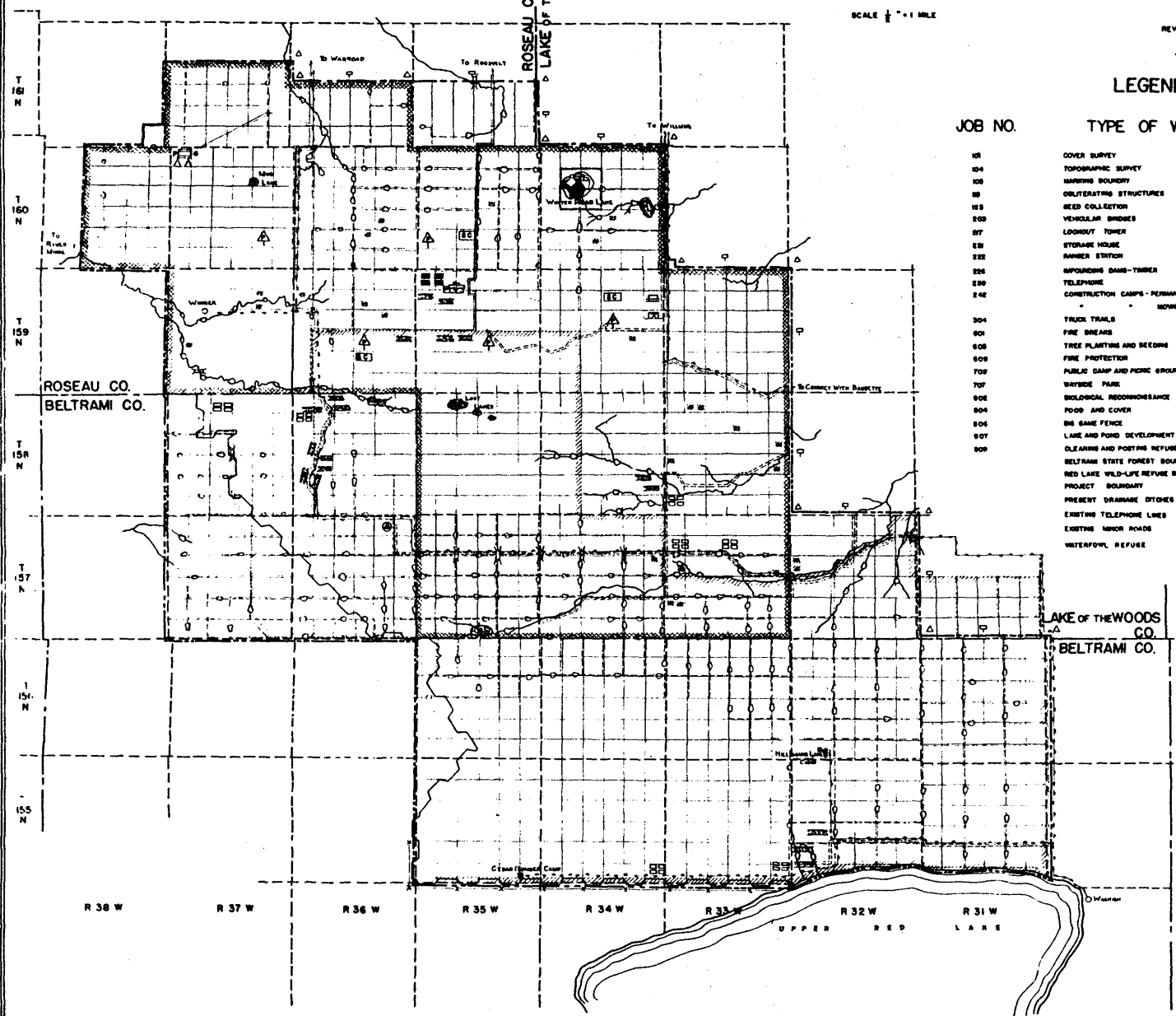


Fig. IV

CANADA

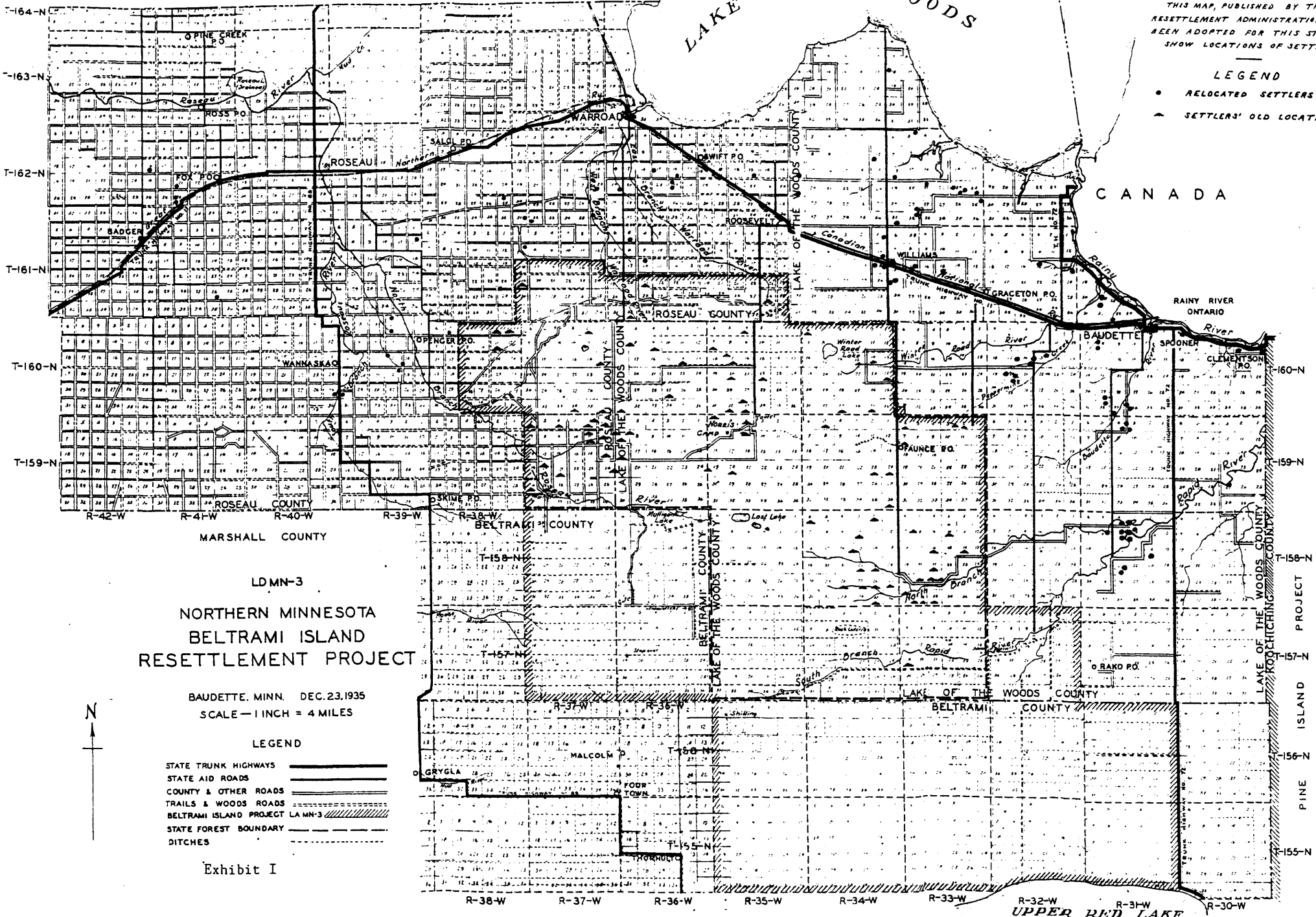
LAKE OF THE WOODS

THIS MAP, PUBLISHED BY THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, HAS BEEN ADOPTED FOR THIS STUDY SHOW LOCATIONS OF SETTLERS

LEGEND

- RELOCATED SETTLERS
- ▲ SETTLERS' OLD LOCATIONS

CANADA



LD MN-3
 NORTHERN MINNESOTA
 BELTRAMI ISLAND
 RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

BAUDETTE, MINN. DEC. 23, 1935
 SCALE - 1 INCH = 4 MILES

LEGEND

- STATE TRUNK HIGHWAYS
- STATE AID ROADS
- COUNTY & OTHER ROADS
- TRAILS & WOODS ROADS
- BELTRAMI ISLAND PROJECT LD MN-3
- STATE FOREST BOUNDARY
- DITCHES

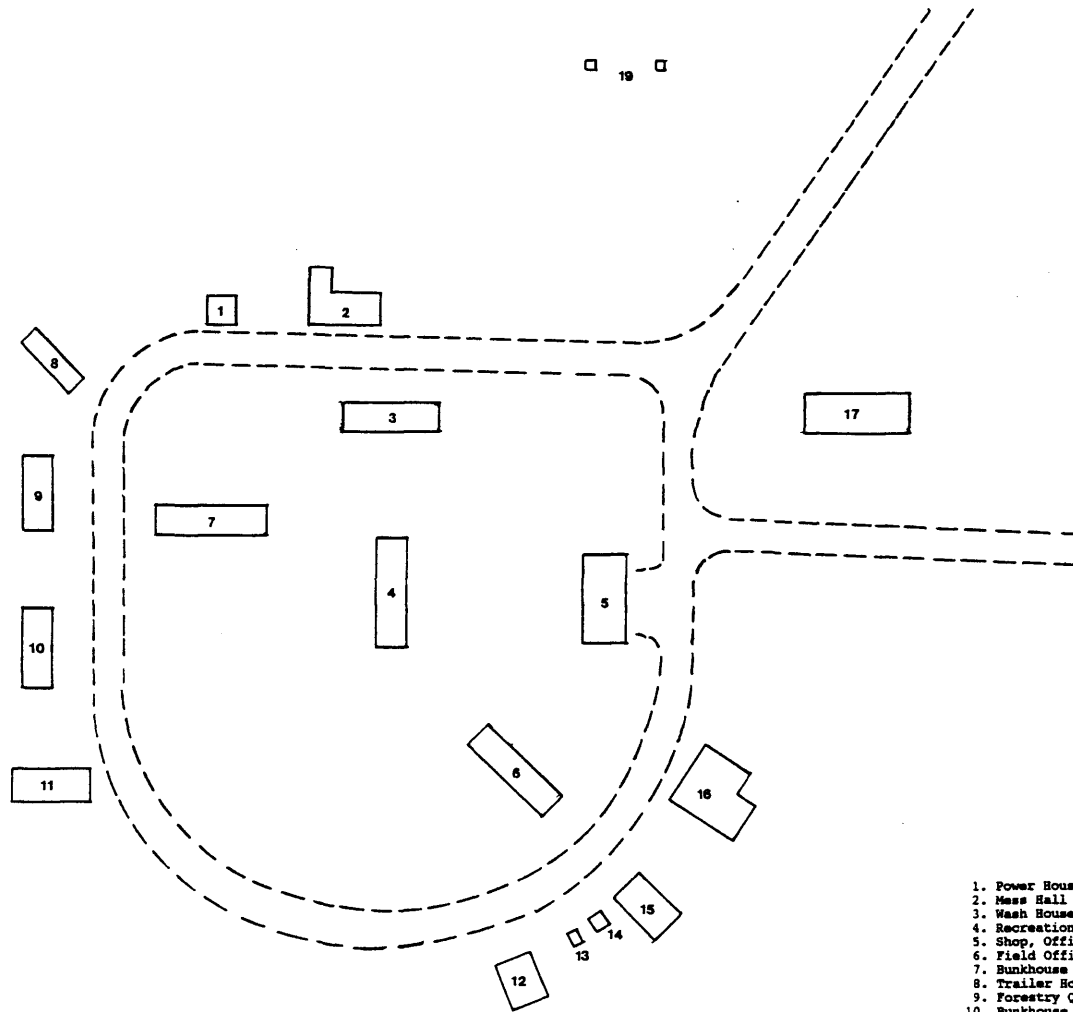
Exhibit I



PROJECT
 ISLAND
 PINE

UPPER RND LAKE

Norris Camp



North

One inch equals 50 feet

Historic District Boundary
(1320' x 990')

1. Power House
2. Mess Hall and Kitchen
3. Wash House and Latrines
4. Recreation Building
5. Shop, Office, and Utility Building (NC)*
6. Field Office & Supply Room
7. Bunkhouse
8. Trailer House (NC)
9. Forestry Quarters
10. Bunkhouse
11. Bunkhouse
12. Blacksmith Shop
13. Oil House
14. Oil House
15. Storage Garage (NC)
16. Repair Garage
17. Manager's Residence (NC)
18. Cabin No. 3
19. Latrines (NC)

All buildings are keyed to the nomination
* NC denotes a non-contributing building