

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received JAN 5 - 1982  
date entered FEB 4 1982

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

**1. Name**

historic Shirt Factory

and/or common Old Recreation Building

**2. Location**

street & number 305 So. 1st St. not for publication

city, town Virginia vicinity of congressional district 8th District

state Minnesota code 22 county St. Louis code 137

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Virginia

street & number City Hall

city, town Virginia vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis County Court House

street & number

city, town Duluth state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 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**

The shirt factory is large 250' x 114' and is constructed of shaded red brick. There is an arched roof over most of the structure. About 60' of the structure near 3rd Avenue is 20' narrower than the rest. The main entrance, consisting of three doors, is in this portion and faces the street. It is capped by an ornate canopy. There is an ornamental strip of white masonry the full length of the building. This is the base of the decorative arches made from the arrangement of the bricks. Arched windows fit into these brick arches. Under each arch is a small square window. Under the white strip is another set of windows.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1923

**Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The recreation building was built in 1923 and used as a curling rink and hockey rink until 1947 when the building was converted to a shirt factory. The significance of the transition is that the balancing of the male and female parts of the population led to underemployment among women living on the Iron Range. In order to bolster the traditionally weak nonmining sector of the Iron Range economy and to provide employment for the women seeking work, the city made the facility available to a shirt manufacturing firm. The entertainment structure was built during the Progressive period when efforts were made by various social welfare agencies to bolster the opportunities for physical development among the mining populations of the country, and the construction of the facility came at a time preceding the loss of revenues to the state authority resulting from the taxation of local mining properties. The emphasis upon ice rink sports such as hockey and iceskating and curling cannot be explained from the traditional sports involvement of the majority of the population although significant elements among the city's elites did have such traditions.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Joseph Stipanovich, Report of the Iron Range Historical-Cultural Survey (1979).

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Virginia, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 15 534990 5263130  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The shirt factory is located on Lots 23 to 31, Block 25, Original Plat, Virginia, Minnesota.

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Skrief, Director, State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society date September 10, 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue telephone 612-296-9070

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  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 12/23/81

For HCRS use only

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

date 2.4.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date 2/4/82

Chief of Registration

Name Shirt Factory  
State, County MN St. Louis  
Working Number 1-5-82 57824

Fed Nom or Request-Agency  
Federal Register Date 2.7.82

Nomination  
 Determination of Eligibility  
 On Nomination Form

Bldg(s)  
 Site  
 Object  
 Structure  
 District

Within:  
 Multiple Resource Area  
 Thematic Group

Maps /  
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)

Associated with the development of the region as iron mining center. Eligible A Accept. McCllland 2-7-82  
Specifically the <sup>public sponsorship of a facility for</sup> ~~recreation~~ and recreation for general population (which was <sup>in general</sup> mine-workers) ~~at a time of local prosperity and abundant public~~

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good			Comments
	Adequate	Poor		
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Very basic and unsophisticated description. changes not discussed.
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			poorly organized. facts not clearly applied to property's significance.
3. Concepts/Integrity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Not addressed. photos inadequate. sufficient elements integrity, although changes appear to have been made to 1st floor windows.
4. Concepts/Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			eligibility is not clearly or directly stated. However, the basic facts and associated significances elements are all present.
5. Concepts/Boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
6. Contextual Evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Context is not provided fully in text, but through the entire group of Iron Range resources nominated in 1980. Reference

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary): is made to tax revenues, Progressive period and public sponsorship of facilities - which were all important facets of Iron Range <sup>town</sup> life.

Poor but adequate nomination - from a group of resources inventoried and documented as part of a county survey.

Reviewer/Date McCllland 2/4/82

See Attached

## Evaluation of Resource:

for the Iron Range. This is actually one of the better properties we've received in this group, ~~from~~ ~~the~~ although documentation is unoriginal (as the others have been). Since there are no serious questions about significance or integrity, property should be listed rather than returned for more comprehensive and understandable documentation.

## Criteria:

50 year association with strict ~~factory~~ industry is not justified as an exception; however, property's significance as a recreational facility and indication of social-humanitarian concerns prevalent in early 1920s in the Iron Range is apparent. "Adequate" is checked only because of the experience we've had with other resources of this region and because of the general knowledge <sup>of area's history</sup> we've ~~been~~ provided gained from State office.

## General Comments:

The nominations coded have been sent in as a mult. name submission - but we had come in individually (about 30, I'd say). This resource is strong in significance and integrity within context of the larger group and region's history. Nomination is acceptable only because of this context.



Shirt Factory

Virginia, MN; St. Louis County

Charles Nelson  
1980

FEB 4 1982

Minnesota Historical Society; 690

Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

Northwest  
03230/12a

JAN 5 - 1982

03230  
12a

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03230  
13a

Shirt Factory  
Virginia, MN; St. Louis County  
Charles Nelson  
1980

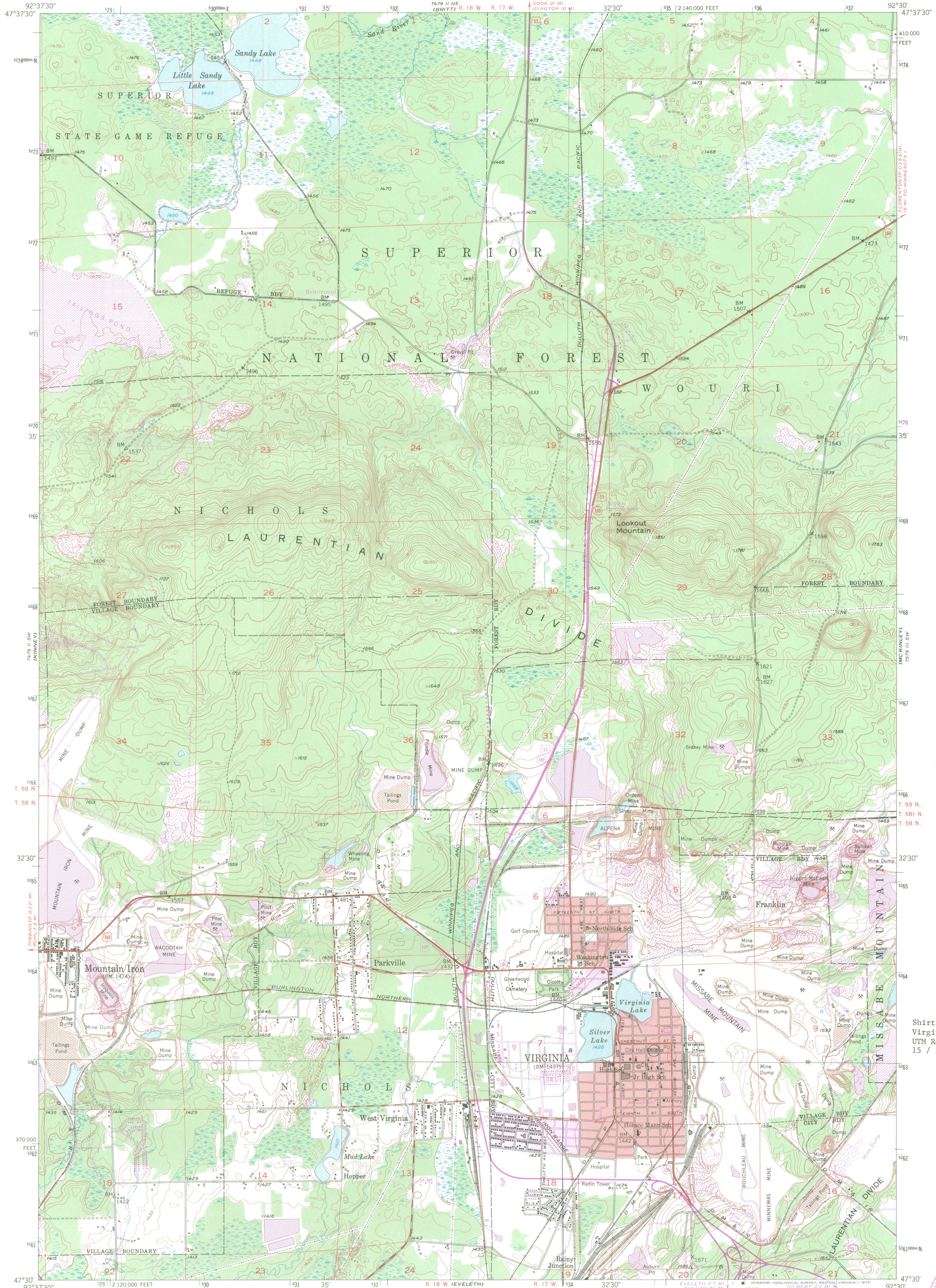
FEB 4 1982

Minnesota Historical Society; 690  
Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101  
Northeast  
03230/13a

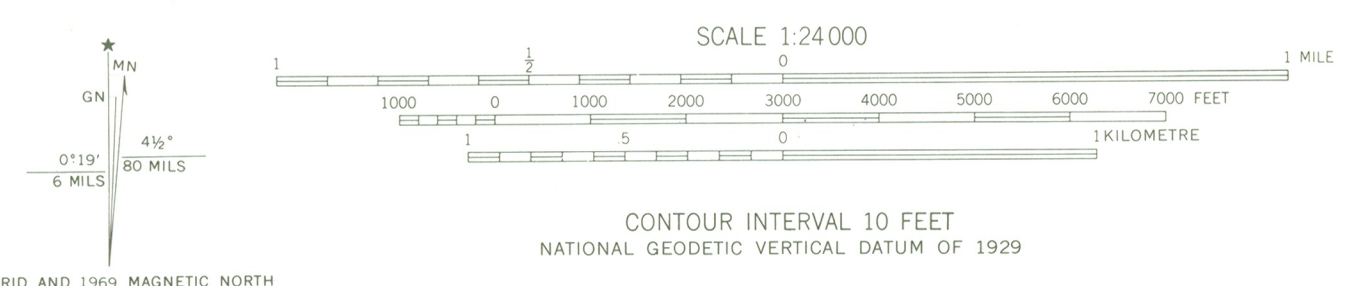
JAN 5 - 1982

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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1951  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, north zone  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1960. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



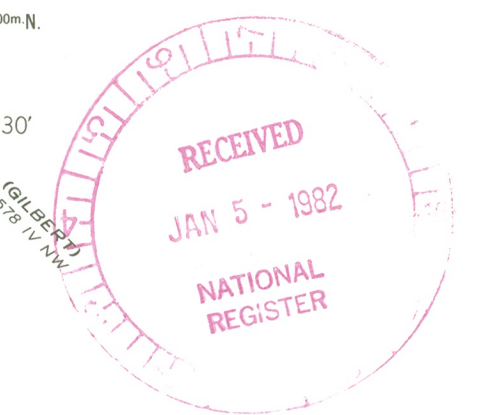
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE	Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route		State Route



VIRGINIA, MINN.  
N4730-W9230/7.5  
1951  
PHOTOREVISED 1969  
AMS 7479 II SE-SERIES V872

Shirt Factory  
Virginia, MN; St. Louis County  
UTM References  
15 / 534990 / 5263130



D320

FEB 4 1982

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

Dear Mr. Fridley:

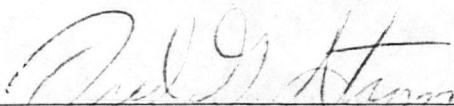
This will confirm that I am fully aware of the effects of listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places. I recognize that, under the National Historic Preservation Act, I am entitled to object to the proposed listing of my property by a notarized, written statement. If I am the sole 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:

Shirt Factory/Old Recreation Building  
305 South 1st Street  
Virginia, MN  
St. Louis County

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,

  
for Northland Development

December 9, 1981  
(date)



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MINNESOTA**

Date Entered **FEB 4 1982**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse on Raspberry Island</b>	<b>St. Paul Ramsey County</b>
<b>Shirt Factory</b>	<b>Virginia St. Louis County</b>

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. Fiddley**  
**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) ~~245-6401~~.

272-3504