United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Halfway Ranger Station

other names/site number Halfway Administrative Site; Kawishiwi Field Laboratory

2. Location

street & number Off Minnesota Highway 1 | N/A | not for publication

city or town Fall Lake Township, Superior National Forest, Ely | X | vicinity

state Minnesota code MN county Lake code 075 zip code 55604

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Britta L. Bloomberg Date 8/9/11

Deputy SHPO — Minnesota Historical Society

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Halfway Ranger Station
Name of Property

Lake, MN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [X] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [X] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	0	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
12	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/research facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/research facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Early 20th Century American Movements
Other: Rustic Architecture
Other: Adirondack Architecture

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: WOOD/Log
WOOD/Lap Siding
roof: ASPHALT
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Halfway Ranger Station (HRS) is located in Township 62 North, Range 11 West, Section 33, 4th P.M. ~~Babbitt~~ Boundary Lake Minnesota 7.5" USGS Quadrangle Map. The site is situated adjacent to the South Kawishiwi River, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, Minnesota in Lake County. USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station (NRS), headquartered in Newtown Square, PA, is responsible for the management of the HRS. The HRS includes seven buildings and one structure from the Halfway Ranger Station built during the Depression, an additional four buildings that are historically part of the Lakes States Forest Experimental Station (LSFES), and an assortment of historic landscape features. The site also includes several ruins (concrete foundations) of no longer extant buildings. Collectively, these resources are known as the HRS, which is how the district will be referred to throughout the document.

HRS Contributing Resources

The purpose of this section is to discuss resources of the HRS that are contributing to the National Register. What follows is a series of brief descriptions of the form, structure, and character-defining features of each resource as well as an evaluation of each resource's status within the district. Each brief narrative will describe the qualities and conditions of the buildings, and structure in order to illustrate the architectural uniqueness, significance, and the overall integrity of the district.

The HRS features twelve standing buildings and structures. These consist of one pre Depression-era building (the LSFES Dwelling and Office), seven Depression-era buildings (Ranger Dwelling, Pump House, Oil House, Outhouse/Sauna, District Office, Warehouse/Garage, and Boat House), one Depression-era structure (a CCC-built Cellar), two post-WWII buildings (Laboratory and Insectary), and one outhouse of unknown vintage. The CCC-built resources were constructed in 1934 or 1935, the LSFES combination dwelling office was built in 1931, and the two post-WWII buildings were constructed in 1957.

Within each of the following subsections are discussions of associated resources determined to be contributing elements of the historic district. Overall, the HRS features ten (11) contributing buildings and one (1) contributing structure (a cellar).

Buildings and Structures

Contributing Buildings

Ranger Dwelling (FS Bldg. #31101)

Physical Description

Located near the center of the compound, the Ranger Dwelling is a single-story log building with a medium pitched side-gabled roof and wide, exposed eave-overhangs. The building measures approximately 38' x 38'. Historically it served as living quarters for the district ranger and family members. The building also possesses a finished attic. Built with notable deviations from Region 9 building Plan #48 for Ranger Dwellings, the building was designed with a square massed floor plan, which included a full-length porch extending approximately 7-8 feet from the front entrance façade-wall. A low-angle shed roof extends outward from the main roof's eave-line to form a continuous or "extended" porch cover (see photo 2 of 18). The floor plan is oriented on the landscape so that the front entrance façade-wall faces to the west. The center axis of the building is roughly perpendicular to the east shoreline of the South Kawishiwi River.

The Ranger Dwelling rests on a full-sized, poured concrete basement with at least a six foot wall depth below grade. The outer wall of the porch rests on three large poured concrete footings that are approximately 3' x 3' square. The walls are constructed with peeled round logs prepared from locally available pine and aspen logs that were laid with alternating butt and tip ends and connected by means of a standard saddle-notch. In keeping with the rustic style, log ends were intentionally cut to run proud of the wall intersection and finished by shaping the ends to chisel-edge point (see photo 2 of

18). In order to facilitate a tight, weatherproof fit, the underside of each log was prepared by shaping a groove or flute along its entire length. The roof of the Ranger Dwelling was constructed with purlins made of small diameter logs and covered with twelve inch wide dimensional lumber. The original roof covering was likely cedar shake.

The building possesses many character defining features including a large shed dormer, a fireplace chimney, and a smaller, furnace chimney. The centrally positioned dormer is covered by a low-angled shed roof, which is tied into the ridgeline of the principal roof. The dormer roof extends from the roof peak and terminates at the primary roof eave line. The fireplace gable wall chimney is situated on the west half of the north elevation and is constructed of locally cut stone quarried from a nearby source of gabbro (see photo 2 of 18). The chimney is towered. A smaller brick chimney that serves as an exhaust outlet for the furnace protrudes just below the ridgeline on the main roof's western slope. A secondary entrance offers direct access to the basement stairs and the kitchen. This entrance is located in the center south gable wall, and is accessible from the yard by an elevated stoop covered with a small shed roof. The stoop is supported by thin log columns set atop a low, log wall.

In order to facilitate description of the interior layout, the massed floor plan of the Ranger Dwelling is arbitrarily divided into two approximate halves: east and west. The west side of the first story includes a combined kitchen and eating space, in addition to a living room with a stone fireplace flanked by two casement windows on the north wall. Views of the porch and surrounding yard are accessible through two sets of tall casement windows set into the west façade wall. One set is centered on the kitchen wall and one is on the right half of the living room wall. From the porch, the front entrance to the building is located in the center of the west façade wall and is situated on the inside near the southwest corner of the living room wall. The east half of the building contains a full bath, linen closet and two bedrooms. A narrow hallway joins the bath and bedrooms, as well as the attic staircase. The attic consists of two main rooms on the west side that are joined by a full-length hallway. The east side of the attic is reserved for a continuous storage space that is partitioned off from the hallway by a short knee wall.

The building also possesses unique finishing elements. The ceiling framing is finished with 1 to 1 ½ inch wainscoting, which is covered with at least one coat of high-gloss varnish. In the particular case of the living room ceiling, the wainscoting was installed in between exposed log beams, which are set perpendicular to the west façade wall and spaced approximately two feet on center across the length of the room. The dwelling features at least three different types of doors that vary according to construction method. These include the front entrance door, located in the approximate center of the west façade wall, which consists of vertically oriented dimensional planks strengthened with hand-forged iron tie bands that are finished with a hand-hammered dimpling texture. Other door types in the Ranger Dwelling include storage space doors in the attic, which are finished on the hallway side with the same wainscoting used to construct the ceilings and the interior rooms, and side entrance doors, which were constructed in the typical rail-and-stile fashion. Also notable is the screen door, which was constructed in typical rail-and-stile fashion with two rails located on either side of the vertical midpoint uniquely connected with a row of turned dowels. This unique screen door type originally hung on many of the buildings within the district, and also appeared on the Kawishiwi Pavilion located directly north of the district, across Highway 1 on the north side of the South Kawishiwi Campground. With the exception of the dormer, all the windows in the building appear to be of original construction consisting of multiple glass panes encased in a joined frame tied together with a squared latticework of rabbeted muntins. The windows in the Ranger Dwelling were constructed according to two common patterns: casement and double hung. The casement windows were installed primarily in the kitchen and the living room and the double-hung types were installed primarily in the bedrooms and attic rooms. All windows retain their original hardware.

Alterations

Overall, with the exception of the exterior finish and some minor detailing, the Ranger Dwelling has changed little from its original form, shape, and layout. Furthermore, it has retained most of its significant architectural and stylistic elements. Alterations since construction are minor and consist of several episodes of exterior repainting, replacement of window screening, replacement of front and side entrance stoops, and several episodes of roof re-shingling—including the most recent one witnessed by the heritage resources staff during a photographic survey trip in the fall of 2006. The most significant change was the removal of the log railing on the front entrance stoop, which can be seen in a 1934 photograph of the front elevation. The date of this alteration is unknown but was probably completed when the present version of the front stoop was constructed.

Determination

This building is significant under National Register criteria A & C for its association with the Depression-era CCC and as a representation of Forest Service rustic/Adirondack log architecture with distinctive Craftsman architectural elements. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

District Office Building (FS Bldg. #31105)

Physical Description

The District Office Building, which is situated to the northeast of the Ranger Dwelling, is a single-story, side gabled, log dwelling with a low pitched roof and wide, unenclosed eave-overhangs. It once served as the administrative office for the Halfway Ranger District but is now vacant. The building was constructed with a linear, double-room, rectangular floor plan and a newer bathroom addition connected to the south corner. The building's long axis is oriented in a northwest-southeast direction resulting in a northwest facing entrance, and northeast-southeast facing gable walls. According to the original floor plan, the two rooms consisted of a kitchen/living area on the building's northeast side and a bedroom on the southeast side that opens on the east wall to the newer bathroom addition. The interior rooms are divided by a log wall and are accessible by a slightly offset doorway. The main entrance door is located roughly in the center of the northwest elevation and allows direct access to the right side of the kitchen/living space. A small, cross-gable porch cover intersects the main roof at midpoint between the peak and the eave line (see photo 3 of 18). The entrance porch cover is supported by two log columns that rest directly on a rough-cut stone platform that serves as a stoop. The building is accessible via a rough stone sidewalk and stone stairs (see photo 4 of 18).

The Office Building is situated on a poured concrete foundation, approximately twelve inches in height. The exterior walls are constructed of round logs and are fitted in the same manner as the Ranger Dwelling. The roof is constructed with one-inch dimensional lumber sheathing laid perpendicular to four log purlins tied into the top of the gable walls and supported by a central partition wall.

Other architectural details include several paired sets of double-hung windows and three doors. Two sets of windows flank the front door, one set is centered at each gable wall and one is centered on the rear (east) elevation. All doors are constructed in typical rail and-stile fashion. The front entrance door features a single course of three elongated rectangular lights. A secondary screen door is also hung on the front entrance and is similar in construction and design to the one hanging on the front entrance of the Ranger Dwelling porch.

Alterations

Based on survey and photographic evidence the District Office Building has undergone more significant alterations than any of the contributing buildings within the historic district. The most striking of these changes are the bedroom and bathroom additions. The building was originally constructed with a one-room floor plan. Some time before 1947, a smaller room, (the present bedroom), was attached to the southwestern wall and made accessible by cutting in, and installing, the present doorway. The original window for this wall has been filled in but is still discernible. Photographic evidence shows that construction of the bedroom addition must have occurred within a 14-year period after the building's initial construction. However, the bathroom addition's construction date remains unknown.

Another significant alteration was the complete replacement of the original support posts for the porch cover. Originally, the posts consisted of two bent logs that flanked the front entrance door. Each log was connected to the wall in an unknown fashion and angled upward roughly from the door's midpoint to meet with a central support log. The date of this alteration is unknown but it took place sometime after 1947.

Determination

This building is significant under National register criteria A & C for its association with the Depression-era CCC and as a representation of Forest Service rustic/Adirondack log architecture. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Warehouse/Garage (FS Bldg. #31106)

Physical Description

The Warehouse Building is a single story, cross-gabled, log building with a low pitched roof and wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and sits directly east of the Ranger Dwelling (see photo 9 of 18). Originally, it served as a storage warehouse, garage, and workshop for the Halfway Ranger Station. It was constructed with a rectangular, linear floor plan that encompasses four separate units consisting of a large work space/garage room on the northwest side, a narrow garage space in the center, and a shop-storage room combination contained in the southeast end of the building. A stud wall separates the shop and storage area. The large cross-gable features three garage doors and the two small gabled porch covers are located over two smaller pedestrian doors supported by small diameter log struts (see photo 9 of 18). Like the Ranger Dwelling and the District Office Building, the Warehouse Building is not oriented toward a cardinal

direction. Its long axis runs roughly northwest to southeast with the front entrance wall facing roughly to the southwest. All windows are horizontal sliding sash with two sashes per window and four lights each in a 2-over-2 configuration. As for doors, there are three modern, sectional garage doors and two modern rail-and-stile doors that are now used in the front façade-wall entryways.

The structural system for the Warehouse Building is similar in design, materials, and construction to the Ranger Dwelling with the exception of the floor construction. The foundation consists of a short wall made from poured concrete that runs underneath each wall. This foundation wall, which encompasses the entire building plan, surrounds a poured concrete slab that serves as the building's floor. The walls are built with the same log construction method utilized on the other buildings in the district and the roof is designed and constructed in a similar manner.

Alterations
Alterations to the original construction of the Warehouse Building include the replacement of all the exterior doors and the addition of supporting brackets to both the small porch covers. The original door construction consists of board-and-batten covered on the exterior with wainscoting set in a diamond pattern. Remaining examples of this door type hang on the front entrance of the Oil House, the front entrance of the Sauna/Outhouse, and a variation on the front entrance of the Boat House. The date of these alterations is unknown. The Warehouse has experienced some structural degradation from powder post beetle infestation.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criteria A & C for its association with the Depression-era CCC and as a representation of Forest Service rustic/Adirondack log architecture. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Boat House (FS Bldg. #31107)

Physical Description
The Boat House, which is located to the west of the District Office building on the South Kawishiwi River, is still used to store watercraft. A small front-gabled log building, the boathouse has a low pitched roof and wide, unboxed overhanging eaves (see photo 7 of 18). The building is situated on the west shoreline of the South Kawishiwi River (see photo 8 of 18). Built to a simple single-room rectangular floor plan, the Boat House is accessible through a large sliding door on the right side of the front gable wall and a standard single-leaf door on the rear wall. There is a single vertical sliding-sash window centered on each of the side elevation walls. Each sash consists of six lights in a 2-over-3 configuration. Aside from its log construction, the most notable detail of the Boat House is the unusual design of the sliding door (see photo 7 of 18). The interior side consists of vertical battens. The exterior side is partitioned into four quadrants and edged with four-inch wide trim-boards. Each quadrant is filled in with wainscoting arranged in a diamond shape. For details on the structural system of the Boat House, please refer to the structural description section for the Warehouse/Garage Building.

Alterations
The Boat house has received very few alterations except the removal of the original boat ramp which consisted of iron rails and a dock. There has been some structural degradation from powder post beetle infestation.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criteria A & C for its association with the Depression-era CCC and as a representation of Forest Service rustic/Adirondack log architecture. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Oil House (FS Bldg. #31111)

Physical Description
The Oil House, which is located across the access road and to the southeast of the Warehouse building, is a 12' x 14' single-room, side-gabled, log building with a low pitched gable roof and wide, exposed eave-overhangs (see photo 11 of 18). Presently used to store firewood, the front entrance is centered on the north elevation wall with single windows centered on each gable end. The entrance features a small gabled porch cover which intersects the main gable roof at midpoint between the ridge and the eave line. A single-leaf door provides access to the building. It is finished on the exterior-side with wainscoting set in a diamond-shaped pattern (see photo 11 of 18). The inside consists of vertical

planking. The original windows are gone. Screen material now covers the window openings (see photo 12 of 18). For details on the structural system of the Oil House, please refer to the structural description section for the Warehouse/Garage Building.

Alterations
The Oil House has experienced very few alterations except the removal of the original windows and some structural degradation from powder post beetle infestation.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criteria A & C for its association with the Depression-era CCC and as a representation of Forest Service rustic/Adirondack log architecture. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Pump House (FS Bldg. #31102)

Physical Description
The northeastern-most building at the compound, the Pump House is a single-room (10' x 10') front-gabled log building with a medium pitched roof and wide, exposed, overhanging eaves (see photo 13 of 18). The building still houses pumping equipment. The single front entrance is located on the left side of the front gable wall and consists of a single leaf door. There are no windows. For details on the structural system of the Pump House, please refer to the structural description section for the Warehouse/Garage Building.

Alterations
The Pump House has experienced very few alterations, with the exception of slight structural degradation from powder post beetle infestation.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criteria A & C for its association with the Depression-era CCC and as a representation of Forest Service rustic/Adirondack log architecture. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

LSFES Office and Dwelling (FS Bldg. #31108)

Physical Description
Situated in the southern portion of the compound, the LSFES Office and Dwelling is a front-gabled, one-and-a-half-story, wood framed building with a medium pitched gable roof. It also features wide, exposed eave-overhangs. The building's foundation consists of poured concrete. The walls and both gabled roofs are balloon framed. This building served multiple purposes for the LSFES as an office, laboratory and bachelor's quarters. It was built in 1931 and is the oldest extant administrative building on the Superior National Forest. The building is oriented so that its front gable entrance-wall faces roughly toward the northwest and the west shore of the South Kawishiwi River.

The building's front entrance is accessible through an offset, enclosed porch, capped by a medium pitched front gable roof. This feature is supported on each corner by a small, square column. There are three double-hung windows on the southwest façade wall, three on the northeast façade wall, three on the front gable, and two on the rear. The upper level features two such windows each centered at the top of the gable-ends.

The exterior walls are covered with standard lap siding with a four inch reveal. The lapboards tie in at each corner to corner boards made from one-inch dimensional lumber. Roofing consists of at least one layer of standard three-tab shingles. A red brick chimney exists on the roof's southwest slope near the peak.

Alterations
Based on limited information, the LSFES Dwelling appears to have been relatively unaltered since its construction. The few notable alterations, based on photographic evidence, include the addition of aluminum inserts on all the windows and the replacement of the original doors.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criteria A and C for its association with Early Forest Service administration of the Superior National Forest—and subsequent forest research—and as a good example of National Folk architecture. The building remains one of the few remnants of pre-CCC architecture left in the Superior National Forest. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Outhouse/Sauna (No FS Number)

Physical Description
The Outhouse is a square, front-gabled, log building with a low pitched roof and wide, exposed located on the west elevation wall. The door consists of a single leaf type finished on the exterior side with a diamond-shaped geometric pattern outlined in wainscoting. The gable eaves are trimmed with a simple fascia board and there is a vent stack positioned on the ridgeline of the roof. The foundation of the Outhouse most likely consists of a set of sill logs positioned directly on the ground. The walls and roof are composed of logs installed in the same manner as the rest of the buildings within the district (see photo 14 of 18).

Alterations
The only alteration made to the Outhouse is its conversion into a sauna. In order to do this, the bench was removed to make room for a wood sauna stove. An access opening for the stove was cut into the bottom portion of the east façade wall.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criteria A & C for its association with the Depression-era CCC and as a representation of Forest Service rustic/Adirondack log architecture. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Cellar (FS Bldg. #31103)

Physical Description
The Cellar is a 12' x 12' subsurface enclosure located to the east of the Outhouse/Sauna and constructed of poured cement with a dirt floor. Although its original purpose is unknown, it may have been used to store seedlings. The structure possesses a single entrance located on the west side. The interior of the structure is accessible through a single leaf door constructed planks of dimensional lumber. There is a vent stack positioned on the roof of the structure. The walls and roof are constructed of poured concrete (see photo 6 of 18).

Alterations
Any alterations made to the structure are unknown.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criteria A for its association with the Depression-era CCC. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

LFSES Laboratory Building (FS Building #31109)

Physical Description
The LSFES Laboratory Building is a single-story, wood framed, multi-room dwelling built according to a massed, rectangular floor plan capped with a low-pitched hip roof featuring wide, unboxed eave-overhangs (see photo 17 of 18). Situated near the southern portion of the compound, the building was built as a laboratory space in 1957 and now serves as an office space. The walls of the building are sided with short-reveal lap siding that is tied into corner boards and the narrow window casings. The building features multiple double-hung and casement windows as well as a wooden interior and metal exterior door set. The front elevation also features a course of three large picture windows. The building is oriented on the landscape with its long axis laid out in a general east west direction. The front elevation faces roughly to the north (see photo 17 of 18). There is a red brick chimney extending above the roof ridge on the right side of the roof's northeast slope. The building rests on concrete cinder block foundation.

Alterations
The LSFES Laboratory appears to have been relatively unaltered since its construction.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criterion A for its association with the forest research program. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

LSFES Insectary/Garage (FS Building # 31104)

Physical Description
The Insectary/Garage is a single-story, wood framed, two-unit building covered by a low pitched hip roof and located immediately to the east of the LSFES Laboratory (see photo 15 of 18). Built in 1957, the same year as the Laboratory Building, the Insectary was initially utilized as a space to raise various species of insects for forestry-related research. It now serves as a storage space. Like the Laboratory Building, the long axis of the Insectary is laid out in an east-west direction. The building possesses a garage space on the eastern end and an open space, presumably for raising insects, on the west end that is enclosed with floor-to-ceiling screening (see photo 16 of 18). The single-leaf, main entrance door to the building is located in the center of the front wall. The building rests on concrete footings for the screened area and a concrete foundation for the garage area (see photo 16 of 18). The screened area is supported by a wooden joist system constructed with dimensional lumber. The garage portion of the building has a concrete slab for a floor.

Alterations
The LSFES Insectary appears to have been relatively unaltered since its construction.

Determination
This building is significant under National Register criterion A for its association with the forest research program. The resource has also retained a preponderance of integrity and is therefore considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Outhouse (No FS Number)

Physical Description
The southern-most building at the compound, this small, wood framed outhouse is front-gabled with a low pitched roof that is covered with cedar shakes (now mostly deteriorated and covered with moss). The walls are clad with board and batten siding and it rests on a concrete foundation (see photo 18 of 18). The building's construction date is unknown.

Alterations
The outhouse appears to have been relatively unaltered.

Determination
While little is known about the building, as there is no mention of it in Forest records, it appears the same vintage as most of the buildings at the compound. As the outhouse features in-kind materials and has retained original integrity, it is considered a contributing feature of the HRS.

Halfway Ranger Station
Name of Property

Lake, MN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Conservation

Period of Significance
1931-1961

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
US Forest Service (Architect)
Civilian Conservation Corps (Builder)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the LSFES combination dwelling office in 1931, encompasses the extensive CCC-era building period at the site, and ends in 1961 following the construction of the LSFES Insectary/Garage and LFSES Laboratory Building.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

With its association to the Civilian Conservation Corps work relief efforts during the Great Depression, its use as both a US Forest Service logistical center and as a federal research center, in addition to the nationally significant Rustic or Adirondack style buildings that comprise it, the Halfway Ranger Station is significant at the national level, the Halfway Ranger Station is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Furthermore, as the building compound contains good examples of Rustic or Adirondack style architecture, it is eligible for listing under Criterion C.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Halfway Ranger Station (HRS) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a historic district. The HRS was originally developed as a US Forest Service (USFS) administrative and logistical center, and later, as a forest research station where federal land management activities and forest science was conducted. It is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with historic trends in the increased development of professionally standardized USFS architecture during the Depression era. The HRS is also eligible under Criterion A for its historic association with forest research as administered by Lake States Forest Experimental Station (LSFES). Furthermore, the HRS is eligible under Criterion A for its historic association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) federal work relief program, as the CCC constructed most of the site's buildings, structures, and landscape. The HRS's period of significance is 1931-1961.

The HRS is also eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C because seven of its buildings and one structure are good examples of the Rustic, or Adirondack, architecture. Rustic designs were used in numerous private and government administrative buildings in the first half of the 20th Century, and principally during the Depression Era. These buildings were constructed by the CCC according to guidelines established by the renowned Forest Service architect W. Ellis Groben in his design book *Acceptable Plans, Forest Service Administrative Buildings* (1938). Also, a single pre-CCC building located at this site exhibits distinctive Craftsman and National Folk stylistic elements, thus making it eligible under Criterion C.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Halfway Ranger Station: Historic and Architectural Context

Overview

The HRS's dynamic history has witnessed almost 100 years of regional development in Northeastern Minnesota. The name Halfway dates to the turn of the century when the St. Croix Logging Company, operating out of Winton, Minnesota, conducted logging activities in the area. From at least 1910 until 1950, when the Superior National Forest moved Halfway Ranger District employees to offices in Ely, Minnesota, the site was the location of the Halfway Ranger Station of the Superior National Forest. The southern portion of the site has been a base for forest research since at least 1931, and possibly as early as 1924, when the LSFES started operating in the area. The site received considerable upgrades (buildings and other infrastructure) during President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, when seven of the extant buildings and one structure were constructed by local CCC companies. The "documents" portion of this nomination contains site plans showing the chronological development of the HRS. Since 1968, the HRS has been utilized by federal biologists conducting long-term, large mammal research, including a wolf study currently conducted by USGS biologists.[1]

[1] William Clayton, Lee Johnson, Erin Potter, Walt Okstad, *Halfway Ranger Station Historic District Historic Structure Report* (Duluth: Heritage Resources Program, Superior National Forest, 2006), 1.

The design and construction of USFS administrative buildings is often a product of agency funding, policy and initiatives and is therefore a historic indicator of agency evolution. The architectural nature of the buildings at the HRS reflects USFS design and building construction practices during the 1930s. Seven of the buildings within the HRS are good examples of the nationally recognized architectural design type known as the Rustic or Adirondack style. The origins of Rustic architecture can be found in the promotion and utilization of the design in the construction of early 20th century administrative buildings of the National Park Service (NPS) and many state agencies. Rustic design was often used in the 1930s for the construction of CCC-built Forest Service buildings.[2]

The following narrative divides the history of the site into three distinct, yet overlapping, historic context statements. The first addresses the development and significance of the site as it relates to a wider Forest Service administrative context. The second explores the significance of the HRS's relation to forest research. The third discusses the site's association with the nationally significant CCC and the fourth explores the site's architectural context.

Federal Public Lands Management: Superior National Forest

Federal management of Minnesota's pinelands was initiated on June 2, 1902 with the establishment of a 225,000 acre forest reserve near the headwaters of the Mississippi. Instrumental in the creation of this forest reserve (later consolidated into the Chippewa National Forest) was the successful lobbying of Christopher C. Andrews, Minnesota's first forest commissioner. C.C. Andrews observed scientifically managed forests during his appointment as Minister to Sweden and Norway (1869-77). Upon his return from Sweden, Andrews vigorously organized, lobbied, and lectured on the benefits of scientific forestry and land conservation. After the successful establishment of Minnesota's first forest reserve in 1902, Andrews turned his attention to the pinelands of Cook, St. Louis, and Lake County, which would later become the 2.3 million acre Superior National Forest. Andrews' aspirations regarding scientific management of Minnesota's Arrowhead region are highlighted in a 1902 letter to the General Land Office Commissioner Binger Herman, in which he stated, "I have the honor to recommend that the following townships, all public land situated in Cook and Lake Counties, an area in round numbers of 500,000 acres, be set apart by the president as a forest reserve."[3]

On February 1, 1905, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) became the primary manager of some 63 million acres of public forest lands.[4] These initial landholdings were consolidated from Department of Interior Forest Reserves, which were established in 1891 to protect timber and hydrological resources. In 1907, the Department of Agriculture officially changed the name of the Forest Reserves to National Forests. The development of the National Forest system and the adoption and application of managerial directives concerned with the long-term production of sustainable forest products was fostered through the efforts of conservationists Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) and Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946). The early 20th century conservation movement was largely a response to the "cut and run" policies of early mining, railroad, and timber companies. The efforts of the nation's most well known conservationist (Roosevelt) and its first scientific forester (Pinchot) were successful, despite significant congressional and private opposition. By 1907, the federal government had consolidated some 150 million acres of forested lands.[5]

The efforts of Minnesota's early conservation movement came to fruition on February 13, 1909, when President Theodore Roosevelt, in Proclamation #848, set aside 1,018,638 acres as the Superior National Forest. Since that time, the total acreage directly administered by the Superior National Forest has increased to 2,174,000 acres as of 2006.[6]

On May 1, 1909, Scott Leavitt arrived in Ely, Minnesota and assumed the duties of Acting Forest Supervisor[7] (White 1974c). Mr. Leavitt gave ranger examinations to seven individuals, some of whom would later become the Superior National Forest's first forest rangers. The initial duties of the incipient forest crews included clearing portage trails,

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[2] Clayton, 2
[3] Wesley J. White *Historical Sketches of the Quetico-Superior*, Vol. III (Superior National Forest: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1967); Clayton et al., 3.
[4] W. W. Bergoffen, *100 Years of Federal Forestry* (Washington D.C.:U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976) Harold K.Steen, *The U.S. Forest Service: A History* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991) Gerald W. Williams, *The USDA Forest Service – The First Century* (Washington D.C.: The USDA Forest Service, 2000).
[5] Clayton et al., 3.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Wesley J. White, *Historical Sketches of the Quetico-Superior*, Vol. XVI (Superior National Forest: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1974).

constructing fire towers and guard stations, installing telephone lines, suppressing wildfires, cruising and scaling timber harvested from forest lands, and verifying timber, stone, and homestead claims.[8]

Before the Depression-era building boom, which resulted in the widespread development of forest administrative building complexes, Superior National Forest lands were managed by remote guard stations and a few centrally located ranger stations. Guard stations (built from 1909-1924) were typically composed of local materials and were often located in roadless portions of the forest. Guard stations served as satellites of the ranger stations and, prior to 1930, were based in Ely, Minnesota and near the Temperance River on the North Shore of Lake Superior, respectively. Historically, and still today, ranger stations were located in or near population centers or on roadways accessing portions of their respective ranger districts.[9]

In 1930, the Superior National Forest was comprised of six ranger districts including, LaCroix, Mesaba, Halfway, Kawishiwi, Temperance, and Grand Marais. Currently the Superior National Forest has five ranger districts. They include (from west to east) LaCroix, Kawishiwi, Laurentian, Tofte, and Gunflint. The location of districts and the size of their respective lands has continuously changed and fluctuated throughout the 85 year history of the Superior National Forest. For example, Halfway Ranger Station was within the Stony Ranger District in the 1920's, the Halfway Ranger District through the 1970's, and the Kawishiwi Ranger District following 1974. The dynamic history of the Superior National Forest's administrative facilities should be viewed within a larger, national context, which recognizes changes in policy, directives, mission, and funding over time.[10]

Early guard stations were typically one-room buildings approximately 12' x 14' in size and often associated with fire lookouts. In contrast, ranger stations were often larger and featured multiple rooms for office space. On average they were about 18' x 38' in size. In addition, ranger stations often included boathouses, wells, root cellars, barns, and outhouses. Locations for these administrative facilities were selected based on agency resource objectives such as proximity to active timber sales, proximity to major water routes accessing roadless areas, and proximity to tote roads and/or spur lines constructed by logging companies.[11] USDA Historian, Gerald Williams explains the dynamic history of administrative sites on newly acquired Forest lands:

> When the FS took over management of the forest reserves in 1905, the new agency built more of these cabins, especially on NFS lands near potential water power sites. Sometimes these early ranger stations were abandoned homestead cabins. They were termed ranger stations but within a few years they were mostly renamed as guard stations. They were set inside the NF boundary or right on the edge, as well as scattered throughout the forest, often a one day horse ride away from each other where a ranger and his horse could overnight. When roads replaced trails, there was little need for many ranger and guard stations. Later, one central ranger station covered the management of the district that was often 100,000 acres or larger.[12]

Generally, it appears that guard stations were evenly dispersed across the Superior National Forest by either a single-day paddle or hike (approximately 12-20 miles). The available data indicates that approximately 26 guard stations and five ranger stations were constructed on the Superior National Forest between 1909-1927. Work orders from 1924 indicate that the Halfway Ranger Station was in-use prior to 1921 on the eastern shore of the Kawishiwi River, approximately 12 miles south of Ely, Minnesota. At that time, Halfway was one of two ranger stations situated in the now consolidated Stony Ranger District (the other being Baird Ranger Station). It is possible that the original Halfway Ranger Station utilized buildings that had previously been built by the St. Croix Lumber Company. In an interview with Superior National Forest Information Specialist Ray Naddy, dated July 27, 1970, the third Supervisor of the Superior National Forest, Joe Fitzwater, mentions that the "halfway house" was utilized by Forest Service employees during the summer of 1910.[13] Work records indicate that the original Halfway Ranger Station included a 24' x 38' 1 ½ story house, an 18' x 38' four room combination building, a cesspool, a toilet, and a 12' x 24' x 7' boathouse.[14] All of the buildings at the original Halfway Ranger Station

[8] Clayton et al., 4.
[9] Ibid, 4.
[10] Ibid, 5.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid, 6.
[13] Wesley J. White, *Historical Sketches of the Quetico-Superior*, Vol. XVII (Superior National Forest: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1974), 3.
[14] Superior National Forest, Improvement Project Records, on file at the Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, Minnesota, 1927.

were constructed of upright logs with rubberized roofs.[15] Helen D. Barnes, daughter of Halfway Ranger Tom A. Denley (1917-1927; 1930-1943), recalls life in the original Halfway Ranger Station:

> At the Halfway Ranger Station, he made it a point to get up and prepare breakfast for the several guards that worked for him during the summer months.....And somehow it seemed just right in that little old dark kitchen with walls of upright logs chinked with plaster, the wash basin in a corner by a bucket of water; worn oil cloth on the table, and the kerosene lamp chimney smoked and cracked, and the grey enameled dishes ready on the shelf of the warming shelves of the stove for the food he was preparing...Food for the working young men who waited outside to be called in to eat.[16]

Guards working out of the Halfway Ranger Station were probably responsible for telephone line and trails maintenance, as well as fire patrol and suppression between Halfway and Clearwater Guard Station, situated in a roadless area approximately 10 miles to the northeast. Furthermore, forest guards operating out of the Halfway Ranger Station were likely involved in the administration and scaling of the Forest's first timber sale—the "Birch Lake Sale." The sale was awarded to St. Croix logging company on February 15, 1910 and included approximately 735 acres of pine, spruce, and tamarack, much of which was partially damaged by fire in 1908 and 1909.[17]

The area surrounding Halfway Ranger Station, like most of Northeastern Minnesota at the time, was rugged with few roads. The Halfway Ranger Station was unique in that it offered early forest rangers two transportation options: The Kawishiwi River provided water access to the interior reaches of the forest to the north, while the Stony Tote road linked the ranger station with Ely and the Stony River drainage to the east.[18]

The Stony Tote road was constructed under contract for the St. Croix Lumber Company ca. 1900-1901. Bedrock outcrops, lakes, and swamps forced the road builders along a circuitous route at a total cost of $6,000 per mile.[19] Winding south of Ely, across the Stony and Kawishiwi Rivers, the Stony Tote road connected a series of St. Croix lumber camps before ending approximately 26 miles south of Ely at Source Lake. In the winters of 1901-1914, both draft horses and wood fed steam haulers plied the road with supplies for the winter camps.[20] In a letter to historian J.W. White, dated April 9, 1971, retired Superior National Forest Ranger M.J. Valentine (1918-1953) describes how the Halfway claimed its name:

> Mike Kelly drove the four horse tote team that hauled the supplies and equipment to various St. Croix lumber camps scattered throughout that area. In those days it was practically a full day's trip from Ely to the Halfway camp located along the tote road on the opposite side of the river. The following day he would travel on to camp 27 near the Stony River and approximately 27 miles from Ely.[21]

Until the 1920's, the Stony Tote road was one of the only operable roads in the Ely area. Improvement and paving of newly renamed Highway 1 was completed by St. Louis County in 1921, and the road was extended to Two Harbors the following year. The evolution of the Stony Tote road from a primitive log-hauling road to an all weather highway facilitated growth in local tourism and improved access to national forest lands for resource management and fire suppression. And as road networks expanded and fire detection techniques improved, guard stations were replaced by centralized ranger stations responsible for the management of blocks of forest lands in excess of 100,000 or more acres. During the 1930s, Halfway Ranger Station, like many similar Forest Service facilities throughout the U.S., was significantly altered following the implementation of major public works programs like the CCC.[22]

Forest Research: Lake States Experimental Station

From its inception, the Forest Service was committed to research and development in its effort to adhere to the conservation ethic. As Chief of the newly founded agency, Gifford Pinchot sought to institutionalize a research branch

[15] Clayton et al., 6.
[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid, 7.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Jeff Forester, *The Forest For The Trees: How Humans Shaped the North Woods* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004), 50.
[20] Clayton et al., 7.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Ibid, 7-8.

aimed at addressing research questions related to scientific forestry. Pinchot, like many of his contemporaries in the early Forest Service administration, applied long utilized European forestry techniques, like sustained yield, toward the management of national forest lands. The sustained yield method applied a holistic approach to forestry and sought to counter previous wasteful practices. It utilized scientific data to ensure a continuous supply of wood products while simultaneously conserving soil and water resources.[23]

Before 1915, forest research was primarily conducted at the district level, with researchers subordinate to local administrators. This arrangement generated tension between administrators and researchers, and was considered by many to be "stifling" because it lacked the independent oversight necessary to conduct objective field studies. Earle Clapp, a forester who became the chief of Forest Service research in 1915, stated that "direct district participation had stifled research, for it was impossible to develop real research if the investigator had to cater to local whims." In June 1915, chief of the USDA Forest Service, Henry S. Graves (1910-1920), established the Branch of Research as an independent entity within the newly founded administration. Forest researchers were then able to carry out their unique mission and investigate fundamental questions completely "independent from the daily pressures of administering the national forests."[24]

By the mid-1920's, the Forest Service Branch of Research had established twelve regional centers, numerous experimental forests, the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, and a network of experimental stations/laboratories on National Forest lands throughout the U.S. Raphael Zon, a European immigrant and Cornell graduate who had worked with Pinchot at the Bureau of American Forestry in 1901, was appointed as director of the Lake States Forest Experimental Station (LSFES) in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1923. The LSFES, renamed North Central Research Station in 1965 and later renamed the Northern Research Station, continues to be responsible for research and interagency cooperation regarding forest research in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.[25]

One of the LSFES's first tasks was to provide baseline data regarding the age, types, and structure of forests stands on the National Forests in the Upper Midwest and to develop research questions specific to the region. Research questions were tiered to diverse forest types, which covered the region, but included forest regeneration, nursery studies, fire research, drought resistance, insect damage, forest inventory, forest economics, and wildlife studies. Portions of the region were divided into work centers or branches, such as the Superior Branch (Halfway Ranger District near Ely, MN.), the Chippewa Branch (Cass Lake, MN.), and the Upper Peninsula Branch (Dukes, MI.). These regional branches, or work centers, were often located on existing Forest Service administrative sites.[26]

The headquarters for the Superior Branch of the LSFES was established on the Halfway Ranger District administrative site in 1931 by F.H. "Windy" Eyre. In addition to persuading the Superior National Forest to allocate a portion of the Halfway Ranger District to LSFES, Eyre established the 2,635 acre Kawishiwi Experimental Forest. A combination dwelling-office structure was constructed at the LSFES portion of the Halfway administrative facility in 1931 for a total cost of $2,626. This combination office dwelling included a bathroom which was, at that time, the only bathroom available on any of the existing Ranger Stations on the Superior National Forest. In 1942, Eyre sponsored the designation of the 640-acre Keeley Creek Scientific and Natural Area (later termed Research and Natural Area or RNA) near the Halfway administrative site. The Keeley Creek RNA, the second oldest in the North Central Region, continues to protect a unique jackpine, black spruce and sedge meadow ecosystem while also providing scientists with a baseline or reference area by which to monitor long-term ecosystem change.[27]

The LSFES received a considerable boost in manpower between the years of 1933-1941, when CCC camps were established in the area. The additional labor intensified pre-existing LSFES experimental projects which included forest survey, timber stand improvement, and replanting. Between 1931 and 1937, CCC labor and Works Progress Administration funds were used to complete the first large-scale forest inventory of the Lake States region. The LSFES, Superior National Forest, and local CCC companies were successful in pooling resources, technical expertise, and the experimental data necessary to establish thousands of acres of pine plantation near the Halfway Ranger Station (Clayton

[23] Ibid, 8-9.
[24] Steen, 138; Clayton et al, 10.
[25] Steen, 141; Clayton et al., 11.
[26] Clayton et al., 11.
[27] Paul O. Rudolf, *History of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1985), 19; Clayton et al., 11-12.

et al 2006). A newsletter from CCC Company 704 (Halfway Camp), describes both the working relationship between the LSFES and CCC Company 704, as well as the relationship of LSFES to the Superior National Forest:

> The Lake States Forest Experimental Station, situated near the Halfway Ranger Station, is the other department with which we are concerned. The relation existing between this division and the Halfway camp are as follows: Fifty men from [the] camp are turned over to the LSFES each day, under the direction of R.K. Lebarron, assisted by foreman Kruse and Isaacson. The work is mainly the furthering of experimental projects relating to forestry. The LSFES, while being classed as in the Forest Service, differs from it in that their work is concerned with the experimental phases of Forestry rather than the management of extensive stands of timber. In other words the results of their experiments are often used profitably by the Forest Supervisor in planning future work.[28]

The Superior National Forest appears to have moved Halfway Ranger District employees to the Kawishiwi Ranger Station in the early 1950s, thus making the LSFES the site's sole occupant. The Superior National Forest continued to assign personnel and District Rangers to the Halfway Ranger District until 1974, although these personnel were based out of the Kawishiwi Ranger Station office in Ely, MN.[29]

On July 1, 1974, the Superior National Forest officially consolidated the Halfway Ranger District with the Kawishiwi Ranger District. Although the Superior National Forest retained control of the land, responsibility for management of all the buildings at the Halfway Administrative Site was assumed by North Central Research Station (formerly the LSFES and the North Central Forest Experiment Station and now the NRS).[30]

Depression-era Relief: The CCC on the Halfway Ranger District

Despite the nation-wide economic depression, the 1930s ushered in a period of increased activity on the Superior National Forest. This growth, typified by large-scale conservation projects and the construction of new administrative facilities, was largely the result of the successful implementation of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Emergency Conservation Work program, otherwise known as the CCC. On March 31st, 1933, congress signed a bill giving President Roosevelt authority to begin federal programs for relief of unemployment. At the time the bill was signed, Minnesota had a 29% unemployment rate with that figure reaching nearly 70% on the Iron Range. Seven buildings and one structure at the Halfway Ranger District originated during this prodigious period of conservation-orientated development.[31]

CCC operations and activities were coordinated through the combined efforts of the War Department, which was responsible for "physical conditioning, transportation, camp construction and administration, and supplies," the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, which were "responsible for planning and conducting work projects on national forests" as well as on other public lands, and the Department of Labor, which selected the workers. Men from local communities, known as Local Experienced Men, or LEMs, were hired to direct building projects and to provide on-the-job training to enrollees. Generally, a CCC camp housed about 200 enrollees, up to 25 army personnel, around 30 staff from the Forest Service, and 10-20 LEMs.[32]

Eligibility for the CCC required citizenship and sound physical fitness; and membership was only granted to unemployed and unmarried men, 18 to 25 years of age, without criminal records. Enrollees enlisted for one six month term. However, with satisfactory work performance these terms could be extended for a total of two years. Each worker was provided food, clothing, shelter, and a wage of $30 per month, $25 of which the enrollee was required to send home to a dependent.[33]

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[28] Unknown Author, "Who Do You Work For?" *Birch Lake Newsletter*, Vol. 2, May 20, (1936), 12.
[29] Marilyn Solberg Russell, *Recollections of Personalities and Events in the Early History* in "Development of the South Kawishiwi Summer Homesite Area," on file at the Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, Minnesota, ca. 1980s; Clayton et al, 12.
[30] Clayton et al., 1.
[31] Robert S. Drake, "The Civilian Conservation Corps – A Brief History," in *It Was a Good Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Northeastern Minnesota*, ed. Edward P. Nelson and Barbara Sommer (Duluth: St. Louis County Historical Society, 1987), 9; Clayton et al., 12; Alison T. Otis, with William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, and Kimberly K. Lakin, *The Forest Service and The Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-42* (Washington D.C.: USDA Forest Service, 1986), 6
[32] Drake, 12; Otis et al.; Clayton et al., 8.
[33] James F. Kieley, *CCC*, (U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service, 1938), 8; Otis et al., 7; Alfred Emile Cornebise, *The CCC Chronicles: Camp Newspapers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942*, (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & CO, 2004), 11; Neil M. Maher, *Nature's New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement*

By July 1933, enrollment had reached over 300,000, and more than 1,500 camps had been established across the country. This was the "largest peacetime mobilization...the United States had ever seen." The CCC was divided across the country into nine distinct units known as Corps Areas. The Corps Areas were then broken down into smaller districts, sub-districts and, finally, companies, each of which was housed at individual camps. However, CCC camps, with few exceptions, were not stable fixtures in any locale. The Corps was funded by Congress in six month increments known as Enrollment Periods, therefore, "the number of CCC camps and conservation projects fluctuated biannually." While, new camps were constantly being constructed, others were often abandoned or relocated, and there was never a fixed amount of camps. Each camp was delineated by a letter indicating the manager of the land on which it operated (all camps on national forest land were designated with the letter "F") and a number (for example, the camp that likely constructed Halfway Ranger Station was known as F-1). The various individual companies located at these camps were also given numbers (for example, F-1 housed Company 704).[34]

In northern Minnesota, CCC development projects (conducted between 1933 and 1942) included soil conservation, riparian rehabilitation, fish stocking, fire suppression, tree replanting, road improvement, and the construction of recreation and administrative facilities. From 1933 to 1942, a total of 28 CCC camps were established on the Superior National Forest.[35] Associated with these permanent camps were numerous spike camps, which were used for the duration of individual conservation projects and subsequently abandoned. The Superior National Forest Heritage Resource Office has identified nearly 130 CCC sites within the Superior National Forest.[36]

Historical documentation suggests that CCC Company 704 (based at Halfway Camp, 10 miles south of Ely, Minnesota) was involved in the construction of the Halfway Ranger Station, the South Kawishiwi River Campground, and the Kawishiwi Pavilion. Halfway Camp F-1 was established on May 18, 1933 approximately 3 miles west of the Halfway Ranger District. An excerpt from CCC Company 704's "Birch Lake Newsletter" states that "During the past year this camp completed the following...2 office buildings at Ranger Stations...and 4,337 Mandays maintenance at the Halfway Ranger Station and Lake States Experimental Station" (Birch Lake Newsletter 1935: 6). In addition to Company 704, there were a number of other CCC companies based in the area which could have contributed to the construction of the Halfway Ranger Station. These companies may have included Company 1720 (Dunnigan Camp), 701 (Gegoka Camp), (F54) Baptism Camp and 1721 (Isabella Camp).[37]

The available literature does not list the actual construction dates for the log buildings at the Halfway Ranger Station. However, congressional support (in the form of budgeted dollars) peaked between 1934 and 1936, and subsequently decreased in 1937.[38] An article from the Ely Miner (1934) indicates that money for ranger station construction was being allocated by the spring of 1934:

> Forest fire protection and administrative improvements estimated to cost about $220,000 are being approved for the National Forests of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and will be constructed by emergency conservation workers from the CCC and NIRA camps during the coming year, according to Regional Forester E.W. Tinker. The improvements include fire lookout towers, various buildings such as ranger stations; warehouses for tools, machinery and other equipment; lookout cabins; garages; wells, and telephone lines. The buildings are plain, neat and simply constructed. They are generally located in isolated parts of the forests and can be built by the CCC boys, but local skilled labor is employed, when the job requires it.

Photographic evidence also supports a ca. summer 1934 construction date for at least some of the log buildings at Halfway Ranger Station. A photograph of the Halfway warehouse (ranger dwelling in the background) is stamped with a date of September 9, 1934. It is likely that the pump house, office building, boathouse, oil house, and outhouse, all of which are similar in design, workmanship, and materials, were constructed shortly thereafter.[39]

(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 19; Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service, *The CCC at Work: A Story of 2,500,000 Young Men*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1941), 16.

[34] Otis et al.; Clayton et al.

[35] Drake, 17.

[36] Cultural Resource Inventory forms on file at the Superior National Forest Supervisor's Office, Duluth, MN; Clayton et al., 8-9.

[37] Clayton et al., 8-12.

[38] Drake, 13.

[39] Ibid, 9.

Architectural Context

This section consists of an overview of the architectural significance embodied in the buildings within the HRS. It explores the history of USFS administrative building design which had considerable influence on the design of the buildings at the HRS. The section also addresses the development and significance of rustic or Adirondack architecture.

The evolution of the USFS as a federal land management agency is reflected in the increasing complexity of form, shape, and design embodied in its administrative buildings. Yet, this complexity cannot be divorced from other contributing factors such as the evolution of building design, material technologies, and raw material availability. [40]

During the early years of the USFS (1909-1920s), employees constructed buildings that exhibited minimalism and simplicity in design, materials, and construction methods. This was a period in Forest Service history characterized by limited funding for field operations. Prior to the construction of "simple" buildings, employees had to, "carry out their duties in rented rooms in towns, in abandoned homesteads, and in tents in the field."[41] And while the Forest Service eventually constructed administrative buildings (guard stations and ranger stations), constraints in funding and support, and a lack of professional design standards led to many "small, poorly designed...and inadequate [buildings] for conducting day-to-day business."[42] Early Forest Service administrative buildings were also, "largely reflective of the ranger's personal preferences, as well as the materials, tools, and time available to them."[43]

Significant changes in USFS land management goals during the 1920s and 1930s, led to increased support for reliable infrastructure (access roads, buildings, and structures) throughout the forests. During this period, the LSFES Dwelling was constructed. Supported with funds provided by the Hoover administration's Public Works Program, the LSFES Office/Dwelling was built in 1931 as a combination office/laboratory/living quarters. It was probably built to a standardized plan. This balloon or platform-framed building is an example of a vernacular type known as the National Style. The single-story layout of the building, as well as the front entrance porch and finished attic space, is indicative of the "gablefront" subgroup or family of the ubiquitous National Folk Style. Later versions of gable-front buildings of the National design were built with Craftsman detailing and spatial massing. The Craftsman Style was one of the leading residential design modes from the 1900s to the 1920s. The dwelling features some Craftsman elements, including a low-pitched gable roof and wide, unenclosed eave-overhangs[44]

Forest Service architecture continued to evolve through various initiatives following the Hoover Administration. New Deal directives, largely made in response to the economic depression, created positions for professional architects within the agency and organized a large labor force (CCC) with the capacity to undertake large construction projects. Both of these directives played an active role in the design and construction of the rustic buildings at the HRS. When considering Forest Service administrative buildings of the era, it is important to understand that their design was part of an agency-wide plan to standardize the architecture of administrative buildings, yet, allow for a certain amount of regional flexibility in their final construction.[45]

The most prominent individual associated with administrative building development during the era was Forest Service architect W. Ellis Groben. Hired specifically to help the Forest Service craft its own unique style of architecture, Groben developed a set of standard plans for the design and construction of administrative buildings. In the early 1930s, T.W. Norcross, Chief Engineer of the Forest Service, hired Groben as consulting landscape architect for the Washington DC headquarters. Groben argued that earlier forest facilities exhibited deficiencies, stating that Forest Service design did not "possess Forest Service identity or adequately express its purposes." His theories concerning architectural designs and form for administrative sites were published in technical information and design guidelines to assist regional architects and New Deal construction workers. Even though he developed general guidelines for designers, Groben also encouraged the different regions to develop building plans that reflected their separate identities. These guidelines were supplemented in 1936 and in 1937 when the Forest Service published the *Improvement Handbook* that specified building construction techniques and appropriate materials. Groben's guidelines articulated that buildings in a group should be of similar

[40] Clayton, 16.
[41] John R. Grosvenor, *A History of the Architecture of the USDA Forest Service* (Pacific Southwest Region USDA Forest Service, 1999), 3.
[42] Grosvenor, 3.
[43] Grosvenor, 3; Clayton et al., 16.
[44] Rudolph, 19; Grosvenor, 13-17; Clayton et al., 16-17; Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2003), 90, 453-454.
[45] Clayton et al., 16.

character and appearance, that local materials should be used whenever possible, and every effort should be taken to avoid combinations of materials (e.g. a stone building with brick and wood porch posts).[46]

Groben's guidelines were further refined and published in a book entitled *Acceptable Plans, Forest Service Administrative Buildings*. This book addressed how to effectively plan and design "acceptable" administrative complexes from site selection to color choices and individual building designs. "Architectural and landscape designs were integral parts of planning for optimum serviceability and utility, as was provisions for logical future expansion." Administrative, service, and residential buildings or building groups were organized separately to achieve maximum efficiency of operation and minimum interruption of activity. While the function of each respective building was clearly articulated, a uniformity of style was achieved through similarity of character and appearance (exhibited at HRS). "Continuity of forms and materials produced a textural harmony which contributed to the overall ensemble character of the site." Groben's site planning philosophy was supplemented by the work of A.D. Taylor. A prominent landscape architect, Taylor was hired by the Forest Service and authored the 1936 publication *Problem of Landscape Architecture in the National Forests*. Taylor furthered the discussion of how to locate buildings within a complex, and landscape effectively.[47]

One of Groben's stylistic recommendations for the Eastern Region of the USFS was the use of log construction. The architectural details of Groben's log designs are quite similar to the rustic or Adirondack style, previously developed and extensively utilized by the National Park Service during the early 20th Century. One prominent example of this style is the Park Service's Old Faithful Inn, built in 1912 at Yellowstone National Park. In fact, prior to the construction of log administrative buildings on the Superior National Forest, the state of Minnesota had already fashioned their administrative buildings according to tenets of Rustic design. One example of this is the famous Douglas Lodge built in Itasca State Park in 1905. Notable elements of the rustic style include the use of round, saddle-notched logs accentuated with chisel-shaped log-ends that often ran "proud" of wall planes at corner-junctions.[48]

At the HRS, the Ranger Dwelling, although featuring unique architectural deviations (the addition of a full-length porch instead of a stepped-in, partial-length porch), was constructed from Groben's Plan #48 for Ranger Dwellings. Its elevations, shape, details (exposed rafter tails, low profile shed roof dormer, interior finishes, and interior massing of room units) suggest a direct influence from the Craftsman school. However, the overall composition of the walls and corner details are clearly reflective of the rustic style and the rustic philosophy. The other six log buildings at the HRS are more purely rustic and largely devoid of Craftsman influence.[49]

The construction of rustic buildings on a nation-wide scale reflected changes in Forest Service administration strategies and priorities. However, these new administrative goals could not have been met without a ready supply of CCC labor. Without the CCC, the Superior National Forest would not have had the resources to construct the Halfway administrative facility. In addition, the CCC gave the Forest Service the opportunity to employ large crews composed of both trainees (CCC enrollees) and professional craftspeople (LEM). As a result, facilities at administrative sites like the HRS were built with a high level of workmanship.[50]

The HRS features representations of three distinct yet interconnected styles of architecture that predominated throughout the Forest Service during the first half of the Twentieth Century. The LSFES Dwelling/Office and the log buildings of the Halfway Ranger Station are manifestations of policies implemented during two Presidential administrations: Hoover and Roosevelt. In addition, the HRS buildings are good examples of three significant design styles: National Folk, Rustic or Adirondack, and Craftsman.

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[46] Kay Atwood, with Sally Donovan, Dennis Gray and Ward Tonsfeldt, *Utility and Service Combined with Beauty: A Contextual and Architectural History of USDA Forest Service Region 6 (1905-1960)* (Pacific Northwest Region: USDA Forest Service, 2004), 50-51.
[47] Ibid, 53.
[48] Grosvenor, 32; Bruce D. Bomberger, *The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings* in Preservation Briefs 26 (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1991); Edith A. Dunn, *An Evaluation of Selected Log Structures at Superior National Forest: Isabella Ranger Station, Tofte Ranger Station, North Central Research Station, South Kawishiwi River Community Building*. Submitted to USDA Forest Service, Purchase Order: 43-63A9-7-3143; National Park Service, *National Register NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form: Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1989); National Park service, *Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1989).
[49] Dunn; Clayton et al., 20-23.
[50] Clayton et al.

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Halfway Ranger Station
Name of Property

Lake, MN
County and State

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 #_____
___recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
___Other State agency
_X_Federal agency
___Local government
___University
___Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	594446	5296290	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The HRS is located in Township 62 North, Range 11 West, Section 33, 4th P.M. Babbitt, Minnesota 7.5" USGS Quadrangle Map. As shown in the attached District Boundary Map, the site is situated adjacent to the South Kawishiwi River, approximately twelve miles southeast of Ely, Minnesota in Lake County. The facility occupies a twelve acre parcel of land and features distinct geographic boundaries on all sides. Generally oriented obliquely toward the northeast, the Property's northeastern boundary is Highway 1, at which the HRS can be accessed at two points, its entire southeastern boundary is marked by a prominent rock outcropping, its southwest boundary is marked by a small creek (name unknown) which drains into the South Kawishiwi River and a geographic depression, and its northwestern boundary is the South Kawishiwi River.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries were selected based on the property owned by the USFS for use by the HRS during its period of significance. Additionally, the boundaries are aligned with distinct landscape elements, which include roads, waterways, and earthen features.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Ferguson/ Architectural Historian and Josh Weinberg/ Architectural Historian
organization USDA Forest Service/Heritage Stewardship Group date June 1, 2011
street & number 1001 SW Emkay Dr. telephone 970-290-2104
city or town Bend state OR zip code 97702
e-mail jferguson@fs.fed.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Halfway Ranger Station **City or Vicinity:** Ely

County: Lake **State:** Minnesota

Photographer: John Ferguson

Date Photographed: June 5, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 18. Ranger Dwelling (FS Bldg. #31101); Contributing. Northern elevation.

2 of 18. Ranger Dwelling (FS Bldg. #31101); Contributing. Southern elevation.

3 of 18. LSFES Office (FS Bldg. #31108); Contributing. Western elevation.

4 of 18. LSFES Office (FS Bldg. #31108); Contributing. Eastern elevation.

5 of 18. District Office (FS Bldg. #31105); Contributing. Western elevation.

6 of 18. Cellar (FS Bldg. #31103); Contributing. Western elevation.

7 of 18. Boat House (FS Bldg. #31107); Contributing. Western elevation.

8 of 18. Boat House (FS Bldg. #31107); Contributing. Eastern elevation.

9 of 18. Warehouse (FS Bldg. #31106); Contributing. Southeast elevation.

10 of 18. Warehouse (FS Bldg. #31106); Contributing. Eastern elevation.

11 of 18. Oil House (FS Bldg. #31111); Contributing. Northern elevation.

12 of 18. Oil House (FS Bldg. #31111); Contributing. Western elevation.

13 of 18. Pumphouse (FS Bldg. #31102); Contributing. Southwestern elevation.

14 of 18. Outhouse/Sauna (No FS number); Contributing. Southern elevation.

15 of 18. Insectary and Laboratory (FS Bldgs. #31104 and #31109); Contributing. Northeast elevations.

16 of 18. Insectary (FS Bldg. #31104); Contributing. Southeast elevation.

17 of 18. Laboratory (FS Bldg. #31109); Contributing. Eastern elevation.

18 of 18. Outhouse (No FS number); Contributing. Northern elevation.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station

street & number 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200 telephone 610-557-4017

city or town Newtown Square state Pennsylvania

zip code 19073

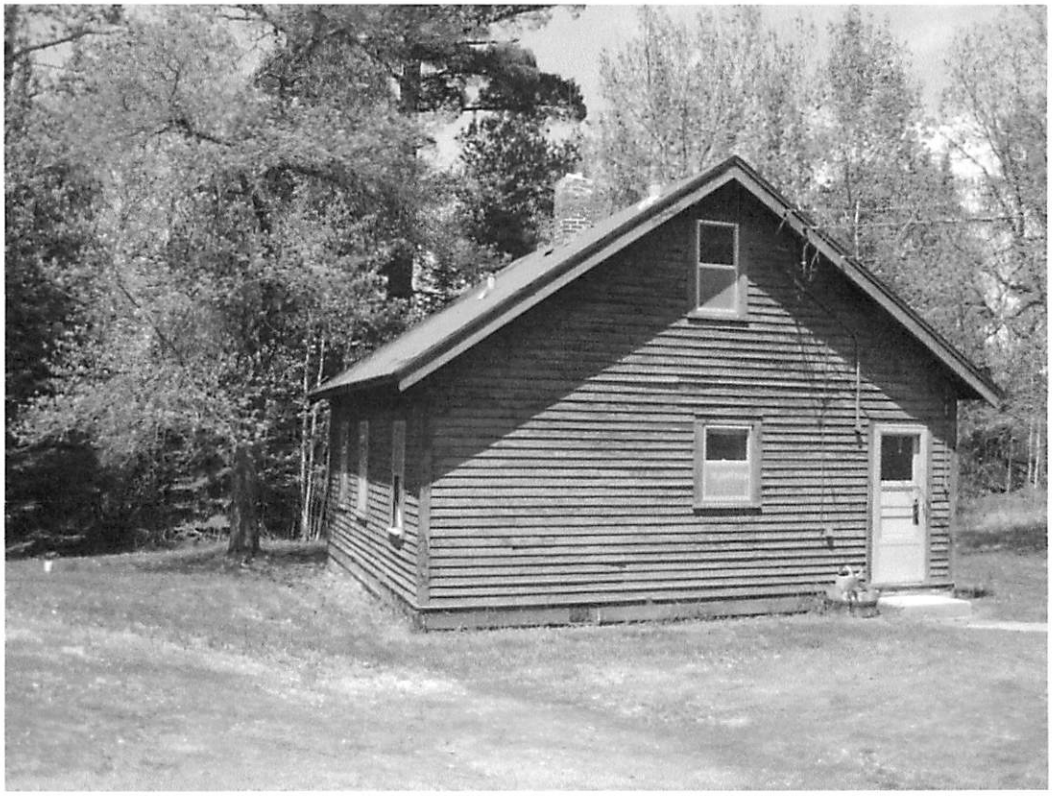
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 18. Ranger Dwelling (FS Bldg. #31101); Contributing. Northern elevation. Lake County, MN.

2 of 18. Ranger Dwelling (FS Bldg. #31101); Contributing. Southern elevation. Lake County, MN.

3 of 18. LSFES Office (FS Bldg. #31108); Contributing. Western elevation. Lake County, MN.



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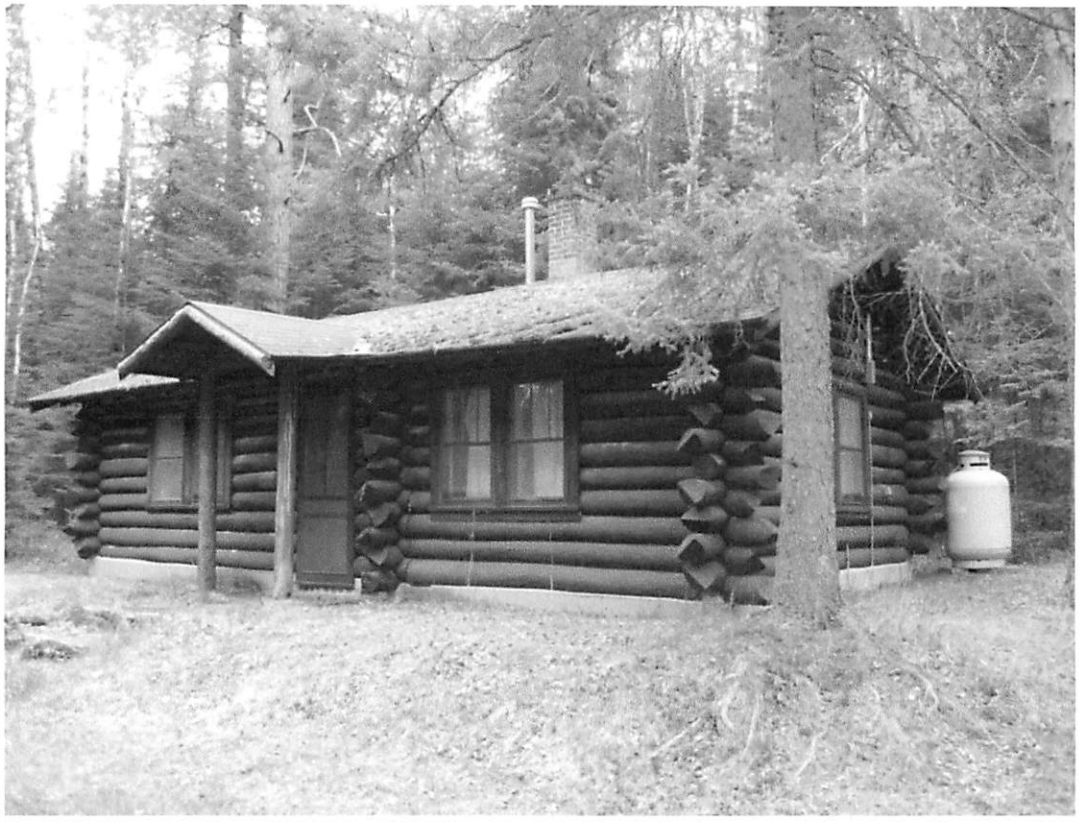

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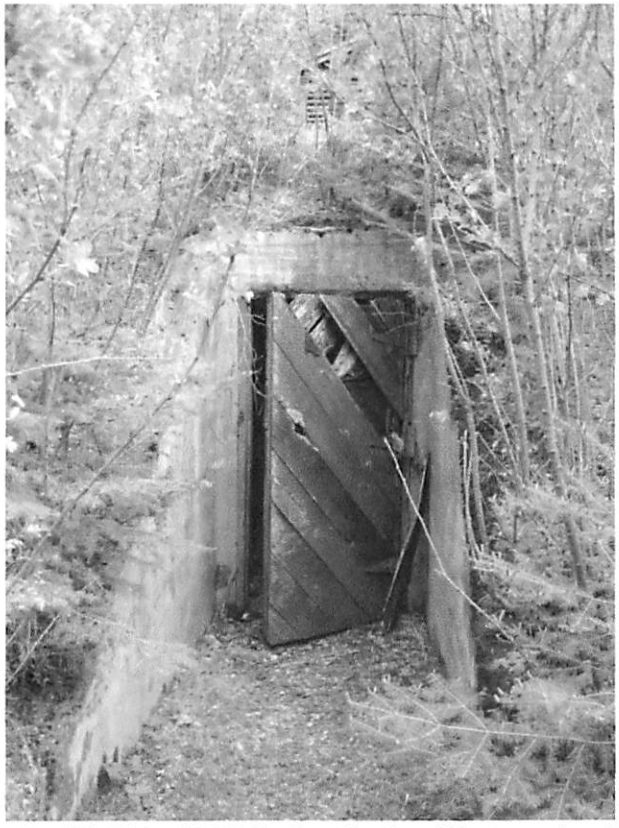

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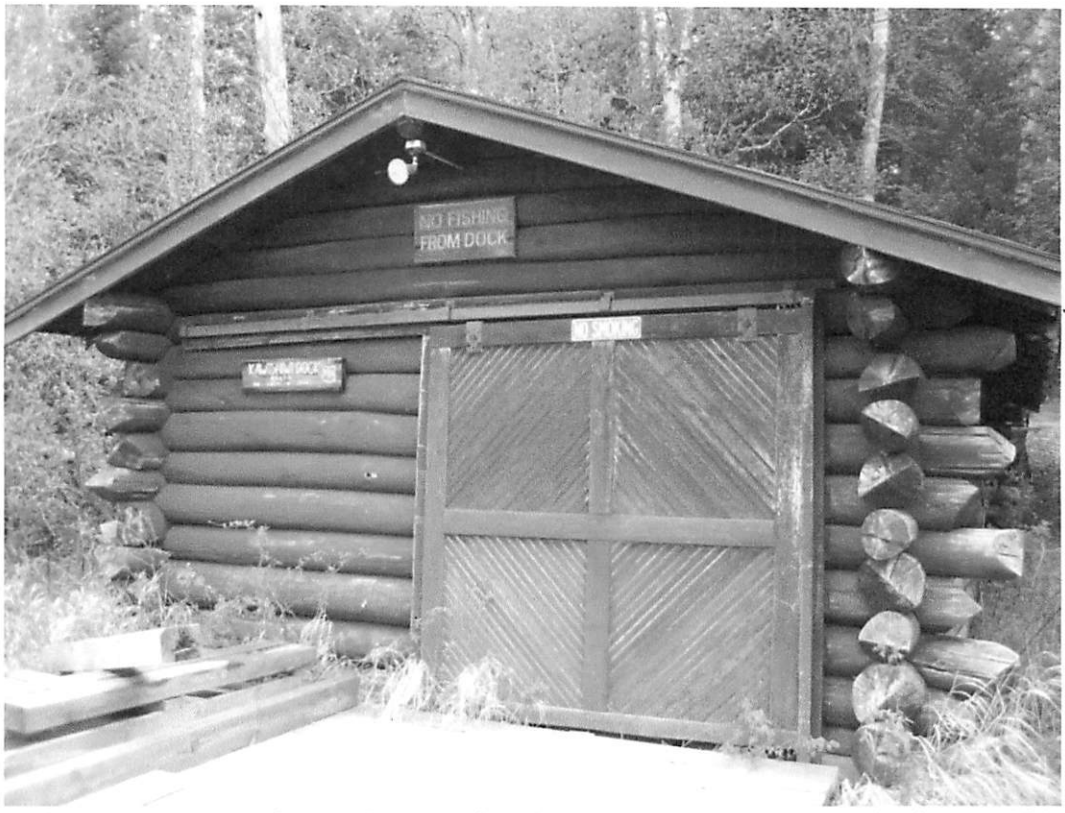

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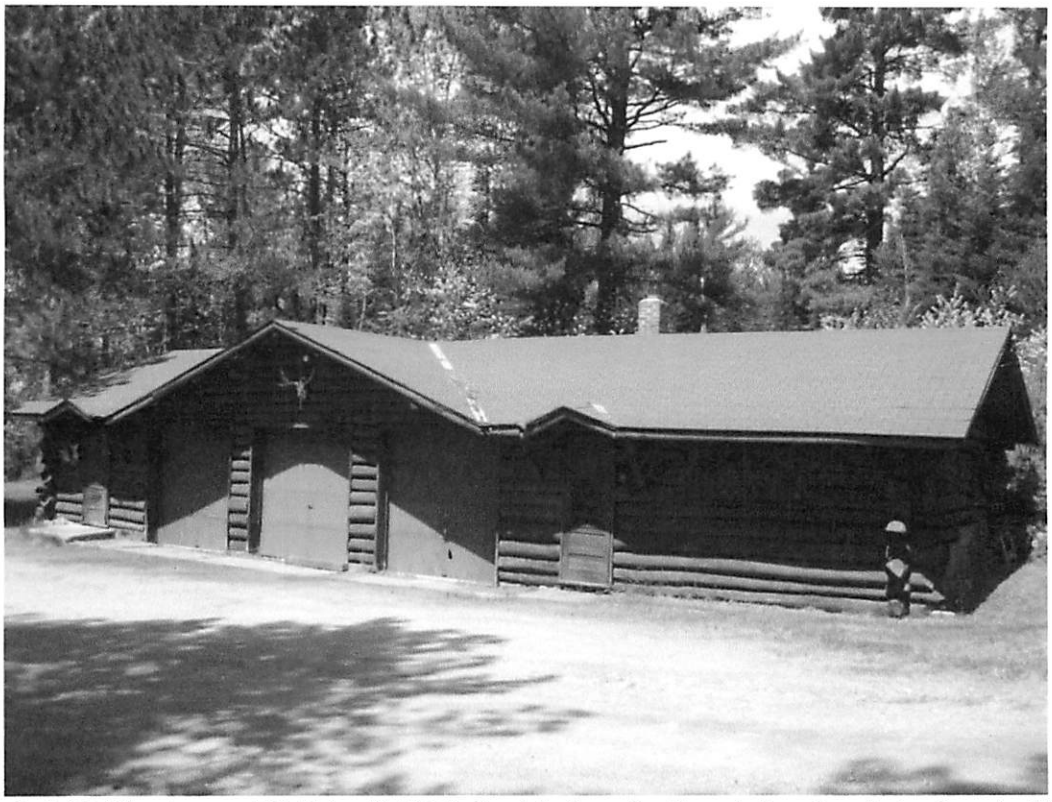

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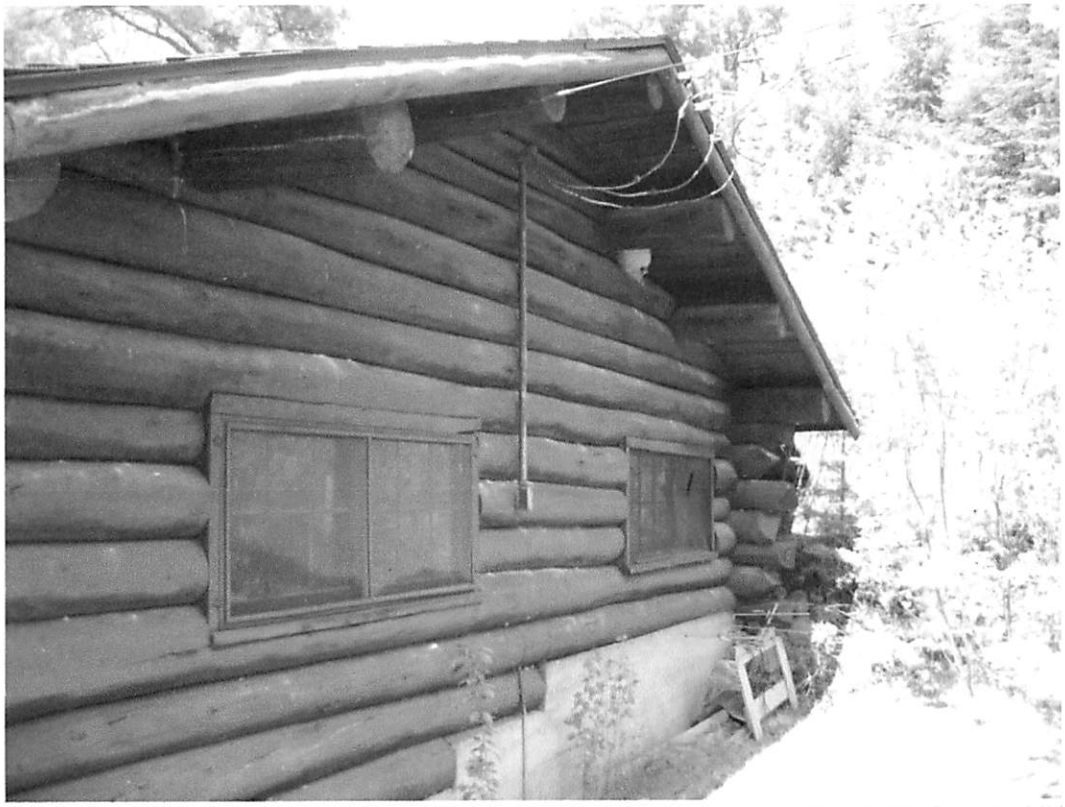

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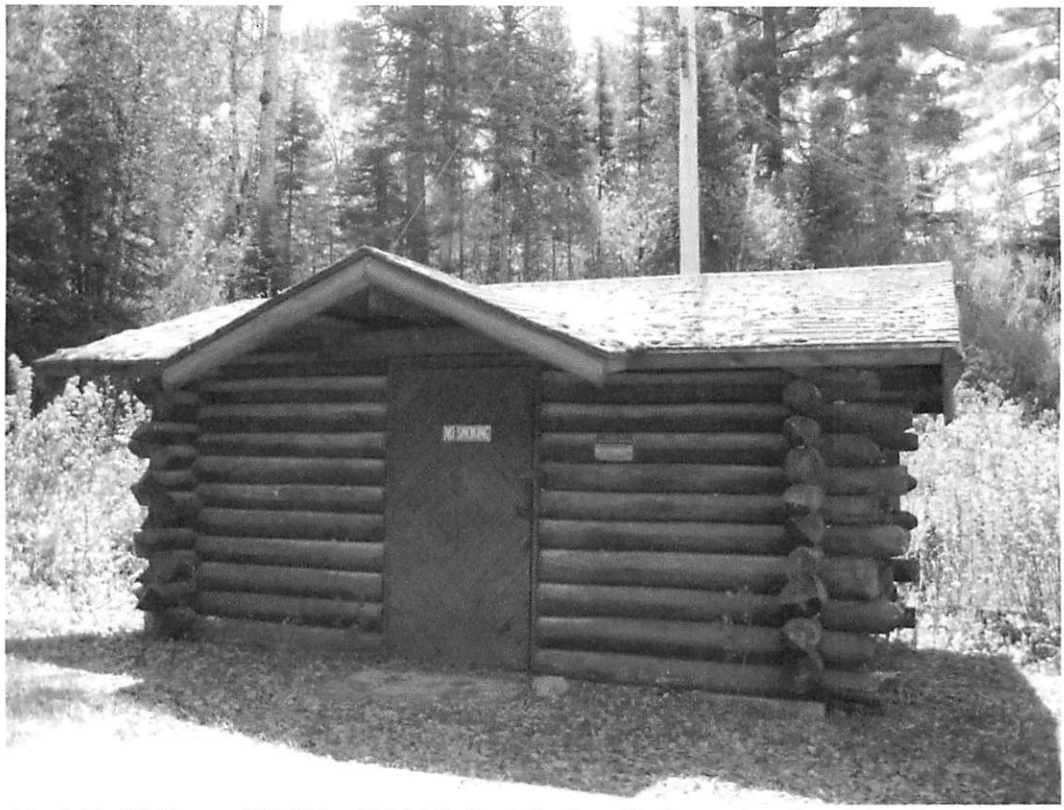

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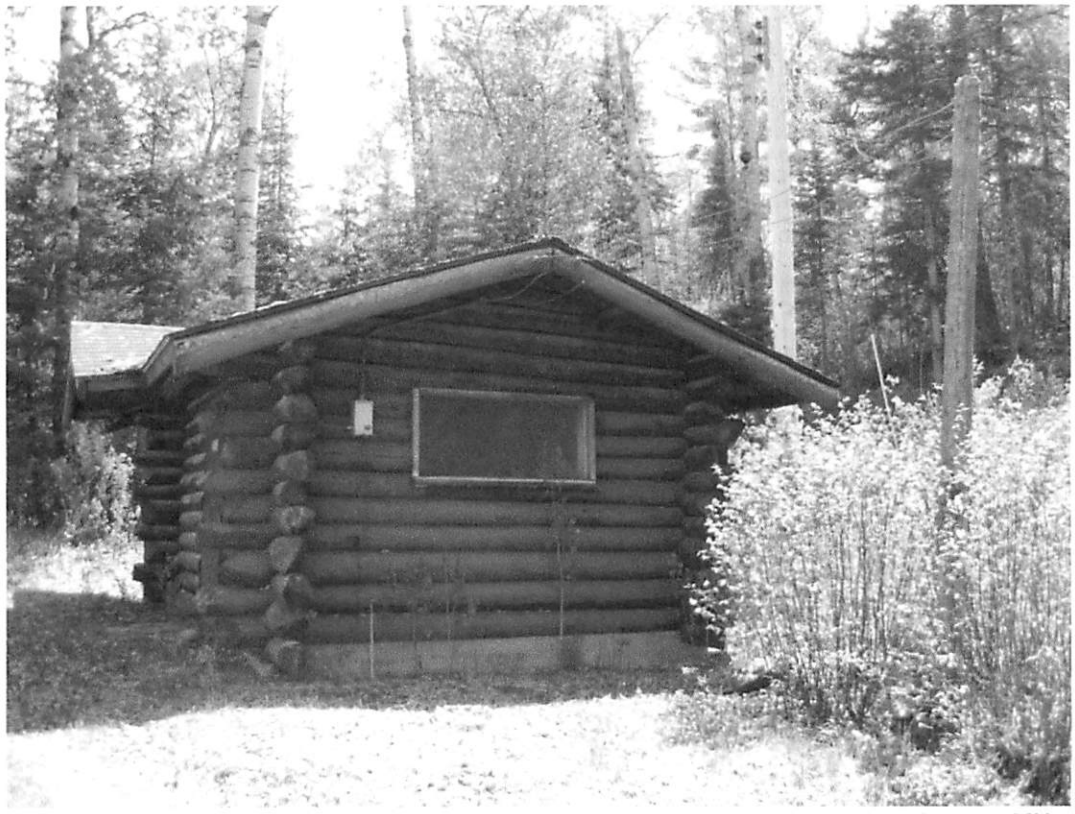

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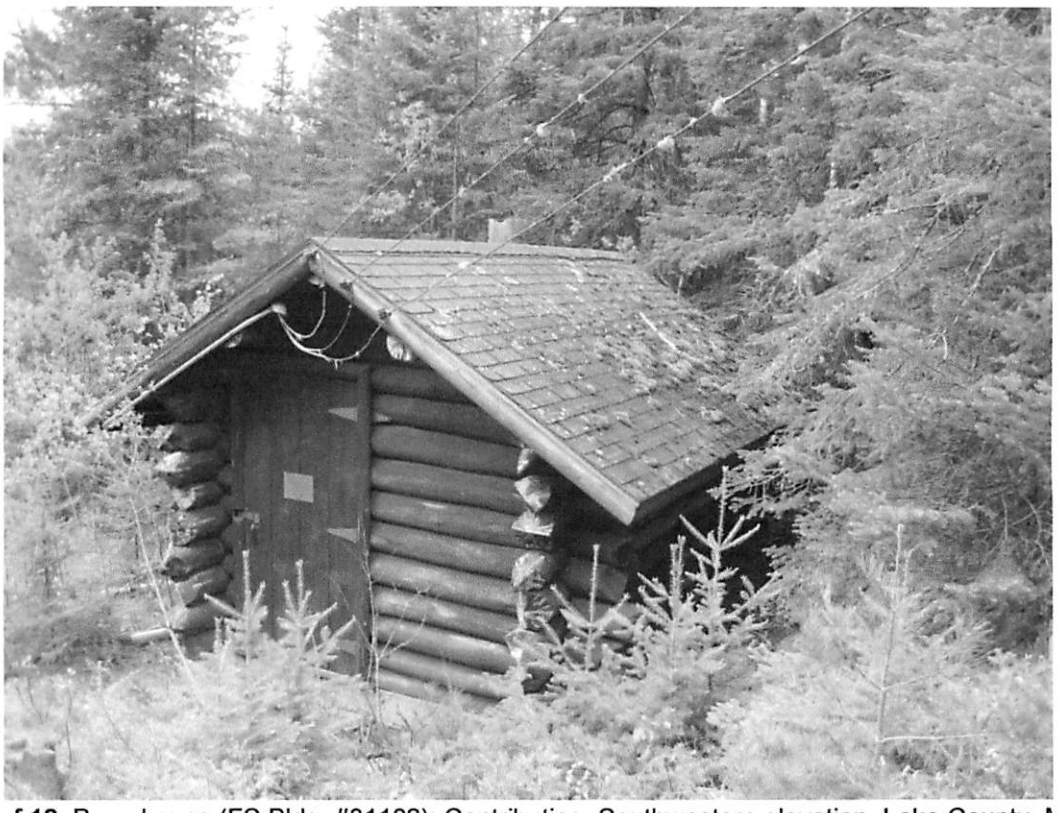

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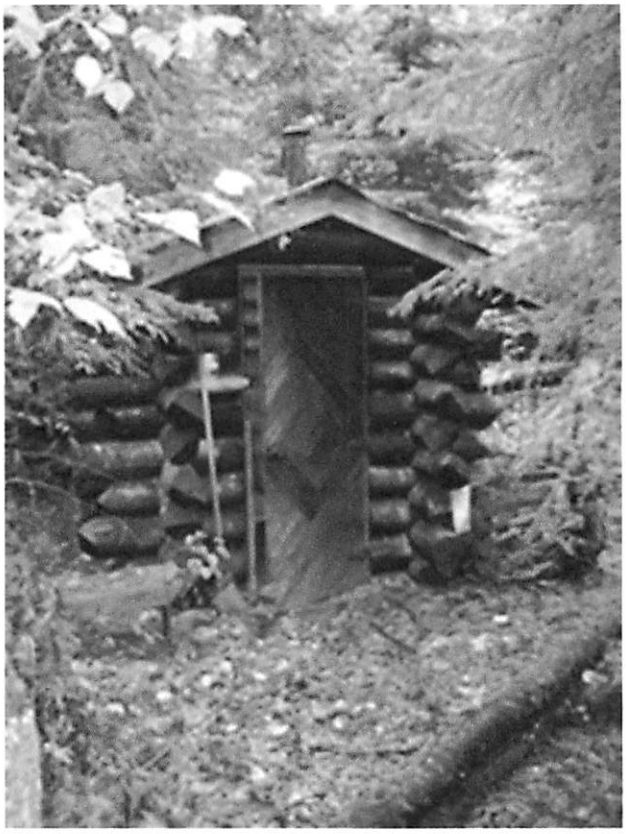
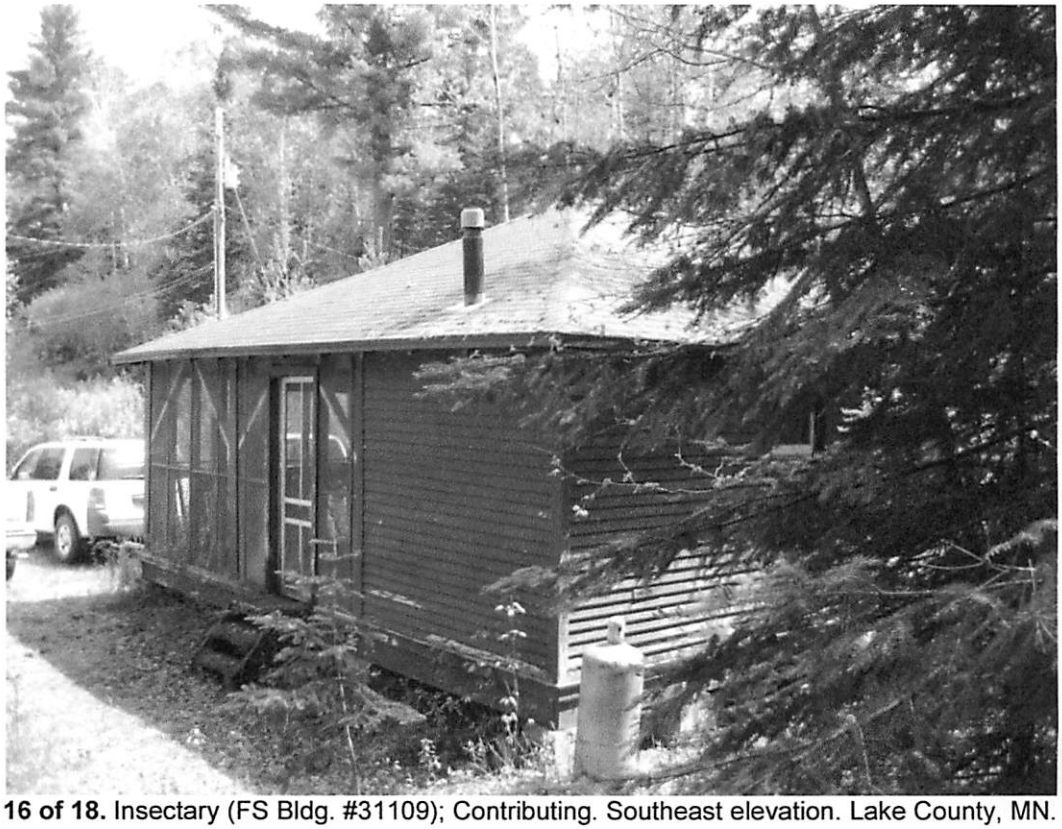


14 of 18. Outhouse/Sauna (No FS number); Contributing. Southern elevation. Lake County, MN.

15 of 18. Insectary and Laboratory (FS Bldgs. #31104 and #31109); Contributing. Northeast elevations. Lake County, MN.



16 of 18. Insectary (FS Bldg. #31109); Contributing. Southeast elevation. Lake County, MN.

17 of 18. Laboratory (FS Bldg. #31104); Contributing. Eastern elevation. Lake County, MN.

18 of 18. Outhouse (No FS number); Contributing. Northern elevation. Lake County, MN.

HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP GROUP
FOREST SERVICE ENTERPRISE UNIT

Halfway Ranger Station, Ely County, Minnesota: Sketch Map

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0 25 50 100 150 200 250 300 Feet

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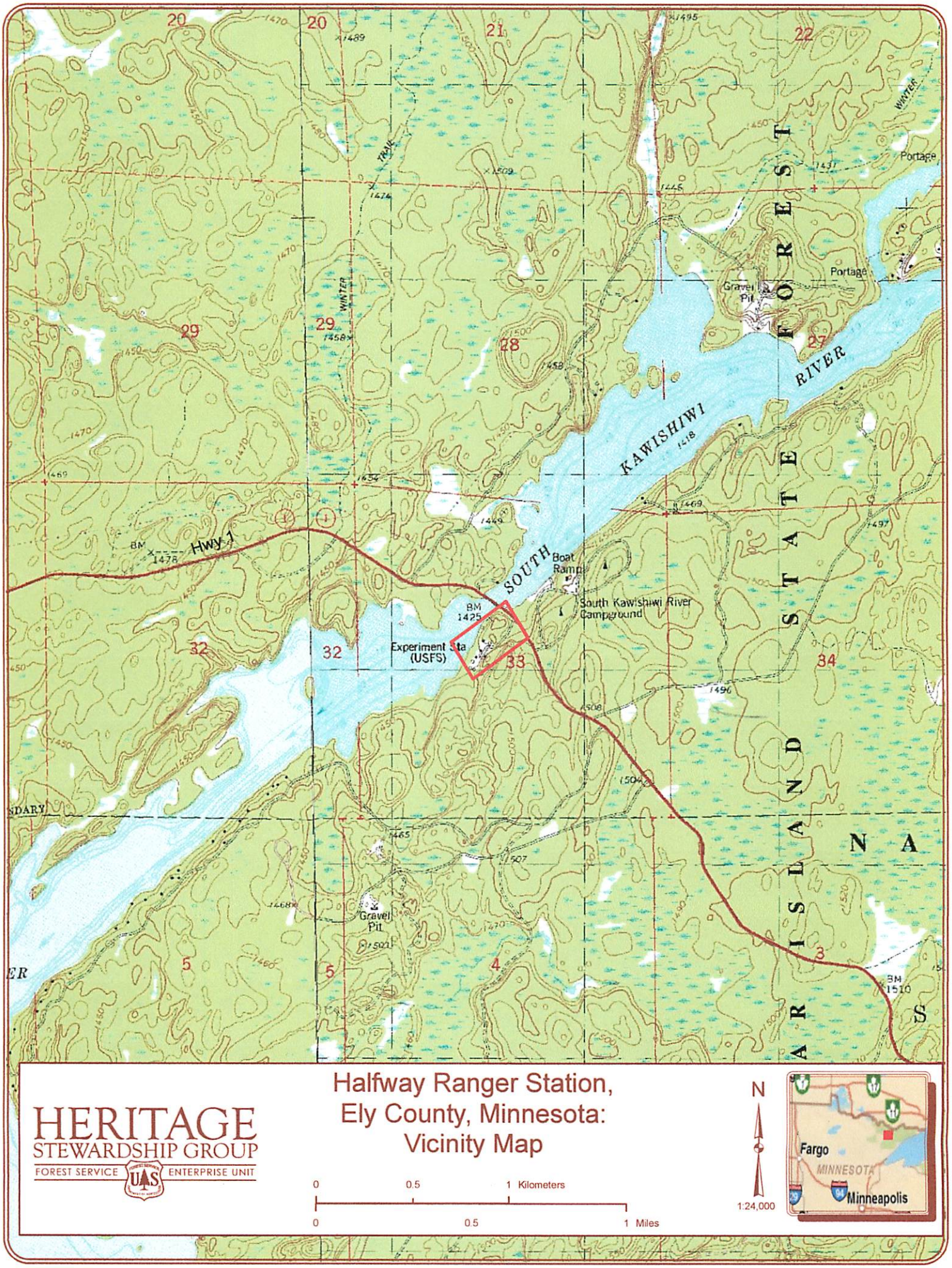

Halfway Ranger Station, Ely County, Minnesota: Vicinity Map

HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP GROUP
FOREST SERVICE ENTERPRISE UNIT

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0 0.5 1 Kilometers

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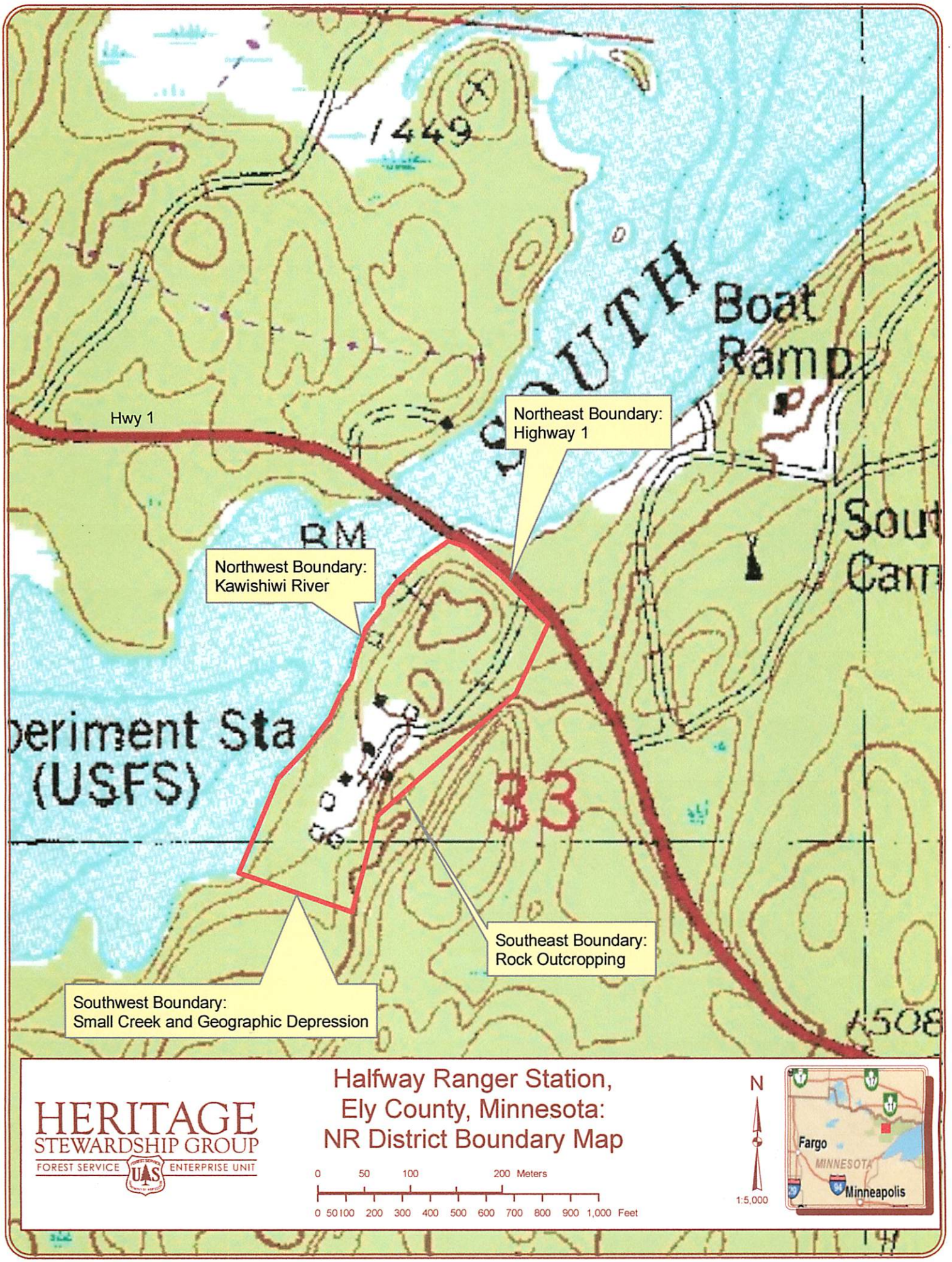
1449
Boat Ramp
Hwy 1
Northeast Boundary: Highway 1
Northwest Boundary: Kawishiwi River
33
Southeast Boundary: Rock Outcropping
Southwest Boundary: Small Creek and Geographic Depression
(USFS)
HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP GROUP
FOREST SERVICE ENTERPRISE UNIT
Halfway Ranger Station, Ely County, Minnesota: NR District Boundary Map
0 50 100 200 Meters
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1:5,000
Fargo
MINNESOTA
Minneapolis