



Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps

Building pathways to the preservation trades

2024

Field Season Report



2024 Field Season Report

Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps

Building pathways to the preservation trades

Report produced by Northern Bedrock Historic
Preservation Corps Staff

November 2024

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This project has been financed in part with funds from the State of Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund through the Minnesota State Historical Society.



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Acknowledgments

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Sean Dunham - Chippewa National Forest
Jason Whitehead - HistoriCorps
Matt Tyler Petz-Giguere - Grand Portage Forestry
Greg Lanners - Itasca State Park
Rick Dunkley - St Croix State Park
Freja Finkle - Listening Point
Merlin Peterson - Pope County Historical Society
Jon Wendorff - Wheels Across the Prairie
Jodi Slick - Ecolibrium3

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTORS

Mark Johnston - Historic Design Consulting
Tim McKenzie - Superior National Forest, retired
Anthony Hyatt - Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

Dorothy Molter Museum
Kevin Skwira-Brown - Cultural Fluency Associates
Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums
Northland AmeriCorps Collaborative
Northland History Association

RETHOS

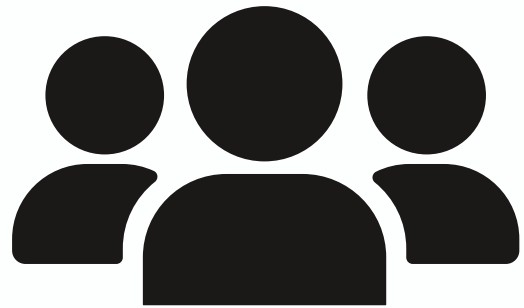
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The Builders Group
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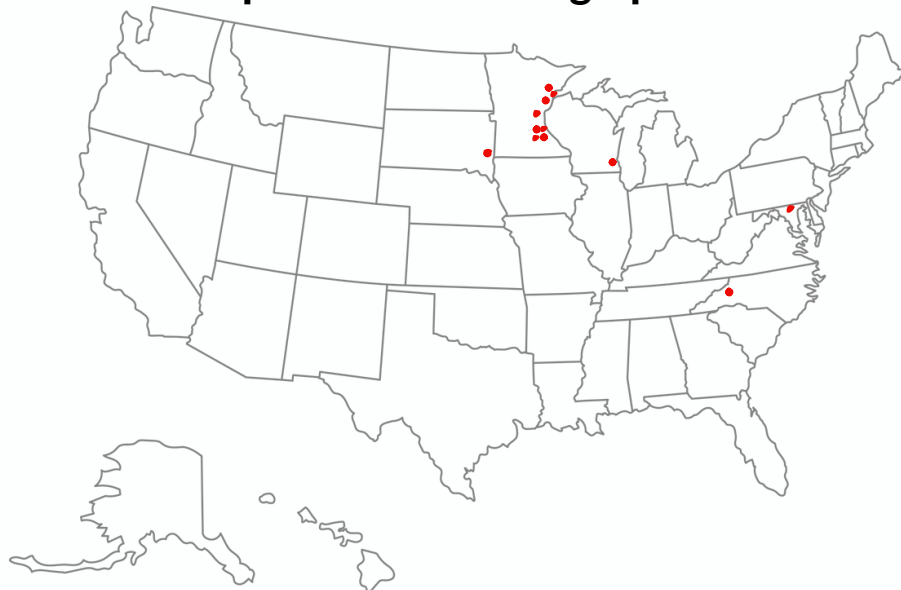
2024 Corpsmembers

- Butterfly Oldham
- Sam Reynolds
- Julia Taylor
- Thomas Horgan
- Arryn Clanaugh
- Jackson Hodges
- Cora Terletzky
- Kelly Speakman
- Hanna Sterling
- Gwen Nelson
- Will Peel
- Ayden Berglind



Full Season Crew Leaders- 2
Full Season Corpsmembers- 7
Summer Only Corpsmembers- 3

Corpsmember Demographics



This project has been financed in part with funds from the State of Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund through the Minnesota State Historical Society.

2024

Field Schedule

Crew Leader Training: 5/14 - 5/22

- 1) Morgan Park Office
 - Lead Renovator, ServSafe, driving and trailering, and leadership training

Classroom Orientation: 5/28 -6/5

- 1) Morgan Park Office
 - OSHA 10, First Aid and CPR, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Leave No Trace

Project Orientation: 6/11 -6/19

- 1) Morgan Park Office
 - Window Restoration
 - Cleaning
 - Landscaping
- 2) Halfway Ranger Station
 - Wilderness First Aid Mini
- 3) Ely Cemetery
 - Masonry
 - Monument Restoration

Hitch 1: 6/25 - 7/3

- 4) Chippewa National Forest
 - Window Restoration
 - Preservation Carpentry

Hitch 2: 7/9 - 7/17

- 5) Rabideau CCC Camp
 - Flooring
 - Pavillion Log Repair
- 6) Glenwood Cemetery
 - Cemetery Restoration

Hitch 3: 7/23 - 7/31

- 7) The Writing Shack
 - Cataloging and collection storage
- 8) St. Croix State Park
 - Masonry

Hitch 4: 8/6 - 8/14

- 7) The Writing Shack
 - Roofing
 - Siding Repair
 - Painting
- 9) Itasca State Park
 - Log Restoration

Hitch 5: 8/20 -8/28

- 5) Rabideau CCC Camp
 - Mid-season Re-Orientation and Career Planning

2024 Field Schedule

Hitch 6: 9/3 - 9/11

9) Itasca State Park

- Masonry
- Cemetery Restoration
- Split Rail Fence Construction

Hitch 7: 9/17 - 9/25

10) Grand Portage

- Moose Browse Survey

11) Wheels Across The Prairie

- Cedar Shake Roofing

Hitch 8: 10/1 - 10/9

8) St. Croix State Park

- Masonry

Hitch 9: 10/15 - 10/23

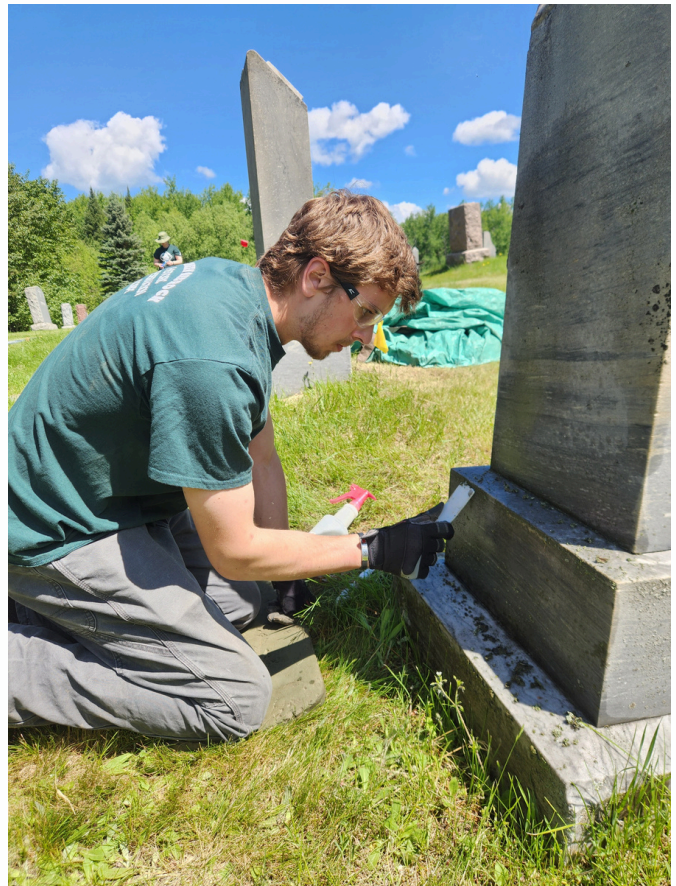
12) Legacy House

- Masonry

11) Wheels Across The Prairie

- Cedar Shake Roofing

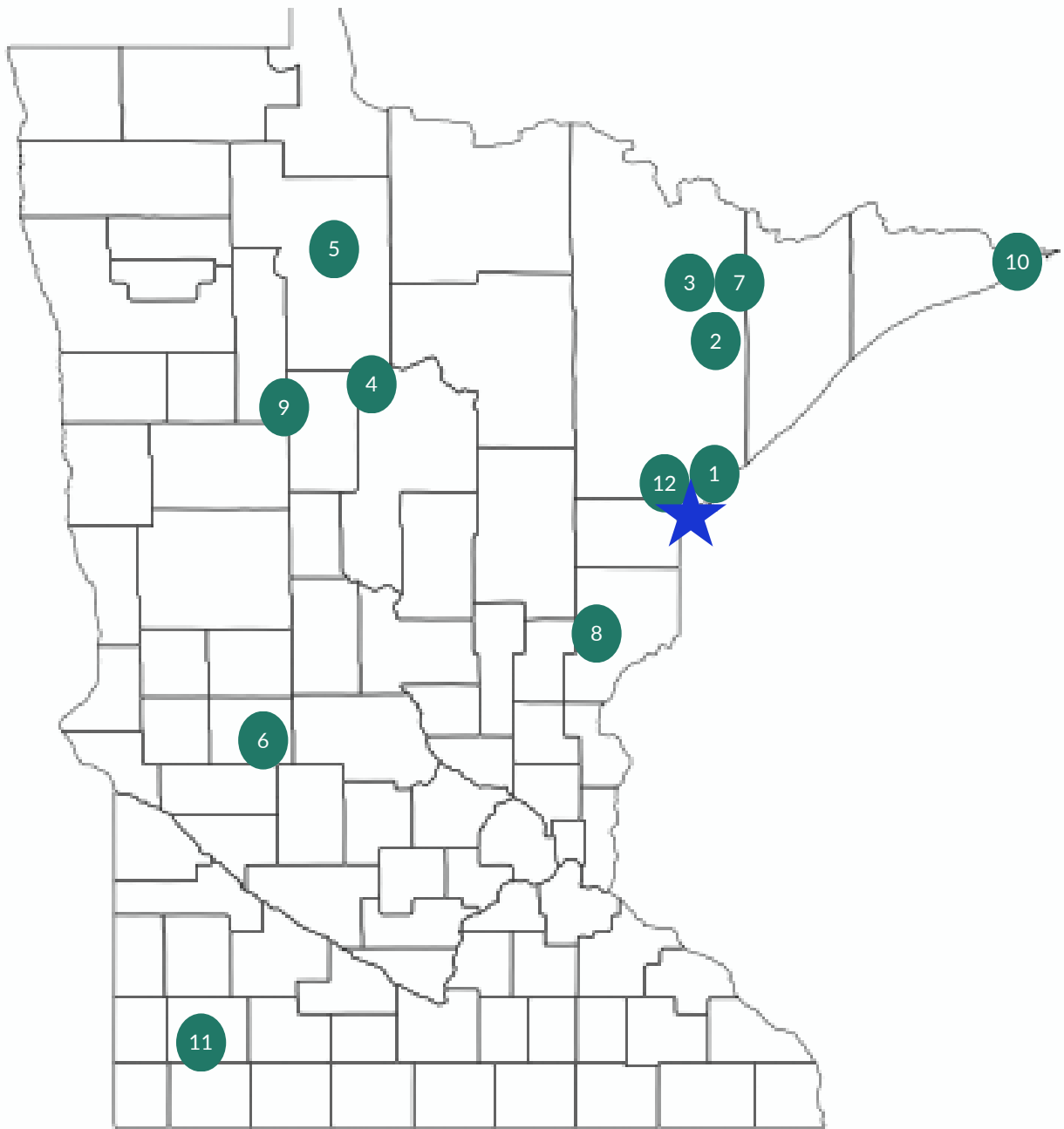
Bonus Hitch: 10/29 - 11/6



Northern Bedrock Crew Leader cleaning a monument at the Ely Cemetery.

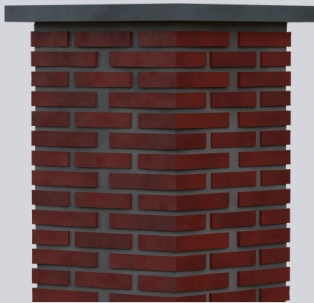


Project Locations



This project has been financed in part with funds from the State of Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund through the Minnesota State Historical Society.

Crew Leader, Corpsmember Orientation, & Project Orientation



Brick Pillars Rebuilt - 2



Monuments Edged- 6
Monuments Reset- 7
Monuments Cleaned- 8
Monuments Leveled- 1
Monuments Repaired- 3



Northern Bedrock Crew B serving at the Ely Cemetery.

Crew Leader Orientation

Crew Leader Orientation focused on safety policies and leadership styles and collaboratively developed classroom and project orientation classes. All participants received Lead Renovator and ServSafe Certifications.

Classroom Orientation

Classroom orientation consisted of Northern Bedrock 101, Introduction to the Theory of Historic Preservation, driving and trailering training, and food safety. All participants received OSHA 10, Leave No Trace, First Aid, CPR, and AED Certifications.

Project Orientation

Crew: A & B

Site: Ely Cemetery and Morgan Park Office

Project Host: City of Ely (Harold Langowski) and Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps Staff

Material Used: Mortar: Type N Spec Mix

Bricks: Red Vertical Score brick

Monument Setting Compound: 'Sariset

Epoxy: Tenax Domo 10

Cleaner: D/2 Biologic Cleaner



Corpsmembers repairing a brick pillar at the entrance to the Ely Cemetery.

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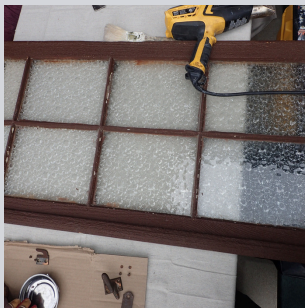
Hitch 1

Supervisors Office

Reglazed Windows- 65
Repaired Doors- 1
Dutchmen Repair: sealed new window



Before and after of Supervisor's Office.



Before photo of a window.



After photo of a window.

Site: Supervisor's Office
Project Host: Chippewa National Forest
Technical Specialist: Mark Johnston
Primary Focus: Siding, Door, and Window Repair
Crew: A & B
Hitch 1: 6/11-6/19
Materials Used: Window Glaze: Sarco Dual Glaze
Wood Epoxy: Albatron WoodEpoxy

About the Site

The Forest Supervisor's Office, listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, was built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 705. The historic landmark embodies the craftsmanship of men like Ike Boekenoogen, Nels Bergley and the boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps 705, Pike Bay Camp. The CCC and Work Project Administration laborers created this log structure using a Finnish-style log construction. Ike Boekenoogen, a master woodsman, supervised the technique and construction. Logs were traced, notched and grooved by hand. Each layer of logs was tightly fit and required no chinking or nailing. The 8,500 square foot building was made from 100-year-old native red pine logged from Star Island and Lake Thirteen near Cass Lake. More than 16,000 lineal feet of red pine logs 10 to 16 inches in diameter were used for outer walls and partitions. Heavy wooden pegs set into drilled holes allowed the logs to settle without shifting. Hand-hammered ironwork on the doors and hinges still greet visitors today. Gnarled stairway railings, constructed with frost-damaged maple, lead visitors up hand-hewn split log steps. Birch, oak, and white pine were also used as finishing materials.



Corpsmember repairing the oil shed door.



Corpsmember removing glazing from historic window.

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Hitch 2

Pope County

Monuments Edged- 47
Monuments Reset- 8
Monuments Cleaned- 84
Monuments Levelled- 18



Before photo of a monument.



A Corpsmember cleaning a cemetery monument.



An after photo of a monument.

Site: Pope County Museum & Glenwood Cemetery

Project Host: Pope County Museum

Primary Focus: Cemetery Restoration

Crew: B

Hitch 2: 6/11-6/19

Materials Used: Monument Setting Compound: 'Sairset

Epoxy: Tenex Domo 10

Cleaner: D/2 Biologic Cleaner

About the Site

Pope County was named after explorer John Pope in 1862. Glenwood was a hub of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the late 1800s. The nearby Chippewa River was once a major source of transportation for Native Americans and later the European fur traders and explorers. The Pope County Museum is located in Glenwood, Minnesota on the shores of Lake Minnewaska. Operated by the Pope County Historical Society, it is open year-round. The museum includes a genealogy library, exhibit galleries, six historic buildings, and a display of agricultural and industrial equipment



Corpsmembers prepping monument for leveling.

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Hitch 2

HistoriCorps Rabideau

Flooring Installed - 2,175 square feet
Log Repair - 67 feet



A before photos of the pillars.



A during photo of the pillars.



Corpsmember prepping floor to be replaced.

Site: CCC Camp Rabideau

Project Host: Historiccorps

Technical Specialist: Pete Specht

Primary Focus: Flooring, Pavilion Log repair

Crew: A

Hitch 2: 6/11-6/19

About the Site

Camp Rabideau National Historic Landmark represents the best preserved Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the nation. Part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's mammoth "New Deal," Camp Rabideau was one of the 2,650 camps established nationwide in 1935. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) gave more than a quarter of a million young men work experience and technical trades training. Camps were run jointly by the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the camps today, and the U.S. Army, which commanded the camps.



Corpsmembers stripping logs that will be used as corner pieces in the picnic area.

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Hitch 3

Sigurd Olson Writing Shack

Artifacts Photographed - 600

Artifacts Inventoried - 633

Artifacts Prepared for Storage - 633



The Writing Shack empty of its artifacts.



The Writing Shack wall.



Corpsmembers begin the cataloging process by bringing artifacts out the writing shack to be tagged and inventoried.

Site: Sigurd Olson Writing Shack

Project Host: Listening Point Foundation

Technical Specialist: Nicole Grabow (MACC) and Charley Langowski

Primary Focus: Inventory, tag, and catalog collection

Crew: B

Hitch 3: 07/23-07/31

Materials Used: PPE: Nitril gloves, N95 masks, Shoe covers

Covering: Polyethylene sheeting

Packaging: Acid-free boxes, glassine sheets, acid-free tissue paper, 2"

Ethafoam, polyethylene sheets, acid-free corrugated board, acid-free matboard, storage boxes, linen hinging tape

About the Site

Sigurd Olson's writing shack, often referred to simply as "The Shack," is a small garage with significant historical and literary importance. The Shack along with the Listening Point property (located near the shack, on Burntside Lake) that served as Olson's retreat and creative haven are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1934, Olson and his wife Elizabeth purchased a house on East Wilson Street in Ely, Olson, a dean at the Ely Junior College, found it challenging to balance his noisy household, demanding job, and his passion for canoe trips and writing. Despite rejections from mainstream magazines in the 1930s, Olson persisted in his unique style of writing, which celebrated the rugged beauty and primitive challenges of the Canadian Shield. The Shack remains a testament to Olson's legacy. His Royal typewriter, with the last words still typed on it, and various personal artifacts, including rocks, books, and maps, are displayed. The property, maintained to reflect the wild forests Olson cherished, includes a stone wall reminiscent of a glacial rock gathering.

Hitch 3

St. Croix State Park

Repointing and Repair - 1,107 square feet



A before photos of the St. Croix State Park's entrance monument.



The crew with the completed sign.



A before photo of uncleaned masonry.



After photo of cleaned masonry.

Site: St. Croix State Park Entrance Portal

Project Host: St. Croix State Park

Technical Specialist: Sadie Young

Primary Focus: Masonry

Crew: A

Hitch 3: 07/23-07/31

Materials Used: Mortar: Type N Spec Mix

Cleaner: D/2 Biological Cleaner

About the Site

Evidence of Native American occupation in the park and the St. Croix River Valley has been found dating back 5,000 years. The region was found inhabited by the Dakota people by the late 17th century, when French traders began exploring the region. However the Dakota were soon displaced by the Ojibwe. Fur traders became more numerous, and a trading post was established within what is now St. Croix State Park. Following an 1837 treaty with the Ojibwe, the region was opened up to logging, although harvesting in the park did not begin until later in the 19th century. From 1894 to 1898, the Empire Lumber Company operated a rail line, the Flemming Railroad, to transport logs cut farther inland to the St. Croix River. The line ended at Yellowbanks, where the logs were rolled down the steep bluffs and floated to sawmills downriver. St. John's Landing, at the northeast end of the park, is named for Ed St. John, who opened a popular boarding house there for the lumbermen. The area was logged out by 1915 and farmers were attracted to the newly cleared land. However the sandy soil was poor and not productive enough to make a living. Most settlers moved away, and much of the land was tax-forfeited. Pine County had the most tax-delinquent property in Minnesota and suffered abject environmental degradation from cultivation and wildfires like the Great Hinckley Fire.

As planned following federal development, St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area was transferred to the state to become St. Croix State Park in 1943. The fire tower was staffed during fire season until 1981 when ariel surveys became the preferred spotting method. St. John's Landing Group Center is now a camp for the Minnesota Conservation Corps.

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Hitch 4

Listening Point

Windows Reglazed - 4
Roofing - 1,545 square feet
Siding Replaced - 50 feet



Sigurd Olson's writing shack before siding and shingle replacements.



Corpsmembers starting the shingling process.



Sigurd Olson's writing shack after siding and shingle replacements.

Site: Listening Point

Project Host: Listening Point Foundation

Technical Specialist: Sadie Young

Primary Focus: Roofing & Siding Repair

Crew: A

Hitch 4: 8/6-8/14

Materials Used: Ice and Water Barrier: Tarco Leak Barrier

Drip Edge

Underlayment: #30 felt

Shingles: Tamko 'Titan Autumn Brown'

Roof Cement: Black Jack All Weather Roof
Cement

Siding: Dutch Lap

Paint: Dutch Boy latex paint

About the Site

Sigurd Olson's writing shack, often referred to simply as "The Shack," is a small garage with significant historical and literary importance. The Shack along with the Listening Point property (located near the shack, on Burntside Lake) that served as Olson's retreat and creative haven are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Hitch 4

Itasca State Park

Logs Repaired - 8



Corpsmember prepping log for repair.



An after photo of the log restoration work performed by Corpsmembers.



Corpsmember with Technical Instructor Tim Mckenzie.

Site: Itasca

Project Host: Itasca State Park

Technical Specialist: Tim McKenzie

Primary Focus: Log Restoration

Crew: B

Hitch 4: 8/6-8/14

About the Site

Itasca State Park, established in 1891, is Minnesota's oldest state park and one of the first in the United States. The area has a rich history with Native American tribes, including the Ojibwe, utilizing the land for thousands of years before European settlement. They revered the region for its natural resources and spiritual significance, particularly the headwaters of the Mississippi River, which were vital for trade and sustenance.

In the 19th century, as European settlers began to explore the area, the beauty and ecological significance of the region attracted attention. In 1889, a group of conservationists, led by Dr. John G. W. E. F. "Wally" Adams, recognized the importance of protecting this unique landscape from logging and development. Their advocacy led to the establishment of Itasca State Park in 1891, aimed at preserving the old-growth forests and the source of the Mississippi River.

The park also played a role during the Great Depression when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was active in building trails, picnic areas, and other facilities, enhancing the park's infrastructure. Its historical significance, combined with its natural beauty, makes Itasca State Park a cherished destination for outdoor enthusiasts, history buffs, and families alike.

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Hitch 5

CCC Camp Rabideau

Windows Reglazed - 6
Painting and Scraping - 600 square feet



Corpsmember painting and scraping bathhouse.



Corpsmember reglazing historic window.



A photo of the repainted pumphouse.

Site: CCC Camp Rabideau

Project Host: Chippewa National Forrest

Primary Focus: Midseason programming, painting, scraping

Crew: A, B

Hitch 5: 8/20-8/28

Materials Used: Paint: Valspar Pristine 'Jade Sea'
Window Glaze: Sarco Dual Glaze

About the Site

Camp Rabideau National Historic Landmark represents the best preserved of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the nation. Part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's mammoth "New Deal," Camp Rabideau was one of the 2,650 camps established across the country in 1935. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) gave more than a quarter of a million young men, many of them unemployed and just barely making ends meet during the Great Depression, some skills, some money, and some happy memories. Camps were run jointly by the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the camps today, and the U.S. Army, which commanded the camps.

Hitch 6

Itasca State Park East Entrance and Cemetery

Monuments Reset - 3
Monuments Cleaned - 10
Spilt Rail Fence Installed - 60 feet
Repointed - 1,200 square feet



A photo of the Itasca State Park East Entrance before repointing.



An after photo of the entrance monument.



A photo of the monument and fence after cleaning.

Site: Itasca State Park, East Entrance and Cemetery

Project Host: Greg Lanners, Itasca State Park

Technical Specialist: Sadie Young

Primary Focus: Masonry, Cemetery Restoration

Crew: A, B

Hitch 6: 9/3-9/11

Materials Used: Mortar: Mastercraft Type N Mortar Mix,
Hydrated Lime, Local Sand (1:1:6 ratio)
Monument Setting Compound: 'Sairset
Epoxy: Tenax Domo 10
Cleaner: D/2 Biological Cleaner

About the Site

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Hitch 7

Grand Portage

Land Surveyed - 40 acres



Corpsmembers taking measurements of trees for a Moose Browse Survey.



Corpsmembers exploring the wilderness near Grand Portage.



Crew spotted a young bull moose.

Site: Grand Portage National Forestry

Project Host: Matt Tyler Petz-Giguere, Grand Portage Reservation

Technical Specialist: Sadie Young

Primary Focus: Moose Browse Survey

Crew: A

Hitch 7: 9/17-9/25

About the Site

Declining moose populations in northeastern Minnesota are a concern for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Tribal forest managers have been implementing a variety of novel forest management approaches to improve moose habitat and reverse the population decline. Forest management objectives for moose include creation and maintenance of abundant high-quality moose browse, calving cover, and summer heat cover, as well as control of parasites such as winter tick, liver fluke, and brain worm.

Grand Portage Forestry is experimenting with innovative silvicultural practices with the potential to improve timber revenue while improving moose habitat. Preliminary research into one such practice - low density conifer management - has found that shrub and tree regrowth following release treatments produces high density preferred moose browse.

A practice with similar potential is pre-commercial aspen row thinning (PCART). Aspen row thinning is the cutting of strips in immature aspen stands, typically between the ages of 10 to 25 years old. While research results are mixed, the general consensus is that PCART increases diameter growth rate, lowers time to commercial maturity, may or may not increase total yield, and is generally most effective on high productivity sites. And, if the creation of high-density preferred browse also occurs in cut strips following PCART, it could significantly improve browse resources during the middle of an aspen rotation when they are typically very low.

Taken from: Pre-Commercial Aspen Row-Thinning (PCART) Monitoring Protocol 2021 v1.04

This project has been financed in part with funds from the State of Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund through the Minnesota State Historical Society.

Hitch 7 & 9

Wheels Across the Prairie

Cedar Roof Shingled - 182 square feet
Windows Reglazed - 2



A photo of the roof before repair.



A photo of the window before repair.



A photo of the window after repair.

Site: Wheels Across the Prairie

Project Host: John Wendorff

Technical Specialist: Anthony Hyatt

Primary Focus: Roof Repair, Window Restoration

Crew: B/A

Hitch 7: 9/17-9/25

Hitch 9: 10/15-10/23

Materials Used: Sheathing: 1/2" CDX Plywood

Underlayment: Ice guard, cedar breather, #30 felt

Shingles: Medium 1/2" to 5/8" cedar shakes, #2 starter cedar shingles, hip & ridge shingles

About the Site

In 1884, two brothers, John and Bart, passed Bear Lake, which had an abundance of good timber and decided to establish a homestead. The cabin itself is 20x24 with a second floor was considered big for its time. The lime used for chinking came from a kiln in Lake Sarah Township, and the sand came from Bear Lake. This homestead eventually became the Lowville Township and the home of the American Fur Company. The cabin is currently on display at the Wheels Across the Prairie Museum in Tracy, MN.



A photo of the roof after repair.



A photo of the newly installed cedar shingles.

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Hitch 8

St. Croix State Park

Repointed - 1,000 square feet



The spillway before cleaning.



The spillway after cleaning.



The chimney before repointing.



The chimney after repointing.

Site: St. Croix State Park

Project Host: Rick Dunkley

Primary Focus: Chimney Repair, Spillway Repair

Crew: B

Hitch 8: 10/1-10/09

Materials Used: Mortar: Type N Spec Mix

Cleaner: D/2 Biologic Cleaner

About the Site

Evidence of Native American occupation in the park and the St. Croix River Valley dates back 5,000 years. The region was inhabited by the Dakota people by the late 17th century when French traders began exploring it. However, the Dakota were soon displaced by the Ojibwe. The area was clear cut by 1915 for farming but the sandy soil limited agriculture production. An initial 18,000 acres of land were transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior, for direct service projects, under the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). A CCC Camp, Yellowbanks, was used first by Company #2762 and later by #2706. Crews built the main park road, following the old Flemming Railroad route. Trails and scenic overlooks were established while farm buildings were demolished. The crews used sandstone and lumber from within the park to develop five separate areas for visitors. First was the park headquarters, second Riverview Campground, and a lodge, which is now the interpretive center. The other three group centers were constructed by the WPA crews: Norway Point (for Boys), St. John's Landing (for Girls), and the Head of the Rapids for disabled youth. Crews planted pine, spruce, and hardwood trees to begin reforestation, while others conducted wildlife and fire protection work. As additional properties were added, the St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area (RDAQ) grew to 30,000 acres, slightly smaller than the country's largest RDA at Custer State Park in South Dakota.

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Hitch 9

Legacy House

Cement Repair - 40 square feet
Brick Infill - 100 square feet



Damaged and dirty brick before restoration.



Restored and cleaned brick.



Damaged brick before restoration.

Site: Legacy House

Project Host: Adam Kurowiski

Technical Specialist: Mark Johnston

Primary Focus: Masonry

Crew: A, B

Hitch 9: 10/15-10/23

Materials Used: Mortar: Type N Spec Mix, Lime Mortar, Self Leveling Cement

About the Site

In 2017, a condemned building, dubbed the Legacy House, became property of Eco3 with the intention of being redeveloped into affordable housing for VISTA members. The building originally was home to a haberdashery owned by two women. This project simultaneously addresses multiple community and Eco3 VISTA program challenges by increasing the availability of affordable accessible housing, removing financial barriers to participating in national service due to housing cost and availability, and reducing blight in the Lincoln Park neighborhood.

The housing will be available in 2025 - in time for the new cohort for AmeriCorps VISTA members.



Restored brick.

This project has been financed in part with funds from the State of Minnesota Arts and Culture Heritage Fund through the Minnesota State Historical Society.



Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps 2024 Field Season Report



Northern Bedrock is a member of 21st CSC. This provides relevant federal agencies and departments the enhanced ability to engage corps through public-private partnerships to complete pressing projects, which encourages coordination across the federal government. Participating agencies and departments including the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Energy and NOAA, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Corporation for National and Community Service.