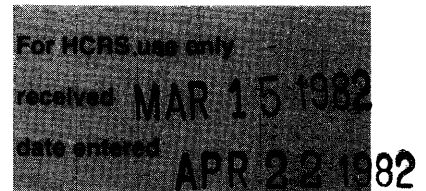


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name Itasca County Multiple Resource Area

historic Historic Resources of Itasca County (Partial Inventory)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The County Limits of Itasca County, Minnesota N/A not for publication

city, town N/A vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Minnesota code 22 county Itasca code 061

3. Classification -- see individual inventory forms

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership -- see individual inventory forms

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds -- Itasca County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Grand Rapids state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes XX no

date 1980 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description -- see individual inventory forms

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See Area Description

ITASCA COUNTY

The basis of the survey for this nomination is an inventory of structures which are indicative of various aspects of the county's History. Structures were identified and inventoried during a county-wide survey conducted during the summer and fall of 1980.

Selection of structures for the inventory included both field reconnaissance of pre-identified sites and isolation of sites on a purely visual basis. Pre-identification of sites was limited to a small number of the most significant locations (those unique on a county wide scale, or significantly linked with some aspect of county history.) County histories, individual community histories, and photographs from both the state society and private collections were researched for site-specific information. General references to common buildings were not noted.

Township maps from the 1916 and 1978 County Atlases were copies for field use. Plat maps on file in the county recorder's office were researched for original plat information (proprietors, survey and filing dates) and for addition dates. The filing dates for the various platted areas were noted on current highway department city maps. This collection of maps was useful in gaining a localized sense of development for areas of the county.

All city streets were walked or driven. All rural non-farm structures, pre-identified sites, and locally suggested buildings were visited. The roads connecting these dispersed sites provided a strong sampling of the rural landscape. Pre-identified sites were inventoried regardless of integrity. Other buildings with unusual integrity or unique features were also inventoried. In general, structures built before 1940 were considered for an inventory.

Follow-up information (both localized specific and generalized contextual) on some sites was gathered to help establish significance.

In each region of the county, at least one and in most cases several local contacts were made through the county historical society and by random inquiry. These were most often helpful in locating information on selected properties, but also in pointing out additional locations for inventory.

From the inventory of 342 sites, 4 individual structures and 2 thematic nominations were selected for nomination to the National Register, mostly on the basis of their significance within the county. Information and photographs on all sites are recorded on inventory forms for a permanent record.

ITASCA COUNTY

Itasca County, Minnesota's third largest county with a total land area of 2894 miles, is situated in north-central Minnesota. Its center is roughly 90 miles northwest of Duluth and 185 miles north of the Twin Cities. All borders follow the lines of the government survey system with the exception of the southwestern border which is defined by the course of the Mississippi River.

The county includes areas within the three great drainage basins of the Upper Midwest. The southern portion is drained by the Mississippi River while the northern section is drained by the Big Fork River whose waters eventually flow into Hudson Bay. A 40 square mile area in the southeast corner is drained toward Lake Superior. The terrain is nearly level, with the primary exception of a band of morainic hills which forms the continental divide running east-west through the county's midsection. The county is poorly drained as evidenced by the numerous landlocked lakes and few major streams.

The county originally lay within the extensive pineries of northern Minnesota. Stands of prized White and Norway pines were located throughout the county with the heaviest concentrations found in the vicinity of the Mesabi Iron Range and the central section north of the Mississippi River. Aspen and birch, conifer bogs and swamps, and scattered hardwoods prevailed elsewhere. Today the county remains heavily forested with over 70% of the land so classified. Second growth popple and birch are common throughout the county with interspersed swamplands and occasional stands of pine. Approximately half of the county is included in the Chippewa National Forest. Agricultural land use is limited to approximately 10% of the land surface with less than 10% of this total farmland being cultivated. The greatest concentrations of agricultural land use occur in the Big Fork River Valley, the Mississippi alluvial plain, and the southeastern townships.

Itasca County shares with other northern Minnesota counties a history of Indian inhabitation, Euro-American exploration, and fur trade activities. The Ojibway people, occupants of the region at the time of white settlement, relinquished title to the land as part of the cession treaties of 1855 and 1864. The 1855 treaty reserved a tract of land around Leech Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish, including a large segment of southwestern Itasca County, for Indian occupancy. Government surveyors commenced surveying townships in 1867 and initial logging operations began the following year.

The towering White pine attracted the county's first permanent settlers in the early 1870s. Logging activity accelerated following construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Aitkin, in neighboring Aitkin County, in 1871. The railroad provided the necessary supply link required for extensive logging operations in the northern pineries. In the ensuing years several thousand tons of supplies destined for logging camps were transported by rail to Aitkin and shipped upstream to Pokegama Falls by flatboat or steamboat. Grand Rapids, a small warehouse center and stopping place for loggers, developed at the falls in

the early 1870s. Corduroy tote roads radiated from the community connecting it with numerous camps on the Prairie River and in the vicinity of Lakes Pokegama and Wabana. Throughout the seventies the year-round population was small; storekeepers and a few loggers responsible for caring for livestock and raising hay for the coming logging season were the only inhabitants during the summer months. The county's 1880 population of 124 was entirely male with one exception.

Logging activity and settlement accelerated after 1880. Loggers advanced farther north and moved east into the Mesabi Range area. La Prairie, a small supply center at the confluence of the Mississippi and Prairie Rivers, briefly rivaled Grand Rapids for regional supremacy in the 1880s. Grand Rapids secured its position as the hub of Itasca County activity in the early 1890s when the Duluth and Winnipeg Railroad connected the community with Duluth (1890) and Grand Rapids was designated the county seat (1892). In 1900 the community's population numbered 1428. Agricultural land use also commenced during the century's final two decades; by 1900 settlers had carved over 800 farms out of the cutover region in southern Itasca County. Area farmers were assisted in their endeavors by the North Central Agricultural Experiment Station established by the state near Grand Rapids in 1896.

Logging activity in the county peaked between 1890 and 1910. Every spring several hundred million feet of logs were floated down the Mississippi and Big Fork Rivers to mills in Minneapolis and Canada. Large mill operations were established in Grand Rapids, Cohasset, and Deer River shortly after the turn-of-the-century. One of the more notable aspects of the industry after 1890 was the increased use of logging railroads. Several railroads were constructed by larger firms with extensive holdings in areas previously inaccessible to logging activity. The Itasca Lumber Company's line constructed north from Deer River to Craigville between 1896 and 1906 was the most significant of the county's logging railroads. Deer River, the terminus of the railroad, emerged as the center of logging activity in western Itasca County. The road and its several branches served as a transportation corridor stimulating settlement of central and western Itasca County. All mills excepting the Grand Rapids paper mill (Blandin Paper Company) ceased operation by the mid-1920s. The last major log drive on the Mississippi occurred in 1916 and all major logging firms discontinued operation of large camps by 1925.

Three major developments have characterized Itasca County's development in the twentieth century -- increasing agricultural land use during the initial decades, followed by decline and a revitalized timber industry; establishment of a flourishing resort industry; and iron mining on the Western Mesabi Iron Range.

Probably the most significant factor in the county's 20th century history has been development of the Western Mesabi Iron Range, located within the largest of Minnesota's three iron ranges. The entire Mesabi Range is 110 miles long and one to three miles wide, and extends

through both Itasca and St. Louis Counties. The eastern Mesabi, in St. Louis County, was developed in the 1890s, but the western Mesabi ores remained untouched until the early twentieth century because of their high sand content. Leading the development of the western Mesabi was John C. Greenway, superintendent of the Oliver Iron Mining Company's Canisteo District. Under Greenway's administration (1905-1910), the Oliver Iron Mining Company opened several mines, planned four company towns, and developed a process to separate ore from sand. The western Mesabi virtually came to life during this period. By 1910, the Iron Range's 7803 residents, largely immigrants from northern and southern Europe, comprised 45% of the county's population. Mining operations increased steadily, reaching a peak in 1923. Itasca County's mining activity dropped after 1923, nearly coming to a standstill during the depression years. The industry rebounded to new heights during World War II and the 1950s but has since declined gradually, shifting in recent years to taconite production. While the Range remains a viable Itasca County industrial area, it no longer plays the role it once did.

Agricultural land use expanded during the early twentieth century. Logging concerns, railroads, and real estate firms cooperated in extensively promoting settlement of the cutover region. Settlement occurred primarily in the vicinity of major transportation routes -- the Mississippi and Big Fork Rivers, the Itasca Lumber Company Railroad (incorporated as the Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad in 1904), and the numerous roads which interlaced the southern portion of the county. The most identifiable farming communities were the Finnish settlements in the vicinity of Trout Lake, south of Coleraine, and Suomi, north of Deer River. By 1920 the Finnish farmers and miners in the Iron Range communities numbered over 1600 and comprised the county's largest ethnic group. Itasca County farms and cultivated acreage increased dramatically, peaking in the 1940s. Farmers, initially dependent on the potato, shifted to dairying and diversified farming in the 1920s. The trend since the 1940s has been toward fewer farms and fewer acres cultivated.

The resurgence of northern Minnesota's timber industry coincided with the decline in agricultural production. Reforestation and managed forestry in Itasca County has its roots in the Chippewa National Forest, the nation's first national forest reserve, created by Congress in 1901. Outside the reserve little attention was given to the concept of managed forestry until the Great Depression. During the 1930s the forest's size was doubled and large scale reforestation projects were undertaken by the CCC. These actions resulted in greater local awareness of the concept. By the late 1940s farmers began to plant trees where crops were once sown. The trend has accelerated since 1950 and, today, the county boasts a thriving revitalized timber industry.

Another twentieth century occurrence has been the region's development as a recreational haven. Vacationers from throughout the Midwest and the Lower Mississippi Valley have long been attracted to Itasca County's numerous picturesque fishing lakes. Prior to World War I recreational

development was limited to a few prominent fishing resorts, numerous log fishing cabins erected by property owners for guests, and several summer residences. It was during the post-war period, characterized by improved roads and increased automobile usage, that Itasca County's resort industry flourished. Vacationers were primarily attracted to the central lakes district in the vicinity of the continental divide and the recreational facilities within the Chippewa National Forest. Several erected permanent summer residences on lakes throughout the county.

The county's architectural development follows the typical building pattern of other counties in the cutover region. Early buildings were of log construction. Log houses and barns, many in a deteriorated condition, are visible throughout the county; the greatest concentration of log structures is in the Finnish community in the Trout Lake area south of Coleraine. Simple frame structures replaced the log structures following the establishment of local sawmills. Wood is the primary construction material for both residential and agricultural structures. Masonry commercial structures built since the turn-of-the-century replaced earlier frame structures in the Range communities and in the larger communities of Grand Rapids, Deer River, and Bigfork.

ITASCA COUNTY

The significance of the development of Itasca County has been based on the extractive industries of logging and mining, which stimulated settlement and provided an economic base upon which the county developed, on Grand Rapids' emergence as one of northern Minnesota's foremost communities, and on the development of the area as an integral component of northern Minnesota's widely recognized resort industry.

Logging was the primary industry upon which Itasca County's early settlement was founded. Grand Rapids, Deer River, and Cohasset developed as centers of logging activity in the late nineteenth century. The Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's Residence (1904, Deer River) is associated with the largest logging concern operating in central and western Itasca County near the turn-of-the-century. The Itasca Lumber Company played a significant role in the development of Deer River as the leading center of logging activity outside Grand Rapids and in the settlement of the county's western half.

Related to logging is the concept of forestry management. The Old Cut Foot Sioux Ranger Station (c. 1904, T147, R27, placed on the National Register in 1974) is a nationally significant structure associated with the Chippewa National Forest, the nation's first national forest reserve, and management of timber resources. Congress created the forest reserve in 1901 to prevent indiscriminate logging methods utilized throughout the region at the time.

Grand Rapids emerged from the 1890s as the county's foremost community. Central School (1895, Grand Rapids, placed on the National Register in 1977), a large Richardsonian structure in the heart of town, is the sole remaining non-residential structure from the community's formative period during the logging era.

Agricultural settlement of the cutover lands commenced shortly after 1880. While most farms were small subsistence-type operations, a few large farmsteads were developed. The Gran Farmstead (1902-1932, T55, R23) is representative of the latter phenomenon. The farmstead is also linked to the substantial Finnish community in the vicinity of Trout Lake.

The most significant development in the twentieth century has been development of the Western Mesabi Iron Range. Between the opening of the first mine in 1901 and the mid-1920s the Range was a center of tremendous physical activity. Towns literally sprang into existence as mines were opened throughout the Range. Between 1900 and 1910 the Range population increased from 159 to 7803 and seven communities were developed. Structures associated with Range development include the Church of the Good Shepherd (1908, Coleraine, placed on the National Register in 1980), the Coleraine Methodist Episcopal Church (1908-9, Coleraine), the Coleraine Public Library (1912, Coleraine, placed on the National Register in 1980), the Oliver Iron Mining Company Buildings (1906-1920, Coleraine and Marble), three Iron Range Village Halls

(1910-1921; Coleraine, Marble, and Nashwauk), and the Hill Annex Mine (1914-78, Marble, National Register listing pending). Several of the structures are associated with the Oliver Iron Mining Company, the firm most responsible for opening the extreme western end of the Mesabi Range to development, and its widely acclaimed "model community" of Coleraine. The structures associated with the company symbolize its influential role in community planning and the lives of its employees as well as mining activities.

The Hartley Sugar Camp (1904-1909, Trout Lake Township) is a unique complex of log structures representing the hobby-type cottage industries established by wealthy Minnesotans. The camp has also served as a recreational haven for the prominent Hartley family of Duluth since G.G. Hartley developed the camp shortly after the turn-of-the-century.

A structure of regional significance in the county is the Winnigiboshish Lake Dam (1899-1900, T146, R27). The dam is the most significant of the six dams in the Upper Mississippi Reservoir System, a system authorized by Congress in the 1880s to stabilize the Mississippi River's erratic flow primarily to aid river navigation between St. Paul and St. Louis. The system has served a number of other purposes through the years including early water power development at St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheets

10. Geographical Data -- see individual inventory forms

Acreage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name N/A

Quadrangle scale N/A

UMT References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A see individual inventory forms

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark E. Haidet, Research Historian-Survey

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date July 1981

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

telephone 612-296-9075

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

See individual inventory forms

N/A 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title

State Historic Preservation Officer

date

2/10/82

For HCRS use only

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

See continuation sheet for listing date
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Itasca County Bibliography

Boese, Donald L. John C. Greenway and the Opening of the Western Mesabi. Grand Rapids, MN: Itasca Community College Foundation, 1975.

Calumet Golden Jubilee, 1909-1959, 1959.

Collection of Materials on the History of Itasca County. Numerous short manuscripts written between 1930 and 1958. (Copy of the originals on file at the Minnesota Historical Society Library).

From Pines to Pellets: Keewatin, 1906-1981. Keewatin, 1981.

Grand Rapids Through 75 Years, 1891-1966. Six supplements to the Grand Rapids Herald-Review from June 16, 1966 thru July 18, 1966.

"Homestead Days": A Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet of Effie, Minnesota. Consvick, MN: Richards Publishing Co., 1976.

Nashwauk: The Iron Ore Center, 1903-1953. Nashwauk: The Eastern Itasca, 1953.

Nashwauk: From Timber to Taconite, 1903-1978. Nashwauk: The Eastern Itasca, 1978.

Navratil, Patrica E. Trails Through the Northwoods: A History of the Bigfork Trail. Bigfork, MN: Northwoods Press, Inc., 1976.

On the Banks of the Bigfork; The Story of the Bigfork River Valley Bigfork, MN., 1956.

Photo History of Grand Rapids and Surrounding Communities. Grand Rapids, Mn: Northprint Company, 1976.

Itasca County: Townsite and Rail Development

KEY TO MAP SYMBOLS

Platted incorporated community

Platted unincorporated community

Unplatted community - date corresponds to post office establishment date

* No longer in existence

1 date = plat date;
2 dates = post office establishment date and plat date

RAILROAD KEY

A. Duluth & Winnipeg Railroad Co. (G.N.) (1890-92 to Deer River)

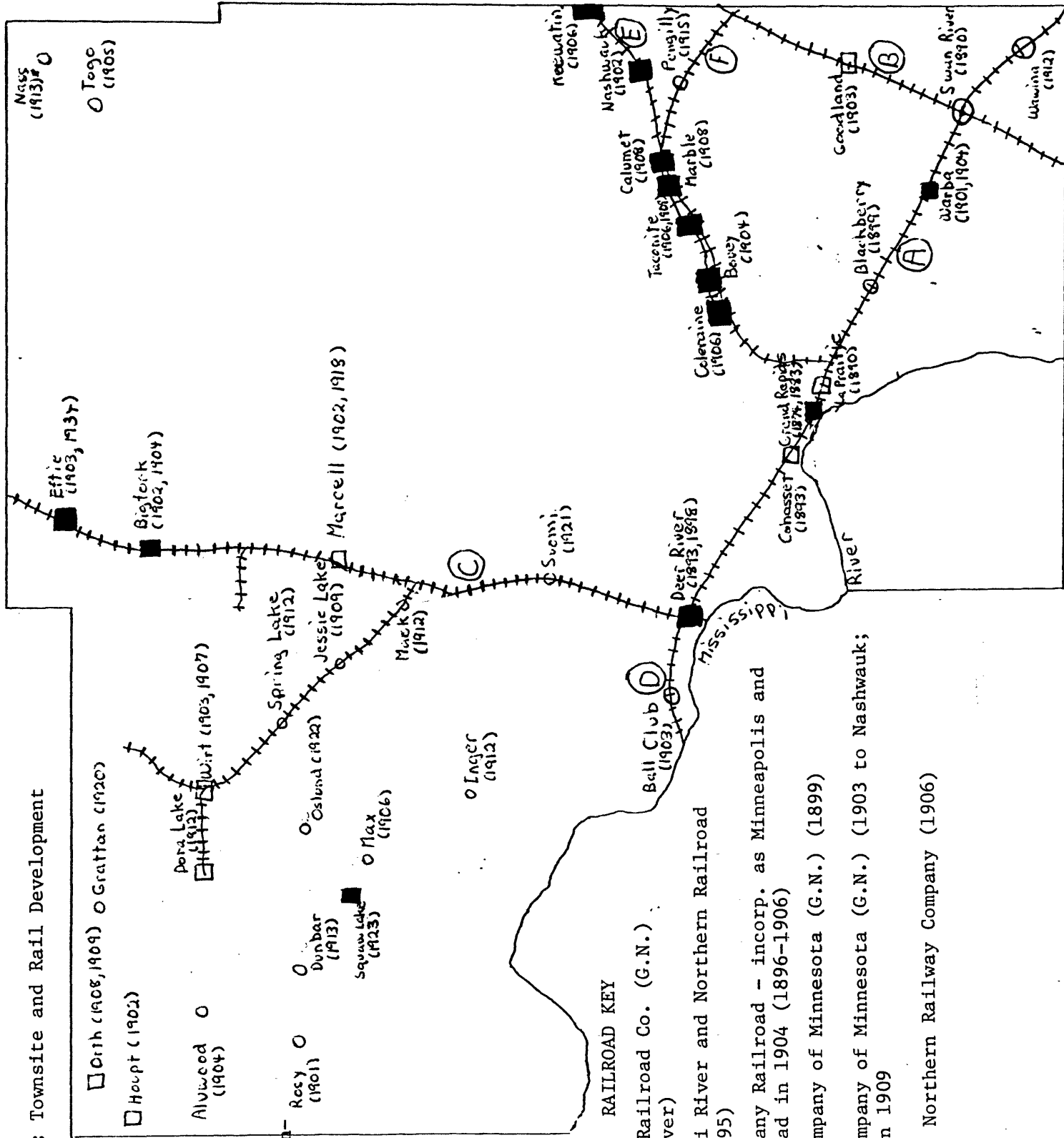
B. Duluth, Mississippi River and Northern Railroad Company (G.N.) (1895)

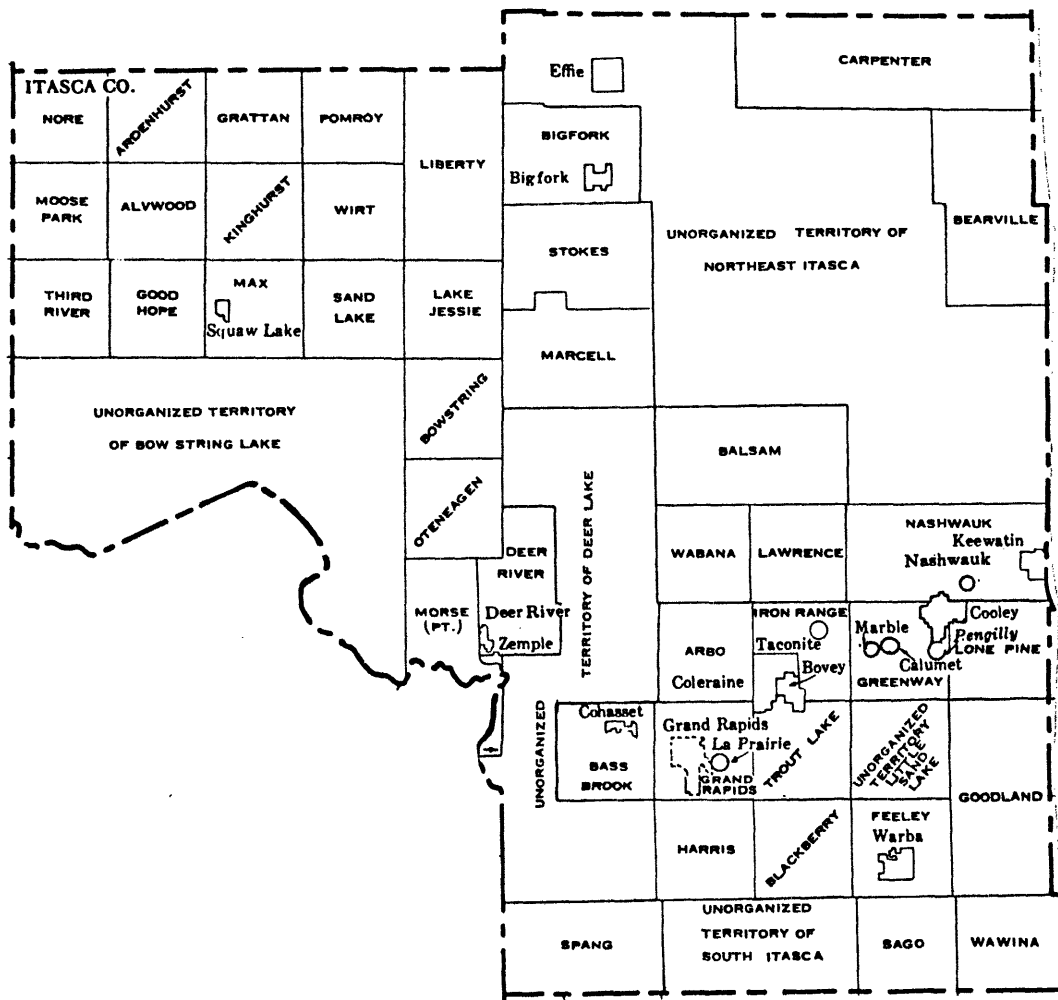
C. Itasca Lumber Company Railroad - incorp. as Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad in 1904 (1896-1906)

D. Eastern Railway Company of Minnesota (G.N.) (1899)

E. Eastern Railway Company of Minnesota (G.N.) (1903 to Nashwauk; extended to Gunn in 1909)

F. Duluth Missabe and Northern Railway Company (1906)





United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Itasca County Multiple Resource Area
State MN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Hartley Sugar Camp | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/27/81</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Itasca Lumber Company
Superintendent's House | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>William H. Brannan 4.22.81</u> |
| | | | Attest | <u>Linda McVelland 4/16-81</u> |
| 3. | Gran, Frank, Farmstead | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/27/81</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Coleraine Methodist Episcopal
Church | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/27/81</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | Nashwauk Village Hall (Western Mesabi
Iron Range Village Halls
Thematic Resources) | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>dit</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | Coleraine Village Hall (Western Mesabi
Iron Range Village Halls
Thematic Resources) | | Keeper | <u>dit</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Marble Village Hall (Western Mesabi
Iron Range Village Halls Thematic
Resources) | | Keeper | <u>dit</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | General Superintendent's House (Oliver
Iron Mining Co. Bldgs Thematic
Resources) | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>William H. Brannan 4.22.81</u> |
| | | | Attest | <u>Linda McVelland 4/19-81</u> |
| 9. | Canisteo District General Office Bldg
(Oliver Iron Mining Co. Bldgs
Thematic Resources) | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/27/81</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | Oliver Boarding House (Oliver Iron
Mining Co. Bldgs Thematic Resources) | | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/27/81</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

Entered in the
National Register

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Itasca County Multiple Resource Area
State MN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11.	Company Housing District (Oliver Iron Mining Co. Bldgs Thematic Resources)	Keeper	<u>lit</u>
		Attest	
12.		Keeper	
		Attest	
13.		Keeper	
		Attest	
14.		Keeper	
		Attest	
15.		Keeper	
		Attest	
16.		Keeper	
		Attest	
17.		Keeper	
		Attest	
18.		Keeper	
		Attest	
19.		Keeper	
		Attest	
20.		Keeper	
		Attest	