

HISTORIC NAME: Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's  
Residence  
CURRENT NAME: House  
LEGAL DESC.: Lots 36-39, Block 3, Second Addition to  
Deer River

COUNTY: Itasca **MAR 15 1982**  
CITY/TWP.: Deer River City  
ADDRESS: 506 Fifth St. SE

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Industry</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Settlement</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:	Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Restricted _____	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Residence
OCCUPIED:	Yes <u>X</u> No _____	

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1904	ORIGINAL USE: Residence
ORIGINAL OWNER: Itasca Lumber Company	ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Theodore W. Olson 506 5th St. SE Deer River, MN 56636	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Itasca County Historical Society, P.O. Box 664, Old Central School Grand Rapids, MN 55744	UTM REFERENCE: Deer River Quad. 7.5
FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet	15 / 440490 / 5241670
DATE: March 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

The Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's log residence is a local landmark in Deer River, an historic logging town characterized by small frame residential structures. The house occupies a corner location on the community's south side immediately west of the public school building.

The 1904 gable-roofed square structure is constructed of Norway pine logs measuring approximately 18" in diameter and 30' in length with saddle-notch corner-timbering. About 1919 both sides of the roof were raised to create extra space on the second story. Shingle sheathing adorns the gable ends and the walls of the raised second level. An enclosed hipped porch featuring vertical log construction and multi-paned windows extends the length of the west (front) facade. Fenestration is irregular; windows vary in size and the number of lights. A recent shingled shed addition is located at the rear of the structure. Despite the additions, the house retains its rustic character.

SIGNIFICANCE:

1 The Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's Residence is significant for its association with the Itasca Lumber Company. The company, the foremost logging concern in the region, had a tremendous impact on the initial development and settlement of Deer River and western Itasca County. Founded by prominent Minneapolis lumberman H.C. Akeley in 1886, the firm established its local headquarters in Deer River ten years later. The company constructed the region's longest logging railroad (incorporated as the Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad in 1904) from Deer River northward to Craig between 1896 and 1906. Several small unincorporated communities were established along the line and the company widely promoted settlement of its cutover lands. At its peak shortly after the turn of the century, the company operated between fifteen and twenty camps a season and cut over 100,000,000 ft. of timber a year which was then transported by rail to the Mississippi River south of Deer River and floated downstream to the firm's large Minneapolis mill. In 1904, David Joyce, president of the Itasca Lumber Company, and John S. Pillsbury, former Minnesota governor and prominent Minneapolis lumberman and miller, erected a large mill in Deer River to saw the company's lower grades of timber which could not be floated downstream. The Itasca Lumber Company platted a large addition to Deer River and constructed several houses for employees of the mill, then operating under the name Deer River Lumber Company. With the closing of its Minneapolis mill in 1910, the Itasca Lumber Company acquired the Deer River mill and operated

(see continuation sheet)

MAR 15 1982

Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's Residence

Itasca County  
Deer River, Minnesota

Significance - page 2

it until its discontinuation in 1921. The log superintendent's residence, erected in 1904, housed the firm's chief local administrator, W.R. Wallace. With the disappearance of the large combination depot-office and the mill, and substantial alteration of the housing district, the Superintendent's Residence is the most identifiable remaining link to this important firm.

Bibliography:

Deer River News, September 4, 1958.

Wallace, Franklin (Son of William Wallace). Conversation with Mark Haidet, February 1981.

Zetterstrom, John. "The Story of a Logging Town", 1932.

Zetterstrom, Lydia. "The Itasca Lumber Company and Minneapolis and Rainy River Railway", 1932.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Itasca County Multiple Resource Area  
State MN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |   |                                     |        |                                  |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1.  | Hartley Sugar Camp  | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/22/82</u>       |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |
| 2.  | Itasca Lumber Company<br>Superintendent's House   | Substantive Review                  | Keeper | <u>William H. Graham 4.22.82</u> |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | <u>Sandra McCallard 4-16-82</u>  |
| 3.  | Gran, Frank, Farmstead  | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/22/82</u>       |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |
| 4.  | Coleraine Methodist Episcopal<br>Church   | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/22/82</u>       |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |
| 5.  | Nashwauk Village Hall (Western Mesabi<br>Iron Range Village Halls<br>Thematic Resources)      | Substantive Review                  | Keeper | <u>lit.</u>                      |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |
| 6.  | Coleraine Village Hall (Western Mesabi<br>Iron Range Village Halls<br>Thematic Resources)     |                                     | Keeper | <u>lit.</u>                      |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |
| 7.  | Marble Village Hall (Western Mesabi<br>Iron Range Village Halls Thematic<br>Resources)        |                                     | Keeper | <u>lit.</u>                      |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |
| 8.  | General Superintendent's House (Oliver<br>Iron Mining Co. Bldgs Thematic<br>Resources)        | Substantive Review                  | Keeper | <u>William H. Graham 4.22.82</u> |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | <u>Sandra McCallard 4-19-82</u>  |
| 9.  | Canisteo District General Office Bldg<br>(Oliver Iron Mining Co. Bldgs<br>Thematic Resources) | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/22/82</u>       |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |
| 10. | Oliver Boarding House (Oliver Iron<br>Mining Co. Bldgs Thematic Resources)                    | Entered in the<br>National Register | Keeper | <u>Selma Byers 4/22/82</u>       |
|     |   |                                     | Attest | _____                            |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Substantive Review  
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

(Itasca Co. MRA)

82002976

Property: Itasca Lumber Co. Superintendent's House  
State, County: MN, Itasca  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 3-15-82-734  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83  
Date Due: 4/15/82 - 4/29/82  
Action:  ACCEPT 4/22/82  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

photos   
maps \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Supt's House of manager lumbering co.*

Recom./Criteria A Accept  
Reviewer McClennan  
Discipline Arch Hist  
Date 4/16/82  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use  
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

*Some alterations but general character intact*

for NPS use only

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below \_\_\_\_\_

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UNIT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:  
\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



03894  
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Itasca Lumber Company Superintendent's  
Residence  
Deer River, MN; Itasca County  
Mark Haidet  
1980  
Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar  
Street, St. Paul, MN 55101  
Looking East  
03894/9

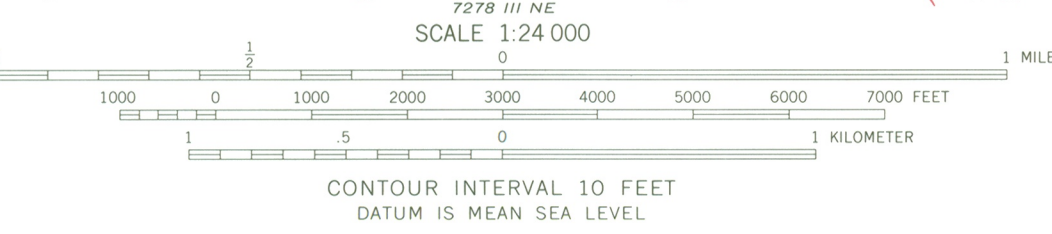
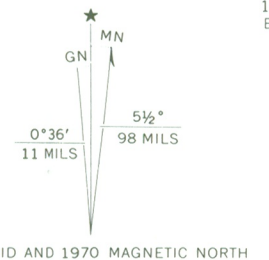
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Itasca Lumber Company Super-  
intendent's Residence  
Deer River, MN; Itasca County  
UTM References  
15 / 440490 / 5241670

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Orthophotomap prepared from high-altitude aerial photograph  
taken April 24, 1969. Topography by photogrammetric methods  
from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Minnesota coordinate system,  
north and central zones  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue



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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEER RIVER, MINN.  
N4715-W9345/7.5  
1970  
AMS 7278 IV SE—SERIES V8720

D-298-