

OCT 11 1994

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Sunset Lodge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Eastern Shore of Madawaska Lake, .5 Miles southwest of Route 161  N/A not for publication

city or town Stockholm  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04783

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.)  
Sam S. Patterson SHPO 10/5/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of 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

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.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain:)

for  
Edson B. Beall Signature of the Keeper  
Entered in the National Register Date of Action 11.10.94

Sunset Lodge  
Name of Property

Aroostook, Maine  
County and State

**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
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources 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)

Other: Log Cabin

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/Log

roof Asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1932

**Significant Dates**

1932

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Ward, Bruce

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Ward, Bruce, Builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Sunset Lodge  
Name of Property

Arroostook, Maine  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Less Than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	5	6	1	3	0	0	5	2	0	8	7	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

  
2 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

  
4 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1994

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

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

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**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SUNSET LODGE

Section number 7 Page 2

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Sunset Lodge is a one-and-a-half story, peeled, round log cottage with a gable roof and attached sheds of similar design. It stands on the shore of Madawaska Lake in the unorganized Aroostook County Township T16 R4.

Facing in a northerly direction toward the lake, the front elevation contains paired centrally-located double-hung sash windows on the first story with a large four-pane tilt-out window above. An historic photograph of the building reveals that while the upper window is original, the lower ones are replacements of an earlier tri-partite configuration composed of a large two-over-two center window flanked by narrower two-over-twos. The logs, which vary considerably in diameter, are joined at the corners with V-notches and project beyond the joint from one to two feet. A broad overhanging roof extends over the corner joints as well as the five exposed log purlins that support the rafters.

To the left of the facade is the recessed entry that is contained in a shed that runs the length of the east side. Its log walls are considerably different from those of the main block being of smaller dimension, a more square profile, and joined at the corner with butt joints. Early photographs show the presence of this shed, but it remains uncertain if it is indeed an original part of the design or an early addition. There is a double window on the east side of the shed and one at the rear. In addition, a short gable roofed room with windows on three sides projects from the southeast corner. Attached to the southwest corner of the main block is a shed-roofed porch whose walls are punctuated by large screened openings. The method of log construction employed in this porch matches that on the entry shed. A further addition on the west side is a storage shed.

Inside, the main block is divided into two rooms including a large living room area which is open to the ceiling and a back bedroom. A log partition separates the two rooms, above which is a sleeping loft with a log railing.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SUNSET LODGE

Section number 8 Page 2

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Sunset Lodge is a cedar log camp erected in 1932 on the shore of Madawaska Lake. It was built by Presque Isle mill operator Bruce Ward as a summer camp, and is believed to be the second log building built by the Ward Lumber Company, a firm which specialized in the manufacture of log cabins. This property is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion B for its association with the locally significant career of Bruce Ward and criterion C for its representation of a popular recreational building type in early twentieth century United States.

Bruce Robert Ward (1876-1944) was born in St. Francis, Maine, the son of Frederick and Eunice (Sinclair) Ward. After graduation from the Madawaska Training (High) School, Ward obtained employment with the Great Northern Paper Company and the Fort Kent Mill Company, a manufacturer of sawn lumber. About 1917 he established a general store and sawmill in St. Francis under the name "Ward and Bradbury." Family tradition holds that Ward subsequently relocated to Washburn where he briefly operated another mill before moving to Presque Isle where he founded the Northern Cedar Company in 1927 (the company first appears in the 1931 edition of the Maine Register). Ward's business initially focussed on the production of peeled cedar logs for the use of telephone and electric power poles as well as pile structures. However, tradition relates that an excess of stock led him to the idea of further milling the logs on one side and assembling them into buildings. The first such structure built by the company is generally believed to have been the American Legion Hall in Yarmouth (extant) which was erected in 1931. According to an article about the Legion Hall which appeared in the March 12, 1932 edition of the Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald, the logs and assistance in erecting them were donated by the Northern Cedar Company. In the following spring Ward raised his cabin at Madawaska Lake which he named "Sunset Lodge." Throughout the 1930s and up to the United States' entry into World War II, the firm appears to have steadily increased its production of material for log cabins. Members of the family who worked at the plant recall shipments being made to several states including New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island, the last of which included the site of thirty cabins on Bonnet Shores in Narragansett erected for a Mr. Bodwell of the Belton Corporation. Ward is said to have begun advertising in 1935 in several outdoor magazines such as Field and Stream. About this time he developed a tongue and groove method of joining the individual logs together and an interlocking system of corner joining. This refinement of the manufacturing technique represented a significant departure from the method employed at Sunset Lodge in which oakum was used to seal the joints. It also substantially altered the appearance of the prototype from its descendants, particularly in the exterior finish where the unequally sized logs and variety in the corner joining presents a more rustic configuration to the more standardized elements of the production models. Two houses which Ward erected in Presque Isle for his family clearly show this progression in

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SUNSET LODGE

Section number 8 Page 3

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design (both are reported to be standing although their condition is unknown).

Sometime after Bruce Ward's death in 1944 the family sold most of the company to local businessmen who relocated it to Houlton in 1957 and operated it until 1964 when fire destroyed most of the plant. The company was subsequently acquired and rebuilt by the McLaughlin family who still market their product under the name Ward Log Homes and claim to be the oldest manufacturer of log houses in the country.

Round log houses have a long history of use in Maine, undoubtedly extending to the very early years of settlement in many areas where they served as temporary shelters until more permanent dwellings could be built. In the nineteenth century, the tradition of log construction was continued in deep woods logging camps, documentary photographs of which frequently depict long rectangular structures comprised of walls formed by massive unpeeled logs. By the time of the country's Centennial celebration in 1876 the romantic notion of the pioneer log cabin had assumed a wide appeal. In late nineteenth century Maine, the indigenous tradition of log building further manifested itself in the burgeoning inland tourist industry where growing numbers of sporting camps almost universally adopted this method of construction for the individual camps and ancillary buildings which made up their rustic compounds. The early twentieth century saw the further manifestation of this building technique in road-side tourist cabins that catered to automobile travelers. Although not nearly as common as at the sporting camps, round log cabins did appear at these compounds. At the same time, log buildings had also become a popular alternative for individually owned - or leased - sites along Maine's countless lakes. In time, as reflected in the Ward family houses in Presque Isle, they would also become viable alternatives for year-round housing. Sunset Lodge and Bruce Ward's role in the development of Maine's log building industry are significant parts of the history of early twentieth century housing in Maine.

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Continuation Sheet**

SUNSET LODGE

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Goulart, Rebecca Ward Nichols. "Biography of Bruce Robert Ward." 1993.  
Typescript copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission,  
Augusta.

"New Legion Post Cabin at Yarmouth to be Dedicated on Monday Evening."  
Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald. March 20, 1932.



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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

SUNSET LODGE

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## **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property occupies the Unorganized Territory Tax Map AR20, Plan 2, Lot 111.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary embraces the entire lakeside lot historically associated with Sunset Lodge.