

Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp,
Water Tower (Building No. 15A)
County Road 39
Blackduck Vicinity
Beltrami County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-147-N

HABS
MINN
4-BLADU.V,
IN-

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,
WATER TOWER
(BUILDING NO. 15A)

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

Significance: The Water Tower 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: Four concrete piers, which once formed the structural base of the camp's water tower, are located just to the south of Building No. 14 (Wash House, HABS No. MN-147-M). Forming a 16' square, each corner pier is 2.5' square and approximately 1.5' high. Each of the outside edges is slightly tapered.

History: The CCC constructed the Water Tower as part of a gravity-feed water system for the Rabideau Camp. By 1960, the University of Illinois had installed a pressurized water system for its summer field camp, allowing the dismantling of the CCC structure. Only four concrete piers remain.

Sources: A photograph of the water tower, identified as R-1, taken in the summer of 1945 by the University of Illinois, located at the University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the Civil Engineering Subject File Record Series 11/5/1. An internal memorandum, dated April 14, 1960, from Ray M. Hubbard to the Forest Supervisor, in a file on the Rabideau Camp at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Cass Lake, Minnesota. See also HABS No. MN-147.

Historian: Rolf T. Anderson, 1994