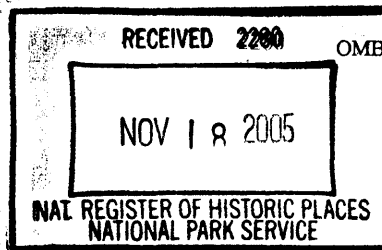


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NPS Form 10-900  
(January 1992)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)



**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 10900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Orth, Phillip, Boathouse  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number	9204 Country Club Road	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Minocqua	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Oneida	code 085
			zip code 54548

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*[Signature]* *11/15/05*  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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

Orth, Phillip, Boathouse

Oneida

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**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:)

*Robert H. Beall*

12/28/05

*Beall*

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	0 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 Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century American

Movements/Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation WOOD

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

**Narrative Description**

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

Orth, Phillip, Boathouse  
Name of Property

Oneida  
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.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1926

**Significant Dates**

1926

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Rantz, A.H. (architect)

Orth, Phillip, Boathouse  
Name of Property

Oneida  
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:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre.

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

1	16	292008	5082743	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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	Christina Slattery and Christine Gesick, Architectural Historians	date	July 2005
organization	Mead & Hunt, Inc.	telephone	608-273-6380
street & number	6501 Watts Road	zip code	53719
city or town	Madison	state	WI

Orth, Phillip, Boathouse  
Name of Property

Oneida  
County and State

Wisconsin

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A U.S. Geological Survey (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.)

<b>name/title</b>	G. Lane Ware and Linda L. Ware, trustees of the Ware Lake Minocqua Trust	<b>date</b>	July 2005
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	715-261-6275
<b>street &amp; number</b>	13 North Hill Road	<b>zip code</b>	54403
<b>city or town</b>	Wausau	<b>state</b>	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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Orth, Philip, Boathouse  
Oneida County, Wisconsin

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**Description**

The Phillip Orth Boathouse on Lake Minocqua in Oneida County, Wisconsin, is a three-slip wet boathouse positioned about 19 feet from the shoreline.<sup>1</sup> The 1926 two-story boathouse is located on the property at 9204 Country Club Road, which includes a main house, two-car garage with a one-room guest apartment above, and a two-car garage. The property, currently owned by Lane and Linda Ware, is a wooded lot that slopes down to the southern shore of Lake Minocqua. The Orth Boathouse is the only resource on the property being nominated to the National Register. The other buildings on the property exhibit more recent construction or have been altered and do not meet National Register criteria.

Land access to the boathouse is by a stone walkway that leads from the main house down the bank to a set of wood stairs to the wood deck of the boathouse. The deck wraps around the rear (south) and eastern and western sides of the boathouse and extends out approximately 17 feet on the western side. Wood pilings support and secure the deck in the water. The western side of the deck is extended so that it is significantly wider than the eastern deck. A wooden staircase leads from the southern deck to the second level.

The Orth Boathouse is approximately 26 feet long and 26 feet wide. It is sheathed in clapboard from its base to the sill of the upper level windows. The uppermost region of the boathouse is sheathed in vertical wood siding and sliding, two-pane windows wrap around the second level in a continuous row. There is minimal exterior decoration, and the contrasting trim between the second-story windows and clapboard exterior emphasizes the horizontal lines of this Craftsman Style influenced boathouse. The low-pitched, hip roof is clad in asphalt shingles and the eaves feature exposed rafter ends.

The front (north) facade features three overhead wood doors that enclose the boat slips. Facing the boathouse from the water, the door on the right (westernmost) is half the size of the other two doors. Five, two-pane sliding windows are located at the upper level, just beneath the eaves. Contrasting wood trim delineates the pairs of windows and serves as a cornerboard for the upper level.

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<sup>1</sup> The historic name is attributed to the first owner of the boathouse.

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Orth, Philip, Boathouse  
Oneida County, Wisconsin

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The west elevation features two, six-light casement windows and a five-panel, wood door on its first level. Three, two-pane sliding windows are located at the upper level of the elevation, continuing the ribbon from the front (north) facade. The rear (south) elevation features an exterior staircase leading to a central, upper level, five-panel, wood door. Small casement windows flank the entrance. Although the ribbon windows from the front facade do not continue at the rear, vertical siding is delineated into five squares with contrasting wood trim to imitate the fenestration pattern of the front and further emphasize the horizontality of the boathouse. On the rear of the building is a single six-pane casement window on the lower level, east of the staircase. The east elevation displays a single six-pane casement window on the lower level. Like the west elevation, three, two-pane sliding windows are located beneath the eaves, continuing the ribbon windows of the front (north) façade.

*Interior*

The first-floor interior can be accessed by a door on the west side of the boathouse or by boat from the front (north) elevation. The interior of the boathouse is functional and simple in design. Unfinished wood rafters are exposed by the open ceiling and feature two-by-four construction. A wood deck extends around the interior boat slips. Three mechanical hoists are used to raise the boats out of the water. A small storage closet is located in the southwest corner of the first level.

The second floor is accessed by an exterior staircase located at the rear (south) of the boathouse. This level is one large, open recreational room with carpeting. The interior walls are constructed of Masonite paneling and have been painted white. Unfinished wood tie beams and rafters are exposed by the open ceiling and support the roof. School lights hang from the ceiling and rafters. A built-in, L-shaped bar has been added to the south wall of the boathouse.

*Alterations and Condition*

The Orth Boathouse remains in excellent condition. The building has been well maintained and repairs, such as replacement windows, dock, and pilings, have been completed in a manner sensitive to the historic character of the building. Prior to the current owner's purchase of the property, the second-level windows had been replaced. These windows were replaced again c.1984 with sliding, single-pane glass and storm windows. The replacement windows maintain the size and frame of the building's original windows. A new dock and pilings have been added to the boathouse, and the overhead doors to the boat slips were replaced in 2000 after the originals were damaged by a tornado. The structure of the boathouse has not been altered. Overall, the Orth Boathouse retains good integrity and reflects its original 1926 construction.

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Orth, Phillip, Boathouse  
Oneida County, Wisconsin

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**Statement of Significance**

The Phillip Orth Boathouse is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion C: Architecture* as an excellent local example of a wet boathouse designed with elements of the Craftsman Style. Stylistic features include a hip roof, exposed rafter ends, multi-pane windows, and a visual emphasis on horizontality. With its original location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, the Orth Boathouse retains historic integrity and is a good example of twentieth-century boathouse design. The Orth Boathouse is distinctive when compared to other boathouses in the area, which are typically more vernacular in design, and compares favorably to other boathouses in the area listed in the National Register. The period of significance for the Orth Boathouse is 1926, the building's construction date.

*Historical Overview*

*Besides being in touch with these many summer resorts, Minocqua is the center of a large number of summer homes. Many people from Texas to Illinois consider Minocqua the **Palm Beach of the North**, and for that reason spend from 2-5 months of the year in their beautifully located cottages around Minocqua.*

This excerpt taken from the front page of the April 1, 1921 edition of *The Minocqua Times* defines the livelihood and character of the community of Minocqua. Tourists and summer residents have contributed to the growth of Minocqua and the surrounding area since the late nineteenth century.

Although tourism began in the late nineteenth century and has continued through the twentieth century as a major industry in Northern Wisconsin, logging provided the community of Minocqua its first settlers and businesses. The future site of Minocqua was nearly an island surrounded by lakes Minocqua and Kawaguesaga.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> George O. Jones, Norman S. McVean, et al., *History of Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties Wisconsin* (Minneapolis, Minn.: H.C. Cooper, Jr. and Co., 1924), 20.



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Orth, Phillip, Boathouse  
Oneida County, Wisconsin

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In the late 1850s, two logging camps were located near Rhinelander and Eagle River southeast and east of Minocqua, respectively. Scattered logging efforts continued in the northern region of the state until transportation routes were opened by the railroad. From 1887-1888, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line, originally known as the Wisconsin Valley Railroad, was extended 54 miles north from Merrill to Minocqua. The railroad continued laying lines north, through Woodruff and then to Star Lake and Boulder Junction by 1895.<sup>3</sup> With railroad accessibility, a greater number of logging camps were established in the North Woods.

By the end of 1887, even though the land had not yet been platted, the island had a general store and a number of saloons. These businesses served the logging camps established in the area. The survey of the town was completed and filed in May 1888. The growth of Minocqua was slow, and by the summer of 1890, there were only about two-dozen permanent buildings erected. Unlike the surrounding communities of Hazelhurst, Arbor Vitae, Lac du Flambeau, Lake Tomahawk, and Star Lake, the community of Minocqua did not have a large sawmill. Minocqua served as a commercial center for the logging industry, but the absence of its own mill may have accounted for its slow growth.<sup>4</sup>

Coinciding with the increased logging, the area's natural beauty and lakes began attracting visitors to the greater Minocqua area. In 1887 John B. Mann constructed a log building on Lake Minocqua and began operation of a fishing resort. This building may have been one of the first on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes and was probably the first resort.<sup>5</sup> Beginning in 1888, passenger trains brought tourists to the northern wilderness. Most of the early tourists were part of fishing parties who came from all over the Midwest to fish the area's numerous lakes. Not all the tourists were men, as one might conclude from the number of fishing clubs that came to the Minocqua area, but rather entire families that would journey to the area for entertainment and relaxation.

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<sup>3</sup> *The First 100 Years: Minocqua-Woodruff, 1888-1988*, (Minocqua, Wisc.: *Lakeland Times*, 1988), 13.

<sup>4</sup> Daniel D. Scrobell, *Early Times*, (Minocqua, Wisc.: Heritage House Publishing, 1988), 10, 16, 20, and 52.

<sup>5</sup> Scrobell, 3.

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Regular visitors to the region began constructing summer resorts or cottages. For example, the Wausau Sportsmen's Club constructed a clubhouse on the north shore of Lake Tomahawk in 1888, and one year later, the Merrill Fishing Club also constructed a clubhouse on the lake. Early examples of summer homes included cottages on the west shore of Lake Tomahawk erected in 1889 by two lumber company owners, W.A. Scott and P.B. Champagne. Alexander H. Darrow, an insurance executive from Chicago, built what may have been the first summer cottage on Lake Minocqua about 1889. Darrow and M.C. Wetmore, from St. Louis, purchased the entire peninsula between Lake Minocqua and Lake Kawaguesaga. Wetmore also constructed a summer cottage on his property.<sup>6</sup>

The railroad was an important component of the tourism industry, often serving as the North Woods' first chamber of commerce. In an effort to increase its passenger business, railroad company promotions advertised the area as a resort destination as early as 1898.<sup>7</sup> An advertisement in a Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul pamphlet, probably from the early 1900s, described the services offered in the Minocqua area as two boat liveries, daily mail in the summer months, proximity to the Lac du Flambeau reservation where Native American dances were held, and 13 resorts in the surrounding area.<sup>8</sup>

In 1902 the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad offered service from Chicago to Milwaukee, referred to as the "Fish Train." The train left Chicago Friday evening after work, arriving in Minocqua early Saturday morning, and made the return trip to Chicago, leaving late Sunday night and arriving in Chicago on Monday morning. This special schedule allowed many working people from Chicago and Milwaukee to make the excursion to Minocqua for the weekend.<sup>9</sup>

By 1910 the supply of lumber had diminished and logging declined as a major industry in the North Woods. Tourism continued to develop strongly. People from all over the United

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<sup>6</sup> Scrobell, 28.

<sup>7</sup> Scrobell, 26.

<sup>8</sup> *The First 100 Years*, 156.

<sup>9</sup> Scrobell, 160-161.

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Oneida County, Wisconsin

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States built summer homes in the lake region of the North Woods. In particular, the Minocqua Chain of Lakes included hundreds of private homes by the 1920s.<sup>10</sup> By 1931, the summer population of a 40-mile lake region, radiating from and including Minocqua, was several thousand. The area featured 3,000 summer homes, 28 resorts, and 32 boys' and girls' camps.<sup>11</sup>

Passenger service on the railroad line also increased with the number of tourists and anglers traveling to the North Woods resorts and cottages. The "Fish Train," which ran in 1902, was revived in 1912, running annually until the beginning of World War II. Following the war, the train resumed the special schedule from 1946 to 1948. Railroad usage began to decline in the 1940s as a result of improved road transportation with the development of U.S. Highways 51, 13, and 45. Passenger trains could not compete with the automobile, which became the preferred method of transportation. Whatever the means of transportation for the vacationers, the popularity and development of the North Woods as a summer resort area has continued strong to the present day.<sup>12</sup>

*History of the Property*<sup>13</sup>

The Orth Boathouse is located adjacent to the shoreline of part of government lot 3 of Section 13, Township 39 North, Range 6 West of Minocqua Township. This government lot was divided and the Orth Boathouse is part of the property of lots 5 and 6 of the First Addition to Minocqua Heights Golf and Country Club. The Oneida County Tax Roll for 1920 indicates that E.A. Benson and E.A. Howard owned all of government lot 3, including 50.5 acres. No improvements were taxed on the land. By 1930 the tax roll specifies that lots 5 and 6 of the First Addition of the Minocqua Heights Golf and Country Club were owned by P. Orth. Improvements on the land were valued at \$3,700 for lot 5 and the land for each lot was valued at \$150. The tax records indicate that the development

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<sup>10</sup> Jones, 21.

<sup>11</sup> Ivan Clyde Lake, *Minocqua: A Brief History of the Island City*, (Minocqua, WI: The Maunsha Publishers, 1931), 78.

<sup>12</sup> *The First 100 Years*, 155.

<sup>13</sup> The history of the property was compiled using town of Minocqua, Oneida County Tax Rolls 1920, 1930, and 1940. Tax records are only available for every 10 years.

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of the property, including the construction of the boathouse, occurred between 1920 and 1930. A 1926 article in *The Minocqua Times* confirms the development of the property by reporting local architect and contractor, A.H. Rantz, was constructing three boathouses near the Minocqua Heights Golf and Country Club, including one for Phillip Orth of Milwaukee.<sup>14</sup>

By 1940, P. Orth, Jr. owned lots 5 and 6 of the First Addition to Minocqua Country Club, totaling approximately one acre and the land was taxed at \$300, with the improvements to lot 5 valued at \$3,700. The ownership of the Orth boathouse has changed several times since 1940. Willard Bunn owned the property during the 1950s, and the property has been subsequently owned by five families, including its current owners, Lane and Linda Ware, who purchased the property in 1983.

*Boathouse Design and Architecture*<sup>15</sup>

Boathouses are a resource uniquely tied to the resort and summer home history of the North Woods region. Just as garages were developed for automobiles, boathouses were designed to protect boats from weather and waves. Wet boathouses in northern Wisconsin are typically one- or two-story frame buildings with hip or front gable roofs. Boathouse construction was typically initiated in the winter with the driving of wood piles through the ice to create the building's foundations. The boathouse was then erected on the pilings. Boathouses generally have square or rectangular floor plans with docks that wrap around several sides of the building. The lake side of the boathouse is the main facade and public face of the boathouse. This facade typically includes one to three bays on the lower elevation that houses the boats. The interior of the first level is often fairly rustic with exposed wall framing. In addition to boat storage, boathouses sometimes included a second story with living space. The second level typically includes bands of windows facing the water. This is often a living space that may include bedrooms, bathroom, and kitchen, or it can be an open space used for recreational activities. As a result, this space may

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<sup>14</sup> *The Minocqua Times*, 5 February 1926.

<sup>15</sup> This discussion of boathouse design and architecture has been compiled by using Mead & Hunt's *Land of Silver Lakes and Streams, Survey of Resorts and Boathouses in Oneida County, Wisconsin* report (prepared for the Wisconsin Historical Society by the author in 1998); field observations by the author of boathouses in Oneida and Vilas Counties; and John De Visser, *At the Water's Edge: Muskoka's Boathouses* (Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Co. Limited, 1993).

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have finished walls or may be left more rustic, displaying exposed roof rafters and wall framing. Towers were sometimes added to the second level of boathouses to offer better views of boat races, and race officials often sat in these towers to judge the races.<sup>16</sup>

A.H. Rantz is credited with the design and construction of the Orth Boathouse. Rantz advertised his services in *The Minocqua Times* in the 1920s as an architect and contractor in Minocqua.<sup>17</sup> In addition to summer cottages and boathouses, Rantz is known to have designed public and religious buildings in the area, including the Minocqua Community Building in 1927 and St. Patrick's Church in Minocqua in 1923.<sup>18</sup> However, most late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century wet boathouses, cottages, and resorts located in northern Wisconsin were not architect designed. These buildings were often completed by local builders and carpenters and were sometimes based on pattern books and building design guides. In addition to Rantz, local builders and contractors Yelton and Grundy and Prosper Jossart were known to have constructed boathouses and cottages in the Minocqua area during the early twentieth century.

Even though these buildings are largely vernacular, elements of the Craftsman, Rustic, and Queen Anne styles were 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, such as exposed rafters, window style, and flower boxes. The Rustic Style, as applied to a boathouse, utilizes log or partial log construction to imitate the rustic character of log buildings constructed during the early settlement of the area. The Queen Anne style, as applied to boathouse construction, is demonstrated primarily through a prominent turret/lookout tower, wall texture variation, and architectural details. Characteristics of the Craftsman style that have been adapted to boathouse construction include broad gable or hip roofs, decorative brackets or exposed rafters, multi-pane windows, and dormers on the roof. The Orth Boathouse features the following traits of the Craftsman style: a broad hip roof, exposed rafters, a clapboard exterior, and casement windows with multiple lights. Based on the recreational settlement of the area, known age of a number of

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<sup>16</sup> *The First 100 Years*, 165.

<sup>17</sup> *The Minocqua Times*, 25 May 1923.

<sup>18</sup> Lake, 55 and George O. Jones, Norman S. McVean, and et al.

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boathouses, and building form and use of materials, the construction of larger, two-story, architecturally distinctive boathouses appears to have been most popular in north-central Wisconsin in the first half of the twentieth century.

Some of the largest boathouses on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes were constructed for summer residents during the early part of the twentieth century. For example, in the spring of 1908, Fred C. Dickinson of Indianapolis had a summer cottage built for himself on Lake Minocqua, including an elaborate boathouse built in the "pavilion plan" with a lighthouse-shaped tower.<sup>19</sup> The builder was local contractor Prosper Jossart. A large Queen Anne style boathouse, complete with an octagonal tower, was built in c.1913 by Max and Sophie Adler after purchasing the property on Lake Minocqua.<sup>20</sup> Large-scale boathouse construction continued into the 1920s and *The Minocqua Times* reported in February 1926 that local contractor, A.H. Rantz, was constructing boathouses for three summer homes near the Minocqua Heights Golf and Country Club, including J.H. Braddock and Arthur Bentley of Chicago and Phillip Orth of Milwaukee.<sup>21</sup>

By the 1950s architectural pattern books of summer cabins and boathouses were largely promoting one-story, single-craft design boathouses.<sup>22</sup> However, the 1955 pattern book, *How to Build 20 Cabins*, includes a two-story, two-craft structure with a second-floor sundeck. The designs in the 1950s pattern books are either Rustic, using half-log siding, or functional vernacular, with little architectural detail. Both sources advocate the adaptability of their designs, providing the same design for dry and wet boathouses. Overall, the summer cabin pattern books of the 1950s with simpler boathouse designs provide little concordance with the earlier Orth Boathouse of Minocqua and other architecturally significant boathouses in the North Woods region.

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<sup>19</sup> Scrobell, 201. The complex, including the boathouse, is now part of the Beacons of Minocqua time-sharing resort.

<sup>20</sup> Scrobell, 177.

<sup>21</sup> *The Minocqua Times*, 5 February 1926.

<sup>22</sup> The following information comes from: *How to Build 20 Cabins*, (New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1955), 128-139; *Summer Living*, (1953), 30-31.

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Two-story boathouses dating from the first half of the twentieth century, with upstairs living spaces, have been found to possess a higher level of architectural interest. Examples of these buildings that retain good integrity have been listed in the National Register. Due to their larger scale, the application of architectural details, although limited, is more common on these boathouses and contributes to their significance.

The Orth Boathouse compares favorably to other wet boathouses identified in the area on the Minocqua Chain of Lakes and Lake Katherine. This two-story boathouse with three bays retains its overall form, fenestration pattern, windows and wall material, and displays elements of the Craftsman style in the hip roof, exposed rafters, and multi-pane windows. The Orth Boathouse also displays similar architectural distinction as other boathouses in Oneida and Vilas counties that have been listed in the National Register, including the Ella M. Boesel Boathouse on Lake Minocqua, the Reay Boathouse on the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes, and the Jollywood Boathouse on Big Fork Lake near Three Lakes. The Orth Boathouse and these listed boathouses share the following characteristics: they are large-scale, two-story buildings with two or three bays; contain upper-story living areas; and they retain the original building materials, use, and function. In addition, their architectural details, though modest, are indicative of a distinct architectural style.

*Conclusion*

The Orth Boathouse is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion C: Architecture* as a distinctive example of an early twentieth-century wet boathouse. The building demonstrates characteristics of the Craftsman style as applied to the boathouse property type. The boathouse retains its original location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, allowing it to retain integrity and convey its 1926 construction. The boathouse's large-scale, upper-story living area, and Craftsman-style details demonstrate the building's architectural significance compared to other boathouses in the area, which tend to be more vernacular in design.

*Preservation Potential*

Boathouses have been a fixture on northern Wisconsin's lakes since the beginning of the area's summer tourist industry. These structures, located on the water, are more visible to the boater than the lake cottages or resorts and serve as landmarks for the generations that have enjoyed recreating on the lakes. Since 1979, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has banned the construction of new wet boathouses and placed a limitation on repairs of existing boathouses to 50 percent of the assessed value of the building under State Statute 30.121 *Regulation of*

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Oneida County, Wisconsin

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*boathouses and houseboats.* As a result, the amount of maintenance that can be completed on a wet boathouse is limited. However, under section (2) (3g) the repair limit does not apply to boathouses with "historic or cultural value, as determined by the state historical society or a local or county historical society established under section 44.03." Nomination of these buildings to the National Register not only recognizes their historic and cultural value, it also offers a degree of protection by allowing for their continued maintenance.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The historic boundary of the Phillip Orth Boathouse is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Phillip Orth Boathouse." The boundary extends approximately 15 feet beyond the edge of the boathouse on the north, east, and west sides. On the south (rear) side the historic boundary extends to the ordinary high watermark of the shoreline. The other buildings of the property have been excluded from the historic boundary because they currently do not meet National Register criteria.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Phillip Orth Boathouse was delineated to encompass the historic property and provide an appropriate setting.

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Orth, Philip, Boathouse  
Oneida County, Wisconsin

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The following information pertains to the following photographs:

*Orth, Phillip, Boathouse  
9204 Country Club Road  
Minocqua, Wisconsin  
Photographer: Christina Slattery, May-June 2005  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society*

*Photograph 1 of 12  
Boathouse – front (north) elevation  
View looking south*

*Photograph 2 of 12  
Boathouse – front (north) elevation  
View looking south*

*Photograph 3 of 12  
Boathouse – front and side (north and west) elevations  
View looking southeast*

*Photograph 4 of 12  
Boathouse – front and side (north and west) elevations  
View looking southeast*

*Photograph 5 of 12  
Boathouse – side and rear (west and south) elevations  
View looking northeast*

*Photograph 6 of 12  
Boathouse – rear (south) elevation  
View looking north*

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Orth, Philip, Boathouse  
Oneida County, Wisconsin

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*Photograph 7 of 12*

Boathouse – front and side (north and east) elevations  
View looking southwest

*Photograph 8 of 12*

Boathouse – front (north) elevation  
View looking south

*Photograph 9 of 12*

Boathouse – first-story interior with boat slips, overhead door, and casement windows  
View looking northwest

*Photograph 10 of 12*

Boathouse – first-story interior with boat slips, overhead doors, and mechanical hoists  
View looking northwest

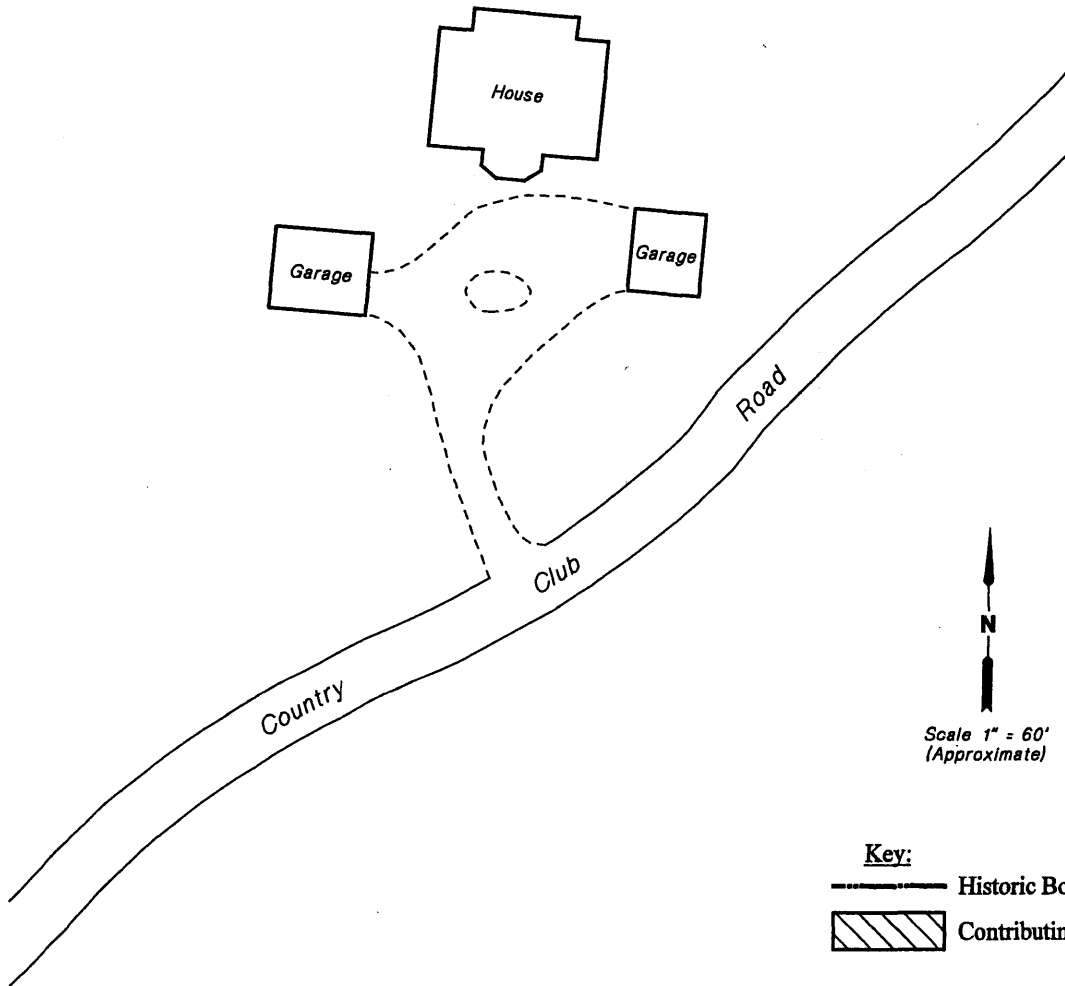
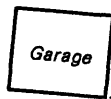
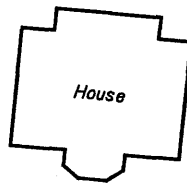
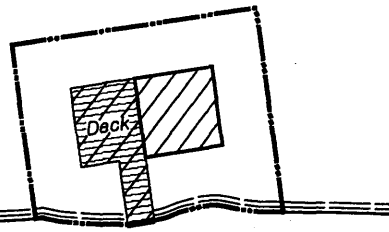
*Photograph 11 of 12*

Boathouse – second-story interior  
View looking northeast

*Photograph 12 of 12*

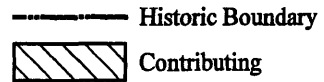
Boathouse – second-story interior  
View looking southwest

Minocqua  
Lake



Scale 1" = 60'  
(Approximate)

Key:



Phillip Orth Boathouse  
9204 Country Club Road  
Minocqua, Oneida County, WI