

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

**1. Name**

historic The Lassen Hotel

and/or common The Lake of the Red Cedars Museum

**2. Location**

street & number 7808 W. 138th Place \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Cedar Lake \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 2nd

state Indiana code 018 county Lake code 089

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Town of Cedar Lake

street & number 7808 W. 138th Place

city, town Cedar Lake \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lake County Courthouse

street & number 2293 North Main Street

city, town Crown Point \_\_\_\_\_ state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

**Condition**  
 excellent       deteriorated       unaltered       original site  
 good             ruins                 altered      E. Wing moved      date 1920  
 fair                 unexposed

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lassen Hotel is a T-shaped structure, situated on the east shore of Cedar Lake. The east-west wing is the older section, which was moved across the lake in 1920 to its present location. The north-south wing was constructed at that time.

The two-story frame, clapboarded building rests on a partial basement of poured concrete. The walls are punctuated by 131 windows, most of them doublehung. There are six doors, four on the ground floor, and two on the second floor reached by wooden steps. The one-story veranda, perfect for viewing the lake, wraps around the south and west sides of the north-south wing, its hipped roof supported by large square posts. The porch railing, where it exists, is simply constructed of horizontal and vertical boards.

The roof of the building is hipped, with exposed rafter ends under the eaves. It is presently covered with asphalt shingles.

The main entrance is off the veranda on the west side. The single door is flanked by sidelights, and opens into the lobby. Inside the lobby is a large brick fireplace, the only heat source ever to exist in the building. A sturdy stairway with walnut handrails leads from here to the upper floor.

Throughout the entire hotel, rooms and hallways are lath and plaster. Plumbing was installed in 1920, with a bath for every two bedrooms in the new wing, and wash bowls in every room in the older wing. No sewers existed at Cedar Lake then, so chemical toilets were used.

The hotel did not have dining or kitchen facilities, since all food was served at the dance hall on the lake.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1895, 1920

**Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lassen Hotel is significant for its association with the height of the resort era in Cedar Lake. It is one of only two remaining hotels in the area, and the only survivor of this era on lake frontage.

Cedar Lake knew its period of greatest prosperity as a summer lake resort during the first quarter of this century. Located only forty miles from the Chicago Loop along the Monon Railroad, the resort was within easy reach of families wishing to escape the city heat. Affluent Chicago families would spend the entire week there, the husbands commuting down on the weekends.

The Thomas Lassen family arrived in Cedar Lake near the turn of the century. In 1904 Chris, Harry, and Thomas Lassen, Jr. built a dance hall, which claimed to be Indiana's largest on-the-water dance pavilion. The popular dance hall drew large crowds, and was later expanded to include a buffet and a saloon, which were on the shore but connected. In about 1914, a kitchen and dining room were added.

When the Lassens decided to build a hotel, there were fourteen other hotels in operation at Cedar Lake. In 1920 they purchased an old hotel, that had been built on the west side of the lake in the 1890s by the Armour brothers of Chicago meat-packing fame, to house workers employed in their ice business. Working during the winter months, many of the workers were brought from Chicago to chop ice from the frozen lake to be used in the meat-packing industry. With the advent of modern refrigeration, however, the hotel was abandoned by Armour and sold to the Lassens, who towed it across the frozen lake to the western shore in 1920. That building was situated in an east-west direction, and soon thereafter a north-south wing was added, with a long veranda on the south and west sides facing the lake. Chris Lassen operated the Dewey boat line, which carried thousands of vacationers from the Monon depot on the western shore, across the lake to the 65-room hotel.

The increasing popularity of the automobile eventually made overnight accommodations less needed, however, and the summer hotel business began to fade. The Great Depression made it even more difficult for the resort to survive. In the late 1930s the community tried to attract visitors with sporting events, mostly boxing and wrestling matches held in the former Lassen garage.

In the early 1940s the dance hall was closed and torn down because of its structural instability, and in 1944 Chris Lassen sold his complex to the Calumet District Evangelistic Association of Christian Churches. The facility was used as a summer camp for 32 years. In 1977 the property was taken over by the Town of Cedar Lake. The hotel will be used by the Cedar Lake Historical Association as a museum.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- "Armour, a village of the past", Cedar Lake Register, (April 28, 1976).
- "Cedar Lake Historians plan tour, cleanup, ice cream social", Gary Post, (July 2, 1979).  
(Cont....)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Lowell, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	4	6	4	4	5	0	4	5	7	9	5	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by Cedar Lake on the west; West 138th Avenue on the south; on the east by a line drawn parallel to and twenty feet from the eastern-most wall of the hotel; and on the north by a line drawn parallel to and twenty feet from the northernmost wall.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beatrice Horner

organization Cedar Lake Historical Association date April, 1980

street & number 7808 W. 138th Place telephone 374-7000

city or town Cedar Lake state Indiana

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James M. Ridenour

James M. Ridenour

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-20-81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 7-7-81

Delores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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received JUN 8 1981

date entered JUL -7 1981

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

3. "Cedar Lake Town Board reveals complex plans", Cedar Lake Journal, (July 22, 1976)
4. "Historical Association plans Lassen Hotel Tours", Post Tribune, (May 24, 1979)
5. "Historical unit sees slide show", Gary Post, (May 7, 1979)
6. Even article, Lake County Star, (October, 1935)
7. Beatrice Ewer Horner, "Adventure begins on Lake's East Shore", Cedar Lake Register, (March 2, 1977), p.2.
8. \_\_\_\_\_, Cedar Lake History Center, 1924, vol. VI.
9. \_\_\_\_\_, "Hey Day of Cedar Lake's Eastern Shores", Cedar Lake Register, (November 20, 1974).
10. \_\_\_\_\_, "Hotels", Cedar Lake History Center, Vol. VI.
11. \_\_\_\_\_, "Ride Back in Time on Monon", Register Newspaper, (November 21, 1977).
12. \_\_\_\_\_, "The Old Monon Park", Cedar Lake Journal, (January 9, 1975).
13. Debbie Mitchell, "Hotel Part of Preserving Past", The Times.
14. "Peter Surprise, French Fur Trader - his Indiana Wife", Paisley Cedar Lake History Center, Vol. 1.
15. Helen Snedden "Town Complex Brings Memories of Cedar Lake's Historic Resort Days", Post Tribune, (July 28, 1977).