The Biggest Thing in the Collection
Video Podcast Transcript
Minnesota Historical Society

The Minnesota Historical Society has more than 500,000 three-dimensional objects in its collection. People often ask, “Well, what’s the biggest thing you have? Is it a car? Is it a boat?” Well, it’s actually something even bigger than those. The largest object in the Society’s collection is right here. It’s Cabin Number 3 from the Star Harbor Resort, on the North Shore, near Two Harbors.

Star Harbor opened around 1910, and this cabin hosted North Shore vacationers for the next 80 years. When the resort was remodeled in 1990, the owners asked if we might be interested in preserving an oversized piece of history. We had our choice of eight different cabins, and took Number 3 because it was the least modified and in the best condition – and relatively small. The cabin was loaded on to a flatbed truck and moved to our storage facility in St. Paul.

We don’t acquire things like this every day. Large objects are difficult to exhibit, they require extra care and conservation, and – of course – they take up a lot of storage space. But the tourist cabin is a Minnesota icon, and when we got the chance to acquire such a complete example, the offer was too good to refuse.

I’m Matt Anderson for the Minnesota Historical Society.