

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **NOV 7 1984**

date entered **JAN 8 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Halverson Log Cabin

and/or common The Log Cabin

2. Location

street & number University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Campus NA not for publication

city, town Whitewater NA vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Walworth code 127

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name State of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin System

street & number 1930 Monroe Street

city, town Madison _____ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Walworth County Courthouse

city, town Elkhorn _____ state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison _____ state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	Fall 1907
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sited in a small wooded area of the University of Wisconsin campus in Whitewater, northwest of the old East Wing Building (Hyer Hall), the Halverson cabin is a diminutive log structure, which measures 16 feet by 20.5 feet. One story in height with a simple, wood-shingled roof, the structure features a central doorway on the south facade flanked by two crudely framed window openings. On the eastern end of the building a single window opening, centrally placed on the wall, is visible. Protected by overhanging eaves the end gable is clad in smoothplaned wood clapboards and contains a simple attic window opening. The northern elevation features a simple three foot wide door opening opposite that on the southern elevation. A single window opening is positioned to the right of the doorway. At present, all window and door openings in the structure are protected by wooden shutters attached with modern metal hinges. Behind the shutters are hidden simple 6/6 wooden sash and wood doors.

The western end of the structure features a crude, coursed rubble chimney approximately 18 feet tall and 5'6" wide at its base. According to contemporary accounts from 1907, this chimney was added to the structure when it was reassembled at the present school site. A similar stone chimney may have existed before the cabin was dismantled, as was common with early log cabin design.

The wall structure of the log cabin consists of horizontally-laid wooden timbers chinked with a course, buff-colored mortar. Apparently hand-hewn, the squared timbers reveal skillfully cut dovetailed corner joints. Each timber within the wall (approximately 10-11 per side) is roughly 9 to 10 inches square. Fragments of lighter (cement-based) mortar from a 1962 restoration effort are visible in minor amounts at various places in the wall chinking. The entire cabin rests on a shallow stone foundation of local, buff-colored sandstone.

At this time the interior of the cabin is inaccessible but is reported to be only crudely finished with a small attic/loft area to one side.

The cabin site, once isolated to the rear of the main campus, is now situated in a much more central location due to the continual expansion of the university campus in recent years. A wooden walkway leads from the University Center building (Student Union) up the eastern slope of a small knoll to the cabin site atop the wooden hill. A small parking lot is visible to the west of the site and is the only true intrusion on the cabin's immediate surroundings. An asphalt walking path curves around the eastern side of the building linking it with the Red Schoolhouse of c.1870 that was moved here in 1966.

The log building was moved from its rural farm site to the wooded area of the Normal School campus in 1907.¹ At the time, every effort possible was taken to maintain the area around the site in its natural, wooded state without placing the cabin on any type of "ornamental pedestal." Carefully disassembled and marked prior to shipment, the structure was painstakingly rebuilt approximately six miles to the north of its original home. Numerical markings on several of the timbers to facilitate reassembly are still visible. At the time of reassembly a new stone chimney and open fireplace was added to one side of the structure. In 1962 minor stabilization repairs were carried out on the exterior of the building, including window and mortar repairs.

¹Bohi, M.J., A History of Wisconsin State University, Whitewater 1868-1968, p. 117.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1846,¹ 1907² **Builder/Architect** Gullik Halverson³

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Period of Significance: 1907 - 1934

A notable example of an early Wisconsin building type, the Halverson log cabin is locally significant for its association with the progressive educational philosophies exemplified by the State Normal School at Whitewater during the school's expansive years in the early twentieth century. Moved to the normal campus in 1907, the 1846 Halverson Cabin served for a number of years as a "museum of pioneer life" on campus, extensively utilized by the schools's teacher training department as an educational tool for use with the numerous young children enrolled at the campus school.

The diminutive log cabin had been built in 1846 by Gullik Halverson,⁴ an early pioneer farmer in the Whitewater region. Halverson had come to Wisconsin with his parents from Valebo, Norway in 1845 at the age of 23.⁵ Erected on a farmstead approximately six miles south of the city of Whitewater in the rural community of Richmond, the small cabin served the young Halverson family for a number⁶ of years. All told, five Halverson children were reportedly born in the structure. Sitting abandoned and unused for a number of years, the Halverson Cabin was moved in 1907 to the State Normal School campus in Whitewater as part of the community's 70th anniversary celebration. The cabin had been recognized by local historians as one of the earliest, still extant structures dating from the region's early settlement era.

A simple yet well built affair, the small 16 x 20½ foot cabin represented a building form rapidly disappearing from the local landscape; yet one which had played a significant part in the early settlement of the young Wisconsin frontier.

In relatively good condition, the Halverson Cabin, with its simple gabled roof, squared-log construction, and clay/lime chinking, was typical of early log construction in the region as brought to the area by immigrants of northern European descent in the early 19th century and represented a significant local resource.

As chairman of the Whitewater 70th anniversary celebration, State Normal School president Albert Salisbury was instrumental in acquiring the cabin and initiating an extensive fund-raising program to have the building moved and reassembled on his school campus. A progressive administrator who had led the normal school from its first early years of growth in the 1880s to stature as one of the state's premiere educational facilities for the training of teachers and educators by the turn of the century, Salisbury's intent in acquiring the cabin was to create on campus "a Museum of Pioneer Life, illustrating conditions in Wisconsin 60 years ago."⁸

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bohi, Mary Janette, A History of Wisconsin State University, Whitewater 1868-1968, (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, Wisc., 1967.)
History of Walworth County Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1882 *(con't.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Whitewater

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	5	17	4	17	10	4	17	4	13	9	8	10
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification (See continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul R. Lusignan/Acting Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date September, 1984

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-4772

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

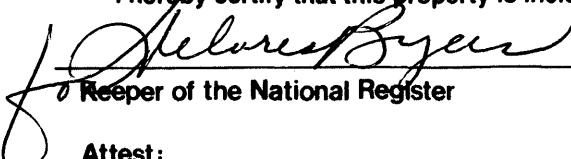
title Director of Historic Preservation date October 23, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 1/8/85


Keeper of the National Register

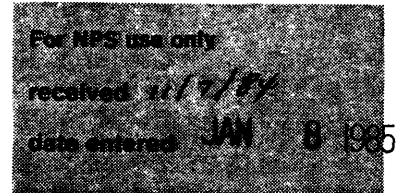
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Halverson Log Cabin,

Item number 8

Page 1

Whitewater, Wisconsin

Tapping the generosity of Normal School alumni and the aroused interest of local residents caught up in the historical fervor of the city's anniversary celebration, Salisbury was able to quickly raise the necessary funds to have the building moved and painstakingly reassembled on a prepared, wooded site to the rear of the school's main buildings. Careful attention reputedly was paid to authentically replicate the building's original construction details and design during reassembly, and to assure a naturalistic setting for the cabin atop the small wooded knoll. Additional donations of money and artifacts also allowed Salisbury to begin furnishing the cabin as a learning center and museum.

Much more than just creating a simple remembrance of the past, Salisbury was determined that the cabin be designed for utilization as a valuable educational tool. In a letter to the Regents of the State Normal Schools in 1908 Salisbury outlined his full intent in bringing the cabin to the campus: "This exhibit, it is believed, can be made to play a very useful part in the education of the children of our training department and at the same time serve as an interesting memorial of early days.... It is already fairly well stocked with old-time furniture, utensils, and fabrics, as a Museum of Pioneer Life, to the end that the children of the present and future may have an objective presentation of the conditions under which their ancestors met the demands of daily life."¹⁰

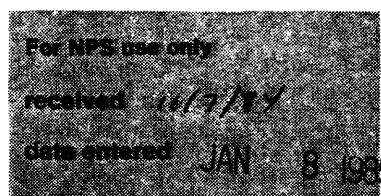
This early attempt at historic preservation and interpretative history complemented the school's growing identity as a progressive learning establishment. By 1910, the Normal School was supporting training school departments at the kindergarten, primary and grammar school levels, all of which according to school catalogues and bulletins of the period were making full use of the cabin/museum as a learning center. For many years the log cabin also served as a center for small social events and faculty gatherings on the campus, fondly remembered by alumni as a nostalgic and symbolic meeting place at the heart of the campus.

By the 1960s, however, the cabin was beginning to show its age and in 1962 the Whitewater Historical Society began a limited, \$1800 renovation of the property, which was intended to give the building an exterior facelift and upgrade the area surrounding the cabin.¹¹ The building's use as a museum was significantly curtailed by the end of the decade however, and at present the cabin remains securely locked and shuttered. Most of the artifacts once housed in the structure are now on exhibit at the Whitewater Historical Society Museum in the downtown area of the city.

A fine example of early pioneer Wisconsin log cabin construction, the Halverson Log Cabin remains a significant symbol of the progressive educational attitudes exhibited by the State Normal School at Whitewater under the leadership of respected administrator and educator Albert Salisbury.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Halverson Log Cabin, Item number 8 Page 2
Whitewater, Wisconsin

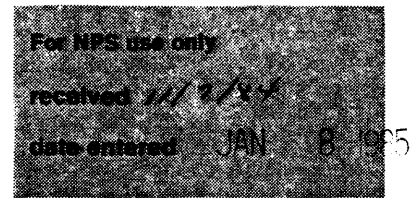
(Due to the 1907 dismantling and relocation of the structure the integrity of its original design, material and workmanship is unknown. The cabin therefore is not being nominated for its architectural significance or ethnic association. The cabin's historical association with the educational programs of the state normal school are more readily apparent and are sufficiently significant to warrant its listing on the National Register.)

Footnotes:

- ¹Bohi, M.J., A History of Wisconsin State University Whitewater, p.117
- ²Ibid., p.117
- ³Ibid., p.117
- ⁴Ibid., p.117
- ⁵History of Walworth County, Wisconsin, p.628
- ⁶Bohi, pp.117-118
- ⁷Letter to University Archives from Mrs. Mills kept in UW-W Archives Log Cabin file.
- ⁸Bulletin of the State Normal School, Whitewater, Wisconsin, 1909, pp.73-73
- ⁹Bohi, p.117
- ¹⁰Bulletin... 1909, p.73
- ¹¹Bohi, p.118

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Halverson Log Cabin, Whitewater, Wisconsin Item number 9

Page 1

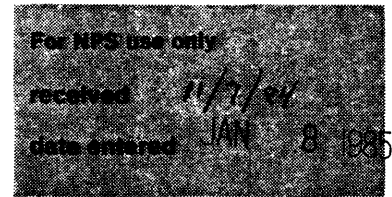
State Normal School, Whitewater, Wisconsin. Bulletin, 1909
(Vol. V, No. 3)

State Teachers College, Whitewater, Wisconsin. Pictorial Review of the
Whitewater State Teachers College 1868-1935, Whitewater: STC-W, 1935.

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Archives, Area Research Center,
UW-Whitewater.

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

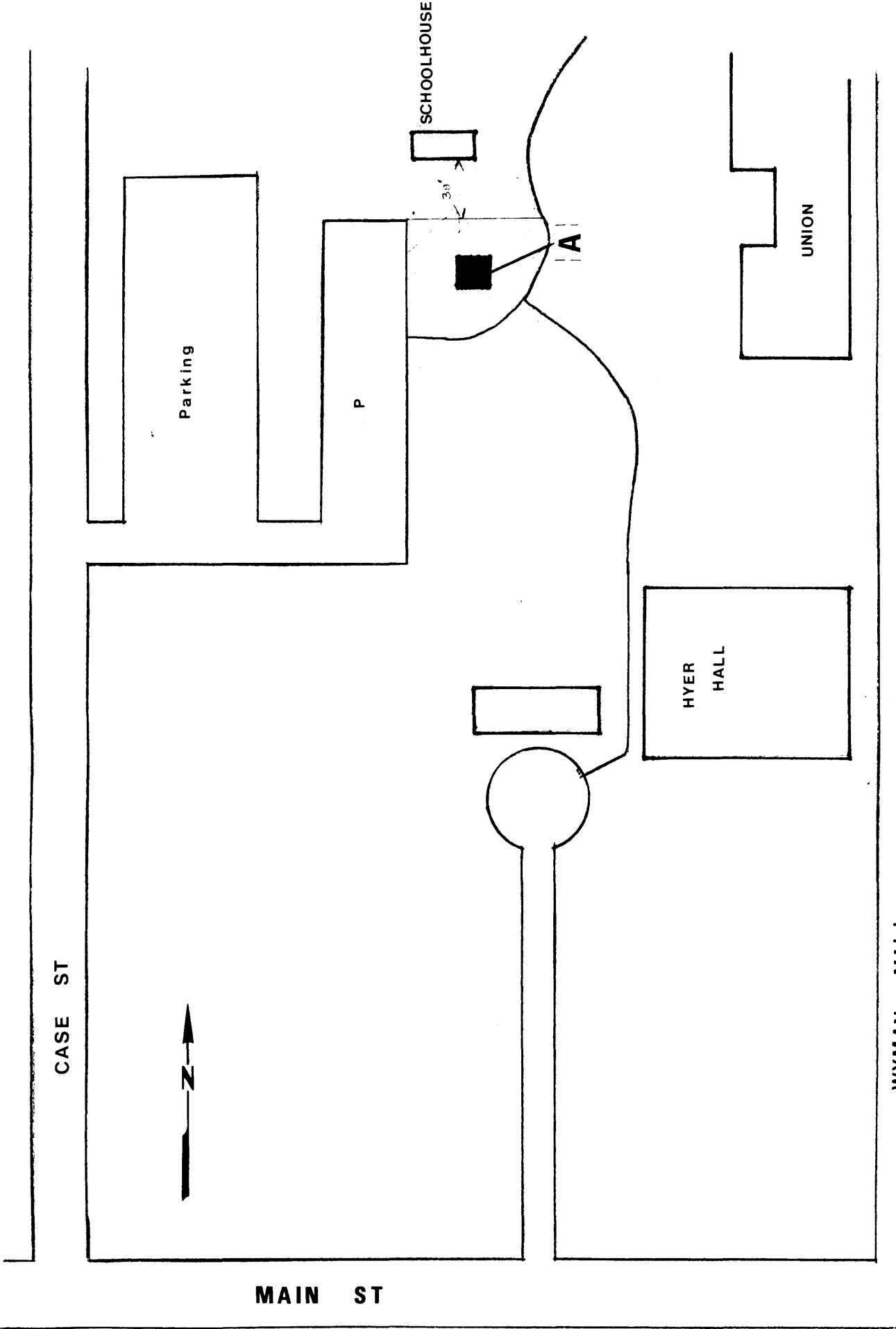
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Halverson Log Cabin, Whitewater, Walworth County
Item number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundry Description and Justification

Site A as illustrated on the attached sketch map lies on a rise of land set back approximately 750' from Main Street. (Rte. 12) on the UW-Whitewater campus in Whitewater. The site is an irregularly shaped parcel bordered on the west by an unpaved parking lot, on the south and east by asphalt walking paths and on the north by a small schoolhouse building. The actual northern boundry line is located a distance of 20' north of the northern facade of the cabin; approximately 38' south of the schoolhouse property.



A — HALVERSON LOG CABIN

WHITEWATER
WI