

Historic Name: Pork City Historic District ✓  
 Common Name: same  
 Location: Park City Road and DNR Roads, east of Amasa ✓  
 Date of Construction: c. 1890-1920  
 Architect: unknown  
 Builder: unknown  
 Classification:  
 Category: district  
 Ownership: private -- multiple owners  
 Public Acquisition: N/A  
 Status: occupied, unoccupied  
 Accessible: No  
 Present Use: private residences

Description:

condition: good, fair, deteriorated  
 unaltered and altered  
 original site

Located about one-half mile east of the Amasa Historic Business District, on the outskirts of Amasa, the Pork City Historic District includes the north and south sides of the 100 "block" of Park City and DNR roads. Approximately twenty-three acres in size, the rectangular district is residential in nature and contains seven log houses with several sheds and outbuildings and the ruins of two other log houses. The hardwood forests surrounding the district contribute to its rural character.

The remains of the settlement of Pork or Park City lie along Park City and DNR roads a short distance east of the central part of Amasa. The ground slopes gradually upward from west to east, the western third of the district being low, marshy ground, much of it having a dense underbrush ground cover. Hardwood forests flank the district on the north, south, and east.

The district contains seven standing log houses and the ruins of two others. Several of the houses have old tar paper or asphalt shingle coverings and several have frame additions and log or frame sheds and outbuildings. The houses are generally one- or one-and-one-half-story, gable-roof buildings of squared, horizontal log construction with square-notched corners or squared, upright corner posts.

In the last few years house trailers have replaced two log houses and, in a third case, a house trailer now stands behind the old log house. Several of the houses appear to be abandoned and only one or two appear to be in a good state of repair. Thus, the future of the remaining log houses seems highly uncertain.

Contributing Structures:

173 Park City Road	log structure, tar paper siding
178 Park City Road	log structure
182 Park City Road	log structure, heavily overgrown with brush
183 Park City Road	log structure
186 Park City Road	log structure, asphalt siding; log outbuilding behind
193 Park City Road, N side	log structure, in ruins
194 Park City Road, N side	log structure, in ruins
134 DNR Road	log structure
DNR Road, N side	log structure; several log and frame out buildings

## Non-Contributing Structures:

172 Park City Road	house trailer
178 Park City Road	house trailer
193 Park City Road	house trailer
194 Park City Road	house trailer

## Significance:

Period: 1800-1899, 1900-

Areas of Significance: architecture, industry

National Register Selection Criteria: A, C

The Pork City Historic District is significant as the remnant of an early mining settlement and as one of the three remaining settlements of standing log buildings in Iron County. The others exist now as archaeological sites with only the earthen foundations and refuse scatters remaining. Most were abandoned years ago and left few written or photographic records.

Although it is not known exactly when the settlement of Pork City began, Pork City was built by miners working for the Michigan Mine, which started operating in October of 1891 and closed in 1916. Property just east of the Michigan Mine was purchased by a group of miners. Shares in the tract, held in common ownership, were then sold to the miners, who built their own homes out of rough hewn logs. The first known written reference to the settlement as "Pork City" is in an article in the (Crystal Falls) Diamond Drill of 1909.

Two different verbal accounts explain how this small mining settlement acquired its name. The first claims that the area was originally inhabited by Frenchmen who ate a great deal of pork. The second suggests that Poles lived in the settlement, each family keeping several pigs. Neither of these colorful explanations is documented by written records. Whatever its origin, the name, residents came to feel, conjured up a somewhat less than favorable image of the neighborhood. In the years after World War II some effort was made to re-christen the place Park City (hence the present name of the road); however, the historic name has continued in general use.

Pork City is significant for its early history as a mine-workers' settlement evidently purchased and developed by the miners themselves, rather than established by the mining company, and as an entity historically somewhat separate and distinct from Amasa because of its location and colorful name. The place also has an importance to Iron County as a visual record of early housing in the county. Log buildings surviving from the county's early days are a rapidly disappearing feature of the Iron County countryside. Pork City is one of only three surviving settlements of such structures in the county and the Pork City structures as a whole exhibit two of the three log construction techniques once in common use in Iron County (vertical-log construction, the third type, sometimes seen in small barns and outbuildings, is not present here).

It seems likely that additional log houses in the settlement will disappear in the coming years through decay and replacement. Thus, the historic settlement of Pork City today is, to archaeologists, an ongoing example of the processes by which living communities become archaeological sites. As such, the district can serve as a control or a guide to the interpretation of archaeological remnants of similar settlements.

## Geographical Data:

Acreage: About 23 acres

Quadrangle name: Amasa

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: A 16 388940 5120690

B 16 389300 5120680

C 16 389290 5120410

D 16 388930 5120420

## Verbal boundary description and justification:

Located in Sec. 4 and 9, T 44 N, R 33 W. The tract forms a rectangle, 1250 ft. long, east and west, and 800 feet long, north and south. The north line is 700 ft. north of the north line of Sec. 9, the west line 600 ft. west of the W half section line of Sec. 9. This tract includes all the extant buildings of Pork City.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 15 1983  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 6 of 8

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Iron County Multiple Resource Area  
State MICHIGAN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 83003737 51. Murphy, Timothy, House  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003734 52. Moss, William, House  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003736 53. Munro-Hanna, M. A., Mining  
 Company Office Building  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 50 54. Pentoga Park Office and  
 Bathhouse  
Substantive Review  
 Keeper Return R T S  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003740 55. Parks, John H., Company-  
 Wills Hardware Building  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003739 56. **Pork City Historic District**  
Substantive Review  
 Keeper Both Grosvenor 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003742 57. Rau, Herman, House  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003743 58. Ross, David M., House  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003744 59. Royce, Steven, House  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 83003746 60. Russell, William, House  
Entered in the National Register  
 Keeper for Melons Byers 12/22/83  
 Attest \_\_\_\_\_

REC # 8300 3739

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Pork City Historic District (Iron County MRA)  
Iron County  
MIC HIG A N

NOV 15 1983

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85  
Date Due: 12/15/83 — 12/30/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 12/22/83  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept - A, C  
Reviewer Gisvold  
Discipline Historic  
Date 12/22/83  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Pork City Historic District  
Amasa, Iron County, Michigan  
General view on Park City Road  
Photo: Steven Karpiak  
Date: August, 1981  
Neg.: Michigan History Division  
View: Camera facing W  
Photo: #143 of 158



Pork City Historic District  
Amasa, Iron County, Michigan  
178 Park City Road  
Photo: Steven Karpiak  
Date: October, 1979  
Neg.: Michigan History Division  
View: Camera facing SW  
Photo: #144 of 158 (no. #145)



Pork City Historic District  
Amasa, Iron County, Michigan  
134 DNR Road

Photo: Steven Karpiak

Date: October, 1979

Neg.: Michigan History Division

View: Camera facing SW

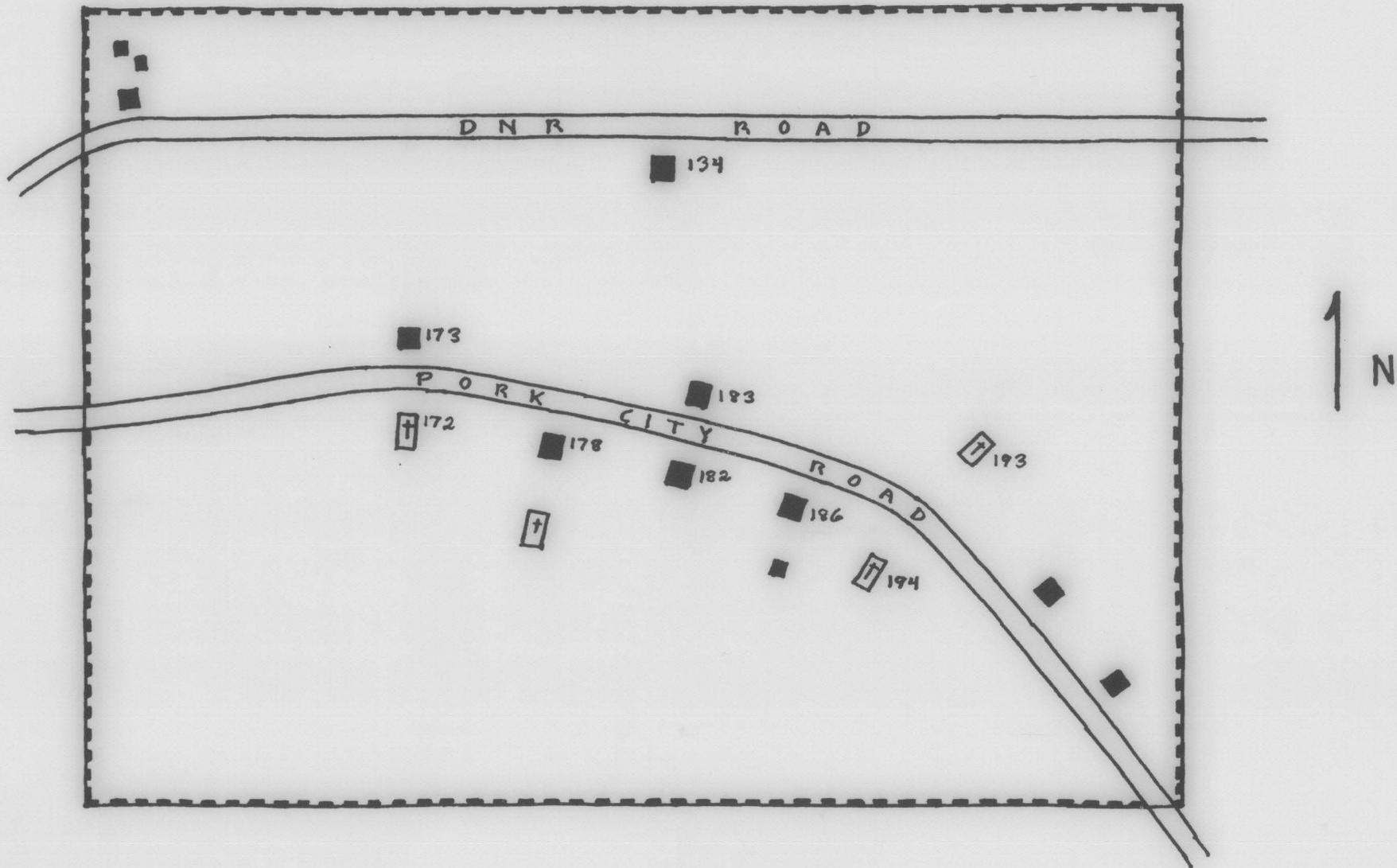
Photo: #146 of 158

# PORK CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

Amasa, Iron Co., MI

- contributing
- ⊞ house trailers

--- boundary



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000326

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS  
RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES  
208 N. Capitol Avenue  
517-373-0510

STATE ARCHIVES  
3405 N. Logan Street  
517-373-0512

STATE MUSEUM  
208 N. Capitol Avenue  
517-373-0515

FILE COPY

May 19, 1983

Mr. J. Arthur Mattson  
419 N. 17th Ave., E.  
Duluth, MN 55812

Dear Mr. Mattson:

Kathryn Eckert has asked me to respond to your letter concerning your property in the proposed "Pork City Historic District" in Amasa, Michigan. I want to assure you that National Register designation imposes no restrictions whatsoever upon the owner of a property so designated. Specifically, listing in the Register does not restrict the owner's right to alter, sell, or even demolish the structure; impose state or other review of building, remodeling, or maintenance plans; or impose any restoration or maintenance requirements.

We are proposing nomination to the National Register of the remnant of "Pork City," including your property, based on the recommendation of the Iron County Planning Director and the director of the Iron County Historical Museum, who both feel that, as an old mining settlement, the place has some significance in the history of Iron County. The most recent information we have, based on a visit last summer by the county planning director, is that several more than the three log houses you mentioned are still standing (some ruinous). If there are really only three structures standing, this represents a significant change.

I certainly want to encourage you to try to maintain and preserve your house at no. 183. We have an architect on our staff who deals on a daily basis with the rehabilitation of older buildings of all kinds and may be able to offer advice on repairs. If you have specific questions, feel free to call or drop us a note.

As I believe our notification letter to you indicated, there are no federal rehabilitation funds available at present. In some past years Congress has appropriated some funds for work on properties listed in the National Register and it is possible they will do so again in the future. However, there is no certainty. When we do receive funding, there is a good deal of competition for those funds.

I hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Christensen  
Historic Preservation Coordinator  
Michigan History Division

ROC/s1

May 9, 83

J. Arthur Mattson  
Edna M. Mattson  
419 N. 17th Ave. E.  
Duluth Minn. 55812

Dr. Martha M Bigelow  
Michigan History Division  
Michigan Department of State  
Attention: Kathryn B. Eckert

MAY 17 1983  
MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

First of all I do not own 178 Park City Road. Amasa Michigan. That is owned by a John Mattson of Amasa Michigan.

I do own 183 Park City Road. At present my Sister-in-law lives in it. This is the only house on Park City Road that is being lived in. It appears possible that the John Mattson place might be able to fix up. But now he uses part of it for a garage.

In my opinion the other places are beyond repair. The roofs are caving in. They should be looked at. The old house across from 183 has been vacant for about 20 years or more. The roof is caving in. It is owned by a Beck as far as I know. Those three are the only ones left. The rest are down.

I would be willing to list 183 Park City Road, Amasa Mich. Subject to do with as I please until the Federal money is available. Then it would have to be considered if it is worth while. If my sister-in-law should move out it may be necessary for me to have it torn down. As I would not be able to keep it up. With no heat in it, it would go to ruin very fast. It is of very little value to me if any. Except for the land and I have a small cabin in the rear of this old house where I was born. I have considered building a new home on this property as I plan to retire. And its possible that it would be adjacent to this home. And when the party moves out I would then dispose of the old house. I would need advice if the old house was to be fixed up and what are my obligations to the Government. Please tell me what obligations I would incur if it was fixed up. And how much the Government would be willing to spend to do so.

I go down there about three times a year. I would be glad to meet someone there that could throw some light on what I could expect them to do. Right now the property plus the one across the road distracts from the land I own there. I have been trying to beautify the property I bought. The others have just let the houses stand vacant and have been eye sores. Which I do not appreciate. Let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

  
J. Arthur Mattson

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

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FILE COPY

May 25, 1983

Mr. Waclaw Bakierowski  
A-6372 140th Ave.  
Holland, MI 49423

Dear Mr. Bakierowski:

I want to thank you for your letter of May 6, 1983 supporting the inclusion of the Pork City Historic District as part of the Iron County Multiple Resource Area nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and presenting additional historic information about your property in Pork City. I want to assure you that a listing in the National Register of Historic Places will impose no requirements on you to repair your cabin at Pork City. Listing in the National Register makes property owners eligible for federal grants-in-aid for preservation, provides some limited protection to properties by requiring comments from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effects of federally assisted projects on listed resources, and makes owners who rehabilitate certified historic properties used for income-producing purposes eligible for federal tax benefits under the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. The Michigan History Division is not in a position to identify a suitable purchaser for your property. However, it does sound as though your property would be an ideal location for campers.

I hope these comments give you the information you want.

Sincerely,

Kathryn B. Eckert  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Michigan History Division

KBE/sl

This document paid for with State funds



PRZYJACIEL  
1164  
FRIEND  
1164



POLSKA WALCZACA  
POLAND IS FIGHTING



ZLOTY KRZYZ ZASLUGI  
GOLDEN CROSS OF MERIT

Waclaw Bakierowski

A-6372 140th Ave.  
Holland, Mi. 49423  
U.S.A.

Tel: 616/857-4541

Minister Pełnomocny R.P.  
(na Uchodźstwie)

Kawaler Maltanski  
Kawaler Zakonu Templariuszy

Kapitan Wojsk Polskich - AK

Minister Plenipotentiary of the  
Republic of Poland (in Exile)  
Knight of Malta  
Knight of the Temple of  
Jerusalem  
Capt. of Polish Forces -  
Underground

MAY 11 1983

May 6, 1983

Dr. Martha M. Bigelow, Director  
Michigan History Division and  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Michigan Department of State  
Lansing, Mi. 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

Dear Madam:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 29, 1983, regarding the "Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places of 173 Park City Road as part of the Pork City Historic District." I greet these news enthusiastically, but would like to give you additional information and facts.

The deeds, which are in my possession, start in 1946 when the property changed ownership, until I purchased it in 1963. But I realize that it could very easily be that the history of that land and cabin goes back so far that the first agreement was written on birch bark.

When I bought that piece of property, the cabin was in rotten shape, but there were definite signs that it had seen better days (the kitchen floor is parquet.) Also, the neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. D. Virostek, have photos of the cabin with a beautiful garden around, and others.

I put on a new roof, covered the walls with tar paper and strengthened the structure inside the cabin. Since that time I had rather no problems with further deterioration. The cabin has city water and electricity, it is carpeted throughout, I installed a refrigerator, a good wood/coal cooking stove, and oil heater. There are four beds (two double), tables, chairs and other furniture, blankets and pillow, pots and pans and other kitchen utensils.

I enjoyed this cabin for 20 years for fishing and hunting.

There are absolutely no objections that you include this property in the Pork City Historic District. However, I must avoid the possibility that, if something goes wrong with the cabin, I will be forced to travel to Amasa to make the necessary repairs. I am 67, and unable to take care of such things anymore. It is for this reason that I decided some time ago to sell the cabin. A prospective buyer will look at it sometimes this month.

Since this site may become a part of the Historic District, I suggest that you look into a suitable purchaser for this property (maybe some Historic Society, or similar.) In my opinion it would also be a good idea for a Youth/Church/Scouts or similar organization to buy it for restoration and camping purposes.

The regular beds could be replaced with bunk beds to accomodate quite a number of people, who will consider the cabin as their base from which to make their trips in one of America's most beautiful areas.

I will appreciate your comments, and assure you that I will cooperate with you to the fullest extend possible.

Yours,

in the name of Freedom for Poland,  
America and the World,

  
Waclaw Bakierowski, K.O.P.R.