

**MNDOT HISTORIC ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT  
STRUCTURES INVENTORY**

CW-NSC-004  
CS 1810

Long Lake Roadside Parking Area

<b>Historic Name Other Name</b>	Long Lake Roadside Parking Area	<b>CS # SHPO Inv #</b>	1810 CW-NSC-004
<b>Location</b>	E side of TH 371 4.6 mi N of TH 77	<b>Hwy District Reference</b>	TH 371 3A 39.8
<b>City/Township County Twp Rng Sec USGS Quad UTM</b>	Nisswa, City of Crow Wing 134N 29W Sec 11 Gull Lake Z15 E399920 N5143600	<b>Acres Rest Area Class</b>	5 2
<b>Designer</b>	Minn Dept of Highways (MHD)	<b>SP #</b>	1810-45
<b>Builder</b>	Minn Dept of Highways (MHD)	<b>SHPO Review #</b>	
<b>Historic Use Present Use</b>	Roadside Parking Area Roadside Parking Area	<b>MHS Photo #</b>	013531.08-16
<b>Yr of Landscape Design</b>	Ca. 1954	<b>MnDOT Historic Photo Album</b>	Ols 1.65 Ols 1.66
<b>Overall Site Integrity</b>	Very Altered		
<b>Review Required</b>	Yes		
<b>National Register Status</b>	Not Eligible, see Statement of Significance		
<b>Historic Context</b>			

**List of Standing Structures**

Feat#	Feature Type	Year Built
01	Marker	1954
02	Restroom Bldg	1969
03	Info Board	1969

NOTE: Landscape features are not listed in this table

**Fieldwork Date**  
08-03-97

**Prep by**  
Gemini Research  
Dec. 98 G1. 52

**Prep for**  
Site Development Unit  
Cultural Resources Unit  
Environmental Studies Unit

**Final Report** Historic Roadside Development Structures on Minnesota Trunk Highways (1998)

■ BRIEF

The Long Lake Roadside Parking Area is an approximately 5-acre site located on the eastern side of T.H. 371 about 4.5 miles north of T.H. 77. The site is located on the western shore of North Long Lake about seven miles north of Brainerd.

■ STANDING STRUCTURES

**Stone Marker.** Built 1954 by MHD. This free-standing, lectern-style stone marker is positioned on the eastern edge of the southern parking area, near the shore of the lake. The marker stands a few feet south of the midpoint of the parking area (rather than at the midpoint), suggesting that it predates the parking area. The marker is built of tan, random ashlar, rockfaced limestone laid on a concrete footing. It is approximately 2'7" wide, 3' deep, and 4'4" tall on the taller side. On the western side of the marker is a bronze plaque that is mounted at a slant. The text of the marker addresses the geology of the Brainerd region. (See text at the end of this document.)

**Restroom Building.** Built 1969 by MHD. A vault toilet building stands west of the northern parking area.

**Information Board.** Built 1969 by MHD. An information board protected by a hipped roof stands west of the northern parking area near the restroom building.

■ OTHER LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND PLANTINGS

The site is aligned north and south for about 1,400' along the shore of Long Lake. It has two parking areas (one at each end of the site) that are linked by a gravel trail that runs through a narrow, grassy picnic area. Both parking areas are rectangular in shape, paved with asphalt, and lined with concrete curbs. There is a row of concrete posts with slanted tops, and an asphalt-paved walkway along the eastern side of the southern parking area near the marker.

The topography of the site is basically flat. Most portions are planted with grass. There are mature ash trees, poplars, oaks, and some evergreens along the lakeshore and scattered throughout the site. (The site was probably developed to make use of existing trees.) An original planting plan has not been located.

■ SETTING

The site is in a rural setting with North Long Lake to the east and forests and a few residences to the north, south, and west. There are several lakes in the immediate vicinity.

■ INTEGRITY

The original plans have not been located.

### **Alterations**

A restroom building, an information board, and four picnic shelters were added in 1968-1969. The picnic shelters have since been removed. A hand pump (added before 1968) has been removed. A new well near the restroom building was added in 1969. The parking areas have been enlarged and the parking areas and the access drive have been paved. Guardrails comprised of simple posts once surrounded both parking areas. Cables that once connected the concrete posts at the southern parking area have been removed. Bushes and weeds have grown up along the eastern edge of the site, blocking the view of the lake. (A July 1955 photo shows the lakeshore quite open.)

The site appears to have been altered considerably from its origins, but it is difficult to tell because the original plans have not been located. It probably retains integrity of location and setting, but not design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the large amount of asphalt, new restroom building, etc., which have essentially created a 1960s design.

### **Notes on Condition**

The marker is in poor condition and missing stones. It has been crudely repaired in the past and needs additional repair.

Weeds have grown up near the stone marker. Otherwise, the site is fairly well maintained.

### **■ HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

An original site plan has not been located. The site, possibly consisting of only two neighboring roadside parking areas, may predate 1954 when the geological marker was built. A plan for T.H. 371 improvements in 1958 indicates that two bituminous parking areas were existing at that time (S.P. 1810-35). Roadside Development Division files indicate that in 1961 this site had a parking area (referring to the northern parking area), wooden guardrails, a well, 12 picnic tables, two fireplaces, two toilets, a car overlook (referring to the southern parking area), and a geological marker. In 1968-1969 the MHD improved the site (S.P. 1810-45). The project included adding a vault toilet building, well, an information board, and four picnic shelters. The improvements cost approximately \$35,580 and were funded with federal-aid Highway Beautification dollars.

The geological marker was erected in 1954 by the Geological Society of Minnesota and the MHD with a grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation. The Geological Society selected the site at Long Lake because the lake is typical of one of the 27 classifications of Minnesota lakes. The Society noted: "The 10,000 lakes of Minnesota are classified on the basis of their origins into 27 types. Of the 901 lakes studied and classified by James H. Zumberge, 155 are lakes in ice-block basins, the type described on the Brainerd tablet. The location on highway 371, eight miles northwest of Brainerd at the end of Long Lake was chosen, not only because the lake is typical of those described, but because the region attracts many tourists who use the highway and stop at this wayside area" (Typewritten information provided by the Geological Society of Minnesota).

■ **PREVIOUS SHPO REVIEWS**

There apparently have been no previous SHPO cultural resource reviews of this property.

■ **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Long Lake Roadside Parking Area, developed by the MHD, is wayside rest with a somewhat complex site design. Its stone marker is very similar to markers at nine other properties in this inventory. Numerous lectern style, tan, limestone markers in this series were built by the MHD in the 1950s-1970s.

This property has been evaluated within the historic context "Roadside Development on Minnesota Trunk Highways, 1920-1960." It is recommended that the property is NOT ELIGIBLE for the National Register under this historic context due to loss of integrity.

■ **OTHER COMMENTS**

This property may require further evaluation for potential archaeological resources.

T.H. 371 is very busy past this site.

The text of the marker is associated with the Brainerd region. It is not specifically associated with the site of the wayside rest.

■ **REFERENCES**

Geological Society of Minnesota. Typewritten information. N.d.

Site Plans. Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul.

Upham, Warren. *Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance*. 1920; Second Rev. Ed. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1969.

■ **ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND MARKER TEXT**

The name Long Lake is a translation of its Ojibwe name, "Gaginogumag sagaiigun."

**Text of Plaque on Stone Marker**

"Brainerd Region. Toward the close of the Wisconsin stage of glaciation about 12,000 years ago, the waning lobe of the ice sheet in the Brainerd area retreated westward, leaving in its wake many stagnant ice blocks which had become separated from the main ice field. Water flowing from the surface of the receding ice deposited sand and gravel around and over these severed parts of the glacier and formed an outwash plain studded with huge blocks of partly buried, motionless ice.

"On melting, the detached blocks -- some of which were miles in extent and scores of feet thick -- left permanent, water-filled depressions in the gravel plain. The lakes so formed, including those portrayed on this tablet, do not follow the original shape of the ice blocks but are commonly round or elliptical due to subsequent shore line changes.

"Erected by the Geological Society of Minnesota and the Department of Highways, State of Minnesota aided by a grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation 1954."