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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 Wandawega Inn  
other names/site number Wandawega Hotel, Wandawega Lake Resort, Vandavega, Camp Wandawega

## 2. Location

street & number	W5453 Lake View Drive	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Sugar Creek	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Walworth	code 127
			zip code 53121

## 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: Jan Aragon Date: 4/22/15

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

Wandawega Inn

Walworth

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:)

*Elsou H. Beall*

*6.8.15*

*[Signature]*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

building(s)  
 district  
 structure  
 site  
 object

contributing      noncontributing  
5                      4 buildings  
0                      0 sites  
4                      1 structures  
1                      0 objects  
10                     5 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 previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

DOMESTIC/camp

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

DOMESTIC/camp

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

**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 Concrete

Walls Wood Weatherboard, Wood Shingles

Roof Asphalt

Other Brick

**Narrative Description**

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

Wandawega Inn  
Name of Property

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## 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)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

### Period of Significance

1927 – 1975

### Significant Dates

1927-1928

1946

1961

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

N/A

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Wandawega Inn  
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## 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Walworth County  
Historical Society

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.46 acres

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

1	<u>16</u>	<u>371507</u>	<u>4733773</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>371442</u>	<u>4733649</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>371511</u>	<u>4733643</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>371338</u>	<u>4733755</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Robert Short, Associate AIA & Jennifer Lehrke, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP	date	April 30, 2014
organization	Legacy Architecture, Inc.	telephone	(920) 783-6303
street & number	529 Ontario Avenue, Suite FN1	zip code	53081
city or town	Sheboygan	state	WI

Wandawega Inn  
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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

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

<b>name/title</b>	David Hernandez & Tereasa Surratt	<b>date</b>	April 30, 2014
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	(312) 282-4693
<b>street &amp; number</b>	1922 Race Street	<b>zip code</b>	60622
<b>city or town</b>	Chicago	<b>state</b>	IL

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Wandawega Inn  
Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI

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**Narrative Description**

Wandawega Inn is located on the north shore of Wandawega Lake in the Town of Sugar Creek approximately two miles north of the City of Elkhorn, in Walworth County, Wisconsin, a historic vacation destination northwest of metropolitan Chicago. It is approximately 10 miles northeast of Geneva Lake, a major tourist destination. Wandawega Lake is a 119-acre, shallow, glacial-formed lake with outwash terrace wetlands on its east and west ends and steeply sloping north and south banks.<sup>1</sup> The property is located on the west end of a subdivision, sparsely developed between the 1920s and present day, at the west side of the intersection of Lake View Drive and Sycamore Lane. Located on a sprawling 25.5-acre mostly wooded parcel, the nomination's resources are situated on the parcel's southeast end. This portion of the property's terrain, covered with a mature deciduous woodland forest, slopes steeply from the north and northwest towards a large central open lawn, rises to the southeast to form a small tree-covered hill, and with continuous tree cover, gradually slopes to the south before dropping off steeply at the lakeshore. This developed and most actively utilized portion of the property is framed to the west by a high, tree-covered point overlooking the lake. The property's buildings are generally clustered along the sloping terrain closest to the lake, while the recreational structures loosely ring the south and west sides of the central clearing.

The eastern edge of the property is defined along the Sycamore Lane right-of-way by a line of tall trees along a long, narrow clearing terminating at a small pavilion parallel to and in front of the main lodge. At the north end of the tree line and lodge, the entrance drive which passes through a wooden gate, is paired with a small garage at its right and leads to a large gravel parking lot on the east edge of the central clearing. Straight ahead from the entrance, now behind a large welcome sign, is a landscaped grotto on the side of a small hill. Similar to small stone retaining walls found throughout the neighboring subdivision, the camp property features small stone borders along many of the concrete walkways and landscaping beds connecting and surrounding the buildings as well as small stone construction of the lodge's chimney, grotto's landscaping, and small retaining walls throughout the property. The lodge is located to the left of the entrance drive, at the southeast corner of the property.

A series of concrete steps leads south from the lodge down to the lake past terraced vegetable gardens with concrete-retaining walls. A small cabin is situated on the hillside immediately west of the terraced gardens. Behind this cabin, accessed from paths below at the lakeshore and above at the top of the hillside from the lodge, is a three-level hotel building constructed into the hillside. A cluster of two small cabins, a treehouse, basketball court, and outhouse lie west beyond the hotel. A short section of wooden boardwalk traverses the edge of the lake below the hotel and cabins. On the western edge of the central clearing are a large fire pit ring, tennis court, and a final small cabin on the

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<sup>1</sup> "Wandawega Lake, Walworth County – An Inventory With Planning Recommendations." *Lake Use Report No. FX-30*. Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1969.

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steep hillside at the northwest corner of the clearing. A series of steps lead up the hillside to the western lakeside hill.

The Wandawega Inn's resources consist of nine buildings, five structures, and one object, built between 1927 and around 1975, the property's period of significance. Of these resources, ten are contributing and five are non-contributing. The modest and small scale vernacular and astylistic utilitarian buildings are one to three stories in height, clad primarily in wood clapboard or wood shingles, and loosely reflect the architectural trends of the era in which they were constructed through their modest architectural details and minimal ornament. Exterior alterations to the original resources have been minimal and have been limited to the removal of roof ventilation dormers from the hotel; covering up of window openings in the lodge; and siding repair, porch enclosure, and installation of patio doors on the one-bedroom cabin. Aside from these alterations, the majority of the resources' exteriors and interiors are well preserved and have much of the same appearance today as they did during the property's period of significance.

**Contributing Resource Descriptions**

Wandawega Inn Lodge (Contributing), 1927

The lodge is one-and-one-half stories in height and measures approximately 94-feet wide by 37-feet long. The building is comprised of a main rectangular block with a projecting entry bay on the east, a long rectangular enclosed porch wing extending to the north, a series of adjoining additions to the west, and a full-width enclosed porch to the south. The building is sited on a hillside so that the south end of the building's basement is exposed. The building's exterior walls are clad in wooden clapboard siding. The main block and its projecting entry are covered by moderately pitched gabled roofs; and the west porch, a shallow-pitched hip roof. The north enclosed porch and the rear additions are covered with shallow-pitched shed roofs. Two brick chimneys sit atop the main block centered inset quarter of the building's length from both of the roof's gable ends. (See Photo #4 and Figures #1 - #2)

The building's 94-foot wide east-facing façade is its principal facade. The main block of the building is organized roughly as two halves. The left half is dominated by its central projecting entry bay, which features a central door flanked on each side by a pair of 3-over-2 light fixed wood windows atop clapboard-clad half-walls. The low walls terminate with projecting corner piers capped by tapered, square wood columns with simple stepped, square capitols supporting a wood beam below its clapboard sided gable end with shallow pent roof. Both sides of the entry bay feature a series of four similar 3-over-2 light fixed wood windows over a clapboard half-wall. To the left of the entry bay is a series of three 3-over-2 light fixed wood windows. These are next to the 3-over-2 light fixed wood windows of the south porch. A pair of aluminum double hung replacement windows are to the right of

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the projecting entry bay. The right half of the east façade features a single wood double hung window next to a band of seven 8-light wood casement windows terminating at what was most likely a former wood corner board. On the other side of this board, the next continuous band of casement windows extends along the length of the wall.

The north end of the north enclosed porch wing is dominated by a central stone chimney; wide at the base, it steps mid-height to narrow as it extends above the side eaves of the porch's shed roof. A small, square wood window is situated into the step of the chimney on each side; an opening for a full-height window that once adjoined each of these small windows has been covered by wood boards. The north façade of the main block features a group of three, 6-over-1 light wood double hung windows at ground level and a single, matching window right of center at the attic level. The north façade of the kitchen addition, under its lower shed roof, features an entrance door at the addition's juncture with the main block sheltered under a low pitched roof supported by a single wood bracket on each side of the door. A single, short, 3-light wood window is centered in the space to the right of the door, below which is hung a simple wood window box supported by two wood brackets.

The west façade of the lodge is composed of multiple additions constructed during the period of significance, onto the main block of the building. The west façade of the north enclosed porch features a band of ten 8-light wood casement windows matching those on its east façade, below which is hung a continuous, simple wood planter box supported by four wood brackets. A single entrance with a wood screen door opens onto a narrow, contemporary wood deck accessed by four steps. The west façade of the kitchen addition, along the north third of the main block, features three equally spaced short, 3-light wood windows. A narrow breezeway, containing a one-third glazed-with 4-lights over four-panel wood door and narrow wood window, connects the kitchen addition to another lower addition along the southern half of the main block with a moderately sloped roof connecting the two rooflines. The west façade of this second addition features six equally spaced square, 2-over-2- light wood double hung windows; above the roofline of which is visible the west façade of the main block with a series of five replacement double hung windows at the main floor level, alternating in size between full and partial height, with the southernmost window opening sided over. Right of the main block, the west façade of the south enclosed porch features two, 3-over-2-light fixed wood windows at the main floor level and a wood door at the exposed basement level.

The south façade of the lodge is dominated by the south enclosed porch, comprised fully of ten, 3-over-2-light fixed wood windows. Two, 2-light fixed wood windows are situated below at the exposed basement level. A single, square 6-light fixed wood window at the attic level is centered in the south facing gable end.

The plan of the lodge building is generally organized longitudinally in two halves. The east half of the



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building historically served as the public portion of the building. Entering through the entry vestibule, there is direct access into the former bar area. The original bar itself was replaced or heavily altered by the early 1950s (See Figure #4) and has since been removed. The original dining room is accessed through a wide opening on the north side of the bar. It is unknown at the present time if this room originally ended at the end of the main block and if the north enclosed porch was a later addition or if the north porch was original to the building and later enclosed to enlarge the dining room. Either way, a large rubble stone fireplace was constructed by the 1940s at the center of the north end of the enclosed porch portion of the dining room (See Photo #5 and Figure #3). Later, built-in wooden bookshelves flanked the fireplace but have since been removed. A trap door in the floor of the dining room provides the only access (via a ladder) to a small basement storage cellar. A private room is accessed past the south end of the bar; a former chimney enclosure is situated in the northwest corner of this room, in front of which a non-extant wood stove originally sat on a concrete slab. The concrete slab is extant. A trap door in the floor of this room led down a ladder into the southern half of the basement which features extant tin ceiling and wall tiles. It is unknown at this time if this room had been open to the bar area or if it had always been a separate room. The south enclosed porch that spans the full width of the building is only accessed through this private room.

The west half of the lodge building featured rooms that were historically private functions of the establishment. The southern half of which, comprised of a private suite of two rooms and a full bathroom, was accessed through a door in the bar directly across from the entry vestibule. At this time it is believed that these rooms were utilized as a private office and possibly a bedroom of the original proprietors. The southern room features a double door, the outer one of which appears to have been constructed afterward, and two closets with locks. The original kitchen, in the northwest corner of the main block, is accessed down a partial flight of stairs through the dining room. A long and narrow attic room is accessed by a small stairwell on the south end of the original kitchen. The original kitchen was used as a prep space for the kitchen staff after a kitchen addition was constructed, around 1934, to its west, doubling the kitchen space. Immediately south of the kitchen addition, yet another addition, constructed by the 1950s, is accessed through a small breezeway and consists of two small staff quarters and a laundry room along a corridor ending in a small bathroom.

Changes over time to the interior of the lodge building and its finishes have been minimal. The original floor plan configuration and interior finishes of the lodge have remained almost completely unchanged, including the original plaster walls and ceilings, wood beadboard ceiling in the south porch, tin ceiling and wall panels in the basement, wood floors throughout, historic linoleum flooring in the bar, wood crown molding, paneled wooden doors, historic stone fireplace, and original plumbing fixtures.

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Wandawega Inn Hotel (Contributing), 1928

The hotel is three stories in height, rectangular in plan, and measures approximately 24-feet wide by 60-feet long. As the building is situated on a steeply sloping hillside, each floor level is accessed by its own entrance, each on a different side of the building. As such, the building has no single principal façade. The building's exterior walls are clad in wood shingles at the top level and wood clapboard siding below, above the poured concrete foundation of which portions are visible at the corners of the lowest level. The building is covered by a moderately pitched hipped roof with exposed wood rafters at the soffit and a single board wood fascia. (See Photos #6 - #7- and Figure #2)

The building's 24-foot wide north-facing façade, at the top of the hill, is a single story in height and contains the entrance to the building's top level. The façade features a central entrance with a wood screen door sheltered under a low pitched roof supported by a single wood bracket on each side of the door. A single narrow, short vinyl double hung replacement window flanks the door on each side.

The building's 60-foot wide east-facing façade ranges from a single story in height at its north end to the full three stories in height at its south and contains the entrance to the building's middle level. The façade is roughly organized as eleven bays. A group of two 6-over-1-light wood double hung windows centered between the first and second bays at the south; one narrow, shorter vinyl double hung replacement window in the eleventh, northernmost bay; and a single 6-over-1-light wood double hung window in each of the eight other bays at the top floor level. At the middle floor level, a single 6-over-1-light wood double hung window is centered in the first, third, and fourth bays from the south. Similar such windows are centered between the sixth, seventh and eighth bays. The entrance door with wood screen door is in the fifth bay sheltered by a flat roofed wood pergola with exposed rafters with decorative rafter tails in each direction and double wood beams in each direction with matching decorative ends supported by two simple, square wooden columns with minimal wood cove trim capitols. The lowest floor level, of which only the first two bays are partially visible, features a single small, square 6-light fixed window centered between those two bays.

The building's 24-foot wide south-facing façade, at the bottom of the hill, is three stories in height and contains the entrance to the building's lowest level. On the lowest level, the façade features a central one-third glazed with 4 lights over double panel wood entrance door. It is sheltered under a low pitched roof supported by a pergola, matching that of the middle level entrance on the east façade, and is flanked by a small, square 6-light fixed window to its right and a single, full-height 6-over-1 wood double hung window to its left. Four, single 6-over-1-light wood double hung windows are equally spaced across the middle floor level, and two groups of three similar windows are centered at the top floor level.

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The building's 60-foot wide west-facing façade is similar to the east façade with the exception of a variety in window sizes and locations at the middle level and the location of a door in the southernmost bay at the top level. The door opens onto the top platform of a narrow metal fire escape that continues down one flight to the north, taking a ¼ turn away from the building for a second flight before turning north parallel to the building for a third flight that lands near the lowest floor level on a concrete pad.

Due to the hotel's siting into the hillside and the ability for rooms to have windows, the occupiable floor space decreases from a full top floor, to half of the building's footprint at the middle level, and just the south end of the lowest level. The remaining lower two levels are unexcavated. The interior of the hotel is laid out along a central corridor spanning the length of the entire building on the top level, at the center of the middle level, and at the south end of the lowest level. Small, approximately 100 square foot, guestrooms line both sides of the corridors at all levels. From the north end towards the south, the top level contains a men's and a women's toilet room, one on each side of the corridor; one shower room on each side, the eastern of which was converted into a kitchen by the 1970s. Six guestrooms, three on each side, and a parlor spanning the entire width of the building are at the south end of the corridor. The central T-shaped corridor of the middle level is flanked by two guestrooms and a men's and a women's toilet room by the entrance at the north head of the "T"; two central guestrooms, one on each side of the corridor; and two guestrooms at the southern foot of the "T." With extremely low ceiling height, the lowest level contains one guestroom on each side of the short, central corridor, the eastern of which was also converted into a kitchen by the 1970s. Each guestroom in the hotel is furnished with a corner, built-in wooden wardrobe closet.

Changes over time to the interior and its finishes have been minimal. All rooms in the hotel retain their original plaster walls and ceilings, double panel wood doors, and wood crown molding. The building's corridors retain their original wood plank flooring. The guestrooms retain their original linoleum flooring, each room with a unique and colorful design meant to mimic carpeting. A large portion of the plumbing fixtures, cabinetry, and appliances are original to the building or the mid-twentieth century kitchen renovations. The current owners have retained much of the hotel building's furnishings, which date from the original use as a hotel in the late 1920s through its use as a Latvian-American retreat through the late-twentieth century including the bedframes, dressers, and kitchen tables and chairs.

Since 2004, aluminum replacement siding and original shed-roofed attic ventilation dormers on the roof's north and south ends were removed from the hotel building.

Wandawega Inn 3-Bedroom Cabin (Contributing), 1928

The 3-bedroom cabin is two stories in height and measures approximately 24-feet square. As the cabin

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is situated on a steeply sloping hillside and houses two separate uses, both floor levels are accessed by independent entrances on different sides of the building. As such, the building has no single principal façade. The upper level of the cabin, accessed from a contemporary deck on its east side, contains a suite of three small bedrooms, a bathroom, and a south-facing enclosed porch. The lower level, accessed from the south, contains a men's and a women's shower room. The building's exterior walls are clad in wood clapboard siding on the upper level and vertical wood board siding on the lower level above the poured concrete foundation. The building is covered by a moderately pitched hipped roof with exposed wood rafter tails and soffit. (See Photo #8 - and Figure #2)

Wandawega Inn 1-Bedroom Cabin (Contributing), 1928

The 1-bedroom cabin is one story in height, rectangular in plan, and measures approximately 18-feet long by 12-feet wide. The building is clad in vertical wood siding on the exterior and is covered by a low pitched hipped roof with exposed wood rafter tails and soffit. As the cabin is entered from the north, that side can be considered its main façade. The interior of the building is comprised of a single bedroom and small sitting room that was originally a porch. An original porch on the east side of the building has since been enclosed. It is assumed that the building was entirely re-clad with the vertical wood siding at this time. Contemporary alterations include large patio doors installed on the south façade of the cabin opening onto a contemporary wood deck. (See Photo #9)

Wandawega Inn Garage (Contributing), 1928

The garage is one story in height, rectangular in plan, and measures approximately 20-feet long by 10-feet wide. The building is clad in wood clapboard siding on the exterior and is covered by a moderately pitched gabled roof with clipped gable ends and exposed soffits. The single-car garage retains its original pair of wood, swinging garage doors on its south-facing, principal façade. (See Photo #10)

Wandawega Lake Resort Shuffleboard Court (Contributing), c.1950

The shuffleboard court consists of a marked concrete pad measuring approximately 5 feet by 45 feet. One of the metal poles for a volleyball net is situated immediately adjacent to the shuffleboard court, which stretches the entire length and defines the southern edge of an informal lawn volleyball court along the southern edge. (See Photo #11)

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Vandavega Tennis Court (Contributing), c.1965

The tennis court consists of a marked concrete pad measuring approximately 38-feet by 90-feet. A metal chain-link fence was constructed in a C-shape around the southern edge of the court to prevent tennis balls from going south down the hill into the lake. A short metal post for hanging a net is located at the center of the court on each side. (See Photo #15)

Vandavega Basketball Court (Contributing), c.1966

The half-court basketball court consists of an unmarked concrete pad measuring approximately 30-feet square. A single basketball hoop is mounted on a P-shaped double post stand constructed of metal piping with a fiberglass backboard attached at the front face of the loop in the "P." Located in a slight valley, grass lawns slope up away from the eastern, northern, and western sides of the court. (See Photo #14)

Vandavega Grotto (Contributing), c.1970

The grotto consists of a brick pier, measuring approximately 2-feet square and 3-feet high, with an inset panel of black marble and a concrete cap on which rests the statue of St. Joseph holding baby Jesus. The brick pier is sited on-center in front of a rock garden placed in an approximately sixteen-foot radius, arc-shaped bed on a small sloped hillside in a grove of evergreen trees. In recent years, a memorial plaque was installed on the front, east-facing side of the pier. Never originally inscribed by the Latvians, the current owners, in recent years, inscribed the marble panel with a tribute to the memory of their father. (See Photo #12)

Vandavega Pavilion (Contributing), c.1975

The pavilion is an open-air structure on a raised, wood deck platform facing north onto an open lawn used for seating beneath. The corrugated metal clad shed roof is supported by five wooden posts, two to the north and three to the south. Three wooden boards with a decorative scalloped bottom edge are hung lengthwise from the underside of the roof. (See Photo #13)

**Non-Contributing Resource Descriptions**

While three of the following non-contributing buildings date from the property's period of significance, they are considered non-contributing as they were moved to the property well after the period of significance ended. While these buildings represent similar historic uses (an outbuilding or

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possible guest cabin from the grounds of a large resort hotel, a roadside motel cabin, and an outhouse from a Girl Scout summer camp) and maintain a high degree of historic integrity due to recent restoration, these resources were not on the property during its historic period. Because they are unrelated to the property's significance their inclusion as contributing resources would create a false sense of history.

Sterlingworth Hotel Cabin (Non-Contributing), c.1900

The Sterlingworth hotel cabin is one story in height and measures approximately 12-feet square. The building is clad with wood clapboard siding on the exterior and is covered by a moderately pitched gabled roof which, supported by simple wood brackets, extends beyond the building's south façade to shelter the entrance. (See Photo #16)

Log Cabin Tourist Camp Cabin (Non-Contributing), c.1920

This cabin is one story in height and measures approximately 12-feet square. The building is clad in horizontal half-timber logs on the exterior and is covered by a moderately pitched gabled roof with exposed wood rafter tails and soffit. As the one-room cabin is entered from the east, that side can be considered its main façade. (See Photo #17)

Camp Juniper Knoll Outhouse (Non-Contributing), 1956

The outhouse is one story in height, measures approximately 8-feet square, and sits on a square wood deck platform. The building is organized as four units in a pinwheel configuration, with a door and side wall of separate units adjacent to each other on each side of the building. The outhouse is clad in vertical wood siding at the doors, with a trapezoidal screened opening above and a rectangular screened opening below a framed plywood panel comprising the side walls. It is covered by a complex 'butterfly' roof clad in metal roofing, with ridges spanning from each corner to the center, where there is a small, covered metal vent chimney. Originally designed to house toilets, the building has been repurposed for showers when it was relocated to the property. (See Photo #18)

Camp Wandawega Treehouse (Non-Contributing), 2010

The treehouse, constructed atop a deceased elm tree, features three levels and measures approximately 14-feet wide by 18-feet long. Constructed largely from salvaged materials, the structure is comprised of a one and one-half story, enclosed one-room cabin supported by the tree trunk and four wood timber telephone poles. A series of staircases and two levels of wooden decks provide access up to the cabin. The treehouse's cabin is clad in wood clapboard siding and is covered by a moderately pitched gabled

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roof. As the treehouse's cabin is entered from the north and west, those can be considered its main façades. (See Photo #19)

Camp Wandawega Pergola (Non-Contributing), 2011

The wood pergola measures approximately 4-feet wide, 10-feet long, and 8-feet high and is comprised of single purlins over double beams, both with decoratively cut ends, square wood posts with a simple capital, and diagonal wood cross braces at the beams. The four posts were constructed upon the remaining concrete foundation piers of a previous, non-extant pergola. A concrete walk crosses lengthwise beneath the pergola, beginning and terminating with several concrete steps, connecting the former lodge and hotel buildings across east-to-west slightly sloping terrain. (See Photo #20)

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**Resource Inventory**

The following inventory lists every resource of significant size and scale in the complex and includes the historic name; the date or circa date of construction, the resource's contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) class, and architectural style of the building.

<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Style</u>
Wandawega Inn Lodge	1927	C	Vernacular
Wandawega Inn Hotel	1928	C	Vernacular
Wandawega Inn 3-Bedroom Cabin	1928	C	Vernacular
Wandawega Inn 1-Bedroom Cabin	1928	C	Vernacular
Wandawega Inn Garage	1928	C	Astylistic Utilitarian
Wandawega Lake Resort Shuffleboard Court	c.1950	C	N/A
Vandavega Tennis Court	c.1965	C	N/A
Vandavega Basketball Court	c.1966	C	N/A
Vandavega Grotto	c.1970	C	N/A
Vandavega Pavilion	c.1975	C	N/A
Moved to Site:			
Sterlingworth Hotel Cabin	c.1900	NC	Vernacular
Log Cabin Tourist Camp Cabin	c.1920	NC	Rustic Style
Camp Juniper Knoll Outhouse	1956	NC	Contemporary
Camp Wandawega Treehouse	2010	NC	Vernacular
Camp Wandawega Pergola	2011	NC	N/A



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**Statement of Significance**

Wandawega Inn is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment & Recreation. The property is a fine example of a resort hotel and recreational property with a high level of integrity exhibiting an evolution of recreational use during three distinct eras over time: an early, working-class resort hotel and speakeasy during the early twentieth century, a working-class family resort during the mid-twentieth century, and a cultural retreat and camp for the region's minority Catholic Latvian-American community during the mid- and late twentieth century. Intact examples of this property type are rare, particularly examples that demonstrate the changes in recreation and entertainment over time and the evolution of vacation properties.

**Period of Significance**

The period of significance spans the three eras referenced above, beginning with the construction of the Wandawega Inn Lodge in 1927, continuing through the operation of the family-focused Wandawega Lake Resort, and the purchase of the former resort by the Latvian Marian Fathers for use as a Latvian-American retreat. The period of significance ends in 1975, a point in time that marks a distinct change in the private use of the property by the Latvian Community. Around that time, two major changes to the central Sunday activities at the retreat can be marked: 1) when others from outside of the Latvian-American community, both area vacationers and locals, began attending the activities in increasing numbers and eventually dominating attendance, and, correspondingly, 2) when Sunday Mass sermons spoken in the Latvian language ended and delivery in English began. While it continued to be primarily members of the Latvian-American community that were renting rooms and staying at Vandavega for the summer, this shift in the prominent weekly Sunday activities marks a distinct change in the use of the property that ends the period of significance.

While the last use of the property from the historic period continued into the recent past, it experienced a defined transition in 1975 that marks a definite and logical end of the historic period. An end date to the period of significance at any point before 1975 would be arbitrary. It is imperative to include this era within the period of significance, as the property's use by the Latvian-American community is a prominent chapter of the property's history. The Latvian-American association is significant in the history of the local area and is also significant in the recreational and cultural history of the region's Latvian-American community. This property may be the only one of its kind with this cultural association in Wisconsin. While the period of significance extends approximately one decade past the 50-year mark, it is justifiable that the property be nominated in this way due to the rarity and high level of integrity of the property's recreational resources from the early twentieth century, and the rarity of the cultural association with this type of property.

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**Historical Context**

After decades of use for farming by several generations of the Gilbert family, J.R. Goldberg of Chicago purchased the William E. and John E. Gilbert farms totaling 330 acres with substantial frontage on a small lake historically known as both Otter Lake and Russell Lake in the Town of Sugar Creek for \$85,000 in early August of 1925. Later that month, Goldberg sold the property to the U.S. Bond & Mortgage Company of Chicago, with Sol Lesser as President and Jesse G. Sissman as Secretary. This firm subdivided the property into narrow lots and platted it as the Lake Wandawega Subdivision to be sold to “vacationists and summer resorters” through the First Wisconsin Trust Company of Milwaukee, with George B. Luhman as President and W.I. Barth as Secretary. The Lake Wandawega Subdivision was bounded on the east by the Route 12 highway and featured 4,000 feet of shoreline along the lake, which was renamed Wandawega Lake by the U.S. Bond & Mortgage Company at that time. At first, the new name was often misspelled ‘Winegega’ or ‘Winawego.’<sup>2</sup>

Under the direction of Frank B. Demes as superintendent of construction, the Lake Wandawega Subdivision was platted in May of 1925 with 122 rectangular blocks, most containing 48 lots with dimensions of 25 feet wide by 100 feet deep. The first improvement planned for the subdivision was a main 33-foot wide road along the north shore of the lake, which would become Wandawega Drive. Smaller roads were planned to lead north from the main road to the northern edge of the subdivision with additional minor east-west lanes connecting them. By mid-May, surveying and staking of the parcels was completed, and the main road was under construction with a new “one-man power grader.” When the subdivision’s plat, laid out by engineer J.T. Dawson of Lake Geneva with a total of 4,835 lots, was recorded with the County Register of Deeds in early June, it was the largest single plat ever made in the county at that time.<sup>3</sup> With the sale of several lots, expectations were for construction of the first cabins to begin that summer. While the barn and other farm buildings on the property were demolished, plans were made to remodel the Gilbert Family farmhouse to be used as a community center with the entire first floor opened into a single dance hall and a 15-foot wide porch constructed on three sides to serve as a dining room. A wide tract of land along the lake’s shore was reserved for a public park to provide lake access for every lot owner. An on-site sales office was operating by July, which advertised summer-home sites at \$85, with monthly payment financing options available.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Deed. John E. & Nellie J. Gilbert to J.R. Goldberg, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #251552, 1 August 1925; Deed. William E. & Annie Gilbert to J.R. Goldberg, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #251553, 1 August 1925; Deed. L.W. Swan to J.R. Goldberg, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #251554, 1 August 1925; Deed. J.R. Goldberg to U.S. Bond and Mortgage Company, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #251695, 15 August 1925; Deed. U.S. Bond and Mortgage Company to First Wisconsin Trust Company, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #252173, 28 August 1925; “Gilbert Farms Sold On Lake Winegega.” *Elkhorn Independent* 9 April 1925: 1; “New Resort Planned At Lauderdale Lake.” *Elkhorn Independent* 16 April 1925: 1.

<sup>3</sup> “Wandawega Records The Largest Platt On File.” *Elkhorn Independent* 11 June 1925.

<sup>4</sup> “Work Progressing On Sub-Division At Lake Wandawega.” *Elkhorn Independent* 14 May 1925: 1; “Be Our Guest

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Wandawega Inn Lodge / Wandawega Hotel, 1926 - 1942

Frank Schoenfeldt was born in Germany in 1853 and immigrated to the United States around 1889, most likely with his wife, Ernestine. The couple settled in Chicago, where Frank practiced as an architect. Sometime after 1900, the Schoenfeldts adopted a daughter, Anna Viktoria Anderson, who was born in 1886 the daughter of Andres Petterson and Susana Maria Andersdotter in Ransberg Skaraborg, Vastra Gotalund, Sweden. By 1910, the Schoenfeldts resided at 4058 Madison Street; then at the age of 24, Anna was living with the Frank Gardiner family as a servant.<sup>5</sup>

In December of 1914, Anna Anderson married Harry W. Beckford, a private chauffeur in Chicago who was born in Illinois in 1892 and had been honorably discharged from the United States Army after serving in World War I. By 1920, Ernestine Schoenfeldt had died, and the Beckfords had moved in with Frank on Madison Street. Between 1921 and 1925, Harry and Anna resided at 130 S. Lombard Avenue in Oak Park, Illinois.<sup>6</sup>

In July of 1926, Frank Schoenfeldt purchased all eight lots that comprised Block 125 of the Lake Wandawega Subdivision from the First Wisconsin Trust Company for \$4,700. By the end of 1927, he had a lodge constructed there. By the following year, Schoenfeldt relocated to Walworth County with his adopted daughter and son-in-law, Anna and Harry Beckford, who would manage the establishment; it is believed at this time that they resided together in private quarters in the lodge.<sup>7</sup>

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Sunday At Beautiful Lake Wandawega." *Elkhorn Independent* 30 July 1925: 3.

<sup>5</sup> *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910*. (Chicago Ward 6, Cook, Illinois; Roll: T624\_246; Page 4A; Enumeration District: 0337; FHL microfilm: 1374259). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*. (Chicago Ward 35, Cook, Illinois; Roll: T625\_356; Page 2B; Enumeration District: 2232; Image: 156). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. (Sugar Creek, Walworth, Wisconsin; Roll: 2615; Page 1A; Enumeration District: 0026; Image: 1053.0). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.; "Frank Schoenfeldt, 79, Dies Tuesday." *Elkhorn Independent* 2 March 1933: 5; "Anna V. Peck." *Elkhorn Independent* 3 August 1980: 12; "Gordon Peck." *Elkhorn Independent* 10 February 1966: 4.

<sup>6</sup> "Illinois, Cook County Marriages, 1871-1920." Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2010; Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1749, 282 rolls); Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*; "Frank Schoenfeldt, 79, Dies Tuesday."; "Anna V. Peck."; "Gordon Peck."; McCoy's *Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park Directory*. Oak Park, Illinois: Pioneer Publishing Co., Various Years 1921 - 1925.

<sup>7</sup> Deed. First Wisconsin Trust Company to Frank Schoenfeldt, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #260814, 1 July 1928; "Frank Schoenfeldt, 79, Dies Tuesday."; Town of Sugar Creek Tax Assessment Records, 1927 - 1969. On file at the Walworth County Historical Society, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

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In the spring of 1928, Schoenfeldt purchased approximately 23-acres of land adjacent to and west of the subdivision from James Jr. and Cora Parsons. He had a hotel and two cabins constructed on the property to be operated in conjunction with the lodge. Schoenfeldt and Anna Beckford also purchased the four lots comprising the southern half of Block 106 of the subdivision, north of the lodge. These parcels served as parking space in addition to street parking; it is believed that a small one-car garage was constructed there at this time as well. Schoenfeldt then deeded all of his property to Anna. The hotel, lodge, and its tavern were in operation under the name Wandawega Inn by that summer.<sup>8</sup>

During the summer of 1928, the Wandawega Inn placed advertisements in Chicago-area newspapers highlighting its direct access from Chicago and many amenities: “good fishing, wonderful swimming beach right at our door, a real golf course near at hand, dancing every night at Wandawega Paradise, plenty of airy rooms overlooking the lake, real southern cooking, and, above all, 25 acres of wooded land to roam in, equipped with swings, benches and the like, boats, smokes, candies, and tasty sandwiches as well as soft drinks and ice cream.” The Inn advertised its rates as \$20.00 per week for room and board, or daily \$1.50 for a single room and \$2.00 for a double; breakfast or lunch cost 50 cents each, a standard dinner 75 cents, and chicken or steak dinners \$1.25.<sup>9</sup>

Local oral history collected by the current owners indicates that the tavern, known as Little Orphan Annie’s after Anna Beckford, in the Wandawega Inn Lodge was the site of several illegal activities. Elderly locals, when they have been willing to admit to knowing anything about these activities, describe it as a place that women wouldn’t admit that their brothers, fathers, and husbands visited and that “everybody knew about it, but only secondhand.” A room in the basement of the lodge served as a parlor for illegal gambling that was accessed from the tavern by a trap door from the south-facing porch. Look outs were allegedly planted along Wandawega Drive near Route 12 so that the approach of law enforcement could be radioed ahead. Small motorboats were kept at the ready at the dock below the hotel to provide an easy get away to cars waiting on the other side of the lake, from where they could drive off quietly down country roads. In addition to illegal gambling, the tavern was commonly known by locals at the time to be a source of illegal alcoholic beverages during Prohibition. A trap door in the main tavern space led down to a small cellar, where it is believed to have stored the illegal liquor.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Deed. Franc Jordan to Frank Schoenfeldt & Anna V. Beckford, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #270333, 26 April 1928; Deed. First Wisconsin Trust Company to Frank Schoenfeldt & Anna V. Beckford, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #270359, 1 May 1928; Deed. Frank Schoenfeldt to Anna V. Beckford, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #270334, 4 May 1928; Deed. James Jr. & Cora Parsons to Frank Schoenfeldt, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #270337, 5 May 1928; “Walworth County Real Estate Transfers.” *Elkhorn Independent* 31 May 1928: 8; Wandawega Inn. Advertisement. *Oak Parker* 22 June – 31 August 1928.

<sup>9</sup> Wandawega Inn. Advertisement.

<sup>10</sup> Hernandez, David & Tereasa Surratt. Personal research collection and interviews. 24 March 2014 and 28 April 2014. *Hernandez and Surratt are the current property owners, have conducted interviews of Elkhorn residents alive during the*

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By 1929, Anna and Harry Beckford divorced. Anna remained sole proprietor, assisted by a man by the name of Frank Mitchell.<sup>11</sup>

Anna soon became romantically involved with a man by the name of James Feeley, Jr. After an approximately two-year relationship marked by various visits by the local police to quiet disturbances between the couple, Feeley forced the car Anna was driving on Route 12 into a ditch in November of 1930. He proceeded to pull her from the vehicle and ran over her twice with his own car. Anna suffered severe wounds, was expected to die, but recovered after two months in the hospital. Feeley was arrested for assault. However, prior to his trial in March of 1931, his father, James Feeley, Sr., and his uncle, Frank Feeley, paid off Edward Brosofske, a witness to the assault, to be out of the state on the day of the trial. The day of the Feeley trial, Brosofske had been located by the authorities in Evanston, Illinois, and was returned to Elkhorn to testify against Feeley Jr. resulting in Feeley's conviction and sentencing to five years in prison. For her knowledge of or involvement with the conspiracy, Anna Beckford was arrested on a charge of contempt of court along with James Feeley, Sr., Frank Feeley, and Edward Brosofske. After Brosofske's conviction for contempt of court, Beckford, James Feeley Sr., and Frank Feeley all pleaded guilty. All four received sentences of 30 days in jail.<sup>12</sup>

By the summer of 1931, if not since its establishment, Wandawega Inn began operating as a speakeasy selling illegal alcohol. It was one of 31 hotels, saloons, speakeasies, roadhouses, and restaurants investigated during a series of liquor raids in Walworth and Racine counties in August of 1931 by 90 federal agents led by Frank Cunningham, deputy administrator for the eastern district of Wisconsin, and Arthur Hamilton, administrator for the northern district of Illinois. It was the fourth concentrated raid in eastern Wisconsin that year, led by investigators from Milwaukee who spent a month obtaining information, which led to issuance of the warrants. Both Frank Mitchell and Anna Beckford were arrested for the whisky, wine, and beer found at Wandawega Inn. U.S. Court Commissioner Floyd Jenkins came to Elkhorn from Milwaukee to proceed over the arraignments of 43 individuals arrested during the raids.<sup>13</sup> While it is unknown at this time what individual retributions were given to Mitchell and Beckford, Wandawega Inn was one of 58 establishments placed under prohibition padlock and closed for a year by the Federal Judge F.A. Geiger in Milwaukee in late October of 1931. The Lone

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*1920s about the Wandawega Inn, and maintain a personal collection of stories, information, historic photographs, and artifacts pertaining to the property's history.*

<sup>11</sup> *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*; "90 Drys Raid 31 Places in Two Counties" *Wisconsin State Journal* 17 August 1931: 1.

<sup>12</sup> "Woman Says Man Drove Car Over Her Body." *The Manitowoc Herald-News* 19 November 1930; "Charge Five With Witness Tampering." *Wisconsin State Journal* 23 February 1931; "Four Sentenced For Contempt of Court Here Friday." *Elkhorn Independent* 12 March 1931: 1.

<sup>13</sup> "90 Drys Raid 31 Places in Two Counties."

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Oak Inn, south of Lake Wandawega on Route 12, which Anna Beckford also operated at that time, was placed under prohibition padlock too.<sup>14</sup>

It appears that lodging at the Wandawega Inn continued under the name Wandawega Hotel after that point under the management of two men named Barrington and Garton. After the one year period, Anna Beckford continued operating the Loan Oak Inn and, presumably, the tavern at the Wandawega Hotel. The Wandawega Hotel was managed by L.J. Bonola during the summer of 1933.<sup>15</sup>

On July 20, 1933, notorious Chicago gang leader, Roger Touhy, and three henchmen were arrested on Route 12 near the Lake Wandawega. They had been speeding down the road, possibly coming from the Wandawega Hotel per local oral history, lost control of their vehicle, and ran into a telephone pole on private property. The property owner called the Elkhorn Police Department and an unarmed rookie officer, Harry Ward, answered the call as he was in the area at the time. Ward spotted the car, stopped it, and brought the driver into Elkhorn to hold him until the \$22 restitution was made for the cost of replacing the pole. The passengers were allowed to leave. Touhy, who had given the authorities the alias of Robert Morgan, refused to pay the fine. Suspicious, the deputy illegally searched the automobile without a warrant and discovered a heavy rifle and several .38 and .45 caliber pistols with altered identification numbers; one pistol was found in a pocket of the front door and the rest of the weapons behind the rear seat cushions. After the guns were discovered, three of the other men were soon captured; one escaped. All four were arraigned before Walworth County Judge George Belton on the charge of carrying concealed weapons and held until Chicago officials arrived and established positive identification. The Chicago Police Department sent Chief of Detectives Schumacher to Elkhorn to identify Touhy, who was accused at the time of the kidnappings of John Factor in Elkhorn and William Hamm, Jr. in St. Paul, Minnesota. The other three men were Willie Sharkey, wanted for the murder of Capone gangster Matt Kolb who was murdered in a northwest Chicago roadhouse a year prior; Eddie "Father Tom" McFadden; and Gustave "Gloomy Gus" Shafer. Three machine gun squads comprised of 20 local and federal officers were sent to Elkhorn to return the suspects to Chicago. \$1,730 worth of \$10 and \$20 bills were confiscated to be checked with the serial numbers of the ransom money paid for the release of John Factor. Also found in the car were a golf bag filled with ammunition and a supply of gauze, adhesive tape, and a rope which led the authorities to believe the men had been preparing for another kidnapping. The arrest of Touhy, accused of dozens of crimes, was hailed as a major step in efforts to end Midwestern kidnapping gangs.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> "58 Roadhouses Placed Under Federal Lock." *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune* 30 October 1931: 1.

<sup>15</sup> *Directory of the State Long Distance Telephone Company, Elkhorn, Wisconsin*. June 1932 - June 1933. On file at the Walworth County Historical Society, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

<sup>16</sup> United Press. "Touhy, Aids Accused of Abductions" *Wisconsin State Journal* 21 July 1933: 1; "They're Tough But Just Bums to Country Cop." *Stevens Point Daily Journal* 21 July 1933: 1; Hernandez, David & Tereasa Surratt.

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During the summer of 1934, Anna Beckford married Gordon Peck, son of Jed and Sibyl Peck, who was born in the Town of Lafayette, Walworth County, in 1899 and had been enlisted in the United States Army from 1917 to 1919. By the early 1930s, Gordon and his brother, Hollis, owned a farm in the Town of Lafayette. In June of 1934, Sibyl Peck filed for guardianship of her adult son, who lived at Lake Wandawega at that time, citing that he was addicted to excessive drinking, idleness, and spending his money in a way that lessened his estate so as to endanger his own support. The guardianship was appointed to Sibyl, including regards to his share of the farm. However, later that month, Gordon Peck married Anna Anderson Beckford. Sibyl raised concern that Anna was as well a 'chronic inebriate person' and that Gordon was constantly "in brawls with his said wife so that he is in danger of doing serious injury to her." Gordon denied these accusations, claiming his mother's reason for the claim was to null his marriage. It appears that Sibyl's guardianship ended upon Gordon's marriage to Anna, and that the guardianship case discontinued after Gordon released his rights to all Peck family property in March of 1935.<sup>17</sup>

It is believed that the restaurant and tavern at the Wandawega Hotel prospered from an influx of local customers after the repeal of Prohibition with the ratification of the Twenty-First Amendment in December of 1933. Soon thereafter, a kitchen addition was constructed onto the rear of the lodge building. By the 1940s, a fireplace was constructed on the north of the dining room and another addition was constructed onto the rear of the building containing laundry and employee quarters.<sup>18</sup>

Anna Peck was arrested again in July of 1934 for possession of illegal liquor when 20 pints of liquor without the required state revenue stamp were found hidden in the piano at the Lone Oak Inn by state treasurer officers. She was released on \$500 bail. Her initial hearing was postponed, and it is unknown if that hearing occurred or if she was ever convicted of these charges.<sup>19</sup>

The Wandawega Hotel was managed by Raymond Vogt during the summer of 1935. However, it appears that Anna Beckford remained sole proprietor of the tavern and hotel after that point in time.<sup>20</sup>

Slot, pinball, and other gambling machines with monetary payoffs were illegal in the United States at times during the early twentieth century. Machines paying off in cigarettes were legal but heavily

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<sup>17</sup>Court Records. On file at the Walworth County Courthouse, Elkhorn, Wisconsin; "Anna V. Peck."; "Gordon Peck."

<sup>18</sup> Hernandez, David & Tereasa Surratt. *Dates and observations were made in reference to historic photos in their collection. The date of the kitchen construction is based on a newspaper remnant dated 1934 found in the kitchen's exterior wall during recent renovations.*

<sup>19</sup> "Illegal Liquor Brings Arrest for Roadhouse Owner." *Elkhorn Independent* 19 August 1934: 1; "Sale of Liquor to Minors Brings Sentence." *Elkhorn Independent* 26 August 1934: 1.

<sup>20</sup> *Directory of the State Long Distance Telephone Company, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.* August 1935 – December 1941.

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taxed by the federal government. Both legal and illegal gambling devices of both types could be found in the tavern, at least during the early 1940s.<sup>21</sup>

In June of 1940, Gordon and Anna Peck were arrested by the Wisconsin State Beverage Tax Division investigators on the charge of selling liquor at the Wandawega Hotel without a license. However, the case was not set for trial by District Attorney Robert C. Bulkley of Walworth County until May of the following year, when State Beverage Tax Division Chief John W. Roach inquired into the matter and was informed that a trial would be scheduled for that fall. By January of 1942, the trial had yet to occur. By that time, the local inspector for the State Beverage Tax Division was again receiving complaints that liquor was still being sold at the Wandawega Hotel, as well that it was operating as a 'disorderly house.' In early February, an unsuccessful investigation was made into these complaints. In late March, a state inspector filed a memorandum stating that several local tavern-keepers informed him that liquor was sold by Mrs. Peck at the Wandawega Hotel on Saturday nights, that she also had "colored prostitutes" on weekends, and that upon his visit there was one "colored girl" in the tavern that "looked the part". Final investigations were made by the state in May of that year during which evidence was secured that resulted in the arrests of Anna Peck on the charge of selling liquor without a license as well as permitting the use of gambling devices and keeping a 'disorderly house' and Fannie Johnson on the charge of being 'an inmate of a disorderly house.' Both were arraigned, pleading innocent, and released on bail.<sup>22</sup>

After this arrest, major inquiries were made by Chief Roach pertaining to the delay of a trial after her previous arrest in 1940. Receiving state-wide attention, the inquiries by Roach were brought to the attention of Wisconsin Governor Julius P. Heil, who publicly demanded an explanation from District Attorney Bulkley for his alleged failure to prosecute Anna Peck. Bulkley responded citing that there was inadequate evidence, which the governor accepted.<sup>23</sup>

On August 31, 1942, Lake Wandawega was again the site of an inter-state criminal event. At 4:30 pm that day, John Gabriele of Chicago murdered his former fiancée and injured her sister outside of the electric company plant where the sisters worked in Chicago. An hour after fleeing the scene of the

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<sup>21</sup> "Five Clubs in Madison Paid Federal Taxes on Slot Machine, Pin Ball Taxes, U.S. Reveals." *Capital Times* 29 January 1942: 1; "Hearings for 2 Women Are Set for Friday." *Capital Times* 27 May 1942: 5.

<sup>22</sup> "Hearings for 2 Women Are Set for Friday."; "Memorandum Prepared by John W. Roach on Walworth County Case." *Capital Times* 10 June 1942: Editorial page; "Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Peck Sentenced." *Elkhorn Independent* 15 October 1942: 1.

<sup>23</sup> "Bulkley Cites Lack of Proof in Peck Case." *Wisconsin State Journal* 5 June 1942: 4; "Roach Blasts Bulkley Claim On Evidence." *Capital Times* 9 June 1942: 1; "Liquor Case Records Go To Gov. Heil." *Wisconsin State Journal* 9 June 1942: 15; "Memorandum Prepared by John W. Roach on Walworth County Case."; "D.A. Gets Heil Thank-You Note." *Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune* 18 June 1942: 5; "Explanation By Bulkley Accepted." *Elkhorn Independent* 18 June 1942.



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crime, a female acquaintance of Gabriele's found him sitting alone in his car. He got into her car and asked her to drive him to Elkhorn. After driving twelve miles, Gabriele informed her of the crime he had just committed. When she attempted to turn around, he forced her at gunpoint to continue driving to Wisconsin. She left him at the Wandawega Hotel and immediately returned to Chicago where she informed the police of the murder at 12:30 am on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Walworth County officials were then notified and arrived at the hotel at 12:45 am, where Gabriele had rented the 1-Bedroom Cabin under the name of Jack Redmond. Gordon and Anna Peck were unaware of the crime until the police arrived at the hotel that night and awoke them. Gabriele was found dead in the cabin in a rocking chair with a 32 caliber revolver on the floor and several farewell letters on the table beside him in which he tried to justify the murder and his suicide.<sup>24</sup>

In early October of 1942, while released on bail with previous charges pending, Gordon and Anna Peck were arrested again for selling liquor without a license and 'being a keeper of a disorderly house.' They were tried before Walworth County Judge Roscoe Luce for their arrests in both May and October of that year. Both pleaded guilty to the charges of illegal sale of beer and 'operation of a house of ill fame.' Gordon Peck was sentenced to a total of 6 months in the Walworth County Jail, three months each as the maximum sentence for two counts of possession of beer with the intent to sell without a license. Anna Peck was sentenced to three months each in the Walworth County Jail on two counts of sale of beer without a license and solicitation. She received a sentence of 1 to 3 years each in prison at the Wisconsin Home for Women in Taycheedah, Wisconsin, on two counts of 'keeping a bawdy house.'<sup>25</sup>

After serving his sentence, Gordon Peck eventually worked for the United Milk Product Company for many years. After Anna's release from prison, the couple purchased and moved into a house on N. Wisconsin Street in the City of Elkhorn in early 1945. After weeks in the hospital, Gordon died in 1966; Anna died in 1980 at the age of 94.<sup>26</sup>

Wandawega Lake Resort, 1946 - 1961

The Wandawega Hotel property came to be under the care of Henry R. and Elizabeth Zingen sometime after the sentencing of Gordon and Anna Peck. The hotel and tavern do not appear to have been in operation during this time. In March of 1946, the property was purchased by Alice Dyle, who operated the property as the Wandawega Lake Resort. It is believed that the resort was managed by Henry F.

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<sup>24</sup> "Murderer Is Suicide Here." *Elkhorn Independent* 3 September 1942: 1; "Kills Woman in Chicago And Himself Near Elkhorn." *Racine Journal-Times* 1 September 1942: 6.

<sup>25</sup> "Hotel Proprietor Arrested Again on Liquor Charge." *Wisconsin State Journal* 5 October 1942: 4; "Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Peck Sentenced."

<sup>26</sup> "Gordon Peck.;" "Anna V. Peck.;" "Locals." *Elkhorn Independent* 18 January 1945: 5.

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and Dorothy Andrews of Des Plaines, Illinois, from approximately 1949 to 1957, who substantially cleaned up the establishment's reputation.<sup>27</sup>

The resort was marketed largely to Chicago area residents, with its location just 81 miles northwest of Chicago just off of US-12 with ample parking accommodations. Bus service to Elkhorn coupled with a taxi ride to Lake Wandawega was also promoted. The resort advertised itself as a place where people from many parts of the country came to enjoy friendships they made there and stated that it was able to maintain lower rates due to the enthusiasm of its guests' recommendations to others. A guestbook from the late 1950s indicates a clientele largely from Chicago's near northwest side and the Bucktown and Wicker Park neighborhoods that would come for a weekend or a week-long stay.<sup>28</sup>

The resort was advertised as a rustic, informal, and restful 'vacation wonderland' with nature undisturbed. The resort boasted scenic hiking trails, swimming, boating, and excellent fishing for bass, crappie, and panfish. While fishing tackle was not provided, the resort maintained several boats for their guests' use. Outdoor activities for individuals or the whole family included a spacious playground and plenty of grassy land for children to play on, table tennis, and badminton. By 1950, a shuffle board court was constructed at the resort, as well as a horseshoe pit. The extant horseshoe pit is not being considered a resource in this nomination due to its insubstantial construction. The grounds were furnished with lawn chairs, hammocks, and sun lounges. Proximity to nearby golf courses was also a major attraction for the resort's guests.<sup>29</sup>

With its 'large' hotel and separate cabins, the resort was advertised as having all modern conveniences, including electric lights, hot and cold running water, and showers. Three meals were served to guests daily; and Wandawega Lake Resort prided itself on its 'whole-some properly seasoned' Polish style cooking, claiming to serve the choicest cuts of meat and local vegetables and produce for its 'century-old secretly guarded recipes.'<sup>30</sup>

In June of 1958, the resort was purchased by Wanda Stevens. At that time, Stevens also purchased the remainder of Lake Wandawega Subdivision Block 106, enlarging the parking area. Stevens operated the resort until 1961.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Deed. Henry R. & Elizabeth Zingen to Alice Dyle, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #385337, 11 March 1946; *Directory of the State Long Distance Telephone Company, Elkhorn, Wisconsin*. December 1942 – December 1946; Town of Sugar Creek Tax Assessment Records, 1949 - 1957.

<sup>28</sup> Wandawega Lake Resort. Brochure, c. 1950s. Collection of David Hernandez & Tereasa Surratt; Wandawega Lake Resort. Hotel Register. 1959. Collection of David Hernandez & Tereasa Surratt.

<sup>29</sup> Wandawega Lake Resort. Brochure; Hernandez, David & Tereasa Surratt; Pavasars, Val. Interview. 1 May 2014.

<sup>30</sup> Wandawega Lake Resort Brochure.

<sup>31</sup> Deed. Alice Dyle to Wanda Stevens, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #500292, 10 June 1958; Deed. Henry F. & Dorothy T. Andrews to Wanda Stevens, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #500294, 10 June 1958.

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Vandavega, Catholic Latvian-American Retreat, 1961 - 2004

In July of 1961, the property was purchased by the Latvian Marian Fathers, an order of Catholic priests, led by Father Grisanas, of the Our Lady of Aglona Mission Church in Chicago. The predominately Latvian-American parish was established in 1958 by Latvian refugees to the United States following World War II. The church served a minority population, as Latvians of that time were predominately Lutheran. The fathers purchased the former Wandawega Lake Resort with the intent of utilizing the property as a retirement home for Latvian priests and community members, who were unable to return to their motherland due to Soviet occupation. However, as individuals reached retirement age, they preferred to remain in the community in Chicago. As such, the property came to be used as a summer retreat for the Catholic Latvian community, primarily from the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. After the Fathers purchased the property, Chicago Cardinal Albert Gregory Meyer attended a ceremony at Lake Wandawega to bless the grounds.<sup>32</sup>

The property was known by the community simply as Wandawega; and as the Latvian language does not include a 'w' sound, the name 'Wandawega' was pronounced and often spelt 'Vandavega' by the Latvians. Father Grisanas retired by 1963, leaving care of Vandavega in the hands of his successor, Father Boleslavs Baginskis, affectionately referred as 'Father B' by the community.<sup>33</sup>

By 1964, Latvian-American families would rent a cabin or room in the former hotel building for the entire summer for a modest fee that essentially covered maintenance of the property, often with a single room for parents and several children to sleep. Older children often slept in tents set up on the hillside overlooking the lake at the west edge of the grounds. It was common for families to rent the same accommodations for many years – to the point that the rooms and cabins were commonly referred to by who continually stayed there. By the 1970s, this consisted of a core group of families that would spend most summer weekends at Vandavega, with the mother and children of many families commonly staying for weeks at a time while the fathers returned to work in Chicago during the week and returned to Vandavega each weekend. On weekends of major events, additional members of the Latvian-American community and guests would spend the weekend at the property, in the already tight sleeping quarters in the guestrooms or in tents on the grounds.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Deed. Wanda Stevens to Latvian Marian Fathers, Walworth County, Wisconsin, Deed #530567, 7 July 1961; "Our Lady of Aglona Mission." ParishesOnline website. <<http://www.parishesonline.com>> Accessed 3 April 2014; Hernandez, David. *Hernandez, a first generation Latvian-American, spent his childhood summers at Vandavega during the 1970s, who remains an active in the Latvian-American community, is the current owner of the property, and maintains a personal collection of stories, information, historic photographs, and artifacts pertaining to the property's history;* Pavasars, Val. *Pavasars, a Latvian immigrant, spent summers for most of her life at Vandavega since the early 1960s, and remains active in the Latvian-American community.*

<sup>33</sup> Hernandez, David; Pavasars, Val.

<sup>34</sup> Hernandez, David; Pavasars, Val.

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Outdoor sports and activities were an important part of the Latvian community's stay at Lake Wandawega, particularly volleyball. By the mid-1960s, a permanent volley ball net was installed. The extant poles for the volleyball court are not being considered a resource in this nomination due to their insubstantial construction. Around 1965, members of the Latvian community constructed a tennis court on the grounds, followed by a basketball court soon thereafter. The concrete pad of the basketball court, constructed in a slight valley, was often used as a stage or gathering platform for events with seating on the grassy slopes surrounding it.<sup>35</sup>

Other improvements to the grounds by the Latvian community include a small grotto near the grounds' entrance erected sometime during the late 1960s or early 1970s, terraced gardens with concrete retaining walls stepping down from the south side of the lodge to the lake, maintenance of the lakefront and piers, and development of a large, non-extant fire pit at the center of the grounds.<sup>36</sup>

The largest festival celebrated by the Latvian-Americans each year during the middle of June was St. John's Day, or Jāņi, a traditional Latvian celebration on the feast day of St. John the Baptist. Presumably beginning in 1962, the community convened each summer at Vandavega for a large celebration on the weekend of the summer solstice. Events would be led by a designated host and hostess who would wear traditional clothing and pass a communal pot of beer through the crowd. All men and boys named John would wear crowns of oak leaves. The holiday was celebrated with traditional foods, particularly bacon-filled pastries called pīrāgi and Jāņu siers, a special caraway cheese. The festivities were dominated by singing traditional Latvian songs, most notably the Līgo, sung first by the men to the women with the women singing back in response. The main event of the holiday was a bonfire lit at sunset on the eve of the summer solstice and kept all night.<sup>37</sup>

Another common event each summer at Vandavega included "Sportastalis", volleyball tournaments between the Catholic Latvians and members of the Estonian and Lithuanian communities of Chicago, and often Lutheran Latvians were also involved.

By 1970, a group of mothers began organizing a dedicated week or two of activities for children each summer. As the children of immigrants and first generation Americans were commonly faster to assimilate to American culture, the children would commonly refer to these weeks as "camp" – either in English "Camp Wandawega" or Latvian "Vandavega Nometne." These weeks consisted of structured activities for the children, centered on Latvian culture – crafts, traditions, folk songs – and

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<sup>35</sup> Pavasars, Val; *Historic Aerial Photograph Collection*, Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, Wisconsin, 1963 – 1979.

On file at the Arthur H. Robinson Map Library, Geography Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

<sup>36</sup> Hernandez, David; *Pavasars*, Val.

<sup>37</sup> Hernandez, David; *Pavasars*, Val.

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always began with the raising of flags, singing of the American and Latvian national anthems, and calisthenics on the basketball court.<sup>38</sup>

As many members of the Vandavega community were members of Dzintars, Latvian-American fraternal organization. Dzintars-sponsored conferences and retreats would take place each year at Vandavega, commonly open to non-members as well.<sup>39</sup>

As Catholic priests traditionally celebrate mass every day of the week, with or without a congregation, Father Baginskis began using the former entry vestibule of the lodge building as a private place for himself for this purpose. Others soon started joining him, beginning a tradition of Sunday Mass with homilies in Latvian. The first outdoor services were held on the small hill northeast of the hotel; however, soon thereafter, it moved to the lawn in front of the lodge. There, the vestibule itself was used as a sacristy to store vestments, robes, candles, microphones, and other items for the services. A wooden pavilion was constructed around 1975 to cover the altar during mass.<sup>40</sup>

Fundraisers after the services, including a monthly Latvian pancake breakfast, were a popular tradition for the Latvian families. Artistic and cultural events, including shows and sales for Latvian folk artists were also held after Sunday Masses at Vandavega. Funds raised at these events often were used to support the church in Latvia in addition to Vandavega's maintenance. Drives for clothing, shoes, and other necessities were commonly organized by Father Baginskis to benefit the needy in Latvia.<sup>41</sup>

Without advertisement, Sunday masses at Vandavega began to attract sizable attendance of other Chicagoans and vacationers in the Lake Wandawega and Lauderdale Lakes areas, as well as locals. The mid-1970s mark a distinct point in the retreat's history when attendance by visitors outside the Latvian community began to dominate the Sunday events, while those renting rooms and staying at Vandavega for the summer continued to be primarily members of the Latvian-American community. This change marks the end of the period of significance. The summer tradition of Sunday "Mass in the Grass" continues to this day.<sup>42</sup>

With the stabilization of Latvia by the turn of the twenty first century, the Latvian Marian Fathers sold Wandawega Lake Resort in December of 2003 to finance the restoration of a 400-year old convent in Latvia to serve as a retirement home for the priests.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Hernandez, David.

<sup>39</sup> Pavasars, Val.

<sup>40</sup> Hernandez, David; Pavasars, Val.

<sup>41</sup> Hernandez, David.

<sup>42</sup> Hernandez, David; Pavasars, Val.

<sup>43</sup> Hernandez, David.

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Camp Wandawega, 2004 - present

In partnership with several childhood friends, David Hernandez purchased the property from the Latvian Marian Fathers in January of 2004 and named the property Camp Wandawega. After Hernandez married Tereasa Surratt later that year, the couple purchased all shares in the property. During the early years of their ownership, Hernandez and Surratt continue to rent rooms seasonally to members of the Latvian Community while the couple undertook a major, staged restoration of the property until all buildings on the property were rehabilitated. Also under their ownership, several additional buildings have been relocated to or constructed on the property.<sup>44</sup>

A historic half-log clad cabin was relocated to Camp Wandawega in 2006. The cabin was constructed around 1920 by Frank Lamaster and Iva Dell as one of several cabins comprising the Log Cabin Tourist Camp on Route 67 outside of Beardstown, Illinois. By the 1920s, travelling by automobile became a popular form of recreation and vacation, especially following the establishment of the federal road numbering system in 1925 which standardized routes and road signs across the country. As an affordable alternative to hotels, often limited to city downtowns at that time, "travel camps" were developed on the outskirts of cities and in rural areas offering travelers a place to park their car and pitch a tent. Some offered public toilets and showers. Thousands of free camps were developed by state governments to promote tourism. As tourism increased by the end of the decade, the camps evolved into groupings of modest roadside cabins which provided accommodations year-round. These developments became known as "cabin camps", "cabin courts", or "motor hotels" - which was ultimately abbreviated into "motel." Competition for business led to the construction of the cabins with architectural style gimmicks, including faux teepees, Spanish villas, and log cabins. By the mid-1930s, Lamaster moved his family and the log cabins into Beardstown. The cabin was then used as a clubhouse for a hunting and fishing club. In 1946, two of the cabins were purchased by Art and Louis Jones, moved to another location in Beardstown, and housed the office and dispatch station for the Jones Brothers Trucking Company. Jones Brothers Trucking utilized the cabins for many years, until a new office was constructed. Both cabins sat vacant until one was purchased by Hernandez and Surratt in 2006 and relocated to Camp Wandawega where it was rehabilitated and purposed again for guest lodging.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Hernandez, David.

<sup>45</sup> Surratt, Tereasa. "A Very Modest Cottage." New York, Hearst Books: 2010. *Surratt, the current owner of the property, published this book as a chronicle of the history, relocation, and rehabilitation of the Log Cabin Tourist Camp Cabin. Her sources included the Cass County Historical and Genealogical Society and personal interviews with Milt Lamaster, son of Frank Lamaster, and Harold Tyson, lifelong Beardstown resident and historian.*

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An outhouse, designed by Chicago architect Harry Weese and constructed at Camp Juniper Knoll Girl Scout Camp near Elkhorn in 1956, was relocated to Camp Wandawega in January of 2010. After rehabilitation, the structure was repurposed as a shower house.<sup>46</sup>

A three-story “treehouse” was designed and constructed on the property in 2010 by Shaun Owens-Agase and Tyler Peterson of the Chicago design studio, Stone Blitzer, with the assistance of Bladon Conner, Angela Finney-Hoffman, Aaron Pahmier, and Steven Teichelman.<sup>47</sup>

Based on historic photographs and architectural details of the hotel building, a pergola was replicated on its extant foundation along the lakeshore between the lodge and hotel buildings in 2011.<sup>48</sup>

In 2012, a small cabin that was constructed during the early twentieth century on the grounds of the non-extant Sterlingworth Hotel on Mill Lake of the nearby Lauderdale Lakes was relocated to the property and rehabilitated.<sup>49</sup>

Today, the couple hosts events for the Latvian community as well as commercial camps and retreats. As executives for a Chicago advertising agency, Hernandez and Surratt have hosted numerous photo shoots and retreats for major national retailers and companies at Camp Wandawega. Aside from two books written by Surratt, their rehabilitation of the property has garnered national attention and been featured in regional and national publications and media. Recently, they began renting rooms to individual vacationers outside of scheduled events.<sup>50</sup>

## **Recreation & Entertainment**

### Walworth County Resorts

Early summer vacationers to Walworth County began camping in tents along Geneva Lake or renting rooms in boarding houses by the mid-eighteenth century. During the 1860s, the Village of Lake Geneva became known to residents of Chicago as a summer resort destination acclaimed for its natural beauty, fishing, the area’s rural appeal, its lodging accommodations, the lake’s passenger steamer, and

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<sup>46</sup> Harry Weese Architect & Engineer. “The Girl Scouts of Chicago, Camp Juniper Knoll, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.” Blueprints. 1956. On file at Camp Juniper Knoll, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

<sup>47</sup> Bazer, Gina. “Up in the Air.” Chicago Magazine. 6 May 2011; Camp Wandawega website. <<http://www.wandawega.com>> Accessed 23 April – 1 May 2014.

<sup>48</sup> Hernandez, David & Tereasa Surratt.

<sup>49</sup> Hernandez, David & Tereasa Surratt.

<sup>50</sup> Camp Wandawega website.

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its proximity by a four-hour train ride from Chicago. By 1870, Chicago residents began maintaining summer residences in Walworth County. A permanent rail line from Chicago reached the Village of Lake Geneva in 1871, improving access to the county and making it common for businessmen to work in Chicago during the week and join their families at the lake on weekends. Several additional hotels and resort parks and an increased number of private summer homes were constructed around Geneva Lake following the opening of the railroad.<sup>51</sup>

By the turn of the twentieth century, the tourism industry expanded across Walworth County. Initially tied largely to railroads as a means of transportation, the industry expanded during the early twentieth century with the profusion of automobile ownership and increased road improvement. While the tourism industry of the Wisconsin's more remote north woods developed especially around fishing and hunting, Walworth County developed a reputation as a vacation spot for more leisure and refined recreation and relaxation, attracting residents of Chicago, northern Illinois, Milwaukee, and southeastern Wisconsin for weekend to full summer stays.<sup>52</sup>

Early resorts of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were typically full-service, providing lodging, meals, and often entertainment and activities. Such resorts were generally comprised of a main "lodge" building, containing a dining room, kitchen, and office, and separate lodging facilities, whether multi-unit guesthouses or private cabins. It was not uncommon for lodge buildings to also include living quarters for the proprietor or additional rooms for rent. Other buildings on site often included laundry facilities, staff quarters, boathouses, fish cleaning facilities, and maintenance sheds or garages. Tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, and open play fields were common recreational facilities. If not available with the price of lodging, boats and other recreational equipment were often available for rent. The resort's lodge, typically the first building constructed, and guest accommodations, often added over time, were generally sited near and facing the water. Guest accommodations were built in locations with an emphasis on providing a great view, often on a hilltop. Support facilities were generally situated in less prominent locations away from the water. It was not uncommon for resorts to cultivate extensive gardens or operate adjacent farms to be at least partially self-sufficient in providing its own food. During the era of railroad transportation, guests commonly spent many weeks up to the entire summer at such resort hotels.<sup>53</sup>

Private vacation developments on the lakes in Walworth County were highly varied by the early twentieth century; some offered amenities such as running water, sewage systems, electric lights, and

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<sup>51</sup> Butler, Patricia and Sharon Crawford. *Geneva Lake Area Intensive Survey: An Architectural/Historical Report*. Geneva Lake Land Conservancy, Inc. and State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1985.

<sup>52</sup> Butler, Patricia and Sharon Crawford; Schnell, Traci E., Gayle Kiszlet, and Marisa Kosobucki. *Survey of Historic Resorts: Vilas County*. Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin: Heritage Research, Ltd., 2004.

<sup>53</sup> Schnell, Traci E., et. al.



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ground improvements that included gravel roads, piers, walkways, pergolas, rustic bridges, flower beds, and decorative water features. In order to purchase a lot, some subdivisions required certain credentials or agreements to spend minimum amounts on the construction of a summer home and included restrictive covenants prohibiting sale to non-Caucasian property owners. Lot sizes and lakefront proximity varied between subdivisions, reflective in price.<sup>54</sup>

The early 1920s saw a notable increase of interest in private lakefront real estate development in the county from nearby city real estate firms. Centered on Geneva Lake, by 1925, almost every lake in the county boasted a summer-home subdivision of at least 25 lots. In that year, 28 subdivisions were selling vacation property, largely to Illinois residents. By that time, there were 11 subdivisions on Geneva Lake, 7 on Delavan Lake and its inlet, 3 on Lauderdale Lake, 2 on Pell Lake, and 1 each on North Lake, Ryan's Lake, Pleasant Lake, and Turtle Lake. The setting for the Wandawega Inn, the Lake Wandawega Subdivision, with its limited amenities, small lot size, and indirect lake access, was one of the county's more abundant affordable developments marketed primarily to working class families of moderate means who wanted a summer home at a small cost.<sup>55</sup>

Beginning in the 1920s and remaining prominent through the mid-twentieth century, a limited-service, lodging-only format became popular for resorts. Many offered individual cabins. Guests were required to provide their own meals and often items such as their own linens as well. This style of resort, more often than not, lacked a main lodge building, with no need for a dining hall. This form of resort became more common as the use of private automobiles grew and quality of roads increased, allowing guests more personal freedom, by not being dependent on railroad schedules. The average length of stay also decreased. By this time, factors causing changes in the evolution of resort hotels included the proliferation of vacationers beginning to build their own vacation homes and no longer staying at resorts and the increase in tourism among the middle class looking for affordable accommodations, rather than the often expensive full-service resorts. Many full-service resort hotels converted to providing strictly lodging during the 1920s.<sup>56</sup>

Established during the late 1920s, the Wandawega Inn is an example of the transition that was occurring in the tourism industry with elements of both the full-service and lodging-only formats. The hotel offered simple, affordable accommodations in both a large guesthouse and individual cabins. While a restaurant and tavern was always operated onsite, lodging could be rented with or without meals by the late 1940s. There is no evidence that formal, organized entertainment was initially provided at the Wandawega Inn. Aside from boating, fishing, and hiking the wooded grounds,

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<sup>54</sup> "Sub-Divisions In Walworth County Selling Property." *Elkhorn Independent* 30 July 1925: 1; U.S. Bond & Mortgage Company. "Articles of Agreement." Chicago, 1925. Collection of David Hernandez & Tereasa Surrat.

<sup>55</sup> Schnell, Traci E., et. al.; "Sub-Divisions In Walworth County Selling Property."

<sup>56</sup> Schnell, Traci E., et al.

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recreation was limited to nearby attractions, which included a golf course. It is unknown at the time of this writing if the inn's lakefront had a developed beach for swimming and bathing or if guests were required to use the subdivision's public beach. However, by the late 1940s, the resort offered nightly dancing at the lodge, fishing, boating, onsite swimming, and concessions. Additional recreational facilities were developed at the resort over time, including a shuffleboard court.<sup>57</sup>

The facilities of the Wandawega Inn, later known as the Wandawega Hotel and Wandawega Lake Resort, were constructed in vernacular architectural styles and sited, as was typical, with a main lodge building and guest accommodations near the water and on a hillside with lake views. Recreational uses and support facilities are sited away from the lake.

By 1945, there were around 30 resort hotels and around 50 establishments renting private cabins or cottages in Walworth County, with a majority on or near Geneva Lake.<sup>58</sup>

It is instructive to compare the Wandawega Inn complex with other resort properties in Walworth County. A study of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) was undertaken to establish a context for the Wandawega Inn and assess its NRHP potential. The results of this research reveal that the Wandawega Inn is likely the only twentieth century, working class resort hotel that has been previously identified via reconnaissance surveys in Walworth County, and that of the closely comparable resources in the AHI, only nine other hotel and five camp properties from the same time period have been previously identified. These buildings largely fall into other lodging typologies that include downtown hotels, roadside motels, and camps comprised primarily of small cabins. It appears that extant properties with high levels of integrity exhibiting the lakeside resort hotel typology are increasingly rare in Walworth County, where high demand for lake property has driven the demolition of this property type or insensitive conversion into private residences. These results demonstrate that the Wandawega Inn is unique as an intact early twentieth century resort hotel in Walworth County.

Eastern European-American Cultural Camps & Retreats

Following the international diaspora of Eastern Europeans following the end of World War II, communities of these new immigrants to the United States remained centered on their ethnic cultures and traditions. Religious ties were strong and, for many, their new lives in the United States centered on a strongly ethnic religious community. New cultural institutions, often regional in scale, were created by these communities. As attendance increased, permanent proprietary facilities were often

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<sup>57</sup> Wandawega Inn. Advertisement; Wandawega Lake Resort. Brochure.; Hernandez, David & Tereasa Surratt.

<sup>58</sup> "Wisconsin Recreation Guide 1945 Edition." *Wisconsin Motor News* Vol. XIV, No. 3. Wisconsin Division American Auto Association, 1945.

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sought. Camps and retreats were developed by several Eastern European-American communities throughout the country during the mid-twentieth century. Because Latvian political refugees that did not leave their homeland by choice, the Latvian-American community desired to maintain their ethnic culture and language in which they took great pride, similar to other Eastern European immigrant groups from that period. Such camps were some of the few places available to members of these communities to develop and teach the community's young people about their religious beliefs and native language, history, and culture as well as host cultural celebrations, fellowship, and vacation. As this first generation fled their homeland with what little they could carry, assuming they would return to their homes following the conflict, the church-affiliated retreat was one of few places affordable for them to vacation and recreate.<sup>59</sup>

An example of such a camp includes Neringa in Brattleboro, Vermont. In 1944, a group of nuns established a Catholic Lithuanian-American girl's camp known as "Camp Immaculata" at their convent in Putnam, Connecticut. Fueled by the large influx of Lithuanians from Germany to the United States, in 1949, attendance grew from 40 to over 100 girls. Within a few years, a new location was sought. While nearby farmland was purchased from a member of the Lithuanian community, funds were lacking to construct new buildings to house the camp there. A search for an existing purpose-built camp in New York, Pennsylvania, or New Jersey began, but was unsuccessful. Ultimately in 1969, property of a camp in Vermont, that had closed during the war bankrupted by the cost of transporting campers to its remote location, was purchased and renamed Neringa. Camp Neringa continues to operate to this day with programs for children, families, and adults in both Lithuanian and English.<sup>60</sup>

A mid-western example includes Camp Dainava in Michigan, which was conceived in 1950, when the Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Federation first discussed the idea of a summer campground for Lithuanian youth. In 1954, the federation began to raise funds for such a camp. In 1957, a 226-acre farm was purchased in Manchester, and Camp Dainava was established. Camp Dainava continues to operate to this day serving campers of all ages in learning about Lithuanian culture and fellowship.<sup>61</sup>

The first Latvian immigrants to the United States arrived during the mid-nineteenth century. Despite being small in number, they established a number of churches and clubs in eastern states. During early

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<sup>59</sup> "Latvian Americans." American Latvian Association website. <<http://www.alausa.org/en/who-we-are/latvian-americans/>> Accessed 28 April 2014; "Neringa nešame su savimi visą gyvenimą, nes Neringa mus išmokė to, kas svarbu." Draugas Website. <<http://www.draugas.org/06-27-09tamosiunaite-neringa.html>> Accessed 27 March 2014. *Translated from Lithuanian to English with Google Translator website*; Hernandez, David; Pavasars, Val.

<sup>60</sup> "Neringa nešame su savimi visą gyvenimą, nes Neringa mus išmokė to, kas svarbu."; Camp Neringa website. <<http://www.neringa.org>> Accessed 24 March 2014;

<sup>61</sup> Camp Dainava website. <<http://www.dainava.org>> Accessed 24 March 2014.

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twentieth century civil unrest in Eastern Europe, thousands of Latvians fled government repression to the United States. While some Latvian-Americans returned to their homeland after World War I and the establishment of Latvia as an independent nation, many remained and assimilated rapidly into American society. Having faced Soviet occupation in Latvia, followed by Nazi occupation, and renewed Soviet occupation, the period after World War II saw the largest wave of Latvian emigration. Many fled for their lives, and leaving everything behind, first spent years in European refugee camps before immigrating to the United States in the early 1950s.<sup>62</sup>

Several Latvian-American Camps were established across North America during the mid-twentieth century. These include Nometne Katskilu (Catskills Camp) in Elka Park, New York, founded in 1956; Latviešu Centrs Gaŗezers (Latvian Center Garezers) in Three Rivers, Michigan, founded in 1965; and others in New Jersey and outside of Toronto.<sup>63</sup>

The former Camp Lone Tree Girl Scout Camp was purchased by the Lutheran Latvian-American community to establish Garezers due to its central location within driving distance of the largest Latvian communities in the Midwest, particularly Chicago, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Indianapolis, Cleveland, and Milwaukee. Garezers continues to serve the Midwestern Latvian-American Community, regardless of religious denomination, to this day.<sup>64</sup>

Vandavega represents the Eastern European ethnic camp as a Catholic Latvian-American example. Despite the initial intent to utilize the property as a retirement home for its priests, who were unable to return to their homeland due to Soviet occupation, the property came to be used as a retreat for the Catholic Latvian community, primarily from the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. Following the common trend for new immigrant groups with limited financial means, it was an existing facility that was purchased for the cultural function rather than employing more expensive new construction. While much smaller in size than large organized camps such as Neringa and Dainava, and with a less formal organization and goals, Camp Wandawega provided accommodations and seasonal facilities typical for such camps: dormitories, a main hall with all-purpose room, kitchen, and recreational facilities which commonly include basketball, volleyball, tennis courts, and swimming beach.

It is believed that the Wandawega Inn represents the only Eastern European-American cultural camp or retreat in Walworth County, and the only Latvian American retreat in Wisconsin.

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<sup>62</sup> "Latvian Americans."

<sup>63</sup> Straumanis, Andris. "New York Camp's Anniversary Brings Back Memories." Latvians Online website. <<http://latviansonline.com/index.php/commentary/article/1931/>> 20 August 2006. Accessed 28 April, 2014; Catskills Camp website. <<http://www.katskilunometne.org/>> Accessed 28 April 2014; Latviešu Centrs Gaŗezers website. <[http://www.garezers.org](http://http://www.garezers.org)> Accessed 28 April 2014; Pavasars, Val.

<sup>64</sup> Latviešu Centrs Gaŗezers website.

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**Conclusion**

The Wandawega Inn is nominated at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of Entertainment and Recreation as a fine example of a resort hotel and vacation property exhibiting the evolution of recreational uses from the early to late twentieth century. The property also gains additional distinction from its unique connection to the history of the Prohibition era, the development of working-class recreational properties in Walworth County, and the Catholic Latvian-American community of the upper Midwest. Furthermore, the property maintains its historic integrity in the preservation of its site, context, original architectural forms, and original exterior and interior materials.

**Consideration G**

Resources less than fifty years old are usually not eligible for listing, unless they are significant historic resources of exceptional importance. Several resources on the Wandawega Inn property are close to being fifty years old and contribute to the significant history of the property. One of the property's historic uses that contribute to its significance continued into the recent past - use as a retreat exclusively for members of the Latvian-American community- experienced a defined transition in 1975 that marks a definite and logical end of that era. An end date to the period of significance at any point before 1975 would be arbitrary. It is imperative to include this era within the period of significance, as the property's use by the Latvian-American community is a prominent chapter of the property's history. The Latvian-American association is significant in the history of the local area and is also significant in the recreational and cultural history of the region's Latvian-American community. This property may be the only one of its kind with this cultural association in Wisconsin. While the period of significance extends approximately one decade past the 50-year mark, it is justifiable that the property be nominated in this way due to the rarity and high level of integrity of the property's recreational resources from the early twentieth century, and the rarity of the cultural association with this type of property.

**Statement of Archeological Potential**

This area of the state, with its numerous lakes, was likely home to considerable Native American activities. While it is almost certain that the construction of the extant resources would have greatly disturbed or completely obliterated remaining archeological artifacts directly within their footprint, it is possible that Native American resources may be extant outside of those footprints within the boundaries of the complex; however, archaeological potential has not been assessed.

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**Preservation Activities**

Thanks to its history of good maintenance, the Wandawega Inn continues to serve as a well preserved, recreational property. In addition, the current property owners have been proactive in protecting this historic resource, and this nomination is a continuation of their efforts. In listing this property, the property owners also hope to utilize tax credits and/or other incentives to maintain their property.

**Acknowledgements**

The Fuldner Heritage Fund paid for the preparation of this nomination. This endowed fund, created through a generous donation by the Jeffris Family Foundation and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society, supports the nomination of historically and architecturally significant rural and small town properties.

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**UTM References**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property that is the subject of this nomination consists of 10 contributing and 5 non-contributing resources situated on parcels GLW 00381, GLW 00280, and GSC 200007 located in Sections 1 and 2, Town 3 North, Range 16 East in the Town of Sugar Creek in Walworth County, Wisconsin. The specific boundaries for the purpose of this nomination are delineated on the east by the property line at the rights-of-way of Sycamore Lane and Lake View Drive, on the north and northwest by a prominent wooded hillside, on the west by the approximate edge of a natural clearing, and on the southwest and south by the property line and lakeshore.

The boundary of the Wandawega Inn as described above encloses all 15 resources and is clearly delineated on the accompanying sketch map. This boundary enclosed an area of approximately 4.5 acres.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encloses approximately 4.5 acres that immediately surround the nominated resources and includes all portions of the property that were actively used for recreation associated with the property during the period of significance. While other portions of the property were associated with the ownership of the property during the period of significance, they were never developed historically nor actively used and remain largely unimproved woodland to this day. The result is a tight complex with as little extraneous acreage as possible.

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Name of Property:	Wandawega Inn
City or Vicinity:	Town of Sugar Creek
County:	Walworth County
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:	Robert Short
Date of Photographs:	April 23, 2014
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society Historic Preservation Division 816 State Street Madison, WI 53706

Photo #1 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0001)  
General view from lake of 1-Bedroom Cabin & Hotel, camera facing northeast.

Photo #2 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0002)  
General view from lake of Hotel, 3-Bedroom Cabin & Lodge, camera facing northwest.

Photo #3 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0003)  
General view of Treehouse, Basketball Court, 1-Bedroom Cabin, Log Cabin & Outhouse, camera facing southwest.

Photo #4 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0004)  
Lodge, east and north façades, camera facing southwest.

Photo #5 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0005)  
Lodge, Dining Room, camera facing north.

Photo #6 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0006)  
Hotel, north and east façades, camera facing southwest.

Photo #7 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0007)  
Hotel, south and west façades, camera facing northwest.

Photo #8 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0008)  
3-Bedroom Cabin, south façade, camera facing north.

Photo #9 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0009)  
1-Bedroom Cabin, north and east façades, camera facing southwest

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Photo #10 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0010)  
Garage, south and west façades, camera facing northeast

Photo #11 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0011)  
Shuffleboard Court, camera facing southwest.

Photo #12 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0012)  
Grotto, camera facing west.

Photo #13 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0013)  
Pavilion, camera facing southwest.

Photo #14 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0014)  
Basketball Court, camera facing northwest.

Photo #15 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0015)  
Tennis Court, camera facing south.

Photo #16 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0016)  
Sterlingworth Cabin, south and west façades, camera facing northeast.

Photo #17 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0017)  
Log Cabin Tourist Camp Cabin, south and east façades, camera facing southwest.

Photo #18 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0018)  
Camp Juniper Knoll Outhouse, east and north façades, camera facing southwest.

Photo #19 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0019)  
Treehouse, camera facing southwest.

Photo #20 (WI\_WalworthCounty\_WandawegaInn\_0020)  
Pergola, camera facing southeast.

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*Wandawega Hotel - Lodge, c. 1930s*

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*Wandawega Lake Resort - Hotel, 3-Bedroom Cabin & Lodge, c. late 1940s – 1950s*



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*Wandawega Lake Resort - Lodge, north end of dining room, c. late 1940s – 1950s*

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*Wandawega Lake Resort - Lodge, bar at south end of dining room, c. late 1940s – early 1950s*

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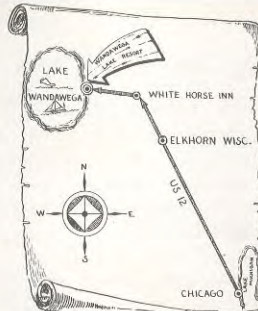
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Wandawega Inn  
Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI

Our Polish Style Cooking has brought us fame far and wide. We serve the choicest cuts of meat. Our vegetables and produce are obtained from the local countryside assuring you appetizing, wholesome properly seasoned foods. We serve three generous family style meals daily. Many of our tasty Polish dishes are prepared from century-old secretly guarded recipes. . .making mealtime an Adventure of taste thrills.



Whether you come with a family or as an individual. . .we aim to please. Our large Hotel and separate cottages afford the best of accommodations. You see we care for each individual's desire. No matter where you sleep you will have a delightful place to rest. . .one that you will regret leaving when the time comes for you to go back to your own busy world. You have this great estate in which to truly enjoy the summer. While our guest you will have a truly enjoyable and restful holiday.



We are located on Wandawega Lake, Elkhorn, Wisconsin. . .81 miles north-west of Chicago. . .and but a mile off US-12. Ample parking accommodations are offered drivers. Should you not care to drive. . .bus service is available to Elkhorn. . .then taxi to resort.

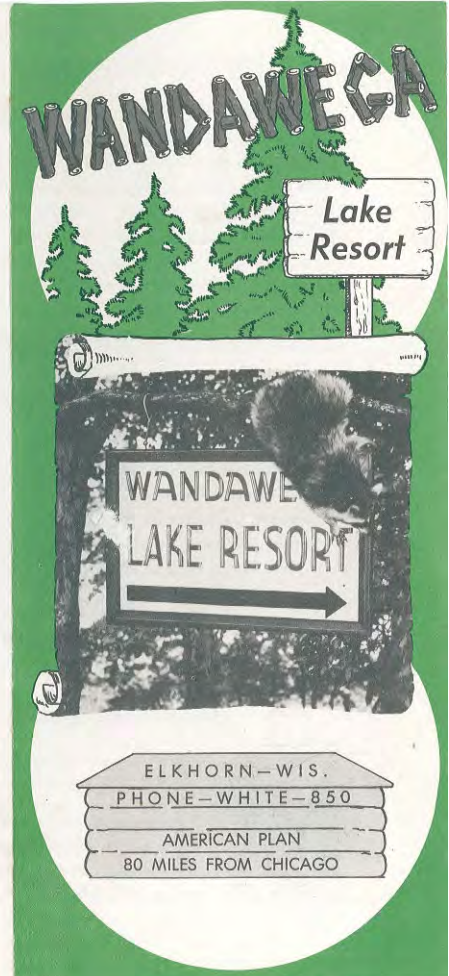
To avoid disappointment, please make reservations as early as possible to secure the exact accommodations you desire. Let us know the number of people in your party, how long you plan to stay and arrival date.

American Plan Only  
Accommodations  
Cottages and Main Hotel  
Conveniences  
Showers

Electric Light -- hot and cold running water --  
comfortable beds --  
and above all a clean and restful atmosphere.

For Reservations  
Write, Wire or Phone  
WANDAWEGA LAKE RESORT  
Elkhorn, Wisconsin  
Phone -- White 850

We are able to maintain exceptionally low rates because the enthusiastic recommendation of our guests to their friends keeps WANDAWEGA LAKE RESORT filled with a mutually congenial clientele.



*Wandawega Lake Resort Brochure, c. 1950s*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Figures Page 6

Wandawega Inn  
Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI

A HIGHWAY OF HAPPINESS. . . Leading to the Heart of Southern Wisconsin. . . and  
Directly to Beautiful WANDAWEGA LAKE RESORT. . . The Vacation Wonderland

When you look at the map and see the direct, picturesque route leading to this territory. . . you can see why people are enthusiastic about "Our North Woods Atmosphere". . . and about this RUSTIC -- INFORMAL -- RESTFUL vacation wonderland found at beautiful WANDAWEGA LAKE RESORT. . . Rustic, with nature undisturbed, excellent fishing, boating, scenic trails for hiking and yet with all modern conveniences. Here are all these things for your enjoyment and then back to the hotel where you may sleep the sleep of the just, and wake in the morning refreshed and ready for more adventuring.

WANDAWEGA LAKE RESORT is an ideal rendezvous for lovers of the great outdoors and just the place you have so often visualized in your dreams. People gather here from many parts of the country to enjoy the friendships they have made and to make new friends. Of course, one must have good sport. . . people who come to WANDAWEGA LAKE RESORT can do just as they like. . . activities are always open to all. . . at no extra charge. In fact, there is adventure wherever you may look for it.



Don't forget the kiddies, we love them and have special rates for them. . . spacious playground with plenty of grassy land to romp on. . . no highway or motor cars for "Mother to worry about". In fact, children are very happy here.

We have many outdoor sports for you as well as the kiddies, such as shuffleboard, table tennis, badminton, bathing,



boating, fishing.



Lawn-chairs, hammocks, sun-lounges are at your command. . . we see that you enjoy every day spent with us.



You'll find Bass. . . Crappie. . . Panfish. . . "Right in Our Front Yard". . . So be sure to bring your fishing tackle.

There are good, safe fishing boats here at all times and someone to care for your needs and to direct you to the best fishing spots. There is good fishing here. . . we know it, judging by the number of fish brought in.



Just a five minute drive over our good roads takes you to a fine golf course . . . always open to our guests. We believe you will find this course as fine as any in the country. . . built on rolling country and offering the usual conveniences to guests.



Wandawega Lake Resort Brochure, c. 1950s

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

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

Section Figures Page 7

Wandawega Inn  
Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI

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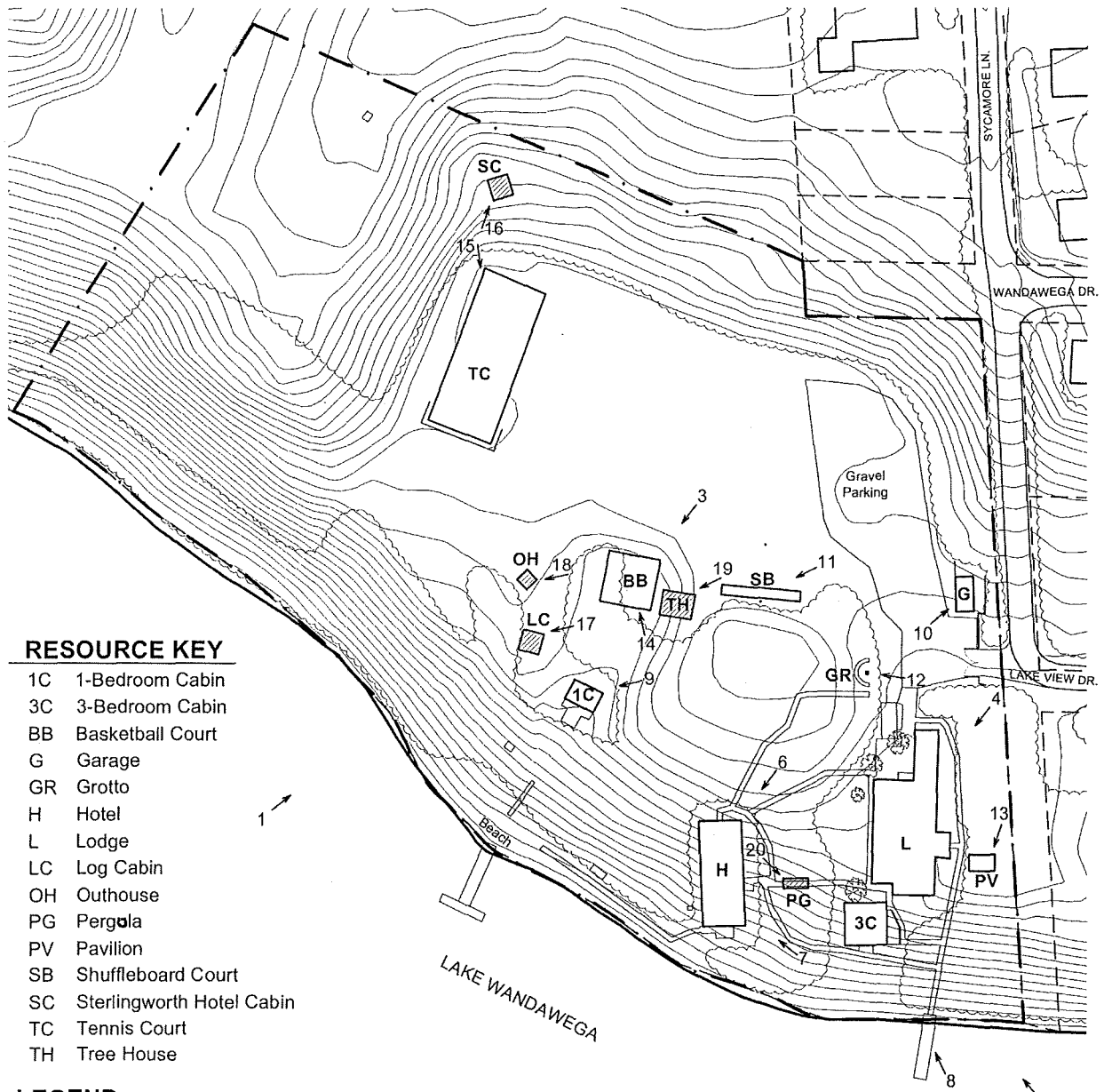
*Vandavega - Sunday Mass in front of the Lodge likely during construction of the Pavilion, c.1975*

United States Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
 Continuation Sheet

Section sketch map Page 1

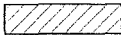
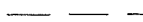
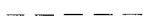


Wandawega Inn  
 Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI



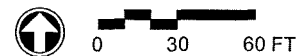
**RESOURCE KEY**

- 1C 1-Bedroom Cabin
- 3C 3-Bedroom Cabin
- BB Basketball Court
- G Garage
- GR Grotto
- H Hotel
- L Lodge
- LC Log Cabin
- OH Outhouse
- PG Pergola
- PV Pavilion
- SB Shuffleboard Court
- SC Sterlingworth Hotel Cabin
- TC Tennis Court
- TH Tree House

**LEGEND**

-  NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
-  PROPERTY LINE
-  ORIGINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT
-  NRHP BOUNDARY
-  PHOTO NUMBER & VANTAGE POINT

**SKETCH MAP**



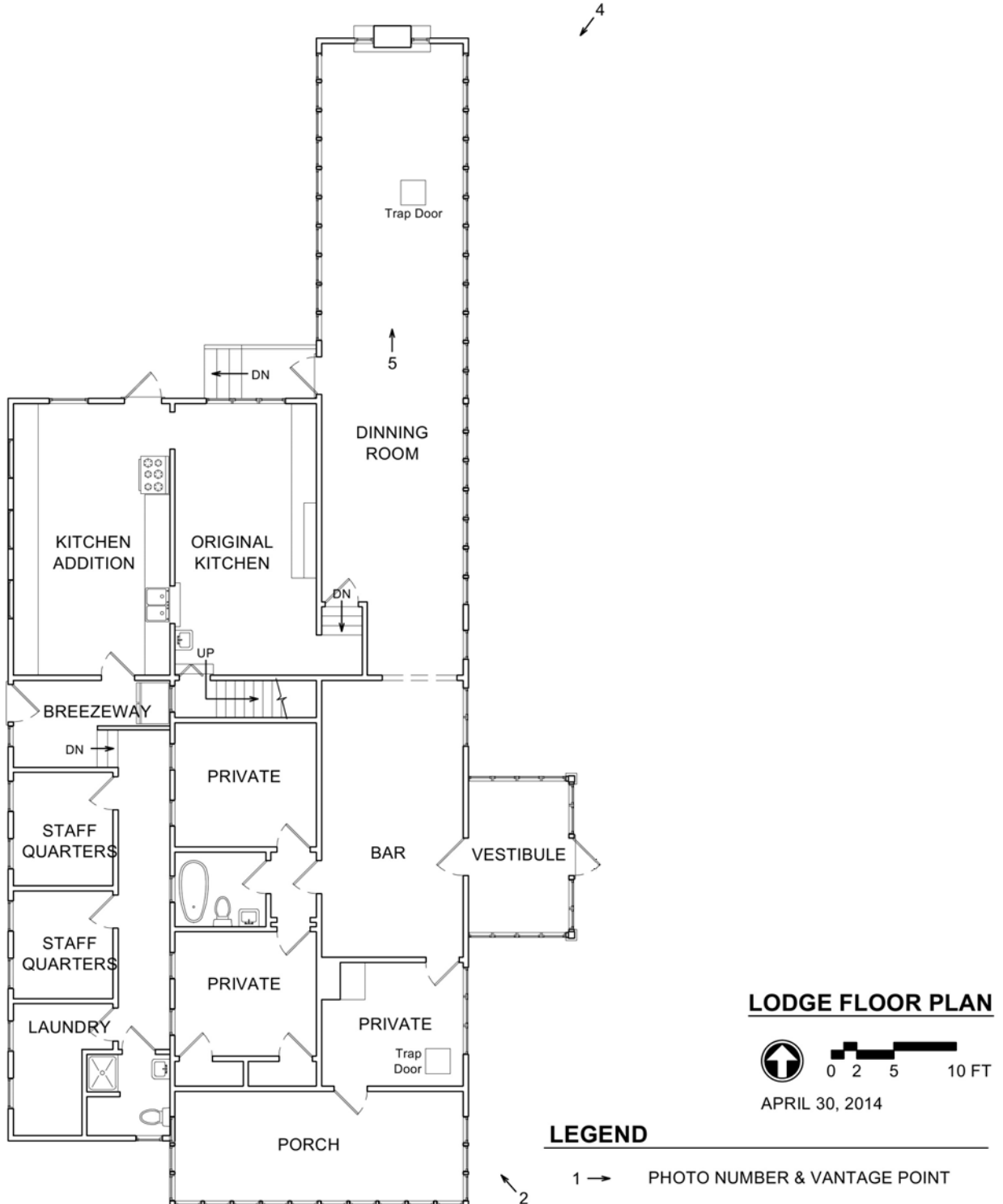
APRIL 30, 2014

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section sketch plans Page 1

Wandawega Inn  
Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI

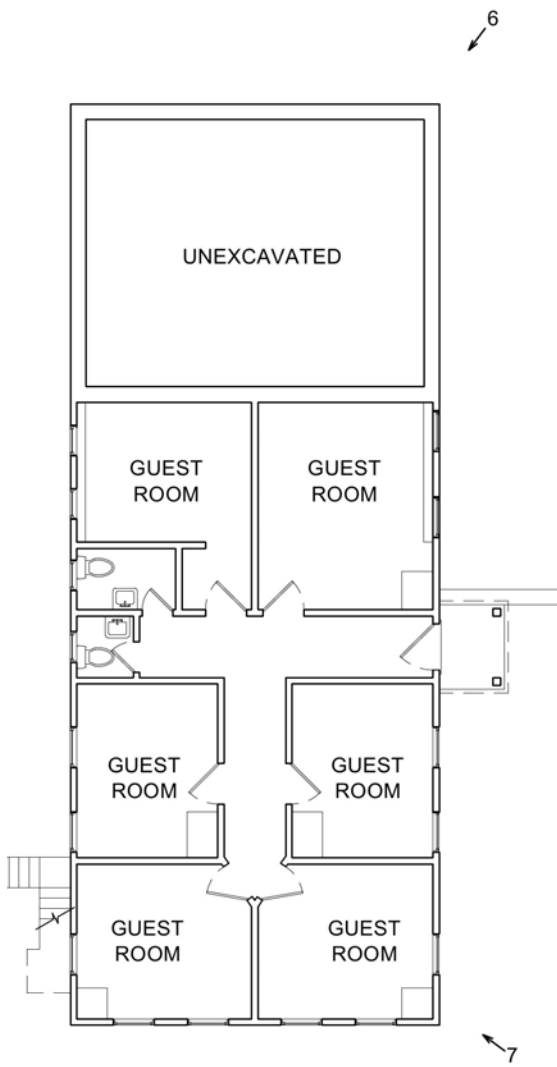


**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

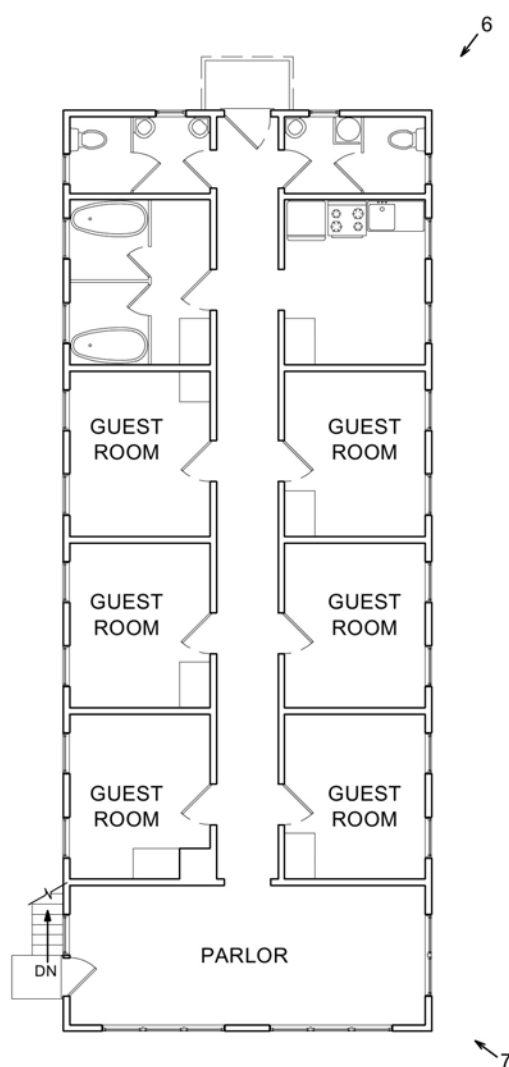
**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section sketch plans Page 2

Wandawega Inn  
Town of Sugar Creek, Walworth County, WI



**HOTEL MID LEVEL FLOOR PLAN**



**HOTEL TOP LEVEL FLOOR PLAN**



APRIL 30, 2014

**LEGEND**

1 → PHOTO NUMBER & VANTAGE POINT













VANDAVEGA











CABIN

VICKROY







JAMES BURRATT  
TOM BURRATT















CAMP  
SHOWERS

MEN



TOM'S TREEHOUSE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wandawega Inn

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Walworth

DATE RECEIVED: 4/24/15      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/15      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/09/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000341

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    6-8-15 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.



# Amy Loudenbeck

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 31<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

RECEIVED

AUG 06 2014

DIV HIST PRES

August 5, 2014

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board  
c/o Peggy Veregin  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board:

It is my understanding that you have received an application requesting that the Wandawega Inn in Walworth County be added to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. I represent the 31<sup>st</sup> Assembly district, which includes western Walworth County and the Town of Sugar Creek. For that reason and based on the merits of the application, I am writing you to support the nomination of the Wandawega Inn for the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

Wandawega Inn is a local gem full of rich history that deserves to be recognized both at the state and national level. As the nomination paper states, "The history of the property encompasses three distinct eras over time: an early, working-class resort hotel and speakeasy during the early twentieth century, a working-class family resort during the mid-twentieth century, and a cultural retreat and camp for the region's minority Catholic Latvian-American community during the mid- and late twentieth century." It is my belief that the Wandawega Inn provides an exceptionally rare view on how recreation, entertainment and vacationing have evolved in southern Wisconsin throughout history.

The website for Wandawega Inn says, "Wandawega has quite the 'once upon a time.' These grounds have hosted everyone from sinners to saints . . ." They also boast a very interesting collection of stories and photographs which provide a fascinating record of the history of the physical property, owners and guests.

I hope that each of you will agree with me in recognizing the Wandawega Inn as a truly unique place with significant historical value and approve its nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Loudenbeck  
State Representative

Cc: Wandawega Inn



**TO:** Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Peggy Veregin

**SUBJECT:** National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 22th day of April 2015,  
for the nomination of the Wandawega Inn to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 20 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with electronic images
- 1 USGS map(s)
- 10 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- 1 Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_