UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Croixsyde
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
4 Croixside Road, Route 2
CITY, TOWN
Stillwater
STATE, MINNESOTA

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE
- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Lyman and Ruth Geary
STREET & NUMBER
4 Croixside Road, Route 2
CITY, TOWN
Stillwater
STATE
MINNESOTA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
14900 North 61st Street
CITY, TOWN
Stillwater
STATE
MINNESOTA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Survey of Historic Structures
DATE
June 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Minnesota Historical Society, Bldg. 25, Fort Snelling
CITY, TOWN
St. Paul
STATE
MINNESOTA
Croixsyde is located on a small point of land on the St. Croix River eight miles north of Stillwater. The house was designed in 1922 by Chilson D. Aldrich who specialized in log cabins. It is a large rectangular, two-storey house of log construction. Each one of the Ponderosa pine logs was hand-fitted.

The house has a full basement and measures 70 by 45 feet. The full front, one-storey porch on the south side adds another 16 feet to the width. The porch was originally open but has since been screened in. The roof is gabled with eaves that extend out over the second storey balconies found on the east and west ends of the house.

The front door is centrally placed on the north side of the house and is sheltered by a pent roof supported by struts anchored at either side of the door. The window placement on all four facades is symmetrical. The original one-storey open porch on the east side of the front facade has been enclosed.

The interior arrangement of rooms is symmetrical. The front door leads into a centrally positioned living room two storeys in height with a balastraded gallery at the second storey level. A massive stone fireplace and chimney are located at one end of the living room. A double stairway at the opposite end of the living room leads to the second floor gallery and four bedrooms.

The interior walls and ceilings reflect the log construction with all of the log surfaces exposed. All of the interior fittings such as light fixtures, hinges, door handles, fireplace hardware, and even ashtrays were individually hand-crafted of wrought iron. Originally most of the furnishings were also handmade of birch and ironwood in keeping with the rustic feeling of the house. Only a few of these pieces remain.
8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
1000-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
—AGRICULTURE
—ARCHITECTURE
—ART
—COMMERCE
—COMMUNICATIONS
—COMMUNITY PLANNING
—CONSERVATION
—CONSERVATION
—EDUCATION
—ENGINEERING
—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
—COMMUNICATIONS
—COMMUNICATIONS
—INDUSTRY
—INVENTION
—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
—LAW
—LITERATURE
—MILITARY
—MUSIC
—PHILOSOPHY
—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
—RELIGION
—SCIENCE
—SCULPTURE
—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—THEATER
—TRANSPORTATION
X RECREATION

SPECIFIC DATES 1922

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
Croixsyde was the summer residence of Benjamin B. Sheffield. It is one of the early summer residences on the St. Croix River and is significant for its architecture.

Benjamin B. Sheffield established Sheffield Elevators in Minneapolis and was also the president of the Big Diamond Milling Company. Before he retired, his interest ranked third largest in the flour and grain business in the country. In 1922 he bought fifty acres of land on the St. Croix River and had architect Chilson D. Aldrich design a house.

Aldrich, who specialized in log cabins, designed a large, rectangular house measuring seventy by forty-five feet out of logs. The ponderosa pine used in the building was brought in from Oregon, and every log was hand-fitted. Three master carpenters supervised the work which took four years to complete. The interior furnishings and fittings were hand-fashioned in keeping with the rustic feeling of the house.

A generating plant was built on the property, making Croixsyde one of the earliest rural homes in Minnesota to have electricity. All the wiring was done through the center of the logs so that it could not be seen on the interior surface.

The stream which ran through the property was dammed, and two trout ponds were created, of which only one remains. A stone hatchery was built for the breeding of trout and is still extant but now part of neighboring property.

Sheffield sold the house and property in 1948, and the second owner subdivided the land for a housing development called Croiside. Croisxyde, the original Sheffield house, and two acres of property were bought by the present owners in 1969,
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Geary, Ruth, Private interview, Stillwater, Minnesota, June 17, 1977

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

<table>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>0,01</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D</td>
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ACCURACY NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 4, Croixside Subdivision, May Township.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Code</th>
<th>County Code</th>
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</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Peggy Lindoo

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society, Bldg. 25 Fort Snelling

STREET & NUMBER: St. Paul,

CITY OR TOWN: Minnesota

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL__ STATE___ LOCAL _X_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: Russell W. Fridley

DATE: 3/16/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE: 6/3/80

ATTEST: Kristin O'Connell

DATE: 6/2/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____  Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Signature]

Keeper  

1/19/89
Note: These changes apply to Croixsyde in Washington County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002177

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Washington

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Sheffield, Benjamin B., House (Croixsyde)

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Stillwater

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer
Croixsyde
Stillwater, Minnesota
(Vicinity of)
Liza Nagle
Minnesota Historical Society
690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN
May 13, 1976
North (front) and West facades
01581/6.