

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received JUL 9 1980  
date entered AUG 18 1980

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

**1. Name** Pine County Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

historic Historic Resources of Pine County (Partial Inventory)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number The County Limits of Pine County, Minnesota  not for publication

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 8th

state Minnesota code 22 county Pine code 115

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership - See Inventory Forms

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

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

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Pine City state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1979-80  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

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## 7. Description

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See Individual Inventory Forms

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

See Area Description

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 9 1980
DATE ENTERED	AUG 18 1980

Historic Resources of Pine County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 1 PAGE 1

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This Multiple Resource Area Nomination is based on a survey of standing structures conducted in Pine County by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office as part of a long-range statewide survey of historic resources. The properties included in the nomination represent those which illustrate significant aspects of the history of the county and which have been deemed eligible for nomination at the conclusion of the survey. Additional information and new perspectives for evaluation of specific types of historic properties are continually being gained as the statewide survey progresses, and it is quite possible that additional Pine County properties will be nominated in the future. These may be presented individually or as parts of thematic groups when the entire survey is completed. For this reason, this Multiple Resource Area Nomination should not be construed as representing all properties in Pine County eligible for nomination.

(The above disclaimer is based on an agreement between Charles Harrington, HCRS, and Russell Fridley, Minnesota SHPO, August 31, 1979)

PINE COUNTY - Standing Structures

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-fall of 1979.

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 1977 County Atlases were copied 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 195 sites, 12 individual structures 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.

Survey Method

JUL 9 1980

## PINE COUNTY

Pine County lies at the middle of Minnesota's eastern border, adjoining Wisconsin, from which it is separated in part by the St. Croix River. The Minnesota counties of Chisago, Kanabec, Aitkin, and Carlton border the county on its southern, western, and northern sides. All borders follow the straight lines of the government survey system with the exception of the southeastern border which is defined by the course of the St. Croix River.

Most of the county is slightly undulating or gently rolling. All but the extreme northeastern corner of the county lies within the St. Croix basin. The county's major waterways -- the Kettle and Snake Rivers -- flow through the county and empty into the St. Croix River on the southeast. The former river flows rapidly through steep sided narrow valleys from north to south; the latter meanders through southwestern Pine County before commencing a rapid descent east of Pine City. The county is underlain by five major rock formations of which Hinckley Sandstone is the most notable; many outcroppings of sandstone appear along the Kettle River between Willow River and Hinckley. Numerous small and several sizable lakes are found in the county, particularly in the north and west. Soils range from fertile varieties in the south to sandy, acidic types unsuitable for agricultural purposes in the north.

Pine County's native vegetation consisted chiefly of pineries north of Pine City and hardwood forests in the area south of Snake River. The county remains heavily forested with the exception of the southern portion which has been carved into cultivated fields with scantily wooded pasture land. Sixty-two percent of the land is presently classified as forested. Large areas of public land in eastern Pine County (St. Croix State Park, St. Croix State Forest, and Nemadji State Forest) are illustrative of the poor soil in northern Pine County.

Pine County shares with other Minnesota counties a history of Indian inhabitation, European exploration, and fur trade activities. Although the United States acquired the land from the Ojibway Indians in 1837, Pine County lands were not surveyed and opened for settlement until the early 1850s. Initial American settlement occurred at remote stage stops on the government road constructed between St. Paul and Lake Superior in the mid-1850s. Chengwatana, an Ojibway village and trading post along the route, became the county seat upon the county's organization in 1856. Settlement proceeded slowly; in 1865 only sixty-three white settlers resided in the county.

The advent of the railroad brought dramatic changes to the county. From the laying of the first tracks in 1869 to the completion of the final segment in 1911, railroad construction determined the county's settlement pattern. The Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad, the line with the greatest influence on county development, was constructed through western Pine County in 1869-70. The railroad provided the impetus for the platting of Pine City (1870), which superseded its dwindling neighbor as county seat in 1872, and Hinckley (1870), the

railroad's division point and supply base for local logging camps. With completion of the line, lumbermen sought to log the county's northern Pine forests, previously disregarded due to supply difficulties. Station points along the line became sites of intensive logging operations and numerous sawmills. The railroad, which had received a substantial government land grant in 1865 as an incentive for construction of the line, sold its timber rights to logging concerns who cleared the land within a specified number of years.

Permanent settlement commenced once the timber had been removed from the immediate vicinity of the depot. The railroad promoted settlement of the county, circulating its propaganda throughout Europe. Several station points which were platted into townsites during the 1890s quickly became thriving trade centers for their expanding hinterland. European immigrants comprised the vast majority of newcomers. Bohemians settled in the Beroun area, Dutch immigrants resided near Groningen and Friesland, Finns colonized Finlayson, and Poles populated the Sturgeon Lake-Willow River area. Swedes, the most numerous ethnic group, settled throughout the county.

The land bordering the Eastern Minnesota Railroad (1888) experienced a similar settlement pattern with the exception of the pre-existing community of Sandstone. Communities along the line, including the county's most notable ethnic settlement -- the Danish colony at Askov, were platted fifteen to twenty years after construction of the line.

Extreme eastern Pine County was the final area of the county to be settled. Construction of the Soo Line through the region in 1911 completed the county's railroad network and stimulated settlement of the area.

Logging dominated county development in the nineteenth century. Forest fires, an occurrence associated with the industry, transpired periodically during the logging era. Two fires have had a significant impact on the county's early history and development. The famous Hinckley Fire (1894) and the Moose Lake-Cloquet Fire (1918) devastated much of central and northern Pine County.

As logging faded, agricultural settlement expanded northward and eastward. The county's population filled in during the period from 1880 to 1920; the 1880 figure of 1365 had grown to 11,546 in 1900 and to 21,117 in 1920. Farm figures also illustrate the dramatic shift to agriculture; in 1880 a mere fifty-four farms were located in Pine County; by 1920 the figure had swelled to 3088. Farmers initially relied on the potato but shifted to dairying and diversified farming in the early twentieth century. Today, dairying is the chief enterprise in the county.

The county's basic layout has remained intact since shortly after completion of the rail system. All but one of the thirteen incorporated communities started as railroad villages. (The sole exception is Sandstone platted in 1887 as a center for the local sandstone quarrying industry.) The county has experienced a steady population decline in recent years, falling from a peak of 21,478 in 1940 to 16,821 in 1970. All incorporated communities, except Pine City and Hinckley, and unincorporated railroad villages have declined in size since 1920. Many, particularly those in eastern Pine County, are little more than ghost towns. The same trend has affected the townships as well.

The architecture of the county follows the typical building pattern of other counties in the region. Initial Euro-American buildings were of log construction. These were replaced in later years by simple frame structures. Wood is the primary construction material for both domestic and agricultural structures. Most early commercial buildings were also of frame construction. Many, however, have been destroyed by fire. Masonry structures have been erected in the larger urban centers while vacant lots remain a common site on the streetscapes of smaller communities. Commercial buildings in Sandstone have long relied on locally quarried sandstone as a primary building material.

Today, the county's forested rural landscape is broken by scattered farmsteads (more dense in the southern section), occasional rural schools and churches, the remnants of several crossroad communities and small railroad villages, and numerous lakes. Many of the larger lakes are surrounded by summer cottages.

JUL 9 1980

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# 8. Significance

See Individual Inventory Forms

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<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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		

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**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

See Area Significance



PINE COUNTY

The historic significance of the area known as Pine County lies in its transformation from a vast wilderness empire dominated by towering pines to a settled region with an agricultural based economy. Logging, railroads, and immigration were the key factors contributing to the conversion. Additionally, the Sandstone area became significant for its stone quarrying and the county's numerous lakes were the focus of a substantial, but constantly changing, resort industry.

Fur traders constituted the vanguard of America's westward movement. Minnesota, perhaps more than any other state, has a rich fur trade history. The reconstructed Northwest Company Fur Post (1804, reconstructed 1968-69, placed on the National Register in 1972) is typical of the wintering posts erected by French and British traders in northern Minnesota.

The railroad was the most crucial factor in the development of Pine County. Construction of rail lines led to increased logging and eventual settlement. All of the county's thirteen incorporated communities have evolved from station points on the railroad system. The most visual symbol of railroad development is the railroad depot. The Hinckley Depot (1871, reconstructed 1894-5 following the Hinckley Fire, Hinckley, placed on the National Register in 1973), a large two story structure erected at a division point, and the Northern Pacific Combination Depot (1909, Finlayson), a well preserved example of the typical small town depot, represent the railroad's role in county development.

Although logging was the county's dominant theme in the last half of the nineteenth century, significant structures possessing integrity are non-existent. The Hinckley Fire Relief House (1894, Sandstone), however, is associated with an important local event linked to the logging industry -- the noted Hinckley Fire. The simple frame structure represents the humanitarian effort undertaken to provide assistance to survivors of the holocaust.

The Hinckley Fire devastated much of central Pine County, destroying several communities including the sizable villages of Hinckley and Sandstone. Sandstone, with the assistance of railroad magnate James J. Hill and his son-in-law Samuel Hill, experienced a rapid resurgence after the fire that resulted in its being the county's largest community by 1900. The Minneapolis Trust Company Commercial Building (1894, Sandstone) symbolizes the Hills' role in the community's post-fire development. The Sandstone School (1901+, Sandstone), placed on the National Register in 1979) also illustrates Sandstone's growth following the fire. Both structures, being constructed of locally quarried sandstone, are linked to the community's earliest and largest industry -- stone quarrying.

Settlement of Pine County occurred primarily between 1880 and 1920 depending on the region of the county. Significant structures linked with settlement are the Doboszanski Homestead (1894+, Norman Township), a rare example of the subsistence type farmsteads in the cutover region

Area Significance

JUL 9 1980

of northern Minnesota; the Louis Hultgren House (ca.1896, Kerrick), one of the first residences in the community; the John Oldenburg House (ca. 1896, Finlayson, placed on the National Register in 1978), the home of Finlayson's chief promoter; the Partridge Township Hall (1901, Askov), one of the first structures at Partridge Station (now Askov); and the Red Clover Land Company Demonstration Farm (ca.1915, New Dosey Township), associated with settlement of eastern Pine County. The Hultgren House is also significant for its association with an early Pine County industry -- the moulding sand pits at Kerrick -- and the Partridge Township Hall is linked to the county's political development.

During the settlement phase, many smaller communities were colonized by a particular nationality group. The most noteworthy of Pine County's ethnic communities is the Danish-American settlement at Askov founded in 1905. The Bethlehem Lutheran Church (1914, Askov), with its ties to the Dansk Folkemsamfund which sponsored the colony, is the structure which best represents the community. Another structure associated with the Askov community is the P.P. Kilstofte Farmstead (1913, Askov), the residence of an early community leader. The farmstead is also significant as one of the county's most distinctive farmsteads associated with the dairying industry.

Eastern Pine County is unique when compared to other regions of the county. It experienced a later settlement period characterized by a short-lived boom period followed by rapid decline. Today, the region is sparsely populated and the boom towns of the 1920s resemble ghost towns; a vast majority of the region is public forest land administered by the state. Cloverton School (1920, New Dosey Township) reflects the region's sudden rise and decline.

Vacationers have long been attracted to Pine County's numerous lakes. Resorts, popular in the early days, have been superseded by private lakeside cottages and summer homes. The Schwyzzer Farmstead (1901+, Dell Grove Township) is an early example of the private seasonal residences.

A structure which derives its significance from outside the county is the Pine City Naval Militia Armory (1914, Pine City), the first structure erected in Minnesota solely for the use of the Naval Militia.

JUL 5 1980

PINE COUNTY

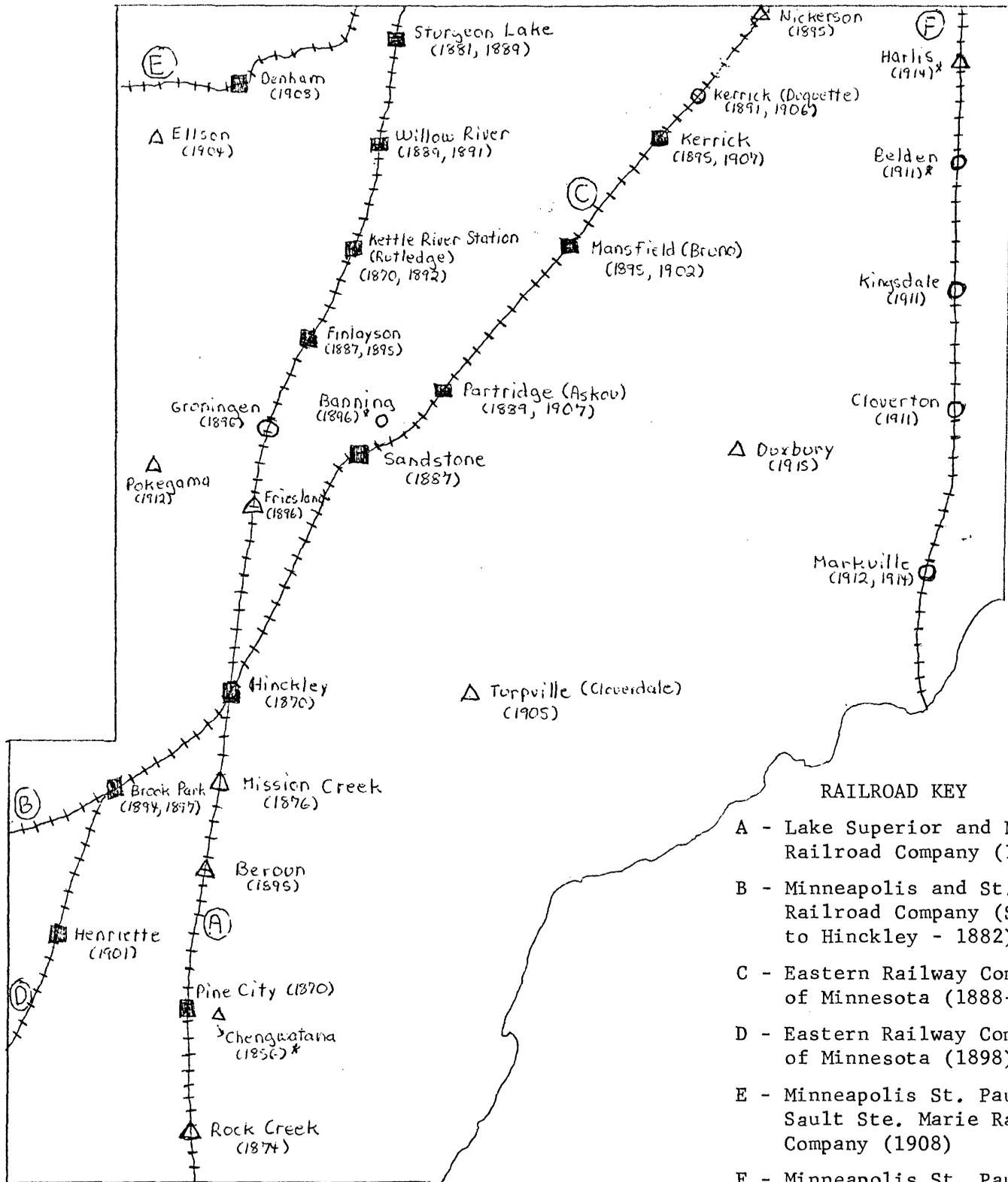
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Also see bibliographies on individual inventory sheets.

JUL  
9 1980

PINE COUNTY: TOWNSITE AND RAIL DEVELOPMENT



RAILROAD KEY

- A - Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad Company (1869-79)
- B - Minneapolis and St. Cloud Railroad Company (St. Cloud to Hinckley - 1882)
- C - Eastern Railway Company of Minnesota (1888-89)
- D - Eastern Railway Company of Minnesota (1898)
- E - Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company (1908)
- F - Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company (1911)

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 or known station point location date and plat date

JUL 9 1980