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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 Voss' Birchwood Lodge
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	5500-5518 USH 51, 5534-5537 Henry Voss Lane, 12958-12994 Ruth Voss Lane, 12930-12954 Palmer Lane	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Manitowish Waters	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI county Vilas	code 125	zip code 54545

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

Date 5/2/18

State Historic Preservation Office - 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

Voss' Birchwood Lodge
Name of Property

Vilas
County and State

Wisconsin

4. National Park Service Certification

- 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:)

for Alyssa K. K...
Signature of the Keeper

4/5/2018
Date of Action

5. Classification

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

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 structure
 site
 object

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

contributing	noncontributing
22	2 buildings
	sites
2	structures
	objects
24	2 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)

HEALTH CARE/resort

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE/resort

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/
Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER: Rustic Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls Weatherboard

Log

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Voss' Birchwood Lodge
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)

Architecture (C)

Entertainment/Recreation (A)

Period of Significance

1910-1946; 1955 (C)

1910-1968 (A)

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Voss, Henry A.

Hanson, Palmer

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Voss' Birchwood Lodge
Name of Property

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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:
Voss' Birchwood Lodge_Resort

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15.71 acres

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

1 16 281540 5110560
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 282000 5110320
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 282000 5110480
Zone Easting Northing

4 16 281720 5110280
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	Timothy F. Heggland	date	November 13, 2016
organization		telephone	608-795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Road	zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI

Voss' Birchwood Lodge

Vilas

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

name/title	Various, see separate sheets			date
organization				telephone
street & number				zip code
city or town	state	WI		

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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Voss' Birchwood Lodge
Town of Manitowish Waters Vilas County, WI

Section 7 Page 1

Description:

The Voss' Birchwood Lodge resort occupies a beautiful, nearly 16-acre site on the south shore of Spider Lake, which is located in the heart of Wisconsin's North Woods resort area in Vilas County. The resort was founded in 1910 by Henry and Ruth Voss, is still in operation today and is owned and managed by members of the third and fourth generations of the Voss family. The resort's contributing resources include 22 buildings and two entrance gate features, all of which were built between 1910 and 1946. These buildings include a main lodge, the Garage and Palm Garden Building, 13 guest cabins, two family homes (the oldest of which was once the main resort's lodge before the present one was built in 1924), three additional support buildings, a boat house and a fish-cleaning shack. There are examples of the Rustic and Craftsman styles; however, the majority of contributing buildings are vernacular examples of rustic cabin construction from the early twentieth century. While not high style, these buildings include design characteristics that relate them to the Rustic and Craftsman styles and may include features such as stone chimneys, exposed rafter tails and knee braces. There are two cabins, built in 1946, that are examples of the Ranch style. All of the buildings exhibit a high degree of integrity and they are all in excellent condition. The resort contains two modern buildings that are both non-contributing resources. The resort is open from late May until the end of September and it still serves three meals a day in its celebrated dining rooms.

The resort is located approximately 2½ miles east of the unincorporated village of Manitowish Waters and it occupies a site that is bounded by Spider Lake on the north and by the northwest-southeast-running USH 51 and the east-west-running Voss Road on the south. Spider Lake is just one of a large system of interconnected lakes in this part of Vilas County and the land that surrounds it is heavily forested, as is the land that surrounds the resort. The land within the resort's grounds is flat and much of it is shaded by mature birch and white pine trees, many of the latter of which are over 100-years-old and are 80-feet-tall or more. One accesses the resort from USH 51 by passing through one of the two entrances to the property, which are located on either side of the resort's Garage and Palm Garden building, which fronts on both USH 51 and Voss Road. Once within the grounds a visitor proceeds north on a short paved road that leads directly to the Lakeside Lodge, its parking lot, and roads that service the resort's cabins which extend to the right and left just before reaching the lot. The resort's cabins are arrayed in a broad arc along the resort's 1725-foot-long lakeshore frontage, the Lakeside Lodge being located in the middle of them; these buildings are all surrounded by mown lawns, are sheltered by very large birch and white pine trees, and are accessed from the lodge by a system of paved walkways. Much of the resort's lakeshore consists of a twenty-foot-high bluff and stairs lead from the top of this bluff down to various piers and docks and to the resort's boathouse and its fish-cleaning shack.

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Regardless of their function and size, all of the buildings within the resort are of wood construction, and the oldest of them have structural frameworks that are actually log construction.¹ Most, though, have structural framework that is of more conventional sawn lumber. All of the resort's buildings are one-story-tall with the exception of the following: Tamarack Cabin, built in 1919, which is one-and-one-half-stories-tall and was built as a combined lodge building (the resort's second one) and as the Voss family's home; the Lakeside Lodge, built in 1924, which is two-and-one-half-stories-tall and was the third lodge to be built; and the Garage and Palm Garden Building, which is two-stories-tall. Stylistically, there are examples of the Rustic and Craftsman styles, notably, the Lakeside Lodge and the Tamarack cabin being especially fine examples of the latter, but most are vernacular form cabins with one or two design features that relate them to the Rustic or Craftsman styles. Because these vernacular cabins reference the occasional Rustic or Craftsman style feature, the entire resort exhibits architectural unity.

The two lodges, the Garage and Palm Garden building, and the resort's two Ranch style buildings all have poured concrete foundation walls; while most of the resort's other buildings rest on concrete posts and have crawlspaces beneath them. Historically, the materials that covered the exterior walls of the resort's buildings varied. The earliest buildings had walls clad in vertical logs and two of these (Map No. 3 & 19) still survive, others were sided with narrow clapboards, and several of the service buildings were (and still are) clad with drop siding. In the late 1950s, fifteen of the resort's buildings, including Tamarack Cabin, Lakeside Lodge, and the Garage and Palm Garden building, were either completely or partially reclad in wide, stained cedar clapboards, which was the original siding used on the Dickerson house and the Edgewater East and West cabin. This was a purposeful redesign to unify the buildings in an era when modernization was a universal influence over building owners. Most of the cabins and the lodges feature Rustic style fieldstone-clad chimneys, true even of the resort's two Ranch style buildings. The resort's cabins range in size from one to three bedrooms, four of them contain two units, all of them contain bathrooms, and eight of them also contain kitchens, as do the two family houses.

¹ Gardner, Ruth Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*. Manitowish Waters, Privately Printed, 1997, p. 231 (illustrated).

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Voss' Birchwood Lodge
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Inventory:

The following inventory lists every building in the district along with its name, construction date, address, and also the contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) status. The abbreviations below for architectural styles are the same as those used by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation. Those years marked with an asterisk indicate the application of new cedar siding in c1955. These are as follows:

- CON = Contemporary
 CR = Craftsman
 RA = Ranch
 RU = Rustic
 VA = Vernacular (with Rustic or Craftsman features)

C/NC	Address		Name / Building Number (on map key)	Year Built	Style
C	5500	USH 51	Garage and Palm Garden Building / 25	1928/1933 *	CR
C	5500	USH 51	Main Entrance Gate / 24	c1933-1945	RU
C	5500	USH 51	West Entrance Feature / 26	c1928-1935	RU
C	5516	USH 51	Edgewater East & West Cabin / 2	c1946	RA
C	5518	USH 51	John and Audrey Dickerson House / 1	1946	RA
C	5534	Henry Voss Lane	Sleepy Hollow Cabin / 5	1910-1933 *	VA
C	5536	Henry Voss Lane	Birches Cabin / 4	1926 *	VA
C	5537	Henry Voss Lane	Memory Lane Cabin / 3	1910-1933	RU
C	12954	Palmer Lane	Lake Breeze East & West Cabin / 17	1910-1933 *	VA
NC	12950	Palmer Lane	Paul & Beth Sedivy House / 18	c2006	CON
C	12946	Palmer Lane	Evergreen Cabin / 19	1923	RU
C	12942	Palmer Lane	Eastwood 1 & 2 Cabin / 20	1910-1933 *	VA
C	12932	Palmer Lane	Trail's End Cabin / 21	1910-1933 *	VA
C	12930	Palmer Lane	Woodland Cabin / 22	1910-1933 *	VA
NC	12930	Palmer Lane	George T. Stowers Garage Building / 23	c2009	CON
C	12958	Ruth Voss Lane	Homestead Cabin / 16	1910 *	VA
C	12964	Ruth Voss Lane	Shady Rest Cabin / 15	c1915 *	VA
C	12968	Ruth Voss Lane	Pine Eden Cabin / 14	1910-1933 *	VA
C	12976	Ruth Voss Lane	Laundry & Powerhouse Building / 12	1910-1933 *	VA
C	12976	Ruth Voss Lane	Lakeside Lodge / 13	1924 *	CR
C	12984	Ruth Voss Lane	Tamarack Cabin / 11	1919 *	CR
C	12984	Ruth Voss Lane	Boathouse / 10	1910-1933	VA
C	12984	Ruth Voss Lane	Fish Cleaning Shack / 9	1910-1933	VA
C	12990	Ruth Voss Lane	Clearview East & West Cabin / 6	1910-1933 *	VA
C	12994	Ruth Voss Lane	Guide's Shack / 8	1910-1933 *	VA
C	12994	Ruth Voss Lane	Rest Haven Building / 7	1910-1933	CR

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What follows are brief descriptions of the resort's resources, which are listed by map number and from west to east.

Building #1. 5518 USH 51 Dickerson House 1946 C
(See photograph number 1)

This one-story-tall irregular-plan Ranch style house was built in 1946 for John R. and Audrey Voss Dickerson as their personal residence, the last building built during the historic period of the resort. This two-bedroom, two-bath dwelling has no basement. Instead, the house rests on poured concrete foundation, and the exterior walls are clad in wide cedar clapboards. These walls are sheltered by the house's multi-hipped, asphalt-shingle-covered main roof. Large fieldstone chimneys are located on both the east and west ends of the house.

The principal entrance to the house is located on the south-facing rear façade and to its right is located a polygonal plan oriel bay window that is comprised of a large single-light picture window that is flanked with narrow six-over-one-light double-hung windows. To the left of the entrance is placed a pair of six-over-one-light double-hung windows, while two more single windows of the same design are placed to the left of the double window pair. The east-facing side façade of the house features a massive fieldstone chimney, flanked on both sides by a pair of eight-light casement windows. The house's main façade faces north onto Spider Lake and measures 64-feet-wide.

The main façade's 28-foot-wide left-hand (east) portion features a three-part picture window group to the left that provides light for a recreation room inside while to the right is a second picture window that provides light to the entrance hall inside and it is comprised of four eight-light casement type windows. The projecting 14-foot-wide middle portion of the main façade contains the house's kitchen and it features a pair of six-over-one-light double-hung windows. The remainder of the façade consists of a projecting 22-foot-wide by 20-feet-deep sunroom that is attached to the original north façade of the house across the width of the house's living room, to which it is connected internally. This room is a later addition and it has a polygonal north end whose sides each contain single single-light picture windows, and it is sided in the same wide clapboards as the rest of the house, its hipped roof blends seamlessly into the original main roof, and the only way one would know that it is an addition is by comparing it with a photo of the house that shows it as first built.

Building #2. 5516 USH 51 Edgewater East and West Cabin c1946 C
(See photograph number 2)

This one-story-tall rectangular-plan Ranch style building was built in 1946 as a double cabin and it also contains a large two-car garage at its west end that was used both for resort needs and to store automobiles used by John and Audrey Dickerson, who lived in the building next door. The easternmost of the two cabin units contains a single bedroom, a bathroom, and a living room, while the

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other unit contains a larger bedroom, a bathroom, and a living room. Both units have stone fireplaces; a single fieldstone chimney services both of them and is visible on the main roof. This building rests on poured concrete foundation walls, and the exterior walls that rest on the foundation are clad in wide cedar clapboards. These walls are sheltered by the building's multi-hip asphalt-shingle-covered main roof. The main façade faces northwest toward Spider Lake and measures 70-feet-long, with the westernmost 24-feet being the side wall of the garage. One of the two main entrances to the building's living units is centered on this main façade and it is flanked by two picture window groups on the left that provide light into the two cabins, and by a triple and a quadruple window group to the right, the larger of which provides light to the garage. Both of these window groups are comprised of multiple six-light casement windows. Similar window groups are also located on the building's other façades.

Building #3. 5537 Henry Voss Lane Memory Lane Cabin 1910-1933 C
(See photograph #3)

Memory Lane Cabin is a small, one-story, Rustic style cabin that is one of the most intact of all the resort's pre-World War II cabins. This one-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin has a T-plan and measures 20-feet-wide at its widest point and is 28-feet-deep. The cabin rests on a fieldstone foundation whose walls enclose a crawlspace and the exterior walls that rest on this foundation are clad in vertically positioned peeled logs. Above the logs, under the gabled ends, the walls are clad in wood shingles. The roof has wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. The cabin's multi-gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

The main façade of the cabin faces east, and the cabin's main entrance is located at the extreme north (right-hand) end of this façade. A single six-over-one-light, double-hung window is placed further to the left on this façade, a pair of these windows is located on the cabin's south-facing rear façade, two smaller four-light windows are located on the building's west-facing side façade, and a large single-light picture window is located on the cabin's north-facing side façade, which faces toward Spider Lake. A large fieldstone chimney is also located on the cabin's west-facing side. This chimney serves the large fieldstone fire place in the living room; the walls of both the living room and bedroom are clad in knotty pine paneling and topped by a frieze of birch bark.

Building #4. 5536 Henry Voss Lane Birches Cabin 1926/c1955 C
(See photograph #4)

The Birches Cabin is a one-story building that is one of the resort's largest and it contains a living room, den, kitchen, three bedrooms, and two bathrooms. This cabin is essentially a hipped roof vernacular building with a shallow-pitched hip roofed front porch built across nearly the full-width of its northeast-facing main façade. This porch acts as the cabin's living room, with the other rooms being located in the main block. The cabin rests on poured concrete foundation walls that enclose a crawlspace and the exterior walls that rest on them are now clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced

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the original drop siding wall covering in the late 1950s. These walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging eaves of the building's roofs, which eaves are supported by exposed rafter tails, and the roofs are clad in asphalt shingles. The main block of this cabin is almost square in plan and measures 28-feet-deep by 32-feet-wide while the front porch is 30-feet-wide and 8-feet-deep. The main block of the cabin has either single or paired six-over-one-light double-hung windows placed on its rear and side façades, while the cabin's north-facing main façade has a centered main entrance door that is flanked by a large polygonal eighteen-light oriel bay window to the right and a smaller polygonal nine-light oriel bay window to the left, the latter bay of which is also flanked by one-over-one-light double-hung windows on either side.

Building #5. 5534 Henry Voss Lane Sleepy Hollow Cabin 1910-1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 5)

Sleepy Hollow cabin is a small one-story cabin that is very similar in size, plan and design to Memory Lane Cabin, which is described above. This one-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin also has a T-plan and measures 18-feet-wide at its widest point and is 24-feet-deep. The cabin rests on a foundation composed partially of concrete walls and concrete posts and these enclose a crawlspace. The exterior walls that rest on this foundation are now clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original drop siding wall covering in the late 1950s, with vertical siding in the upper gable ends. Wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails characterize the cabin's cross-gable roof, which is covered in asphalt shingles. The front, or main façade, of the cabin faces northeast onto Spider Lake and has a large single-light picture window that is flanked on either side by narrow two-over-two-light double-hung windows. The front of the house has the living room while the bedroom and bathroom occupy the rear portion. The main entrance to the cabin is on its east-facing side façade and a single, small, six-over-six-light double-hung window is positioned further to the left on this wall. Similar windows are found on the cabin's (south) rear and (west) side façades.

Building #6. 12990 Ruth Voss Lane Clearview East and West Cabin 1910-1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 6)

Clearview East and West cabin is a one-story, rectilinear plan two-unit building that started out as two separate, identical, clapboard-clad cabins that were located ten-feet from each other. Both cabins measured 24-feet-wide by 32-feet deep, they had main façades that faced northeast toward Spider Lake, and both had full-width screened front porches that were inset under each cabin's hipped main roof.² Later, both porches were enclosed and each of these façades now contains a centered entrance door that is flanked on either side by a large single-light picture window that is itself flanked on either side by a narrow two-over-two-light double-hung window, while small one-over-one-light double hung windows are located on the building's side and rear elevations. Also at some later time, the ten-

² Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 259 (illustrated).

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foot-wide space between the two cabins was enclosed, a massive fieldstone chimney was constructed on the main façade in this space, and the interiors of both cabins were reconfigured to create two, two-bedroom units, each of which also has a living room with a stone fireplace, a kitchen, dining space and two bathrooms. In addition, the entire conjoined cabin was also later reclad in the late 1950s in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original narrow wood clapboard wall covering.

Building #7. 12994 Ruth Voss Lane Rest Haven 1910-1933 C
(See photograph number 7)

This is a one-story-tall rectilinear plan Craftsman style cottage that was built to house summer-season staff members and includes a one-car garage. This building measures 45-feet-long by 20-feet-wide, it rests on concrete posts, has exterior walls that are clad in drop siding, has wide overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails, and covered by a gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The building's principal façade faces east-southeast with an open gable-roofed entrance porch centered on it. A garage door opening is located at the right-hand (north) end of the façade, and a triple window group comprised of three-over-one-light double-hung windows is located to the left. Individual windows of the same type are also found on the building's side and rear walls.

Building #8. 12994 Ruth Voss Lane Guide's Shack 1910-1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 8)

This small one-story-tall T-plan cabin was built to house fishing guides and other staff members who worked at the resort in the summer season. The building measures 24-feet-deep by 18-feet-wide, sits on concrete posts and has exterior walls that were reclad in the late 1950s using wide cedar clapboards. These walls are sheltered by the wide, overhanging eaves of the cabin's gable roof, whose gable ends are clad in wood shingles and which are edged with scalloped wood bargeboards of undetermined age. This is essentially a vernacular building with slight Craftsman style touches such as the exposed rafter tails that support the building's wide eaves. The main façade faces southeast and features a door located to the right of a single light picture window, while small oblong two-light windows are placed on the building's other façades.

Building #9. 12984 Ruth Voss Lane Fish-Cleaning Shack 1910-1933 C
(See photograph number 9)

This very small one-story-tall rectangular plan building is located on the Spider Lake shore and rests on piles driven into the lake. The building measures 10-feet-deep by 14-feet-wide and its walls are clad in drop siding. The wide eaves have exposed rafter tails and the building is covered by a simple gabled roof having asphalt shingles. The building is accessed by stairs that descend from the shore above and it shares a dock with the adjoining boathouse. The entrance to the building is located on its east-facing side, the building's main façade faces northeast overlooking the lake, and a very large

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three-part screened window opening takes up almost the entire northeast-facing wall. This building was built so that both fishing guides and guests could have a place where fish caught in the lake could be cleaned. It too is essentially a vernacular building having slight Craftsman style touches such as the exposed rafter tails under the building's wide eaves and the wooden truss work that ornaments the gable ends. The building's interior was remodeled in 2005.

Building #10. 12984 Ruth Voss Lane Boathouse 1910-1933 C
(See photograph number 9)

The resort's boathouse is a one-story rectangular, vernacular building located on the Spider Lake shore, resting on piles driven into the lake. The building measures 32-feet-wide by 26-feet-deep, its walls are clad in drop siding, and these walls are sheltered by the wide eaves of the building's nearly flat roof, the surface of which is covered with standing seam metal sheets, and whose northeast, northwest, and southeast-facing edges are encircled by a wooden balustrade. The main façade faces northeast overlooking the lake and its northeast-facing wall is comprised of three large rectangular door openings that serve the three boat slips inside the building. These three door openings are filled with modern sectional overhead doors that have now replaced the boathouse's original doors. Otherwise, this building is still highly intact, although it is now in need of some repairs. This building is also accessed by stairs that descend from the shore above and it shares a dock with the adjoining Fish Cleaning Shack. The building's pedestrian entrance is located on its west-facing side façade and there are two bottom-hinged six-light windows on the wall to its left. This façade is identical to (but is a mirror image of) the building's east-facing side façade.

Building #11. 12984 Ruth Voss Lane Tamarack Cabin 1919/c1955 C
(See photograph number 10)

This large Craftsman style L-plan cabin was built in 1919 and it served at first as both the resort's principal lodge building and also as the home of the Voss family. This cabin is one-and-one-half-stories tall, it sits on poured concrete foundation walls and its exterior walls were originally clad in narrow wood clapboards but these were replaced in the late 1950s by wide cedar clapboards. At the top of the walls, the gabled ends are of wood shingles. Wide overhanging eaves having exposed rafter tails and knee braces are located below the multi-gabled roof; the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The main façade of the cabin faces north toward Spider Lake and measures 32-feet-wide. It is almost symmetrical in design, and its first story consists of what was originally a full-width, screened, shed-roofed porch that has since been converted into a four-season sun room. The porch's large original screened openings have now been filled with glass windows instead, the opening to the left of the porch's entrance now containing three single-light windows while the one to the right now contains two single light windows that flank a large single light picture window. A large gable-roofed dormer is centered on the north slope of the main roof above this porch, its original nine-over-one-light

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double-hung window has now been replaced by a group of five small single-light casement windows, and just to its left (east) the roof is pierced by the upper portion of a large fieldstone chimney located at the east-facing side façade of the cabin. A number of the house's other original nine-over-one-light double-hung Craftsman style windows and identical, single, nine-light windows are extant on the house's side façades, while others have been replaced with modern single-light windows.

The east and west-facing side façades of the house measure 87.5-feet-long. The southernmost 28-feet of this length consist of a 28-foot-long by 24-foot-wide garage addition that was attached to the house at a later date and whose design replicates the features and materials used on the original cabin.

The Tamarack Cabin was originally the resort's second lodge building, the first being the Homestead Cabin (Map No. 16), built in 1910. This second lodge served as the resort's principle building until the Lakeside Lodge (Map No. 13) was built in 1924, after which time the Tamarack Cabin was used exclusively as the Voss family home. Consequently, the interior layout of the cabin was altered to suit the needs of the family and some walls were moved and room usages were changed. The cabin is now the home of Ruth Dickerson Gardner.

Building #12. 12976 Ruth Voss Lane Laundry and Powerhouse 1910-1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 11)

This one-story building is roughly square in plan and was originally built to house the resort's laundry. In the late 1920s, a portion of the building was converted into a powerhouse for the resort and today it is used for storage.³ The building measures 35-feet-wide by 32-feet-deep and it sits on poured concrete foundation walls that enclose a crawlspace. The exterior walls are clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original siding in the late 1950s. These walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging eaves of the building's asphalt shingle-covered multi-gable roof. This is essentially a vernacular building having slight Craftsman style touches such as the exposed rafter tails, wood knee braces that support the building's wide eaves, and wood shingles at the top of the wall under the gable ends. The building's main façade faces southeast, and a door is placed to the left. Two oblong window openings that contain two-light windows are placed on the wall surface to the right of this door. In addition, two identical oblong windows are also placed on each of the side façades and the rear façade of the building.

Building #13. 12976 Ruth Voss Lane Lakeside Lodge 1924/c1955 C
(See photographs numbers 12, 13, 14)

By 1923, the resort's success necessitated the construction of a new and larger main lodge, so Henry Voss hired builder Palmer Hanson to design and build one. Construction on the new lodge began in

³ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 249 (illustrated).

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1923 and by 1924 the building, which is now called Lakeside Lodge, was a reality. This Craftsman style two-and-a-half-story-tall building is the largest building in the resort and it is the social heart of the resort. This L-plan building is 110-feet-wide by 91-feet-deep, it rests on a poured concrete foundation, and although its first story is now clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original painted narrow clapboard siding in the late 1950s, its second story still retains its original narrow stained clapboard siding. These exterior walls have wood shingles at the gabled ends. Wide overhanging eaves with rafter tails and knee braces are located under the roof. The roof has cross gables and is covered with asphalt shingles.

The entrance façade of the lodge faces south and is comprised of two wings that intersect at a right angle. The wing to the right (east) measures 46-feet-deep by 32-feet-wide, it has a roof ridgeline that runs from north to south, and the first story of this wing contains the lodge's kitchen. The intersecting wing to the left (north) measures 60-feet-wide by 44-feet-deep has a ridgeline that runs from east to west, and it houses the lodge's lobby in its first story. Its south-facing façade is bisected by a massive fieldstone chimney that serves a large fieldstone fireplace that is centered on the south wall of the lobby inside. Over the years, several changes have been made to the left wing as the resort's needs have evolved. Originally, this wing measured 44-feet-long by 32-feet-wide, it had an open, 16-foot-square hip-roofed porte-cochère attached to its west-facing elevation, and a 12-foot-wide by 44-foot-long, open, one-story porch was placed along the entire length of its north-facing elevation. This porch had a concrete floor, its flat roof was encircled by a wooden balustrade, and this roof was supported by battered pillars placed on fieldstone-clad pedestals. Over the years this porch was first screened in and then a 16-foot-wide by 28-foot-deep, enclosed, hip-roofed addition clad in narrow painted clapboards was attached to the wing's west-facing side elevation and also to the north end of the porte-cochère. This addition housed the lodge's library and bar.⁴ Although the screen porch itself remained intact for some years thereafter, it was eventually enclosed and part of it still functions as an enclosed porch for guests today. The east end of the porch was remodeled and became the lodge's office.

The lodge's main façade faces north toward Spider Lake and is divided into two sections, the 60-foot-wide portion to the right (west) and a 50-foot-wide portion to the left (east) that projects outward one-foot from the right-hand portion. Originally, the left-hand portion was just 32-feet-wide, but was later extended another 18-feet when an 18-foot-wide by 31-foot-deep, one-story, hip-roofed addition that housed additional dining space was added on to the east-facing side elevation of the original dining room. All of the original first story windows on this façade have been altered over the years, although the window openings themselves are still much the same. Almost all of the lodge's other original windows are still intact. Most of these are six-over-one-light double hung windows and are found on all three façades of the first story of the kitchen wing and also on the building's second story, excepting only those second story windows that face out toward the lake.

⁴ This porte cochère is now an open entrance porch that shelters the main entrance to the lodge.

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The first story of the interior of the lodge is still highly intact. One enters from the porte-cochère into the lobby, whose wood floor is now carpeted, and whose walls are plastered. Two squared pillars are placed in the center of the room so as to flank the large fieldstone fireplace that is centered on the south wall. A pair of fifteen-light doors is centered on the north wall opposite that open into the front porch. The lowest portions of these pillars are paneled in wood, but the taller upper portions are clad entirely in pressed sheets of birch bark. Similar sheets of birch bark radiate out from the tops of these pillars in four directions and form a grid on the ceiling of the room and additional birch bark sheets form a frieze that encircles the room just below where the walls meet the ceiling. Passing through another pair of fifteen-light doors in the east wall of the lobby leads into the dining room. This room originally measured 32-foot-wide by 44-foot-deep and it too has wood floors that are now carpeted, has paneled walls in this instance, and birch bark-clad pillars, ceiling grid, and frieze. When the new 18-foot-wide by 31-foot-deep addition to this room was built, a portion of the east wall of the original dining room was replaced with two large rectangular openings. The addition's walls were paneled in knotty pine, and ceiling beams and an encircling frieze just below that ceiling were all clad in sheets of birch bark. Early photos show that the birch bark decoration in these rooms is original to the building and they also show that the interior of this story is relatively unaltered.⁵

The lodge's second story originally contained seventeen one-room guest rooms, but in 1965 this floor was reconfigured and it was converted into five, one-bedroom suites and one single-bedroom with bath.

Building #14. 12968 Ruth Voss Lane Pine Eden Cabin 1910-1933/c1955 C

(See photograph number 15)

This one-story rectilinear plan, vernacular cabin has features of the Craftsman style, and is another of the resort's largest and contains a screen porch, living room/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, and two bathrooms. The building rests on poured concrete foundation walls that enclose a crawlspace; exterior walls are clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original siding in the late 1950s. These walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging eaves of the building's asphalt shingle-covered gable roof and these eaves are supported by extended rafter tails. The building measures 28-foot-wide by 63-foot-deep and its main façade faces north toward Spider Lake is almost symmetrical in design and is dominated by the cabin's gable-roofed screened porch. This porch is centered on the façade and projects outward from it, its north-facing wall features a centered screen door that is flanked by a large screened opening on each side. Its gable end is clad in wood shingles roof also its eaves are supported by exposed rafter tails. A single six-over-one-light double-hung window is located on the main façade's wall surface to the left of this porch and both of the cabin's four-bay-wide side façades contain a pair of identical windows in their two right-hand (north) bays, while their two left-hand bays both contain a single window.

⁵ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 255-260 (illustrated).

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Building #15. 12964 Ruth Voss Lane Shady Rest Cabin c1915/c1955 C
(See photograph number 16)

The framework and roof structure of Shady Rest cabin began life as an open-sided boathouse that was located on the lakeshore just in front of where the cabin now stands, but it was soon thereafter moved up onto its current site and became the core of the current cabin. Today, Shady Rest cabin is a one-story building that measures 32-feet-wide by 20-feet deep and it contains a large living room, two bedrooms, and a bathroom. The cabin rests on concrete posts that enclose a crawlspace; the walls are of wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original siding in the late 1950s. These walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging eaves of the building's asphalt shingle-covered multi-gable roof and these eaves are supported by wood knee brackets and exposed rafter tails. The main façade faces north towards Spider Lake, it is symmetrical in design, and it is dominated by a gable-roofed ell that contains the north end of the cabin's living room. The north-facing wall of this ell features a triple window group that consists of large single-light picture window that is flanked on either side by a less wide one-over-one-light double-hung window. The main entrance to the cabin is located on the east side of this ell. An oblong window is located on the main wall surface of this façade on either side of the ell and two separate oblong windows of identical design are also located on both of the cabin's side façades. The south-facing rear façade, meanwhile, is dominated by a massive, centrally placed fieldstone chimney that serves the fireplace that is located on the south wall of the living room inside.

Building #16. 12958 Ruth Voss Lane Homestead Cabin 1910/c1955 C
(See photograph number 17)

The Rustic style Homestead Cabin was built in 1910 and was the resort's first building. Like the later Tamarack cabin, the Homestead cabin was built to serve as both the resort's principal lodge building and also as the Voss family's home. This cabin is one-story, sits on concrete posts that enclose a crawlspace, and measures 36-feet-wide by 44-feet-deep. Its exterior walls were originally clad in vertically positioned logs, but these were replaced in the late 1950s by wide cedar clapboards.⁶ These walls are sheltered by the wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails. The roof has both gabled and shed forms with asphalt shingles. A shed-roofed screen porch spans the full-width of the northwest-facing main façade of the cabin, while the living room, which is accessed directly from the porch, has a ceiling that is open up to the peak of the side-gabled roof. Two bedrooms and a kitchen/dining area occupy the shed-roofed rear portion of the cabin and some of the internal partition walls that define the bedrooms are original and are covered in vertically positioned, half-round, peeled logs. In addition, there is also a large fieldstone fireplace located in the cabin's living room and the fieldstone chimney rises up through the center of the building. The cabin's main entrance is on its north-facing main façade and it is accessed by a screen door centered on the north-facing front porch. A large single-light picture window that is flanked on either side by a less wide one-over-one-light

⁶ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 232 (illustrated).

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double-hung window is placed on the wall surface to the right of the main entrance door, while six-over-one-light double-hung windows can be found on both side façades and on the rear façade. One of the windows on the west-facing side was later replaced with a triple window group that consists of a large single-light picture window that is flanked on either side by a narrower one-over-one-light double hung window.

Building #17. 12954 Palmer Lane Lake Breeze East and West Cabin 1910-1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 18)

The Lake Breeze East and West cabin contains two identical mirror image units that each contains a single bedroom, a bathroom, and a living room. The building is one-story, its main block is almost square in plan and measures 29-feet-wide by 27-feet-deep, and a 12-foot-wide by 12-foot-deep gable-roofed ell is attached to each of the east and west-facing side elevations of the main block, the east one being enclosed and the west one being a screen porch. The building rests on concrete posts that enclose a crawlspace, the exterior walls were originally clad in narrow clapboards but are now clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original siding in the late 1950s. The cabin has wide overhanging eaves and the gabled and shed roofs have asphalt shingles. The 53-foot-wide main façade of the building faces north toward Spider Lake and a fieldstone chimney that pierces the roof on this side of the building serves the two fieldstone fireplaces that are located in the cabin's two living rooms. Two large single-light picture windows are located on the cabin's main façade and the two principle entrances to the cabin are located in the ells at either end of the façade. Additional small paired window groups are located on the side and rear façades of the cabin and consist of paired six-light windows on the east ell and paired single-light windows on the rear façade.

Historic photos also show that the shed-roofed portion of the main façade was originally an open, shed-roofed front porch that was later enclosed.

This building was sold to help pay estate taxes in 2005 and it is now in separate, private ownership.

Building #18. 12950 Palmer Lane Paul and Beth Sedivy House c2006 NC

This Contemporary style, clapboard-clad, one-and-one-half-story house was built c2006 on the site of the Voss Resort's original Sunset Cabin, which was built between 1910 and 1933. Sunset Cabin was also sold to private owners to help pay estate taxes in 2005 and its new owners then demolished it and put up this house in its place. This house is non-contributing as it was built outside of the period of significance.

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Building #19. 12946 Palmer Lane Evergreen Cabin 1923 C
(See photograph number 19)

Evergreen Cabin was built in 1923 by builder Palmer Hanson as his temporary home while he was planning the construction of the resort's Lakeside Lodge, which was built by him the following year. After the completion of the Lodge, this cabin was then added to the inventory of the resort's rental cabins. It continued to be used as such until it was sold to help pay estate taxes in 2005 and is now in separate, private ownership. This rectangular plan, one-story Rustic style building measures 36-feet-wide by 28-feet-deep, and rests on concrete posts that enclose a crawlspace. The exterior walls are clad in vertically positioned peeled logs with wood shingles on the upper walls. The walls are sheltered by wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and knee braces. The roof is gabled with asphalt shingles. The cabin contains a screened porch, a living room, a dining/kitchen room, two bedrooms, and a bathroom that is located in a shed-roofed 10-foot-wide by 7-feet-deep ell that is attached to the cabin's rear façade. The asymmetrical 36-foot-wide main façade of the building faces north toward Spider Lake and the right-hand portion of the façade consists of an inset screen porch that is accessed by a screen door, to the left of which is a large single-light picture window, and to the left of that is a two-light oblong window. Additional two-light oblong windows are also located on the side and rear façades of the cabin, and a fieldstone chimney pierces the roof of the building.

Building #20. 12942 Palmer Lane Eastwood 1 and 2 Cabin 1910-1933/c1955 C

This large Craftsman style-influenced two-unit cabin contains two almost identical mirror image units that each contains two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen. The building is one-story, its side-gable-roofed main block is rectilinear in plan, and it measures 69-feet-wide by 20-feet-deep. The building rests on poured concrete foundation walls that enclose a crawlspace, and the exterior walls are now clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original siding in the late 1950s. These walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging eaves of the building's asphalt shingle-covered main roof. The 69-foot-wide main façade of the building faces north toward Spider Lake and this façade is dominated by a 36-foot-wide by 12-foot-deep gable-roofed ell that is centered on it and which contains two identical screen porches. The principal entrance to each of the cabin's two units is accessed through these porches and the wall surface of the façade on either side of this ell now feature a modern pair of sliding patio doors that open onto modern wooden decks that are also now located on either side of this ell. Small oblong paired single light windows are also found on the side and rear façades of the cabin's main block. A fieldstone chimney that pierces the main roof is positioned on each of the east and west-facing side elevations of the main block and these serve the two fireplaces that are located in the cabin's two living rooms.

This building was sold to help pay estate taxes in 2005 and it is now in separate, private ownership.

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Building #21. 12932 Palmer Lane Trail's End Cabin 1910-1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 20)

Trail's End Cabin is a rectilinear plan, one-story, building that measures 40-feet-wide by 16-feet-deep and it contains a screened porch, a living room, a dining room/kitchen, one bedroom and one bathroom. The building rests on poured concrete foundation walls that enclose a crawlspace, the exterior walls that rest on this foundation are now clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original siding in the late 1950s, and these walls are sheltered by the overhanging eaves of the building's asphalt shingle-covered main roof. The 40-foot-wide main façade of the building faces northwest towards Spider Lake and the east end of the building is comprised of the ten-foot-wide by 16-foot-deep screened porch. This screen porch is accessed by a screen door that is centered on the porch's northwest-facing wall and the principal entrance to the cabin is located on the east-facing side wall of the cabin, which wall is sheltered by the screen porch. A large single-light picture window that is flanked on either side by a less wide one-over-one-light double-hung window is placed on the wall surface to the right of the screen porch on the cabin's northwest-facing main façade. A small two-light oblong window is located on the main façade's wall surface to the right of the picture window group and other small two-light oblong window groups are placed on the cabin's west-facing side façade and on its rear façade.

This building was also sold to help pay estate taxes in 2005 and it is now in separate, private ownership.

Building #22. 12930 Palmer Lane Woodland Cabin 1910-1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 21)

Woodland Cabin is an L-plan, one-story, Rustic style building that measures 34-feet-wide by 24-feet-deep and it contains a screened porch, a living room, a dining room/kitchen, one bedroom and one bathroom. The building rests on poured concrete foundation walls that enclose a crawlspace, and the exterior walls are now clad in wide cedar clapboards that replaced the original siding in the late 1950s. These walls are sheltered by the overhanging eaves of the building's asphalt shingle-covered multi-gable main roof. The 34-foot-wide main façade of the building faces southwest and a 16-foot-wide by 10-foot-deep gable-roofed ell covers the left (north) half of the façade and contains a screen porch. The main entrance to the cabin is located on the wall surface of the main façade to the right of the porch ell and it is sheltered by a gable roof that is supported by wooden brackets and is flanked by a small six-light casement window. In addition, a large single-light picture window is centered on the northwest-facing side elevation of the cabin, this being the elevation that looks out onto Spider Lake.

This building was also sold to help pay estate taxes in 2005 and it is now in separate, private ownership.

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Building #23. 12930 Palmer Lane George T. Stowers Garage Building c2009 NC

This large one-and-one-half-story, rectilinear plan building was built by the new owners of the Trails' End and Woodland cabins c2009 as an automobile garage and it also has living space in its upper story. The building sits on a concrete pad foundation, its exterior walls are clad in wide stained wood clapboards, and these walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging eaves of the building's gable roof, which is clad in standing seam metal. The main façade faces east and contains three rectangular garage openings that are each filled with sectional overhead garage doors.

Building #24. 5500 USH 51 Main Entrance Gate c1933-1945 C
(See photograph number 22)

This Rustic style entrance gateway replaced an earlier one of simpler Rustic Style design that featured two pairs of massive log posts that supported another massive log cross piece above that bore the name of the resort.⁷ The present gateway is a more sophisticated design and it features two large rock-faced ashlar stone bases located on either side of the entrance driveway. These bases help support the tall, rather elaborate system of wood posts that are attached to them and which act as the base of the resort's entrance sign. This rectangular sign is notable in itself because it is faced with birch bark, is edged with stick work, spans the width of the entrance drive, and bears the words "Voss' Birchwood Lodge."

This gateway is located to the right (east) of the Garage and Palm Garden Building.

Building #25. 5500 USH 51 Garage and Palm Garden Building 1928/1933/c1955 C
(See photograph number 23)

The paving of USH 51 and the resultant rise in automobile traffic in this part of Wisconsin's North Woods resort area eventually persuaded Henry Voss that the time was ripe to build a multi-purpose building on the highway side of his resort property to take advantage of the increased traffic and also to generate income during that part of the year when the resort was closed. The new building evolved in stages. The first portion was a Twentieth Century Commercial style building that featured a full-service automobile garage at its west end and a diner at the east end. This was a clapboard-clad, rectilinear plan, flat-roofed, one-story building that measured about 87-feet-long by 49-feet-deep and the exterior of its diner portion was accentuated by the placement of an elaborate scrolled wooden parapet wall on the main south-facing façade of the building above this portion.⁸

⁷ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 239 (illustrated). The whole logs used in this earlier gateway still retained their bark.

⁸ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 284 (illustrated).

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In 1933, this building was then expanded to the east by the addition of a one-story gable-roofed dance hall wing that was 30-feet-wide by 49-feet-deep and whose south-facing façade was accentuated by the placement of an even taller scrolled parapet wall that covered the south-facing gable end of the roof. In addition, a bar room that was designed in mid-1930s Art Moderne-influenced style was built in the rear portion of the first story of the old diner portion of the 1928 building at this time and four rooms that housed summer staff were also built in a gable-roofed second story addition above this same portion as well. These rooms were accessed by a staircase that was attached to building's the north-facing rear façade.⁹ The enlarged building that resulted is now the core of the current building.

Sometime in the 1950s the exterior of this building was completely renovated and the result was the fine Craftsman style building that is visible today. The main block of the present building has an overall length of 117.5-feet and a depth of 49-feet. As part of the renovations, the entire building was reclad in wide cedar clapboards and the original scrolled wooden parapet wall that hid the gable end of the roof over the former dance hall portion at the east end of the building was removed. This roof was then enlarged and heightened and lengthened to the south so that it extended nearly six feet out over the south-facing façade and its new gable end was covered in wide cedar clapboards. At the same time, the west end of the building was altered by having its west-facing elevation turned at a 45-degree angle so that it now faced southwest, parallel with USH 51, and a new heightened and enlarged gable roof was then built above what had been the former garage portion of the original building in order to balance the overall design and provide attic storage space. Building this second gable roof also permitted the lower gable roof that was located above the original second-story portion of the 1933 building in between these two gable roofs to be lengthened and connected to them, which resulted in a more unified composition. Four triple window groups that each contain three small one-over-one-light windows were installed along both the front and rear lengths of this new addition. All the original first story window openings that faced USH 51 were altered at this time and the new openings that resulted were then filled with either single-light picture windows or else with two or three fixed six-over-six-light windows. In addition, the ground level base of the building's south-facing main façade and the west-facing side façade was covered with several courses of loose rubble stones in order to accentuate the Rustic style nature of the remodeling.

At the same time, much of the interior was remodeled. The dance hall had its ceiling lowered, it was divided into two spaces, and the diner was moved to the front portion that faced the highway and a fifties style service counter was built there that is still in place today. Meanwhile, the rear half of the dance hall was turned into a dining room that had booths placed along its east wall, and a large fieldstone fireplace was also built on this room's north wall. The fieldstone chimney is visible at the rear of the building. The former service station and garage space was converted into rooms that were

⁹ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 283 (illustrated).

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used for retail purposes in 1977; this new interior configuration is intact today, as is the 1930s era bar and the 1950s era diner.¹⁰ The building is now called the "Old Settler's Inn."

Building #26. 5500 USH 51 West Entrance Feature c1928-1935 C

Located to the left (west) of the Garage and Palm Garden Building is a second, more modest entrance into the resort. This one features two fieldstone-clad landscape features that are placed at either side of the head of the entrance drive. The one on the left is about three-feet-tall and eight-feet-long and it tapers down from a height of three-feet next to the drive to about one-foot in height. An almost identical feature is placed on the opposite side of the entrance but this one is also incorporated into a continuous fieldstone-clad circular landscape feature that encircles a tree base. This feature serves to both mark the entrance and it also acts as a planter.

Integrity:

With the exception of the Paul & Beth Sidivy House (Map No. 18), which was built in c2006 as a replacement for the original cabin that occupied the same site, and the George T. Stowers Garage (Map No. 23), which was built c2009, all of the other buildings of the resort were built prior to 1947 and all but two of these buildings were built prior to 1933. It is therefore all the more impressive that the resort's buildings exhibit such a high level of integrity, especially when one considers the challenges inherent in making these buildings continuously appealing to the changing tastes and expectations of the guests that have been staying here during the resort's more than a century of continuous operation.

The most significant change that has affected the exteriors of these buildings was the residing program that was initiated in the late 1950s, at which time 15 of the resort's buildings were completely or partially resided using the same wide, stained cedar clapboards that were used as original siding on the Dickerson House and the Edgewater East and West Cabin, both of which were built just after World War II ended. This was a practical step that was taken to replace the aging original painted clapboards that covered some of the resort's older buildings and it also served to help reduce the maintenance costs associated with keeping those buildings looking freshly painted. Otherwise, the exteriors of the resort's historic buildings are still remarkably intact today, they are in excellent condition, and most of the changes that have been made to them have been made to their interiors and especially to their bathrooms and kitchens, which have been updated as necessary in order to make them more comfortable and appealing to today's guests.

¹⁰ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 286 (illustrated).

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Significance:

For much of the twentieth century, spending at least a little time in the Lakeland district in northern Wisconsin was a normal part of the summer for many Midwest families and for over a century vacationers have come from all over the Midwest and well beyond in order to enjoy a summer stay on Spider Lake at Voss' Birchwood Lodge Resort. The Voss resort was first established in 1910 by Henry A. and Ruth Voss as a summer resort and it contained two small Rustic Style cabins and a third, larger Rustic Style cabin that served as the main lodge and also as the Voss family's summer home. At first, guests arrived by train at nearby junctions and they were then transported to the resort by wagon or boat. As the resort became more successful, still more cabins were built. In 1919, a new and larger Craftsman style, combination lodge/family home was built and this enabled the Voss family to make the resort their year-round, permanent home.

By 1924, though, more and more guests were arriving at the resort by automobile, which was partially due to the fact that a state highway (today's USH 51) ran along the south side of the resort's property, and better and larger facilities were needed. This resulted in the construction of a large new Craftsman style main lodge building that was built in 1924 and opened in 1925; it is this building that is the social heart of the resort today. By 1933, all but one of the resort's 14 original cabins had been built, a building containing an automobile service garage, a diner, a tavern, and a dance hall had also been built along the highway at the entrance to the resort to serve passers by, and by 1947 the last two buildings in the resort had also been built and all of these buildings are still extant and are still in use. Today, Voss' Birchwood Lodge is one of the few remaining American Plan resorts still operating in northern Wisconsin, it is owned and managed by members of the third and fourth generations of the Voss family, and it is now one of the oldest continuously operating summer resorts in Wisconsin.

Architecture

The Voss' Birchwood Lodge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, locally significant for epitomizing the architecture, buildings, and amenities of an early twentieth century American Plan resort. The collection of buildings, including some in the Rustic and Craftsman styles, include the main lodge/dining room; cabins; staff cabins; a garage; a laundry; fish shack; boathouse; and a second restaurant/tavern/dancehall on the state highway. The level of integrity of both the resort and individual buildings is high; the fact that all of the buildings which characterize a Northwoods resort remain, is increasingly rare. The period of significance is 1910-1946 reflecting the dates of construction of the resort buildings. There is a second period of significance, c1955 which reflects the date when the majority of the buildings were resided with wide, cedar clapboards. This architectural unification was a purposeful re-design, influenced by a desire to minimize maintenance issues, and

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modernize to continue to attract vacationers to the resort.

All of the buildings of the Voss' Birchwood Lodge resort that historically housed guests are arrayed in an arc along the south shoreline of Spider Lake and included the main lodge, which is located in the center of the arc, and 14 cabins. One of those historic cabins has now been demolished and a modern, non-contributing Contemporary style house (Map No. 18) has been built in its place, but all the rest of the resort's historic cabins are extant and highly intact. These buildings are good examples of the Rustic and Craftsman styles, are one story, contain from one to three bedrooms, many also now have kitchens, and all but one of them was built between 1910 and 1933, the exception being a Ranch style two-unit cabin that was built in 1946. Henry A. Voss was the principal builder of the resort's earliest cabins, although he also enlisted help from family, friends, and other local craftsman. As the resort grew in size and popularity, more of the construction work was completed by professional tradesmen, including most notably the present Lakeside Lodge building (Map No. 13), which was built in 1924 by two brothers, Palmer and Walter Hanson, who were builders in Wausau, Wisconsin. The same is also true of the Garage and Palm Garden Building (Map No. 25), completed in 1928 and expanded in 1933, and which was also built by area tradesmen. Remarkably, almost all of the historic buildings that have been associated with this resort since it first opened are still intact and are still being used for their original purposes. Voss' Birchwood Lodge is now one of the most intact of the few historic north woods American Plan resorts that are still in operation today.

Entertainment/Recreation

The Voss' Birchwood Lodge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A, in the area of History, locally significant representing the history of recreation. American Plan resorts were a particularly important part of the Northwoods tourism industry and historically an essential component of the local and regional economy. In the early-twentieth century there was a renewed interest in connecting to the unspoiled forest, and spending free time away from the noise, and congestion of the city. At first tourist travel was confined to only the wealthy, but the popularity of the affordable automobile and the cementing of the forty-hour work week opened up travel and the annual vacation for the ordinary working American. The Voss' built their lake resort near the highway, to capitalize on the new trends in recreational tourism.

The period of significance is 1910-1968, which begins when the resort opens, and ends using the National Register program's 50-year rule given that the property remains in active use as a resort, and is in fact owned and operated by current generations of the Voss family.

Voss' Birchwood Lodge is an excellent representative example of the full-service American Plan resorts that dominated the resort industry in northern Wisconsin during the first half of the twentieth

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century. Guests staying at an American Plan resort received both lodging and three meals a day as part of their package as well as access to all of the recreational activities that were typically offered by such places, including water sports, fishing and boating, as well as tennis and other land-based recreational activities. It was resorts such as this that were instrumental in helping the economy of the North Woods area in Wisconsin adapt to the end of the logging industry period in the north woods that had begun in the early 1880s and had ended by 1915. Voss' Birchwood Lodge Resort was established in 1910 and it is still an active summer resort today, it is now one of the few surviving examples of this type of resort left in Vilas County, and it is all the more unique for still being owned and operated by the same family that created it.

The history of the resort industry in Vilas County, where Voss' Birchwood Lodge is located, has recently been well documented from its beginnings in the late 1880s up until the 1950s in the *Historical/Architectural Resources Survey: Historic Resorts of Vilas County*; this intensive survey was completed in 2004.¹¹ Consequently, this nomination will not attempt to cover ground that has been well traveled before. Instead, the history that follows will take a general look at the growth of the resort industry in this area and it will then discuss the history of the Voss' Birchwood Lodge.

Contextual History

The first non-native people to settle in Vilas County in the North Woods area of Wisconsin were mostly associated directly or indirectly with the logging industry and it was the white pine and hardwood forests that encircled the dozens upon dozens of lakes in the county that first drew them to this area in the early 1880s. The earliest access to this area was by primitive roads, but this was soon followed by the construction of railroad lines that were built to facilitate the shipping of the newly cut logs to waiting markets. Even as the logging proceeded, the still pristine lakes that were surrounded by what was now cutover forest land began to be viewed as a potential summer recreation area by visitors to this area and also by the railroads themselves, who were looking for ways to produce additional revenue from their newly built lines once the logging period ended. Once these railroad lines had been completed, new communities in the county developed along them, including Minocqua, founded in 1887, and Woodruff, founded in 1888, and it was there that the first hotels in the county were built; J. B. Mann's and the Minocqua House in Minocqua, and the Woodruff House and the Commercial House in Woodruff. Most of these hotels were two-story-tall Commercial Vernacular frame buildings that were designed to serve people who were associated with the logging industry and with goods and services that were related to it: J. B. Mann's, however, was a log building and it was the first one in the area that was dedicated primarily to serving the fishermen who were now arriving by the railroad with the specific intent of sampling the fabulous fishing that the lakes in the county had to offer.

¹¹ Heritage Research, Ltd. *Historical/Architectural Resources Survey: Historic Resorts of Vilas County*. Menomonee Falls, WI: Heritage Research, 2004.

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In 1890, Mann moved to nearby Trout Lake, some 15 miles north of Minocqua, and established a new and larger resort there, Mann's Manitowish Lodge, which was subsequently named Cardinal's Resort after a later owner and which remained in operation until it finally closed in 1997. This was the first real resort in the Minocqua/Woodruff area, which is located about seven miles southeast of the community of Manitowish Waters and Voss's Resort, but it was not to be the only one for long.

In 1888 the Chicago and Northwestern Railway listed just five "summer resorts" open to the public in the Lakeland area: two hotels in Minocqua and Woodruff, John Mann's Resort on Trout Lake, and the Conklin House and a private home on Lake Tomahawk. By the mid-1890s the number had grown to about 15 including Sayner's Plum Lake Hotel, the Waldheim Hotel on Star Lake, and the Gauthier Resort on Sand Lake. Some of the early resorts were located near a train stop, but others were more remote and required a fair bit of multi-modal travel to reach, such as Bent's Camp on Lake Mamie, LaFave's Island Lake Resort, and Buck's Divide Resort between North and South Turtle Lake. When guests at Coon's Camp Franklin lodge on Trout Lake exited from their comfortable Pullman sleepers at Woodruff after a twelve hour train ride from Chicago, they still had to endure an arduous fifteen mile, four hour ride in a buckboard over bumpy roads before reaching their final destination. In short, the railroads opened up the region to visitors, but transportation in and around the region was still quite limited and difficult.¹²

These pioneer resorts were operated on what came to be called the "American Plan," which meant that the price of the room also included three meals a day, maid service, and often other entertainment and the availability of fishing guides. This practice developed out of necessity: these early resorts had to be essentially self-sufficient entities during the five-to-six month-long summer season when they were open. It wasn't until a dependable road network was developed in the area that food and other services could be delivered to these resorts on a daily basis and this did not take place until the 1920s. As a result, almost everything that was consumed in these resorts in the early days was either brought in by train and delivered to the resort by wagon on a weekly basis or else it was grown or made at the resort itself.

Resorts were operated on the "American Plan," which meant that they provided literally everything for their city guests: food, shelter, transportation, entertainment, guides, and even indirectly, expectations of what "nature" should be outside of the city. ...

¹² Bawden, Timothy. "Escape to Wisconsin: The Early Resort Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890-1920." *Wisconsin Preservation News* 22 (July-August 1998), 1-4.

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The American plan resort largely functioned as a self-contained system often consisting of a lodge, cottages, outbuildings for maintenance and storage, cattle and horse barns, ice house, a small farm, and boat house on the lake. Some even had their own water tower. The lodge was the centerpiece of the resort because it was here that most social activity took place. The average structure was 35 feet wide by 86 feet long and was two stories tall. The downstairs contained the office, fireplace and a gathering area, sometimes the dining room, and often a study. The upstairs consisted of sleeping rooms for fisherman. The lodges were most often constructed of local materials, chiefly logs, with an elaborate lodge fireplace serving as the focal point of night-time activities and conversation. The fireplace was usually made of local field stone gathered from the rocky [glacial] till littered across the landscape. Resorts normally had about 10 detached, two and three bedroom cottages. The early cottages offered spartan living space with little more than a bed, table, and some heating device. By the 1920s many were equipped with electricity and other modern amenities. Most resorts maintained a large garden, or small farm, from which they could provide fresh vegetables and dairy products for their guests.¹³

Given the time and effort it required to reach these early resorts it is not surprising that their guests tended to be persons with leisure time available to them.

The earliest resorts accommodated 15 to 75 people. In 1897 the rate per night averages just under \$2.00 and the weekly rate just under \$10.00. This was actually a relative bargain when compared to the price in a typical hotel in Milwaukee or Minneapolis where prices ranged from \$2.00 to \$5.00. Milwaukee's elegant Hotel Pfister and Minneapolis' giant West Hotel charged between \$3.00 and \$5.00 per night. But very few people stayed at a resort for just one night, a stay of several weeks or even months was the norm. Guests were typically well off and almost exclusively from large Midwestern cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and St. Louis. For example, two-thirds of all the guests at Coon's Camp Franklin Lodge between 1895 and 1905 were from Chicago and its immediate surroundings.¹⁴

The Voss Family Resort

Not all of the area's first guests were wealthy, however. Most of the earliest guests were male and came north for the fishing, the hunting, and for the chance to relax and enjoy the outdoor life. If you could afford it, you and your friends might stay in a cabin at one of the county's newly opened resorts.

¹³ Bawden. "Escape to Wisconsin: The Early Resort Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890-1920." 1-2.

¹⁴ Bawden. "Escape to Wisconsin: The Early Resort Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890-1920." 2. Coon's Camp Franklin Lodge was established on Trout Lake in 1893 and like Voss' Birchwood Lodge, it too is still in operation today and is being run by descendants of the original owners and it is also believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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If you couldn't, you still came north but you camped out instead. Among those who came north and spent parts of the summer camping in the lake chain that included Spider Lake, were Henry Voss and his brother, Edward Voss. Henry A. Voss (1884-1957) was born in Milwaukee and he became a photo engraver at the Mandel Printing and Engraving Company in that city. Through friends he was enticed to journey north up the Wisconsin River by canoe in 1903 on what became the first of several summer-long trips to the Spider Lake chain.

Henry and the boys would pack their canoes with provisions enough to get them going and would start the long journey to the Lakes area. Along the way they would stop to relax and replenish their provisions. The trip had to take at least a month or more of tough paddling and portaging. Once they arrived at their destination, they would build a makeshift camp and live off the land; hunting, fishing and exploring the wilderness around them.

Henry's work at Mandel Printing and Engraving served him well. He decided to branch off into the new field of photography. Armed with his wooden Kodak box camera, dryplates and tripods, he set off around the country, working for many big name newspapers as a photojournalist. His work took him to San Francisco, Seattle, New York, and Denver, where every spare moment was spent photographing the rapidly growing cities, the people, and the ever-changing landscape. Each summer he would return to his beloved North Woods. He was working in New York City at the Herald, when a visit to the Saratoga Racetrack and a lucky bet on a good horse changed his life forever. That horse came in and Henry made a tidy profit, which when added to his savings, would allow him to buy some land in northern Wisconsin. The following summer, he and his brother, Eddie, bought 100 acres of lake property in the town that would come to be known as Manitowish Waters.¹⁵

A chance encounter with Ruth LaPorte (1892-1957), whose family operated a logging camp nearby, turned into a romance and the couple was married in January of 1909 in Denver, where Henry was then working for the *Denver Post*. Returning to Spider Lake with their first child, Lloyd, the couple then built three cabins on Voss' land in 1910, one of which was the Homestead Cabin (Map No. 16), which served as the main lodge of their new summer resort and also as the home of Henry and Ruth Voss and their children during the summer season.¹⁶ These three cabins were located on the south shore of Spider Lake on a portion of Voss' land that lay between the lake and a former logging road to the south that eventually became State Highway 10 and later, U.S. Highway 51; this road formed the south boundary of the resort then and it still does today.

¹⁵ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 49-50.

¹⁶ Initially, Henry Voss planned to run the resort in conjunction with his brother, Edward, but soon after their purchase was completed, Henry bought Edward out and became the sole proprietor.

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At first, the Voss' stayed with Ruth's parents at their logging camp while the resort took shape; soon family included a second child, Audrey. Their first guests were mostly men like Henry Voss who came to the lake for the fishing and the resort evolved gradually as its reputation grew.

Life settled into a pattern of building for Ruth and Henry Voss. The first cabin was built with logs that were floated through the chain [of lakes], and were a gift to them from Ruth's family. Survival wasn't all that easy and they had to scramble for a living. Each morning Henry would rise at 5 a.m. and deliver milk from their dairy herd to the summer people. Then he would come home, light the fires for the guests, guide them as they fished – even preparing a shore lunch – and then return to the resort at 6 p.m. in the evening.

In the winter the family would pack up and travel to Minneapolis where Henry worked for the Bureau of Engraving. They used any extra money earned to build additional cabins. This became the pattern until 1919 when they built their year' round home on the grounds [Tamarack Cabin, Map No. 11]. Ruth and the children then remained in Wisconsin while Henry continued his winter trek to his work in Minneapolis.¹⁷

The resort's first lodge, the one-story-tall log-sided Homestead cabin, was a classic example of the un-winterized Rustic style log buildings that characterized the earliest buildings built in the typical North Woods resorts. The second ledge (1919), on the other hand, was a one-and-one-half-story Craftsman style Bungalow, and while this building also served as both lodge and family dwelling in the summer months, it was a real four-season house. Its construction finally made it possible for the Voss family to live at the resort year round.

Once World War I ended, the resort industry in Vilas County and elsewhere in the North Woods grew quickly, helped in large part by the fact that the once informal road system that the logging companies had created to link the various logging camps in the area was now becoming a real road system, albeit an unpaved one, and it was now being used by tourists that increasingly began to arrive in the area by automobile. Cabin building at the Voss' Resort continued during this period and the continued success of the resort soon made it possible (and necessary) to build still larger buildings.

It was about this time [ca.1919] that Voss' Resort went to the American Plan. They converted the homestead [cabin] to the dining area and Ruth and Aunt Nancy [LaPorte] took over and did all the cooking. Their first American Plan guest was Dr. Edward Fletcher and his wife, plus several of their friends. They numbered eight in all. They were charged \$18 per person per week, and this covered their lodging and three meals a day. They were so pleased that they

¹⁷ Laabs, Joyce. *A Collection of Northwoods Nostalgia From the Pages of the Lakeland Times*. Sun Prairie, WI., Royle Publishing, 1978, Vol. 2, p. 118.

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stayed a month. ... Voss' found that many of their guests became so enamored of the area that they wanted to build permanent summer homes. Henry would then sell a portion of his land to these guests and use the dollars he received to continue building the resort. In time, Henry and Ruth had 22 buildings on their resort grounds. Eighteen of these were for guests, several were duplexes, and most had fireplaces, automatic heating and picture windows.

The year 1924 brought their biggest building project. That was the year that Palmer Hanson and his brother Walter built the main lodge [Lakeside Lodge, Map. No. 13]. In addition to the main rooms on the first level, there were 17 rooms upstairs-15 small ones with just sinks, and two suites with private baths. They charged \$4 per person, per day for the suites, which still included the full American Plan. The lodge was ready for occupancy in 1925, with wicker furniture and Navajo rugs.¹⁸

By 1927, the Voss' had 12 cabins, all with bathrooms and electric light, and a year later another major building project was begun: the garage and coffee shop, specifically designed to take advantage of the automobile traffic that was transforming the resort industry in the North Woods at the time.

In 1928 they built a structure [Garage and Palm Garden Building, Map No. 25] on the highway in front of the resort to be used as a garage and coffee shop. They also had rooms on the second level. That was the year that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pepowski came to work at the resort. They lived in the new building and stayed with the Voss' for 25 years. Dr. Kate Newcomb also opened her first office in this building and saw patients on Monday and Friday nights.

After prohibition, this building became the liveliest place in town. Three bartenders were kept busy as guests played the slot machines and danced. There were also slot machines in the main lodge, but the real action was out at the highway building. Here movies were shown twice a week and dancing offered every night...for at the time the resort had its own "live-in" band.¹⁹

By this time, Voss' Resort was now one of a large number of resorts that collectively were bringing much needed economic growth and change to Vilas County and to the other Lakeland counties.

In 1923, seven hundred thousand tourists visited Wisconsin's resorts, auto camps, and vacation homes. Five years later, 180 resorts existed in Vilas County. In 1930, tourists spent \$1,876,000 in the county. Despite the Depression, two hundred resorts, four thousand

¹⁸ Laabs, Joyce. *A Collection of Northwoods Nostalgia From the Pages of the Lakeland Times*. Vol. 2, 118 and 123.

¹⁹ Laabs, Joyce. *A Collection of Northwoods Nostalgia From the Pages of the Lakeland Times*. Vol. 2, 123. Dr. Kate Newcomb was the locally celebrated "Angel on Snowshoes," and was the first doctor in this part of the county.

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summer homes, and seventy-three camps or clubs existed in Vilas and [the adjoining] Oneida counties by 1932. Resorts, lodges, and tourist camps provided jobs for local residents, and commercial centers developed to serve residents and tourists. Together, they transformed the region into a place where people worked and played outdoors.²⁰

The advent of automobile tourism was also accompanied by the creation of a new kind of North Woods resort that had evolved alongside the nationwide increase in automobile ownership: the Housekeeping Plan resort.

During the 1920s American plan resorts were beginning to give way to what were being called "housekeeping" style resorts. Prior to 1920 there were only 15 housekeeping style resorts in operation in all of Oneida and Vilas counties. During the 1920s they made up 40 percent of all types of resorts and during the 1930s their share grew to 70 percent. In general, housekeeping style resorts were smaller places that consisted of several small cottages, typically without the more elaborate main lodge of their predecessors. People were expected to bring their own linen and food. In short, they offered a place to stay, not a place to live and be catered to for several weeks or months.

There are several interrelated reasons for this shift. First, greater accessibility, better roads, and widespread use of the automobile allowed people to become more mobile in the region. It was less attractive to be tied entirely to one place for a long period of time, and more attractive to come and go and experience other places during a single vacation. Second, many wealthy summer people built summer homes of their own. Often they purchased land from resort owners who they had stayed with in the past. Thus, the resorts were subdivided into smaller parcels. Third, the middle class was coming north by this time, but with less money and time to spend than their wealthy counterparts in the past. Fourth, fires destroyed many of the old lodges of the American plan resorts. When, or if, they were rebuilt, they tended to be of the housekeeping style which generally did not consist of the traditional lodge with dining room, social area, and sleeping rooms all in one building. And finally, operating an American plan resort was hard work and a family affair. Many of these places simply closed their doors when their owners got older and the next generation was not interested in carrying on the family business.²¹

This new trend had both a direct and an indirect affect on older American Plan resorts such as Voss'. On the one hand, a number of American Plan resorts, including the Voss' Resort, remodeled some of

²⁰ Shapiro, Aaron. *The Lure of the North Woods: Cultivating Tourism in the Upper Midwest*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press, 2013, p. 80.

²¹ Bawden. "Escape to Wisconsin: The Early Resort Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890-1920." 3-4.

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their existing cabins and installed kitchens in them, which made it possible for their guests to enjoy a modified housekeeping existence even while continuing to have access to the resort's dining room. On the other hand, it is likely that a number of traditional American Plan resorts began to have second thoughts about any future expansion plans they may have had in light of the new competition that now existed for the tourist dollar.

During the 1930s, the amenities offered at Voss' resort remained largely unchanged, although by 1933, all but two of today's resort buildings had been constructed and no new ones would be added until after the end of World War II.

In order to build some of the cabins, Henry had to trade his land for services rendered. Board and room were traded for day labor. The years from 1911 to 1933 saw a flurry of building activity at Birchwood Lodge and much of it was accomplished through the barter system. Occasionally, a guest of long-standing would help out by purchasing a land lot from Henry, giving him the money to build a cabin for their family. Once the cabin was finished, the guest would use the cabin until Henry had enough money to buy the land back. The Birches cottage [Map No. 4] was built in 1926 for Mr. Argeaves in just this manner.²²

Running the resort was then and had always been very much a family affair. Henry and Ruth's son, Lloyd Voss (1910-1987) and his sister, Audrey Voss (1911-2005) had been part of the work team since they were children and they continued to be so even after they married and began families. Lloyd married Carole Norman in 1939, they would have three children, and they ran the bar, the soda fountain, and the gift shop that were all located in the Garage and Palm Garden building while also managing a smaller housekeeping style resort that they established elsewhere on Spider Lake. Audrey, meanwhile, continued to work at the resort in the summer months while attending UW-Madison.

After Audrey completed her schooling in the area she continued on at UW-Madison, where she majored in art. It was there she met and fell in love with J. R. Dickerson, a law student. Audrey and Bob were married in 1940 and set out for Merrill [Wisconsin] where Bob had accepted an offer to be an associate with the Len Schmidt law offices. Audrey would then travel up from Merrill to help out at the resort whenever needed. A daughter, Tracey, was born in 1941, the year of the attack on Pearl Harbor and it changed their way of living. Bob and Audrey moved their family to Chicago where Bob worked as an alien property custodian until he was commissioned in the Navy in 1942 and sent overseas.

²² Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 247.

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Audrey and Tracey then returned to the resort to wait out the war years. Finally Bob returned and Audrey joined him in Chicago. After a second daughter, Ruth, was born to them in 1946, Grandpa and Grandma Voss suggested that it would be nice if they returned to the resort to live when Bob was discharged. They returned in 1946 and built their home [Map No. 1] in the family compound. Together, the family ran the resort. ... The resort continued to flourish, with 90 percent of the clientele returning year after year, many staying all summer. In fact, five generations of one family has vacationed at Voss'.²³

Henry and Ruth continued to run the resort they had founded until 1957, when they were both killed in an auto accident in Florida. Subsequently, Lloyd Voss and Audrey Voss Dickerson ran the resort together until 1963, when Audrey and Bob bought Lloyd out and became the sole owners. Audrey and her now married daughter, Ruth Dickerson Gardner, then ran the resort together until Audrey's death in 2005, after which Ruth has taken over and now runs the resort with her son, Chris Gardner.

Following the end of World War II, North Woods tourism increased dramatically and the 1950s, especially, proved to be a golden period for historic North Woods resorts of every kind. Today, Wisconsin's North Woods tourism is a multi-billion dollar industry. Vilas County's traditional American Plan resorts, however, have not fared so well for a variety of reasons, including the inability of many of these family-run operations to pass the torch on to a new generation. Another important factor has also been the fact that the tourist of today now has many different kinds of competing lodging opportunities to choose from. As a result, the number of full-service American Plan resorts in the North Woods in general and in Vilas County in particular has declined dramatically.

In conclusion, only a handful of the old resorts still exist in northern Wisconsin and very few are still operating on the American plan. Just this year [1998] Cardinals Manitowish Lodge on Trout Lake became the latest fatality, ending a 110 year tradition. Although the original lodge was destroyed by fire in 1942, several of the cottages are turn-of-the-century vintage. Likewise, the century old Dillman's Sand Lake Lodge lost its main lodge to fire in 1992 (the lodge was built in the 1930s); the main hotel at the Famous Northern on Lake Kawaguesaga was torn down in the early 1990s; and the main lodge at Ed Gabe's Lost Lake resort near St. Germain burned to the ground in 1980. But there are some remaining vestiges. Forelich's Sayner Lodge on Plum Lake has been operating continuously since 1892; Coon's Franklin Lodge on Trout Lake and Hintz's North Star Lodge on Star Lake have been open since 1894; and Voss' Birchwood Resort has welcomed guests since 1910. In each case the original main lodges are well maintained and have not been greatly modified. Their appearance from the outside and the inside might be described as quintessential rustic Northwoods aesthetic, which

²³ Laabs, Joyce. *A Collection of Northwoods Nostalgia From the Pages of the Lakeland Times*. Vol. 2, 123.

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is a strong part of the region's sense of place. They remind us of the state's recreation heritage and with any hope they will be around for future generations of Midwesterners seeking to escape to Wisconsin.²⁴

The Voss' Birchwood Lodge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level for its historic significance as a highly intact example of an American Plan summer resort and its association with the history of recreation and tourism. Resort properties such as this played a very important role in establishing the North Woods tourism industry in Wisconsin and surviving examples that are still in operation today are now very scarce and are a greatly endangered resource type. The Voss' resort was established in 1910 by the Voss family and is still owned and operated by descendants of this family today. The property retains the buildings historically associated with an early-twentieth century recreational resort, therefore having excellent integrity.

Architecture:

Voss' Birchwood Lodge is also locally significant as one of Vilas County's finest and most intact collection of historic, American Plan, summer resorts buildings. These buildings are examples of the Rustic and Craftsman styles, and all but two were built between 1910 and 1933, the other two being examples of the Ranch style that were built in 1946.²⁵ Individually, the resort's 22 contributing buildings are fine representative examples of the various types of buildings that are typically associated with summer resorts in the north woods and they include the resort's main lodge, its 12 guest cabins, a boat house, a fish-cleaning shack, staff living quarters, and two owner's homes.

The first resorts in the north woods area of Wisconsin were developed in the late 1880s and the architecture that characterized these resorts displayed a variety of different influences. The designs of a few of the earliest buildings built specifically to house tourists in the region reflected the influence of prevailing national architectural styles such as the Stick style and Queen Anne style. Most early north woods resorts during the early years consisted primarily of buildings that were nearly identical in size and design to pioneer dwellings in the area and to the buildings in logging and fishing camps. These represented the area's first buildings built by non-native peoples, astylistic buildings that were clad in whatever materials came to hand. Regardless of which influence predominated, almost all of the earliest examples of resort buildings were constructed of wood and were simple in their execution and

²⁴ Bawden. "Escape to Wisconsin: The Early Resort Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890-1920." 4. Froelich's, Coon's, Hintz's, and Voss' resorts are all still extant and all still in operation today, as is Dillman's, which now has a new lodge building. In addition, many of the original cabins at Ed Gabe's Lost Lake Resort are still extant but are now condo units.

²⁵ The Period of Significance for architecture extends from 1910, when the oldest contributing building at the resort was built, until 1946, when the newest contributing one was built.

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Town of Manitowish Waters Vilas County, WI

small in size, a fact that reflected the capabilities of those who built them, the limited materials that were available to them, and the seasonal nature of the buildings themselves.

Many of the earliest resort buildings in Vilas County were vernacular examples of the Rustic style, which is defined by the Rustic Style subsection of *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* as follows:

The Rustic Style emerged from the resort architecture of the Adirondack region in northern New York state in the 1870s. It is characterized by the use of indigenous materials, broad shingled roofs with wide overhangs, open porches, and simply proportioned door and window openings. Building materials were often oversized in comparison to conventional construction and left in their natural condition. Round glacial boulders and large peeled logs were typical materials. Rubble stone or split boulders were sometimes laid in imitation of geologic strata. Walls are often battered or sloped in a manner typical of bungalow design. Buildings were sited and materials shaped in an attempt to make them appear as if they belonged in the surrounding landscape and often included designed landscape elements such as bridges, walls and benches. Designs attempted to convey a sense of the past through a feeling of having been hand-crafted by pioneer builders.²⁶

The Rustic style was widely publicized in architectural journals and the popular press in the early twentieth century and it quickly became accepted as the most appropriate architectural imagery for vacation houses, roadhouses, resorts and camps built in heavily forested landscapes such as Wisconsin's north woods resort area. Most late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century Vilas County examples of this style, however, can more accurately be described as being simpler, vernacular examples of this style.

Resort owners of both American Plan and housekeeping resorts typically relied on their own skills to construct buildings. Skilled professionals were not often employed and very rarely was an architect hired to design the structures. Resort buildings were generally constructed for summer occupancy only and expenses were kept to a minimum. Early resorts utilized very rudimentary buildings—some that were even associated with former lumber camps. ... Since local materials were most often employed in construction, i.e. felled trees, many resort properties exhibit log construction. Although the full-log method of construction may come first to mind when discussing the Rustic Style, more often half-log, log slabs or manufactured log siding was utilized. Vertical log construction was commonly used for the construction of

²⁶ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. The Rustic Style Subsection exists in draft form and can be seen at the office of the Wisconsin's Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation.

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cabins using vertical logs six to eight feet long that are set upright and spiked or mortared into a sill course and attached to neighboring logs by large spikes.²⁷

This last method of construction characterized the earliest buildings at the Voss Resort, built by Henry Voss himself with occasional help from neighbors and family members. The first building constructed at the resort was what is now called the Homestead Cabin (Map No. 16), begun in 1909, finished in 1910, and built of logs that were floated to the resort property from the nearby logging camp that was operated by Ruth Voss' family. Historic photos show that these first buildings had simple whole-log frameworks, and that they were sided with narrow vertical logs. Two of the resort's buildings still retain their original vertical log siding: Memory Lane Cabin (Map No. 3), and Evergreen Cabin (Map No. 19).²⁸ Another characteristic feature of this style that can be seen on most of the resort's cabins and principal buildings, regardless of age, is the use of round fieldstones for fireplaces and chimneys.

These early cabins satisfied the needs of the resort's first guests, who were mostly men who came north to enjoy the outstanding fishing on Spider Lake and other surrounding lakes. By the turn of the century communities such as Minocqua, Woodruff, and Boulder Junction were well established in Vilas County and the development of railroad lines that could reach them meant that it became cost-effective to bring in pre-cut lumber and other materials to build more sophisticated buildings. This was reflected in the new, more modern-looking cabins that were built at the Voss Resort: clapboard-clad, hip-roofed, one-story vernacular form buildings. Two examples include the Birches cabin (Map No. 4) and the twin cabins that were later joined together to become the Clearview East and West cabin (Map No. 6). The development of cabins like these reflected the fact that summer outings to the north woods were increasingly becoming a family affair and the modern amenities that such cabins offered, such as indoor plumbing, appealed to these new summer guests.

Another architectural style that played a large role in the physical development of the Voss resort was the Craftsman style. Like the associated Arts and Crafts style, the Craftsman style had its origins in the work of English architects and designers who sought a new approach to house design by using simplified elements of traditional vernacular houses to produce a comprehensive design in which exterior and interior elements worked together to produce a unified whole. Unlike Arts and Crafts designs, the American Craftsman style did not choose to imitate its English heritage. Instead, by applying the basic principles of Arts and Crafts design to American needs and building materials, designers such as Wisconsin native Gustave Stickley were able to fashion buildings having a specifically American appearance.²⁹ The American Craftsman style is characterized by quality

²⁷ Heritage Research, Ltd. *Historical/Architectural Resources Survey: Historic Resorts of Vilas County*, 26-27.

²⁸ Dickerson. *Lunch at Boney's Mound: A Portrait of Family and Friends*, 231-232 (illustrated). The Homestead cabin was also originally clad in vertical logs.

²⁹ Gustave Stickley also had a great interest in log construction and to some extent, the Rustic style, which had much in

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construction and simple, well-crafted exterior and interior details. Natural materials are used both inside and out in a manner appropriate to each and wood is by far the most common material used, with brick, stucco, and wood shingles also being typical exterior building materials. Frequently the exteriors of American Craftsman style houses use broad bands of contrasting materials (such as wood shingles above stucco) to delineate different stories. American Craftsman style homes usually have broad gable or hipped main roofs with one or two large front dormers and widely overhanging eaves, exposed brackets or rafters, and prominent chimneys. Open front porches whose roofs are supported by heavy piers are a hallmark of the style, and glazed sun porches and open roofed wooden pergola-like porches are also common.

Voss' Resort has two excellent example of the Craftsman style, the Tamarack cabin (Map No. 11), which was built in 1919 to serve both as the resort's second lodge and also as the year-round home of the Voss family, and Lakeside Lodge (Map No. 13), which was built in 1924 and which is still the resort's main lodge today. To make buildings of this size and complexity a reality required the assistance of professional craftsmen. To build the Lakeside Lodge, Henry Voss hired builder Palmer Hanson, who moved up from Wausau, Wisconsin in 1923 and built the Evergreen cabin (Map No. 19), where he and his wife, Mildred, stayed over the winter while the new lodge was being planned. Construction started the next year, with Palmer Hanson being joined by his brother, Walter Hanson. With the two of them as principals, work on the lodge was completed in time for the start of the 1925 summer season. The new lodge cost \$20,000 and took another \$5,000 to furnish. One especially notable Craftsman style-inspired feature of the interior decoration of its principal rooms was the use of strips of pressed birch bark. This bark was stripped from the birch trees that were felled to clear the site for the new lodge.

Resort buildings such as the Rest Haven building (Map No. 7), Shady Rest cabin (Map No. 15), and Lake Breeze East and West cabin (Map No. 17), all show the influence of the Craftsman style. Most of the cabins are vernacular buildings reflecting resort architecture of the period but have stylistic characteristics such as exposed rafter tails. This minimal application of stylistic features is not enough to classify all buildings as examples of the style but do provide a unified appearance for the entire resort.

The types of buildings that are found in the Voss' Resort are also typical of those that were once found in other historic American Plan resorts throughout the north woods. Almost all of these resorts were located on a body of water, be it either a lake or a river, and the buildings that housed guests were oriented so as to give their occupants views of these bodies of water. At Voss' Resort, all of its cabins and the main lodge are arrayed in a broad arc facing Spider Lake, which gave each building lake

common with the Craftsman style in terms of using materials in a natural way and choosing materials that were native to the area. Indeed, Stickley's own house at his Craftsman Farms in Morris Plains, New Jersey is a log house.

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views. American Plan resorts in particular also typically have a main lodge where guests could assemble and where dinners and other meals were served, and Voss' Resort is remarkable in that it still contains all three of the buildings that have served the resort as its main lodge over the years (Map Nos. 16, 11, and 13). Being located on the water meant that resorts such as this would also have facilities that enabled guests to enjoy the water, which meant constructing piers and docks and structures in which to store boats, fishing gear, and other water-related paraphernalia. The Voss Resort still retains its historic three-slip boathouse (Map No. 10) and next to it is located a small Craftsman style-influenced building (Map No. 9) that was used for cleaning the fish that were caught by the guests. Like many other resorts of the time, the Voss Resort also has buildings that were dedicated to special purposes such as its laundry/powerhouse building (Map No. 12), a small dormitory for summer staff (Map No. 7), and even a small cabin that housed the resort's professional fishing guide during the summer months (Map No. 8). All of these buildings were necessary to ensure that guests had the north woods experience that they were hoping for. While such a range of buildings was once quite common in the American Plan resorts of the north woods, very few such ensembles are intact today.

In addition to depicting the distinctive characteristic buildings of an American Plan resort, Voss' Birchwood Lodge is one of a few extant properties in Northern Wisconsin that continues to represent this once common resort property type. A 2004 inventory of resorts in Vilas County surveyed 48 resort complexes that remain, although not all are actively functioning in their historic capacity. Of these, 17 were found to retain historic integrity and meet National Register criteria, with twelve of those being examples of the American Plan resorts constructed in the Rustic style.³⁰ The Voss' Birchwood Lodge is one of these properties that retains its essential resort buildings and conveys the historic use of the property. Today the American Plan resort is a rarity that harkens us back to a time of leisurely vacationing in the North Woods. The Voss' Birchwood Lodge stands as a reminder of this grand era of vacationing in the North Woods.

Conclusion

The Voss' Birchwood Lodge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level for its architectural significance under Criterion C as a highly intact collection of vernacular, Rustic style and Craftsman style resort buildings, built between 1910 and 1946 and under Criterion A for the history of recreation, as a rare survivor of the golden age of resort building in the north woods. Collectively these buildings comprise one of Vilas County's finest surviving resorts associated with the American Plan system, a generator of tourism which was of great importance to the economy and social history of Vilas County. As a group, the resort's buildings are of architectural

³⁰ Heritage Research Ltd., 51-68.

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significance representing historic period resort architecture. The resort's significance is also greatly enhanced by its high degree of integrity and good condition. This property is a rare outlier due to its continued operation and ownership by descendants of the resort's founders, for over one hundred years.

Statement of Archeological Potential

Northern Wisconsin was historically, and continues to be, home to numerous Native American tribes. Due to the rich history of Native American occupation of this area, it is possible that Native American resources may be extant within the boundaries of the district; however, an archaeological survey was outside the scope of this nomination and; therefore, archaeological potential remains unassessed.

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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Town of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, WI

Major Bibliographical References:

Bawden, Timothy. "Escape to Wisconsin: The Early Resort Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890-1920." *Wisconsin Preservation News* 22 (July-August 1998).

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The resort's boundary line begins at a point on the south shoreline of Spider Lake that corresponds to the NW corner of the parcel associated with 5518 and 5516 USH 51 and 5537 Henry Voss Lane (Parcel # 16-761-065), the line then runs in a southerly manner for 261-feet along the west line of this parcel to a point that corresponds to the SW corner of said parcel. The line then turns 65° and continues in a southeasterly direction along the south edge of this parcel for 295-feet until it intersects with a line that corresponds to the west edge of the parcel that is associated with 5500 USH 51 (Parcel # 16-617). The line then turns 40 degrees and continues south along said west edge for 55-feet until reaching a point that corresponds to the SW corner of said parcel. The line then turns 53° and runs in a southeasterly direction along the SW edge of said parcel a distance of 451-feet until reaching a point that corresponds to the south corner of said parcel, a point that also corresponds to the point of intersection of the easterly edge of USH 51 and the north edge of Voss Road. The line then turns 40° and runs east along the south edge of said parcel for a distance of 280-feet until reaching a point that corresponds to the SW corner of the parcel associated with 12956 and 12948 Voss Road (Parcel # 16-618). The line then turns 90° and continues north to the NW corner of said parcel, then turns 90° and continues east along the north edge of said parcel to its NE corner, then turns 90° and continues south along the east edge of said parcel to its SE corner. The line then turns 90° and continues east along the south line of Parcel # 16-617 for a distance of 66-feet. The line then turns 90° and continues north along the east side of said parcel a distance of 175-feet to a point that corresponds to the NE corner of said parcel. The line then turns 90° and continues west along the north edge of said parcel a distance of 40-feet until reaching a point that corresponds to the SE corner of the parcel associated with 12930 and 12932 Palmer Lane (Parcel # 16-698-0003). The line then turns 90° and continues north along the east side of said parcel a distance of 373-feet to a point on the south shoreline of Spider Lake. The line then turns west and continues adjacent to the shore line to a point corresponding to the northeast corner of the property associated with 12984 Ruth Voss Lane, the line turns north and continues into Spider Lake 20-feet at which point to line turns west and continues 90-feet to a point where the line then turns south 20-feet, returning to the shoreline, at which point the line continues west adjacent to the shoreline to the point of beginning. These boundaries enclose 15.71 acres of land.

Boundary Justification:

The resort's boundaries enclose the land that has historically been associated with the resort and its buildings, including five original resort buildings that were sold to others after 2005. The boundary includes all of the built components of the historic resort.

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UTM References, Continued:

5	16	281540	5110430
	Zone	Easting	Northing

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Town of Manitowish, Vilas County, WI

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Items a-d are the same for photos 1 – 23.

Photo 1

- a) Voss' Birchwood Lodge
- b) Town of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, October 11, 2016
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) Dickerson House, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 1 of 23

Photo 10

- e) Tamarack Cabin, View looking SW
- f) Photo 10 of 23

Photo 11

- e) Laundry & Powerhouse, View looking SE
- f) Photo 11 of 23

Photo 2

- e) Edgewater East & West Cabin, View looking S
- f) Photo 2 of 23

Photo 12

- e) Lakeside Lodge, View looking S
- f) Photo 12 of 23

Photo 3

- e) Memory Lane Cabin, View looking SE
- f) Photo 3 of 23

Photo 13

- e) Lakeside Lodge, View looking NE
- f) Photo 13 of 23

Photo 4

- e) Birches Cabin, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 4 of 23

Photo 14

- e) Lakeside Lodge Lobby, View looking S
- f) Photo 14 of 23

Photo 5

- e) Sleepy Hollow Cabin, View looking W
- f) Photo 5 of 23

Photo 15

- e) Pine Eden Cabin, View looking SE
- f) Photo 15 of 23

Photo 6

- e) Clearview East & West Cabin, View looking S
- f) Photo 6 of 23

Photo 16

- e) Shady Rest Cabin, View looking SSW
- f) Photo 16 of 23

Photo 7

- e) Rest Haven, View looking WNW
- f) Photo 7 of 23

Photo 17

- e) Homestead Cabin, View looking SE
- f) Photo 17 of 23

Photo 8

- e) Guide's Shack, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 8 of 23

Photo 18

- e) Lake Breeze East & West Cabin, View looking SW
- f) Photo 18 of 23

Photo 9

- e) Boathouse & Fish-Cleaning Shack, View looking SW
- f) Photo 9 of 23

Photo 19

- e) Evergreen Cabin, View looking SSW
- f) Photo 19 of 23

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Photo 20

- e) Trail's End Cabin, View looking SW
- f) Photo 20 of 23

Photo 21

- e) Woodland Cabin, View looking NE
- f) Photo 21 of 23

Photo 22

- e) Main Entrance Gate, View looking N
- f) Photo 22 of 23

Photo 23

- e) Garage & Palm Garden Building, View looking NW
- f) Photo 23 of 23

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- Figure 1: Boundary Map and Building Number Key
- Figure 2: Photo Key
- Figure 3: USGS Map

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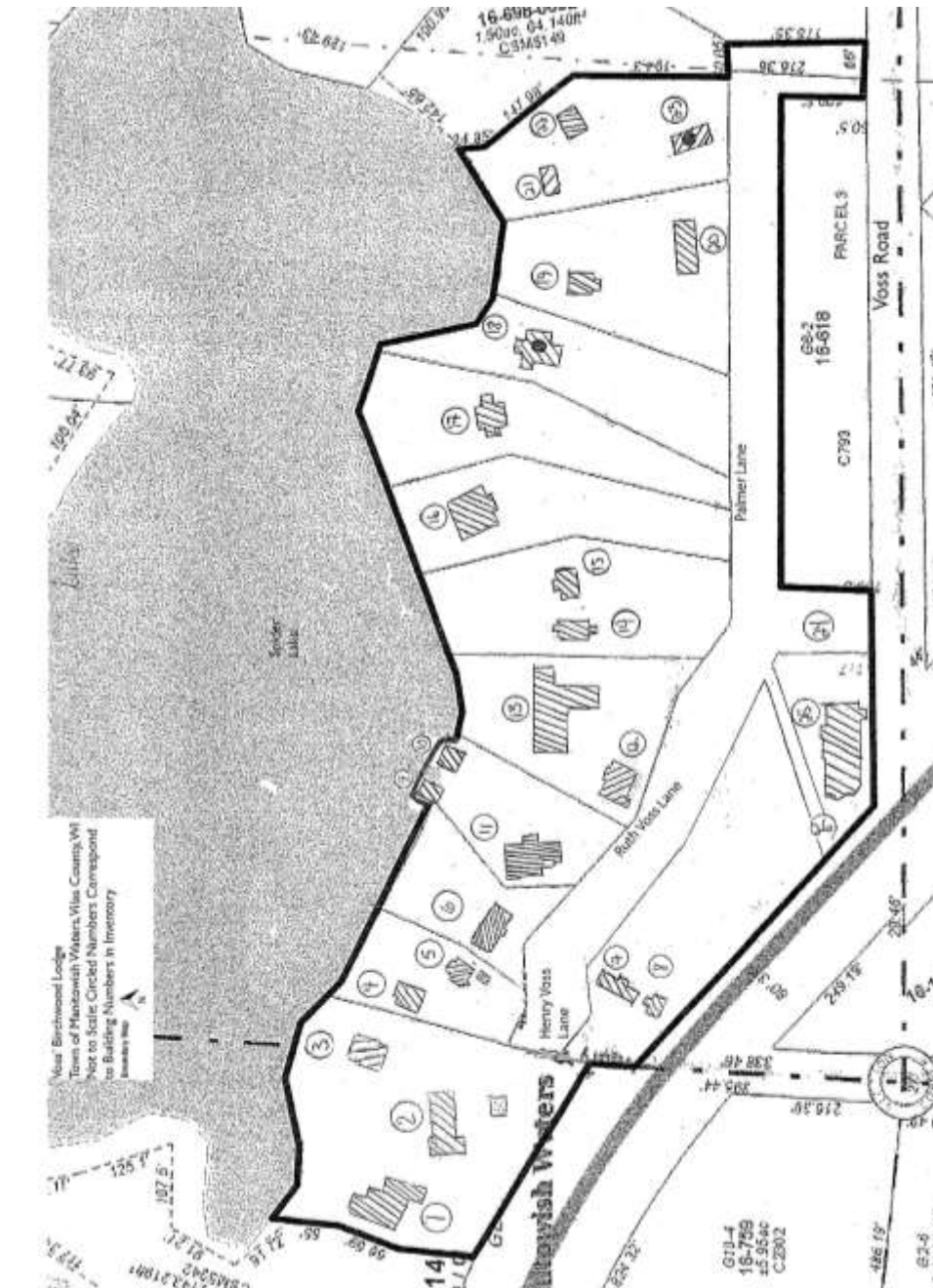
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Town of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, WI

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Insert Figures

Figure 1: Boundary Map and Building Number Key



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Voss' Birchwood Lodge
Town of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, WI

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Figure 2: Photo Key



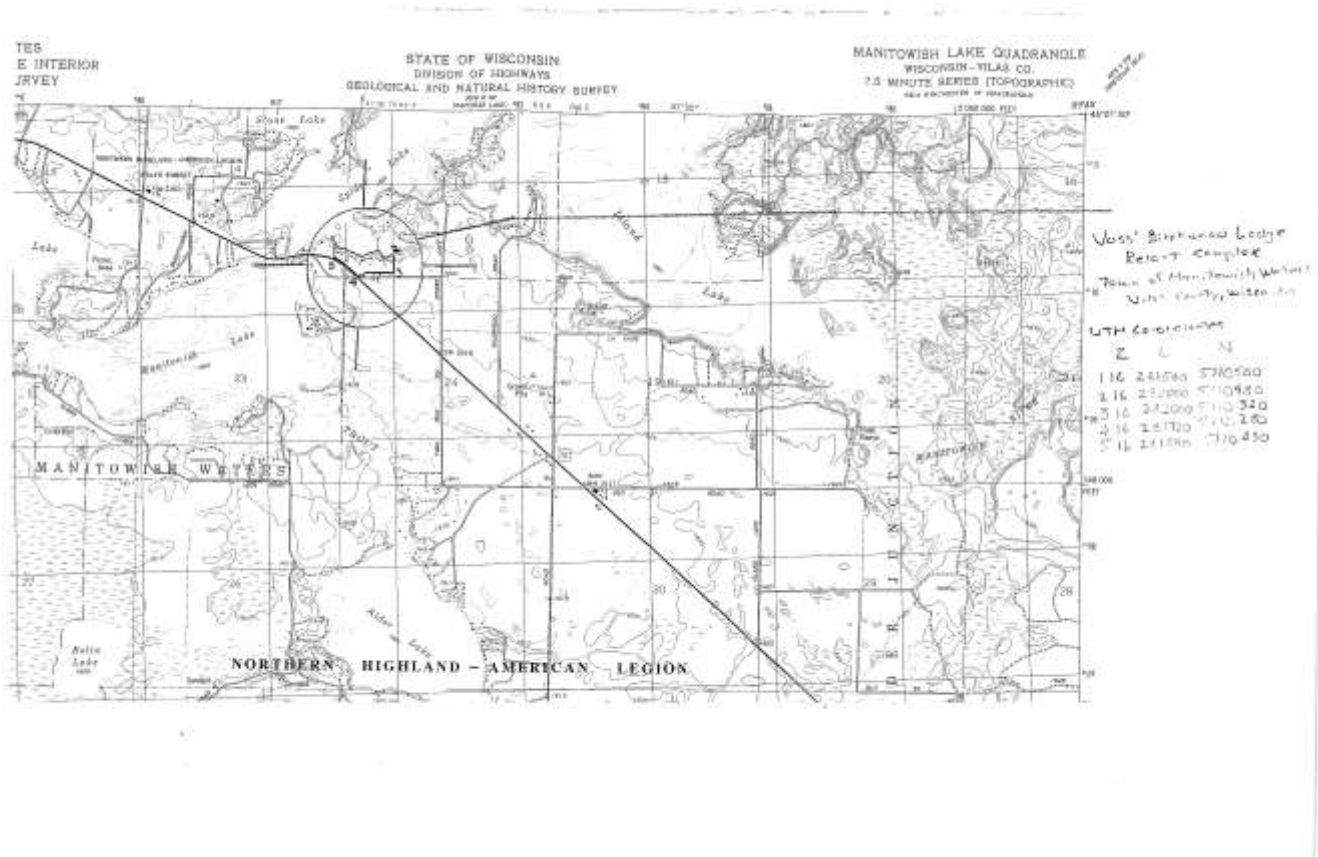
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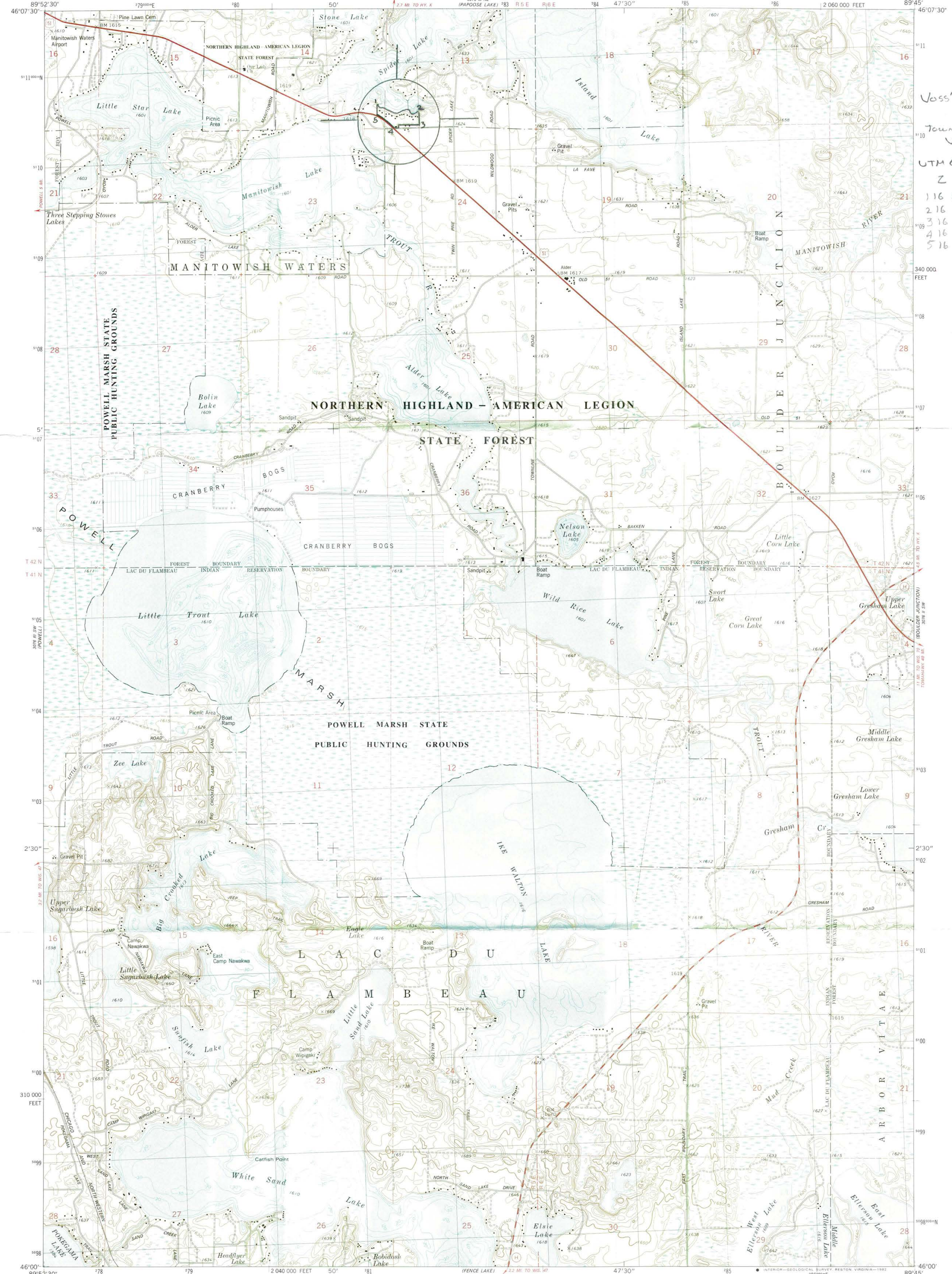
Voss' Birchwood Lodge
Town of Manitowish Waters, Vilas County, WI

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Figure 3: USGS Map

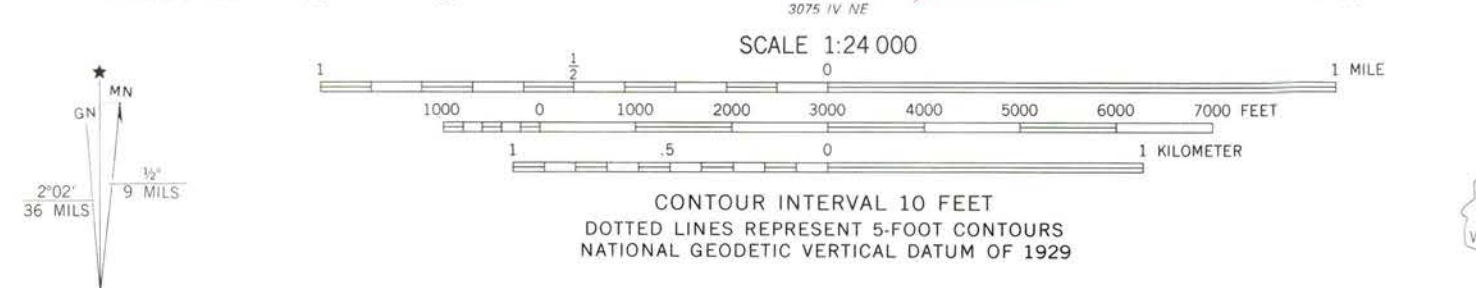


___End Figures



Voss' Birchwood Ledge
Town of Manitowish Waters
Vilas County, Wisconsin
UTM Co-ordinates
Z E N
116 281540 5710560
216 282000 5710480
316 282000 5710320
416 281720 5710280
516 281540 5710430

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters north and 10 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MANITOWISH LAKE, WIS.
SE 4 WINCHESTER 15' QUADRANGLE
N4600-W8945/7.5









BIRCHES EAST



SLEEPY HOLLOW





(REST HAVEN)



















SHADY REST





LAKE BREEZE
EAST









VOSS BIRCHWOOD LODGE



COFFEE SHOP

ANTIQUE'S

OLDSETTLERS INN

COFFEE SOUPEN

RECEIVED
NOV 06 2017

OBJECTION TO LISTING IN
THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BY:

Property Name: EASTWOOD CABINS Lot 20
I am sole owner of the property - I am part owner of the property (circle one) ^{WITH MY WIFE}
Address of Property: 12942 & 12946 PALMER LN
City: MANITOWISH WATERS County: VILAS

RECEIVED 280
MAY - 3 2018
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In accordance with Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and Title 36, Part 60.6, of the Code of Federal Regulations, I hereby certify that I am the sole/part (circle one) owner of the property listed above and do hereby object to its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with said law and regulations, I understand that my property will not be listed in the National Register, providing that I sign and have notarized this statement, and that I submit it to the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer prior to the meeting of the State Historic Preservation Review Board during which the nomination of my property will be considered.

Signed: Richard A Pavlov Colette A Pavlov Date: 10-31-2017
Print or Type Name: RICHARD A PAVLOV COLETTE A PAVLOV
Mailing Address: 5674 EASTWOOD DR
City: MANITOWISH WATERS State: WI Zip: 54545

NOTARY
State of Wisconsin, County of Vilas

The above statement was subscribed and sworn before me this 31 day of October, 2017

Sandra R Rihy
Notary Public Signature

My commission Expires: Sept 14, 2018

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2017

State Historic Preservation Review Board

BY:

Wisconsin Historical Society

816 State Street

Madison, WI 53706

Attn: Peggy Veregin

November 10, 2017



To the State Historic Preservation Review Board,

I am writing in regards to your consideration of Voss' Birchwood Lodge in Manitowish Waters, WI being nominated to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

I am in favor of such nomination. Voss' Birchwood Lodge and the Voss properties have been, and continue to be, a significant part of the fabric of Manitowish Waters and its robust history. Having been built at the beginning of Northwood's tourism and resort era, the property truly captures the essence of that period in time.

The setting along the shores of Spider Lake, with the tall pine trees, the classic boathouse and the patio, where long ago, well dressed guests would swap fish stories, continue to give visitors and locals a sense of early resort life. The architecture and finish carpenter work of the buildings, especially the Lodge itself, are so unique that it would be a loss not to preserve and recognize them.

The Voss properties have hosted many guests over the years (some historically important) and has endured many changes---to the local economy, shoreland development and guest expectations. One thing that has not changed however is the Voss' commitment to its family mission: to be true to Henry and Ruth's vision, to continue to be a part of the Manitowish Waters community, to retain family legacy and to continue to provide guests and residents with a beautiful, historical place to relax, reflect and marvel over a by-gone era.

It is because of these special characteristics and the compelling story this property has to offer that I feel it would be a perfect fit to be listed on the Registers of Historical Places.

Sincerely,

Barbara LaPorte Bartling



BY:

Manitowish Waters Historical Society

Dear Mr. Draeger,

I am the President of the newly created Manitowish Waters Historical Society and wish to share the vital historic importance of the Voss property and businesses, which dramatically defines our community. Even more importantly, "going to Voss" today is like going through a time portal to 100 years ago, where visitors can recapture the great traditions of the Wisconsin northwoods. The entire property showcases National Register of Historic Places District standards. Not only are the architecture, historic record and cultural uniqueness remarkable, but the natural environment remains largely untouched with a canopy of towering pines and gorgeous shoreline views.

The Voss family has captured images, video, and other documentation from the earliest days of Manitowish Waters. Ruth Gardner maintains the Voss histories which has emerged as the unofficial archive of Manitowish Waters History! As the president of a 2 year old historical society, the contributions of the Voss family archives by Ruth Gardner are a blessing. As we build our 21st century historical society digitally on our webpage, the Voss collections are the most abundant source for images and information. Collaboration with the Voss family and other community history advocates has nicely positioned the Manitowish Waters Historical Society to develop a robust archive of our community's history on both PastPerfect archives and our website. Importantly, the traditions of documenting history among the Voss family extends back further than the 107 years of the resort. Voss's Birchwood Lodge is a timeless icon of the true spirit of historic and cultural preservation.

Accelerating development of Wisconsin's northwoods threatens the great historic resorts and lodges up-north. Many original resorts are being sold-off, their original context and public access are lost forever. The Voss property remains a rare jewel in the northwoods. Placing Voss' Birchwood Lodge on the State and National Register of Historic Places, will protect one of the cornerstones of Wisconsin's economy: Tourism. I can testify, as baby boomers retire, the demand for historic and cultural understanding is soaring in northern Wisconsin. Historic preservation of the Voss property is in the best interest of both state and national advocates of our unique history. I wish to extend my highest recommendation for the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board to approve this nomination. Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out to me for further clarification.

Sincerely,



James Bokern

President, Manitowish Waters Historical Society Board

Frank B. Koller Memorial Library

PO Box 100, US Highway 5761 USH 51
Manitowish Waters WI 54545



Tuesday, November 14th, 2017



BY:

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

Dear State Historic Preservation Committee Members,

My name is Janelle Kohl, and I am the director of the Frank B. Koller Memorial Library and also a trustee on the Manitowish Waters Historical Society board. I am writing this letter of support in regards to the State and National Register of Historic Places nomination. With boundless enthusiasm, my support goes to **Voss' Birchwood Lodge, Manitowish Waters, Vilas County.**

Ruth Gardener, the current owner and descendant of the original owners, takes great pride with keeping the Lodge full of MW history. A tour of her establishment will take you back in time, when only the hearty, healthy and hard working could survive harsh conditions of earning money through logging, fishing, and hunting. Ruth has been extremely dedicated in her belief of keeping history alive.

As we forge ahead to get a Manitowish Waters Historical Society up and running, we rely on the treasures found at Voss', so preciously preserved by Ruth. And it is with great pride I give my full support to our valued historical site of **Voss' Birchwood Lodge, Manitowish Waters, Vilas County.**

Thank you for your consideration!

Janelle Kohl,
Librarian

RECEIVED
NOV 27 2017

John L. Hanson

BY:

12787 Pet Road

Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

Ms. Peggy Veregin

State Historic Preservation Office

816 State Street

Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Veregin,

I am a lifelong resident of Manitowish Waters having arrived here in 1936. My parents, Palmer and Mildred Hanson first came to Manitowish Waters in 1924. My father was a contractor and in the winter of 24-25 he contracted to build the Birchwood Lodge building for Henry and Ruth Voss, the founders of Voss' Birchwood Lodge.

With the exception of an addition on to the dining room and the enclosing of a screened in porch, the building remains the same as it was when construction was finished in 1925. One of the unique features of the building is the natural birch bark that highlights much of the trim in the building. My father told me that Mr. Voss gather all the birch bark, stacked it in piles and weighted them down to flatten them so they were easier to nail up.

My parents purchased property from Voss' across the bay from the resort and first built a summer cottage. In the early 1930's they decided to move to Manitowish Waters full time and they remodeled the cottage to make it a year round home. This is where my two older brothers and sister and I had the good fortune of growing up.

The whole resort was an important part of our growing up experience. Voss' were always very generous in letting us "local kids" use the facilities they had available for their guests. In the summertime we spent most of our waking hours at the swimming beach that was located at the south end of the foot bridge that connected their property on both sides of the bay. There was the high water slide, the diving board, and the platform at the middle of the bridge that we could jump off. The bridge was a landmark for over 75 years. Unfortunately it had to be removed a few years ago because it was in unsafe condition and restoration would have been too expensive.

There was the ping pong table on the porch of the main lodge that we could always use. One of my friends and I would be playing, and sooner or later we would get into an argument about whether or not the ball hit the table, at which time Mr. Voss would come out and shag us out of there because he was tired of listening to our argument.



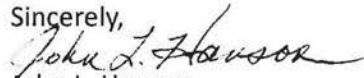
Then there is the Coffee Shop and Bar building by the highway. We could go there and get a chocolate malt made with real ice cream for 25 cents, or a fountain Coke for 5 cents, 10 cents if you wanted it chocolate or cherry flavored. On Friday Nights in the summertime we could see a movie in the large hall for 50 cents. There also used to be dances for the adults with music by the "Andrews Sisters".

Lifelong friendships were made between us local kids and the kids of the families that stayed at the resort. Many of those families became home owners in Manitowish Waters, and to this day the families still own the properties.

From a community perspective Voss's has been continuously operated by the same family for 107 years, and is now in the fourth generation. It is a significant part of the history of Manitowish Waters. Over those 107 years thousands of people from celebrities to average hard working Americans have stayed there and made a lifelong connection with our community.

If any place in Manitowish Waters deserves to be on the State and National Register of Historic Places, it is Voss' Birchwood Lodge. I urge, in the strongest manner, the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board to approve this nomination. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John L. Hanson

Manitowish Waters Town Chairman

Member, Manitowish Waters Historical Society Board



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination



The following materials are submitted on this Second day of May 2018, for the nomination of the Voss' Birchwood Lodge to the National Register of Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
 Multiple Property Nomination form
23 Photograph(s)
1 CD with image files
1 Map(s)
3 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
4 Piece(s) of correspondence
 Other:

COMMENTS:

 Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
 This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
 X The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
 Other: