



**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1000 Leatzow Road N/A not for publication
city or town Town of Three Lakes N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Oneida code 085 zip code 54562

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 6/17/08
Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
Name of Property

Oneida County
County and State

Wisconsin

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

8-1-08

per

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| contributing | noncontributing |
| 1 | buildings |
| | sites |
| | structures |
| | objects |
| 1 | 0 total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Camp

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation stone / concrete

walls metal

roof asphalt

other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
Name of Property

Oneida County
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Trunk, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
Name of Property

Oneida County
County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property under one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 336034 5076529
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Jane Hettinga, National Register consultant
organization
street & number P. O. Box 367
city or town Lac du Flambeau **state** WI

date June 11, 2007
telephone 715-588-3159
zip code 54538

Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
Name of Property

Oneida County
County and State

Wisconsin

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Marvin and Patricia Knuth	date	June 2007
organization		telephone	262-242-2821
street&number	11013 Balsam Tree Court	zip code	53092
city or town	Mequon	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

The Trunck wet boathouse is situated on a peninsula between Little Fork Lake and Big Fork Lake. The boathouse faces west on Little Fork Lake, a lake of 345 acres; Big Fork Lake has 646 acres and both are a part of the Three Lakes chain of lakes, in Oneida County. The Three Lakes chain of lakes is a part of the famous Eagle River chain of twenty eight lakes.

The property located at 1000 Leatzow Road is eight miles from Three Lakes, a small resort community in northern Wisconsin. It is a bustling resort town in the summer, ten miles south of Eagle River, a major tourist destination.

The Trunck wet boathouse is accessed down a steep dirt road, with houses on either side. The Trunck property includes a small cottage, a guesthouse, an outhouse and the wet boathouse. (The other resources are not included in the nomination.) The uniqueness of the property is that there is a lake on both sides; 184.42 feet on Little Fork Lake and 81.62 feet on Big Fork Lake. In fact, the Knuths, the present owners say it is like living on a houseboat.

The entire property is .27 acres and 11,835 square feet, with a three foot walking easement between the cottage and the boathouse, leading to a parcel at the end of the peninsula.

The property is covered with a mixture of small and large pine trees; there is no formal landscaping, however, some remnants of original stone work are present on the grounds. It is a true north woods retreat. Concrete markers on the property denote the Nicolet National Forest boundary.

BOATHOUSE

The Trunck wet boathouse built c.1928, is the only structure on this property being considered for the National Register of Historic Places; the other buildings are not eligible. The boathouse is original except for an outside second story entrance with steps leading up to the entrance. This alteration was made in 1992 by the present owners and does not change the integrity of the structure.

The two story wet boathouse is rectangular in shape and overall measures 24'2" by 38'7". The gambrel roof with flared eaves is covered in variegated brown asphalt shingles. The fascia measures 19 1/2" in width with attached metal gutters above. A gabled dormer is on both the north and south elevation. Within each dormer is a pair of one-light double hung windows. The building is painted medium brown with ivory trim, except for the two overhead doors painted white.

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A deck is found on both the south and north elevations. The south deck measures 6'5" by 23'4", with a 40" by 30" extension that runs west along the boathouse. The north deck is 7' by 42'4" with an extension along the west elevation of the boathouse that measures 42" by 45". On the east end of the north deck there is an extension that extends north 10'4" by 10'9". This section has a chain attached to it that is anchored to a large pine tree on shore.

The first story of the boathouse is covered with vertical 7/8" corrugated metal held onto the frame by large bolts or spikes. The metal measures 80 inches from the deck to the beginning of the second floor siding. There are square posts on each corner. On the west elevation are the two overhead doors, both are 57 1/4" in height. The north door is wider, measuring 82 1/2", while the south door measures only 70 1/2" in width. The doors are built of six inch horizontal drop siding and finished with a six inch wooden frame around three sides and a vertical wooden strip down the center.

The only entrance on the first story is found on the north elevation at the east end. It measures 36" by 65" and has one light of bottled glass on the top half, 26" by 24".

The second story is clad in six inch drop siding. At both the east and west elevation, on the second floor, are two pairs of double hung windows, mimicking the windows within the dormers. The roof overhang at both gambrel ends is 22 inches and is 12 feet 9" above the corrugated metal. There is a louvered metal vent, 16" by 12", at each end and a metal light in the peak of the east elevation. The east elevation has been altered by replacing one of the windows on the south side with a door. This door measures 32" by 81" and has a decorative "X" on the bottom half and a one-light window 26" by 56" on the top half. Seven steps, each measuring 48" in length and 11 1/2" in width, lead up to an 8 by 4 foot landing of 6" boards. The railing is 32" in height. A brass lantern is on the north side of the entrance door and another one south of the window.

The most distinctive feature of this wet boathouse is the foundation. Unlike most wet boathouses, this one does not rest on wood pilings. Rather, the foundation consists of huge rocks and boulders that are held in place by reinforcing rods, both vertical and horizontal. Inside the boathouse poured concrete walkways cover these cages. These same cages are found under the decking as well.

INTERIOR

The boathouse on the main level contains two slips with narrow concrete walkways on each side and one 37 1/2" down the center. Several adjustable steel posts are on the north side of the center walkway. The rest of the boathouse has a wooden floor with a small area for a workbench on the east side, and

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Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
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also in the southeast corner is the enclosed curved stairway leading to the second floor. The entrance addition mentioned before in this document provides much easier accessibility to the second floor. While the interior stairway is still used, it is certainly less convenient than the outside stairway, especially for bringing in supplies and luggage.

The condition of the boathouse is structurally very sound. A 6" by 12" wooden header is found above the two overhead doors, as well as a massive steel beam. The steel beam is supported by a steel post, at each end, encased in a concrete spiral casing that is submerged in the sand.

An interesting feature of the boathouse is the large boat hoist, over the north slip, used to pull a large boat out of the water. The manually operated hoist's ratcheting handle turns a chain and sprocket reduction drive that rotates a shaft positioned above the slip. Cables with suspended hooks wind up on this shaft, lifting the boat out of the water. This was especially essential when the building housed a large mahogany Chris Craft. It is believed that the boathouse was built especially for this boat. (The boat's association to this property will be discussed in the history section.)

The south slip has what is known as a marine cradle. It holds the boat in place while moving it forward by rope pulleys, in order to get it out of the water.

At the front end of each boat slip is a railing constructed of 1 1/2" pipe. The south stall has a railing that measures 60" across and 109" in length; the north slip's railing is 102" in width and 52" in length. These railings are 48" in height and they serve as safety features.

The corrugated metal wall has a stencil stating that the metal was ordered from Sears, Roebuck and Company. The metal was shipped to Monahan's Pine Island Resort on Medicine Lake, closer to Three Lakes. The material was then taken by boat to the Truncks. Mr. Knuth, the present owner, is in possession of a deed showing that the Monahan's purchased their property on September 15, 1925. This date fits well with the construction date of c.1928.

The second floor of the boathouse is an open space, the same size as the first floor, except it has the additional space of 48" by 68", times two, the floor space of the two dormers. The fenestration is symmetrically paired double hung windows – originally two pairs at each end and one pair in the dormers. The east elevation now has the entrance door where the window once was located. Each window individually measures 28" by 55 1/2". The walls are of beaverboard and the ceiling of 16 by 16 acoustical tile. There is a small covered opening, 16 1/2" by 21 1/2" to the attic.

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There is a small space heater in the southeastern corner for heating the room. The original bar is still intact in the northeastern corner of the room. The Knuths have found fishing licenses from 1928, 1929 and 1930 and they have them displayed in this area. The large room is used for recreation and also for sleeping. This northern getaway is geared for many guests in spite of its small size.

Marvin and Patricia Knuth are the second owners of this property. Joseph and Augusta Trunck from Chicago, IL bought the property in 1925. Originally, the land had belonged to the Thunder Lake Lumber Company and was logged off. The senior Trunck began his work career as a steamfitter and was a superintendent for the Gordon Company. In this capacity he was in charge of heating and ventilating at such noteworthy buildings in Chicago as the Merchandise Mart, Chicago Daily News, the Norfolk Naval Hospital, according to his obituary. In 1930 he established a business, with Robert McDonald and his son, called McDonald and Trunck. As mechanical engineers, they held the contract for the Union Station from 1940 until 1970.

Nothing much is known about Joseph, Jr. After the death of his parents, the son inherited the property. Legend has it that the son suffered from mental problems and he eventually abandoned the property. In fact, the house and the boathouse were boarded up for 9 years before it went up for Sheriff's Auction because of unpaid taxes of \$1500. In 1982, Marvin and Patricia Knuth paid \$28,100 for the property at the Sheriff's Auction.

The Trunck Boathouse retains its historical integrity as it is still at the original site, has all of the building materials originally used, such as the corrugated metal walls, and the unique foundation of caged rocks and boulders. Because of the erosion of the water and waves over the past 79 years this foundation has broken down. It does not change the integrity of the building. The Knuths want to repair the foundation of the boathouse so that it will last for at least another 79 years. The Trunck Boathouse has been a landmark on the Three Lakes chain of lakes for many years and should be preserved.

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Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

The Trunck Boathouse is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under criterion C for architecture as it represents a fine example of an early twentieth-century wet boathouse type. The boathouse is vernacular in style; however, it has a gambrel roof, an unusual architectural feature for a boathouse, giving it a somewhat Dutch Colonial Revival appearance. However, it is the unique foundation of this boathouse that makes this boathouse distinctive. Most wet boathouses rest on wood pilings submerged into the lake, but the Trunck boathouse rests upon caged rocks and boulders that are kept in place by vertical and horizontal reinforcing rods. This construction technique makes the Trunck Boathouse unique, plus the corrugated siding, the full second story, and the gambrel roof distinguish it from other examples. The boathouse retains its historic integrity, it is in its original location; the period of significance is c.1928, the date of construction.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Oneida County is said to have been named for the New York Indian tribe of that name, a branch of the Iroquois, who were removed to Wisconsin early in the nineteenth century. Early settlers in this area encountered a wild and diverse environment. Most of the area consisted of a highland plateau scoured by ancient glaciers. Covering it was a spectacular forest in which scattered pines towered over the surrounding birches, maples and basswood.

The abundance of trees fueled Wisconsin's lumber industry, which reached its peak in 1892, with northern mills producing an astonishing four billion board feet of lumber. The white pines that attracted the loggers were totally depleted by the late 1890s. Many people strongly believed that farming would replace lumbering as a livelihood, but in spite of efforts to clear land and develop agriculture, many found the soil too sandy and the growing season too short.

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin notes: "The forested lands of northern Wisconsin was expected to become farmlands after the pine was cut. But the plow did not follow the axe. Northern Wisconsin land was for sale by lumber companies, railroads and speculators. Even the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture encouraged farming in the north."¹

From 1900 to 1920, 25,000 farms were established in northern Wisconsin. However, by 1920 it was very evident that farming was not the answer. The cutover land was not suitable for farming. The acidic soil from the years of being a pine forest was not good for growing crops. The huge pine stumps

¹ Wyatt, Barbara. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Volume II. Madison: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
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left behind had to be removed before the land could be plowed. In addition to these liabilities, the growing season was too short. Farming rapidly became a thing of the past. Many had tried farming potatoes, others ginseng as early as 1908, and others had small farms to sustain the family with a small dairy operation.²

One thing that the landscape did provide with its wonderful lakes and forests was a respite from the heat of the city during the summer months. And because of the wilderness conditions, a less strict dress code was observed. The main attraction was the wonderful fishing in the ubiquitous lakes. The loggers and the lumbermen who worked in the woods were well aware of the beauty of the lakes and the seemingly limitless supply of fish. Many of these same men began using the abandoned logging camps for their fishing and hunting trips. At first it was mainly men who did this, but gradually the women and children were allowed to join the men. Soon it became apparent that many people loved the north woods. From 1890 to 1920, western Vilas and northwestern Oneida counties had the greatest concentration of commercial resorts in the Upper Great Lakes.

Recreation in the north had modest beginnings, but the coming of the railroad changed all of that. The Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western arrived in 1883.³ As a result, the first visitors after logging, the sport fishermen, came by train. From 1891 to 1905 transportation from the Chicago area to Eagle River was by rail and then an often lengthy journey to the lake of their choice. Many times this portion of the trip was by wagon and/or boat.

According to Mark Davis' article in Wisconsin Magazine of History: "In the 1920s two new entrepreneurial options emerged to help the struggling families in the north country. The first, based on America's unquenchable thirst for alcohol, was the illegal but apparently profitable traffic in moonshine. The other was rooted in a new perception of the region's forest and lakes. The boosters of logging, railroads and agriculture began to see that their most valuable resources lay all around them, and with typical enthusiasms and hyperbole they turned to promoting tourism. Many of the settlers took note and began building small cabins on their farms to rent out to the summer tourists. They realized that if they wanted to survive they needed to find a new livelihood and tourism became their salvation.

As the arrival of the train had done in the late nineteenth century, the automobile again changed the face of the northern areas in the early twentieth century. When the state realized that farming was not a

² *Ibid.*

³ Bawden, Timothy. Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890-1920, pp 1-4.

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prosperous way of life, it began to organize a campaign for tourism. By 1920 the state was putting one million dollars into advertising the natural beauty of Wisconsin. But in order to get the tourists to the remote areas of the north woods, better roads were needed and a "good roads movement" began in 1928.

THREE LAKES REGION

Three Lakes has been a part of several different counties. Today, it is in Oneida County. Prior to March 3, 1879, it was a part of Oconto County; from March 3, 1879 to February 19, 1881, it was part of New County; from February 19, 1881 to April 1885, it was part of Langlade County; from April 14, 1885 to April 29, 1897, it became part of Oneida County and has remained a part of that county for over 100 years.⁴

"Three Lakes was located more or less on an 'island' flanked to the west and the south by vast marsh areas and on the east and north by beautiful lakes. These marshes and cedar swamps around Three Lakes provided a place for preserving the ice and snow from the winter season. Today these marshes are used for cranberries."⁵

"The old Military Road linked Fort Dearborn (Chicago) with Fort Howard (Green Bay) and Fort Wilkins (Copper Harbor, Michigan), passing through what is now known as the Nicolet Forest."⁶ The road passed near Anvil Lake nine miles east of Eagle River. Supplies ammunition and mail could be transported between the two destinations. The road was completed in 1872 and after that mail could be delivered regularly by foot in the summer and by dog team in the winter.⁷

The railroad used Three Lakes for a depot because it was the shortest distance to the Military Road. One account says that the depot was just a large stump at first and was used by the first railroad agent, Frank Steiner. He used the stump as his desk until the railroad brought in a box car to serve as a depot. Railroad surveyors named Three Lakes. According to Walt Goldsworthy, a long-time resident of Three Lakes, it was because railroad surveyors tried to "shoot" a line north. Each time they tried they were stopped by a lake: Maple, Townline and Rangeline. Hence, the name Three Lakes emerged. The forest was so dense that it was impossible to see the lake until they got close.⁸

⁴ The History of Northern Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881, p. 654.

⁵ The Pine, the Plow, and The Pioneer, [Three Lakes, Wis.]: Three Lakes Historical Society, 1984, vol. I, p. 5.

⁶ Jones, George O. and McVean, Norman S. The History of Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties Wisconsin, Minneapolis: H.C. Cooper, Jr. and Company, 1924, p.169.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ The Pine, the Plow, and the Pioneer, [Three Lakes, Wis.]: Three Lakes Historical Society, 1984, vol. I, p. 1.

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Lumbering was an important industry in Three Lakes. The Three Lakes Land and Lumber Company began logging here in the early 1880s. In December of 1886 there were seven firms logging in the pineries east of Three Lakes. For a short time, from 1891 to 1900, Joseph Lane started a sawmill and ran it for ten years until it was destroyed by fire. In the 1880s, the forests around Three Lakes had few pines; mostly it was forested by beautiful hardwood timber, with many giant maples. When the loggers came through they cut the pine and burned the hardwood timber. The Civilian Conservation Corps replanted the forest in the 1930s.⁹

Following the pine and logging era and discouraging attempts at farming, residents turned to tourism. "The key to the popularity of Three Lakes as a vacation paradise lies in the fact that a chain to 28 lakes stretches north from its waterfront to Eagle River, every mile navigable with no portaging, except around the water control dam at Long Lake exit. There are over 100 miles of scenic shoreline, cradling 7,000 water-acres of sportsman's utopia."¹⁰ By 1924, Three Lakes had 20 resorts; by the 1940s there were 60. Only a few are left today.¹¹

It was about this time that Joseph and Augusta Trunck bought their property, in August 22, 1925. They purchased the parcel of land from George and Grace Wyman and Gustav and Anna Fick, all of Chicago. The Truncks had one child, Joseph D. Trunck, born in 1909. The son worked with his father in the mechanical engineering and contracting business called McDonald and Trunck. The business was located at 222 North Canal Street, Chicago.¹²

The elder Mr. Trunck died in 1940. The death date of Mrs. Trunck was May 24, 1967. According to the local legend, the son stopped coming up to the property in the 1970s. There are rumors that he suffered from mental problems. In fact, "in September of 1972, the adjacent property owner, Ralph Leatzow, petitioned Oneida County to grant a 3' wide walking easement through the Trunck property to provide access to the landlocked Leatzow parcel located at the end of the peninsula. Joseph Trunck, Jr, a single man is listed as the owner and was served the petition, without response. The petition is granted by Oneida County, September 16, 1972 without ever hearing from Joseph Trunck, Jr." This according to Daniel Knuth, the son of the present owner.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Lakeland Times*, 2000. "Century of Memories Welcoming a New Millennium."

¹² Information from Daniel Knuth, son of the owner.

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Trunck, Joseph and Augusta, Boathouse
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The Trunck Boathouse was boarded up for about nine years before it was auctioned off. Joseph, Jr. abandoned the property and did not pay the property taxes so subsequently the property became the county's.

The date of the Trunck Boathouse is tied closely to the purchase and delivery of a new Chris Craft in May 1928. The twenty four foot boat, Model #3, with a Chrysler Imperial 6 Silver Dome LMAT898, was delivered to Wisconsin. The mahogany boat was housed in the Trunck Boathouse until 1981. According to neighbors, the boat had not been seen on the lake since the mid-fifties. The fascinating history of this beautiful boat is revealed in an article by Bruce Renquist in Classic Boating, January/February 2006. Ironically, Marvin Knuth, while visiting a Trunck neighbor, helped Mr. Renquist get the boat out of the boarded-up boathouse before the property went up for auction. If Renquist had not "discovered" the boat in the boathouse, and arranged with the county to buy the boat, the present owners would have gotten the Chris Craft when they made the winning bid at the Sheriff's Auction in 1982.¹³ The only thing that the Knuths have today are the original Chris Craft manuals and the two flags that adorned the boat.

ARCHITECTURE

The construction of new wet boathouses has been prohibited since 1979. The dry boathouses being built are mostly vernacular and utilitarian in style because they are strictly for housing boats. There is no longer much architectural style or detail to them.

Wet boathouses were built mainly from the late 1800s through the 1940s. Mostly they were designed to mimic the style of the main house. These boathouses were usually one or two stories and, if there were a second floor, it was used for recreation or for additional guest rooms or rooms for the servants. Many of them had small kitchens and even bathrooms. The two story boathouse possesses a higher level of architectural interest than the one story boathouse. These buildings are located over the water and typically rest on a foundation of wood pilings. The Trunck Boathouse is unique because it does not rest on wood pilings. Instead it rests on caged rocks and boulders. In addition, unlike the more common form, that was of a single story and was used simply for the storage of boats, this example has a second floor living space.

Boathouses generally have square or rectangular floor plans with decks that wrap around several sides of the building. The main side of the boathouse is the main façade and public face of the boathouse, where the boats enter.

¹³ Information from Marvin Knuth, owner.

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Even though these buildings are largely vernacular, elements of the Craftsman, Rustic and Queen Anne styles incorporated into boathouse design in northern Wisconsin. Typically the overall form, massing, and wall materials contribute to the display of the architectural style. The application of architectural details is frequently limited to smaller details. The Trunck Boathouse has a front-facing gambrel roof with flared eaves. The gambrel roof became popular during the Colonial Revival style of architecture, popular between 1880 and 1950. A subtype known as Dutch Colonial is found under the Colonial Revival. Only ten percent of all Colonial Revival houses had gambrel roofs. This style of roof was very popular in the 1920s and 1930s.¹⁴ The gambrel roof also became a popular roof style for barns. There are no other boathouses with this style of roof in the area.

Two wet boathouses on the Three Lakes chain of lakes are listed on the National Register. The Jollywood Boathouse, placed on the National Register in 2003, is just south of the Trunck property on Big Fork Lake. It is clad in half-log in the Rustic Style and rests on wood pilings. The Reay Boathouse is a two-story square structure with Craftsman detailing; it was placed on the National Register in 2004. It is located on the narrows between Laurie and Medicine lakes, on the Three Lakes chain of lakes.

CONCLUSION

The Joseph and Augusta Trunck Boathouse is eligible at the local level for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture as an example of the wet boathouse building type. It is a distinctive example of the early twentieth-century wet boathouse and compares favorably to other boathouses previously listed on the National Register. The Trunck Boathouse has historic integrity as its location is original, the design and most of the materials are original, only the paint color has been changed. The gambrel roof, the second story living space, the corrugated steel walls as well as the unique foundation makes this boathouse distinctive. The Knuths appreciate the historic integrity of their boathouse and want to keep it original. It is important that these wet boathouses be preserved; they are treasures that serve as important landmarks on the lakes of northern Wisconsin.

¹⁴ McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Homes, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006, p. 321-322.

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The History of Northern Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881.

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N.R.H.P. nomination for the Indianapolis Outing Club, Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI. Placed on National Register of Historic Places on 3/10/2004. (Mary Jane Hettinga)

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Oral Interviews:

Knuth, Marvin and Daniel, at the Trunck Boathouse, Three Lakes, WI, April 28, 2007.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Trunck Boathouse extends 25 feet beyond the edge of the boathouse and deck on the north, east, south and west sides.

The larger legal parcel on which the boathouse is located is described as follows:

A parcel of land being a part of Gov't. Lot 6, Section 33, township 39 North, range 11 East, Town of three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Meander corner between Sections 33 and 34 on the Southwesterly shore of Big Fork Lake and being marked by a G. L. O. concrete brass cap monument and being the Place of Beginning, thence S 3 degrees - 43'-00" W along the East line of said Section 33 a distance of 103.15 feet to an iron pipe, thence S 87 degrees -05' -20" W a distance of 40.82 feet to an iron pipe on the Easterly shore of Little Fork Lake, thence N 11 degrees -32'51" W along said shore a distance of 121.69 feet to a point, thence N 35 degrees-21'-17" W a distance of 62.73 feet to an iron pipe, thence N 87 degrees-05'-20" E a distance of 64 feet to an iron pipe on the Westerly shore of Big Fork Lake, thence S 32 degrees -46'-46"E along said shore a distance of 81.62 feet to a G. L. O. concrete brass cap monument marking the Meander corner and being the Place of Beginning.

Including all the lands lying between the meander lines and the lateral lot lines extended to the water's edge.

Subject to 3 foot wide path easement for ingress and egress found in volume 339 Page 483, Oneida County Register of Deeds.

Including easement for ingress and egress found in Volume 698 Page 550, Oneida County Register of Deeds.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Trunck Boathouse was delineated to encompass the historic property and to provide an appropriate setting. The other buildings on the property have been excluded from the historic boundary because they do not meet National Register criteria and are not related to the significance of the boathouse.

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Photo 1 of 10
Trunck Boathouse –west elevation
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
January 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 10
Trunck Boathouse – north elevation
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
January 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing southeast

Photo 3 of 10
Trunck boathouse – west elevation
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
January 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing northeast

Photo 4 of 10
Trunck Boathouse – south elevation
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Daniel Knuth
April 2007
Negative at WI Historical society
Camera facing northeast

Photo 5 of 10
Trunck Boathouse – east elevation
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
January 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing west

Photo 6 of 10
Trunck Boathouse - foundation
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
April 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing north

Photo 7 of 10
Trunck Boathouse – walls
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga
April 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing south

Photo 8 of 10
Trunck Boathouse – boat hoist
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
April 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing north

Photo 9 of 10
Trunck boathouse – second floor
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
April 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing northwest

Photo 10 of 10
Trunck Boathouse- second floor
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
April 2007
Negative at WI Historical Society
Camera facing northeast