

Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp,
Barracks (Building No. 3)
County Road 39
Blackduck Vicinity
Beltrami County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-147-B

HABS
MINN
4-BLADU.V
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RABIDEAU CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP,
BARRACKS
(BUILDING NO. 3)

HABS No. MN-147-B

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Location: One-half mile west of Beltrami County Highway 39, six miles south of Blackduck, Beltrami County, Minnesota.

Significance: The Barracks was constructed in 1935 as part of the Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, which operated on the Chippewa National Forest until 1941. The camp was later used by the University of Illinois as a summer field school from 1946 to 1972.

Description: Nearly identical to another Barracks (Building No. 5, HABS No. MN-147-D) located to the north, Building No. 3 is a one-story, rectangular-plan frame building with overall dimensions of 20' x 75'. The building is covered with shiplap siding painted dark green and is capped with a low-pitch, trussed, gable roof covered with green rolled asphalt. The north facade features an off-center entrance positioned along the eastern portion of the wall. Two nine-lite casement windows are to the left of the entrance; five are to the right. This arrangement is repeated in reverse on the south facade, with the entrance door located along the western portion of the facade. The east end wall includes one nine-lite casement sash positioned to the south and one six-lite sash centered in the gable end. The west end wall repeats this arrangement, but with the window opening located to the north. All door and window trim, as well as the corner boards, consist of plain wood planks painted white. Two metal chimneys project from the roof, one from each of the north and south slopes.

The interior of the Barracks consists of one large room with a horizontal wood wainscot to the sill level and fiber board above. The building's truss system is completely exposed, although three posts have been added along the center of the room for additional support. There are several large tables in the room.

Several structural problems have developed, as seen in the severely buckled floors of the interior and the sagging roof line. Either the foundation is failing or portions of the building may be resting directly on the ground.

History: Constructed in 1935, the Barracks originally housed CCC enrollees and later served as a classroom for the University of Illinois. While in use by the university, an entrance on each end wall was infilled, and new door openings cut into the north and south facades. One window opening was also infilled on each end wall.

Sources: An undated history of the Rabideau Camp by the Forest Service located in a file on the Rabideau Camp located at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Cass Lake, Minnesota; the oldest known site plan of the camp while still occupied by the CCC, entitled "Rabideau Camp F-50" (ca. 1936); and a "Memorandum to Students," dated June 15, 1949, both located at the

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University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the Civil Engineering
Subject File Record Series 11/5/1. See also HABS No. MN-147.

Historian: Rolf T. Anderson, 1994