

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Douglas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70,10,55,0011	DATE 10/15/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Brule-St. Croix Portage

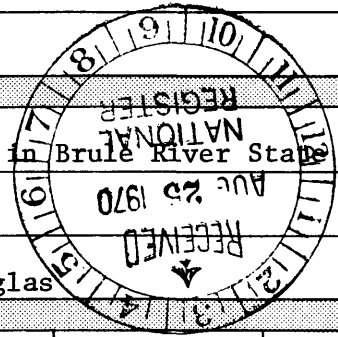
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Approx. 3 mi NE of Solon Springs on County "A" in Brule River State Forest

CITY OR TOWN:  
Solon Springs

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 48 COUNTY: Douglas CODE: 031



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:  
4610 University Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 48

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Superior STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 48

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin  
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The portage between the Brule and St. Croix rivers lies in the marshy region in the southwest corner of the Brule River State Forest where springs arise and provide the sources of both rivers, with the Brule flowing northward into Lake Superior and the St. Croix generally southwesterly to the Mississippi. The distance between the rivers is something less than two miles.

The portage trail is a passageway through wooded, hilly land at its southwestern end to more level marshy land at its northeastern end. It "is to this day easy to find and not difficult to walk. It follows the rim of a basin which cradles the ten-mile-long bog that gives birth to both the Brule and the St. Croix...Skirting the boggy areas, the trail makes a pleasant ...walk in a woods where signs of man are few and unobtrusive... Cut into the ground as much as two feet in places by the countless feet that have walked it, the path allows single file travel only."<sup>1</sup> The swamp itself is not passable except when it is frozen over in the wintertime.

Three women's groups, the Superior Garden Club, the Claude Jean Allouez Chapter, D.A.R., and the Solon Springs Garden Club have retraced the old trail and placed markers or plaques on stones along the way. Plaques placed on stones by the Allouez D.A.R. honor significant travelers of the portage. Among these are plaques to Du Luth (Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Lhut), who first discovered the portage in 1680; Jonathan Carver, 1766; Jean Baptiste Cadotte, a fur-trader who made the portage many times in the early 1800's; Henry Schoolcraft, who led an exploration party through here in 1832; and Joseph Lucius, who surveyed the portage for the government for the last time in 1854. Such markings are not considered as alterations of the portage itself, nor is the occasionally necessary clearing of brush and overgrowth from the trail.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SITE (See appended maps):

The Brule-St. Croix Portage is a trail of some three or four feet in width extending in a northeast-southwest direction between the northeastern end of Upper Lake St. Croix at the west and the easternmost branch of the Brule River headwaters at the east. Except for the trail itself there are no describable property boundaries. The trail traverses Sections 8, 9 and 17, Town 45 North, Range 11 West. Its length is approximately two miles.

1. Bersing and Roark, "The Brule-St. Croix Portage Trail," 2



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1680; 1766; 1832

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

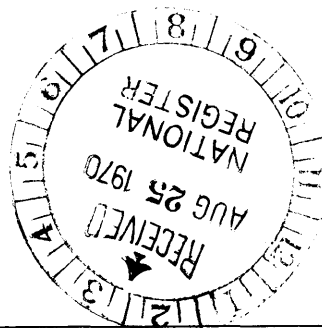
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aboriginal. The portage's use by Indians has been described as existing "from time immemorial." "Well before Greysolon [Du Luth], there were Sioux living in this region...Next on the scene were the Chippewa or Ojibwa. They had been pushed westward by other tribes and were historic enemies of the Sioux. For two hundred years the two tribes battled. When the first Frenchmen came in the seventeenth century, the Sioux were dominant, but by the mid-eighteenth century, the Chippewa had replaced them east of the Mississippi."<sup>1</sup>

Commerce; Social/Humanitarian: From the latter seventeenth century until beyond the middle of the nineteenth, the portage was used by explorers, fur-traders, travelers, pioneers, voyageurs and missionaries. Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Lhut (Du Luth) is credited with being the first white man to use this passage in 1680. For nearly two centuries thereafter it was one of the most heavily traveled routes between Lake Superior and the Mississippi, used as a major fur trade route during the entire period of French domination and well into the period when the English were in control. Jonathan Carver went over this portage in 1766 during his travels of the Northwest, and Henry Schoolcraft's exploration party used the route in 1832.

In terms of early exploration and commerce, the Brule-St. Croix Portage is one of Wisconsin's most historically significant land sites. As such it is considered sufficiently important in Wisconsin's early history to be included in the National Register.

1. Bersing and Roark, "The Brule-St. Croix Portage Trail," 24-25.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Andrus-Juneau, Isura, "Daniel Greysolon Du Lhut," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 24:425-429, 1940.  
 Kellogg, Louise Phelps, "The Mission of Jonathan Carver," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 12:127-145, 1928.  
 Schoolcraft, Henry R., Narrative of an Expedition Through the Upper Mississippi to Itasca Lake, Harper and Brothers, New York, 1834.  
 Jerrard, Leigh P., The Brule River of Wisconsin, Hall & Son, Printers, Chicago, 1956.  
 Bersing, Otis, and Eugene Roark, "The Brule-St. Croix Portage Trail," Wisconsin Tales and Trails, 10(2):22-25, Madison, Wisconsin, 1969.

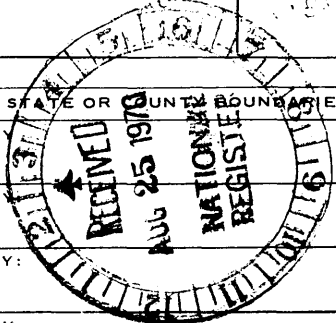
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 46° 23' 18"	W 91° 45' 51"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 6/5/70

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin 53706 CODE: 48

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Richard A. Erney  
 Richard A. Erney

Title: Acting Director  
 State Historical Society of Wis.

Date: 8/20/70

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: OCT 15 1970

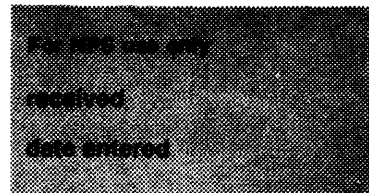
ATTEST:  
J. Bradford  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 12 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number Page

PROPERTY NAME Brule-St. Croix Portage

7	0	0	0	0	0	33
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REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
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STATE

0	3	1
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COUNTY CODE

Correct street address is Brule River State Park

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

FEB. 17, 1986

DATE