

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received DEC 29 1982
date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic White, Francis, Homestead (Forsythe Post Office)

and/or common N/A

2. Location N of Littlefork

street & number off U.S. Highway 71 N/A not for publication

city, town ~~Inorganized Territory (T69 R25)~~ X vicinity of Littlefork vicinity

state Minnesota code 22 county Koochiching code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Noah Hege

street & number Rt. 2

city, town Littlefork N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Koochiching County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town International Falls state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June, 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The White Homestead/Forsythe Post Office is situated on the Littlefork River in the north central portion of Koochiching County. The building site faces the river and is a short distance from the bluff line of its north bank.

The house is a rectangular one-and-one-half story structure of log construction. The basement of the building is composed of vertical log walls; a portion of this area is exposed at the front of the house. The rest of the structure is of horizontal logs with dovetailed corners. Windows are spaced symmetrically at both the first and second levels and are double hung, two-over-two panes. The gable roof is interrupted at the front by a steeply pitched gable wall dormer directly over the front doorway. The walls of the dormer are sheathed in shingles cut in a decorative diamond pattern; the remainder of the wall surfaces are exposed logs. The roof is also pierced by two brick chimneys. A tall pole is attached to the east end of the house; this is said to have been used as a signal to the river at the time that the Forsythe Post Office was located at the house. An open lean-to has been attached to the west side of the house and a one story frame addition is located at the northeast corner.

Although no longer occupied, the house is within an operating farmstead. The building is in need of some structural stabilization.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1901 **Builder/Architect** Unknown (probably F. White)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The White Homestead/Forsythe Post Office is significant as a substantial log dwelling associated with the early Euro-American rural development of Koochiching County. Francis White was born in Altona, Ontario, in 1875, and came to Bemidji, Minnesota, in 1898. In 1900, White claimed land on the north bank of the Littlefork River in Section 33, T69,R25, which had been covered by the U.S. government survey in 1896. At that time, the area was part of northern Itasca County, of which only 0.1% of the total land surface was improved. He constructed his log home soon after, and was granted a patent on the homestead in 1905. Eventually cultivating 200 acres, White became prominent in Koochiching County agriculture, and served as a founder and president of the Koochiching County Farm Bureau. The White home also functioned as a community focus for the surrounding rural area from 1904 until 1922 when it housed the Forsythe Post Office, named after White's first wife, Elizabeth Forsythe. Agricultural activity in Koochiching County has remained a minor land use in an area where over 80% of the surface is covered with forests and bogs. The White Homestead's secluded location, its orientation to the Littlefork River rather than to the highway, and its substantial construction and size are all features which make it a good representative of the relatively late period of homesteading and agricultural activity which did take place in the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hinckley, I.W. An Early History of Littlefork. Littlefork: Littlefork Times, 1942, p.18.

Unidentified newspaper clipping in files of Koochiching County Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 2 acres

Quadrangle name Littlefork Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5	4	5	8	0	4	0	5	3	6	3	5	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the point of intersection of the north bank of the Littlefork River and the west line of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, T69,R25; thence north 350 feet; thence east 300 feet; thence south to north bank of Littlefork River; thence southeast along said north bank to point of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis A. Gimmetad, Acting Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Minnesota Historical Society date 16 November 1982

street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/22/82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 1/27/83

J. Lowell Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration