National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

NRIS Reference Number: 01000505Date Listed: 5/15/2001Cama Beach ResortIslandWAProperty NameCountyState

<u>N/A</u>

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

∠ Signature / the Keeper

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Certification:

This is to confirm that the SHPO verifies that this *nomination* 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 the opinion of the WA SHPO, the property *meets* the National Register Criteria and is recommended for listing at the *state level* of significance. [The original nomination certification boxes were left unmarked.]

Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: 1932 - 1953.

[This period encompasses the last significant alterations made to the resort complex during the early 1950s (landscaping, stone walls, seawall. etc), and effectively marks the period "just prior to the onset of decline in the industry," as noted in the nomination narrative (Section 8.24). The extension of the period into the less than 50 year period does not require Criterion Consideration G justification since the district's most important properties and period are both greater than fifty years old.]

These revisions were confirmed with the WA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90)	
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 50° REGISTRATION FORM	HERE AND
1. Name of Property	PARK SERVICE
historic nameCama Beach Resort	
other names/site numberCama Beach Resort Historic [District
2. Location	
street & number1880 SW Camano Drive not for p	ublication
city or townCamano Island v	icinity _X
state Washington code WA county Island	
zip code98292	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic amended, I hereby certify that this <u>register</u> nomination eligibility meets the documentation standards for regist Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>National Register Criteria</u> . I recommend that this proper nationally <u>statewide</u> locally. (<u>See continue</u> comments.)	request for determination of ering properties in the National professional requirements set meets does not meet the erty be considered significant
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets does not mee (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	et the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official Date	······································
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	

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See continuation she	
determined eligible for t	che
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	Signature of Keeper Date of Action
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Came Beach Resort

___Island Co., WA__ County and State

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

____X 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.

____X_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 in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_____ F

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)

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1932 - 1950

Significant Dates 1934

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Cama	Beach	Resort

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____Island Co., WA_ County and State

Name of Property County and State
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or
more continuation sheets.)

__Cama Beach Resort_ Name of Property ____Island Co., WA_____ County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

____ previously listed in the National Register

- ____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ____ designated a National Historic Landmark
- _____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #____

____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

____ State Historic Preservation Office

- ____ Other State agency
- ____ Federal agency
- Local government
- University

X Other

Name of repository: _____Stanwood Area Historical Society, Stanwood, WA_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____38.29_____

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 _____ 3 _____
2 ____ 4 _____

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___Florence K. Lentz_____ organization_Cultural Resource Consulting_____date_November, 1999_____s street & number__107 E. 17th Ave.______telephone__509-925-3944___ city or town__Ellensburg_____state_WA__zip_code __98926_____ __Carna Beach Resort_ Name of Property ___Island Co., WA_ County and State

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Additional Documentation

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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__Cama Beach Resort_____ Name of Property __Island Co., Washington_____ County and State ____NA____ Name of Multiple Property Listing

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Cama Beach Resort, located on Camano Island in Washington's Puget Sound, is an unusually extensive and intact example of an early 20th century auto-era resort. Owned and operated continuously by one family from 1934 through 1989, the resort property has undergone very little physical change over the years. The character of the site is still defined by its dramatic topography and vegetation, its park-like landscape design, and its remarkable collection of rustic cottages and cabins. The proposed historic district encompasses approximately thirty-eight core acres of the original 500-acre resort.

Archaeologists have concluded that the present site of Cama Beach Resort may well have been used by humans for the past 11,000 years. A large fisher-hunter-gatherer shell midden site, 45IS2, occurs on the sandspit and adjacent bluffs near an old lagoon at Cama Beach. Historians have also documented Euro-American use of the site for logging in the late 19th and early 20th century. The extent and significance of subsurface cultural material has not yet been thoroughly tested at Cama Beach; therefore, this nomination focuses exclusively upon extant resources associated with the resort era. In the future, amendments to this nomination may include pre-historic and historic period archaeological sites.

Camano Island is located some fifty miles northwest of Seattle. The island is accessed by vehicular bridge from the mainland town of Stanwood. Modest farms, second-growth forests, and low-density suburban development dot the landscape. A new commercial center has recently emerged on the interior along East Camano Drive. The west side of the island is still largely rural, with scattered seasonal and year-round residential development along the forested shoreline. Access to the west side is by way of SW Camano Drive (formerly Thompson Road and, earlier, the Playground Hiway). Midway along the western shore of the island stands Cama Beach Resort. The property faces Saratoga Passage, a deep and narrow channel of Puget Sound separating Camano Island from Whidbey Island to the west.

In 1994, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission began to acquire Cama Beach Resort through purchase and donation, for preservation and adaptive use as an environmental learning center. A 434-acre parcel was renamed Cama Beach State Park. The new park boasts a wide variety of natural features, including a mile-long salt-water beach, low shoreline terraces, a

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steep bluff 80 to 180 feet in height and forested uplands. Above SW Camano Drive to the east is Cranberry Lake and a surrounding marsh and wetlands complex. Stretched along the shoreline terrace at the base of the bluff is the former resort development. It consists of informal groupings of rustic, wood-frame buildings linked by narrow gravel roads, forest paths, hand-built rock walls, and grassy open spaces.

The irregular boundary of the historic district encompasses the Y-shaped configuration of the resort's original entrance and exit roads west from SW Camano Drive. The district boundary narrows where the roads converge above the crest of the bluff, and widens again to include the loop road, the forested slope, and the entire building complex along the waterfront. Within the district are 62 contributing resources, including 50 buildings, 7 structures, 3 objects, and 2 sites. Six resources are considered non-contributing.

Overall Landscape Character

Visitors to Cama Beach Resort began their experience of its physical setting at an unobtrusive entrance off what is now SW Camano Drive. A faded sign painted on a rock marker, partially obscured by vegetation, is the only indicator of the early resort entrance. The narrow gravel in-road, now unused and overgrown with grass, winds through the dense forest to the edge of the bluff. Here it converges with the out-road, and shortly diverges again across the face of the bluff. From there the road drops down sharply to a shoreline terrace. Historic photographs show that this portion of the road was once lined with wood rail fencing, and terminated at a rustic entrance arch of sapling wood, reading "CAMA BEACH."

Both the fencing and entrance arch are no longer extant, but the drama of arrival is still strong. Here the road rounds a corner and the entire resort opens out along the waterfront. From this vantage point, the physical organization of the complex in its grand natural setting becomes evident. The resort buildings are arranged in a gentle curve that follows the shape of the shoreline terrace. To the west is the gravelly beach, and unobstructed views of Saratoga Passage and Whidbey Island in the distance. To the east is the dark forested bluff, serving as a natural backdrop. To the north is a grassy open space behind which a row of seven rustic bungalows - many now hidden by overgrown plantings - faces the beach. To the south, where the gravel road leads, is the nucleus of the complex – the resort store, offices, and gasoline pump.

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NA	
Name of Multiple Property Listing	 Z

Circulation throughout the resort complex is informal, as it was during the heyday of Cama Beach. There are no paved surfaces or hard edges. The crushed gravel road continues to the south through clusters of buildings, and eventually loops back up the bluff to rejoin the entry road. Today, the gravel road is differentiated from abutting grassy areas, but historic photos suggest that this distinction was not always quite so clear. The resort was designed to accommodate the automobile of the 1930s. Guests drove to their assigned cottages and parked their cars adjacent to their cabins. There were and still are no specified parking lots.

In addition to its natural setting and informal circulation pattern, the resort is also gently organized by a series of low rock walls built in the early 1950s. These replaced earlier wood rail fences visible in historic photos. The rock walls serve to delineate special use areas such as the horseshoe pit and community fire square, and they separate the residential bungalow and cabin zones from the arrival-departure area. Other rock features create planting beds around trees and building foundations, and define a landscaped children's play area. A poured-in-place concrete sea wall stretches the length of the waterfront. Also built in the early 1950s, the low sea wall divides the natural beach from buildings and grassy activity areas on the terrace.

Vegetation at Cama Beach remains an important aspect of its character. A thick forest of Douglas fir, Grand fir, and mature alder forms a gateway to the resort on the upland portion of the historic district, and a backdrop to the beach below. Most of this forest is second growth, although a few old-growth firs remain standing on the hillside behind the buildings. Big-leaf maple grows on the eroded bluff. Within the resort complex, the owners landscaped informally for seasonal color with ornamental shrubbery and herbaceous flowers. A garden of wild rose bushes where children played hide-and-seek still exists. Some hardy perennials such as grindelia, and self-sown annuals such as calendula, continue to sprout in clusters around the base of walls and in the rough lawn. When the resort was in operation, petunias and geraniums were planted in flower boxes at the Office-Store building and on top of rock walls.

Another aspect of the resort's informality is its minimal signage. Although some wood-painted signs from the past have been long removed, important directional signs painted on rock remain in place. These also contribute to the 1930s to 1950s period character of the district.

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Resort Buildings

Most of the buildings at Cama Beach Resort date from the first concentrated phase of its construction, from 1932 when original owner Leroy Stradley began to plan for development of the resort, until its opening to the public in May of 1934. By the early 1950s, only a small number of additional buildings and site features had been constructed. Over time, some existing structures were moved to new locations on the site and adapted to new use. Fires have also destroyed a few original buildings, most notably the large Recreation Hall in 1976.

The resort buildings are aligned along the base of the bluff or in tight rows fronting the beach. All of them are oriented toward the water, whether or not they actually front the beach. The buildings are further organized in loose clusters that still reflect the original layout and functional operations of Cama Beach.

At the heart of the complex is the administrative cluster, the nucleus of the resort. This includes the store-office, the owner's house, Cabin 28, the storehouse, and the owner's garage. Guest housing is arranged in three clusters: seven bungalows at the north end of the district, twenty-four waterfront cottages facing the shoreline at the center, and eight deluxe cabins at the south end of the site. Recreation and support buildings, including remnants of the old recreation hall, the ping-pong pen, the fire truck garage, and the machine shop, stretch along the base of the bluff behind the waterfront cottages. The boathouse and boatman's house stand at the south end of these cottages, fronting the beach.

The spare Bungalow/Craftsman character of the 1930s resort buildings is consistent throughout the district. All, except for the concrete block boathouse, are of wood construction. Gabled roofs of similar pitch, broad overhangs with exposed rafter ends, projecting (sometimes integral) front porches, vertical cedar siding, and multi-paned sash are common to all. Cabins have a unique sliding window feature: for summer ventilation, screen panels slide out of wall pockets, pushing glazed panels into opposite wall pockets. Originally roofed with cedar shakes, nearly all buildings were reroofed in the 1990s with asphalt shingles.

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District Integrity

Cama Beach Resort is a remarkably intact example of its type, unsurpassed in the state. All aspects of integrity are present in the resort complex. The property remains in its original location, its proximity to the water and to major urban centers on Puget Sound making it an attractive tourist destination. Its character-defining natural setting – including open beach, shoreline terrace, and forested bluff - has been largely unaltered since opening of the resort in 1934.

Integrity of design is present in the overall layout of the site, in the almost complete survival of original buildings, and in the lack of physical alteration or new construction. An important surviving design element is the accommodation for movement, parking, and servicing of the automobile. Original materials and workmanship, as represented by locally constructed cedar buildings, hand-built rock walls, and ornamental landscaping, are still much in evidence.

Owing to the persistence of more intangible landscape features, and to the near absence of major modifications to site plan and buildings, integrity of feeling and association remain strong. Even without people actively enjoying the beach and other areas of the site, the district evokes a powerful sense of place. The ambience of a 1930's summer at Cama Beach Resort is almost palpable.

Individual Resources

Contributing Features

Contributing Resources are those that fall within the historic period of significance (1934 – 1950), reflect the historical evolution of the resort, and illustrate the visual, functional, and associative values inherent in the complex. Contributing features are structurally intact, with strong integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

• Store/Office

Constructed 1932-1934

Single-story, gable-roofed building with projecting gabled porch. Vertical board cedar siding, asphalt shingle roof. Exposed rafter ends and plain board rake with angle ends. Stone planter box and cement ramp replace earlier wood porch, steps, and planter.

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Four-light wooden sash with window boxes. Double screened door. Sited parallel to shoreline.

Many original interior features and objects, including: spatial configuration; floor, wall, and ceiling finishes; store shelving and display counters; tools, photographs, cooking equipment, etc.

Gasoline Pump Constructed 1932-1934

> Simple frame canopy with exposed rafters, gable roof. Rock planter at north end. "Cama Beach" sign atop roof moved here from beach. Gas pump now removed for restoration, air compressor and oil drums remain on cement base.

 Waterfront Cottages (Cabins 1through 24) Constructed 1932-1934

Twenty-four of an original twenty-nine single-story, gable-roofed cottages with projecting gable roof porches. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt shingle roofing. Exposed rafter ends and plain board rake with angle ends. Double six-light wood windows with sliding screen mechanism at front. Sited in two parallel, gentle curves facing beach. Spaced to park one 1930s car between each.

Interiors include all original spatial configurations (kitchen, living/dining area, one bedroom); fir ceiling, wall, and floor finishes; built-in kitchen shelving; early fixtures and furniture.

Bungalows A, E, H, and I

Constructed 1930s, H and I relocated in winter of 1999-2000

Four of an original ten single-story, gable-roofed bungalows with integral full-width porches. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt-shingle roofing. Exposed rafter ends with plain board rake. Porches have horizontal skirting and cylindrical wood columns. Three-panel, six-light sash at front. Sited at base of wooded slope, with front porch ½ story above grade.

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Bungalows H and I threatened by mudflows in 1999. Now relocated south within cluster to footprint of bungalows B and D.

Interiors include original spatial arrangement (kitchen, living/dining area, two bedrooms, and bath); fir ceiling, wall, and floor finishes; built-in kitchen shelving; brick fireplaces; and some early fixtures and furniture.

Sea Wall

Ca. 1950

Poured-in-place concrete wall 18 to 24 inches wide across top, generally of sitting height on upland side. Creates boundary between beach and developed terrace from north to south the length of district, serves as breakwater at high tide.

Rock and Concrete Landscape Features
 Ca. 1950

Low concrete walls surfaced with large, irregular stones and deep mortar joints. Depth of 18 to 24 inches, variable height suitable for sitting. Some with higher, regularly spaced piers, others with inset wood railings. Generally serve to aid circulation or demark use areas such as campfire square, horseshoe pit, or residential zones. Rocklined concrete paths, steps, and retaining walls around owner's house and yard. Grade level rows of rocks placed around gardens, flowerbeds, and planters., and various planter areas.

Store-Office Sign
 Date uncertain

Large painted rock situated atop stone wall at base of entry road. Painted with white background, red letters. Serves to direct visitors to resort registration and check-in at store.

Flagpole

Constructed 1950s

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Metal flagpole situated just south of horseshoe pit near seawall.

• Garden and Play Area Constructed 1940s

> Landscaped area at base of entry road up against wooded bluff. Delineated along road by large rocks placed on concrete beam at grade level. Simple children's play equipment (wooden sandbox, teeter-totter, and swingset) placed amongst overgrown wild rose bushes, trees and shrubs.

Deluxe Cabins 26 and 27
 Constructed 1932-1934

Two of an original cluster of four deluxe cabins, with kitchen and bath wings at rear. Single-story, gable-roofed cottages. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt roofing. Exposed rafter ends and plain board rake with angle end. Offset gable-roofed porches with cylindrical columns. Double panel, six-light wooden window sashes. Sited up against wooded slope, with porches ½ story above grade.

Interiors spatially intact with original fir floor, ceiling, and wall finishes. Built-in kitchen shelving.

Owners' House

Constructed 1941, addition early 1950s

Single-story, gable-roofed house with rectangular footprint, and 1950s addition to north. Integral glass-enclosed porch with four-light sash. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt roof. Exposed rafter ends. Situated adjacent to office-store, but set back from public area behind low rock wall enclosing private yard.

Interior includes painted 1940s woodwork, Moderne-styled built-ins, casings, and cabinetry with beaded glass.

 Ping-Pong Pen Constructed 1932-1934

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One of an original two boat storage sheds, later converted to recreational use. Singlestory gable-roofed shed with unfinished interior. Exposed rafter ends and plain board rake with angle ends. Vertical cedar siding. Sited against wooded hillside, forming east edge of tennis court.

Interior features exposed peeled pole posts and cross-bracing at walls.

Tennis Courts Ca. 1940

Deteriorated asphalt court, wire mesh and wood post fencing recently removed.

 Fire Truck Garage Constructed 1932-1934

One of two boat storage sheds, originally situated where tennis court is now, later moved south and perpendicular to it. Single-story, gable-roofed shed, with vertical cedar siding, asphalt roofing, and exposed rafter ends. Garage doors front the gravel road toward the water. No window openings.

Machine Shop

Constructed 1930s

Single-story gable-roofed building originally built to serve as boat shop, accessed by marine railway. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt roofing, exposed rafter ends. Four-light wooden sash intact.

Boathouse

Constructed ca. 1949

Large concrete block building replaced function of earlier boathouse that burned down in 1948. Broad, shallow-pitched gable roof with wide gabled dormers north and south, asphalt roofing. Four-light sash along concrete walls and in dormers. Vertical cedar

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siding in dormers. Recent replacement of some roof trusses and alteration of water side openings.

Open interior space with wood flooring, boat racks, and wooden Cama Beach rowboats intact. Marine railway apparatus – including pulleys, cables, tracks, and overhead beams – still partially in place.

Marine Railway

Ca. 1930s, possibly rebuilt 1949

Metal tracks with concrete ties (now dismantled) entered 1949 Boathouse. Apparatus inside boathouse remains in place. Earlier site plan shows marine railway extending back past old boathouse to and between boatsheds (now ping-pong pen and fire truck garage).

Boatsman's House

Ca. 1930s

May have been moved to site from south end of waterfront cottages in the 1950s, then expanded. Single-story, gabled roofed building with asymmetrical slope. Projecting front porch. Exposed rafter ends and plain board rake with angle ends. Vertical cedar siding and asphalt roofing. Double panel, six-light sash.

 Deluxe Cabins 33 through 38 and 40 Constructed 1930s

Seven of an original row of eight cabins believed built at various times during the 1930s. Cabins 33 and 34 moved to site from south end of waterfront cottage rows around 1949. Single-story gabled-roof buildings with rear kitchen and bath wings. Projecting gable roof porches with cylindrical posts. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt roofing. Exposed rafter ends, plain board rake with angle ends. Two panel, six-light sash.

Row sited at south end of resort on narrow strip between wooded bluff and beach. Exit leg of early loop road passes between Cabins 37 and 38. Cabin 39 recently destroyed

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by fire and removed. Interiors with original spatial arrangement; fir floor, ceiling, and wall finishes; kitchen built-ins.

Deluxe Cabin 32

1930s

One of an original row of four deluxe cabins on terrace above beach. Single-story, gable-roofed building with rear kitchen and bath wing. Projecting gable roof porch with cylindrical posts. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt roofing. Exposed rafter ends, plain board rake with angle ends. Two-panel, six-light wooden sash.

Interior with original spatial arrangement; fir floor, ceiling, and wall finishes; kitchen built-ins.

"Out Traffic" Marker
 Date uncertain

Rock-painted sign placed at juncture of Y-shaped access road. Serves to direct exiting traffic out to SW Camano Drive.

In-Road and Marker

Road 1932-1934, marker date uncertain

Faded, rock-painted marker along SW Camano Drive, nearly obscured by vegetation. Serves as only signage announcing entrance to resort. In-road surfaced with packed earth and crushed rock (now overgrown with grass), 10 to 12 feet wide and crowned at center. Winds through woods to crest of bluff, converges with out-road, and traverses bluff as main loop road down to resort.

Out-Road and Marker

Road 1932-1934, marker date uncertain

Rock-painted marker along SW Camano Drive, indicating exiting traffic from resort onto highway. Out-road surfaced with packed earth and crushed rock, 10 to 12 feet wide

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and crowned at center. Winds through woods from crest of bluff where it diverges from main loop road.

Cabin 28

1932-1934

Single-story gable-roofed building attached by connecting porch to store-office. Vertical cedar siding, asphalt roofing. Exposed rafter ends, plain board rake with angle end. Two-panel, six-light sash. Served for a short time as owner's home prior to 1941, located directly behind store. Moved to current position ca. 1941 to make way for construction of current owners' house.

Storage Building
 1932-1934

Single-story gabled roof shed with full-width raised porch, two front entrances and two small four-light sashes. Vertical cedar siding and deteriorated asphalt roofing. Set back from loop road and sited adjacent to Cabin 28, part of administrative cluster.

Outhouses

Dates uncertain

Men's and women's privies with shed roofs, horizontal shiplap siding. Sited at base of wooded slope, well set back behind site of former recreation hall.

Outhouse

Date uncertain

Single privy with gabled roof, vertical cedar siding, and deteriorated wood shingle roofing. Sited on terrace behind Deluxe Cabin 38 at south end of resort.

Water Tanks

Date uncertain

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Three wooden water tanks, approximately 8 to 10 feet high, 12 feet in diameter. Two retain gable roofs. All sited on wooded bluff above bungalow cluster at north end of resort.

Non-Contributing Resources

Non-Contributing Resources are no longer structurally intact, have lost integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, or are less directly associated with the historical evolution of the resort complex.

Bungalows C, F, and G
 Constructed 1930s

Three of an original ten single-story, gable-roofed bungalows are now severely deteriorated (three others entirely removed). Roofs, full-width front porches, and some walls have collapsed. Interior features and finishes are destroyed. Sited at base of wooded bluff, all obscured by arborvitae and other overgrown vegetation.

No longer extant (and not included in resource count) are Bungalow J, destroyed by mudflow, and bungalows B and D, recently demolished and replaced with relocated bungalows H and I.

• Owners' Garage

Date uncertain

Single-car garage with shed roof, cedar siding. Set back behind Storage Building and former Recreation Hall, not accessible or visible to resort visitors.

Recreation Hall Remains
 1932-1934

Stone fireplace with brick chimney - all that remains of large Recreation Hall destroyed by fire in 1976.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cama Beach Resort, opened to the public in 1934, constitutes Washington State's most intact example of an auto-era resort complex. The property directly illustrates the early age of recreational auto travel in the state, as well as the emergence of middle-class destination vacationing. On a local level, Cama Beach Resort was the one of largest and longest-running of dozens of such familyowned fishing resorts that flourished on the waterfronts of Camano Island and Puget Sound in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. Significant under Criterion A, Cama Beach reflects the social, cultural, and commercial aspects of American recreation during this period.

With its intact collection of more than 60 contributing features, Cama Beach Resort meets Criterion C, embodying distinctive characteristics of type, period, and style. An informally designed, park-like landscape provides the setting for a superb collection of rustic architecture. Design qualities consistent with similar resort complexes built throughout the nation during these years are fully expressed at Cama Beach. Throughout the entire complex, form follows function, conveying then-current notions of comfort, domesticity, sociability, and fun.

Early 20th century vacationers were not the first humans to stay at Cama Beach. For over 11,000 years, native inhabitants visited the site for seasonal gathering of marine resources. An extensive shell midden (45IS2) underlies the shoreline terrace upon which the resort was developed in the 1930s. A testing program to determine the site's significance is soon to be conducted by the property owner, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The results of that testing may well determine Cama Beach Resort as significant under Criterion D, for having potential to yield information important in prehistory. Should this occur, an amendment to this nomination documenting significance under Criterion D, and possibly boundary adjustments, will be made.

Early Land Uses at Cama Beach

According to ethnographic accounts, Camano Island was the scene of seasonal encampments of Snohomish, Kikialos, and Bsigwigwilts tribal groups. Although exact territorial boundaries have not been established, all three groups had permanent winter villages on nearby islands and at the

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mouths of mainland rivers entering Puget Sound. Cama Beach was apparently one of several large summer clamming and fishing camps on the west shore of Camano Island.

All of these peoples depended upon salmon and shellfish as a primary source of food. The massive shell midden at Cama Beach strongly suggests the use of this locale as a primary shellfish gathering and processing area. At Cama Beach, butter clams, native littleneck clams, cockles, mussels, horse clams, and goeducks were to be found. Very likely, offshore harvest of salmon, halibut, smelt, and herring occurred in the projected bay just north of the present-day resort. Along a small, unnamed stream south of the resort complex, and at Cranberry Lake in the forested upland portion of the site, were additional opportunities for riparian and terrestrial resource procurement.

Both the Snohomish and Kikialos were party to the Treaty of Point Elliott in 1855, signing over their ancestral homelands in exchange for reservations and rights to fish and hunt in usual and accustomed places. Native use of the Camano Island gathering grounds lessened after the treaty and, by the early 1900s, few of the traditional campsites were visited by Indian families. Privatization of the land, logging operations, and resort development further restricted native people's access to the shoreline.

Non-natives people first explored Camano Island in 1792, when Lt. Whidbey of Capt. George Vancouver's expedition charted Saratoga Passage. Euro-American settlement of the island did not begin until the 1850s. A mill was established at Utsalady on the north end of the island in 1858, and around it a small community took shape. For nearly forty years, the Utsalady Mill produced milled lumber from logs harvested in the mainland river valleys of the Skagit and Stillaguamish – Camano Island was only selectively logged until the mid-1890s, when the advent of the steam donkey engine made inland area logging possible. After that, local logging camps flourished on the island. Records document eighteen separate logging operations on Camano between 1895 and 1920.

At Cama Beach, the English Logging Company established a camp in 1890, and logged the site using a steam donkey, horses, and oxen until around 1912. This camp employed thirty men, and is believed to have supplied cedar logs to local shingle mills and small sawmill operations on the island. By 1930, just prior to the development of Cama Beach Resort, remnants of English Logging's Camp 2 were noted to include a log chute, log pond, skid road, and an office. The forest had begun to grow back on the uplands, and cattle were being grazed amongst the stumps.

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All across Camano Island, agricultural land uses intensified on the logged-off lands after 1920. Subsistence farming, along with the raising of dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens, became a primary economic activity of island residents. Water-based transportation had served the island during its early history – docks at nearby Camano City and around the island facilitated the movement of people and supplies to and from the logging camps and farms. In 1910, a bridge was built from Stanwood on the mainland to the island. This development marked the advent of the auto age on Camano, and ushered in new economic opportunities for island residents in the form of tourism.

Auto-Era Vacationing

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At the close of World War One, "motoring" had captured the imagination of the American public. Affordable automobiles, inexpensive fuel, and the lure of the open road made auto touring a new form of adventure. Despite poor roads, the challenges of pathfinding, and the uncertainty of services, weekend motorists were drawn to exploring countryside previously inaccessible. Paid vacations offered city dwellers the chance to venture even further from home for summer vacations, while auto tourism allowed middle-class families access to the mountains and seashore as never before.

A well-recognized phenomenon of the early auto era was the emergence of "auto camps." The individuality of automobile travel broke from the familiar pattern of accommodation provided by the railroad hotel and the wagon road inn. Families could save money on travel simply by pitching tents at the side of the road. To better contain this trend, established communities provided municipal "auto parks" on the outskirts of town. Private property owners competed by erecting campgrounds with permanent tents on platforms, or rustic cabins with rental bedding. Through the 1920s, auto camps evolved to resemble small villages with stores, gasoline and oil services, and kitchen-equipped cabins.

During the Great Depression, recreation/entertainment was one area of national life that continued apace. Most auto camp operators not only managed to survive, but were able to make modest improvements. According to lumber, plumbing, and heating suppliers, cabin building remained a going concern, in stark contrast to other types of construction. Although reliable statistics are not available, many sources agree that auto camp, cabin camp, and tourist court businesses increased

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from around 5,000 in 1927 to between 15,000 and 20,000 in 1935. Economic hard times leveled the social strata, and the camps were patronized by all classes of people.

Auto camps at scenic destinations provided a welcome alternative to expensive resort hotels. In the Pacific Northwest, mountain lakes, seaside communities, and miles of Puget Sound shoreline provided the setting for hundreds of modest resorts. With such delightful names as Bide-a-Wee, Kozy Kamp, and Ryde-no-More Cabins, these destination facilities beckoned vacationing families with scenic views, fishing, boating, clam digging, hunting, and picnicking. Such resorts offered an escape from the pressures of the real world, along with many of the comforts and conveniences of home.

Situated within easy reach of urban centers on Puget Sound, Camano Island was an ideal location for commercial tourism during this period. Resort development on Camano Island began in the 1920s as roads to beaches around the perimeter of the island improved. A loop road eventually completed around the island was promoted as the Playground Hiway. Auto parks with tent camping sites, community kitchens, tables and benches were opened at Camano City and Mabana. By the time Cama Beach Resort opened in 1934, there were perhaps a half dozen other small resorts on the island. The local telephone directory for 1953, just prior to the onset of decline in the industry, lists fourteen island resorts still in operation.

Pioneer Beach Resort at Utsalady offered beach cabins, campgrounds, boats for rent, a store and gas pumps. Maple Grove Resort also had a store, "modern panelled" cottages fronting the water, and a boathouse providing boats and tackle. Camp Lagoon was developed in 1931 on an infilled lagoon – it eventually included fifteen cabins, a community kitchen, and a store. Madrona Beach was a residential development that offered rental cottages, a large boathouse, and a public beach. Camano Beach Resort featured furnished cabins and boats, as well as a lodge offering banquets, dances, and chicken dinners. Camp Pleasant was built in 1929 with a recreation/dance hall, cabins perched atop the bluff, and a beach trail. Manaco, or Campbell's Resort, had ten cabins, boats and a small store. Indian Beach Resort offered twenty-five cabins at \$2.50 per day. Camp Grande, begun in 1928, grew to include fifty fishermen's cabins, an outdoor kitchen for cleaning and cooking fish in pressure cookers, and a recreation hall with a juke box. Camp Grande competed directly with Cama Beach Resort, and remains partially intact today. All other Camano Island resorts have virtually disappeared.

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The two-room cabins each contain two double beds. (The camper may furnish his own bedding, or he may rent same), a Lang stove, dishes, sink with running water, cooler for food storage, and they are electrically lighted. Each cabin is screened and a plentiful supply of wood is neatly piled against the cabin. There is also a bachelor's hall, where men may rent rooms by the day or week, do their own cooking, or throw in with others for a jolly weekend fishing trip.

At present, there are 45 boats. Motors and fishing tackle are to be had also, even a large tank for storage of live bait has been provided. In fact, as one goes over the property he is impressed by its completeness as to detail. The boats are drawn out of the shed on a car, which runs on rails, the track running out to low water. From this car boats are launched or taken from the water. All buildings are matched lumber stained in natural finish.

This resort, from which the ever-present and boisterous beer signs are noticeably quiet and hospitality about it that just naturally sells itself to the weekender, and a fine road leading from Stanwood, marked by the red signboard bearing the legend "Cama Camp" will lead one to this ideal camp.

In 1938, just four years after the resort's opening, LeRoy Stradley died of appendicitis. Management of the property fell to his widow Lucy, and his daughter and son-in-law Muriel and Lee Risk. The Risks would continue to operate and improve the resort for another fifty years.

During that time, Cama Beach Resort was open to the public every year from Memorial Day in May to the first week in November. Peak visitation occurred in the summer, when families would arrive for vacations of one to two weeks. In its heyday, as many as 200 people were vacationing or working at the resort at the height of the season.

Resort guest registers document that most visitors to Cama Beach came from the immediate urban environs of Puget Sound, from the cities of Seattle, Everett, and Bellingham. Typically, family life at the resort reflected gender roles in place in the home, with women cooking, housekeeping and child-rearing, and men organizing fishing trips, piloting the wooden rental boats, and cleaning the fish. Group activities were democratically enjoyed – there were few social or economic barriers among guests, no matter whether registered in the spacious bungalows, the deluxe cabins, or the modest waterfront cottages.

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Fishing and boating were the primary recreational activities, especially in the 1930s and 1940s, when the waters of Puget Sound still teemed with fish. Families often canned or smoked the fish they caught, and were allowed to take clams they could consume during their stay at the resort. Guests had many other recreational choices at Cama, including outdoor activities such as swimming, sailing, motor-boating, water-skiing, tennis, group campfires and sing-alongs, and indoor activities such as ping-pong, dancing, movies, and card and game tables.

In the 1950s, visitation at Cama Beach Resort began a slow decline. Post-World War Two prosperity economy allowed families more choices in vacationing. Bigger and faster cars, highway expansion, and affordable gasoline all encouraged travel to more distant destinations. People acquired their own tent trailers and motorboats, and fewer families chose to spend their leisure time in the same location year after year. Changing tastes in lodging favored the well-furnished, modern motel over rustic cabins lacking toilet facilities. On Camano Island, a real estate boom gathered steam as city residents retired to enjoy a more rural lifestyle, or purchased summer homes on the water.

By the mid-1964, every other resort on Camano had gone out of business except Cama Beach. The Risk family continued to open each summer to a dwindling number of loyal customers. As the rising cost of operation threatened to close the place for good, management appealed to guests in 1988 season literature to conserve resources:

Due to complete fire damage the facilities of the Recreation hall have not been rebuilt as planned. We ask our guests to carefully use water (supply limited), fuel (double price of 1983), electricity (38% increase by P.U.D.), lumber and labor (approximately 400% minimum higher), taxes exorbitant. Cama Beach is the only resort on Camano Island. We ask guests' cooperation to lower operation cost.

When Cama Beach Resort finally closed its doors in 1989, the daughters of Muriel and Lee Risk sought to preserve the property through sale to an appropriate public entity. A number of volunteer community groups came forward to support the concept of adapting Cama Beach Resort for new use as an environmental learning center. In 1994, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission began acquiring the site through purchase and donation. In the master planning process which followed, the Risk sisters made clear their wish to continue the 55-year tradition of Cama Beach Resort as "a place where people can go to renew themselves."

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Type, Period, and Style: Landscape and Architectural Significance

During the height of its commercial success, Cama Beach Resort exemplified the finest of middleclass auto resort facilities. Cama was a destination resort that functioned as a family fishing camp. The overall design of the facility was tailored to its waterfront location and the opportunities which that created for fishing and clamming. Today, as the sole surviving resort on Camano Island and the most intact example anywhere in Washington, the property clearly reflects recreational patterns, social values, and aesthetic preferences of the early 20th century.

Typical of other auto resorts of the period, Cama Beach capitalized on its natural setting, and based its design on its best natural features. Situated at the base of a steep bluff surrounded by forest, Cama was the quintessential getaway for urban visitors. Its special character was enhanced by anticipation that built as guests left the real world, and drove slowly through the woods, dropping down to a little paradise on the beach. A rustic sign welcomed new arrivals. The entire resort faced the water, reinforcing everyone's appreciation for the resource that drew them there.

The buildings and use areas were laid out with particular regard to efficiency, with arrival and departure functions and the resort store at the nucleus. Housekeeping supplies were kept close at hand in a storehouse, and in storage rooms in the recreation hall. Sites for communal recreational activities were centrally clustered along the shoreline. The boathouse, boatsheds, and marine railway generated much activity inside and out throughout the day. The recreation hall served as an evening gathering place, with room for dances, cards, and game tables. Ping pong and tennis were accommodated in one area, and the horseshoe pit, campfire square, and children's play area in another. Housing was grouped in separate but not segregated clusters, with the most basic waterfront cottages at the heart of all the activity. The deluxe cabins and more commodious bungalows stretched out at either end of the resort, backed up against the wooded hill, affording extra privacy and quiet.

In its layout, the resort acknowledged the presence and importance of guests' automobiles. Ample space was provided for parking, and a gas pump provided for servicing guests' cars prior to departure. Still, the accommodation of the automobile in the 1930s was not the primary design

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determinant. No parking lots, pavement, or curbs interrupted the fluid, informal flow of the landscape.

Cama Beach, like other resorts of its type, was united by a common architectural theme. The familiar bungalow style well known to city dwellers was reinterpreted here in a spare, simplified manner. The repetition of gabled roof forms, exposed rafter ends, projecting porches, natural-stained cedar siding, and multi-paned wood window sash creates a rhythm of massing and form that is entirely unaltered today. Interiors, reflecting the same bare-bones quality, were furnished simply with sturdy wood furniture, cots, wood stoves, and iceboxes. Together with small-scale rockwork and other elements of landscape design, the visual character of the resort was, and is, undeniably camp-like in character, an aesthetic often identified as "rustic."

Although Cama Beach Resort was primarily built in one initial phase complete in 1934, other additions and modifications that took place over time reflect the owners' efforts to create a comfortable home for themselves, keep up with the times, and maintain a viable business. In 1941, the Risk family moved out of the cabin they occupied temporarily during the summer, and built a new house adjacent to the store. Over the years, this family home was expanded and improved with exterior landscape features designed to create some separation and symbolic privacy for the family. A major addition to the north resulted in the relocation of two deluxe cabins.

In 1949, a new, much larger boathouse was built to replace the original boathouse destroyed by fire. Boat storage was incorporated into the new building, and the old boatsheds put to new use. Boat rentals had traditionally been a big moneymaker for the resort, and management saw this activity as a critical one to continue. The size of the new boathouse necessitated the relocation of three waterfront cottages. Other changes to the complex over time included the construction of new deluxe cabins with interior bathrooms, to accommodate changing visitor expectations. No later buildings were added outside the original clusters, and all new construction continued the established rustic look in form and materials.

As an informal, designed landscape, Cama Beach Resort evolved with limited changes. Site improvements were made by the owners themselves, or by skilled local laborers, working with indigenous materials, creating features appropriately scaled to the environment. The most notable of these were the concrete sea wall, and the extensive ornamental rockwork, both dating from ca. 1950. These features served specific functions, the former to stabilize the beach, the latter to gently

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Cama Beach Re	sort
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delineate use areas. Overall, site improvements at Cama have merged successfully with the surrounding natural landscape, making the designed landscape generally consistent with 1930s natural park design as expressed in works of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

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Viewed as an integrated whole, Cama Beach Resort is a memorable landscape of defining natural features, picturesque views and vistas, narrow gravel roads, rock and concrete walls, plant materials, rock signage, green open spaces, and rustic architectural character. That no comparable examples of auto-era resort design remain in the State of Washington adds to the level of significance inherent in this remarkable property.

Since its acquisition of the property in 1994, Washington State Parks has sought to preserve the resort in its entirety while moving ahead with planning for adaptive use of Cama Beach as an environmental learning center. At the far north end of the resort complex, however, severe deterioration of the bungalow cluster has been exacerbated by unstable slope movement. In 1998, a mudslide leveled Bungalow J and, by the winter of 1999-2000, threatened to engulf adjacent bungalows H and I. To protect these relatively intact (contributing) buildings, Parks recently demolished two non-contributing bungalows B and D, and relocated H and I south to their footprints.

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Cama Beach Resort _____ Name of Property Island Co., WA _____ County and State NA

Name of Multiple Property Listing

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Cama Beach Resort Historic District lies in Section 26, Township 31 North, Range 2 East, Island County, Washington.

The Historic District boundary begins at a point 50 feet north of the original entrance to Cama Beach Resort off SW Camano Drive; runs southwest for approximately 1600 feet along a line 50 feet north of and parallel to the original in-road; turns north along the crest of the bluff for approximately 1300 feet to a point directly east of the site of collapsed Bungalow J; turns west down the bluff past the north edge of the site of collapsed Bungalow J to the edge of the water; continues generally south along the shoreline for approximately 1900 feet to the mouth of an unnamed stream on the south side of Deluxe Cabin 40; turns generally northeast along said stream until joining a line 50 feet east of and parallel to the exit road; follows said line north and east for approximately 1900 feet at a distance of 50 feet from the exit road to its junction with SW Camano Drive; continues north along the west edge of SW Camano Drive to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The historic district boundary encompasses 38.29 acres of the original 500-acre Cama Beach Resort parcel. The district includes: the sand and gravel beach, the shoreline terrace and its contributing features, the forested backdrop along the bluff, and the Y-shaped access road. This acreage represents those areas of the property that historically witnessed the most intensive use by resort visitors.

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Cama Beach Resort
Island County, WA

U. T. M. Coordinates

A.	10	536280	5332390
В.	10	536120	5332005
C.	10	536210	5331820
D.	10	536760	5332035
Ε.	10	536625	5332375

[The map labeled Cama Beach Resort Historic District, 1999 contains the correct boundary limits as described in the Verbal Boundary Description.]

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PHOTOGRAPH CAPTIONS

Cama Beach Resort Historic District Island County, Washington Photographer: Florence K. Lentz November, 1999 Negatives on File: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Photographs:

- A: Entrance road at base of bluff, first full view of Cama Beach Resort. View facing south Photo 1 of 26
- B: Rock-painted Store-Office sign at base of bluff, directing visitors to check-in.
 View facing west
 Photo 2 of 26
- C: Children's Play Area, equipment among rose garden. View facing southeast Photo 3 of 26
- D: Deluxe Cabins 26 and 27, and Owner's House View facing east Photo 4 of 26
- E: Horseshoe Pit in foreground. Left to right in background: Owner's House, Store-Office, Gasoline Pump, and Waterfront Cottages.
 View facing south Photo 5 of 26
- F: Gasoline Pump, looking north along entrance road toward the Bungalows. View facing north Photo 6 of 26

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Cama Beach Resort Name of Property Island Co., WA County and State

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- G: Front of Store-Office, looking south toward first of Waterfront Cottages, Boathouse in the distance.
 View facing south
 Photo 7 of 26
- H: View through two tiers of Waterfront Cottages, Gasoline Pump to the left View facing south Photo 8 of 26
- I: Waterfront Cottages fronting the beach View facing south Photo 9 of 26
- J: Rear of the Waterfront Cottages, with Store-Office in the distance View facing north Photo 10 of 26
- K: Site of former Recreation Hall, with stone chimney remnant (non-contributing) View facing east Photo 11 of 26
- L: Storehouse, with Store-Office and Cabin 28 to the left. View facing east Photo 12 of 26
- M: Women's Outhouse, behind former Recreation Hall View facing south Photo 13 of 26
- N: Left to right: Ping Pong Pen, Tennis Court, Fire Truck Garage, Boathouse, and rear of Waterfront Cottages.
 View facing south Photo 14 of 26
- O: Ping Pong Pen View facing south Photo 15 of 26

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NA	

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- P: Left to right: side of Waterfront Cottage, Ping Pong Pen and Tennis Court, Fire Truck Garage, and corner of Boathouse.
 View facing east Photo 16 of 26
- Q: Machine Shop, adjacent to Fire Truck Garage View facing northeast Photo 17 of 26
- R: North side of Boathouse View facing southeast Photo 18 of 26

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- S: Rear and south side of Boathouse View facing west Photo 19 of 26
- T: Boatsman's House, adjacent to Boathouse. View facing south Photo 20 of 26
- U: Deluxe Cabins 33 37. View facing south Photo 21 of 26
- V: Deluxe Cabin 34 View facing southeast Photo 22 of 26
- W: Deluxe Cabins 38 and 40, at south end of complex. View facing north Photo 23 of 26
- X: Intact Bungalow H (contributing), at north end of complex View facing north Photo 24 of 26

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NA

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Y: Bungalow cluster, building sites obscured by overgrown shrubbery View facing south Photo 25 of 26

Z: Partially collapsed Bungalow C (non-contributing) View facing northeast Photo 26 of 26





PREPARED BY LEAVENGOOD ARCHITECTS NOVEMBER, 1999

CAMA BEACH RESORT HISTORIC DISTRICT

NO LONGER EXTANT STRUCTURES

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

-BOUNDARY OF HISTORIC DISTRICT < Ref North-

EXISTING ROADWAY

LEGEND: \square





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