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United States Department of the 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Stevens, I. W. Lakeside Cottage

Other names/site number Hines Island, Williams Island, Pine Cove

2. Location

street & number Williams Island not for publication

city or town Namakan Lake, Unorganized Territory, Voyageurs National Park vicinity

State Minnesota code MN county St. Louis code 137 zip code 55771

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Adrian L. Matts May 3, 2011
Signature of certifying official Date
Designated FPO, National Park Service
Title State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Britta L. Bloomberg 5/12/10
Signature of commenting official Date
Britta L. Bloomberg, Deputy SHPO, Minnesota Historical Society
Title State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Love
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall 6-15-11
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	private

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
		objects
7	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

Tourism and Recreational Facilities in Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-1950

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic

Single Dwelling, Camp

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape

National Park

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

Movements

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone, Concrete

walls: Log

Asphalt and wood shingles

roof: Asphalt shingles, rolled asphalt

other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage is located on the protruding peninsula of Williams Island in Namakan Lake within Voyageurs National Park. The contributing features of the property include four buildings (Mr. Stevens' house, a log cabin, the sauna, and a generator shed), a root cellar, and one contributing site. A number of ruins or deteriorated buildings were removed from the property in 2003, including the boathouse, "new" cabin, honeymoon cabin, woodshed and three privies.

The cultural landscape at the I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage includes character defining features that help to convey the historic atmosphere of the site. The careful placement of the buildings, garden, and other landscape features to emphasize views of the lake as well as the privacy afforded by the remote location contribute to the historic character of the property. Landscape character defining features include the foundations of nine structures, the dock site, topography, views, and the garden.

Narrative Description
See Continuation Sheets.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

County and State

**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950**

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

The I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage is located on the protruding peninsula of a remote island in Namakan Lake within Voyageurs National Park. The contributing features of the property include four buildings (Mr. Stevens' house, a log cabin, the sauna, and a generator shed), a root cellar, and one contributing site. A number of ruins or deteriorated buildings were removed from the property in 2003, including the boathouse, "new" cabin, honeymoon cabin, woodshed and three privies.

The cultural landscape at the I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage includes character defining features that help to convey the historic atmosphere of the site. The careful placement of the buildings, garden, and other landscape features to emphasize views of the lake as well as the privacy afforded by the remote location contribute to the historic character of the property. Landscape character defining features include the foundations of nine structures, the dock site, topography, views, and the garden.

Buildings (4 contributing)

Stevens House (before 1931)

I. W. Stevens remodeled one of the tarpaper shacks of the former Virginia and Rainy Lake headquarters after he purchased the property in the early 1930s. The extant one-story wood-framed building is 27' by 30' and encompasses about 810 square feet; it has a square enclosed shed on the rear elevation. The foundation is stone with the exception of the shed addition which rests on concrete block piers. The walls are covered with green aggregate asphalt shingles. The hipped roof has exposed rafter tails and is covered with red asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is centered in the roof toward the rear of the structure. To either side of the (missing) entry door on the front elevation are two sets of paired awning-style six-light wood windows. The first bay of each of the adjoining elevations has a triple set of awning-style six-light wood windows. The rear bays of the side elevations have double-hung wood windows (historic photos show these were six-over-six windows, but most of the muntins are now missing). The rear elevation has a paired double-hung wood window (originally three-over-one lights) and a fixed rectangular wood window (originally side-by-side four light casements). The shed addition has a rectangular fixed window on the rear elevation (originally side-by-side four light casements) and a diamond shaped window at the top of the gable. The side elevation of the shed has a five-paneled wood door. A number of the window sash are missing, although some of the front and side elevation windows still have screens. The shed addition has milled lumber steps resting on a concrete foundation. The interior is divided into four rooms, including a living room, kitchen, and bedroom. The kitchen has an arched doorway.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota
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**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950**
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 2

Sauna

The sauna was constructed around 1935 and is located east of the main house. It was built by Waino and Toivo Lahti. It is a simple square building resting on a stone foundation with concrete steps at the front door. The walls are peeled round spruce logs with dovetailed corner notching. The hipped roof is covered with green asphalt roll roofing and has exposed rafter ends. A metal exhaust pipe protrudes from one side of the roof. The building has a vertical wood door with metal strap hinges, and a fixed side-by-side wood framed window on the adjoining elevation. The door and window trim is painted red.

Pine Cove Log Cabin

The log cabin was constructed in 1936 by I. W. Stevens with assistance from Waino and Eino Lahti and is located at the northwesternmost point of the peninsula. It is a rectangular building measuring 22' by 16' encompassing 352 square feet. It rests on stone piers. The walls are peeled round spruce logs with dovetailed corner notching with green asphalt shingles in the gables. The front gabled roof is covered with red asphalt three-tab shingles and has exposed rafter tails. A brick chimney is located to one side of the roof ridge in the center of the cabin. The north elevation has a full length porch integrated under the roof gable of similar construction to the rest of the cabin, including stone piers and log half walls with log posts framing the openings (the openings were formerly screened), and a milled lumber landing and steps resting on a concrete lower landing. The north elevation has a five-paneled wood door centered on the porch flanked by two window openings. These and the window openings on the other elevations have been boarded up but historic photographs show what appear to be multi-light wood casement windows. The interior is divided into a living room and kitchen at the front and two bedrooms at the back.

Generator Shed

The generator shed, also called the Light Plant, was constructed in 1945 north of the main house. It is a one-story gable-roofed rectangular structure on a poured concrete foundation. The walls are covered with hexagonal red asphalt shingles, with similarly shaped asphalt shingles in the gables. The roof is covered with red asphalt roll roofing and has exposed rafter tails. There is a wood door on one end and one rectangular window opening on each of the remaining elevations. The windows formerly had 3/3 wood sash but these are missing or deteriorated. There is a brick chimney at one end.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

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**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
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1950**

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 3

Cultural Landscape (1 contributing site)

The cultural landscape at the I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage includes character defining features that help to convey the historic atmosphere of the site. The careful placement of the buildings, garden, and other landscape features to emphasize views of the lake as well as the privacy afforded by the remote location contribute to the historic character of the property. Landscape character defining features include:

Building and Structure Foundations

Although the buildings are no longer extant, the cement foundations of several buildings mark their locations and help visitors to visualize the overall complex as it existed during Stevens' tenure. Included are the foundations of the "Honeymoon" cabin, "new" cabin, motor shed, boathouse, woodshed, two privies, and three small structures located near the Sauna including a fish cleaning house and a privy.

Dock Site

The site of the dock includes an inlet on the northwest side of the island. A cement pad that may have served as an abutment for the dock remains at the site.

Topography

A low area extends to the southeast from the dock site. The area is level and close to the lake water level. It may have served as a work area for various chores during Stevens' occupation of the site. From this area the grade slopes up on the north and south. The higher elevations were utilized for building sites. A rock outcrop defined the southwestern side of the low area, sloping steeply and creating a ridge upon which the "light plant" was constructed.

Views

Unlike resort properties that claim the best views for the owners, Stevens' home is nestled on the island in a fairly protected location. His year-round occupancy of the site would have required some protection from bitter winter winds. The resort cabins were sited to provide maximum views of the water.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota
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**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 4

Garden

Stevens' garden was an important component to Stevens' life on the island. Although he attempted to grow a variety of vegetables, the harsh conditions and hungry deer were constantly working against him. His journal dedicates many passages to his suffering due to his garden. The garden site was north of the island where he lived, requiring a very short boat trip to reach it in the summer. The land he cleared and planted was visible from his home. He attempted several fence structures to help protect the garden from wildlife. Although the area is mostly overgrown, a small opening in the woods near the shore can still be discerned and there are remnant fence posts and fencing at the garden.

Structures (1 contributing)

Root cellar

The extant root cellar is one that was improved upon several times by Stevens. In his journal, Stevens wrote of the importance of the root cellar to his winter existence. His difficulties with creating an effective and long lasting structure were noted. The structure present today is a large earth-walled structure built partially into the side of the hill southeast of his house. It has been reinforced with stone retaining walls on the exterior (possibly to help prevent erosion). Logs support the door opening.

The site is presently unused. Voyageurs National Park has identified the I.W. Stevens property as one of fourteen visitor destinations and plans to develop the property with visitor amenities and interpretive media to educate visitors on the history of the area.

Fireplace

A large stone fireplace is situated on the crest of the hill between the generator shed (light plant) and the Pine Cove log building. The fireplace was constructed by the V&RL company during their tenure at the site. The fireplace consists of a six-foot by nine-foot rectangular mortared stone structure standing six-foot, nine-inches high. It has a mortared stone cap, and a brick firebox that is five-foot wide, three-foot high, and thirty inches deep.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1932-1979

Significant Dates

1932

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Stevens, I. W.

Lahti, Waino and Eino

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance commences with the Mr. Stevens' purchase of the property and remodeling of one of the tarpaper shacks into his residence. It continues through 1979, when he left the island, and encompasses the continued improvements and alterations he made throughout his tenure.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The I. W. Stevens property qualifies as a Lakeside Cottage under the registration requirements of the "Tourism and Recreational Properties in Voyageurs National Park, 1880-1950" Multiple Property Documentation Form. It meets the registration requirements at the local level of significance under Criterion A (Area of Significance: Recreation/Entertainment) for its representation of a lakeside cottage complex in Voyageurs National Park.

The I. W. Stevens property meets the following registration requirements: It retains the main summer home in its original location; it was constructed between 1880 and 1950 and conforms to the historic characteristics of the property; and associated outbuildings and landscape features that are present from the period of significance relate to the historic use of the property. The Stevens property retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, location, and setting.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See Continuation Sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (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
X Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository: Voyageurs National Park

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.837 acres
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: ID, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1 garden 15, 518848E, 5365498N, 3 SE 15, 518696E, 5365375N. Row 2: 2 NE 15, 518760E, 5365461N, 4, Easting, Northing.

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The portion of Voyageurs National Park within Section 22, Township 69 North, Range 19 West, Fourth Principal Meridian, illustrated in the attached Vicinity Map and Site Plan. The property is located on portions of two islands in Namakan Lake. The property includes the garden (zone 3) and all of the land area extending from a line between the southeast corner and the northeast corner, extending to the north and west, to the edge of the water.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary reflects the area that retains integrity related to the historic significance of the property.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title **Brenda W. Williams, Historical Landscape Architect and Ruth E. Mills, Architectural Historian**organization **Quinn Evans | Architects**date **February 2010**street & number **1037 Sherman Avenue**telephone **734-926-0419**city or town **Madison**state **WI**zip code **53703**e-mail **bwilliams@quinnevens.com****Additional Documentation****• Maps:**

- Map 1: Location of I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage within Voyageurs National Park
- Map 2: Vicinity, I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
- Map 3: Boundary of Historic Site, I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
- Map 4: Site Plan, I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
- Map 5: Photograph locations, I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

• Continuation Sheets

- Section 7
- Section 8
- Section 9

• Additional items:

- List of Photographs

Photographs:

- **Photographs: 15 prints**

See Continuation Sheets and sketch map.

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

County and State

**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950**

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

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The I. W. Stevens property qualifies as a Lakeside Cottage under the registration requirements of the "Tourism and Recreational Properties in Voyageurs National Park, 1880-1950" Multiple Property Documentation Form. It meets the registration requirements at the local level of significance under Criterion A (Area of Significance: Recreation/Entertainment) for its representation of a lakeside cottage complex in Voyageurs National Park.

The I. W. Stevens property meets the following registration requirements: It retains the main summer home in its original location; it was constructed between 1880 and 1950 and conforms to the historic characteristics of the property; and associated outbuildings and landscape features that are present from the period of significance relate to the historic use of the property. The Stevens property retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, location, and setting.

Prior to the construction of I.W. Stevens' lakeside cottage, Williams Island was owned by the Virginia & Rainy Lake Company. Logging in the future Voyageurs National Park region had begun in earnest in the first few decades of the twentieth century, although in the early years the industry was confined to transporting timber cut in the area by water. The completion of a rail line linking Virginia, Minnesota and Fort Frances, Ontario in 1907 signaled the opening of full scale logging in the Voyageurs region. One of the dominant operations in the region was the Virginia & Rainy Lake Company, based out of Cusson, Minnesota. By 1909, the company was fully engaged in extracting white pine timber from northern St. Louis County.

Sometime in the early decades of the twentieth century, the company built a "headquarters" on a small peninsula of land located on an island in Namakan Lake. The island, variously known as Hines or Williams Island after the officers of the company, was about 400 acres. The camp consisted of thirteen tar paper shacks and a 49 foot tarpaper lodge. The white and Norway pines on the island were saved from the loggers' axes that decimated the pine forests of the area. Lumber buyers came from the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago to inspect the operation and stayed at the headquarters camp. By the late 1920s, the Virginia & Rainy Lake Company was winding up its operations in the northern border lakes, and began liquidating its property. Although most camps were dismantled, the tarpaper shacks of the headquarters camp were left for their next owner.¹

In 1932, Ingvald Walter Stevens purchased the island. Stevens, born in 1885, was a native of Norway who had first come to America around 1904. After working in various places, including North Dakota and southern Minnesota, Stevens settled in Hibbing for 13 years, working as the shoe department manager of the Itasca Bazaar Company.² A bout with ulcers convinced Stevens that he should spend some time relaxing, and he looked towards the lakeshore of northern Minnesota, where he had previously vacationed. Stevens contacted the

¹ Mary Lou Pearson, "Oral History Interview with Ingvald Walter Stevens," June 24, 1976.

² Obituary, I. W. Stevens. Newspaper clipping, ca. 1989, no publication or date.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

County and State

Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 2

Virginia and Rainy Lake Company, who showed him a number of properties they had for sale. He chose the former headquarters property, and bought the 400 acre island for \$1500.³ According to his diary, Stevens arrived at his new property on May 3rd of 1932, and immediately set about remodeling one of the shacks as his residence.⁴

When Stevens arrived at what he came to call Pine Cove, or Pine Covia, recreational tourism to the northern border lakes was in full swing. Recreational travel to the northern areas of Minnesota had begun as early as the 1880s, but in those early years the lack of transportation and affordable facilities for visitors had limited tourism to wealthy tourists and outdoor adventurers attracted by the area's remoteness and opportunities for fishing and hunting. These visitors generally built their own seasonal cottages and estates, or patronized the few small-scale lodges and resorts that catered to them. As time progressed, better transportation routes and changing demographics in the country began bringing greater numbers of middle-class tourist to the area. Lakeside cottage owners usually arrived in the northern border lakes from Midwestern cities and towns to experience the remoteness and relaxation afforded by the natural environment of the area. The cottage sites they occupied were usually small and typically consisted of a few acres with a cabin located on a breezy point facing the lake, tucked in among the trees. Access to the early lakeside cottages was chiefly by water, although later improvements and extensions to the roads brought increasing numbers of automobile tourists to mainland areas.

In his early years on the island, Stevens also took advantage of the growing resort trade in the area to construct a couple of vacation cabins on his island. Like his fellow resort owners at Monson's Hoist Bay and Meadwood Lodge, smaller family owned and operated resorts like Stevens' catered to tourists who appreciated the remoteness of the northwoods but preferred to have the basic comforts offered by resorts, including furnished cabins and catered meals. Stevens' operation was always small and constituted a great deal of extra work for him, as he had to fetch his guests from the mainland and do all the work of catering to them without labor-saving devices such as laundry machines. Stevens jokingly referred to the resort as the "Slave Farm." He discontinued the operation in 1959.⁵

In addition to the tarpaper shack which he remodeled as his residence, Stevens built a number of additional buildings and structures. As a Norwegian, a sauna was one of his first improvements, constructed around 1935 with the assistance of Waino and Eino Lahti. The following year, the Lahti brothers also helped Stevens construct the log cabin on the point.⁶ At some point in these early years, Stevens also constructed an ice house, a

³ Jim Dale Vickery, "Minnesota Viking," *Backpacking Journal* Spring 1978, 84.

⁴ I. W. Stevens, *Fifty Years in the Minnesota North Country* (diary excerpts), 1984.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Judy Blais, "Living Alone on Namakan at 91," *International Falls Daily Journal*, 8.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

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Tourism and Recreational Properties in
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Section number 8 Page 3

necessity in an era of no refrigeration. He spent the winter of 1937 building bookshelves for his house. His first paying visitors arrived in the summer of 1937, although the log cabin had no chimney until the following year. Stevens built two further vacation cabins by himself, the "new" cabin in 1938 and the "honeymoon" cabin in 1946.⁷

Although the island was never wired for electricity, Stevens purchased a used generator in 1945 and built a shed for it, so he could wire the cabins for electric lights (he took down the electric wires in 1964 and used propane gas thereafter). He initially cooked on a wood range and used ice to preserve his supplies, but in later years he installed propane gas tanks and secured a gas range and refrigerators. Stevens was relieved he no longer had to harvest ice every winter (he demolished the ice house in 1963). With the tourist business ongoing, Stevens built a new dock on the north side of the peninsula for use by his guests in 1948.⁸

Living at such a remote location, Stevens mostly "did" for himself. In the early years, walleye were abundant and he often shot deer to supplement his garden produce and the hundreds of quarts of blueberries he picked. In later times, the walleye stocks declined and Stevens chose not to hunt deer, although he would always shoot a bear if it wandered into his front yard. After a short summer, Stevens would stock up on all necessities in the late fall, and usually have enough supplies to last him until the following spring. He had to rebuild his root cellar several times, including 1958 and 1973.⁹

Life on the island was hard work; Stevens had to haul water in buckets, chop firewood, and grind the flour for his bread. In the winter he established a ski trail to Moose Bay with markers, so he could reach his mail at Ash River. Spring was busy with preparing his garden, chopping wood, and getting the boats ready. In the summer Stevens tended his garden and picked berries, repaired or built new equipment, and, during his resort days, catered to his guests. Fall was the time for harvesting the garden, lying in provisions, and preparing his cottage for the winter.¹⁰

Stevens' free time (after performing his usual chores and any repairs that were needed) was taken up by listening to the radio, playing cards, and typing his letters and diaries. He loved to watch the local wildlife, especially the birds. Although Stevens claimed never to be lonely, even in the deep of winter, he had occasional health problems (bleeding ulcers, gallstones) and accidents and at times had to ski several miles for help. Stevens often had visitors throughout the year, but aside from provisioning trips to Orr or International Falls, he

⁷ I. W. Stevens, *Fifty Years in the Minnesota North Country* (diary excerpts), 1984.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

County and State

**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

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rarely left his property.¹¹ In his later years on the island, he spent several months with relatives in California, and he enjoyed a brief period of notoriety when several newspaper articles were written about him in the mid 1970s; one even made its way to Norway, where he still had relatives living. Stevens received several hundred letters as a result, and answered them all.¹² It was only in 1976 that a telephone line was run to the island.

When Voyageurs National Park purchased his property, Stevens retained a life lease on the island. Although Stevens once wrote that he would rather stop living than leave his island, in October of 1979 he packed up his cabin and departed, at the age of 94. For the final years of his life, he lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with a nephew, reading, walking, and watching television. Stevens died in 1989 at the age of 104, and was buried in Hills, Minnesota.¹³

The Stevens Lakeside Cottage is significant under the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A area of significance of Entertainment/Recreation. The cottage was remodeled from an earlier Virginia & Rainy Lake Company tarpaper shack by Ingvald Stevens, who used the property primarily as a residence. At times he ran a small resort operation, but this was never the primary focus of the property. The property also contains a number of associated outbuildings and landscape features related to Stevens' occupation of the island.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Jim Dale Vickery, "Minnesota Viking," *Backpacking Journal* Spring 1978, 36-37.

¹³ Obituary, I. W. Stevens. Newspaper clipping, ca. 1989, no publication or date.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota

County and State

Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

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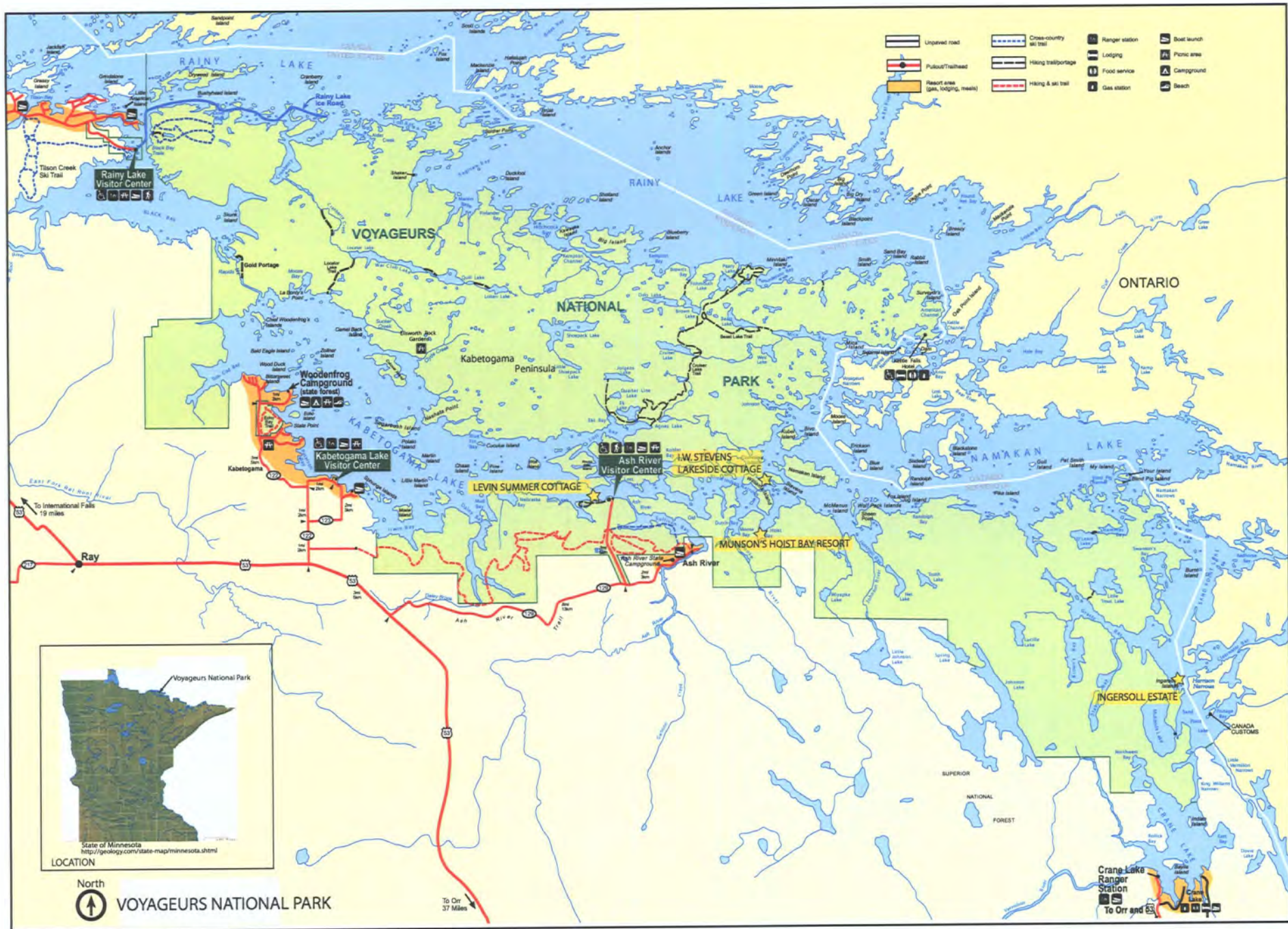
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Stevens, I. W. "Tales from Namakan Lake." Undated manuscript.



Sanford, Dena and Mary Graves. "Historic Context for Tourism and Recreational Development in the Minnesota Northern Border Lakes from the 1880s through the 1950s." National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, 1999.

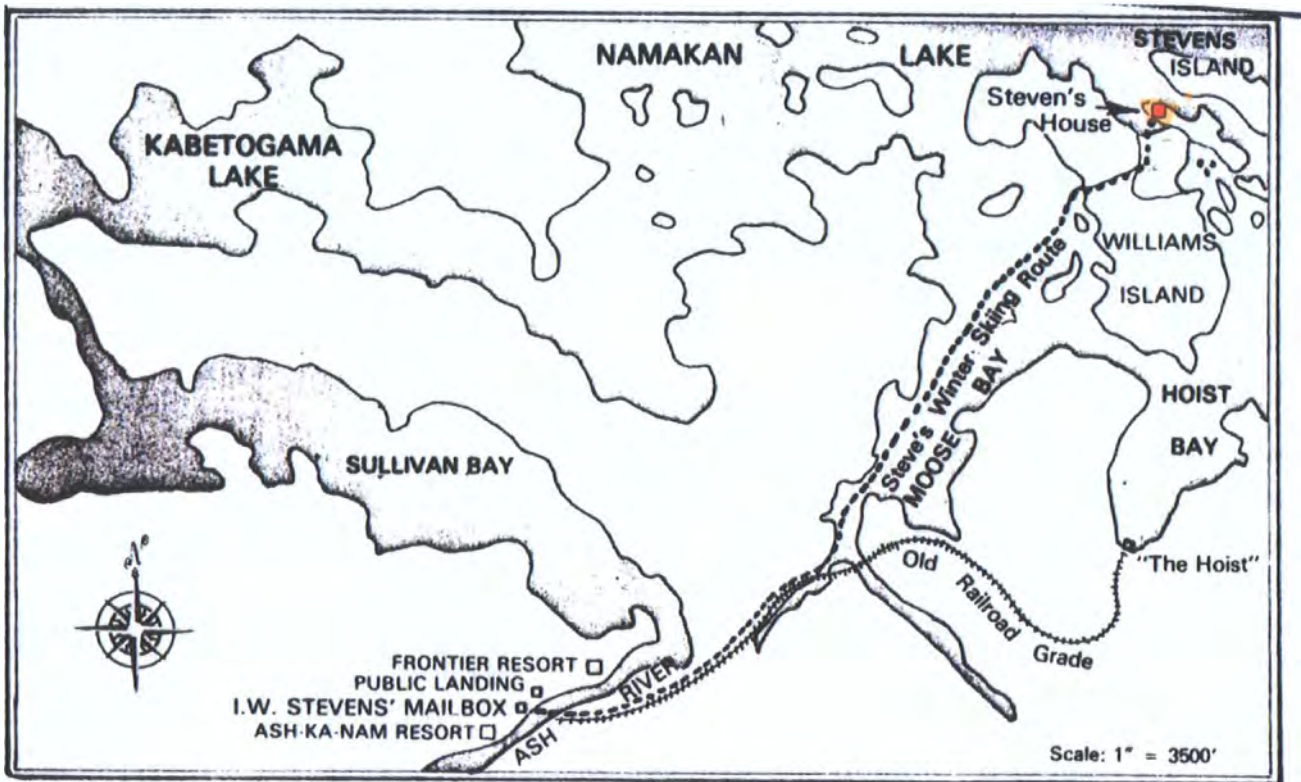
Vickery, Jim Dale. "Minnesota Viking." *Backpacking Journal* Spring 1978, pp. 35-37, 84-85.

Voyageurs National Park, historic photographic files and structure inventory.



Legend

-  Historic site
-  Location of Steven's House

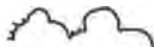






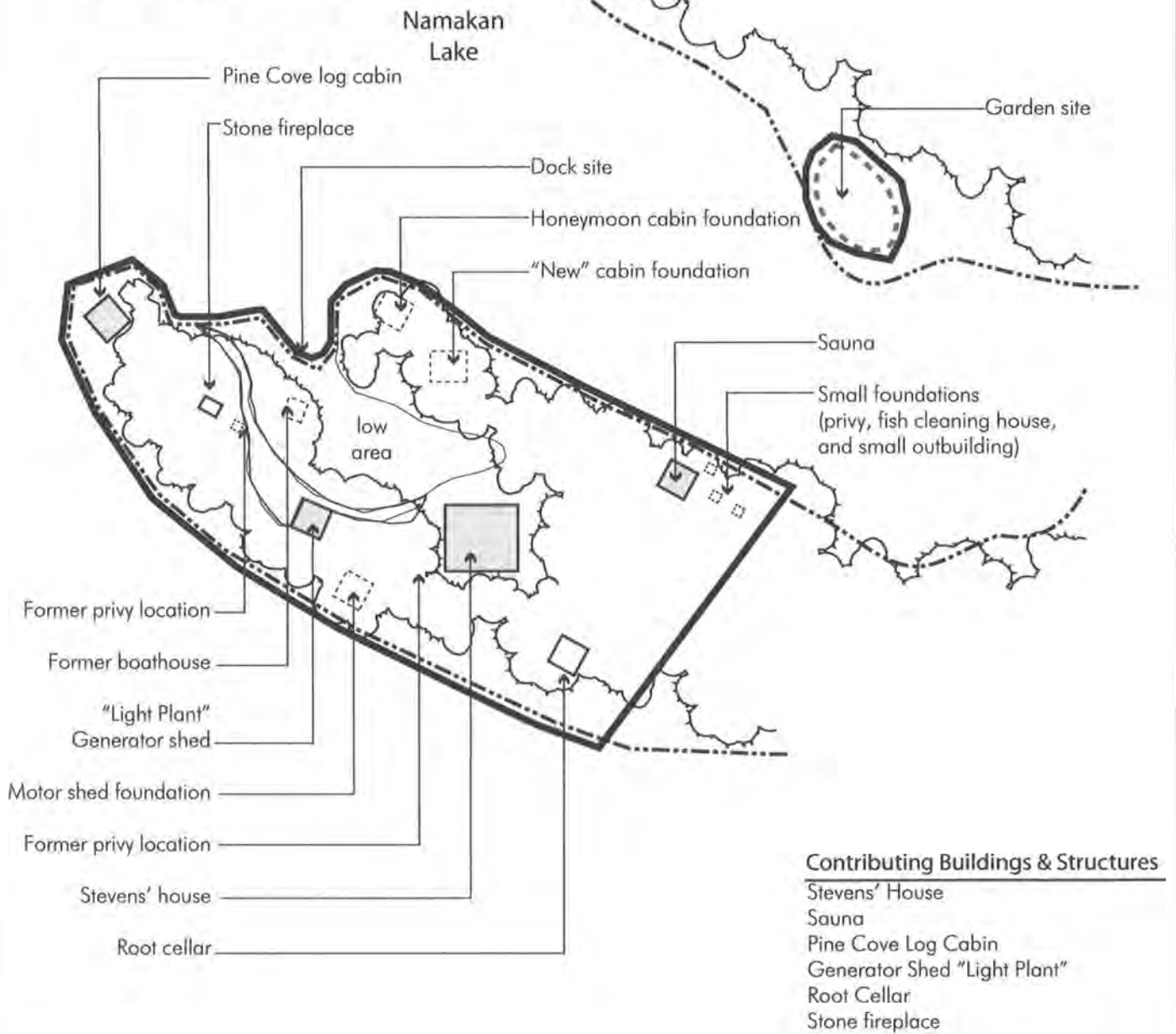
Vicinity, I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage (QE|A, February 2010)



Historic Site Boundary, I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage (QE|A, February 2010)

Legend

-  Vegetation
-  Shoreline
-  Former garden site
-  Building foundation
-  Historic Site Boundary



Contributing Buildings & Structures

- Stevens' House
- Sauna
- Pine Cove Log Cabin
- Generator Shed "Light Plant"
- Root Cellar
- Stone fireplace







Notes:

1. Locations of elements shown are approximate, based on field observations. No survey or accurate base maps were available to serve as a basis for the sketch.
2. Base source: field investigations, 2008.

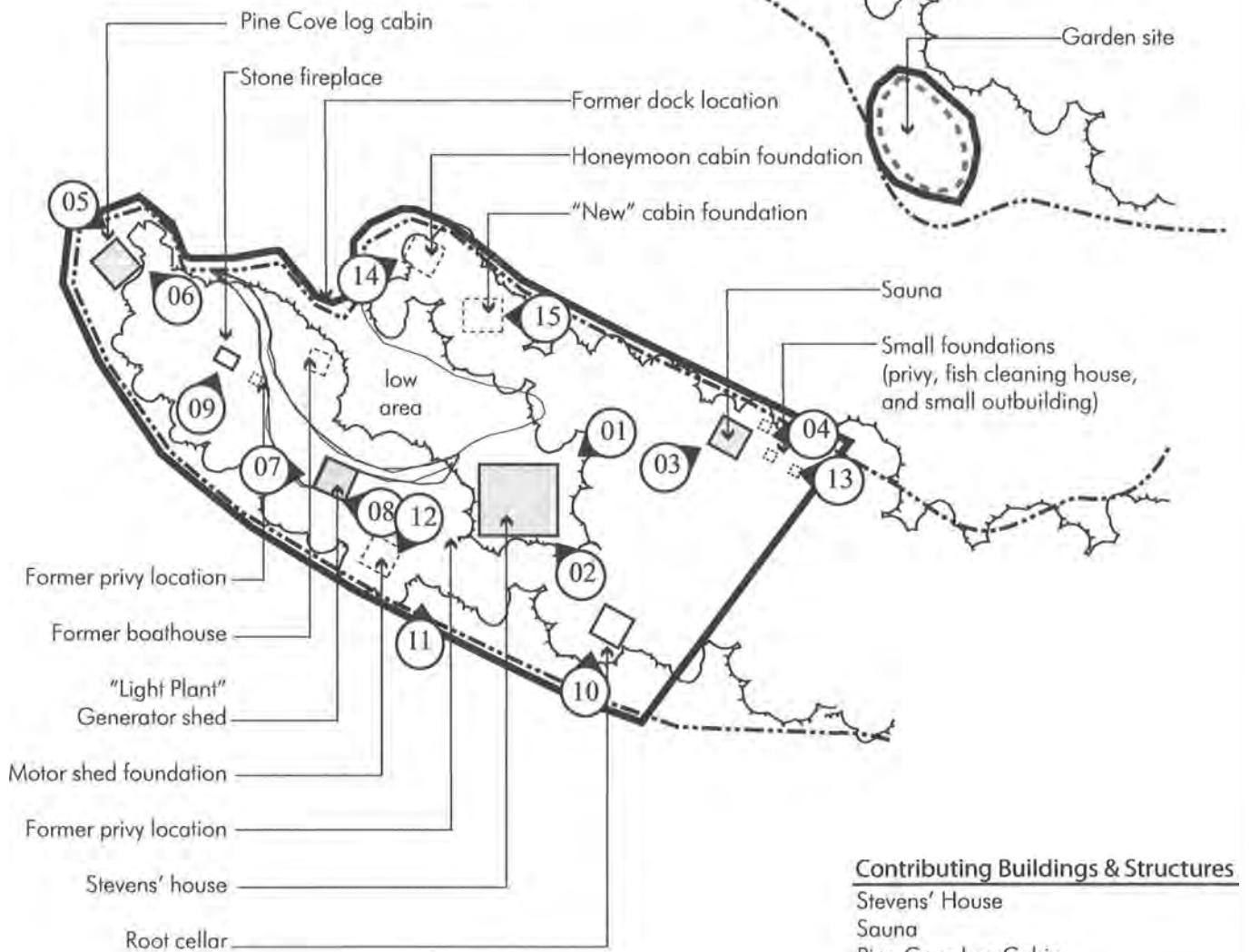


Not to Scale

Legend

-  Vegetation
-  Shoreline
-  Former garden site
-  Building foundation
-  Photograph Location
-  Historic Site Boundary

Namakan Lake



Contributing Buildings & Structures

- Stevens' House
- Sauna
- Pine Cove Log Cabin
- Generator Shed "Light Plant"
- Root Cellar

Notes:

1. Locations of elements shown are approximate, based on field observations. No survey or accurate base maps were available to serve as a basis for the sketch.
2. Base source field investigations, 2008.



Not to Scale

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
Name of Property

St. Louis, Minnesota
County and State

**Tourism and Recreational Properties in
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA), 1880-
1950**
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number

Page 1

List of Photographs

Photo 01: Stevens Cabin, view from the northeast, July 2008.

Photo 02: Stevens Cabin, view from the southeast.

Photo 03: Stevens Sauna, view from the southwest.

Photo 04: Stevens Sauna, view from the northeast.

Photo 05: Pine Cove Log Cabin, view from the northwest.

Photo 06: Pine Cove Log Cabin, view from the southeast.

Photo 07: Generator Shed, view from the east.

Photo 08: Generator Shed, view from the west.

Photo 09: Stone Fireplace, view from the south, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC01111)

Photo 10: Root Cellar, view from the south (source: QE|A, DSC01148)

Photo 11: Remnant of sign, view from the southeast, July 2008 (source: QE|A, DSC01162)

Photo 12: Privy foundation, view from the north, July 2008
(source: QE|A, DSC01181)

Photo 13: Relationship between buildings, foundations, lake and landscape, view from the east, July 2008
(source: QE|A, DSC01184)

Photo 14: Remnants of Honeymoon Cabin, view from the southwest, July 2008
(source: QE|A, DSC01190)

Photo 15: "New" cabin foundation, view from the east, July 2008 (DSC01185)

Name of Property: I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
City or Vicinity: Ash River, Kabetogama Narrows
County: St. Louis
State: Minnesota
Location of Original Digital Files: Voyageurs National Park, International Falls, MN
Photograph: Quinn Evans Architects
Date of Photographs: 2008

Photo #: 01 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0001)
Description: Stevens Cabin, view from the northeast.

Photo #: 02 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0002)
Description: Stevens Cabin, view from the southeast.

Photo #: 03 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0003)
Description: Stevens Sauna, view from the southwest.

Photo #: 04 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0004)
Description: Stevens Sauna, view from the northeast.

Photo #: 05 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0005)
Description: Pine Cove Log Cabin, view from the northwest.

Photo #: 06 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0006)
Description: Pine Cove Log Cabin, view from the southeast.

Photo #: 07 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0007)
Description: Generator Shed, view from the west.

Photo #: 08 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0008)
Description: Generator Shed, view from the east.

Photo #: 09 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0009)
Description: Stone Fireplace, view from the south.

Photo #: 10 (MN_St Louis County_IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage_0010)
Description: Root Cellar, view from the south.

Photo #: 11 (MN_St Louis County_ IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage _0011)
Description: Remnant of sign, view from the southeast.

Photo #: 12 (MN_St Louis County_ IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage _0012)
Description: Privy foundation, view from the north.

Photo #: 13 (MN_St Louis County_ IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage _0013)
Description: Relationship between buildings, foundations, lake and landscape, view from the east.

Photo #: 14 (MN_St Louis County_ IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage _0014)
Description: Remnants of Honeymoon Cabin, view from the southwest.

Photo #: 15 (MN_St Louis County_ IW Stevens Lakeside Cottage _0015)
Description: "New" cabin foundation, view from the east.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Stevens, I.W. Lakeside Cottage

MULTIPLE NAME: Tourism and Recreational Properties in Voyageurs National Park 1880-1950 MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, St. Louis

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/27/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/13/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/21/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000363

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.15.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
Photo 1 of 15



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

St. Louis Co, MN

photo 2 of 15



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
photo 3 of 15
St. Louis Co, Md



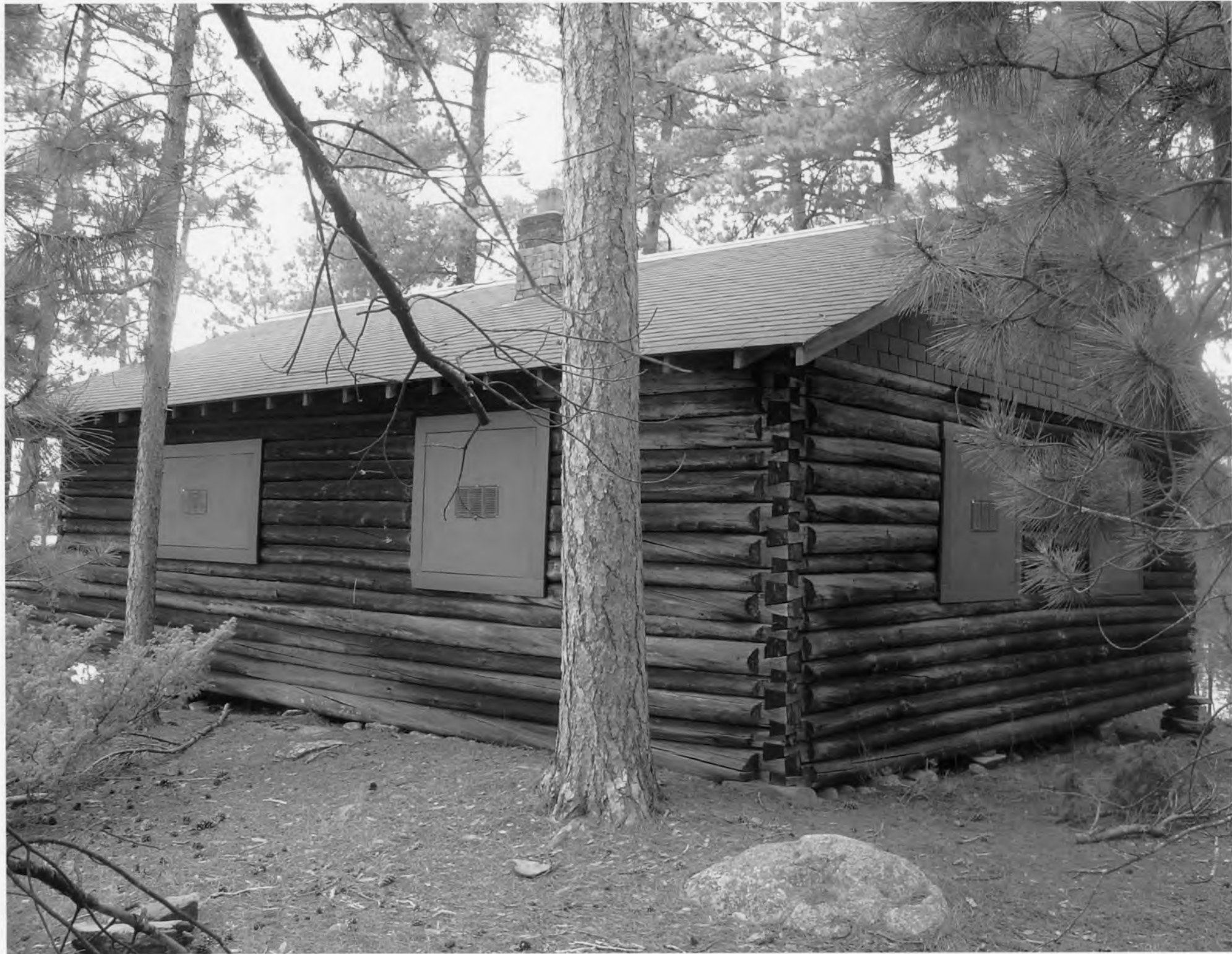
I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

St. Louis Co, MN

Photo 4 of 15



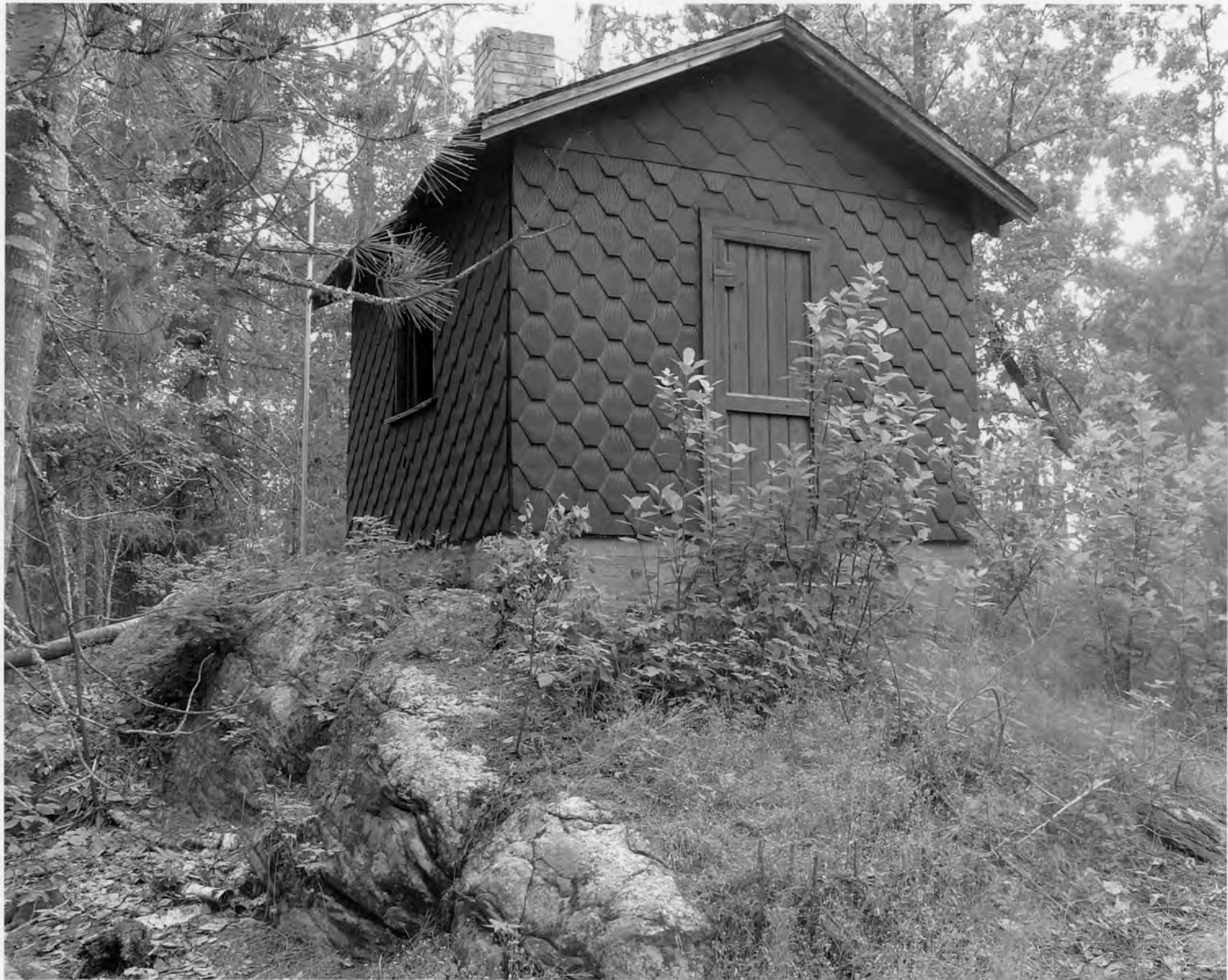
I. W. Stearns Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
photo 5 of 15



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, Md
Photo 6 of 15



I. W. Stearns Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
Photo 7 of 15



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
Photo 8 of 15



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, Md.
Photo 9 of 15



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage

St. Louis Co, MN

Photo 10 of 15



I, W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, Md
Photo 11 of 15



I. W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, MN
photo 12 of 15



I. W. Strucos Lakeside Cottage

St. Louis Co, MN

Photo 13 of 15



I. Wi Straus Lakeside Cottage
St. Louis Co, Md
photo 14 of 15



I. W. STEVENS Lakeside Cottage

St. Louis Co, MN

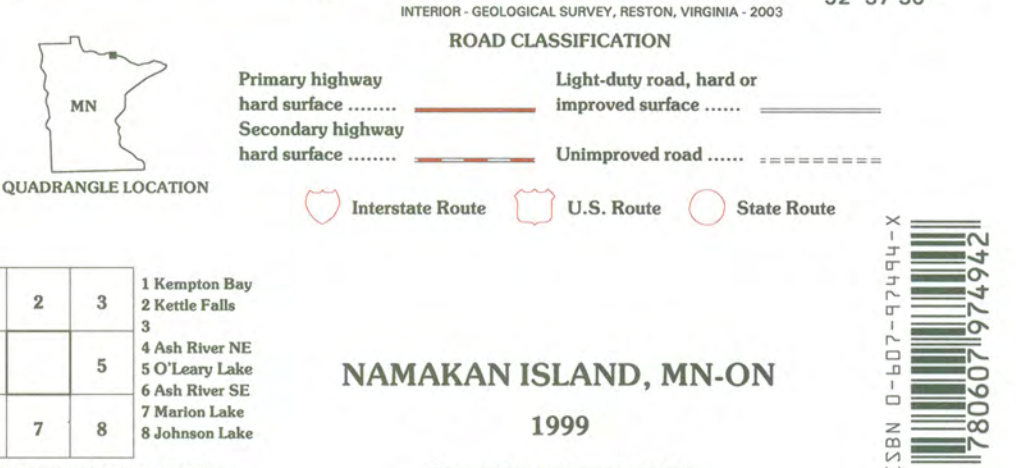
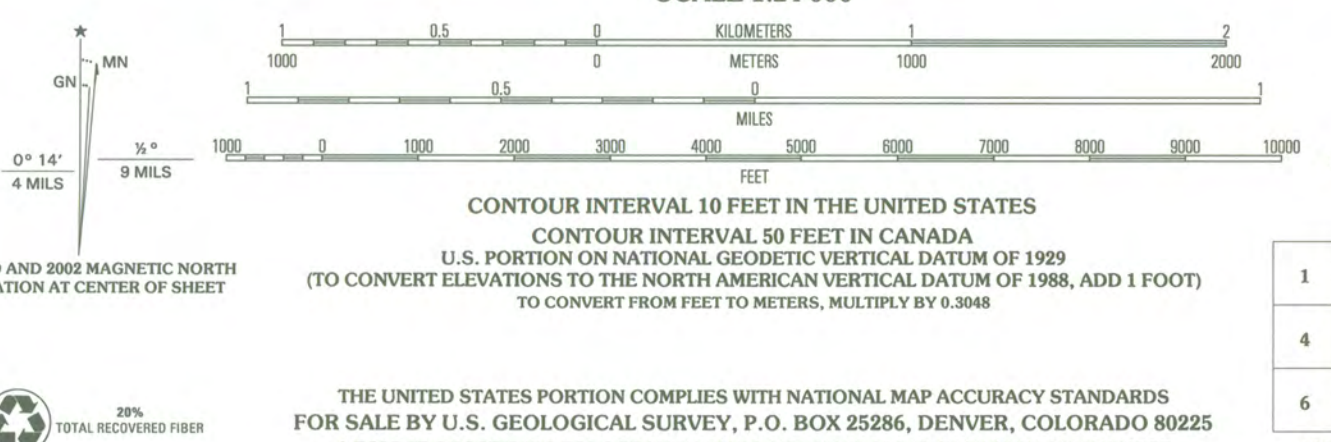
photo 15 of 15



I.W. Stevens
Lakeside
Cottage
Namakan Lake,
Voyageurs
National Park,
Minnesota

UTM coordinates:
#1: Garden
518848E, 5305498N
#2: NE corner
518760E, 5305461N
#3: SE corner
518696E, 5305375N

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1966. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1999 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1967. Boundaries current as of 2002. Canadian portion copied from advance print Namakan Lake quadrangle (1:40 000) 1964. Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15 10 000-foot ticks: Minnesota Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone).
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.
Houses of worship, schools, and other labeled buildings verified 1967.





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Voyageurs National Park

3131 Highway 53
International Falls, Minnesota 56649-8904

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32

July 23, 2010

Steve Raukar, Chair
Saint Louis County Board of Commissioners
Hibbing Courthouse
1810 12th Avenue East
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746

Dear Commissioner Raukar:

We are pleased to inform you that the properties listed below are being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Register is the nation's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation.

I.W. Stevens Lakeside Cottage, Namakan Lake, St. Louis County, Voyageurs National Park
William Ingersoll Estate, Sand Point Lake, St. Louis County, Voyageurs National Park
Adolph Levin Cottage, Kabetogama Lake, Voyageurs National Park
Monson's Hoist Bay Resort, Namakan Lake, Voyageurs National Park

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the National Register allows county officials 45 days in which to comment on nominations. If you wish to comment or request copies of the nominations, please contact Chief of Resources Mary Graves by calling 218-283-6674 or emailing mary_graves@nps.gov. If no responses are received within 45 days, the nominations will be forwarded to the Federal Preservation Officer and the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

(sgd)

Michael M. Ward
Superintendent

cc:

Dr. Don Stevens, Senior Historian, National Park Service, Midwest Region, Omaha, NE

MLGraves:mlg:07/20/2010:ahc:07/23/2010:c:\Microsoft Word\Cultural Resources:National Register nominations (4)

