

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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Hackensack Conservation BuildingOther names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1943

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 101 Fleischer AvenueCity or town: Hackensack State: Minnesota County: CassNot For Publication: Vicinity: **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☒
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings

1

2

sites

structures

objects

Total

1

2

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/clubhouse

SOCIAL/civic

COMMERCE/TRADE/organizational

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/Library

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: NPS Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Log, Stone, Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hackensack Conservation Building is located along the shore of Birch Lake in Hackensack, a city in north-central Minnesota with a population of approximately 300 (Image 1). The building is located on public land, two blocks west of the city's main thoroughfare, on a parcel of land which is simply known as City Park. The T-shaped one-story log and stone building was constructed for the city in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of the best-known federal relief programs of the New Deal. The gable-roofed Rustic style building is characterized by multi-pane casement windows, plank doors with hand-wrought hardware, all original to the building, and a massive stone fireplace (Photo 1).

Over the years, the building has provided space for various community functions and activities. The building continues to serve Hackensack to this day and currently functions as a community lending library and also provides storage space for equipment used for public activities in the park.

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Narrative Description

The Hackensack Conservation Building is located on a 0.62-acre parcel of land. The property is largely grass covered and includes several mature trees and low bushes. The area immediately to the west of the Conservation Building includes gravel walkways and flower beds. The property also includes a swimming beach, a picnic shelter, and a small concession stand. Two docks extend from the edge of the land into the lake, a smaller dock near the swimming beach and a larger T-shaped dock, which also functions as a fishing pier. For the purposes of this nomination, only the Conservation Building, picnic shelter, and concession stand are included in the boundary.

1. Hackensack Conservation Building – Contributing Building

The Hackensack Conservation Building is a T-shaped building measuring thirty-six feet long and fifteen feet wide. A projecting entrance bay that is centered on the east elevation measures fourteen feet wide and six feet deep. The walls are built with peeled logs with saddle-notched corners, which rest on a fieldstone foundation. A cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles covers the building. The logs are painted dark brown and the window trim is painted yellow.

East Elevation

The east elevation includes the projecting entrance bay and two flanking bays (Photos 1-3). The entrance is accessed by two steps that ascend to a wooden porch that extends the width of the bay. While the porch is from the modern era, the original stone steps are still in place beneath the porch.¹ The entrance door features vertical planks and wrought-iron hinges. The door is flanked by single eight-light casement windows. Each sidewall of the projecting bay features pairs of eight-light casement windows. The bays flanking the entrance bay each feature a group of three eight-light casement windows.

North Elevation

The north elevation features a group of three, centrally positioned, eight-light casement windows (Photo 4).

South Elevation

The south elevation includes a pair of eight-light casement windows to the west and a secondary entrance to the east (Photos 5-6). The plank door features hand-wrought hardware and is similar to the door on the east elevation and is accessed by four, stone-faced steps.

¹ It is not known when the wooden porch was built over the stone steps. It appears to have been in place for over 20 years and may have been rebuilt during that time as well.

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West Elevation

The west elevation is divided into three bays defined by the projecting log ends of the exterior and interior walls of the building (Photos 6-7). The central bay features a tapering fieldstone fireplace that extends through the eaves (Photo 8). A small, single, four-light casement window is positioned to each side of the fireplace. The outer bays each include a group of three, eight-light casement windows. A rectangular casement window is positioned below each window grouping of the outer bays at the raised basement level of the building, but the openings have been infilled with wood panels.

Interior

The interior of the building is divided into three rooms, a room at the center that extends from the entrance through the entire width of the building, and one room to each side. The interior features log walls, hardwood floors, and a vaulted ceiling with exposed log rafters. All surfaces are vanished, except for the floor, which has been painted.

The lending library occupies the center room and the room to the north. Equipment for public activities in the park is stored in the room to the south.

Center Room

The center room is filled with bookshelves for the community lending library and includes the building's most prominent interior feature, a massive fireplace on the west wall (Photos 9-11). Unlike the stonework on the exterior of the building, which features full-size fieldstone, the interior stone is split stone with the stone split into two halves. The two halves of each stone are positioned to each side of the firebox, creating a mirror image. The matching split stone is also positioned on the tapering chimney breast. The fireplace features a wooden mantel.

Originally, paired doors built with vertical knotty-pine boards, and separated by a wooden post, provided access from the center room to the rooms on each side. On the south side, the doors are still in place (Photo 12). The door to the east still leads into the room to the south, but the door to the west, nearest the fireplace, leads to a small restroom, which appears to have been installed within a decade of the initial construction of the building.

Of the two original doors on the north side of the center room that led into the room to the north, the door to the east has been removed and is now stored in the room to the south (Photos 13). The door to the west was removed and the opening was closed off with vertical boards on both sides of the opening (Photo 14 as viewed from the north room). The boards appear to be identical to the knotty-in boards used in the construction of the original doors.

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North Room

The north room is one single space and is now the library's room for children (Photo 15). The light filled space features windows on three sides (Photo 16).

South Room

The room at the south end of the building is now used for storing equipment used for community lakeside activities. The room is a single space, although the restroom occupies space from this room, the walls of which are clad with knotty pine boards. The basement level of the building is accessed through a trapdoor consisting of a large steel grate set in the floor.

The south room is accessed through an exterior door on the south elevation. While there is an interior door that could allow access between the south room and center room, the door is blocked by bookshelves in the center room and items that are stored in the south room.

Basement

A stairway descends to a full basement, which consists of one, large open space. The walls and floor of the basement are poured concrete. The basement is used for storage, including storm windows and window screens.

2. Picnic Shelter – Non-contributing Building

A picnic shelter is located to the southeast of the Conservation Building (Photo 17). The open-sided rectangular building is covered by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The roof is supported by wood posts. It is believed the picnic shelter was constructed by ca. 1990. Because the picnic shelter was constructed after the Period of Significance, it is considered a non-contributing building.

3. Concession Stand – Non-Contributing Building

The concession stand is a small, portable building located to the north of the Conservation Building. The rectangular frame building measures approximately six feet by ten feet and features vertical wood siding, an open porch on the east end, several double-hung windows, and a Dutch door. The building is covered with a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The concession stand is in use in the summer during weekly fishing contests for children. Because the concession stand was moved to the property in recent years, after the Period of Significance, it is considered a non-contributing building.

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Assessment of Integrity

The Hackensack Conservation Building retains very good integrity and remains in nearly original condition. There have been no additions or major changes. Minor changes include the porch along the east elevation, the removal of two interior doors and the installation of a small bathroom, which was a change made during the Period of Significance. There are a number of deteriorated logs, although their condition does not impact the National Register eligibility of the building. Thus, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association remains very good.

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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.)

- ☒ 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.
- ☒ 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.)

- ☐ 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1936-1973

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Holmberg Brothers

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hackensack Conservation Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics and Government for its association with the federal relief programs of the New Deal and their impact on local communities. The Works Progress Administration-funded building provided a new facility in Hackensack from which a remarkable variety of services to the community were housed throughout the years. The building provided space for social events and meetings, a facility for the Red Cross during World War II, offices for medical professionals, and also the home of the Chamber of Commerce, which supported local resorts and businesses in the Hackensack area.

The Hackensack Conservation Building is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building is a finely crafted example of the Rustic style, which was constructed by the Holmberg brothers, master builders in log and stone. Of particular note is the masterful split-stone fireplace with matching stonework. The building also represents an architectural expression that was facilitated by the programmatic requirements of the Works Progress Administration, which would fund the labor costs of time-consuming Rustic style construction, also extending the length of employment during the depths of the Great Depression. Similarly, the minimal material cost for harvesting log and stone reduced the costs for the city of Hackensack, versus the cost of conventional construction, resulting in a more affordable project during a time of limited resources.

The Hackensack Conservation Building meets the registration requirements for Government Buildings established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) titled, "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1943." The building was completed in 1936 with funding from the WPA and represented a new and important community amenity. It is also an architecturally significant building, representing the work of a master, and featuring irreplaceable labor-intensive methods and finely crafted detailing.

The Period of Significance begins in 1936 with the completion of the building and continues to 1973 based on the 50-year guideline. Throughout these years, and up until the present day, the building has continued to serve the community by providing amenities and services, demonstrating the enduring impact of federal relief construction projects of the New Deal.

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

Construction of the Hackensack Conservation Building

The Village of Hackensack submitted a proposal dated October 2, 1935, for a grant from the New Deal's Works Progress Administration (WPA) for the construction of the Conservation Building. A microfilmed copy of the WPA's file on the building has been obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The file contains specific information about the construction of the building and also provides insight into the operation of the WPA.

The village, referred to as the project's sponsor, completed the WPA's five page "Project Proposal" form, which required detailed information about the proposed project and its estimated cost (Image 2). The proposal described the project as follows:

Construction of a log cabin building to be used as a Conservation Building, combining a library, information bureau, museum and tourist comfort station. Bldg. will be 33 x 14 approx., with basement under central unit for heating plant. Foundation to be of fieldstone. Fireplace also to be of fieldstone. Site to be at entrance to Lake Shore Park. This project will also include grading, filling, landscaping of the park and graveling of drive approach and paths, etc.²

The WPA required a statement concerning the justification or necessity of the project, which was described as follows:

Hackensack Village is situated in the center of a group of 128 lakes, so an Information Bureau for tourists and campers, etc. is much needed. A comfort station in this connection is also desirable.

There is no library or conservation museum at Hackensack, so this is also highly desirable. The center room of the building could also be used for clubs and public meetings for small groups.

This project would furnish employment for ten unemployed during the winter months.³

The village also had to answer a question stating, "How and when would Sponsor proceed with this work under ordinary conditions and how would it be financed?" The village responded,

² "Works Progress Administration Project Proposal," October 2, 1935, 2, File on the Hackensack Conservation Building, Records of the Work Projects Administration (WPA), Record Group 69, A1 Entry 348 MN, Project Files 1935-1942, WPA Official Project Number 65-71-6377, Box 599, Stack 530, Row 65, Compartment 53, Shelf 3, Roll 567, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, Maryland.

³ "Works Progress Administration Project Proposal," October 2, 1935, 3, File on the Hackensack Conservation Building, NARA.

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“Could not be undertaken; lack of funds.” The village also agreed to operate and maintain the building once it was completed. In addition, the WPA required an analysis of the skill levels of the workers that would be hired and the specific skills required.⁴

The project proposal form required an itemized list of each of the materials needed to construct the building and their cost (Image 3). The list provides insight in how the use of native materials, such as log or stone, could reduce the cost of a project. For example, the stated cost of the fieldstone to construct the building’s foundation and fireplace was only \$3.20. Similarly, the stated cost of the 50 logs to construct the building was \$75.00. Such savings would help make a project more affordable.

The project proposal form also included a section where the cost of materials and labor were combined (Image 4). The requested federal funding totaled \$2,681.35; an amount that had been increased by \$208.50 for additional labor costs. The proposal was signed by Hackensack Mayor A. J. Brennan and Village Clerk Art Falk.

The project proposal was approved by the WPA and a formal “Project Application” was prepared and submitted (Image 5).⁵ The application was approved on November 11, 1935, by A. T. Gilbertson, the district director of the WPA’s regional office in Brainerd. Three additional individuals from the WPA signed off on the application in order to confirm that various requirements had been met. One such requirement was to review the engineering of the proposed building. The WPA did not comment on the architectural style of a building but would confirm that a building was structurally sound. A handwritten note on the project proposal document states, “Preliminary plan attached,” which the WPA would have reviewed. However, according to the National Archives and Records Administration, the architectural plans for the Hackensack Conservation Building were microfilmed separately from the project file, but the roll of microfilm containing the architectural plans was never conveyed to the National Archives.⁶ Thus, the plans may exist but cannot be located at present.

The WPA formally approved the project on December 11, 1935, and assigned an official project number of OP 65-71-6377.⁷

The approval of the grant was announced in an article on the front page of the *Cass County Independent* dated December 20, 1935. The article described a number of building projects in the area that had been approved for federal funding noting, “New Presidential Approvals of WPA Projects in Section Announced.” The article noted that the village proposed “to build, near the Hackensack dock, a structure to serve as a civic center, an information bureau during the summer

⁴ “Works Progress Administration Project Proposal,” October 2, 1935, 3-4, File on the Hackensack Conservation Building, NARA.

⁵ “Works Progress Administration Project Application,” November 11, 1935, 7, File on the Hackensack Conservation Building, NARA.

⁶ NARA archivist Eugene Morris, email message to Rolf Anderson dated January 25, 2023.

⁷ Image 329, Index T-935, Project Application Reference Cards, Records of the Works Projects Administration (WPA), Record Group 69, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, Maryland.

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months and a comfort station.” A grant in the amount of \$2,547.00 was awarded for the construction of the building.⁸ Interestingly, the amount of federal funding had again been adjusted and reduced from \$2,681.35. It is not clear why the funding was changed, but may have been indicative of the close scrutiny which WPA applications received, and how in the 1930s the change would have represented a significant dollar amount. As the sponsor of the project, the Village of Hackensack agreed to provide \$210.20 toward the construction of the building.

The WPA gave the approval to award contracts and to procure supplies and services for the construction of the Conservation Building on March 18, 1936. This “Advice of Allotment” was authorized by Victor Christgau, the WPA’s state administrator for Minnesota.⁹

Work on the building began by the end of March 1936. The four Holmberg brothers – Gus, Ed, Vic, and Fred – played the major role in the construction of the building. The family was known throughout the region for their expertise in log and stone construction.

During the course of the construction, the WPA issued periodic reports that provided an update on expenditures and man-hours of employment provided. These reports are titled, “Statement of Project Estimate Detail.” The building was largely completed by about September 1936.

Local newspapers announced the completion of the building. The *Cass County Independent* featured an article with the headline, “Hackensack Community House Built of Native Materials.”¹⁰ The *Pillager Herald* included a construction photograph of the building (Image 6) and reported:

From this building located on the shores of Birch Lake at Hackensack, the thousands of tourists who stop at the resort center every season will be directed to their vacation destinations. During other seasons the building will be used for community functions. Constructed almost entirely of native materials, it was built as a WPA project sponsored by the village.¹¹

The WPA issued its final report on the Hackensack Conservation Building on January 18, 1937. Federal expenditures totaled \$2,659.56, slightly higher than the initial grant amount. Of this amount, \$1,578.92 was expended for relief labor (referring to those who had been unemployed), \$406.17 for non-relief labor, and \$674.47 for materials and equipment.¹²

⁸ “Hackensack Also Obtains OK for New Civic House,” *Cass County Independent*, December 20, 1935, 1, 8.

⁹ “Works Progress Administration Advice of Allotment,” March 18, 1936, 8, File on the Hackensack Conservation Building, NARA.

¹⁰ “Hackensack Community House Built of Native Materials,” *Cass County Independent*, September 11, 1936, n.p.

¹¹ *Pillager Herald*, September 4, 1936, 1.

¹² “Report of Completed or Discontinued Project,” January 18, 1937, 18, File on the Hackensack Conservation Building, NARA. The WPA file does not contain payroll records, but the various documents provide insight into the wages paid. For example, the “Project Proposal” stated that unskilled workers would earn \$44.00 per month; intermediate skilled workers would earn \$49.50 per month; and skilled workers would earn \$60.50 per month. Over the course of the WPA program nationwide, it was said the average monthly wage was \$41.57.

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A review of village council minutes identified expenditures on the part of the village for the construction of the Conservation Building. The minutes dated October 5, 1936, included the approval to pay the Hackensack Lumber Company \$243.92 for materials related to the Conservation Building and a vault at the cemetery. Leon Fleisher was paid \$1.50 for electrical wiring for the Conservation Building, and the Hackensack Supply Company was paid \$4.10 for materials related to the building. The minutes of December 7, 1936, include approval to purchase a cook stove from C.H. Wood for the sum of \$10.00. Wood was paid an additional \$11.00 for installing the stove. The stove also provided heat for the Conservation Building.¹³

The WPA's final report did not include a total for the expenditures by the village. But based on the above expenditures, and taking into account that one of the payments also included funds for the cemetery vault, also a WPA project, it seems likely that the contribution by the village was very close to the \$210.00 that had been quoted in the original project documents. Thus, the total cost of the building was about \$2,869.56, with the WPA funding about 93% of the cost.

The WPA photographed the building upon its completion and featured the photograph in its 1939 publication *Works Progress Administration Accomplishments: Minnesota: 1935-1939* (Image 7).

The Conservation Building was put into immediate use by the Hackensack community. The Congregational Ladies Aid held their annual "Silver Service Tea" at the building on November 19, 1936. The event included a "fancy work booth," fish pond, bake sale, and an amateur dress making contest.¹⁴ The Hackensack bridge club met in the building on December 7, 1936 and continued to meet every two weeks.¹⁵ A women's group from the Methodist church also used the building for meetings.

Any group that utilized the Conservation Building was required to pay a small fee. The village council passed a motion to charge any organization a fee of 75 cents that would go toward paying for the electric lights in the building.¹⁶

In the ensuing years, building continued to be used for social, recreational, and educational activities. The bridge club, for example, continued to meet in the building. In January 1937, it was reported that "Seven tables gathered at the Recreation building Monday evening for the regular meeting of the Hackensack bridge club." Lunch was served to close the evening.¹⁷ The building was also used for craft classes providing instruction in plaque making:

The regular meeting at the Recreation building on the instruction of plaque-making was held Wednesday afternoon. Local students of the art are displaying some fine specimens considering their limited training.¹⁸

¹³ Village of Hackensack, Village Council Minutes, October 5, 1936 and December 7, 1936.

¹⁴ "Congregational Ladies Aid to Hold Silver Tea, Contest," *Cass County Independent*, October 16, 1936, n.p.

¹⁵ "Hackensack Players Start Contract Bridge Series," *Cass County Independent*, December 11, 1936, n.p.

¹⁶ Village of Hackensack, Village Council Minutes, December 7, 1936.

¹⁷ "Hackensack Briefs," *Cass County Independent*, January 15, 1937, 12.

¹⁸ "Hackensack Briefs," *Cass County Independent*, January 22, 1937, 7.

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It is known that adult education classes were held in the building through a notice that announced the cancellation of a particular meeting. It was reported on February 26, 1937, that "Because of stormy and cold weather the Open Forum meeting for the adult education Tuesday evening at the Community building was cancelled."¹⁹

The building was also a popular location for church dinners. Two dinners were known to have been held in May and June 1937:

Ladies of the Altar Society are serving a chicken and noodle dinner at the Conservation building, Sunday, May 30th from 12 noon until 3 P.M., at 35¢ and 25¢ per plate. Everyone is invited.²⁰

The Catholic ladies announce that arrangements are complete for the bean supper that will be served at the Conservation building from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M. Saturday afternoon, June 19.²¹

Events in July 1938 included a church dinner and ice cream social:

The Congregational Ladies Aid have announced a chicken and noodle supper to be served at Conservation building on Thursday, July 11 from 5 to 7 P.M.

The Lutheran Ladies Aid have announced an Ice Cream social and baked foods sale at the Conservation building on Saturday afternoon, July 9th from 2 to 5 P.M.²²

A noteworthy event held at the Conservation Building on February 8, 1940, was a meeting conducted by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), which was the New Deal's major program on farm policy. The meeting was part of a series of meetings held throughout Cass County by the AAA.

The purpose of the meetings is to introduce the 1940 AAA program.
Farmers are urged . . . to come and share their views with their neighbors.

It is hoped that the discussions will center around the needs of an agricultural program, reciprocal trade treaties and tariffs. Free discussion will be encouraged as an aid to creative thinking toward the solution of agricultural problems.²³

Another group that met at the Conservation Building was an organization known as the Townsend Club.

¹⁹ "Hackensack Briefs," *Cass County Independent*, February 26, 1937, 12. The building is variously referred to as the Conservation, Recreation, or Community building.

²⁰ "Hackensack Briefs," *Cass County Independent*, May 28, 1937, 7.

²¹ "Hackensack Briefs," *Cass County Independent*, June 18, 1937, 7.

²² "Hackensack Briefs," *Cass County Independent*, July 8, 1938, 6.

²³ "Community Meetings are Scheduled for 1940 AAA Program in Cass County," *Cass County Independent*, February 2, 1940, 8.

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The next regular meeting of the Townsend Club will be held at the Conservation Building next Monday evening at 8 o'clock. The annual rally will be planned.²⁴

Roger Underwood recalled that in 1940-1941 his grandmother, Dorothy Underwood, taught classes in the building on Wednesday nights to a group called the "Young Peoples Club," which included 12-15 teenagers. The organization was sponsored by the Congregational Church.²⁵

While it is not specifically known how the Information Bureau may have functioned during these years, long-time Hackensack resident Burton Woock recalled how Hackensack students would visit the Conservation Building and obtain maps and materials on conservation practices, and also hear lectures by forest rangers. Woock also noted that community activities in the building diminished during the war years.²⁶ However, the building was then put to use to aid the war effort. On November 2, 1942, the city council passed the following motion:

Motion made and seconded that the Conservation Building be turned over for exclusive use for the duration by the Hackensack Chapter of the Red Cross who will take care of all expenses regarding heat and light for the building.²⁷

An article on the front page of the *Cass County Independent* dated December 18, 1942, outlined the responsibilities of various local agencies in the event of a war-related emergency, including a direct attack on the United States.

Local Agencies Will Unite For War Emergency

Emergencies in Cass County resulting from enemy action in war will be met by the cooperation of the Cass County Council of Civilian Defense, local welfare agencies and the Cass County Red Cross Chapter.

Through the Emergency Welfare Services, Commander Maeser will call the Red Cross into action to provide mass care including group feeding, temporary shelter and emergency clothing.

The Emergency Medical Service of the Cass County Citizens' Defense Corps is responsible for medical aid to civilians injured by enemy action. The Red Cross will supplement any services needed.²⁸

The same issue of the *Cass County Independent* included an announcement that the Hackensack Chapter of the Red Cross would be holding a meeting on December 18th. Everyone was urged to

²⁴ "Hackensack Briefs," *Cass County Independent*, October 4, 1940, n.p.

²⁵ Roger Underwood, letter to Rolf Anderson dated August 31, 2021.

²⁶ Burton Woock, interviews with Rolf Anderson, Hackensack, August 4, 2021 and September 13, 2022.

²⁷ Village of Hackensack, Village Council Minutes, November 2, 1942.

²⁸ "Local Agencies Will Unite For War Emergency," *Cass County Independent*, December 18, 1942, 1.

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attend as “In addition to election of officers, they will also discuss the opening of a surgical dressing station in Hackensack.”²⁹

In the years following the war, a number of improvements were made to the building. In 1946, a new well was completed near the northeast corner of the building and 10-12 inches of gravel was laid in the basement. The gravel was laid in preparation for the installation of a concrete floor that was completed in 1947.³⁰

The village council also discussed future uses for the building and in time began to lease space in the building to private entities. While the village council minutes list several people who rented space in the building, it is not always clear how the building was being used, although it appears there were sometimes multiple users. In 1948, however, the village council rented space in the building to Dr. Max Mushkatin, a dentist. In 1951, Dr. Mushkatin’s lease agreement with the village was renewed for a two-year period.³¹

It is not known if providing information to tourists resumed in the years immediately following the war. However, long-time Hackensack resident Burton Woock noted that functions that had been performed in the building served a forerunner to the Chamber of Commerce.³² While the exact date is not known when the Chamber of Commerce was technically organized under that name, the organization was in existence by June 1951, when the chamber asked the village for permission to erect a statue of the sweetheart of fictional lumberjack Paul Bunyan on the parcel of land immediately to the north of the Conservation Building.³³

The Chamber of Commerce was definitely occupying the building by 1955 when the Hackensack Village Council passed a motion to allow the chamber to use the building rent free, except for the payment of the light bill.³⁴ One important activity of the chamber was to promote local resorts and businesses. The chamber placed an announcement in the June 17, 1955 issue of the *Cass County Independent* asking resorts to provide information about the fishing on their lakes.

Resorters Attention: The Hackensack Chamber of Commerce would like to have reports on fishing in the lakes of our area. Please get them to the information bureau by the first of the week so we can put them in the (Minneapolis) Sunday Tribune.³⁵

A cover article in the *Cass County Independent* described the activities of the Chamber of Commerce in the Conservation Building. The article featured a photograph of the building with a large sign with the word “Information” over the entrance.

²⁹ “Hackensack News,” *Cass County Independent*, December 18, 1942, 6.

³⁰ Village of Hackensack, Village Council Minutes, June 3, 1946, August 5, 1946, October 6, 1947.

³¹ Village of Hackensack, Village Council Minutes, October 5, 1948, April 2, 1951.

³² Burton Woock, interview with Rolf Anderson, Hackensack, August 4, 2021.

³³ Village of Hackensack, “Village Council Minutes,” June 4, 1951.

³⁴ Village of Hackensack, “Village Council Minutes,” June 6, 1955.

³⁵ “Hackensack Briefs,” *Cass County Independent*, June 17, 1955, 2.

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Tourist Information Center Popular at Hackensack

The Hackensack Chamber of Commerce now has an information bureau located in the Hackensack Conservation Building. The president of the Chamber of Commerce and the secretary, Mr. Walter Leslie and Mr. G. R. "Dick" Ackerson, have spent several days travelling to resorts in the Hackensack area to get information on the resorts for the people who stop in and for the inquiries that have come through the mail. They are giving their time and energy in the hopes that the bureau will benefit the entire area.

The information bureau has maps of the roads and the lakes in the Hackensack and surrounding area. They also have folders on the resorts that give information on the number of cabins and the kinds of fish that may be caught in their lakes. The local merchants are cooperating with the bureau, in that all the inquiries they receive are processed through the bureau, which has a list of the resorts in the area that have openings.

The bureau has been open since the fishing season started, and so far have had a great many inquiries through the mail and also some long distance calls. They are open from 9:00 a. m. to 9:00 p. m. and everyone is welcome to stop in at anytime.³⁶

As of 1957, the chamber shared space in the building with Dr. David Gauf, a chiropractor, when the village council allowed him the use of a room rent free in order for his medical services to be available to the community.³⁷

The Chamber of Commerce maintained a close relationship with the Village of Hackensack as noted in meeting minutes dated January 5, 1959, when the chamber requested permission from the village to form a Committee for Public Improvement. The council passed a motion approving the request to form the committee, which included Glenn Witham, William Green, Charles Frederick, L. Vincent, Walter Leslie, Robert Williams, Doad Schroeder, Mrs. Arnold Mentzer, and Mayor Kading.³⁸

Activities of the Chamber of Commerce are further documented in a series of extant promotional brochures that the chamber published in order to promote resorts and businesses in the Hackensack area. A brochure from 1960 extolled the attributes of the area and included maps, names of business, and detailed descriptions of 48 resorts located on 16 nearby lakes. It was noted there were 127 lakes within a 10-mile area. A brochure from 1966 included similar information (Images 8-10). The brochure noted:

³⁶ "Tourist Information Center Popular at Hackensack," *Cass County Independent*, July 1, 1955, 1.

³⁷ Village of Hackensack, Village Council Minutes, July 15, 1957.

³⁸ Village of Hackensack, Village Council Minutes, January 5, 1959.

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As long as the lure of the Northwoods remains, so long will Hackensack, gateway to a lake paradise, be a name to conjure with. It is associated with fishing, fun, rest, northwoods, and a land of lakes, of the "sky blue waters" variety. . . .

We, therefore, without reservation, invite you to Hackensack this summer for a truly restful vacation . . . and ideal for future retirement . . . Won't you come?
This is your invitation.³⁹

The brochures listed a range of activities that could be enjoyed, stating the visitor could fish, swim, sail, play on miles of the finest sand beaches, motor, enjoy tennis and shuffleboard, golf, water ski, ride speed boats, and take picnics and excursions. Services at nearby churches were also listed. In time, the brochures were updated to include winter sports. A brochure from 1976 encouraged visitors to try ice fishing and snowmobiling. "Hackensack Sno-Bo's invite you to come snowmobile northern Minnesota's most beautiful trails among towering pines and glittering snow."⁴⁰

Over the years, the Chamber of Commerce continued to proactively support resorts and businesses in Hackensack and the surrounding community. A ca. 1980 brochure updated the cover image to include a loon and also provided a map indicating the location of the chamber in the Conservation Building (Image 11). A brochure from 1985 provided information about recreational opportunities in the nearby Chippewa National Forest, the Foothills State Forest, and Deep Portage Conservation Reserve.⁴¹

In 2003, the Chamber of Commerce relocated to a new building just to the east and across the street from the Conservation Building. Today the Conservation Building is used as a community lending library. Interestingly, when Hackensack applied for the WPA grant to fund the construction of the Conservation Building, it was noted that the building might also provide space for a library.⁴²

The Holmberg Family: Master Builders in Log and Stone Construction

Victor and Christina Holmberg emigrated from Sweden with three small children in 1902. They settled on a farm on Webb Lake, four miles east of Hackensack. In time the family grew to include eleven children. As early as 1905, as tourism began to develop in the area, Victor was approached by a property owner on Webb Lake to build a number of log cabins with stone fireplaces. While the cabins were lost in a fire decades ago, the chimneys remained at the site for many years and endured as a testament to Victor's skills. Their location became known as Chimney Point, although it is believed the chimneys are no longer extant. A Holmberg family photograph depicts Gus Holmberg standing next to one of the chimneys (Image 12).

³⁹ "The Hackensack, Minnesota Resort Area," 1966, Pamphlets relating to Cass County in Minnesota, call number F612.C3, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

⁴⁰ "Hackensack Minnesota Resort Area: 127 Lakes Within 10 Mile Area," 1976, Minnesota Historical Society.

⁴¹ "Hackensack Minnesota: 127 Lakes and Much More," ca. 1980; "Hackensack Minnesota: 127 Lakes Within 10 Miles," 1985, Minnesota Historical Society.

⁴² "Hackensack Also Obtains OK for New Civic House," *Cass County Independent*, December 20, 1935, 8.

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Demand for Holmberg's log and stone buildings increased as Rustic style architecture gained favor in resort communities. In time, he taught his skills to his four sons, Vic, Fred, Gus, and Ed. (Image 13) One of the best known examples of the family's work is at the Mascot "A" Ranch, also located on Webb Lake. The property functioned as a farm raising silver fox and a resort. The Holmberg's work at the ranch continued from 1925-1935. The stonework alone is astonishing and included stone foundations for various buildings as well as fireplaces, pillars, stairways, retaining walls, and stone walls flanking the roadways. It is said there were at least a mile of stone walls. Much of their work remains in place today, after nearly 100 years.⁴³

The Mascot "A" Ranch features a remarkable collection buildings. Many were designed in a Swiss Chalet style, even large multi-story utilitarian buildings. The buildings were designed by Elmer G Lohmann of Stillwater, who was the architect and supervising engineer for the ranch.⁴⁴ Yet, the stonework by the Holmbergs is a character defining feature of the ranch and was recognized for its high quality as early as 1927.

A better idea of the ultimate scenic beauty which will give the ranch unusual distinction is to be obtained just after visitors reach the entrance these days, as a result of the stone laying operations of the Holmberg boys.⁴⁵

In some cases, the stonework may be as impressive as a building, if not more so. One such example is the ranch office where the stonework is perhaps as prominent as the picturesque building. When comparing a photograph from 1929 with a current photograph, the extensive stonework seems to exist as a stand-alone structure even though the frame building itself is no longer extant. The stonework includes foundation walls, arched openings, stairways, walkways, pillars, and retaining walls (Images 14 and 15). A similar example is a cottage said to have been used by architect Elmer Lohmann in which the complex stonework captures the attention (Image 16).

After Victor's death in 1929, his sons continued the family tradition of building in log and stone. In the 1930s, it was typical of the brothers to work together on a project, including the Hackensack Conservation Building. Gus's son Clifford recalled a number of the Holmberg brothers' projects. All four brothers were involved in the construction of the Sanders log cabin on Woman Lake, which was built in 1938 or 1939. They were paid 25 cents an hour due to the Great Depression. The cabin is still extant. They also built a log cabin on an island on Webb Lake. Gus's horses, Ginger and Topsy, dragged the logs through the woods to the lake where they were floated over to the building site.⁴⁶

⁴³ Bill Burnson, "Holmberg Family Made Mark in Lake Country Around Hackensack," *Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, November 6, 1977, n.p.; Burnson authored a similar article in 1977 titled, "Over a Half Century of Building."

⁴⁴ "Mascot Foxes," ca. 1930 booklet about the Mascot "A" Ranch published by the Northern Minnesota Publishing Company, Inc. A copy was provided to Rolf Anderson by Lynn Johnson of Mascot Resort, September 14, 2022.

⁴⁵ "Busy Laying Stone," Mascot Ranch Notes, *Cass County Independent*, June 17, 1927, 8.

⁴⁶ Clifford Holmberg, letter to Gloria Holmberg Sawyer, August 2021.

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One particularly prominent project was Roby's Restaurant, a log and stone building located on the main street in Hackensack.⁴⁷ The *Cass County Independent* reported on the grand opening in January 1937.

Official opening of Roby's new bus station and restaurant will be held Saturday evening, January 23rd. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to come in, look the place over, and enjoy a pleasant evening.

The new building which is 24 x 40 feet is built of specially selected Norway pine logs. The flooring is narrow, hard maple and the interior is most attractive in its simplicity. The log work was done by Victor Holmberg and the finishing by Walter Merritt.⁴⁸

Some stonework remained to be completed and was finished in May 1937.

Early this week workmen completed split rock steps at the side door and also placed a split rock finish on the chimney at Roby's Café.⁴⁹

Roby's Restaurant, however, is no longer extant.

In later years, Gus, along with Stanley and Cliff Thorp, built a log cabin for Ray Olson on Webb Lake. In 1949 or 1950, Gus and Cliff Thorp built a large cabin of cedar logs on Birch Lake. A Holmberg family photo from about that time depicts Gus standing next to a large cabin under construction (Image 17). And in later years Gus built a log cabin in the Twin Cities at an unknown location.⁵⁰

In addition to projects utilizing log and stone, the brothers also worked in general carpentry. But in time, Vic and Ed left the area while Gus and Fred remained. Gus lived on the family farm. However, the brothers continued to work either individually or collaboratively on log and stone building projects. Collectively the family left a remarkable legacy in the region. "Literally scores of log buildings and related stone masonry projects were erected and took form as the Holmberg family began making their name synonymous with their expertise in the crafts. They are a joint legend."⁵¹

The Works Progress Administration

By the spring of 1935, in spite of two years of unprecedented emergency measures and federal spending to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment, about 20 percent of the nation's labor force remained unemployed. The high unemployment remained in spite of earlier

⁴⁷ Clifford Holmberg, letter to Gloria Holmberg Sawyer, August 2021.

⁴⁸ "Official Opening Roby's New Station Sat., Jan. 23," *Cass County Independent*, January 22, 1937.

⁴⁹ "Hackensack Briefs, *Cass County Independent*, May 21, 1937, 7.

⁵⁰ Clifford Holmberg, letter to Gloria Holmberg Sawyer, August 2021

⁵¹ Bill Burnson, n.p.; Gloria Holmberg Sawyer and Mary Holmberg Eveland, interview with Rolf Anderson, Pine River, August 4, 2021.

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programs, including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA).

In an effort to address the unemployment problem, President Franklin Roosevelt decided to create a new program that could be initiated quickly and employ people on the relief (welfare). This new program was the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which was established by Executive Order No. 7034 dated May 6, 1935. This action was taken by the president under the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The nearly \$5 billion dollars authorized by the act was the largest single appropriation in the history of the United States. Of this funding, \$1.4 billion was allocated to the WPA.⁵²

The WPA sponsored the broadest range of projects of any work program of the New Deal. While construction projects were the most common, a broad range of service projects were also performed, which employed professionals, white-collar workers, and women. Public service projects included adult education programs, nursery schools, library services, recreation programs, and museum projects. Federal Project No. 1 employed artists, writers, musicians, and actors. The artists were best known for mural paintings, which were installed in post offices and other public buildings. Social service projects included sewing projects, school lunch programs, gardening and canning projects, surplus commodity programs, and public health programs.⁵³

The WPA was authorized to fund projects sponsored by both federal and non-federal entities. Non-federal projects could be sponsored by a state government or any governmental subdivision, which included counties, cities, villages, and townships. About three-fourths of the projects involved construction. Cities in need of improved facilities and services represented the most common applicant for WPA funding.

The local sponsor contributed a portion of the cost of the project. While contribution levels by sponsors fluctuated over the course of the WPA program, they averaged about 22 percent of all project's costs, and, thus, the federal government typically paid for nearly 80% of a project. The WPA typically paid the cost of the labor, while the sponsor paid for non-labor expenses such as materials, equipment, tools, skilled labor, technical supervision, office space, and supplies.⁵⁴

The WPA did not suggest or specify the architectural style for a particular project. This remained the responsibility of the project sponsor, who was also required to furnish the architectural plans and specifications. Although the WPA would review the design for its structural soundness. However, regional architectural expressions developed in Minnesota and elsewhere in the United States, which were related to the financial requirements set by the WPA. While the sponsor's share of the cost of a project varied during the life of the WPA, and in the case of the Hackensack Conservation Building, the WPA paid for the majority of the materials, eventually

⁵² James E. Olson, *Historical Dictionary of the New Deal* (Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1985), 398.

⁵³ Rolf T. Anderson, "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941," Multiple Property Documentation Form, State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, Minnesota, October 9, 1990, E: 50.

⁵⁴ Richard D. McKinzie, "Works Progress Administration," in *Franklin D. Roosevelt: His Life and Times: An Encyclopedic View*, Otis L. Graham, Jr. and Meghan Robinson Wander, eds. (Boston: G.K. Hall & Company, 1985), 462; "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941," E: 53.

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the sponsor was responsible for all non-labor costs associated with a project. Yet the greatest need for employment often existed in locations where communities were least able to afford the sponsor's contribution. This situation often resulted in the use of local building materials, such as log or stone. Fieldstone, for example, involved minimal material cost to the sponsor, yet resulted in labor intensive construction methods that clearly met one of the goals of the WPA of extending the length of time a worker was employed, and, thus, reducing the number of workers on relief rolls.⁵⁵

The use of local stone in the Milaca Village Hall and the Deerwood Auditorium are examples of how the use of native materials reduced the project cost and also extended the employment for the workers. The decision to build the Hackensack Conservation Building with log and stone was likely in part based on its function as a tourist information bureau, since its picturesque and distinctive architecture would increase its visibility and appeal to visitors. Yet, the result was the same. Employment was extended as the workers expended time harvesting and preparing logs and locating and splitting stones. The labor-intensive construction of the building also required additional time, versus the time needed to construct a frame building. Thus, the workers could be employed for a longer period of time and the cost of materials was reduced for the WPA and the project sponsor.

In 1939, as a result of the President Roosevelt's Reorganization Act, the WPA was placed under the jurisdiction of the Federal Works Agency and renamed the Work Projects Administration in order to stress tangible achievements rather than relief. With the advent of World War II, the need for the WPA diminished and on December 4, 1941, the President ordered all projects completed by June 30, 1943. The WPA, he said, had served America well and had "earned its honorable discharge."⁵⁶

During its eight-year duration, the WPA injected more than \$10 billion into the ailing economy and provided needy Americans with 13,686,000 person-years of employment.⁵⁷ In Minnesota, one quarter billion dollars were expended effecting some 600,000 persons. Physical accomplishments included 28,000 miles of roads newly built or improved; 677 bridges built and 766 improved; 28,000 feet of culverts; 578 miles of sidewalk; 673 miles of curbs; 1,324 new public buildings constructed (including 126 schools, 7 hospitals, and 3 armories), and 2,334 existing buildings improved; 52 stadiums or grandstands seating 105,000 people; 119 athletic fields; 15 swimming pools; 56 sewage treatment plants; 6 water treatment plants; 769 miles of storm and sanitary sewers; 348 miles of water mains; 5 fish hatcheries; 313 water control dams; 1 million square yards of riprap; 3 new airports built and 9 improved.⁵⁸ Many of these improvements continue to serve the public to this day.

The WPA promoted its own accomplishments through the presence of identifying signs at project sites and by supplying a variety of bronze plaques for completed buildings. As a result,

⁵⁵ "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941," E: 59-60.

⁵⁶ McKinzie, 463-464.

⁵⁷ McKinzie, 464.

⁵⁸ Sidney L. Stolte, "The End of the WPA," Sidney L. Stolte Papers, Minnesota State Archives, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, 9-12.

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the initials "WPA" are among the best remembered symbols of the New Deal and its name is found on hundreds of buildings throughout the state.⁵⁹

WPA Projects in Hackensack

Several additional construction projects have been identified that were funded by the WPA in Hackensack. The earliest known project, with an official WPA project number of O.P. 65-71-3122, dates to March 1936 and funded the grading and graveling of village streets. The initial allocation of \$2,256 was later increased by \$1,402 when additional work was authorized.⁶⁰

A project to construct a vault and make improvements to the grounds at the village cemetery was approved in December 1935 at about the same time as funding for the Conservation Building was approved. Project O.P. 65-71-6281 provided \$1,690 in funding.⁶¹

Additional street work was approved by July 1938 for the constructions of sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. The *Cass County Independent* reported:

Twenty WPA workers have been assigned to a project for construction of sidewalks, curbs and gutters in Hackensack. Approval of the project, which is sponsored by the village council, has been received by J. B. Kovarik, district director at Detroit Lakes, from R. C. Jacobson, acting state administrator.

Eight hundred lineal feet of sidewalk and a like amount of curb and gutter will be constructed.⁶²

The last known WPA construction project involved an addition and remodeling at the Hackensack school, which was completed by 1942. The gym was enlarged and a stage was added. A tunnel was also built that connected the boiler room and the new lunchroom and an entryway for unloading food and supplies was added.⁶³

One non-construction project illustrates the variety of projects funded by the WPA. In February 1936, \$302 was funded under project O.P. 65-71-6910, "For preparing and serving of hot lunches to undernourished children from relief families."⁶⁴

No additional New Deal projects have been identified in Hackensack that were sponsored by other New Deal agencies, such as the Public Works Administration (PWA). Of the WPA construction projects in Hackensack, both the cemetery vault and school building have been

⁵⁹ "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941," E: 67.

⁶⁰ Images 324 and 325, Index T-935, Project Application Reference Cards, Records of the Works Projects Administration (WPA), Record Group 69, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

⁶¹ Image 330, Records of the Works Projects Administration (WPA); "Hackensack Also Obtains OK for New Civic House," *Cass County Independent*, December 20, 1935, 8.

⁶² "Hackensack To Have New Sidewalks and Curbing," *Cass County Independent*, July 8, 1938, 1.

⁶³ *Celebrating 100 Years: 1903-2003 - Hackensack, Minnesota*, 46.

⁶⁴ Image 331, Records of the Works Projects Administration (WPA).

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demolished. Similarly, because of street and sidewalk improvements over the years, it is not believed that there could be any discernable surviving elements of the WPA-funded improvements. Thus, the Conservation Building remains Hackensack's most visible and emblematic reminder of the civic improvements made possible by the federal relief programs of the New Deal and continues to serve the community to the present day.

Tourism in the Hackensack Area

In Minnesota, resort hotels and communities began to develop in the late nineteenth century. Many visitors came from southern states in order to escape the summer heat. An early destination was Lake Minnetonka, just west of Minneapolis, which featured a number of elaborate hotels. One visitor to Lake Minnetonka was Charles Gibson from Missouri, who commented that the lake was "a refuge for himself and family during the heated term which annually blisters [St. Louis]." ⁶⁵

There were also practical considerations that encouraged people to travel to resort areas. By the 1890s, urban centers were often smoke-filled and overcrowded, and sometimes rife with disease. The restorative qualities of nature and the wholesomeness of rural life were also promoted during the Progressive Era. Another important factor was the search for relief from hay fever and asthma. One hundred years ago, hay fever was a significant health problem. Antihistamines were non-existent and the only alternative was to travel to pollen-free locations.

The large number of lakes in Minnesota could offer abundant opportunities to visitors. Minnesota had long been known by the moniker, "Land of 10,000 Lakes," a term based on an estimate by geologist and explorer Henry Schoolcraft in 1851. ⁶⁶

The earliest visitors arrived in St. Paul by steamboat. But as the network of railroads expanded in the state, visitors were offered more opportunities as additional resort areas developed. These resort communities began to emerge in a northerly progression beginning with destinations such as the Alexandria, Fergus Falls, and Brainerd lakes areas in the central part of the state. Tourism then expanded into northern Minnesota and finally reached the border lakes region along the boundary with Canada.

Railroads, which had been built to transport lumber and iron ore, were looking for ways to sustain profits through passenger trade and began to promote tourist destinations. They produced pamphlets promoting the natural wonders and scenic areas along their routes. State agencies and private tourism groups also began to promote the attributes of the region. In 1917, The Ten Thousand Lakes Association was formed in Minnesota to promote tourism in the state. The Association's "Come to Minnesota" campaign in 1918 attracted 40,000 visitors, an increase from 13,000 in 1916. The number increased to over 300,000 by 1921. In the early 1930s, the state took over the functions of the association and established a tourist bureau within the Department of

⁶⁵ Barbara McHenry Sykora, "Charles Gibson's Lake Minnetonka Summers," *Hennepin History* 72, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 21.

⁶⁶ Paul Clifford Larson, *A Place at the Lake* (Afton, Minnesota: Afton Historical Society Press, 1998), 11-12.

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Conservation. The Minnesota Arrowhead Association (MAA) was established in 1924 to promote northeastern Minnesota. Other promotional organizations included the Minnesota Land and Lakes Attractions Board, the Minnesota Scenic Highway Association, and the Northern Minnesota Development Association.⁶⁷

With an emerging middle class with disposable income, and ultimately the freedom provided by an affordable automobile, recreational travel and tourist destinations became available to the masses.

Hackensack and the surrounding area was initially settled largely because of the lumber industry. But with a preponderance of lakes, the resort industry area also began to emerge in the early years of the twentieth century, particularly when lumbering began to wane and communities sought ways to stabilize their economies. One of the earliest resorts in the Hackensack area might have been Kabekona Camp on Woman Lake, which was featured in a 1904 promotional brochure. (Images 18-19)

In 1914, North Star Camp, also on Woman Lake, was featured in the publication *North Woods*, described as the “Official Bulletin of the Minnesota Forestry Association and the State Forest Service,” which described a number of resorts throughout the state.

Seni-On-Sed Lodge, also on Woman Lake, opened in 1918. An attractive brochure about the lodge printed in 1919 featured photos of guests displaying the abundant fish that might be caught (Images 20 and 21).⁶⁸ A historic photograph from ca. 1920 depicts another popular resort, Woman Lake Lodge (Image 22).

The number of resorts near Hackensack continued to grow. A “1924 Directory of Resorts” in the area listed twenty-three resorts and one girl’s summer camp, all located on Ten Mile, Woman, Webb, Pleasant, Deep, Birch, and Baby Lakes.

Camp Holiday (Woman Lake)
Carlson’s Cottages (Ten Mile Lake)
Call of the Wild (Ten Mile Lake)
Camp Davenport (Webb Lake)
Camp Wi-Wi-Ta (Woman Lake)
Hustle-In Lodge (Ten Mile Lake)
Hidden Point (Pleasant Lake)
Island Beach (Pleasant Lake)
Klose-to-Nature Camp (Ten Mile Lake)
Kee-Nee-Moo-Sha Lodge (Woman Lake)
Kenfield Lodge (Ten Mile Lake)

⁶⁷ Dena L. Sanford and Mary L. Graves, “Historic Context for Tourism and Recreational Development in the Minnesota Northern Border Lakes from the 1880s through the 1950s,” Report prepared for the Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1999, 11-12, 20.

⁶⁸ “Semi-On-Sed Lodge,” 1919, Minnesota Historical Society.

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Kabekona Camp (Woman Lake)
Karl's Bay (Deep Lake)
North Star Camp (Woman Lake)
Pine Manor (Pleasant Lake)
Rest Haven (Ten Mile Lake)
Seni-Om-Sed Lodge (Woman Lake)
Shore Acres (Woman Lake)
Sleepy Hollow (Woman Lake)
Shady Shores (Ten Mile Lake)
Triangle Farm (Birch Lake)
Tusler's Park (Baby Lake)
Webb Lake Lodge (Webb Lake)
Woman Lake Lodge (Woman Lake)⁶⁹

In 1937, the Northern Pacific Railway announced it would begin operation of a special weekend train between the Twin Cities and the Brainerd-Bemidji resort region to augment their regular daily service so that visitors could escape to a resort destination just for the weekend. Service would begin June 18 and continue through September 3. The train, known as the Paul Bunyan Special, would leave Minneapolis and St. Paul late Friday afternoon and return Sunday evening. The train provided service to resort towns between Brainerd and Bemidji including Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Pine River, Backus, Hackensack, Walker, and Laporte.⁷⁰ The Northern Pacific Depot was conveniently located just to the east of the Hackensack Conservation Building where visitors could receive tourist information.

The Hackensack Conservation Building not only supported the resort industry by providing information to tourists, but visitors to the area also supported local businesses and the broader economy. Local businesses supplied visitors with a range of products and services ranging from equipment for sportsmen to souvenirs (Image 23). The importance of this service can be seen in how other small towns also created information bureaus to support their communities. Walker, located to the north of Hackensack on Leech Lake, also built a Conservation Building (NRHP, 2003) with New Deal funding. The building included an information bureau, wildlife museum, and government offices. Other towns that also established information bureaus included Bemidji, Grand Rapids, and Pine River.⁷¹

The Hackensack area remains a popular destination to this day with resorts and summer cabins lining the shores of its picturesque lakes.

Registration Requirements for Federal Relief Construction Projects

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) titled "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1943" identifies the types of the buildings that were constructed by the various

⁶⁹ "1924 Directory of Resorts," *Celebrating 100 Years, 1903-2003, Hackensack, Minnesota*, 110.

⁷⁰ "Paul Bunyan Special to Serve Resort Region," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, June 6, 1937, 21.

⁷¹ Ed L. Shave, "Rambling Around Minnesota Resorts," *Minneapolis Star*, July 7, 1940, 21.

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New Deal programs, discusses their significance, and defines the requirements to list such buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. The types of buildings are organized into broad categories referred to as "property types." Government Buildings, Educational Facilities, and Public Utilities, for example, are considered property types. Specific types of buildings within each property type are also identified. For example, Primary and Secondary Schools, University Buildings, and Libraries and Museums are included within the property type of Education Facilities.

Because of the unusually wide variety of functions that took place in the Hackensack Conservation Building, several property types might apply to the building. The various functions that could be categorized as municipal services might qualify the property as a Municipal Building within the category of Government Buildings. Similarly, because the building also provided space for community events, it might also be considered within the category of Auditoriums and Community Buildings included in the property type of Social and Recreational Facilities. However, because the registration requirements for both property types are similar, and because a Government Building might include community rooms, the significance of the building and requirements to list the Hackensack Conservation Building on the National Register are evaluated within the property type of Government Buildings.

Significance

Government Buildings 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 unprecedented federal funding often produced a building representing a city's first modern and complete municipal facility that ultimately resulted in an expanded governmental presence in the community. Towns and villages, which had previously provided the services of only a fire department and jail, were able to offer libraries, auditoriums, and community rooms, which were used for a variety of social and civic functions, as well as complete public safety facilities, all of which enhanced the quality of life in the community.

The construction of a Government Building often provided substantial employment to the area and significantly reduced the number of residents receiving direct relief. The federal assistance associated with these buildings established the precedent for direct federal allotments to municipal governments which we know today.

Government Buildings are architecturally significant as among the most prominent and visually significant buildings in the community. A variety of well-executed designs were constructed, including the prevailing styles of the day, as well as distinctive architectural expressions associated with specific work programs, such as the Works Progress Administration. The programmatic requirements for such projects often resulted in the use of native building

Hackensack Conservation Building

Cass County, Minnesota

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materials featuring irreplaceable labor-intensive methods and finely crafted detailing.⁷²

Registration Requirements

The requirements to list a Government Building on the National Register of Historic Places are summarized as follows:

1. The construction of a Government Building should have been financed through a grant or loan from the federal government, or federal funds should have been utilized for materials, labor, or supervision. Construction should have been completed by 1943.
2. A Government Building may be eligible under National Register Criterion A for its historical significance by representing a particularly important project through the size and scope of the work involved, or by the number of people employed; or the project should represent a significant contribution to the community by providing a new and modern facility which offered programs, amenities, or community services which were previously unavailable.
3. A Government Building may be eligible under National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance by incorporating the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possess high artistic values. This criteria may be met if a building is constructed with finely crafted indigenous materials, a distinctive construction method often associated with specific federal work programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration.
4. A Government Building should possess integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, and should be without substantial alterations. Original materials and prominent features should remain intact, and any alterations should be modest in scale without impacting or obscuring major facades, elements, or design features. A Government Building should represent new construction rather than an addition or expansion.
5. A building need not retain its original function if historic physical integrity is retained.⁷³

The Hackensack Conservation Building meets the five applicable registration requirements for Government Buildings that are listed above. The building was completed in 1936 through a grant from the Works Progress Administration. The building is eligible under National Register Criterion A as a new and important facility, which has served the community in various capacities since its construction. It is also eligible under National Register Criterion C as the work of a master and for its distinctive log and stone construction often associated with New

⁷² "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941," F: 4-5.

⁷³ "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941," F: 5-7

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Deal programs such as the Works Progress Administration. The building retains unusually high historic integrity and remains in very original condition. Finally, while the building did not become a community lending library until about 20 years ago, it is notable that the original application for WPA funding identified a library as one of the building's possible functions.

Conclusion

The Hackensack Conservation Building has continued to serve the community for 86 years and thus represents an exemplary example of a federal relief construction project. Its architecturally significant Rustic style design continues to welcome visitors and offers the opportunity to inform the public about enduring impact of the New Deal.

Hackensack Conservation Building
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anderson, Rolf T. "Federal Relief Construction in Minnesota, 1933-1941." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, Minnesota, October 9, 1990.

Anderson, Rolf T. "Kawishiwi Lodge." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, Minnesota, June 5, 2020.

Anderson, Rolf T. "Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul, Minnesota, September 3, 1988.

Holland, Ren. *The Early Resorts of Minnesota: Tourism in the Land of 10,000 Lakes*. Edina: Beaver's Pond Press, 2013.

Larson, Paul Clifford. *A Place at the Lake*. Afton: Afton Historical Society Press, 1998.

Sanford, Dena, L. and Mary L. Graves. "Historic Context for Tourism and Recreational Development in the Minnesota Northern Border Lakes from the 1880s through the 1950s." Report prepared for the Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1999.

Shapiro, Aaron. *The Lure of the North Woods: Cultivating Tourism in the Upper Midwest*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013.

Stolte, Sidney, L. "The End of the WPA." Sidney L. Stolte Papers, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Interviews

Eveland, Mary Holmberg. Interview with Rolf Anderson. Pine River, August 4, 2021.

Frederick, Shirley. Interview with Rolf Anderson. Hackensack, August 4, 2021.

Geving, Renee. Interviews with Rolf Anderson. Cass County Historical Society, Walker, August 4, 2021, and September 15, 2022.

Johnson, Lynn. Interview with Rolf Anderson. Mascot Resort. September 14, 2022.

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Sawyer, Gloria Holmberg. Interviews with Rolf Anderson. Pine River, August 4, 2021, and September 13, 2022.

Woock, Burton. Interviews with Rolf Anderson. Hackensack. August 4, 2021, and September 13, 2022.

Archival Collections

Cass County Historical Society. Walker, Minnesota.

Records of the Works Projects Administration. Record Group 69. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

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:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CA-HSC-004

Hackensack Conservation Building
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .62 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☒ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 384080 | Northing: 5198390 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

Outlot A except south 45 feet thereof, Auditors Plat

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated parcel includes the building historically associated with the property.

Hackensack Conservation Building
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rolf T. Anderson
organization: _____
street & number: 212 West 36th Street
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55408
e-mail roanders6@aol.com
telephone: (612) 824-7807
date: June 7, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Hackensack Conservation Building
City or Vicinity: Hackensack
County: Cass State: Minnesota
Photographer: Rolf Anderson
Date Photographed: August 3-4, 2021 unless otherwise noted for photos taken September 13-14, 2022

Hackensack Conservation Building
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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 17. North and east elevations, facing southwest
- 2 of 17. East elevation, facing west
- 3 of 17. East and south elevations, facing northwest
- 4 of 17. North elevation, facing southwest
- 5 of 17. South elevation, facing north
- 6 of 17. South and west elevations, facing northeast
- 7 of 17. West elevation, facing east
- 8 of 17. Stone chimney, west elevation, facing east
- 9 of 17. Center room with stone fireplace, facing west
- 10 of 17. Center room, fireplace hearth and mantel, facing west
- 11 of 17. Center room, upper portion of fireplace, facing west
- 12 of 17. Center room, door to south room (left) and door to restroom (right), facing south (September 14, 2022)
- 13 of 17. Center room, looking from the center room into the north room with the door removed, facing north
- 14 of 17. North room, looking from the north room into the center room with former doorway at right infilled, facing south (September 14, 2022)
- 15 of 17. North room, view of south and east walls and ceiling, facing southwest
- 16 of 17. North room, view through casement windows toward Birch Lake, facing west (September 14, 2022)
- 17 of 17. Picnic Shelter with Conservation Building at right, facing northwest (September 13, 1922)

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 100 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.

Hackensack Conservation Building
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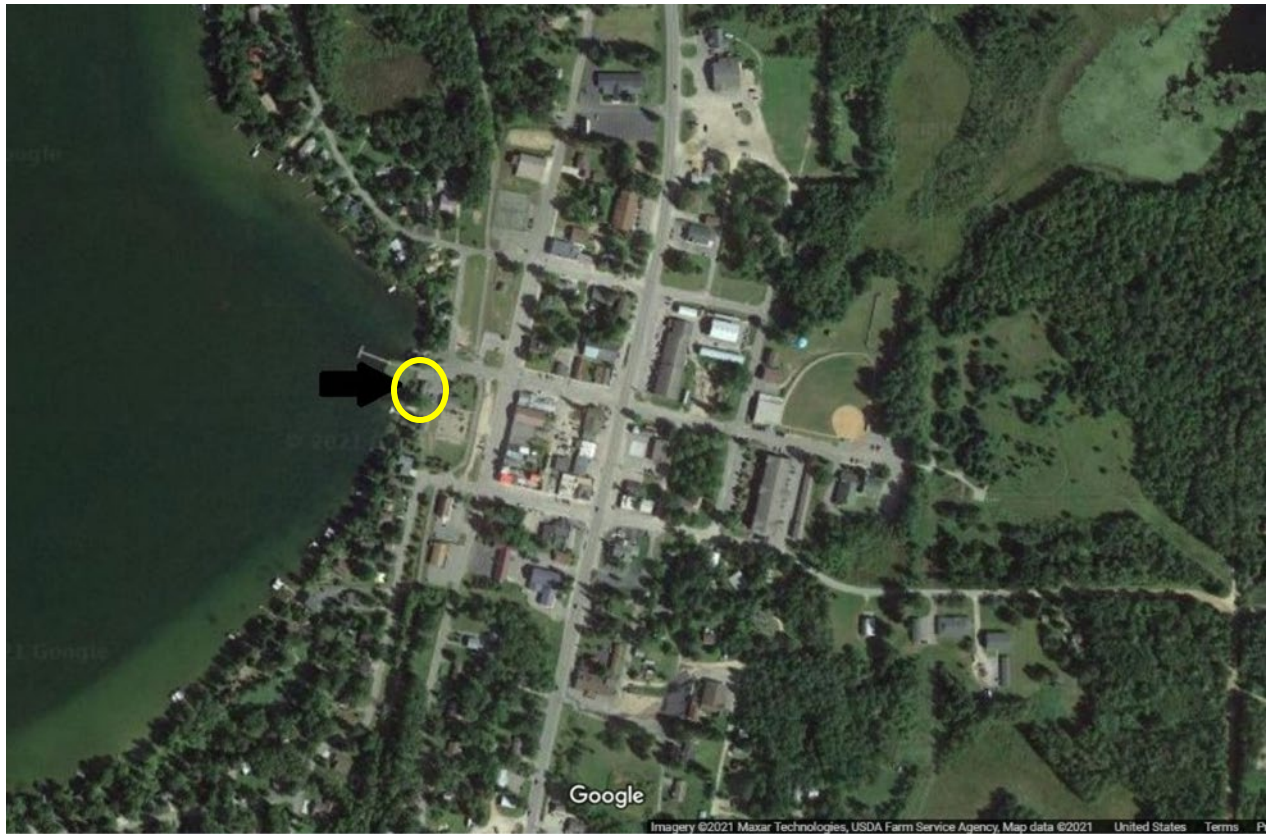


Image 1. Location of the Hackensack Conservation Building. 2021 Google Maps

Hackensack Conservation Building
Name of Property

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U. S. D. (Form 20)
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
PROJECT PROPOSAL
64347

Amount requested, \$ _____ W. P. A. Work Project No. _____
Amount approved, \$ _____ Serial No. 2-849 Date 10-31-35
(Sponsor is not to write above line)

Sponsor's proposal No. 4 Date of proposal Oct. 2, 1935.

To: WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF Cass County 2 Minn.
(Local) (District) (State)

1. Request is hereby made that the following proposal be reviewed and that a formal application be made for an allotment of funds for this project under the rules and regulations of the Works Progress Administration.

From: Hackensack Village Council Hackensack Cass Minn.
(Sponsor) (City, town, village) (County) (State)

2. Location of project: Hackensack Park Hackensack Cass Minn.
(City, town, village) (County) (State)

3. Description of project and character of work: Construction of log cabin building to be used as a Conservation building, combining a library, information bureau, museum and tourist comfort station. Bldg. will be 33'X 14' approx., with basement under central unit for future heating plant. Foundation to be of field stone. Fire place also to be of field stone. Site to be at entrance to Lake Shore Park. This project will also include grading, filling, landscaping of the park and graveling of drive approach and paths, etc.
Preliminary Plan attached.

4. Summary of estimated costs:

Item of cost (1)	Federal Funds (2)		Sponsor's contributions (3)		Total (4)	
	Amount (Dollars)	%	Amount (Dollars)	%	Amount (Dollars)	%
a. Labor:						
1. Unskilled	<u>1056</u>	<u>960.00</u>	<u>34.83</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1056</u>	<u>960.00</u>
2. Intermediate	<u>49.50</u>	<u>180.00</u>	<u>7.31</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>49.50</u>	<u>180.00</u>
3. Skilled	<u>363</u>	<u>320.00</u>	<u>13.41</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>320.00</u>
4. Professional and technical	<u>1468.50</u>	<u>1,470.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>23.8</u>	<u>1,468.50</u>	<u>1,470.00</u>
SUBTOTAL (a)	<u>1978.50</u>	<u>1,770.00</u>	<u>71.67</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>1,978.50</u>	<u>1,770.00</u>
b. Superintendence	<u>570.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>12.21</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>570.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>
SUBTOTAL (a) plus (b)	<u>1978.50</u>	<u>1,770.00</u>	<u>71.67</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>1,978.50</u>	<u>1,770.00</u>
c. Material, equipment, and other costs:						
1. Material and supplies	<u>576.85</u>	<u>23.52</u>	<u>33.20</u>	<u>15.8</u>	<u>576.85</u>	<u>23.52</u>
2. Equipment rentals	<u>126.00</u>	<u>5.7</u>	<u>12.00</u>	<u>5.7</u>	<u>126.00</u>	<u>5.7</u>
3. Other direct costs	<u>702.85</u>	<u>76.3</u>	<u>115.00</u>	<u>54.7</u>	<u>702.85</u>	<u>76.3</u>
SUBTOTAL (c) only	<u>702.85</u>	<u>76.3</u>	<u>115.00</u>	<u>54.7</u>	<u>702.85</u>	<u>76.3</u>
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	<u>2,681.35</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>210.20</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2,681.35</u>	<u>100</u>

1 FOR STATE OFFICE

Image 2. Project Proposal for the Hackensack Conservation Building, page 1. Records of the WPA. National Archives and Records Administration.

Image 3. Project Proposal for the Hackensack Conservation Building, page 4. Records of the WPA. National Archives and Records Administration.

Hackensack Conservation Building
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W. P. A. Form 281-Continued. Page 5 of 8 pages

27. Condensed work schedule and number of man-months each month. (Total man-months should equal column 13)

Types of workers required	Average number of workers each month												Man-Months (total)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Unskilled	8	8	8										24
Intermediate	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2										7 1/2
Skilled	2	2	2 1/2										6 1/2
Professional & Technical													
Superintendence	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2										7 1/2
TOTALS	13	12	12 1/2										37 1/2

28. Estimate of cost by items of work:

Quantity (1)	Unit (2)	Description of operation or feature of work (3)	Unit price (4)	Amount (dollars) (5)
94	cu. yd.	Excavation	1.20	113.00
100	"	Hauling sand & gravel	.90	90.00
3 1/2	"	Concrete footings	6.20	21.70
25	"	Foundation walls; fieldstone (1 ft. cracked)	15.00	375.00
880	sq. ft.	log walls, complete incl. hauling, felling, etc.	.35	308.00
1.75	mbf.	Lumber erection	60.00	105.00
.5	"	Finish floor	98.00	49.00
1.5	\$100 worth	Mill work	139.00	216.84
6	cu. yd.	Fire place, incl. hearth, damper & flue lin.	30.00	180.00
6	sq.	Shingling	9.25	55.50
500	sq. ft.	Sheet rock erection	.07	35.00
1	mbf.	Const. of stacks(book), tables, etc.		120.00
4	cu. yd.	Const. of 4 entrance stoops, (conc. & stone)	16.00	64.00
.45	mbf.	Insulation	65.00	29.25
		Plumbing installation		225.00
		Tree & shrub planting & landscaping		150.00
50	cu. yd.	Grading, const. of drive, paths, leveling etc.	1.00	50.00
25	"	Black dirt spreading, etc.	2.00	50.00
		Miscellaneous		70.75
		Supervision		300.00
		Painting, staining, oiling, etc.		75.00
		Labor power +		208.50
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT (total of column 4, item 4, page 1)				2,891.55

29. FISCAL CERTIFICATE:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the contributions specified in this proposal will be available for the prosecution of this project as needed.

Fiscal officer J. P. Brennan (Type or print Name) J. P. Brennan (Signature) Mayor (Title) Oct. 24 1935 (Date)

30. SPONSORING CERTIFICATE:
The statements contained in this proposal have been checked by the undersigned and are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. It is agreed that the Works Progress Administration is under no obligation to complete any project. This project will not cover work for which local funds are currently appropriated, or work generally included in the normal governmental operations of sponsoring agency, nor will it result in the displacement of regular employees of this agency. The work proposed will be done in full conformance with all legal requirements. It is understood that Federal funds will be expended by the United States Treasury, only upon pay rolls and vouchers certified by the Works Progress Administration; and that all operations will be in accordance with regulations prescribed under the Emergency Relief Act of 1935 and administrative orders and instructions issued by the Works Progress Administration.

Sponsor's agent A. L. Woodruff (Type or print name) A. L. Woodruff (Signature) Clerk (Title) Oct. 24 1935 (Date)

Image 4. Project Proposal for the Hackensack Conservation Building, page 5. Records of the WPA. National Archives and Records Administration.

Hackensack Conservation Building
Name of Property

Cass County, Minnesota
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Transmitted to Washington
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
PROJECT APPLICATION
64852

Date NOV 15 1935
Amount requested by District, \$ 5,877.85 7681.35 State Serial No. 2-849
Amount approved by State, \$ 2,477.85 W. P. A. Work Project No. 00700
Approved 11-13-35 7681.35 of Minnesota (State)
Approved (Date) (State Administrator)
Approved (Date) (Administrator of Works Progress Administration)

From: Works Progress Administration of 2 (District) Minnesota (State)
1. An analysis has been made of Sponsor's Project Proposal No. 4 submitted by:
Hackensack Village Council (Sponsor) Hackensack (City, Town, Village) Cass (County)

2. Description and character of work:
Construction of log cabin building to be used as a Conservation building, combining a library, information bureau, museum and tourist comfort station. Building will be 33'x14' approx., with basement under central unit for future heating plant. Foundation to be of field stone. Fire place also to be of field stone. Site to be at entrance to Lake Shore Park. This project will also include grading, filling, landscaping of the park and graveling of drive approach and paths, etc.
located on Public Property

It appears from this analysis that the following results will be obtained:
3. Total man-years of work 3.07 Total man-years of work (Federal) 3.07
4. Average number of workers per month:
(a) Persons from public relief rolls, paid from Federal funds 11.27 14.28 Plus
(b) Total persons paid from Federal funds 14.27 18.5 Plus
(c) Total persons paid by Sponsor 1.16 0.34 Plus
(d) Total number of workers (b plus c) 12.43 18.84
5. Ratio of average number of workers from relief rolls to all persons paid from Federal funds (4a divided by 4b above) 91.85 %
6. Federal expenditure per man-year of labor 874.36 802.04 874.36 %
7. Project can be started 15 days after notice of approval and will require 3 months for completion.
8. Remarks:
Hackensack Village is situated in the center of a group of 128 lakes, so an information bureau for tourists and campers, etc. is much needed; a comfort station in this connection is also desirable. There is no library or conservation museum at Hackensack, so this also is highly desirable. The central room of the building could also be used for clubs and public meetings for small groups. This project would furnish employment for ten unemployed during the winter months.

9. Summary of estimated costs:

	FEDERAL FUNDS		SPONSOR'S CONT.		TOTAL	
	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%
Labor	1470.00	57.6	50.00	23.8	1520.00	58.5
Superintendence	200.00	18.1	50.00	11.0	250.00	13.9
Material, equipment and other costs	702.35	26.3	160.00	76.3	862.35	30.7
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	2472.35	100	210.20	100	2682.55	100

10. The proposed project complies with the requirements of the Works Progress Administration, and application for allocation of funds is hereby made. It is hereby certified that not less than twenty-five per centum (25%) of the grant to be made in connection with the foregoing project is to be expended for work under such project.

Checked: As to Labor, V. A. Lewis Date 11/1/35
As to Engineering, A. T. Brown Date
As to computation Date 11-13-35
Approved NOV 11 1935 District Director

Image 5. Project Application for the Hackensack Conservation Building. Records of the WPA. National Archives and Records Administration.

Hackensack Conservation Building
Name of Property

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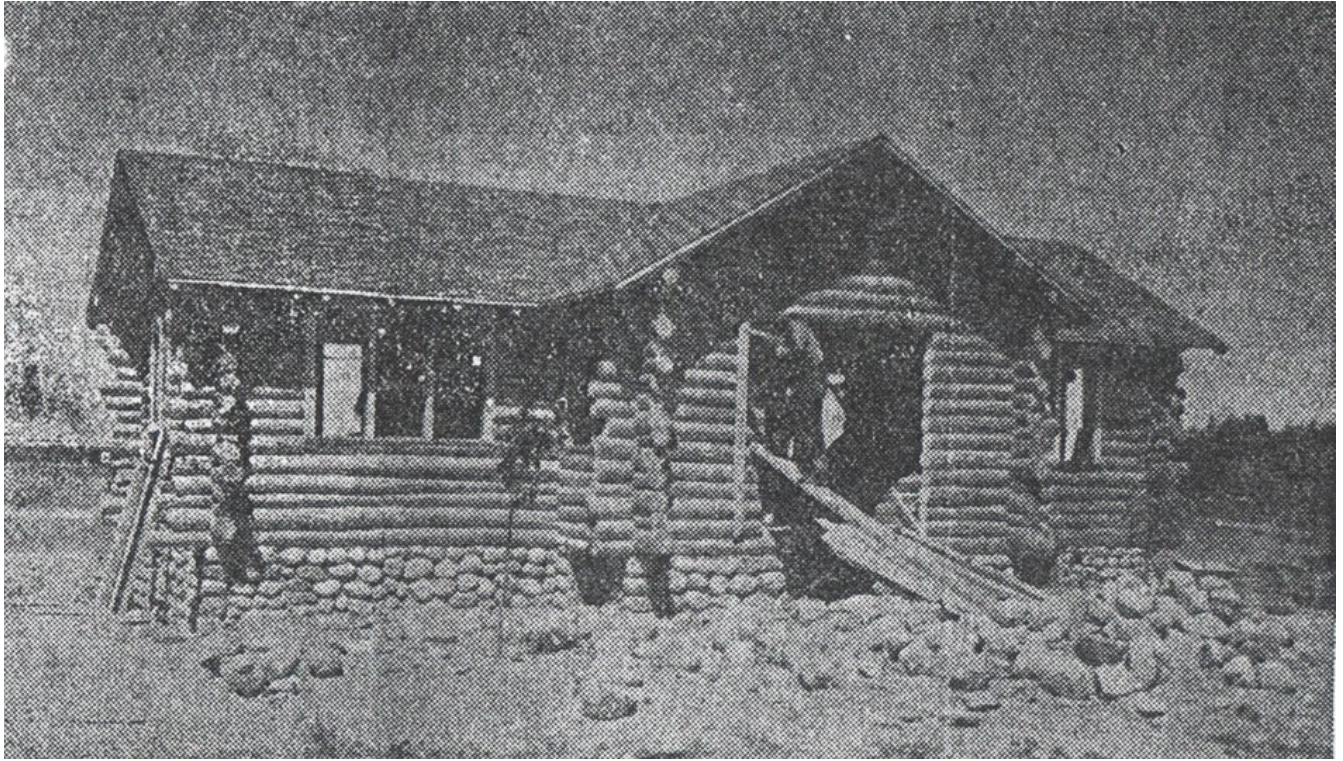


Image 6. Construction photo. *Pillager Herald*, September 4, 1936

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Image 7. WPA photograph of the completed building, ca. 1936. Minnesota Historical Society photo

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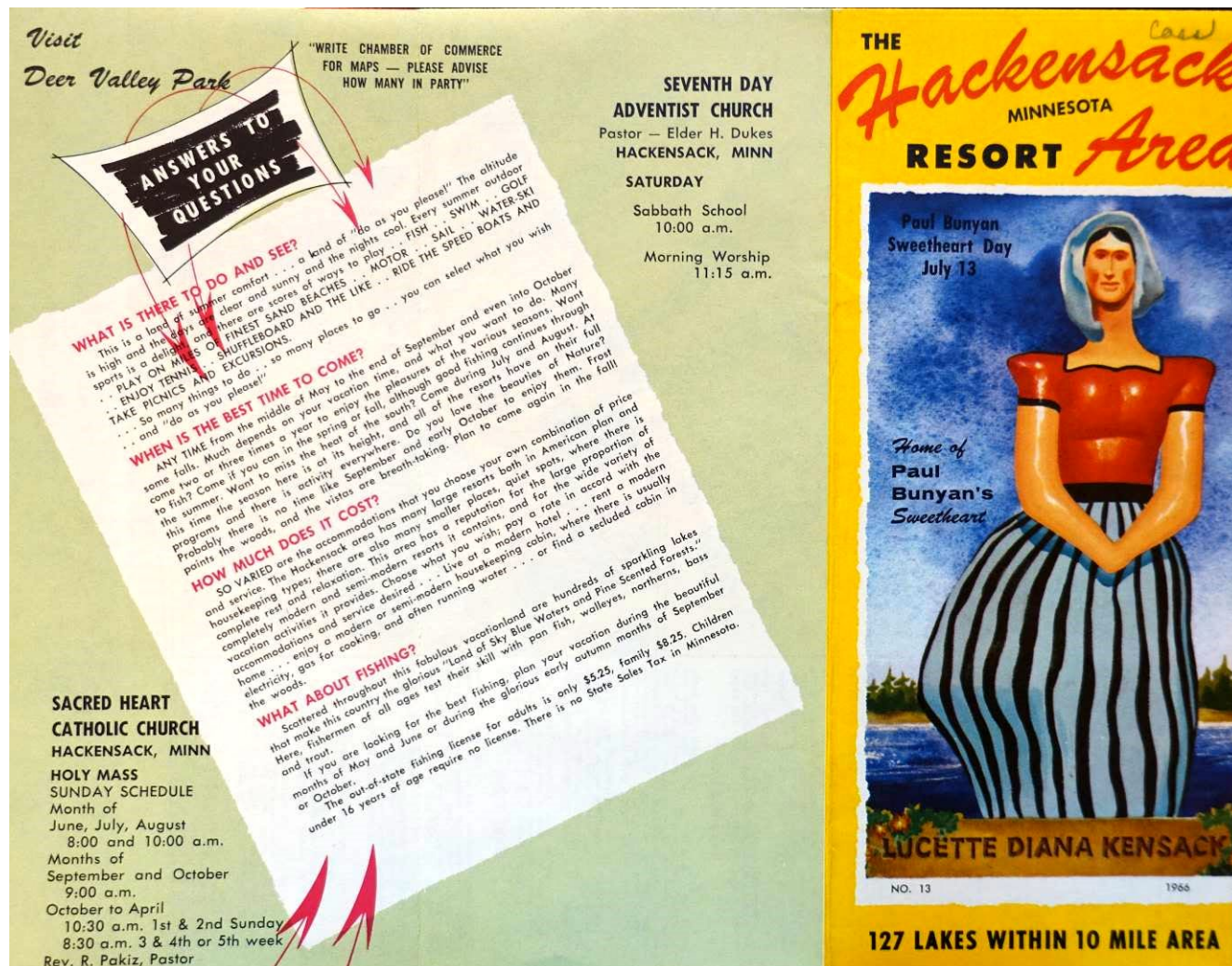


Image 8. Promotional brochure on the Hackensack area, 1966. Hackensack Chamber of Commerce. Minnesota Historical Society

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Image 9. Promotional brochure on the Hackensack area, 1966. Hackensack Chamber of Commerce. Minnesota Historical Society

Hackensack Conservation Building
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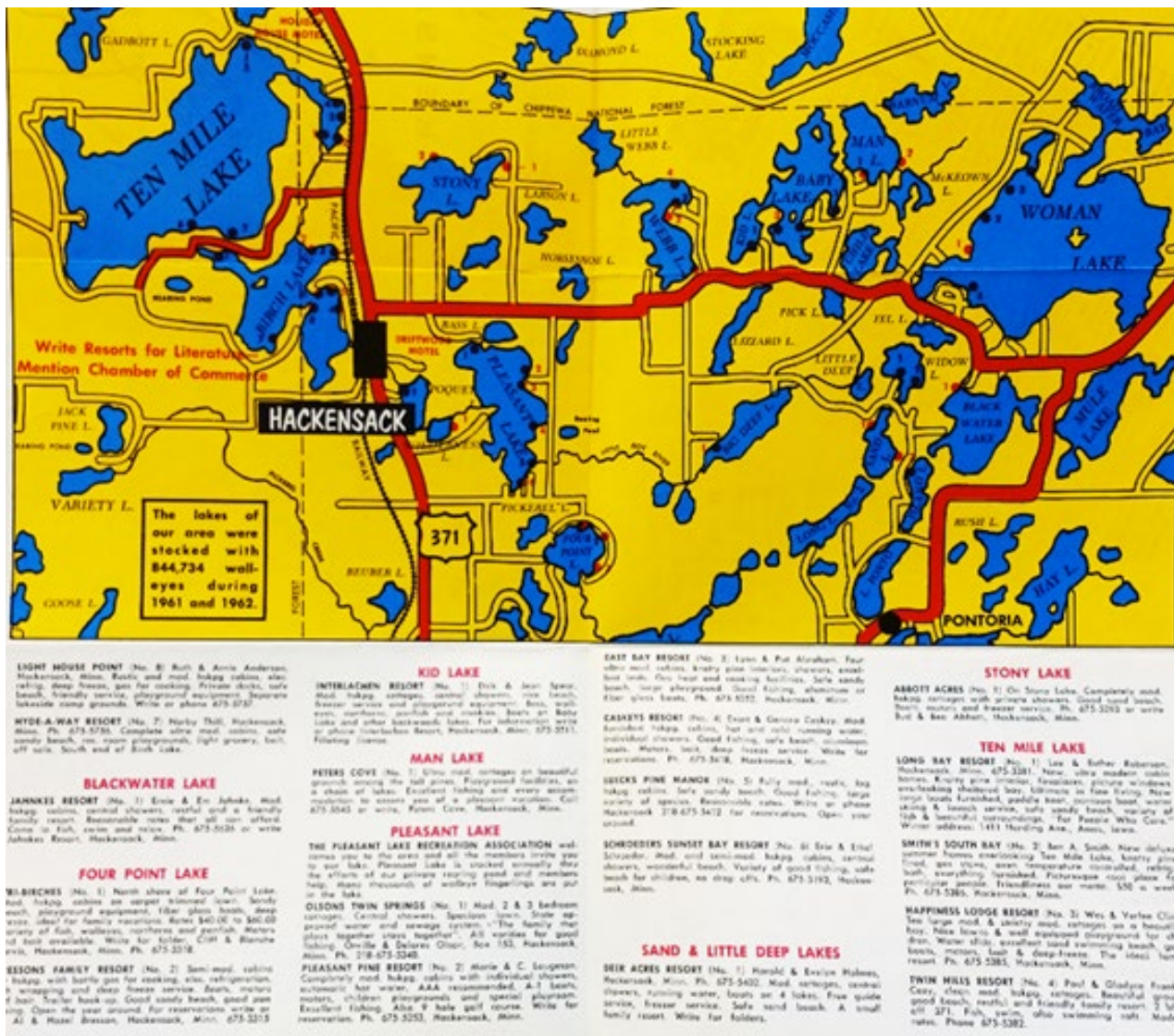


Image 10. Promotional brochure on the Hackensack area, 1966. Hackensack Chamber of Commerce. Minnesota Historical Society

Hackensack Conservation Building
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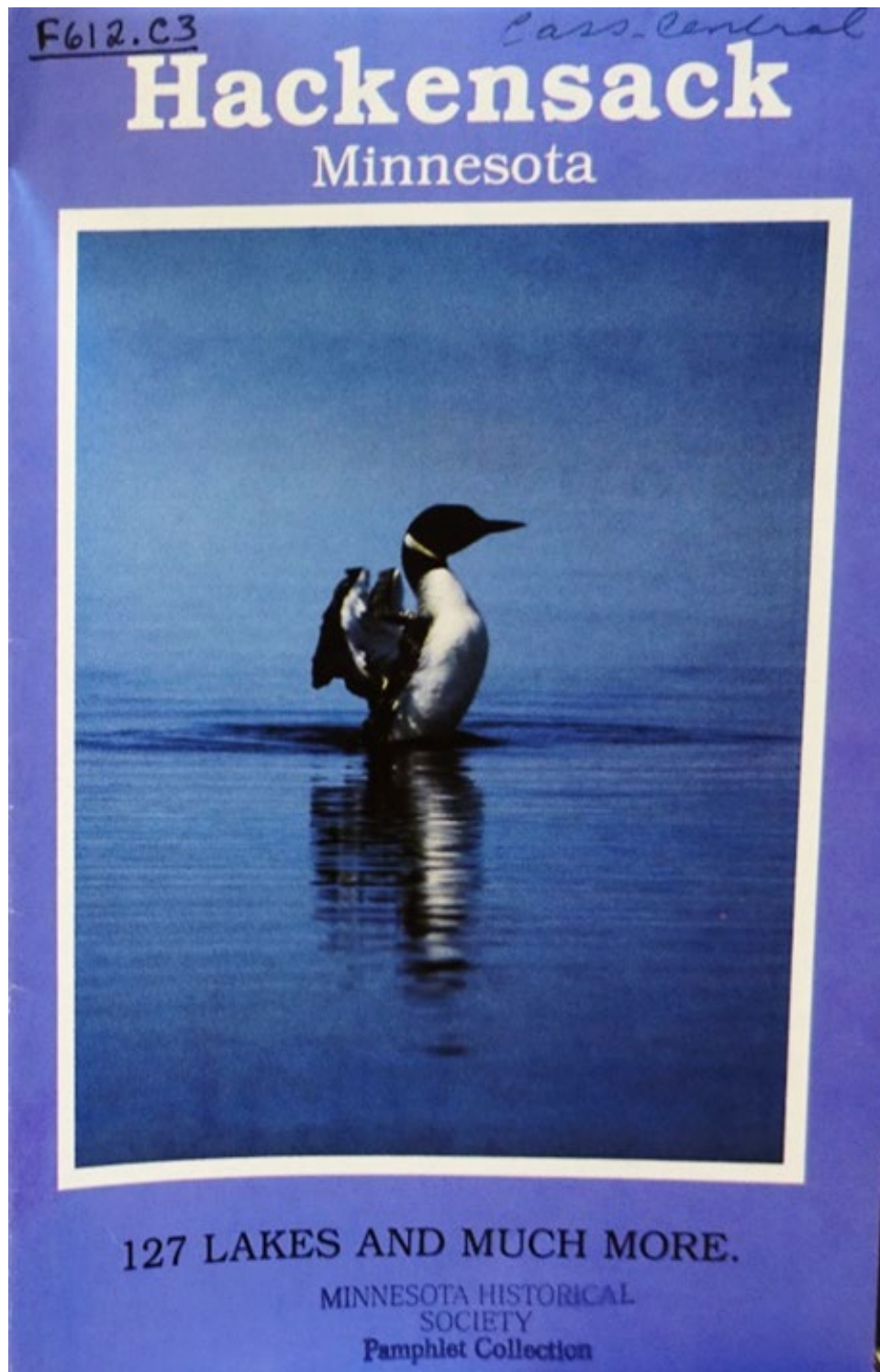


Image 11. Promotional brochure on the Hackensack area, ca. 1980. Hackensack Chamber of Commerce. Minnesota Historical Society

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Image 12. Gus Holmberg at Chimney Point, Webb Lake, ca. 1950s.
Photo courtesy Gloria Holmberg Sawyer

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Image 13. The four Holmberg brothers, from left to right, Vic, Fred, Gus, and Ed Holmberg, ca. 1929. Photo courtesy Mary Holmberg Eveland

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Images 14 and 15. Comparison of the stonework at Mascot “A” Ranch in a 1929 photo (top) courtesy Mascot Ranch and a photo from 2022 by Rolf Anderson (bottom).

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Image 16. Cabin at the Mascot "A" Ranch. 2022 photo by Rolf Anderson

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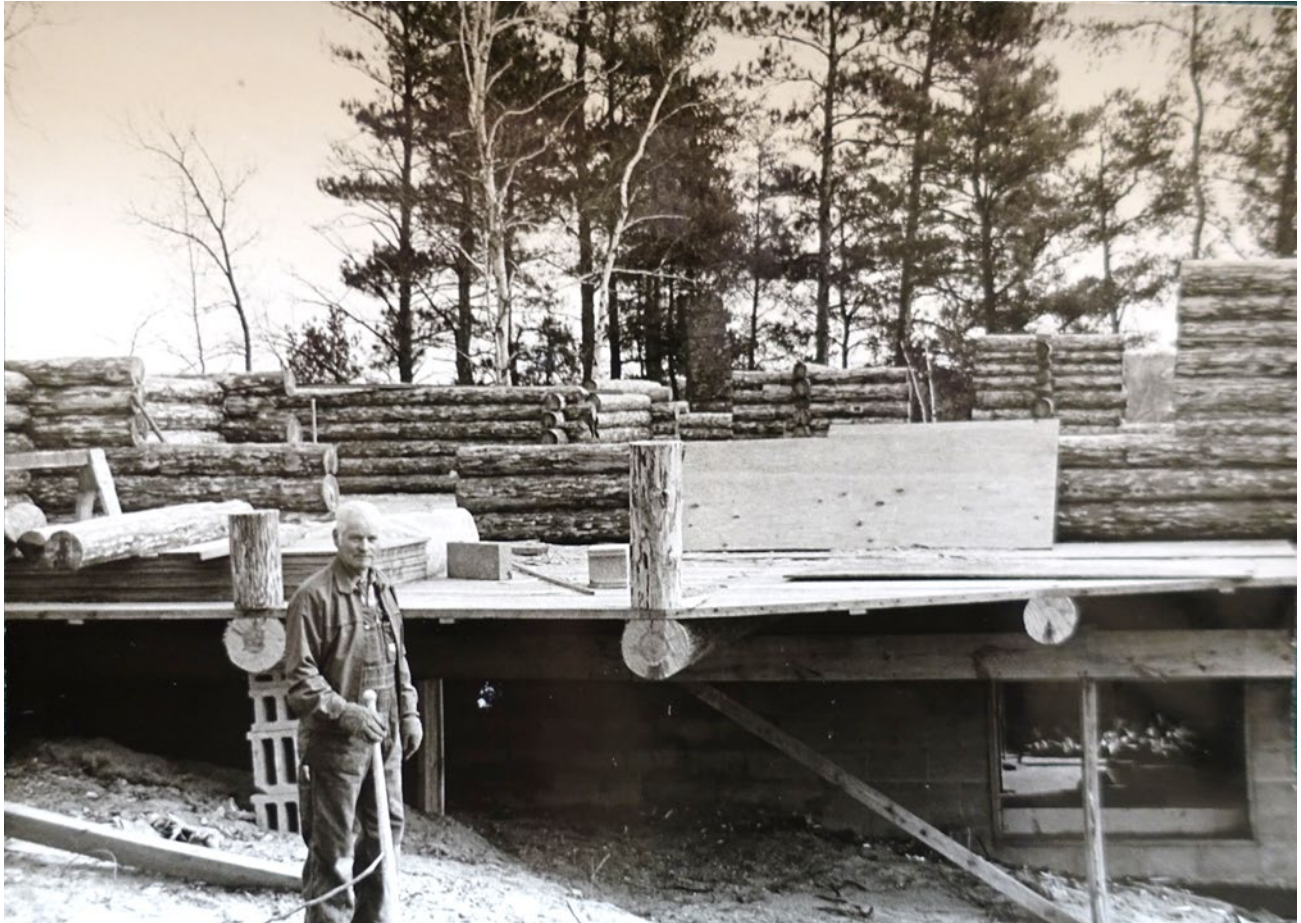
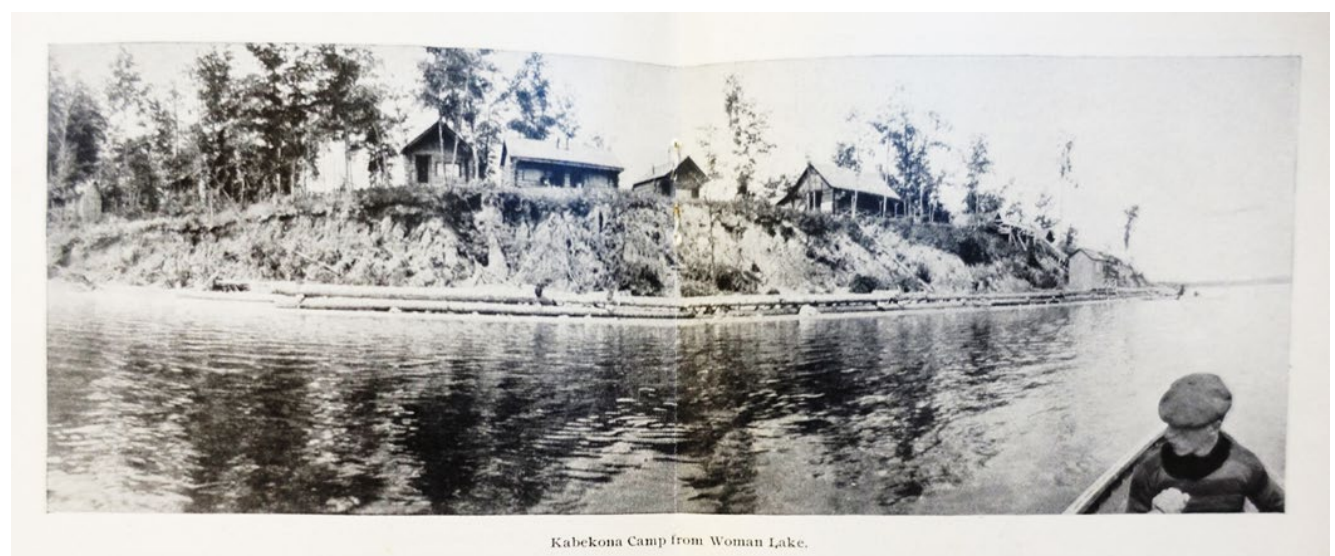
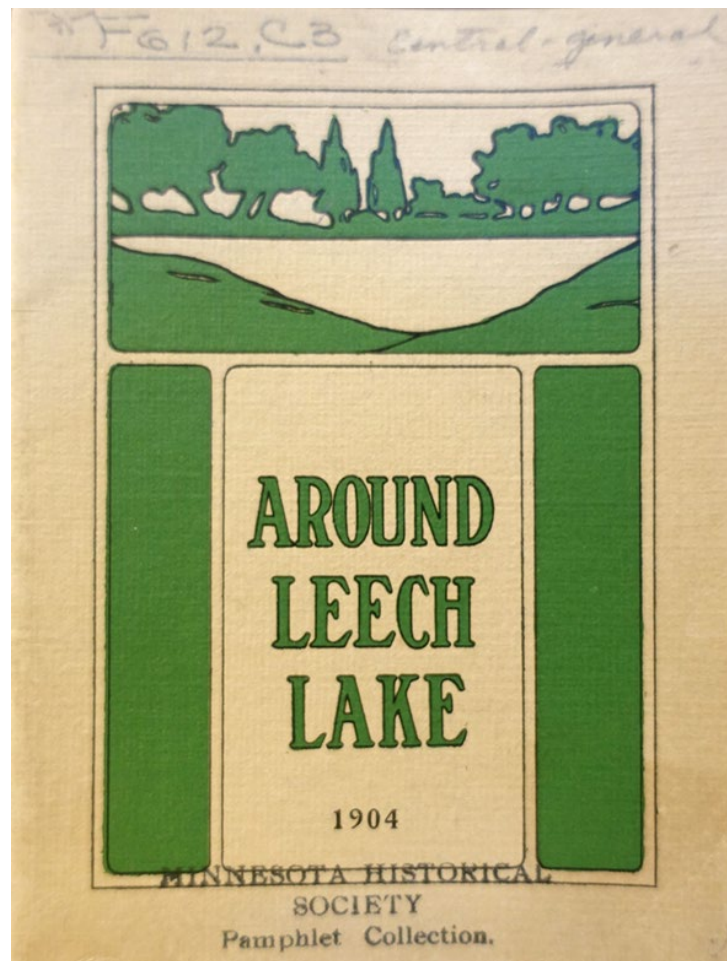


Image 17. Gus Holmberg at a log building construction site, ca 1950s. Photo courtesy Mary Holmberg Eveland

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Kabekona Camp from Woman Lake.

Images 18 and 19. Promotional brochure about resorts in the Leech Lake area, 1904 (top).
Photo of Kabekona Camp (bottom). Minnesota Historical Society

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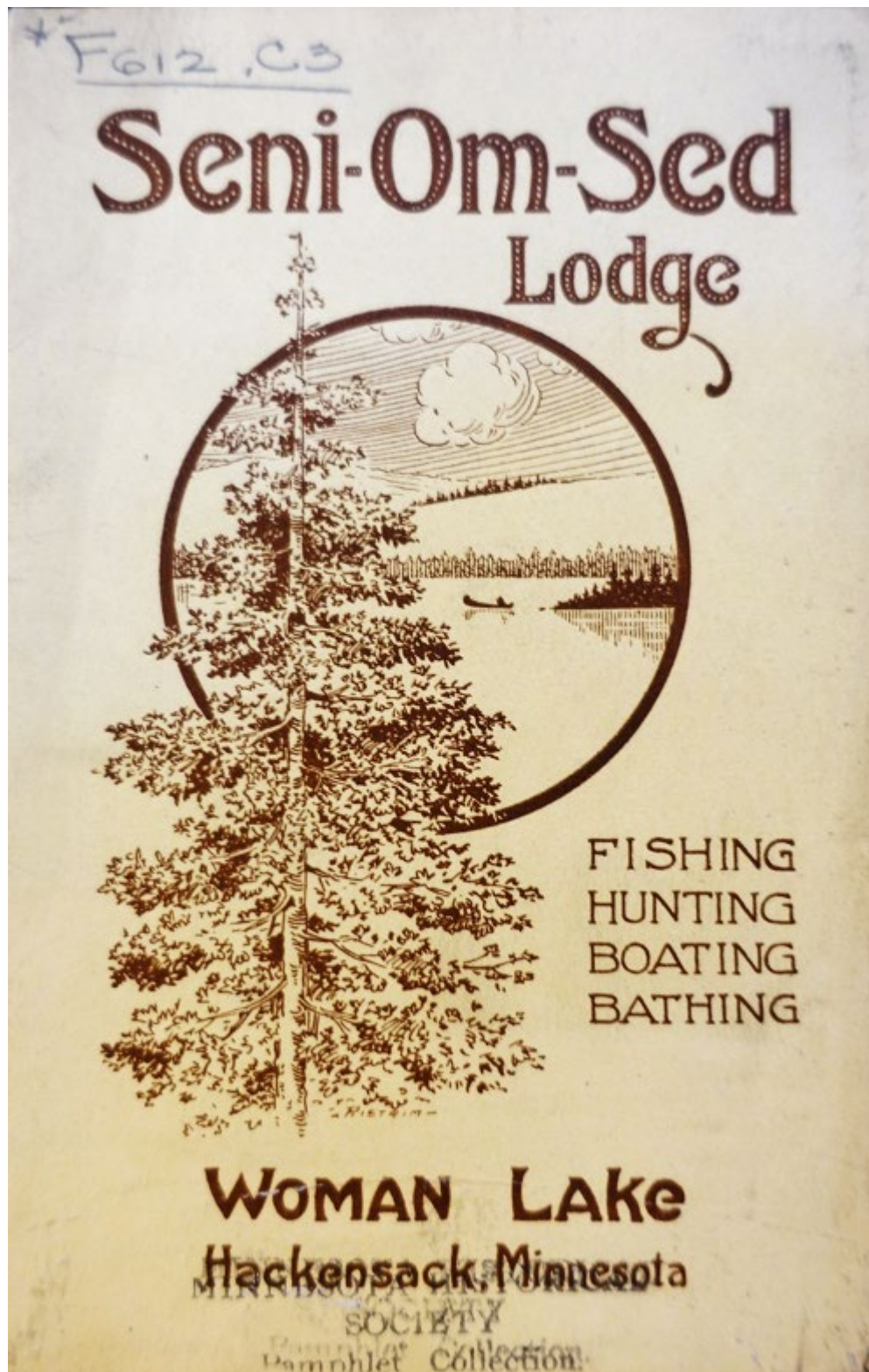


Image 20. Brochure on Seni-Om-Sed Lodge, 1919. Minnesota Historical Society

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Cass County, Minnesota
County and State

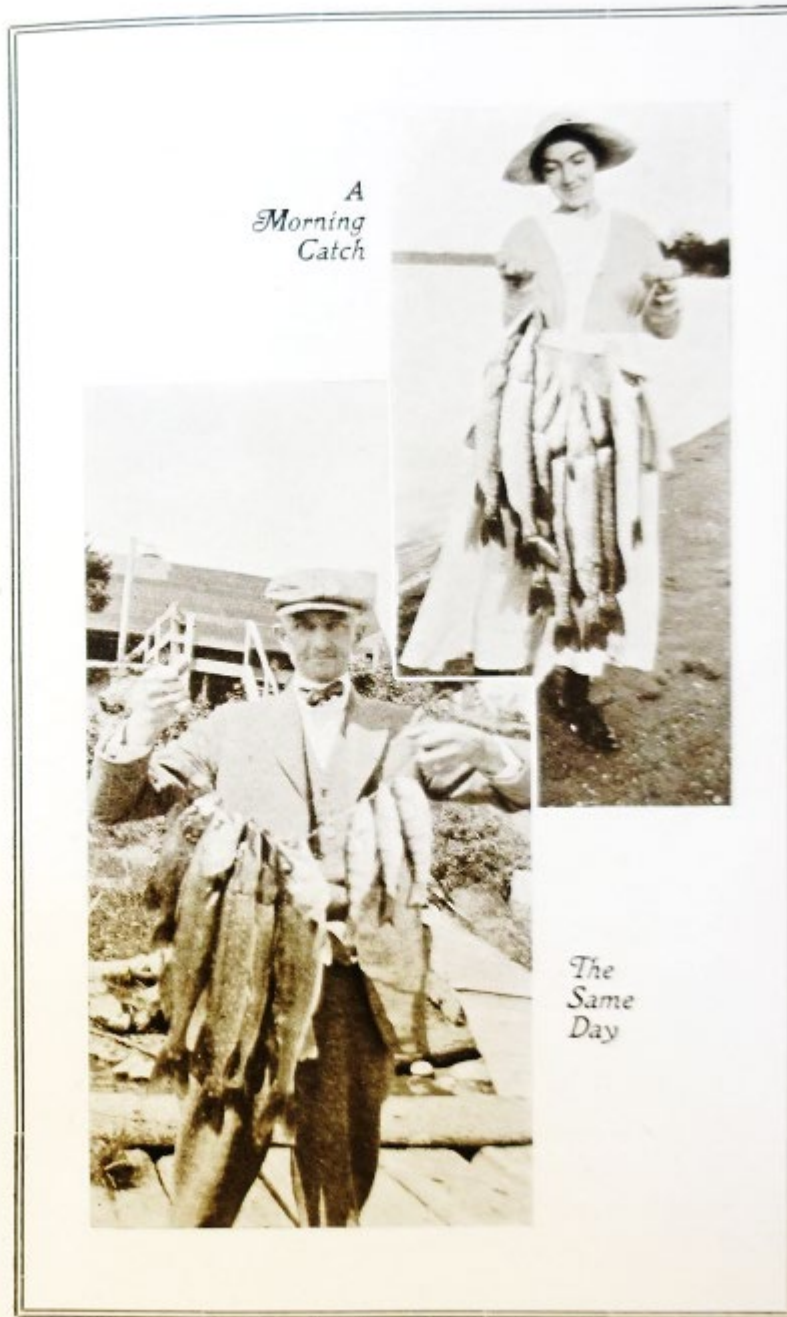


Image 21. Photo from Seni-Om-Sed Lodge brochure, 1919. Minnesota Historical Society

Hackensack Conservation Building
Name of Property

Cass County, Minnesota
County and State

N



Image 22. Woman Lake Lodge near Hackensack, ca. 1920. Minnesota Historical Society photo

Hackensack Conservation Building
Name of Property

Cass County, Minnesota
County and State

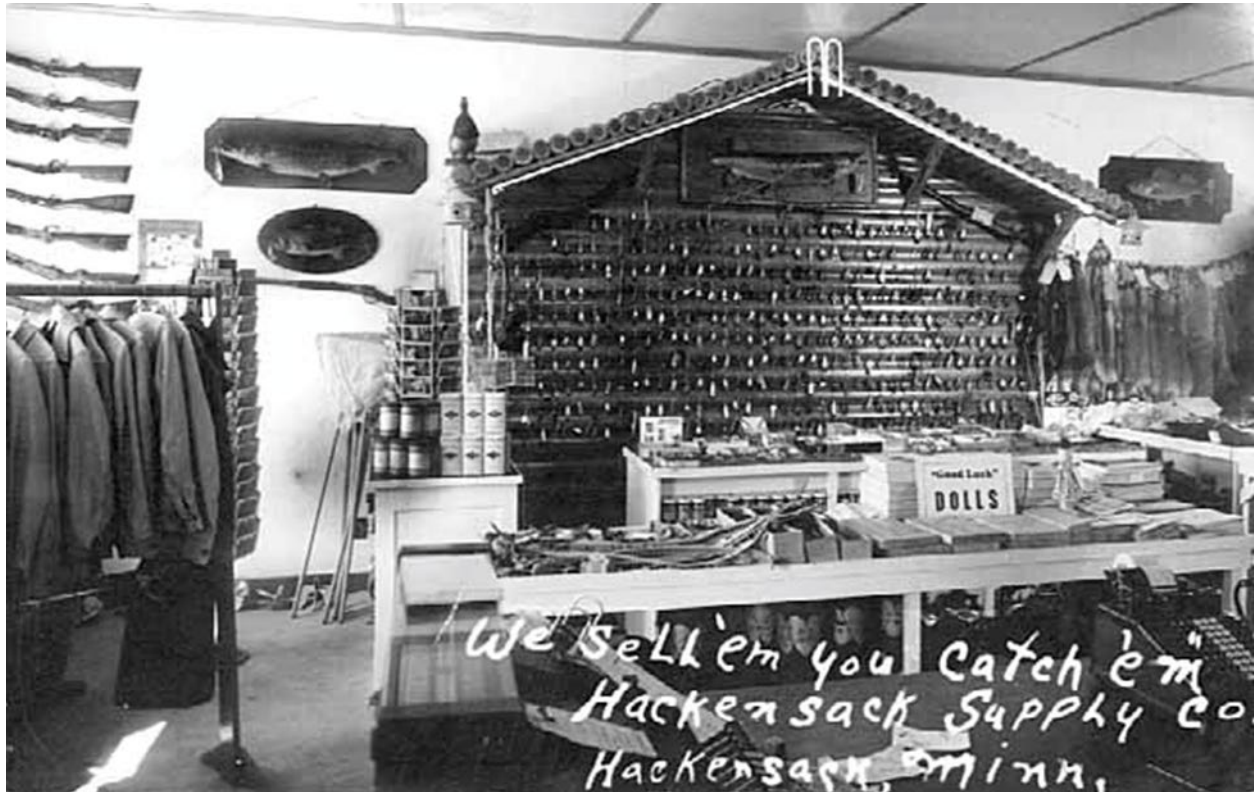
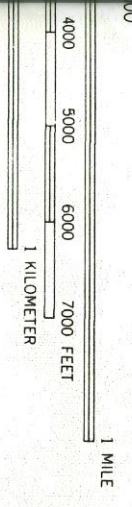


Image 23. Hackensack Supply Company with a display of fishing lures, ca. 1950. Minnesota Historical Society photo

10 FEET
DATUM OF 1929



HACKENSACK MINN

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Primary highway, hard surface
 - Secondary highway, hard surface
 - Unimproved road
 - Interstate Route
 - U. S. Route
 - State Route

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

(MIL DRED)
7177 IV SW

FEB 03 1984

Hackensack
Conservation Bldg
Zone 15
Easting 384080
Northing 5198390

