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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Levin, Adolph Cottage
Other names/site number Levin Cabin, Levin Property, Youngstrom Cabin, Ash River Cabins, Lund Cabin

2. Location

street & number Kabetogama Narrows, near Ash River Maintenance Dock not for publication
city or town Kabetogama Lake, unorganized territory, Voyageurs National Park vicinity
State Minnesota code MN county St. Louis code 137 zip code 55771

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date May 5, 2011
Title Designated FPO State or Federal agency and bureau National Park Service

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official [Signature] Date 5/12/10
Title Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy SHPO, Minnesota Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 6-15-11
Edson H. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	private

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
1		structures
		objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

Tourism and Recreational Properties in Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-1950

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic

Single Dwelling, Camp

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government

Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

Movements

Other: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Granite

walls: Log

roof: Asphalt shingles

other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage is located in the Ash River area within Voyageurs National Park in St. Louis County Minnesota. The property includes the main seasonal residence, known as the Levin Cottage, and its associated site. The approximately five acre site includes the cottage, water tank, views, rock outcrops, garden remnants, and surrounding woodland vegetation. A non-contributing vault toilet building is located within the treeline to the southeast of the cottage.

The Rustic style vacation cottage is situated upon a rock outcrop on the highest point of the site and built into the hillside creating a feeling of an indigenous structure nestled in the pines. The setting of the cottage is integral to the significance of the building itself. The careful placement of the cottage on the rock outcrop to emphasize views of the lake and the

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Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota
County and State

**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
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1950**
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

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The Levin Summer Cottage is located in the Ash River area within Voyageurs National Park and includes the main seasonal residence and its approximately five-acre associated site. The Rustic style vacation cottage is situated upon a rock outcrop on the highest point of the site and built into the hillside creating a feeling of an indigenous structure nestled in the pines. The setting of the cottage is integral to the significance of the building itself. The careful placement of the cottage on the rock outcrop to emphasize views of the lake and the privacy afforded by the surrounding forest combine with the remote location and use of native materials to enhance the rustic appeal of the cottage. Windows and doors capture dramatic views of the surrounding lake, forest, and native stone rock outcrops. The surrounding woodland vegetation cradles the cottage providing a backwoods character that is part of the historic scene. These woods also screen views of nearby development that would otherwise impact the historic character of the site. Landscape character defining features include a stone plant bed at the south wall of the cottage, organic stone steps at the northeast corner of the cottage, remnants of a rock garden and pond, views, topography, rock outcrops, and the surrounding woodland vegetation.

Buildings (1 contributing, 1 non-contributing)

Levin Cottage (contributing)

The Levin Cottage is a Rustic style vacation cottage. It has the low, overhanging roof, large porch, and grouped windows consistent with the style as found in the North Woods of Minnesota. As with typical buildings of this style, the Levin cabin is in harmony with its site, using native materials and simplified ornamentation. There are no halls, just a simple arrangement of rooms flowing into each other. The entry door and windows are placed to capture the view outside. The focus of the interior is the massive stone fireplace.

The building consists of two perpendicular wings with gable roofs resting on a foundation of native rubble stone. The foundation is set into the natural rock outcropping with exposures that vary with the slope of the site and to compensate for the taper of the sill logs. The stone platform door stoops and chimney are integrated into the foundation, unifying the building with the site. The floor joists are constructed of round logs sliced to give a flat surface on one side. A center log beam spanning the structure supports the floor joists. There are foundation vents at each elevation. On the east elevation, the foundation is exposed for nearly a story below grade. There is a door in the foundation at this point, which allows access to the crawl space. On the west elevation, north of the door, there is a hole in the foundation wall that apparently was created to allow water drainage through the crawlspace.

The walls are constructed of horizontal logs with saddle notches only at the corners of the bottom of the logs. The logs are peeled and coped on the bottom to fit the log beneath. The coping groove, a long groove along the bottom of the log, is filled with oakum that acts as a gasket. Known as a Swedish cope, this is a common

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Scandinavian technique of stacking horizontal logs. Moreover, the rounds, or layers, of logs are "rotated". This means that, for a given layer, the logs all taper in the same direction, while the logs in the layers above and below taper in the opposite direction. The ends of the logs, or crowns, are trimmed for emphasis. Each layer of logs was laid down butt end to tip end all the way around. Then, to keep the walls vertical and the logs tending horizontally, the butt and tip ends of the next layer were reversed.

The north elevation features a large overhang which is a continuation of the roof structure. The open log truss at the end is only for decorative effect; it adds little to the roof support. There is a screen door with a wood frame at the center of the elevation, which is flanked by pairs of casement windows. The inside door is of tongue-and-groove wood plank constructions. Each window sash has five lights, in a one wide by five high configuration.

There is a log railing on the north and west sides of a raised stone platform which serves as an exterior landing for the front porch. The landing is composed of rubble stone, as are the steps leading to ground level. On the north elevation of the south wing there is one pair of casement windows with five lights, in a one wide by five high configuration.

The east elevation is composed of two parts: a gable end wall and a side wall. The end wall has three identical window openings, marking three interior spaces. The south window belongs to the kitchen, the north window to the bedroom, and the middle, second-floor window belongs to the loft. Each opening has a pair of casement windows, with three lights per sash in a one wide by three high configuration. The side wall has a bank of six pairs of casement windows opening from inside the sunroom. Each casement has five lights in a two wide by five high configuration. Due to the sloped site of the cabin, the rubble foundation becomes deeper on this elevation, creating usable storage space below the porch. A two-leaf door, made of two vertical planks per leaf, is set into the northern part of the east foundation and provides access to this space.

The south elevation is dominated by a massive chimney built of native rubble stone. A much smaller chimney at the south east corner penetrates the roof and was the former exhaust for the kitchen stove. The larger chimney is flanked by pairs of casement windows. Each casement has five lights in a one wide by five high configuration. At the east end of the elevation are a door and window, both of which open into the kitchen. There is a small gable, which does not project beyond the roof overhang, above the door. The window is nearly identical to the others on the elevation, but has four lights instead of five.

Like the east elevation, the west elevation is in two parts: a gable end wall and a side wall. The gable end wall has a central door flanked by pairs of casement windows. The casement windows each have five horizontal lights. The door is of vertical tongue-and-groove plank construction, with three small windows set on a diagonal

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in the center three planks. There is a small, sloping overhang above the door, supported by branches that project from the wall. The west elevation of the sunroom has a bank of six pairs of casement windows open from inside the sunroom. Each casement has five lights, in a two wide by five high configuration.

The roof is composed of two perpendicular gables, one the full length of the main building, the other a cross gable that forms the sunroom space. The roof is constructed with a ridge pole, two purlins, rafters, and board sheathing. The ends of the ridge pole and purlins are exposed at the gables. The rafter ends are also exposed, and support the overhang on the side walls. On the north roof slope, the roof projects to form a large overhang, sheltering the north elevation of the sunroom. On the south elevation, there is a small gable over the rear door. The roofing material, asphalt shingles over an insulated nail base, was installed by the National Park Service in 1991. There are two stone chimneys and no gutters. The chimneys are topped with unique, pagoda-like chimney caps. They each consist of a gabled 'roof' that flares at the bottom edges, supported on four vertical stones at each corner. The cap is composed of a cementitious material poured over a shaped wire mesh.

The Rustic style continues on the interior. The interior is peeled log construction with exposed trusses. The logs are tightly fitted in the Swedish Cope method, by the use of a full-length groove on the underside, which snugs the log to the one below it. There is no visible chinking or daubing. The wood throughout has a natural varnish finish. The gable ends are of log construction to the roof, including the interior gable where the two wings meet. Doors and windows are all original and trimmed with sawn lumber. The doors are all constructed from vertical tongue-and-groove planks, joined by 1" dowels through the short end of the plank. The windows throughout are of a consistent style, varying only in size and proportion to fit the space and usage. The casements have either five, four, or three horizontal lights.

Flooring throughout the cottage is 1" wide tongue-and-groove wood planking, stained and varnished. It is probably not original. The interior walls are exposed logs as detailed above. The exposed underside of the roof is sheathed with horizontal, shiplapped planks, which rest atop rafters approximately 4" in diameter. The kitchen and bedroom ceilings are the exposed underside of the loft floor, which is 3/4" thick x 5-1/2" wide tongue-and-groove wood planking.

The interior is dominated by the main living space, with a sunroom to the north, a kitchen and bedroom to the east, and a loft space above. The stair to the loft has round log side walls and split log steps, and the side walls extend beyond the bottom step. The first five logs from the floor are trimmed to the same length, perpendicular to the floor. The next three logs are trimmed on an angle of about 45 degrees, so that the length recedes with the height of the side wall. The top three logs are trimmed perpendicular to the floor. This creates a "handrail". The

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split log steps are installed flat side up and are notched into the spaces between the side wall logs. The vertical spacing of the steps is thus dependent on the diameter of the side wall log.

A native rubble stone fireplace and chimney is located on the south wall of the main living space. The stone hearth, which is the width of the fireplace, is level with the surrounding floor. A large, decorative keystone rests two stone courses above a hidden steel lintel. There is a large mantle, formed by a log, which extends across the width of the fireplace. The mantle is supported by projecting stones. Where the rafters intersect the stone work, there is a log header that extends beyond the width of the chimney. The header is tied into the outer rafters with through-tusk tenons. A short section of round duct extends from the upper west side of the chimney; below it are two grilled openings. These are intake/exhaust vents for circulating air through the chimney cavity, improving its heating efficiency.

The sunroom is formed by a cross-gable perpendicular to the main portion of the building. It is a fairly large, open space, with rows of casement windows on the east and west walls allowing in abundant light.

The east end of the cottage is divided into a kitchen to the south and a bedroom to the north. The kitchen floor was a yellowish-brown, herringbone linoleum tile over backing that was removed in 2003. Finished wood cabinets with wood handles and countertops are located on the north wall. The 18" square chimney for the kitchen stove is located in the southeast corner; it is constructed of stone and is supported on a diagonal log that cuts across the corner. The kitchen has a number of other open shelves mounted on the walls. The bedroom has similar finishes to the main living space. There is a small closet on the south wall formed by the underside of the loft stairs and the recessed wall of the kitchen cabinets. The doorway to the closet is tall and narrow, with a semicircular arch at the top.

The loft occupies the space above the kitchen and bedroom. The floor of the loft is of 3/4" thick by 5-1/2" wide tongue-and-groove wood planks, which rest on log joists. The top logs of the north and south walls are exposed above the floor. The north and south walls are sloped and the east wall is the triangular gable end wall. A portion of the stone kitchen chimney is exposed at the southeast corner. Log railings form the west wall to either side of the stairs.

The Levin Cottage retains a high degree of integrity. Sections of three logs were replaced on the west elevation in 1991 due to moisture and insect damage; while these areas are observable due to the difference in aging of materials, the repairs have been complementary to the original material and design. There is no evidence that doors and windows have been moved, and the units appear to be original. The most notable alterations have

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been to the electrical and lighting systems, with wires exposed and notches present where fixtures and outlets have been removed.

Vault Toilet (non-contributing)

A modern vault toilet is located southeast of the Levin cottage. It is a rectangular gable-roofed structure that sits on a concrete foundation. The walls and door are horizontal wood boards rounded to look like logs. They are painted yellow. The roof is covered with red asphalt shingles and has a metal vent and a metal roof ridge with ball finials on the ends. There is a small square window on one of the side walls and a shallow board platform in front of the door. The toilet is a non-contributing building however, it is compatible with the historic character of the site. It is tucked into the trees at the southeast corner of the property and is barely visible from the cottage. The building materials compliment those of the cottage without attempting to copy.

Cultural Landscape (1 contributing site)

The cultural landscape at the Levin Cottage includes several character defining features that help to convey the historic atmosphere of the site. The careful placement of the cottage on the rock outcrop to emphasize views of the lake and the privacy afforded by the surrounding forest combine with the remote location and use of native stone and plants to enhance the rustic appeal of the cottage. Landscape character defining features include:

Plant bed at south side of Levin Cottage

A rectangular, mortared stone plant bed extends from the south side of the cottage. The stone walls extend three feet south from the southwest corner of the cottage, then to the east, ending just before the south entry door stoop. The planter walls are approximately fifteen inches high. Currently the bed is filled with volunteer groundcover plants.

Stone steps at northeast corner of Levin Cottage

Rubble stone steps wrap around the northeast corner of the stone rubble foundation of the north cottage porch. The steps are irregular in shape and lead down from the north elevation to the lower level at the east elevation. The eight stone risers vary in height from six inches to twelve inches and in width from fifteen inches to thirty inches. The use of native stone laid in an irregular pattern gives the stairs an organic character so that they appear as if they have grown out of the rock outcrop.

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Remnants of Rock Garden and Pond

Remnants of a garden are located to the south of the cottage. These include dry-laid native stone walls, a small cement pond, and scattered ornamental plants. Plants noted at the site include tiger lillies, daylillies, and extensive native ground covers.

Path from South toward Cottage

A path from the south door of the cottage extends to the south to the parking area and road. Since there was not a parking area in this location during the period of significance, the path does not reflect the historic period.

Views, Topography and Rock Outcrops

The choice of this particular site for the Levin Cottage was directly related to the natural setting of the site, which affords dramatic views of the lake due to the existence of towering rock outcrops at the edge of the lake. The rocks create a cliff at the lake edge with a steep drop-off that emphasizes the views from the cottage site, while screening views toward the property from the lake. Privacy during the period of significance was also enhanced by the absence of an obvious landing and approach to the cottage. The landing was around the corner in a cove southeast of the cottage. This landing has been expanded into a small marina that is used by the National Park Service.

The setting of the cottage is integral to the significance of the building itself. The careful placement of the cottage on the rock outcrop to emphasize views of the lake and the privacy afforded by the surrounding forest combine with the remote location and use of native materials to enhance the rustic appeal of the cottage. Windows and doors capture dramatic views of the surrounding lake, forest, and native stone rock outcrops. Of particular importance are views to the north and northeast from the cabin. These are becoming less prominent as vegetation fills in around the cottage.

Vegetation

The surrounding woodland vegetation cradles the cottage providing a backwoods character that is part of the historic landscape. Today the woods screen views of development that would otherwise impact the character of the site. The National Park Service access road, boat dock, parking, and materials storage areas are within close proximity to the site but are not visible due to the surrounding native woodland vegetation. The presence of these intrusions interrupts views of the cabin from the south and the materials storage area is expanding gradually each season. Further expansion of the materials storage will cause additional loss of vegetation and would impact views from the cottage.

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Circulation

Historically, circulation to and from the site was only by boat. Today, visitors to the site arrive via automobile or on foot. The road into the area was constructed prior to the establishment of the National Park, as an unimproved access route. Since the end of the period of significance, the National Park Service has improved and widened the road to provide vehicular access to the maintenance complex and the marina. The marina is situated in the cove southeast of the cottage that was one the landing for boats arriving at the cottage. Continued incremental changes to the road and maintenance storage areas in this vicinity impact the historic landscape at the cabin site.

Structures (1 contributing)

Water tank (1 contributing feature)

A rectangular water tank is located southwest of the Levin cottage. It sits on a high mortared rubble stone foundation perched on a granite outcropping. The tank itself is galvanized metal with a shallow sloped metal roof that has a slight overhang. A short length of pipe with a valve protrudes from the north side.

privacy afforded by the surrounding forest combine with the remote location and use of native materials to enhance the rustic appeal of the cottage.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation

Criterion C: Architecture

Period of Significance

1937-1977

Significant Dates

Constructed 1937

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Mead, Ted

Huttunen, Utti

Hujanen, Ahti

Nelson, Louis

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance includes the initial construction of the cottage in 1937, the continued use of the property by Dr. Levin, the purchase of the property by the Youngstroms in 1949, and the changes to the domestic landscape by the Youngstroms throughout their tenure of the property until its sale to the National Park Service in 1977. Although a few significant elements were added within the last fifty years, the majority were completed over fifty years ago. For this reason, Criteria Consideration G is not necessary.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Levin property qualifies as a Lakeside Summer Cottage under the registration requirements of the "Tourism and Recreational Properties in Voyageurs National Park, 1880-1950" Multiple Property Documentation Form. It meets the registration requirements under Criterion A (Area of Significance: Recreation/Environment) as a seasonally used recreational residence located in Voyageurs National Park, and under Criterion C (Area of Significance: Architecture) as an outstanding example of the Rustic-style "North Woods cabin" of northern Minnesota. it is significant at the local level.

There are three contributing resources within the Levin Property's boundary: the main summer cottage (log cabin), the water tank, and the cultural landscape.

The Levin Property meets the following registration requirements: It retains the main summer home in its original location; it was constructed between 1880 and 1950 and conforms to the historic characteristics of the property; and associated outbuildings and landscape features that are present from the period of significance relate to the historic use of the property. The Levin property retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, location, and setting.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See Continuation Sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: **Voyageurs National Park**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .664 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	NW	15	510627E	5364633N	3	SE	15	510674E	5364590N
	Zone		Easting	Northing		Zone		Easting	Northing
2	NE	15	510674E	5364653N	4	SW	15	510627E	5364590N
	Zone		Easting	Northing		Zone		Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The Levin Summer Cottage is located on the south shore of Kabetogama Lake in Voyageurs National Park. It is composed of the portion of Tract 32-133 of Voyageurs National Park, Section 26, Township 69 North, Range 20 West, Fourth Principal Meridian, illustrated in the attached Site Plan.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the area that retains integrity related to the historic significance of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda W. Williams, Historical Landscape Architect and Ruth E. Mills, Architectural Historian

organization Quinn Evans Architects date February 2010

street & number 1037 Sherman Avenue telephone 734-926-0419

city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

e-mail bwilliams@quinnevans.com

Additional Documentation

- **Maps:**
 - **Map 1: Location of Levin site within Voyageurs National Park**
 - **Map 2: Vicinity of Levin Summer Cottage**
 - **Map 3: Historic Site Boundary, Levin Summer Cottage**
 - **Map 4: Site Plan, Levin Summer Cottage**
 - **Map 5: Photograph locations, Levin Summer Cottage**
 - **Map 6: USGS Map with Site Boundary (folded at back of nomination)**
- **Continuation Sheets**
 - **Section 7, 7 pages**
 - **Section 8, 4 pages**
 - **Section 9, 1 page**
- **Additional items:**
 - **List of Photographs, 1 page**

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

- **Photographs: 13 prints**

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Levin property qualifies as a Lakeside Summer Cottage under the registration requirements of the "Tourism and Recreational Properties in Voyageurs National Park, 1880-1950" Multiple Property Documentation Form. It meets the registration requirements under under Criterion A (Area of Significance: Recreation/Environment) as a seasonally used recreational residence located in Voyageurs National Park, and under Criterion C (Area of Significance: Architecture) as an outstanding example of the Rustic-style "North Woods cabin" of northern Minnesota. it is significant at the local level.

There are three contributing resources within the Levin Property's boundary: the main summer cottage (log cabin), the water storage structure, and the landscape.

The Levin Property meets the following registration requirements: It retains the main summer home in its original location; it was constructed between 1880 and 1950 and conforms to the historic characteristics of the property; and associated outbuildings and landscape features that are present from the period of significance relate to the historic use of the property. The Levin property retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, location, and setting.

The Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage was designed and built by Ted Mead in 1937 as a vacation cottage for Dr. Adolph Levin and George Plager. Levin was a chiropractor from Virginia, Minnesota, about one hundred miles south of Kabetogama Lake, and Plager was a hunting friend from Iowa. Prior to building the cottage near Ash River, Levin had owned a log cabin at the west end of Lake Kabetogama near what is now Woodenfrog Campground.¹ Levin purchased the Ash River site, known as Puck's Point, from John M. Prinz. Levin located his cottage on a high rock ledge surrounded by pine forest yet offering a spectacular view of Kabetogama Lake.

By the early 1930s, the North Woods of Minnesota, originally visited only by wealthy tourists, were attracting larger numbers of middle class visitors interested by the remote locations, rustic facilities, and outdoor activities like hunting and fishing. The rise of automobile tourism and the construction of better roads in the far northern reaches of the state made it easier for tourists of lesser means to travel to the area during the summer. Some of these tourists spent their time at the growing number of resorts dotting the lakes; others leased cottages or, like Levin, purchased their own properties and built lakeside summer cottages.

Ted Mead had two years earlier (1935) purchased two lots on Lake Kabetogama and begun building his own resort, Meadwood, consisting of a Lodge (now the NPS Ash River Visitor Center) and a number of guest cabins.

¹ Bert and Bernice Youngstrom, transcript from a telephone conversation with Mary Graves, November 6, 1996. Chief Wooden Frog campground is a Minnesota State campground adjacent to McCarthy Beach State Park at Kabetogama Lake and contiguous to Voyageurs National Park.

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Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 2

Mead was assisted by two Finnish carpenters, Ahti Hujanen and Utti Huttunen, and local stonemason, Louis Nelson.² The carpenters may have been related to Mead's wife, Alyce, who was also Finnish. Around 1937, Levin and Plager hired the same team to construct the Levin Cottage, not far away from Meadwood Lodge. While the Levin cottage was built to Levin's particular specifications, it bore the unmistakable characteristics of Finnish construction employed by Mead and the carpenters.³

The Levin Cottage represents both a contemporary popular style and traditional building methods. The Rustic style was a natural outgrowth of the Arts and Crafts and Craftsman aesthetic of the early twentieth century, which emphasized the use of natural materials in an honest fashion and sympathy with natural surroundings. Rustic structures, which were often built in a wilderness or remote setting as vacation homes, took this aesthetic to a higher degree, deliberately utilizing traditional or ethnic building techniques and emphasizing the natural materials and setting. Rustic structures usually were appropriate to their settings in terms of scale, plan, and volume, and relied on proportions, materials, and structural details (such as wide eave overhangs and corner notching) to convey the sense of the style, rather than highly ornamental applied decoration.

Log construction was particularly appropriate for the Rustic style of architecture, both for its use of naturally occurring materials and for the ethnic building techniques used in its construction. Log construction in the United States is generally considered to be an importation of Northern European immigrants, particularly from the Scandinavian countries of Finland, Norway, and Sweden. The abundant forests of North America provided inexpensive building material for these immigrants to apply the traditional building practices they brought with them. Northern Minnesota and the future Voyageurs area in particular had a large Finnish immigrant population. Finns in Northern Minnesota brought an expertise in construction of buildings with horizontal log walls joined by diverse notching systems and weatherproofed with a variety of chinking between the logs.⁴

The Levin Cottage is a highly representative example of the Rustic style as applied in Finnish log construction. In form, it consists of two perpendicular wings with open interior volumes. The simple form and organization is characteristic of the style, as well as appropriate for a seasonal rustic living space. In construction, the foundation is native stone used in a naturalistic fashion, and the walls utilize one of the oldest, and most simple, construction methods: horizontal, peeled round log construction with saddle notches at the corners. However, the bottom of each log is coped to fit the log beneath, and a groove the length of the log is packed with moss, insuring a tight fit. This is one of the most time-consuming, and advanced, chinking techniques, and it is a recognized Finnish American wood construction technique. The log ends are decoratively trimmed, providing

² National Park Service, "History of the Levin Cabin," Undated interpretive text manuscript, 1.

³ Bert and Bernice Youngstrom, interview with Mary Graves, June 25, 1997.

⁴ Quinn Evans Architects, *Ash River Cabins: Historic Structures Report*, B-4.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota
County and State

Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 3

an organic form of distinctive style to the exterior. Both the exterior and interior logs were treated with a "log oil" finish on the exterior and interior, probably made from an oil based primer and tinted spar varnish top coat that produces a yellow/orange hue.⁵ The roof featured wide overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends, and the north elevation continues the roof structure with open log trusses, again providing a decorative touch using structural elements. A massive rustic stone chimney dominates the south elevation, and the wood doors and windows are simple, functional elements on the exterior.

The interior continued the rustic theme, with exposed log walls and roof bracing. Concealed electrical wiring was installed within the walls at the time of construction. The simple layout of the building was functional and flowing, and the main living space was dominated by the massive stone fireplace and chimney. The difficulty of inserting a standard stairway into a log wall was both avoided and celebrated by using the logs themselves as steps; each trip up and down the irregularly spaced stairs would have been a reminder of the hand-craftsmanship that created the stair.

The interior was finished simply, with Norway pine log beds, a large dining table, a sleeper couch and two stuffed chairs, a dresser, a piano, and built in-bookcases. The head and shoulders of a large elk shot by Dr. Levin in Colorado hung over the west door and other examples of stuffed game or pelts also decorated the cottage. Many of the furnishings, including the furniture, rugs, and blankets were reportedly purchased by Levin from Mexico or the Southwestern United States, continuing the hand-made, rustic theme.⁶

The Levin cottage was reportedly used initially by Dr. Levin and Plager for hunting. At the time, access to the area was strictly by water. Dr. Levin usually traveled in his 18 foot wooden boat, powered by a 22 horsepower Johnson outboard motor, from Gappa's Landing. The dock was located southeast of the cabin near where the National Park Service maintenance docks are today.⁷ A number of other structures were extant at the time of Levin's occupation. He reportedly had a 16' x 20' tarpaper covered cabin that he called the 'doghouse' which was located about 30' south of the well. He would reportedly stay there while hunting, perhaps when the weather was too severe to occupy the main cabin. The well and pump were located about half a block south of the cottage. A log privy was located southwest of the buildings and a second one was located near the shore. Two other cabins were located on the property, one located south of the cottage near the current path to the cottage, and the other near the shore. A sauna and motor house were located south of the current dock location.

⁵ Bert and Bernice Youngstrom, interview with Mary Graves, June 25, 1997.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Quinn Evans Architects, *Ash River Cabins: Historic Structures Report*, B-8.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota
County and State

Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 4

It appears that Dr. Levin's wife Margaret spent little time at the cabin, as she reportedly was not fond of traveling by boat.⁸ Levin's hunting partner Plager died in 1944, and with Mrs. Levin's reluctance to visit the area, Levin was not using the Kabetogama Lake property. In 1949 the Levins sold the property and the furnishings to Levin's best friend, Oscar Youngstrom, and his wife, Helen, including the original furnishings. The Levins built another cabin at Ash Trail Lodge and continued to visit the area until Dr. Levin passed away in the 1960s.⁹

The Youngstroms were already well established on Lake Kabetogama, owning Youngstrom's Resort which was built in 1928 (currently Voyageur Park Lodge). The Youngstroms did little to change the cabin itself; they confined their improvements to developing the domestic landscape for their own use of the property. In the 1950s and 60s, they added flower beds, a large planter on the south elevation, and the concrete pond, and built the base to the water tank.¹⁰ A pump located at the lake pushed the water up to the tank, where gravity in turn fed it down to the cottage. Youngstrom and his neighbor, Bob Berggren at Whispering Pines, initiated construction of the road to Meadwood Resort in the mid-late 1950s. The Youngstroms continued to use spar varnish or "log finish" with a yellow tint on the interior and exterior log and floor surfaces and waxed the floor every year. In addition to utilizing the cabin as a family retreat, the Youngstroms rented the cabin one month every year to Mary Satterly, a resident of Ash River.¹¹

The cottage was inherited by Oscar and Helen Youngstrom's children Bert (Bernice) Youngstrom, Jean (Oscar) Lund and Bette (Ed) Anderson. The Youngstrom children owned the Levin cottage until it was acquired by the National Park Service in 1977 for inclusion in the newly formed Voyageurs National Park. The only changes since that time have been installation of a new wiring system in the mid 1990s, the replacement of the roof in 1991, and the repair or replacement of deteriorated elements as needed.

The Levin Summer Cottage is significant under the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A area of significance of Entertainment/Recreation. The cottage was constructed by resort owner Ted Mead in 1937 and used as a weekend/summer cottage by his friend, Dr. Adolph Levin, who stayed there while hunting in the area. The cottage is also significant under Criterion C area of significance of Architecture. The main cabin is an important example at the local level of a Rustic-style log cabin, constructed by local ethnic Finns using traditional building methods.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Bert and Bernice Youngstrom, interview with Mary Graves, June 25, 1997.

¹⁰ Bert and Bernice Youngstrom, transcript from a telephone conversation with Mary Graves, November 6, 1996.

¹¹ Mary (Satterly) Kolner, transcript from an interview with Mary Graves, June 28, 1997.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

County and State

**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950**

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

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Quinn Evans Architects. *Ash River Cabins: Historic Structures Report*. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2003.

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Youngstrom, Bert and Bernice. Interview with Mary Graves, June 25, 1997.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

County and State

**Tourism and Recreational Facilities in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950**

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number

Page 1

List of Photographs

Photo 01: Levin Cabin, view from the north, July 2008

Photo 02: Levin Cabin, view from the southeast, July 2008

Photo 03: Levin Cabin, view from the west, July 2008

Photo 04: Vault Toilet, view from the southwest, July 2008

Photo 05: Water tank, view from the east, July 2008

Photo 06: Plant bed at south side of Levin cottage, facing northwest, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC00998)

Photo 07: Stone steps at northeast corner of cottage, facing west, July 2008
(source: QE|A, DSC00985)

Photo 08: View south from south side of cottage, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC00994)

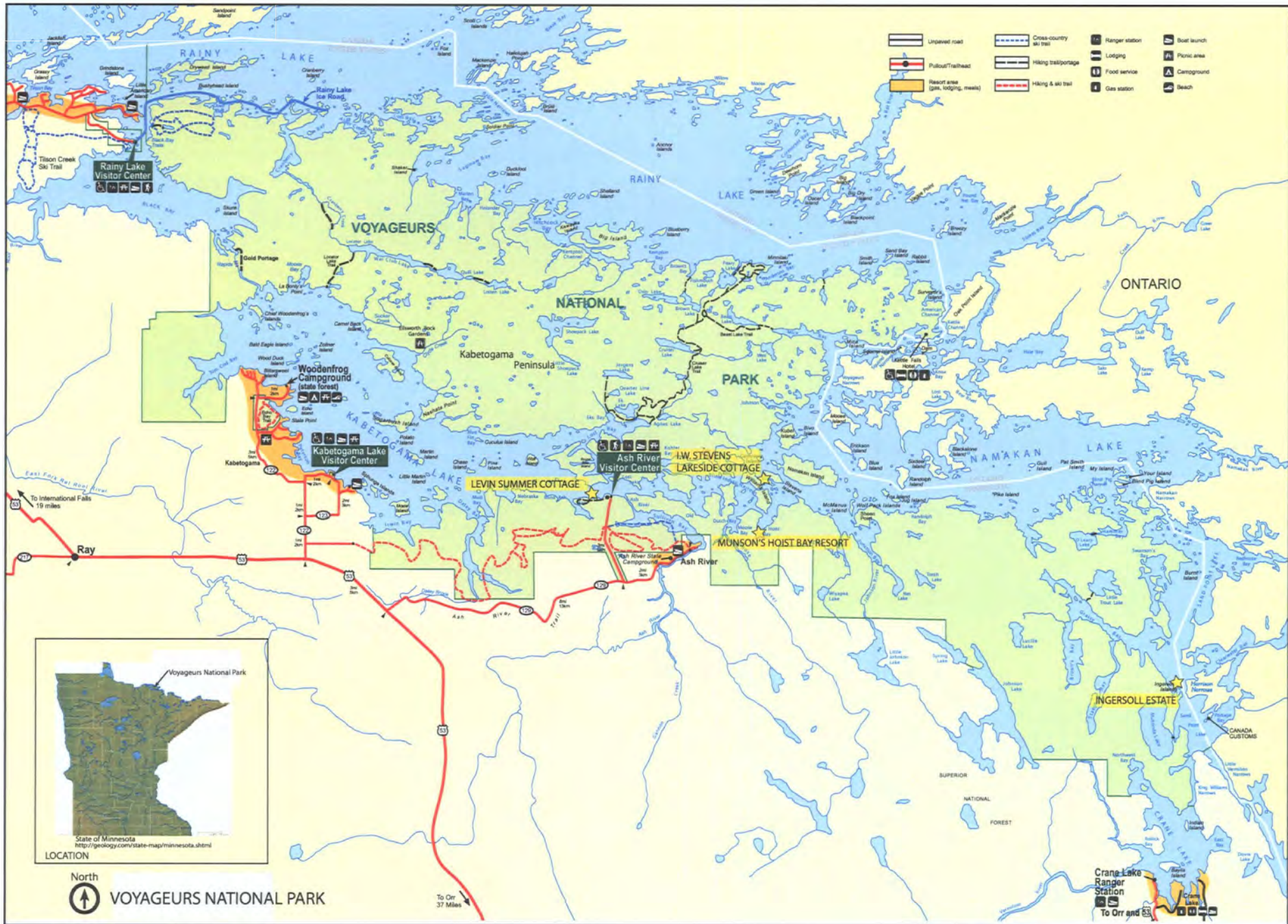
Photo 09: Remnants of rock wall at rock garden, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC01080)

Photo 10: Remnants of stone path at south cottage entrance, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC01084)

Photo 11: View of Kabetogama Lake from front porch of Levin cottage, facing northwest, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC01060)

Photo 12: Mortared stone porch built on rock outcrop, facing east, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC01056)

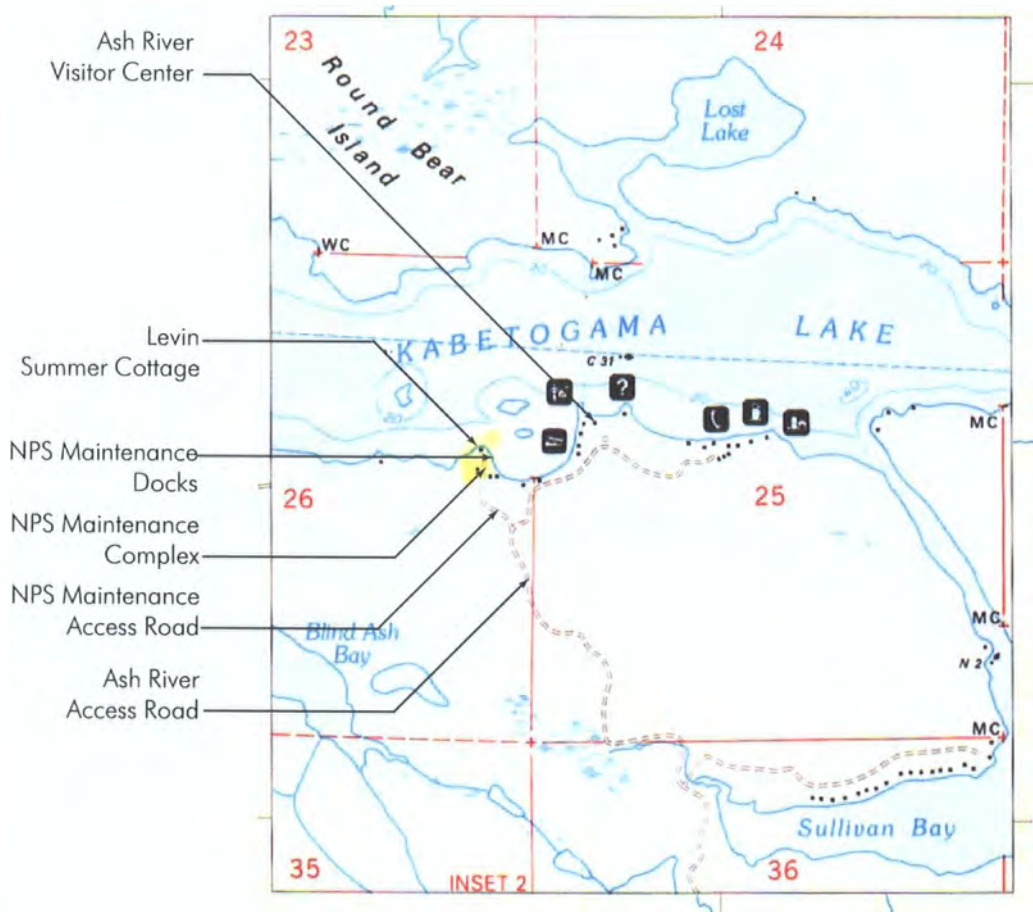
Photo 13: The building is nestled into the rock outcrops, facing northeast, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC01053)



LOCATION



VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

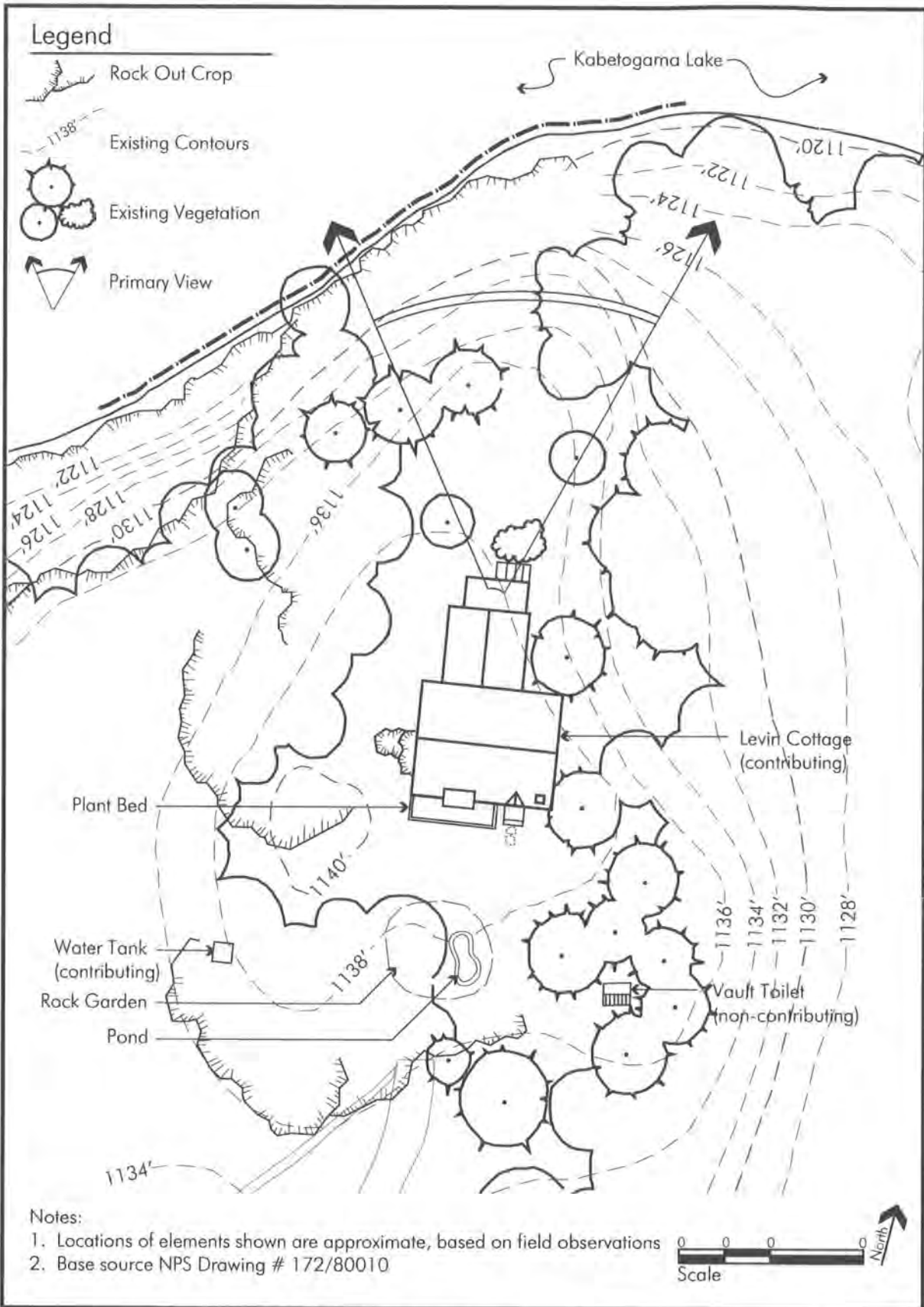


Notes:
 1. United States Geological Survey, Inset 2 from 1:50,000-scale topographic map of Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota. A scale is not provided for the inset on the map. Labels added by QE|A, 2009.

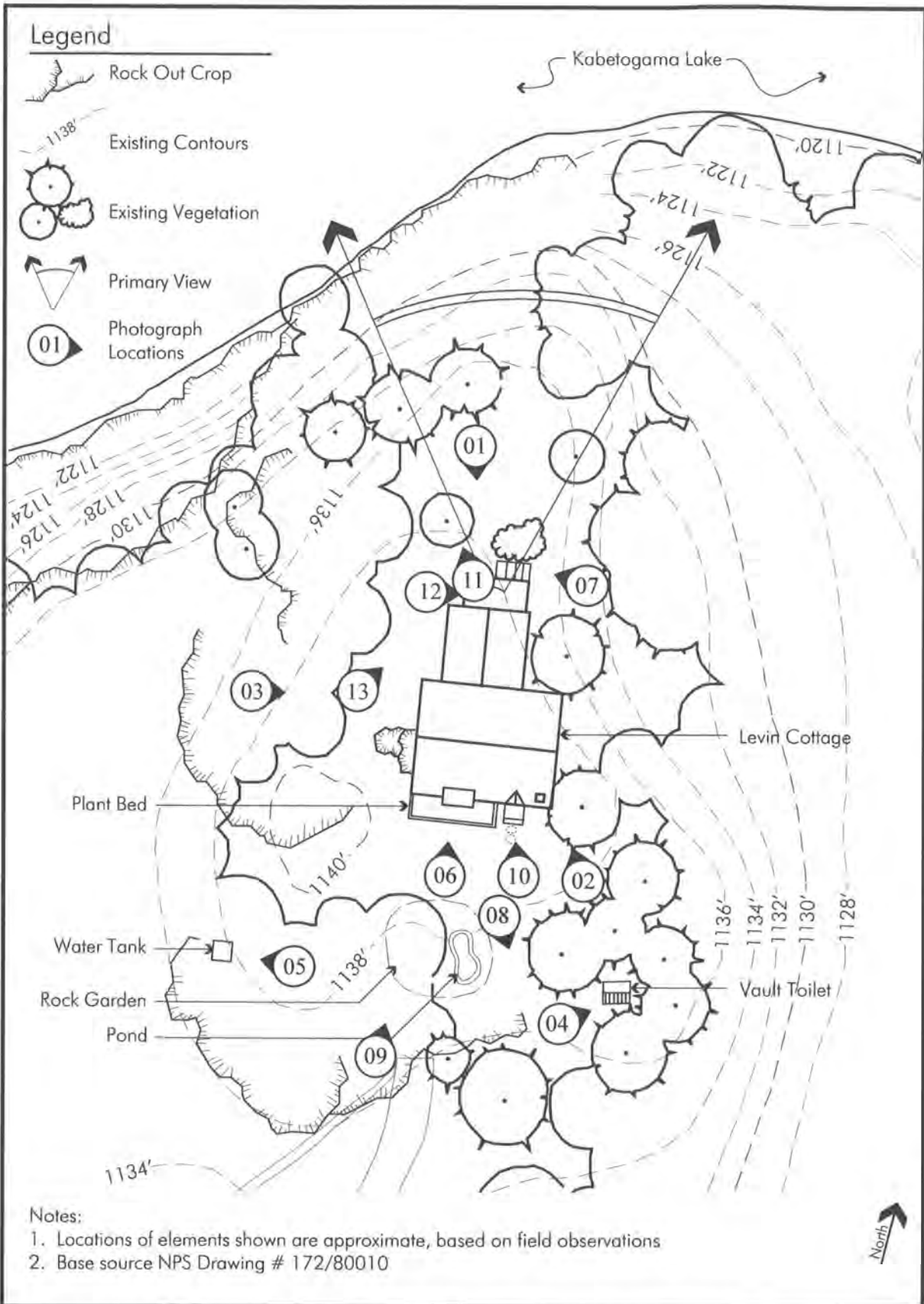
Vicinity Levin Summer Cottage (QE|A, February 2010)



Historic Site Boundary on Aerial, Levin Summer Cottage (QE|A, February 2010)



Site Plan Levin Summer Cottage (QE|A, February 2010)



Photograph Locations Levin Summer Cottage (QE|A, February 2010)

Name of Property: Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
City or Vicinity: Ash River, Kabetogama Narrows
County: St. Louis
State: Minnesota
Location of Original Digital Files: Voyageurs National Park, International Falls, MN
Photograph: Quinn Evans Architects
Date of Photographs: 2008

Photo #: 01 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0001)
Description: Levin Cabin, view from the north.

Photo #: 02 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0002)
Description: Levin Cabin, view from the southeast.

Photo #: 03 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0003)
Description: Levin Cabin, view from the west.

Photo #: 04 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0004)
Description: Vault Toilet, view from the southwest.

Photo #: 05 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0005)
Description: Water tank, view from the east.

Photo #: 06 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0006)
Description: Plant bed at south side of Levin cottage, facing northwest.

Photo #: 07 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0007)
Description: Stone steps at northeast corner of cottage, facing west.

Photo #: 08 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0008)
Description: View south from south side of cottage.

Photo #: 09 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0009)
Description: Remnants of rock wall at rock garden.

Photo #: 10 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0010)
Description: Remnants of stone path at south cottage entrance.

Photo #:
Description: 11 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0011)
View of Kabetogama Lake from front porch of Levin cottage,
facing northwest.

Photo #:
Description: 12 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0012)
Mortared stone porch built on rock outcrop, facing east.

Photo #:
Description: 13 (MN_St Louis County_Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage_0013)
The building is nestled into the rock outcrops, facing northeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Levin, Adolph, Cottage

MULTIPLE NAME: Tourism and Recreational Properties in Voyageurs National Park 1880-1950 MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, St. Louis

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/27/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/13/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/21/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000361

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.15.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

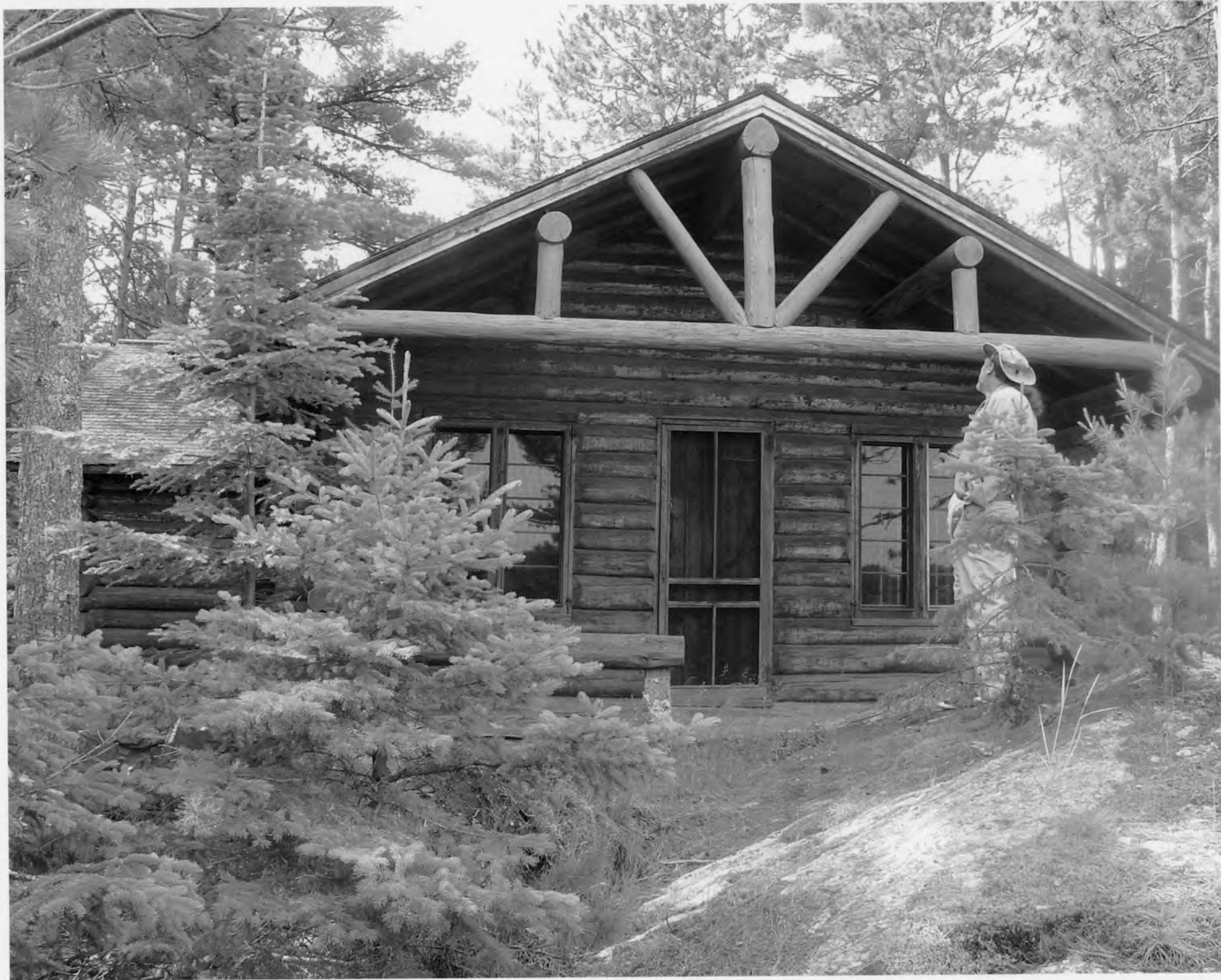
RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
photo 1 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage

St. Louis Co, MN

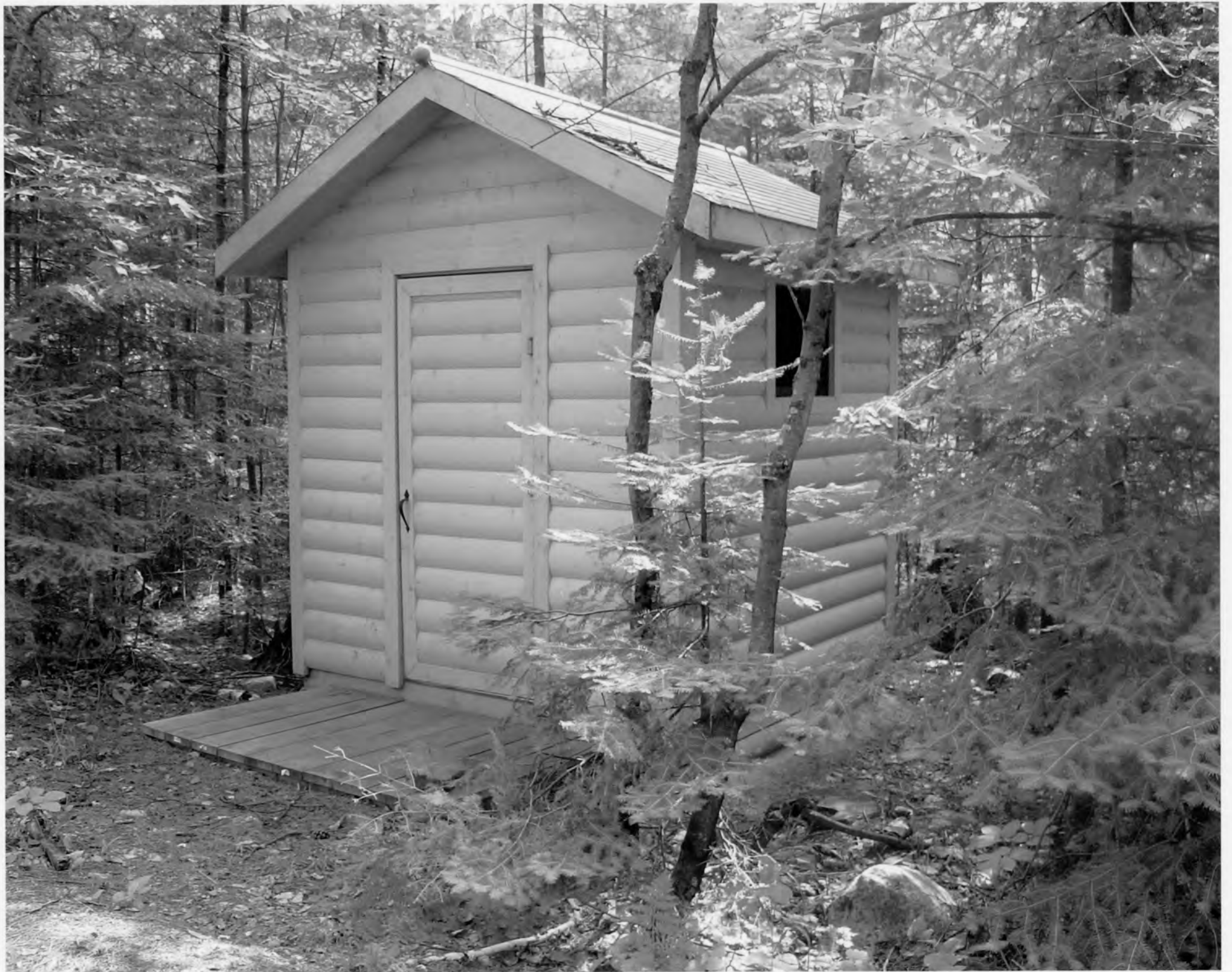
photo 2 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage

St. Louis Co., MN

Photo 3 of 13





Levin Lakeside Summer cottage
St. Louis Co, Md
photo 4 of 13





Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
Photo 5 of 13



Lewin Lakeside Summer cottage
St. Louis Co, Md
photo 6 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
Photo 7 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
photo 8 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
Photo 9 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
St. Louis Co, Md
Photo 10 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
photo 11 of 13



Levin Lakeside Summer cottage
St. Louis Co, Ark
photo 12 of 13



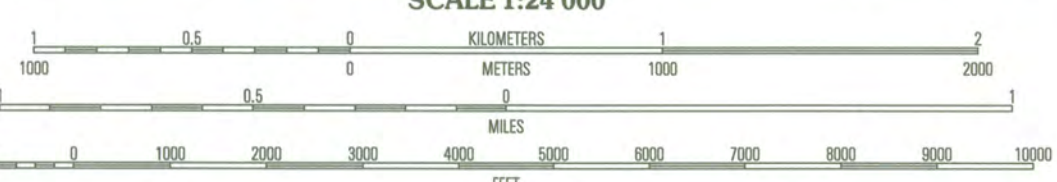
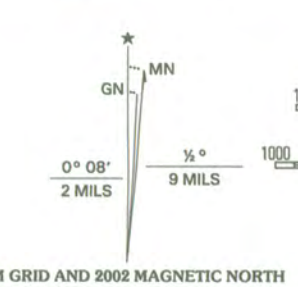
Levin Lakeside Summer cottage
St. Louis Co., MN
photo 13 of 13



LEVIN SUMMER
COTTAGE
KABETOGRAMA
LAKE, VOYAGEURS
NATIONAL PARK,
MINNESOTA

UTM COORDINATES
#1: NW CORNER
510627E, 5364633N
#2: NE CORNER
510674E, 5364633N
#3: SE CORNER
510674E, 5364690N
#4: SW CORNER
510627E, 5364590N

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1966. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1999 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1968. Boundaries current as of 2002
Depth curves compiled from chart furnished by Minnesota Department of Conservation
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
10 000-foot ticks: Minnesota Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone)
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Houses of worship, schools, and other labeled buildings verified 1968



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, ADD 1 FOOT)
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

1	2	3	1 Soldier Point
4	5	2 Kempton Bay	3 Kettle Falls
6	7	4 Daley Bay	5 Namakan Island
		6 Ash River SW	7 Ash River SE
		8 Marlon Lake	

ASH RIVER NE, MN
1999
NIMA 7480 IV NE-SERIES V872





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Voyageurs National Park

3131 Highway 53
International Falls, Minnesota 56649-8904



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32

July 23, 2010

Steve Raukar, Chair
Saint Louis County Board of Commissioners
Hibbing Courthouse
1810 12th Avenue East
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746

Dear Commissioner Raukar:

We are pleased to inform you that the properties listed below are being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Register is the nation's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation.

I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage, Namakan Lake, St. Louis County, Voyageurs National Park
William Ingersoll Estate, Sand Point Lake, St. Louis County, Voyageurs National Park
Adolph Levin Cottage, Kabetogama Lake, Voyageurs National Park
Monson's Hoist Bay Resort, Namakan Lake, Voyageurs National Park

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the National Register allows county officials 45 days in which to comment on nominations. If you wish to comment or request copies of the nominations, please contact Chief of Resources Mary Graves by calling 218-283-6674 or emailing mary_graves@nps.gov. If no responses are received within 45 days, the nominations will be forwarded to the Federal Preservation Officer and the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

(sgd)

Michael M. Ward
Superintendent

cc:

Dr. Don Stevens, Senior Historian, National Park Service, Midwest Region, Omaha, NE

MLGraves:mlg:07/20/2010:ahc:07/23/2010:c:\Microsoft Word\Cultural Resources:National Register nominations (4)