

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

For NPS use only

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

received **JUL 18 1985**
date entered **AUG 15 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Larson's Hunters Resort/Andrew and Bertha Larson Farm

and/or common Larson's Hunters Resort

2. Location

street & number County Highway 76 N/A not for publication

city, town Lake Valley Township vicinity of Wheaton

state Minnesota code 22 county Traverse code 155

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Brian MacNeill, Alexander Webb, Charles A. Diehl, and James B. Hickman

street & number 900 Pillsbury Center

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55402

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Traverse County Courthouse

street & number Second Avenue N.

city, town Wheaton state Minnesota 56296

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983-84 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Larson's Hunters Resort, also known as the Andrew and Bertha Larson Farmstead, is located in Sections 9 and 10 of the western portion of Lake Valley Township in western Traverse County. The site is situated on the eastern shore of Upper Lake Traverse (now known as Mud Lake). The Larson's Hunters Resort site consists of a brick house and lodge headquarters and eight outbuildings, five of which were used as hunting cabins. One of the buildings, the granary, is located across the section road to the west of the main portion of the farmstead.

The largest and most important building on the Larson's Hunters Resort site is the house, a 2½ story brick building designed and constructed by Wheaton architect/contractor Alfred Setterlund and built in 1901. The house sits on a slight hill overlooking Upper Lake Traverse. The fourteen room building is a handsome structure faced with stretcher bonded smooth light brown pressed brick which was manufactured in St. Louis, Missouri, shipped by rail to Herman, Minnesota, and hauled by wagon to the site. The building sits on a boulder foundation and has a hipped roof with a projecting gable clad in wood shingles on the west facade. A long, deep, hipped roof porch supported by Tuscan columns spans the west and south facades of the building. The house has rectangular 1/1 sash, simple decorative patterning in the brickwork, and smooth limestone sills and lintels. The exterior of house is in good condition and has been altered only with the removal of the porch balustrade and the installation of porch screens. The interior of the house is also largely intact and contains a living room, dining room, library, kitchen, and eight bedrooms. The house retains oak flooring and woodwork.

The Larson's Hunters Resort site contains eight outbuildings dating from 1891-circa 1940. Most of the agricultural buildings including a barn and machine shed (built during the 1890's and later razed), a hog barn (built in the early twentieth century and moved to another site on the property), and a granary were originally located west of the section road which runs north and south through the farmstead. The only building now standing west of the section road is the granary, a 1½ story building faced with shiplap siding which was built circa 1928. Southeast of the main house is a small gabled roofed wood-frame building which was constructed as the Larson's first house in 1891, converted to a granary in 1901, and was moved to its present site and used as a wash house and wood shed until it was converted into a hunting cabin in the 1930's. Near this building is the garage, a gabled roof structure which was built circa 1920 to accommodate two cars and an ice storage area in the south end. The south end of the garage was converted to hunting quarters circa 1941. South of the garage stands a hog barn which was built in the early twentieth century on the west side of the section road and moved to the south edge of the grove (its present site) where it was later used as a chicken house and for boat storage. Next to the hog barn is a small gabled roofed shed, probably built in the early twentieth century. North of the house, within the wooded grove, stand three small hunting cottages, at least one of which was moved onto the site. The largest cottage has a gabled roof, 4/4 sash, and a small open porch and was constructed in the early twentieth century at the lake shore and later moved to this site. It is in poor condition. South of this cabin is a small gabled roofed cottage with clapboard siding which is in good condition and was built circa 1940, and east of the large cabin is a small shed roofed cottage with shiplap siding which is in poor condition.

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

Specific dates 1901 (house) **Builder/Architect** Alfred Setterlund (house)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Larson's Hunters Resort is historically and architecturally significant as one of Traverse County's most well known hunting resorts, as a site which represents the importance of hunting as a recreational industry to early residents of western Minnesota, as an especially well preserved site which illustrates phenomenon of farmer/resort owner, and as one of the largest and most expensive farm dwellings constructed in Traverse County at the turn of the century.

When the first settlers arrived in western Minnesota in the 1860's, the area's prairies, sloughs, and river and lake beds abounded with game birds of many types. Located on a traditional flyway for the southern migration of upland game birds, the Red River Valley and portions of the Minnesota River Valley in western Minnesota soon became a sportsmen's paradise. The area was hunted by local residents and occasional travellers in the 1860's, but when railroads penetrated western Minnesota in the 1870's the area was opened to adventurous sportsmen from all over Minnesota but particularly Minneapolis and St. Paul, who travelled west on the train and stayed in the area (sometimes for several weeks) bagging game birds. Rail companies capitalized on the popularity of the sport by earmarking special rail cars for hunters and sometimes sponsoring special hunting excursions. Farmers and hotel owners in newly settled western Minnesota counties grasped the opportunity to supplement their incomes by catering to hunters. Minnesota's first game laws and hunting limits were enacted in the 1870's through the turn of the century, beginning first with laws which protected small mammals and game birds during the spring and summer mating season. But until these laws could be locally enforced by State personnel, hunters killed thousands of mallards, geese, redheads, canvas backs, snipe, grouse, cranes, and other birds in the state's western counties, and could be prosecuted for hunting violations only when complaints were filed with local justices of the peace. Hunting was extremely popular in western Minnesota until the 1950's and 1960's when the effects of sixty to seventy years of the sometimes indiscriminate harvest of game birds began to seriously effect the population of birds in the area.

Early accounts written by and about nineteenth and early twentieth century hunters describe long and sometimes adventurous train trips (and later, early automobile trips) westward by hunters from the Twin Cities who came to western Minnesota by the thousands armed with dogs, guns, and other equipment. Hunters left the train at small western Minnesota communities where they lodged in a local hotel or were met by farmers in wagons who transported them to local farms. Local farmers served as advisors, guides, porters, and hunting companions, and hunters usually stayed at farmhouses where families provided them with beds, breakfasts and suppers in their kitchens, and boxed lunches to be eaten during the day. In most cases, farmers accomodated hunters in an informal manner, but some professional hunting lodges like Larson's Hunters Resort were established as commercial enterprises. Hunting clientele were also vital to local hotel owners who accomodated men in cots in hallways when their hotels were filled. In many cases, the fall pheasant hunting season extended the existence of many small western Minnesota hotels into the 1940's and 1950's, long after their businesses began to decline as rail passenger traffic decreased and motels catering to automobile travellers began to seriously compete with hotel business.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cole, Joyce. Unpublished research on Larson's Hunters Resort. (Granddaughter of Andrew Larson). Wheaton, Minnesota.
 Solberg, Harriet. "Old Records Tell Story of Bonanza Hunting Days on Mud Lake." Wheaton Gazette, October 15, 1964. SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 4 acres
 Quadrangle name Wheaton West Quad. Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>688640</u>	<u>5077240</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger, Field Assistant
State Historic Preservation Office
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date November 1984
 street & number Fort Snelling History Center telephone (612) 726-1171
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

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 6/26/85

For NPS use only

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

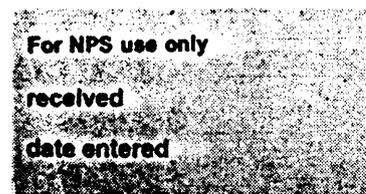
Forrester Byers Entered in the National Register date 8-15-85
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Larson's Hunters Resort

Item number 8

Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

Traverse County, located on the eastern shore of Lake Traverse which is part of the Red River-Minnesota river system, offered some of the best hunting in western Minnesota at the turn of the century. Upper Lake Traverse (now known as Mud Lake) where Larson's Resort was located, was an area rich in waterfowl and, later, pheasants and became a well known hunting area. In the early twentieth century many farmers along the shore of Upper Traverse accommodated hunters, though not usually to the scale that the Larson family did. In addition, there were ten-twenty private hunting camps on the lake, like "Camp I Wonder" located near the Larson Resort. Camp I Wonder was established in 1902 by a group of seven hunters from the Twin Cities who purchased a small parcel of land, built a cabin, hired a local woman to cook for them each season, and hunted at the camp each fall from 1902-1931. During the 1907 hunting season the club members and their guests killed 2,332 ducks and other birds near the lake.

Andrew and Bertha Larson, who established a farm on the eastern shore of Upper Lake Traverse in 1890, began to accommodate hunters on their land in the late 1890's. In 1901 they formalized their business by constructing the present house, a fourteen room brick building which contained a large kitchen, dining room, living room, library, and eight bedrooms. Larson's Hunters Resort became one of the most well known hunting resorts in Traverse County. The Larsons accommodated as many as 50-60 hunters at once in the house, five cabin areas, in the granary and barn, and in tents which some hunters provided. Hunters were fed breakfast and supper in the house and provided with lunches to take to the blinds. The Larsons also provided homemade, flat bottomed boats which were used on the shallow lake and stored in the farm outbuildings. The resort was operated until well into the 1960's when the local duck and pheasant population began to seriously decline.

The Larsons combined their hunting resort business with a full farming operation. Andrew (1853-1921) and Bertha (1859-1941) Larson were born in Sweden and immigrated to Traverse County in 1890 where they joined other family members in the area. They purchased this farm in 1890, adding three other parcels of land between 1890 and 1904. They lived first in a dugout on the property and built a woodframe house in 1891 which was later converted to a hunting cabin and still stands on the property. The Larsons and their three surviving children built a house and a number of outbuildings from which to operate their cash grain, cattle, and hog farm. After Andrew Larson's death in 1921, the resort and farm were managed by his son Edward (1893-1949) and his wife Mabel E. Larson (circa 1897-present) until the 1960's. The property remained in the family until 1979. The Larson's Hunters Resort site is now owned by four hunting enthusiasts from the Twin Cities who use the house seasonally for private hunting. The site still contains the Larson house and eight outbuildings.

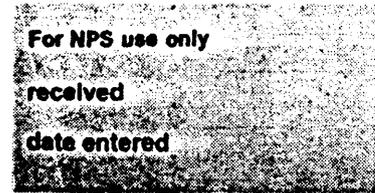
The Larson house was designed and built by Wheaton architect/contractor Alfred Setterlund, a Swedish immigrant who came to Wheaton in 1885 and established a contracting business. Setterlund designed and constructed a nearby concrete block farmhouse (now on the Gordon Lewis farm) in the early twentieth century, and served as contractor for the Traverse County Courthouse, built in 1891 in Wheaton.

Larson's Hunters Resort was included in a fifteen month historic sites survey of seven west central Minnesota counties conducted in 1983-84 by the State Historic

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Larson's Hunters Resort Item number 8,9

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Item #8 (Significance) continued:

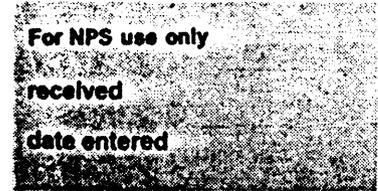
Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that the site best represented the importance of the hunting industry in west central Minnesota, and that the Larson house was one of the largest and most intact farmhouses standing in Traverse County and one of the county's few farmhouses constructed of brick.

Item #9 (Bibliographical References) continued:

- Berthel, Mary W. "Hunting in Minnesota in the Seventies." Minnesota History, September, 1935.
- Zimmerman, Charles A. "Hunters' Paradise: Kandiyohi County in the 1870's." Minnesota History, Winter, 1952.

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Continuation sheet Larson's Hunters Resort

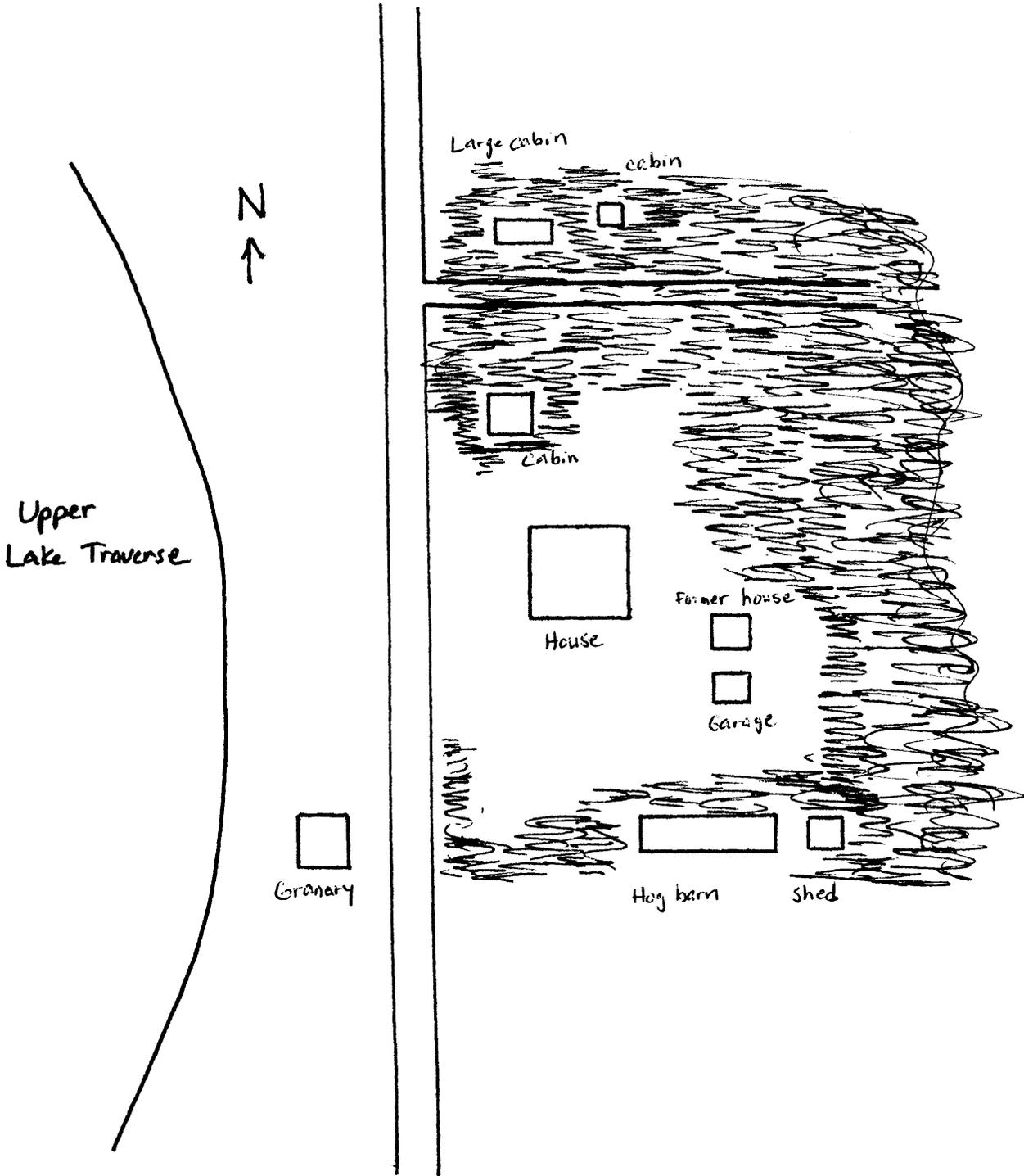
Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

A parcel of land located in the Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Ten (10), Township One Hundred Twenty-seven (127) North, Range Forty-seven (47) West, described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Southwest corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, Township 127 North, Range 47 West; thence East along the South line of the said NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 10 a distance of 470.4 feet; thence deflect an angle to the left of 86°49' a distance of 74.0 feet; thence deflect an angle to the left of 92°32' a distance of 475.1 feet to the West line of said Section 10; thence South and along the West line of said Section 10 a distance of 81.0 feet to the point of beginning; and a parcel of land located in the Southwest Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Ten (10), Township One Hundred Twenty-seven (127) North, Range Forty-seven (47) West, described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 10, Township 127 North, Range 47 West, thence South and along the West line of said SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 10 a distance of 357.0 feet; thence deflect an angle to the left of 89°55' a distance of 456.3 feet; thence deflect an angle to the left of 88°00' a distance of 368.9 feet to the North line of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 10; thence West and along the North line of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 10 a distance of 470.4 feet to the point of beginning, said tract containing 3.86 acres, more or less; and all of Government Lots One (1) and Two (2) in Section Nine (9), Township One Hundred Twenty-seven (127) North, Range Forty-seven (47) West, including all riparian rights to the same, as well as all meander land that might accrue to the premises aforesaid in Section 9.

Larson's Hunters Resort/Andrew and Bertha Larson Farm
Sections 9 and 10, Lake Valley Township, T127N, R47W
Traverse County, Minnesota



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Larson's Hunters Resort in Traverse
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 85001774

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Traverse

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Larson's Hunters Resort

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Wheaton

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 76

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date