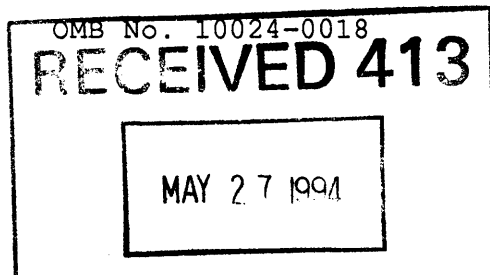


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NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)



**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 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. 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 Eagle River Stadium

other names/site number Jack O'Lantern; Eagle River Recreation Association, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 4149 Highway 70 N/A not for publication

city or town Eagle River N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Vilas code 125 zip code 54521

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 13 MAY 1994
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 certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

Eagle River Stadium
Name of Property

Vilas, Wisconsin
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the ^{file}Signature of the Keeper Date of Action property is:

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall 6/24/94

determined for the
National Register

**Entered in the
National Register**

See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.
removed from the National
Register

Other (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property (check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (check as many boxes as apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing 1	Noncontributing 2 buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	2	2 Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the property National Register
None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/
Sports Facility

Recreation and Culture/
Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Modern Movement

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation concrete
walls concrete
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 categories from criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance (Enter instructions)
Entertainment and Recreation
Engineering

A property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Period of Significance
1933-1943

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 distinctive entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Significant Dates
N/A

D Property has yielded or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Significant Person (Complete if marked above)
N/A

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure

Architect/Builder
Hanisch, Max

F a commemorative property

G less than 50 years of age and achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Eagle River Stadium
Name of Property

Vilas County, WI
County and State

previously determined eligible by
the National Register
Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 preliminary determination of
individual listing (36 CFR 67
has been requested
 previously listed in the National
Register
 designated a National Historic
Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Other
Name of repository:
Primary location of
additional data:
 State Historic
Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

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

1. 1/6 3/2/8/3/3/0 5/0/8/6/2/8/0 3. / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
2. / / / / / / / / / / 4. / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing 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 Mary Jane Hettinga, Librarian
organization Marathon County Historical Society date 2/28/93
street & number 403 McIndoe Street telephone (715) 848-6143
city or town Wausau state WI zip code 54401

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.)

name Eagle River Recreational Association
street & number 4149 Highway 70 telephone (715) 479-4858
city or town Eagle River state WI zip code 54521

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 20530.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

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National Park Service

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Section 7 Page 1 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

The Eagle River Stadium, built in 1933, is located at 4149 Highway 70, two miles east of Eagle River. Situated in the center of a five acre rectangular-shaped plot of land, the entrance faces west. Originally, entrance was from the north elevation before the additions. The only trees left on the lot border three of the sides; while the north side is open to the 437 feet of highway frontage. At the entrance, near the highway, is a large sign with a shingled roof over it that reads, "Eagle River Sports Arena and Home of Hockey Hall of Fame". The sign is placed in an oval-shaped area, landscaped with cedar shrubs and edged in rock. The north and west sides of the stadium are paved asphalt for parking. To the east, adjacent to the arena, is a covered shelter for picnics and also an open-air hockey field. Further east is a gravel road that borders the property and leads to the Jack O'Lantern estate. South, behind the stadium is a toboggan slide, a remnant of the winter sports equipment of the Jack O'Lantern estate. Ninety feet below is Taylor Lake, named in honor of Charles F. Taylor, owner of the estate. Across the highway to the north is an old farm house.

The outstanding feature of the stadium is the unique 280 foot by 180 foot elongated dome-shaped roof structure. On the exterior, the main part of the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingles. The top section of the roof is flat and is covered with seamless rubber coating and has four protruding ventilator fans. The entire roof dome rests on eight foot high concrete walls which are buttressed by concrete piers approximately 18 feet apart. Each pier measures four feet at the base and six feet in height where it

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Section 7 Page 2 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

terminates at the top of the wall. The piers are 18 inches thick. Between the piers, on both the east and west elevation of the building, are four small batten doors. The door surrounds project slightly from the wall and are topped by small gables. These doors serve as exits for the safety of the spectators. Originally, there was a tier of windows circling the entire building at the roof line. These windows were used for lighting when there was an event, but were kept covered when the building was not in use because the sunlight would melt the ice.

The interior of the stadium features the spectacular network of wood braces called a lamella truss. The lamella roof is a curved roof framed by a system of intersecting skewed arches made up of relatively short segments called lamellas. These lamellas are bolted together at an angle so that each is intersected by two adjacent lamellas at its midpoint to form a series of interlocking diamond shapes. The intersecting of arches in two directions adds to the strength and stability against horizontal forces. All joints must be carefully fitted and well tightened to prevent deformation. The stadium roof has two inch by thirteen inch wood lamellas which are bolted together to form an arch type structure. At the widest section, the segment measures 42 inches and narrows to six inches. The roof sheathing is composed of one inch by six inch tongue and groove siding.¹

The beauty of the lamella construction type is the unique and pleasing architectural appearance as well as the clear spans of great width it provides. Strung across the roof are colorful red, white and blue triangular-shaped flags. Lighting consists of thirteen incandescent lights and five double mercury lights in nine rows above the rink. Colorful advertising boards, four feet by eight feet, are mounted above the bleachers and encircle the arena. These signs add to the architecture of the arena and create a friendly atmosphere for skaters and spectators alike. Local businesses that sponsor the youth hockey teams pay for these boards. A large American flag is suspended at the south end. Four foot by four foot pieces of plexiglass mounted in extruded aluminum rails are in front of the bleachers to protect the spectators from flying hockey pucks. A broadcast booth is located in the middle section of the east bleachers. There is even an organ on an

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Section 7 Page 3 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

elevated platform, at the north end, for musical interludes between periods. At the south end of the large arena is a wide door where the teams enter.

The original stadium had a dirt floor because it was built as a multi-purpose building and not just for hockey. The original building featured seven rows of bleachers on the east and west sides. These bleachers are still present today. Originally, there were two dressing rooms under the east bleachers and a warming section for spectators under the west bleachers complete with a gas heater. Many spectators would bring their own blankets and lanterns to keep warm. They would put the lantern between their legs and then wrap the blanket around their legs. It is said that there were always a few singed blankets, with people jumping up to stomp on their blankets.

Visible from every view outside, is the 90 foot double toboggan slide. It is significant to the history of this site, because it is the only structure left from the sports equipment built prior to the stadium, that was to make this area the "Lake Placid of the Midwest".

There are two non-contributing additions attached to the stadium. A large metal addition, with gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles, is located to the rear on the west side. Built in 1989 to provide additional dressing space for the visiting teams, it is connected to the stadium by a covered passage constructed of vertically grooved plywood. On the south end of the stadium is a concrete block addition measuring 12 feet by 17 feet. This addition houses the ice grooming equipment and has a ten-foot-wide fiberboard overhead door on the south side. Two non-contributing buildings stand adjacent to the building.

On the east elevation is a free standing 20 foot by 30 foot concrete block building with a gabled asphalt covered roof. Double metal doors are on the east elevation of the structure. Next to the building are two outdoor compressors for ice making. The generator is housed in a small, flat-roofed particle board structure.

The interior of the original stadium is still largely intact, however, two large additions have been added to the front

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Section 7 Page 4 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

elevation. The first addition, in 1967, covered the original entrance and also removed the tier of windows. The second addition, in 1984, added another lobby plus the Wisconsin Hockey Hall of Fame.

In 1967, a large remodeling and expansion program was undertaken at the cost of \$100,000. New roofing had been added in 1966. The next year a new concrete base for the ice was added and a completely new lighting system and a new public address system was installed. Outside, a new enlarged parking area was created with outdoor lighting. The large addition housed a rectangular-shaped heated lobby with a poured concrete floor. The center of the room features a large concession stand with trophies on the top of the free standing walls. In addition to the concession stand, an office with two ticket windows, player locker rooms and toilet facilities were added. In the basement, beneath the lobby, is a large meeting room and two new locker rooms with showers and toilets. A storage room and two furnaces were also added at this time.²

The walls of the lobby have photos and articles relating to hockey and the stadium. There are double entrance doors of extruded aluminum to the north. Between these doors there is a glass trophy case. The south end of the lobby is open and leads to the enclosed hockey arena. The upper half of the enclosure wall consists of four foot by four foot sections of plexiglass in red wooden frames. The bottom half is particle blendex painted cobalt blue. High stools are placed in front of these plexiglas sections for viewing the game. Rounded walls of cedar paneling provide entrance halls to the bleachers. These halls start at the south end of the lobby and lead to single entrance doors into the enclosed arena. Benches, painted blue are mounted on the outer walls of the entrance halls.

Another addition, 28 feet by 50 feet, was added in 1984 to the front of the 1967 lobby.³ In this addition is the Wisconsin Hockey Hall of Fame and another lobby. The addition is of concrete block, covered with dappled brown and tan brick; the trim is in dark brown. This addition has a gabled roof with asphalt shingles, and two sets of double doors of glass and brown and anodized aluminum

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Section 7 Page 5 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

on the west side. These doors provide the main entrance to the stadium. A single door of similar type provides an exit on the east side. Adjacent to the door is a narrow single light window measuring 19-1/2 inches by six inches. The flooring in the lobby section is poured concrete and it has been covered with indoor/outdoor carpeting. The ceiling is of particle board with recessed lighting. Three narrow windows, each measuring 27 inches by 75 inches are on the north side of the lobby. Next to the entrance doors are two booths built of knotty pine. The only landscaping around the structure is a large cedar next to the entrance, and small cedar shrubs on the north side of the building.

Adjacent to the east of the 1984 lobby, is the Hockey Hall of Fame. This room is connected to the new lobby by a single glass door with an extruded aluminum frame. On the north side of this section are four banded windows similar in size to the lobby windows. This room is used as a museum for hockey. It contains framed photos on the walls and showcases full of hockey memorabilia, trophies and artifacts. The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Hockey Hall of Fame pay rent for this space.

The stadium is in good condition. The lamella roof is in excellent condition. It is a magnificent type of construction, both beautiful and practical as it accomplishes its goal of wide open spaces for spectators. None of the additions have in any way altered the lamella construction. The foundation and the buttresses which support the roof may need some reinforcements in the future. It is a unique structure that should be preserved.

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Section 8 Page 1 Eagle River Stadium
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The Eagle River Stadium is being nominated under Criteria A for its local significance to the educational and recreational development of Eagle River; under Criteria C for the unique construction of the lamella roof. The period of significance spans from 1933, the date of construction, to 1943, the National Park Service cut-off date.

Historical Significance

The Eagle River Stadium is historically significant for its long association with the development of entertainment and recreational history in the Eagle River area. The first structure of its kind in Wisconsin and the first indoor rink in Wisconsin, it is the single structure in the area that represents civic pride more than any other. It is the visual and tangible symbol that represents the coming together of an entire community in one united effort. It has become a focal point in the long, cold winters of Eagle River; a place where there are wonderful memories for almost every resident of Eagle River, whether it was participating in a sporting event or being a spectator. Eagle River is proud of its stadium. It was built, remodeled and maintained through the efforts of the entire community working together.

Historical Background

Located in northern Wisconsin, Eagle River was settled because of the early logging. The first logging in this area was started in the spring of 1858 by Joshua Fox and another man named Helms. They settled on the east shore of Eagle Lake, so named because of the large number of eagles who had nests in the adjacent forests.⁴

Tote roads were blazed northwards through the wilderness from Wausau, but the event that really opened the area was the railroad. The Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railroad arrived in 1883 and like many areas of Wisconsin, the railroad had a great impact on the settlement and development of Eagle River.

Vilas County was formed in 1893 and named after U.S. Senator William Vilas, from Madison. According to Volume II of the Vilas County Board Proceedings, in November of 1899, Vilas County was divided politically into three towns: Eagle River, Arbor Vitae and Minocqua. Eagle River comprised the easterly and northeasterly part of the county and was named the county seat by the Wisconsin legislature.⁵ Logging dominated the area from 1885 to 1900. John O'Connor is credited with being the founder of the village of Eagle

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Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

River, which was incorporated on March 9, 1921.⁶

After the logging was over, the town was similar to most logging towns and villages in northern Wisconsin. As the beauty of the area became known, more and more people made the difficult journey northward to enjoy the fishing and the lakes in the summer. Residents began relying on these "summer people" for their livelihood. During the long, cold winters the area was void of tourists.

The idea to build the stadium was conceived by Charles F. Taylor, a community leader and owner of the Jack O'Lantern estate. Hockey in Eagle River dates back to 1926, the year the local high school team called the Icelander Wasps was formed. They gained national headlines when they lost to Michigan Tech 33-0. The Icelander Wasps eventually became the Jack O'Lantern Wasps and they gained national recognition by beating the Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars three to two in the state playoffs. The credit for their win was given to C.F. "Chuck" Taylor and Gib Sanborn, general manager of the team.⁷

Taylor envisioned Eagle River as a winter sports center. He had already constructed a ski jump (with a 70 foot drop to Taylor Lake), a double toboggan slide, 90 feet above the lake (with a 60 foot return slide), and another slide run called "ash can alley". The reason it was given this name was because children used garbage can covers to slide on.

Mr. Taylor offered to locate the Wasps at his estate, the Jack O'Lantern as Taylor Lake (named by him) was adjacent to the estate and could be used for hockey games. Arrangements were made to bring guests from southern Wisconsin and Chicago on the Chicago, Northwestern Railroad. Taylor's plan was to build an enclosed stadium and to hopefully develop the area into the "Lake Placid of the Midwest". With this vision in mind, Mr. Taylor donated five wooded acres of land and bought 500 shares of stock.

The citizens of Eagle River gave Taylor's idea their support. In order to finance this undertaking stock was sold for \$25.00 a share or traded for equal labor. The small depressed community came

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together and raised \$25,000 - an overwhelming task in the days of the Great Depression.⁸

Ground was broken in November of 1932 - actually blasted as the ground was frozen solid. Taylor wanted to build the stadium during the winter because more men would be available to help with the construction. "Chuck Taylor began building the Eagle River Stadium - a sports arena that would house boxing exhibits, horseshows, circuses and hockey games. The indoor facility was the first of its kind in Wisconsin and offered more control over the winter elements."⁹

Completed in September 1933, at a cost of \$25,000, the first event held in the stadium was an eight-round boxing match between Frankie Knauer (welter weight champion of the northwest) and Nick Broglio. The 1,207 people at the first event was largest local crowd ever to witness an indoor spectacle.¹⁰ The local newspaper, the Vilas County News Register, wrote on December 8, 1933, "This is a great forward step and should be of inestimable advantage to Eagle River in particular and the northwoods in general."¹¹

Semi-pro and amateur hockey flourished in Wisconsin during the 1930s. In 1934 the Wisconsin State Amateur Hockey play-offs were held at the Eagle River Stadium. This was the first time the play-offs had ever been played in an enclosed rink. It was also the first time the teams were guaranteed \$25.00 towards expenses and the first time that eight teams entered the play-offs.

The stadium flourished for several years, but World War II brought a halt to hockey in the area. Financial woes, created by the lack of revenue from hockey, brought about the sale of the building for taxes in September of 1944. Carl Frederieics of Clintonville, Wisconsin bought the building to raze it for its material. The investors desperately tried to regain the building by borrowing money, only to have it foreclosed and sold at a sheriff's auction on February 28, 1946 to Charles F. Taylor. He renamed the stadium the Jack O'Lantern. Hockey was revived with the first game after the war being played on January 1, 1947.¹²

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Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

In 1951 Taylor sold the Jack O'Lantern to Allen Dorfman and his insurance company, American Insurance Company of Chicago. An unusual turn of events in the history of this building takes place. Allegedly, Dorfman was killed by the Mafia in 1983. It is said that the Mafia leaders were afraid that Dorfman had informed on them to avoid prison. Dorfman's first partner in the Jack O'Lantern was Jimmy Hoffa, who had admitted before the U.S. Senate Racketeering Commission that he had used the Teamsters Pension Fund for buildings at the Jack O'Lantern. Taylor Lake was dragged for Hoffa's body after his disappearance.

The Eagle River Recreation Association, known as the ERRA, was formed in 1960. The association was without stock and not for profit and was created solely for the purpose of revitalizing the stadium. A group of men, spearheaded by local business man Charles Speiss (nicknamed Mr. Eagle River), were successful in their efforts.¹³ The association purchased the stadium in 1964 from the American Insurance Company of Chicago for \$25,000. The stadium was in bad shape as Dorfman had not maintained it properly. An FHA loan taken out by ERRA helped to repair and upgrade the structure.¹⁴

Originally, the stadium had a dirt floor because it was not built solely for hockey. The building was used for prize fights, the circus and roller skating. A wooden floor was put down for roller skating; when not in use it was stored under the bleachers. Roller skating stopped in the 1950s. Hockey prevailed and because of this, a permanent 6-inch cement base was laid. Artificial ice was installed during the 1969-70 season and another two inches of cement was added. Before the use of ice grooming machines, four to six teen-agers on skates, armed with brooms and shovels, would line up and move down the ice rink, cleaning the ice between periods. The addition of the artificial ice and the purchase of a used refrigerator system from an outdoor rink in Detroit made full time hockey a reality.

Another improvement was the purchase in 1972 of two new Vilter compressors which allowed the program to include summer hockey and

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Statement of Significance

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Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

a figure skating school. The summer school hockey programs were started in 1974. Still in existence today, they offer youth an inexpensive way to learn or to improve their game. To help finance all of these programs and improvements, the ERRA held fund-raising projects. The largest one is the ERRA Youth Day Auction held each August in the stadium. Reportedly, it is the largest of its kind in the country. The sale of the advertising signs that are displayed on the walls of the arena also help to pay for the cost of maintaining the building.

The November 1980 issue of Hockey Exchange magazine called Eagle River the "Hockey Capitol of Wisconsin". "Since 1926 Eagle River has played an important part in the development of hockey at all age levels." The fact that there was an indoor arena in Eagle River made this development possible.

In 1983 the Wisconsin Hockey Hall of Fame chose Eagle River as its home because of its long history in developing and contributing to the sport, and because every team at one time or another had played in the Eagle River Stadium.¹⁵

Engineering Significance

The Eagle River Stadium is significant under Criteria C for its unique roof construction called a lamella roof. This roof form was invented in Europe in 1908 and introduced in the United States in 1926. The lamella roof is a curved roof framed by a system of intersecting skewed arches made up of relatively short segments called lamellas. These lamellas are bolted together at an angle so that each is intersected by two adjacent lamellas at its midpoint to form a series of interlocking diamond shapes. The intersecting of arches in two directions adds to the strength and stability against the horizontal forces. All joints must be carefully fitted and well tightened to prevent deformation. There were only three hockey arenas with this roof style built in the United States. Only two survive today - one in Eagle River, Wisconsin and the other in St. Louis, Missouri.

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Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

The architectural classification for the stadium is the Modern Movement. This movement, popular after the First World War, encompasses the International Style, Art Deco and Art Moderne. In America, architects no longer felt compelled to adopt past styles to present requirements. They abandoned historical eclecticism (when their clients allowed it) for what was being called the Modern Movement. It was in this architectural climate that the lamella roof was introduced in America.

The lamella roof is an example of the experimentation with structural geometry in architectural engineering. It uses a triangulated frame to create a large open span. It is possible that the lamella roof was chosen because it allowed the use of standard dimensioned lumber, readily available and relatively inexpensive in northern Wisconsin. The use of standardized lengths of lumber throughout the structure minimizing the amount of cutting and fitting on site. The structural design also allowed relatively short lengths of timber relative to the broad span of the dome and could have been constructed with relatively unskilled labor. This type of geometric structure was later refined by Buckminster Fuller in his invention of the geodesic dome.

The designer of the 1933 stadium was Max Hanisch, an architect born in Germany in 1894. He received his architectural degree in 1903 from Poly-Technikum Strelitz, Merklamburg, Germany. In 1911, Hanisch started his independent practice in Stendal, Germany. His practice included architectural design, civil engineering and general construction. He specialized in roofs and reinforced concrete ceilings, stone ceilings, extra large factory chimneys and a variety of buildings including: castles, large apartment colonies, schools, monuments, churches, opera houses, factories, exhibition halls and auditoriums.

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Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

During World War I, Hanisch worked in the war department as an architect for the largest munitions plant in Germany. He left Germany in 1923 and set up an independent practice in Detroit and Racine. In Racine, he designed apartment houses and a tabernacle. He built an airport hangar and factory in Kenosha; a masonic lodge and a factory in Oconto; a church in Suring; he also designed many dance halls, but no locations are listed.

The last known place that Hanisch worked was the Lakeside Bridge and Steel Company in Milwaukee. This was in 1931 and the above company held the patent for the interlocking roof construction known as lamella.¹⁶

The only other extant hockey stadium with a lamella roof is the St. Louis Arena at 5700 Oakland Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri. It was built in 1929 and was dedicated on September 24, 1929. It officially opened its doors on October 12, 1929, one week before the crash of the stock market. The building seats 21,000 and was built at a cost of two million dollars to rival Madison Square Garden. Originally, it was built as the home for the National Dairy Exposition for the livestock and horse and poultry shows.

In 1931, the cement floor and ice plant was installed and the first hockey game was played on December 18, 1931. The building has been home to the St. Louis Flyers, the St. Louis Eagles, the Chicago Blackhawks and the St. Louis Braves.¹⁷

The St. Louis Arena is an oval-shaped dome, measuring 475 feet by 276 feet. Like the Eagle River Stadium,, it has no posts. The St. Louis Arena still retains the tier of windows very similar to the windows originally in the Eagle River Stadium. The designer for the Missouri building was George H. Holcombe, a fair and exposition specialist.¹⁸

There have been several owners of the St. Louis Arena, one being the Ralston Purina Company; it was called the Checkerdome when they owned it. Past events have included a turtle derby, Sally Rand (the bubble dancer), Guy Lombardo and his Orchestra, and indoor sports events such as football, baseball and even motorcycle racing.

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Section 8 Page 8 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

The latest information from St. Louis is that the arena is to be razed after it reopens in 1994.¹⁹ If this should happen, the Eagle River Stadium would be the only hockey stadium left with the lamella style roof construction. This roof style produces a unique and pleasing architectural appearance as well as providing clean spans of great width. There is no seat under this roof where there is not a clear view. It is significant to the history of engineering as an example of a distinctive method of construction utilizing a geometrically stable form executed in a relatively cheap and easily worked material, a construction method that should be preserved. In addition to being unique, it is a beautiful method of using wood to gain the open view so necessary where spectators are involved.

Hockey is a team sport and like the game, the stadium is a united venture. Throughout the history of the stadium it has been operated and kept alive only through individual efforts. Without the unselfish volunteering of many people, this would never have happened; nor would it still be standing today. There were many times when it seemed that the inevitable would happen, but the community felt deeply about supporting the venture and keeping it alive. Not only has the stadium been a focal point in Eagle River, it has helped the town economically. It provides summer vacations for hundreds of children and their families. Their advertising always encourages the whole family to come to northern Wisconsin while their hockey camp participant is there. If this is not possible, several families in Eagle River open their doors to the camp participants. Residents help in many and sundry ways.

Because of the stadium, Eagle River became and continues to be, the center of hockey in the state of Wisconsin. Citizens of Eagle River take great pride in their stadium. Talk to almost any resident about the stadium and their eyes light up; everyone has their own story to tell about the stadium. One resident remembered seeing Sonja Henie in the Ice Capades; another resident remembers working there to pay for his admission. To many people in Eagle River it was, and still is today, the most exciting place to be. It is their stadium and it is filled with happy memories. It should be preserved for future generations to use and enjoy.

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Section 9 Page 1 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

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Section 10 Page 1 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

Verbal Boundary Description:

Section 35, Town 40 north, Range 10E, part of SW quarter of NW quarter.

Boundary Justification:

Encompasses property historically connected with stadium.

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Section Photos Page 1 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

Photo 1 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Aerial view

Photo 2 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Camera facing east

Photo 3 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Camera facing south

Photo 4 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Camera facing southwest

Photo 5 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Camera facing east, main entrance

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Section Photos Page 2 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

Photo 6 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
West elevation

Photo 7 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
South elevation

Photo 8 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
East elevation and hockey field

Photo 9 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
East elevation of addition

Photo 10 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Camera facing south

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Section Photos Page 3 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

Photo 11 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, lamella roof

Photo 12 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, lamella roof, facing south

Photo 13 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, close-up of lamella roof

Photo 14 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, camera facing south

Photo 15 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, north end of arena, camera facing north

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Section Photos Page 4 Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI

Photo 16 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, Wisconsin Hockey Hall of Fame

Photo 17 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, ticket booth, 1984 addition

Photo 18 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, lobby, 1967 addition

Photo 19 of 20
Eagle River Stadium
Eagle River, Vilas County, WI
Photo by Mary Jane Hettinga
October, 1992
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior, outer wall, north side of arena, camera facing south

Photo 20 of 20
St. Louis Arena, St. Louis, MO
Photo from St. Louis Arena, St. Louis, MO
No date
Front elevation