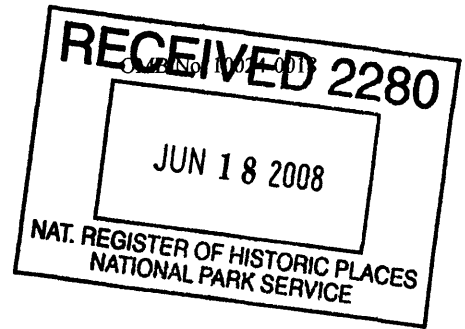


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**United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service**

**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 Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse

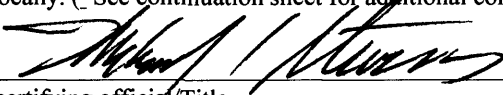
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number	7304 Campground Road	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Three Lakes	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code	WI
county	Oneida	code	085
zip code	54562		

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/17/08  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse

Oneida

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:)

*Elson H. Beall*

*8-1-08*

*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)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	District	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	Structure		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	Site		structures
	Object		objects
		1	0 total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources  
is previously listed in the National Register

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/camp

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/camp

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation WOOD

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

**Narrative Description**

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

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Name of Property

Oneida  
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

1920

### Significant Dates

1920

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Name of Property

Oneida  
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
- Other

Name of repository:

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Less than 1 acre

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

1 16 335567 5074952  
Zone Easting Northing

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

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

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

See Continuation Sheet

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

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

<b>name/title</b>	Christina Slattery and Mollie Douglas	<b>date</b>	October 2007
<b>organization</b>	Mead & Hunt, Inc.	<b>telephone</b>	608-273-6380
<b>street &amp; number</b>	6501 Watts Road	<b>zip code</b>	53719
<b>city or town</b>	Madison	<b>State</b>	WI

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Name of Property

Oneida  
County and State

Wisconsin

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

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

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

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

### Property Owner

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

<b>name/title</b>	Charles Brady	<b>date</b>	October 2007
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	651-773-3171
<b>street &amp; number</b>	7680 50 <sup>th</sup> Street N.	<b>zip code</b>	55042
<b>city or town</b>	Lake Elmo	<b>state</b>	MN

**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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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**Description**

The Marshall D. Miller Boathouse is located on Laurel Lake, part of the Three Lakes chain of lakes in northern Oneida County.<sup>1</sup> The associated house and garage, as well as the boathouse, were all originally privately owned buildings within the larger recreational complex known as the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club. The Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club is a private organization where the land is owned jointly by the primary members and individual homes built on the property are owned separately by residence. T.W. Snow built the first house on the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club in 1900, it was purchased c.1920 by Marshall D. Miller, an engineer out of Chicago, who shortly thereafter added the garage and wet boathouse. When Miller's son, Elmer, inherited the property c.1948, he was not admitted into the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club. Having purchased property on the opposite shore of Laurel Lake in October of 1947, Elmer had the house, garage, and boathouse all moved across the ice in the winter of 1948-1949.<sup>2</sup> The boathouse was placed on new pilings, but otherwise was not altered. In 1953, the property was purchased by the Brady family. The Miller Boathouse is the only resource on the property being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The integrity of the boathouse has been well maintained and the building remains historically intact (see historic photographs). The other buildings on the property have been altered and do not currently meet National Register Criteria.

The property is fairly wooded, with deciduous and coniferous trees. There is a modest slope between the main house and the shore of the lake and land access to the boathouse is by a short, five-step flight of wooden stairs that leads down to a three-foot wide, wooden walkway attached to the building. This extends along the length of the west elevation and across the north elevation. Both the lower level entry to the boathouse and the stairwell entry leading to the second story are located off the walkway on the north elevation, facing the shore and the house. A seven-foot wide dock connects to the north walkway, extending southward along the west elevation, and is separated from the western walkway and boathouse wall by an exterior boat slip. The south end of the dock extends in an L shape to the west, creating another potential exterior slip on the other side.

The Miller Boathouse is a two-story, wet boathouse measuring approximately 32.5 feet in length by 32.5 feet in width. The building has a front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The footprint of the boathouse is a simple square plan and the structure rests on wood pilings. The classic balloon frame building retains its original drop siding with corner boards. The drop siding is painted white to maintain the building's historic appearance. Exterior decoration of the boathouse is minimal.

The roof is of moderate pitch with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters on the sides (east and west

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<sup>1</sup> The historic name is attributed to the first owner and builder of the boathouse.

<sup>2</sup> Club History Committee, *History of the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club, Vol. 1* (Three Lakes, Wisc.: Three Lakes Historical Society, 1967), 4.

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

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

Section 7 Page 2

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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elevations). The window fenestration of the second story features three paired, six-light casement windows per elevation, for a total of twelve. The windows contain historic glass and retain their original wooden frames. A large square vent is situated at each gable end above the central windows.

The front (south) first-floor façade features two boat slips enclosed by original sliding door panels. Facing the boathouse from the water, the sliding door on the left is slightly larger than the door on the right. The panels are constructed of vertical boards. At each of the southwest and southeast corners are placed railroad steam locomotive lights. These were likely added by the Miller family due to their association with the railroad industry.

The side (west) wall on the first story has three symmetrically placed six-over-six double-hung windows. These retain the original glass, frames and sills, and lack screens. Detachable flowerboxes have been recently added.

The first story rear (north) elevation has a four light/two panel door at the northwest corner leading to the interior boat slips and a four light/two panel door and screen door at the northeast corner leading to the interior stairwell access for the second floor. A six-over-six double-hung window is located between both doors and is of corresponding size to the other first-story windows on the west elevation.

The first story (east) elevation lacks windows entirely. This indicates the placement and proximity of another boathouse structure adjacent to the Miller Boathouse at its previous location across the lake at the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club.

*Interior*

The first-floor interior is accessed by a door on the northwest corner of the north elevation or by boat from the front (south). The interior of the boathouse is functional and simple by design. Unfinished wood 2"x12" joists are exposed by the open ceiling and an unfinished wood deck extends around the two interior boat slips. The east slip was shortened in recent years, which resulted in a slightly wider walkway. Chain hoists used to raise the boats out of the water are believed to be original.

The second floor interior of the boathouse can be accessed through the door at the northeast corner of the north elevation and by an internal wood stairwell along the north wall that includes a simple wood railing and bead board panel. The second level is one large open recreational room. The interior walls are exposed wood, as is the floor. There is no ceiling and the room is open to the original roof truss system above. There is a bead board closet in the northeast corner and large vents at the gable ends that can be opened for ventilation.

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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While the building has been moved from its original location, it retains a high degree of integrity to its original date of construction.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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**Statement of Significance**

The Marshall D. Miller Boathouse is eligible for the National Register at the local level under *Criterion C: Architecture* as a distinctive example of an early twentieth-century wet boathouse in the Three Lakes Region and Northern Wisconsin. With its clean design, picturesque setting, original materials, and skillful workmanship, the Miller Boathouse retains a high degree of historic integrity and is a good example of twentieth-century boathouse design. The fact that it has been moved from its original location does not affect the integrity of the property, as it remains in a similar setting on the shores of the same lake and meets Criterion B consideration for moved properties. The Miller Boathouse is distinctive when compared to other boathouses in the area, which are typically smaller, one-story vernacular examples, and presents an inimitable profile on the Three Lakes chain of lakes. The period of significance for the Miller Boathouse is c.1920, corresponding to the building's construction date. With the exception of placement on new pilings, no other substantial changes were made to the boathouse at the time of its move. Therefore, the move itself does not contribute to the architectural significance of the property and is not included in the period of significance.

*Historic Overview*

The Miller Boathouse is located in Wisconsin's North Woods near the village of Three Lakes in northern Oneida County. It is situated on the banks of Laurel Lake, part of a chain of 28 lakes (the largest freshwater inland chain of lakes in the world) connecting to Eagle River in neighboring Vilas County. As early as 1860, a trading post was established on the east side of Three Lakes and Virgin Lake. The trading post served the travelers on the military road linking Fort Dearborn (Chicago), Fort Howard (Green Bay), and Fort Wilkins (Copper Harbor, Michigan), and saw an increase in traffic during the Civil War.<sup>3</sup>

The railroad and logging industry brought increased settlement to Three Lakes and Oneida County. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, seeing the potential for the exploitation of the land, came through the area in 1882. The railroad was responsible for platting the village of Three Lakes in 1884. With railroad accessibility, a greater number of logging camps were established in the area. The large market for pinewood brought the Thunder Lake Lumber Company to Three Lakes to begin logging, and the community of Three Lakes grew. By 1886, seven firms were logging east of the Village of Three Lakes. Logs were cut and floated down the Pine and Wolf rivers to sawmills in eastern Wisconsin. Two stores, two saloons, and nine homes existed in Three Lakes by 1890.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *The Pine, the Plow, and the Pioneer*, Vol. 1, *A History of Three Lakes and Clearwater Lake, Wisconsin, 1881 to 1984* (Three Lakes, Wis.: Three Lakes Historical Society, 1984), 1-3.

<sup>4</sup> *The Pine, the Plow, and the Pioneer*, Vol. 2, *A History of Three Lakes, Clearwater Lake, Gagen, Hiles and Monico, Wisconsin, 1881-1986* (Three Lakes, Wis.: Three Lakes Historical Society, 1986), 4; Club History Committee, n.p. 1967.

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Section 8 Page 2

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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Coinciding with the increase in logging, the area's natural beauty and lakes began attracting visitors to Oneida County and the greater Three Lakes area. The railroad was an important component of the development of the North Woods' tourism industry. Beginning in 1888, passenger trains brought tourists to the northern wilderness paradise and the railroad companies promoted the area to increase their passenger business. Most of the early tourists were part of fishing parties who came from all over the Midwest to fish the area's many lakes. However, not all the tourists were men, as one might conclude. Entire families journeyed to the North Woods for entertainment and relaxation, staying at resorts established by the late nineteenth century for the entire summer. However, these families quickly began purchasing land and establishing their own family lake retreats in the North Woods.

The early nineteenth century brought a transition from a logging industry landscape to a tourist landscape and new methods of transportation to reach the North West. By 1910 the area's supply of lumber had diminished and logging declined as a major industry in the North Woods, and tourism grew to become the area's main industry. Railroads, as the primary means of travel to the North Woods, faced a decline with the growth of improved road networks and the automobile. In 1911 the State Aid Road Law passed, requiring counties to layout a system of proposed highways. Road building began and Three Lakes, located on State Highway 32, was one of the first towns in the state to construct a highway in 1911. Other improved auto transportation routes near Three Lakes included the development of State Highway 51, U.S. Highway (USH) 12, and USH 45. Eventually, passenger trains could no longer compete with the automobile, which became the preferred method of transportation to the North Woods. Whatever the means of transportation for vacationers, however, the popularity and development of the North Woods as a summer home and resort area has continued to be strong from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

People from all over the United States built summer homes in the lake region of the North Woods, including the Three Lakes chain of lakes. Summer houses and boathouses on the Three Lakes chain were primarily built by people from Illinois, Milwaukee, Chicago, and St. Louis.<sup>5</sup> Construction of these lake retreats began by the early twentieth century and has continued through the present. The Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club, for instance, established themselves on the Three Lakes chain in 1898 and club members constructed a number of houses and boathouses in the early twentieth century.

*History of the Property*<sup>6</sup>

The Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club began in 1884 when a group of men, primarily from Batavia, Illinois, camped at Lake Gogebic, Michigan. At this time, the group was called the Gogebic Fishing and Shooting

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<sup>5</sup> *The Pine, the Plow, and the Pioneer*, Vol. 2, 15-16.

<sup>6</sup> Unless otherwise noted, information from this section comes from the following two sources: S.A. Campbell, ed., "History of the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club" (n.p., May 1933); and "History of the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club" (n.p., 1967), prepared by the Club History Committee. Both resources are located in the personal collection of Robert and Marjorie J. Wellington.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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Club. In 1886, the club did not return to Lake Gogebic and instead began camping on Denby Island, located between Medicine and Laurel lakes on the Three Lakes chain of lakes. The club disbanded in 1891, but by 1898 some of the original members decided to form another organization, the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club, and purchase land near Denby Island on the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes.

In 1898 the club purchased approximately 143 acres from Paul Miller, who obtained the land directly from the U.S. Government under land patent. When the club land was purchased in 1898, the property contained a log clubhouse, an icehouse, a log root cellar, and two boathouses. The clubhouse was used as a communal dining area and served as lodging for those who did not have cabins of their own. The Eagle River Dam raised the water level of the lakes and, when the club's property was surveyed in 1916, it had been reduced to approximately 60 acres. While the club owned the land itself, members built and owned the private residences, boathouses and structures located on the club's property.

The club's charter specified 20 members, but this was changed in 1903 to 25. The majority of the members in 1903 still hailed from Batavia, although others were from Chicago, Geneva, and Sugar Grove, Illinois; and St. Louis, Missouri. One member, Fred Johns, was a lumberman from Three Lakes. In the early days of the club, a special Pullman car brought members from Illinois to the North Woods.

The first cabins on the club's property were owned by the Snow, Mallory, Turner, and Jones families. The cabins were built in 1900 by railroad crews at the instruction of Mr. Snow. Boathouses were also constructed along the water's edge around this time. Early boathouses, however, were located on shore rather than over the water.

T.W. Snow built the house that would eventually be acquired by Marshall D. Miller in 1900, as one of the first cabins on club property (by 1922 there were 17 cabins on the club's property, including the Snow Cabin). When Miller purchased the cabin from Snow c.1920, it is believed that he added the garage and boathouse shortly after. The residence became a fixture of the Rod and Gun Club social scene as the centrally-located home of one of its earliest members and sixth president (1928-1943). When M.D. Miller's son and heir, Elmer Miller, was denied club membership c. 1948, the entire Miller complex – house, boathouse and garage– were moved across the frozen lake to a new location near the Laurel Thoroughfare. Although it was one of the original structures built on club property, the Miller house and boathouse are no longer physically part of the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club.

The Brady family purchased the Miller complex in 1953, acquiring the house, garage, and boathouse, as well as M.D. Miller's old launch, the "So Big," as part of the property. The property continues to be owned and enjoyed by several generations of the Brady family.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Mead & Hunt, Inc., Interview with property owner, Charles Brady, August 2007.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

*Architecture*<sup>8</sup>

Boathouses are a resource uniquely tied to the resorts and summer homes of Oneida and Vilas counties. Most late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century wet boathouses, cottages, and resorts located in northern Wisconsin were not architect-designed. These buildings were often completed by local builders and carpenters and were sometimes based on pattern books and building design guides. Just as garages were built to house automobiles, boathouses were constructed to protect boats from the elements. Boathouse construction was typically initiated in the winter with the driving of wood piles through the ice to create the building's foundation. The boathouse was then erected on the pilings.

Wet boathouses in northern Wisconsin are typically one-or-two-story frame buildings with hip or front gable roofs. Many of the boathouses are small-scale, utilitarian buildings, featuring square or rectangular floor plans and one or two bays on the front elevation.

Although examples occur where limited decorative elements of the Craftsman, Rustic, and Queen Anne styles are applied, boathouses tend to be largely vernacular in design with very little architectural style or detail. In instances where these design elements are applied to boathouses, the representative style is readily apparent in contrast to neighboring buildings. The Rustic style utilizes log or partial log construction to imitate the rustic character of log buildings constructed during the early settlement of the area. The Queen Anne style, as applied to boathouse construction, is demonstrated primarily through a prominent turret/lookout tower, wall texture variation, and architectural details. Characteristics of the Craftsman style that have been adapted to boathouse construction include broad gable or hip roofs, decorative brackets or rafters, multi-pane windows, and dormers on the roof.

The construction of larger, two-story, architecturally distinctive boathouses was most popular in north-central Wisconsin in the first half of the twentieth century.<sup>9</sup> By the 1950s, architectural pattern books of summer cabins and boathouses were largely promoting one-story, single-craft designs.<sup>10</sup> However, the 1955 pattern book, *How to Build 20 Cabins*, includes one, two-story, two-craft structure. The designs in the pattern books of the 1950s are either Rustic, using half-log siding, or functional vernacular, with little architectural detail. Both sources advocate the adaptability of their designs, providing the same design for wet or dry boathouses. Overall, the summer cabin pattern books of the 1950s with simpler boathouse

<sup>8</sup> This discussion of boathouse design and architecture has been compiled using Mead & Hunt's *Land of Silver Lakes and Streams, Survey of Resorts and Boathouses in Oneida County, Wisconsin*, report (prepared for the Wisconsin Historical Society, 1998), field surveys of boathouses in Oneida and Vilas Counties by the author, and John De Visser, *At the Water's Edge: Muskoka's Boathouses* (Toronto: Stoddard Publishing Co. Limited, 1993).

<sup>9</sup> The construction period for boathouses was determined based on the time period of recreational settlement of the area, known construction date of a number of boathouses and an assessment of the commonly used building form, materials and architectural styles.

<sup>10</sup> The following information comes from: *How to Build 20 Cabins* (New York: Arco Publishing Co., 1955), 128-139; *Summer Living* (1953), 30-31.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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designs provide little concordance with the architecturally significant boathouses in the North Woods region from the 1910s to the 1930s.

Two-story boathouses dating from the first half of the twentieth century, with upstairs living spaces, have been found to possess a higher level of architectural interest. Examples of these buildings that retain good integrity have been listed in the National Register. Due to their larger scale, the application of architectural details, although limited, is more common on these boathouses and contributes to their significance. Additionally, two-story boathouses are less prevalent than their one-story counterparts.

The Marshall D. Miller Boathouse numbers among the limited examples of two-story wet boathouses on the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes, and stands out uniquely due to its scale and design. Although they are limited, the Miller boathouse does display architectural detail in its exposed brackets, roof overhang and multi-pane windows. These details make the boathouse an example of 1920s vernacular design, and when combined with its size, they give the boathouse enough architectural interest to make it distinctive amongst its neighbors.

The eight other wet boathouses on the Three Lakes Rod and Gun Club property (including the Reay Boathouse listed in the National Register) and three additional private boathouses on Laurel Lake provide a context for evaluating the Miller Boathouse. The comparison properties are primarily one or one-and-one-half stories in height while just one other comparison property has a second story. While exposed rafters are a common architectural detail on the comparison boathouses, architectural details are limited to brackets on one example and a cupola on another. When compared to these 11 boathouses, the Miller Boathouse stands out as a distinctive two-story example of an early twentieth-century wet boathouse with elements of vernacular style and compares favorably to listed boathouses in Oneida and Vilas counties. Two boathouses on the Three Lakes chain have been listed in the National Register. The Jollywood complex (listed in 1993) is located on Big Fork Lake and features a two-story wet boathouse constructed in 1940 with elements of the Rustic style. The Reay boathouse, listed in 2003 and located on Laurel Lake, is another strong example of a two-story, large-scale boathouse with Craftsman details.

*Conclusion*

The Miller Boathouse is eligible for the National Register at the local level under *Criterion C: Architecture* as a distinctive example of an early twentieth-century, two-story wet boathouse. The boathouse retains its original design, setting, materials, and workmanship, allowing it to retain integrity and continue to convey its c.1920 construction and historical and architectural significance as a boathouse. The large-scale, upper-story living area, and clean, vernacular details demonstrate the building's architectural significance, and the Miller Boathouse is distinctive when compared to other boathouses in the area, presenting an inimitable profile on the Three Lakes Chain of Lakes.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Miller, Marshall D., Boathouse  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin

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*Criteria Consideration B*

While the 1920 boathouse was moved from its original location in 1948, it remains in a similar setting on the shores of the same lake. The change to the boathouse at the time of the move was limited to placement on new pilings, a feature that is commonly repaired and replaced within the lifespan of a boathouse. The building retains those elements that distinguish it as a good example of the boathouse type and retains good integrity to its original date of construction.

*Preservation Potential*

Boathouses have been a fixture on northern Wisconsin's lakes since the beginning of the area's summer tourism industry. These structures, located on the water, are more visible to the boater than the lake cottages or resorts on the shores. The boathouses have often served as landmarks for the generations that have enjoyed recreating on the lakes. Since 1979, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has banned the construction of new wet boathouses and placed a limitation on repairs of existing boathouses to 50 percent of the assessed value of the building under State Statute 30.121 *Regulation of boathouses and houseboats*. As a result, the amount of maintenance that can be completed on a wet boathouse over its lifetime is limited. However, under Section (2) (3g), the repair limit does not apply for boathouses with "historic or cultural value, as determined by the state historical society or a local or county historical society established under Section 44.03." Nomination of these buildings to the National Register not only recognizes their historic and cultural value, it also offers a degree of protection by allowing for their continued maintenance.

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**Verbal boundary description**

The boundary of the Marshall D. Miller Boathouse is shown as a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Marshall D. Miller Boathouse." The boundary extends 20 feet beyond the edge of the boathouse and dock on the north, east, south, and west sides. The other buildings on the property have been excluded from the historic boundary because they currently do not meet the National Register Criteria.

**Boundary justification**

The boundary of the Miller Boathouse was delineated to encompass the historic property and provide an appropriate setting.



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Miller, Marshall D. Boathouse  
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**Marshall D. Miller Boathouse  
7304 Campground Road  
Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin, 54562  
Photographer: Christina Slattery, Mead & Hunt, Inc., August 2007  
Negatives in the collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society**

*Photograph 1 of 9*

Boathouse – front and side (south and west) elevations  
View looking north

*Photograph 2 of 9*

Boathouse – front and side (south and west) elevations  
View looking north

*Photograph 3 of 9*

Boathouse – front and side (south and east) elevations  
View looking northwest

*Photograph 4 of 9*

Boathouse – side (west) elevation  
View looking east

*Photograph 5 of 9*

Boathouse – side and rear (west and north) elevations  
View looking southeast

*Photograph 6 of 9*

Boathouse – rear (north) elevation  
View looking south

*Photograph 7 of 9*

Boathouse – first floor interior  
View looking southwest

*Photograph 8 of 9*

Boathouse – second floor interior  
View looking south

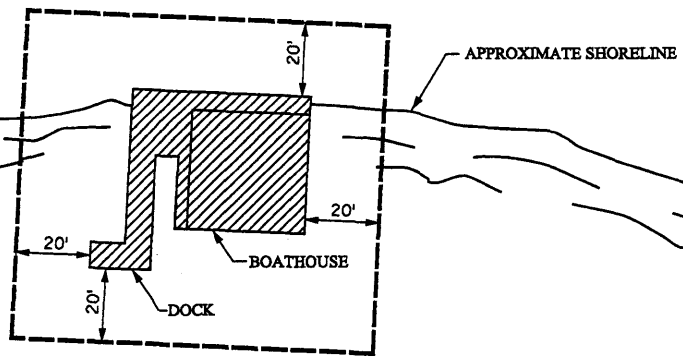
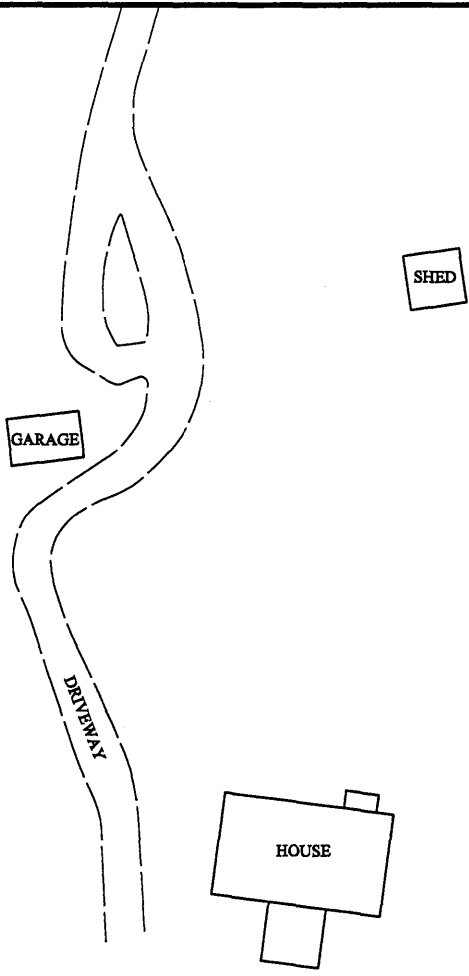
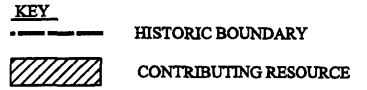
*Photograph 9 of 9*

Boathouse – second floor interior  
View looking east

1941 PHOTOGRAPH  
REAY AND JARCHOWWELLINGTON BOATHOUSE  
TOWN OF THREE LAKES  
ONEIDA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

*taken 1941*





LAUREL LAKE

Figure #2: MARSHALL D. MILLER BOATHOUSE

7304 CAMPGROUND ROAD  
TOWN OF THREE LAKES  
ONEIDA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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