

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 26 1979  
DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Younglands

AND/OR COMMON

Stone Manor

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

880 Lake Shore Drive

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lake Geneva

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Walworth

CODE

127

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- \_\_\_ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- \_\_\_ STRUCTURE
- \_\_\_ SITE
- \_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- \_\_\_ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- \_\_\_ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- \_\_\_ IN PROCESS
- \_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- \_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

- \_\_\_ AGRICULTURE
- \_\_\_ COMMERCIAL
- \_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- \_\_\_ GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL
- \_\_\_ MILITARY
- \_\_\_ MUSEUM
- \_\_\_ PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- \_\_\_ RELIGIOUS
- \_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC
- \_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION
- \_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. John Bihlimire, 880 Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

880 Lake Shore Drive

CITY, TOWN

Lake Geneva

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53147

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Walworth County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elkhorn

STATE

Wisconsin 53121

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Younglands is a grand three-story mansion which resembles an English Renaissance Revival palace. It is a fireproof structure of white Bedford stone, steel, hollow tile and concrete (it measures 70' x 174'). The main facade faces a broad expanse of lawn and Lake Geneva. The plan is "U"-shaped with projecting pavilions on each side of a recessed section. The first and second levels of this recessed area are filled with round-arched loggias; on the first story is a triple arcade version of a Palladian window. In the spandrels are cartouches with busts of Young's four daughters and lavish foliate ornament. The second level arcade contains five arches. Capitals are Roman Ionic. Above is a balustraded terrace. These arcades have been glazed in recent years.

The first level of each pavilion is pierced by three large rectangular openings with inset columns trimming the sides of each window. These areas were glazed in recent times. The walls of the first story are rusticated. Modillions trim the cornice above. Porches extending to each side of the house with similar detail were originally one-story high. Two more stories were recently added to the porch on the north end in a modern but sympathetic design. One additional story with doubled columns and details similar to the house was added to the south end at an unknown time.

The second story of each pavilion features a shallow rectangular bay composed of three groups of doubled windows between lavishly carved pilasters. The balustrade of the terrace is echoed above the cornice of these bays. Behind the balustrades on the third level are three more doubled windows. The cornice of the house features a frieze of foliate panels with dentils and modillions. The composition is topped off by a solid stone balustrade encircling a roof garden with a large acroterion decorating the center. An elevator shaft added in 1972 projects from the top of the roof.

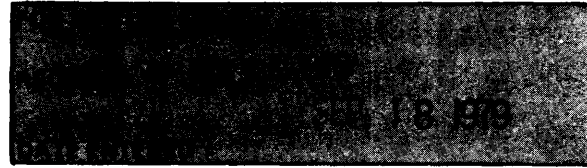
The house rests on a high and wide piazza constructed of colorful native fieldstone boulders with a stone balustrade above. Originally, the grounds were lavishly landscaped with broad walks, terraces and flower gardens lined with box hedges and ornamented with statues and fountains. Through the years the estate has diminished in size; the landscape design has been lost.

The interior is lavishly decorated. The first floor contains the main central hall facing the lake and joined by a wide screen of Corinthian columns to the ballroom. A colorfully frescoed ceiling depicting scenes from Roman mythology, a crystal chandelier and a large white Carrara marble fireplace decorate the ballroom. Off of the ballroom is the music room which features panels of mahogany hand-carved and painted to depict musical instruments. Adjacent to the music room is a billiard room panelled in satinwood. Also on the first floor are a library with a red marble fireplace and mahogany bookcases, and, facing the lake, a dining room to which leads an eight foot wide hallway which served as a picture gallery. Carved and painted grape clusters decorate the ceiling of the dining room. The floors on the first story are parqueted in scroll patterns, each room has a fireplace, and the electric light fixtures and door hardware are gold-plated.

The stairway to the second floor is of heavily carved wine-red mahogany. The second floor originally contained a parlor and nine bedrooms, each with a fireplace and a large bathroom. On the third floor were seven guest rooms and seven rooms for servants.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Fixtures on these floors were silver. The fourth floor had a large gymnasium and a miniature golf course. The basement contained more servants quarters, refrigeration rooms, kitchens, ice rooms and a bowling alley.

Today the upper floors have been converted into condominiums. Part of the south end of the house now contains a network of steel reinforcing beams for the new rooftop swimming pool.

The coach barn is located across Lake Shore Road from the house, behind a low fieldstone wall. It is a large, 2-1/2 story, gable roofed structure of domestic design. The first floor is constructed of the same colorful fieldstone as the fence walls. Above, two cross gables of half-timber with stucco infill, corner braces and simple bargeboards project from the main gable. A recessed enclosed porch extends between them. To the south is a one-story fieldstone wing. Large, arched openings on the first floor have been filled in with doors and bay windows.

Behind the coach barn to the southeast sits a small, one-story, gable roofed garage with fieldstone walls and half-timbered gable ends similar to the coach barn.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with historic personage
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899-1901<sup>1</sup>

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Lord Gay<sup>2</sup>

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built between 1899 and 1901 for Otto Young, a prominent Chicago businessman, Younglands is "the largest and most luxurious mansion ever built on Geneva Lake, "a summer haven for wealthy Chicagoans.<sup>3</sup> It represents the resort era of Lake Geneva, which was known as the Newport of the West. Younglands is of state significance because it is among the most luxurious private residences in Wisconsin. The work of a regionally significant architect, Henry Lord Gay, Younglands is among the best examples in Wisconsin of the Italian Renaissance Revival which became popular at the turn of the century for grand summer houses. In addition, the coach barn for the estate, added before 1906, is itself a fine example of the Tudor Revival style of the early twentieth century.

### History

Otto Young immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1859. Beginning as a retail clerk in New York City, he worked his way up in the mercantile business until he owned his own wholesale jewelry business and was half-owner of the Fair Store in Chicago. He also became a director of the First National Bank and was one of the men instrumental in bringing the World's Columbian Exposition to Chicago. He earned the majority of his 25 million dollar fortune, however, investing in downtown Chicago real estate after the fire.

In the fall of 1897 Young bought G. L. Dunlap's estate, the Moorings, on Lake Geneva. The next year Young moved Dunlap's house, an 18 room frame Victorian mansion, away from the lake to make room for the Italian palace he was to build (the Moorings was demolished in 1938). After his new house was finished, Young added the coach barn, a "cow palace," and extensive boulder walls, and acquired hundreds of acres of farm and undeveloped lands (the cow palace is no longer extant).

After his death in 1906, his wife visited the house only a few times before she died in 1916. Then his daughter, Cecilia Heyworth deKorwin, purchased the property from the estate, but she only visited the mansion four very brief times before she presented it and its surrounding lake shore property in 1938 to the Sisters of St. Anne for an Episcopalian girls' school (she sold most of the farmland at this time). In 1941 Soon K. Hahn bought the coach barn to house his perfume factory and a tearoom which was to be called the "Korean Village." Hahn purchased the mansion four years later. The tearoom and perfume factory closed shortly thereafter, but Hahn continued to occupy the property amid heated legal disputes over its true ownership. In 1963, John Bihlmiere, the current owner, took possession. He has made improvements on the mansion for use as a cocktail lounge and restaurant on the main level and condominiums above.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

*See cont sheet Correction Sage 9/18/79*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY carrage house-6 acres, Stone Manner-5.4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Lake Geneva, Wis. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 16	382400	4715200	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Carriage House- Parcel B commencing at intersection East line Willow St. and South Line Section 36 of Lake Geneva. The North 505.56 ft., East 516.97 ft. South 505.56 ft. West 516.97 feet to the point of commencing. See continuation sheet

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

October, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608-262-2970

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Prebeard Perry*

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

6/18/79

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William H. Braithwaite*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-18-79

ATTEST: *Anna Jane Sage*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

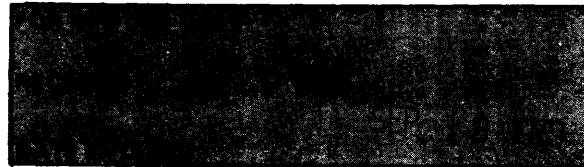
DATE

8-27-79

*Regional Coordinator*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Architecture

Henry Lord Gay, FAIA, was born in Baltimore in 1844. He was educated in New England and Europe and received his practical training at the New Haven offices of Sidney Stone. In 1864 he moved to Chicago, where he at first worked for William Boyington. In 1867 Gay began his own practice and subsequently designed many private residences and churches, including the First Congregational Church. In the 1880s Gay was director of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange, which he had organized. At this time many of his commissions were for summer residences at Lake Geneva, including the Folly (razed), Maple Lawn (extant, but much altered), Negawni (razed), Villa Palatine (destroyed by fire), Ceylon Court (razed), and a major addition to what was previously his own hunting lodge, Gay Lynne (extant). Shortly after 1900, Gay moved to San Diego where he died in 1921.

When Gay displayed the plans for Younglands at the 1899 Chicago Architects' Club exhibition, the lavish sumptuousness of the plans caused a sensation.<sup>4</sup> Younglands was designed to cost \$250,000 but by the time the interior decoration was completed in 1901, Young had spent over \$1,000,000 on his summer residence. He imported artists from Europe to paint and gild ceilings, install woodwork and carve stone. According to a local paper, "it was for almost half a century one of the finest private [residences] outside of the eastern seaboard--and it added immensely to [the] area's claim that Lake Geneva was the Newport of the West."<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately many of the fine summer houses built on this resort lake have been demolished to make room for subdivisions and condominiums. Of the 58 houses built before 1920 mentioned in Wolfmeyer and Gage's book on Lake Geneva, almost half have been destroyed and many of those which remain have been so altered as to be unrecognizable.

Younglands, now known as the Stone Manor, has an uncertain future. The current owner has announced plans to build condominiums on the expanse of lawn between the mansion and the lake. In addition, the entire site has been offered for sale. For this reason, the "Stone Manor for Civic Center" committee has requested this nomination.

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- <sup>1</sup>Lake Geneva Regional News, Mar. 30, 1939, July 12, 1973, July 4, 1974.
  - <sup>2</sup>Ibid.
  - <sup>3</sup>Lake Geneva Regional News, July 4, 1974.
  - <sup>4</sup>Lake Geneva Regional News, Mar. 30, 1939, July 4, 1974.
  - <sup>5</sup>Lake Geneva Regional News, July 4, 1974.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

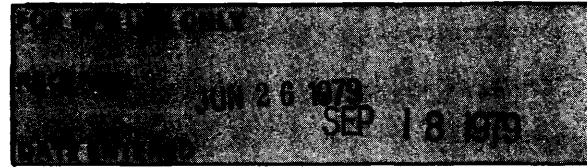
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Item #9, Major Bibliographic References:

- Andreas, A. T., History of Chicago, Chicago: A. T. Andreas Co., 1886.
- Cour, Rose, "Lake Geneva's Italian Palace Finest Private Residence In West,"  
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- Leonard, John W., ed., The Book of Chicagoans, Chicago: Marquist Co., 1905, p. 633.
- Lundahl, Eva Seymour, Lovely Lake Geneva, Los Angeles: New Age Publ. Co., 1950.
- Maierhofer, Patty, "The Architectural History of Stone Manor," unpublished  
manuscript in the collections of Mrs. Ann Wolfmeyer, 1972.
- Sanborn and Perris maps.
- Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn, Biographical Dictionary of American  
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- Wolfmeyer, Ann and Gage, Mary Burns, Lake Geneva: Newport of the West,  
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- Wolfmeyer, Ann, "Stone Manor," Lake Geneva Regional News, July 12, 19, 26.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

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**Stone Manor:**

Commencing at the intersection of the center of Willow Street and the North line of Section 1, Town 1 North, Range 17 East, thence South in center of street 381.14 feet N 89° West 440.22 feet; N 72° West 522.5 feet to Lake Shore, North easterly along shore North Section Line; thence East to City of Lake Geneva.



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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEP 18 1979

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

YOUNGLANDS, Lake Geneva, Walworth County, Wisconsin: Corrections & Additions  
See

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (See attached USGS Quadrangle and sketch map of nominated property.)

Acreage of nominated property: Stone Manor 9.4; Carriage House 2.0

Quadrangle Name: Lake Geneva, Wisconsin                      Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM References:	A. Stone Manor	16/382360/4715220
	B. Carriage House	16/382680/4715260

Verbal boundary description: *See phone report.*

Stone Manor property. Beginning at the intersection of the west curb line of Willow Street and the North line of Section 1, Town 1 North, Range 17 East, thence Southwesterly along said curb line 381.14 feet, N. 89° West 440.22 feet; N 72° West 522.5 feet to Lake Shore, Northeasterly along shore to North Section Line; thence East to beginning. Then, in addition, that part of Lot Nine (9), Baker and Brown Subdivision, City of Lake Geneva, lying South of a line described as commencing <sup>329.3 feet south of</sup> ~~at~~ the Northeast corner of Lot Eight (8); <sup>which precedes</sup> ~~thence south along the west curb line of Willow Street 329.3 feet,~~ thence S 88° West and parallel with the North Line of Lot Eight (8), 695.25 feet; thence N 70° 48' West 382 feet to the Shore of Geneva Lake, *thence sw along shore to North Section Line.* *Save 9-18-79*

Carriage House property. Beginning at the intersection of the east curb line of Willow Street and the North line of Section 1, T 1 N, R 17 E, thence North 300 feet along said curb line, thence East 290 feet, thence South 300 feet, thence West 290 feet to the point of beginning.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Donald N. Anderson, Historian & Registrar, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

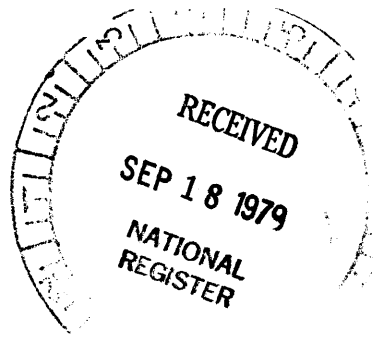
7 September 1979

816 State Street

608/262-0746

Madison

Wisconsin 53706



YOUNGLANDS  
Lake Geneva, Wis.



CAMPBELL STREET

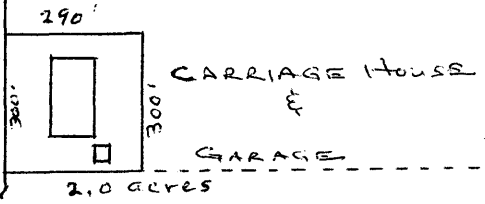
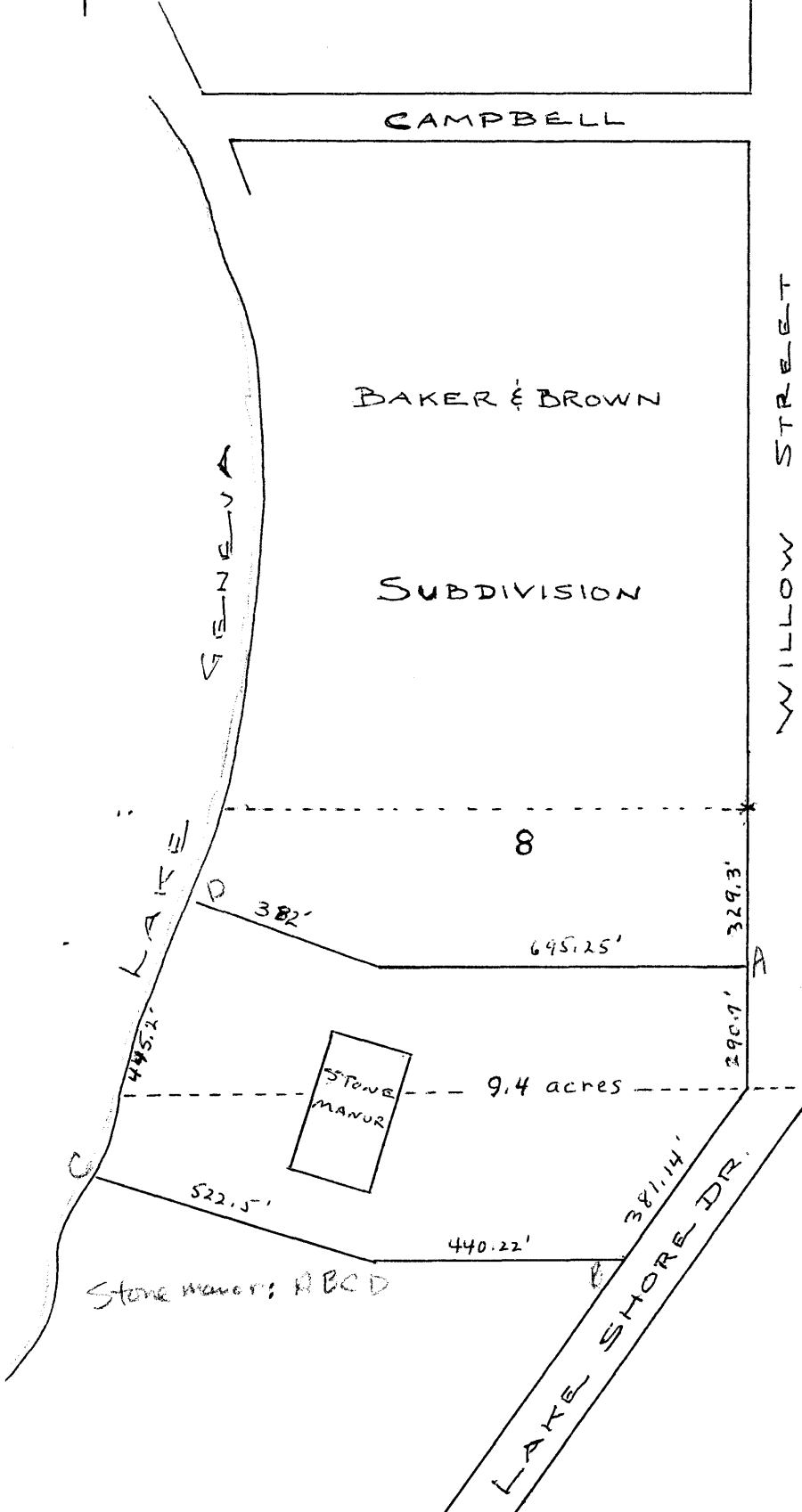
STREET

BAKER & BROWN

SUBDIVISION

Note: (See Verbal Boundary Description.) Because Lake Shore Drive is a NE-SW diagonal connector between the northern and southern segments of Willow Street, the two streets are treated as one and the same for descriptive purposes.

WILLOW STREET



T2N  
T1N