

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JAN 5 1982

date entered FEB 4 1982

## 1. Name

historic Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Raspberry Island

and/or common Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Navy Island

## 2. Location

street & number 1 South Wabasha Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of 4th congressional district

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
____ district	____ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	____ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	____ park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	____ both	____ work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	____ private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
		____ no	____ military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Athletic

## 4. Owner of Property

name Minnesota Boat Club

street & number 1 South Wabasha Street

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 West Kellogg

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic  
Resources

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

date 1980 \_\_\_\_\_ federal ☒ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Ave.-Hill House

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ state Minnesota

## 7. Description

### Condition

— excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

— deteriorated  
— ruins  
— unexposed

### Check one

— unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
— moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### A. THE BUILDING

The Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Navy Island (formerly Raspberry Island) overlooking the Mississippi River and a developing downtown St. Paul is the same building that was constructed in 1910.

The Club's first quarters was a floating boathouse anchored at the foot of Robert Street on the Mississippi River. This crude floating structure was first occupied in 1870, the same year in which the Club was organized. In 1885 a new two-story wooden structure was erected on Raspberry Island (now Navy Island) and served as a clubhouse until it was replaced by the present building in 1910.

The present building was designed by H. G. Carsley of St. Paul and constructed by George J. Grant Construction Company, also of St. Paul. The boathouse, estimated to cost \$26,000, was considered to be one of the best rowing facilities in the nation.

The present building, of Spanish design, consists of two stories and a hip roof with 3-foot eaves. The structure measures 67 feet wide by 86 feet long and 23 feet to the eaves. The footings (2 feet by 7 feet), first and second floor bases (8-inch), and 28 16-inch diameter columns supporting the second floor are all of steel reinforced concrete.

The first and second floor walls are constructed of tile bricks (10-inch). Damage to portions of the east and south first floor walls during the 1965 flood necessitated replacement of this brick with concrete block (12-inch).

The ground floor serves as a storage area for rowing shells and equipment, a maintenance area for damaged equipment and a men's and women's locker room. A concrete block wall (8-inch) separates the locker rooms from the storage and maintenance area. A wrought iron spiral staircase (5-foot diameter) leads from the storage area to the second floor.

Five arched double doors (8 by 10 feet and 3 inches thick) allow access of rowing shells to floating docks on the Mississippi River. The doors are constructed of Douglas fir and are supported by wrought iron strap hinges (4 feet by 4 inches by  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) firmly bolted in place.

A wooden (fir) stairway gives access to the second floor area, which served as a meeting, dining, and recreation center for club members from 1910 to about 1950.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Athletic

**Specific dates** Site: 1870-present **Builder/Architect** H.G. Carsley/  
 Building: 1910-present George J. Grant Construction Company

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Minnesota Boat Club occupies an important place in the social and recreational history of St. Paul. The club was founded in March 1870 and has occupied the site on Raspberry Island continuously since that date. The Minnesota Boat Club is the oldest athletic organization in Minnesota. The Minnesota Boat Club was one of two charter members of the Minnesota and Winnipeg Rowing Association (NWIRA) founded in 1915. The club has won the Sir Thomas Lipton Grant Aggregate trophy at the NWIRA regatta more times than any other club in the Association's history. The club was founded as a center for the healthful sport of rowing, both morally and physically beneficial to members, young and old, who could participate vigorously or mildly in their sport. It continues to serve that purpose and is enjoying a resurgence of interest among young men and women of St. Paul who recognize both the historical and recreational significance of the club. The present membership is strongly interested in the restoration of their clubhouse.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

None

ACADEMICALLY VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.17

Quadrangle name St. Paul East Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5
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4	9	2	7	8	0
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4	9	7	6	3	0	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

B 

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Zone

Easting

Northing

C 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Upstream portion of Navy Island from Wabasha Street Bridge to tip of island.

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas L. Holmberg, Civil Engineer

organization Member of Minnesota Boat Club

date March 1981

street & number Apt. #207, 1449 - 10th Street N.W.

telephone 725-7638

city or town New Brighton

state Minnesota 55112

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

     national   X   state      local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/2/81

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Brachman

date 2/4/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Linda McCullard

date 2/4/82

Chief of Registration



Name Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Raspberry IslandState, County MN, Ramsey

Fed Nom or Request-Agency

Working Number 1-5-82-~~827~~-3Federal Register Date 2-7-83

☒ Nomination  
☐ Determination of Eligibility  
☐ On Nomination Form

☒ Bldg(s)  
☒ Site  
☐ Object  
☒ Structure  
☐ District

Within: 82004627  
☐ Multiple Resource Area  
☐ Thematic Group

Maps 1  
 Photos 2

Nomination prepared by:

☐ State Staff☐ Local☒ Other

Action:

☒ ACCEPT 2/4/82☐ RETURN☐ REJECT

Check if Appropriate:

☐ State Request for Review☐ Keeper's Decision to Review☐ 2nd Return

## I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

*Eligible A* McClelland Arch Hist. 2/4/82  
 Property illustrates the role of recreational activities as one aspect of urban development of St. Paul in late 19th and early 20th century. The 1910 building and the acreage convey the cultural use of island by the oldest athletic organization in Minnesota for recreational purpose of boating, which continued as an important aspect of constitution into mid 20th century.

## II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Brief but thorough for building. Site not described fully.
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Clear and concise
3. Concepts/Integrity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Changes/repairs addressed
4. Concepts/Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			assoc. w/ 1910 bldg. established but not necessarily earlier assoc. with site.
5. Concepts/Boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
6. Contextual Evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Local + State provided.

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date

McClelland 2/4/82See Attached





Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse  
on Raspberry Island  
1 South Wabasha Street  
St. Paul, MN; Ramsey Co.

Dennis Gimmestad  
1980

FEB 4 1982

Minnesota Historical Society, 690

Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101  
Facing Southwest

04234/6a

JAN 5 1982

04234  
6a

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04234  
102

Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse  
on Raspberry Island

1 South Wabasha Street

St. Paul, MN; Ramsey Co.

Dennis Gimmetad FEB 4 1982  
1980

Minnesota Historical Society, 690

Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

Facing Northwest JAN 5 - 1982

04234/10a

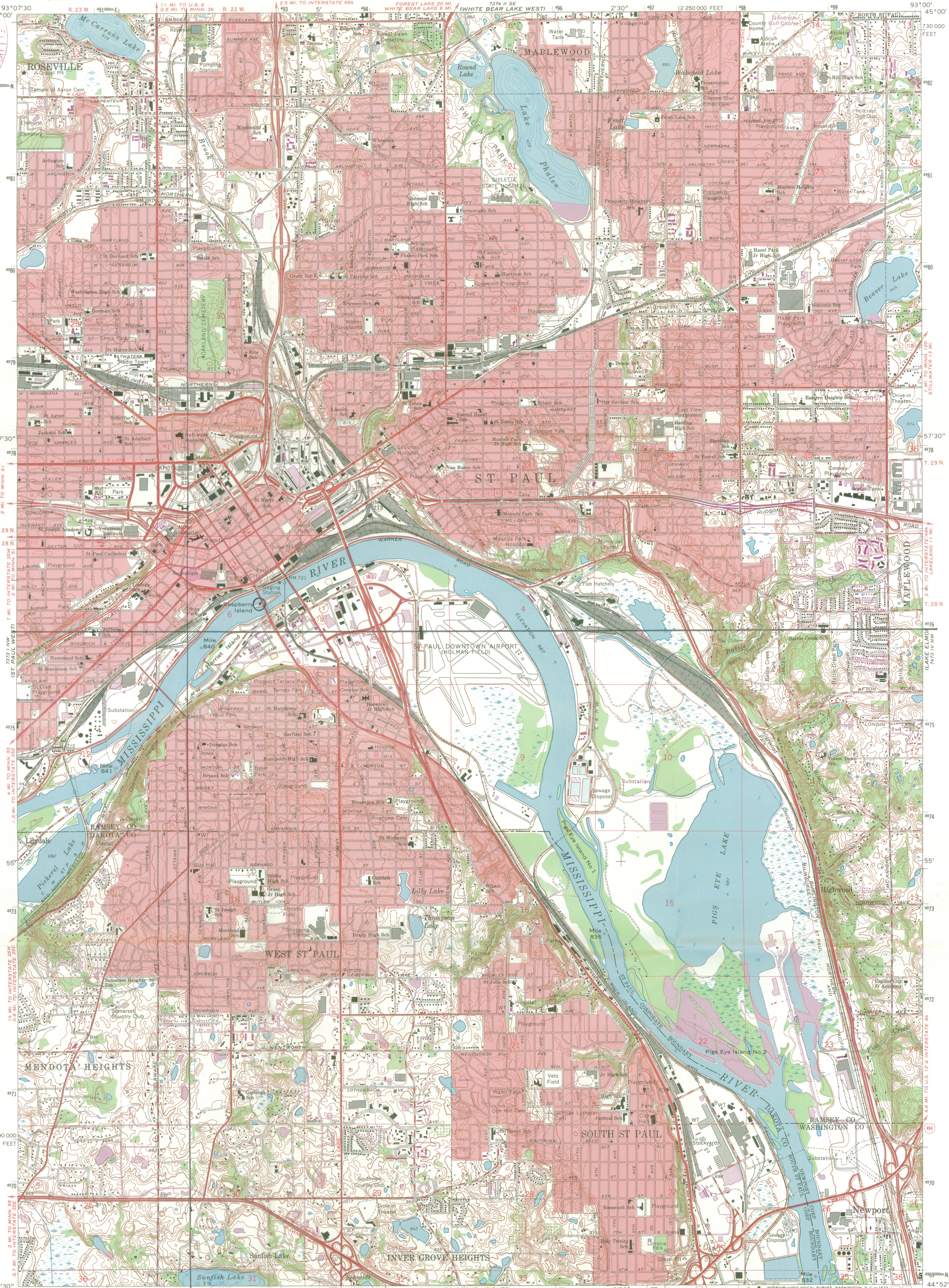
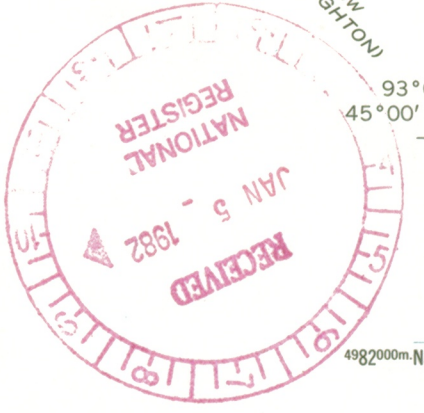
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FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE  
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS FOR REFERENCE USE  
ONLY. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR  
SOLD WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION



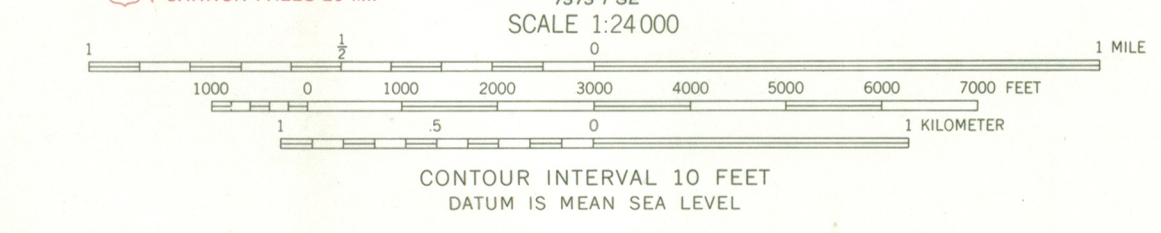
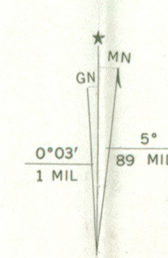
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ST. PAUL EAST QUADRANGLE  
MINNESOTA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE



Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse  
on Raspberry Island  
1 South Wabasha St.  
St. Paul, MN: Ramsey County  
UTM References  
15 / 492780 / 4976300

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1947. Field checked 1951. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by  
Minnesota Department of Conservation  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



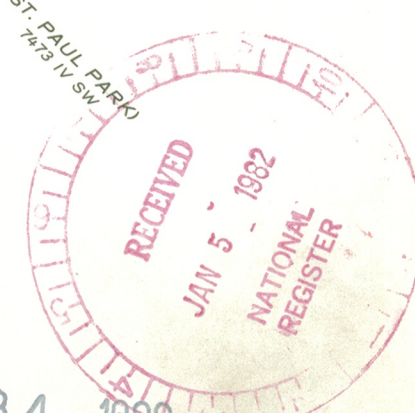
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
○ Interstate Route ○ U.S. Route ○ State Route

ST. PAUL EAST, MINN.  
NE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4452.5—W9300/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20042  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1972. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1972  
AMS 7375 1 NE—SERIES Y872



FEB 4 1982



Mr. Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
240 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Mr. Fridley:

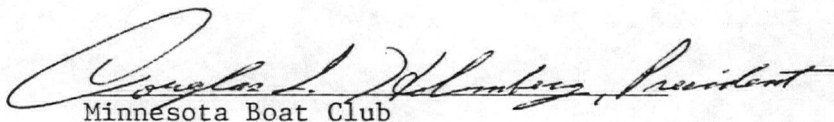
This will confirm that I am fully aware of the effects of listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places. I recognize that, under the National Historic Preservation Act, I am entitled to object to the proposed listing of my property by a notarized, written statement. If I am the sole owner and I object, my property will not be listed. If there are multiple owners of this property and a majority of the owners object, the property will not be listed.

Following is the address of my property:

Minnesota Boat Club  
1 South Wabasha Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota

I hereby waive my right to object to the proposed listing and notify you that I request that my property be listed in the National Register at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

  
Minnesota Boat Club

24 NOVEMBER 1981  
(date)



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MINNESOTA

Date Entered FEB 4 1982

Name

Location

Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on  
Raspberry Island

St. Paul  
Ramsey County

Shirt Factory

Virginia  
St. Louis County

Also Notified

Honorable Rudy Boschwitz  
Honorable David F. Durenberger  
Honorable Bruce F. Vento  
Honorable James L. Oberstar

Midwest Region, NPS

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Russell W. Fridley  
Director, Minnesota Historical  
Society  
690 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

NR

Eady/mc

2/26/82

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) ~~343-6401~~.  
272-3504