

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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

**1. Name of Property**


historic name Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 3125 Hwy 55 N/A not for publication  
city or town Crandon N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Forest code 41 zip code 54520

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

 SHPO 11/19/67  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_ meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House

County Forest

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain):

*Carlson H. Beall*

*1-12-05*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

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

contributing	noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Log House

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone

walls Log

roof Asphalt

other Wood

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1870-1905

**Significant Dates**

c.1870, c.1905

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

Name of Property

County and State

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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

**Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

1 16 345640 5038500  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title	Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant	date	
Organization	Prepared for the Sokaogon Chippewa Community	telephone	262-473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House  
Name of Property

County Forest  
County and State

Wisconsin

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

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

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

### Property Owner

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

<b>name/title</b>	Sokaogon Chippewa Community	<b>date</b>	
<b>Organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	
<b>street&amp;number</b>	3086 Hwy 55	<b>zip code</b>	54520
<b>city or town</b>	Crandon	<b>state</b>	WI

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

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

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Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House

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Start

**DESCRIPTION**

The Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House is located in a rural area of the Town of Nashville in the far southwest corner of Forest County, a largely rural county in far northeastern Wisconsin. The house sits on a large lot along State Highway 55, which runs along the path of an old military road from the nineteenth century. Highway 55 proceeds north from this house about five miles to Crandon, a small community and the Forest County Seat. About 25 miles northwest of the property is Rhinelander, one of the larger communities in this area of Wisconsin, which is largely recreational in its physical appearance and economic base.

Forest County's early history was, as its name implies, based on logging. It was part of the large forests of northern Wisconsin that were almost completely logged over during the late nineteenth century. During the mid-nineteenth century, only a few fur traders and trappers populated this area of Wisconsin with Native Americans. The first major transportation route through the area was the military road from Fort Howard (Green Bay) to Fort Wilkins (Copper Harbor) in northern Michigan, which was built in the mid 1860s. Lumbering dominated the area in the late nineteenth century, then the "cutover" land was marketed for agricultural purposes. Farming the "cutover" was not very successful in this area due to the lack of good soil, short growing season, and arduous task of removing stumps. During the twentieth century, some of the area has been reforested and the much of the economy revolves around recreation and tourism.

The Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House is located on part of Government lots 2 and 3. In 1996, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community purchased this house and its parcel along with the motel and parcel next to it, making them part of the Mole Lake Indian Reservation of the Sokaogon Chippewa. Most of the reservation is rural with scattered open spaces among woodlands. Less than a mile northeast of the house is a housing development of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, but aside from that residential subdivision, the houses of the reservation are scattered in the area. Also nearby is the casino-bingo hall of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the tribe's economic base on the reservation.

The actual parcel of land on which the house sits has a rectangular shape. Its southern boundary runs along State Highway 55 and its northern boundary runs along the shore of Rice Lake. The house has a long setback from the highway, almost in the middle of the parcel, but is located near the east boundary instead of at the center of the parcel. In front and west of the house, the land is open space with no landscaping. Some very large, mature trees are located near the house and a clump of trees sit

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near a driveway running east of the house. At the rear of the house and for the remainder of the lot, the land is largely wooded as it slopes gradually down to the shore of Rice Lake. In front the house, the topography of the land is flat. There appears to have been no planning landscaping of the parcel, except for the large front lawn that is kept clear. Rather, the trees appear to be natural growth.

The house, itself, was built in two sections and appears to be two houses attached to each other. The one-story west ell of the building is reportedly a one-room cabin built around 1870 that sat about a half-mile east of this location and was a pioneer fur trader's home and post office along the old military road during the 1870s and 1880s. It was probably moved to this location between 1901 and 1910. Then, the larger two-story log house section was built or moved next to it. These sections will be described separately, beginning with the one-story older cabin.

*Exterior, c.1870 log cabin*

The one-story cabin is attached to the west ell of the larger gabled ell section. The cabin's rear or north wall is attached evenly to the north wall of the ell, but the front or south wall projects from the south wall of the ell so that part of the east wall of the cabin is exposed. The cabin has a gable roof covered with deteriorated asphalt shingles. The gable peaks of the west end wall and the partially exposed east end wall are covered with particle-board panels secured with vertical wood strips. This covering sits over an older gable covering of vertical wood boards. An enclosed opening sits in the center of the west gable peak.

The cabin walls are constructed of hand-hewn, partially squared logs that are attached at the corners with square notching. The logs are fitted together with large spaces in between where small pieces of wood are inserted to fill these spaces. Lime mortar chinking originally covered these spaces, but much of it has fallen off of the building. A 1920s photograph shows that the cabin corners, as well as the corners of the larger section, were covered with boards, but only a few of these boards are extant on the cabin section. At some point it appears that asphalt siding had been applied to the walls as traces of this are still visible upon close inspection.

The main elevation of the log cabin has a central entrance enclosed with a wood paneled door and deteriorated screen door. It is crudely framed with wood boards. Wood boards also crudely frame the flanking windows that are filled with single-light double-hung sashes. The 1920s photograph shows that both of these windows were originally filled with six-over-six light sashes. The window that sits east of the entrance is also covered with wood paneling.

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An opening on the north elevation of the cabin may be a later addition, as it features a wood frame and sill flanked with vertical boards that may cover exposed log ends where the window was cut into the wall. The rear or north elevation also features two openings as well as a concrete chimney rising along the wall and roof at the center of the elevation. One opening is an entrance at the far northwest corner of the elevation that is crudely framed and has a modern door. Next to the entrance is a window opening that is filled with a six-over-six-light sash.

Under the cabin is a small basement that was added for modern utilities. Its entrance is in the west elevation that is accessed by a set of exterior steps. This basement has wide walls constructed of rubble stone. A mid-twentieth century ceiling supports the cabin floor and was probably added when the utilities were put in. The basement exists only under about half of the cabin. The rest of the cabin sits on a rough, low, stone foundation, as does the remainder of the building.

*Exterior, c. 1905 log house*

The bulk of this building consists of a log house that was added to the cabin or moved next to this cabin around 1905. This part of the building has a two-story main block with a one and one-half story ell. The steeply-pitched gable roof of the main block, as well as the gable roof of the ell, is covered with deteriorated asphalt siding. A concrete chimney projects from the center of the main block. The gable ends of the main block are covered with the same type of particle board panels as the gable ends of the cabin. The gable peaks of the main block have small openings, a diamond-shaped opening on the south elevation and a small square opening on the north elevation. Both openings are glazed.

Like the cabin, the walls of gabled ell section are constructed of hand-hewn logs. These logs are squared off more distinctly than in the cabin section and are laid closer to each other so that the spaces between are narrower. Like the cabin, though, these spaces are filled with narrow pieces of wood and lime mortar chinking covered them at one time. Most of the chinking of the gabled ell section has fallen off the walls. Joinery at the corners of the gabled ell section of the building is not visible, as the corner boards are intact. The log walls extend almost to the ground. The foundation, where it can be seen, is made up of a very low wall of rubble stones.

The openings in this section of the building are varied. On the main or south elevation, an entrance sits at the southeast corner of the main block. It is filled with a paneled and glazed entry door set in a crude wood frame. West of the door in the main block is a window opening filled with a single-light sash. West of this opening, in the ell is an identical window. Above the window in the ell is a rectangular opening filled with a six-light window and in the second story of the main block is a single-light sash window.



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The east elevation of the gabled ell section of the building consists of the east wall of the main block. It has symmetrical fenestration of two first story windows, one with a single-light sash and the other with a six-over-six-light sash. Above these sashes are two rectangular openings filled with six-light windows. The north elevation of the gabled ell section of the building has four openings. In the main block there are two openings. On the first story, the opening is filled with a six-over-six-light sash. The second story opening is filled with a single-light sash. The ell wall has a second story rectangular opening filled with a six-light window and a door on the first story that leads into a storage space. Part of the wood-paneled door is missing.

*Interior, c.1870 log cabin*

The log cabin interior is approximately 21x15 in dimensions and consists of one large space divided into three areas by modern partial and full walls. In the twentieth century, this area was always used as a kitchen and dining room. Sometime in the later twentieth century, a small bathroom was added at the southwest corner of the room and a partial wall was added at the north end of the room to define the kitchen from the dining room. With these partitions, the kitchen area is 9x10 feet, the bathroom is 9x5 feet, and the dining area is 12x15 feet. Except for the partitions, which are constructed of modern drywall, the walls of this part of the house are covered with drywall and thick wainscoting. In the kitchen, the upper parts of the walls are covered with modern wall paper over drywall, as are the walls of the bathroom partitions. The lower wainscoting is painted throughout.

The ceiling is completely covered with painted wainscoting and there are electrical wires hanging where ceiling fixtures were located. The trim around the doors and windows of this part of the house are simple wood boards. There is only a sink cabinet left in the kitchen and the bathroom has some modern fixtures. The floor in both the kitchen and bathroom is constructed of pressed wood panels. Both the kitchen and bathroom have the appearance of a remodeling effort that was left uncompleted. The dining room area has shredded carpeting over at least two layers of vintage linoleum over a narrow board hardwood floor.

The cabin has an unfinished attic that can be reached via the second story of the gabled ell section of the building. Its entrance is in the west wall of the small bedroom in the ell portion of the gabled ell section of the building.

*Interior, c. 1905 log house*

A single door entry leads into the ell of the gabled ell log house section of the building. This area is 12x6 feet and consists of a wide hallway off of which is an enclosed staircase leading to the second

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floor and a closet. The walls of this hallway on three sides have wainscoting and wallpaper that is similar to the dining room area of the cabin. On the north wall with the staircase and closet, the entire wall is covered with wainscoting and wainscoting covers the ceiling. The doors to the staircase and closet are constructed of wainscot panels and horizontal boards. Door and window trim consists of plain boards. The floor is covered with shredded carpeting over four layers of vintage linoleum that was laid on flooring made up of wide boards, probably pine or other softwood.

Another door leads into the living room. According to someone living in the house during the 1940s, the living room was one large space. Sometime after the mid-twentieth century, a wall was added on the north end of this room to make a 15x10 foot bedroom and leaving a 15x13 foot living room. The living room has walls covered with late twentieth century laminated faux wood paneling. Where some of the paneling has been damaged, older wall surfaces can be seen. They are similar to the hallway with wainscoting and wallpaper. The ceiling is also covered with wood paneling and the floors also have the shredded carpeting over linoleum over wide board flooring like the hallway.

A door in the later-added wall leads into the downstairs bedroom, which has similar features, including wainscoting and wallpaper on walls. But the floor in this room still has its old linoleum flooring over the wide board wood floor and the ceiling is covered with wall board. In both the living room and this room, the trim around doors and windows are simple wood boards that are undecorated.

The enclosed staircase is curved at the bottom, then runs straight to a small landing in front of the entrance into the large bedrooms in the main block. Perpendicular to the landing is another set of several steps that lead into the ell bedroom. The staircase steps are narrow and painted. The walls of the staircase are totally covered with wainscoting on one side and half covered with wainscoting on the other side. Above the wainscoting on this side are original plaster walls covered with wallpaper.

At the top of the staircase are the two bedrooms in the main block. Originally, there was only one large room that was the same size as the original living room on the first floor. At a later date, the room was divided by a thin wall of wood wainscoting and a wood paneled door, making two rooms, one 15x11 feet and the other 15x12 feet. Both rooms still have their original plastered walls and ceiling, although it is significantly damaged in places. The floors are covered with narrow board flooring and a deteriorated carpet. Trim around the windows consists of simple wood boards.

The bedroom that is located in the ell via the extra steps of the staircase is a 12x6 foot room that also features original plaster walls and ceiling surfaces with the addition of wainscoting on one wall. The floors are covered with narrow board flooring and deteriorated carpeting.

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*Condition Summary*

Although the Dinesen-Motzfelt-Hettinger House is currently in poor condition due to being vacant for a number of years and through lack of maintenance, the building appears to be, in general, structurally sound due, in part, to the log-constructed walls that have remained in fair to good condition over the years. In fact, except for the missing chinking, the log walls do not have serious rot or replacement issues. The roof structure is in poor condition and has resulted in some interior damage. There is still some inappropriate wood siding on the exterior that is in poor condition. The interior of the house suffers from damage due to lack of use and maintenance. But, a number of historic features are intact, such as the vast amount of wainscoting throughout the interior and some good quality flooring under the carpeting and/or linoleum in most of the rooms. Also, the original floor plan is fairly intact.

The owners of the house, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, have begun planning to historically renovate the house into a cultural center and/or museum that would add to the tourism base for the Mole Lake area and highlight some of the culture of the Chippewa people. An architect has already begun to work on renovation plans for the building that will make the house a fine historic resource in the area.

\_\_\_\_ End of Description of Physical Appearance

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The Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under criterion C, architecture, as a large and distinctive log building that represents an important type and method of construction in Wisconsin that is associated with pioneer settlement in the state. Log buildings of this size and with this level of integrity are not common in the area although many were constructed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century when this part of the state was settled. In particular, many farmers who attempted to settle the "cutover" after industrial logging had largely played out in this area of northern Wisconsin built log houses on their farms. There may still be log structures under the siding materials of some houses in the area, but this building has its log structure exposed and much of its historic integrity still intact. The construction techniques of the building are typical of log houses in Wisconsin. The high quality of the materials used for the building, its method of construction, and its size make it significant for architecture as an important example of the architectural development of this area of northeastern Wisconsin.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *The Nineteenth Century*

The Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger House has a complicated, but fascinating history that reflects the history of this area of Wisconsin. The one-story log cabin section of the building probably dates to the era of fur trapping and trading and the earliest permanent white settlement in the area, as reflects these settlers' relationships with the Native Americans located there. One of its probable residents was a person who bridged the gap between pioneer trapper and trader to permanent settler, a person who played a role in local government when Forest County was in its infancy. Finally, the entire building reflects the early twentieth century, when the logging era was ending and people were coming to the area for new opportunities, including trying to farm the "cutover," and establishing recreational facilities related to the hunting, fishing, and tourism industry that took over much of Wisconsin's "north woods," during the twentieth century.

Prior to significant white activity in this area of Forest County, a group of Chippewa Native Americans were living here, primarily near Mole Lake. Known by other groups of Chippewa people as the "Sa-Ka-Ah-Gon-ee-nee-nee-wog," or "Men of the Sa-Ka-Ah-Gon," they were given various names by Americans, including the Post Lake Band and the Mole Lake Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa. Recently, the group has returned to its historic name and is known as the Sokaogon Chippewa Community. Although the 1854 Treaty of LaPointe established reservations for Chippewa people in

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northern Wisconsin, the Sokaogon Chippewa did not have an established reservation until later. Therefore, these Chippewa were at their traditional hunting, fishing, and living sites when white settlers began coming into the area in the mid-nineteenth century to explore its logging potential and/or to exploit the animal resources of this region of abundant lakes and timber lands.<sup>1</sup>

The entry of whites into the area where the Sokaogon Chippewa were located was hastened by a national event—the Civil War. During the early years of the war, there were fears in the north that an attack could come from Canada, especially since the South was actively courting British assistance to their cause. Because of this, Congress determined that a transportation route that could carry troops and supplies, and, possibly, fleeing residents, in and out of northern Michigan was a strategic necessity. Specifically, Congress agreed to build a military road from Fort Howard near Green Bay to Fort Wilkins at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula of upper Michigan. Some historic sources indicate that the route of this road was along an old “Indian” trail or trails and also suggest that some white fur trappers and traders may have been located along the trail prior to its designation as a military road. After road improvements began, though, permanent settlers or traders/trappers occupied trading posts or “stations,” along this route. The road was also an important mail route and these stations were also reportedly used as mail drops.<sup>2</sup>

Between early 1863, when Congress approved the construction of this military road, to 1865, a portion of the military road had been “cut out” of the wilderness between Fort Howard and Keshena. North of this point, the road was little more than a trail and not fully improved until the late 1860s. In 1923, Charles Larzelere gave an account of using the road during this time. He reported that in late 1865, he followed what he called a “tote” road from Green Bay to Copper Harbor. The road traveled through what is now Forest County, passing along the west side of Mole Lake and the southeast side of Rice Lake, right past the current location of the Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House. It traveled north through the rest of the county into upper Michigan, roughly along the route that is today State Highway 55. Larzelere noted that along the trail north of Shawano, there were several “stations” or “stopping places,” run by early trappers and traders by the name of “Dutch Frank,” Charles LaSalle, Hi Polar,

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<sup>1</sup> Chief Willard L. Ackley and James B. Poler, “Compile Valuable Facts on Mole Lake Chippewa Band,” *Antigo Daily Journal*, 9 January 1935, internet reprint from Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles at <http://www.WISCONSINHISTORY.ORG>; Nick Van der Puy, “The Extreme Edge of Freedom,” *The Native American Press/Ojibwe News*, 30 June 1995, internet reprint from <http://www.karenblixen.com/wilhelm.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Mike Monte, “Our oldest (?) Surviving Home and Its Residents,” *Pioneer Express*, 30 January 1995, newspaper article on file in the Town of Nashville economic development office, Forest County, Wisconsin; M. B. Rosenberry, “The Military Road from Fort Wilkins, Copper Harbor, (Ontonagon) Michigan, to Houghton, Portage Lake, Shawano, and Thence to Fort Howard (Green Bay) Wisconsin,” Unpublished manuscript, 1925, on file in the Town of Nashville economic development office, Forest County, Wisconsin.

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Henry Strauss, and Joseph Fox. Other accounts from the 1860s and early 1870s substantiate much of Larzelere's story, and point out that many early residents of the "stations" along the road were men who lived with or married Chippewa women and regularly interacted with the Chippewa people.<sup>3</sup>

Larzelere reported that he took the trip back down the military or "tote" road, as he called it, in 1867 and that by that time, the road had been "cut out" from the brush and trees north of Shawano, but that the remainder of the road was still in need of improvement. He also stated that some of the road was actually only usable in the winter, as its path went over waterways and through swamps. By 1869, he reported that the complete trail has been "cut out," but that the road was still far from a good quality transportation route.<sup>4</sup>

In 1933, another account of the old military road was given by Chief Silver Scott of the Lac Vieux Desert Chippewa. He related that the road began at Green Bay, which was the distribution point for mail going north and west into the area. The road passed through Keshena on its way to Shawano, then to Bill Johnson's trading post on the Wolf River, about 35 miles north of Shawano. After nine miles, it came through Mole Lake in Forest County, then to Pine Lake (Hiles) where Sam Gagen ran his trading post. The road ran north to the source of the Wisconsin River at Lac Vieux Desert. He mentions that other trading posts along the road were occupied by Isaac Stone, Hi Polar, and Louis (Ludwig) Motzfeldt.<sup>5</sup>

Despite the military road's initial shortcomings, it became an important transportation and mail route from Green Bay to the Michigan border, opening the way for logging and settlement. The road was continually improved in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and, in 1924, most of the path of this road became part of the state highway system. Between Shawano and the upper Michigan border, it follows State Highway 55.<sup>6</sup>

The military road opened the Forest County area for settlement and the federal government sent out surveyors in preparation for land sales. Between June 26 and July 7, 1865, field surveyor James L. Nowlin surveyed Town 35, Range 12 East, the area where the Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House

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<sup>3</sup> Rosenberry; "Statement of Charles H. Larzelere," unpublished manuscript, May 8, 1923, on file in the Town of Nashville economic development office, Forest County, Wisconsin; Unpublished manuscripts including letters, reminiscences, and transcribed newspaper articles about the early days of the military road, on file in the Town of Nashville economic development office, Forest County, Wisconsin.

<sup>4</sup>"Statement of Charles H. Larzelere."

<sup>5</sup> "Gives Early History of Old Military Road," *Eagle River Review*, 9 March 1933, internet reprint from Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles at <http://www.WISCONSINHISTORY.ORG>.

<sup>6</sup> Rosenberry.

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is located. In the field notes Nowlin made for this area, he described it as follows, "the timber in this township is above second rate Sugar Hemlock and some pine. The soil second and third rate. No large streams, *no settlers*, several small lakes and swamps cannot be drained, the surface being too level."<sup>7</sup> Since Nowlin reported no settlers in the summer of 1865, but Larzelere reported on trading stations along the route in late 1865, it is likely that the traders moved into their stations right after the military road was established, or they permanently settled in the locations they had been using for trapping and trading, since it was now legal to settle on or purchase land.

One of the most notable of the early residents of Forest County after the military road was established was Wilhelm Dinesen, a Danish immigrant who, upon his return to Denmark, became a writer and the father of Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen), author of novels about Africa. Blixen became notable in the mid-1980s when her novel, *Out of Africa*, was made into a critically-acclaimed movie. Dinesen wrote prolifically about his stay in Wisconsin and his accounts provide an important look at life in northeastern Wisconsin between around 1872 and 1874. Around 1872 or 1873 (date based on Dinesen's diaries), Dinesen reported that he purchased a log cabin from a "Mr. Johnson." It is unclear whether this was the same William or Bill Johnson who is reported in several sources as having a trading post or station along the military road. In any event, Dinesen spent a year and a half to two years as a fur trapper and trader along Swamp Creek near the current location of this house.<sup>8</sup>

Before coming to northeastern Wisconsin, Dinesen was someone who could be labeled an "adventurer." He was from a wealthy family in Denmark and was an avid hunter as well as a soldier. When he came to America, he went to Nebraska and lived and hunted with the Pawnee Indians for a time. He came to Wisconsin where he traveled north to Shawano, then to Keshena and lived for a time with the Menominee people. He then came to the Mole Lake area, where he purchased the Johnson cabin. He named his home "Frydenland" or "Grove of Joy. The name stuck and the cabin was known as "Frydenland" for many years.<sup>9</sup>

Dinesen's accounts of his time in Forest County provide an important historical record of the life of a fur trapper and trader among the Sokaogon Chippewa right before the influx of loggers and white settlers. In particular, he described the lifestyle and culture of the local Native Americans: how they constructed their "wigwams," or houses; how they dressed; and how they supported themselves by hunting and fishing. He described in detail how the Chippewa would harvest fish by trapping, using

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<sup>7</sup>"Field Notes," Volume #1, pp. 150-162; on file in the Register of Deeds Office of the Forest County Courthouse, Crandon, Wisconsin.

<sup>8</sup> Monte, 30 January 1995; Van der Puy.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

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hooks and lines, and by spearing. He explained how they made their canoes, hunted deer, made maple sugar, and harvested rice on what is now Rice Lake. One of the most valuable of Dinesen's accounts is about a fall harvest festival held by the Chippewa. The festival included dancing, sacred rituals, and eloquent story telling and speeches. Dinesen occasionally engaged in negative stereotyping, such as his accounts of Native American encounters with liquor. But, his detailed descriptions of the lifestyle and culture of his Chippewa neighbors create a far more positive and poignant image of a people whose lives would soon change.<sup>10</sup>

Like other early trappers and traders, Dinesen had an ongoing relationship with the local Chippewa people and, reportedly, they gave him the native name of "Boganis." And, like other white males who settled in the area, Dinesen had a closer relationship with a Chippewa woman whose English name was Kate. He referred to her as his cook, but their relationship was probably more personal. According to Bureau of Indian Affairs records, Kate gave birth to a daughter in 1873 who was recorded as Emma Denson. Emma became Emma Motzfeldt when Kate became the "wife" of Ludwig Motzfeldt in 1874, when Dinesen went back to Denmark and Motzfeldt moved into the Dinesen cabin. Strong circumstantial evidence exists that shows that Emma was indeed the daughter of Dinesen and not Motzfeldt, but Motzfeldt raised her along with another child he had by Kate.<sup>11</sup>

Ludwig Motzfeldt, the next and long-time resident of Frydenland, was born in 1847 in Norway and came from a notable family in that country that had roots in the upper classes of Germany. According to genealogical research done in the 1930s, Motzfeldt's family originated in the Westphalia area of Germany. In the 1600s, a member of the family moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, where he became a merchant. In the mid-1700s, members of this family went to Norway as part of the Danish military, but remained as permanent residents. There they were educated and prominent citizens who had close ties to the Norwegian government.<sup>12</sup>

Accounts of Motzfeldt's arrival in the United States and his finding his way into northern Wisconsin vary from stories told by close friends and his "wife," Kate. The friends reported that when Motzfeldt was 24 or 25 years old, he was working for a steamship company that sent him to Chicago to set up an

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<sup>10</sup> "The Dinesen Journals," *Pioneer Express*, 13 March 1995, 20 March 1995, 27 March 1995, 3 April 1995; 10 April 1995, 24 April 1995.

<sup>11</sup> Mike Monte, "Our Oldest Home—Part II," *Pioneer Express*, 6 February 1995, newspaper article on file in the Town of Nashville economic development office, Forest County, Wisconsin; Richard B. Vowles, "Boganis' Chippewa Daughter, Karen's Secret Sister: A Preliminary Report," unpublished manuscript on file in the Town of Nashville economic development office, Forest County, Wisconsin.

<sup>12</sup> "Lineage of Ludwig Motzfeldt Traced Back for 400 Years," *Antigo Daily Journal*, 26 January 1934, internet reprint from Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles at <http://www.WISCONSINHISTORY.ORG>.



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agency. He arrived in Chicago and left the employ of the steamship company in favor of a banking job. The bank reportedly sent Motzfeldt into northern Wisconsin to settle land issues they were involved in. Around 1872-73, Motzfeldt traveled up the military road from Green Bay as far as Mole Lake where he reportedly became ill. He supposedly recovered with help from the Sokaogon Chippewa and after he was well, he decided to stay. At some point, he met up with Wilhelm Dinesen who sold or transferred to him the Frydenland cabin at Swamp Creek.<sup>13</sup>

Kate Motzfeldt tells a slightly different version of the story. She related that Motzfeldt came north from Chicago and moved into the trading post at Swamp Creek (the post that was formerly occupied by Wilhelm Dinesen). Some other sources indicate that Motzfeldt and Dinesen stayed in the cabin together for a time, but that is unclear. What is clear is that Motzfeldt became a permanent resident along the military road in 1874 and remained at the Swamp Creek cabin until 1899, eventually obtaining legal title to the cabin and 80 acres in 1884 under the Homestead Act. According to Kate Motzfeldt, he developed his land into a farm, along with running his trading post.<sup>14</sup>

Like Dinesen, Motzfeldt had a close relationship with the nearby Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and with Kate. Kate lived with Motzfeldt and had two children with him, one of whom died in infancy. She and Motzfeldt also raised the daughter she reportedly had with Dinesen. Through the years they were together, Kate Motzfeldt became known as Motzfeldt's wife, but there are no records that they ever married. During the time Motzfeldt lived at Swamp Creek, he moved within both the Chippewa and white world. An historic photograph shows him dressed, in part, in Chippewa attire. But, he was also a farmer like other white settlers and he was a land speculator and government official when he lived at Swamp Creek. Between 1878 and 1888, an official post office named Frydenland was located in his cabin. Motzfeldt's longest government post was as Forest County Treasurer. He was elected in 1885 and served until 1899, when he left Swamp Creek for the Pelican Lake area in nearby Oneida County. He also engaged in land speculation, buying and selling properties in the area. During the 1880s and 1890s, Motzfeldt was poised to become a successful businessman and farmer, but it was not to be.<sup>15</sup>

In 1899, Motzfeldt moved to Pratt Junction near Pelican Lake and rented a building to run a general store. In 1901, he purchased a store in the village of Pelican Lake. He operated this store until 1911 when he sold the business. He spent about a year with a relative in British Columbia, then returned to

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<sup>13</sup> "Norwegian Aristocrat Took Chippewa Maid as Mate," *Antigo Daily Journal*, 4 April 1933, internet reprint from Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles at <http://www.WISCONSINHISTORY.ORG>.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, Monte, "Our Oldest Home—Part II."

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Wisconsin to Odanah, on the Bad River Reservation near Ashland, where Kate had moved when Motzfeldt retired from the store business. Ludwig and Kate's daughter, Jenny, and her family were also residing in Odanah and Ludwig and Kate lived with her family in their old age. Ludwig died in 1928 and Kate died in 1937.<sup>16</sup>

Ludwig never became as successful as his early career envisioned. Perhaps his land deals were not profitable and his career as a merchant only average. The moneyed logging interests did well, but the settlers who came to farm the "cutover" were less than successful on the stump-filled poor soil of the area and being a merchant in rural northeastern Wisconsin was not the road to wealth. Some sources state that Motzfeldt engaged in poor business deals and sometimes he was never paid back the money he lent. They also state that Motzfeldt had a problem with drinking and that when he was under the influence, he gave away money or was swindled. When he died in 1928, he left his widow, Kate, penniless and in debt, an unfortunate ending for someone with such a promising beginning.

*Location of the Dinesen-Motzfeldt Log Cabin*

Local history sources state that the log cabin section of the Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House is the cabin that was occupied by both Wilhelm Dinesen and Ludwig and Kate Motzfeldt and was the post office along the military road known as Frydenland. But, documents suggest that the cabin was moved to this location at a later date. The current location of the log cabin is in Section 27 of the Town of Nashville (T35N R12), part of Government Lots 2 and 3. The location of Frydenland and Motzfeldt's homestead land is in Section 26 of the Town of Nashville (T35N R13) according to Motzfeldt's land patent from 1884, when he acquired title to the property under Homestead Act. Also, an 1885 plat map for Forest County and historic post office sources indicate that Frydenland was in Section 26 on Motzfeldt's land. Also, Swamp Creek does not run past the current location.

There is circumstantial evidence to suggest that the log cabin section of this house was, indeed, moved sometime between 1901 and 1915. First, the entire log house appears to be constructed of two separate buildings, the large log house attached to the small log cabin. The way in which the buildings are attached suggests that the cabin was moved, then the larger house built onto it or moved next to it. Second, the small log cabin has the general characteristics that match Wilhelm Dinesen's description of his cabin. Dinesen stated that his cabin was large enough for two rooms and had a loft. The small log cabin is large enough for two rooms and also has a loft (attic). Finally, the small cabin's dimensions almost match exactly the dimensions of a depression at the place where all of the sources

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<sup>16</sup>Monte, "Our Oldest Home—Part II," "Norwegian Aristocrat,"

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indicate that Frydenland was located, near the banks of Swamp Creek. These measurements were taken at the same time as the site visit to the log house was conducted. That this cabin was moved to its current location could explain the local attachment of the history of Frydenland and the Motzfeldts to this building.

If the small log cabin section of this house could be positively verified as the Frydenland cabin, it may be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, for its association with the growth and development of early settlement history of this part of Forest County and for its history as a pioneer post office on an important transportation route. Since the information cannot be verified, it is nominated under criterion C only, because of its architectural significance as a log structure that represents an important type and method of construction in this area. However, since there is some evidence to suggest that the small log cabin was moved to this location and strong local history suggests that this was the Frydenland cabin, the Dinesen and Motzfeldt names were added as part of the name of the property.

*The Twentieth Century*

After Ludwig Motzfeldt moved to the Pelican Lake area in 1899. He sold his homestead parcel in Section 26 to William T. Rice. Rice built a larger frame home on the section 26 property that is still extant. At the time, Motzfeldt also owned the property that the log house currently sits on and he sold this property in 1901 to Stapleton and Barnes. A couple of months later, Stapleton and Barnes sold the property to William T. Rice for \$1.00. In 1905, Rice sold this property to Joseph and Hattie Hettinger for fifty dollars. The Hettingers held the property until 1916 and it is within this era that the property was probably developed with the cabin and the log house, since the value of the property jumped to \$650 in 1916 from \$50 in 1905. Tax assessment rolls also show a jump in value in 1910 (\$150) and in 1915 (\$200).<sup>17</sup>

The new house that William Rice built near the old Frydenland cabin is from the early twentieth century, probably the first decade. Tax assessment rolls from 1910 show a value of \$650, so the house was probably built prior to 1910. Since a new house was constructed, it was likely that Rice no longer had a use for the cabin and allowed it to be moved by Joseph and Hattie Hettinger. An occupant of the house in the 1940s indicates that there were cabins on the site that were rented to hunters and fishermen and that there was also an old tavern and dance hall as part of the complex. This suggests

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<sup>17</sup> Forest County Deeds; Vol. 14, p. 557, 578; vol. 21, p. 182; Vol. 36, p. 589; on file in the Register of Deeds Office, Forest County Courthouse, Crandon, Wisconsin; Tax Rolls for the Town of Nashville, 1910, 1915, on file in the archives of the Forest County Treasurer, Forest County Courthouse, Crandon, Wisconsin.

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that the site was developed in the twentieth century as a "resort," probably by the Hettingers and a subsequent owner. It may have been less expensive to move old cabins to their property to create this resort than to build new structures, which would explain how the old log cabin arrived on the site.

In 1916, Joseph and Hattie Hettinger sold the improved property to Dan and Evelyn Walrath, who technically owned the property until 1924, when it was sold to Elizabeth Combs. However, the occupant of the house in the 1940s, Judy Krashowetz, granddaughter of Norman and Elizabeth Combs, indicates that the Combs were occupying the building as early as 1920 because her mother, Elaine Combs Scott, was born there in that year. It is likely that the Combs family took over the "resort" from the Walwraths prior to 1920 on a land contract that was fulfilled in 1924.<sup>18</sup>

Ms. Krashowetz provided a circa 1928 photograph of her mother and aunt in front of a portion of the house. It shows that at that time, the building had the two sections attached as they appear today. It also shows the building prior to the covering of the asphalt siding that has been removed, so that the appearance of the building today is very similar to the appearance around 1928. In fact, except for some replacement windows, the portion of the house shown on the photograph and the house today is almost identical.

During the 1930s, Norman and Elizabeth Combs appeared to have some financial problems as most people did during the Great Depression, and, in 1937, Elizabeth Combs acquired a land contract on the property from Arthur McMillion for \$1600. But, the Combs apparently could not repay the contract and there were issues of back taxes, so, in 1939, Elizabeth Combs quit claimed the property to McMillion. But, the Combs family continued to live on the property as Ms. Krashowetz was born in this house in 1939 and remembers living there during the 1940s. She recalls that some time in the early 1950s, the family moved to California, where she lives today.<sup>19</sup>

In 1954, the property was sold to Troy and Zella McCallister for \$2,000, who quit claimed the property to Kenneth and Norma Kruesensterne in 1969. In 1972, the Kruesensterne divorced, but Kenneth and second wife, Corrine Kruesensterne continued to own the property until the 1990s. In 1996, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community acquired this property, making it part of their reservation lands. The Sokaogon Chippewa hope to renovate the building to make it a cultural center as part of their efforts to attract more tourists to the area to boost the community's economic base. They received funds from the Jeffris Family Foundation to plan for the renovation and use of the property.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Deeds, Vol. 52, p. 16; Personal communication from Judy Krashowetz, 2003 and 2004.

<sup>19</sup> Personal communication from Judy Krashowetz.

<sup>20</sup> Deeds, Vol. 82, p. 547; Vol. 103, p. 655; Vol. 125, p. 477; Vol. 127, p. 837; Vol. 179, p. 263; Vol. 195, p. 62; Dean S.

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**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

The Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House is architecturally significant because it is a fine and relatively intact example of log construction, an important type of construction for houses and outbuildings in Wisconsin primarily during the mid-nineteenth century, but lasting into the early twentieth century in northern Wisconsin. Log buildings were plentiful during the nineteenth century, but most have disappeared due to lack of use, poor maintenance, and demolition. In some areas of Wisconsin, log houses can be found under clapboard siding or modern siding materials, but there are few cases where log houses or cabins are exposed and extant other than in museums. The size of this building added to its good historic integrity make the log house stand out as an important architectural resource in the area.

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the forests and woodlands that existed in Wisconsin prior to white settlement were conducive to the construction of log buildings. These log buildings were often temporary. As soon as lumber mills were established and settlers could afford it, they built frame houses. In particular, Yankee settlers followed this trend. German, Norwegian and other immigrant groups sometimes built larger and better-constructed log buildings and then covered them later with clapboards or other materials. Many of the log buildings of ethnic immigrant groups had distinctive variations that pointed to their group and scholars of pioneer buildings in Wisconsin have spent many years studying these variations and their relationship to each group.<sup>21</sup>

One of the most important scholars of Wisconsin's pioneer architecture was Richard W. E. Perrin. In the 1960s, in several publications, Perrin discussed the log houses of Wisconsin. According to Perrin, and other log house scholars, Swedish immigrants were the first group to build log houses in the United States. They built log cabins in the Delaware Valley as early as 1638, but other groups did not pick up this type of construction until over 50 years later. English settlers did not build log cabins at this time; rather, they built houses using traditional English construction materials and methods. The prototype log house of horizontal logs laid up for walls and notched together at the corners, then chinked with clay or mortar was brought into the colonies from northern Europe.<sup>22</sup>

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Acheson, "Log Cabin Touches Three Centuries, Two Countries and Two Cultures," 11 April 2003, newspaper article on file in the Town of Nashville economic development office, Forest County, Wisconsin.

<sup>21</sup> Barbara Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 4-2.

<sup>22</sup> Richard W. E. Perrin, "Log Houses in Wisconsin," *Antiques*, Vol. 89, June 1966, p. 867.

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Scotch-Irish and German immigrants were the most influential early immigrant groups to use log construction in the United States. They built log houses in the early 1700s and then this method of construction spread into the frontier areas of the country. The fact that much of the frontier being settled in the 1700s and 1800s was forested and needed to be cleared for farming helped with the log house's popularity. Right away there were ethnic differences in log construction. The Scotch-Irish preferred to use the Swedish technique of square logs that fit tightly together to make the walls. The Germans preferred wide spaces between logs with heavy chinking of clay or lime mortar.<sup>23</sup>

According to Perrin, the early Yankee settlers in Wisconsin, usually the first to enter the frontier in southern Wisconsin and many other places, built their log cabins with both German and Swedish techniques. The two immigrant groups that accounted for the most log cabins in Wisconsin were the two most numerous immigrant groups in the state; Germans and Scandinavians, particularly Norwegians. The differences in log construction between these groups is sometimes subtle and sometimes distinctive. The three ways in which log construction varies the most include the way in which the logs are hewn, either rounder or more square; how much space there is between the logs and how much chinking is applied; and corner notching. In general, German log houses in Wisconsin tend to have wide spaces between logs and are filled in first with slats, then heavily chinked. Norwegian log houses usually feature a more squared-off log that leaves a narrower space that needs less chinking. One particular group, immigrants from Finland, built their log houses with a more precise method. They hewed their logs almost square, then fit them tightly together to form a wall that needed little, if any, chinking. All groups tended to use saddle notching, square notching, and full or half dovetail notching to join the walls of log houses.<sup>24</sup>

Setting aside some of the ethnic variations in log construction, Perrin considers the log house to be a universal frontier housing type. The materials could be taken right off the settler's land and put together with simple tools. They were efficient, usually large enough for one all-purpose room and a sleeping loft. If the cabin was large enough, sometimes a wall was added to create two rooms and often, shed-roofed additions were made for a kitchen. Perrin reported that log construction generally ended in southern Wisconsin by 1870, but continued on in northern Wisconsin, particularly in remote forest areas of the state until well into the twentieth century. He also indicated that as of the early 1960s, few Wisconsin log houses remained as originally built, although he thought that many log

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 867-868.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 868-870; Richard W. E. Perrin, *Historic Wisconsin Buildings*, Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1962, pp. 6-13.

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buildings were hidden under the siding materials of Wisconsin farmhouses. He indicated that when a log house has its original design, materials, and workmanship, it should be carefully preserved.<sup>25</sup>

The Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House has many of the important characteristics of log construction in Wisconsin as discussed above. The hand-hewn timbers are laid horizontally and connected with corner notching. The two sections of the house, the small log cabin and the larger log house have differences that are probably related to the time each structure was built. Due to the unusual history of the building, it is unclear who were the original builders of each section. Therefore, differences cannot be attributed to ethnicity, but the method of construction of each section does fit in with typical Wisconsin log construction from both the German and Norwegian traditions.

The small log cabin was probably built around 1870 and the earliest known owner was reportedly a Mr. Johnson, suggesting someone of Norwegian heritage. But, this cabin is probably more typical of German log house construction. Specifically, the cabin has more rounded logs with wide spaces between each log. These spaces are filled with wood slats that are recessed behind the wall surface. These recessed spaces needed heavy chinking. In a few places where chinking is still extant, it is relatively wide and thick. The corners are joined with square notching, a less labor-intensive treatment than dovetailing, but more finished looking than saddle notching.

The log house, which was either built or moved to this site about 1905 has some differences in its wall construction. Its logs are more square, and in some places, they fit together more tightly than the logs of the cabin. The spaces between these logs are also filled in slightly differently. They are filled in with wood slats, as well, but the wood slats are closer to the wall surface, making the chinking thinner and narrower. In some areas, rough, short boards cover the spaces between the logs, giving the wall a smoother appearance. The corner boards of this part of the building are intact and obscure the notching of the log house walls.

The type and method of construction used in both sections of this building is architecturally significant because log houses were a once common, but now rare building type in Wisconsin. This building's two sections are typical of types of log houses built in each of their eras. The small log cabin is typical of the pioneer-era cabin found throughout the state and was built during the pioneer era of this part of Forest County. The large log house section is much later construction, but also typical of log construction in northeastern Wisconsin. In fact, local history materials show that log construction like this house was common for settlers who came around the turn of the twentieth century or later to farm

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<sup>25</sup> Perrin, "Log Houses," p. 868; Perrin, "Historic Wisconsin," pp. 7-8.

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the cutover. Logs were still plentiful and constructing a log house was economical. Many of these log houses are probably extant, but their log construction is hidden under siding or remodeling.

The characteristics of the log construction in both sections of this building reflect log construction techniques common to log buildings in most areas of Wisconsin. The house is not only a well-built example of log construction, but in both sections a high level of building materials was used. Most of the logs are in good condition and few will need repair or replacement. The asphalt siding applied in the mid-twentieth century probably protected the logs to an extent, but their overall high quality helped in their long-term preservation. What is particularly of interest in this building is that the two sections have different construction dates, probably several decades apart. This gives an opportunity to compare and contrast the different log construction techniques used over time in this area and makes this building an important architectural artifact.

Overall, the Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House has a good level of integrity, with much of its historic character from the early twentieth century intact. The exterior is very similar to the c.1928 photograph provided by Judy Krashowetz. A few of the windows have been altered, but some of the original units are in place. The interior of the house is only in fair condition, but much of its c.1905-era decoration is intact. What is particularly striking about the interior of the house is the vast amount of wainscoting used on the first floor and its fairly good condition. The use of this wainscoting gives the first floor a continuity of decoration that suggests a single era, the c.1905-era, when the small log cabin was moved and the larger log house built or moved next to it.

The second story of the house has original plaster walls and ceilings and original floors. The plaster is damaged, but it can be used as an aid in renovating the walls and ceilings. Likewise, there are period or original floors on the first floor under layers of modern materials that could be exposed and restored. Only the condition of the house detracts from its integrity at the present time. The deteriorated modern materials of the interior need to be removed and the roof repaired so there is no more interior damage, and the exterior walls need to be chinked and deteriorated areas and windows replaced in a historic manner. These issues will be in the forefront of the renovation of the building in the near future.

Log construction represents an important era in Wisconsin, the pioneer era. Whether it was in the mid-nineteenth century in southern Wisconsin or the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in northern Wisconsin, log construction was generally the first type of building seen on the frontier. It was easy to build, economical, and useful. It was a way for settlers to use an abundant natural resource to quickly begin their lives in a new area. The Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House represents log construction in this area of northeastern Wisconsin, from the small cabin that dates to the early



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settlement years of Forest County, to the larger log house that reflects the still popular use of this method of construction into the twentieth century by the pioneers who came to farm the cutover. This building is an important specimen with which to learn about the building practices of this area and the interesting local history that is attached to the small log cabin makes it a well-known and important historic resource in this area of Wisconsin.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATION**

Criteria Consideration B states that a property that is moved from its original or historically significant location can be eligible if it is significant primarily for architecture or it is the most important surviving property associated with a historic person or event. This is not the original site for the Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House's small cabin section. The original site is about a quarter mile from the current location, but the current site retains the rural location of the original site. The major difference is that there is a large addition to the cabin that was not part of the original site. The important historical associations attached to the small cabin are not being used as a reason for the property's eligibility. Rather, the entire building is being nominated for architecture, as an important type and method of construction, under criterion C. Because of this, the small cabin, as part of the whole property, meets criterion consideration B.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of this property is a rectangle with a description as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the north curb line of State Highway 55 and a line running along the east edge of the driveway that lies east of the house, then north along the edge of the driveway to the intersection with a line running east-west 50 feet north of the north elevation of the house, then west along this line to a north-south line running 50 feet west of the westernmost elevation of the house, then south along this line to the north curblines of State Highway 55, then east along this line to the point of beginning.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary was drawn to include the house and an appropriate setting. It excludes acreage that does not contribute to the significance of the property.

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

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

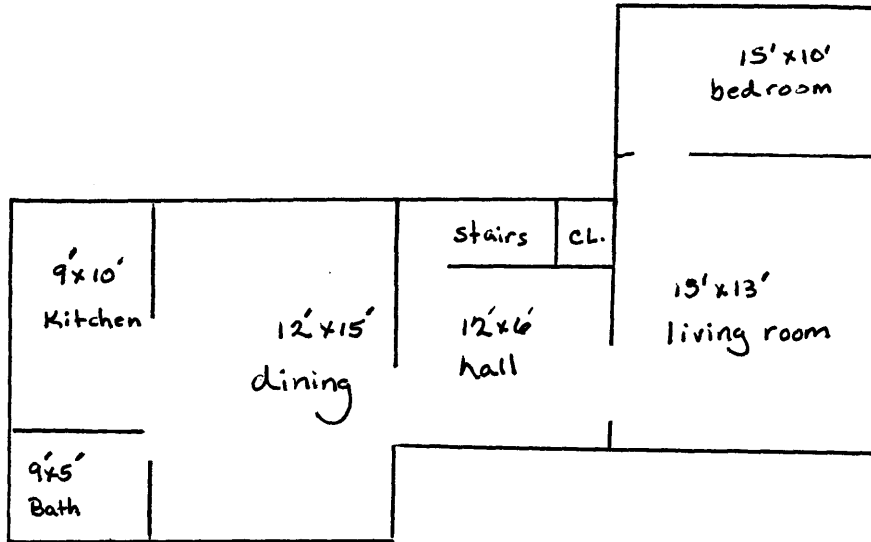
Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House

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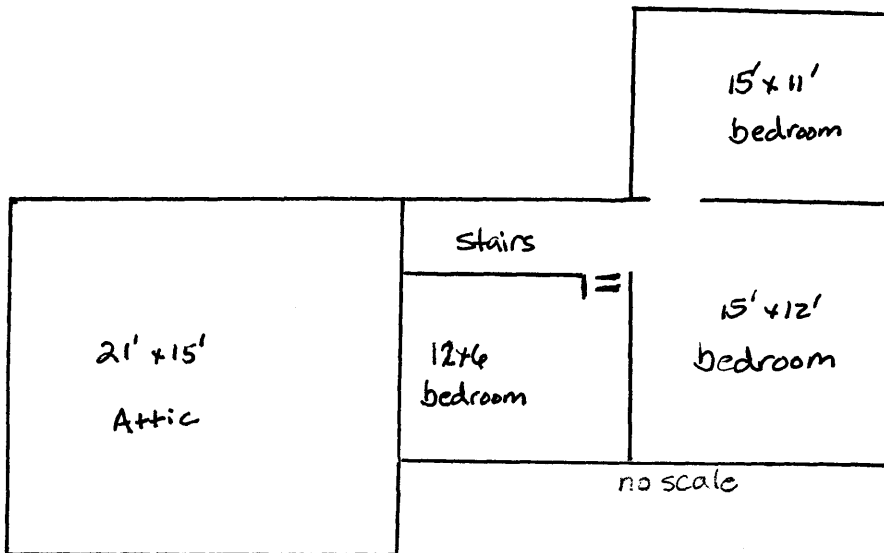
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*Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House*, Town of Nashville, Forest County, Wisconsin. Photos by Carol Cartwright, May 2003. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin. Views:

- 1 of 17: Site view, from the southwest.
- 2 of 17: Main elevation, from the southeast.
- 3 of 17: East elevation, from the east.
- 4 of 17: North elevation, from the north.
- 5 of 17: West and south elevations, from the southwest.
- 6 of 17: Close-up view of log construction of small log cabin.
- 7 of 17: Close-up view of log construction of large log house.
- 8 of 17: Interior, first floor, view into kitchen.
- 9 of 17: Interior, first floor, view into dining room.
- 10 of 17: Interior, first floor, view of staircase door in hallway.
- 11 of 17: Interior, first floor, view from hallway into living room.
- 12 of 17: Interior, first floor, view of first floor bedroom.
- 13 of 17: Interior, first floor, view of original window in bedroom.
- 14 of 17: Interior, enclosed staircase, looking down.
- 15 of 17: Interior, from staircase landing, looking into second floor front bedroom.
- 16 of 17: Interior, view of plaster wall and wainscot wall in second floor front bedroom.
- 17 of 17: Interior, front the inside of second floor ell bedroom, view of door.



*First Floor*



*Second Floor*

***Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House***  
*Town of Nashville, Forest County, WI*  
**Floor Plans**