

Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp,  
Barracks (Building No. 10)  
County Road 39  
Blackduck Vicinity  
Beltrami County  
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-147-I

HABS  
MINN  
4-BLADU.V,  
IE-

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. 10)

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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: Located west of Lake Benjamin on the camp's western perimeter, 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. Eight nine-lite casement sash are spaced along both the north and south facades. The east and west facades feature a central entrance door flanked by nine-lite sash and one six-lite sash in the gable end. The trim around all doors and window openings, as well as the corner boards, consists of plain wood planks painted white. A 4' square frame addition at the south west corner of the building was constructed to contain a hot water heater. The addition continues the original roof line. Three metal chimneys project from the roof, one from each of the north and south slopes, and one from the addition. The building is probably supported by a log-post foundation, but it appears to be resting directly on the ground.

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. Two shelves have been installed along the side walls. Wash room facilities are located at the west end of the building with four sinks and two toilets in a small room to the north and showers in the room to the south. The building appears to be experiencing structural problems, as evidenced by an uneven roofline.

History: The Barracks originally housed CCC enrollees and was later utilized by the University of Illinois as a student dormitory. The university installed the wash room facilities in 1946, after apparently deciding not to construct a central wash house. The addition for the water header may occurred at that time, but it is likely that hot water was provided to all the student dormitories from a large water heater in Building 14 (Wash House, HABS No. MN-147-M) until 1952. Regardless of the date of the addition, the materials are identical to those of the original camp buildings because salvaged materials from dismantled structures were generally used for any remodeling which occurred.

Sources: The oldest known site plan of camp while still occupied by the CCC, entitled "Rabideau Camp F-50" (ca. 1936); an undated site plan by the University of Illinois included in a "Memorandum Concerning the Summer Surveying Camp," dated December 1, 1945; a

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"Memorandum to Students" by the University of Illinois, dated June 15, 1949, 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 to the Forest Service, dated August 5, 1985 from Milton O. Schmidt, Professor of Civil Engineering, Emeritus, University of Illinois, 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