

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Cook
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 18 1974

HLB
 E 68120
 E 68120
 2715 NW 5330 000 N
 740

1. NAME

COMMON:
Height of Land

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same NW of Grand Marais in Superior National Forest

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **26 Miles NW of Grand Marais, Minn.**

NE-NE, Section 22, T65N, R2W on the Superior National Forest

CITY OR TOWN: **Grand Marais, MN vicinity** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **8**

STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **27** COUNTY: **Cook** CODE: **031**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Portage

4. AGENCY

U.S.D.A., Forest Service, Superior National Forest

U. S. Government

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Federal Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Duluth** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **27**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cook County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
-

CITY OR TOWN: **Grand Marais** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **27**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

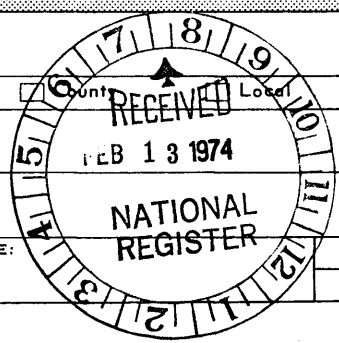
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

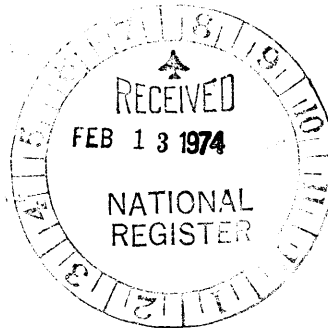
Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Height of Land portage between North and South Lake is part of the Voyageurs Highway. Located on the Laurentian Divide, the Height of Land marked the point where streams to the north flowed into Hudson Bay and streams to the south flowed into the Great Lakes. There has been little change in the physical appearance of the area.



The portage is 80 rods long. It is fairly straight and level. Vegetation consists of Aspen and Paper Birch with scattered Balsam Fir and Spruce.

A portion of the trail was rehabilitated in 1973. New treadwork was placed over an area that was wet and muddy. One canoe rest was placed in the center of the portage. There is a developed campsite on the north end of the portage. This campsite has a wilderness latrine and a firegrate. It receives only light use.

There are no known archeological remains from the fur trading era on the portage. There is the possibility of some artifacts such as trade axes being buried on the trail. Flint chips have been noticed on the north end of the portage which indicates use by Indians.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

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 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"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Height of Land was a place of ceremony for the voyageur. From this point on streams flowed northward into remote, unknown territory. Here all new voyageurs were expected to partake in a ritual consisting of being slapped in the face with a wet cedar bough. Then he would have to vow never to permit a newcomer to pass the Height of Land without a similar ceremony, and never to kiss a voyageur's wife without his permission. After the ceremony all voyageurs would drink a toast to the newly initiated northman.

Credit should be given to Diana Mitchell, Survey and Planning, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The North West Company, Marjorie Wilkins Campbell, St. Martin's Press: New York, 1957, pp. 41-43.
Five Furtraders of the Northwest, Narrative of Peter Pond and Diaries of John MacDonell, Archibald N. McLeod, Hugh Furies, and Thomas Connor, Edited by Charles M. Gates, Minnesota Historical Society, 1965, pp. 99-100.
The Journals and Letters of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Edited by W. Kaye Lamb, Cambridge, 1970, p. 101.

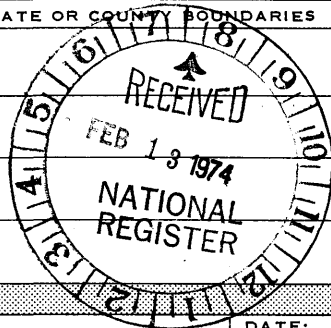
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		90 °	33 ' 56"	48 ° 06' 00"
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **David Miller, Assistant Recreation Staff Officer** DATE: **4/9/73**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **U. S. Forest Service**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P. O. Box 338** PHONE: **A.C. 218-727-6692, ext. 376**

CITY OR TOWN: **Duluth** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **27**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Russell W. Fridley
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

Henry Bond 2/5/74
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Director of Recreation
 Title

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

A. R. ...
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/18/74

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Freabey
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10/17/74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

No. 8 Statement of Significance:

The Height of Land Portage, formerly known as "Portage du Hauteur des Terres", is a part of the Laurentian Division of the Continental Divide. The portage runs between South Lake (formerly known as Las les Perches) and North Lake (formerly known as Lac du Hauteur des Terrest and probably so named because of the high hills on the east). At this point, two of the three great river systems of the North are born. Streams rising east of the divide flow to the Atlantic via Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence River. Streams rising north of the divide flow ultimately into Hudson Bay. Together these two river systems provide water communication across two-thirds of Canada.

The Height of Land was important to the fur trade as the transition point between difficult, "uphill" paddling and easier "downhill" coasting. Crossing this portage also marked the Voyageur's transition from novice or "porkeater" to "Nor'wester." Here the novice was sprinkled with a pine bough dipped in water and made to promise "never to kiss a Voyageur's wife without her permission, and never to allow any newcomer to pass without similar initiation." This pact was sealed by drinking high wine.

This portage, along with the entire border lake route from Grand Portage on the east to Rainy Lake on the west, was a part of the water highway used to transport furs. Voyageurs would leave Grand Portage on Lake Superior loaded with trade goods used to barter with Indians for beaver skins. They would journey into the Canadian northwest seeking furs. The following spring the same men would return with canoes loaded with furs.

The fur goods were transported from Grand Portage to Montreal by another group of Voyageurs. The beaver skins eventually ended up in Europe as hats for the well dressed business men.

The fur trading era lasted from approximately 1720-1840. During this period the present Border Route network of lakes and portages was controlled by the Northwest, American, and Hudson Bay Fur Companies, or combinations thereof. The era ended because of the decline of the beaver population and a fall in the demand for beaver hats in Europe.

