

OMB NO. 1010-0100
EXP. 12-31-81

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered OCT 26 1982

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

1. Name

historic Villa von Baumbach

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 754 Elkhart Lake Drive ^{Dr.} not for publication

city, town Elkhart Lake vicinity of congressional district

state Wisconsin code 55 county Sheboygan code 117

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Wintzer

street & number 11 Guyenne Road

city, town Montchanin vicinity of state Delaware 19710

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sheboygan County Courthouse

street & number 615 N. Sixth Street

city, town Sheboygan state Wisconsin 53091

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>1908</u> ¹

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Villa von Baumbach at Elkhart Lake is a small, one-story-plus-attic T-shaped frame cottage, enhanced by a simple balustraded veranda and upper-story "balcony" (projecting dormer) on the lake side. The property includes a small two-story pavilion/boathouse on the lake shore several yards to the southeast, and a split-log veneer garage on the road to the northeast; the garage is not considered significant to the nomination.

Glazed double doors, covered by turn-of-the-century screen doors, are flanked by a single long plate-glass window to each side on the first story of the front (southwest) facade; they, and the beveled-glass transoms overhead, are enclosed by simple wood frames. The U-shaped veranda across the front and sides of the house is trimmed with a simple wood balustrade and valences, punctuated by simple wood posts. In 1920, the flight of wood steps from the house to the lake was replaced by a pentagonal observation deck, joined to the porch's balustrade and wood slat skirt. Single doors at the ends of the U-shaped porch provide access from the bedrooms at the northwest and southeast corners of the original (square) first floor plan. From the side lawns and steep path to the lake, the porch is reached via short flights of steps at the ends of the front balustrade. Single gable dormers project from the slopes of the hipped roof covering the original cubic portion of the house; that roof and the gable roof over the kitchen wing (added in 1980) to the rear (northwest) are now covered with composition shingles rather than the original wood shingles. Windows in the first story bedrooms at the rear corners of the original cube and in the 1908 kitchen wing are double-hung sash; windows in the upstairs bedrooms and loft are multipaned casements. The foundation is concrete block and chimneys are brick; all date to 1908.

With the exceptions of one bathroom added to each floor of the house, materials and details of the interior are original to their 1894 or 1908 dates of construction. The focal point of the house is the twenty by fifteen foot living room "hunting lodge," surrounded on the front and sides by the veranda, and overlooking the lake. Half of the height of the thirteen-foot walls is covered with wood paneling trimmed by a bracketed plate rail. A wide dark wood molding frames the beamed wood ceiling. In the center of the northeast wall is a brick fireplace with a simple mirrored overmantle. Furnishings original to the building include a custom-made Austrian "hunting table" and chairs, several side chairs made in Germany, and an iron and glass globe chandelier (said to have been salvaged from the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition). At the northeast end of the first floor, kitchen walls are covered with white tile, with a decorative tile border, to half height, with patterned oil cloth above. Features of the center hall, stair, first- and second-story bedrooms, and second-story loft are unremarkable aside from well-preserved period moldings, and working transoms above the bedroom doors.

The lakeside pavilion several yards to the southwest of the house is reached via a wood bridge over the lakeshore path; the twenty-by-seventeen-foot deck of the pavilion is covered by a (composition shingle) flared pyramidal roof, supported by simple square columns and trimmed with a simple wood balustrade and valences and decorative brackets. The story below, originally a small boathouse and now used for storage and dressing rooms, is covered with clapboards; each facade contains two small louvred hoppers for ventilation.

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Moved from the grounds of the Swartz Hotel in 1908 (see Item 8) to its present location several hundred yards to the west on the lakeshore, the Villa von Baumbach is among several remaining late nineteenth century cottages and many other of more recent date. Located on a private road, access to the building is restricted, although the pavilion and parts of the house are visible from the lake. The village and lake are still seasonal attractions which offer public accommodations, although the majority of property is owned by year-round or permanent summer residents. The small resort community retains most of its turn-of-the-century character.

¹Moving Contract, in possession of current owners.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1894¹ **Builder/Architect** Otto Strack²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

A well-preserved example of the small late Victorian summer cottages which once dotted the perimeter of the resort of Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, the Villa von Baumbach is architecturally significant as one of the few remaining recognizable representatives of its particular type and period of construction. Contrasting with characteristically grander-scale private summer residences on lakes and rivers in the northern and southern areas of the state, and with larger public hotels providing public accommodations, the small vernacular house with its simple decoration and lake-side pavilion illustrates one aspect of the variety of resort architecture in Elkhart Lake and in Wisconsin. Although the von Baumbach cottage was moved, the early date and beneficial result argue for waiver of the normal moving prohibition.

Distinguished principally by beveled-glass transoms over the west (lake side) openings and its small paneled "hunting lodge"/parlor, the von Baumbach house was probably designed by Otto Strack (1857–1935), a von Baumbach friend and architect of several city of Milwaukee landmarks. The German-born Strack studied carpentry, masonry, and blacksmithing as well as architecture, the latter at Berlin and Vienna polytechnical schools.³ In 1888 Strack immigrated to Milwaukee, where he began work on construction of the Pabst Brewery complex. His best-known works, in addition to the Brewery buildings are the Pabst Theater (1895; NRHP 1972) and the Joseph Kavelage House (1898; NRHP 1978), all of which testify to the architect's talent for designing in the grand spirit of the German Baroque. (Strack's own "Alpine" cottage at Elkhart Lake, now several hundred yards east of the present location of the Villa von Baumbach, provides both further insight into his design capabilities and the best parallel reference to the character of this architectural "type" of the historic resort days of the Lake.) Otto Strack died in New York City in 1935, as president and owner of Strack Realty. Attributed to him in New York City are the Pabst Hotel, Pabst Harlem Hotel, the Pabst Grand Central, and "a Columbus Circle restaurant."⁴

The house on Elkhart Lake was built for Milwaukee businessman and retired soldier Major Charles von Baumbach. Born in Kirchheim, Hessen, Germany in 1840, von Baumbach emigrated to the United States with his family in 1848. Father Ludwig was an aristocrat and president of the Chamber of Deputies of Hesse-Cassel and delegate to the parliament at Frankfurt-am-Main; after his arrival in Milwaukee from Ohio in 1857, he was appointed Consul for the Kingdoms of Bavaria and Wurtemberg, and in 1871 became the first Imperial German Consul in Milwaukee following the creation of the German Empire in 1871.⁵ One of six sons, Charles worked in a Milwaukee drug store until he enlisted with the U.S. Army in 1861. As a member of the Fifth Wisconsin Infantry (Company C), von Baumbach fought in the Peninsula campaign, the siege of Yorktown, and in the battle of Williamsburg, in which he was twice wounded. After a year's furlough, von Baumbach returned to combat as a captain in the battles of Perryville and Stone River, and as major in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge.⁷

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Early Days at Elkhart Lake," Elkhart Lake Community Council, Inc., unpublished manuscript, ca. 1968.

Milwaukee Sentinel, Tuesday, December 24, 1901.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Elkhart Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, and east half of lot 3, Pine Ridge Addition, and the east 15 feet of lot 9 of Schwartz's Addition to the village of Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By (continued)

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date March, 1982

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Mervin

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 10/19/82

<p>For NPS use only</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register</p> <p><u>William Byers</u> Specialist of the National Register</p> <p>Affect: _____ Chief of Registration</p>	<p>Entered in the National Register</p> <p>date <u>11/30/82</u></p> <p>date _____</p>
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After resigning for health reasons in 1863, von Baumbach, with partner Theodore Gerhardy, founded the Charles von Baumbach Company, a large drug supply house; several years before his death in 1901, von Baumbach sold his interest to F. T. Yahr, but acquired an alternate command as head of Baumbach, Reichel & Co.

Although there is evidence that the vacation resort phenomenon around Elkhart Lake began in the mid nineteenth century, the heyday of the popular summer spot began in the 1870s, and reached its peak at the turn of the century. By 1876, travelers to the Lake reported better than five good hotels and guest houses from which to choose: Swartz's (to become the largest of the innkeepers), Talmadge's "Rural Home" and cottages, Sharpe's, Caber's, and the "Swiss Cottage."⁸ In the 1880s, the existing resorts--including the well-known Ostoff's and Swartz's--were greatly expanded with the construction of larger hotels and family cottages, and in the 1890s, still more amenities were added. By 1900, summer guests, principally from Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Louis,⁹ could pass their days at billiards, bowling, fishing, swimming, bicycling, rowing, sailing, on lake steamers, at Gottfried's race track, or in any of the fine restaurants, bars, and ice cream parlors; the evening's diversion might include a performance at the opera house or sport at Ostoff's casino. It was in this lively locale that several well-to-do German Milwaukeeans (among them the Chas. von Baumbach family) built their private retreats on the lake, taking their meals with other guests at the hotels.

The Villa von Baumbach was moved in 1908 from its location on the Swartz Hotel grounds alongside the Strack cottage to a knoll overlooking the lake several hundred yards to the west. The move (over the Lake itself) was made to allow addition of the kitchen wing, freeing the family from dependence on the Swartz Hotel kitchen. Because of the early date of the move, and because it resulted in a more picturesque setting for the cottage and pavilion still within the "historic" area of settlement of the period, the normal prohibition against listing of moved properties might be waived.

The Villa von Baumbach remains in family ownership today.

¹"Der Freidenbuch der Villa von Baumbach," (original owner's guestbook), in possession of current owner.

²Attribution is based on oral tradition in the family, related to present owner (grandson of Chas. von Baumbach) by mother (daughter of Chas. von Baumbach) Mrs. Emmy von Baumbach. Strack's name appears several times in "Der Freidenbuch," recording his friendship and visits to the family.

³National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Joseph B. Kavelage House, Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., Wisc., NRHP 1978.

⁴Susan Wirth, "The Kavelage House, Part II," Milwaukee Fine Arts Guide, September, 1978, p. 29.

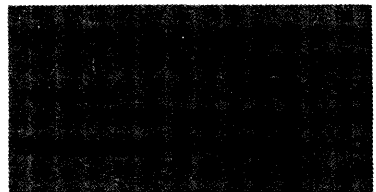
⁵Robert G. Caroon, "Consuls in Milwaukee," Historical Messenger, Milwaukee Co. Historical Society, Winter 1976, p. 102.

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⁶Ibid.⁷Milwaukee Sentinel, Tuesday, December 24, 1901.⁸Plymouth Reporter, Thursday, June 1, 1876.⁹Milwaukee Reporter, July 4, 1902.

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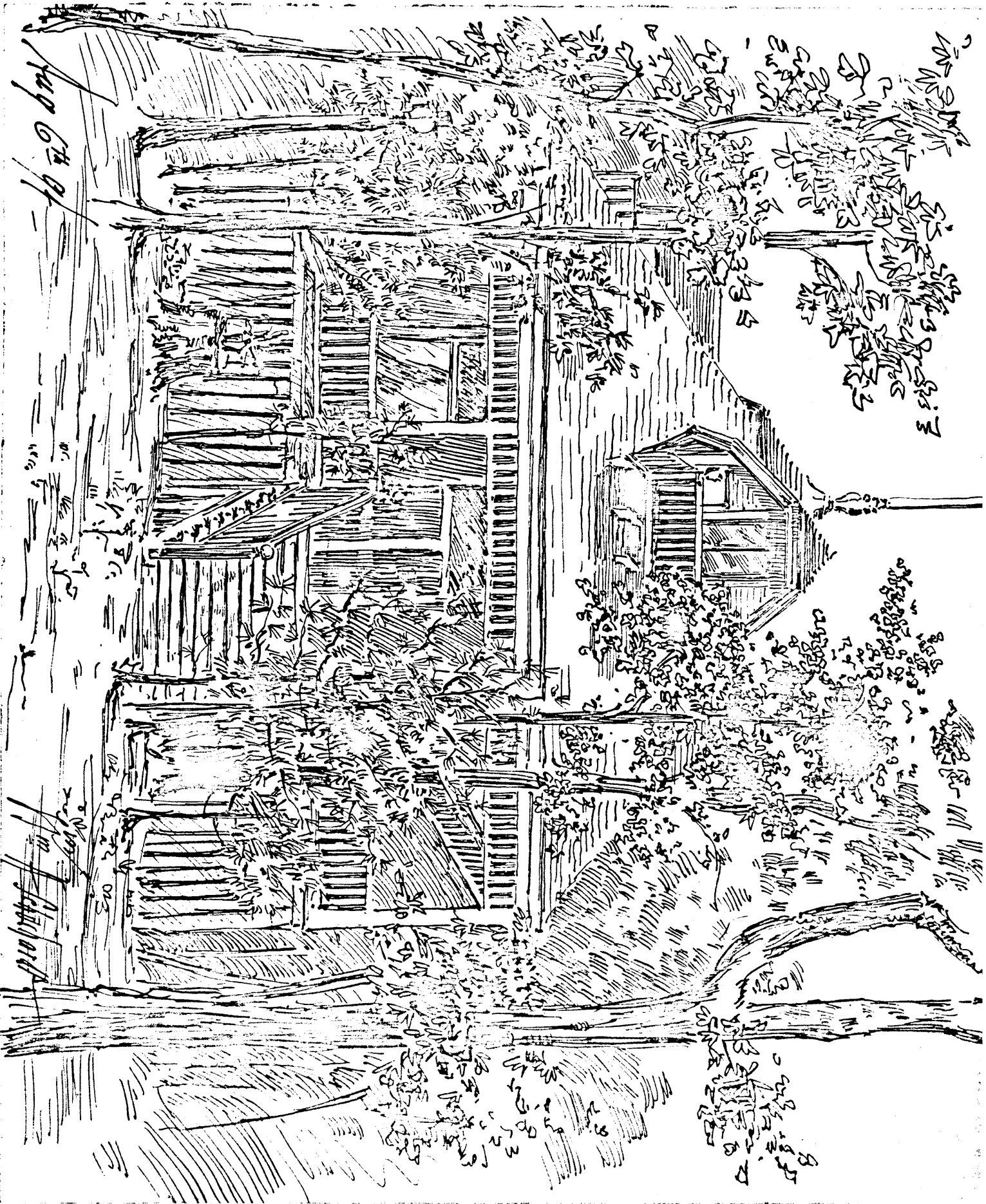
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Form Prepared By: (continued)

Research Assistance By:

Mrs. Fred E. Wintzer
11 Guyenne Road
Montchanin, Delaware 19710

July, 1980
(302)656-6106



Aug 6th 97

Villa von Baumbach, Elkhart Lake, SB Co.

Wm. H. Schickel