

Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp,
Recreation Hall (Building No. 7)
County Road 39
Blackduck Vicinity
Beltrami County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-147-F

HABS
MINN
4-BLADU.V,
IF-

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,
RECREATION HALL
(BUILDING NO. 7)

HABS No. MN-147-F

HABS
MINN
4-BLADU.V
IF-

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

Significance: The Recreation Hall 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: A one-story, rectangular-plan frame building with overall dimensions of 20' x 75', the Recreation Hall closely resembles a barracks just to the southeast, known as Building No. 6 (HABS No. MN-147-E). The Recreation Hall 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 casements and one six-lite sash in the gable end. The sash to the south on the west facade has been altered so that it is lower than typical window height. Nine casements are located on the north wall, as well as a small square projection near the center of the facade designed to house a water heater. 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.

The interior was remodelled in 1946 to create four apartments. The building was divided in half, with two apartments in each section. Each area has its own entrance leading to a small foyer with doors to the left and right for each apartment. Each unit consists of a day room to the south and two bedrooms, which open directly into the day room to the north. An interior hallway shared by both units leads to a common bath.

History: The Recreation Hall was used by CCC enrollees after field work was done and the evening meal had been served. Furnishings included pool and ping pong tables, sports equipment, a movie projector, candy and pop machines, and a barber's chair. The facility also included a canteen, which sold items such as razor blades, bar soap, and toothpaste. The building was extensively remodelled by the University of Illinois in 1946 to create four apartments. Two entrance doors on the south facade and one on the west end wall were infilled, two new doors were installed on the south wall, 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 University 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 remodeling, all located at the University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the Civil 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. An undated history of the Rabideau Camp by the Forest Service, in a file on the Rabideau Camp located at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Cass Lake, Minnesota. See also HABS No. MN-147.

Historian: Rolf T. Anderson, 1994