

4256

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Tobin Harbor Historic District

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Eagle Harbor Township

City or town: N/A State: MI County: Keweenaw Zip Code: 49931

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Surberia C. Lowe, Acting FPO</u>	<u>6/27/2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>National Park Service</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<u>Matthew J. Madant</u>	<u>2/1/19</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>Deputy S. Dept. SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

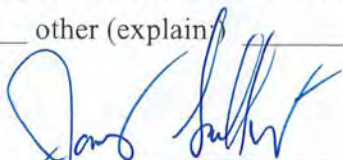
Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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


Signature of the Keeper

8.5.2019

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
Site

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Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>52</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>63</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/camp
- DOMESTIC/hotel
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/fishing facility
-
-
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/camp
-
-
-

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: seasonal cabin

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, stone, asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Tobin Harbor Historic District is located in Isle Royale National Park, a remote island archipelago located in the northwestern portion of Lake Superior. The park is located about 60 miles from Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula, 22 miles from Grand Portage, Minnesota, and 35 miles from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. The southern end of the park is approximately five miles from the international boundary separating Canada and the United States. The archipelago consists of one large island, Isle Royale, which is about 45 miles long, nine miles wide at its widest point, and surrounded by over 200 smaller islands.

Tobin Harbor is located at the northeast end of Isle Royale. The Tobin Harbor Historic District is located at the northern end of the narrow harbor and contains a collection of buildings, structures, and landscape features associated with a commercial fishery, a tourist resort, and 14 seasonal camps. Several of the properties are located along the south shore of the harbor, while the majority are located on islands within the harbor. (Photos 1-7)

Tobin Harbor's buildings are characterized by their vernacular architecture. The buildings feature simple designs and construction methods necessitated by the remote location of Isle Royale and its rugged landscape. Cottage interiors also reflect the lifestyle associated with

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seasonal recreational properties built during the first half of the 20th century and many include hand pumps to draw water from the lake, wood stoves for cooking and heating, and non-mechanized refrigerators. Most of the camps were expanded over the years to include an enclave of small buildings, which often consisted of the main cottage, guest cabin, tool shed, privy, and sometimes a boathouse.

The Tobin Harbor Historic District also represents a vernacular landscape. The topography and vegetation of the sheltered harbor influenced the selection of building sites and sometimes provided building materials. The landscape was also shaped by the evolving uses of the camp's inhabitants. A distinctive landscape characteristic is the unique water-borne circulation system as transportation to and from the harbor is exclusively by boat. In addition, the narrow width of Tobin Harbor, and the many islands within the harbor, place the properties in close proximity to each other, creating complex spatial and visual relationships not found in lakeshore districts of a more linear arrangement. Another characteristic is the placement of buildings on high cliffs or hillsides in order to take advantage of dramatic views and vistas. Finally, the buildings reside within the natural wilderness landscape, with minimal manipulation of the land and without formal landscape features that are more typical of an urban setting.

Very few of the buildings have been altered since the time of their construction. Once Isle Royale National Park was established, changes to the camps were limited. Moreover, electrical service and modern plumbing were not available. As a result, the Tobin Harbor Historic District retains unusually high integrity to the historic period.

The Tobin Harbor Historic District includes one contributing site, fifty-two contributing buildings, ten contributing structures, numerous landscape features, as well as four non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing structure.

Narrative Description

The narrative description begins with a description of Tobin Harbor's landscape characteristics followed by a description of each of the properties within the historic district. The properties are described in a clockwise manner beginning with the Edwards Camp, which is located at the east end of the historic district, and continues with properties along the south shore of the harbor and adjacent islands, including the Dassler, Connolly, Seifert, Langley, and Stack/Wolbrink Camps, Minong Lodge, Mattson Fishery, and the Snell and Merritt Camps. The descriptions continue with the Kemmer/Underwood Camp, which is located at the west end of the historic district, and continue with properties located on islands closer to the north shore of the harbor including the Savage, Gale, Emerson, How, and Beard Camps. The camps with no known surviving resources, as well as camps outside the boundary of the historic district, are discussed in the section pertaining to the assessment of integrity

For those camps that may have had more than one owner, the camp will be referred to by the name of the owner or owners with the longest or most significant association. However, any prior owner will be identified in the narrative description. Building names are typically derived

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from the building name as stated in the National Park Service (NPS) appraisal and photographic records from the 1930s. This approach will result in some consistency across various documents and also aligns the building name with naming protocols from the historic period. For example, the NPS appraisal records consistently refer to the primary cabin at a camp as a "cottage." Or sometimes the building name is based on the name assigned to the building by a particular family. For buildings that may have been moved from one camp to another at a later date, the original name for the building is provided, if known, along with the name applied to the building based on its later use.

In order to avoid confusion concerning directional references, Tobin Harbor is assumed to be on an east-west access. Similarly, since buildings are usually sited based on geographic features, rather than a precise axis, the dominant orientation of the building is used for the directional reference. For example, while the Gale cottage faces slightly to the southeast, its primary orientation is to the east.

All buildings are considered contributing unless otherwise noted as non-contributing. All structures are specifically identified as structures so that it is clear which resources are identified as structures rather than buildings. A dock is considered a contributing structure if it is supported on historic structural components such as rock-filled cribs. It is expected that the surface of the dock will need to be replaced periodically, similar to the replacement of a roof. Landscape features are identified, but are not included in the resource count since they are acknowledged as elements of the broader vernacular landscape.

1. Site

The entire Tobin Harbor Historic District is considered one contributing site. This designation recognizes Tobin Harbor's significance as a vernacular landscape and how the harbor's landscape characteristics shaped and defined the historic district. Tobin Harbor's landscape characteristics include topography, vegetation, land use and activities, spatial organization, circulation systems, view and vistas, buildings and structures, cluster arrangements, and small scale features.

Topography

Tobin Harbor was an ideal location for commercial and recreational activities on Isle Royale because of its natural topography. The long, narrow harbor, which was oriented to the northeast, provided shelter from the rough waters of Lake Superior, as well as the prevailing winds. A high ridge along the south shore of the harbor afforded additional protection. The harbor also provided safe dockage for large commercial ships, such as the *America*, as well as smaller watercraft.

Commercial fishermen were among the first to select Tobin Harbor for their operations. Later, a tourist resort was built, followed by a series of seasonal cabins. A number of building sites were located along the harbor's south shore, typically located just below the sheltering ridgeline. But the majority of the properties were located on islands within the harbor. Some islands are very

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small, but the sheltered harbor provided adequate protection, while small islands located outside the harbor would have been very exposed to the elements.

Vegetation

Native vegetation is a dominant feature of the Tobin Harbor landscape. The variety of trees include spruce, white pine, birch, balsam, cedar, mountain ash, and aspen. Trees provided building materials and firewood, while driftwood could be used for ornamental decoration. Various shrubs and plants flourish in Tobin Harbor and some produced edible berries such as blueberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, and wild strawberries. Blueberry picking was a particularly popular activity.

Domestic vegetation was also present in Tobin Harbor. Historic photographs depict ornamental gardens at a number of the camps, such as the Kemmer Camp, which featured a flower garden between the cottage and the shore. The garden once included daises, buttercups, and other flowers. Today, domestic vegetation is less evident, although the Gale Camp, for example, currently features a large bed of Asiatic lilies that has grown and spread over the years. Rock-edged borders at a number of the camps appear to delineate garden areas. Fisherman's families, such as the Mattson family, once maintained vegetable gardens.

A comparison of the current landscape with historic photographs shows that vegetation has encroached into areas that were once maintained as more open spaces, such as the area surrounding the Mattson Fishery, as well as at camps where buildings have been removed. However, historic photographs demonstrate the wilderness character of Tobin Harbor in that vegetation was relatively dense at most of the camps, a pattern that continues to this day.

Land Use and Activities

Land use patterns and activities shaped the development of Tobin Harbor and the location of commercial and recreational properties. The Island Copper Company owned the majority of the land along the north shore of Tobin Harbor. The land remained in their ownership until Isle Royale National Park was created and the land was sold to the federal government. This limited development from taking place along the north shore.

Similar to the north shore, land along the south shore of Tobin Harbor had been owned by a mining company. However, the company went defunct and in 1902 over 50 acres were acquired by Charles Dassler, one of Tobin Harbor's early summer residents, and the heirs of the Edward Scovill estate.¹ Dassler acquired several acres outright for himself, but over time he and the Scovill heirs sold a number of parcels along the south shore to Tobin Harbor's commercial fisherman and seasonal residents.

¹ Note that the name Scovill does not include the letter "e" whereas current usage may include an "e" as in Scoville Point.

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But extraction industries, such as the mining companies, were not interested in the small islands in Tobin Harbor and they remained in the ownership of the State of Michigan. Moreover, the islands were not surveyed until 1908, when they were made available for purchase. As a result of these land use and ownership factors, the majority of Tobin Harbor's properties were subsequently built on islands.

Land use patterns and activities in Tobin Harbor evolved to include commercial fisheries, a resort, and seasonal cabins. While the activities of the commercial fisheries and the Minong Lodge have ceased, the descendants of a number of the families who built Tobin Harbor's seasonal camps have access to their former properties during the summer months. Under agreements with the National Park Service, members of the Edwards, Connolly, Mattson, Snell, Merritt, and Gale families continue to use their camps in exchange for maintaining and preserving the properties.

A range of recreation activities were popular in Tobin Harbor historically and these activities continue to this day by the descendants of the original families. The activities include boating, fishing, hiking, and picnicking.

Spatial Organization

The narrow width of Tobin Harbor, which is just over 1,500 feet across at certain locations, and the many islands within the harbor, create complex spatial relationships between the developed properties. The subsequent close proximity between many of the properties results in strong visual relationships within the historic district that do not exist in districts of a linear nature.

When entering Tobin Harbor by boat from the northeast, buildings associated with the Edwards, Connolly, Stack/Wolbrink, Beard, How, and Gale Camps all come into view. While the Dassler cottage is largely obscured by vegetation, the Dassler sleeping cabin comes into view if the harbor is entered from the southeast past Scoville Point. These visual relationships also exist between the individual camps as buildings on nearby properties are viewed across the water. For example, the Connolly Camp encompasses views of the Stack/Wolbrink and Beard Camps. The Stack/Wolbrink Camp encompasses views of the Seifert, Connolly, Beard, How, and Gale Camps. The Seifert Camp encompasses views of the Stack/Wolbrink and Beard Camps as well as Hillcrest Cabin. From its lofty perch high above the water on the south shore of Tobin Harbor, the Snell Camp encompasses commanding views of the Merritt Camp and views of the Mattson Fishery from the dock. The Gale Camp encompasses view of the How, Beard, Stack/Wolbrink, Merritt, and Snell Camps.

There are also instances where a property may be seen from a specific camp, but no buildings might be visible. For example, a number of camps have views of Edwards Island and Gem Island, but the buildings on these islands cannot be seen due to their exact location or because of vegetation. Similarly, many camps have views of islands where camps once existed, but all the buildings have been removed, such as the Smith, Musselman, Savage, Emerson, and Newman Camps. These vacant islands still play an integral part in the spatial relationships within Tobin Harbor.

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The complex spatial and visual relationships between the camps in Tobin Harbor create an unusually strong sense of cohesiveness for a collection of lakeside properties, which are often organized in a linear arrangement along a shoreline. In spite of the removal of a number of camps, the connections between the remaining camps creates a network of properties that reinforces their historic association.

Circulation Systems

Circulation systems at Tobin Harbor continue to reflect patterns of movement during the historic period, both within each camp and within the district as a whole. Transportation to and from Tobin Harbor is exclusively by boat. Historically, Tobin Harbor's residents arrived by commercial ships such as the *America*. Summer residents were deposited at the dock at Minong Lodge and were then transported by the resort, or their neighbors, to their respective camps, where they maintained their own boats. Today, the residents typically arrive by boat at Rock Harbor Lodge on the *Ranger III* and proceed to Tobin Harbor on smaller watercraft. Some residents with larger boats may travel directly from the mainland to Tobin Harbor's camps. Docks are an essential component of the transportation system.

Circulation within each camp is pedestrian. Narrow foot trails, consisting of compacted earth paths, connect all the buildings and structures at a camp. Since most camps are not particularly large, and the distance between buildings is not great, it is likely the trails have remained in their original locations over the years. Where the terrain is more rugged, trails may traverse a steep hillside, or sections of a trail may be defined by stone steps. The steep hillside at the Snell Camp necessitated steps formed by wooden rises that retained the compacted earth. At times, the circulation system within a camp may incorporate open areas or rocky outcroppings and the trail itself may not be distinct along its entire route.

Systems of trails connect a number of the camps located along the south shore of Tobin Harbor. The Dassler, Connolly, and Seifert Camps are all connected to each other by a series of trails. Historically, other camps along the south shore may have been connected with trails but these trails are most likely obscured by vegetation. There was also a series of trails on Minong Island for those staying at the resort, but those trails are now overgrown. The Edwards Camp is the one example in Tobin Harbor of a single camp that features an extensive network of trails. Trails extend throughout the 24 acre island.

It is also important to acknowledge the water routes between Tobin Harbor's camps and other destinations at Isle Royale as Tobin Harbor residents visited one another and attended social events. Boats traveled logical and similar routes guided by knowledge of reefs and weather conditions, while the location of docks at the origin and destination suggest the route.

Views and Vistas

Tobin Harbor's camps provide breathtaking views of the harbor and beyond. Views are often complex, and may include adjacent camps along with views toward the opposite shore of the

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harbor. The majority of the camps constructed on the south shore of the harbor were built just below the ridgeline, high above the water. From their high vantage point, these camps feature expansive views of the harbor and all the islands within their viewshed. Of the camps on the south shore, the Connolly Cottage has the most dramatic siting. Perched on the edge of a sheer cliff, its location accentuates the spectacular view across the harbor.

The islands within the harbor include views of nearby islands and both the north and south shores of the harbor. Many also include views to the east toward Lake Superior. Because of the small size of the majority of the islands, many of the buildings on an island may include views of the water from all sides. Additionally, some buildings, like the How Cottage, were built immediately along the shore, and feature views directly across the water with no intervening vegetation in sight.

Perhaps the most dramatic views may be experienced at the Dassler Camp. The camp is located on a steep point just north of Scoville Point. Its easterly orientation encompasses panoramic views beyond the harbor toward Lake Superior. At times, the view includes powerful waves crashing at the base of the point.

Buildings and Structures

The buildings and structures in Tobin Harbor represent straightforward vernacular designs in keeping with the rugged, wilderness character of Isle Royale. Many were built by local craftsman, while some were built by the summer residents themselves. Their simplicity reflects the difficulty in constructing, and then maintaining, a building when materials had to be transported long distances across the water and craftsman were not always available. Nonetheless, there is significant variation among the camps, and each camp retains its own unique architectural character.

In addition to their simplicity, the buildings and structures are distinguished by their lack of modern amenities. There was no modern plumbing nor electrical service, except for the occasional use of a generator.

Tobin Harbor's vernacular buildings and structures are characterized by the following exterior and interior features:

Exterior Features

- Camps organized into collections of buildings, which often include the main cabin, a guest cabin, a tool shed, privy, and sometimes a boat house
- Simple frame structures clad with drop lap or clapboard siding or in some cases log cabin siding, which simulates the appearance of log. There are also examples of split log, or full log construction, sometimes applied vertically.
- Few references to popular architecture styles of the day, other than several buildings with Craftsman style details.

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- Building heights limited to one story, although several examples existed of one-and-one-half story buildings
- Buildings set on log or stone piers or directly on exposed rock
- Simple gable, hip, or shed roofs
- Rolled asphalt roofing, or in some cases asphalt or wood shingles
- Stone chimneys and fireplaces
- Casement or double-hung windows, sometimes multi-pane, arranged as single windows or continuous bands
- Screened porches
- Decorative skirting installed at the base of a building, particularly when a building is constructed on a hillside
- Buildings constructed or repaired with salvaged materials from other buildings in Tobin Harbor, or from found materials such as shipping crates, or buildings moved from one camp to another, reflecting the ingenuity necessary in a remote Northwoods setting
- Wooden docks supported by rock-filled log cribs
- Boat houses in order to protect watercraft from the rough waters or hazardous weather on Lake Superior

Interior Features

- Interior spaces often remain unfinished with exposed stud walls and rafters, which were frequently left unpainted
- Simple, informal floor plans that often consist of only three rooms, a living room, kitchen, and a bedroom
- The main room of a cabin was often multi-purpose, providing space for living, dining, and sleeping
- The absence of interior hallways, even in the case of larger cabins, with rooms opening directly into adjacent spaces
- Few closets with a full door, versus a simple curtain
- Wood stoves for heating or cooking as well as propane stoves
- Hand pumps to draw water directly from the lake to the kitchen sink
- Tanks for storing water in order to provide a gravity fed flow of running water to a sink or shower
- Ice boxes or refrigerators operated with propane
- California coolers, a non-mechanized refrigerator, that utilizes natural air flow to cool and preserve food²

² A California Cooler is a non-mechanized refrigerator, which did not require ice. Said to have originated in northern California, the California Cooler depended on cool breezes to preserve food. The California Cooler was essentially a cabinet that was typically installed on an exterior wall in the kitchen. Food was placed on metal or wooden grates within the cabinet. The cabinet was open to the outdoors at the bottom. Cool air would enter the California Cooler at its base, which was usually screened, pass over the grates, and then exit through a vent at the top.

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- Furnishings, fixtures, floor coverings, and decorative objects, sometimes handmade, reflect highly original interior spaces dating from the first half of the 20th Century

Cluster Arrangements

Tobin Harbor's camps feature multiple buildings, structures, and landscape features organized into clusters. This is a distinctive characteristic of Tobin Harbor's camps as often a single cabin along with a privy might suffice in recreational areas from the period, such as those in northern Minnesota, for example. But because of the cost and difficulties in constructing a building in the remote setting of Isle Royale, often a small cabin of minimal size was built initially. Tents, often erected on platforms, provided sleeping accommodations. In time, a guest cabin might be constructed or moved to the site in sections from another location. Eventually, tool sheds, boathouses, and buildings for specialized purposes might be built until an enclave of buildings had been constructed. Smaller buildings were the norm, which were also easier to construct and maintain.

But even as the number of buildings at a particular camp increased, buildings were typically within sight of one another and only a very short distance apart. This was the case even on larger properties. Although, there were exceptions such as Roy Snell's "writer's shack," which he moved from a location next to the main cabin to a more distant location where he could write in solitude

Small Scale Features

Small scale features are found throughout Tobin Harbor's camps. These features provide information about the treatment of the landscape and often reflect activities that took place at a camp. They also enhance the integrity of feeling and association. Rocks figure prominently in the landscape. They are used to build steps, line paths, construct retaining walls, border garden areas, and define fire rings. Rustic chairs or benches may be found throughout a camp and are sometimes positioned to take advantage of a view. Wood piles for firewood are a ubiquitous feature. Spare lumber that is not required for immediate use is stacked up and stored for future needs. Old boats, tanks, and tools also populate the landscape. Flag poles are also found in Tobin Harbor such as at the Beard Camp.

A common feature along shorelines and just below the surface of the water are remnants of old crib docks. Sometimes they are the only feature that identifies the location of a camp that is no longer extant. At times the ruins of the crib framing exist with rocks that held the crib in place still piled inside. Sometimes only an orderly pile of rocks remains and provides a clue to the location of a dock. In a number of locations, long, parallel timbers remain that rested on the underlying cribs and supported the surface structure of the dock, such as at the Stack/Wolbrink, Savage, and Emerson Camps.

A few remnants of collapsed buildings are also found in Tobin Harbor. Sometimes only a pile of boards, or even a few boards, provides evidence of a prior building. Remnants of a large boathouse remain at the Savage Camp.

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It is likely that additional small scale features will continue to be identified in Tobin Harbor. Vegetation may obscure a feature, or only a few stone steps or a remnant of a rock wall may remain. Features may be found at camps that are no longer extant where trees and vegetation conceal even the prior location of buildings. For example, the Emerson Camp was known to have an extensive network of masonry sidewalks and remnants may still exist.

Edwards Camp

Reverend Maurice D. Edwards was the pastor of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Edwards became the congregation's first pastor in 1874 and held the position for 44 years.³ He and his wife, Annie Louise Deane, and other family members, were among the early visitors to Tobin Harbor who would go on to establish a summer home. Edwards purchased Island 19, a 24.43 acre island at the east end of Tobin Harbor in 1908 when the island became available for purchase. But the family had camped on what became known as Edwards Island as early as the 1890s. Some years later, the Edwards' daughter, Annie Deane Edwards, purchased Island 9 for \$500.00. Referred to as Gem Island, the Edwards family simply called the island "The Gem." The .24 acre island is located a short distance to the north of Island 19.

Known as Prospect Camp, the camp's buildings are located atop a steep cliff near the west end of Edwards Island. (Photo 8) A trail traverses the hillside to reach the camp. The buildings share similar design features. They are one-story frame buildings with hip roofs, drop-lap siding, and corner boards. They also share Craftsman style details such as overhanging eaves and beveled rafter tails. Windows are multi-pane casements arranged in sets of one or two. All buildings are painted red, which is their original color. There is also a cabin on Gem Island with similar design features.

There is a network of trails throughout Edwards Island. A trail extends from the main camp area to a point at the west end of the island. A trail along the north shore of the island connects with the trail to the point. Another trail traverses the island from north to south. The trail begins on the beach on the north side of the island and ends at an area known as "south beach" on the south side of the island. Another trail branches off to the east and extends to a point along a deep indentation in the island known as the "slit."

Originally there was a boat house and dock along the shore of Edwards Island. The boat house measured 37'8" by 13'2" and its design was similar to the design of the other buildings at the camp. The boat house was severely damaged during the winter of 1950-51 but materials were salvaged from the building for future use.⁴ Submerged cribs and structural remnants that supported the dock and boat house are visible beneath the water. There are also submerged remnants of a dock that was built in the "slit" by George and Deane Edwards in August 1921.

³ Joseph A. Burnquist, ed., *Minnesota and Its People* (Chicago: The S. J. Clark Publishing Company, 1924), 3:167.

⁴ All major buildings in Tobin Harbor, and elsewhere on Isle Royale, were photographed by NPS landscape architect Donald Wolbrink in 1935. The photographs provide important documentation about the appearance of Tobin Harbor's buildings at that time as well as buildings that are no longer extant. The Wolbrink Photograph Collection is located at the Isle Royale National Park (ISRO) Archives, Houghton, Michigan.

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Edwards Island contains four contributing buildings, the cottage, a dining pavilion, a store house and outdoor kitchen, and a privy. The cabin on Gem Island is also a contributing building. Prospect Camp represents a particularly cohesive collection of buildings and the designs for the dining pavilion and outdoor kitchen are unique among the buildings constructed in Tobin Harbor. The Edwards family continues to use and maintain the camp buildings under a special use permit.

2. Cottage

The cottage was constructed in 1912. The building measures 28' by 20'4" and is clad with drop-lap siding. A deep front porch extends the entire length of the building along the north elevation. A hip roof with asphalt shingles covers both the cottage and the porch. The porch roof is supported by four square posts. Because the cottage is built on a slight rise, six steps are required to reach the porch, which features picket-style skirting. Large screens are installed on the porch in the summer. The main entrance door is located off the porch, centered on the north elevation. Pairs of six light casement windows flank the entrance.

The masonry mass for the fireplace is centered on the west elevation. The large structure was built with cobblestones that were gathered from the "south beach" area along the south shore of the island. The masonry tapers as it rises to form a square chimney. The chimney extends through the overhanging eave. Two pairs of six light casement windows flank the fireplace. A single entrance door is located at the west end of the south elevation. The east elevation includes one six light casement window and one nine light casement window.

The interior of the cottage consists of three rooms. The rooms are separated by partition walls that are about 8' high but are open above and do not extend to the ceiling. The stud walls and rafters are unpainted and exposed. The living occupies the west half of the cottage and includes the fireplace, which features an arched opening formed by cobblestones. A bedroom is located off the living room. There is a small "wash room" at the back of the bedroom that contained a metal washstand that still remains in the cabin. The "attic" area above the front porch is open to the interior of the cottage and is used for storage.

In 2006, the Edwards family repaired the roof of the cottage using roofing materials from their damaged boathouse that they had salvaged in 1951. (Photos 9-10)

3. Dining Pavilion

The open-sided dining pavilion was built in 1921 and is located to the west of the main cottage. The pavilion measures 10'3" by 12'. It consists of a wood floor, a low wall clad with drop lap siding that encloses the space, and wood posts that support the hip roof. The corner posts feature wooden brackets. An opening in the low wall on south elevation provides the only entrance to the pavilion. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The dining table is suspended high in the ceiling to protect it during the winter months. Large screens are installed in the pavilion in the summer. (Photo 11)

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4. Store House and Outdoor Kitchen

The store house, which provided space for kitchen utensils and food storage, was built in 1921. It is located immediately to the south of the dining pavilion. An Edwards' family construction photograph depicts the building when it was nearly complete. The caption describes the building as "The New Kitchen." The prior kitchen was located beneath a suspended tarp.

An "outdoor kitchen," which is essentially an open porch, was added by 1924. The overall building measures 18'6" by 10'. It consists of the enclosed store house at the east end, which is clad with drop-lap siding, and the open porch to the south for the kitchen. The hip roof that covered the store house was extended to cover the outdoor kitchen. The roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles. The west slope of the original store house roof is visible from the porch and is clad with its original wood shingles. It is essentially tucked under the roof of the porch. The porch is supported by wooden posts along the west end of the building. The floor of the porch and the west wall of the store house are currently painted gray while the remainder of the building is painted red. There is an entrance door and one six-light casement window on the north elevation and one six-light casement window on the west elevation.

A wood-fired cast iron stove is still used for cooking in the outdoor kitchen. The stovepipe makes two right angles in order to extend out from under the roof. The stove is disassembled and moved into the store house for the winter.⁵ (Photos 12-13)

5. Privy

The privy is located to the east of the main cottage. It measures 5'3" by 4'3" and is clad with drop-lap siding. The privy is the only building at the camp covered with a gable roof. The off-center door is built with vertical planks. The privy contains one large four-light casement window on the south elevation. (Photo 14)

6. Gem Island Cabin

Built in 1938, the Gem Island cabin is a small one story building containing a single room. The rectangular building measures 15'2" by 10'. The cabin features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. All rafter tails are beveled. A pair of large, six-light casement windows is centered on the south elevation. The west elevation includes the entrance door to the right with a large multi-pane glass panel. A pair of six-light casement windows is positioned to the left of the entrance. One six-light casement window is centered on the east elevation. There are no windows on the north elevation. The cabin is painted gray, while the door, corner boards, and trim around the door and windows are painted green. (Photos 15-17)

⁵ The Store House and Outdoor Kitchen is depicted in Wolbrink Photograph 37b, ISRO Archives, which describes the building as an "Outdoor Kitchen with Canopy." The photos includes the cast iron cook stove and several stacks of crates along the south wall of the building, including several labeled "Sunkist Oranges."

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The interior of the cabin features a finished hardwood floor, although the stud walls and rafters are unpainted and exposed. A small wood stove is located in a corner. Perhaps the cabin's most unique design element becomes apparent from the interior; namely, the gable roof features an off-center ridge with an uneven slope. As a result, the east slope of the roof extends to a lower point along the wall, creating a somewhat more intimate space along that side of the cabin. (Photo 18)

The Gem Island cabin was designed by George Banning while he was a student studying architecture at Princeton University. Banning was a friend and classmate of Richard Edwards. The Edwards family records include the architectural plans for the building, comprising three pages of plans and elevations. One drawing depicts the design of the roof in what is essentially a sectional view. From this perspective, the roof with its off-center ridge and uneven slopes resembles an Adirondack style shelter, which appears to have been Banning's inspiration for the building. The plans are accompanied by a list of materials for the cabin and instructions for its construction, which were prepared by Deane Edwards. The list of instructions includes practical information such as, "Collar beams important to offset diagonal thrust of roof on walls," and "Framing is doubled around openings." But perhaps Edwards considered the first item on the list the most important. It states, "Measure twice and cut once!"

A construction photograph in the Edwards family records shows members of the Edwards family building the cabin. The photograph depicts Mary Edwards, Mary Parke Edwards, Annie Edwards, Deane Edwards, Anne Louise Edwards, and Edith Edwards. Richard Edwards also assisted with the construction of the cabin.

Dassler Camp

Judge Charles F.W. Dassler was a lawyer from Leavenworth, Kansas, who also served on the state supreme court. He and his family were also among the first of the summer residents to camp in Tobin Harbor. Dassler built his camp on a 2.8 acre parcel of land that he purchased from a defunct mining company in 1902. He later sold .3246 acres to his friend Dr. Connolly and .247 acres to Robert G. Seifert, which reduced the size of his property to 2.228 acres.

Dassler also owned an undivided one-third interest in a 53.8 acre parcel that was located immediately to the west of his camp. The boundary between Sections 26 and 35 defines the boundary between his 2.8 acre parcel and the 53.8 acre parcel. Dassler, along with his co-owners, later sold a total of 5.252 acres of this land to several of his Tobin Harbor neighbors.

The Dassler Camp is located on a high bluff on a point of land with expansive views in three directions, including views of Scoville Point and Tobin Harbor, and broad views to the east. A series of trails that converge at the Dassler boat house connect the Dassler, Connolly, and Seifert Camps. The trails are packed earth except in steeper areas where stone steps are installed. The most extensive set of stone steps is on the trail adjacent to the Connolly Cottage. There are also sections of stone steps on the trail near the Dassler Camp. Trails also connect the buildings at

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the Dassler Camp and several trails lead down to the cove along the south side of the property.
(Photo 19)

The Dassler Camp contains four contributing buildings including a cottage, a sleeping cabin, a privy, and a boathouse. There is also one non-contributing building, a privy built by the NPS in ca. 1990. The dock is considered a contributing structure.

In recent years, the camp has been used for an artists-in-residence program.

7. Cottage

Built between 1905-1911, the cottage is an irregularly-shaped, one story building measuring 23' by 15'4" with a lean-to section that is 12'6" by 11'4". The building also includes an open porch supported by four log posts measuring 12'6" by 4'. The cottage is clad with split vertical logs and is covered by a gable roof with rolled asphalt roofing. The windows are six-light casements arranged as single elements or in groups of two or three.

A screen door is positioned near the center of the west elevation, providing access to a small entrance porch. (Photo 19) A single six-light casement window is positioned to the right of the door. The section of the cottage to the left of the door projects to the north and west from the main mass of the cottage. Both walls contain paired six-light casements. The north elevation includes a stone fireplace that is flanked by single six-light casements. (Photo 21) The east elevation contains a band of three, six-light casements positioned within the porch. Just to the south of the porch is a portion of the cottage with a low roof that is somewhat sunken into the ground. (Photo 22) This space is only accessible from the exterior. A low stone wall and stone-faced steps define the area adjacent to the entrance. This section of the cottage provided space for a work area and laundry. The work area contains a single, two-light casement window next to the entrance door on the south elevation. A pair of six-light casement windows is centered on the east elevation. The final wing of the cottage is positioned above and set back from the work area. Both the south and east walls of this section of the building contain pairs of six-light casement windows.

The main entrance door to the cottage, which is accessed through the screened porch, is built with vertical planks and includes a six-light window. The cottage contains a living room, kitchen, and bedroom. All three rooms feature knotty pine paneling. The rafters are exposed throughout the cottage. A stone fireplace is centered on the north wall of the living room. (Photo 23) A galvanized metal tank in the corner of the kitchen provided a gravity-fed flow of water to the kitchen sink and a sink in the bedroom. (Photo 24) The cottage still contains some original furniture.

A photograph of the building from 1935 does not depict the stone fireplace along the north elevation, which was likely constructed shortly thereafter although, it does depict a stove pipe projecting from the roof over the living room, which is no longer in place.⁶ Additionally, as of

⁶ Wolbrink Photograph 31a, ISRO Archives.

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1935, only the logs on the portion of the cottage containing the bedroom are painted. They appear to have been painted a dark color. The remaining logs appear unpainted. The log siding of the main portion of the cottage is currently painted an orange-brown, while the rear section of the cottage is painted dark brown. Today, only the portion of the cottage representing the work area remains unpainted. The trim is painted green.

The cottage was rehabilitated in 2007-2008. Deteriorated log siding was replaced and the overall structural system of the cottage was strengthened.

8. Sleeping Cabin

The sleeping cabin is located on a hillside with dramatic views across the cove toward Scoville Point. (Photo 25) The cabin was built by Dassler's son, John, in 1927-28, and was used by his family, including his wife, Lucy, and their children, Margaret and Dale. John Dassler estimated that the materials to construct the cabin cost \$175. Freight from Duluth was \$15. An additional \$40 was spent for the interior partitions and built-ins.⁷

The one story rectangular frame building measures 16'4" by 12'2" and is supported on timber posts. The cabin features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The north elevation includes two adjacent entrance doors that provide separate access to the cabin's two rooms. The entrance is protected with a canopy supported by brackets. The cabin's windows are four-light casements arranged in groups of two. Two separate groups of windows are positioned on the lakeside elevation. Pairs of four-light windows are centered in each end wall. (Photo 26) A drip edge caps the windows. Each end wall features log skirting. The NPS acquisition records from about 1936 state the cabin was unpainted. The cabin is currently painted gray with green trim.

While each of the two sleeping rooms has its own entrance doors, the rooms are joined through an interior door. Both rooms feature knotty pine paneling and cabinets. The room at the west end of the building includes a wall-mounted ladder that leads to a small loft over the adjacent room.

9. Privy

The privy was built by Dale Dassler in about the 1940s. The privy is a square buildings constructed with vertical logs. The door is built with vertical boards. The privy is covered by a shed roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The building is in deteriorating condition.

10. New Privy

The new privy is a square building constructed in ca. 1990 by the NPS. The siding features vertical boards with recessed battens. The shed roof consists of a wooden frame with

⁷ Dassler File, ISRO Archives.

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overhanging eaves that is covered with fiberglass. Because the new privy was built after the period of significance, it is considered a non-contributing building.

11. Boat House

The Dassler boat house occupies what appears to be a puzzling location along the shore of Tobin Harbor. From a shoreline perspective, the Connolly cottage is between the Dassler boathouse and the Dassler cottage and, thus, the boathouse would appear to be associated with the Connolly Camp. However, when Dassler sold land to Dr. Connolly, he only sold a parcel of land along the shore and retained ownership of the land surrounding the Connolly Camp. Thus, the boathouse was in fact on Dassler's property.

Built by about 1920, the boat house is a one-story frame building located completely on land, unlike most Tobin Harbor boat houses that were built over the water. (Photo 27) The building measures 20' by 10'4" and features corner boards and a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. Large double doors built with vertical boards open onto the dock on the lakeside elevation. The gable end above the doors is clad with horizontal boards. This elevation is painted white, which is the building's original color. The three remaining walls are also clad with horizontal boards, but are now covered with asphalt siding with a scalloped edge. Pairs of four-light casement windows are centered on the side walls and one four-light casement window is centered on the rear wall. The window trim is painted green.

12. Dock

The rectangular dock extends from the boathouse into Tobin Harbor. The dock is supported by original structural elements and is considered a contributing structure. There are also some surviving remnants of a dock that the Dassler's built to the east of the Connolly cottage. In 1967, Margaret Dassler Lichte wrote to the NPS asking for assistance in building a new dock with "oil drum pillars" that could be filled with concrete in order to withstand the weather. The NPS agreed to set the barrels if Art Mattson would build the upper structure. Only several largely submerged steel fragments survive of what appear to be the barrels.

Connolly Camp

Charles Parker Connolly and his wife, Ellen, were from Rockford, Illinois. They had learned about Isle Royale from Judge Dassler as well as Dr. S.B. Langworthy, who also built a cabin on Isle Royale. Connolly was a Unitarian minister and he had previously fished with the two men while he was a minister in Lawrence, Kansas. Beginning in the early part of the 20th century, Connolly would close his church in early June to spend the summer on Isle Royale, not departing until around Labor Day. At the time it took about a week to travel from Rockford to Tobin Harbor. During their earliest visits, the Connollys camped in the cove between Scoville and Dassler Points. They slept in a canvas army tent on a wooden platform. The Connolly family continues to use and maintain the camp under a special use permit.

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Known as Cliff Crest, the Connolly Camp is on a .3246 acre parcel of land that includes 140' of lakeshore along Tobin Harbor. The lot is 101' deep. A trail from the Dassler boathouse leads past the guest house and up a steep hill with stone steps and a rustic railing to the cottage. (Photo 28) The camp includes three contributing buildings, a cottage, a guest cabin, and a privy.

13. Cottage

The Connolly cottage features the most dramatic setting of any building in Tobin Harbor. (Photo 29) Built in 1914, the cottage is perched on the edge of a rock-faced cliff with expansive views to the north and east. The cottage, including the front porch, measures 24' by 20'2" and features drop lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The roof extends over the front porch, which runs the length of the north elevation. An addition off the rear elevation is covered with a shed roof. The addition was built in about 1916. A screened porch along the west side of the addition was added sometime after 1935. Together, the rear additions measure 17'1" by 8'.

A walkway with a rustic railing runs along the west elevation, continues around the front porch, and ends with an open porch on the east elevation. There are entrance doors to the porch on both the east and west sidewalls.

The windows are typically six-or nine-light casements organized in a variety of arrangements. The west elevation includes a band of three, nine-light casements. (Photo 30) There is one nine-light casement window on the south elevation, and there are several multi-pane casement windows on the east elevation. The front porch features a continuous band of two-light casements that were replaced in 1997.

The interior of the main cottage is divided into three rooms. The living room is a multi-purpose space that occupies the west side of the cottage. The east side of the cottage contains a small kitchen and a wash room. The interior partition walls for the kitchen and wash room are covered with beadboard. A door at the rear of the living room provides access to the back porch within the shed roofed addition. A bedroom is located off the porch, which was known as Sarah Connolly's room. The exterior stud walls and rafters of the cottage are exposed. The stud walls and rafters are unpainted in the living room and are painted white in the kitchen, wash room, and rear bedroom.

A loft above the kitchen and wash room is used for storage and also holds a galvanized tank. The tank can be filled with water, providing a gravity fed flow of water to sinks in the kitchen and wash room. An opening with a counter provides access between the kitchen and the front porch. A California Cooler is positioned below the counter and may be accessed from the porch. As was typical in Tobin Harbor, the porch was an extension of the living space and the Connolly porch includes original furniture and items collected over the years. (Photo 31)

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14. Guest Cabin

The guest cabin is located near the shore, just to the east of the Dassler boat house. Built in about 1916, the cabin measures about 9' by 9' and features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The gable ends are also covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The door is centered on the east end of the cabin and is flanked by six-light casement windows. Each of the remaining three walls features one six-light casement window. The cabin is painted dark green. The guest cabin is in fair condition and the roof is deteriorating.

15. Privy

Built by about 1950, the privy features drop lap siding, corner boards, and a shed roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The door contains a small window. The privy is painted dark green but the paint is almost completely worn off the building.

Seifert Camp

The Seifert Camp is located to the west of the Dassler boat house. Dr. Robert G. Seifert and his wife, Fritzi, were from Chicago, Illinois, and first came to Isle Royale in about 1922. Their camp is located on a triangular parcel of land with 245' of lakeshore. The .247 acre parcel was purchased from Judge Dassler on October 22, 1925 and had been part of Dassler's original 2.8 acre property. On June 7, 1926, Seifert transferred ownership of the property to his wife.⁸

A trail from the boat house leads to the Seifert Camp. The camp contains three contributing buildings, a cottage, a storage building, and a privy. There are also remnants of a partially submerged dock along the shore. The life lease has expired on the Seifert Camp.

16. Cottage

The Seifert cottage was built in the fall of 1925 by Art Mattson. The cottage is perched on a steep hillside just above Tobin Harbor with views toward Minong Island. (Photo 32) The building measures 22' by 20'4" and is supported on cedar posts. The cottage features drop-lap siding, corner boards, picket skirting, and a hip roof covered with asphalt shingles, although a portion of the south slope is covered with asphalt rolled roofing. A brick chimney projects from the center of the roof. The windows are two-over-two double-hung sash. A continuous band of windows extends along the lakeside elevation. Each of the remaining elevations includes an entrance door flanked by single windows. Historically, each elevation included a porch. Today, only the porch on the south elevation remains. (Photo 33) The porch is covered with a roof supported by two peeled logs. The cottage is painted light gray and appears to be the original paint color noted in the NPS acquisition records, which was described as "pale white."

⁸ The transfer of ownership was handled in two transactions, which were both executed on June 7, 1926. The first transaction transferred the property from Robert and Fritzi Seifert to John T. Zuris. The second transaction transferred the property from Zuris to Fritzi Seifert. Zuris simply served as the third party necessary to execute the transfer and never held a true ownership interest in the property.

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The interior includes a living room along the lakeside elevation and a kitchen and bedroom at the rear. The interior features exposed stud walls and rafters, while the partition walls are bead board. There is a wood stove in the living room. A small closet with a full door is located in the bedroom, an unusual feature in Tobin Harbor. There is also an exterior wall board in the bedroom that is stamped, "A Mattson, Tobins Harbor," indicating the building materials for the cabin had been ordered by Art Mattson. The kitchen features built-in cabinets faced with bead board, a propane stove, and a sink with a hand pump.

17. Storage Building

The storage building is a small rectangular building measuring about 8' by 10' that features tongue and groove siding, corner boards, and a gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. (Photo 34) The walls on each side of the building are divided into three sections by vertical boards. A five-panel door is centered on the west elevation. The north and east elevations each contain one four-light casement window. The windows are now boarded over. The gable ends feature rows of decorative wooden shingles with a scalloped pattern. The shingles are painted blue-green.

The building was moved to the Seifert Camp in 1955. However, its exact origin has been somewhat in question. During the 1950s, the Seiferts allowed friends from Omaha, Nebraska, Dr. William S. Sturges and his family, to use their camp. In a letter dated March 18, 1955, Dr. Sturges asked District Ranger Floyd A. Henderson if they could acquire "the little dormitory cottage" at Minong Resort and move it to the east side of the Seifert cottage. Superintendent Robert F. Gibbs replied on March 22, 1955 and said they had permission to move the small cabin if the Sturgeses could interest Park Service employees to relocate the cabin on their days off. Gibbs wrote again on June 9, 1955 to say the building at Minong Resort would have to be disassembled to move it up the hill. To save the effort, he stated the park had a 10' by 10' paint house that had already been dismantled. If the Sturgeses approved, Park Service staff would relocate the dismantled paint house to the Seifert property and erect it there. Sturges agreed and paid \$81.55 for the move, which included labor, roofing, and six concrete blocks. The payment was made to Park Service employee John Murn.

Possibly because of the references to the dismantled 10' by 10' paint house, it had been suggested that the Seifert storage building might have been a pre-fabricated building from one of Isle Royale's CCC camps. However, there were two buildings at the Minong Lodge, the Arrowhead and Edgewater Cottages that appear nearly identical to the Seifert storage building. Both feature distinctive scalloped shingles in their gable ends like the Seifert guest cabin. The Arrowhead Cottage was moved to the Park Service headquarters on Mott Island and at one time was used for the Cook's Quarters. Historic photographs of the building while on Mott Island depict the original sign stating "Arrowhead." Therefore, it seems clear that the Seifert guest cabin was not originally from a CCC Camp, but was a building from Minong Lodge and most likely the Edgewater Cottage.⁹ The Edgewater Cottage was estimated to have been built at

⁹ Refer to NPS inventory cards and photographs 50-1048 and 50-1049 of the Arrowhead Cottage while it was on Mott Island, ISRO Archives. It is referred to as Bldg #13, Cook's Quarters.

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Minong Lodge in 1908. Lou Mattson confirms he assisted in moving the building from Minong Lodge and recalls it was used for storage at the Seifert Camp.¹⁰

18. Privy

The privy features drop-lap siding and a shed roof covered by asphalt rolled roofing. It contains one square window. The privy is currently painted blue.

Langley Camp

The Langley Camp was located at the base of the cove at Scoville Point. The property consisted of a .431 acre parcel of land that was purchased by Helena Smith of Minong Lodge from Judge Dassler and his partners. She bought the property for her daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Thorp Langley. The NPS appraisal records describe a cottage, a privy, and a dock. The cottage was built with vertical logs and was covered by a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The cottage included four rooms, an enclosed porch, and a stone fireplace. Only landscape features survive at the Langley Camp including remnants of stone steps near the cove. The clearing where the cottage was located still exists as an open space. These features contribute to the historic landscape.

Stack/Wolbrink Camp

The Stack/Wolbrink Camp is located at the east end of Minong Island, within view of the Connolly and Seifert Camps. The cottage was built prior to 1907, and perhaps as early as 1902, for civil war veteran General John N. Roberts from Lawrence, Kansas. The land for the cottage was leased from Gust Mattson, the owner and founder of Mattson's Resort. The subsequent owners of the resort continued the lease arrangement until Roberts purchased the property in 1917. Roberts sold the property to Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1919 for \$3,500.00. Emerson is said to have been a direct descendant of the well-known author of the same name.

Beginning in 1920, Emerson rented the property to Fred and Florence C. Stack of Omaha, Nebraska. The Stacks first visited Isle Royale in 1919 along with the Henry L. Beard family, who were their next door neighbors in Omaha. That year the Stacks and the Beards stayed at the resort and rented Hillcrest Cottage, which is very near to the property they eventually purchased. They continued to rent until 1926 when Emerson's widow sold the property to the Stacks. After Fred Stack died in 1931, Florence added their daughter, Florence Theresa Stack, to the deed. Florence Theresa Stack later married Donald Wolbrink, who first came to Isle Royale in 1935 as a landscape architect for the National Park Service.

The Stack/Wolbrink Camp is located on a .78 acre parcel of land and includes four contributing buildings, the cottage, a guest cabin, and two privies. The dock is considered a contributing structure. The camp once featured a large boathouse that was damaged during a winter in the 1950s and was later demolished. Remnants of the submerged cribs and timbers that supported

¹⁰ Lou Mattson, e-mail message to Rolf Anderson, October 13, 2016.

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the boat house are clearly visible in the water. The NPS appraisal records for the camp include a description of a "Tool House and Woodshed," but this building is no longer extant. There had also been a dock on the northeast end of the island, near the main cottage, and submerged remnants of the dock may remain.

A trail leads from the dock on the north side of the island, up several stone steps, to the cottage. From there the trail continues past the cottage to the south side of the island. There are several stone steps and remnants of mortarless stone walls along the trail. A separate trail once connected the property to the adjacent resort, which was the social center of Tobin Harbor.

19. Cottage – "Bonnie Loch Hame"

Fred Stack named the cottage "Bonnie Loch Hame," which is Scottish for "my good lake home." The cottage is perched on a rocky point at the east end of the island. (Photo 35) The cottage is the largest remaining summer residence in Tobin Harbor and measures 32'4" by 32'4". An enclosed sun porch measuring 16' x 8' is centered on the east elevation. A small open porch is located on the east side of the sun porch with steps descending to the lake. There is a covered porch measuring 13'8" by 10' that is positioned at the west side of the south elevation with views to the south and east. (Photo 36) There is also a recessed porch centered on the west elevation, which is the primary entrance to the cottage. Both the covered porch and recessed porch include large floor-to-ceiling screens that are stored in the cabin. The cottage features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a low pitch gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing.

The majority of the windows are six-light casements arranged in groups of one or two. There is one six-light casement in each outer bay of the west elevation. An entrance door is positioned in center bay, off the recessed porch. (Photo 37) The door features a large glass panel and is flanked by a six-light casement to each side. The north elevation includes a pair of six-light casements in the center bay and one six-light casement in each end bay. The east elevation includes one six-light casement in each outer bay. The projecting sun porch in the center bay features a band of two-light casements on three sides and also includes a door at the center of the east elevation. The south elevation includes one six-light casement in each end bay while the center bay features two six-light casements arranged vertically. A small vent for the California Cooler is visible just below the eave. (Photo 38) The cottage is currently painted gray with green trim, which is likely similar to the original colors. The cottage is featured in Wolbrink photographs 33c and 34a.

"Bonnie Loch Hame" contains seven rooms. The living room runs the complete length of the cottage from east to west through the center of the building. The living room walls are clad with horizontal tongue and groove knotty pine paneling, while the ceiling rafters are exposed and unpainted. A large brick fireplace projects from the south wall of the living room. A wood stove is positioned in front of the fireplace and vents into the chimney. The living room opens directly into the sun porch, although it is possible there had been a partition wall separating the spaces at one time. The floor of the porch and an area at the west end of the living room are covered with vintage linoleum.

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There are three bedrooms that open onto the living room along the north wall. (Photo 39) The dining room, kitchen, and a fourth bedroom open onto the living room along the south wall. The dining room includes shelves built into two of the corners and features Art Deco style linoleum. (Photo 40) The exterior stud walls and rafters are exposed and unpainted. The kitchen contains a white enameled sink with a hand pump, a propane stove and refrigerator, and a California Cooler. (Photo 41) An older ice box is now located in the living room. The stud walls in the kitchen are exposed and painted gray. The ceiling is painted yellow. The floor of the kitchen, and the kitchen table, are covered with an Art Deco style linoleum of a different pattern from the one used in the dining room. Each bedroom includes a small built-in dressing table and a closet that is shielded with a curtain. The same fabric is used for the dressing table and closet, as well as the window curtains. Each of the four bedrooms features a fabric with a different pattern. (Photo 42)

The cottage is filled with original furnishings including wicker chairs, upholstered furniture, decorative objects, and other household items. When the life lease for the camp expired upon the death of Florence Stack Wolbrink in 2004, the NPS contacted her daughter, Gretchen Wolbrink Bond, to inquire about the disposition of the contents of the cottage. She replied, "It is my wish that all the contents be donated to the park."¹¹ As a result, the furnished cottage is an excellent representation of an interior from the period.

20. Guest Cottage – "Wee Hoose"

The "Wee Hoose", or little house, is located on the north side of the property, perched just above the water and adjacent to the dock. Built by about 1920, the guest cottage measures 22'6" by 12'4" and features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a hip roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. There are entrance doors on the north, south, and east elevations. The door on the north side opens to a porch with steps leading down to the dock. There are six, one-over-one light casement windows positioned on the four elevations. The north side contains three windows while each of the remaining elevations contains one window. The building is painted gray. A small sign attached to the south elevation identifies the buildings as "The Wee Hoose."

The "Wee Hoose" contains two rooms. The room on the east side of the building has exposed stud walls and rafters that are unpainted. The floor is painted green. The room on the west side also has exposed stud walls and rafters but they are painted white. The floor is also painted green. The room contains a wood stove. While each room has an exterior entrance door, there is also an interior door providing access between the rooms.

21. North Privy

The north privy is a rectangular building located near the "Wee Hoose" and was likely built at about the same time (ca. 1920). The walls and the door are built with horizontal siding. The privy is covered with a steeply pitched shed roof with asphalt rolled roofing and features wide

¹¹ Letter to Superintendent Phyllis A. Green from Gretchen Wolbrink Bond dated April 14, 2005. ISRO Archives, Stack File.

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overhanging eaves. The building is painted gray with green trim. It is likely the privy contained a chemical toilet at one time. By the 1980s, the privy had fallen into disrepair and it has been repaired several times over the years. The last repairs were made in 2013 using salvaged materials found at the Stack/Wolbrink Camp or from the Savage boathouse. A new roof was installed and floor and wall boards were replaced where needed. At the same time, the building was rotated 90 degrees because a tree had grown up in front of the door.

The NPS appraisal records for the camp include a description of a building that was identified as a "Fish Mausoleum." While the meaning of the term "Fish Mausoleum" is not known, the dimensions of the building were noted as 3 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 10 inches. Based on these dimensions, it is possible that the North Privy is the same building.

22. South Privy

The south privy is a rectangular building located to the southwest of the main cottage, "Bonnie Loch Hame," and it was likely built at about the same time (ca. 1902-1907). The building is very similar to the north privy, but it is somewhat smaller. The building features horizontal siding and a steeply pitched shed roof. The south privy is painted gray with green trim. At one time the building contained a chemical toilet. (Photo 43) By the 1980s, the south privy had fallen into disrepair and it has been repaired several times over the years. The last repairs were made in 2013 using salvaged materials found at the Stack/Wolbrink Camp or from the Savage boathouse. A new roof was installed and floor and wall boards were replaced where needed.

23. Dock

The dock is located adjacent to the "Wee Hoose," alongside the site of the former boat house. The dock is supported by original structural elements. It was repaired in 2009 and 2010. Most of the decking was replaced using salvaged materials found at the Stack/Wolbrink Camp. The dock is considered a contributing structure.

Just to the west of the dock, remnants of the submerged cribs and timbers that supported the boat house are clearly visible in the water. (Photo 44)

Minong Lodge

The Minong Lodge complex occupied the majority of the land on Minong Island, which was originally known as Margaret's Island. The island consists of 9.57 acres. Once the .78 acre parcel at the east end of the island was sold for the Stack/Wolbrink Camp, the remaining land totaled 8.79 acres. The focal point of the lodge was at the west end of the island.

Fisherman Gust Mattson first opened the resort in about 1900 with his wife Margaret, for whom the island was originally named. Mattson had operated a fishery on the island and then began to offer accommodations to visitors as early as 1898. He then closed the fishery and focused his attention on operating the resort. He sold the resort in 1906 to a Calumet school teacher named Martini, who within a few years sold it to Edward Sears Smith, a former sea captain. After

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Smith's death in 1916, his wife, Helena, and daughter, Grace, operated the Tobin's Harbor Resort for more than 20 years until it was purchased and closed by the NPS. In the early 1930s, the resort was renamed Minong Lodge.¹²

The resort contained a log lodge located along the shore adjacent to the docks, a two-story frame building that served as a store and post office, and a two-story frame building set back from the shore that contained the dining hall. There were also a number of service and support buildings including a laundry and a bath house. The resort also contained at least seventeen cabins, which ranged from very small one room buildings to larger cabins with multiple rooms. The majority of the buildings were frame construction although several were built with logs.

The Hillcrest cabin and a second cabin that was later used as the post office building for Tobin Harbor residents are the only surviving buildings at Minong Lodge, although a number of buildings from the property were later moved to other locations in Tobin Harbor. The cabin and post office are considered contributing buildings. A dock is considered a contributing structure. There are also some masonry remnants on the grounds of the lodge. For example, there are some concrete remnants that appear to have formed the edge of a large grassy area immediate south of the dining hall.

24. Hillcrest Cottage

The Hillcrest cottage is located along the south side of the island with views of Tobin Harbor. Built in 1912, the cabin is a square, one story building that features a hip roof and a central brick chimney. The walls are built with cedar logs set vertically. (Photo 45) There is a recessed corner porch with a railing built with poles in a decorative "X" pattern. (Photo 46) The cabin also features picket skirting. The interior is divided into three rooms. The cabin is in deteriorating condition. At one time, the building was known as the "Coast Guard Cabin" because the men who manned the Passage Island light house resided in the cabin during their off days.

A privy built with vertical logs is located near the cabin. The building is in deteriorating condition and its shed roof has collapsed. Because of its condition, the privy is considered a landscape feature.

25. Dock

The dock is an L-shaped structure located near the west end of Minong Island. The dock is supported by original structural elements and was repaired in about 1950 and re-decked in the 1990s. The dock was also repaired in 2010. Some of the substructure was replaced and approximately 40% of the decking was replaced using salvaged materials that had been staged at the Stack/Wolbrink and Dassler Camps. The dock is considered a contributing structure. (Photo 47)

¹² Thomas P. Gale and Kendra L. Gale. *Isle Royale: A Photographic History* (Houghton, Michigan: Isle Royale Natural History Association, 1995), 108-109.

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26. Post Office

The post office building rests on the dock at the point where the dock meets the shore. The building was moved to its current location by the early 1950s. The post office is a small rectangular building measuring about 8' by 10' with drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The door is located on the south wall. There is one six-light casement window on the west elevation. (Photo 47) At one time there was a sign above the door that stated, "Post Office, Tobin Harbor." The building contains a table with the original mail sorter. The mail sorter contains pigeon holes with the names of the Tobin Harbor residents stenciled in white. There is also a slot labeled "Light House" for the Coast Guard men on Passage Island. (Photo 48)

Tobin Harbor residents originally received their mail at Minong Lodge in a two-story building located along the shore that contained a store and post office. After the lodge closed, the mail sorter was moved to the Mattson dock and became a gathering place on "boat day" when the mail was delivered. Once the Mattson's replaced their old boat house, the mail delivery moved back to Minong Island to the current building.¹³ Tobin Harbor families continue to receive their mail at the post office building.

It had been suggested that the post office building was constructed with salvaged materials from a building at the Windigo CCC Camp. However, more recently it was suggested that the building is actually from Minong Lodge. The building appears very similar to the buildings that comprised a group of five nearly identical cabins at Minong Lodge known as the Ten, Jack, Queen, King, and Ace Cottages, all of which were estimated to have been built in 1909. The five cottages were all arranged closely together in a single row. The Ten, Jack, King, and Ace Cottages all measured 8'1" by 10'2" while the Queen Cottage was somewhat larger. The main difference between the cottages appears to have been the placement of the windows. In addition, it is known that the Jack and King Cottages were moved to the Bangsund Fishery. Thus, the post office building is mostly likely either the Ten or Ace Cottage.¹⁴

Mattson Fishery

The Mattson Fishery is located along the south shore of Tobin Harbor, just to the south of Minong Island. The Mattson family may have had a presence on Isle Royale as early as 1882 and the family established one of the early commercial fisheries in Tobin Harbor. The family operated the fishery through several generations. Louis Mattson operated the fishery beginning in the late 19th century and was later joined by his sons, Art and Ed Mattson. Art continued to operate the commercial fishery until 1960 when it finally closed.

¹³ Louis Mattson, e-mail message to Rolf Anderson, October 13, 2016.

¹⁴ The Ten, Jack, Queen, King, and Ace Cottages are pictured in Wolbrink Photograph 11d, ISRO Archives. Two of the cottages are also seen in the background in a photograph taken during a meeting of the Isle Royale Protective Association at Minong Lodge in 1938. See Figure 30.

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Art Mattson and his wife Inez played a pivotal role in Tobin Harbor's summer community.¹⁵ Art constructed a number of the cottages, built docks, and helped the summer residents maintain their camp buildings. He also repaired boats and motors. A sign over the entrance to one of buildings at the Mattson Fishery buildings stated, "Mattson Repair Shop." Art would meet the summer residents when they arrived on Isle Royale and transport them to their camps. Inez opened and cleaned the cottages and would often have fresh baked bread and a hot meal waiting for them upon their arrival. The Mattson family continues to use and maintain the fishery under a special use permit.

The Mattson Fishery is located on a 1.21 acre parcel of land that measures 175' by 300'. Through Judge Dassler and his partners, Louis Mattson obtained title to the property.¹⁶ The property has evolved over the years. Photographs from the early years of the 20th century depict an array of buildings located along the shoreline, including a log ice house. Over the years, those building were replaced by the current buildings.

The majority of the buildings are located along the hillside above Tobin Harbor. A winding path leads from the dock up the hill to a flatter area where the buildings are sited. A steep path leads from behind the Art Mattson cottage to the crest of the hill where a garden was located. Rocks were cleared from the area and placed in piles that still exist. Soil was scraped together to form raised beds, which are also visible. The garden included potatoes, carrots, beans, squash, and other vegetables, as well as strawberries, and an apple tree. A flower garden was located near the Art Mattson cottage. A rose bush still survives from the garden.

The property contains nine contributing buildings, including two cottages, a guest cabin/net house, a second net house, a chicken coop, a woodshed, a privy, a fish house, and a storage building. The dock is considered a contributing structure. Remnants of earlier docks are visible beneath the water.

27. Art and Inez Mattson Cottage

Built in the late 1920s, the Art and Inez Mattson cottage is a rectangular building measuring 30'6" by 20' with a lean-to section at the southwest corner measuring 10' by 9', a rear porch measuring 15'7" by 6', and a front porch measuring 16'7" by 6'. (Photo 49) The entire building is covered with a hip roof with asphalt rolled roofing that extends over the various projecting elements of the cottage. A brick chimney rises from the ridge of the roof. The building features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and pairs of one-to six-light casement windows that are spaced

¹⁵ Inez Mattson's maiden name was also Mattson. Her father's name was Louis Mattson, the same name as her father-in-law's. Her son was also named Louis Mattson.

¹⁶ The Anderson and Mattson Fisheries were contiguous to one another along the south shore of Tobin Harbor. Judge Dassler explained that he sold the land associated with both fisheries to Andrew Anderson in 1913. He also described how Anderson in turn sold the west 175' to Louis Mattson. Letter to H. T. Harper, Isle Royale National Park Commission, from C.F.W. Dassler dated August 24, 1935, Dassler File, ISRO Archives. Thus, both the Anderson and Mattson families had clear title to their land. This was not the case with many of the commercial fisherman on Isle Royale, who, as a result, did not have the option of a life lease on their properties once they were purchased for the national park. However, a number of the fisherman without title to their properties remained on Isle Royale under special use permits.

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along the elevations. There is also a pair of double-hung windows next to the entrance door along the front porch. The rear porch is screened, while the front porch is open with four log posts supporting the roof. Skirting of vertical boards covers the exposed areas on the north, east, and west elevations of the building. The cottage is painted white, the same color noted in the NPS appraisal records. The trim is gray. In about the 1950s, a gabled dormer was added to the west slope of the roof to bring more light into the kitchen. (Photo 50)

The interior of the cottage includes five rooms. The living room runs the entire width of the central portion of the building. Two bedrooms open directly off the living room along the east side of the room. An eating area and the kitchen are positioned along the west side of the living room. The eating area was formerly a bedroom used by Art's father. The stud walls are exposed and unpainted except in the kitchen where the interior walls are painted white. The ceiling is lined with plywood left over from the construction of the Gale cottage. The living room includes a wood stove for heat.

The kitchen contains a wood stove and a kerosene stove that were both used for cooking. There is also an ice box. A California Cooler is located on the back porch. Only one side of the California Cooler is attached to the house, which results in three sides exposed to the outdoors in order to help keep the food cool. The kitchen also includes counters and shelves and a sink with a hand pump.

28. Ed Mattson Cottage

The Ed Mattson cottage is located to the south of the Art and Inez Mattson cottage. The building was completed in about 1930.¹⁷ The cottage features log construction along with wooden shingles, giving the building a picturesque Rustic style appearance. The cottages measures 20' by 15'9" with a 9' by 7'4" lean-to addition at the rear. The building is covered with a gable roof with rolled asphalt roofing. A brick chimney projects from the roof. The entire cottage is built with peeled vertical logs. The east and west gable ends are clad with wood shingles. There is porch on the north elevation that is covered with a shed roof. The porch features a railing built with poles in a decorative "X" pattern. There are two, one-over-one double-hung windows on the west elevation and one double-hung window on the east elevation. The remaining windows are two-light casements. Two casement windows are positioned on the north elevation and there is one casement window on the south elevation. There is an entrance door off the porch and a second door to the lean-to section at the rear. The skirting on the exposed north and east elevations, including the porch, consists of wood shingles. The skirting on the west elevation is built with either vertical logs or horizontal boards. The logs and shingles are unpainted although the trim is painted green.

The cottage has experienced a persistent insect infestation that has caused serious damage to the building. The roof over the rear lean-to section of the cottage has largely collapsed and the roof

¹⁷ The NPS appraisal record describes the building as the Louis Mattson cottage, although the Mattson family states the cottage was associated with his son, Ed Mattson. However, Louis Mattson was legal property owner of the entire property.

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over the remaining cottage is in deteriorating condition. Yet, in spite of the damage, it is still clear that the cottage was a finely crafted building, particularly when viewing the west elevation. (Photo 51)

29. Guest Cabin/Net House

The guest cabin is referred to as an “unfinished building-framing only” in the NPS appraisal records from 1936. The guest cabin was completed in 1937 and it is built into the hill below the garden. (Photo 52) The building measures 14’ by 12’ and features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing that extends over a porch that runs the length of the north elevation. The porch roof is supported by three peeled logs. There is an entrance door off the porch with a four-light casement window to the west side. There is also a four-light casement window on the east elevation. There is one casement window on the west elevation and there are two casement windows on the south elevation. The guest cabin is painted white with gray trim and contains one room. The interior walls are unfinished and the roof is supported by log rafters.

The building was used as a guest cabin for only a short period of time. By 1940, the building was used for storing fish nets.

30. Net House

The net house is a rectangular frame building measuring 12’3” by 8’3”. It was constructed in the late 1920s or the early 1930s and was used for storing fish nets. The building features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a shed roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. There is a door on the east elevation that is also constructed with drop lap siding. One four-light casement window is adjacent to the door and there are two four-light casement windows on the south elevation. The building contains one room. The storage building is painted white with gray trim. The roof is in deteriorating condition.

31. Privy

The privy is a rectangular building that features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a shed roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. A door built with bead board is located on the north elevation. A small square window is positioned next to the door. The privy is painted gray. The building was constructed in 1950 and replaced an earlier privy built closer to the shore.

32. Chicken Coop

The chicken coop is located to the west of the Ed Mattson cottage. The building was constructed in the late 1930s or the early 1940s. The rectangular building is clad with wood shingles and covered with a shed roof. There is a door on the north elevation and one six-light casement window. The roof of the chicken coop is in deteriorating condition. The building was originally surrounded by a fence.

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33. Woodshed

A small rectangular woodshed is located to the east of the Art and Inez Mattson cottage. The building is constructed with horizontal and vertical boards and plywood. The building is covered with a shed roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The building was constructed in two phases. The southern portion was built in the 1950s. The roof covering this section was from the roof of a pilot house from a sunken ship. The northern section dates to the early 1960s.¹⁸

34. Fish House

The fish house is located along the shore of Tobin Harbor with just the south end of the building positioned on the land. The remainder of the building projects over the water. (Photos 52-53) The fish house is a rectangular building featuring drop-lap siding, horizontal boards in the gable ends, and a gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing, although most of the roofing has worn away. There are double entrance doors on both the north and south elevations, one two-light casement window, which no longer contains glazing, on the east elevation, one double-hung window, now boarded over, on the west elevation, and a multi-pane casement window in each gable end. The building is in deteriorating condition.

The fish house was built in 1951 with lumber salvaged from the Edwards boat house, which was destroyed during a previous winter. Walls sections were floated from Edwards Island to the Mattson Fishery. The building is still painted red, which was the original color of the Edwards boat house. The building replaced an older fish house of similar size that was located immediately to the west of the current building.

The fish house played an important role in the commercial fishing operation. Fish were cleaned, boxed, covered with ice, and prepared for shipment. Some fish, such as whitefish and herring, were salted in kegs. During the fall, when fish were spawning, trout and whitefish eggs were collected in large cases that were shipped to mainland fish hatcheries. There was a live well beneath the fish house that was used for keeping selected fish alive.¹⁹

35. Storage Shed

The storage shed is located along shore adjacent to the boat house. The northern edge of the building is perched over the water. (Photo 54) The shed is a rectangular building measuring approximately 8' by 10' and features drop-lap siding and a shed roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. A door on the west elevation is built with vertical boards.

The storage shed is the south portion of the prior fish house and it appears to be in its original location. It is the one portion of the prior fish house that remains. The building was constructed in the late 1920s or early 1930s. This portion of the building occupied half the width of the original fish house and was the part of the building closest to the land. Only the east slope of the

¹⁸ Louis Mattson, interview by Rolf T. Anderson, August 9, 2016, Penguilly, Minnesota.

¹⁹ Louis Mattson, interview by Rolf T. Anderson, August 9, 2016, Penguilly, Minnesota.

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roof of the fish house covered the storage shed, creating the building's shed roof.²⁰ The building was used to store motors, spare parts, and tools that were used in various building projects at the fishery and elsewhere in the harbor.

36. Dock

The rectangular dock is surfaced with planks that are laid perpendicular to the shore. The dock is supported by original structural elements and is considered a contributing structure. Remnants of prior docks and rock-filled cribs are visible in the water.

Snell Camp

Faustina Breen was the original owner of the Snell Camp. She and her husband, William, were from Duluth, although she had previously lived in St. Paul and attended Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church where Maurice Edwards was the pastor. The camp is located on a .574 acre parcel of land that includes 100' of shoreline along Tobin Harbor. The property is 250' deep. The land was sold to Breen from the 53.8 acre parcel that was owned by Judge Dassler and his partners. After Breen was approached by the National Park Service about acquiring her property, she decided to sell the property to the Roy and Lucile Snell rather than complete the paperwork required for a sale to the federal government and pay the back taxes.

Roy and Lucile Snell were from Wheaton, Illinois, where Roy wrote children's books for a living. Lucile suffered from severe asthma and the Snells spent several summers on Lake Huron near Hessel, Michigan, in the vicinity of the Les Cheneaux Islands, where she could find some relief. But as the area became increasingly crowded, the Snells decided to find a quieter retreat. Roy and Lucile Snell, along with their sons Jud, John, and Laurie, first came to Isle Royale in 1931 and rented a cabin in Rock Harbor. Lucile decided that Tobin Harbor would be a safer environment for her boys and the family proceeded to rent the Breen property beginning in 1932. The Snells purchased the property in 1936. The Snell family continues to use and maintain the camp under a special use permit.

The Snell Camp is located atop a steep hillside. A stairway from the dock leads up to the top of the hill. The stairs consists of steps formed with packed earth and wooden risers. There is a railing along each side of the stairway built with logs and poles. (Photo 56) The camp includes four contributing buildings, a cottage, a guest house, a boat house, and the "writer's shack." The dock is considered a contributing structure. The privy is considered a non-contributing building.

37. Cottage

The cottage was may have been constructed as early as 1905 for Faustina Breen. The cottage is a one story, T-shaped building, sheathed with horizontal boards and covered with a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The roof extends over a full-length enclosed porch along the north

²⁰ The original fish house and the attached storage shed at the rear is pictured in Wolbrink Photograph 29d, ISRO Archives,

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elevation as well as the rear portion of the building that contains the kitchen. There is an exterior brick chimney at the rear. There are a variety of window types and sizes. There are bands of two-and three-light casements around the porch. Other windows include six-or twelve-light casements in various arrangements. (Photos 57-59) The porch features a skirt with a geometric design that is constructed with horizontal, vertical, and diagonal peeled poles in a pinwheel arrangement. (Photo 60) The cottage is painted green.

Roy and his son, John, built a one room addition on the west elevation for a bedroom. The design and materials for the addition are consistent with the original cottage. The addition was likely constructed in 1944 as there is a letter in the NPS files dated June 3, 1944, from Roy Snell to Superintendent Baggeley stating, "I'd like to build a small bedroom at the back of our cottage."²¹

The interior of the cottage includes a living room, kitchen, bedroom, and porch. The living room and porch are combined to form a larger room. The interior features exposed stud walls and rafters that are painted white. The cottage contains many original furnishings, including a cast iron and enamel cook stove and a wood stove for heat. (Photo 61) A portable California Cooler sits on the side porch. A Snell family photograph depicts the same California Cooler suspended from a tree.

38. Guest Cabin

The guest cabin is a one-story building located to the west of the main cottage. The cabin consists of two separate sections that are joined together. The eastern section of the building measures approximately 8' by 12' and features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a hip roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. There is a door on the east elevation that is also faced with drop-lap siding. There are two, three-light casement windows on the north elevation. A second entrance door is centered on the south elevation. This door is also faced with drop-lap siding.

The eastern section of the guest cabin was moved to the site in 1944. A notation in the NPS file on the Snell Camp dated August 17, 1944 states, "He (Roy Snell) had moved a small cabin to the west of the residence." The building appears to be the bath house from Minong Lodge. The NPS appraisal records state the bath house was built in 1934. Both buildings appear to be the same size and share the same massing and materials.²²

According to Snell family records, the western portion of the guest house was built by 1954. This section of the building features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. It measures approximately 10' by 12'. There is an entrance door on the north elevation and a continuous band of seven double-hung windows that wrap around the southwest corner of the building. There are no doors or windows on the south elevation. The building is about 2' wider than the eastern portion. The gable roof of the western section of the building fits over the roof of the eastern section and they overlap at their juncture. The entire

²¹ Snell File, ISRO Archives.

²² The bath house, while still located at Minong Lodge, is pictured in Wolbrink Photograph 12a, ISRO Archives.

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cabin is painted green. Each section of the building contains one room. The rooms may be entered through an interior door.

No individual building in Tobin Harbor has been identified that appears to be an exact match with the western section of the guest cabin. This suggests that the building was constructed with salvaged materials, rather than a building that was disassembled and moved in its entirety. The most unique feature of the western section of the building is the band of double-hung windows that wraps around the north and west elevations. Both the Tom Smith and Newman cottages featured continuous bands of double-hung windows and either building might have been the source of the windows for the Snell guest cabin.

39. Boat House

The boat house is located on the edge of the hill overlooking Tobin Harbor. The building measures 16' x 7' and features horizontal siding, corner boards, and a steep gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. There is one door on the east elevation and several windows of various sizes. There is a low, shed roof addition at the rear. The storage building is painted green.

There is a wooden track along the side of the boat house that descends to the lake and was used to hoist boats up the hill where they would be stored alongside the building. The boat house itself was used for storage. (Photo 62)

The boat house may have been installed on the site as early as the 1930s, but it was definitely in place by the early 1950s as it appears in Snell family photos from that time frame. It is believed the building was moved from another location in Tobin Harbor, although an exact match has not been found, or the building may have been constructed from salvaged materials.

40. Writer's Shack

The writer's shack is located on the crest of a hill high above the Snell cottage. A steep path behind the cottage leads to the building. The building was used by Roy Snell as a retreat where he could write his books. The writer's shack was constructed by 1935 and was originally located near the west side of cottage.²³ The building was moved to its present location in about 1944, perhaps to provide a location with greater solitude for Roy Snell to write his books.

The small, square building measures about 7' by 7' and is sided with plywood. A shed roof covers the one-room building. There is one window opening that once contained a six-light casement window. A Snell family photo depicts the building with one wall protected with canvas. The building contained a wood stove at one time. The "writer's shack" is in deteriorated condition. (Photo 63)

²³ Wolbrink Photograph 35d, ISRO Archives, depicts the "writer's shack," in its original location near the cottage. The 1935 photograph depicts the cottage prior to the bedroom addition as well as the decorative skirting.

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Roy Snell was the author of 84 children's books, which sold over two million copies during his lifetime. Two of his books were set on Isle Royale, *The Galloping Ghost* and *The Phantom Violin*, and *Third Warning*.²⁴ He also wrote stories and articles, including a story for the magazine *Children's Activities* about Uncle Ned, a moose who allowed a young boy to ride on his back. In addition, Snell wrote articles about Isle Royale for various Detroit and Chicago newspapers. He also lectured extensively about Isle Royale to school groups and civic organizations. For many years he lectured at schools in the Detroit area under the sponsorship of *The Detroit News*.²⁵

41. Privy

The privy is a rectangular building with plywood walls and a plywood door. A shed roof covers the building, which is painted red. The privy was constructed in 1983. Because the building was constructed after the period of significance, it is considered a non-contributing building.

42. Dock

The rectangular dock is still supported by its original cribbing and is considered a contributing structure. The dock was repaired in the late 1950s or early 1960s by Art Mattson. In 2013, John Snell reinforced the cribs to prevent rocks from spilling out and also replaced deteriorated decking.²⁶

Merritt Camp

The Merritt Camp is located on island #16, a 1.33 acre island to the north of the Snell Camp. The Merritt family dates its presence on Isle Royale to 1866 when Alfred Merritt first came to Isle Royale as a deck hand. The Merritts built an earlier camp near Blake Point and also had other landholdings on Isle Royale. The Merritts purchased island #16 in 1915 from Albert Ribenack. At the time of the purchase there were two buildings on the island, the cottage and a guest cabin known as the "Parsonage." The Merritts later acquired three additional buildings for the camp. A building was moved to the camp from Minong Lodge and a building and a privy were moved from the Bailey Camp. The Merritts also built a wood shed. The Merritt family continues to use and maintain the camp under a special use permit.

The Merritt Camp includes five contributing buildings, a cottage, two cabins, a tool shed, and a privy. The camp also includes two contributing structures, the wood shed and the dock.

²⁴ *The Galloping Ghost* is the story of a football player named Red Rogers who is kidnapped by a gang who bet on a football game. The kidnappers take Red to Isle Royale. He escapes with a girl named Betsey Todd who is from Isle Royale and wants to show Red the island. They hide in a number of the cabins in Tobin Harbor. *The Phantom Violin* is the story of three young women who live in a shipwreck off Blake's Point. They enjoy the experience and try to find the origin of mysterious violin music that comes from Greenstone Ridge.

²⁵ "Roy Snell to Talk on Isle Royale," *The Detroit News*, October 23, 1932, n.p.

²⁶ John Snell, e-mail message to Rolf T. Anderson, January 30, 2017.

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43. Cottage

The cottage is located on a rocky outcropping at a narrow point on the east end of the island, providing views of Tobin Harbor in three directions. It is believed the cottage was built by 1910. The cottage is a rectangular building measuring 15' by 24'. The building features wide, horizontal beadboard, corner boards, and a medium pitch gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The south elevation includes the entrance door and a band of six, six-light casement windows. (Photo 64) There is an identical band of casement windows on the north elevation. There is a band of three casement windows on the east elevation. (Photo 65) In 1964, a bedroom was added to the west end of the building by Art Mattson. The gable roof of the addition tucks under the eaves of the existing building. The addition is built with horizontal boards and includes a four-light casement window on each of the south and west elevations and a pair of four-light casements on the north elevation. The interior of the original cottage contains one large multi-purpose room serving as the living room, dining room, and kitchen. The exposed stud walls are painted white. A small loft was added to the east end of the room in 1925. The kitchen area includes a wood cook stove and a sink with a hand pump. The cottage is painted green.

44. The Parsonage

The Parsonage is a guest cabin that was built in about 1905. The building is located along the shore of Tobin Harbor at the southwest end of the island. The cabin measures 10' by 12'6" and is covered with a steeply pitched gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. A stove pipe projects from the roof. The building is clad with narrow, horizontal beadboard, although the upper portion of the north elevation is clad with horizontal boards. A section of the north elevation is clad with vertical beadboard and appears to cover the location of an earlier door. The door is located on the east elevation. There are two casement windows grouped together on the south elevation, which replaced an earlier bay window, and there is one casement window on the west elevation. The Parsonage is painted green. (Photo 66)

45. Deer Manor

Deer Manor is small rectangular building measuring approximately 8' x 10' that is used for storage. The building features drop-lap siding and a steeply pitched gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The entrance door is on the east elevation. There is a four-light casement window on the south elevation and a six-light casement window on the north elevation. The guest cabin is painted green. This building was moved to the Merritt Camp from Minong Lodge in 1956. Like the post office building on Minong Island, Deer Manor resembles the five very similar cabins at the resort that were named Ten, Jack, Queen, King, and Ace Cottages. The Ten, Jack, King, and Ace Cottages all measured 8'1" by 10'2", and are very similar in size to Deer Manor. In addition, it is known that the Jack and King Cottages were moved to the Bangsund Fishery. Thus, Deer Manor is mostly likely either the Ten or Ace Cottage. (Photo 67)

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46. Moose Manor

Moose Manor is used as a guest cabin. The rectangular building is approximately 12' by 13'. The building features drop-lap siding and is covered with a medium pitch gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. A stove pipe projects from the roof. There is an entrance door on the south elevation, a pair of six-light casements on the east elevation, and one four-light casement on the north elevation. The cabin is painted green. Moose Manor was moved from the Bailey Camp in 1962 where it was probably used as a storage building.

In 2006, a shed-roofed addition was constructed along the west elevation with recycled materials. The addition provides storage space. The addition is also constructed with drop-lap siding. There is an entrance door on the south elevation but there are no windows on the addition. Interestingly, while at the Bailey Camp, the building had an open-sided canopy roof on the same elevation. Thus, the addition recalls the original appearance of the building. (Photo 68)

47. Privy

The privy is a small square building covered with a shed roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The building is constructed with horizontal boards, although the door is constructed with bead board. The privy also features corner boards and a small window on the north elevation. The privy is painted green. The privy was moved from the Baily Camp in 1962.

48. Wood Shed

The wood shed is a small frame structure covered with a shed roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The shed is open on the south end. The Merritts built the tool shed in 1948. The wood shed is considered a contributing structure.

49. Dock

The rectangular dock is located on the south side of the island. The dock is supported by its original cribs dating from 1905 and is considered a contributing structure. The original dock was 38 feet long, but it was extended by an additional 15 feet in 2005. Interestingly, the extension was supported by an original crib that had not been in use.²⁷ (Photo 69)

Kemmer/Underwood Camp

The Kemmer/Underwood Camp is located on a one acre parcel along the north shore of Tobin Harbor. The camp is at the west end of the Tobin Harbor Historic District. The camp was originally occupied by Gustav Sigismund, who may have built the cottage as early as 1915. He rented the property to Elizabeth Kemmer, a teacher from St. Paul, Minnesota, and her Aunt, Elizabeth Underwood. The two women had first visited Isle Royale by about 1928 and rented

²⁷ Grant Merritt, e-mail message to Rolf T. Anderson, January 30, 2017.

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the cottage for several years before deciding to purchase the property. However, when the title of the property was reviewed during the land acquisition process for Isle Royale National Park, it was determined that the land was owned by the Island Copper Company. Sigismund had never owned the property. When this came to light, Elizabeth Underwood explained her understanding of the situation to E. G. Willemin, who was handling the land acquisition. "The builder of my cabin paid rent for ten years, believing he thereby received a squatter's right to the point. We purchased his cabin in that belief also."²⁸ An invoice in the Merritt family papers confirms that Sigismund had been renting the property from the Island Copper Company. The invoice is dated October 8, 1915 and is addressed to Sigismund. The total amount due was \$15.00. Ten dollars was billed to "To trespass of about 1 acre on lot 1, sec. 34-67-33 on which (a) building is erected." Five dollars was billed, "To portion of (the) cost of survey of this location." A handwritten note on the invoice states the payment was received on April 3, 1916.

Nevertheless, Sigismund did not have title to the property. In order to resolve this problem, Willemin offered a life lease to Kemmer and Underwood on the property that they had been occupying in exchange for a two acre unimproved parcel owned by Underwood located along the north shore of Tobin Harbor to the north of the Beard Camp. Willemin described the property as being located at Red Rock. Underwood apparently purchased the land from the Island Copper Company because while she owned the surface rights to the land the Island Copper Company retained the mineral rights. This offer was acceptable to Kemmer and Underwood and a life lease was executed in July 1939 on the property they had been occupying.²⁹

While it is clear that Sigismund built the cottage, it has been less certain who built the remaining buildings or when they were constructed. However, a statement from Kemmer suggests she and Underwood were responsible for several of the buildings. Willemin had met with Elizabeth Kemmer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in his notes dated August 19, 1936, he states, "The niece (Kemmer) stated that she had a financial interest in the erection of some of the buildings." In addition, a letter from Willemin dated June 5, 1937 states the, "site contains two cabins and outbuildings."³⁰ This suggests that Kemmer and Underwood built the guest cabin and the boathouse, which share similar design features and both feature drop-lap siding. It is also possible that Kemmer and Underwood built at least the addition to the log-sided storage building, which is also clad with drop-lap siding. Thus, it seems reasonable to conclude that the remaining buildings at the camp were constructed in the 1930s by Kemmer and Underwood.

The Kemmer/Underwood camp is located on a small peninsula with a protected cove on its north side. The camp includes five contributing buildings, the cottage, guest cabin, wood shed and storage building, boat house, and privy. The dock is a non-contributing structure. There is also a privy built in ca. 1990 by the NPS that is considered a non-contributing building.

²⁸ Letter to E. G. Willemin from Elizabeth Underwood dated February 23, 1936. Kemmer File 9067, ISRO Archives.

²⁹ Letter from NPS Chief Contract Examiner G. A. Moskey to E. G. Willemin dated July 12, 1939; notes by E. G. Willemin dated October 28, 1937; letter from E. G. Willemin to G. A. Moskey dated June 5, 1937; and a letter from E. G. Willemin to Elizabeth Underwood dated May 15, 1937, Kemmer File 9067, ISRO Archives.

³⁰ Notes by E. G. Willemin dated August 19, 1936; Letter from E. G. Willemin to G. A. Moskey dated June 5, 1937, Kemmer File 9067, ISRO Archives.

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50. Cottage

The cottage is perched on a rocky outcropping on the south shore of the property. (Photo 70) The rectangular building measures 37' by 20'6" and features clapboard siding with corner boards and a gable roof with various slopes. The roof is covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The entrance door is on the east elevation and is reached by several stone-faced steps. (Photo 71) A small enclosed screen porch is located at the northwest corner of the building. The windows are of various types and sizes and are arranged somewhat irregularly. They include bands of double-hung windows on the south and east elevations as well as single pane casements arranged as single windows. There is also a group of three casement windows on the north elevation. Wood panels cover a number of the windows for protection. Skirting along the south elevation and portions of the east and west elevations is built with horizontal boards spaced about two inches apart. The cottage is painted dark brown with green trim. The cottage was painted a lighter color as of 1935. Color photographs from the 1950s indicate that the building had been painted white.³¹

The interior of the cottage includes a living room, kitchen, pantry, and two bedrooms. The walls and ceilings are covered with plywood panels, although one wall of the living room is clad with horizontal knotty pine paneling. The kitchen features a California Cooler. (Photo 72) Originally, there was a rooftop vent for the California Cooler but it has been covered over.

The cottage experienced significant damage from a fire in 1956. The building was then repaired by Art Mattson, his son Louis, and Jack Orsborn. They also added a rear addition that increased the size of the building. The entrance was also moved from the south to the east elevation. In spite of these changes, the cottage retains its general appearance from the 1930s. In recent years the cottage had provided housing for park staff. A solar panel provided electrical service.

51. Guest Cabin

The guest cabin is located on a point at the east end of the island. (Photo 70) It was likely built in the early 1930s. The building measures 8'4" by 18'4" and features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The entrance door is on the west elevation. An eclectic mix of windows is arranged on the remaining elevations. There is a one-light casement window on the south elevation, one double-hung window on the east elevation, and a pair of eight-light casements as well as a one-light casement on the north elevation. The guest cabin is painted brown with green trim.

The interior features exposed stud walls and rafters, which are also unpainted. A hand-lettered notation on one of the wall boards states, "From Erlawson (sic) Lbr. (Lumber) Co. (to) F. W. Manthey, Tobin Harbor, Isle Roy(ale)." This would suggest that Fred Manthey ordered the building materials and then constructed the guest cabin.

³¹ Wolbrink Photograph 32a and Wolbrink Photo Album, ISRO Archives.

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52. Storage Building

The storage building is a rectangular building measuring 6'4" by 13' that is covered with a shed roof with rolled asphalt roofing. The building is constructed in two sections. The section to the east is built with vertical logs while the section to the west is built with drop-lap siding. A door on the south elevation is built with vertical boards and contains a two light window. The storage building is unpainted. The log section is likely the oldest section of the building while the frame section was likely built by the early 1930s. (Photo 73)

53. Boat House

A trail leads past the storage building to the boat house. Built on a hillside, the boat house is perched above the shoreline on the north side of the island. (Photo 74) The boat house is supported by cedar post and features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The building measures approximately 10' x 20'. Double doors create a large opening on the lakeside elevation. The door to the west is wider than the door to the east. There is also an entrance door on the east elevation. The eave of the roof extends over the entrance creating a canopy. The canopy is supported by brackets. An eight-light casement window is positioned to the right of the door. The boat house is painted brown with green trim. The boat house was probably built in the early 1930s by Fred Manthey. There are several submerged timbers near the boat house that appear to remain from a previous dock.

54. Privy

The privy is located off a trail that leads to the west from the cottage. The square building is constructed with vertical boards. The building is covered with a shed roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The privy is unpainted. It is likely the privy was constructed by the 1930s. (Photo 75)

55. New Privy

The new privy is a square building constructed by the NPS in ca. 1990 and built with vertical boards with recessed battens. The shed roof consists of a wooden frame with overhanging eaves that is covered with fiberglass. The building is identical to the new privy at the Dassler Camp. Because the privy was constructed after the period of significance, it is considered a non-contributing building. (Photo 76)

56. Dock

The dock is located along the south side of the Kemmer Camp. It was constructed by the NPS in about 1998. Because the dock was built after the period of significance, it is considered a non-contributing structure. (Photo 70)

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Savage Camp

The Savage Camp was owned by Louise Cochran Savage. She and her brother, Thomas, circumnavigated Isle Royale in 1904. The camp was on a 1.33 acre island north of the Kemmer/Underwood Camp. The majority of the buildings at the camp were demolished, although the large boat house and a storage building were left in place and eventually collapsed from disrepair. The remains of the boat house and storage building are still visible along the shore along with submerged remnants of the docks and cribs that supported the boat house. These features contribute to the historic landscape.

The Savage Camp contained one of the largest collections of buildings in Tobin Harbor. The NPS appraisal records describe the main cottage, a guest cottage, a "small building," a privy, two boat houses, and two docks. However, the boat house that was on "dry land" was described as "about ready to collapse." The main cottage was a large, 1½ story building constructed on the top of a steep hill. The cottage was built with horizontal logs with saddle-notched corners. A porch extended the full length of the primary north elevation and featured a railing built with peeled poles with a decorative "X" design. There was a balcony on the upper level.

Emerson Camp

The Emerson Camp was located south of the Gale Camp on a .13 acre island. Along with the Savage Camp, the Emerson Camp contained one of the largest collections of buildings of any of the summer camps. All the buildings have been removed from the Emerson Camp. Only submerged structural remnants of the docks and cribs that supported the boathouse remain, although they are clearly visible along the north side of the island even in an aerial view. These features contribute to the historic landscape.

The NPS acquisition records describe a cottage, wood house, pagoda, oil and gasoline store house, tool house, privy, boat house, main dock, east dock, and a dock tool house. The large number of buildings must have filled the small island. The island also included 140' of concrete walkway with an average width of 3' and it is possible that remnants of the masonry still exist. Described as "Emerson's Lodge," the cottage was built with horizontal logs. The remaining buildings were all frame construction. The pagoda measured 8' by 10' and was described as "open" with a "canopy roof." Although a photograph of the pagoda has not been located, it may have been the most exotic building constructed in Tobin Harbor.

Gale Camp

Alfreda Prince Gale was a single mother from St. Louis, Missouri. She first came to Isle Royale to visit her friend Gertude How, who was also from St. Louis, and she later rented a cottage at the Anderson Fishery. In 1936, the Gale family acquired their own Tobin Harbor island, which was located a short distance from the How's island. Alfreda's father, Alfred Prince, purchased the island from Etta Bandettini for his daughter and two grandsons, John and Philip Gale. In 1937, the Gales completed a cottage and a second building that contained space for storage and a

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privy. Both buildings were constructed by Art and Ed Mattson, John and Philip Gale, and Bill Robinson.

The two buildings are among only three known buildings in Tobin Harbor that were designed with professional assistance. The buildings are depicted on a large drawing in a series of plans, elevations, and sections. The drawing is titled, "Residence on an island in Lake Superior off the coast of Isle Royale." The drawing is dated March 1937.³² Although the name of the architect is not provided, the Gale family believes that the architect was likely the same architect who designed the Prince home in St. Louis.

The Gale Camp is on a 1.81 acre island. (Photo 77) Trails lead from the docks on the north and south sides of the island to the camp's buildings. The trail on the north side includes several stone steps. An open-sided wood storage rack that has been rebuilt with salvaged materials is considered a landscape feature. There are three contributing buildings at the camp, a cottage, a guest cabin, and the tool shed and privy. The two docks are considered contributing structures. There is one non-contributing privy. The Gale family continues to use and maintain the camp under a special use permit.

57. Cottage

The Gale cottage is one of the larger cottages in Tobin Harbor. (Photo 78) The cottage is a one-story rectangular building measuring 35' by 26' and features simulated log siding of varying widths, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles, which replaced the original rolled roofing. The gable ends are clad with vertical boards. A screened porch attached to the west elevation measures 10'4" by 19.' (Photo 79) The porch is covered with a gable roof. A second porch measuring approximately 6' by 7' is attached to the north elevation and is covered with a shed roof. The cottage is painted brown with green trim.

The east elevation includes a large picture window with a single pane of glass. One pair of six-light casement windows is positioned to the left of the picture window and two pairs of six-light casement windows are positioned to the right. The south elevation includes a pair of French doors in the center and pairs of six-light casement windows to each side. The west elevation includes three pairs of six-light casement windows to the left of the porch.

The north elevation features what is perhaps the most fanciful window arrangement of any seasonal cottage in Tobin Harbor. A pair of four-light casement windows is centered on the east elevation and flanked by two small casement windows that are positioned to each side. The small casements are rectangular with two-light windows. The small casements are arranged vertically and placed about two feet apart. The windows reflect the arrangement of the space on the interior. Bunk beds are placed to each side of the central window along the exterior wall. The bunks align with the small casements so that each bunk has its own window. (Photo 80)

³² The architectural drawing for the Gale guest cabin is found in the ISRO Archive.

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The interior includes a multi-purpose living room, a kitchen, a bunkroom, and a second bedroom. The living room features a stone fireplace and vertical knotty pine paneling. (Photo 81) The living room also features a tent ceiling that is clad with plywood panels. The east slope of the tent ceiling reflects the slope of the roof. The west slope of the tent ceiling angles toward the interior wall of the living room. This design feature was probably incorporated to bring down the height of the ceiling and create a more intimate space.

The bunkroom features some wall areas with exposed studs, while other wall areas are clad with horizontal knotty pine paneling. The rafters are exposed and unpainted. A ladder provides access to the top bunks. (Photo 82) The kitchen includes a sink with a hand pump and art deco style linoleum. More recently, a skylight was installed above the kitchen. The cottage is filled with original furnishings.

There were several changes made in the construction of the cottage that deviated from the original plans. The plans called for two bedrooms along the east wall that were to be separated by a hallway and a closet. However, these spaces were combined to form the single bunkroom. A rear porch was also added during construction. This change was probably made to improve access to the kitchen. The plans called for a single entrance to the cottage on the south wall that was accessed through the side porch. To reach the kitchen, it would have been necessary to pass through the side porch, the living room, and then enter the kitchen. A change was made to add an exterior entrance to the kitchen along the west wall that could be accessed through the rear porch. An additional change was the relocation of the California Cooler. The plans placed the "cold closet" along the south wall of the kitchen near the sink, but with only one side along an exterior wall. The California Cooler was relocated to the back porch, with three walls exposed to the outside, which probably improved its cooling ability.

58. Tool Shed and Privy

Built at the same time as the cottage, the tool house and privy is a rectangular building measuring approximately 6' by 9'. (Photo 83) The building is clad with log cabin siding and covered with a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The building is painted brown.

A partition wall divides the building into two spaces. The spaces are accessed through an entrance door in each end wall. The space to the north provides room for storage while the space to the south originally included the privy, which was later removed and replaced with a shower. The shower consisted of a large metal bucket with a nozzle that could be suspended from the ceiling.

59. Guest Cabin

The guest cabin is located along the north side of the island, perched just above the water. (Photo 84) Constructed in about 1952-53, the cabin is a rectangular building measuring about 9' by 12' that features log cabin siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The south elevation includes an entrance door and one double-hung window. A canopy supported by brackets shelters the entrance. The north elevation includes a single double-hung window and a pair of

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double-hung windows. The end walls each include one double-hung window. The building contains a single room. The cabin is painted bright yellow with green trim, which are said to be its original colors.

It is likely that the materials for the guest cabin were salvaged from the Sophie Peterson Cottage at the Anderson Fishery. The cottage featured log cabin siding and double-hung windows that appear identical to the materials used to construct the Gale guest cabin. Additionally, portions of the Peterson Cottage were painted "chrome yellow" according to NPS appraisal records.³³

60. Privy

Built in 1964, the privy is a square building built with vertical boards and covered with a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The entrance door is also built with vertical boards and contains a diamond shaped window. The privy is painted dark green. Because the privy was constructed after the period of significance, it is considered a non-contributing building.

61. South Dock

The rectangular south dock is located near the cottage. The dock is supported by original structural elements and is considered a contributing structure.

62. North Dock

The L-shaped dock is located on the north side of the island near the guest cabin. The dock is supported by original structural elements and is considered a contributing structure.

How Camp

Gail How Place recalled that her father, Calvin How, Jr., first visited Isle Royale in about 1898 when he was 15 or 16 years old. The next summer he and his parents returned to Isle Royale and camped on the island that the family would eventually purchase. His mother, Calla How, liked the island because she thought it was too small to contain any snakes. In ca. 1908, Calla How purchased the island from Alfred and Jane Merritt. The How family was from Duluth where Calvin How, Jr., owned an insurance agency.³⁴

The How Camp is located on a .16 acre island and includes two contributing buildings, the original cabin built sometime after 1906, and a larger cottage built by Fred Manthey in 1937. Remnants of a dilapidated privy are considered a landscape feature.

³³ The Gale family confirms that the materials for the guest cabin originated from a building at another camp in Tobin Harbor. The Sophie Peterson Cottage is the only building that has been identified in Tobin Harbor that featured narrow-dimension log cabin siding and smaller double-hung windows that appear identical to the materials used in the Gale guest cabin. In addition, portions of the Sophie Peterson Cottage were painted "chrome yellow," which would appear to be a match with the yellow paint on the guest cabin, which is said to be the original color. The Sophie Peterson Cottage is pictured in Wolbrink Photograph 29a, ISRO Archives.

³⁴ How File 9029.

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63. Cottage

The cottage essentially spans the width of the island at its narrowest point. (Photo 85) The rectangular, one-story building is covered with a gable roof with asphalt shingles and sheathed with simulated log siding. The cottage is built on a hillside and as the building extends to the south the siding continues to the ground to form the skirting. The gables feature board and batten siding with scalloped ends. The full-length porch along the south elevation is perched directly above the edge of the water providing picturesque views of the surrounding islands. (Photo 86) The windows are generally pairs of six-light casements organized in groups of two or three. Many of the windows are covered with protective wood panels. Two 15-light French doors open to the screened porch. Two small exterior porches on the west elevation provide access to the screened porch and the kitchen.

There are three rooms in the How cottage, which is distinguished by its finished interior spaces. The living room, kitchen, and bedroom all feature knotty-pine paneling. (Photo 87) The ceilings are flat in the kitchen and bedroom and are also clad with knotty-pine paneling. The rafters are exposed in the living room, creating a more open effect. The kitchen features a linoleum floor with a geometric pattern and contains a hand pump and California Cooler. The kitchen cabinets are knotty pine. There are three full closets with doors in the How cottage, an unusual feature in a Tobin Harbor cottage. There are two closets in the living room (Photo 88) and there is a closet in the bedroom. The bedroom closet also contains a sink. A small panel next to the sink may be opened to provide access to the kitchen so that water could be handed through the pass-through. There is an improvised shower alongside the closet that is screened with a shower curtain. A metal tank provides a gravity-fed flow of water to the shower.

The original furnishings were left in place when the life lease expired on the How Camp, including wicker furniture, moose horns, and decorative items.

64. Cabin

The original cabin is built very close to Tobin Harbor, just several feet from the water. Originally, a dock extended in the lake directly from the cabin, however, the dock is no longer extant.³⁵ The cabin is a narrow rectangular building, measuring about 18' by 11', with a porch along the dockside, or south, elevation. (Photo 89) The porch was originally screened, but the screens have been removed. The cottage and porch are covered with a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. There is a small addition along the west elevation covered with a steep shed roof. The cabin is built with horizontal boards, although some areas are now covered with asphalt siding. The south elevation contains two four-panel doors and one six-over-six double-hung window to their right. The east elevation contains one six-over-six window. The south elevation of the addition contains two French doors with elaborate window arrangements. Each door features three rectangular windows that are separated by bands of three, small square windows. The west elevation of the addition contains a pair of six-over-two casement windows. An open

³⁵ The dock and cabin are pictured in Wolbrink Photograph 34d, ISRO Archives.

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porch extends along the north elevation, which contains another entrance door. The size and placement of the cottage, and the configuration and variety of the doors and windows, suggests it may have been moved to the site or was built with salvaged materials over time.

The interior of the cabin contains two rooms, one in the main portion of the cottage and one in the addition. The stud walls and rafters in the main portion of the cottage are exposed and painted white.

Beard Camp

Henry L. Beard and his wife, Katherine, lived next door to Fred and Florence Stack in Omaha, Nebraska. Henry Beard's sister, Grace Smith, and her husband Tom, lived in Omaha as well and also owned an island in Tobin Harbor. All three families spent their summers together on islands within sight of one another.

The Beard Camp is located on Island #12, a .34 acre island that Henry Beard purchased from Jessie Campbell in 1917. Campbell had previously purchased the island from Alfred and Jane Merritt. (Photo 90) The camp includes three contributing buildings, a cottage, a guest house, and a privy. A flagpole is considered a contributing structure. Only submerged remnants of the dock remain, although there is a concrete slab on the west end of the island that was associated with the dock. There are also several stone steps on the north side of the island leading down to the lake.

65. Cottage

Built in 1917, the Beard cottage measures 24' by 20' and features clapboard siding, corner boards, picket skirting, and a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. There is an 18' by 8' shed-roofed section at the rear that contains the kitchen and a covered porch. There is also a 6' by 8' front porch centered on the south elevation that is covered with a shed roof. Eight steps descend from the porch toward the lake. The cottage is painted light green with dark green trim. (Photo 91)

Windows are organized in pairs of six-light casements. Two pairs of casement windows flank the entrance door on the south elevation. There is a band of three pairs of casements on the east elevation, with an additional pair of casements to the right. Both the north and west elevations include two pairs of casement windows. A number of the windows are covered with wood panels for protection.

The interior of the cottage contains a living room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. The rooms are largely unfinished with exposed, unpainted stud walls and rafters. (Photo 92) Several of the studs and rafters are stamped, "H. L. Beard, Tobins Harbor, Isle Royale." They were conveyed to Isle Royale on the *Winyah*. The interior wall partitions are sheathed in beadboard. The living room contains a wood stove. The kitchen contains a sink with a hand pump and a California Cooler. (Photos 93-94) Both bedrooms have small clothes closets that were shielded with curtains. The cottage is filled with original furnishings.

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66. Guest Cabin

The guest cabin is located just to the west of the cottage and was built in about 1928. The building measures 11' by 9' and features vertical log construction. The building is covered with a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. (Photo 95) A log door is centered in the east gable end. A single window covered by a canopy is centered in the west gable end. The building is unpainted. In more recent years the building has been used for storage. Various original items are stored in the building including a wood stove and a manual washing machine.

In 1953, the guest cabin was moved a short distance to its current location. The cabin was originally located on the hillside that slopes toward the lake with its gable end oriented toward the shore. The building was turned 90 degrees and moved back onto a level area along the crest of the island with its sidewall oriented toward the shore. Robert Greene, who was Katherine Beard's son and Henry Beard's stepson, discusses the move in a letter to Superintendent Robert Gibbs that was received by the NPS in March 1954. The prior summer Greene had asked NPS employee Frank Kussito about "moving the little log cabin," but he didn't realize the move had already taken place until he received a photograph of the building in its new location from Alfreda Prince Gale. Greene asked the NPS for a bill so he could pay for the cost of the move.³⁶ He does not explain why the building was moved, but perhaps shifting the cabin from its hillside location to level ground placed the building on more stable footing.

67. Privy

The privy is located off a path near the east end of the island. Built in the 1950s, the building is constructed with plywood and is covered with a shed roof with rolled asphalt roofing. The privy is painted dark green while the door is painted white. A black cat is painted on the door.

68. Flagpole

The flagpole is located in an open area to the east of the cottage and is approximately 15' high. The flagpole is considered a contributing structure.

Assessment of Integrity

Tobin Harbor retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity. The majority of the buildings have had almost no alterations since their initial construction. This high level of integrity can be confirmed by comparing the current appearance of Tobin Harbor's buildings with the buildings as depicted in the 1935 Wolbrink Photograph Collection and as described in NPS appraisal records. In addition, photograph collections of Tobin Harbor families also provide evidence of the historic appearance of the camp buildings. Interior spaces are also in remarkably original condition. In addition, the opportunity did not exist to modernize a building through the

³⁶ Beard File, ISRO Archives. Wolbrink Photograph 55b, ISRO Archives, depicts the guest cabin in its original location.

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introduction of an electrical service or modern plumbing. Once the properties were purchased in the 1930s for the creation of Isle Royale National Park, restrictions were placed on alterations that could be made. Moreover, it became increasingly challenging for the seasonal residents to simply maintain their existing buildings. A typical change in the 1940s and 1950s was to simply move a small building from one camp to another. As a result, Tobin Harbor's remaining camps retain all seven aspects of integrity, including integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Overall, integrity of feeling has been reduced in that the level of activity in Tobin Harbor has decreased from the days when the commercial fisheries were in active operation and large ships brought passengers to Minong Lodge.

The most significant loss of integrity has been the removal of a number of properties from Tobin Harbor. Once the NPS purchased a property and the prior owner did not retain a life lease, or if the leased expired, it had been the policy to gradually remove the buildings. Located within the historic district, the following properties contained buildings that have been completely removed, although the properties may retain landscape features that have not yet been identified.

Smith Camp

The Smith Camp was located on Island #13, which consisted of a 1.66 acres situated to the north of the Dassler Camp. The camp was owned by Tom and Grace Smith, who were from Omaha, Nebraska. As a result, Tom's nickname was "Omaha" Smith. His wife is not to be confused with the Grace Smith who operated Minong Lodge. The NPS appraisal records describe a five room cottage and a dock. There was also a "basement" under the kitchen, which had a 16' by 16' concrete floor. Although it is not likely this was a basement in the conventional sense, rather, it was most likely an area under the cabin that was accessible. Interior fixtures included a California Cooler.

Carlson Camp

The Andrew Carlson Camp was located along the shore of Tobin Harbor, to the south of the Seifert Camp. The camp consisted of a .459 acre parcel measuring 100' by 200' that was purchased from Judge Dassler and his partners. The NPS appraisal records list a cottage and a privy. Built on a hillside, the cottage was built with vertical logs and covered with a hip roof with asphalt rolled roofing.

Anderson Fishery

The Anderson Fishery bordered the Carlson Camp to the north and the Mattson Fishery to the south. The 3.26 acre parcel measured 300' by 375'. The property for the Anderson Fishery was purchased from Judge Dassler and his partners. The NPS appraisal records note that the property was associated with Art Anderson and Sophie Peterson. The property included two cottages, a fish house, and a dock. One cottage was clad with drop lap siding and the second cottage featured log cabin siding. The fish house was built parallel to the shore. The buildings were painted "chrome yellow" with green or cream trim.

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Musselman Camp

The Birch Mussleman Camp was located on "Bird Island," a .17 acre parcel just to the north of the Merritt Camp. The property included a cottage that was built in 1906 on a rocky outcropping. The rectangular, frame building featured a medium pitch gable roof. A lean-to addition was added in 1928.

Hart Camp

A Captain Hart had a small camp along the north shore of Tobin Harbor near the Kemmer Camp. The cabin at the camp was essentially a shack. It is not likely that Captain Hart owned the land upon which the cabin was built.

Newman Camp

The Newman Camp was located on Island #12, a 2.61 acre parcel between the Beard and Gale Camps. The camp was originally owned by Jessie F Campbell, who deeded the property to E. R. Newman on July 7, 1931. The NPS appraisal records describe a cottage, a wood house, a privy, and a dock. Both the siding and roof of the cottage were described as "green composition," which was likely an asphalt-type material. The cottage featured bands of double-hung windows on portions of the south and west elevations.

Camps Located Outside the Tobin Harbor Historic District Boundary

Three additional camp sites in Tobin Harbor that are outside the boundaries of the historic district are discussed for informational purposes. But because of their loss of integrity they are not included within the boundaries of the historic district. Moreover, because two of these camps are so far removed from Tobin Harbor's concentration of buildings, even if the camps had retained integrity, it might have been logical to evaluate them as individual properties

Merritt Camp

The Merritt's first camp was located on Island #1 at the far northeast end of Tobin Harbor. The island consisted of 2.61 acres. According to the NPS appraisal records, the camp contained a cottage, a "shack," two privies, and two platform tents. Built in 1911, the cottage measured 31'6" by 30'6" and was covered with a gable roof with asphalt rolled roofing. The building's structural system, which consisted of log posts and beams, was exposed on the exterior. The cottage featured drop-lap siding and bands of six-light casement windows organized in groups of two or three. A railing built with peeled logs and poles with an "X" pattern extended around the entire cottage. The cottage contained five rooms. An historic photograph of the interior depicts a large stone fireplace and exposed stud walls.³⁷ The Merritt family sold their camp to the NPS, but retained a life lease on Island #16 located in the heart of Tobin Harbor. The Merritt family also owned additional islands, including Wright Island that they also sold to the NPS. Not only

³⁷ Gale, 113.

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is the first Merritt Camp located a considerable distance from Tobin Harbor's concentration of buildings, but the only remaining feature is a chimney.

Wheelock Camp

The Ellen Wheelock's Camp was located on a .17 acre island located to the south of the Kemmer/Underwood Camp. The property included a small cottage built in 1910 that was constructed on a rocky outcropping close to the shore. The cottage was clad with clapboard siding. A screened porch extended the full length of the east elevation. A dormer projected from the south slope of the roof. Although the Wheelock Camp was located a short distance from the Kemmer Camp, it is not included within the boundary of the historic district because there are no known surviving resources at the camp.

Bailey Camp

The Everett H. Bailey Camp was located about .5 mile to the southwest of the Kemmer/Underwood Camp. The camp was on a narrow .24 acre island just off the harbor's north shore. Bailey was president of the First National Bank in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also served as the president of the Isle Royale Protective Association and was known for organizing the annual Tobin Harbor regattas. The camp included a cottage, two guest cabins, a large boat house, and several services buildings. The guest cabins were located to each side of the cottage while the boathouses were on the protected north side of the island. But the island was so narrow that the cottage nearly occupied the entire width of the island. The large number of buildings on the small island likely prompted Phil Gale to comment, "The Bailey house was quite an establishment on that little wee island."³⁸

The cottage was a one-and-one-half story log building set back slightly from the shore. A shed dormer with three six-light casement windows projected from the south slope of the roof. The guest cabin to the left of the cottage was also built with logs. The second guest cabin is located to the right of the cottage is the only building at the Bailey Camp that survives. The building is sited very close to the south shore. The guest cabin is a rectangular building that features drop-lap siding, corner boards, and a gable roof. There are two window openings on the south elevation, one positioned at each side of the building. The windows wrap around the corners, although the openings are now boarded over. But the six-light casement windows are still in place and are visible on the interior. There are also wrap-around windows on the northwest corner of the building. The interior walls of the cabin are clad with horizontal beadboard. A section of ceramic stovepipe is still in place on the east elevation. The building is in deteriorated condition and nearly all the asphalt roofing has worn away.

There are also several submerged timbers that survive from the docks along the north shore of the island. Not only is the Bailey Camp located some distance from Tobin Harbor's concentration of buildings, but the one surviving building is in deteriorated condition.

³⁸ Phil Gale oral history, Isle Royale National Park Archives.

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Conclusion

The Tobin Harbor Historic District has experienced a loss of integrity because of the removal of the buildings within the boundary of the historic district described above. However, the loss of buildings in Tobin Harbor also serves to increase the importance of the remaining resources. In addition, the loss of integrity is offset by the exceptional level of integrity of the surviving resources and by the almost complete absence of non-contributing resources. There are only five non-contributing resources in the district, four privies and one dock built outside the period of significance, which are all very small in scale and have virtually no impact on the integrity of the historic district. Moreover, Tobin Harbor continues to meet the requirements for designation as a historic district. By definition, "A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development." In addition, many of Tobin Harbor's landscape characteristics, such as its complex spatial and visual relationships and circulation patterns, result in an historic district with an unusually strong sense of cohesiveness. Finally, because few comparative properties have been identified anywhere in the North Woods/Great Lakes region, Tobin Harbor is considered a rare property type, which also compensates for losses in integrity and elevates the significance of the entire historic district.

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

CONSERVATION

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1902-1962

Significant Dates

1931

1940

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Art Mattson

Fred Manthey

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Tobin Harbor Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the emergence of tourism in the North Woods region of the Great Lakes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Resource extraction industries, such as mining, logging, and fishing, once dominated the region, but over time the region evolved to become an important destination for leisure travelers, particularly the emerging middle-class. The transportation networks that served the commercial interests expanded their services and provided tourists with access to the region. Visitors began vacationing at newly-built resorts and many eventually acquired property to construct private seasonal homes.

The Tobin Harbor Historic District closely reflects these evolving regional trends. During the late 19th century, only commercial fisherman resided in Tobin Harbor until Gust Mattson began offering accommodations to visitors at his fishery in 1898. But as access to Isle Royale improved, and the number of visitors increased, he closed his fishery and established Mattson's Resort. Shortly after the turn of the 20th century, visitors who stayed at the resort, or camped on the harbor's shores or islands, began to purchase property and construct seasonal homes. They were seeking relief from the stress of urban life and came from many of the major cities in the region such as Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, Omaha, St. Louis, and other Midwest cities. Some specifically sought out Isle Royale for relief from hay fever or because its remote location offered a more restful wilderness experience than more popular resorts they had frequented in the region.

By the 1930s, Tobin Harbor had grown into a vibrant summer community with two commercial fisheries, a resort, and over 20 summer camps. Tobin Harbor became the largest summer community on Isle Royale and it remains an important representation of the history of recreation and tourism in the North Woods region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

The Tobin Harbor Historic District is also significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Conservation for its association with the Isle Royale Protective Association, an organization formed primarily by residents of Rock Harbor and Tobin Harbor. For over 20 years, the organization served as an important advocate for the protection and preservation of Isle Royale. The group worked to protect wildlife and to prevent commercial exploitation by logging companies. They lobbied to bring the vast corporate land-holdings on Isle Royale into public ownership and became an important champion for the creation of Isle Royale National Park.

Nearly every family in Tobin Harbor was a member of the Isle Royale Protective Association and many served in important leadership positions, including Maurice Edwards, Charles Connolly, and Glen Merritt, as well as Everett Bailey who served as the organization's president for many years. Year after year they worked politically to promote plans to permanently protect Isle Royale. Their efforts continued even after the passage of the Crampton-Vandenberg Act in 1931 that authorized the creation of Isle Royale National Park.

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The Tobin Harbor Historic District is also significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its distinctive architectural expressions that reflect the design of recreational properties during the first half of the 20th century. Moreover, the architecture of Tobin Harbor represents vernacular traditions that developed in the remote wilderness setting of Isle Royale. The buildings are notable for the simplicity of their construction, the variety of their designs, and the strong contrast with their urban counterparts. Typical cottages are small, one-story buildings clad with drop-lap siding and covered with gable or hip roofs that extend over porches and shed-roofed additions. Variations in massing, materials, and fenestration patterns result in a wide range of architectural expressions. Some buildings may have few counterparts anywhere in the region, such as the "outdoor kitchen" and open-sided dining pavilion on Edwards Island.

Another distinctive aspect to the vernacular architecture of Tobin Harbor involves how each of the camps grew to encompass a collection of buildings. Guest cabins, tool sheds, or boat houses were often added. Sometimes a building might be disassembled at a camp that had been vacated and moved to a new location and repurposed. Or salvaged materials might be used to construct a new building, or stored for possible repairs that might not be made until decades later. Not only does the use of salvaged materials and the movement of buildings speak to the ingenuity required in a remote wilderness setting, but the buildings in question are important and meaningful reminders of properties that may no longer exist in their original location.

The interiors of Tobin Harbor's cottages are also distinctive for their vernacular character. The cottages often feature unfinished interior spaces with exposed stud walls and rafters that were frequently left unpainted. There is simplicity in the spatial organization, even in larger cottages, including the absence of hallways or full closets. Kitchens or bedrooms open directly from the main living room, which was often a multi-purpose space for living, dining, and sleeping. Kitchens also reflect the lifestyle that was typical of seasonal homes in the early 20th century. The majority of the cottages include kitchen sinks with hand pumps that draw water directly from the lake. Some cottages have galvanized tanks for storing water that provide a gravity-fed flow of water to a sink or wash basin. A number of kitchens still have cast iron wood stoves for cooking. A very unusual and distinctive feature found in the majority of Tobin Harbor's cottages is a non-mechanized refrigerator called a California Cooler, which utilizes cool breezes to preserve food. To date, no other examples of a California Cooler have been identified anywhere in the region, and, thus, this unique feature might be predominantly an Isle Royale phenomenon.

The Tobin Harbor Historic District is also significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture. Tobin Harbor represents a distinctive example of a vernacular landscape in a remote, wilderness area of the North Woods/Great Lakes region. The sheltered harbor was a logical location for commercial fisheries and recreational properties because of the protection it afforded. The topography and vegetation shaped the selection of building sites and determined circulation patterns. Buildings were sited atop of cliffs or along hillsides or positioned strategically on islands to afford the best views and vistas, yet they were generally placed sensitively within the existing landscape within little effort to manipulate the wilderness setting.

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Tobin Harbor's vernacular landscape is also characterized by its water-borne transportation system. Not only is transportation to and from Tobin Harbor exclusively by boat, but movement between the majority of the properties is also by boat. This contrasts with the more typical lakeside community where buildings are arranged along the shore in a linear fashion or when buildings are located on a single island and the circulation between properties is on land. Tobin Harbor's many islands not only shaped the circulation system, but their close proximity to one another, and to the shore, results in a district with complex spatial and visual relationships between properties, which also creates an unusual sense of cohesiveness within the Tobin Harbor community and further defines the vernacular landscape.

The Tobin Harbor Historic District is also very important as a rare surviving example of a recreational enclave in the North Woods region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Efforts to locate comparative properties have identified few similar recreational districts. The majority of the properties considered similar to Tobin Harbor continued to experience incremental changes into the modern era, which resulted in a gradual loss of integrity. What distinguishes Tobin Harbor is its high level of historic authenticity. With the establishment of Isle Royale National Park, not only were the wilderness qualities protected, but change was arrested in Tobin Harbor, and arrested during the historic period, a very unusual occurrence. Not only was change arrested, but considering that electrical service and modern plumbing were never introduced, Tobin Harbor is a virtual time capsule from the first decades of the 20th century. As a result, the Tobin Harbor Historic District is not only an important representation of the emergence and evolution of tourism in the North Woods region, but its vernacular landscape and architecture, and remarkably original interior spaces, provide exceptional insight into life in a seasonal community in a remote, wilderness setting.

The period of significance for the Tobin Harbor Historic District begins in 1902, the construction date of the oldest surviving building. The period of significance ends in 1962. The end date for the period of significance encompasses a number of significant events including the construction of the final buildings in the district in the 1950s with salvaged materials, the closure of the Mattson Fishery in 1960, and the repositioning of the last two buildings in 1962, achieving the final character of the district. The period of significance represents a continuum of historic activity in Tobin Harbor for six decades.

Finally, the Tobin Harbor Historic District is considered significant at the national level. Tobin Harbor is not only a rare surviving property-type with high integrity, but it is also important for its ability to represent a distinct regional context within the national pattern of recreation. As tourism and recreation flourished in the North Woods, the region assumed a new identity associated with the lake experience and, moreover, the lakeside cabin. This regional manifestation extended across a vast area and remains a unique phenomenon. Thus, the Tobin Harbor Historic District contributes to a broader understanding of the region as well as the history of American tourism and recreation.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The National Context: Travel and Recreation in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

The Tobin Harbor Historic District is a regional manifestation within the national patterns of travel and recreational history in the United States that developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In earlier years, recreational travel was the exclusive privilege of the wealthy. But by the early nineteenth century, travel within the United States was becoming more common and tourist destinations began to develop. Summer resorts became popular destinations and often featured grand hotels. In time, entire resort communities developed. Concurrently, an interest in remote wilderness areas emerged, which offered a visitor experience that contrasted with that of many popular destinations. Ultimately, travel was no longer restricted to the wealthy. With an emerging middle class, and the freedom provided by an affordable automobile, recreational travel and tourist destinations became available to the masses. Throughout this period, the architecture associated with leisure travel was characterized by distinct expressions that included high-style hotels, rustic retreats, and simple vernacular cabins.

One of the earliest examples of recreational travel for Americans was represented by the "Grand Tour" of Europe, when beginning in the late eighteenth century young American men, and sometimes women, would travel the continent experiencing art and culture. But by the early decades of the nineteenth century, travel opportunities developed within the United States and the American summer resort emerged. Early destinations often had a health-related focus and included visiting mineral springs or balsam forests to seek their curative powers, a fashion well-established in Europe. Fresh air was considered a cure for respiratory ailments. Resorts included Virginia Hot Springs, White Sulphur Springs, Ballston Spa, Richfield Springs, Saratoga Springs, and Catskill Mountain House. Yet, the American resorts distinguished themselves from their Old World counterparts by being less formal and placing greater emphasis on outdoor exercise and physical recreation. By the 1830s, "a characteristically American mode of summer resort life was evolving," noted author Roger Hale Newton.³⁹

Saratoga Springs was typical of these early resort destinations and was known for its mineral springs that attracted the health-conscious who came to "take the waters." But the focus soon shifted to include leisure and recreational activities as seen by the construction of a race track in the 1860s. Over time, resort destinations developed throughout the United States. Resort hotels were built along the coast of New England in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. Visitors from the southern United States traveled to northern destinations to seek relief from the oppressive summer heat. One visitor to Lake Minnetonka, just west of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was Charles Gibson from St. Louis, Missouri, who

³⁹Quoted in Wesley Haynes and James Jacobs, "Adirondack Camps National Historic Landmarks Theme Study," National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 2007, 5.

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commented that the lake was “a refuge for himself and family during the heated term which annually blisters [St. Louis].”⁴⁰ The mountains also provided relief from the summer heat and resorts emerged in locations such as Asheville in North Carolina and Colorado Springs in Colorado. Some destinations, such as Cape May, developed into sizeable summer communities that could serve nearby metropolitan areas. Located at the southernmost tip of New Jersey, Cape May claims to be America’s oldest seaside resort. It became a popular destination because it could be easily reached by water from both Philadelphia and New York City, which was typical of early tourist destinations that were dependent on railroads or steamboats to provide transportation for visitors.

A number of resort hotels were notable for their spectacular architecture, which is likely as awe-inspiring today as it was to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century visitor. The Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan, boasts a 627 foot long veranda with spectacular views of the Straights of Mackinac. The colossal Greek Revival style hotel could accommodate over 1,000 guests and became the premier resort hotel on the Great Lakes. Indiana’s West Baden Springs Hotel featured a jaw-dropping atrium covered by a dome that spanned 200 feet. A popular destination resort on the West Coast was the Hotel del Coronado, located on Coronado Island across the bay from San Diego, California. The immense Queen Anne style building became a destination for visitors from across the country. These resorts served the affluent class, who sometimes arrived on luxury rail cars along with their servants.

As an extremely wealthy class began to emerge in the decades following the civil war along with the creation of large businesses, such individuals were no longer content to simply visit tourist resorts, which had often become overcrowded, and they decided to build their own country estates and enclaves. The elite withdrew to more private areas such as Bar Harbor in Maine, Newport in Rhode Island, Palm Beach in Florida, and other areas such as the Berkshires in western Massachusetts.⁴¹ Yet, this trend was not confined to the east coast, and country estates were built on picturesque tracts of land throughout the United States, often readily accessible from urban areas.

Perhaps the most unique manifestation among the country estates built in the United States during this era were the Great Camps built in the Adirondack region of New York State. Developed on vast tracts of forested land dotted with lakes and streams, these remote wilderness estates appealed to some of the country’s most prominent and wealthy families. The camps shared three characteristics. First, each camp had a distinctive compound plan consisting of separate buildings for separate functions, creating a self-sufficient enclave. Second, camp buildings were closely integrated with the existing natural features of their sites. And third, the camps represented the fullest expression of a rustic aesthetic in American buildings. Their rustic character was influenced by indigenous building traditions in the Adirondack region and the well-established taste for naturalistic forms previously used in English gardens and urban parks.

⁴⁰ Barbara McHenry Sykora, “Charles Gibson’s Lake Minnetonka Summers,” *Hennepin History* 72, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 21.

⁴¹ Jakle, 58.

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The imaginative use of indigenous materials in construction or decoration included stone work, log framing, slab siding, and the use of twisted branches and roots for decorative effect.⁴²

While the Great Camps represented the nation's most extraordinary examples of this particular property type, similar estates were built elsewhere in the United States, often in remote or wilderness areas. While generally not as extravagant as the Great Camps, many followed the same design principles and often afforded a luxurious lifestyle in spite of their rustic appearance. Examples include the Joyce Estate in northern Minnesota, Forest Lodge in northern Wisconsin, and the Baldwin Estate on the south shore of Lake Tahoe in Nevada.⁴³

The Great Camps were also highly influential for their role in inspiring Americans to vacation in the wilderness and for their influence on national trends in the development of Rustic style recreational facilities.⁴⁴ These influence extended to both individuals and federal agencies.

As a regional architecture, the Adirondack Great Camps have further intrinsic value as examples of successful design and sure craftsmanship. In late-nineteenth-century America, they inspired popular journalists to romanticize about them. Log-building plans were published in 'how-to' books using Adirondack camps as models. The popularity of these places and their suitability to a wilderness setting stimulated similar constructions in the foothills of the Appalachians, the North Woods of the Great Lakes states, and the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Later, this same style was translated into the grand lodges at Yellowstone and Glacier parks; it became synonymous with the early architecture of the National Park Service.⁴⁵

Architectural guidebooks from the period encouraged cabin construction and emphasized the appeal of the wilderness. Published in 1908, *Wilderness Homes: A Book of the Log Cabin* includes photographs, plans, and drawings of log cabins, along with instructions on how to build your own cabin. The forward notes, "If you love the out-of-doors, this book was written for you, to crystallize and bring into reality that vague longing which you have felt for a lodge in the wilderness."⁴⁶ Topics covered in the book range from building a stone fireplace and furnishing the interior to estimating construction costs.

Architect William S. Wicks wrote several books on log cabins. The first was written in 1889 under the title *Log Cabins*. A later book published in 1920 was titled, "*Log Cabins and Cottages: How to Build and Furnish Them*." To inspire the reader, the book contains illustrations of actual cabins that were located in various states including Maine, New York,

⁴² Haynes, 3.

⁴³ The Joyce Estate is now within the Chippewa National Forest; Forest Lodge is within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest; and the Baldwin Estate is part of the Tallac Historic Site. All three properties are open to the public.

⁴⁴ Haynes, 3-6.

⁴⁵ Harvey H. Kaiser, *Great Camps of the Adirondacks* (Boston: David R. Godine, 1982), 4.

⁴⁶ Oliver Kemp, *Wilderness Homes: A Book of the Log Cabin* (New York: The Outing Publishing Company, 1908), vii.

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Pennsylvania, and Virginia as well as Canada. Stylistically, the buildings range from a simple one-room hunting cabin to an immense Swiss Chalet. Regardless of the size of the building, Wicks emphasized sensitive site placement. He wrote, “. . . for out of your site and its environment must grow your building plan. Indeed the structure should be the outgrowth of, and harmonize with the site, so that when your work is completed the structure shall be a new object added by the hand of man to perfect and beautify its surroundings. . . .”⁴⁷

Text by Wicks was also included in an edited 1934 publication that incorporated the ideas of “practical architects and woodsmen.” The introduction explains, “In this edition of the most popular book on log cabins ever published we have combined the plans of two architects who specialized on camp and cabin building, namely, Mr. Robert Gardner, and the late William Wicks, and the practical experience of . . . accomplished outdoor[s]men . . .”⁴⁸ Yet, in spite of its pragmatic premise, the book begins with the words, “The cabin in the forest, on the banks of a quiet lake or buried in the wilderness back of beyond, is an expression of man’s desire to escape the exactions of civilization and secure rest and seclusion by a return to the primitive.”⁴⁹

The various architectural guidebooks typically convey a romantic image of a rustic cabin located on a wooded and sometimes dramatic site, often along a picturesque shoreline. But they also provided the reader with detailed practical information about rustic cabin construction.

When the National Park Service (NPS) began operations in 1917, the existing national parks featured park buildings in a range of styles. Many of the early park buildings were constructed by railroads that wished to capitalize on passenger traffic to the parks. Some buildings were classically inspired, such as the Lake Hotel built at Yellowstone National Park by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1890. These buildings often disregarded the natural landscape. But in time the railroads began to design more sensitively, once they realized that distinctive hotels in romantic settings drew more patrons. When the Northern Pacific built the Old Faithful Inn in 1903, the spectacular six-story building featured Rustic style log and stone construction. The Great Northern Railroad also built Rustic style buildings at Glacier National Park. When the NPS examined the range of building styles in the national parks, they concluded that park buildings designed to harmonize with their natural settings were distinctly more appropriate.⁵⁰

The NPS proceeded to adopt the Rustic style for all new construction in national parks. Tourists not only experienced the natural wonders in the parks, they were also exposed to buildings constructed with native materials that were sensitively sited in the natural environment. This exposure was dramatically expanded during the 1930s when the NPS began assisting state governments in developing their own state park systems, where the same design principles were employed.

⁴⁷ William S. Wicks, *Log Cabins and Cottages: How to Build and Furnish Them* (New York: Forest and Stream, 1920), 9.

⁴⁸ William A. Bruette, ed., *Log Cabins and Cottages: How to Build and Furnish Them: by Practical Architects and Woodsmen* (New York: William A. Bruette Publisher, 1934), ii.

⁴⁹ Bruette, i.

⁵⁰ William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, “National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942” (National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977), 5-16.

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This little noticed movement in American architecture was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, about our country's western frontiers. . . . The conservation ethic slowly took hold in this atmosphere of romanticism. Part of this ethic fostered the development of a unique architectural style. Perhaps for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature. . . . Early pioneer and regional building techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment.⁵¹

The emerging conservation ethic created an interest in America's natural heritage and had a profound impact on recreational tourism. At one time, the wilderness was considered something to be feared and conquered, but ultimately its attributes were recognized. Early conservationists such as Washington Irving, John James Audubon, George Catlin, James Fenimore Cooper, Francis Parkman, Fredrick Law Olmsted, and John Muir observed the increasingly modern industrial country, whose westward expansion threatened to negatively impact scenic and wilderness areas. These individuals promoted a philosophy of conservation through their writings, art, and actions. As a result, interest in conservation continued to intensify. Historian John Jakle refers to this response as a "back-to-nature movement" that valued natural places for "their picturesque and romantic qualities." Travelers who had visited wilderness areas became concerned about the effects of encroachment on the wilderness and developed a growing sense of obligation to preserve places of beauty.⁵²

There were also practical considerations that encouraged Americans to travel to wilderness areas. By the 1890s, urban centers were often smoke-filled and overcrowded, and sometimes rife with disease. The restorative qualities of nature and the wholesomeness of rural life were also promoted during the Progressive Era. Another important factor was the search for relief from hay fever and asthma. One hundred years ago hay fever was a significant health problem. Antihistamines were non-existent and the only alternative was to travel to pollen-free locations. In addition, many of the early resorts had become almost urbanized, and visitors sought more remote and less crowded destinations.

Early visitors to remote or wilderness areas utilized transportation systems established for commercial purposes. This was particularly apparent in the booming agrarian and urban areas of the Midwest between the Alleghany and Rocky mountains where recreation often followed logging operations and other commercial activities.⁵³ Adventurous sportsmen began to access these areas to hunt and fish and enjoy these relatively wild places.

⁵¹ Tweed, i-ii.

⁵² Matthew Reitzel, "Tourism and Recreational Facilities in Voyageurs National Park (VOYA) 1880-1950," National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2008, E4. John A. Jakle, *The Tourist: Travel in Twentieth-Century North America* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1985), 64-65.

⁵³ Reitzel, E4.

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Yet several trends converged so that a larger share of the American population had access to recreational travel, particularly to remote destinations. These changes essentially democratized an experience that had once been confined to the upper classes. An emerging middle class with more leisure time and disposal income, and changes in transportation, resulted in a fundamental shift in recreation. New or improved roads and an affordable automobile, in particular, allowed for an increasing number of people to travel to the interior landscapes of North America. These new tourists contributed to a shift in recreational architecture. In and around places of natural beauty, such as lakes and streams, and mountainous areas, travel destinations changed from genteel resorts, elaborate estates, or private clubs, to seasonal family cabins and smaller, more rustic resorts. This was particularly apparent in the remote, wild countryside between the populated East and the grand landscapes of the West. In places like the North Woods region of the Great Lakes, more and more travelers discovered the scenic locales and natural landscapes that were removed from an increasingly industrial and urban way of life. Vacationing at rustic cabins or campsites or small resorts became a summer phenomenon for the middle class.⁵⁴ In some parts of the country, such as the North Woods of the Great Lakes, the individual summer cabin emerged as an important manifestation of these changing recreational patterns.

Hotels buffered guests from nature, and the environment they promoted was basically social. Tourists came to mix with other tourists in socially sanctioned places. But summer houses or cottages provided privacy for those who wished to avoid the crowd, even the fashionable crowd. Cottages located in the relative isolation of beachfront, mountain, or woods might also orient the family back to nature. The small cottage was the middle-class version of the elite summer home at Newport or winter house in Palm Beach.⁵⁵

Tourists would sometimes vacation in an area for several years and then proceed to purchase or build a cabin. Interestingly, both the federal and state governments facilitated cabin ownership by promoting programs that allowed cabin construction on public lands. As early as 1905, the U.S. Forest Service was authorized to grant permits for residences as part of its effort to encourage recreation on national forests. A "Recreation Residence Program" allowed private individuals to build a cabin on public land for a modest annual fee. This arrangement made cabin ownership more affordable and would bring greater investment in the local community. From the perspective of the Forest Service, permitted recreation could result in assistance in managing forests as permittees frequently gained a conservation ethic after acquiring permits and occupying cabins for a number of years.⁵⁶ The program reached its peak in the 1920s and 1930s, although new permits were issued until 1968. There are currently over 15,000 remaining recreation residences in 116 National Forests built over a span of more than 60 years. The majority were located in mountainous regions in the western United States. California has the largest number, with over 6,000 recreation residences in the state.

⁵⁴ Reitzel, E1.

⁵⁵ Jakle, 63.

⁵⁶ Dan Gildor, "Location, Location, Location: Forest Service Administration of the Recreation Residence Program." *Ecology Law Quarterly* 28 no. 4 (January 2002): 998.

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The Forest Service identified the building sites where cabins could be constructed, with the individual residences organized into groups. The residences conformed to existing topography, took advantage of views and vistas, and through the use of indigenous materials tended to blend in with the natural surroundings. As a result of construction requirements, the residences were typically small, one-story cabins built with rustic appearing materials such as rough wood siding, board and batten, log and half-log, and stone foundations and chimneys. When buildings were painted, subdued colors were required.⁵⁷

Notable examples of the recreation residence program include collections of cabins in Mt. Hood Nation Forest near Rhododendron, Oregon; in Sequoia National Forest (now Sequoia National Park) near Mineral King, California, which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places⁵⁸; and in several locations in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests in Minnesota. Small enclaves remain in some states as well, including in the Bitter Root National Forest in Montana and Idaho. Today, many of the cabins have received modern updates such as electrical service.

Several states in the Upper Midwest also had significant lakeshore lease programs that were nearly identical to that of the Forest Service that resulted in the construction of even more individual cabins on public lands. Beginning in 1917, the State of Minnesota leased lake lots in a program administered by the Department of Conservation that was modeled after the program established by the Forest Service.⁵⁹

Resort and cabin architecture were influenced by the earlier stylistic trends that included the elaborate designs of the Great Camps of the Adirondacks and the proliferation of Rustic style architecture in state and national parks and forests. While various architectural expressions emerged in recreational areas, the use of indigenous materials, particularly log and stone, was favored in many regions. These expressions were often based on regional building techniques employed by early settlers. For example, when Finns and Swedes began to arrive in America, they brought their knowledge of log construction with them, as did later immigrants from Germany. Other immigrant groups with no tradition of building with logs quickly adopted the technique. A log cabin was an ideal building type for settlers and pioneers. Not only was log construction cost effective, but a log building was relatively easy to construct. Thus, wherever there were forested areas, the log cabin became the preferred initial dwelling.⁶⁰ But while early settlers and pioneers relied on the use of native materials and hand-crafted building methods out of necessity, it was their aesthetics that appealed to the recreational traveler.

⁵⁷ Bill Yourd, "Draft: Private Cabins on Public Land in the Minnesota Lakes Country: The Development of Recreation Residence Tracts on the Chippewa National Forest 1909-1968," Unpublished paper in the files of the U.S. Forest Service dated 2007, Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake, Minnesota, 2.

⁵⁸ Thomas E. Nave, "Mineral King," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, January 2003.

⁵⁹ Yourd, 2.

⁶⁰ "The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings," Preservation Brief 26, Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/26-log-buildings.htm>. "Log Cabins in America: The Finnish Experience," National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/4logcabins/4logcabins.htm>.

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However, mainstream or even exotic styles are also found in recreational architecture. For example, even Great Camps assimilated various stylistic modes including Greek Revival, Shingle, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts, English Cotswold, and Anglo-Japanese.⁶¹ Similarly, the cabins on Star Island, in Minnesota's Chippewa National Forest, include a Craftsman Bungalow, a Swiss Chalet, and an astonishing pagoda-style cabin. Yet, simple vernacular expressions were most common across the United States. Until more recent decades, cabins were generally, vernacular, seasonal dwellings and there was no need for complex construction. In addition, transporting building materials to a remote sites, often without electrical service, made simple construction methods more practical and affordable.

The appeal of the Rustic style was further demonstrated when by the 1930s manufacturers introduced new building materials for those who wanted to build a cabin with a rustic appearance, but who might not be able to afford a full-log building, or if skilled craftsmen to build one were not available. The Page and Hill Company began marketing cabins constructed with logs that were milled to a uniform size and could be easily assembled on site. Their promotional information noted:

A log house is traditionally American. Its rustic charm and pioneer ruggedness has a strong natural appeal to many Americans. . . . Heretofore, only a comparatively few have been able to realize these dreams . . . because of practical problems incidental to this type of construction. All this is changed by the soundly developed "P & H" specialized log construction technique and by "P & H" Service which supplies properly seasoned Western Red Cedar logs, window and door frames, built-ins and other required materials . . . all accurately cut, fitted and numbered at the mill . . . ready to put up on your location. If desired, a skilled supervisor will be furnished, or erection can be made under your architect's supervision.⁶²

Page and Hill advertised that architect Chilson D. Aldrich, who in 1928 had written a book on log cabins titled *The Real Log Cabin*, was available to consult on a cabin project. The company's brochure pictured cabins that had been built in Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. It was also noted that the Page and Hill building system was adaptable to larger buildings such as lodges or hotels.

In 1931-32, the Shevlin Pines Sales Company advertised "Shevlin Pine Log Siding," as the "modern way to build log cabins" that was available to "families of moderate means." The siding featured a rounded face with shiplap edges that "looks just like pine logs" but with "much less trouble and expense." The company's sales brochures featured a variety of cabin designs that could be purchased for just 10 cents. Presumably, the buyer would then purchase the Shevlin siding. But the company remarked how the log siding could be used for building types other than log cabins. A clubhouse in New York, a motor court in California, and a gas station in

⁶¹ Haynes, 5.

⁶² Page and Hill Company, "Real Log Houses," 2, and "P & H Cabins of Real Log Add Charm to Living," undated pamphlets in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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South Dakota were among the buildings featured in their sales brochures.⁶³ Pre-fabricated cabins also became available.

World War II dramatically curtailed recreational travel. Following the war, American vacationers flooded the nation's roads and tourism was transformed into a national industry. Visitors traveled to state and national parks, resorts areas, and other destinations. Formerly remote areas became more accessible due to improved roads and automobile ownership. Some tourist areas now became year-round destinations. In areas where individual cabins were popular, an increasing number of people purchased parcels of land and constructed recreational homes. But the unique vernacular architecture of earlier years was gradually reduced with generically designed cabins and resorts that eventually included conveniences and amenities that reflected an urban lifestyle. The wild and isolated quality of place also declined in many areas. But over a span of roughly 100 years, visitors first traveled to tourist destinations and then proceeded to explore the interior landscapes of North America and observe the country's remote wilderness, often incorporating recreational destinations into their lifestyles, and embarking on a uniquely American experience.⁶⁴

The Regional Context: The North Woods Region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan

Isle Royale is located in the North Woods region of the Great Lakes, a forested landscape encompassing portions of northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The area is also one of the most concentrated lake regions in the world, which is its defining characteristic.⁶⁵ In addition to the vast shorelines and islands of the Great Lakes, each state encompasses thousands of lakes. The emergence of tourism and recreation in the North Woods of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan resulted in a distinct regional manifestation of a national pattern in the United States.

The period from 1880 to 1920 was formative for the development of the tourist industry in the Upper Great Lakes region. Railroads that had been built to transport lumber and iron ore were looking for ways to sustain profits through passenger trade, particularly as the size of the cutover region grew in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. They produced pamphlets promoting the natural wonders and scenic beauties along their routes. Many of the railroads and other shipping lines began offering lake cruises on fleets of steamers, which provided access to Lake Superior from Chicago, Duluth, Detroit, Cleveland, and Buffalo. For the first time, beginning in the late 19th century, city dwellers from the lower lake towns had easier access to the wilderness of the North Woods region.⁶⁶

There were a number of factors that encouraged Americans to travel to the region. By the 1890s, urban centers were often smoke-filled and overcrowded, and sometimes rife with disease. The summer heat in the Midwest could be intense. Just as wealthy Americans built elaborate country

⁶³ Shevlin Pine Sales Company, "Log Cabins Up To Date Built With Shevlin Log Siding," 1931, and "Log Cabins Up to Date," 2nd ed., 1932, pamphlets in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

⁶⁴ Reitzel, 1-9.

⁶⁵ Aaron Shapiro, *The Lure of the North Woods: Cultivating Tourism in the Upper Midwest* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2013), xii.

⁶⁶ Karamanski, 214-215.

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estates in a period known to landscape historians as the Country Place Era, the emerging middle class was also able to seek respite from city life. Additionally, the restorative qualities of nature and the wholesomeness of rural life were being promoted during the Progressive Era as well as by individuals such as noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.⁶⁷ Another important factor was the search for relief from hay fever and asthma. One hundred years ago hay fever was a significant health problem. Antihistamines were non-existent and the only alternative was to travel to pollen-free locations such as the North Woods region.

Resort communities soon developed on the Great Lakes. While Mackinac Island with its famed Grand Hotel was the best known, other resort destinations such as Charlevoix and the Les Cheneaux Islands also flourished. Sportsmen and fishermen also began to seek out the region's more remote areas such as northern Minnesota, the Apostle Islands, and Isle Royale.

But early tourists were dependent on destinations determined by railroads and steamboats. If Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan wished to capitalize on the attributes of the North Woods, access needed to be improved through improved rail connections and better roads. There were also practical considerations for attracting tourists to the North Woods. The boom and bust cycles that characterized extractive industries left many areas economically depressed. In particular, logging companies abandoned vast cutover regions in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The states hoped that tourism might help bring economic stability to these areas.

The astonishing number of lakes in the North Woods could offer abundant opportunities to a large numbers of visitors. Minnesota had long been known by the moniker, "Land of 10,000 Lakes," a term based on an estimate by geologist and explorer Henry Schoolcraft in 1851.⁶⁸ However, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there are actually 11,842 lakes of at least 10 acres in size. Michigan boasts 6,537 lakes of at least 10 acres, while Wisconsin claims 15,074 lakes of at least one acre.

State agencies and private tourism groups in all three states began to promote the attributes of the region. In 1917, The Ten Thousand Lakes Association was formed in Minnesota to promote tourism in the state. The Association's "Come to Minnesota" campaign in 1918 attracted 40,000 visitors, an increase from 13,000 in 1916. The number increased to over 300,000 by 1921. In the early 1930s, the state took over the functions of the association and established a tourist bureau within the Department of Conservation. The Minnesota Arrowhead Association (MAA) was established in 1924 to promote northeastern Minnesota. Other promotional organizations included the Minnesota Land and Lakes Attractions Board, the Minnesota Scenic Highway Association, and the Northern Minnesota Development Association. The region was still considered a wilderness area and was promoted to fisherman, hunters, and canoeists, and also as a restful destination "among the sighing pines" where there was an opportunity to see and hear

⁶⁷ Robin Karson, *A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), xv-xix.

⁶⁸ Paul Clifford Larson, *A Place at the Lake* (Afton, Minnesota: Afton Historical Society Press, 1998), 11-12.

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wildlife such as moose, bear and loon. The environment offered relief from city pressures by way of lazy days and quiet evenings in front of the fire.⁶⁹

Wisconsin promoted its North Woods region as well as the Apostle Islands and Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior and the Door County Peninsula on Lake Michigan. In 1922, business owners organized the Northern Wisconsin Resort Association, later renamed the Wisconsin Land o' Lakes Association. The association established tourist bureaus in Milwaukee and Chicago. Railroads also continued to promote tourism. A 1922 map by the Chicago and North Western Railroad depicts roads and railway lines in northern Wisconsin, as well as cities, towns, and lakes. The map also featured photographs of camping, fishing, and canoeing, and images of summer cabins. A "Directory of Summer Resorts and Hotels in northern Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, and Minnesota" was also included. The map was titled, "The Great North Woods Fishing and Resort District of Wisconsin: Ideal Location for Summer Homes."⁷⁰

Michigan also promoted its North Woods region. The Copper Country of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) was described as a unique experience and landscape. The development of tourism was advanced by the Copper Country Vacationist League (CCVL), a group of merchants, resort owners, and mining company representatives. The organization tried to assure the "average man" that a Copper Country vacation was possible and emphasized attracting vacationers interested in scenery and history as well as sportsmen. By 1930, the UP welcomed nearly 500,000 summer visitors.⁷¹

There was some rivalry between Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan in the efforts of each state to attract tourists. At times, concern was expressed that a neighboring state might garner more tourists because of a larger investment in tourist promotion. But there was considerable cooperation as well. All three states promoted conservation and reforestation in the region and they worked together to create a North Woods image that included outdoor recreation, scenic beauty, health benefits, and adventure. In 1937, the governors of all three states participated in a fishing contest in order to promote the North Woods as a vacation destination. Together the states created promotional literature that "linked urban and rural worlds, offering an image of the region as a rejuvenating and rustic escape from daily life."⁷²

Concurrent with the development of the many tourist resorts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan came the most enduring feature of the North Woods region, the lake cabin. With an expanding middle class, and the democratizing impact of an affordable automobile, a cabin on a lakeshore lot gradually became more desirable and attainable for a broader range of the

⁶⁹ Dena L. Sanford and Mary L. Graves, "Historic Context for Tourism and Recreational Development in the Minnesota Northern Border Lakes from the 1880s through the 1950s." Report prepared for the Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1999, 11-12, 20.

⁷⁰ "The Great North Woods Fishing and Resort District of Wisconsin: Ideal Location for Summer Homes," Chicago North Western Line, 1922, Wisconsin Historical Society, Image 123561.

⁷¹ Shapiro, 103-105.

⁷² Shapiro, 121, 138, 141.

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population.⁷³ Some tourists would vacation in an area for several years and then proceed to buy or build a cabin, or sometimes resorts were converted into summer homes. Both state and federal governments encouraged cabin construction. The U.S. Forest Service leased lakeshore lots in Minnesota's Chippewa and Superior National Forests. State-owned lakeshore in Minnesota could also be leased for a summer cabin.⁷⁴ A lease arrangement made cabin ownership more affordable and a permanent cabin resulted in a greater investment in the local community.

In 1925, *Land of Lakes Magazine* reported on the growing demand for summer-home properties in northern Wisconsin's Vilas, Oneida, and Sawyer Counties. One local realtor had little success selling farmland and began specializing in lakefront lots. After opening a Chicago office, sales skyrocketed. As of 1931, three thousand families owned cabins within 40 miles of Minocqua, Wisconsin. A 1949 Wisconsin survey confirmed that a growing number of people vacationed for several summers and then purchased lakeshore property for summer homes. By the late 1950s, one estimate placed the number of vacation homes in Wisconsin at 55,000. The Michigan Tourist Council also worked to promote summer cabin ownership.⁷⁵

Today, the terms "up north" and "up to the lake" are clearly understood throughout the North Woods region and refer to the journey to a resort or a lakeshore cabin. A defined "cabin culture" exists in this region and it is thought that a significant share of the population has access to a lakeshore experience through family or friends. While writing about Minnesota, historian Paul Larson noted, "If the phrase "up to the lake" was not born in Minnesota, it must have arrived on the first steamer. Minnesotans have carried on a romance with their lakes for more than a century, and the affair shows no signs of abating."⁷⁶ His comments clearly apply to both Wisconsin and Michigan and collectively the three states contain lake cabins that number in the tens of thousands.

Within the national context of recreation, this distinctive regional expression that focused on the lakeshore experience and the lakeside cabin was primarily a phenomenon in this region. This is confirmed by the preponderance of cabins and seasonal properties in the North Woods of the Great Lakes. Moreover, recent scholarship continues to examine the history and significance of this region. In his book *The Lure of the North Woods: Cultivating Tourism in the Upper Midwest*, historian Aaron Shapiro notes how the emergence of tourism and recreation contributed to a new regional identity in the North Woods of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. He concludes that this story contributes to both a broader understanding of the region as well as the history of American tourism and recreation.⁷⁷

⁷³ Theodore, J. Karamanski, "A Nationalized Lakeshore: The Creation and Administration of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore." Report prepared for the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 2000, https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/slbe/adhi_3c.htm.

⁷⁴ Sanford, 23-24.

⁷⁵ Shapiro, 86-87, 156, 172, 175, 195. In 2012, it was estimated that Minnesota had 122,000 "seasonal recreational" dwelling according to property tax records. However, this figure includes both lakeshore and non-lakeshore properties, <http://www.startribune.com/cabin-culture-a-placelat-the-lake/161500695/>.

⁷⁶ Larson, 8.

⁷⁷ Shapiro, xii-xiv.

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The History of Isle Royale

Isle Royale's human history documented thus far begins during the Late Archaic period (3000 BC-1200 BC) when hunters and gatherers first visited the island to make use of its resources. Among the earliest visitors were indigenous miners who extracted native copper from bedrock sources island-wide. Their mines are most noticeable below Minong Ridge and in the vicinities of Washington Harbor and Lookout Louise.⁷⁸

Indigenous groups continued visiting the island to find copper, gather plants and berries, and to hunt and fish. Isle Royale's abundance of fish, wildlife, plants, and minerals were sought by both the American Indian and Euro-American residents of the island. The island's two most historically important resources, copper and fish, were responsible for the sustained human presence on the island for more than 4,000 years and drew numerous explorers and entrepreneurs over the last 200 years.⁷⁹

Explorers and missionaries provided the first written accounts of Isle Royale, but it was fur bearing animals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, hare, coyote, fox, and lynx that attracted trappers and traders during the 1600s and 1700s. The American Fur Company began its own commercial fishing operations on Lake Superior in 1833 and Isle Royale became one of its most productive locations. The company established posts on the island with its main depot located at Checker Point in Siskiwit Bay. Their operations on Isle Royale only lasted two years but commercial fishing activities continued after the decline of the fur trade.⁸⁰ The next commercial development came in the form of copper mining.

There were three phases of Euro-American copper mining on Isle Royale: 1843-1855, 1873-1881, and 1889-1893. During the first phase, the mining boom was characterized by speculative excitement. But while this phase only lasted twelve years, it led to increased lake traffic and served as the impetus for the establishment of the Rock Harbor Lighthouse. The second phase began in 1873 and was more refined than its predecessor in that mine locations were situated on more promising lodes. This phase also witnessed the growth of year-around occupations on Isle Royale and resulted in the construction of the Isle Royale Lighthouse on Menagerie Island in

⁷⁸ This project did not require archeological inventory work, although the nature and extent of precontact use and occupation within the Tobin Harbor Historic District and respective islands is not well understood because survey work has been limited. However, many of the smaller islands throughout the Isle Royale archipelago have hosted precontact activities during the more recent Woodland period. Therefore, it is likely that similar activities occurred within Tobin Harbor proper including those areas associated with the historic district. For information about archeology on Isle Royale refer to Caven P. Clark, "Archeological Survey and Testing at Isle Royale National Park, 1987-1990 Seasons," 1995 (tDAR id: 208360).

⁷⁹ Isle Royale was ceded to the United States by the Ojibwe as a result of the 1842 Treaty of La Pointe and the 1844 Isle Royale Compact, which was an amendment to the original treaty because the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe were not included in the earlier negotiations. The Ojibwe continued to visit Isle Royale up to the present day. The last Ojibwe to reside on Isle Royale were John "Jack" Linklater and his wife Tchi-ki-Wis (Helen). They co-owned a fishery on Birch Isle in McCargoe Cove and lived on Isle Royale until they died in the 1930s.

⁸⁰ Theodore J. Karamanski, Richard Zeitlin, and Joseph Derosé, "Narrative History of Isle Royale National Park" (Mid-American Research Center, Loyola University of Chicago, 1988), 132.

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1875. Finally, a well-capitalized English syndicate attempted to locate copper near Windigo and Todd Harbors between 1889 and 1893. The effort never surpassed exploratory stages and within a few short years the operation had ceased, thus bookending no less than 4,500 years of copper mining on Isle Royale.

The problem with copper mining on Isle Royale was that few deposits actually produced sufficient amounts of copper to cover the costs of locating, excavating, processing, or shipping the ore. Transportation to and from the storm-wracked island was always challenging and winter brought even more difficulties. Funding to operate the mines could be unstable and the physical properties of Isle Royale's copper deposits proved troublesome, making the ore sometimes difficult to trace. In essence, the large copper deposits at mainland sites in the Upper Peninsula could be worked with less difficulty and transported more readily than those on Isle Royale.⁸¹

Commercial logging was also attempted on Isle Royale. But Isle Royale's isolation and mediocre forest resources almost saved it from successful commercial logging. After the English syndicate gave up on copper mining, the owners decided to recoup some of their investment by attempting to log over much of the 84,000 acres that they owned, but they decided to save picturesque locations for the development of a "pleasure-seekers' resort." In 1894, the company began logging in the forests near Washington Harbor. But the effort failed, and with its investment lost, the company ended its logging operations.

Several other attempts at logging were made, but by 1920 there had been no significant logging on Isle Royale, something that could not be said of most areas in the Upper Great Lakes region. Ironically, it was not until 1935 that a major logging operation took place in the Siskiwit Valley, even though the effort to create Isle Royale National Park was already underway. But with the slash and broken branches left behind, no one was surprised when a catastrophic fire broke out in 1936.⁸²

Thus, it was commercial fishing that was ultimately the only consistently profitable and stable extraction industry on Isle Royale. Following the efforts of the American Fur Company, the fishing industry continued to grow on Isle Royale. Technological and other advances improved area transportation and shipping facilities, thereby increasing the marketability of fish. The appearance of steamboats and the construction of the canal joining Lake Superior with the lower Great Lakes at Sault Ste. Marie in 1855, for example, combined to improve the linkage between the remote Lake Superior frontier and the developed centers of the east. Shipping lines operating on regular schedules further contributed to improved transportation and communication on the Upper Great Lakes. The extension of railroads between 1865 and 1895 further stimulated the communities of the Upper Great Lakes, connecting them with the once distant regions. The advent of refrigeration enabled fisherman to ship their catch fresh, stimulating an increasing demand for abundant trout and whitefish.

⁸¹ Karamanski, 54-55.

⁸² Karamanski, 196-199, 201-210.

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When Alfred Merritt arrived on Isle Royale in 1866 on the schooner Pierpont, the vessel was carrying a cargo of 1,500 wooden barrels for fisherman in Washington Harbor. Merritt noted that the fishermen managed to fill all the barrels with their catch in six weeks. His schooner then carried the salted fish to market.⁸³

Isle Royale's commercial fishing operations expanded significantly after 1880 with the establishment in Duluth of the Chicago-owned A. Booth and Company, which operated throughout the Great Lakes. The Booth Company connected the region's fishing industry with the Chicago wholesale distribution system, uniting Isle Royale's fisherman with national markets. Between 1880 and 1952, commercial fisherman harvested large quantities of fish from Lake Superior and from Isle Royale waters in particular. Isle Royale's fishing boom peaked between 1915 and 1925, spurred by motorized boats, new technologies, and abundant shipping opportunities. By the late 1920s, about seventy-five families, more than 200 people, ran seasonal fisheries on Isle Royale.⁸⁴

Eventually, commercial fishing on Isle Royale declined. The Great Depression, increased limits set by the National Park Service, a decrease in the number of freight vessels servicing the area, and the introduction of invasive species, all contributed to a decline in the commercial fishing industry. By the late 1950s, the fishing industry on Isle Royale had nearly come to an end.

But the remoteness of Isle Royale, which proved challenging for miners, loggers, and fisherman, is precisely what made it so attractive to tourists.

Emergence of Tourism on Isle Royale

Tourism on Isle Royale faced the same geographic liabilities that complicated earlier efforts to develop copper mines, commercial fishing, and logging. The wilderness archipelago was remote and difficult, and often dangerous to reach. But unlike the earlier entrepreneurs, those who pioneered recreation would turn the island's isolation into an asset. Largely because of the efforts of the early resort operators, Isle Royale came to be seen as an enchanted island, a special place apart from the rest of the world. Recreation succeeded because it would turn Isle Royale's geographic disadvantages into natural assets.

Since the 1880s, sports fisherman from Duluth and Houghton had made fishing excursions to the Isle Royale. Camping parties also visited the island. Booth Company steamers, Hiram Dixon and T. H. Camp, not only handled the company's commercial fishing operations, but also provided passenger accommodations, which increased Isle Royale's accessibility to sports fishermen. By 1902, the Booth steamer America was providing fine tourist facilities. Although there was now access to Isle Royale, most visitors were not willing to camp on hard rock or navigate dangerous waters. Before Isle Royale's recreational potential could be realized, facilities would have to be provided to meet visitor's needs.⁸⁵

⁸³ Karamanski, 133, 143.

⁸⁴ Karamanski, 149, Gale and Gale, 63.

⁸⁵ Karamanski, 149, 216-219

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The first person to build accommodations for visitors on Isle Royale was John F. Johns, a former mine captain who built several cabins for tourists on Barnum Island in the late 1890s. Kneut Kneutson bought land in Rock Harbor and constructed several cottages and a central dining room, and also cleared land to provide space for tents. By 1902, he boasted that he could accommodate fifty guests. The resort was first called Park Place and later renamed Rock Harbor Lodge. Kneutson also platted a good portion of Snug Harbor and sold land to a number of private parties. But in time the resort began to languish. Then in about 1920, Kneutson's daughter, Bertha Farmer, began to manage the resort and made major improvements to the property. The most visible change was the construction of a two-story guest house that was completed in 1922. What impressed the visitors were the electric lights, hot and cold running water, and Isle Royale's first indoor flush toilets.⁸⁶

Other tourist accommodations opened as well. Walter H. Singer, the head of the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Transportation Company, which operated cargo and passenger ships known as the White Line, built Singer's Resort on Washington Island. Paul Schofield opened a lodge in 1912 called Belle Isle. The resort owners proclaimed the splendors of Isle Royale and the relief that could be provided to hay fever sufferers. A brochure from Rock Harbor Lodge from about 1924 declared:

Where life is lived for the joy of living---Where the problems of life are forgotten and the desire to enjoy life as Nature prompts becomes a passion---that is the feeling one gets in the magnificent surroundings of Rock Harbor Lodge at Isle Royale.

For here is something new and alluring for the vacationists; all the facilities for the enjoyment of civilized life carried into the very heart of an unspoiled wilderness.

You may live in a modern lodge. . . . Yet, you are but a few minutes by trail from picturesque crags which overlook great vistas of lakes and island scenery—but a few hours from primitive forests where you may watch wild creatures at feed and play, or from hidden bays and caves where lake trout and Great Northern pike weighing from 10 to 30 pounds will give you “a fightin' good time.”

The fresh, dust-less breezes from the lake bring prompt relief to sufferers of hay fever. Cool nights invite blankets and the pine-laden air is a bracing tonic for city-wearied bodies and frayed nerves. Could a vacation offer more profit and pleasure than that?

A brochure for Belle Isle made similar claims about hay fever. “No hay fever. You are practically immune from hay fever at Belle Isle--no dust, no weedy vegetation and the air is clear and cold. The nights are always cool. If you must go somewhere to avoid hay fever you can

⁸⁶ Karamanski, 220, 235.

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find here a delightful outing and secure immediate relief.”⁸⁷ Both resorts advertised various excursions and activities for visitors.

But Isle Royale’s commercial fisherman also played an important role in the development of tourism. As was often the case in the Great Lakes region, fisherman, or others who made their living on the region’s lands and waters, facilitated the development of tourism by providing accommodations and meals as well as guide services to visitors.

Isle Royale’s resorts, along with the accommodations provided by fisherman, helped the island to become a tourist destination. Not surprisingly, visitors sometimes found Isle Royale so appealing that they wished to acquire a place of their own. Over time, individuals built their own cabins on Isle Royale. Because of their protected harbors, the most popular locations were the Rock Harbor and Tobin Harbor.⁸⁸

Tobin Harbor

During the 1880s, the only residents of Tobin Harbor were a group of commercial fisherman who had emigrated from Finland. They were known as Swede-Finns, who came from an area in western Finland where Swedish was spoken. But by the turn of the century, most had left Tobin Harbor and only members of the Mattson and Anderson families remained.⁸⁹

Louis Mattson and Andrew Anderson built their fisheries adjacent to each other on the south shore of the harbor. Louis Mattson’s cousin, Gustaf (Gust) Mattson, built his fishery on an island located a short distance across the water from the south shore fisheries. Mattson was among the first to provide visitor accommodations on Isle Royale. A story concerning Albert Deane, a brother-in-law to Maurice Edwards, may explain what might have prompted Gust to transform his fishery into a resort.

Another interesting coincidence was the starting of Tobins Harbor Hotel. . . . In 1898, Mr. A. J. Deane took a trip around Isle Royale on the Steamer Hiram Dickson. Upon entering Tobins Harbor he found it to be a quiet and attractive place.

At that time there were four fishermen’s families living in the harbor; namely: Andrew Anderson, Louis Mattson, Gust Mattson, and (a) fourth family. . . .

Gust Mattson’s home was on an island just inside the entrance of the harbor near Scovill’s Point. The others were on Scovill’s Point. Mr. Deane persuaded Gust Mattson to take him in as a boarder for three days. So far as is known, this affair gave Gust Mattson the idea of starting a boarding house.⁹⁰

⁸⁷ “Rock Harbor,” ca. 1924 and “Belle Isle,” Pamphlets relating to Isle Royale, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

⁸⁸ During the historic period, Tobin Harbor was also referred to as Tobin’s Harbor or Tobins Harbor.

⁸⁹ Interview with Louis Mattson by Rolf Anderson on August 9, 2016.

⁹⁰ Unpublished history of the early years of the Edwards family on Isle Royale. Edwards family papers.

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Mattson and his wife Maggie continued to accommodate visitors on a part-time basis until they closed the fishery and transformed it into Mattson's Resort in about 1900. Mattson named the island upon which the resort was located Margaret's or Maggie's Island in honor of his wife. It was later renamed Minong Island. When Gust Mattson converted his fishery into a resort, it represented a regional trend in which areas in the North/Woods Great Lakes region, which had encompassed resource extraction industries, began a transition to embrace recreational activities.

Among the early visitors to Mattson's Resort were members of the Cochran family from St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1904, Gust Mattson served as the pilot for a two-day trip that circumnavigated Isle Royale. The party included Thomas Cochran, his brother Moncrieff, his sister Louise, who later built a camp in Tobin Harbor, and their four traveling companions. In his written account of the journey, Thomas Cochran described Gust Mattson as follows:

We came back with increased admiration for Capt. Gus' splendidly seaworthy boat, with its never failing little engine and with more liking than ever for its captain and our host with his skillful seamanship and unfailing politeness and good nature.⁹¹

Other visitors to Isle Royale also found Tobin Harbor very appealing and some decided to acquire property and build cabins. The visitors often began by camping on the islands or along the shore of the harbor.

No Tobin Harbor family has a longer history on Isle Royale than the Merritt family. Alfred Merritt first came to Isle Royale as a nineteen-year-old deck hand in 1866. He later worked for the Island Mine in Siskiwit Bay. Merritt camped on Blake's Point at the northeast end of Tobin Harbor and later bought over 200 acres of land on Isle Royale including several islands in Tobin Harbor and property on Wright Island near Siskiwit Bay. The Merritts built their first camp in 1911 on what is now known as Merritt Island and later acquired their present camp just west of Minong Island.

Another early visitor was Charles Dassler from Leavenworth, Kansas. The Dassler's learned of Isle Royale while on a Great Lakes cruise that stopped at the island. A historic photograph of the Dassler family camping in the cove at Scoville Point, within sight of where they would eventually build their camp, presents an iconic image of the wilderness camping experience at the turn of the 20th century. (Figure 1)

Maurice Edwards was also an early visitor to Isle Royale. He had first learned of Isle Royale while camping on the south shore of Lake Superior near Ashland, Wisconsin, where the local fisherman recommended the good brook trout fishing on Isle Royale. Edwards then visited Isle Royale in 1893 and returned with his two sons, Dwight and Deane, in 1898.⁹² While searching

⁹¹ Thomas Cochran III, "Circling Isle Royale: A two days' launch ride August 30th & 31st, 1904," Cochran Papers, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

⁹² Unpublished history of the early years of the Edwards family on Isle Royale. Edwards family collection.

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for a place to camp, they noticed a large island just east of Scoville Point with a clearing atop a cliff where they would set up camp. Evocative historic photographs from 1901 depict two tents atop the cliff along with a branch-covered shelter. The Edwards family would later purchase the island and in 1912 they built their cottage atop the same cliff where they had camped over a decade earlier. (Figures 2-3)

But the opportunities for purchasing land in Tobin Harbor were somewhat limited. The Island Copper Company owned the majority of the land along the north shore of the harbor and they offered very little for sale. However, Charles Dassler played a key role in making land available for purchase along the south shore. Together with the heirs of the Scovill estate, he owned more than fifty acres of land that had been associated with a defunct mining operation. From this land he acquired his own 2.8 acre parcel. He also sold land from this parcel to the Connollys and the Seiferts. Through Dassler and the Scovill heirs, property was acquired by the Langley, Carlson, and Breen families and also for the Anderson and Mattson Fisheries. Interestingly, the lots that were sold along the south shore were relatively small and Dassler and the Scovill heirs retained ownership to the majority of the land. Tobin Harbor's islands were not available for purchase until 1908 when they were offered for sale by the State of Michigan once they had been surveyed. The islands sold very quickly.

By 1940, 22 families had built camps in Tobin Harbor, the largest collection of camps on Isle Royale. The families were part of a vibrant summer community that included the Anderson and Mattson families who operated the commercial fisheries, as well as Minong Lodge (formerly Mattson's Resort) that had been operated by the Edward and Helena Smith family since about 1910. Many of the families came from major cities in the region and they sometimes introduced their friends and other family members to Isle Royale. The Merritt, Breen, How, and Grace Smith families were from Duluth, Minnesota. The Edwards, Bailey, and Savage families, along with Ellen Wheelock, were from St. Paul, Minnesota. In fact, all four lived only a short distance from one another. Elizabeth Underwood and her niece, Elizabeth Kemmer, were from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Snells and Seiferts were from the Chicago, Illinois, area. The Stacks were from Omaha, Nebraska. Their next door neighbors were the Beards, who were related to the Thomas (Omaha) Smith family. The Dassler family was from Leavenworth, Kansas, and they were friends with the Connollys. The Gale family was from St. Louis, Missouri, and had learned about Isle Royale from the How family.

The Tobin Harbor summer community thrived during the first several decades of the 20th century. The resorts were often the focal point of community activities where the seasonal residents, commercial fisherman, and resort guests, all came together. Minong Lodge was the main gathering point for the Tobin Harbor community, but the residents also had close connections to the Rock Harbor community and Rock Harbor Lodge. Everyone was invited to dances and evening programs at the resorts and both members of the fishing families and the summer residents were called to play the piano or provide the entertainment. The three Snell boys were all musicians and they performed at Rock Harbor Lodge; Jud played the cello, Laurie played the piano and did vocals, and John played the viola.

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Generations of families and friends gathered in Tobin Harbor. Historic photographs of the Edwards, Merritt, and Gale families document family gatherings and the life style of the summer residents. (Figures 4-7) The fisherman families also came together along with their Tobin Harbor friends as depicted in a gathering in 1936 at the Mattson Fishery. (Figure 8)

Recreation was the centerpiece of summer life and included canoeing, sailing, boating, hiking, picnicking, pig roasts, berry picking, collecting greenstones, moose watching, and fishing. Perhaps the most picturesque photographs of life in Tobin Harbor were taken by Roy Snell. He used the colorized images in his programs on Isle Royale that he presented throughout the region. (Figures 8-11) Snell himself was also photographed standing beside his "Writer's Shack," where he wrote his books and articles. (Figure 12)

Perhaps the most important summer event was the annual regatta that was held in the 1920s and 1930s. For many years, the event had been organized by Everett Bailey. The regatta included a number of row boat and motor boat races that were held in the channel between Minong Island and the Anderson and Mattson Fisheries. The event drew participants and spectators from around the island. A picnic was held following the competitions. (Figures 13-14)

Yet, perhaps the most popular event was "boat day" when steamships arrived in Tobin Harbor carrying visitors, delivering mail, and bringing goods and supplies. Everyone congregated at the dock awaiting the arrival of the ship. Until the late 1930s, the ships docked at Minong Lodge. But after the lodge closed with the establishment of Isle Royale National Park, the ships began to dock at the Mattson Fishery. The "mail sorter" was moved from Minong Island to a location alongside the Mattson boat house. An historic photograph depicts the Winyah docking at the Mattson Fishery with a crowd awaiting its arrival. The "mail sorter" is shown next to the boat house. In the early 1950s, the "mail sorter" moved back to Minong Island and was placed in the current post office building. (Figure 13)

Lucile Snell's diary entries provide insight into the details of day-to-day living in Tobin Harbor. They consist of brief phrases separated by dashes:

Sunday, August 14, 1938

Regatta—Jud broke oar in race—fine day—watched races from Waubic--went to Hog Island for supper--played at Lodge—danced—fine day

Monday, July 8, 1946

R(oy) took Smiths fishing—M(other) made drapes for Sun Parlor—3 fish—to Connollys for planked fish.

Wednesday, July 23, 1947

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Early up—buns—Harbor picnic at Gales—43 present—2 fish—2 yachts in harbor⁹³

But perhaps the most popular and ubiquitous activity was fishing. Men, women, and children all went fishing and one of the most frequent photographs taken in Tobin Harbor was an image displaying the prize catch. (Figures 14-15) Yet day-to-day life had its challenges in the wilderness setting of Tobin Harbor with no modern conveniences as Snell family photographs of family members chopping wood and washing clothes demonstrate. (Figures 16-17)

Fortunately for the Tobin Harbor summer community, the Mattson family played an important role in providing assistance to the summer residents. Just as Gust Mattson opened the first tourist resort in Tobin Harbor, Art and Inez Mattson played a key role in supporting Tobin Harbor's families over several decades. Along with running his commercial fishery, Art constructed a number of the cottages, built docks, and helped the residents maintain their buildings. He also repaired boats and motors. He would meet the summer residents when they arrived on Isle Royale and transport them to their camps. Inez opened and cleaned the cottages and would often have fresh baked bread and a hot meal waiting for them upon their arrival. A sign over the entrance to the boat house at the Mattson fishery stated, "Mattson Repair Shop." (Figures 18-19) Charles Dassler's great-granddaughter, Lee Dassler, commented that Mattson's served as the hardware store for the summer residents when they needed to make repairs.⁹⁴

But Isle Royale residents began to face additional difficulties beyond the maintenance of their boats and cabins. The development of the automobile, the completion of the Minnesota North Shore highway, and the Great Depression impacted the passenger and package freight businesses, which by the 1930s had greatly diminished on Lake Superior. Privately owned recreational cabins were being built along lakeshore highways instead of being confined to areas near boat docks and railroad stations.

On Isle Royale, the effects of the decreased lake transportation were exacerbated by the disastrous sinking of the *America* in Washington Harbor on June 7, 1928. The *America* had been providing reliable and very comfortable service to Isle Royale for over twenty-five years. Some of the passenger needs were taken up by the *Winyah*, a fishing transport vessel owned by H. Christiansen and Sons that operated between Duluth and Isle Royale during the 1930s, but its accommodations were quite basic compared with the elegant *America*. The *S.S. Isle Royale* and the *Waubic* provided service from Port Arthur, but travel to Port Arthur added considerably to the travel time. The problem with transportation was particularly difficult for the resort owners, who had to keep revising their brochures to explain how to reach Isle Royale.⁹⁵

Many of the resort owners and summer residents favored the establishment of a national park because they believed it would solve their transportation problems. But that was not to be the case as the difficulties continued into the post-World War II era.

⁹³ Teri Snell Power, e-mail to Rolf Anderson, September 7, 2016.

⁹⁴ Lee Dassler, phone interview with Rolf Anderson, October 19, 2016.

⁹⁵ Karamanski, 241-243.

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Once it became clear that the entire Isle Royale archipelago would be acquired for the national park, there was a final period of land acquisition and new building construction by some summer residents. It was evident the residents had developed a deep attachment to Isle Royale, and their Tobin Harbor community, based on the number who were willing to invest in land purchases or improvements. While knowing this was their last opportunity, they made the investments realizing they would be relinquishing ownership in exchange for a life lease for the continued use of the property.

Perhaps the greatest investment was made by the Gale family, who purchased an island and proceeded to build a large cottage that was completed in 1937. Gale family photographs depict the cottage under construction. (Figure 20) In 1936, Roy and Lucile Snell decided to purchase the property they had been renting from Faustina Breen while the opportunity was still available. Gertrude and Calvin How built a new cottage on their island in 1937, which provided more comfortable accommodations than their very small original cabin. Construction photographs depict Gertrude How at work on the cottage. (Figures 21-22)

The Edwards family faced a dilemma concerning Gem Island, a .24 acre island just to the north of Edwards Island. Gem Island had been purchased for \$500.00 some years previously by Annie Deane Edwards, Maurice Edwards' daughter. She explained the purchase by stating, "My island is close to the camp on my Father's large island and I was willing to pay a good sum for it to preserve the privacy of our camp."⁹⁶ But the federal government was only offering \$15.00 per acre for the islands around Isle Royale. Because of this vast discrepancy with the purchase price, Annie's brother, Deane Edwards, corresponded with E. G. Willemin to ask him to reconsider the appraised value. In Willemin's reply, he implied that Annie Edwards might have paid too much for the island, but he offered a solution.

I have only one suggestion to make. Title to this small island vests in your sister. She can do what she wishes with this island as long as she holds title. It appears that it may be a year before the tract will be considered in condemnation. In the meantime, could she not dispose of it to someone who would wish to erect a cabin and then take a life lease back. Or she might wish to erect the cabin herself and take a life lease in her own right. This has been done on Isle Royale and may prove to be the most satisfactory way out of her trouble. My suggestion has a tendency to promote further building on Isle Royale when the spirit of the Park idea is to discourage further building. Further, the offer of life lease is meant to apply to those owners who have already built. However, the (Isle Royale National Park) Commission has consistently maintained that an owner has a right to do with his property as he pleases as long as he owns it on Isle Royale.

⁹⁶ Letter to the Isle Royale National Park Association from Annie D. Edwards dated June 17, 1935, Edwards File 9013, ISRO Archive.

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I trust that the above may in some way offer you a lead that will prove to the advantage of your sister.⁹⁷

Willemin refers to the point that only improved properties were considered eligible for a life lease, and, thus, a building would need to be constructed on Gem Island in order for the property to qualify. The Edwards family proceeded to construct the Gem Island cabin in August 1938. Construction photographs depict members of the Edwards family at work on the cabin, including five women in the family. (Figure 23 and 24)

A number of property owners sold their camps outright for the appraised value. Those who accepted a life lease received a reduced amount based on the age of the youngest lessee. The estimated life expectancy of the youngest lessee was used to calculate how many years the lessee might have use of the property, with the purchase price reduced accordingly. When a minor was included on a lease, the standard payment for the property was \$1.00. The Gale, Snell, and Connolly families included minor children on their leases, which was a complicated process as a guardian residing in the State of Michigan had to be appointed to act on the child's behalf. Years later, a controversy arose over whether all families had been given an equal opportunity to include their minor children on their life lease. The controversy went on from 1968 to 1977 when the NPS decided that any person who was a minor at the time the family's original lease was signed would be eligible for a special use permit, which would essentially equate to a life lease.⁹⁸

In post-World War II era, the Tobin Harbor families that had accepted life lease arrangements continued to use their former camps and maintain the buildings. But the lease agreements included restrictions on the activities of the leaseholders, and any change to a camp and its buildings required prior approval, which helped preserve the wilderness setting. But the NPS allowed the Tobin Harbor families to relocate buildings from camps that had been vacated. This recycling and repurposing resulted in the preservation of a number of buildings that would have otherwise been lost as it had been the NPS policy to eventually demolish buildings at a vacated property. The NPS also permitted the leaseholders to use salvaged materials for building or repair projects.

The Tobin Harbor Historic District took on its final character and physical form by the early 1960s. In the early 1950s, the Mattson fish house and the Gale guest cabin were built with salvaged materials. By the mid-1950s, three small cabins had been moved from Minong Lodge to the Seifert, Snell, and Merritt Camps. In 1956, the Kemmer/Underwood cottage was rebuilt and expanded. An era came to an end in 1960 when the Mattsons ended their commercial fishing operation, which they had begun in the late 19th century. Finally, in 1962, two buildings were moved from the Bailey Camp to the Merritt Camp.

⁹⁷ Letter from E. G. Willemin to Deane Edwards dated January 25, 1938, Edwards File 9014, ISRO Archives.

⁹⁸ For a detailed account of this controversy refer to David C. Newland, "Issues Surrounding the Addition of Minor Children to Life Leases at Isle Royale National Park," Master's Thesis, Truman State University, 2005.

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While many of the life lease arrangements have ended, members of the Edwards, Connolly, Mattson, Snell, Merritt, and Gale families continue to use and maintain their former camps on Isle Royale, living a simple life style just as previous generations had done, and representing a continuum of use that began in the early years of the 20th century.

The Vernacular Architecture and Landscape Architecture of Tobin Harbor

The buildings in Tobin Harbor are typically simple frame structures reflecting vernacular traditions that developed in the remote wilderness setting of Isle Royale. Building materials had to be shipped to the site and often transported up steep slopes. Building sites could be on uneven ground or precariously close to the edge of a cliff or the water. Constructing a building could be challenging. Moreover, a recreational cabin could be costly for a middle-class family. The resulting architectural solutions were often casual in nature and contrasted with homes in an urban setting.

Buildings were built on wood posts or rested on stone foundations. Drop-lap siding was almost invariably employed, although log construction, sometimes with the logs placed vertically, was also popular. Low pitch gable or hip roofs covered the buildings and often extended over a front porch or shed-roofed addition at the rear. In the early years, wood shingles sometimes covered a roof, but asphalt rolled roofing was most common. Later, asphalt shingles were sometimes used.

Windows were often multi-pane casements organized as single windows or in bands. Double-hung windows were also employed. But while fenestration patterns were sometimes consistent for an entire cabin, it was also common for a building to contain a mix of window types based on the type of windows that might have been available. Both the Kemmer cottage and guest house include a wide assortment of window types. The guest house contains single-light casements, multi-light casements, and a double-hung window, all in a single room.

Perhaps because of the difficulties in constructing and then maintaining buildings in a remote wilderness setting, few buildings were more than one-story. While Minong Lodge had several two-story buildings, of Tobin Harbor's seasonal cottages, only two exceeded one-story. The Bailey and Savages cottages (now razed) were both one-and-one-half story buildings. But it is not clear that the Savage cottage had living space on the upper level. While there was a second story balcony, historic photographs do not depict any windows on the second-story. The door to the balcony and another opening were both solid wood panels. A later NPS floor plan of the cottage described the upper level as an attic. The Bailey cottage, however, clearly had living space on the upper level as evidenced by a shed-roofed dormer with a band of multi-pane casement windows. In nearby Rock Harbor, both the Davidson and Tooker cottages were one-and-one-half story buildings with living space on the upper level.

There are few references in Tobin Harbor's buildings to popular architectural styles of the day, except for several Craftsman style details. Even the two wealthier families in Tobin Harbor, the Baileys and the Savages, chose Rustic style expressions for their cottages rather than high-style designs. Both cottages (now razed) featured log construction. Their cottages contrasted with the

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cottage for the wealthy Davidson family in Rock Harbor, which was designed in the Colonial Revival style by St. Paul, Minnesota, architect Thomas Holyoke.

The vernacular buildings in Tobin Harbor were influenced by the local craftsman who were known to have constructed a number of buildings. Art and Ed Mattson, along with their father Louis, constructed the buildings at the Mattson Fishery, and Art and Ed also built a number of other buildings in Tobin Harbor including the Seifert and Gale cottages. They also constructed additions to a number of buildings. Fred Manthey, who had a cottage in Rock Harbor, built the How cottage and it is likely he built several buildings at the Kemmer Camp.

There were three buildings in Tobin Harbor that were designed with professional assistance. But the resulting buildings had a straightforward appearance that harmonized with their wilderness settings and were compatible with the other buildings in the harbor. The architect-designed Gale cottage and storage and privy building from 1937 were clad with siding that simulated log construction and gave the cottage a Rustic style appearance. (Figure 25) The one-room Gem Island cabin, built in 1938, was designed by Richard Banning, an architecture student at Princeton University, who drew his inspiration from a traditional Adirondack style shelter.⁹⁹ (Figure 26)

There are also few decorative elements, other than certain subtle features such as beveled rafters. However, buildings often included decorative railings or skirting at the base, and an interesting variety of designs exist. These include the more straightforward picket-style skirting on the Seifert, Art and Inez Mattson, and Stack/Wolbrink cottages and the interesting geometric pattern found in the skirting at the Snell cottage. Skirting along the north elevation of the Snell cottage fills the space between the foundation posts and consists of peeled poles set in a pinwheel-pattern. Hillcrest Cottage includes a porch railing built with peeled poles in an X-pattern.

Yet, in spite of the simplicity of Tobin Harbor's buildings and the lack of decorative features, the variety of architectural expressions is notable. Variations in massing, materials, roof forms, and fenestration patterns resulted in a wide range of design solutions representative of the era. Perhaps the most unique window arrangement is found in the Gale cottage where small windows are aligned with each bed in the bunkroom.

Docks were an essential structure at all Tobin Harbor camps. While the Isle Royale's waterways served as the highway system, docks became the driveway, and were necessary for safe and convenient arrivals and departures by boats and other watercraft. Boathouses served as the garage.

⁹⁹ It is also possible that the distinctive buildings on Edwards Island were designed with professional assistance. Maurice Edwards was acquainted with noted-architect Cass Gilbert, who in 1888 designed the Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in St. Paul where Edwards was the pastor. However, Gilbert left St. Paul for New York City before the Edwards Camp was built. Another possibility is Thomas Holyoke, an architect who had worked with Gilbert, and who designed an addition to the Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1911, just one year before the Edwards cottage was built. Holyoke also designed the 1922 Watson P. Davidson cottage, which is located on an island in Isle Royale's Rock Harbor.

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The interiors of Tobin Harbor's buildings reflected the simplicity of their exteriors. Interiors were often left unfinished with exposed stud walls and rafters, and sometimes remained unpainted, such as in the Edwards, Connolly, Mattson, and Beard cottages. Partition walls might be clad with beadboard or knotty pine paneling, but rafters were usually left exposed.

Because the cottages were usually small, they often contained just three rooms, such as the Dassler, Seifert, and How cottages. The Connolly, and Snell cottages contained only two rooms and a porch, while the Merritt cottage contained a single room, although in all three cases a bedroom was later added. Since there was so little space in the main cottage, family members often slept in tents, some of which were erected on tent platforms. In 1936, there were five tent platforms at the Edwards Camp. In time, the camps evolved and nearly every family in Tobin Harbor built a small guest house, or moved a building from another location to serve that purpose.

Due to the small size of Tobin Harbor's typical cottage, the main space often became a multi-purpose room that functioned as a living room, dining room, and bedroom. This is still the case in the Connolly, Snell, and even the larger Gale cottage, where the main space continues to provide living, dining, and sleeping space. Until a bedroom was added, the one-room Merritt cottage included living, dining, kitchen, and sleeping space. The multi-purpose room reflected the more casual lifestyle in a recreational area.

Since the majority of the cottages were quite small, interior circulation was very informal, and the kitchen or bedroom were accessed directly from the living room. Not one Tobin Harbor cottage has been identified that contains an interior hallway. Even in larger cottages such as the Stack/Wolbrink and Savage cottages, all rooms were arranged around and opened directly into the main living space. (Figure 27) These two cottages were of a comparable square footage to an urban house, if not larger, and even a small bungalow from the period included a hallway that separated the bedrooms from the main living area. Interestingly, the original plans for the Gale cottage depict two bedrooms separated by a small hallway. However, a change was made during construction to eliminate the hallway, and the two separate bedrooms, and instead create a large, informal bunkroom.

The simplicity of the interior spatial planning is further emphasized by the absence of closets. Only two buildings in all of Tobin Harbor have been identified that included a closet that may be closed off with a door. There is one closet in the Seifert cottage. There are three closets in the How cottage, two in the living room and one located in the bedroom, which included space to store clothes and also a sink. A small sliding panel between the closet and the kitchen can be opened to pass a pitcher of water that was hand-pumped from the kitchen sink. The more typical Tobin Harbor closet is found in cottages such as the Dassler, Beard, and Stack/Wolbrink cottages where a rod was installed for hanging clothes that was simply concealed with a curtain.

The kitchens in Tobin Harbor's cottages reflect the basic lifestyle that was typical of seasonal homes in the early 20th century. The majority of the cottages include kitchen sinks with hand pumps that draw water directly from the lake. Some buildings include galvanized tanks for storing water that provide a gravity-fed flow of water. Both the Dassler and Connolly cottages

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have tanks that provide water to both the kitchen sink and sinks in either a bedroom or a washroom. The How and Gale camps employ metal tanks to provide water for a shower.

Wood-fired cast iron stoves for cooking are still found in a number of Tobin Harbor kitchens, including those at the Edwards, Mattson, Merritt, and Snell camps. But over time some camps upgraded to propane stoves. The Mattson and Stack/Wolbrink kitchens still contain ice boxes, although the Stack/Wolbrink and Merritt cottages also have propane refrigerators.

The Edwards "outdoor kitchen" is a unique kitchen facility in Tobin Harbor. The kitchen consists of a covered, open-sided porch, which is attached to a small building where supplies and kitchen utensils are stored. A cast iron stove located on the porch is still used for cooking. Historic photographs depict the stove on the porch with a stovepipe that juts out at right angles to clear the edge of the roof. The stove is stored in the building during the winter months. The "outdoor kitchen" was built by 1924 and continued a tradition of outdoor cooking on Edwards Island that had previously been done under a suspended tarp. Similarly, the adjacent open-sided dining pavilion is also a unique building in Tobin Harbor, and perhaps the region, and may reflect Progressive Era ideas about the healthy aspects of outdoor living.

An unusual feature found in Tobin Harbor's kitchens is a non-mechanized refrigerator called a California Cooler, which did not require ice. Said to have originated in northern California, the California Cooler depended on cool breezes to preserve food. The California Cooler was essentially a wooden cabinet that was no more than two feet square and typically extended the full height of the wall to which it was attached. There were often two hinged doors on one side of the cabinet. Food was placed on metal or wooden grates within the cabinet. Vents at the top and bottom of the cabinet allowed passage of cool, outside air to enter through the bottom of the cabinet, and rise as the air heated. As the air warmed in the enclosed space, the "stack effect" of rising warmer air in turn drew cool air at the bottom. The vents were usually screened.

The majority of the cottages in Tobin Harbor contain a California Cooler, which was often installed in the kitchen along an exterior wall. This is the case in the Stack/Wolbrink, How, and Beard cottages. In some cases it was attached to the exterior of the cottage with three exposed sides, which might have promoted better cooling. This is the case in the Mattson and Gale cottages where the California Cooler is located on the porch. At the Connolly cottage, the California Cooler is located under a kitchen counter but accessed from the porch. The Kemmer/Underwood cottage contains the one example where the California Cooler is installed on an interior wall of the kitchen. Because of its location, it was vented through the roof. The most unique variation is found at the Snell Camp where the California Cooler is a portable, screened box that can be suspended from a tree.

The California Cooler is found in other locations on Isle Royale, such as the Farmer cottage in Rock Harbor. Because of its popularity, the California Cooler appears to have been effective in preserving food. However, its origin on Isle Royale remains a mystery. Thus far, Isle Royale is the only known location of a California Cooler anywhere in the Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan region, and thus represents a particularly distinctive feature in Tobin Harbor.

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Cast iron stoves were essential for providing heat to a cabin. Perhaps because of the cost, construction complexities, and inherent inefficiency, few fireplaces were built in any of Tobin Harbor's cottages. Only the Edwards, Dassler, and Gale cottage contain stone fireplaces, and the Dassler fireplace was not built until after 1935. The Stack/Wolbrink cottage contains a brick fireplace, but a cast iron stove was later installed on the hearth and vented through the chimney, no doubt providing more efficient heat.

After Isle Royale National Park was established, there were limitations placed on changes that could be made to Tobin Harbor's camps. It was also challenging for the families that became lease holders to simply maintain their properties. The result was that considerable ingenuity was required to make repairs or find the materials for a new building. The solution was to utilize salvaged materials or move a vacated building from one location to another. Correspondence from the 1940s and 1950s exists between Tobin Harbor families and the NPS asking about the availability of certain vacated buildings or the possibility of salvaging materials before the NPS might demolish a building.¹⁰⁰

Perhaps the most descriptive example of the use of salvaged materials took place in 1951 when two situations arose. The Edwards boat house had been severely damaged during the previous winter and at the same time the Mattson fishery was in need of a new fish house. The solution was to take surviving wall sections from the boat house and float them from Edwards Island to the Mattson fishery where Art Mattson used the materials to construct his new fish house. This also speaks about the cooperative community spirit between Tobin Harbor's families.

The Edwards family also retained salvaged materials from their boat house. In 2006, fifty-five years after their boat house had been damaged, salvaged materials from the roof of the boat house were used to repair the roof of the Edwards cottage.

The Gale guest house was built with salvaged materials from the Sophie Peterson cottage at the Anderson fishery. The log cabin siding, with its bright yellow paint, and the double-hung windows can all be traced to the cabin from which they originated. The addition to the Snell guest cabin was also built with salvaged materials, and the windows were likely from the Smith or Newman cottages. The importance of obtaining salvaged materials and storing them for future repairs was perhaps best summed up by Lou Mattson who recalled that the collapsed "Savage boat house became our Home Depot."¹⁰¹

Entire buildings were also moved. These were typically small buildings that were disassembled at their original location and transported across the harbor and reassembled at their new home. The Edgewater cottage moved from Minong Lodge to the Seifert camp and became a guest cabin. A second cottage at Minong Lodge was moved to the Merritt camp and became Deer Manor. A third building from Minong Lodge, believed to have been the bath house, was moved to the Snell camp to become a guest cabin. A fourth building from Minong Lodge remained on the island

¹⁰⁰ See correspondence between Roy Snell and the NPS regarding the availability of buildings and salvaged materials, Snell File, ISRO Archives.

¹⁰¹ Interview with Lou Mattson by Rolf Anderson on August 9, 2016.

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but was moved close to the shore to serve as the Tobin Harbor Post Office. A storage building from the Bailey Camp was moved to Merritt Island and became Moose Manor. A privy was also moved from the Bailey Camp to the Merritt Camp.

Not only does the use of salvaged materials and the movement of buildings speak to the ingenuity required in a remote wilderness setting, but the buildings in question are important and meaningful reminders of properties that may no longer exist in their original location. The very small cottages from Minong Lodge, in particular, speak volumes about the modest expectations of resort visitors in the early part of the 20th century.

Over time, each Tobin Harbor camp became a collection of buildings, which is one of the unique architectural characteristics of the historic district. A camp might grow to include a cottage, guest cabin, storage building, boat house, wood shed, and a privy. While some additions were made to existing buildings, it seemed more practical to build and maintain a small additional building, rather than construct a major addition. The final period of expansion to Tobin Harbor's camps occurred once the opportunity arose to construct a building with salvaged materials or move an existing building from one camp to another.

Tobin Harbor is also a distinctive example of a vernacular landscape in a remote, wilderness area of the North Woods/Great Lakes region. The harbor was a logical building site because of the protection it afforded. Specific building sites were selected based on which parcels of land were available for purchase, which ultimately focused the concentration of Tobin Harbor's camps at the east end of the harbor. Buildings were sited atop of cliffs or along hillsides or positioned to take advantage of views and vistas. But there was minimal impact on the wilderness setting. Historic photographs confirm that cottages were usually sited within the wilderness landscape within rather dense trees and vegetation, or upon rocky outcroppings. Paths were typically narrow and formed by packed earth. Overall, there was little effort to manipulate the land. Other than at Minong Lodge, there were no efforts to create lawns or formal gardens that might be found in an urban setting.

Yet, there are unique complexities that characterize Tobin Harbor's vernacular landscape. All circulation to the camps and between the camps is over the water. And unlike properties arranged in a linear fashion, the harbor's many islands result in strong spatial and visual relationship between the properties that create an unusual sense of cohesiveness in spite of the rugged wilderness setting.

The Isle Royale Protective Association and the Creation of Isle Royale National Park

The Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale was organized in 1919 primarily by residents of Rock Harbor and Tobin Harbor. Membership was composed of property owners and annual summer residents on the northeast end of Isle Royale where three lodges and the majority of the summer cabins were located. The group was initially organized to address the problem of vandalism at a number of the summer cottages, but the group soon turned its attention to efforts to conserve

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Isle's Royale natural and wildlife resources, and to protect the island's wilderness qualities from commercial exploitation.¹⁰²

In 1922, the Citizens' Committee galvanized its efforts when they learned the Island Copper Company planned to sell 65,000 acres of island property to the Minnesota Forest Products Company. It was rumored that the Company intended to begin wide spread pulp harvesting operations on Isle Royale. Alarmed by the potential impact of large-scale logging, the Citizens' Committee began to work politically to develop a plan to permanently protect Isle Royale.

At their annual meeting at Rock Harbor on August 17, 1922, the group adopted a motion to inform John Baird, the director of the Michigan Conservation Commission that it was the desire of the committee that Isle Royale should be taken over by the State of Michigan as a timber and game preserve. The motion was signed by Tobin Harbor resident Ralph W. Emerson, the committee's secretary.

We urgently submit this to your attention and to that of the proper authorities who may further this movement which would mean so much to the State of Michigan. It would, in making Isle Royale a timber and game preserve, save for the people one of the most beautiful areas yet made into a preserve in the United States.¹⁰³

Baird passed along the request to Albert Stoll, Jr., who at the time was secretary of the Michigan Conservation Commission. Stoll had first visited Isle Royale in 1921 with David R. Jones, the chief deputy of the Commission, and the two men discussed the concept of state park status for the island. Stoll later became the conservation editor for the *Detroit News*, whose editor, George F. Miller, further encouraged Stoll to write about the idea and also suggested that national park status for Isle Royale should be considered. Over time, Stoll would write many editorials advocating for the protection of Isle Royale. Stoll convinced other *Detroit News* journalists, such as Larry Erskine, to also write about Isle Royale. The Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale was thus supplied with a number of influential spokesmen.¹⁰⁴

The 1923 annual meeting of the Citizen's Committee was held on August 24th at Rock Harbor Lodge. Two resolutions were passed and a formal statement was prepared that outlined the committee's concerns and recommendations. Tobin Harbor residents Maurice D. Edwards, the committee's secretary and Everett H. Bailey, who served as chairman, worked through several draft versions of the statement.¹⁰⁵ One of the resolutions was later amended, which reflected the debate over whether Isle Royale should be administered as a preserve or a national park and

¹⁰² Secretary's Report at Eight Annual Meeting of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, August 20, 1926, Frank M. and Alice Rockwell Warren family papers, Northeast Minnesota Historical Center Collections, Archives and Special Collections, Kathryn A. Martin Library, University of Minnesota Duluth.

¹⁰³ Letter to John Baird from Ralph W. Emerson dated August 18, 1922, Everett H. Bailey and Family Papers, 1839-1954, Manuscripts Collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

¹⁰⁴ Karamanski, 314-315. Little, 39. Letter from Albert Stoll Jr. to Ralph W. Emerson, August 22, 1922, Bailey Papers.

¹⁰⁵ Hand-written and typed versions of the statement and resolutions of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, Bailey Papers.

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whether the ownership should be state or federal. The discussion surrounding the amendment is explained in a letter from Charles Connolly to Everett Bailey. Connolly describes discussions among the committee members who decided a "forest reserve" might be the most appropriate designation for Isle Royale rather than a national park, which they feared might bring more "attractions" and "road building" than they thought was desirable. As a result, the wording in the resolution was changed from "national park" to "forest preserve."¹⁰⁶

The final statement and resolutions dated September 25, 1923, were submitted by Maurice Edwards and Everett Bailey and printed in the form of a two-page leaflet. The statement read:

The summer dwellers and property owners at Tobin's Harbor and Rock Harbor, Isle Royale, Michigan, organized, some years ago, a Citizens' Committee for mutual protection and common interests.

At the annual meeting of the Committee, held at Rock Harbor Lodge, August 24, 1923, the members present viewed with grave concern reports:

1. That the owners of an substantial portion of the main island have sold the timber on upwards of 80,000 acres to an Indiana corporation seeking pulp wood.
2. That a proposal that the State of Michigan acquire the entire island for a state park was defeated in the legislature last winter and that the project does not meet with the popular approval of the people of that state.
3. That a move has been made to have an "open season" declared for killing moose and caribou on the island, with the argument that there is insufficient feed for the subsistence of the growing herds and that large numbers of these animals must otherwise perish.

Careful consideration of these reports and the problems involved has been given by most of the property owners and summer dwellers during the past year, and that they believe that all of the main island now held by Federal, State or Corporate ownership should be taken over by the Federal Government and protected and maintained as a forest and game preserve for the pleasure and benefit of the people of the United States. The invasion by timber cutters will mar and eventually destroy the natural beauties and animal life of the forests and gradually increase the risks from destruction of life and property by the ravages of fire.

As a first step in the accomplishment of Federal control, we are informed that members of the syndicate owning all the land on the northeasterly portion of the main island, (lying east of a north and south line projected from the west side of Rock Harbor to the west side of McCargo's Cove) have proposed, and will

¹⁰⁶ Letter from Charles P. Connolly to Everett H. Bailey dated September 5, 1922, Bailey Papers.

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consent, to give to the United States all that part of the island east of said line for park purposes.

Many of the members of our Committee have recently made careful inquiries and personal investigations, and believe the claim that there is insufficient feed for deer is without foundation; that it would be criminal to permit the slaughter of these animals, which are bred in that territory in considerable numbers and add so much to the attraction of Isle Royale.

Following is a copy of resolutions unanimously adopted by our Citizen's Committee at its last meeting, and we respectfully urge your co-operation and support of any measure which will preserve for the present and future generations the pristine beauty and grandeur of Isle Royale.

The statement also included the two resolutions:

Resolved, That the members of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, collectively and individually, make every effort to have Isle Royale controlled by the National Government as a "forest preserve" and thus be maintained in the condition that nature has left it; and that we solicit, in the accomplishment of this result, the assistance of everyone who is interested in the preservation of the beauties of nature and of animal life.

And Also Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be posted in every dwelling on the island and be sent to each member of the association and to as many tourists as can be reached.

The committee's position statement, along with the resolutions, was intended for widespread distribution. One recipient was the Governor of Michigan. Everett Bailey sent a copy to the governor and in his cover letter dated October 1, 1923 he stated, "We respectfully, and earnestly, urge your Excellency's co-operation towards bringing about the preservation of the natural beauties of the Island."¹⁰⁷

Bailey also sent a copy to Albert Stoll Jr., who clarified that the state legislature had not formally considered the acquisition of Isle Royale as a state park in its last session. He also stated that a bill had been presented to the legislature to open the hunting season for 200 Bull Moose on Isle Royale, but the bill died in committee. Caribou were not mentioned in the bill. He also said he had been informed that the Island Copper Company had disposed of just sixty-two hundred acres of approximately one hundred seven thousand acres of their holdings to a timber products company and after reviewing the timber cruiser's maps he was convinced that no attempt would be made to harvest timber at the present time.

¹⁰⁷ Isle Royale archives.

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Stoll also informed Bailey that he would begin his duties as conservation editor of the *Detroit News* on November 1, 1923 and that, "... one of the movements I shall be placed in charge of is the acquisition of Isle Royale as near as possible in its entirety as a Federal Park or Game Sanctuary." He asked Bailey to send him any further information or photographs that he could use in his work "furthering the preservation of the island."¹⁰⁸

In 1923-24, the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale wrote many letters to individuals, corporate interests, and state and federal officials in order to generate support for preserving Isle Royale. Members of the committee were trying to determine the best time to lobby members of their congressional delegations. Momentum was clearly building as the federal government agreed to withdraw from sale the 9,000 acres of federal land on Isle Royale and the State of Michigan agreed to withdraw its 2,240 acres. The Island Copper Company also appeared willing to donate 45,000 acres.¹⁰⁹

Bailey thanked Hubert Work, the Secretary of the Interior, for his support for the preservation of Isle Royale. In Work's response he noted:

The interest and spirit of cooperation shown in Michigan and other states in the proposal to conserve the forests and wildlife of this island have been very pronounced and I have no doubt that if established as a monument it will have a very conspicuous place in the national park system.¹¹⁰

Members of the Citizens' Committee of Island Royale were photographed at Rock Harbor Lodge during their annual meeting in 1925. (Figure 28) Over 40 people were pictured, including members of many Tobin Harbor and Rock Harbor families. The membership rosters from this time period lists the names of nearly every family in Tobin Harbor including members of the Merritt, Dassler, Connolly, Bailey, Edwards, Breen, Emerson, Musselman, Beard, How, Stack, Thomas Smith, Helena Smith, Savage, and Seifert families.¹¹¹ Ellen Wheelock, Elizabeth Underwood, and Gus Sigismund were also listed.¹¹²

Frank Warren, the secretary of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, prepared a report on his activities over the past year for the committee's annual meeting in Rock Harbor on August 20, 1926. Warren referenced the long-time debate concerning whether Isle Royale should be administered as a preserve or a national park. This issue had apparently been brought to a conclusion as he noted that a preserve would not come under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, the agency that was considered "especially qualified to administer such a preserve to the best advantage."

¹⁰⁸ Letter from Albert Stoll Jr. to Everett H. Baily dated October 3, 1923, Baily Papers.

¹⁰⁹ 1923-24 correspondence and articles, Bailey Papers.

¹¹⁰ Letter from Hubert Work to Everett H. Bailey dated March 7, 1934, Bailey Papers.

¹¹¹ Edwards Family Papers.

¹¹² Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, 1927 Membership Roster, Frank M. and Alice Rockwell Warren family papers, Northeast Minnesota Historical Center Collections, Archives and Special Collections, Kathryn A. Martin Library, University of Minnesota Duluth.

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Over the previous months, Warren had worked tirelessly on behalf of the committee to promote the preservation of Isle Royale. He submitted an article with photographs to *American Game*, a publication of the American Game Protective and Propagation Association, which was published in its January 1926 issue. The *Literary Digest* published nearly an identical article in its March issue.

In January 1926, Warren made a presentation at the 77th annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society and advocated for the creation of a national park on Isle Royale. He illustrated his presentation with "46 slides and one reel of moving pictures." Later that month he presented a lecture to a "packed audience in the auditorium of the Animal Biology Building at the University of Minnesota, under the auspices of the Zoological Society, which included "lantern slides and two reels of moving pictures."

In March 1926, Warren met with Governor Groesbeck in Michigan. He then travelled to Washington, D.C., and met with Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior, Judge Edwards, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Stephen Mather, the Director of the National Park Service. He also met with Congressman Crampton of Michigan. Warren stated,

These gentlemen are all agreed about certain things. A project to be of National Park caliber must have outstanding, unusual characteristics, of national interest. These they say are present in the Isle Royale project. They are all warmly interested in having Isle Royale made a National Park. They are agreed, also, that the whole island or none must be made a National Park.¹¹³

In April 1926, Warren gave a presentation at the annual convention of the Minnesota chapter of the Izaak Walton League. That same month he spoke at the Izaak Walton League's national convention in Chicago. He submitted a resolution urging the organization to support the creation of a national park on Isle Royale, which was unanimously adopted on the floor of the convention. Finally, in July 1926, Warren spoke once more to Hubert Work, Judge Edwards, and Stephen Mather concerning Isle Royale, "and advanced our project one step more."¹¹⁴

When the Citizens' Committee held its annual meeting on August 24, 1927, two resolutions were passed that requested assistance from the Michigan Conservation Commission in order to address the depletion of lake trout and brook trout. The state was asked to stock lake trout and brook trout in the waters of Isle Royale, implement a protection plan for lake trout during their spawning season, prohibit gill nets in Isle Royale's harbors in July and August in order to improve the fishing for summer visitors, and investigate unlicensed gill netting of fish by commercial fisherman who return to the North Shore of Lake Superior and reduce the amount of fish available for the licensed commercial fisherman who live on Isle Royale. The committee's

¹¹³ Frank M. Warren, Secretary's Report at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, August 20, 1926, Warren Papers.

¹¹⁴ Secretary's Report at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, August 20, 1926, Warren Papers.

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executive committee was directed to discuss these recommendations with Isle Royale's commercial fisherman in order to take their opinions into account.¹¹⁵

The committee had been very concerned about the danger of fires on Isle Royale. At its annual meeting on August 11, 1928, the committee requested that the Michigan Conservation Commission erect, "2 fire towers on convenient high points with tower men to stay from April 15th to December 1st approximately, said tower men to make trails and form volunteer organizations to detect and combat fires at their start." Apparently, the state did not act because in 1929 the committee contacted the Michigan Director of Conservation to state, "There is no fire protection except for voluntary acts by individuals."¹¹⁶

In 1931, the committee reorganized as the Isle Royale Protective Association, to perhaps better reflect their mission. That same year Congressman Louis C. Crampton of Michigan introduced the bill to enable Isle Royale to become a national park. The House bill stipulated that the entire Isle Royale archipelago, not just the main island, become part of the proposed national park. Senator Arthur M. Vandenberg of Michigan introduced the companion bill in the Senate. Following approval in the House and Senate, President Herbert C. Hoover signed the Crampton-Vandenberg Bill on March 3, 1931.

The passage of the Crampton-Vandenberg Act marked the successful conclusion of a nearly ten-year effort to make Isle Royale a national park. However, nearly ten more years would be required before all land was transferred into federal ownership. This issue was exacerbated because at the time federal funds could not be used to purchase land for a national park. As a result, the Michigan legislature authorized the creation of the Isle Royale National Park Commission to facilitate property donations and land transfers.¹¹⁷ Both Everett Bailey and Glen Merritt served on the Commission.

However, the land acquisition process languished because of the Great Depression. Everett Bailey wrote to Michigan Governor Frank Fitzgerald complaining that vacancies on the Isle Royale National Park Commission had not been filled, which implied that little progress been made.¹¹⁸ But several events would help expedite the land acquisition process. First, the funding and manpower of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal Programs helped move the Isle Royale project forward. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were approved for Isle Royale and that bought funding not only for park development projects but also for land acquisition, which was authorized by Executive Order 7129 signed by President Roosevelt on March 6, 1935.¹¹⁹ These actions reinvigorated the Isle Royale National Park Commission. The commission also hired E. G. Willemin, a federal agent with considerable experience in arranging land transfers in eastern parks. Willemin would play a key role in the land acquisition process.

¹¹⁵ Report of Ninth Annual Meeting of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, August 24, 1927, Warren Papers.

¹¹⁶ Report of Tenth Annual Meeting of the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale, August 11, 1928, Warren Papers.

Letter from Frank M. Warren to George R. Hogarth dated September 10, 1929, Warren Papers.

¹¹⁷ Karamanski, 321-322.

¹¹⁸ Letter from Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald to Everett Bailey, Isle Royale Protective Association, dated February 27, 1935, Bailey Papers.

¹¹⁹ Karamanski, 325-326

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In addition, the Minnesota Forest Products Company made it known it was willing to sell 72,000 acres of their land on Isle Royale.

However, at the same time, the Minnesota Forest Products Company sold land near Siskiwit Bay to the Consolidated Water and Power Company of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, and the company announced its plans to begin harvesting pulp wood.¹²⁰ This action generated outrage and galvanized the efforts to preserve Isle Royale. Newspaper accounts about the logging operation that were collected by the Isle Royale Protective Association include an article on a speech by Preston Bradley, president of the Izaak Walton League of America, who condemned the logging and promised to launch a nation-wide publicity campaign to save Isle Royale. He noted with great prescience that, "Logging with its ally, fire, can wipe out in a summer what nature has taken a thousands of year to produce."¹²¹

Unfortunately, the logging operation proceeded to take place. The Isle Royale Protective Association's fears of a devastating forest fire sadly came to fruition on July 28, 1936, when the largest forest fire in Isle Royale's history broke out. The fire began with slash left behind by the Meade Timber, a subsidiary of Consolidated Water and Power Company, and soon spread. Before it was extinguished, 20 percent of the island's forests had been consumed.

The Isle Royale Protective Association continued to hold its annual meeting each summer during the 1930s. The exact meeting dates are documented for the years 1931-35. Photographs were taken during the group's annual meeting at Minong Lodge in 1938.¹²² (Figures 29 and 30)

Two versions of the association's letterhead exist and confirm that the group was very well-organized and that the summer residents were highly involved in the organization's activities. Featuring images of a moose and pine tree, the letterhead lists the organization's officers, committees, and honorary members. The committees included the Executive, Transportation, National Park, Nominating, Finance, Membership, Historical, and Fire Fighting Committees.

The earlier version of the stationery lists Everett H. Bailey as president. Honorary members were also listed on the letterhead and included Frank R. Oastler, Harlan P. Kelsey, Albert Stoll, Jr., A. A. Webster, John P. Snigg, B. A. Masee, E. P. McDonald, Jr., J. K. Farley, Jr., Ben East, and Warren Hastings, individuals who were prominent in the park movement.

The later version of the stationery lists Bailey's son Frederick S. Bailey as president. (Figure 31) He succeeded his father as president after Everett Bailey's death in 1938. In terms of other Tobin Harbor residents listed on one or both versions of the stationery, Henry L. Beard served as vice president, Arthur Savage and Dorothy Bailey served as secretary-treasurer, Everett Bailey, Arthur Savage, Glen Merritt, Frederick Bailey, Thorp Langley, Dorothy Bailey, Henry Beard, Charles Connolly, and Maurice Edwards served on the Executive Committee, Charles Connolly

¹²⁰ Karamanski, 323-324

¹²¹ "Preston Bradley Plans Nation-Wide Campaign to Rescue Isle Royale," unidentified newsletter, Bailey Papers.

¹²² Deane and Margaret Edwards' diary from 1931-1935 includes the following dates for the Isle Royale Protective Association's annual meeting: August 13, 1931, August 10, 1932 (at Tobin Harbor), August 10, 1933 (at Rock Harbor), August 14, 1934 (at Rock Harbor), and August 10, 1935, Edwards family personal papers.

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and Florence Wolbrink served on the Transportation Committee, Louise Cochrane Savage and Florence Stack served on the National Park Committee, Charles Connolly and Katherine Beard served on the Nominating Committee, Glen Merritt and Katherine Beard served on the Finance Committee, Grace Smith, Elizabeth Underwood, and Florence Stack served on the Membership Committee, Calvin How and Elizabeth Merritt served on the Historical Committee, and Thorpe Langley and Robert Greene served on the Fire Fighting Committee.

Rock Harbor residents also played a very important role in the Isle Royale Protective Association, particularly Bertha Farmer, who operated Rock Harbor Lodge and hosted many of the annual meetings of the organization, Frank Warren, and S. B. Langworthy. Members of the Ralph, Davidson, and Tooker families were also actively involved.

On April 3, 1940, the National Park Service declared that Isle Royale had officially become an established national park after the Secretary of the Interior had accepted the deeds to all lands on Isle Royale on behalf of the United States from the Isle Royale National Park Commission. The park's formal dedication was delayed until the end of World War II and was held on Mott Island on August 27, 1946.

It is not likely that any members of the Isle Royale Protective Association, or any other individual property owners, anticipated that they would be forced to sell their properties as part of the establishment of Isle Royale National Park. The group focused its efforts on the corporate entities that owned the vast majority of the lands on Isle Royale, and who posed a great threat to the preservation of the island. There were some willing sellers, such as Andrew Carlson, who had been unemployed during the Great Depression and was in need of the funds that the sale of his property provided. But the more typical sentiment was likely expressed by Maurice Edwards:

Making the whole of Isle Royale a government or national park I approve provided this would not disturb my ownership and occupancy of my own island. My family are all very much attached to the island and I would be glad to leave it to them after I am gone. As I am now 88 years old I cannot expect to enjoy it myself much longer.¹²³

There is currently little documented information about the activities of the organization after the late 1930s. But in the twenty years of its documented history, the organization played an important role in protecting Isle Royale's wildlife and natural resources, preventing commercial exploitation, facilitating the transfer of Isle Royale into public hands, and serving as an effective advocate for its preservation.¹²⁴

¹²³ Letter from Maurice D. Edwards to Wm. J. Duchanie dated July 19, 1935, Edwards File, ISRO Archives.

¹²⁴ Additional information may be located that could further document the activities of the Isle Royale Protective Association. For example, meeting minutes have only been located for several annual meetings that were held in the 1920s.

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In the modern era, the Isle Royale Protective Association evolved into the Isle Royale Families and Friends Association and continues the commitment to Isle Royale that began with the Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale nearly 100 years ago.

Comparative Analysis of Recreation Districts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan

In 2013, Hilary Retseck prepared a study for the National Park Service titled, "Tobin Harbor, Isle Royale National Park, National Comparative Properties Study." The purpose of this extensive study was to identify historic recreation districts throughout the United States that might be similar to the collection of recreational properties in Tobin Harbor and to conduct a comparative analysis. The analysis would assist in determining the relative significance of Tobin Harbor, which in turn would help inform future Isle Royale National Park planning documents, park management decisions, and cultural resource preservation efforts.

In conjunction with the preparation of the National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Tobin Harbor, additional research was conducted in order to build on the documentation and conclusions of the Retseck study and to focus on an analysis of recreational properties in the remote "North Woods/Great Lakes" region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Sites in this region that were identified in the Retseck study received additional analysis and additional sites were identified. All the sites that were considered represent water-borne property types, typically family camps on large bodies of water. Site visits were made to a number of the properties for a more in-depth assessment. The ultimate purpose of this analysis is to place Tobin Harbor in a precise regional context and determine if Tobin Harbor is historic at a national level of significance.

Conclusions of the Retseck Study

The Retseck study examined collections of recreational properties that were built throughout the United States, as well as some areas in Canada, that ranged from the Mineral King Cultural Landscape District in California to the Chesuncook Village Historic District in Maine. But few properties similar to Tobin Harbor were identified. Some emphasis was placed on properties in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan because of the common geography and shared recreational history. The study noted that:

After considering similar buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan . . . it is evident that Tobin Harbor is an outstanding representation of a seasonal collective composed of single-family, privately-owned cottages and linked to water-related recreation. While other National Register properties relating to recreation and summering in the wilderness exist, Tobin Harbor's modest homes and outbuildings created with local, and often reused, materials represent a unique aspect of early twentieth-century recreation in the Midwest. Elaborate summer cottages, expansive resorts,

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and commercial and religious camps are well represented in the Midwest Region
and across the country within the National Register of Historic Places. . . .¹²⁵

Retseck also contacted the State Historic Preservation Offices in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. But discussions did not reveal properties that shared many of Tobin Harbor's defining characteristics other than Star Island, which contains a collection of recreational properties located on Cass Lake in Minnesota's Chippewa National Forest. The Retseck study concluded that:

Future research into locally-significant summer communities with modest roots and small, vernacular cottages could produce more properties similar to Tobin Harbor. However, as technology has advanced, many summer cottages still in use have been outfitted with modern amenities and have lost their feeling of isolation within the larger wilderness.¹²⁶

Analysis of Comparable Recreational Districts in the North Woods Region

The following recreation districts in the North Woods region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan were identified that exhibit similarities to Tobin Harbor in order to provide a comparative analysis.

- 1. Star Island, Cass Lake, Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota**
- 2. Shaw Point, Sand Island, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin**
- 3. Rocky Island, Apostle National Lakeshore, Wisconsin**
- 4. Rainy Lake Islands, Minnesota/Ontario**
- 5. Washington and Barnum Islands, Isle Royale National Park, Michigan**
- 6. Other Sites**

1. Star Island, Cass Lake, Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota

Star Island was cited in the Retseck study as a property with the greatest similarity to Tobin Harbor. Located near Cass Lake, Minnesota, Star Island is located in Cass Lake, a body of water that is about ten miles long and seven miles wide. The island is 1,160 acres and is accessible only by boat. The island is located within the Chippewa National Forest and is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, with the exception of several private parcels located at the northeast and southeast portions of the island.

Cabins on Star Island were constructed under a U.S. Forest Service program that permitted the use of privately owned recreational residence on National Forest system lands. The first Forest Service policy regarding the regulation of special-use permits for occupancy was published in 1905. Recreational use of the National Forests throughout the United States grew exponentially

¹²⁵ Retseck, Hilary, "Working Draft, Tobin Harbor, Isle Royale National Park, National Comparative Properties Study," September 2013, 94-95.

¹²⁶ Retseck, 98.

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during the first half of the 20th century and the development of permitted lots for summer homes and resorts was a prominent feature of recreation policy.¹²⁷

In 1909-1911, the Forest Service opened three tracts of land for summer homes on Star Island. Today, these tracts are known as East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff Summer Home Groups:

- East Beach Summer Home Group is located atop a bluff on the east side of the island. The tract consists of nineteen contiguous lots, numbered 1 through 18 (Lot 10 is divided into A and B sections). Each lot is approximately 150 wide and 200 feet deep and extends westward from a public trail that runs atop of the bluff. Each permit holder is entitled to lake access and may construct a dock adjacent to their lot, but the dock is on public land. The cabins at East Beach were constructed in the 1910s through the 1930s, although the last cabin was built in 1969. East Beach was said to have attracted academics from the University of Minnesota.
- Sandy Beach Summer Home Group is located along the south shore of Star Island. The tract consists of 15 lots, numbered 1 through 15, although a public campground is located between lots 4 and 5. The land is nearly level, in contrast to East Beach, and a broad sand beach separates the cabins from the lake. A public concrete sidewalk extends the length of Sandy Beach. Each lot is approximately 150 wide and 250 feet deep, which is larger than the lots at East Beach, and each lot extends from the sidewalk to the north. Like East Beach, each permit holder is entitled to lake access. Lots were primarily leased by successful businessmen from Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa, as well as nearby Minnesota communities. In contrast to East Beach, Sandy Beach has a more open feel and many of the cabins features lawns that extend to the beach. Most of the cabins were built in the 1910s and the 1920s, although the cabin on lot 4 was replaced in 1959, and the last cabin was built in 1988.
- Norway Bluff Summer Home Group is located atop a bluff along the west shore of Star Island. The tract consists of 16 lots that are arranged in three groups; 1-7, 13-18, and 21-23. Each group is organized along a bay. Each lot is approximately 150 wide and 200 feet deep and extends eastward from a public trail along the bluff. Again, each permit holder has the right to lake access. Norway Bluff is said to have attracted "common folks" as most of the leases were for local individuals and teachers from Minneapolis. Most of the cabins were built in the 1920s and 1930s, although the last cabin was built in 1959. Norway Bluff is heavily wooded and is considered the most rustic of the three tracts.¹²⁸

¹²⁷ Bill Yourd, "Draft: Private Cabins on Public Land in the Minnesota Lakes Country: The Development of Recreation Residence Tracts on the Chippewa National Forest 1909-1968," Unpublished paper in the files of the U.S. Forest Service dated 2007, Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake, Minnesota, 1-2.

¹²⁸ Hess, Roise, and Company, "National Register Evaluation of Star Island, T145N and 146N R31W in Cass Lake, Beltrami County and Cass County, Minnesota," U.S. Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake Minnesota, 2004, 6-51.

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The East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff cabins were constructed between 1905 and 1963, although the vast majority were built from the 1910s through the 1930s. A number of the cabins are attributed to Emil Johnson, a local craftsman. Architecturally, the typical cabin is a straightforward vernacular design featuring clapboard, drop lap, or board and batten siding. A number of cabins are built with log. The majority of the sites include several buildings and may include the main cabin, a guest cabin, a tool shed, an outhouse, and a boat house. The more rustic cabins are found on East Beach and Norway Bluff, while a number of the cabins along Sandy Beach feature recognizable styles that might have been built on a residential street in an urban area. These include several Craftsman style bungalows. Some interiors remain unfinished with exposed stud walls and rafters. There are also unique vernacular expressions, such as a number of fireplaces that feature inventive combinations of brick and stone. Perhaps the most unique building on Star Island is an exotic pagoda-style cabin.

Initially, the U.S. Forest Service only provided general guidelines for the construction of the summer cabins. A 1926 Recreational Use Policy stated, "The character of improvements to be constructed by permittees will be controlled only in a general way and under requirements providing for neat and orderly conditions and appearance, not inconsistent with the surroundings."¹²⁹ In time, more precise guidelines were implemented. Cabins could not exceed 900 square feet, although several of the two-story cabins appear to exceed this limit and may have been built before the restriction was put in place. But if more space was required, the permittee was allowed to construct an additional building. Out buildings could not exceed 400 square feet, although the majority are considerably smaller. Buildings were to be secondary to the natural environment and the guidelines specify appropriate colors and materials. There are also restrictions on tree removals. Any proposed changes of a significant nature need to be reviewed by the Forest Service.¹³⁰

The Star Island homeowners formed a close-knit summer community and many cabins have been owned by the same family for generations. The homeowners also formed the Star Island Protective League in 1916, reminiscent of the Isle Royale Protective Association. Its initial purpose was to hire a caretaker to maintain the cabins in the off season. But in time the League took on other issues. In the 1920s and 1930s, the League, as well as the U.S. Forest Service, worked successfully to prevent a group of private property owners on the north side of the island from constructing a bridge to the mainland in order to protect Star Island's isolated character. The most significant change to Star Island occurred in 1952 when electrical lines were extended to the island.

As a result of U.S. Forest Service restrictions, and the desire of many of the homeowners to maintain the rustic simplicity of their cabins, Star Island's Summer Home Groups retain a high level of integrity. In 2007, the U.S. Forest Service commissioned a study to determine if the Summer Home Groups were eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The study was conducted by Hess, Roise and Company in consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. It was concluded that Star Island's Summer Homes Groups are

¹²⁹ Hess, Roise and Company, 65.

¹³⁰ Interview with Bill Yourd, Forest Archaeologist, U.S. Forest Service, by Rolf Anderson on January 14, 2015.

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eligible for the National Register as three separate historic districts, which include 107 contributing buildings and structures and 33 non-contributing buildings and structures. The period of significance extends from 1905-1963.¹³¹ The Forest Service has not yet proceeded to prepare a nomination. Yet, there is also privately owned land on Star Island, particularly at the southeast area of the island between East Beach and Sandy Beach where there are perhaps at least 15 additional cabin sites. These properties were not evaluated because the land is not owned by the U.S. Forest Service. However, it is clear that many of the cabins exhibit the same characteristics as those determined eligible. Thus, the number of buildings on Star Island eligible for the National Register could be even higher.

Comparison between Star Island and Tobin Harbor

A site visit to Star Island confirmed that the Summer Home Groups are remarkable for their large number of historic resources, with 107 contributing buildings. They represent a wide variety of building types in terms of design and materials, which range from simple buildings clad in board and batten siding to the exotic pagoda-style cabin. Many are in very original condition. The collection of buildings is also remarkably intact, and more intact than the properties constructed in Tobin Harbor. However, there are also 33 non-contributing resources among the Summer Home Groups, and that number is likely to increase over time.

The Retseck study noted that, "Star Island, Minnesota, shares defining characteristics with Tobin Harbor, but continued use and development has modernized cottages built in the 1910s and 1920s. The addition of indoor plumbing and electricity ushered Star Island into the modern era."¹³² Some cabins feature new kitchens and bathrooms and even a window air conditioner or satellite dish.

In conclusion, while Star Island contains a large and significant collection of summer homes, because the buildings continue to be privately owned, and some change is permitted, incremental changes will continue to impact historic integrity, unlike Tobin Harbor.

2. Shaw Point, Sand Island, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Shaw Point is located on the southeastern shore of Sand Island, one of twenty-two islands that comprise Lake Superior's Apostle Islands. Shaw Point contains a collection of seasonal residences and related buildings and structures that are located on three properties.

In August 2013, the Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy retained a consultant team led by historical consultants Hess, Roise and Company of Minneapolis. The team was requested to research the history of the Shaw Point community, conduct fieldwork to identify and document all resources, establish a preliminary boundary for a proposed historic district, and prepare a report that could serve as the basis for a future National Register Nomination if the preliminary research indicated that Shaw Point qualifies for designation. Two properties had

¹³¹ Hess, Roise, and Company, "Star Island," 68-71.

¹³² Retseck, 97.

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been previously listed on the National Register: the Shaw-Hill Farm and Sevona Memorial Cottage. However, the current study provided an opportunity to evaluate the entire Shaw Point community as an historic district. The team's final report was completed in August 2015.¹³³

The proposed district includes three adjacent properties: the Shaw Hill Farm, Camp Stella, and the Campbell-Jensch property. Two sites were excluded: the Herman Jensch site and the Plenty Charm cabin. The Herman Jensch site was located to the west of the proposed district and was excluded because its three buildings had been removed and because reforestation has created a visual separation from the other Shaw Point properties. The Plenty Charm cabin is located to the north of Shaw Point along the east side of Sand Island. It was excluded because contextually it is more closely associated with the East Bay Colony, a collection of summer homes, which have been removed.

Similar to Tobin Harbor, the three Shaw Point properties feature collections of buildings, and neither electricity nor modern plumbing has been introduced. All properties are now used as seasonal homes.

- **Shaw Hill Farm**

Francis (Frank) Shaw established a commercial fishing camp and a small farm on Shaw Point in the 1870s. He and his wife, Josephine, occupied their Sand Island property seasonally until they made it their permanent home. The fishing and farming operations were thriving until around 1905. When the couple's health began to fail, they sold the property to their son-in-law, Burt Hill, in 1909. The Hills gave up farming after a number of years but continued fishing. They also took in lodgers including fisherman, seasonal workers, and summertime visitors. Burt also became the caretaker for Camp Stella and the Campbell property, and he served as the island's blacksmith and repairman. In time, the property comprised two log cabins, a root cellar, a fish house (no longer extant), several outbuildings to support the farming and fishing operations, and a two-story workshop. Burt Hill added a two-story barn that was destroyed by lightning in 1944. He also added a two-story ice house that he shared with Samuel Campbell.¹³⁴

- **Camp Stella**

Sam Fifield and his wife, Stella, established a successful resort just to the west of the Shaw-Hill Farm. The Fifields lived in Ashland, Wisconsin, and had visited the Apostle Islands to relieve Stella's hay fever allergies. They camped on Sand Island in 1881 and established Camp Stella, named for Mrs. Fifield, in 1886. The resort consisted of a number of tent platforms, several log cottages, a one-and-one-half story log lodge that contained the kitchen and dining room for island guests, the Fifield's own cabin, a cabin for Oliver LaTour, a hired hand, a hexagonal cabin, a water tower, several outbuildings, and a pavilion and dance hall. One of the most

¹³³ Hess, Roise, and Company, "Cultural Resources Survey for the Shaw Point, Sand Island, Historic District, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy, August 2015, 2.

¹³⁴ Hess, Roise, "Shaw Point," 5-6, 10-12.

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unique buildings was the Sevona Memorial Cottage, built with salvaged materials from the shipwreck of the *Sevona*, an iron ore boat that sank off the coast of Sand Island in 1905.¹³⁵

- **Campbell-Jensch Property**

Samuel Campbell was a friend of Sam Fifield. Campbell and his wife Phebe visited the Fifield's at Camp Stella, where they became frequent visitors. Eventually Fifield convinced the Campbells to purchase the property just to the west of Camp Stella and they built their own seasonal residence in 1909. The cottage is one of the largest seasonal residences along the south shore of Sand Island. The camp also includes a tool shed and outhouse that were built in 1909 and a boathouse built in 1935. Two cabins, a pump house, an outhouse, and a wood shed were built in the 1950s. The most recent building is a woodshed built in 1998. The Campbell's daughter, Daisy (Campbell) Jensch and her husband Charles Jensch, took over the property after her father died in 1953.¹³⁶

In 1970, the National Park Service created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The enabling legislation authorized the purchase of privately owned properties within the lakeshore boundaries. Title to all the properties on Shaw Point was acquired by the U.S. Government, while the owners retained the right to continue their use of the properties under life estate use and occupancy agreements.

The historical consultants recommended that the three Shaw Point properties were eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as a historic district. The proposed boundary encompasses thirty acres. The suggested period of significance is 1870-1965. Based on the end date of 1965, the district includes twenty-six contributing buildings and structures and ten non-contributing buildings and structures.¹³⁷

Comparison with Tobin Harbor

Shaw Point and Tobin Harbor share similar historic themes representative of the Lake Superior region. These include the development of commercial fishing, followed by the development of resorts, and seasonal residences. Neither have been modernized with electricity or modern plumbing. While Tobin Harbor contains a much larger collection of the buildings, the major difference is that Shaw Point continued to evolve during the modern era until it was purchased by the NPS in 1970. A number of new buildings were constructed from the 1950s through the 1970s. The most recent building was constructed in 1998. Shaw Point best represents the evolution of a recreational district into the modern era.

¹³⁵ Hess, Roise, and Company, "Shaw Point," 7-8.

¹³⁶ Hess, Roise, 9, 12.

¹³⁷ Hess, Roise, 55-60.

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3. Rocky Island Historic District, Rocky Island, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

The Rocky Island Historic District (NRHP, 2008) encompasses five fishing camps located along the shoreline of Rocky Island, within the Apostle Islands archipelago. The district encompasses a complex of dwellings and other structures that are now owned by the National Park Service, but all either are, or have until recently been, occupied by the families and descendants of Norwegian-American commercial fisherman who established the small cluster of fish camps in the early 1930s. The 13.7 acre historic district is considered significant under National Register Criterion A as a maritime landscape reflecting the commercial fishing culture along the shores of Lake Superior and the mid-twentieth century regional shift to an economy heavily reliant on tourism and recreation.¹³⁸

The five properties are the Hadland, Benson, Edwards, Nelson, and Erickson Fish Camps. Each contains a collection of buildings and structures including cabins, fish houses, storage sheds, privies, and docks. While not nominated to the National Register for their architecture, the buildings feature remarkably similar vernacular designs and represent an unusually cohesive group of buildings. They are typically frame structures set upon log piers, with gable roofs, and lean-to front porches. The smaller buildings and cabin additions have shed roofs. An important and distinctive feature of most of the buildings is that they were designed to be easily mobile because of the need to change fishing locations. In addition, a number of the buildings were moved from South Twin Island because of a dispute with the property owner.¹³⁹

Comparison with Tobin Harbor

Both Tobin Harbor and the Rocky Island Historic District share historic contexts related to commercial fishing and the shift to seasonal use, although the story of commercial fishing dominates the story of Rocky Island. Many of the buildings in the district continue to be used seasonally by descendants of the original occupants under life lease arrangements or use-and-occupancy agreements.

Both feature collections of buildings with high integrity. The Rocky Island district contains twenty-eight contributing buildings, structures, and objects, and sixteen non-contributing buildings and structures. However, Tobin Harbor represents a much broader range of architectural expressions in terms of architectural design and specific design features, and architecture is considered an area of significance for Tobin Harbor under National Register Criterion C.

4. Rainy Lake Islands, Minnesota/Ontario

The context study titled, "Tourism and Recreational Developments in the Northwoods, 1880s-1950s" by historians Dena Sanford and Mary Graves, and the Multiple Property Documentation

¹³⁸ Christine Baker, Robert W. Mackreth, and Katy E. Homes, "Rocky Island Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, May 30, 2007, 7.7, 8.23

¹³⁹ Baker, 8.24.

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Form (MPDF) titled, "Tourism and Recreational Facilities in Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-1950 by Quinn Evans Architects provide extensive documentation about the development of tourism and recreation in the border lakes region of northern Minnesota. The authors point out one significant difference in the developments in this region; namely, there was a somewhat later onset. Railroads and good roads were late to arrive, but in time recreational development took place like other areas in the region.

Rainy Lake is a large body of water that straddles the border between the United States and Canada. The lake contains 360 square miles and includes over 900 miles of shoreline. An area of Rainy Lake located to the east of Voyageurs National Park contains a collection of seasonal properties that is in some ways perhaps the most similar to Tobin Harbor of any properties in the comparative analysis.¹⁴⁰ While the collections of seasonal properties previously described were all located on single islands where properties were organized in a linear pattern, this area of Rainy Lake contains a collection of islands with corresponding circulation patterns, spatial relationships, and landscape features that are very similar to Tobin Harbor. An island community developed in both Tobin Harbor and on Rainy Lake. Unlike the other properties discussed in the analysis, both the land and cabins remain privately owned. Additionally, like Tobin Harbor, the cabins are located on single islands as few have been subdivided to this day.

The area on Rainy Lake that is most similar to Tobin Harbor spans the international boundary between the United States and Canada. This area includes the Review Islands, which are located to the southwest of a section of the international boundary known as the American Narrows and extends to the northeast into Canada as far as Copenhagen Island. The area includes Rustic style cabins, several estates, and a year-around home. The majority of the properties were built in the 1920s and 1930s. Many have remained in the same families for multiple generations.

A number of the properties are described below in order to depict both the variety of architectural designs and the landscape of Rainy Lake.

Noted conservationist Ernest C. Oberholtzer was originally from Davenport, Iowa. He first visited Rainy Lake in the 1910s and became so enamored with the area that he settled there permanently and made Mallard Island (NRHP, 2000) his home, which is one of the five Review Islands. He devoted his entire life to the preservation of the border lakes region. Over time, Oberholtzer constructed and acquired a picturesque collection of story-book buildings on his one-acre island. These included the main cabin, two house boats that were permanently installed along the shore, a cabin that was moved onto the island, the "Winter House," a library, a gazebo,

¹⁴⁰ A number of properties have been preserved in Voyageurs National Park that are associated with tourism and recreational developments in the region. The majority are separated geographically and do not constitute an enclave of buildings, yet they are notable for their diversity and variety of design features. The properties include the Kettle Falls Hotel, the Harry Oveson Fish Camp, Monson's Hoist Bay Resort, which includes remnants of a railroad trestle built by the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company, the Fujita Cabin, the lodge from the Meadwood Resort (now the Ash River Visitor Center), the I.W. Stevens Pine Cove Resort, the Ingersoll Estate, Camp Marston, a summer camp run by the University of Iowa, and other sites. Architecturally, the buildings range from simple frame structures to elaborate log buildings. A number of particularly interesting buildings are found at the I.W. Stevens property, including two log buildings built by local craftsman that feature dove-tailed corners.

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and a three-story building known as the "Bird House," which included one small room on each floor. A number of the buildings were constructed with split cedar logs with the bark left unpeeled.¹⁴¹

After Oberholtzer's death in 1972, his friends and colleagues established a foundation to preserve Mallard Island and his legacy. While there was no electrical service on Mallard Island during Oberholtzer's lifetime, a line was extended to the island in the 1980s. But in order to reflect Oberholtzer's simple lifestyle, neither running water nor modern plumbing have been installed.

Within view of Mallard Island was the Dahlberg estate, built in the 1920s on Jackfish Island. The estate, known as "Redcrest," included a large stone and frame house with an octagonal living room, a guest house, servant's quarters, several service buildings, and even a teepee. The main house and one or two outbuildings survive, although most of Jackfish Island has been subdivided and is now lined with cabins built in the modern era. Also within sight of Mallard Island was the summer home of Edward Backus, built in the 1910s on Curtice Island. Backus was an industrialist from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who owned the paper mill in nearby International Falls, Minnesota. In the 1920s, Backus proposed a plan to dam a large portion of the Rainy Lake watershed for hydroelectric power, which would have dramatically changed the landscape of the region. His plan, which was ultimately unsuccessful, mobilized Ernest Oberholtzer to advocate for the preservation of the border lakes region. The Backus property consisted of a number of frame buildings, including a sprawling lodge. However, a number of buildings were added in the modern era and the original buildings have been modified.

Immediately to the east of Curtice Island, but over the international boundary in Canada, is Red Pine Island. While the island includes a log cabin and several other buildings constructed in the 1980s, an old log building was moved to the island from a summer camp near Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and is now used as a guest cabin.

French Island contains the most elaborate estate on Rainy Lake. Henry French and his wife, Virginia, were from Davenport, Iowa. They were friends of Ernest Oberholtzer's, who suggested they build a summer home on Rainy Lake. Their estate was constructed in the 1930s and includes a main house, a guest house, and an artist's studio, all built with stone. Several buildings have been constructed in recent years.

Sheldon Island is located to the west of French Island. The property contains a cabin and boathouse built in 1938 by the Sheldon family of International Falls. A second cabin and boathouse were added in the modern era.

To the east of Sheldon Island are Polka Dot Island and Jacobsen Island. Polka Dot Island contains a small cabin built in 1930. The Jacobsen cabin was built in 1928. The small T-shaped cabin, now in deteriorating condition, is perched above the water on a rocky point. The Jacobsen

¹⁴¹ Rolf T. Anderson, "Ernest C. Oberholtzer Rainy Lake Islands Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, January 12, 1999.

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family purchased the plans for the cabin, which was designed by an east coast architect who offered the plans for sale through an advertisement in a magazine. A new cabin and several outbuildings have been built on the south end of the island.

To the north of Jacobsen Island is Copenhagen Island. Located off the east shore of Copenhagen Island is one of Rainy Lake's landmarks, a sculpture of a mermaid reclining on a rock. Copenhagen Island contains a finely-crafted log cabin built in the 1920s along with a separate building that contains the kitchen and dining room. The cabin retains its original rustic feeling. The bedroom windows do not even contain glazed sash. The openings are simply screened and feature wooden shutters that can be folded down to provide protection from the elements.

The summer residents of this area of Rainy Lake have formed a tightly-knit community known for its annual summer events, such as the Labor Day party held on Copenhagen Island for many years. The area also retains a wilderness feeling, more evident on the Canadian side of the border, as islands have usually not been subdivided and many cabins are hidden in the trees and are not particularly visible from the lake. In the modern era, the Rainy Lake Conservancy was established to help preserve the lake's wilderness qualities. The group has accepted several conservation easements in this particular area of the lake, which can prevent an island from being subdivided and may limit other changes.

The cross-border issue aside, there has been sufficient construction in this area of Rainy Lake during the modern era to question whether there is adequate integrity to qualify the area as an historic district, even if the period of significance was extended to 1966, the 50-year cut-off, or whether eligibility would need to be considered on an individual basis. In addition, electricity was introduced into this area of the lake and many cabins have been modernized and other incremental changes continue to occur. Even in areas of the lake without electrical service, solar power has allowed for the introduction of modern amenities.

Comparison with Tobin Harbor

As an island community, this area of Rainy Lake shares many characteristics with Tobin Harbor, and is perhaps in many ways the most similar of any of the comparable properties. Some properties like the Ernest C. Oberholtzer property will likely remain in very original condition, although, in general, incremental changes are likely to impact many of the other cabins. However, it is probable the area will remain very similar to Tobin Harbor in terms of circulation patterns, spatial relationships, and the overall landscape.

5. Washington and Barnum Islands, Isle Royale National Park, Michigan

The east end of Washington Island and Barnum Island, both located at the southwestern end of Isle Royale National Park, contain a collection of buildings and structures associated with historic contexts related to commercial fishing, tourism, and recreation.

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Washington Island

In 1892, Sam Siverston moved his commercial fishing operation from nearby Barnum Island to Washington Island. He was joined by his brother Andrew (Art) and they constructed several buildings and structures necessary to operate their fishery. In 1901, Walter Singer, the head of the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Transportation Company, built a resort just to the east of the fishery, which was known variously as the Island House, Singerville, or the Singer Resort Lodge. It became Isle Royale's first full-service resort and included a two-story hotel with a dining room, kitchen, and guest rooms, as well as ten cottages along the lakeshore. A recreation building containing a bowling alley and dance hall was also built.

In time, problems arose between the resort and fishery and Singer persuaded the Sivertsons to move their operation further to the west. However, even though Singer's resort was successful, unreliable transportation to the island resulted in its closure by the time the property was acquired by the Park Service in the 1930s. But the fishery continued to function and was operated under a special use permit by members of the Sivertson family until 2011. A number of buildings and structures remain from the fishery including two cottages, a laundry building, two net houses, two fish houses, and several net drying reels. Only one cottage remains from Singer's Resort along with a number of landscape features. Architecturally, the buildings feature simple frame construction and are clad with drop-lap siding or in some cases wood shingles. The buildings are covered with gable or hip roofs with asphalt rolled roofing or in some cases asphalt shingles. One boat house was built with salvaged materials from a building from the Windigo CCC Camp.

Barnum Island

Barnum Island was originally known as Johns Island, named for John F. Johns, a former mining captain who established a commercial fishery on the island by 1885. In about 1892, he opened a small resort on the island. The fishery was located at the east end of the island and the resort was in the central portion. Called Johns Hotel, the resort eventually contained at least fourteen buildings including a main building, a dining cabin, small log cabins for tourists, and a barn for livestock.

George Barnum, a wealthy grain merchant from Duluth, Minnesota, was a guest at the hotel in 1889. Within a few years he decided to make the island a private retreat for his family and friends. In 1902, Barnum purchased the entire island and all the buildings from Johns. He brought carpenter Ole Daniels to the island, who constructed ten buildings. Among the buildings are the Barnum Cabin, Dunwoodie House, Barnum/Ray Cottage, E. Andrews Cottage, F. Andrews Cottage, and three boathouses. The Dunwoodie, Ray, and Andrews families were all friends or relatives of Barnum. Since Isle Royale National Park was established, members of several original families have continued to use and maintain the island properties under Special

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Use Permits. The Johns family provided funds to restore the Johns Hotel and one of the log cabins.¹⁴²

Today twenty-six buildings and structures remain on the island. The hotel and two cabins survive from the Johns era, although no buildings remain from the fishery. All three buildings are constructed with log. Many of the buildings from the Barnum era share similar characteristics, which is not surprisingly since ten buildings were constructed by Ole Daniels. The one-story buildings feature drop-lap siding, corner boards, and gable or hip roofs with asphalt rolled roofing. One boat house features vertical log construction. The "Cultural Landscape Report/Environmental Assessment" report for Washington and Barnum Islands suggests that Washington Island is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with commercial fishing and tourism and that Barnum Island is also eligible under Criterion A for its association with recreation. Previously, the Michigan SHPO agreed that Barnum Island appeared to be eligible and requested additional information about Washington Island.

Comparison between Washington and Barnum Islands and Tobin Harbor

Washington and Barnum Islands are quite similar to Tobin Harbor in terms of the historic themes that both areas share. Their proximity on Isle Royale reinforces these similarities. Like Tobin Harbor, change was essentially arrested by 1940 on Washington Island and Barnum Islands and the properties were never modernized. Both areas have experienced some loss in integrity due to the removal of various buildings, but the remaining buildings retain high integrity in their ability to represent the historic period of significance. One difference relates to the themes that each property best represents. Based on the surviving buildings, Washington Island's closest association is with the Sivertson commercial fishery and Barnum Island best represents a private camp, similar to the Megeath/McPherran Compounds at Crystal Cove and Caption Kidd Island. Tobin Harbor best represents a community of seasonal camps. Additionally, the architecture of Tobin Harbor's camps represents a broader range of vernacular expressions.

6. Other Sites

Several additional sites have been identified that may share some similarities with Tobin Harbor or might warrant further investigation. North Manitou Island, now part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, contains a smaller collection of summer cottages known as Cottage Row. Located on the east side of the island, the cottages were built between 1893 and 1924 on a bluff that overlooked the U.S. Life-Saving Station. The land had been owned by Silas Boardman, a Chicago businessman. His daughter Carrie and her husband George Blossom, and their friends Fredrick and Mary Trude, purchased the land to sell to their friends so they could vacation together. Ten lots were plotted along with a park that all the owners would share. A variety of frame cottages were built, which were typically one-story, with gable or hip roofs, and large

¹⁴² Quinn Evans Architects and Woolpert, Inc., "Washington and Barnum Islands: Draft Cultural Landscape Report/Environmental Assessment," National Park Service, Isle Royale National Park, and Midwest Regional Office, February 2013, 2.18-2.83, 3.26-3.91, 4.1.

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porches. Two of the lots were never built upon. The Blossom's own cottage is said to have been designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Originally, the cottages did not have kitchens or dining rooms as everyone ate in a communal dining hall, which was destroyed in a fire in 1953. Several cottages have been removed, although in recent years some cottages have been stabilized or restored. Cottage Row has the feeling of a small village.

Another site that contains a number of recreational properties is located on Grand Island, now part of the Grand Island National Recreation Area of the Hiawatha National Forest. Beginning in about 1900, William Mather, the president of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company began to purchase large tracts of land on Grand Island. By 1906, he owned the entire island. He created a game preserve and built a resort. He also built a lodge for his own use and for company guests, clients, and employees. Mather also leased land to high-level employees where they could build their own summer homes. The largest surviving enclave of buildings is in the William's Landing area, which included a hotel and a number of summer cottages. The buildings have not been listed on the National Register.¹⁴³ Additional information about William's Landing is needed in order to draw further conclusions about its significance and similarity to Tobin Harbor.

Final Conclusions

This additional research and analysis concurs with the Retseck study that there are few surviving historic recreation districts in the remote "Northwoods/Great Lakes" region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan that are comparable to Tobin Harbor. Because so few examples exist, all the properties in this report may be considered significant, yet, an analysis and comparison of these properties has resulted in the following observations and conclusions:

- Expectations about a seasonal cabin have changed dramatically since the early twentieth century. Early cabins differed both architecturally and functionally from urban homes. The simple lifestyle afforded by a remote cabin was often desired. Today's cabins or seasonal homes are often indistinguishable from a suburban home. Even if the exterior exhibits a rustic feel, the interior usually features all the conveniences and amenities found in the owner's year-around residence. Thus, the distinction between the urban and seasonal homes, and the corresponding lifestyles, is no longer as distinct as was the case historically.
- The best surviving examples of historic recreation districts are those that have been subject to regulations that limit change. In the case of Star Island, the U.S. Forest Service owns the lands upon which the cabins were built. And while the cabins themselves are privately owned, the Forest Service must approve changes that are made. In the case of the properties on Isle Royale and the Apostle Islands, the Park Service regulated and limited changes once they acquired the properties. Similarly, water-borne properties

¹⁴³ Norene A. Roberts, "Cultural Resources Overview and National Register Evaluation of Historic Structures, Grand Island National Recreation Area, Michigan, Final Report," U.S. Forest Service, Escanaba, Michigan, 1991, 120-144. Eric Drake, Heritage Program Manager, Hiawatha National Forest, email message to Rolf Anderson dated February 4, 2016.

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have retained higher integrity in contrast to mainland properties where changes are more easily implemented.

- All the properties in the study, except Tobin Harbor and Washington and Barnum Islands, have experienced or will continue to experience incremental changes. The changes, while often minor, accumulate and continue to impact the historic integrity of the properties. Changes continued at the Shaw Point and the Rocky Island Historic District until the properties were purchased by the Park Service in 1970. Certain changes continued after that point. Change will continue in the Rainy Lake Islands area as well as on Star Island.
- While exterior changes are often the most obvious, interior changes are often overlooked, but they can be very impactful and have a significant effect on historic integrity. When cabins are updated, particularly if electricity become available, modern fixtures, appliances, and plumbing are often installed. Such is the case with many cabins on Star Island and Rainy Lake. These changes diminish our understanding of the lifestyle in remote seasonal cabins in the early years of the twentieth century. In contrast, Tobin Harbor's cabins contain features such as wood stoves, hand pumps, California Coolers, and galvanized tanks for gravity flow water systems, features that greatly increase our understanding of the era. Such original features are rarely retained when interiors are updated.
- Many of the cabins in Tobin Harbor and the Rainy Lake Islands area are located on islands, which creates unique circulation patterns and visual and spatial relationships. This creates direct relationships between properties and a distinct cohesiveness in contrast to districts with a linear orientation. The properties on Star Island, Rocky Island, and Shaw Point, for example, are arranged in a linear fashion with an orientation toward the open water and without such strong visual relationships and connections to other buildings in their respective districts.
- Changes in the landscape can impact the integrity of feeling and setting. The landscapes of Tobin Harbor, Barnum and Washington Islands, and even the Rainy Lake Islands area all retain a rugged, wilderness feeling that reflects the character of the land during the historic period. In contrast, some properties on Star Island and Shaw Point feature mowed lawns and managed landscapes that reflect a more modern sensibility, which contrasts with their appearance during the period of significance.
- The Rainy Lake Islands area is the only property in this comparative study that remains in private ownership. Clearly, properties in public ownership may be more readily identified and are more likely to have undergone survey and evaluation. Remote, privately held properties are less likely to be identified. Thus, additional properties that bear some similarity to Tobin Harbor may be identified in the future. However, while any such properties might yield meaningful information, it is also likely that such

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properties will fall into the category of those that continue to undergo incremental change.

In conclusion, because few historic recreation districts have been identified in the "North Woods/Great Lakes" region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, each of the properties in this study may be considered significant in their own right, even though all of the properties have experienced some loss of integrity. Tobin Harbor contains the second largest collection of buildings and structures, second only to Star Island. However, unlike Tobin Harbor, Star Island also contains a significant number of non-contributing resources. But what truly distinguishes Tobin Harbor, as well as Washington and Barnum Islands, is that when the National Park Service purchased the properties in 1930s change was essentially arrested. It was not simply arrested, but arrested during the historic period, which is clearly a rare occurrence. Thus, Tobin Harbor effectively represents the historic period with an exceptional level of integrity and authenticity. It also represents a rare surviving example of the property type. This is particularly evident when the highly original interior spaces of Tobin Harbor's cabins are considered. Additionally, the vernacular designs of Tobin Harbor's buildings are both diverse and distinctive. For these reasons, Tobin Harbor is not merely significant within the context of Isle Royale. Tobin Harbor is a highly effective representation of the regional themes of tourism and recreation, along with their corresponding vernacular architectural expressions and landscape. Moreover, while the concept of a seasonal cabin existed in other parts of the country such as the West Coast, it was largely a phenomenon in the North Woods region of the Great Lakes. Thus, the Tobin Harbor Historic District is an outstanding example of an important regional context within the national theme of tourism and recreation and should be considered significant at the national level.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Isle Royale National Park Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 696.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 392320 | Northing: 5336680 |
| 2. Zone: 16 | Easting: 394000 | Northing: 5336680 |
| 3. Zone: 16 | Easting: 394000 | Northing: 5336570 |
| 4. Zone: 16 | Easting: 392070 | Northing: 5335220 |
| 5. Zone: 16 | Easting: 392030 | Northing: 5335260 |
| 6. Zone: 16 | Easting: 391440 | Northing: 5334850 |
| 7. Zone: 16 | Easting: 390560 | Northing: 5334860 |
| 8. Zone 16 | Easting: 390560 | Northing: 5335080 |
| 9. Zone 16 | Easting: 391240 | Northing: 5335800 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is shown on the enclosed map titled, "Tobin Harbor Historic District Boundary." Beginning in the cove at Scoville Point, the boundary follows the former legal boundary of the Langley Camp and then extends to the southwest along the former legal boundaries of the Anderson and Mattson Fisheries. The boundary continues past the Snell Camp and proceeds due west across Tobin Harbor immediately south of the Kemmer/Underwood Camp. From there the boundary continues to the north and northeast incorporating land along the northwest shore of Tobin Harbor. The land included in the boundary along the northeast shore approximates the same depth of land included along the southeast shoreline. The boundary then proceeds due east across Tobin Harbor to include Edwards and Gem Islands. The boundary then continues to the south and southeast to the point of origin in Scoville Cove.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the buildings, structures, and landscape features historically associated with Tobin Harbor and that maintain historic integrity. The boundary reflects the views, vistas, and spatial and visual relationships that characterize Tobin Harbor's vernacular landscape.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rolf T. Anderson
organization: _____
street & number: 212 West Street
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55408
e-mail roanders6@aol.com
telephone: 1-612-824-7807
date: August 22, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Tobin Harbor Historic District

City or Vicinity: Isle Royale National Park

County: Keweenaw

State: Michigan

Photographer: Rolf T. Anderson

Date Photographed: September 13-16, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 95. View of Dassler Point and Tobin Harbor from Scoville Point, facing north
- 2 of 95. View of Tobin Harbor, facing west
- 3 of 95. View of Tobin Harbor from the Connolly Cottage toward the Stack/Wolbrink Camp, facing north
- 4 of 95. View of Tobin Harbor with the Stack/Wolbrink Camp at the left and the How and Gale Camps at the right, facing west
- 5 of 95. View of the How Camp at the left and the Gale Camp at the left, facing northwest
- 6 of 95. View of Tobin Harbor from the Snell dock with Minong Island at the left and the Mattson Fishery at the right.
- 7 of 95. View of Tobin Harbor from the Snell Camp toward the Merritt Camp, facing north
- 8 of 95. Edwards Camp, facing south (Photo by Larry Edwards, August 1, 2016)
- 9 of 95. Edwards Cottage, facing south
- 10 of 95. Edwards Cottage, facing east
- 11 of 95. Edwards Dining Pavilion, facing northeast
- 12 of 95. Edwards Storage Building/Outdoor Kitchen, facing southwest
- 13 of 95. Edwards Outdoor Kitchen, facing north (Photo by Larry Edwards, July 30, 2016)
- 14 of 95. Edwards Privy, facing east
- 15 of 95. Gem Island, facing north
- 16 of 95. Gem Island Cabin, facing east
- 17 of 95. Gem Island Cabin, facing west

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- 18 of 95. Rafter detail, Gem Island Cabin, facing north
- 19 of 95. Trails, Dassler Camp, facing south
- 20 of 95. Dassler Cottage, facing north
- 21 of 95. Dassler Cottage, facing east
- 22 of 95. Dassler Cottage, facing northwest
- 23 of 95. Living room in the Dassler Cottage, facing north
- 24 of 95. Sink in the Dassler bedroom, facing east
- 25 of 95. Dassler Sleeping Cabin, facing north
- 26 of 95. Dassler Sleeping Cabin, facing south east
- 27 of 95. Dassler Boat House, facing southwest (September, 16, 2014)
- 28 of 95. Stone steps, Connolly Camp, facing south
- 29 of 95. Connolly Cottage, facing south
- 30 of 95. Connolly Cottage, facing northeast
- 31 of 95. Porch on the Connolly Cottage, facing east
- 32 of 95. Seifert Cottage, facing south
- 33 of 95. Seifert Cottage, facing northeast
- 34 of 95. Seifert Storage Building, facing northeast
- 35 of 95. Stack/Wolbrink Camp, facing north
- 36 of 95. Porch on the Stack/Wolbrink Cottage, facing southeast
- 37 of 95. Stack/Wolbrink Cottage, facing east
- 38 of 95. Stack/Wolbrink Cottage, facing north
- 39 of 95. Living room wall in the Stack/Wolbrink Cottage, facing northeast
- 40 of 95. Dining room in the Stack/Wolbrink Cottage, facing south
- 41 of 95. Kitchen in the Stack/Wolbrink Cottage, facing southeast
- 42 of 95. Bedroom in the Stack/Wolbrink Cottage, facing northeast
- 43 of 95. South Privy at the Stack Wolbrink Cottage, facing north
- 44 of 95. Submerged structural remnants that supported the Stack/Wolbrink boat house, facing south
- 45 of 95. Hillcrest Cabin, facing west
- 46 of 95. Porch detail on the Hillcrest Cabin, facing northwest
- 47 of 95. Post Office building and dock on Minong Island, facing northwest
- 48 of 95. Mail sorter in the Post Office building, facing northwest (September 16, 2014)
- 49 of 95. Art and Inez Mattson Cottage, facing south
- 50 of 95. Art and Inez Mattson Cottage, facing east
- 51 of 95. Ed Mattson Cottage, facing east
- 52 of 95. Mattson Guest House/Net House, facing northeast
- 53 of 95. Mattson Boat House, facing east
- 54 of 95. Mattson Boat House, facing northeast
- 55 of 95. Mattson Storage Shed, facing east
- 56 of 95. Snell stairway and railing, facing south
- 57 of 95. Snell Cottage, facing east
- 58 of 95. Snell Cottage, facing southeast
- 59 of 95. Snell Cottage, facing northwest
- 60 of 95. Geometric skirting on the porch of the Snell Cottage, facing south
- 61 of 95. Interior of the Snell Cottage, facing west (September 16, 2014)

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- 62 of 95. Snell Boat House, facing southwest
- 63 of 95. Snell "Writer's Shack," facing south
- 64 of 95. Merritt Cottage, facing northwest
- 65 of 95. Merritt Cottage, facing west
- 66 of 95. The Parsonage, facing northwest
- 67 of 95. Deer Manor, facing southwest
- 68 of 95. Moose Manor, facing northwest
- 69 of 95. Merritt Dock, facing northeast
- 70 of 95. Kemmer/Underwood Camp, facing northwest
- 71 of 95. Kemmer/Underwood Cottage, facing northwest
- 72 of 95. Kemmer/Underwood California Cooler, facing southeast
- 73 of 95. Kemmer/Underwood Storage Building, facing north
- 74 of 95. Kemmer/Underwood Boat House, facing north
- 75 of 95. Kemmer/Underwood Privy, facing east
- 76 of 95. Kemmer/Underwood New Privy, facing east
- 77 of 95. Gale Island, facing northwest
- 78 of 95. Gale Cottage, facing west
- 79 of 95. Gale Cottage, facing north
- 80 of 95. Gale Cottage, facing south
- 81 of 95. Fireplace in the living room of the Gale Cottage, facing west
- 82 of 95. Bunkroom in the Gale Cottage, facing north
- 83 of 95. Gale Privy and Tool Shed, facing west
- 84 of 95. Gale Guest House, facing west
- 85 of 95. How Cottage, facing east
- 86 of 95. How Porch, facing southeast
- 87 of 95. Living room in the How Cottage, facing southeast
- 88 of 95. Living room in the How Cottage, facing north
- 89 of 95. How Guest Cabin, facing north
- 90 of 95. Beard Island, facing northeast
- 91 of 95. Beard Cottage, facing northeast
- 92 of 95. Living room in the Beard Cottage, facing southeast
- 93 of 95. Cabinets with California Cooler in the kitchen of the Beard Cottage, facing northeast
- 94 of 95. California Cooler with doors open in the kitchen of the Beard Cottage, facing northeast
- 95 of 95. Beard Guest Cabin, facing north

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure 1. Dassler family with Lee Dassler seated at the right and Charles Dassler seated in the back row, ca. 1900. Photo ISRO Archives

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Figure 2. Edwards family camping on Edwards Island, 1901. Photo Edwards Family

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Figure 3. Edwards family campsite on Edwards Island, 1901. Photo Edwards Family

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Figure 4. Edwards family members and friends with the Edwards cottage in the background, 1919. Photo Edwards Family

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Figure 5. Edwards family; seated, Annie Deane Edwards and Maurice Edwards; standing, left to right, Robert Edwards, Deane Edwards, Albert Deane, Annie Edwards, Emma Dare Tassel, and Richard Edwards, 1935. Photo Edwards Family

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Figure 6. Merritt family members. Photo Merritt Family

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Figure 7. Jimmy Allen, Alfreda Prince Gale, and her father, Alfred Prince, with the Gale Cottage in the background, ca. 1940. Photo Gale Family

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Figure 8. Tobin Harbor fishing families and friends at the Mattson Fishery standing in front of the Art Mattson cottage, 1936. Photo Mattson Family

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Figure 9. Canoeing in Tobin Harbor with the Mattson Fishery in the background. Photo Snell Family

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Figure 10. Canoeing in Tobin Harbor with the Anderson Fishery in the background. Photo Snell Family

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Figure 11. Snell family members holding fish on their dock. The former Musselman cottage is at the upper left and Minong Island is at the upper right. Photo Snell Family

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Figure 12. Sailing in Tobin Harbor with the Merritt cottage in the upper left. Photo Snell Family

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Figure 13. Roy Snell by his "Writer's Shack." Photo Snell Family

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Figure 14. Row boat races during the annual regatta in Tobin Harbor. Photo Gale Family

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Figure 15. Motor boat races during the annual regatta. Photo Gale Family

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Figure 16. The Winyah docking at the Mattson Fishery on “boat day” ca. 1940. Tobin Harbor residents congregate alongside the fish house to collect their mail that has been placed in the “mail sorter.” A fish net reel is shown in the foreground. The “mail sorter” has been returned to Minong Island and is located in the current post office building. Photo Mattson Family

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Figure 14. Charles Dassler. Photo IRSO Archives

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Figure 15. Henry Beard with the Beard cottage in the background. Photo IRSO Archives

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Figure 16. Jud Snell chopping wood while his daughter Teri looks on. Photo Snell Family

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Figure 17. Lucile Snell washing clothes on the dock. Photo Snell Family

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Figure 18. "Mattson Repair Shop," with Art Mattson in the foreground and his father, Louis Mattson standing in the doorway. Photo Mattson Family

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Figure 19. Art and Inez Mattson standing on the dock at the Mattson Fishery. Photo Mattson Family

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Figure 20. Gale cottage under construction in 1937. Gale Family Photo

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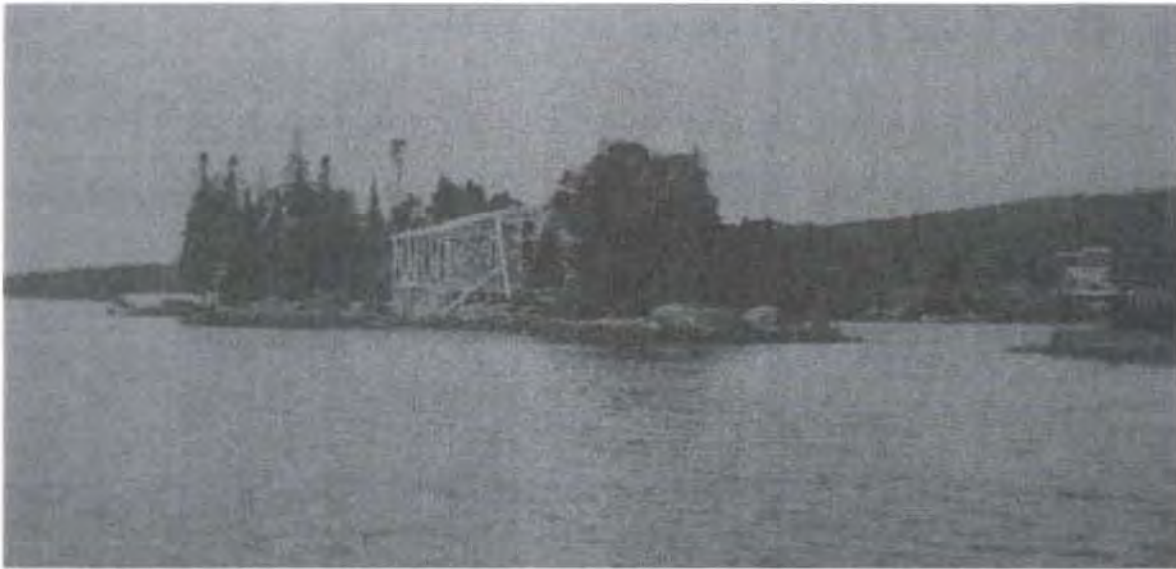


Figure 21. How cottage under construction in 1937 with the Gale cottage under construction in the background. Photo Gale Family

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Figure 22. Gertude How working on the How Cottage, 1937.
Photo Gale Family

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Figure 23. Mary Edwards, Mary Parke Edwards, Annie Edwards, Deane Edwards, Anne Louise Edwards, and Edith Edwards working on the Gem Island cabin in 1938. Photo Edwards Family

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Figure 24. Anne Louise Edwards working on the roof of the Gem Island cabin in 1938.
Photo Edwards Family

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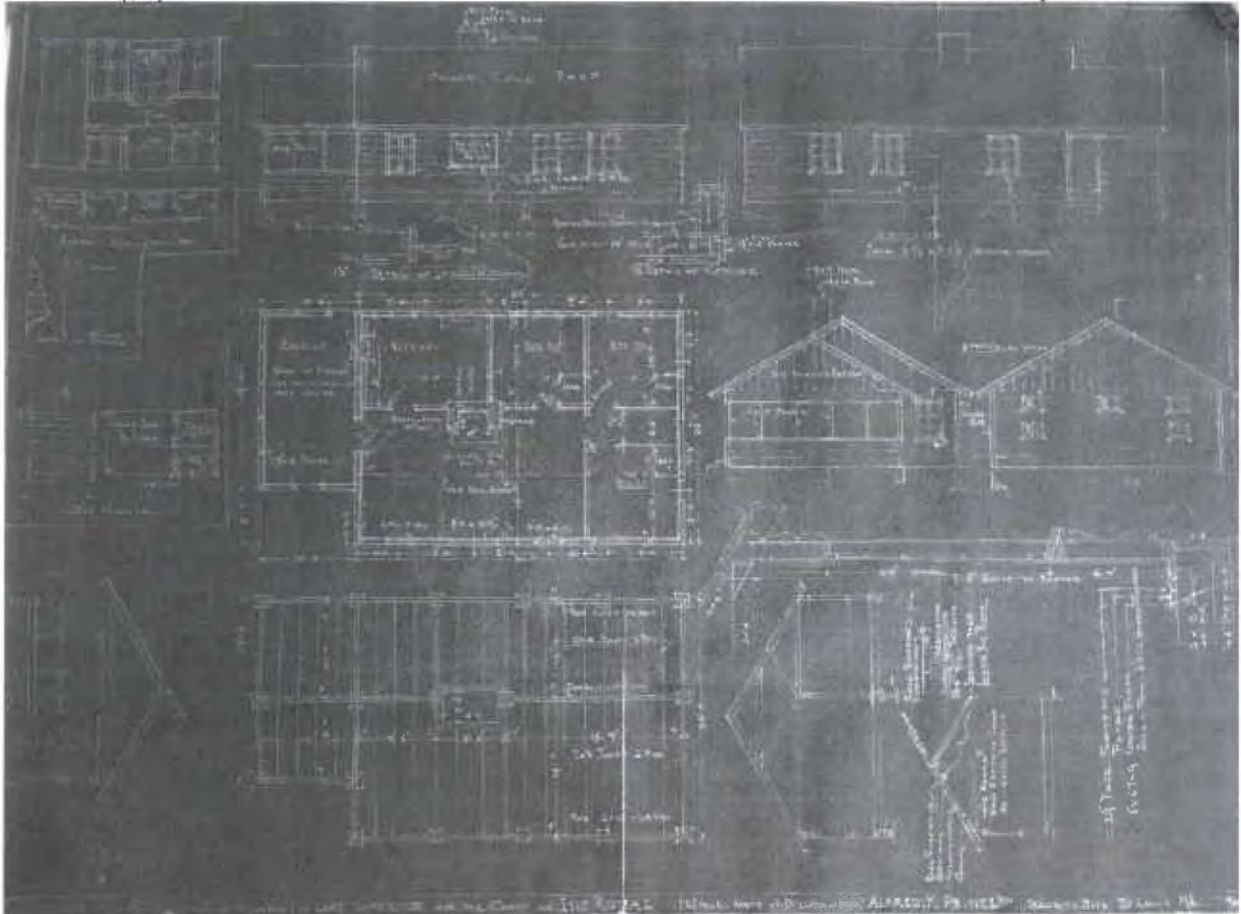


Figure 25. Architectural drawings for the Gale cottage. Gale Family donation, ISRO Archives

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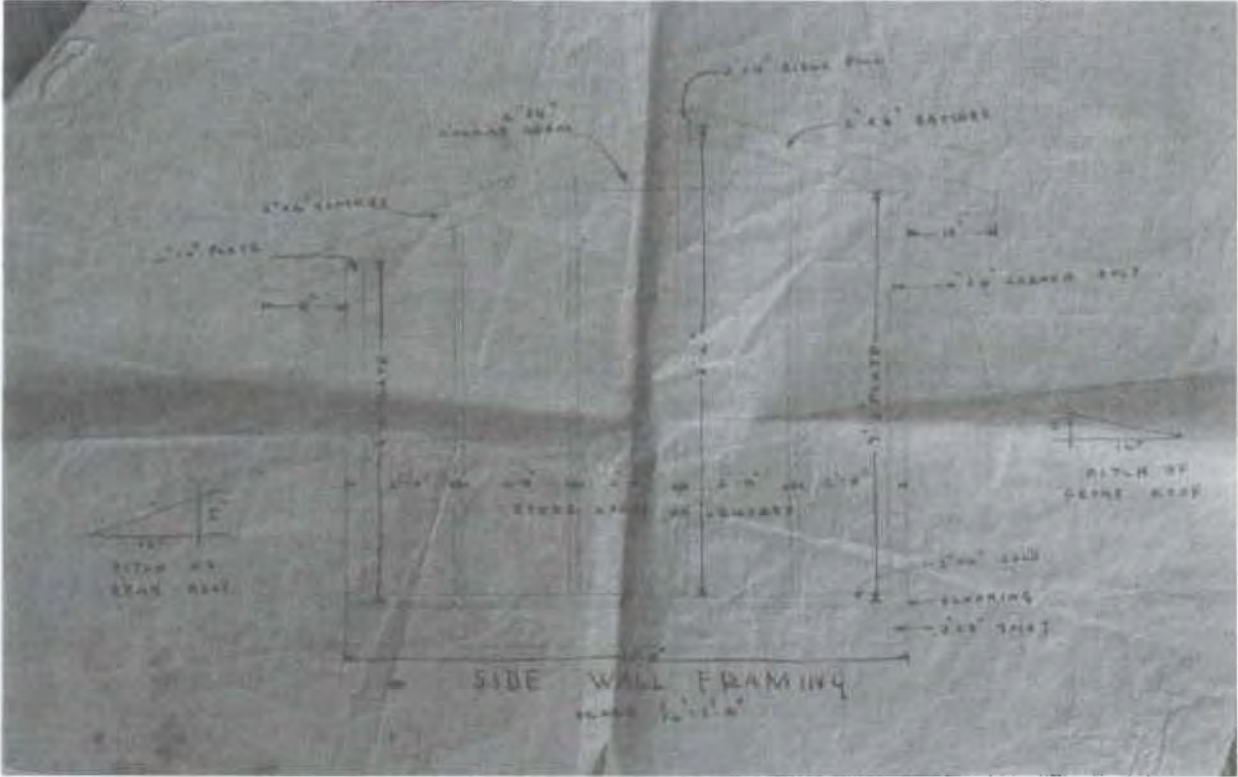


Figure 26. Architectural drawing by Richard Banning for the Gem Island cabin depicting the profile of the building in the style of an Adirondack shelter. Edwards Family Papers

Tobin Harbor Historic District
Name of Property

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Figure 28. Citizens' Committee of Isle Royale meeting at Rock Harbor, 1925. Photo Frank Warren, Edwards Family Papers. First row, seated, left to right; Fred Charlie Still, Bertha Farmer, unknown, Mrs. Napoleon Merritt, Mrs. Alfred Merritt, Edith Godfrey Farmer, Earl Jasper Kneutson, Mildred Morse, Sally Connolly Caskey, Fritz Seifert. Second row, seated; Everett Bailey, Alice Warren, Amy Langworthy, Annie Deane Edwards, Mrs. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Eleanor Oberg's sister, Theresa Kneutson. Third row, standing; M. Jean Merritt, James Lawrence, Sr., David Connolly, Birch Musselman, Henry Beard, Barbara Bell, Mrs. Thomas (Grace) Smith, Katherine Beard, unknown, Willie Musselman, unknown, Annie Deane Edwards, Fred Bailey, Ellen Connolly, Mrs. Manthey, Weston Farmer, Robert Seifert, Maurice Edwards, Bud Merritt, Thomas (Omaha) Smith, George Edwards, Charles Connolly, Alfred Merritt, and Alfred Deane. Photo Edwards Family Photo

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Name of Property

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Figure 29. Isle Royale Protective Association meeting at Minong Resort, 1938. Deane Edwards at left. Photo Edwards Family Photo

Tobin Harbor Historic District
Name of Property

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County and State



Figure 30. Isle Royale Protective Association meeting at Minong Resort, 1938. Photo Edwards Family

Tobin Harbor Historic District
Name of Property

Keweenaw County, MI
County and State

FRANKLIN S. BERRY, President
Box 958
Ontario, Ont.

H. L. BARRA, Vice-President
1312 Lawrence Street
Omaha, Nebr.

Mrs. Dorothy P. Esley, Secretary/Treasurer
Box 958
Ontario, Ont.



ISLE ROYALE PROTECTIVE Association

HONORARY MEMBERS

A. A. WOODS, Detroit, Mich. HARLAN P. KELLEY, Salem, Mass. BOB EASE, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Executive Committee

FRANKLIN S. BERRY, Chairman
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Mrs. Mary FORTUNE
1911 Chestnut St.
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Chicago, Ill.
H. L. BARRA
Omaha, Nebr.
G. K. JANSSEN
Jenette, Wis.
Dr. C. F. CROSBY
Rockford, Ill.
Chas. J. MANNING
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Dr. M. D. BERGMAN
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1000 Keweenaw Park Service
Houghton, Mich.
Mrs. MARY FORTUNE
Madison, Wis.
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Houghton, Mich.
Mrs. BOB A. EASE
107 So. Maple Street
Grand Rapids, Mich.
Mrs. FRANK M. WOODS
Houghton, Mich.
Mrs. WILLIAM W. BERRY
Houghton, Mich.
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1814 California St.
Omaha, Nebr.

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Houghton, Mich.
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1000 Keweenaw Park Service
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1455 1/2 Ave. East
Superior, Wis.
R. D. BERRY
1000 Keweenaw Park Service
Houghton, Mich.
FRANKLIN S. BERRY
1814 California St.
Omaha, Nebr.



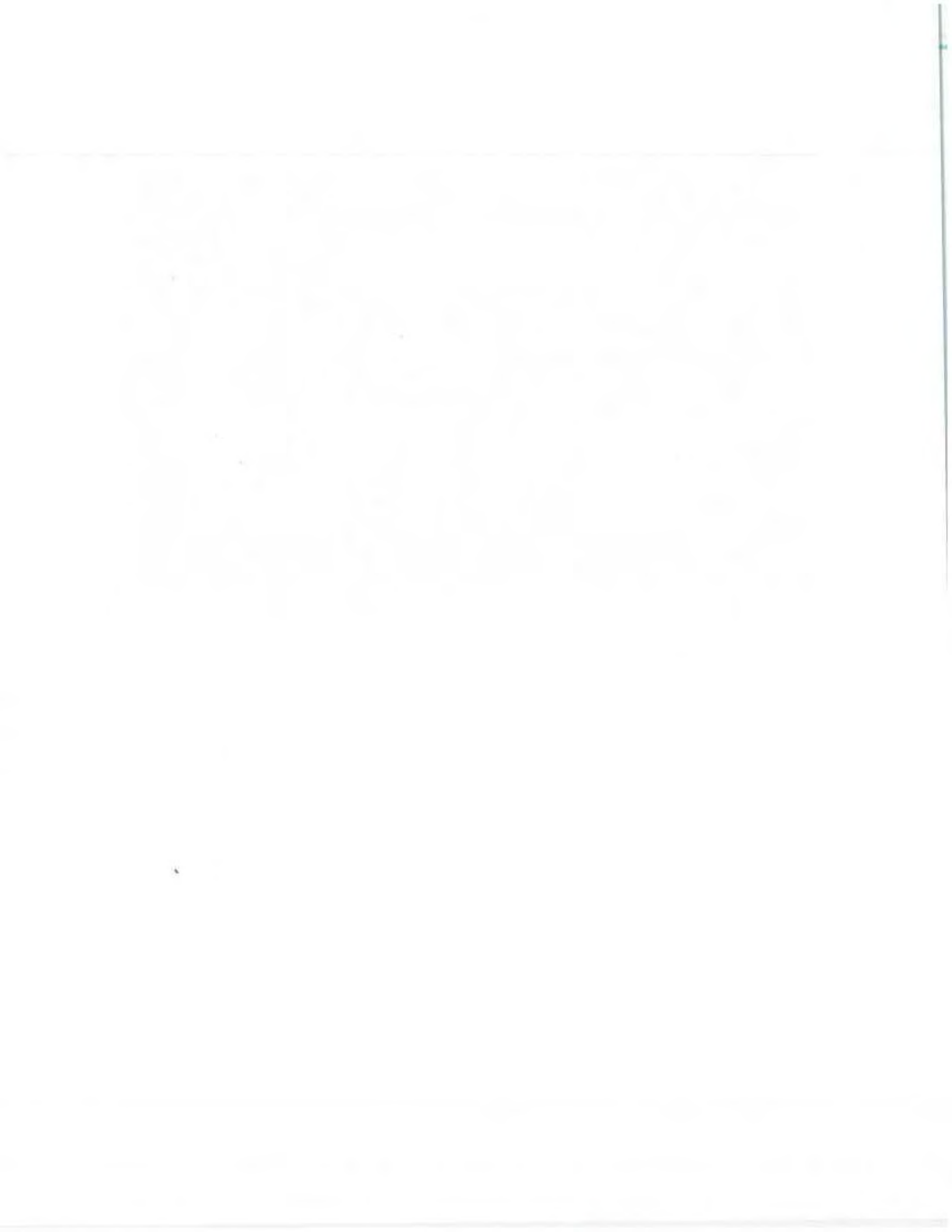
Figure 31. Isle Royale Protective Association letterhead. ISRO Archives

Tobin Harbor Historic District
Name of Property

Keweenaw County, MI
County and State



USGS Map with Tobin Harbor Historic District Boundary



ISLE ROYALE

Overall location within the Great Lakes



ISLE ROYALE

Overall location within Lake Superior



ISLE ROYALE

Overall location of Tobin Harbor



1. The map shows the location of Tobin Harbor on the eastern tip of Isle Royale National Park.

2. The red arrow points to the location of Tobin Harbor.

3. The map also shows the location of Windsor on the western part of the island.

Tobin Harbor Historic District Boundary Map



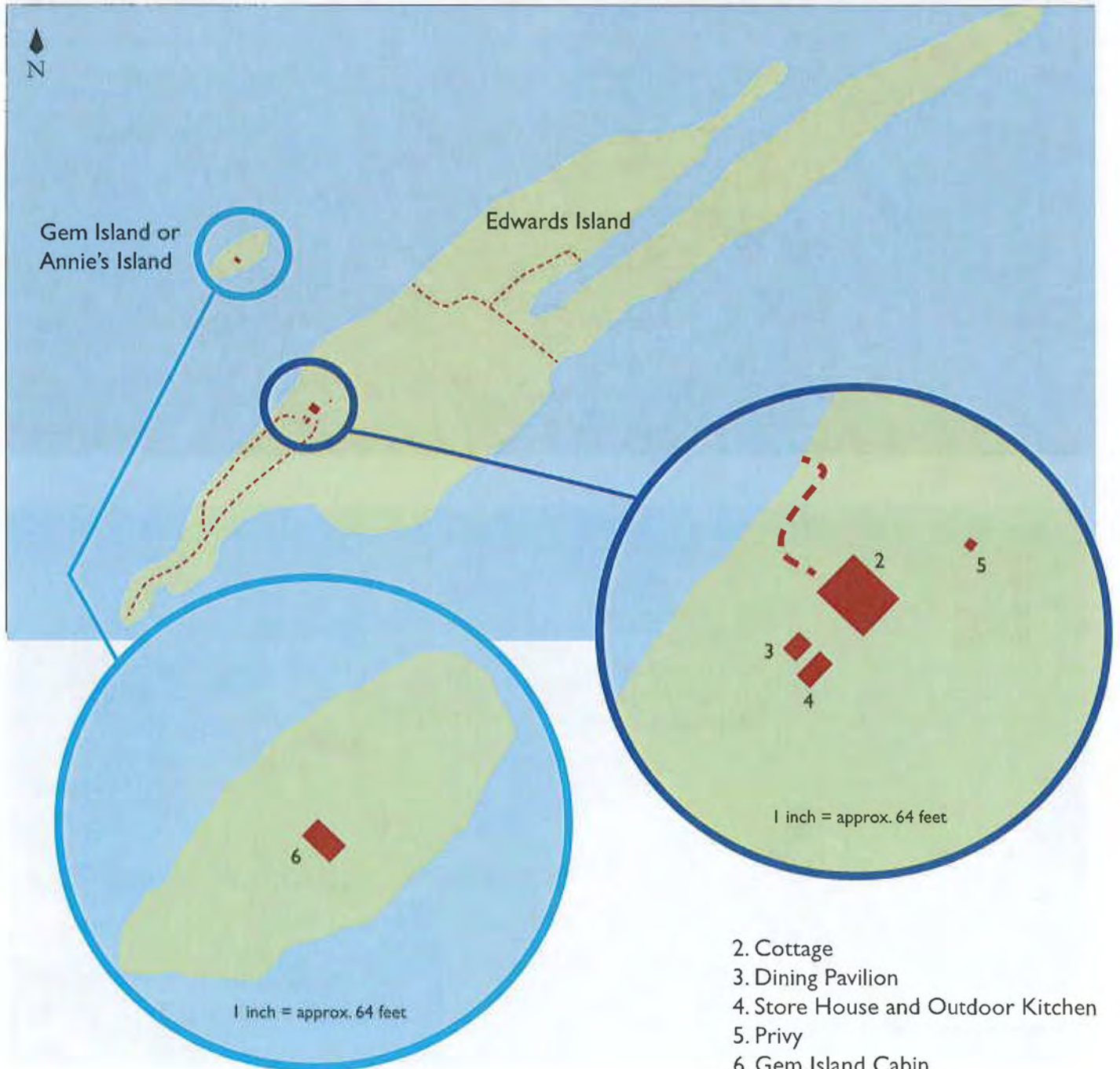
- 1. Edwards Camp
- 2. Dassler Camp
- 3. Connolly Camp
- 4. Seifert Camp
- 5. Langley
- 6. Stack/Wolbrink
- 7. Minong Lodge
- 8. Mattson Fishery
- 9. Snell Camp
- 10. Merritt Camp

- 11. Kemmer/Underwood Camp
- 12. Savage Camp
- 13. Gale Camp
- 14. How Camp
- 15. Beard Camp

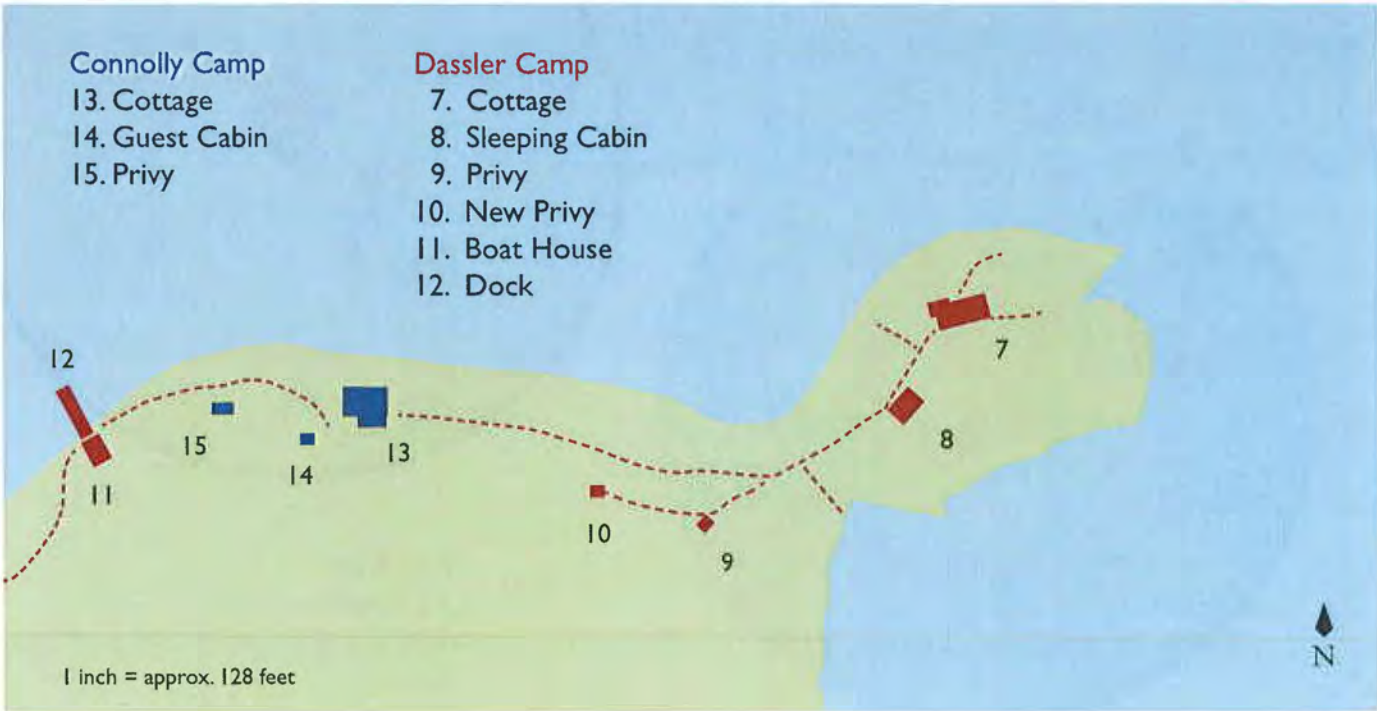
Former Camp Sites With No Known Resources

- Emerson Camp
- Smith Camp
- Newman Camp
- Carlson Camp
- Anderson Fishery
- Musselman Camp

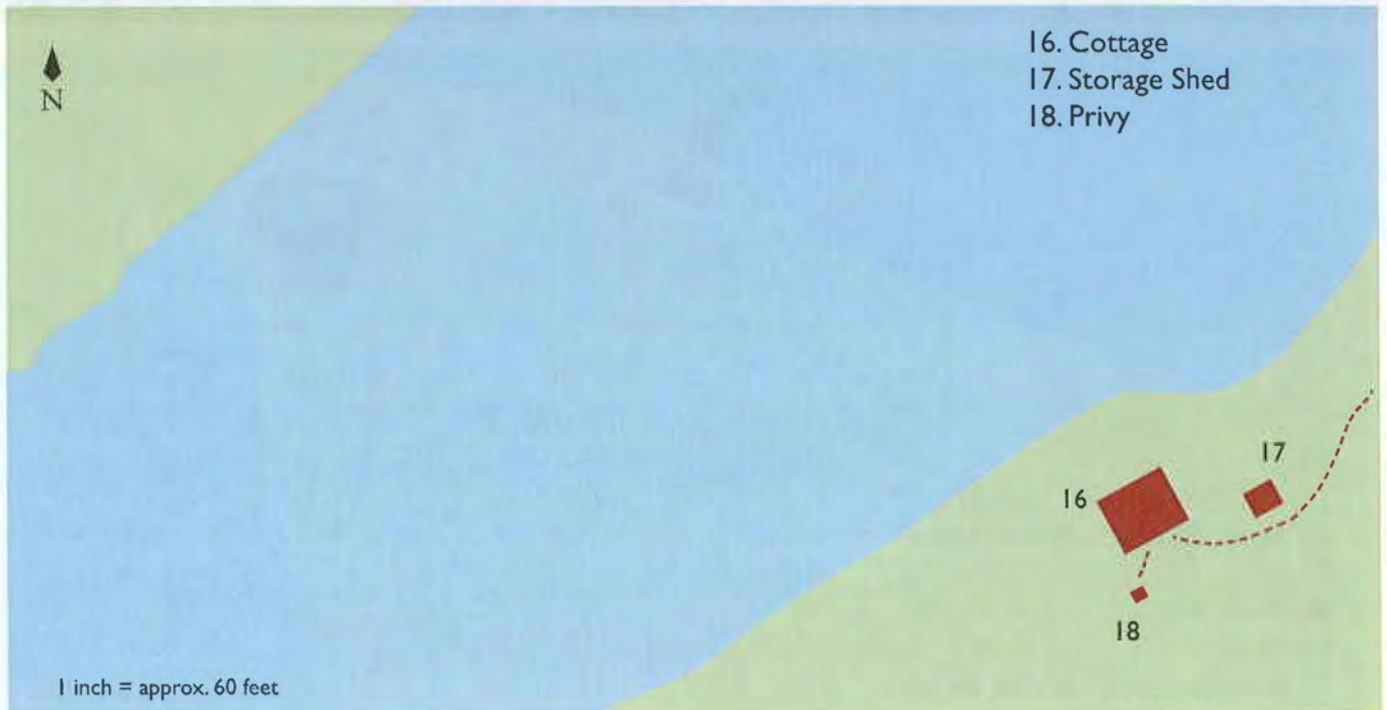
Edwards Camp



Dassler and Connolly Camps

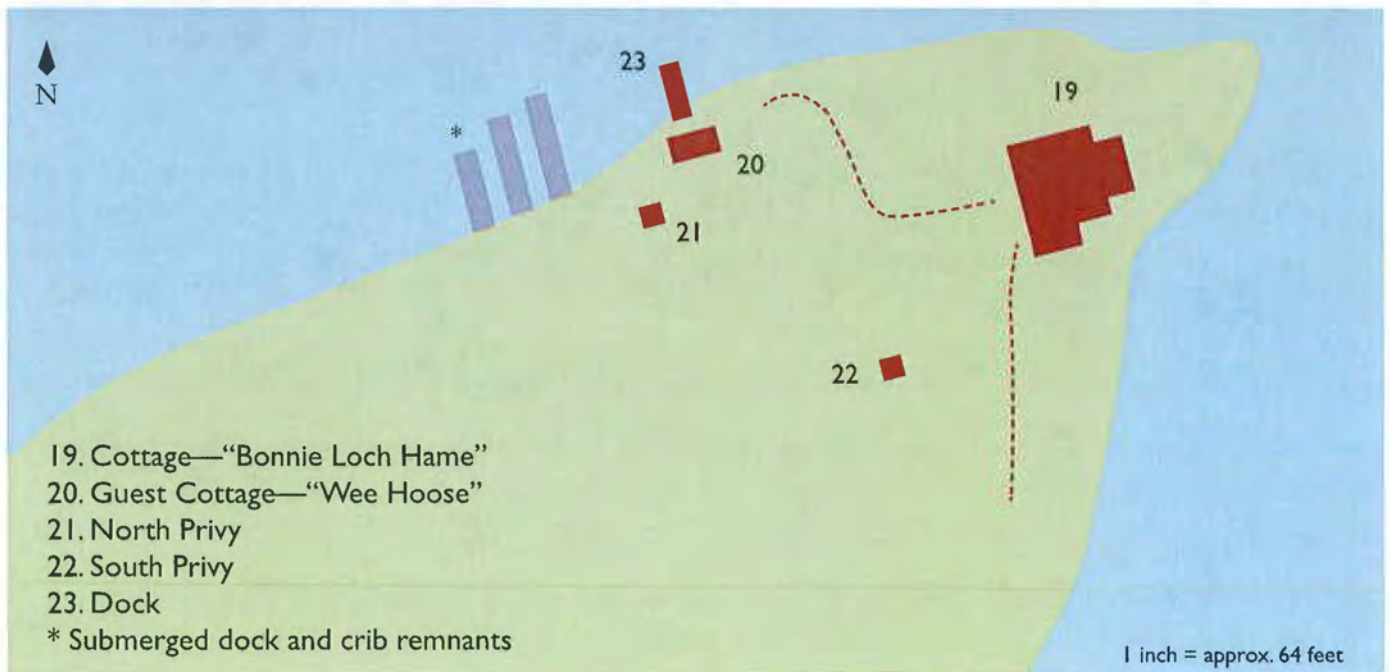


Seifert Camp



Stack/Wolbrink Camp

Minong Island



Minong Lodge



Mattson Fishery



- 27. Art & Inez Mattson Cottage
- 28. Ed Mattson Cottage
- 29. Guest House / Net House
- 30. Net House
- 31. Privy
- 32. Chicken Coop
- 33. Wood shed
- 34. Fish House
- 35. Storage Shed
- 36. Dock



1 inch = approx. 48 feet



Snell Camp



- 37. Cottage
- 38. Guest Cabin
- 39. Boat House
- 40. Writer's Shack
- 41. Privy
- 42. Dock



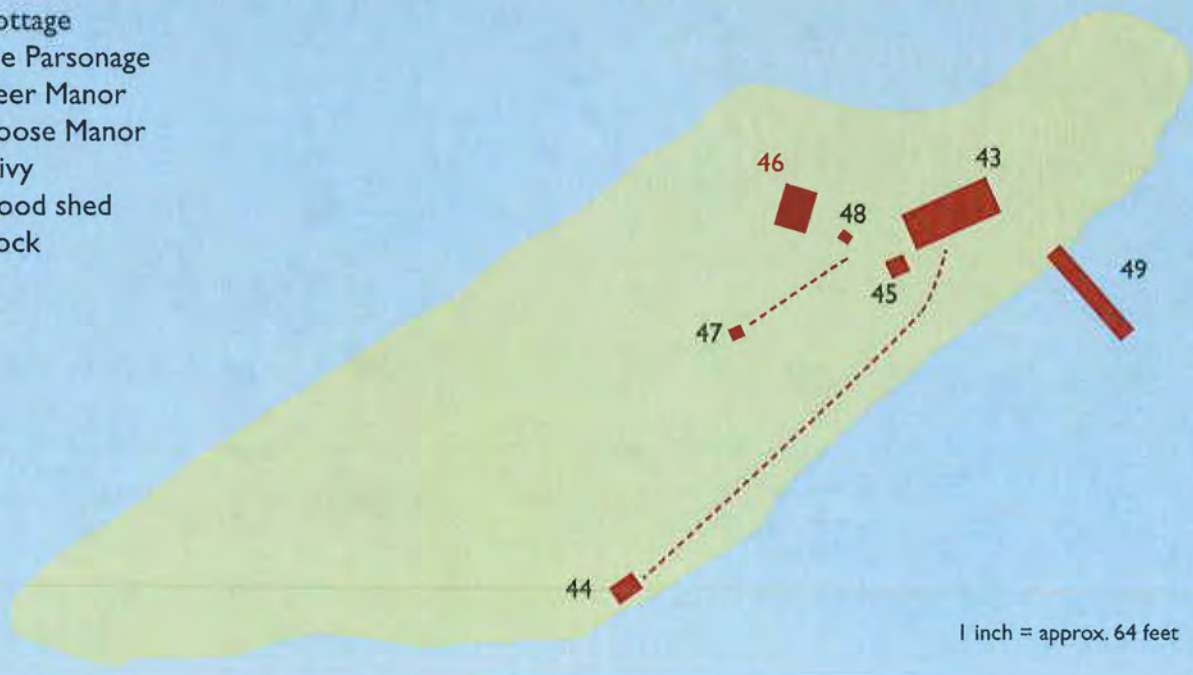
1 inch = approx. 48 feet



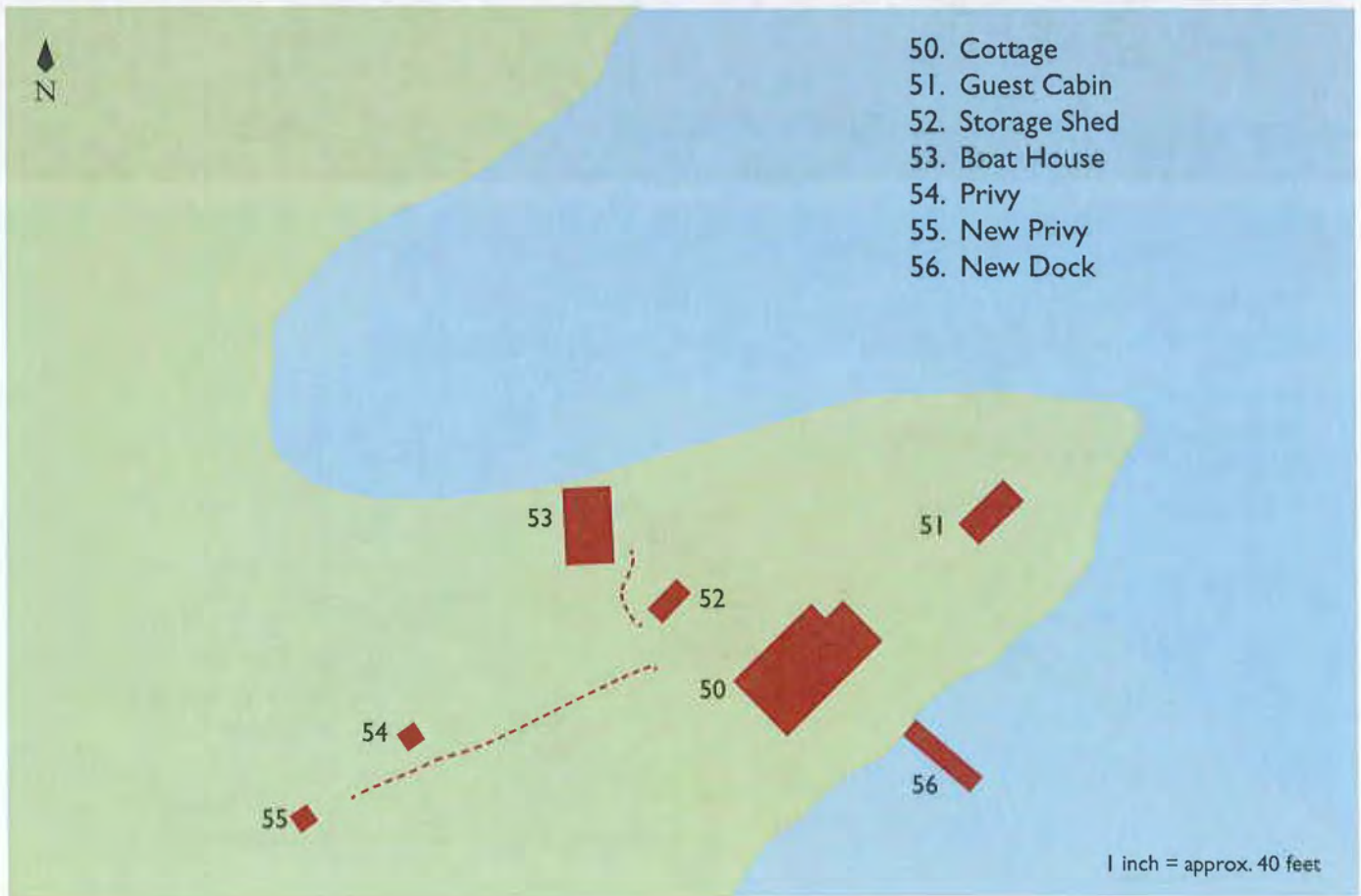
Merritt Camp



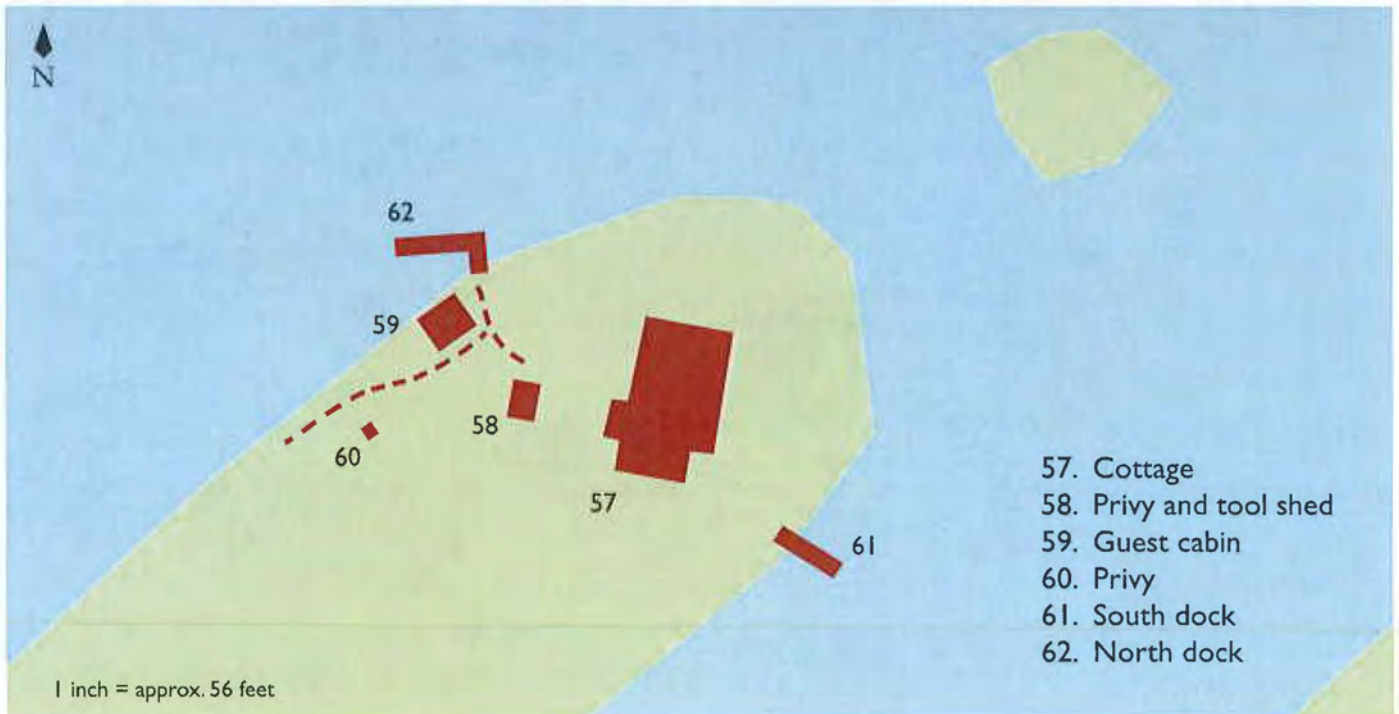
- 43. Cottage
- 44. The Parsonage
- 45. Deer Manor
- 46. Moose Manor
- 47. Privy
- 48. Wood shed
- 49. Dock



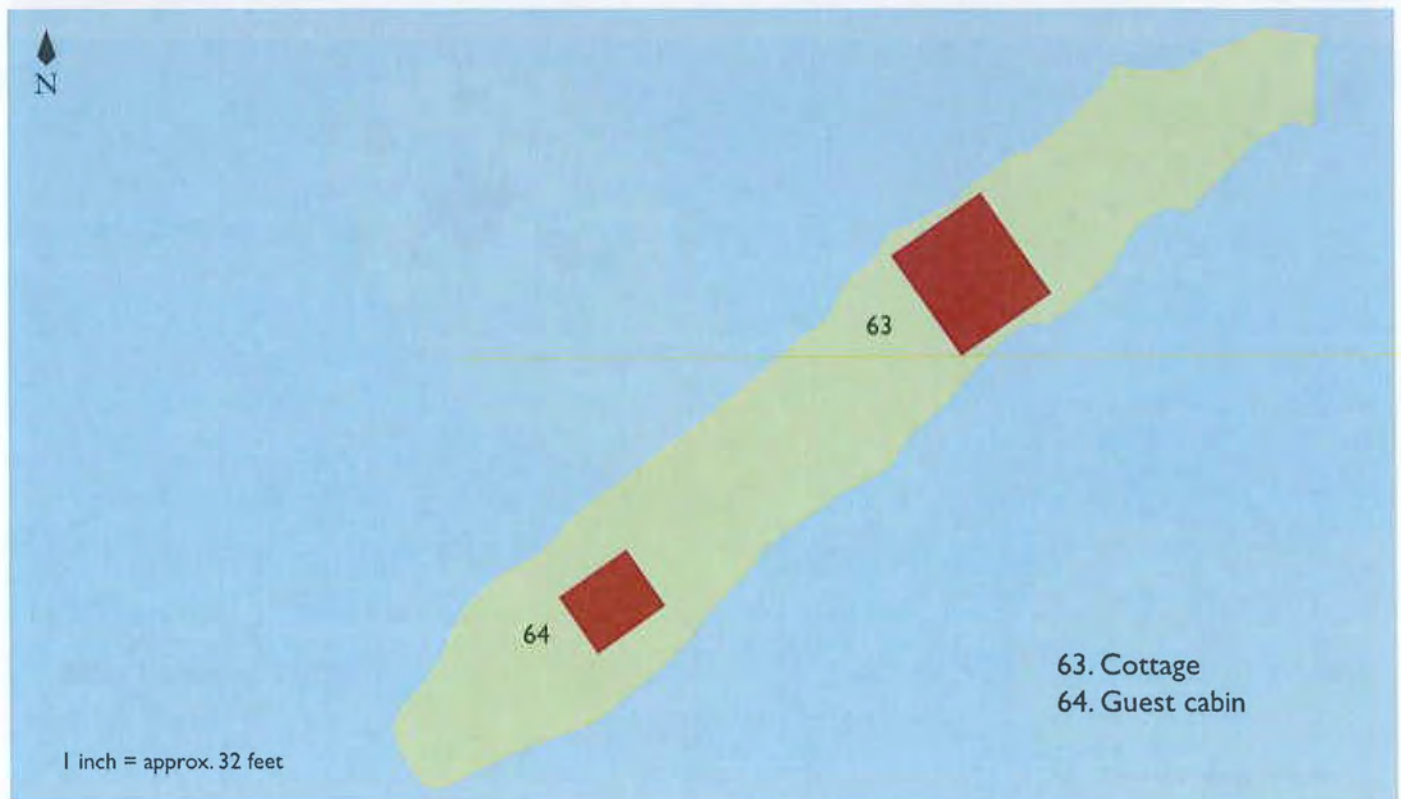
Kemmer/Underwood Camp



Gale Camp



How Camp



Beard Camp

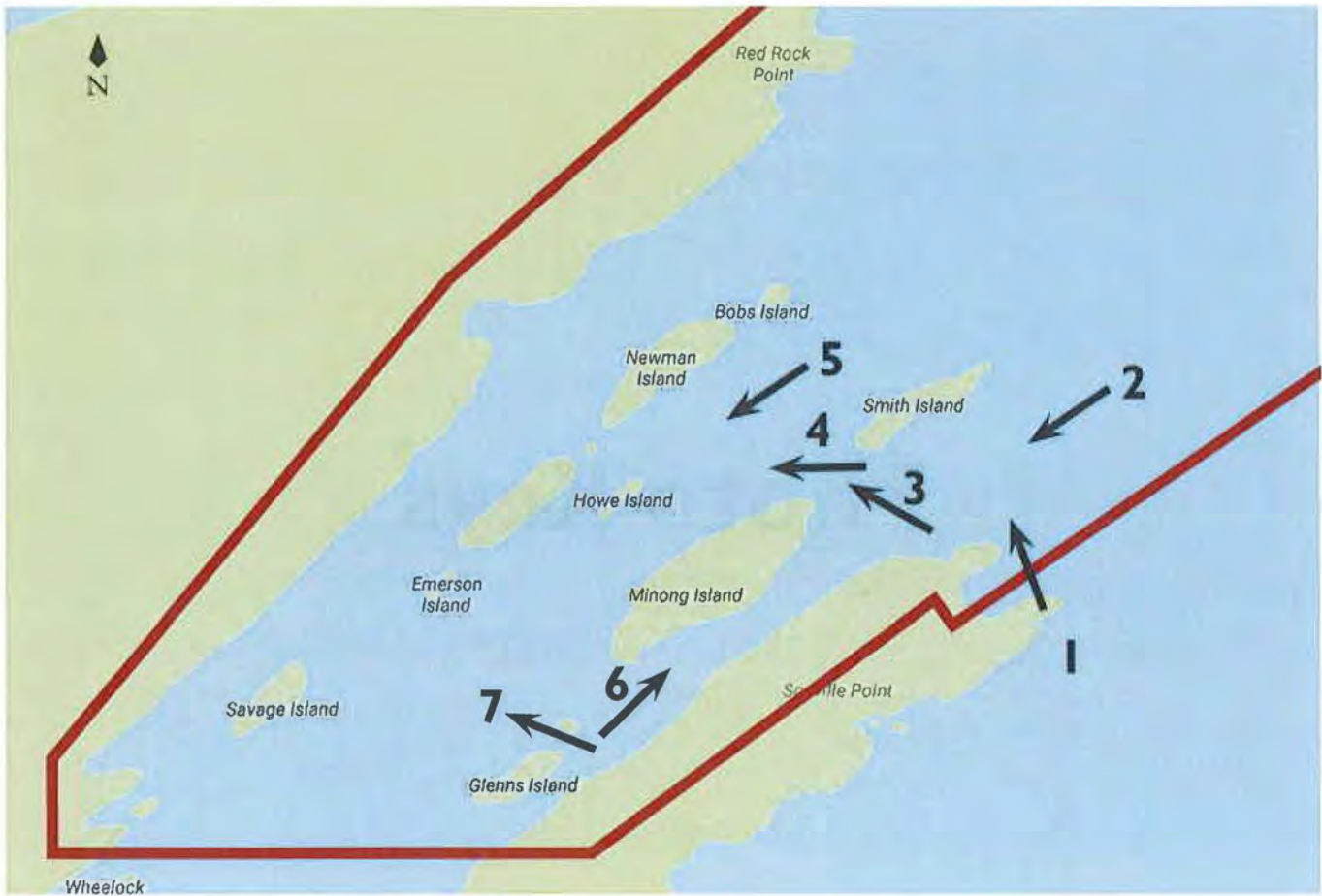




Photo Keys

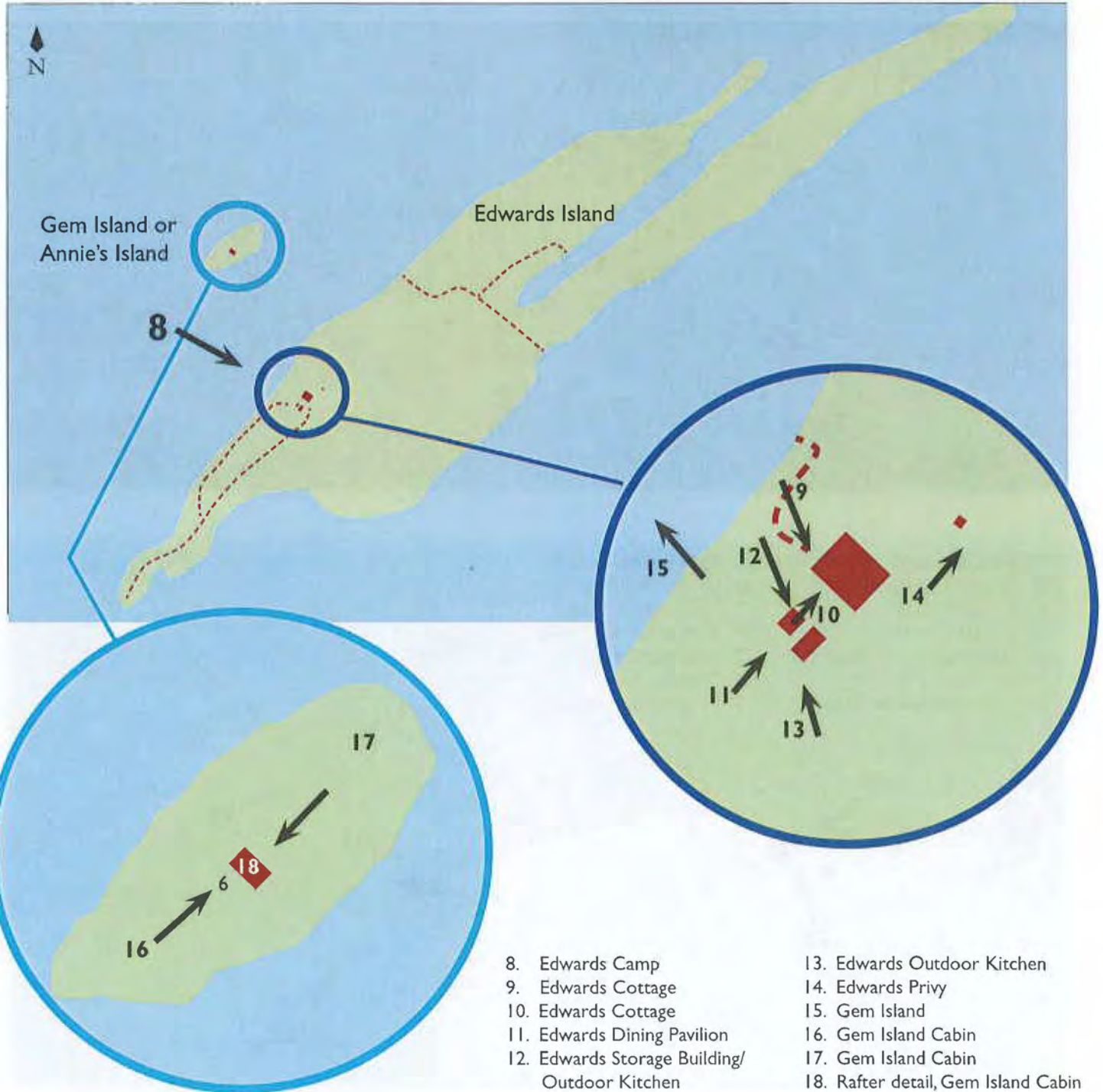
Faint, illegible text or markings, possibly a list or key, located below the main photograph. The text is too blurry to read accurately.

Tobin Harbor Historic District Photo Key



1. View of Dassler Point and Tobin Harbor from Scoville Point
2. View of Tobin Harbor
3. View of Tobin Harbor from the Connolly Cottage toward the Stack/Wolbrink Camp
4. View of Tobin Harbor with the Stack/Wolbrink Camp at the left and the How and Gale Camps at the right
5. View of the How Camp at the left and the Gale Camp at the left
6. View of Tobin Harbor from the Snell dock with Minong Island at the left and the Mattson Fishery at the right.
7. View of Tobin Harbor from the Snell Camp toward the Merritt Camp

Edwards Camp



- 8. Edwards Camp
- 9. Edwards Cottage
- 10. Edwards Cottage
- 11. Edwards Dining Pavilion
- 12. Edwards Storage Building/
Outdoor Kitchen
- 13. Edwards Outdoor Kitchen
- 14. Edwards Privy
- 15. Gem Island
- 16. Gem Island Cabin
- 17. Gem Island Cabin
- 18. Rafter detail, Gem Island Cabin

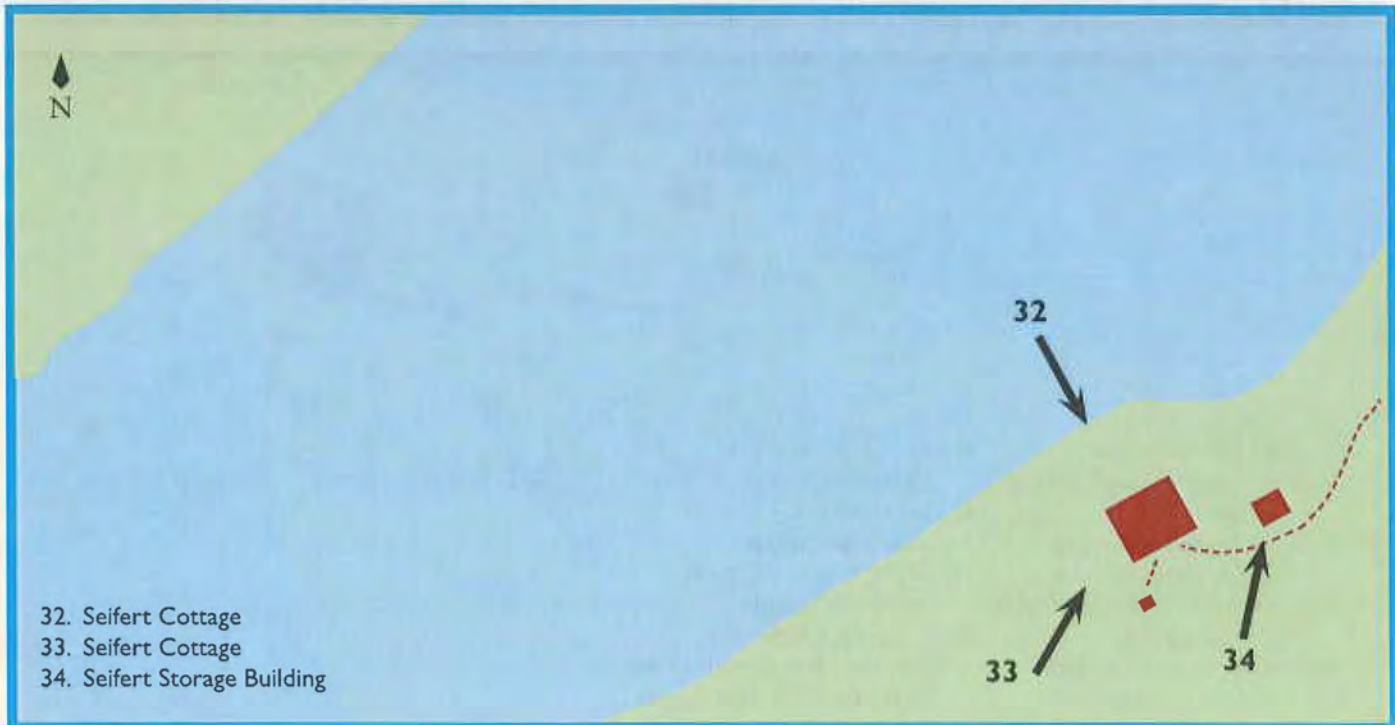
Dassler and Connolly Camps Photo Key



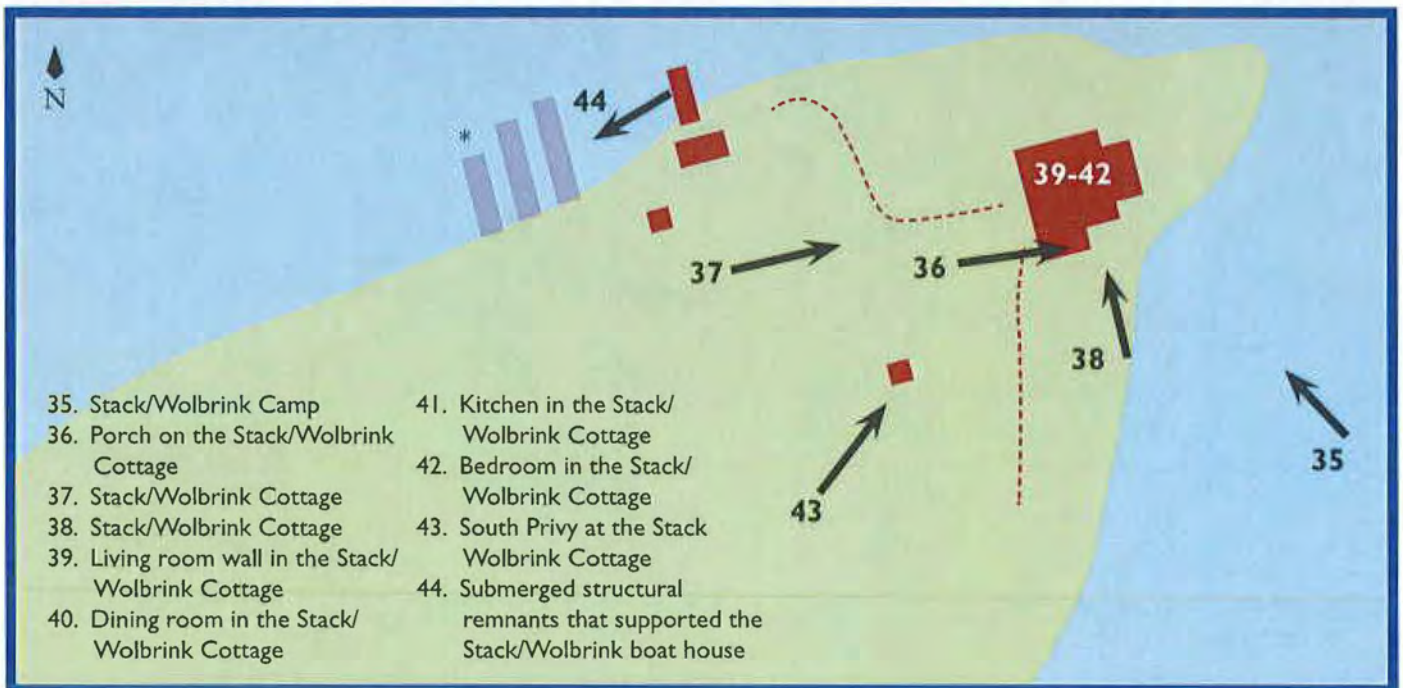
- 19. Trails, Dassler Camp
- 20. Dassler Cottage
- 21. Dassler Cottage
- 22. Dassler Cottage
- 23. Living room in the Dassler Cottage
- 24. Sink in the Dassler bedroom
- 25. Dassler Sleeping Cabin
- 26. Dassler Sleeping Cabin
- 27. Dassler Boat House
- 28. Stone steps, Connolly Camp
- 29. Connolly Cottage
- 30. Connolly Cottage
- 31. Porch on the Connolly Cottage



Seifert Camp Photo Key

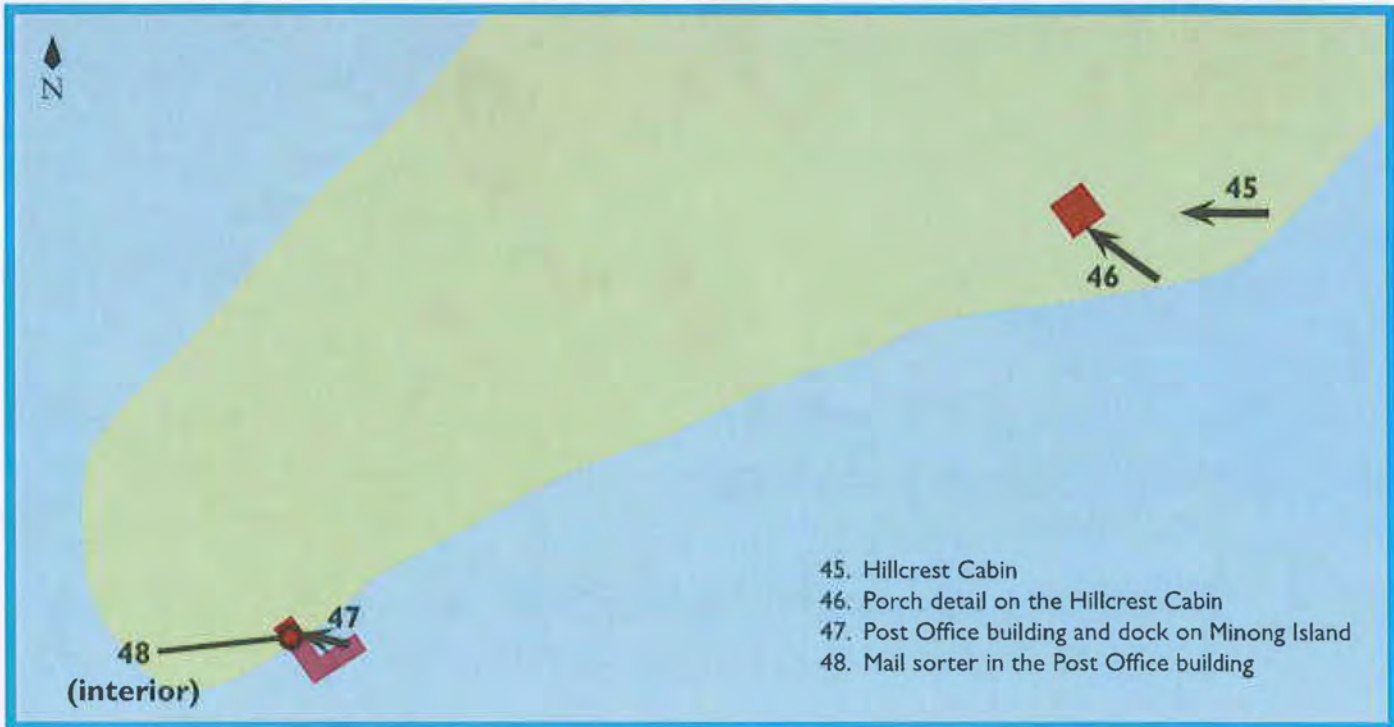


Stack/Wolbrink Camp Photo Key



Minong Lodge Photo Key

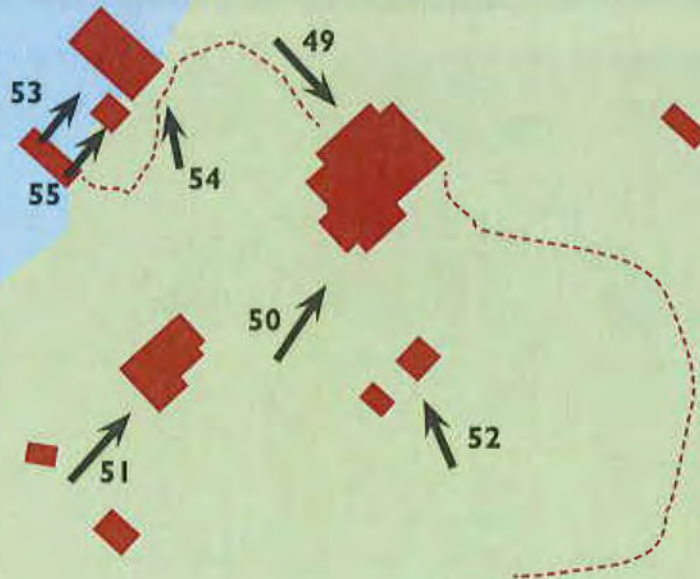
Minong Island



Mattson Fishery Photo Key



- 49. Art and Inez Mattson Cottage
- 50. Art and Inez Mattson Cottage
- 51. Ed Mattson Cottage
- 52. Mattson Guest House/Net House
- 53. Mattson Boat House
- 54. Mattson Boat House
- 55. Mattson Storage Shed



Snell Camp Photo Key



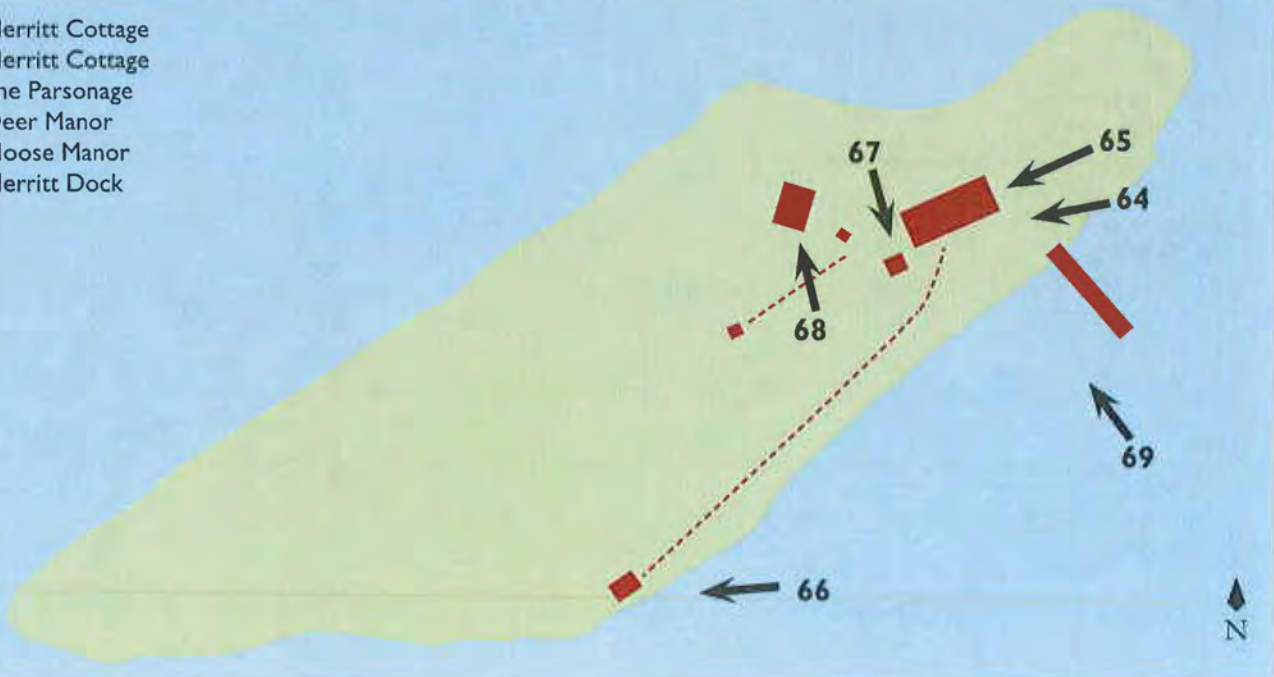
- 56. Snell stairway and railing
- 57. Snell Cottage
- 58. Snell Cottage
- 59. Snell Cottage
- 60. Geometric skirting on the porch of the Snell Cottage
- 61. Interior of the Snell Cottage
- 62. Snell Boat House
- 63. Snell "Writer's Shack"



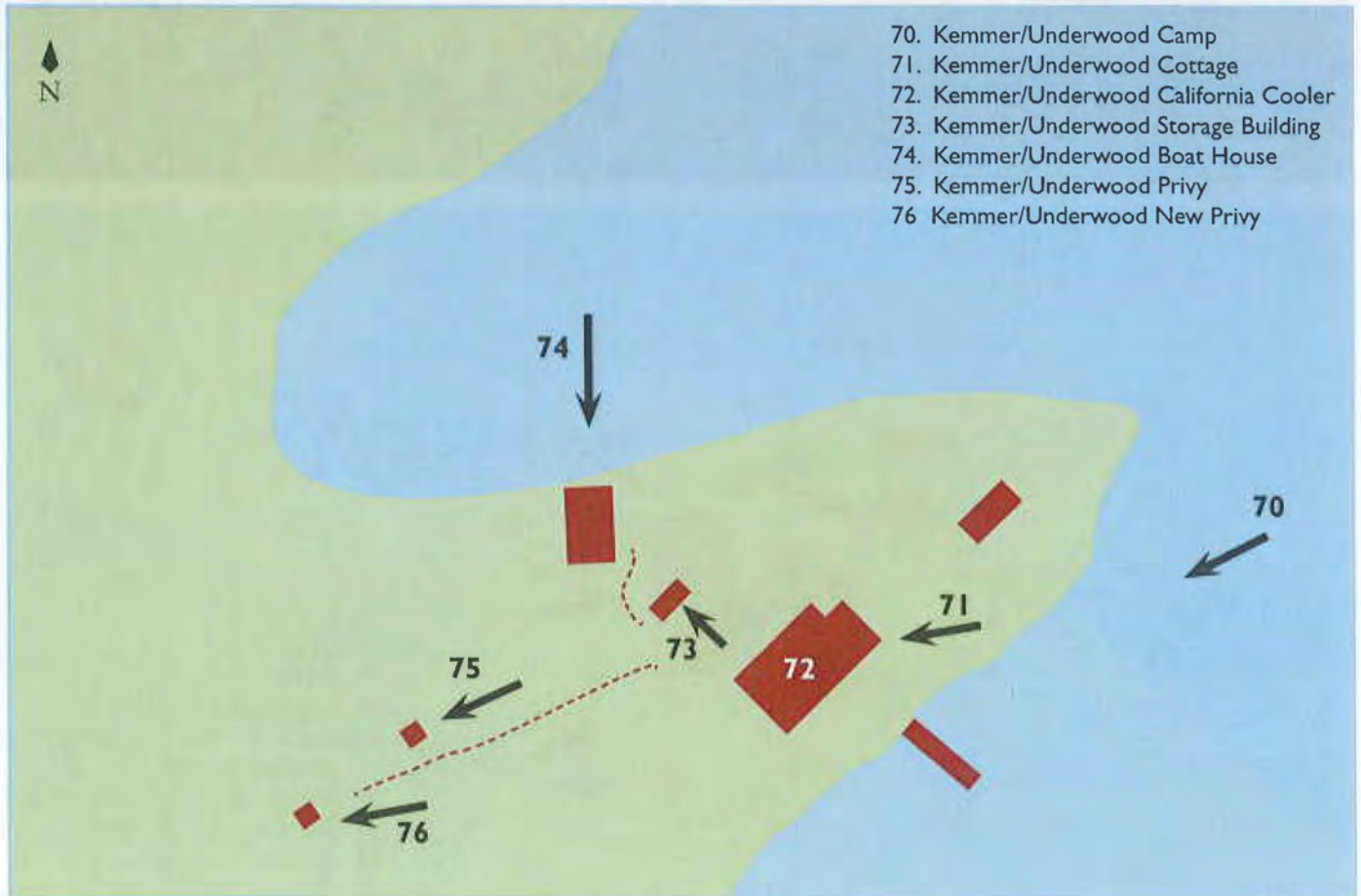
Merritt Camp Photo Key



- 64. Merritt Cottage
- 65. Merritt Cottage
- 66. The Parsonage
- 67. Deer Manor
- 68. Moose Manor
- 69. Merritt Dock

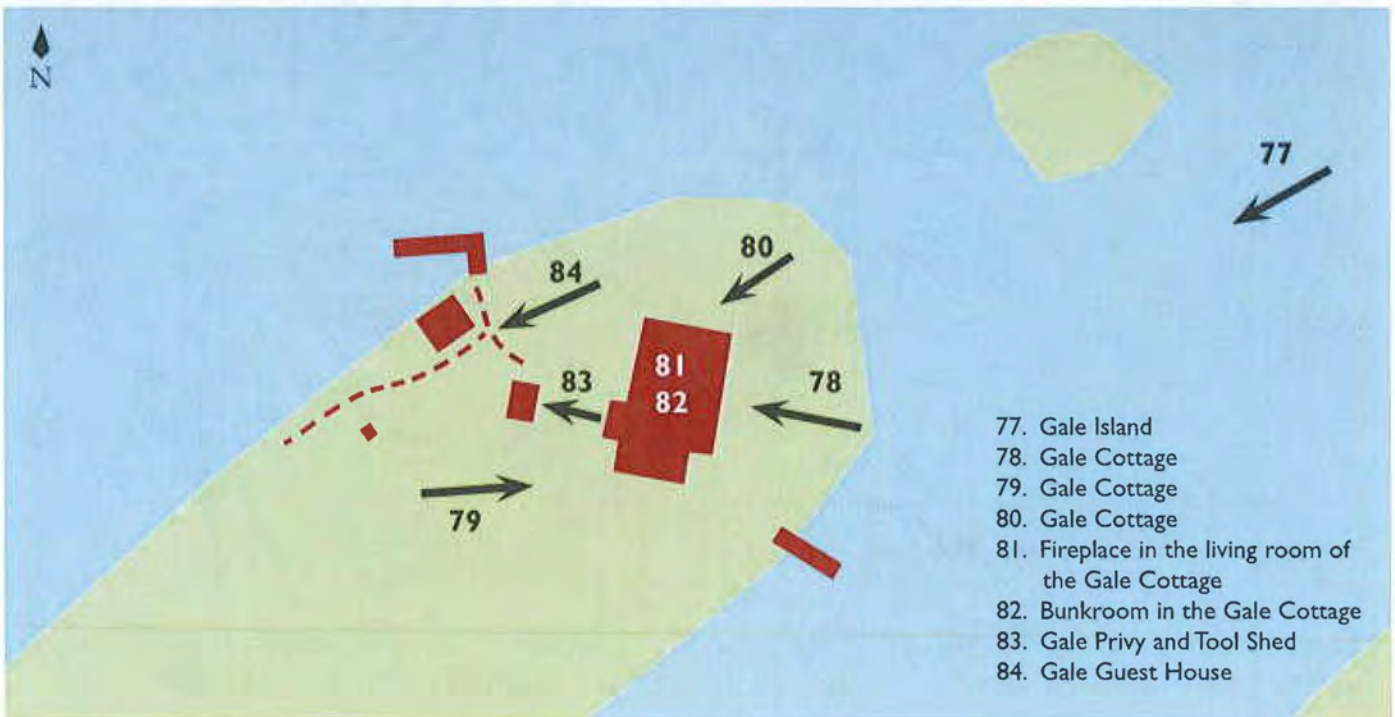


Kemmer/Underwood Camp Photo Key

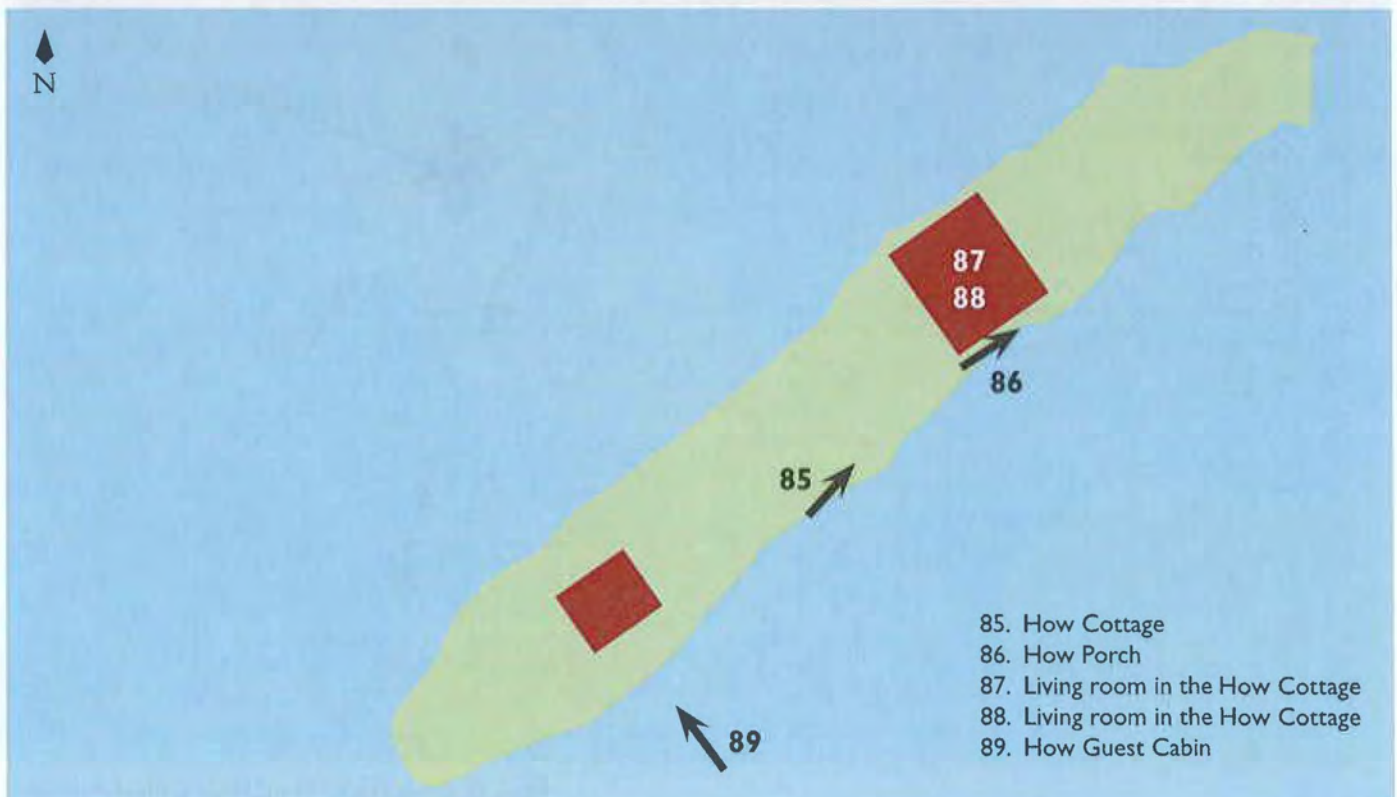


- 70. Kemmer/Underwood Camp
- 71. Kemmer/Underwood Cottage
- 72. Kemmer/Underwood California Cooler
- 73. Kemmer/Underwood Storage Building
- 74. Kemmer/Underwood Boat House
- 75. Kemmer/Underwood Privy
- 76. Kemmer/Underwood New Privy

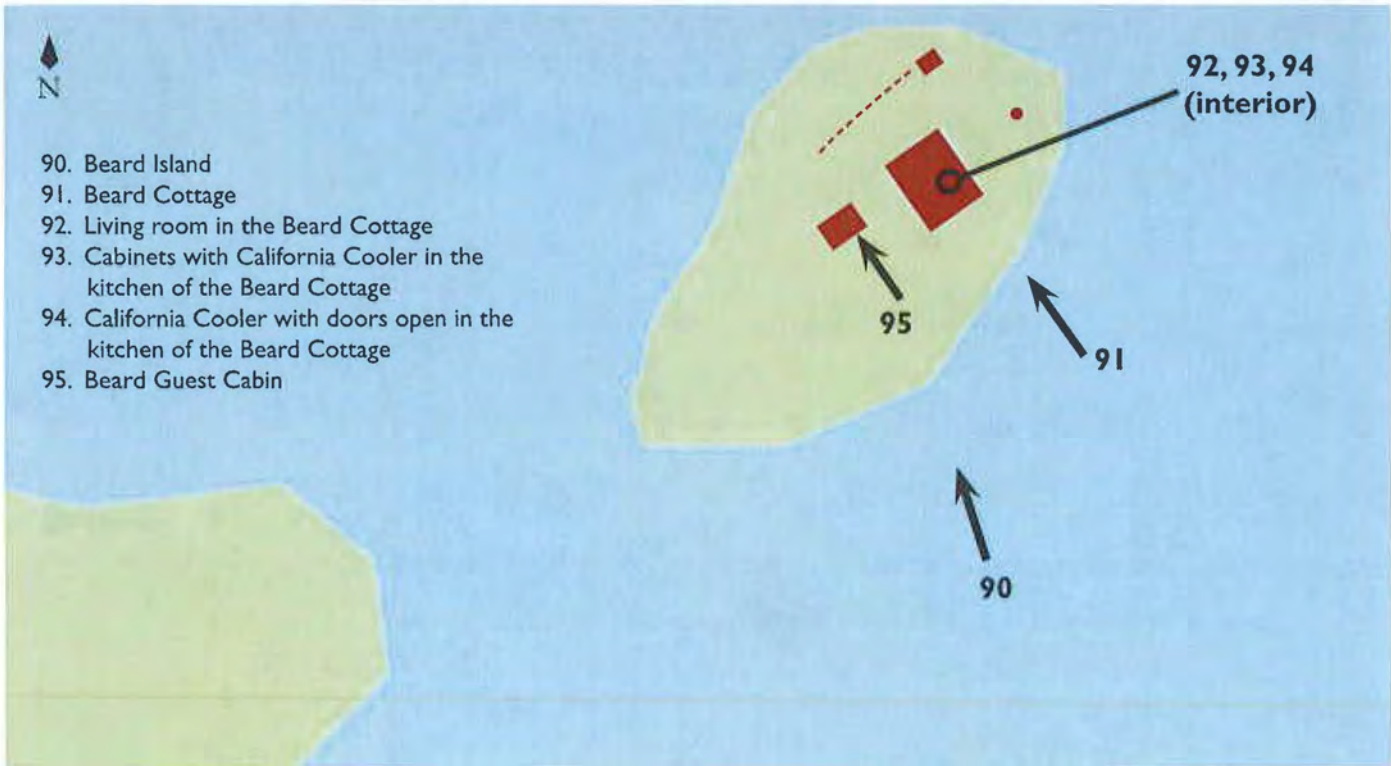
Gale Camp Photo Key



How Camp Photo Key



Beard Camp Photo Key















































Isle Royale

BIRD'S EYE
MADE IN CANADA

















































TWIN HARBOR
SERVICE DOCK
NO OVERNIGHT DOCKING



STACKS

HOW

DASSLER

EDWARDS

A. ANDERSON

GALE

SNELL

LIGHT HOUSE

MATTSON

ROBINSON

BEARDS

MERRITT

KEMMER

CONNOLLY

WALLIN

LIGHTS

LAWRENCE

BEARDS











NO
DOCKING























































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Tobin Harbor Historic District

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MICHIGAN, Keweenaw

Date Received: 6/27/2019 Date of Pending List: 7/19/2019 Date of 16th Day: 8/5/2019 Date of 45th Day: 8/12/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004256

Nominator: Federal Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 8/5/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Significant collection of summer camps on small islands in Isle Royale NP. The camps represent family fishing/vacation camps - primitive with no plumbing or electricity, developed early in the 20th century. Excellent examples of vernacular "camp" construction, limited by the availability and transportation of materials. Families were significant in conserving and preserving the Island, which eventually led to its inclusion in the National Park system. The nomination claims national significance, and does a good job of placing it in its appropriate regional context. Not likely NHL material, unless extensive context development occurs.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



IN REPLY, REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Isle Royale National Park
800 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, Michigan 49931-1869



1.A.2.(H32 ISRO)

March 13, 2019

Dr. Turkiya Lowe, NPS Chief Historian and Acting Federal Preservation Officer
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop 7508
Washington, District of Columbia 20240

Dear Dr. Lowe,

On behalf of Isle Royale National Park, I am pleased to present you this final draft of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Tobin Harbor Historic District located in Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County, Michigan.

The nomination was reviewed by cultural resources staff at the Midwest Regional Office as well as Todd Walsh, the Interim National Register Coordinator at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (MI SHPO). This revised draft incorporates recommendations and commentary provided by Mr. Walsh. All parties are in agreement and desire that the nomination be forwarded to the Keeper with MI SHPO support.

A PDF file of the nomination is enclosed along with the digital sketch maps, aerial photographs, and photo key maps. An archival quality DVD of the photographs will arrive by mail and this is your copy to keep.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions please contact Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources Elizabeth Valencia at 906-487-7153 or Midwest Region Chief of History and National Register Programs Donald L. Stevens, Jr. at 402-661-1946.

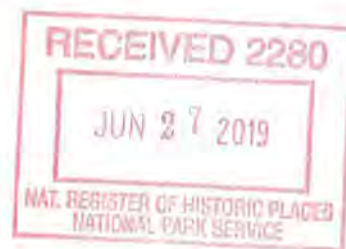
Sincerely,

Phyllis A. Green
Superintendent



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240



H32(2280)

Memorandum

To: Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Acting, NPS Federal Preservation Officer *Jerkeige A. Rowe*

Subject: National Register Nomination for Tobin Harbor Historic District, Isle Royale National Park, Keewenaw County, MI

I am forwarding the National Register Nomination for the Tobin Harbor Historic District in Isle Royale National Park. The Park History Program has reviewed the nomination and found it eligible under Criteria A and C, with Areas of Significance of Architecture, Conservation, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and chief local elected official(s) were sent the documentation on October 30, 2018. Within 45 days, the SHPO supported supported with comments did not respond. The SHPO later signed on February 1, 2019. Any comments received are included with the documentation.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Spradley-Kurowski at 202-354-2266 or kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov.