

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received **OCT 30 1985**  
date entered **DEC 2 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic Clearwater Lodge

and/or common Jocko's Clearwater Lodge

**2. Location**

street & number Off County Road 66 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Unorganized Territory of West Cook County  vicinity of Grand Marais

state Minnesota code 22 county Cook code 031

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="float:right">___ museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="float:right">___ park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="float:right">___ private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="float:right">___ religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="float:right">___ scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="float:right">___ transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Recreation</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Lee Nelson

street & number 8624 Kell Avenue South

city, town Bloomington \_\_\_ vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Court House

street & number Fifth Avenue West and Second Street

city, town Grand Marais state Minnesota 55406

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society, Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

# 7. Description

**Condition**  
 excellent     deteriorated  
 good     ruins  
 fair     unexposed

**Check one**  
 unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**  
 original site  
 moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on Clearwater Lake Road about four miles northeast of the Gunflint Trail, Clearwater Lodge is a rectangular, two-story, gable-roofed structure measuring about 40 feet in width and 60 feet in length. Featuring exposed, saddle-notched, log construction, the building has a covered front porch on the principal (southeast) elevation and an extended, shed-roofed dormer on the northeast elevation. The exterior is painted yellow-gold. The first floor contains an office, store, dining room, kitchen, staff lounge, and guest lounge with a massive stone fireplace. The second floor is divided into guest rooms and apartments. The front porch was added in 1932; the fireplace in 1936.<sup>1</sup>

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Historic Resort/Hotel Survey Questionnaire for Jocko's Clearwater Lodge, unpublished, n.d., Cook County Resort Survey File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

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Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number 7

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The Clearwater Lodge Nomination contains one contributing building.

## 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 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Recreation		
<b>Specific dates</b>	1925-1926; 1932		<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Charles and Petra Boostrom		

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The oldest surviving guesthouse on the Gunflint Trail, Clearwater Lodge is historically significant for its pioneering, and continuing, contribution to the Cook County tourist industry.<sup>1</sup>

In 1893, the Cook County Board of Commissioners finished the last stretch of road linking Grand Marais to Gun Flint, a mining community about 45 miles north on the Canadian border. Although the completion of the "Gunflint Trail" was primarily a testimony to the political power of the county's mining interests, the road was also a boon to homesteaders who settled the area during the early 1900s.<sup>2</sup> Among these early residents were Charles ("Charlie") and Petra Boostrom, who, in 1916, purchased 80 acres of land on the western shore of Clearwater Lake, just east of the Superior National Forest. There the Boostroms erected a small log cabin. Over the next ten years, Charlie earned a reputation as one of the area's foremost trappers and hunters.<sup>3</sup>

During the 1920s, an increasing number of tourists discovered the woods and lakes of Cook County, and Charlie found an increasing part of his livelihood as a guide for sport hunting and fishing parties. To capitalize on the emerging tourist trade, he and Petra constructed Clearwater Lodge in 1925-1926. Completion of the building coincided with the construction of an automobile road connecting the new resort to the Gunflint Trail. Over the next two decades the Gunflint Trail developed into a major vacation spot, and Clearwater Lodge earned a statewide reputation for its hospitality. After the Boostroms retired from the tourist business in 1945, Clearwater Lodge went through several changes in ownership until, in 1964, it became the property of Jack ("Jocko") Nelson and his wife Lee. The Nelsons renamed the resort "Jocko's Clearwater Lodge." Although Jack Nelson died in 1978, his widow continues to operate the lodge as a summer resort.<sup>4</sup>

### NOTES

1

This assessment is supported by data supplied by 20 completed questionnaires on Cook County resorts in Cook County Resort Survey File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society; see also Willis H. Raff, Research Report on Clearwater Lodge, p. 1, unpublished, 1984, Clearwater Lodge File, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society.

2

Willis H. Raff, Pioneers in the Wilderness (Grand Marais, MN: Cook County Historical Society, 1981), pp. 151-156.

3

Raff, Research Report, p. 1; Beatrice Flaaten Ogren, Gunflint Trailblazers (Grand Marais, MN: Ogren Enterprises, rev. 1977), p. 21.

4

Raff, Research Report, pp. 1-2; Ogren, pp. 24-28, 31-34.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Hungry Jack Lake, Minnesota - Ontario

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

115	6949810	53271310
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point defined by the intersection of Clearwater Lake Road and the Fourth Principal Meridian in Cook County, Minnesota, thence running due east 100 feet, thence due north 100 feet, thence due west to the Fourth Principal Meridian, then south along said

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries Meridian to the point of

state N/A code county origin code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey A. Hess

organization Jeffrey A. Hess, Historical Consultant date July 29, 1985

street & number 305 Grain Exchange Building telephone 612-338-1987

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55415

# 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/22/85

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

Entered in the National Register

date 12/2/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9. Bibliography Page 1

Historic Resort/Hotel Survey Questionnaires. Unpublished, n.d. Cook County Resort  
File. Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. Minnesota Historical Society.

Ogren, Beatrice Flaaten. Gunflint Trailblazers. Grand Marais, MN: Ogren Enterprises,  
rev., 1977.

Raff, Willis H. Pioneers in the Wilderness. Grand Marais, MN: Cook County Historical  
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