

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 97000326**

**Date Listed: 4/17/97**

Springstead  
**Property Name**

Iron  
**County**

WI  
**State**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Multiple Name**

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**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

*Pete Poland*  
**Signature of the Keeper**

*7/22/97*  
**Date of Action**

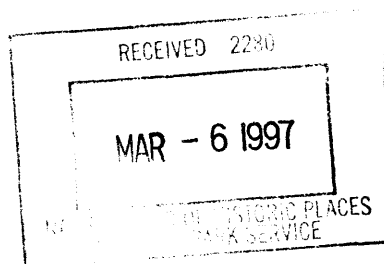
=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section 8, Period of Significance: The period of significance ends earlier than the 1945 date given. The correct period of significance is ca. 1870--1925, which includes the period of exploration/settlement and the date of the last major historic alteration, the addition of the second story to the barn. This was confirmed with Jim Draeger of the WI SHPO staff.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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



**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Springstead  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number	Junction of Old Springfield Tote Road & State Highway 182	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Sherman	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code WI	county Iron
		code 051	zip code 54552

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

Signature of certifying official/Title  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

2/28/97  
Date

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Springstead  
Name of Property

Iron  
County and State

Wisconsin

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

*Bob Polard*

*4/17/97*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as  
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

5      buildings

\_\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_\_ objects

5      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/Single Dwelling

GOVERNMENT/Post Office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

Vacant

#### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century

American Movements

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone

walls      Log

roof      Asphalt

other      Log

#### Narrative Description

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

Springstead  
Name of Property

Iron  
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.)

- 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Architecture

### Period of Significance

c. 1870 - 1945

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Springstead  
Name of Property

Tn of Sherman, Iron County Wisconsin  
County and State

### 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:

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### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.1 acres

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

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>7/2/2/6/2/0</u>	<u>5/1/0/0/2/2/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>////</u>	<u>////////</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>////</u>	<u>////////</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>////</u>	<u>////////</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**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

<b>name/title</b>	Mary Jane Hettinga	<b>date</b>	6/1/95
<b>organization</b>	Marathon County Historical Society	<b>telephone</b>	715/848-6143
<b>street &amp; number</b>	403 Mc Indoe Street	<b>zip code</b>	54403
<b>city or town</b>	Wausau	<b>state</b>	WI

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The historic Springstead complex contains five buildings and is located on 5.1 acres of land in the Township of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin. (Town 41 north, Range 3 east) The acreage is just north of Highway 182 and across from the old Springstead tote road used by loggers. Manitowish is 13 miles northwest and the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation is five miles east of the site. One mile north is the 22,000 acre Turtle-Flambeau Flowage.

The Springstead site is situated on one irregular-sized lot measuring 528.2 feet across the rear (west) lot line; 271.9 feet across the front (east) and lake side lot line; the sides measure 391.3 (north) and 500 feet (south). The five buildings on this site are located on a flat area but the land slopes gently to Stone Lake. A creek empties into the lake on the southeast corner.

Beautiful mature hardwoods consisting of maples, basswood, birch and hemlock surround the property. In the southwest corner of the property are the remnants of the sugar bush where maple syrup was produced from the 150 - 190-year-old maple trees. There are some huge white pines located throughout the property. One is directly in front of the main house; another to the south side of the main house.

The land was purchased by the Wisconsin Central Railroad from the United States Government in 1882. In 1900, the railroad sold the land to Randall Burns and William G. Willard for \$149.00; Willard sold his share to Burns for \$200 in 1911. The land remained in the Burns family even after Burns died in 1927. Burns' daughter, Bertha, purchased the land from the estate with her husband, Glenn Paulus. The land was sold on land contract in 1955 to Lyle E. and Lucille Umbaugh and at that time left the Burns family.(1)

Before 1882, there are no land records available. The French Canadians who occupied the land were probably homesteaders. When they left, the acreage reverted back to the federal government.

Four of the five buildings on the site are constructed of logs. All five buildings have simple gabled roofs. The barn is the only building where wood siding has been used. Three of the buildings have exactly the same windows. The buildings provide a wonderful insight into the past and are representative of the style of building commonly found in the northwoods of Wisconsin. It was the type of rustic construction that anybody could assemble by using the resources found nearby.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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French Canadian Cabin: Building #1

The first building to be constructed on this land was the original French Canadian cabin, c. 1870s. The weathered round logs are placed horizontally with an extended half-lap corner notch. The height of the horizontal log walls measures 6'6". It probably measured 7' when built. The chinking was done with small slats of wood covered over with mortar daubings on the interior and exterior. The cabin measures approximately 16' X 24' and faces east. It has a soil floor and is only one room. Undoubtedly, it had a loft as evidenced by the steep side-gabled roof. Small vertical logs are under the gables on the north and south elevations. There is no evidence of purlins today, nor is there a foundation visible. The roof is in disrepair and has deteriorated asphalt shingles. Originally, the roof was of cedar log shingles. The main and only doorway is centered on the east elevation and measures 5 feet by 31 1/2 inches. The window openings at the north and south elevations measure 30 inches by 30 inches. The east and west elevations both have window openings which measure 20 inches by 15 inches.

Throughout the years this building has been used for wood storage and was even used as an ice house in 1929. At present it is vacant.

This log building form was commonly found in cutover regions as temporary living space. As J. Randall Cotton states: "Despite regional and cultural differences in the details, most log houses have a basic form in common, a simple one-room space (called a pen in this country) constructed of horizontal logs laid atop each other and interlocked with notches at the corner."(2)

The condition of the log structure is judged to be in fair condition according to Alan Pape. Mr. Pape prepared a survey of the Springstead historic area for Wisconsin Heritage Tourism.(3) The Stanleys, the present owners, plan to follow Pape's instructions for the complete restoration of this valuable structure. They will wait with the restoration, however, until archaeologists from Wisconsin State Historical Society do an archeological analysis of the site.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The French Canadian log cabin is extremely important as it is the only one extant in this area. At the turn of the century there were still at least 16 of them, according to Springstead pioneer, Norman Pripps. This cabin represents a style of building which has almost completely disappeared from our landscape. It tells a tale of how the early homesteaders provided shelter for themselves and their families. (4)

Main House/Post Office: Building #2

The main house/post office faces east and is 1 1/2 stories. Constructed of full round logs with extended half-lap corner notch; stained brown. The roof is cross-gabled with the main gable at the north and south elevations. The vertical boards in the gables are of rough sawn pine. The roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles. There are two chimneys. One, constructed of stone, is centered on the ridge of the main section. The other chimney is of red brick, and begins at ground level on the north elevation. There is a shed roof over the porch; the porch runs across the main elevation (east) and is screened on the top half, with rough sawn pine on the bottom half. The centered door opens to a latticed walkway with four steps leading into the front yard. The main part of the house has a partial basement. All the trim on the house is painted white; there are shutters on each window in a light tan color.

The original building was built in 1900 shortly after Randall Burns purchased the property. It measured 25' 6" by 37' 5" and was constructed of full round logs with extended half-lap corner notches. This small structure was built for the Burns' caretaker. The Burns family built a summer home on Springstead Lake, c1898, directly south of this property, across Hwy. 182. It is still extant.

In 1919, a one story addition was added to the west elevation of the structure to serve as a lobby for the post office. This addition matched the original construction and measures 16 feet by 16 feet, 8 inches. A window cage in the original structure opened to the lobby and was where the postmaster handed out the mail. Another small, one story addition was added to the west elevation as an entry-way and closet. This was not built of full log and is on a concrete slab. The roof is a partial hipped. The entry-way addition has a single door on the south elevation and one window on the north elevation.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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Each gable contains a double hung window measuring 25 1/4 " by 53 1/2 ", two over two. There are two single and one double windows in the south elevation; three single windows in the north elevation; one single and one double in the west elevation. All windows are uniform in size and are two over two. The windows in the post office addition are square, double hung and one over one. There are two windows on the north elevation and one on the south.

The interior plan consists of one large central space with cathedral ceiling and two lodge-pole pine logs which run east to west. This main room contains the wooden stairway to the loft. There are two rooms on each side of the main room. On the north side is a small sitting room and a bedroom; on the south side is a bathroom and another bedroom. The kitchen also has a cathedral ceiling with lodge-pole pine logs spanning the 16 foot width. The kitchen is in the 1919 postal addition. The floors are of hardwood.

**Garage/Post Office/General Store: Building #3**

This building probably began as a garage when it was built in 1900. It matched the construction of the main house; even the windows are identical to the main house. In 1919, the building was remodeled so it could be used as a post office and a general store. They were probably trying to make a small commercial center here. In the late 1930s the building once again became a garage (this time as a commercial enterprise), after the post office left Springstead in 1933 and was moved to Park Falls. The one story gabled structure is of round logs with the half-lap corner notches. The roof has asphalt shingles. Under the gables are horizontal boards on the north and south elevations. Both of these elevations have double wooden doors that open out. There is a single entrance door on the east elevation at the north end. The building measures 25' 6" by 16' 8" and rests on a concrete slab. The windows measure 25 1/4" by 53 1/2", are double hung, two over two.

The base logs are missing and need to be replaced. Otherwise, the building is in good condition except for the need for rethinking. The present owners, the Stanleys, plan to rehabilitate and restore this building. They have located a marvelous historic photo of the building when it served as a post office. Originally it had a metal roof and they plan to replace the current roof with a sympathetic metal one.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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**Barn: Building #4**

The two story barn is constructed with post and beam and covered with weathered 6" siding. It measures approximately 28' by 38' and has a gabled roof. Originally the barn was only one story and ended at the drip cap, which is still visible. In 1925 the second story was added for storing hay. At that time the structure was raised and a concrete floor was poured.

The roof is gabled and has brown rolled roofing. The building faces south with the main entrance centered under the south gable. Above the entrance on the second floor are double doors that open out for the hay. On the north elevation is another single door centered. The east elevation has 2 double hung windows at the south end, six over six and measure 28" X 48". There are two square - six light windows on the north end of the east elevation. Four identical windows are found on the west side with three temporarily covered over.

On the interior there are three horse stalls on the west side. The interior walls are covered with six inch wide sheathing. Cows and horses were kept here and also chickens. This barn is a wonderful example of a basic early barn, straight-forward with no extras.

**Caretaker's Cabin: Building #5**

This cabin was built to house guests and was built in 1921. The date has been scribed in the cement. The one story building with gabled roof faces east and has rough sawn pine under the end gables. There are rafter ends under the eaves. There are asphalt shingles on the roof with a metal chimney at the apex. There is no foundation. The entire structure is resting on cinder blocks. The full logs are of hemlock and they are half lap-notched at the corners. The chinking is of mortar. The trim is painted red as well as the log ends. The cabin measures 21' 4" X 27" 4" and has windows that are identical to the main house and the garage. There is a pair of windows on either side of the main door on the east elevation. All of the windows are double hung. There are three windows on both the north and south elevations.

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(Rev. 8-86)  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The hemlock logs on the interior have been washed and varnished. It was one large room; now partitions have been made from 1 X 10 rough sawn pine. The partitions have been added to create a separate room for a bedroom and for a bathroom. The ceiling has been replaced with 2 X 10 rough sawn pine.

Even though this has been known as the caretaker's cottage it is not clear if it was used for a rental or whether the caretaker moved here and rented out the main house. The other possibility is that this could have been a cabin for guests of the Burns' when their main house was crowded. There are no records to substantiate these theories. In either case, this building is a wonderful example of the resort hunting and fishing cabins that were built for rental in the woods of northern Wisconsin when this area became a popular vacation spot. The Stanleys hope to rent this out as probably was done originally.

All of the buildings in historic Springstead are important and need to be preserved. Luckily the Stanleys purchased the property at a critical time. The buildings are all still able to be restored. They are being rehabilitated as close to the original as possible. The owners hope to share this piece of northern Wisconsin history with school classes.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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Significance

Springstead is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under A in the area of Exploration/Settlement because it represents the transitional history of northern Wisconsin. This site's history begins with the sugar bush, which brought the Chippewa to this area. It also reflects the era of timber exploitation and subsequent cutover farming, and later use as a resort area. The French Canadians from Quebec came to harvest the white pine trees. They left behind an original log cabin erected for temporary shelter. It is the only one extant, the other 15 that were once in the area have been demolished. The next stage was the attempt to establish a post office and commercial activity at this site. The property is also architecturally significant under criterion C, as a distinctive collection of Rustic Style buildings. The period of significance is from c. 1870s, the date of the original log cabin to 1945, the National Register cutoff time.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The history of this area begins with the Chippewa, the first known inhabitants in this area. The site is near the historic Flambeau Trail, which was Iron County's first transportation route. The Chippewa found the trail valuable as an access route to the berrying regions, to the sugar bush and also for war and hunting movement. The trail has historically served as a route to connect the settlements of Lac du Flambeau and LaPointe, on Madeline Island, in Lake Superior. First, the Native Americans, then beginning around 1700s the French voyageurs, the English and the Euro-Americans used this route in pursuing their trade.

The Flambeau Trail covered over 80 miles on land and water between the two points and was one route by which furs, food, weapons, and people moved between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Country. Its recorded use dates from the mid 1660s through the late 1880s when the development of railroad transportation ended its usefulness. This trail offered the only transportation link between the Lake

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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Superior watershed to the north and the Mississippi watershed to the south. It took between two and one half days to seven days to portage and paddle the length of the trail to Lac du Flambeau depending on trail conditions, the load to be carried, and the motivation of the travelers. It was considered among the most difficult portages in the old Northwest Territory. The Springstead tote road connected with Lac du Flambeau and was later used by the loggers.

The Ojibwa or Chippewa were the first known people to inhabit Iron County. They were not permanent residents but they hunted, fished, gathered wild rice, berries and maple syrup. They harvested birch bark and cedar for their canoes and gathered the inner bark of the basswood for baskets; they collected maple sugar at the ancient tribal sugar bush in Springstead for as long as can be remembered. Traveling and working in small bands, they ranged over the entire county from Gurney in the northwest to Sherman in the southeast.(5)

Southern Iron County is more gentle and rolling than the northern part of the county. The pine, maple and aspen forest covering the sandy uplands is interspersed with nearly 200 lakes and made ideal water links. Water was the resource that dictated the early transportation and commerce of Iron County because of the dense forests and rugged overland trail.(6) "The numerous rivers and lakes of Wisconsin served as the region's earliest transportation system used by the Indians long before the arrival of the white settlers."(7)

Immense white pine stretched across northern Wisconsin, on the light sandy soils of southern Iron County. The Chippewa ceded their land to the United States government between 1829 and 1854, opening the way for the development of northern Wisconsin. The French Canadians were cutting the pine in the Iron County region before the Euro-Americans arrived. The countryside was dotted with the old log cabins of the French Canadian pine loggers. They stayed only long enough to cut the white pine, never did they plan to settle down in the area.. They cut the pine and used oxen to haul the logs to the stream banks where they floated the pine logs down the Flambeau River. The pinery days of Iron County were intense but short-lived. The first drive of logs on the north fork of the Flambeau River took place in the late 1870s. By 1906 the last sizeable stands of pine had been cut.(8)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3 Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The French Canadians who came to Springstead from Quebec were pathfinders rather than empire builders. Since 1800 few Frenchmen came directly from France - most came from Canada. Three epochs of history mark the settlement of the French in Wisconsin. The first who came were traders and trappers who came directly from France to engage in the fur trade. The second influx came mostly from the French providence of Quebec, just after the Civil War; they were the ones who became active in the lumbering. The third group, remnants of both groups, remained to farm once the timber had been removed and the log drives ended.(9)

Most of the French Canadian pine loggers took advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862 which allowed them to buy 160 acres for a minimal price if they promised to be good citizens and live and work the land for five years. There were at least 16 log cabin homesteads in the Springstead area. In 1850, Canadians, primarily of French descent, were nearly as numerous in Wisconsin as Norwegians, numbering 8,277.(10)

The French loved working in the woods as they were great outdoorsmen. Many of the French Canadians married Indian women. The French Canadian homesteaders who lived on this site were probably attracted by the maple sugar bush. They loved the sweet syrup and used it in many of their dishes.

"The maple trees of Wisconsin, like those in a broad region of eastern North America, produced an abundant flow of sap early each spring. When collected and heated, the sap transforms to sugar and syrup. Through a simple process of evaporation, human inhabitants of the region have continually harvested the sap. Indians were familiar with the product and for pioneer white settlers, whether arriving from New England, New York, or the southeast, tapping the sugar bush was a well-established tradition. Indeed in pioneer Wisconsin, maple sap was the primary sweetener and an essential staple of farm life." (11)

Tapping maple sap is a simple process largely unchanged since the early nineteenth century. A hole was bored in the tree (about four feet above the ground), a spout was inserted and a bucket hung from the spout to catch the drip-like flow of sap.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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"The logging and lumber industry in Wisconsin reshaped the environment and landscape of the state and provided a living for a significant portion of the region's population during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By the late 1800s Wisconsin was one of the premiere lumber producing states in the nation, and for a period of over thirty years lumbering and timber products led the state's developing industrial economy by a large margin. Yet the rise of Wisconsin lumber industry was not an overnight development."<sup>(12)</sup> As long as the path of settlement in the frontier hugged the forest areas, no extensive trade in lumber developed. Rural settlers erected their homes of roughly hewn timber and logs and their fences of simple rail.

Iron County was born March 3, 1893, when Wisconsin legislature passed and had published an act creating Iron County from portions of what was a much larger Ashland County and from townships in Oneida County. The act divided Ashland County and created a county to be known as Iron County and made Hurley the county seat.<sup>(13)</sup>

The Springstead community began in 1901. Bernard and Lula Pripps drove a sleigh load of tools, food, and hay for the horses to a little log cabin on French Lake in Iron County.<sup>(14)</sup> In 1904 a tornado felled a huge swath of timber. The Emerson brothers, D. W. and John, decided to build a sawmill one half mile north of Ferry Lake in order to cut the felled timber. Pripps and other loggers were hired to cut for the mill. A small village was named Emerson after the brothers. It included a school, a store, a post office and a town hall.

The Town of Emerson was created April 19, 1907, resulting from the town of Vaughn. Previous to the organization of the town in 1907 some road work was done while Emerson still belonged to the Town of Vaughn. Most roads were mere trails and some old logging trails that were brushed, stumps were pulled and narrow team roads were constructed. There never was a concentration of people in one locality but two central places were the town of Powell and Springstead, located about ten miles southwest of Powell on County Trunk G. Residents were scattered, either they lived on a farm or on a lake. Many of the people who settled on lakes capitalized on their location and started summer resorts.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The Hines Lumber Company built a logging railroad out from Park Falls in 1916 and in a few years had nine big camps in Springstead. Hines cut hemlock, fir, birch, maple and any stray pine. Because of the logging there were enough settlers in Springstead to build a school. The first classes were held in a one room log cabin in a clearing in the north end of Upper Springstead Lake called the Maggie Murphy Schoolhouse after a nurse who spent her vacations at Flambeau Lodge. In 1917 a new school was built out of lumber sawed at the Pripps sawmill.

The first resorts opened in Springstead at the turn of the century. Many logging families switched from lumber to tourism and others combined the two. In 1918 the town name was changed from the town of Emerson to the town of Sherman. In 1920 the first post office was established in Springstead and was installed at this historic site. Springstead is a settlement in the town of Sherman and is located in the heart of the great fishing waters. Previous to 1926, before the creation of the Flambeau or Manitowish Flowage, fishing was not good in the area. In 1916 the Chippewa and Flambeau Improvement Company dam was constructed at the point where the Turtle River emptied into the Flambeau. This dam started the backing up of water and created the Turtle Flowage, part of which is in the town of Mercer and part in Sherman.(15)

"Cutover timberlands in northern Wisconsin amounted to many millions of acres and left the state with serious problems of water and soil conservation and effective use of the land. It had once been thought that cutting away the forests would only open fine, fertile land to farming and create a whole new economy in the north, but it was found that much of the land was worthless for growing anything but trees. That which had been burned-over would hardly support a good growth of weeds."(16)

The extension of rail service into the sparsely populated northern portions of Wisconsin characterizes railroad development in the state during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Spurred by generous land grants, bestowed by the federal government and distributed by the state legislature, totaling nearly three million acres, the railroad pushed northward to exploit the vast stands of white pine and the rich deposits of copper and iron. The Chicago-based Chicago and Northwestern Railroad serviced the northern parts of Wisconsin.



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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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According to the Springstead pioneer, Norman Pripps, son of Bernard and Lula, three brothers by the name of Springstead fought in the Civil War. After the war, one of the brothers settled in this area. He worked for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad, laying track in northern Wisconsin. Mr. Randall Burns was an attorney who worked for the railroad and lived in Chicago. Mr. Pripps says that Mr. Springstead showed Mr. Burns the land that he eventually bought in 1900 and they named the land after Springstead.

Mr. Burns built the original section of the main house after he bought the land in 1900. He built the house and the other out buildings for his caretaker. In c. 1898 Mr. Burns had built a summer home for his family on Springstead Lake. He purchased this land from the Wisconsin Central Railroad.

In 1920 the federal government established a post office at this location, with John W. Whitmer as postmaster. The post office was combined with a general store at this time in the 1900 garage. In 1933 the post office was moved to Park Falls. Their effort to make this a small commercial area failed. The building where they had the general store became a garage for servicing automobiles after the post office and general store was abandoned.

There seems to be a discrepancy over the dates of the post office in Springstead. According to three local history books the post office was established in 1916, but according to the national archives in Washington, D. C., the post office was established here in May, 1920 with Mr. John W. Whitmer as the first postmaster in Springstead.(17)

Because of this discrepancy it is not certain why the window cage was put into the house. One suggestion is that the house was used in the winter because there were not many permanent residents. During the summer perhaps they used the other building (garage) and had the general store for the convenience of the tourists. The population of Springstead was 183 in 1920.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7 Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The group of buildings known as historic Springstead represents a time period in Northern Wisconsin's history. It represents a period of European exploration and settlement when the French Canadians briefly lived in the woods of northern Wisconsin. The French Canadian log cabin is the only one extant in the area of Springstead. The barn and the other three log cabins reflect the cutover period after the logging was over and the hope that the beautiful northwoods could become a vacation spot. The beauty of the woods and lakes, the fishing and the hunting, did bring people to this area.

Springstead's historic significance lies in its ability to convey a sense of the historic evolution of the landscape of Northern Wisconsin. It is distinctive in its representation of the various periods of settlement brought on by the economic evolution of Northern Wisconsin. It contains elements that reflect the timber exploitation of the region, the attempt to create an economic transition to agriculture during the period of the cutover, and the emergence of recreational tourism as a major industry. This single site portrays a period of dramatic change in Northern Wisconsin reflective of the broader settlement history of the area.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The buildings of Springstead illustrate the broad historical spectrum of log construction in northern Wisconsin. These types of simple log buildings were usually constructed from trees that were found on the property. Even the original roofs were usually constructed from wood. The assembly of a log house was something almost anyone could construct. Logs were plentiful, the woods were full of every type. The logs did not have to be transported a great distance, nor did the logs need to be milled.

The Rustic Style of architecture was popular between 1900 and 1940. In Wisconsin, the Rustic Style was popular for the northwoods retreats of the wealthy at the turn of the century. The style had begun in the Adirondack region of northern New York state in the 1870s. The style called for the use of indigenous materials. The style was shown early in the twentieth century in journals and the popular press and it quickly became accepted as appropriate architectural imagery for backwoods vacation homes, roadhouses, resorts and camps. Throughout Wisconsin, especially in the northern resort areas, these buildings were being built.(18)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The barn is the only building of the five that is not built of logs. It was typical of the early one story barns that were built at the turn of the century. "Barns were used for horses or a few cattle, hogs or sheep are usually rectangular in plan with a gable or shed roof. These buildings are usually a single story, perhaps with a loft, and often have more windows than other barn styles. The windows often pierce the side walls in a regular pattern. Entrances may occur on all sides of the building and vehicular entrances are sometimes present."(19) It was perhaps necessary for almost everyone to have a few cows for milk as they were so isolated. The horses also needed a place to be sheltered.

As Richard Perrin states "Due to the ravages of time, coupled with a lack of understanding of the historic and cultural value of the old log and one-half timber structures, only a handful of good specimens remain. Before it is altogether too late, positive action must be taken by interested individuals and groups to see to it that the few buildings that are left are properly protected, preserved and restored for the benefit of future generations."(20) This is exactly what Daniel and Linda Stanley are working hard to accomplish with their historic buildings.

As Frank Lloyd Wright states: "The true basis for any serious study of the art of architecture still lies in those indigenous, more humble buildings, everywhere, that are to architecture what folk-lore is to literature or folk-song to music and with which academic architects are seldom concerned --- these many folk structures are of the soil, natural though often slight their virtue is intimately related to environment and to the heart-life of the people."(21)

The Springstead structures are truly folk buildings constructed from the natural materials indigenous to the area. It is a unique combination of buildings that is representative of the transitional history of northern Wisconsin. It is important for them to be preserved for future generations. The Springstead complex is architecturally significant under criterion C for its fine collection of log buildings. The site is significant for its representation of the evolution of log construction from settlement era to the resort era. These buildings illustrate the thread of architectural continuity that connects the simplicity and utility of pioneer era buildings to the more self consciously stylized designs of the Rustic Style.

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(Rev. 8-86)  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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Archeological Potential

Archeological investigations could prove to be of importance, but have not been assessed in this nomination. It is most likely that there are archeological deposits associated with the French Canadian structure and the sugar bush.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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

Section 8 Page 11

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The parcel is described as: A part of Gov. Lot 4, sec. 21, Township 41 north, Range 3 east. in the town of Sherman. See attached map

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the current land ownership and includes all historic resources associated with the Springstead site.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 1

Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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The following applies to all photos:	Main House - front elevation	Photo 11 of 21 Camera facing southwest Post Office/General Store (east elevation)
Springstead Historic District Springstead, Iron County, WI Photos by M.J. Hettinga, July 1994 Neg. at WI State Historical Society	Photo 5 of 21 Camera facing south Main House - north elevation	Photo 12 of 21 Camera facing southwest Post Office/General Store (south elevation)
Photo 1 of 21 French Canadian Cabin - Camera facing southwest Main elevation	Photo 6 of 21 Camera facing northwest Main House - south elevation	Photo 13 of 21 Camera facing northeast Post Office/General Store (west elevation)
Photo 2 of 21 Camera facing south French Canadian Cabin - north elevation	Photo 7 of 21 Camera facing southeast Main House - west elevation	Photo 14 of 21 Camera facing northwest Barn (south elevation)
Photo 3 of 21 Camera facing south French Canadian Cabin - closeup of north elevation	Photo 8 of 21 Camera facing north Main House - south elevation	Photo 15 of 21 Camera facing northeast Barn (west elevation)
Photo 4 of 21 Camera facing west	Photo 9 of 21 Camera facing northeast Stone Lake	Photo 16 of 21 Camera facing southwest Barn (north elevation)
	Photo 10 of 21 Camera facing northeast Post Office/General Store (south elevation)	

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 2 Springstead, Tn of Sherman, Iron County, Wisconsin

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Photo 17 of 21  
Camera facing west  
Barn (east elevation)

Photo 18 of 21  
Neg. at WI State  
Historical Society  
Camera facing west  
Caretaker's Cabin -  
main (east) elevation

Photo 19 of 21  
Camera facing northwest  
Caretaker's Cabin -  
(south elevation)

Photo 20 of 21  
Camera facing west  
Caretaker's Cabin - log  
notches

Photo 21 of 21  
Camera facing northwest  
Interior view of  
Caretaker's Cabin -  
hemlock logs

**SPRINGSTEAD  
Tn. of Sherman  
Iron County, WI**

Scale: 1" = 100'

**— = Boundary**

all buildings are contributing

