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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SEP 15 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Buffalo River State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources  
other names/site number Buffalo River State Park

2. Location

street & number off U.S. Highway 10  not for publication N/A  
city, town Riverton Township Glyndon  vicinity  
state Minnesota code MN county Clay code 027 zip code 56141

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>3</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>6</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style  
Historic Resources

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Nina M. Archabal 9/5/89  
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Beth Boland 10/25/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/State Park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/State Park

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone/Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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DESCRIPTION

The Buffalo River State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources include three buildings and three structures which form an historic district. The district defines the original development which took place in the park. One non-contributing building, a small well house, is also included in the district.

The Department of Natural Resources building identification number is placed after the name of each building.

- 1. Building: Bath House 1-318 Builder: WPA  
 Architect: O. Newstrom Date: 1940

The Bath House follows a standard plan employed in seven state parks. The building features a central area with concession and restrooms which is flanked by loggias leading to men's and women's changing rooms. The overall dimensions of the building are 82'2" x 22'6". The building is constructed entirely of local split field stone with the exception of the changing wings which originally featured low 15" stone walls followed by wooden screens constructed with vertical boards. Each of the two changing areas measured 15' x 17' and the walls of the open enclosure rose 8'6" high.

The concession originally featured a 7' counter opening on the beach facade of the building and was flanked by two windows covered with wooden grills. Foot showers were placed on either side of the building.

During a later remodeling, the wooden screens of the changing wings were removed, the original counter space infilled with stone and new restrooms installed.

- 2. Building: Garage & Residence 1-315 Builder: WPA  
 Architect: National Park Service Date: 1940

This building originally served as a garage and a temporary residence for the park manager during the early days of the park. The rectangular gable roofed building contains a two stall garage built on a 2' stone

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base with rough clapboard siding above. The original garage doors constructed with rough planks and four light casement windows are still in place.

The south section of the building contains the two room seasonal residence which is now used for storage. Stone masonry rises to the sill line and rough clapboards are placed above. Window openings consist of nine light casements.

3. Building: Latrine 1-317 Builder: WPA  
Architect: O. Newstrom Date: 1938

The Latrine is a 32' x 18' structure typical of the sanitation buildings constructed in the state park system. The building is built entirely of local split stone with the exception of two areas between the windows on the front and rear facades which are sheathed with rough clapboards. Stone screens, 9'6" long by 5'6" wide which rise to a height of 5', define the entrances to the building. Window openings are six light casements.

The building was remodeled in 1959 and skylights were added and the original cedar shingles replaced with asphalt. In 1963 the interior fixtures were replaced.

4. Building: Well House 1-319 Date: 1960s  
Architect: Department of Natural Resources

The Well House is a small rectangular building constructed with concrete block and covered by a gable roof. The building is non-contributing.

5. Structure: Stone Curb Builder: WPA  
Architect: State of Minnesota Date: 1940

The Bath House parking lot is defined by a curb constructed with split stone. The parking area contains two lanes separated by a center median also defined by local stone.

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6. Structure: Diversion Dam Builder: WPA  
Architect: H. Petersen Date: 1938

The Diversion Dam was constructed to provide an adequate supply of water for the nearby swimming beach. The structure is 115' wide, consisting of an 80' spillway and flanking overlooks constructed with local stone. The original plans for the dam specified "All material and labor to conform to general specifications of the Division of Drainage and Waters."

The stone masonry in the overlooks was constructed with split field stone with 1/2" minimum and 3/4" maximum joints. Six and eight inch logs formed the posts and railings. Riprapping extended 15' downstream in the stream bed.

In 1980 improvements were made to the river channel and routine repairs were made to the abutments.

7. Structure: Swimming Beach Builder: WPA  
Architect: State of Minnesota Date: 1940

The Swimming Beach was created by diverting the Buffalo River and forming a lakelet in the original location of the river. The lakelet is separated from the new river channel by an earthen dike which is riprapped on both sides. An outlet dam is constructed with concrete and masonry. The lake is approximately 180' x 360'.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Recreation  
Government

Period of Significance

1937-40

Significant Dates

1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service  
State of Minnesota  
Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet**

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Buffalo River State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are historically significant for their association with the social, political, and economic impact of the Great Depression and the subsequent development of the various Federal Relief Programs which were responsible for their construction. The Historic District is also significant for its association with the development of the Minnesota State Park System. The park was the only state owned recreational facility in the region and was built to provide an active physical recreation area, namely a swimming beach, since few natural recreational features existed in that part of the state.

The Buffalo River State Park buildings and structures are exceptionally significant architecturally as outstanding examples of rustic style split stone construction. The buildings feature irreplaceable labor intensive methods and finely crafted detailing. These buildings are characterized by nonintrusive and environmentally sensitive designs based on National Park Service design philosophy and master planning. (Refer to the Statement of Exceptional Significance on page F34 of the Multiple Property Documentation Form.)

Buffalo River State Park was established in 1937 although 280 acres had been purchased for that purpose in 1936. The park consists of a wooded area along the Buffalo River in the prairie section of the state.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Department of Natural Resources. Working Drawings and Specifications for Buildings and Structures at Buffalo River State Park. Bureau of Engineering. St. Paul, Minnesota.  
Searle, R. Newell. Gardens of the Desert. Minnesota Parks Foundation. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1963.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 19 Acres

**UTM References**

A 

1	4
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6	9	2	6	0	0
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5	1	9	3	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	4
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6	9	3	4	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	9	2	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

1	4
---	---

6	9	3	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	9	3	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	4
---	---

6	9	2	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	9	2	6	0	0
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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for Buffalo River State Park WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Buffalo River State Park." It is defined by the park road and parking lot to the north, the diversion dam to the east, the Buffalo River to the south, and campground road to the west. The heavy boundary line is crosshatched.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

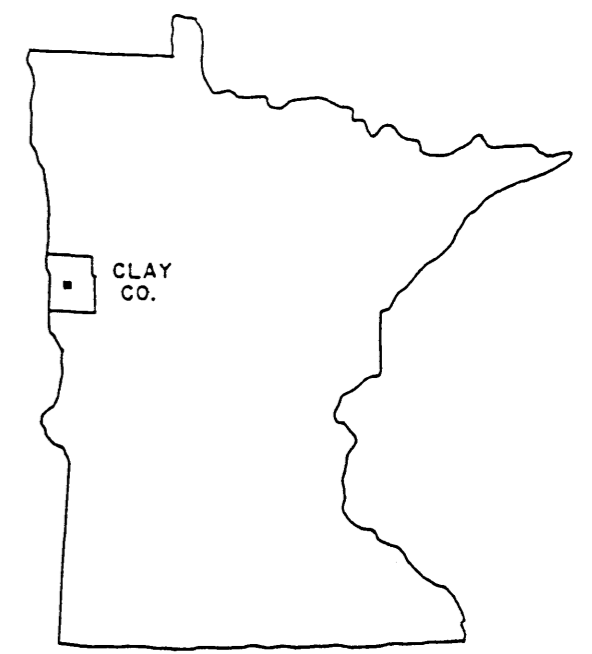
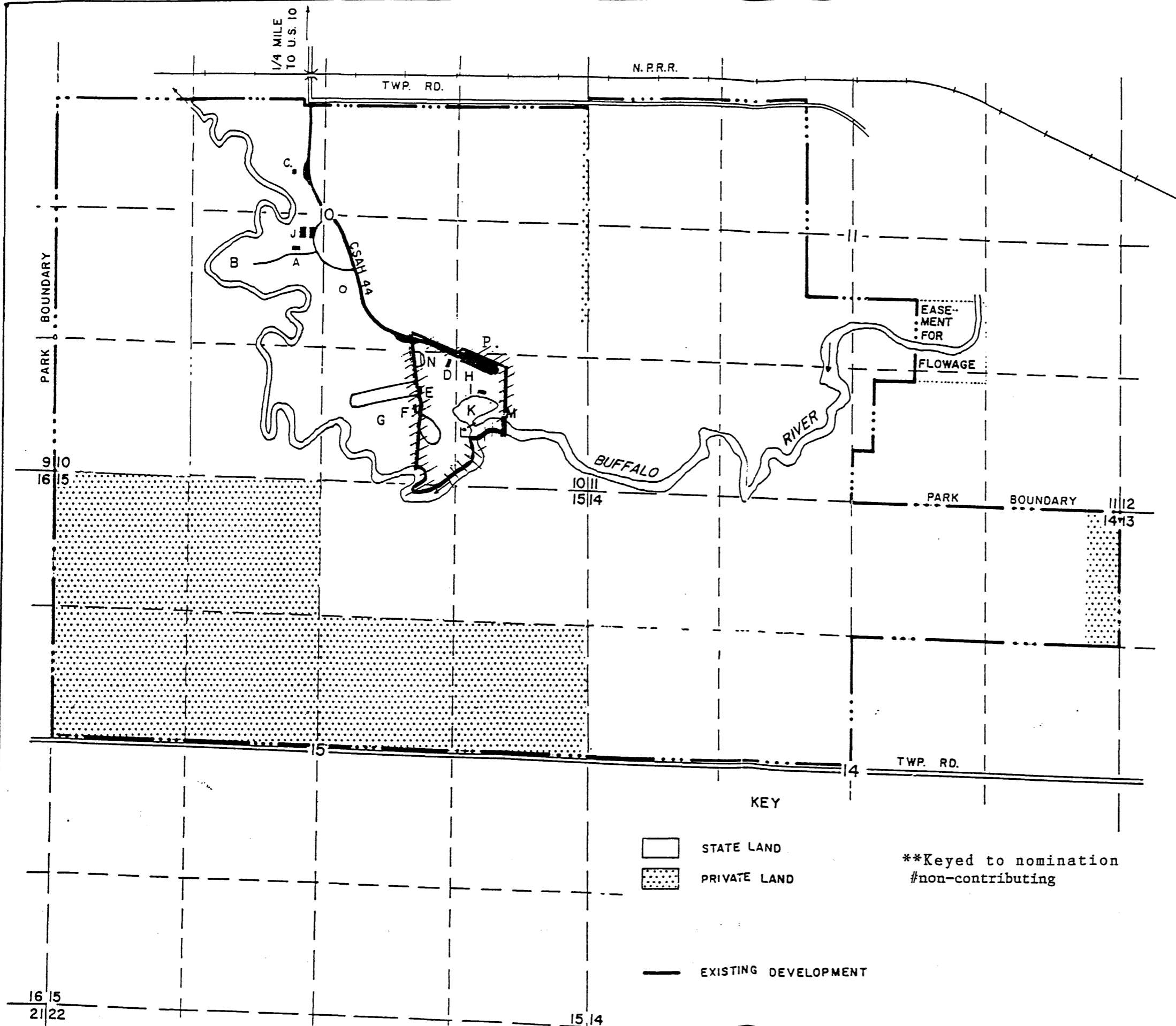
The boundary includes the buildings and structures that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain historic integrity. The defines the area of the park developed by the Works Progress Administration.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rolf T. Anderson date August 25, 1988  
 organization N/A telephone 612-824-7807  
 street & number 3632 Park Avenue South state Minnesota zip code 55407  
 city or town Minneapolis





LEGEND

- A. SERVICE AREA
  - B. PRIMITIVE CAMP
  - C. CONTACT STATION
  - \* D. INTERPRETIVE CENTER (Garage) 2\*\*
  - \* E. TOILET - 3
  - F. COMBINATION BUILDING
  - G. CAMPGROUND
  - H. PICNIC AREA
  - \* I. BATH HOUSE - 1
  - J. RESIDENCE & GARAGE
  - \* K. SWIMMING POOL - 7
  - \* L. DAM - 7
  - \* M. DAM - 6
  - \*\* N. TRAILER SAN. STA. & Well House - 4
  - O. Portable Bridge
  - P. Stone Curb - 5
- SCALE: 1"=1000'
- STATUTORY BOUNDARY 1240 ACRES (APPROX.)

KEY

- STATE LAND
- PRIVATE LAND
- EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

\*\*Keyed to nomination  
#non-contributing

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION STATE PARK SITE			
<b>BUFFALO RIVER STATE PARK</b> CLAY CO.-NEAR GLYNDON			
SEC.	T. 139 N. R. 46 W.	5 TH RM.	
DRAWN JNS 2-1-67	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING		SURVEY
CHECKED RES 2-1-67	<i>Eugene R. Hess</i>		DATUM
REVISED SVF 7-20-78	-1-67 CHIEF ENGINEER		
OWNERSHIP REV. RES 12-23-77	REQ.	SHEET 6	FILE P007.00.01

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