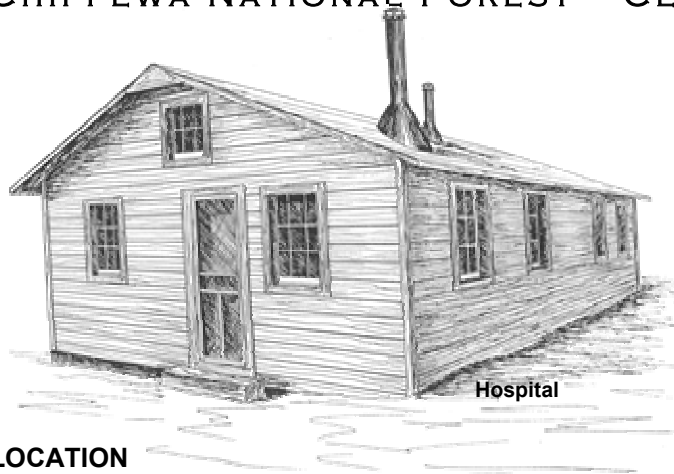


camp rabideau

National Historic Landmark



CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST "CELEBRATING 100 YEARS" 1908-2008



Hospital

LOCATION

Take a step into the past at historic Camp Rabideau. The camp is located six miles south of Blackduck, Minnesota on County Road 39. In the 1930's there were 2,650 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in America. Camp Rabideau was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in June of 1976 and is one of three remaining camps being preserved. On February 21, 2006, the camp was designated as a National Historic Landmark and is recognized as an exceptional place that sheds light on our history.

HISTORY

Within 37 days of taking office as the 32nd President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt established the CCC in 1933 to revitalize the economy and end the depression. The initial program provided jobs and training for over 275,000 men 17-23 years of age. The enrollees were paid \$30 a month, of which \$25 was sent to his family. If they had no family, the money would be placed in a savings account. The remaining \$5 could be used by the enrollee at the camp canteen or for personal expenses. Room, board, clothing and tools were provided by the government. Roosevelt's "Tree Army" worked on projects such as building fire towers, bridges, roads and trails; fire fighting; firebreaks; tree planting; camp and picnic ground development; mosquito control; and roadside beautification. Work projects varied with each camp location and its needs. In their free time they were provided with the opportunity to complete their education and learn a trade. By the end of the program in 1942 over 3 million youth had participated in FDR's "Tree Army".

Rabideau was built and maintained by Company 3749 out of Bennett Springs, Missouri. They remained here until January 1936 at which time Company 708 of Bena took over the camp. They arrived at Rabideau in open

trucks in temperatures as low as 45 below zero and remained there until the program ended in 1942.

The camp remained empty until 1945 when the University of Illinois leased the camp for their forestry and engineering students. Under terms of the lease, the students added sewer and sanitation lines, installed water pressure system, rewired the buildings, installed ceiling supports and replaced the wood stove with oil. After 27 years their lease ended in 1973.

THE CAMP TODAY

Camp Rabideau is located in a 112-acre tract that was purchased in 1934. The buildings are situated about 100 feet apart and are surrounded by tall trees forming a large glade on which the original Mess Hall used to stand. This building burned in the 1930's and the bakery was to become the mess hall. Benjamin and Carl's Lakes are adjacent to the camp. An open air picnic shelter that was built by the CCC was moved here from Cut Foot Sioux in 1986. There are still 15 of the original buildings remaining. Restoration is ongoing at the camp. The camp is to remain as a honor to all who served as CCC Corpsmen.

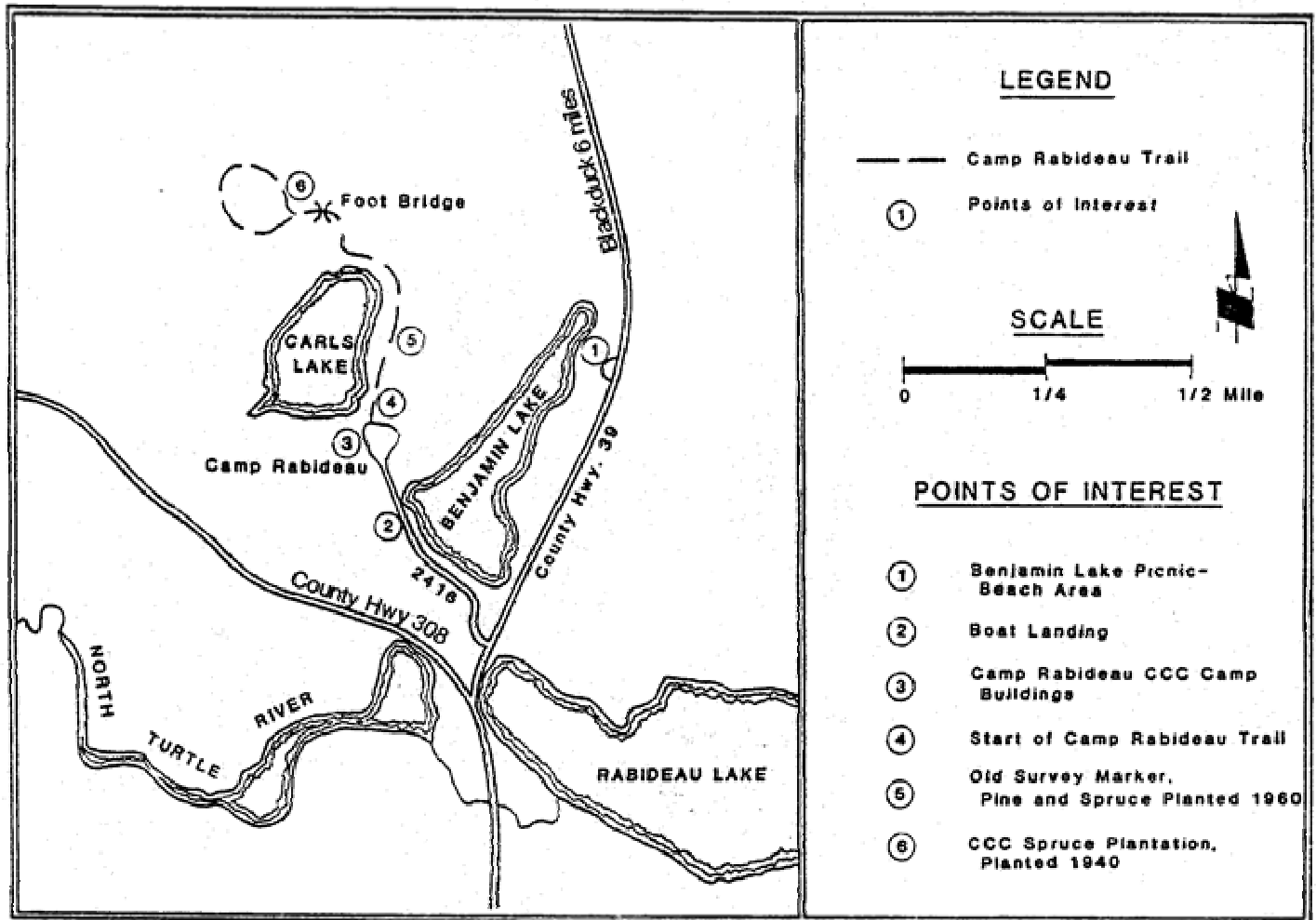


Officers Quarters

FACILITIES

A one mile trail runs through the camp. Interpretive displays highlight the buildings and history of the area. A host will provide tours from May thru September. The education building and picnic site can be reserved for meetings or special tours by calling the Blackduck Ranger District at 218-835-4291. For those wishing to camp, Webster Lake Campground is located four miles southeast of Camp Rabideau off Forest Roads 2207 and 2236. The campground offers 15 campsites, a boat ramp, a six-mile hiking trail, two picnic areas and a barrier free campsite. There is a fishing pier on Benjamin Lake and a boat access.

chippewa national forest camp rabideau



CAMP RABIDEAU TRAIL CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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