UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

St. Croix Boom Company House and Barn

FOR NPS USE ONLY

APR 1 4 1980

RECEIVED

**DATE ENTERED** 

JUN

3 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME

Ctillinater 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

AND/OR COMMON

HISTORIC

9666 North St. Croix Trail

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Stillwater STATE Minnesota

CODE 22

COUNTY Washington CODE 163

**CLASSIFICATION** 

**CATEGORY OWNERSHIP** \_DISTRICT : PUBLIC

XBUILDING(S)

XPRIVATE

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

ROTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** \_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS** 

\_XOCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE** 

XYES: RESTRICTED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

PRESENT USE

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_PARK \_\_COMMERCIAL

XPRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_EDUCATIONAL \_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_INDUSTRIAL \_\_MILITARY

\_\_TRANSPORTATION \_\_OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

James Prosser

**Stillwater** 

STREET & NUMBER

9666 North St. Croix Trail

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

CITY, TOWN

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

14900 North 61st Street

**Stillwater** 

STATE

Minnesota

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Survey of Historic Structures

DATE

June 1976

XFEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

**DEPOSITORY FOR** 

**SURVEY RECORDS** 

Minnesota Historical Society, Bldg. 25 Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Minneapolis

Minnesota



## CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_EXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED
\_XALTERED

\_XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_FAIR

\_\_RUINS

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. Croix Boom Company House is located adjacent to the St. Croix Boom Site, two miles north of Stillwater on the St. Croix River. The house is a two-storey building, sided in clapboard and set on a stone foundation. The original house built in 1885 had a rectangular plan, but additions have since been made to the west and south. • The cross gable roof has been modified by the addition of a large dormer on the west side (rear) of the building. The three original gables are decorated with spindlework in the shape of a spoke wheel. The one-storey, wrap-around porch is balustraded and has decorated pediments above the two entrances. The eastern portion of the porch has been screened in.

The barn is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  storey building of rectangular plan with clapboard siding. It has a center gable roof with spindlework matching that of the house on the side gables. A cupola/vent sits atop the center gable.

#### **PERIOD** AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW \_\_\_PREHISTORIC ....ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_RELIGION \_\_1400-1499 \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_SCIENCE \_\_LAW \_\_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE \_\_1600-1699 \_\_ARCHITECTURE \_\_EDUCATION \_\_MILITARY \_\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_\_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_\_ENGINEERING \_\_MUSIC \_\_THEATER X 1800-1899 \_\_COMMERCE \_\_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_\_TRANSPORTATION \_\_COMMUNICATIONS > \_\_1900-CXINDUSTRY: \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_\_OTHER (SPECIFY) -- INVENTION **SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT** ca. 1885

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Croix Boom Company House was the home of W.F. (Frank) McGray, superintendent of the St. Croix Boom Company for 34 years. It is located adjacent to the St. Croix Boom Site which is a National Historic Landmark. Along with its barn, the house is the only known extant building directly associated with the Croix Boom Company.

The St. Croix Boom Company built a boom in 1856 two miles above Stillwater, Minnesota on the St. Croix River for the sorting and rafting of lumber cut by the valley's many lumber companies. The St. Croix Boom Company closed down in 1914 after 57 years of continuous operation. Frank McGray is reported to have sent the first log through the boom in 1856, and on June 12, 1914, it was he who hitched the last log to go through.

McGray entered the employ of the St. Croix Boom Company in 1856 and in 1871 was made superintendent or boom master. He lived on a farm across the river in Wisconsin until 1885 at which time appears that the company built a residence for him and his family on company property above the boom site. McGray retired from the company in 1905 at the age of 71. He had purchased his residence from the St. Croix Boom Company in 1895 and continued to live in it after his retirement until 1919 when he sold the property. Several families have owned the house since McGray sold it, the present owners having bought it in 1955.

Blair, Walter A., A Raft F	Pilot's Log, Cleveland:	The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1930	
Easton, Augustus B., Histo and Company, 1909.	bry of the St. Croix Vall	ey, 2 vols., Chicago: H. D. Cooper	Jr.
Rooney, Edgar L., Looking	Backward, Stillwater, Mi	nnesota: The Croixside Press, 1970	
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