

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

accepted
9/14/77

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grand Portage National Monument

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 666

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Grand Marais

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Minnesota

VICINITY OF

CODE

27

COUNTY

Cook

CODE

0.31

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

1

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

August 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

U. S. Department of the Interior, Midwest Regional Office

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grand Portage was designated a national historic site in 1951. Nine years later Congress established Grand Portage National Monument. The monument includes the sites of the North West Company's Fur Trading post on Grand Portage and at Fort Charlotte as well as the nine-mile portage trail that connects the two.

Grand Portage National Monument lies entirely within the Grand Portage Indian Reservation in Cook county, Minnesota, within a few miles of the ^{east} northwest tip of the state.

Although the original virgin forests the voyageurs knew have long since been cut, the Grand Portage passes through dense, second-growth woodland, showing no evidence of human habitation. Thus, the traveler who follows the old trail sees it much as it must have been two centuries ago.

The reconstructed structures that remain at Grand Portage National Monument represent only a small percentage of the buildings that once occupied the site of the fur emporium of the North West Company and its competitors. Most of the structures which once existed at Grand Portage were built in the French 'poteaux sur sole' or post-on-sill type of construction, at times referred to as the Canadian style or Canadian frame construction.

The following reconstructions of historic structures and one late-period historic building exist at Grand Portage:

HS 1 GREAT HALL - This reconstruction replaces a previous one which was built in 1939-1940 and later burned. The fire, though it destroyed many artifacts, provided a fresh opportunity to rebuild the Great Hall in a more accurate manner. The present Grand Hall was reconstructed during 1971-1972 with a number of its features substantiated by excavations. Constructed from square logs, hand hewn from local timbers; the structure measures 30' x 95'. It is 1½ stories with two fireplaces of random-coursed fieldstone, a hip roof with six gable dormers covering the Great Hall and its 95' long porch located on the south side. This structure is in excellent condition.

HS 2 CRAWFORD CABIN - This cabin was built circa 1895 on the former site of the Grand Portage post. It measures 26' x 16', with 1½ stories. It is a dovetail constructed log building. New flooring and a safety disappearing stairway were installed in 1973. New wiring was installed in 1974. This structure is in fair condition. ~~REMOVED~~

HS 8 GATEHOUSE - A 13' x 13' building elevated approximately 12' above grade, this log gate house was built circa 1936. It is in excellent condition, although partially charred by fire in 1969.

HS 14 WAREHOUSE - A squared log building 52' x 19' set on piles, this reconstruction was completed in 1973 and is in excellent condition. It is now used as a canoe shed for interpretive purposes.

HS 15 KITCHEN - This building served as a kitchen for the main dining facilities in the Great Hall. Reconstructed between 1973 and 1976, it was based on a previous reconstruction built in 1936 which burned. The structure measures 35' x 27' and is connected by a walkway to the Great Hall. It is of log construction and is 1½ stories tall.

(See continuation sheet, page no. 1)

Form No. 10 300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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HS 16 STOCKADE - There are 1574 linear feet of stockade, approximately 14' high. This reconstruction was first built in 1936 and rebuilt in 1964. The condition of the stockade varies from excellent to fair. It consists of logs standing in a filled trench.

HS 18 FORT CHARLOTTE SITE - This site is located on the Pigeon River at the western end of the Grand Portage trail. A few buried foundations and caved-in cellar pits mark the location of the Fort Charlotte storage depot of the North West Company. Similar remains of a short-lived outpost set up by the competing XY Company in 1797 are also evident in this area.

PORTAGE TRAIL - The nine-mile Grand Portage or "great carrying place" connected the Pigeon River and Lake Superior. The trail was used by the voyageurs, making their way to the Grand Portage Stockade, to bypass the treacherous falls and cascades of the lower Pigeon River. The trail, an unpaved foot path, passes through a dense, second growth woodland and mountainous terrain.

Two watchtowers (HS 3) once existed on the Grand Portage site. Reconstructions built in 1936 were demolished in the 1960s, due to safety problems and historical inaccuracies.

Grand Portage National Monument also includes numerous other sites of structures built in the late 18th Century by the North West Company and its competitors. Further archeological exploration is required in these locations.

One nonhistoric structure which exists within the monument's boundaries is a public restroom which is located outside the stockade at the Grand Portage post.

Another is a 270' long wood dock built on the site of the historic Grand Portage dock used in conjunction with the stockade. A previous dock constructed on the same site was destroyed by a storm in 1951 and was replaced by the present dock which is placed on 12' x 12' log cribs filled with loose rubble and is in the shape of an "L". It remains in excellent condition. This dock is used as a drop-off point for visitors travelling to and from Isle Royale National Park located in Lake Superior.

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Grand Portage National Monument
38 miles north of Grand Marais
Grand Marais, Cook County, Minnesota

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The historically associated and significant materials in the Monument's collection or under National Park Service control consist primarily of items recovered through professional archeological investigation, but does include items acquired through field collection or donation. The materials include remnants of building materials and hardware, tools, container parts, personal possessions, firearms, and trade goods. The materials especially significant are those from the 1730-1804 period, but the collection contains both earlier and later items.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1936, the Grand Portage site was judged by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments to be of national significance because of its important association with the fur trade and the exploration and colonization of the northwest, its historic/geographic link between the United States and Canada, and its excellent state of preservation in a semi-wilderness setting.

Grand Portage National Monument is situated on Lake Superior near the northeastern tip of Lake Superior. It encompasses the site of one of the most important fur posts on the North American continent. Geography, the quest for fur, the search for the Northwest Passage, and a boundary dispute between the United States and Canada, caused it to become a great center of activity. The strategic location of Grand Portage between Lake Superior and the interconnected waterway along the present Minnesota-Ontario border guaranteed it an important place in history, because it guarded one of the best natural routes to the northern interior of the continent (the other being Hudson Bay). Because of its geographical advantages, Grand Portage was selected as the headquarters of the North West Company, a powerful British fur trading firm. Because of the importance of the company, Grand Portage was the only scene of military activity in Minnesota during the Revolutionary War when British soldiers were stationed there to protect the company's property.

The Grand Portage, or the "great carrying place," though neither the longest, the most difficult, nor the most spectacular of the portages, was a vital link in the fur trade from Montreal. This nine-mile trail represented the end of travel on the Great Lakes and the beginning of the interior river and lake route.

By 1778, the North West Company's trading post, located on the shores of the small bay at the eastern end of the "great carrying place," was in operation. This post, which took its name from the portage, served as the company's inland headquarters, and it was here that the "Nor' Westers" held their summer rendezvous.

At the peak of the North West Company's trade, there were over a thousand voyageurs in the company's service. These faithful laborers usually carried two, 90-pound packs over the portage between Fort Charlotte and Grand Portage, each trip.

The North West Company was unable to maintain a complete monopoly over the trade that passed through Grand Portage. Rivals sprang up from time to time, usually to flourish a few years and then merge with the "Nor' Westers." The most aggressive competitor, the XY Company, operated neighboring posts at Grand Portage and Fort Charlotte from 1797 to 1804.

(See continuation sheet, page no. 2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

By 1800 the boom years of Grand Portage were near an end. In that year a United States tax collector visited the North West Company's post and gave notice that the United States would, the next year, levy duties on all merchandise and furs passing over the portage.

The "Nor' Westers" like many others, were uncertain whether the portage lay on United States or Canadian soil. Because they thought that the collector had a good case in the Jay Treaty of 1794 and that his warnings should be taken seriously, they immediately made plans to move their post to the mouth of the Kaministiquia River on Canadian soil, about 30 miles northeast, and to reopen a long abandoned and more difficult route to the west.

By 1803, the new post--first named Fort Kaministiquia and later called Fort William in honor of the company's chief superintendent, William McGillivray--was near completion, and the North West Company bade a final farewell to Grand Portage.

Although the trapping regions and trade routes principally lay in Canada, the people and events of Grand Portage were also significant in United States history. It could be said that Grand Portage played a larger part in the history of Canada than in that of the United States. But, in a larger context, it must be recognized that Grand Portage played a part in the historical development of both nations. The French explorers who used the portage knew no international boundary; they traveled into the Dakotas and the Illinois country, as well as through western Canada.

The Grand Portage trail was and still is an international road. Under the terms of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 use of the trail remains free and open to this day to citizens of both the United States and Great Britain.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Beeson, Dr. L., Research Material on Grand Portage, 1960.
- Fridley, R. W., The Story of Grand Portage, prepared for the National Park Service, October 30, 1963.
- Thompson, E. N., Grand Portage, A History of the Sites, People, and Fur Trade, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June, 1969. (See cont. sht. P. 3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(See continuation sheet, page no. 4)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 709.97

UTM REFERENCES GRAND PORTAGE POST

A	1,6	29,9	4,0	0	5,3	1,5	0,0	0	E.16	3	0	0	6	0	5	3	1	5	6	2	0		
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING
B	1,6	29,9	1,3	0	5,3	1,5	0,0	0															
C	1,6	29,9	1,8	0	5,3	1,5	7,5	0															
D	1,6	3,0	0,6	0	5,3	1,5	7,3	0															

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

At a point which is 330 meters south and 400 meters east of the intersection of sections 4, 5, 8, and 9 in Township 63N Range 6E, the area of Grand Portage National Monument which surrounds the site of the old North West Company's headquarters begins. From this point the park property runs west 260 meters, north 140 meters, east 80 meters, north once again for 390 meters, then east for 360 meters to the intersection of two roads. (See continuation sheet, page no. 4) *these dimensions are larger than Park*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas P. Busch, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

April 22, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

TELEPHONE

402-221-3423

CITY OR TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ___ NO ___ NONE ___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is X National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-300a
Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

Master Plan for Grand Portage, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service,
June, 1971.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

FORT CHARLOTTE

AA	16	289080	5320550	BB	16	289400	5320540
CC	16	289380	5319740	DD	16	288660	5319770
EE	16	288680	5319920				

GRAND PORTAGE TRAIL

AAA	16	289390	5320160	BBB	16	291000	5320200
CCC	16	293000	5319880	DDD	16	295000	5319800
EEE	16	297000	5318880	FFF	16	299000	5317200
GGG	16	299790	5315520				

Verbal Boundary Description

Here the boundary travels north for 190 meters, east for 30 meters, north again for 40 meters, then east for 400 meters and then south 550 meters to the shore of Lake Superior. At this point the boundary follows the shoreline in a southwesterly direction to the point where it began.

The portion of Grand Portage National Monument which surrounds Fort Charlotte borders Canada and lies in the NE ¼ of section 29, Township 64N, Range 5E.

The Park's property also includes the Grand Portage Trail which runs from Lake Superior to the Pigeon River. This trail is protected within a strip of land 100 feet wide, for about a mile, from Grand Portage village to U.S. 61 and is 600 feet in width the remainder of the way to Fort Charlotte.

Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grand Portage National Monument

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Grand Marias

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cook

STATE

Minnesota

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S. Geological Survey, Grand Portage, Minnesota, Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24000

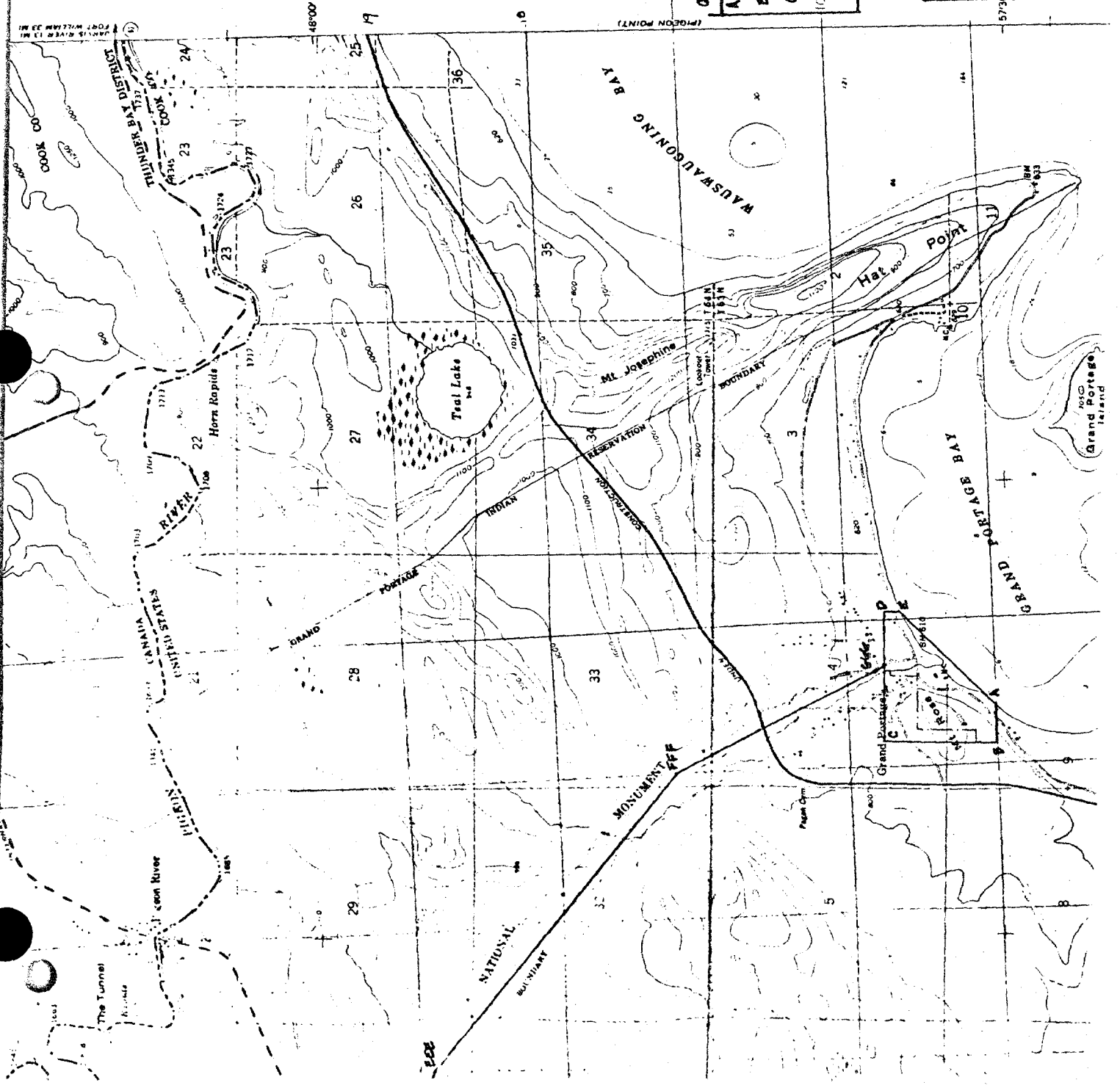
DATE

1959

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



GRAND PORTAGE TRAIL LINA SURVEYINGS.

A. 16	299400	5315000
B. 16	299190	531500
C. 16	299180	5315190
D. 16	300000	5315730
E. 16	300060	5315620

GRAND PORTAGE TRAIL LINA BEF.

PPP. 16	2995000	5319000
EEE. 16	297000	5310080
FFF. 16	299000	5317200
GGG. 16	299740	5315520

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1 NAME

HISTORIC Grand Portage National Monument

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Grand Marais X VICINITY OF COUNTY Cook STATE Minnesota

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. Geological Survey, Mineral Center, Minnesota, Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1959

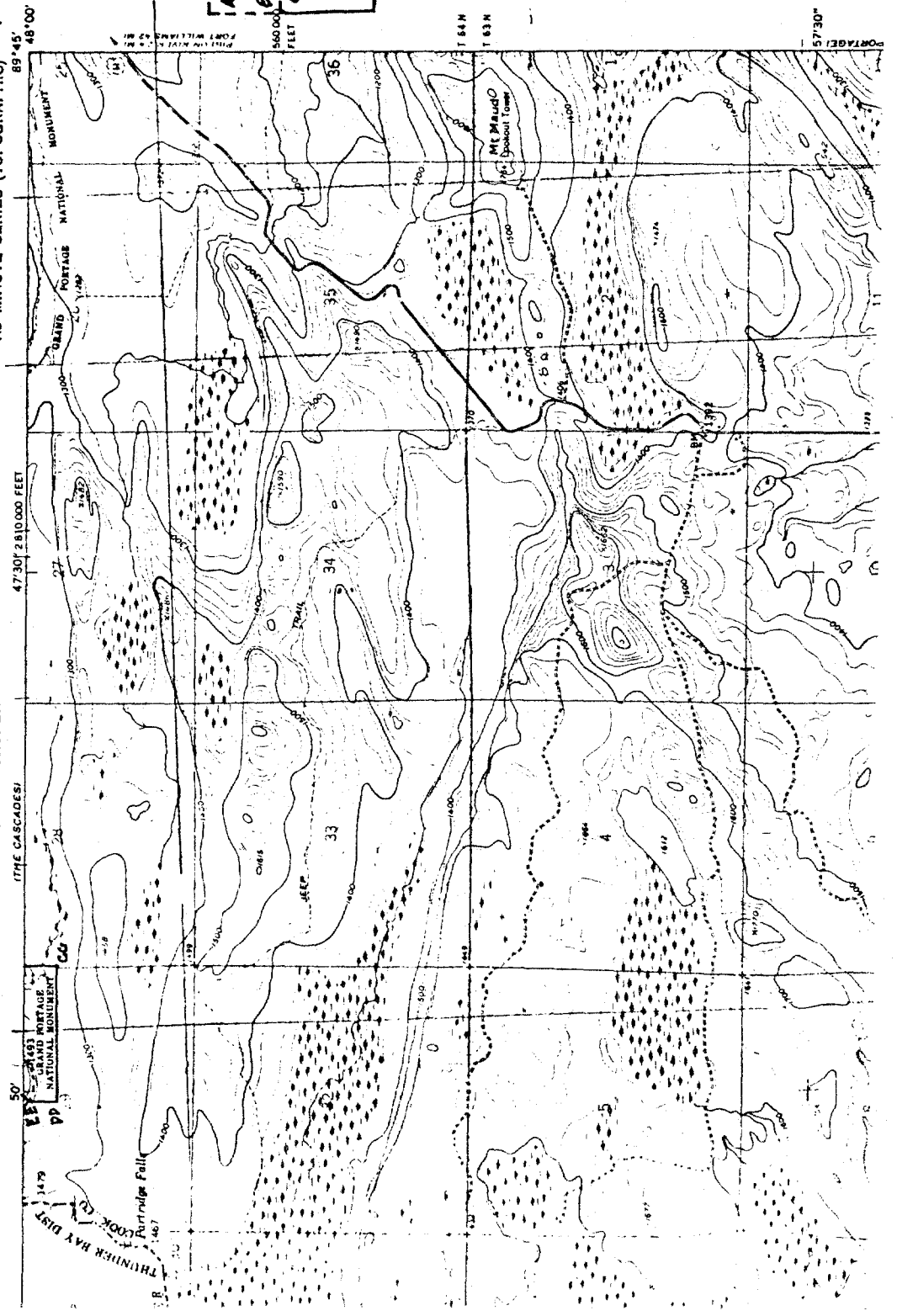
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

MINERAL CENTER QUADRANGLE
MINNESOTA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION
A. M. DEYOANNE, COMMISSIONER



Foot Closures - UTM Ref.

AA	16	209000	9320550
BB	16	209400	9320640
CC	16	209800	9319740
DD	16	200600	9319770
EE	16	200600	9319720

Handwritten notes:
1179
1187
1197
1207

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CITY, TOWN

Grand Marais

 VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Cook

STATE

Minnesota

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, The Cascades, Minnesota, Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

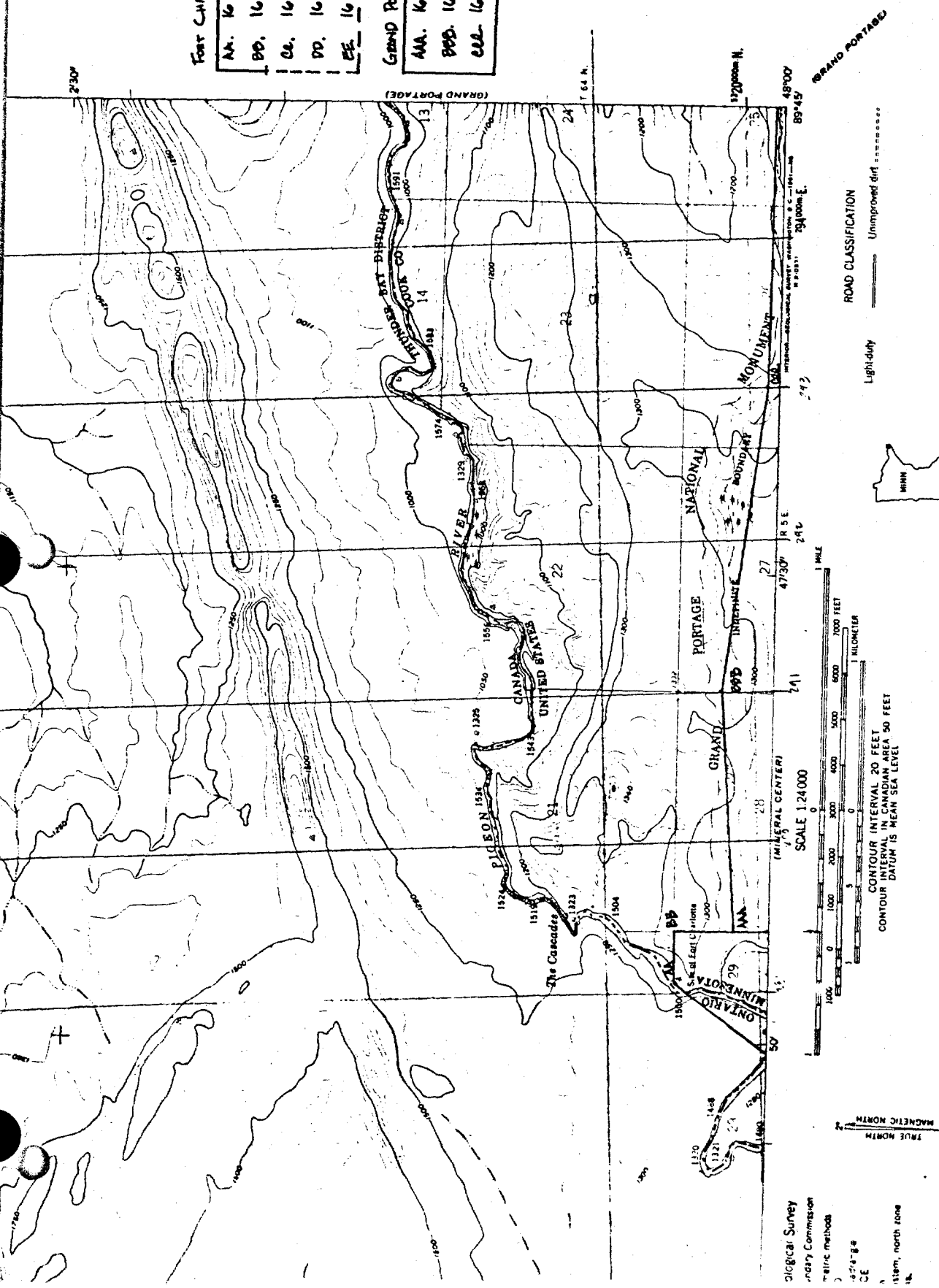
DATE 1960

4 REQUIREMENTS

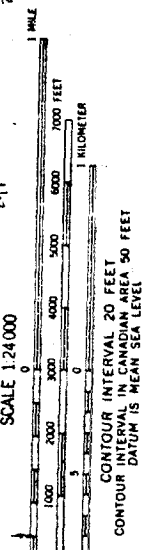
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

FORT CHARLOTTE UTM REF.	
AA. 16	261080 9320950
BB. 16	269400 9320560
CC. 16	269380 9319740
DD. 16	260660 9319710
EE. 16	260680 9319920
GRAND PORTAGE TRAIL. UTM RE	
AAA. 16	261990 9320160
BBB. 16	271000 9320200
CCC. 16	279900 9319880



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Light-duty
 Unimproved dirt



THE CASCADES, MINN.
 N 4800—W 8945/7.5
 1960

THE U.S. PORTION OF THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C. A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1960

Geological Survey
 Industry Commission
 Metric methods
 4-74-84
 CE
 Item, north zone