

**MNDOT HISTORIC ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT
STRUCTURES INVENTORY**

WR-MDL-004
CS 8601
Dustin Memorial Wayside

Historic Name Other Name	Dustin Memorial Wayside	CS # SHPO Inv #	8601 WR-MDL-004
Location	N side of TH 12 .6 mi E of CSAH 5	Hwy District Reference	TH 12 3B 122.8
City/Township County Twp Rng Sec USGS Quad UTM	Middleville Township Wright 119N 27W Sec 32 Howard Lake Z15 E413160 N4990580	Acres Rest Area Class	.46 4
Designer	Minn Dept of Highways (MHD)	SP #	
Builder	Minn Dept of Highways (MHD)	SHPO Review #	93-2593 96-2027
Historic Use Present Use	Roadside Parking Area Roadside Parking Area	MHS Photo #	013508.01-05
Yr of Landscape Design	1963	MnDOT Historic Photo Album	
Overall Site Integrity	Intact/Slightly Altered		
Review Required	Yes		
National Register Status	Not Eligible, see Statement of Significance Partly or fully razed; remains ineligible		
Historic Context			

List of Standing Structures

Feat#	Feature Type	Year Built	
01	Marker	1927	
02	Marker	1963	
03	Picnic Shelter(s)	Ca. 1970	
04	Marker	Ca. 1989	
NOTE: Landscape features are not listed in this table			

Fieldwork Date
10-30-96

Prep by
Gemini Research
Dec. 98 G1. 33

Prep for
Site Development Unit
Cultural Resources Unit
Environmental Studies Unit

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

■ BRIEF

The Dustin Memorial Wayside is a .46-acre site that is located on the northern side of T.H. 12 about 0.6 mi. east of C.S.A.H. 5 and about one mile northwest of the town of Howard Lake.

■ STANDING STRUCTURES

Boulder Marker. Carved 1927. Moved to site circa 1989 by Wright County Parks. Near the northwestern corner of the site is a granite boulder that is about 2' in diameter and is set into a circle of poured concrete. The boulder has worn carved lettering (nearly illegible). Behind the boulder is the circa 1989 wooden marker. (See text of boulder at the end of this document.)

Stone Marker. Erected 1963 by MHS and MHD. The stone marker is a smooth rectangle made from two slabs of dark gray granite set onto a poured concrete base. It is about 6.5" tall, 5' wide, and 1' thick and has rockfaced sides. The concrete base is about 6' wide, 2' thick, and 18" tall. The marker is aligned roughly parallel with the highway. Mounted on the granite marker is a rectangular metal plaque with raised lettering. The text of the marker addresses the killing of a group of white settlers (known as the "Dustin Massacre") in 1863. The seals of the Minnesota Historical Society and Minnesota Department of Highways are cast in the plaque. (See text at the end of this document.)

Picnic Shelter. Erected circa 1970s by Mattson Construction. Near the northeastern corner of the site is a poured concrete pad on which is mounted a metal gable-roofed picnic shelter. The shelter is supported by four metal poles. A sign on the roof reads "Donated by Cokato-Dassel Rotary Club."

Wooden Marker. Erected circa 1989 by Wright County Parks. A simple rectangular wooden sign is local near the boulder marker. (See text at the end of this document.)

■ OTHER LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND PLANTINGS

The site has a curving, gravel pull-off drive that creates a grassy island between the drive and T.H. 12. There is a section of concrete curbing (about 25' long) in front of the markers.

Most of the site is planted with grass. There are two mature ash and 8 young deciduous trees (probably ash) widely spaced on the site. There are three tall arbor vitae framing the stone marker. There is a tall, woody shrub at the northeastern corner of the site. The topography of the site is flat.

■ SETTING

The site is located in an agricultural setting and is surrounded by farm fields and wetlands. The site is bounded by T.H. 12 on the south.

■ **INTEGRITY**

Alterations

No original plans have been located.

The picnic shelter was added to northeastern corner of site circa 1970s. The boulder marker was moved onto the site circa 1989 and the wooden marker erected circa 1989.

In general, the site retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Notes on Condition

The lettering on the granite boulder is wearing away. The 1963 stone marker is good condition.

■ **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The boulder marker was carved in 1927 following a legislative appropriation to fund a memorial (*T.H. 12 Section 4(f) Evaluation*). It was originally located at the site of the deaths, approximately 1200' northwest of the current location. In circa 1989 the boulder was placed in the rest area (*T.H. 12 Section 4(f) Evaluation*).

In 1960, the Wright County Historical Society petitioned the Minnesota Historical Sites and Markers Commission for a new historic marker, coinciding with the development of this rest area. The Commission declined the request because the event was similar to other incidents during the U.S. Government-Dakota Conflict of 1862, and that this particular site was not of statewide significance (Minutes, March 24, 1960). The local society continued their lobbying, and on the Centennial anniversary of the incident -- June 29, 1963 -- the Minnesota Historical Society and the Wright County Historical Society erected the stone historic marker.

The wayside rest was developed in 1963, evidently by Mn/DOT. Apparently it was originally maintained by Mn/DOT but was soon added to the Wright County Parks system (*T.H. 12 Section 4(f) Evaluation*).

The rest area is currently being acquired by Mn/DOT as part of the T.H. 12 reconstruction, hence its inclusion in this study.

■ **PREVIOUS SHPO REVIEWS**

The Dustin Memorial Wayside was included within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for a Section 106 review conducted in 1993-1998 in association with the reconstruction of T.H. 12 from Cokato to Montrose (SHPO #93-2593, 96-2027). In a 1997 letter to Joseph Hudak (Mn/DOT), Britta Bloomberg (Minnesota Historical Society) stated that "there are no properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the area of potential effect for the project" (Bloomberg 1997). The documents that chronicle this Section 106 review contain several items of correspondence and Mn/DOT's Section 4(f) report for the T.H. 12 reconstruction.

■ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dustin Memorial Wayside was developed in 1963, apparently by the MHD. 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 because it does not meet the context's registration requirements including the fifty-year age criterion.

■ OTHER COMMENTS

This property may require further evaluation for potential archaeological resources.

It is recommended that the site interpretation be updated for cultural sensitivity.

T.H. 12 is moderately busy past this site.

The text of the boulder marker and associated wooden marker are associated with a spot "500 yards to the north" of here. The text of the large stone marker uses the phrase "one third mile northwest of this spot."

■ REFERENCES

Bloomberg, Britta (MHS). Letter to Joseph Hudak (Mn/DOT). August 13, 1997.

Carley, Kenneth. *The Sioux Uprising of 1862*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1976.

Minutes of Minnesota Historic Sites and Markers Commission, March 24, 1960. Mathilde Rice Elliot Papers. Minnesota Historical Society.

Rubenstein, Mitchell E. and Alan R. Woolworth. "The Dakota and Ojibway." In *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups*. Ed. June Drenning Holmquist. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1981.

T.H. 12 Section 4(f), Section 6(f) Evaluation. Mn/DOT. [partial copy, n.d.]

■ ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND MARKER TEXTS

The Dustin Memorial Wayside markers commemorate the killing of four members of the Dustin family, which occurred June 29, 1863. The deaths were part of a cluster of incidents that occurred in June and early July of 1863, nearly a year after the final battle of the U.S. Government-Dakota Conflict of 1862.

The events that led up to the U.S. Government-Dakota Conflict of 1862 are described by historians Rubenstein and Woolworth:

The late arrival of annuity payments promised by the government [in 1851 treaties], failure to provide agricultural aid, and dissatisfaction with the restrictions of reservation life prompted many Dakota to return to their old homes. . . . These areas were now

occupied by white settlers, and distrust between the earlier and later masters of the land deepened as the decade wore on. . . . Friction and local outbreaks of violence, spurred by the whites' growing intolerance of the Indians and Dakotas' increasing disrespect for the United States government, created an inflammable situation. . . . [In] August, 1862, driven by hunger and disgusted by unfulfilled promises, the Dakota attacked settlements in the Minnesota River Valley in what rapidly became a desperate attempt to drive the whites out of southern Minnesota. The Dakota War of 1862 lasted only a few weeks, but it had far-reaching repercussions for Indian-white relations in the three decades that followed. The death of about 500 whites and the widespread destruction of property evoked cries for the removal, if not the extermination, of all Dakota from the state. . . . From a population of upward of 7,000, the number of Dakota in Minnesota dropped to 374 in 1866 (Rubenstein and Woolworth 1981:22-23).

Text of Boulder Marker

"Dustin Massacre 1863. Dustin family killed here by Indians. June 29, 1863."

Text of Wooden Marker

"This stone, which was located 500 yards to the north, is the original marker inscribed by early settlers to commemorate the Dustin tragedy."

Text of Metal Plaque on Stone Marker

"The Dustin Massacre"

"A State of terror prevailed on the Minnesota western frontier for many months after the Sioux Uprising of 1862. Roving bands of Sioux continued to elude pursuers and attack settlers. The Dustin Massacre occurred on June 29, 1863, one third mile northwest of this spot.

"Amos Dustin was moving his family to a new claim in the southwestern part of Wright County. There were six in the party: Amos Dustin, his wife Kate, their three children, Alma 6, Robert 4, and Albert 2, and Dustin's widowed mother, Mrs. Jeanette Dustin. Their wagon was drawn by an ox team. A party of Indians fell upon them from ambush, shot three to death with arrows, and mortally wounded a fourth. Alma and Albert were left unharmed. The victims are buried in a cemetery at Waverly.

"It has always been believed, although never proved, that the massacre was perpetrated by members of Little Crow's party who were in the vicinity at the time. Four days later Little Crow was shot and killed near Hutchinson while picking berries with a son."

"Erected by the Wright County Historical Society June 29, 1963." [Seals of the Minnesota Historical Society and Minnesota Department of Highways]