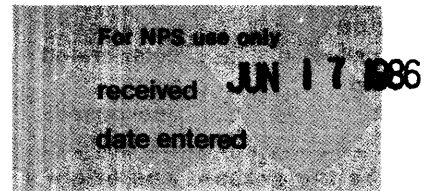


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

historic Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building

and/or common Joseph R. Brown/Samuel J. Brown House

2. Location

street & number Broadway Avenue and Dakota Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Browns Valley N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Minnesota code 22 county Traverse code 155

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" 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 State of Minnesota: Department of Administration / Department of Natural Resources

street & number 200 Administration Building / 500 Lafayette Road

city, town St. Paul 55155 / St. Paul 55146 N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Traverse County Courthouse

city, town Wheaton state Minnesota 56296

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet - page 1 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1866 / 1871
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building was built in 1864 one mile east of Fort Wadsworth (now Fort Sisseton) in Dakota territory near Kettle Lake in what is today Marshall County, South Dakota. Originally constructed as the fort's agency and scout headquarters, the building stood enclosed by a 100' square stockade wall of 12 foot high solid oak logs, the tops of which were pointed. The stockade walls contained openings for musketry and blockhouses were located at the corners. Built by Indian labor the agency was constructed under the direction and command of Major Joseph Renshaw Brown, Military agent. The building served in a military capacity from 1864 to 1866.

Built from locally cut oak, the solid logs and timbers of the agency building were crafted together in the distinctly French-Canadian "piece-sur-piece" style. Rectangular in plan, the one and a half story structure measures 18' 6" wide by 49'-0" long. At its present location in Browns Valley the building sits on a continuous concrete foundation. Both gable ends are two bays wide, indicated by a centrally located timber post. Both long walls have six bays, again marked by timber posts. The use of timber posts in the framing creates a certain symmetry to the facades, disrupted only by the variously located doors and windows. The gable roof is sheathed with planking over rafters. Roof covering is wood shingles. Two, centrally located brick chimneys ascend through the roof at the ridge. The south (main) facade has one door, one 6/6 light sash window, and on the gable a fixed pair of 6 light windows. The east facade has one door (the old main door), four 6/6 light sash windows, and under the eaves three 6 light fixed windows. The north facade has only one fixed pair of 6 light windows located on the gable. The west facade has one door, two 6/6 light sash windows, and three 6 light fixed windows under the eaves.

The interior is intact and in remarkably good condition. All ceilings and walls are plastered. The floors are wide wood planking. Five rooms are located on the ground level with three rooms upstairs. There are two interior stairways to the upper floor. One stair, which includes millwork and open baluster is located along the west wall near the main facade, the second, an enclosed stair, is located along the north wall. Interior millwork, i.e., windows, doors and plank flooring were brought from St. Paul. Dimensional lumber used in the building was made by a portable saw mill at the fort.

The buildings piece-sur-piece construction consists of sixteen timber posts adjoined to hewn sill and top plates, creating the structural frame. All post interfaces are mortised to receive the tenons cut on the ends of the horizontal log "pieces". Interstices between horizontal logs are chinked with clay, some recent cement patching is also visible. Outer log walls are tied together by upper floor joists joined to the timber posts by mortise and tenon. The tenons of the upper floor joists can be seen from the exterior, having passed completely through the posts. Mid span support for the upper joists is provided by a summer beam which rests on timber posts set eight feet apart from gable to gable.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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		

**Specific dates** 1864 - 1871 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building is historically significant as the only surviving log structure associated with Fort Wadsworth, where it served the fort as agency and scout headquarters from 1864-1866. After 1866 the agency building served in interesting and varying capacities, including a residence for two important figures in Minnesota history, Joseph Renshaw Brown and Samuel Joseph Brown. Moreover, the agency is constructed in the French-Canadian "piece-sur-piece" style, a style of architecture once common in the regions of the fur trade, yet rare today as few extant structures remain.

The piece-sur-piece construction method originated in the St. Lawrence Valley area of eastern Canada during the seventeenth century, and to date there are no known antecedents to this form of architecture in France. Piece-sur-piece construction consists of a solid timber frame of vertical posts, sills and plates, much like the half-timber style, but uses horizontally set round or hewn logs stacked between posts, hence the name piece-sur-piece. Mortise and tenon joinery is also characteristic and used as a means of securing timbers, which further distinguishes this type of solid timber construction from the more common horizontal log, notched corner variety.

Primarily associated with fur trade and military establishments, the vernacular piece-sur-piece architecture spread across the Canadian shield and into the northern plains. In Minnesota, fur posts were established by Hudson's Bay Co., North West Fur Co., and the American Fur Co., to name but a few. State fur post reconstruction based on historical and/or archaeological evidence reveal the use of piece-sur-piece construction. The North West Co. Fur Post (NRHP 1972), built near Pine City on the Snake River in 1804 was accurately reconstructed and opened to the public as an historic site in 1971. Reconstruction based on extensive archaeological work revealed the piece-sur-piece architecture used by the voyageurs, who under the authority of trader John Sayer built the wintering post on the Snake River. In 1784, a major post was completed by the North West Co. at Grand Portage (National Monument). Here again, accurate reconstruction depicts the original piece-sur-piece architecture of the post. Reconstruction at Grand Portage was completed in the 1970s by the National Park Service. At Shakopee, fur trader Oliver Faribault (the son of well known fur trader Jean Baptiste Faribault), built a home/post in 1844. The Faribault Cabin exists today, restored by Minnesota Valley Restorations and is open to the public at Murphy's Landing, Shakopee. The cabin was predominantly constructed in the French-Canadian piece-sur-piece manner, yet also reveals the influence of another solid timber tradition in its lapped corner joinery. In 1968 the Minnesota Historical Society undertook an archaeological investigation of the Fort Renville site on the Minnesota River. Fort Renville served as a post for the American Fur Co. between 1826-1846. Although never reconstructed, the archaeological evidence does reveal that the fort's builder, Joseph Renville, utilized piece-sur-piece construction.

(See continuation sheets - pages 3-8)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 9

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Browns Valley, S. Dak-Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>4</u>	<u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>10</u> <u>3</u> <u>16</u> <u>10</u>	<u>5</u> <u>10</u> <u>5</u> <u>11</u> <u>1</u> <u>16</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building, 1971" and drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch.

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John S. Gertz

organization N/A

date January 1986

street & number 1933 Birch Street

telephone 612-426-0533

city or town White Bear Lake

state Minnesota 55110

# 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 6/9/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 7-17-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Owner of Property

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Ms. Sandra J. Hale, Commissioner  
Department of Administration  
200 State Administration Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

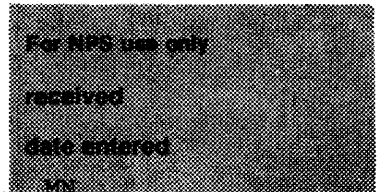
Joseph N. Alexander, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55146

Don Davison, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Department of Natural Resources  
Box 39  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55146

Merle Deboer  
Regional Park Supervisor  
Region 1  
Rt. 5, Box 41A  
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

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Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building, Traverse Co., MN

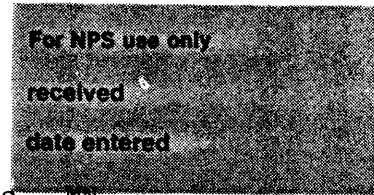
Continuation sheet Representation in Surveys Item number 6 Page 1

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1. Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey, 1983-1984, Minnesota Historical Society, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111.
2. Works Progress Administration, 1934-1943, Minnesota Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111.
3. Historic American Building Survey (MN-13), Library of Congress, Washington.

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Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building, Traverse Co., MN

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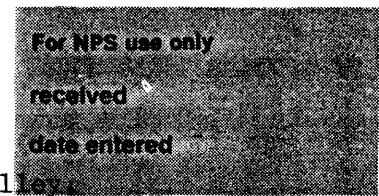
Few alterations have been made to the building. The south gable end entrance door was instead a 6/6 light sash window during the early part of this century. However, photo analysis reveals that the window in place during the 1920s might actually have replaced a door to begin with. Replacement of deteriorated log sections done on a limited basis in the 1930s (WPA) does not appear to have affected the overall character or integrity of original construction.

The building has been moved twice between the years 1866 and 1871. In 1866 the agency was purchased by Major J.R. Brown and moved 37 miles to Browns Valley where it stood near present day Broadway Avenue and 6th Street. In 1871 it was again moved, this time to its present day location by Samuel Brown. Each move was carefully undertaken, all structural members were numbered for accurate reassembly.

Today the Fort Wadsworth Agency remains wholly intact and in good condition, essentially unaltered and suffering no ill-effects of its two prior moves. Currently the site is in use as the "Sam Brown Memorial Park" with the old log building housing a museum of material artifacts and information on regional history. Other structures and objects on the grounds which are not historically associated with the Agency Building and are not a part of the nomination include a frame built school house - ca.1900, hexagonal pavilion - ca.1895, "Sacred Rock" with cryptic carvings, a fieldstone monument to Samuel J. Brown and a fieldstone and iron-work entrance gate.

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Traverse County, Minnesota  
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Resource Count      Item number    7

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The Forts Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building nomination contains 1 contributing Building.

Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building

The Nomination contains 1 non-contributing building  
School

The Nominations contains 2 non-contributing structures

Pavilion  
Fieldstone and ironwork entrance gate

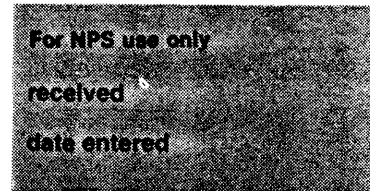
The nomination contains 2 non-contributing objects

Fieldstone Monument  
"Sacred Rock"



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Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building, Traverse Co., MN

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Regional examples of piece-sur-piece construction also exists and further illustrates the prolific use of the architecture style by fur trade companys. Fort Williams, built by the North West Co. between 1802-1804 at Thunder Bay, Ontario, became a major center in fur trade activity. Historical and archaeological information have made possible the impressive reconstruction of this piece-sur-piece built fort. The Fort Wadsworth agency building derived its architectural source from the earlier fur trade posts that dotted the region. As mentioned, state and regional reconstructions reflect the original use of French-Canadian solid timber style. That so few piece-sur-piece structures remain is not puzzling, most were built in affiliation with the fur trade, which began to decline rapidly in the mid-nineteenth century. As the fur trade waned, posts were abandoned and the highly perishable log structures eventually vanished or were dismantled for other uses. As in the case of the Fort Wadsworth agency, the survival of any French-Canadian piece-sur-piece building is of estimable value to the region, since so few remain where once there were many.

Construction of the agency was overseen by Major Joseph R. Brown, a prominent figure in Minnesota history. Born in Maryland on January 5, 1805, J.R. Brown later became a printers apprentice at Lancaster, Pa. At 14 he abandoned his apprenticeship to join an attachment of soldiers bound for Fort Snelling. At Fort Snelling he became "the drummer boy", where he was educated under the tutorage of Mrs. Snelling. By 1830 he was actively involved in land speculation and trading in Davenport, Iowa, and sold the city site there for a box of cigars. Between 1833-1834 he traded at Oliver's Grove, at the mouth of the St. Croix River. In 1835 he was assigned by General Sibley the charge of Fort Washington (American Fur Co. Post) at Lake Traverse, where he first became familiar with the region. At this post in 1835, Major Brown met and married Susan Freniere, the daughter of Narcisse Freniere, whose wife Winona Crawford was a Bois Brule, the daughter of a well known British trader (Crawford), and niece of the great chief Wanata. 1838 involved many ventures for Major Brown, including speculating, farming, justice of the peace duties at Gray Cloud Island, and purchasing the first claim on the Kittson addition in St. Paul for \$150.00. In 1839 he was again trading on the Fort Snelling reservation, and from 1840-1842 represented Crawford County, Wisconsin in the legislature at Prairie du Chien, followed by more years of trading. In 1847 he was involved in the building of the first boom on the Mississippi above St. Anthony Falls. Major Brown was, by 1849, a member of the Stillwater territorial conventions, and secretary of the legislative council. 1853 marked a new enterprise for Major Brown when he brought and edited the "Pioneer", a precursor to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. By 1854 he was settled in St. Paul where he and wife Susan educated their children, Lydia Ann, Agnes, Ellen,

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building, Traverse Co., MN

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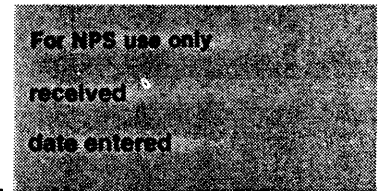
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date entered

Samuel, Amanda, Emily, Augusta and Joseph. From 1854-1855 Major Brown was a member of the legislative council, and in 1857 a member of the House where he was active in the constitutional organization of the state. In the same year, he founded the city of Henderson, edited the paper, "Democrat", and pursued trade at the Lower Sioux agency and Hole-in-the Mountain. In 1858 he received the rank of Major-General in the state militia, became Indian Agent at Yellow Medicine, spending years arbitrating between the Indian community and federal government. Major Brown also devoted much of this time in helping to educate the Indians in their transition to a self-supporting economy. Between 1860 and 1862 Major Brown was engaged in establishing a "tractor or steam-wagon" line up the Platte. In 1862 Major Brown went to New York to have seven "steam-wagons" built. On his return trip, coming up the Mississippi, he read of the "outbreak", or Sioux uprising, which listed among the massacred all the members of his family. Not until he reached St. Paul did he learn that his family was being held hostage. Major Brown offered his help to Governor Ramsey, which led to his appointment on General Sibley's staff with whom he rode to engage the hostile Indians. In the ensuing pursuit, Major Brown commanded troops at the battle of Birch Coulee, where he was severely wounded. Shortly thereafter he was reunited with his family at Camp Release, near the Yellow Medicine River. By October of 1862 the Sioux uprising in Minnesota had ceased to be a threat. Many hostile Indians had fled west, an action that prompted the federal government to establish the Military Department of the Northwest, complete with frontier outposts. In 1864 the War Department issued orders to build four such posts, one being Fort Wadsworth. General John Pope, commander of the Military Department of the Northwest, decided on the strategic location of these forts and originally chose a site on the James River in Dakota territory for Fort Wadsworth. General Sibley suggested that the fort be located in the coteau region around Kettle Lake, insisting the area had better resources for supporting a post. Major Brown was instrumental in the selection of the Kettle Lake site, and based on his recommendation to General Sibley, the argument for the coteau area prevailed, much to the reluctance of General Pope. While the location of some posts may have varied, the purpose for them did not. From a letter written by General Pope to General Sibley, dated July 18, 1864, the purpose was made clear as follows, "to ensure entire security hereafter, in opening to emigration and settlement all of Dakota east and south of James River, and in furnishing a direct and much safer route for emigrants to Idaho." Work on Fort Wadsworth began in the summer of 1864. Built in the Dakota territory, the fort was within the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Dakota, which was administered at that time out of Fort Snelling. The fort was originally built from logs by troops under the command of General Sibley. Forseeing this initial log-built stage of construction, General Sibley made sure that a company composed of lumberman

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was sent to Major Clowney and his 13th Wisconsin volunteers who were building the fort. A map prepared by the War Dept. in 1866 indicates that by this time there were two stone barracks, stone stable, brick C.O.'s house, with all other structures built of log. By 1876 many of Fort Wadsworth's log structures had been replaced by either brick or stone and on August 29th, the name was changed from Fort Wadsworth to Fort Sisseton. The fort was originally named after Civil War General James Samuel Wadsworth (1807-1864), killed during the war. It was discovered however, that a fort in New York was also named after General Wadsworth, hence the name change. In the fall of 1878 Captain Bennett was in command of the fort and was heavily involved in rebuilding a permanent fort. He wrote "logs are rotten" and that "this brings into consideration the fact that the blacksmith shop, carpenters shop, scouts headquarters, and some others built of oak logs ..." would have to be rebuilt without delay." Sometime following Captain Bennett's command the fort buildings were rebuilt in brick or stone, the original log buildings all having been replaced. Of the fort's initial phase of construction, begun under the command of General Sibley, only the agency building remains. Although not situated within the fort compound, the agency was an integral part of Fort Wadsworth and its activities.

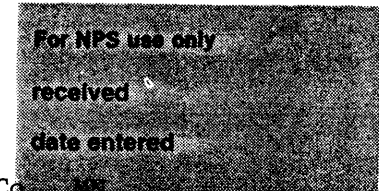
The agency/scout headquarters was built in 1864 about one mile east of the fort near the shore of Kettle Lake. Major Brown, assigned special military agent to the fort and commander of scout forces, oversaw the construction of the agency. Built mostly by Indian labor the 20 x 50 foot building stood surrounded by a 12 foot high stockade made of oak posts. The scout force was organized by the government in 1863 and was made up largely of friendly Indians. The scouts helped army regulars pursue and/or contain the hostile Indians who had moved west into the Dakota territory following the Sioux outbreak of 1862. By 1864 the scout force was enlarged, each subdivision having a chief at its head, all of whom were placed under superintendent Chief Gabriel Renville, who in turn was under the command of Major Brown. Between the years 1863-1866 the scout force served to help secure the frontier, allowing the region to be traversed by settlers, railroad workers, surveyors, prospectors, and telegraph lineman.

Major Brown served Fort Wadsworth as military agent and commander of the scout force from 1864 to 1866 when he resigned from that post on March 31st. Following Major Brown's resignation as military agent/scout force commander, he was appointed as special agent of the Interior Dept. His task was to bring in the Minnesota Sioux, unite them at Fort Rice, and prepare them there for a meeting with U.S. peace commissioners. In 1867 Major Brown penned the Sisseton Treaty. Major Brown's son, Samuel J. Brown, assumed the command as military agent on April 13th, serving under the command of Lieutenant Colonel C. Paul Adams. Sam Brown was born March 7, 1845 at Long Hollow, South Dakota,

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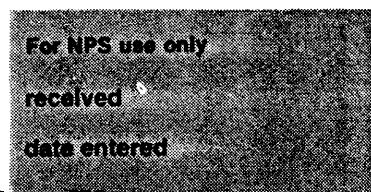
living with the family in many locations thereafter. Following his release from captivity in 1862 he worked in the service of the government until 1866. Half of those years were spent at the Fort Wadsworth agency where prior to assuming command he acted as post interpreter and scout, chief of scouts, and inspector of scouts. He was also in charge of the scout and courier service, and patrolling service in the vicinity of the fort. Of compelling historic interest is the famous ride Sam Brown endured through the night of April 19, 1866. Leaving the agency at sundown he rode alone under the cover of darkness nearly 60 miles west through hostile territory to alert the scouts of a possible Indian attack in western Minnesota. Upon reaching the scouts at the Elm River scout station, and learning that the alarm was false, he immediately headed back to the agency in an effort to halt any messages being sent to St. Paul. His return trip found him caught in a blizzard of great ferocity, blowing him fifteen miles off his course. Suffering from exposure to the elements in an all night ride, he relinquished the trip home to his pony, who when given the reins, delivered them to the agency at eight-o'clock on the morning of the 20th. The courageous ride has earned him the title "Paul Revere" of the frontier, but also left him paralyzed and visually impaired for life. In recognition of his heroic efforts the U.S. Congress acted to provide Sam Brown with a pension.

In 1866 the scout force was officially dispensed and so brought to a close an element of the frontier which had served out its usefulness. Fort Wadsworth continued on as a high plains army post until it was abandoned in 1888. Today there are fourteen masonry structures preserved at the fort by the South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish, and Parks, who maintain the 356 acre Fort Sisseton State Park site.

No longer needed to serve as agency or scout headquarters, Major Brown purchased the agency building in the summer of 1866. The building was carefully dismantled, each log marked for reassembly, and then transported by ox team 37 miles to Brown's Valley (known at this time as Lake Traverse), Minnesota. The building was erected on what is known as the Dale and Roise addition, north of Broadway Avenue near the present turn of highway 28 to Sisseton. Another log building purchased by Major Brown was already in place at this site. The first structure was bought in 1865, and had stood on the western shore of Big Stone Lake where it was built by George H. Spencer, the only survivor from the massacre at the Lower Sioux agency. To this building the agency was added in 1866 making the whole about 75 feet in length. At this location the agency building became Major Brown's residence, and also served as stage line stop (the stage line was established by Major Brown in 1865), tavern, Inn, mail station, and trading post. Many traders visited here, including James J. Hill who coming here on foot purchased a "room full"

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of furs, sending them to St. Paul. The area's first newspaper, the "Brown's Valley Reporter" was established in the building by S.W. Fraiser in 1880. On June 10, 1867 the Lake Traverse post office was established in the building with Sam Brown as the first postmaster.

By 1870 Major Brown was again actively involved in the railroad issue and lobbied a bill through legislature allowing counties to bond for the construction of a railroad. In November of that year he died in New York while seeing to the construction of trains. In honor of Major Brown, the town's name was changed from Lake Traverse to Browns Valley. In 1871, after careful marking and disassembly, Sam Brown moved the agency section to its present location along side the Little Minnesota River in Browns Valley. Besides the agency section, a second section was taken down and moved behind the Medberry residence in Browns Valley where it was used as a residence by the family of Lieutenant Allanson. This section was eventually sold to Tom Bailey who moved it to his farm. A remaining third section was not moved and was occupied as a residence by the Cameron family until it was eventually torn down. The present site of the agency, known as block four, Westside Addition has had some interesting previous occupants as well. The agency stands on the ground which was once the village of Sisseton Chief, Standing Buffalo. In 1863 the site and surroundings were occupied by General Sibley and his troops. Known as Camp McLaren, General Sibley stationed his troops there to refit and await the link-up with General Sully's troops who were marching up the Missouri. From that staging area the troops pushed into the Dakota territory securing the region from hostile Indian attacks. At this final and present location, the agency became the residence of Sam Brown, wife Phoebe S. Brown, Major Brown's widow, Susan Crawford Brown.

In addition to his services as postmaster and scout chief, Sam Brown contributed in a broad variety of areas to his region. He was at times a newspaper correspondent and served as an associate on the editorial staff of the "Daybreak", a paper devoted to the educational and religious interests of Indians. He was put in charge of the government school at Crow Creek where he also performed as lay missionary, authorized as such by the New York Domestic and Foreign (Episcopal) Society.

On July 9, 1921, Sam J. Brown sold a portion of his property to Norman J. Brown (no relation), the remaining land and log house being deeded to son Sam Brown Jr. and his sister Phoebe Brown Edington. Major Brown's widow, Susan, died at the agency in 1895. Sam Brown continued to live in the old agency building until 1905 when he and his wife, Phoebe, moved into William Carter's house, nearby. Sam Brown's wife, Phoebe, died September 2, 1910, Sam Brown died August 29, 1925. September 6, 1929, Norman Brown, Sam Brown Jr., and

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Continuation sheet

Significance

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Phoebe Brown Edington sold the property in whole to the State of Minnesota for a combined price of \$2,500.00. Shortly after 1900, the house was rented to various families until its purchase by the state. On October 12, 1929 the state declared the site a state monument in honor of Samuel J. Brown. Between 1934-1943 the WPA (Work Projects Administration) conducted historic sites survey work, which included the old agency building in Browns Valley. WPA files list the agency building within its Traverse County historic Site "B" survey. Some restoration work was done on the building during this time and was probably administered by the WPA. Replastering, new floor boards, ash rafters, and foundation work was done. In place, at this time too, was a stockade fence, reminiscent of the agency's frontier post days. The stockade ran 216 feet along the front, 200 feet deep on the sides, and included stone pillars, small and large gate entries. Today the stockade fence is gone, only the large stone pillar entry gate remains.

The historical significance of the agency is important to the state and region, symbolic of the area's early frontier struggles. As the first permanent residence in Browns Valley, it became the keystone in the foundation of the young frontier town. Architecturally the agency is paramount to the region for several reasons. Despite its moves, or possibly resulting from, the agency provides an extant, yet rare link to early French-Canadian piece-sur-piece architecture. Furthermore, the agency is the sole surviving log structure affiliated with Fort Wadsworth's initial construction phase.

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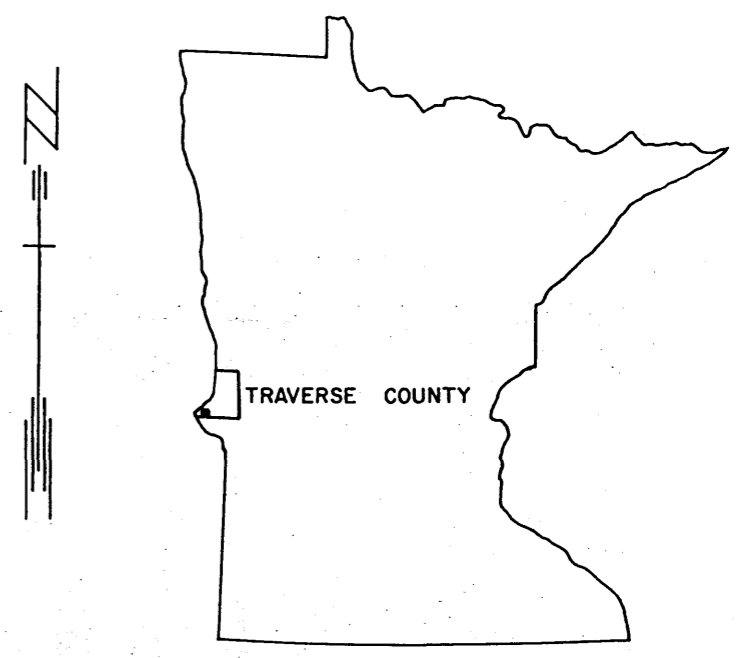
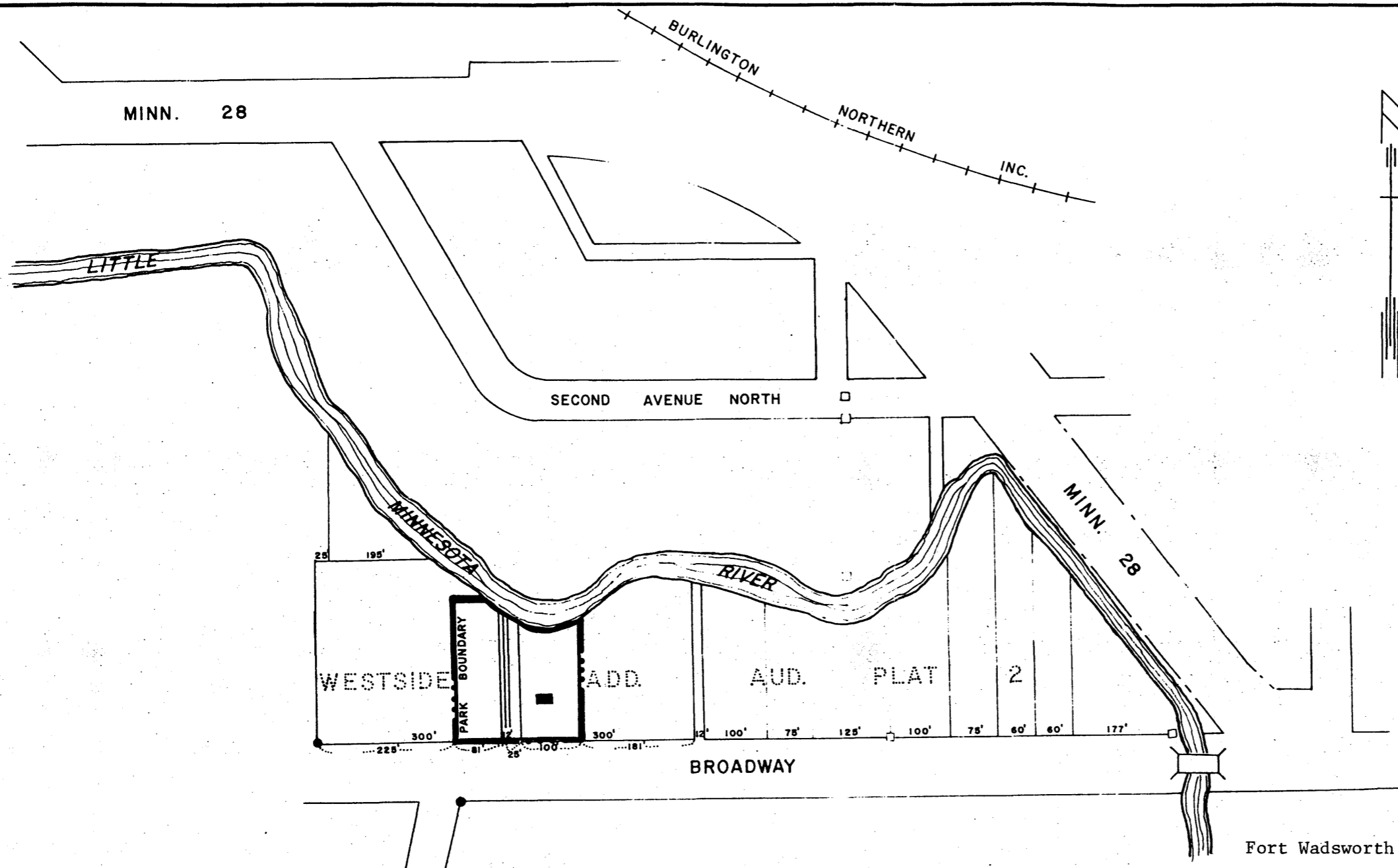
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NOTE:  
NO PRIVATE LAND  
WITHIN PARK BOUNDARY

Fort Wadsworth Agency and Scout Headquarters Building  
SCALE: 1" = 200'  
STATUTORY BOUNDARY 1 ACRE (APPROX.)  
(1971)

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES			
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING		DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION	
Designed	Drawn 8-31-71 L.D. SWENSON	STATE PARK SITE	
Survey	Checked 9-10-71 R.E. SMITH	<b>SAM BROWN STATE WAYSIDE</b>	
Datum	Revised	TRAVERSE COUNTY - AT BROWNS VALLEY	
<i>Robert D. Damstra</i> Date <u>9-29-71</u> Acting Administrator		Sec. 19	T. 125 N. R. 49 W.
		Depr. Code REG 502	Req. 72-2 Sheet 1
		File P.081.00.01	