

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 18 1977

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Hadland Fishing Camp

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Rocky Island (N.W. 1/4, S.W. 1/4, Section 19, T53N, R2W)

CITY, TOWN

Town of La Pointe *me*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Wisconsin 54850

CODE

55

COUNTY

Ashland

CODE

003

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC (Reservation of USC,)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: fishing camp

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

National Park Service, Midwest Region

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska 68102

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Ashland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

STATE

Wisconsin 54806

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Buildings Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

②  
7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1938</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the south shore of an isthmus on Rocky Island between the main body of the island and a northeastern peninsula, the Hadland Fishing Camp contains five buildings and several related structures. It is situated on a 2.75 - acre property approximately 200 feet deep from the shore and approximately 600 feet long in the northeast - southwest direction.

Building A. (see appended map). This building was built in 1938 by John Freed, a fisherman who, for a number of years, rented the site from Christian Hadland. It is a one-room, one-story, single-gable cabin which rests on horizontal log foundations. The side walls are frame construction with horizontal tongue-and-groove wood siding. The end walls are hand-trimmed vertical logs of uniform dimension. All of the walls except the northwest are whitewashed. The roof is tar papered. The building is in use and in good repair.

Building B. This one-story single-gable cabin was built in 1938 as the main residential cabin of the camp. It is of simple frame construction faced with whitewashed horizontal tongue-and-groove wood siding and stands on horizontal log foundations. The roof is tar papered. The cabin is unoccupied and its roof is in poor condition.

Building C. Christian Hadland built this building of hand-hewn logs on Outer Island in the early 1920's. It was designed to be easily moved. The logs are short in length and are placed horizontally between grooved vertical log posts. This type of construction was quite common through the nineteenth century in French log buildings. By the 1920's, its practical advantages for a "portable" building outweighed its ethnic associations. The roof of the cabin is a single gable covered with boards and tar paper. There is a shed roofed frame extension on the northeast end. The building was brought to Rocky Island in 1938, used as quarters for a hired man, and has been abandoned for many years. It is in deteriorated, but restorable, condition.

Building D. This is a small single gable building close to the former location of the dock. It was and is used to store fishing nets and equipment. Construction is frame with unpainted wide board siding. The roof is tar papered and the building has no foundation. It is in fair condition.

Building E. Used as an ice house, this is a small shed-roofed frame building. The exterior is both tar paper and wood siding. The roof is tar papered. There are no foundations. The building is deteriorated.

Other structures on the property include a number of gill net winders, four vaned wooden spools used for drying nets, and a float drying platform used when net floats were made of wood and needed to be periodically dried out to keep from rotting. The winders are in good condition and some are still in use. The drying platform is in poor condition.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) commercial fishing	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1920, 1938      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      John Freed, Christian Hadland

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Though built in 1938, the Hadland Fishing Camp is of exceptional importance because it is the last working fishing camp within the boundaries of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. This camp and its forerunners played a significant role in the commercial fishing industry of the Chequamegon Bay region.

The first major attempt to exploit the area's fisheries commercially was made by the American Fur Company's La Pointe outpost in 1835. Fishermen spent the season fishing <sup>so?</sup> from island camps, and turned over their catch when the company's boat made its regular call. At La Pointe, the fish were salted and packed in barrels for shipment to distant markets. Local companies succeeded the American Fur Company in the 1840's and the center of the fish packing industry moved from La Pointe to Bayfield, but the pattern established in 1835 continued. At the turn of the century, Booth Fisheries, a national concern, became the dominant packer in the region. The increased stability resulting from a nationwide market brought about increased fishing activity. Fishermen would often bring their families to the islands for the summer months. A small year round community of fishermen was established on Sand Island, and by the 1930's, nearly every island had known a seasonal fishing camp. Rocky Island had more than a half dozen. The Booth boat would call as often as every other day, and smaller companies would sometimes call on the intervening days.

Booth Fisheries continued to run its boat to the islands through the late 1950's when a combination of overfishing and the sea lamprey made it uneconomical. Bodin Fisheries, Bayfield, is now the major packer and distributor of fish in the area, but it requires the fishermen to bring the fish into Bayfield. As a result, the island fishing camps are no longer needed. Some have been torn down, others abandoned to the weather, and still others have been converted to week-end cottages. The Hadland fishing camp on Rocky Island is the only camp still regularly used for anything resembling its original purpose.

Christian Hadland came to Bayfield from the coastal town of Egersund, Norway, in 1905. Shortly thereafter, he joined his brother and began to fish from Outer Island. There, in the early 1920's, he built a small log cabin (Building C on the appended map) for use as a seasonal fishing camp. Later, Hadland acquired land on the east bay of Rocky Island, and during the summer of 1938 he moved the log cabin there and built the other buildings of the Hadland Fishing Camp. Like the other island fisherman, he usually set his nets in the late spring and collected fish every day until the arrival of bad weather and ice in the fall. Mrs. Hadland and their children would join him when school let out for the summer and returned to the mainland when it opened in the fall. With hired hands, there were as many as seven or eight people living at the camp during the height of the season.

5

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Clifford and Harvey Hadland, July 1, 1975

Ross, Hamilton, La Pointe- Village Outpost: Edwards Bros., Ann Arbor, 1960

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.75

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	67,7	<sup>310</sup> 315	5,2	1,2	4,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Herschel L. D. Parnes, Field Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

July 17, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*James Morton Smith*

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Herschel L. D. Parnes*

TITLE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE DEC 15 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*James M. Smith*

DATE

8/18/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles Abberly*

DATE

8-16-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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Significance (continued)

Hadland's sons, Clifford and Harvey, are Bayfield fishermen. They still use the camp twice a week in order to cut the long run to their nets sixteen miles past Outer Island. They claim that the overnight stop saves wear and tear on their boat "Vagabond" and enables them to collect fish from their closer nets more efficiently. The dock washed out in a storm ten years ago so they now moor the boat in the bay. They have no hired laborers and their two-day catch must be brought to Bodin's in Bayfield. But during the summer months, there are gill nets on the old wooden winders, the net shed is filled with equipment, and the life of the camp, though changed, continues.

The historic landscape, the exterior of the camp buildings, the interior of the buildings D and E, the net winder and other special equipment are prime elements in the property's significance.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section 7 Page 12

Rocky Island Historic District  
name of property  
Ashland County, Wisconsin  
county and State

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### 1. Hadland Fish Camp

The Hadland fish camp is the northernmost camp on Rocky Island, located at the narrowest portion the island. Unlike the other Rocky Island fish camps, it has a southern orientation because of the beach's easterly curve. The longest-used camp on the island (1938-1988), the Hadland property is distinguished from the neighboring properties in two paradoxical respects: it is the only camp on the island currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, yet ironically, it possesses the least integrity among them.

The first occupant of this site appears to have been one John Fried, a Swedish-speaking immigrant from Finland, who was first of the South Twin Island fishermen to move to Rocky Island. Arriving on Rocky in 1931, Fried initially stayed in the old lumber camp paymaster's office (now the Ericksons' storage shed).

Within the next year, Fried built the small cabin that stands today: a single-story, one-room, gable-front structure.<sup>4</sup> The gabled ends of the cabin are unique in that hand-trimmed logs are placed vertically, side by side, rather than horizontally. The side walls are frame construction with horizontal tongue-and-groove wooden siding. A smokehouse and storage shed have been added to the rear gable end.

In 1938, Christian Hadland purchased the property from Fried. Hadland, born in Norway in 1884, came to the U.S. in 1905. He entered the commercial fishing business, working first as a hired man on Sand Island, then setting up his own operation on Outer Island some time around 1912.<sup>5</sup>

Hadland's sons, Harvey and Clifford, began fishing with their father in 1943. Harvey and Clifford continued to use the site on Rocky as a base for their fishing operations until their retirement in 1988. The Hadland brothers continued to use Fried's original cabin as a summer residence following their retirement.

Upon purchasing the Rocky Island site, Christian Hadland moved at least one small cabin from his Outer Island camp. This structure, built in the early 1920s, was destined to be readily transportable, made with short logs for easy dismantling.<sup>6</sup> On Rocky Island, it served as hired-man's quarters. Near the dock was a storage shed used for fishing equipment. Both of these

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<sup>4</sup> Neuman 1993a.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> H. Hadland 2003.

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Rocky Island Historic District  
name of property  
Ashland County, Wisconsin  
county and State

---

structures were listed on the National Register nomination (buildings C and D), but collapsed in the early 1980s.<sup>7</sup>

The only other standing building on the Hadland property is the privy (non-contributing). The two-hole privy has no door, but an opening that is the width of one door on the southwestern side. It has a shed roof covered in tarpaper. The walls have unpainted, wood boards.

The Hadland family cabin (building B on the National Register documentation) no longer stands. It was built by Christian Hadland in 1938 and was used as the family's island home until 1965, when the brothers shifted to the Fried cabin. The building collapsed in the early 1980s and its remains are overgrown by vegetation today.

Hadland also constructed an ice house at the Rocky Island fish camp. The ice house, listed as E on the National Register documentation, was taken out by wave action prior to 1993.

Besides the Fried cabin and the ruins of the collapsed building, the remains of other objects contribute to the cultural landscape of the fish camp. The net reel yard was included in the 1977 National Register nomination; several vertical support posts remain standing. The 1977 nomination also lists a float drying platform: a few boards are all that remain of this object. An old wooden skiff (built in 1941) lies in a moldering state near the remains of the float drying platform. Boards nailed into place on wood pilings are used as a breakwater in front of the Fried cabin. A simple, wood bench is also located along the shoreline, just southwest of the Fried cabin. Currently, the Fried cabin, net drying reel remains, and float drying platform are the only three contributing resources still recognizable as a building or objects and were previously listed on the National Register.

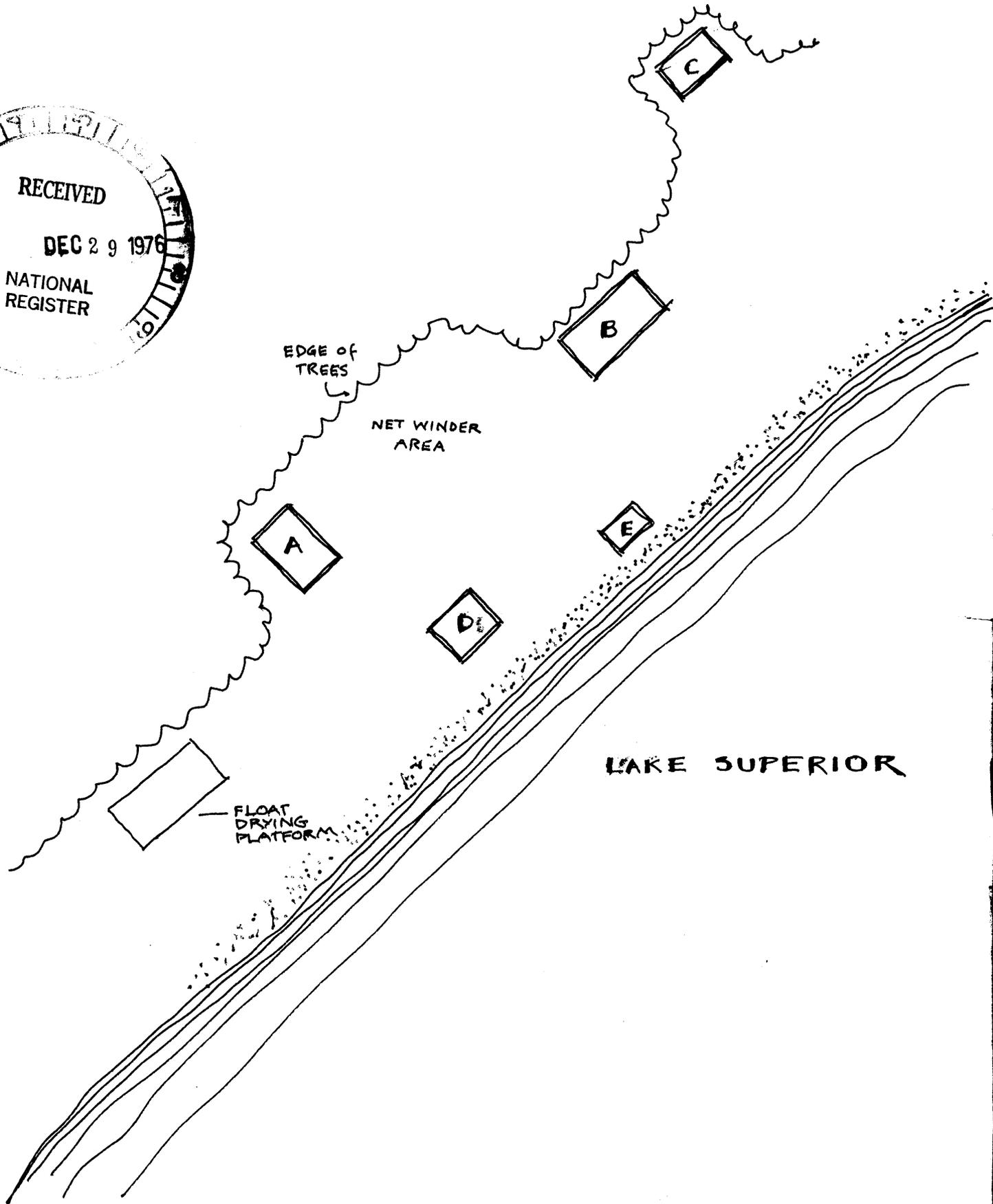
The site been unoccupied since 1998, when the Hadland brothers vacated.

## 2. Benson Fish Camp

Charlie Benson was the last of the South Twin Island fishermen to move to Rocky Island. Benson was nearing retirement, so preferred not to relocate, but finally decided the situation on South Twin was intolerable and made the move in 1936. He fished from Rocky until the fall of 1942, and died the following year. None of Charlie Benson's children followed in his footsteps, but they continued to use the island cabins for recreation.

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<sup>7</sup> Personal communication, Harvey Hadland.



HADLAND FISHING CAMP  
ROCKY ISLAND  
NO SCALE