

Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp,
Barracks (Building No. 6)
County Road 39
Blackduck Vicinity
Beltrami County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-147-E

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. 6)

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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: Overlooking Lake Carls in the northwest section of the camp, the Barracks 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. A log-post foundation supports the building. Two entrance doors are on the south facade with four evenly spaced nine-lite casement windows positioned between them and two similar windows located to each side. Each end wall includes two nine-lite sash and one six-lite sash in the gable end. Ten casements are located on the north wall as well as a small, square projection from the center of the facade, designed to house a water heater. Three deteriorated steps ascend to a plank door to gain access to the space. All door and window trim, as well as the corner boards, consist of plain wood planks painted white. Four metal chimneys project from the south slope of the roof, just off the ridge.

Although originally consisting of a single open space, the interior was divided down the middle in 1947 to create four apartments, two in each half. Each section has its own entrance leading to a small foyer with doors to the left and right for each apartment. The entrance door to the west is badly deteriorated. Each unit consists of a day room to the south and two bedrooms to the north, which open directly into the day room. An interior hallway shared by both units leads to a common bath.

History: The Barracks was used to house CCC enrollees and was later extensively remodelled by the University of Illinois in 1947 to create four apartments. The original centrally located entrance doors in each end wall were infilled, two doors were installed on the south facade, and an addition was made on the north facade to provide space for a water heater. The materials used in the addition appear identical to those of the original structure, apparently because they were salvaged from another building at the camp. The units were used by staff, and were designed in particular for family members who came to live at the camp during the school's summer program.

Sources: The oldest known site plan of the camp while still occupied by the CCC, entitled "Rabideau Camp F-50" (ca. 1936), and undated and untitled floor plans for the remodelling, all located at the University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the Civil

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Engineering Subject File Record Series 11/5/1. A letter dated September 5, 1946 from W. C. Huntington, head of the Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Illinois, to Marvin Smith, Forest Supervisor, Chippewa National Forest, in a file on the Rabideau Camp at the Iron Range Research Center in Chisholm, Minnesota. See also HABS No. MN-147.

Historian: Rolf T. Anderson, 1994