

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Villa Laun (preferred)

and/or common Lakeside Cottage

2. Location

street & number 402 Lake Side Park Drive _____ not for publication

city, town Elkhart Lake _____ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Sheboygan code 117

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Richard B. Windsor

street & number 426 Erie Avenue

city, town Sheboygan _____ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53081

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sheboygan County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 615 North 6th Street

city, town Sheboygan _____ state Wisconsin 53081

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sheboygan County Landmarks Ltd. has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date October, 1979 _____ federal _____ state county _____ local

depository for survey records Sheboygan County Landmarks Archives, Attn: Nancy Schreiber

city, town Sheboygan _____ state WI 53081

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Its setting retaining its original character, Villa Laun is located on the east shore of Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County, some fifty miles north of Milwaukee. The polygonal lot between Lake Side Park Drive and the wooded bluff overlooking the lake also contains a small frame garage near the western edge, and a frame boathouse (contemporary with house; remodeled 1970s) at the lake shore to the east. Properties to the north, south, and west are similarly wooded and residential in character, widely-dispersed, and give way to farmlands beyond the circumference of the lake.

A short curved drive provides access from the road to the rear of the house. Facing west, the principal facade is dominated by a pair of octagonal drums supporting large second-story towers to either side of a taller third-story cupola with balustrade in the center. A small gable-roofed porch, now screened, projects from the center of the facade; the original vertical struts, finial, and brackets still decorate the gable. A fieldstone foundation supports the balloon-frame structure. First and third story surfaces are covered with clapboards, while the flared slopes of the second story are shingled. The original roof of machine-cut cedar shingles covering the variety of gabled, hipped, and conical sections has been replaced by asbestos shingles. The continuous open porch with simple wood balustrade and lattice-work skirt which once circumscribed the exterior walls has been lost; the remaining portions under gable roofs on the east and north sides have been enclosed. In 1929, a one-story, 32x11-foot rectangular addition was added to the west facade; that flat-roofed, composition-sided projection containing the rear entrance still fronts the hipped-roof kitchen and dining room. (The present owners plan to alter the west side to achieve a better integration of parts.) Fenestration varies with each story, composed of double-hung rectangular openings on the first story, small ten-paned casements on the second, and 8/1 or double-door openings in the third-story cupola.

Despite the irregularity of the exterior form, the interior plan is nearly symmetrical. The east porch opens into the center reception hall with its large fieldstone fireplace. Two original bedrooms along the south side (one now used as a living room) are opposed by a bedroom (now also a living room) and the north porch along the north. A dog-leg stair to the second story, pantry and shelves, and a passage separate the kitchen and dining room at the west end of the plan. Wall sections at the west end were removed in 1929 to extend the interior spaces. All floors are 2 1/2-inch hardwood. On the second floor, bedrooms fill the octagonal spaces in the towers at the east end. Open loft space surrounds the well of the two-flight stair from the second story and the well hole to the cupola above; a turned stair gives access to the top of the cupola. Now closed, a vertical air shaft from the first story to the cupola once provided ventilation for the house.

Restoration plans call for replication of the open porches, replacement of the cedar shingle roof, and repainting in the original colors. Stabilization of the structure, especially in replacing rotted wood timbers supporting the cupola, is underway.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901¹ **Builder/Architect** Charles Hilbertshauser¹

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Taking its tone from the resort character of buildings in the Elkhart Lake area at the turn of the century, Villa Laun is a handsome and fanciful cottage designed by prolific Sheboygan architect Charles Hilbertshauser. Composed of a harmony of geometric volumes enveloped in a shingle-and-stick skin and enclosed by open verandas, the structure is a quality example of an architect-designed Queen Anne cottage, open to lake views and breezes.

Adept at all modes of architectural design of the era, architect Charles Hilbertshauser (1861–ca. 1911) was born in the Town of Herman, Sheboygan County to Swiss immigrant parents with whom he worked as a carpenter and builder until opening an architectural practice in 1887. His formal training was taken in mathematics and geometry in Chicago in the early 1880s, followed by an apprenticeship with architect John C. Cochran, whose works include the original Illinois State Capitol at Springfield. Extant office drawings credit Hilbertshauser with more than three hundred buildings in Sheboygan County conceived in Queen Anne, Stick Style, Shingle Style, Colonial Revival, Tudor, Bungalow, Prairie and Chicago School, and NeoClassical styles. Among the best-known of his works (numerous private residences, schools, churches, lodges, town halls, and hospitals) are St. John's Evangelical and Lutheran Church in Plymouth, and the German Evangelical Reformed Zion Church in Sheboygan.

Materials used in the construction of Villa Laun were obtained from A. A. Laun Lumber Yard in Kiel, founded by the father of prosperous businessman A. B. Laun.² According to the custom of well-to-do families of the day, the Launs used their Elkhart Lake cottage as a retreat and summer home, evidenced by the absence of formal entertaining rooms in the original design of the house. With current and planned restoration work, the house will be a prime illustration of Victorian leisure life-style characteristic of Elkhart Lake and other fashionable resort areas across the country.

¹Original architectural drawings.

²February and May, 1980 interviews with Albert L. Laun, son of original owner, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Elkhart Lake Lake Directory, Elkhart Lake Improvement Assoc., 1971.
 Charles Hilpertshauer Archive, 300 sets of unpublished original working drawings, held
 by Stubenrauch Associates, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

ITEM NOT VERIFIED
 ACRESAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .3

Quadrangle name Elkhart Lake, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Section 30, Town 16, North Range 21 East, Lots 47, 48, 49 in town of Rhine, Sheboygan
 County, Wisconsin

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date September, 1980

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/226-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Richard Henry

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

date 5/8/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 1/28/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Villa Laun, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin vicinity

Continuation sheet

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places
1977
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison

State
Wisconsin 53706

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11. FORM PREPARED BY:

Research Assistance by:

Pamela Jacobs Keegan, Architect

Keegan Associates Inc.

2219 East Marion Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

June, 1980

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