

PH0509485

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 29 1977
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Octagon Cottage

AND/OR COMMON

The Octagon Cottage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 52, Lake Ripley

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Litchfield

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Meeker

CODE

093

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Raynold and Myrtle Allen

STREET & NUMBER

345 7th Avenue South

CITY, TOWN

So. St. Paul

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

55075

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registrar of Deeds -- Meeker County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Litchfield

STATE

Minnesota

55355

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society -- Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

55111

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Octagon Cottage was originally part of a summer resort complex known as Brightwood Beach located on the south shore of Litchfield's Lake Ripley in Meeker County. Situated on the sloping shore, the cottage is one of fourteen properties out of a total forty-seven original lots with direct access to the lake.

Built in 1889 the cottage is constructed on an octagonal plan. The central core of the cottage is two storeys. A total peripheral, octagonal porch surrounded the cottage. In 1907 a third of the screened porch was enclosed and a rectangular porch was added to the (rear) south side. The exterior treatment of the cottage is vertical pine board and batton siding. The octagonal, conical roof retains its original shingles.

The interior of the cottage is also furnished in pine, having pine flooring and exposed, unfinished pine rafters in the first and second floor ceilings. The interior has retained its integrity with the exception of added carpeting and some paneling. The original floor plan called for an open living, kitchen and dining room on the first floor and one bedroom on the second floor. The 1907 addition created an additional bedroom, a separate kitchen and modern plumbing facilities.

A stairway leads from the house to the lake shore. Situated on the lot is a concrete block boat shed and an outdoor privy.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT G.B. Phelps

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Octagon Cottage is an example of the type of building recommended by Orson Fowler in his publication, A Home For All or the Gravel Wall and Octagonal Mode of Building, a popular but short lived mode of architecture popular in the 1850s. It is the only surviving octagonal cottage thus far recorded in the state. The structure is in a good state of preservation and apart from a 1907 kitchen/porch addition, retains a significant amount of architectural design integrity.

The cottage was, during the years 1889-1894, part of a planned resort community constructed on the south shore of Lake Ripley. The resort was the idea of two Litchfield promoters, Hiram Branham and Charles Greenleaf. The partners purchased nearly the whole south shore of Lake Ripley in 1888 and by May of 1889 with the assistance of Litchfield architect, G.B. Phelps, more than a dozen cottages and a two storey hotel were ready for July occupancy.

Advertising brought vacationers from the Eastern states, St. Louis, Chicago and Florida, and for the next four summers, Brightwood was the showplace of activity. Musicals, recitals, tennis tournaments, steamboat excursions, reunions and conventions were held at Brightwood; its hotel, rental cottages and recreational hall providing ample guest facilities.

When financial difficulties struck Messrs. Branham and Greenleaf, a stock company composed of 86 Litchfield businessmen put up the necessary capital to purchase the resort. However in June of 1894, the resort furnishings were auctioned off and the resort cottages not privately owned were sold. Some cottages were moved to Litchfield, or like the hotel and recreational hall were dismantled and used in other construction.

Of the dozen or more buildings that comprised Brightwood Beach only two cottages are left. Because of extensive alterations to one, only the octagonal cottage remains to reflect the style and quality of recreational living experienced at Brightwood Beach in the 1890s. Its significance lies in its relatively unaltered condition, its good state of preservation and in the 1889 adaption of an octagonal house design by a local architect to that of a summer cottage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Helene Lyne
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to
Octagon Cottage in Meeker County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 78001551

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Meeker

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Brightwood Beach Cottage

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Litchfield

ADDRESS: South Ripley Dr.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date