



**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 Coole Park Manor

other names/site number Chateau Madeleine; Brittany Cottages

2. Location

street & number 351 Old Fort Road

city or town LaPointe

state Wisconsin

code WI

county Ashland

N/A not for publication

N/A vicinity

code 003

zip code 54850

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]
Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

April 6, 2005
Date

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

Coolle Park Manor | Ashland | 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:)

Edson H. Beall

6/1/05

for

Signature of the Keeper

/ Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	4	3 buildings
public-local	district	2	sites
public-State	structure		1 structures
public-Federal	site		objects
	object	6	4 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)
 Domestic/single dwelling
 DOMESTIC/HOTEL

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)
 Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)
 Foundation Log
 Walls Wood

Roof Asphalt
 other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Coole Park Manor
Name of Property

Ashland
County and State

Wisconsin

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.

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1913-1920

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wilder and Wight

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Cooler Park Manor
Name of Property

Ashland
County and State

Wisconsin

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
 - Local government
 - University
 - X Other
- Name of repository:
Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, Wisconsin

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 10.5 acres

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

1 15 669146 5181410
Zone Easting Northing

3 15 669370 5181200
Zone Easting Northing

2 15 669330 5181295
Zone Easting Northing

4 15 669285 5181110
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	Debra Kellner	date	9/20/04
organization		telephone	218-727-3707
street & number	2729 South Lake Avenue	zip code	55802
city or town	Duluth	state	MN

Coole Park Manor
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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/title	Beth and Alan Fischlowitz	date	2004
organization		telephone	715-747-5023
street&number	351 Old Fort Road	zip code	54850
city or town	LaPointe	state	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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Section 7 Page 1

Coole Park Manor
Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

Coole Park Manor is located on a wooded 10.5 acre lot high on Madeline Island's southern shoreline of Lake Superior. The complex is comprised of the main house, a workshop, three cabins and formal gardens with a pergola and an enclosed croquet court. The two story wood shingle sided house has been described as a "bungalow" in newspaper articles; however, the form is more accurately identified as Vernacular, Side Gable as is described in Cultural Resources Management Vol. 2, Architecture. The main house, known as the Hull House, is moderately embellished with roof brackets at the eaves, divided light double hung windows, cedar shake siding and has a veranda and screen porch facing west, toward Lake Superior. The ancillary buildings (cabins and workshop) are comparatively more common buildings whose distinguishing characteristics are the simplicity of stylistic features.

The asymmetrical style of the Hull House displays a variety of sizes of windows on the main and second level. The majority of the windows on the south façade as well as a portion of the windows on the east façade display louvered shutters; however, the western front façade and the northern façade are without shutters. The moderately pitched side gable roof is in a parallel gable configuration, the eaves are bracketed and fanlight windows are located in the gables above the eaves. The asphalt roof contains three interior brick chimneys. The veranda is not original to the house and was added c. 1948. Blueprints indicate the main entrance would have been on the west façade accessed from a flight of stairs ascending perpendicularly from the lawn to the screened porch. The main entrance was built on the western façade, however, the stairway was originally situated alongside the house rising to the veranda. The foundation is log and is covered with horizontal flat log skirting.

The interior of the Hull House is rustic in design and detail. Hardwood floors are predominant and the walls and ceilings are almost entirely sheathed in Douglas Fir beadboard, as specified on the blueprints. The first floor of the two-story house contains an elegant living room, a dining room, kitchen, laundry, bedroom and a large screen porch that spans the westerly front façade and wraps around to the north façade. The second story is dedicated to sleeping rooms.

The ancillary buildings of Coole Park Manor are all built on cement block piers and have cedar shake siding and all have asphalt roofs except the beach cabin (Burgundy) which has a cedar shake shingle roof. The two cabins, Brittany and Normandy, were built c. 1913; Burgundy is situated on the site of the former pump house and power station and was built c. 1948. The cabins all face toward Lake Superior. The workshop is situated to the rear of the main house and faces southwest. The main road that intersects the driveway is Old Fort Road, so named for an early American Fur Trading Company fort situated about ½ mile south of Coole Park Manor. East of the building complex is the former clay tennis court which is now the croquet court that adjoins the fully restored formal garden. The garden

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Coole Park Manor
Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

was begun in 1920 and all original stonework is still in place. (Further description of the gardens is found in Section 8 – Architectural Significance).

The long winding gravel driveway passes by the formal gardens and shuffleboard court leads to the easterly facing rear façade of the house. A rustic style log ramp provides access from the driveway to the house. This ramp is not original to the house and was built in 2000. The rustic nature of this house complimented with the extensive use of interior and exterior wood visibly reflects the affluent yet casual lifestyle of its owners. The current owners use the property as a cottage resort; the main house is used as their residence and the three cabins are used for guests.

A restoration project is currently underway. The area below the deck on the primary façade is undergoing a necessary reconstruction due to the shifting on the house. Additionally, a planned renovation of a section of the screened porch will remove plate glass windows on the enclosed northwest portion of the porch and replace with casement windows that will reflect the original design of the porch. The property is in very good condition and retains a high level of architectural integrity.

Hull House – Exterior

The primary façade of the Hull House faces west toward Lake Superior. The basement area situated under the veranda is currently under restoration. Three new double hung windows with an 8/1 light pattern symmetrically span the west facing wall. The scale and configuration of these windows are complementary to the architectural style of the house. Wooden stairs rise from the basement to the veranda which was originally comprised of wood floor, and a wood banister consisting of square capped posts between two sections of crossed wood rails. The banister has been recently replaced with a rustic log design that is consistent with the style of the ramp on the east façade. The veranda extends across the west façade not fully extending to the south corner. Behind the veranda is the original screen porch that extends from the western portion of the north façade and across the west façade. A screen-door entrance is positioned mid-section of the porch. The southern portion of the screen porch is outfitted with casement style screens in a 1/1 light pattern in a ribbon configuration of four windows separated by square wooden posts. The north section of the screen porch has been altered and now displays plate glass windows that accommodates a four-season porch area on the northwest corner and north façade. The interior wall of the screen porch contains the main entrance to the house which consists of a 4x4 light door with 2x4 light sidelights each flanked with a 10/1 double hung window. A row of three sets of 5-light casement windows are located on the southern portion of this interior wall. The second story contains three sets of windows situated beneath the bracketed eaves of the Side Gable roof. The two windows on the northern portion are 8/1 double hung windows and are positioned adjacent to two sets of two 3x5 light casement windows. On the southern portion of the façade a

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Coole Park Manor
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recessed wall with gable roof faces west and contains a fanlight above an 8/1 double hung window positioned below the bracketed eaves.

The south façade reveals a striking image and displays the prominent parallel side gable roofline providing a grand perspective from ancillary site buildings, landscape and walkways. The western portion of the building is slightly recessed and contains a series of eight 4x4 light casement windows on the main level. The second level at this portion of the building is further recessed and contains two 8/1 double hung windows and a smaller 6/1 double hung window all with simple wood trim positioned under the gable. The gable at the eastern portion of the building is positioned over two sets of louvered shuttered windows, each 8/1 double hung configurations, however, differing in dimension from one another. An 8/1 window with louvered shutters is positioned between the two gables. The gables are bracketed and contain fanlight windows positioned above the eaves. The main level of this easterly portion of the building contains an asymmetrical array of windows with louvered shutters. The western most window is a 8/1 double hung with a shutter only on the east frame of the window. The central window is also an 8/1 double hung with shutters and the eastern most window contains two 8/1 double hung windows with shutters.

The east façade contains the rear entrance to the house and is accessed by a wooden ramp constructed with log rails. The asymmetrical façade consists of two 8/1 double hung windows with simple wood trim situated at the south corner of the house. Adjacent are two non-uniformly sized 8/1 double hung windows, one with louvered shutters and the other with plain wood trim. Flanking this row of windows is the rear entrance to the house. The entrance is enclosed under a shed style roofline that connects to a covered, wood shingle sided walkway leading to a garage and obscures the original exterior wall on the main level. The shed roof area, walkway, and garage are not original to the property (further discussion of garage and walkway is found later in this section). Blueprints show the original rear entrance consisted of a 2x3 light door adjacent to a 2x2 light window with plain trim. At the second level, the southern portion of the façade contains two 8/1 windows with shutters on the left and center, with the right side having plain simple wood trim. Adjacent and to the north, a section of the façade projects away from the house out and contains two 8/1 double hung windows facing south and a ribbon of three 8/1 double hung windows facing east flanked by a 3x4 light door. This modification was made c. 1948 when the sleeping porch was enclosed and the bedroom spaces were reconfigured. Adjacent and positioned farther north is another 3x4 light door and another room that projects from the original façade with a simple 1/1 window with plain wood trim.

The north façade is asymmetrical with the east portion situated on a low foundation and the west portion situated on a deep foundation with vertical wood siding and contains a 6/6 double hung window at the northwest corner. The easterly section of the main level displays a bay window that is

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Coole Park Manor
Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

not original to the house and was added in 1989 when the kitchen was converted from a commercial kitchen and repairs were necessitated. A square pilaster is positioned between the bay window and a smaller 8-light window with simple wood trim. The westerly section of the main level on this façade projects from the house and contains a east facing door flanked by a 8-light casement window, each with plain wood casing. Facing north is a series of three 8/1 double hung windows adjacent to a set of two 1/1 windows separated by a pilaster and a ribbon of four 1/1 windows. The enclosed porch area at the western section displays 5 casement windows. The second level displays the parallel gable roofline with brackets. The window configuration under the gables consists of two 8/1 double hung windows with a smaller single pane window positioned toward the center of the façade and a 8/1 double hung window is positioned between the gables. The gables each enclose a fanlight window above the eaves. All windows on the north façade are cased with plain wood.

Hull House - Interior

The Living Room is a prominent room centrally positioned in the house. Two 8/1 double hung windows are positioned on the north-facing wall of the screen porch and two 10/1 double hung windows flank the prominent doorway on the westerly-facing wall of the screen porch. A striking doorway consisting of six-light French doors with eight-light sidelights is on the southerly-facing wall which accesses a room now used as an office that, according to blueprints, was originally designed for use as a sun porch. The office displays wood floors and wood sheathed walls and ceiling and is positioned on the southern portion of the house adjacent to the living room. The westerly-facing office wall consists of a series of five elongated casement style five-light windows. The living room is fashioned with wood floors, Douglas Fir sheathed walls and ceiling. A significant feature of the living room is the fireplace that consists of buff terracotta tiles with a woodland scene. Described as "The Pines" it is a decorative frieze of press-molded tiles covered in green, blue and ochre matte glazes. The current owner of the property has determined, with the assistance of Catherine L. Futter, former Associate Curator, Department of Decorative Arts, Sculpture and Architecture, of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, that the tiles are from the Grueby Faience Company and were designed by Addison Le Boutillier, c. 1906¹. Le Boutillier, Director of Design of the Grueby Company contributed a line of tiles in 1902 that are today considered the classic Grueby tiles.² Grueby Faience Company had a large and varied catalogue of designs in place by 1909; perhaps the best know example was "The Pines"³.

¹ Montgomery, p. 6

² Montgomery, p. 55

³ ibid

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Coole Park Manor

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Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

The company was in many ways the ideal representative of the arts and crafts movement, since it successfully combined commercial and artistic interests.⁴ Grueby tiles were used in houses, hotels, stores, and railway stations throughout the country, yet, the use of tiles in the average house was limited on the account of expense⁵.

The Dining Room is situated adjacent to the Living Room and is positioned on the north side of the house east of the living room. Blueprints specify wainscot and plate rail and also notes "all rooms except dining room to be sheathed". Wainscot and plate rail is in place as well as sheathing above the plate rail. It appears the wood sheath is original to the house, as it is consistent with the Douglas fir beadboard in other rooms. Situated on the east wall is a fireplace that consists of blue and green tiles with an ocean scene consisting of a frieze depicting three ships in water surrounded by flying gulls. This scene appears to be the "ship and gulls" series that was produced by the Grueby Faience and Tile Company with Addison B. LeBoutillier as the designer.

Positioned in the easterly rear portion of the house are the kitchen, laundry room, bedroom, and bath. The kitchen has been modified: new cabinetry, countertops, flooring and a bay window has been added on the south wall. The laundry room, located on the easterly wall is depicted as the "Maid's Room" on the blueprints and displays original wood sheathed walls and currently exhibits vinyl flooring. The bathroom retains its original fixtures and the wood sheathed walls are painted white. The bedroom was actually the Hull's bedroom as it used to connect to the main first floor bathroom and had a sleeping porch. A portion of this bedroom is now used as a library and is accessed by the previously described den. The room appears to retain its original materials and character.

The centrally located stairway is a distinguishing feature of the house. It is an enclosed well, three flight configuration surrounding a bench seat against the mid-run flight of stairs and exhibits an open-string stair with square balusters and a simple handrail which leads to the second story bedrooms. Like the rest of the house, the enclosed well is wood sheathed, however in this area the sheathing is painted white. Like the main level, the six bedrooms are comprised of wood floors; wood sheathed walls and ceilings. Five of the six bedrooms are furnished with bathrooms, two of which are original to the house.

⁴ Hanks, David A. "Arts and Crafts Movement in America, 1876-1916"

⁵ LeBoutillier, A.B. "Tiles in Home Decoration"

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Coole Park Manor
Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

Garage, NC

A garage and additional apartment style space were added in 2000. The garage is located near the house on the northwest corner of the rear façade and is attached by a covered and sided walkway. This building consists of a side gable roof garage with two cross gable dormers each containing two casement windows with an 8/1 light pattern and plain trim. The garage doors are flanked with two 4-light windows with plain trim. The apartment is situated on the second level of the northwest façade. The architectural style of this addition is sympathetic with the original design of the house. While close to the main house, it does not detract from the architectural significance of the original building.

Ancillary Buildings

In addition to the main house and garage, Coole Park Manor consists of three cabins that are used for rental purposes, a workshop, and formal gardens with a new pergola. A child's playhouse has recently been added east of the workshop. It is a simple overhanging front gable building with a door and side window. The building is harmonious with the architecture of Coole Park Manor, however, is a non-contributing building. The three cabins on the property consist of Brittany, Burgundy, and Normandy. Normandy was originally built for use as a garage, Brittany was originally built for use as a laundry facility and housed the laundress, and Burgundy which was built c. 1948, is on the site of the original pump house and power station. Modifications in the buildings were made c. 1948 when the owners converted Hull House from a single residence to a resort and each of these buildings were converted to use as cabins.

Brittany, C

Brittany Cottage, the former laundry facility, is a front gable style with screen porch, with cedar shake siding and asphalt roof and is situated on a concrete pier foundation covered with vertical wood siding. The northwesterly facing front façade contains the main entrance that consists of a screen door leading to the porch and an interior wood panel door between the porch and living area. The windows are primarily in the 1/1 double hung style with simple trim. The interior consists of a living room, two bedrooms, bath, and kitchen. The horizontal pine walls are painted. The floors have been recovered with vinyl.

While the building was remodeled from its designed use, it retains enough of its original appearance to contribute to the overall architectural significance of the property.

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Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

Normandy, C

Normandy Cottage, the former garage is cross gabled and contains two double wood paneled garage doors each with 6-light windows on its northeasterly façade. The northwesterly facing main entrance contains a front porch and main the entrance that leads to the kitchen. The building has cedar shake siding and asphalt roof and is situated on a concrete pier foundation with vertical wood siding. The windows are predominantly in the 1/1 double hung style; however, a 6-light window is positioned on the western corner of the house. All windows have simple wood trim. The interior consists of a living room, bedroom, bath, and kitchen. The living room, bedroom and bath have wainscot painted walls, the kitchen displays horizontal cedar paneling and a wood floor.

While the building was remodeled from its designed use, it retains enough of its original appearance, including the garage doors, to contribute to the overall architectural significance of the property.

Burgundy, NC

Burgundy Cottage, a modern building designed by Malcolm Lein, is situated on the site of the former powerhouse. It is a two-story front gable style building situated on the shore of Lake Superior and faces west. Access to the building is by a long steep flight of stairs providing access to northerly facing doors on each level. The building has cedar shake siding and a wood shingle roof and is situated on a concrete foundation. The lower level contains a bedroom and bathroom and the upper level has a kitchen, bath, bedroom and living room. The walls are horizontal cedar paneling and the ceiling has open rafters. The floors are vinyl. Both the upper and lower levels contain sliding windows across the westerly facing front and northerly facing side façade. Awning style windows are situated on the southern façade. The doors on each level are wood panel; the lower level door contains a screen window with shutters. Burgundy has been altered and is considered non-contributing.

Work Shed, C

The work shed is a cedar shake sided front gable building with a single door on the primary façade that faces southwest. The northwesterly façade displays a row of four windows. The southeasterly façade displays a potting shed covered by a lean-to roof below the eave of the southeasterly side gable. This semi-open area was designed for garden equipment storage.

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Formal Garden and Croquet Court, C

The formal gardens are situated on the easterly portion of the property and. The gardens extend west of this structure and include statuary, fountains and stone walking paths. At the western end of the formal gardens is a croquet court. The court was historically a clay tennis court. (Further discussion of the garden features is found in the Statement of Significance).

Pergola, NC

Located at the east end of the garden is a pergola with an enclosed, central sun house. The small pavilion is designed with corner posts and screen walls and a stone floor. While this is a new feature, it replaces a historic pergola that stood in this location.

Inventory of Resources

Hull House	1913	C
Laundry/ Brittany Cottage	1913	C
Garage/ Normandy Cottage	1913	C
Workshop	1913	C
Garden	1920	C
Tennis/Croquet Court	ca. 1920	C
Burgundy Cottage	1947	NC
Playhouse	ca. 2000	NC
Garage	2000	NC
Pergola	ca. 2000	NC

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Coole Park Manor
Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

Coole Park Manor is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion C: Architecture. The property physically embodies the idyllic leisure lifestyle consciously created by the mid-western upper class as their chosen retreat residences.⁶ The Hull House was designed by the prominent mid-western architectural firm, Wilder and Wight. The period of significance begins in 1913 with the construction of the main house and its supporting outbuildings and ends in 1920 with the planning and planting of the formal gardens which completed the grounds.

Historical Background of Region

The Chequamegon region that includes Madeline Island and the Town of La Pointe has a rich history. In its earliest days, Madeline Island was the cradle of the Ojibway (Chippewa) Nation. The Ojibway left the Gulf of St. Lawrence and arrived at the Chequamegon Region around 1490 and lived there for approximately 120 years. At its peak, the Ojibway population is thought to have run as high as twenty thousand. The island was not capable of supporting such a large population and eventually the Ojibway left the area and re-settled near the Sault.⁷ In years to follow, Madeline Island became home to traders, the Members of the Society of Jesus, French explorers, voyageurs, hunters and trappers, fisherman, miners, loggers, entrepreneurs and eventually the summer tourists.⁸

Over the course of history, Madeline Island has experienced boom and bust periods that coincide with a rise and fall in population. One of the first population increases associated with tourism occurred in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1854 Madeline Island was achieving its first publicity as a summer resort as reported in an article in The New York Daily Tribune of June 26, 1854 "This [La Pointe] is certainly the most delightful situation on Lake Superior." The only accommodations available for visitors at that time was the Madeline Island House, built by the American Fur Company. Prominently located across the street from the village dock, the three-story hotel accommodated 75 guests. During the summer months it was prosperous due to the Sault Loc's opening and the wealth potential at copper and iron mines in Michigan's Upper Peninsula; both bringing men of means seeking investment.⁹ The Madeline Island House burned in 1866, and was never rebuilt, likely due to the shift of population growth to the mainland areas of Bayfield and Ashland, Wisconsin.¹⁰

⁶ Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory, Record 27392

⁷ Ross, p. 13

⁸ Ross, p. xix

⁹ Ross, 120

¹⁰ Bernstein & Canaday, 26

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Section 8 Page 2

Coole Park Manor
Town of La Pointe, Ashland County, Wisconsin

By 1870 a booming lumber industry on Lake Superior had been established. Lumbering was the biggest industry in Northern Wisconsin during this time, and, as a result, Madeline Island felt the impact of the modern industry of tourism. The communities themselves did little to promote it; rather, promotion had been given by the early visitors, railroads, and devotees of the region, many of whom had business interests nearby. In the late 1880's tour boats brought tourists from Duluth and Two Harbors, Minnesota to tour every lighthouse on the Apostle Islands.¹¹ Lighthouses on the Apostle Islands became a favorite sightseeing feature of the cruises that ran through the island group. Cruising was highly novel and exciting for the new workers arriving in the port communities where jobs were waiting. Excursion boats carrying 300 or more passengers were introduced to replace smaller ferries that were adequate for earlier traffic. This surge in tourism led to outside attempts to promote and develop Madeline Island as a resort community, however this attempt was met with modest success.¹² The Madeline Island Resort Company, based out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was incorporated November 10, 1887 and attempted to sell shares and to induce development of the area. A brochure published by this company extolled the virtues of Madeline Island and the advantages of investing there and claiming the unlimited possibilities of the island. The company proposed the development of a 5000-acre state park, which would have included the northeast end of the island. The Madeline Island Resort Company apparently never got off the ground. Another attempt to stimulate development on the island was made by the Soo Line Railroad who proposed to construct a large inn, golf course, and numerous small cottages, also to no avail.¹³

In 1894 summer residents began to arrive thus stimulating the population growth on Madeline Island.¹⁴ Rev. Edward P. Salmon, a retired minister from Beloit, Wisconsin is considered to be responsible for spurring the development of the island and introducing an affluent or "surprisingly congenial group of persons."¹⁵ He owned a significant section of land on Madeline Island which comprised of all of the lake shore frontage from 18th St. to the South Shore Road, a distance of approximately three quarters of a mile, at some points his property extended back as far as one mile. In 1897, Rev. Salmon purchased the Old Protestant Mission of 1835. The building was restored and opened in 1898 under the name of the Old Mission and was used as accommodations for guests. That same year, Rev. Salmon built a cottage on the Old Mission property for a gentleman named Colonel Frederick W. Woods, who would later also become known for his contribution to the residential development of Madeline Island. At the turn of the century, two famous rows of houses, Nebraska Row located on the shore north of the

¹¹Benton, S-2

¹²Holzhueter, 56

¹³Holzhueter, 56

¹⁴Ross, 153

¹⁵Ross, 160

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village dock and O'Brien's Row, located on the southwest shore of the island, just east of the municipal dock were developed on Madeline Island. Nebraska Row, the more famous of the two developments, was developed by Col. Woods in 1900. Like many others, Col. Woods initially came to Madeline Island to escape his affliction of hay fever. Along with Rev. Salmon, he is considered to be one of the most important individuals affecting the development of Madeline Island as a summer retreat.¹⁶ Nebraska Row is so named for the considerable number of Nebraskians that built summer homes there during the early decades of the 20th century. John O'Brien of St. Paul established O'Brien Row. He had erected a cottage along the southwest shore of the island, just east of the municipal dock. Soon thereafter, family members developed a string of cottages. Locally, this important development is known as O'Brien's Row.¹⁷ By 1906 many additional cottages were built by Rev. Salmon on the Old Mission property. The cottages were small, pre-fabricated structures which were used by many families who returned year after year. The style became known as "Mission Style" and became very popular with private owners on the island. Old Mission has had a broad and lasting impact to the summer resort aspect of Madeline Island. Many of the people, who later built private homes in other areas of the island, first came as guests to the Old Mission. Dr. A.G. Hull and his wife Cora were listed as guests of Rev. Salmon's mission in 1905 and 1906 and showed interest in purchasing land on the Island. In 1912, the Hulls purchased property from Rev. Salmon and in 1913 built their house and ancillary buildings.

The early decades of the 20th century saw a small but steady growth in the summer population. The Hulls were one of many wealthy Midwesterners who built homes on Madeline Island as a retreat from the summer heat of the Plains. The Hull House and its ancillary buildings were known as Coole Park Manor. Coole Park Manor was an exceptional example of what the summer residents from the Plains sought island life to be. Servants accompanied the Hulls to Coole Park Manor and attended their needs as well of the needs of their frequent guests. It is said by locals who still remember, that Mrs. Hull called for a formal dinner in the dining room virtually every day. (Taken from an unpublished brochure prepared by the current owners, Alan and Beth Fischlowitz).

In 1947, Coole Park Manor was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vennum of Minneapolis, Minnesota who changed the name to Chateau Madeleine and operated it as a resort. Chateau Madeleine was well known throughout the Midwest as the premier place to stay on Madeline Island. An unpublished brochure displays newspaper clippings from Omaha, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Des Moines, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Kansas City, and Chicago and from magazines such as Better Homes & Gardens, Travel, Coronet, The Bowhunter, and The Wisconsin North all hailing Chateau Madeleine as

¹⁶ Ross, 159

¹⁷ Holzheuter, 57

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a popular vacation resort and is described as: "A fine old mansion, this now is a distinctive resort operated by a Minneapolis lawyer, Thomas Vennum and his wife."

Hull House was locally prominent residence while under the ownership of the Hulls and later as a premier resort on the shores of Madeline Island while under the ownership of the Vennums and the current owners, Alan and Beth Fischlowitz who purchased the property in 1982. They continue to operate a resort under the name Brittany Cottages have carefully brought Coole Park Manor back to its formal splendor.

Architectural Significance

The architectural firm Wilder and Wight of Kansas City, Missouri City designed the Hull House as a 15-room house suitable for year-round residence. At the time it was built it was anticipated to be the most elaborate and finest building on Madeline Island.¹⁸ The rustic materials, the irregular placement of windows, the large porches, and the rambling nature of the house, mask its true size and the elaborate finishes of the interior. In its architecture it is retreat, not a city home. In addition to the house, the estate had other features to provide for the residents' comfort and services, including a garage, a laundry and a shop building. As a collection, Coole Park Manor represents the types of Northern Wisconsin retreats created by wealthy summer residents.

Madeline Island is known for its remote and rustic characteristics, rather than its manicured lawns. Historically, there has been little formal landscaping on the Island. One important and notable exception is Coole Park Manor. Elizabeth Hull, The daughter of Gregory and Cora Hull, undertook the task of designing and building the formal gardens around 1920. The Surrey School of garden design influenced Elizabeth when she developed the Coole Park Manor garden early in the 20th century. The Surrey School of garden design was developed in the 1890's by a famous English gardener Gertrude Jekyll and English architect Edwin Lutyens. Gertrude was known for the return, toward the end of the 1800's, of the "cottage" garden, featuring the use of perennials in a "painterly" style.¹⁹ The formal garden was lush with roses surrounding a new pergola with teahouse, stone walking paths a small pool and fountain. A tennis court was constructed around the same time as the gardens. Under the ownership of the Vennums, the pool was converted into a sand box, the tea house removed to make way for a

¹⁸ Ashland News, 4/30/1913.

¹⁹ The only written source used for this chapter was a brief, unpublished paper discussing the Coole Park Formal Garden, by the current property owner. This paper was written for a tour of homes that was conducted on Madeline Island.

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swingset, and the garden was over-run with ferns and daylilies. The original gardens have been recreated based on historic photos and a few pieces of the original pergola. The pool and center fountain were restored and put back into use in 1991.

The architectural firm Wilder and Wight was established in 1904. Edmund Wilder, originally from Kansas, had studied architecture in the East and returned to Kansas with his friend Thomas Wight, with whom he formed the partnership Wilder and Wight. Thomas Wight was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1874. His career in architecture began in 1891 in the prestigious office of McKim, Mead & White, of New York. McKim, Mead & White was considered to be the greatest training school for young architects in the country.²⁰ He was associated with the firm for 12 years with the exception of one year that he spent studying in Italy and Greece. His name appears on the 1922 Role of Honor in the history of McKim, Mead & White as being one of forty out of seven hundred graduates whose activities and accomplishments have made them preeminent in their profession.²¹ Thomas Wight was widely recognized as a skilled architect who combined a sense of mass and proportion evident in the many buildings he designed. He designed the First National Bank, New England National Bank and Trust Company, St. Joseph Hospital and Nurses Home, the Roman Baths, Livestock Exchange Building, William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, the Atkins Museum of Fine Arts, all in Kansas City, Missouri. He originated the idea of the Wight Courtroom Plan that was first used in his own design of the Wyandotte County Courthouse, Kansas City, Kansas.

In 1911 Thomas' younger brother William Wight joined the firm. William Wight's architectural career closely parallels that of his brother. He was born in 1882 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. When he was eighteen he went to New York and started as a draftsman for the architectural firm McKim, Mead & White. Like his brother, he traveled and studied in Europe for one year before joining his brother in Kansas City. Five years later, Edward Wilder retired and the firm was reestablished as Wight and Wight. Many of the finest buildings in Kansas City from that period bear the name Wight and Wight, who became known as one of the most prestigious architectural firms at the turn of the century in Kansas City.

Wilder and Wight were primarily known for their commercial designs, and it was uncommon for them to prepare residential drawings. In the case of the Hull House, Wilder and Wight designed a house that

²⁰ Kansas City Star, April 26, 1931.

²¹ Baldwin, 210

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is an exceptional example of architecture reflecting the northwoods vacation home for the upper class Midwesterners who made Madeline Island their retreat.

Coole Park Manor is architecturally a fine and intact example of a Northern Wisconsin summer estate. This resource compares to other properties in Northern Wisconsin – Seven Pines Lodge (Polk County), Forest Lodge (Bayfield County) and the Island of Happy Days (Barron County)—comparable examples of private rustic retreats and have been listed on the National Register. Wealthy individuals creating retreats in this region of the state built all of the above examples. In addition to a large house, the estate contained outbuildings for needed services. Coole Park Manor also has elaborate formal gardens to complete the grounds. While the property has been converted to a resort, it maintains a high degree of integrity to its period of significance.

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Photo # 1 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking NE

Photo # 2 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking NW

Photo # 3 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking S

Photo # 4 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking S

Photo # 5 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking SE

Photo # 6 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking NE

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Photo # 7 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking NW

Photo # 8 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking S

Photo # 9 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking E

Photo # 10 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking N

Photo # 11 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking NW

Photo # 12 of 17
Hull House
LaPointe, Ashland County, WI
Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View Looking W

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Photo # 13 of 17

Hull House

LaPointe, Ashland County, WI

Photo by: Paul Kellner, May, 2004

Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

View Looking E

Photo # 14 of 17

Hull House

LaPointe, Ashland County, WI

Photo by: Paul Kellner, July, 2004

Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

View Looking NE

Photo # 15 of 17

Hull House (Normandy Cottage)

LaPointe, Ashland County, WI

Photo by: Paul Kellner, July, 2004

Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

View Looking SW

Photo # 16 of 17

Hull House (Brittany Cottage)

LaPointe, Ashland County, WI

Photo by: Paul Kellner, July, 2004

Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

View Looking S

Photo # 17 of 17

Hull House (Burgundy Cottage)

LaPointe, Ashland County, WI

Photo by: Paul Kellner, July, 2004

Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

View Looking SE

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Coole Park Manor
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Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of Coole Park Manor is delineated on the accompanying map entitled "1981 Plat of Coole Park." This legally corresponds with the 1981 surveyed parcel.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the house, workshed, cottages, and landscaped grounds that historically have been part of Coole Park Manor and that retain historic integrity.

