



**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 Devil's Lake State Park
other names/site number

2. Location

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| street & number | S5975 Park Road | N/A | not for publication |
| city or town | Town of Baraboo | N/A | vicinity |
| state Wisconsin | code WI | county Sauk | code 111 zip code 53913 |

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.)

Diana J. ...
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/26/2014
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - 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

Devil's Lake State Park

Sauk

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I 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:)

Barbara Dept
Signature of the Keeper

1-21-15
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 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 24 | 7 buildings |
| 11 | 3 sites |
| 3 | 1 structures |
| 1 | objects |
| 39 | 11 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)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

LANDSCAPE/park

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

LANDSCAPE/park

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS

MODERN MOVEMENTS

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stone

Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Stone

Narrative Description

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

Devil's Lake State Park
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)

A: Entertainment/Recreation
C: Architecture
D: Archaeology/prehistoric - religion

Period of Significance

A: 1894-1972
C: 1921-1949
D: AD 700-1200

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Late Woodland Stage
Effigy Mound Building Culture

Architect/Builder

Knobla, Bernard H.
Riemenschneider, William E.
Riley, Frank
Steiro, J.C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Devil's Lake State Park
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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:
Sauk County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1740 acres (approx.)

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 16 | 278210 | 4812510 | 3 | 16 | 279880 | 4810490 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 16 | 279920 | 4812040 | 4 | 16 | 280610 | 4810490 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | 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 | December 31, 2013 |
| organization | | telephone | 608-795-2650 |
| street & number | 6391 Hillsandwood Road | zip code | 53560 |
| city or town | Mazomanie | state | WI |

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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 | 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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Devil's Lake State Park
Sauk County, Wisconsin

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Introduction

The stunning geologic features located within Devil's Lake State Park, so unique in the state of Wisconsin, drew people to the area for thousands of years including pre-European cultures followed by European visitation and settlement. The profound connection people made to the land and their appreciation for the unique wonders of the lake and surrounding bluffs eventually nurtured the popular opinion that this area should be protected as a state park. As a state park, the lake, bluffs and surrounding landscape are accessible to the public, visitors from nearby communities and from far away, who enjoy and appreciate these exceptional and distinctive geologic features.

Devil's Lake is 1.3 miles long and .5-miles-wide, its surface area covers 369 acres, and is surrounded on its east, west, and south sides by very steep 500-foot-tall quartzite bluffs that are remnants of the Baraboo Range. This landform is also called the Baraboo Hills which in 1995, the Nature Conservancy designated as one of its "Last Great Places," these being seventy-five outstanding ecosystems that are located throughout the western hemisphere. The geologic evolution of the lake can be briefly summarized as the end product of a series of geological events that stretch back more than 1.5 billion years. What is now the Baraboo Hills was once a coastal plain. Sedimentary rock that was laid down during this period was eventually subjected to mountain building activity that turned this former coastal plain into a mountain range and the rock into quartzite. About 500,000,000 years ago a shallow sea invaded this area and turned the mountain tops into islands contributing to the erosion of these peaks, a process that continued once the sea receded. This was followed much later by a period of glaciation, and "Devil's Lake was created when part of the receding glacier left two piles of debris blocking an old Wisconsin River gorge that once flowed through the Baraboo Hills."¹ The result is the landscape as it appears today. These two "piles of debris" are located at the north and south ends of the lake, which has a maximum depth of 47-feet and no natural outlet, and they act as dams that confine it.

Description

The Devil's Lake State Park Historic District is a 1740-acre portion of the much larger 9217-acre Devil's Lake State Park, the largest and most visited park in Wisconsin's state park system. This park is located three miles south of the city of Baraboo, the county seat of Sauk County, and twelve miles south of the city of Wisconsin Dells, another major Midwestern tourist destination. The park can be accessed from three different state highways (STH 113, 123, and 159), from County Trunk Highway DL (CTH DL), and from several county roads, including Ski Hi Road, Tower Road, and Old Lake Road. There are also four roads that are wholly contained within the park itself; Park Road, South Shore Road, South Lake Drive, and Cottage Grove Road. In addition, the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad maintains an active rail line through the park, the tracks of which are oriented in a north-

¹ Bridgeford, Brian. "Geologist Explains Birth of Baraboo Bluffs." *Baraboo News Republic*, January 9, 1999, pp. 1-2.

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south direction along the east shore of the lake. The Devil's Lake Historic District is located in the northwest corner of the current park and its boundaries enclose Devil's Lake and the surrounding land to include the areas that were the focus of recreational and cultural activities at Devil's Lake. The district includes the East, West and South bluffs that overlook Devil's Lake and all the land north of the north shore of the lake up to County Highway DL. Included in this area are the park's Quartzite and Northern Lights campgrounds. The district also includes the south shore of the lake, including the South Shore Day Use and Beach area, and the park's Group Campground.

In Wisconsin, human habitation of the land including Devil's Lake began more than 13,000 years before the arrival of the first Euro-Americans in the 1830s. While there has been no systematic survey of the park property, evidence of the Native Americans use of the area is present in the form of campsites, villages, and the numerous conical, linear, and zoomorphic mounds that are located on the level glacial plain remnants and located at the north and south ends of the lake. Later use of the park is also in evidence in the archaeological record.

Throughout this span of time, a number of factors have combined to draw a wide variety of peoples to the lake and its immediate vicinity. The unusual geology and topography of the lake have attracted attention for centuries, if not millennia. Purple Baraboo pipestone—a valued commodity traded over large portions of the mid-continent—outcrops a short distance to the southwest (Broihahn 2003). Devil's Lake also sits near one of the most important intersections of pre- and post-Contact trade routes: the portages between the Fox, Wisconsin, and Rock drainages.

Devil's Lake State Park was created in 1911, after a group of concerned citizens who feared for the future of these natural areas, successfully petitioned the State Legislature for the establishment of a park to preserve the lake and its setting. Devil's Lake had been the focus of ever increasing tourist activities since the 1860s and by 1911 several hotels and numerous summer cottages had been erected on its shores. In addition, quarrying activity was damaging the bluffs. Once the park was established, the State turned its attention to improvements including increasing the park's acreage, removing privately owned buildings that had been built within its boundaries, and building a new infrastructure to meet the needs of park visitors. These changes were made while maintaining the beauty of the natural surroundings that attracted visitors. This effort was greatly aided by the federal work relief programs that were put in place during the Depression and most especially by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which established a CCC camp within the park in 1934. This camp remained in operation until 1941 and during this period the CCC enrollees built most of the architectural resources in the district that predate the end of World War II and which contribute to the significance of the district. These include buildings, structures, trails, landscaping, parking areas, and the Northern Lights Campground. Additional buildings, structures, and other contributing resources were built in the district after World War II and up to 1972, this being the year when the last of the buildings that had been built in the park prior to 1911 were demolished or moved outside the park.

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Not surprisingly, construction of new buildings and structures has continued as needed in the park and in the district since 1972. While these resources are too new to be considered contributing resources in the district they have nevertheless been designed with the same care as the park's older buildings and structures to be both unobtrusive and appropriate to their splendid natural setting.

Virtually all of the built resources in the park are located within the district boundaries and at either the north or the south ends of the lake, partly because geography dictated that this should be so and partly too because concentrating tourist activities at these points made it easier for park personnel to manage them and it also took pressure off of the wilder, more sensitive lands that are located elsewhere within the park. Much of the land at both ends of the district is now given over to mown grass and mature trees and it is heavily used for picnicking, swimming, and other recreational purposes. Two campgrounds have been established within the district on the hillier ground behind the north lake shore picnic area. These campgrounds also have landscapes that consist of mown grass and mature trees and their camp sites are accessed by systems of curvilinear roads.

Access to the lake was originally by a dirt road that entered from the north and which continued south to the lake following a route that roughly parallels the railroad tracks that were built in 1873. The route of the railroad track, which is still extant and in use, winds through the park from the southeast through what is called the Devil's Lake Gap and it then skirts the base of the East Bluff before exiting the park to the north. It was the coming of the railroad that made large scale tourism possible at the lake and the track's proximity to the relatively flat land at the north end of the lake made this area the natural focus for tourist activity during the nineteenth century. It was here that the first hotel at the lake was built. Additional hotels and ancillary buildings were established at the south end of the lake, because the railroad tracks also accessed the flat land at this end of the lake. A dirt road that wound down the hillside from the west and from East Sauk Road was built to access this area in 1892. These two roads and the railroad provided the only access into the area until Devil's Lake State Park was established in 1911. Even at this late date, the railroad carried most of the visitors into and out of the park.

It was the advent of large scale automobile ownership that resulted in the road system that serves the park today. Up until 1921, the increasing numbers of tourists who arrived at the new park used the two dirt roads that were in existence before the park was established, but these roads were poorly adapted to the ever increasing traffic they were asked to carry. By 1921, a network of county roads was built in the area surrounding the park. This expanding network of good roads made it still easier for motorists to access the park. Fortunately, in 1916, Wilbur Warner, a successful Madison, Wisconsin businessman and Baraboo native, left \$40,000 in his will to build a concrete road between Baraboo and the north shore of the lake. This road, completed in 1921, is extant. Formally known as Warner Memorial Road, within the park it is known simply as Park Road and remains the main road to the park. When constructed, the road followed a route from Baraboo (this is part of today's STH 123)

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that enters the park at the point where STH 123 meets CTH DL. It continues south along the twisting edge of a terminal moraine until it reaches the north shore of the lake. Forming a loop, the road continues east along the north shore before turning north once again. The road then parallels the railroad tracks until it once again intersects with CTH DL. The length of this road within the park boundaries is included in the historic district.

By 1921 additional work had also been done on the road that provided access to the south shore of the lake which, by this time, ran all the way east from East Sauk Road to what is now STH 113. Much of this road (which is now known as South Lake Road) is also located within the historic district's boundaries and includes all of that portion that lies between the East Sauk Road (which has since been renamed South Shore Road) and the former CCC camp (today's Group Campground).

The construction of most of the contributing resources in the district built before 1949 was made possible by funds from several federal government, Depression-era work relief programs between 1934 and 1942. Most of these resources are examples of the Rustic style and are the products of these programs. Most of the resources constructed in the district after 1949 were built using state of Wisconsin funding supplemented by donated funds and federal funds; these resources are mostly examples of Contemporary style design.

This section of the nomination describes archaeological and extant built resources. This descriptive narrative will begin with archeological resources and conclude with descriptions of extant architecture within the park.

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Inventory: Archeological Sites

The following inventory lists all the archeological resources in the district; the resource's contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) status; the type of resource; the map number; and when available, the name and the construction date of the resource.

| | C/NC | Original Name | Date | Type | Site Number | Map Key # |
|----|------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. | C | Terminal Moraine I | AD 700-1200 | Site | SK-0024 | 1 |
| 2. | C | Devil's Lake II Site (Cliff House Site) | AD 700-1200 | Site | SK-0026 | 2 |
| 3. | C | Draper's Creek Site | AD 700-1200 | Site | SK-0331 | 2A |
| 4. | C | Terminal Moraine II Site | AD 700-1200 | Site | SK-0618 | 3 |
| 5. | C | Devil's Lake I Site | AD 700-1200 | Site | SK-0023 | 4 |
| 6. | NC | Devil's Lake Grave Site | Unknown | Site | SK-0126 | 4A |
| 7. | C | South Shore Site | 1000BC-AD1200 | Site | SK-0335 | 4B |
| 8. | C | Koshwago Spring Site | 20 th Century | Site | SK-0369 | 5 |
| 9. | C | Palisade Park Resort Site | 1894-1920 | Site | SK-0608 | 6 |
| 1. | NC | Copper Point #1 Site | Modern | Site | SK-0609 | |
| 2. | NC | Copper Point #2 Site | Modern | Site | SK-0610 | |

The archaeological sites within the National Register of Historic Places boundary are briefly described in the following paragraphs. The descriptions were developed using information from a series of early reports and a more limited number of recent manuscripts. Bruder and Tuttle, 1955; Stout n.d., & 1906; Brown, Charles E. Brown and Karyl Kipman, 1935; Dirst, 1987; Riggs, 1984; Lange and Tuttle, 1975.

North Shore:

The Terminal Moraine I (SK-0024) mound group and Devil's Lake II (SK-0024) mound group were built on former glacial lake plain at the north end of Devils Lake (Attig et al. 1990). A large beach ridge separates the sites from the lake. This area is currently maintained as lawn and two large parking lots are present. The Ho-Chunk are reported to have maintained a fishing station along the north shore (Lange and Tuttle 1979:4). The location of this village may overlap with the Terminal Moraine Site (SK-0024) and the Devil's Lake II Site (SK-0026).

Terminal Moraine I Site (SK-0024). This site currently consists of a group of five mounds including one bear effigy, one quadruped, and at least three linear mounds. Stout's unpublished notes suggest the presence of another panther (described as 'traces' that 'seem to indicate' a panther form) within the Claude Cottage berry garden (FN Stout n.d.). He further describes remnants of a possible mound situated between the two panthers—if indeed there were two—but he hesitated to identify the feature

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as a mound. A linear feature that does not appear on Stout's maps, or for that matter on other maps of this area, is located at the east end of this site. Its origin remains unclear. Two of the linears and one of the panthers have been partially reconstructed. A portion of the panther and one of the linears cut into by the building of a park road were not rebuilt. This site is considered to be a contributing resource.

Devil's Lake II Site (SK-0026, Cliff House Site). This site originally consisted of a group of eight mounds that included: one bear effigy, five linears, and two conical mounds. Two of the linears have been cut by the railroad tracks as have both of the conicals. Three of the linears have been significantly disturbed by cottage and road construction. One has been reconstructed, although the accuracy of the rebuilding is difficult to assess. The bear effigy remains in good condition. These mounds were built on a low ridge that rises slightly above the glacial lake plain. This site is considered to be a contributing resource.

Two additional sites are located on the north shore of Devils Lake. Both are located well back from the lake edge, however. The Terminal Moraine II mound site (SK-0618) occupies a prominent upland bench and the Draper's Creek Village site (SK-0331) was identified on a low terrace adjacent to Draper's Creek.

Terminal Moraine II Site (SK-0618). This mound group consists of two mounds. One is an effigy mound with a tail. This shape of effigy mound has sometimes been referred to as a lynx, but is more commonly identified as a short tailed quadruped. The second mound at this location is a small oval. Neither of the mounds has been excavated and both remain in excellent condition. The area around the mounds also appears undisturbed. They were built on a prominent ridge that is part of an end moraine. These mounds are covered by a mature forest. This site is considered to be a contributing resource.

Draper's Creek Site (SK-0331). This site is a small campsite that sits on top of a low terrace associated the Draper's Creek. Chert and quartzite thinning flakes and cores, a quartzite biface, grit tempered pottery, and fire-cracked-rock were recovered from an undisturbed context. The range of materials recovered suggests that at the least, hearths and/or pit-oven features may be present. The site area is currently wooded. This site is considered to be a contributing resource.

South Shore:

The land at the south shore of Devils Lake is similar to the level glacial lake plain deposits adjacent to the northern lake shore, except that it covers a much larger area. It is currently maintained as lawn. The entire area was systemically investigated using shovel tests (Dirst 1987).

Devil's Lake I Site (SK-0023). This large fork-tailed bird effigy mound is located in the northeast corner of this section of the glacial lake plain. It was recorded early in the twentieth century and lies

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only a short distance back from the lake. It was seemingly partially excavated in 1870 and a human burial was reportedly unearthed. The construction and removal of a pavilion destroyed portions of the tail and the building of the Kirkland Hotel impacted the end of the south wing. The area around the mound was investigated and a small campsite was identified. Unfortunately, construction of the building, park use, and demolition of the pavilion and the Kirkland Hotel as well as subsequent park development has disturbed the campsite component at this site (Dirst 1987). No details were provided regarding the nature and extent of the remains associated with the Kirkland Hotel. There is one report that the Ho-Chunk maintained a winter village near the bird mound (Lange and Tuttle 1979:4). Considering the archaeological potential of this site (see below), this site is considered to be a contributing resource.

Lake Grave Site (SK-0126). This site is composed of a small rectangular stone enclosure reported to be a grave by earlier settlers of the area. It is surrounded by a wall of irregular quartzite boulders each about 1.5 ft. in diameter. The stones protrude slightly from the ground, and the enclosed area is filled with dirt that forms a slight mound. In the 1880s, this feature was opened and charcoal was noted at a depth of about eighteen inches. In 1906 Stout excavated this grave enclosure "without result" (Stout 1906). This site is considered to be a non-contributing resource.

South Shore Site (SK-0335). This site was identified in 1986 and consists of a concentration of about twenty chert and quartzite flakes (Dirst 1987). It is located on a low terrace adjacent to an intermittent stream. A Dirst projectile point was picked up in about one foot of water at this location and debitage was found eroding from a footpath that cuts down across the bank at the edge of the lake. The site has also been impacted by construction of resort and campground facilities, a modern walkway, and the installation of a parking lot access road. Even small areas of undisturbed deposits could yield significant information considering the location of the site at Devil's Lake. This site is considered to be a contributing resource.

Copper Point #2 (SK-0610). The site consists of a recently manufactured (fake) copper point found by a private citizen with a metal detector. This site is considered to be a non-contributing resource.

Koshwago Spring Site (SK-0369). This site was reported in the early part of the 20th Century. It was reported as a mound that was 20.0 ft. in height, 80.0 ft. in width, and 148.0 ft. in length. In addition to the mound, the original report noted that the area had been used as a summer "club House" for residents of Baraboo. The report also noted that two pits had been dug into the landform. One was 6.0 ft. deep and one was 8.0 ft. deep. Horizontal dimensions were not provided. A point was reportedly recovered from one pit. No additional information was available. Field investigations by Wisconsin Historical Society archaeologists revealed that this is not a mound. Instead, it represents a large erosional terrace remnant. Water from the adjacent springs and drainages has cut this "island" out of the terrace. Even though this is not a human burial mound, the presence of the point indicates that it

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was used by the Native Americans present in the Devil's Lake area. In addition, the "club house" resort component may provide important insights on the full nature and extent of the types of resort use of the area. This site is considered to be a contributing resource.

West Shore:

Copper Point #1 (SK-0609). The site consists of a recently manufactures (fake) copper point found by a private citizen with a metal detector. This site is considered to be a non-contributing resource.

Palisade Park Resort (SK-0608). This site consists of the remains of a resort that was developed by a private landowner in circa 1894. A walk over survey identified the footings of an 80.0 ft. tall tower as well as the remains of cabins. The cabins were torn down in the 1920s. This site is considered to be a contributing resource.

East Shore:

No archaeological sites have been identified along the east shore of Devil's Lake.

Archeological Potential:

As noted above, no systematic archaeological survey of the park has been completed. Small-scale project related surveys have been completed. Other more narrowly focused investigations took place early in the twentieth century. Former park staff have also collected a good deal of information on the history of the park (Lange and Tuttle 1979). The investigations, the back ground research, and information derived from work in areas adjacent to the park, provide a context for evaluating the significance of the archaeological sites and Devil's Lake.

The limited on-the-ground surveys and the historical research reveal a mixed message on site preservation around Devil's Lake. The extensive survey of the south shore lake plain revealed that it has been heavily disturbed. This raises concerns that the north shore lake plain may have been subject to a similar range of impacts. This assessment should be investigated, however, and even if only small areas of the lake plain areas remain undisturbed they do have the potential to yield important information. The long-term use of Devil's Lake is not well documented and few investigations have been completed between and around the mounds at mound sites in Wisconsin.

Areas away from the immediate lake shore seem to have been less intensely impacted. Shovel tests dug at the Draper's Creek Site (SK-0331) revealed it contained an important array of artifacts and that it was undisturbed. It appears the same could be speculated for the Terminal Moraine II Site (SK-

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0618). Much of the park is heavily wooded and the presence of the bedrock has undoubtedly limited the extent of disturbance related to cultivation or other recent activities.

In addition to the mound building activities and the associated rituals, Devil's Lake has been the focus of other types of religious and spiritual activities over an extended period (Dieterle 2005). A dance circle (Dancers Point, SK-0519), has been identified in the western section of the park, outside of the National Register boundary, and the lake, *Te Wákqčqk* —in *Ho-Chunk* meaning "Holy Lake" — has been the focus of ritual activities and spiritual endeavors. These activities may, or may not leave, recoverable material remains. However, past excavations of effigy mounds and areas around mounds have exposed features that are clearly ritual in nature (e.g., Richards et al 2011). Many of the material remains associated with these activities are subject to the normal range of natural decomposition process if they occur on land. The reverse would be the case, if they are submerged in the waters of "Holy Lake." As a result, underwater explorations of the lake bottom could reveal evidence of these activities as well as more mundane economic pursuits.

Considering the uniqueness of Devil's Lake, and the documented spiritual use and spiritual associations of the lake, the absence of reported rock art sites raises the question about whether this represents a case of evidence of absence or absence of evidence. No systematic rock art survey of the park has been completed. Pre-Cambrian rocks such as those exposed at the park have been used by Native Americans for the execution of petroglyphs (carvings) and pictographs (paintings) in southern Wisconsin, central Wisconsin, and across the Great Lakes (e.g., Behm 1987; Rajnovich 1989; Steinbring and Farvour 1987: 396-411).

The substantiation for camp or villages sites in the park is evidenced at South Shore Site (SK-0335), the Devil's Lake I Site (SK-0023), Draper's Creek Site (SK-0331), and the Koshwago Spring Site (SK-0369), although much more work would need to be completed to determine the full nature and extent of the activities at these sites. Interestingly, some of these materials may be related to mound building rituals and not actual habitation. While no reports are currently available for the Devil's Lake area, in Barron County, Wisconsin, there is a confirmed report of a Native American quarry where quartzite was extracted and tools manufactured (Broihahn 2003). If the Barron quartzite was being quarried, it certainly seems possible that Native Americans did quarry the Baraboo quartzite because tools and debitage of Baraboo quartzite have been identified in the area, e.g. SK-0335.

Up to this point in time, the archaeological investigations at Devil's Lake have been focused on early components of Native American sites in the vicinity. Native American groups continued to camp at the lake until at least 1900 and there are reports that individual American Indians continued to visit the bluffs surrounding the lake well into the 1970s (Lange and Tuttle 1979:5). Based upon the results of the identification of the Kirkland Hotel remnants at the Devil's Lake I Site (SK-0023), the identification of the remnants of the Palisade Park Resort (SK-0608), and the presence of more than

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thirty privately owned summer cottages, at least three nineteenth and early twentieth century hotels, and an array of other park related facilities and features, the district appears to contain a full range of leisure and recreation properties and their associated archaeological deposits.

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Inventory: Architectural Resources

The following inventory lists all the architectural resources in the district; their contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) status; the type of resource; the map number; and the name and the construction date.

| | C/NC | Original Name | Date | Type | Map Key # |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | C | Warner Memorial Road Site (includes 9 objects) | 1920-1921 | Site | 7 |
| 2. | C | The Chateau (North Shore Concessions) | 1925/1939-42 | Building | 8 |
| 3. | C | Baraboo Golf Club Clubhouse | 1928 | Building | 9 |
| 4. | C | North Shore Bathhouse | 1936-38 | Building | 10 |
| 5. | C | CCC Camp Entrance Pillars (x2) | 1936-38 | Objects | 10A |
| 6. | C | Northern Lights Shower/Toilet Bldg. A | 1939 | Building | 11 |
| 7. | C | Northern Lights Shower/Toilet Bldg. B | 1939 | Building | 12 |
| 8. | C | North Shore Picnic Area Toilet Building A | 1939 | Building | 13 |
| 9. | C | North Shore Picnic Area Toilet Building B | 1939 | Building | 14 |
| 10. | C | Park Road Culverts (x2) | 1938-39 | Structure | 15 |
| 11. | C | Park Road Bridge | 1938-39 | Structure | 16 |
| 12. | C | East Bluff Trails Site | 1938-39 | Site | 17 |
| 13. | C | West Bluff Trails Site | 1938-39 | Site | 18 |
| 14. | C | Park Administration Building | 1939-40 | Building | 19 |
| 15. | C | North Shore Garage and Office Building | 1940 | Building | 20 |
| 16. | C | Northern Lights Toilet, Shower and Laundry Building | 1941 | Building | 21 |
| 17. | C | South Shore Contact Building | 1947 | Building | 22 |
| 18. | C | South Shore Pump House Building | 1949 | Building | 23 |
| 19. | C | North Shore Concessions Building | 1952 | Building | 24 |
| 20. | C | South Shore Shelter Building | 1954/1998 | Building | 25 |
| 21. | C | South Shore Concessions Building | 1954 | Building | 26 |
| 22. | C | White Birch Shelter | 1957 | Structure | 27 |
| 23. | C | North Shore Toilet/Shelter Building | 1962 | Building | 28 |
| 24. | C | Northern Lights Toilet/Shower Bldg. C | 1965 | Building | 29 |
| 25. | C | Northern Lights Toilet/Shower Bldg. D | 1965 | Building | 30 |
| 26. | C | Shagbark Shelter and Toilet Building | 1965 | Building | 31 |
| 27. | C | White Pine Shelter and Toilet Building | 1965 | Building | 32 |
| 28. | C | Tamarack Shelter and Toilet Building | 1965 | Building | 33 |
| 29. | C | Quartzite Campground Toilet/Shower Bldg. A | 1968 | Building | 34 |
| 30. | C | Quartzite Campground Toilet/Shower Bldg. B | 1968 | Building | 35 |
| 31. | C | Quartzite Campground Toilet/Shower Bldg. C | 1968 | Building | 36 |
| 1. | NC | S6314 Cottage Grove Rd. | 2006 | Building | 37 |
| 2. | NC | S6316 Cottage Grove Rd. | c1980 | Building | 38 |
| 3. | NC | S6318 Cottage Grove Rd. | c1920 | Building | 39 |
| 4. | NC | S6320 Cottage Grove Rd. | c1905 | Building | 40 |
| 5. | NC | North Shore Contact Station (includes 1 structure) | 1987 | Building | 41 |
| 6. | NC | White Oak Shelter and Toilet Building | 2000 | Building | 42 |
| 7. | NC | Group Camp Shower and Toilet Building | 2002 | Building | 43 |
| 8. | NC | Red Cedar Shelter | 2009 | Structure | 44 |

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The following brief summaries describe many of the contributing resources in the district that were built before 1950. Names given in the heading are historic names when known; the resources are listed in roughly chronological order.

| Warner Memorial Road Site | 1920-1921 | Contributing |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|

The Warner Memorial Road Site contains the oldest extant resources in the park that date from the early State Park period, all of which were built in the Rustic style between 1920 and 1921.² This road, which extends from the city of Baraboo to Devil's Lake, a distance of 3½ miles, was partially funded by a gift from former Baraboo native Wilbur W. Warner (1859-1916), the successful owner of a musical instrument store in Madison, Wisconsin. In his will, Warner left \$40,000 for the construction of a paved road from the High Bridge (non-extant) over the Baraboo River in Baraboo to the north shore of the lake in Devils Lake State Park. Construction of the road required the approval of the State Conservation Commission, which also helped with additional funding, as did Sauk County and the City of Baraboo. The road was begun in 1920 and completed in July of 1921 at a total cost of \$102,400, and it was the first concrete road in the area when it was finished.³ The portion of this road that lies outside the park boundaries is now part of State Highway 123 while the one-mile-long portion that lies within the park boundaries is now called simply "Park Road". This portion follows the crest of a terminal moraine as it descends in a series of sharp S-bends to the lake shore.

The north entrance to the park is located at the point where Warner Memorial Road enters the park grounds. As one first enters the park one passes by a pair of square-plan stone pillars that flank the road. These five-foot-tall pillars are set on poured concrete pads and fashioned out of locally quarried quartzite stone blocks that are pointed with raised mortar joints. At the top are concrete caps that have the words 'Devil's Lake State Park' placed on them in high relief letters. Located about one hundred feet further south along the road is the first of three small culverts that pass under the road. Each has a headwall at either end that are also built of local quartzite and whose uppermost portion rises perhaps a foot above the road surface.

Located another one hundred or so feet further south along the road is the first of several retaining walls built along the length of the road to prevent erosion. Erosion is an issue because much of this road has high stone outcrops located to its west while the land on the opposite side of the road drops away rapidly to the east. The first of these retaining walls is located on the east side of the road, is approximately 200-feet-long, and is built of irregular, locally quarried, quartzite stone blocks. That portion of this wall that is visible from the roadway is some three-feet-tall but the wall itself is actually nearly twelve-feet-tall thanks to the steep downward slope of the land to the east of it. In addition, a

² Sauk County Historical Society Archives. Devil's Lake State Park Collection.

³ Dewel, Dr. Bob. "Where is the Warner Memorial Road?" *The Baraboo Sun*, July 3, 1997, p. 6 (illustrated).

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second small culvert is located at the mid-point of this wall and it too has a shallow stone headwall that rises about a foot above the road on the opposite (west) side from the retaining wall.

A third small culvert is located still further south along the road and it too has quartzite stone block headwalls while still further south is a very low stone curb that is approximately 50-feet-long and one-foot-tall. This curb is made of the same material as the culvert and it is located on the east side of the road just before one encounters the stone stairs at the north entrance to the west bluff trail.

The road then takes a sharp bend to the east as it continues south. This bend has another one-hundred-foot-long, two-foot-tall quartzite stone curb located on its northern side. The southern, downhill side is protected by a second two-hundred-foot-long quartzite retaining wall whose visible portion is also some three-feet-tall but whose downhill side is nearly twelve-feet-tall.

The road then continues downward and around another sharp bend until it reaches the north shore of the lake and the Chateau building. To recapitulate then, the Warner Memorial Road Site contains the pair of entrance pillars, three culverts with their associated headwalls, two stone curbs, and two stone retaining walls, all of which were built in the Rustic style in 1920-1921 out of locally quarried quartzite stone.

The Chateau (North Shore Concessions Building) 1925/1939-1942 Contributing

The Chateau is now the oldest building in the park that was built expressly for park purposes. It was and is the largest single building built in the park since its founding in 1911. The construction of this building was prompted by a change in park concessionaires. In 1925, Louis G. Roche and Lancelot A. Gordon acquired the park concession from Lucius Prader. Roche and Gordon commissioned a design for a new \$40,000, 10,000-square-foot concessions building from Madison, Wisconsin architect Philip M. Homer.⁴ This new building was constructed in 1925 on the edge of the north shore of the lake. It replaced Prader's pavilion and store building as the focal point of indoor activities in the park. It housed a kitchen, soda fountain, dining areas, a cafeteria, a grocery store, and other usages that fluctuated over time such as a photo finishing department. In addition, the building served as a social gathering place in the evenings and during inclement weather.

Originally, this 136-foot-long by 74-foot-deep, one-story-tall, rectilinear plan, hip-roofed building had a Craftsman style-influenced design. It was clad in wood shingles, and the slope of the site allowed for the basement story to be partially exposed along the lake side of the building. By 1939, however,

⁴ "Devil's Lake May Become Winter Resort." *The Baraboo Weekly News*, April 2, 1925, p. 1.

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the building was in a deteriorated state and its facilities badly needed upgrading.⁵ As a result the exterior was substantially modified between 1939 and 1942 and given a more Rustic style appearance. The original wood shingle siding was replaced with narrow clapboards, a large new gable-roofed entrance pavilion replaced the much smaller original pavilion, and an enclosed, hip-roofed porch was constructed along the entire length of the lakeside facade. The resulting changes, which were constructed by the CCC and by the park's own staff, transformed the rather lackluster original building into what has since become the park's best known and best loved built landmark.

Baraboo Golf Club Clubhouse

1928

Contributing

The park's other 1920s-era building, the Norman Revival style-influenced Nature Center, was built in 1928 on a hillside site overlooking what is now the park's Quartzite Campground. This small building was built as the clubhouse of the Baraboo Golf Club, which had leased land within the park in 1922 in order to build a nine-hole golf course. In 1928, the club decided to build a clubhouse overlooking the course in order to better serve both its own members and the general public. Frank M. Riley, one of Madison, Wisconsin's most respected architects designed the building.⁶ The design Riley supplied was for a rectangular plan, 44-foot-long by 34-foot-deep, one-story-tall building having a gable roof, and brick and vertical board-and-batten siding. The building's front door is sheltered by a semi-circular entrance hood topped with a conical roof intended to suggest the semi-circular towers that so often appear on Norman Revival style houses of the period. The first story originally contained a lounge, kitchen, and ladies room, and because the building was positioned on a steep slope overlooking the golf course, Riley was also able to provide a partially exposed basement story that contained the clubhouse's locker room and men's room. This building continued to be used as a clubhouse until 1962, when the golf course was turned into the park's Quartzite Campground. Subsequently, the clubhouse was converted into the park's Nature Center and it is still in use as such today and it is essentially unchanged.

North Shore Bathhouse

1936-38

Contributing

The North Shore Bathhouse was the first of the Rustic style buildings that were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the park during the Depression era. This 101-foot-long by 36-foot-wide, one-story-tall building was built between 1936 and 1938 on the edge of the lake's north shore a short distance east of the Chateau building. It has a cruciform plan and the cross-gable-roofed center block originally housed locker rooms, bathrooms and entrance lobbies. The walls are of

⁵ Devil's Lake State Park Official 2012 Visitor's Guide. Madison: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2012, p. 7. This page contains an excellent photo of the building as originally built. See also: Moore, Robert J. *Devil's Lake Wisconsin and the Civilian Conservation Corps*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2011, p. 56 (illustrated).

⁶ Devil's Lake State Park Archives. The original blueprints for this building are kept in the Nature Center, which also houses the archives.

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irregularly coursed, locally quarried quartzite stone blocks and the north and south-facing elevations have projecting, arcaded, open porch pavilions centered on them. These pavilions have massive porch piers that are of quartzite stone and the pavilions have gable ends clad in wide wooden clapboards. Each gable has a group of four windows: two pairs of wood casements, each sash having six lights.

As originally built, the east and west wings of the center block extended further beyond the main block. These wings contained open air dressing courts. Around the perimeter were wood stockade-type walls placed in between massive quartzite stone piers. Sometime later, the use of the bathhouse changed and the two extended wings were given gable roofs that appeared as extensions of the roof of the main block. The stockade portions of the perimeter walls were then removed, and the use of the wings was converted to shelter rooms. Today, the entire buildings is used as one of the park's shelter buildings, the center block consists of a single enclosed shelter space that is electrified and which contains a wood stove, the wings offer two additional open air shelter spaces, and the buildings is now called the Red Elm/CCC Shelter.⁷

The bathhouse was designed by National Park Service (NPS) architect Bernard H. Knobla with assistance from fellow NPS architect William E. Riemenschneider, Jr. It replaced an earlier wood bathhouse located on the same site.⁸ Aside from the building, there is also a beautifully designed and built terrace located between the south side of the building and the lake shore. This wide terrace was built in 1940-1941 using Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor, the masonry superintendent was Fritz Keeser, and the terrace's red sandstone floor was quarried by either the WPA or the CCC at the "Abelman District," which is located about 12 miles from Devil's Lake near Rock Springs, Wisconsin.⁹

Northern Lights Campground Toilet/Shower Building A 1939 Contributing

This rectilinear plan, one-story-tall Rustic style building was constructed in the new Northern Lights Campground by the CCC in 1939. It was the first of two identical buildings in this campground, both of which were built for the same purpose. The building measures 52-feet-long by 27-feet-deep, and rests on a poured concrete slab foundation. Its exterior walls are of large, uncoursed quartzite stones. The walls are sheltered by a gable roof whose ridgeline is oriented east-west, and its gable ends are clad in wide wooden clapboards. Separate men's and women's toilet facilities are located at the eastern end of the building and the window openings of this end are paired and are placed high up on the wall. An arched entrance door opening is centered on each of the building's main north and south

⁷ See: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/devilslake/shelters.html>.

⁸ Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. Architectural Drawings for Wisconsin Parks in the WPA period, 1931-1952. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Division, Series 2424. Original building blueprints.

⁹ Moore, Robert J. Op. Cit., p. 86.

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elevations. These open into a lobby space that accesses the separate men's and women's shower facilities at the west end of the building.

This building was designed by National Park Service (NPS) architect William E. Riemenschneider, Jr., and is located at the north end of the campground and is visible from County Highway DL.¹⁰

Northern Lights Campground Toilet/Shower Building B **1939** **Contributing**

This is the second of two identical buildings that were built in the new Northern Lights Campground in 1939 by the CCC. Designed by William E. Riemenschneider, Jr. it is identical in all respects to the one described above. This building is located further to the south within the same campground.¹¹

North Shore Picnic Area Toilet Buildings A & B **1939** **Contributing**

These two small, identical, one-story-tall Rustic style toilet buildings were built by the CCC in 1939 to serve a now demolished cottage colony that existed in the northeast corner of the North Shore of the park until 1967.¹² These 14-foot-wide by 10-foot-deep rectangular plan buildings have walls of irregular-shaped, locally quarried, quartzite stone blocks and these walls are sheltered by the wide overhanging eaves of each building's hipped roof. A single door opening is centered on the south-facing principal elevation of each building and narrow, oblong, screened window openings that are located just below the eaves on all four of each building's elevations provide ventilation.

Today, these buildings serve the picnic area that replaced the former cottage colony.

Park Road Culverts **1938-39** **Contributing**

Park Road intersects with the still active track of the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad 140-feet to the east of the Park Headquarters Building, and 20-feet-further east it crosses a small creek before it reaches a four-way intersection. At this intersection one can either follow the road to the north toward the park's northern exit, south toward four additional parking areas, or continue straight towards the Northern Lights Campground. Because a small creek meanders through this intersection, Park Road is carried across it by means of two large culverts, one of which is placed between the railroad tracks and the intersection, and the other of which is placed on the road just south of the intersection. Both of

¹⁰ Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. Architectural Drawings for Wisconsin Parks in the WPA period, 1931-1952. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Division, Series 2424. Original building blueprints.

¹¹ Moore, Robert J. Op. Cit., pp. 30, 95 (illustrated).

¹² Devil's Lake State Park Archives.

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these culverts have heavy stone Rustic style headwalls of locally quarried quartzite stone blocks. These headwalls and their associated guard rails were all built by the CCC between 1938 and 1939.¹³

The tops of the headwalls that carry Park Road across the creek just to the west of the railroad tracks rise several feet above the road surface and act as integral guard rails, while the tops of the headwalls that carry Park Road across the creek just to the south of the intersection terminate in integral stone pedestals. Heavy wood timbers that are placed between them also act as guard rails.

East Bluff Trails Site

1939-1941

Contributing

There has been a trail of some sort along the top of the lake's East Bluff since the late nineteenth century and climbing the bluffs at the lake has always been a popular pastime for visitors. During the lake's hotel era, access from the lakeshore to the trail on top of this 500-foot-tall bluff was sometimes accomplished by climbing along paths having wood steps and handrails, amenities which were built by private entrepreneurs.¹⁴ After the lake area became a state park and attendance skyrocketed, a less obtrusive, more naturalistic means of getting people to the top of the bluff was desired, but making this happen had to wait until the New Deal's federal work relief programs were enacted. Once the CCC enrollees arrived, though, the park finally had the manpower it needed to improve the park's trail system and the results are still heavily used today. Part of the CCC's work involved remaking and improving the informal paths that had been created by visitors on top of the bluff. Steering people away from dangerously exposed places and creating safe overlooks was a major priority as was creating trails that could stand up to heavy use. The most impressive part of the work, however, consisted of the construction of new access trails at the north and south ends of the bluff. These hand-built trails are some of the park's finest features. They thread their way upward through the quartzite talus slopes located at the base of the bluffs, and they are so naturalistic in appearance that many visitors to the park are not even aware they are man-made.¹⁵

The East Bluff Trails Site includes: the stone and asphalt access trail at the north end of the bluff; the 1.5-mile long East Bluff Trail, which also includes the 0.1-mile-long Devil's Doorway Trail that loops out from the main trail to view an impressive geological formation of the same name; a steep 0.4-mile-long stone step access trail located near the south end of the bluff that is called the Balanced Rock Trail after a prominent geological feature that is located near its summit; and the principal 0.3-mile-long access trail at the south end of the bluff, this being another steep stone step trail that is known as the CCC trail.

¹³ Moore, Robert J. Op. Cit., pp. 133-34, 137 (illustrated).

¹⁴ Devil's Lake State Park Official 2012 Visitor's Guide. Madison: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2011, p. 23 (illustrated).

¹⁵ Moore, Robert J. Op. Cit., pp. 98-100 (illustrated). The access trail at the north end of this bluff originally had just stone steps but the trail received such heavy use that the spaces between the steps were subsequently covered in asphalt to prevent erosion.

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West Bluff Trails Site

1939-1941

Contributing

A 1.4-mile-long trail runs along the top of the lake's West Bluff and its history is identical to that of the trail on the top of the East Bluff. This Site includes the main trail as well as a steep access trail at the south end of the bluff that has stone steps with asphalt placed in between. The steep trail at the north end of this bluff is accessed from Park Road and these stone steps were also built by hand by the CCC between 1939 and 1941 and they are identical in design and quality to the excellent CCC work that is found on the access trails that lead up to the top of the East Bluff Trail.

In addition to the trail on the top of the West Bluff and its access trails, this Site also includes a second trail that runs from north to south along the lake shore and threads its way through the boulders that are located at the base of the bluff's talus field. This 1.0-mile-long trail is called the Tumbled Rock Trail; the first 500-feet of it were begun at the north end in 1929 by park staff members and were made of gravel. This trail was not completed until 1966, the work having once again been completed by park staff. It is now the most heavily used trail in the park and as a result, its surface has been covered with asphalt to prevent erosion and help with maintenance.¹⁶

Park Administration Building

1939-1940

Contributing

The Park Administration Building was built in 1939-1940, and is one of the finest of the several buildings in the park that were built by the CCC. This 27-foot-wide by 47-foot-deep, one-story-tall, cruciform plan building has exterior walls of locally quarried, irregular, quartzite stone. The walls are sheltered by a multi-gabled roof; the building's four gable ends are all clad in stained vertical board-and-batten wood boards, the bottom ends of which have been sawn so as to have a flattened "V" profile.¹⁷

The front-facing ell at the primary facade houses the park superintendent's office. Centered on each of its three sides is either a double or a triple group of four-over-four-light, double hung, wood sash windows. A massive quartzite stone chimney rises from the roof of this ell. It serves a fireplace located in the superintendent's office. The middle portion of this building houses administrative offices and is accessed by a pair of nine-light over two-panel wooden doors that are set into the north facade. Its other facades have single, six-over-six-light, double hung, wood sash windows. Finally,

¹⁶ "State Will Look Into Proposition." *Baraboo News-Republic*, Dec. 26, 1929. See also: "Landscape Group Here." and "Will Build Cliff Path." *Baraboo News-Republic*, Oct. 16, 1930. See also: Devil's Lake State Park Archives.

¹⁷ Moore, Robert J. Op. Cit., p. 97 (illustrated).

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the building's rear ell contains men's and women's toilet facilities and small, paired, four-light wood sash windows are set high up on its walls.

This building was designed by National Park Service (NPS) architect Bernard H. Knobla with assistance from fellow NPS architect William E. Riemenschneider, Jr. It replaced a simple, smaller, one-story, clapboard-clad Bungalow style-influenced building originally located on the same site.¹⁸

North Shore Garage and Office Building

1940

Contributing

The North Shore Garage and Office is one building serving these two functions and is located on a service road that parallels the railroad tracks and the creek at the north end of the park. It is two stories tall, rectangular in plan, and measures 70-feet-long by 34-feet-deep. This Rustic style building is one of the few in the park that has a basement and its walls are of beautifully crafted, multi-colored quartzite stone blocks of irregular shape. These walls are sheltered by the building's gable roof, the ridgeline of which is oriented east-west. The east-facing end facade of the building is bisected by a massive, battered stone chimney of the same material as the walls.¹⁹

The main façade of the building faces south and its right-hand portion consists of a slightly projecting gable-roofed ell whose first story contains an entrance door to the left that is flanked on the right by two six-over-six-light wood sash windows, while a pair of identical windows is located in the second story above. The first story of the rest of this façade has four garage door openings arrayed across its width, all of which now contain modern overhead doors, while its second story features two wall dormers, the left-hand one of which contains an entrance door that is accessed via a metal staircase, while the right-hand one contains another pair of six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows.

The rear facade of the building faces north and has five single window openings arrayed more or less evenly across the width of its first story. Wall dormers are located above each of the three left-hand (east) first story windows. Each dormer has a single window opening that, like the five first story window openings, contains a six-over-six-light, double hung, wood sash window.

The building was designed by J. C. "Jack" Steiro, who also designed some of the CCC and WPA-built resources constructed during this same period at Copper Falls State Park.²⁰ To supervise the construction of the garage building, the NPS hired a German-American stone mason named Fritz

¹⁸ Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. Architectural Drawings for Wisconsin Parks in the WPA period, 1931-1952. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Division, Series 2424. Original building blueprints.

¹⁹ *Baraboo News*, September 15, 1938.

²⁰ Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. Architectural Drawings for Wisconsin Parks in the WPA period, 1931-1952. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Division, Series 2424.

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Keeser. Keeser supervised the WPA stone work on the garage building, the stone retaining wall behind the garage, and a stone loading ramp that is located nearby.²¹

Northern Lights Campground Toilet, Shower, and Laundry Building 1941 Contributing

This L-plan, one-story Rustic style building was constructed in 1940-1941 by the CCC. It originally housed toilet and shower facilities for men and women and provided space and facilities for doing laundry. The building measures 52-feet-long by 27-feet-wide, its walls are of locally quarried quartzite stone blocks of irregular shape. The walls are sheltered by overhanging eaves of the building's multi-gable main roof, which also has three stone chimneys located along its length. In addition, the building's gable ends are all clad in stained vertical board-and-batten wood boards, the bottom ends of which have been sawn so as to have a flattened "V" profile.

This building consists of a T-plan main block whose southwest portion contains the building's principal rooms and whose northeast wing contains the separate men's and women's toilet facilities. A second wing extends to the northwest from the main block and it is this wing that gives the overall building its L-plan configuration.

The principal façade of the building faces southeast and its left half consists of a broad projecting ell that has the main entrance to the building centered on it, the double doors of which are sheltered by a gable-roofed entrance porch that is supported by four heavy wood posts that rest on quartzite pedestals. This entrance is flanked by single six-over-six-light, wood sash windows and the gable ends of the ell and of the entrance porch are sheathed in vertical board-and-batten. The right half of this façade, meanwhile, consists of the recessed side facade of the toilet facilities wing. A triple window group of three six-light hopper type windows is placed high on its wall and to the left of an entrance door.

The southwest facade is made up of the side of the main block to its right and the principal facade of the building's northwest wing to the left. The wing is actually positioned several feet lower than the main block due to the downward slope of the site behind the main block. The main block has three paired window groups arrayed across its length, each of which contains a pair of six-over-six-light, double hung, wood sash windows. The wall of the wing has a pair of six-over-six-light double hung windows placed in between two door openings. There are also single window openings that contain six-over-six-light, double hung windows placed to the left and to the right of the two door openings. Both of these doors and the pair of windows in between them are sheltered by a broad, deep, shed-roofed open porch whose roof is upheld by six heavy wood posts that each rest on a quartzite stone pedestal.

²¹ Lange, Kenneth I. and Ralph T. Tuttle. *A Lake Where Spirits Live*. Madison: State Department of Natural Resources, 1975, p. 86.

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Today, this building's toilet facilities are still in use but its other spaces have been given over to new uses.

South Shore Contact Station

1947

Contributing

This small one-story Rustic style building was built in 1947 to manage the rapidly expanding numbers of visitors to the park that were using the southeast shore of the lake as an informal campground.²² The building is rectangular in plan, measures 24-feet-long by 16-feet-wide, and rests on a concrete pad foundation. The lower half of the walls are clad in horizontally positioned half-round debarked logs while the upper half are clad in vertically positioned half-round debarked logs. These walls are sheltered by the very wide overhanging open eaves of the gable roof whose ridgeline is oriented southeast-northwest. The building's gable ends are clad in vertical board-and-batten, the bottom ends of which have been sawn so as to have a flattened "V" profile.²³

The main façade of the building faces northeast and has a centered, gable-roofed ell. This ell contains the small office that houses the ranger who first makes contact with visitors arriving by car. The lower portions of the walls of this ell are clad in the same half-round debarked logs that cover the lower portions of the building's other walls but the upper portion is mostly glass on all three sides of the ell to facilitate visibility for both the ranger and the visitor.

A door located on the building's rear facade is sheltered by a gable-roofed entrance hood supported on heavy wood brackets and whose gable end is open.

South Shore Pump House

1949

Contributing

This Rustic style building was built in 1949 to house the pumps and other equipment that was used to pump water for the south shore sewage disposal ponds and for other purposes in this part of the park.²⁴ The one-story-tall building has a rectangular plan, measures 32-feet-long by 18-feet-wide, and rests on a poured concrete pad foundation. The lowest part of its wall surface consists of two-courses of concrete block, while the wall surface above consists of a lower part that is clad in horizontal board siding, and an upper portion clad in vertical board-and batten. The walls are sheltered by the very

²² Devil's Lake State Park Archives. This building was moved to its present site in 1987 from its original location, which was several hundred feet closer to the south beach shore.

²³ It is noteworthy that this building is in many ways a smaller version of the Pattison State Park Office building located in the town of Superior, in Douglas County, that was built in 1940 by the CCC. It appears that the State used this earlier building as a model for the appearance of some of its first post-World War II buildings in other state parks, including Devil's Lake.

²⁴ Devil's Lake State Park Archives.

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wide overhanging open eaves of the gable roof, which are supported by extended rafter ends. The gable ends are clad in vertical board-and-batten wood boards, the bottom ends of which have been sawn so as to have a flattened "V" profile. The principal facade of the building faces northeast and has a large garage door opening placed to the right that retains its two original, side-hinged, vertical board garage doors, while to the left is placed a single six-over-six-light double hung window. The two longer northwest and southeast-facing sides of the building both have three windows of the same type evenly spaced along their lengths. The rear of the building has a centered, single window. The building's only other feature of note is a shed-roofed dormer located at the northeast end of the southeast-facing side facade.

Integrity

The contributing resources in Devil's Lake State Park all retain a sufficient degree of integrity to contribute to our understanding of the park's appearance during the periods of significance. Not surprisingly, many changes have been made to some parts of the park. Over the years, new resources have been added as needed in response to changing views regarding public comfort and safety. Nevertheless, the park's original CCC and WPA-built Rustic style buildings and structures and the rustic stonework that comprises the other Depression era features of the park are still largely intact, as are the Chateau building and the Baraboo Golf Club's Clubhouse building, both of which date from the earlier period of the park's development. All of the resources in the park have been well maintained and are in excellent, largely original condition today.

As the inventory shows, there are also eleven non-contributing resources in Devil's Lake State Park, seven of which are buildings. These buildings do not contribute to the district because they were constructed after the period of significance or have lost integrity.

The appearance of the park as it existed in 1942 has been maintained; its overall plan is largely intact and its contributing resources possess integrity of setting, design, location, materials and workmanship.

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Introduction

Devil's Lake is one of Wisconsin's most spectacular geological features and it is the centerpiece of Devil's Lake State Park, which is the third oldest, the largest, and the most popular state park in Wisconsin's state park system.²⁵ People have been drawn to the beauty of this lake for thousands of years and it had sacred meaning to Native American peoples long before the first non-native settlers arrived. Evidence of this can be seen today in the conical, linear, and effigy mounds created by the Effigy Mound Culture between AD 700-1200 at the north and south ends of the lake. The name of the lake itself is a sensationalized translation of the Ho-Chunk tribe's name for the lake, "Da-wa-kah-char-gra," which is better translated as meaning "Scared Lake" or "Holy Lake." The earliest non-native visitors to the lake were drawn by the extraordinary natural features displayed here. Enjoyment of the natural environment led to the growth of tourism in the area which in turn facilitated the eventual establishment of the lake and its surroundings as a state park.

Summary of Significance

Devil's Lake State Park is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C and D. The Park is eligible under Criterion A at the statewide level for its associations with events that have made significant contributions to our history, having significance in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. It meets this criterion as the largest, best known and most visited state park in Wisconsin. Since its founding in 1911, the park has embodied the full scope of recreational uses offered in a state park and has influenced generations of visitors in the way in which they experience the grandeur of natural and geologic features. The Park is eligible under Criterion C at the local level for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period and method of construction, significant in the area of Architecture. It meets this criterion for its intact collection of park architecture, including buildings and structures designed in the Rustic style and constructed by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) using wood and quartzite stone, harvested and quarried locally. The Park is eligible under Criterion D at the local level having yielded and remaining likely to yield information important in prehistory and history, having significance in the area of Archaeology. It meets this criterion for the collection of Native American burial mounds, their setting and any intact deposits within and surrounding them, and their potential to inform researchers about aspects of Late Woodland culture, social structure, ritual, cosmology and land use patterns. The longstanding association of the area with Native American rituals and spiritual beliefs and the social and economic components of the commodification of leisure and the associated landscapes demonstrate that the district is eligible under Criterion D at the local level.

²⁵ Wisconsin's oldest state park is Interstate State Park, which was established in 1900 on both the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides of the Mississippi River. This was followed by Peninsula State Park in Door County in 1903.

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Periods of Significance

The periods of significance for Devil's Lake State Park include the following:

Criterion A, in the area of Entertainment/Recreation: 1894-1972

The period of significance for Entertainment/Recreation begins in 1894, the date of construction of a resort hotel; the remains of which are still in the park. The period of significance ends in 1972, when the last group of buildings, privately constructed in the park, were demolished. This last act completed the transformation of the park from a privately owned entity into publicly owned, a process that had been ongoing since the establishment of the park in 1911. The period of significance encompasses the historic era of tourism at Devil's Lake. While the history of tourism in the area begins in 1866 when the first of the privately constructed and owned buildings were built in the park for tourist use, there are no extant architectural resources representing the years between the 1860s and 1894.

Criterion C, in the area of Architecture: 1921-1949.

The period of significance for architecture begins in 1921 and ends in 1949, dates that encompass the extant Rustic style buildings and other resources in the park. The Rustic style was favored by the State of Wisconsin's park system and also the U. S. Department of the Interior up until the end of World War II. Most of the park's Rustic style resources were built between 1936 and 1942 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), but others were built by the State prior to 1936 and after 1942.

Criterion D, in the area of Archaeology: AD 700-1200

The period of significance for Archaeology extends from AD 700-1200, the period that is generally associated with the works of the Effigy Mound Building Culture. The district includes at least eleven conical, linear, and effigy mounds that were built during this period and while more recent archeological remains from the historic period have been identified in the park, it is the resources associated with the Effigy Mound Building Culture that gives the district its archeological importance.

District Boundaries

The Devil's Lake Historic District is located in the northwest corner of the current park and its boundaries enclose Devil's Lake and the surrounding land to include the areas that were the focus of recreational and cultural activities at Devil's Lake. The district includes the East, West and South bluffs that overlook Devil's Lake and all the land north of the north shore of the lake up to County Highway DL. Included in this area are the park's Quartzite and Northern Lights campgrounds. The district also includes the south shore of the lake, including the South Shore Day Use and Beach area, and the park's Group Campground. The district includes almost all of the resources that were built in the park during the Depression years and up until 1972, the year when the last of the privately constructed, pre-1911 buildings and structures were either removed or demolished.

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The sequence of the following narrative will follow each of the three areas of significance as listed above. Each will be described and then a concluding summary will complete the narrative of significance.

Brief Overview of Devil's Lake State Park

The first non-native settlers arrived in this area in the 1830s and by the end of the Civil War the lake was already well on its way to becoming a popular tourist destination. The first of several privately owned Victorian era hotels was built on the north shore of the lake in 1866, but it was the construction of the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad's tracks along the east shore of the lake in 1873 that initiated the first major tourist period at the lake. Before the railroad arrived, tourists came to the lake by the dozens, either on foot, by wagon or carriage, but once the railroad arrived they came by the hundreds and later, by the thousands, and from all over the Midwest. As a result, more privately owned hotels and summer cottages were built along the lake shore. By 1903, area residents and others who were interested in the fate of the state's natural environment were sufficiently alarmed by the possibility of overdevelopment which would ultimately damage the natural features. This concern began the process of having the lake and its surrounding area designated as a state park. The process was completed in 1911 when the lake and 1040 acres of surrounding land became Devil's Lake State Park.

The establishment of the park was followed by a transition period during which new buildings were constructed in the park by the State to serve tourists, who were increasingly arriving by automobile, while buildings constructed in the pre-park era by private parties were either demolished or reused for park purposes. Funding, however, did not keep up with the demand for access to the lake, which intensified during the Depression. In 1934, nearly 550,000 visitors arrived at the park and it was at this critical moment that help arrived in the form of work relief programs funded by the federal government. In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established Camp Devil's Lake at the park; the camp closed in 1941. During their tenure, the CCC and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) created the Rustic style resources that continue to define the appearance of the park today. Since the end of World War II the park has continued to expand in size and in popularity, to the point where it recently hosted more than 2,000,000 visitors in 2012, making it not only the most popular park in the state but also one of the most visited in the nation.

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Criterion D – in the area of Archaeology

The long human history of the Devil's Lake Historic District makes it significant at a number of levels, including in the area of archaeology. The identified archaeological resources within the boundaries of the Devil's Lake Historic District include effigy mound sites, associated mound activity areas, and campsites. The mounds are largely intact, even though areas immediately adjacent to and between them—and any associated habitation/activity areas found in those areas—show signs of disturbance in the form of modern camp grounds, parking lots, and picnic areas. The amount of disturbance is not clear, however, and it is possible that portions of the non-mounded sites may remain intact. Other sites in the park, as well as significant portions of the park area itself, remain largely undisturbed.

Several factors suggest that Devil's Lake State Park has served as a special use area for much of the human history of Wisconsin, pre-dating the recent establishment of today's modern park by many millennia. The lake is particularly significant to the modern Ho-Chunk people, whose oral history speaks of long residency in the Devil's Lake region. In Ho-Chunk tradition, Devil's Lake is said to have been created by a primordial water serpent, diving through the earth to reach the watery Lower World (Saunders 1947:5–6). The passage created by the serpent filled with water, creating a bottomless lake—a doorway through which Water Spirits and other Lower World creatures could view or visit our world. A later battle between a Water Spirit and a Thunderbird at this doorway shattered the surrounding cliffs, creating the quartzite talus slopes that ring the park today. Euro-Americans, hearing these stories, equated the Water Spirits with evil forces—giving the lake and park their modern name.

The significance of Devil's Lake to the Ho-Chunk was two-fold. The loud noise that accompanied the serpent's dive is said to have attracted the attention of the wandering and homeless Ho-Chunk, drawing them to a land where they could settle. By providing passage to the Lower World, the lake gave human visitors a means to petition Lower World spirits for medicine and other favors. The lake also represented a source of danger. Other Ho-Chunk tales describe the lake as a place of human sacrifice and evil omen was considered unsuitable as a place of habitation (Saunders 1947:5–6, 34–42). Ho-Chunk use of the park for ritual purposes is well-documented, and is believed to continue to the present day.

The time depth of these stories is of considerable interest, since the archaeology of the park marks it as a place of ritual. While the park contains at least the potential to contain sites dating back 13,000 years (some habitation/use areas remain undated), most of the known archaeological sites in the park date to the Mature and Final Late Woodland period (AD 700–1200). The Late Woodland mound groups in the park contain a total of 15 mounds consisting of one fork-tailed bird effigy, five quadruped effigies, three conicals, and six linears. The mounds in the park meet the registration requirements of the property type, "Late Woodland Mounds" as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation, "Late

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Woodland Stage in Archaeological Region 8". The combined presence of the mounds and what appears to be associated mound building camps or village sites indicates that the District has the potential to yield important information about cosmological beliefs, ritual activity and social organization during the mature Late Woodland stage (AD 700–1200), and is thus eligible under Criterion D at the local level.

The mounds in Devil's Lake State Park were built as part of the Effigy Mound ceremonial complex—a set of ritual activities engaged in by the Late Woodland peoples in Wisconsin and adjacent states during a period when seasonally-nomadic bands were beginning to transition to horticultural village-based societies (Benn and Green 2000, Salkin 2000, Stoltman and Christiansen 2000). By AD 1000 Late Woodland peoples in the region had begun to aggregate together in semi-sedentary villages and construct raised fields. Some of these villages (Aztalan being the most prominent) participated in Middle Mississippian trade. The Upper Mississippian Oneota appear in the archaeological record at this point, possibly as the result of interaction between Late Woodland and Middle Mississippian peoples (Stoltman and Christiansen 2000).

The most notable feature of the Effigy Mound ceremonial complex is the construction of monumental zoomorphic earthworks or 'effigies' in combination with conical, linear, and other geometric mound forms. Many details of the effigy mound ceremonial complex are unclear. The precise form of the ceremonial complex varied from community to community, and even from site to site. It is certain that most of the mounds were used to mark or contain human burials (Rosebrough 2011). Though the mounds were utilized for human burial, the age of the mounds, their use for significant social and cosmological ritual, and their joint presence in a cosmologically-significant landscape mitigate criteria consideration D.

While effigy construction was tied to mortuary ritual, mound sites also are believed to have served as seasonal ritual centers where world-renewal ceremonies were conducted during periods of population aggregation (Benn 1979, Mallam 1976, 1984). The forms of individual mounds at each site are thought to represent the corporate group affiliations of those either buried within the mound or participating in the ceremony (Mallam 1976, Radin 1911, Taylor 1838). Mound forms also appear to represent animals and spirits prominent in Effigy Mound cosmology (Birmingham and Eisenberg 2000, Rosebrough and Birmingham 2005, Mallam 1976).

Few Effigy Mound ceremonial complex mounds survive. At least 80% of all effigy sites ever built have been destroyed (Peterson 1979). Devil's Lake State Park preserves not just one mound or one mound group, but an entire landscape. It thus records a much fuller portrait of how the Native residents of the region interacted with a unique and probably highly cosmologically-charged landform. Mound construction was constrained by local topography and influenced by the presence or absence of natural

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and man-made features, as well as intangible factors like cosmology. The glacial lake plains at Devil's Lake, the surrounding uplands with their massive bedrock outcrops, talus slopes, and elevated ridges served as a dramatic backdrop for ritual. The mounds in the park are built on the lower landforms, very near the lake. It may be no coincidence that the most prominent effigies in the park: a fork-tailed bird on the south shore and a long-tailed water spirits on the north shore, face each other across the lake in a sculptural re-creation of the battle between the Water Spirit and the Thunderbird that created the lake's modern landscape. Whether the mounds were built in acknowledgement of an older tradition, or helped shape later tradition, is unknown.

Although the mounds and the areas around the mounds at Devil's Lake have been subject to some disturbance, the bulk of the damage has been repaired in a manner consistent with their prior appearance. The forked-tailed bird mound (Devil's Lake I Site [SK-0023]) is largely intact as are a high percentage of the mounds in the Terminal Moraine I Site (SK-0024) and the Devil's Lake II Site (SK-0026, Cliff House Site). No evidence is available to suggest that either of the mounds at the Terminal Moraine II Site (SK-0618) have been excavated or disturbed. No formal excavations have occurred at any of the mounds and it is likely that human burials and ritual features remain intact.

The development of the park ensured the retention of these archaeological elements which were important to the significance of the park. As public stewards of these resources, park leadership made the decision to go so far as to reconstruct damaged mound features to more fully reflect the history that was being preserved in the park.

The park also consists of historic period resources associated with early recreational uses, more fully described in following "Criterion A" section. The presence of three hotels, 30 summer homes, park facilities extant and removed, and the long term use of the Devil's Lake area for camping, picnicking, hiking, site seeing, and a myriad of other recreation activities provides archaeologist with an exciting opportunity to explore late nineteenth and twentieth changes in the manner in which people and families experimented with leisure time, the out of doors, and the "wild" places in Wisconsin (O'Donovan and Carroll 2011). Even in instances where the historical record seems ample, it is notoriously fraught with omissions and inaccuracies both inadvertent and deliberate. The presence of these cultural resources, and particularly those directly associated with the presentation of the parks natural and cultural features, would allow for the investigation of impact of "preservation" on the natural and cultural components of the park (Pope et al. 2011:219).

Conclusion: Criterion D – in the area of Archaeology

The earthen mounds and their associated ritual and/or village components, built between AD 700–1200 by participants in the Effigy Mound Culture, meets the registration requirements of the property type,

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"Late Woodland Mounds" as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation, "Late Woodland Stage in Archaeological Region 8". The continued presence of both "Upper" and "Lower" world mound forms, in a relatively intact setting with Devil's Lake and the associated natural setting, is significant. The archaeological, cultural, and tourism related resources within the district have the potential to yield important information about cosmological beliefs, ritual activity and social organization during the mature Late Woodland stage (AD 700-1000); historic and contemporary cultural practices; and the social and economic components of the commodification of leisure and the associated landscapes indicates that the district is eligible under Criterion D at the local level.

Criterion A – in the area of Recreation/Tourism

The Devil's Lake State Park Historic District is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Recreation/Tourism as the embodiment of virtually the entire history of tourism in Wisconsin. Devil's Lake was already becoming a popular tourist destination even before the Chicago & NorthWestern railroad's tracks were built along the base of the lake's east bluff in 1873. In the years that followed, the many thousands of tourists that the railroad brought to the lake spurred a period of development that saw much of the privately owned land at the north and south ends of the lake developed for commercial purposes, including the construction of hotels and privately owned summer vacation homes. Over time, this development activity created concern about what was seen by many as the despoliation of the natural beauty of the lake and this in turn resulted in the creation of Devil's Lake State Park in 1911, which was a victory both for conservation and for the concept of managed tourism. Subsequently, almost all of the privately built buildings in the park were demolished and were replaced by buildings constructed by the state or by its lessees. These new buildings and structures, many of which were built by federal work relief programs in the 1930s, were designed to meet the new and different needs of the ever growing numbers of automobile tourists who replaced the earlier railroad tourists at the park. Over time, camping also replaced the more structured accommodations that had been typical of the park's Victorian era and this was reflected in changes that were made to the park to accommodate modern needs. Today, thanks to the natural beauty of Devil's Lake and its fortuitous location within easy driving distance of several large metropolitan areas and the nearby tourist destination of Wisconsin Dells, Devils Lake State Park is not only the most popular of all of Wisconsin's state parks but is also one of the most popular parks in the nation, its annual visitor totals being only slightly lower than those of the nation's ten most popular national parks.²⁶ The resources included within the district boundaries include buildings, structures and objects that have been built to serve the needs of the tourists who have visited the park since its founding.

Pioneer History

²⁶ The park's 2012 visitors total was 2,047,000. The 10th most popular national park, Acadia National Park in Maine, had 2,100,000 visitors in the same year.

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Human visitation to the lake was essentially seasonal in nature until the first Euro-American settlement began in this area in the 1830s. So far as is known, the first non-Native American who visited the lake was John T. De La Ronde, in 1832, while the first settler in the area around what was to become today's city of Baraboo, which is located just three miles north of the lake on the Baraboo River, was Abe Wood, who staked his claim in 1838. Like so many other early Wisconsin communities, it was Baraboo's riverside location that attracted early settlers and capital because of the waterpower opportunities that the river presented. By 1846, several sawmills had been developed on the river in and near the village of Baraboo. The young community experienced population growth and was subsequently chosen as the county seat of Sauk County, which it remains today.

Given the close proximity of Baraboo to Devil's Lake, it was only a matter of time before the inhabitants of the village, the surrounding area, and others from outside Sauk County came to hear about the extraordinary nearby lake. Among them was Increase A. Lapham (1811-1875), a pioneer Wisconsin naturalist whose diverse interests made him a figure of great importance in many fields including geology, botany, meteorology, history and archaeology. In 1849, Lapham visited the lake as part of a geology field trip along with several others including geologist Thomas C. Chamberlain; afterwards, he left one of the earliest written accounts of the geological features of the lake.²⁷

As the population in the Baraboo area increased, the lands surrounding the village were claimed and settled. The same was true of the lands surrounding Devil's Lake. While the 500-foot-tall bluffs on the lake's east and west sides and the talus fields below them precluded any development on these sides of the lake, the gently sloping lands located at the lake's north and south ends were more favorable and it was there that the first development occurred.

The first land entry bordering the lake was made by Janson Pattee in 1851, when he laid claim to an area on the southeast part of the lake. This area was later to become Kirkland. Also, in 1851, Mr. Walter P. Flanders staked out a claim north of the lake, where the Minni-Wauken House was eventually built. About the same time, a bathing house was built at the lake by A. G. Tuttle, George Newson, and Jonathan Hatch. In 1856, Newson sold his interest to Tuttle, and in 1857, Tuttle sold his property to Louis Claude. Claude, an English gentleman, built a beautiful Tudor-style home north of the lake and developed the surrounding area into orchards and vineyards.²⁸

²⁷ Lapham, Increase A. "Geographical notes of a tour to the Dells October 22 to Nov 1st 1849," entry for October 28, unpublished manuscript, Lapham Papers, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Collection.

²⁸ Knutson, George. A Brief History of Devil's Lake State Park. Devil's Lake State Park Archives. Mss., dated February 4, 1966.

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Tourism History

It was the bathhouse (non-extant) built by Tuttle and his partners that marked the beginning of a new era in the lake's history because this was actually the first building to accommodate the needs of visitors to the lake. Tourists who visited the lake at this time were still day-trippers who arrived at the lake on foot or in carriages. The hotel era at the lake did not begin until 1866, when Edward N. Marsh, an area real estate promoter and dealer built the Minniwauken House²⁹ hotel (non-extant) on the lake shore at the northeast end of the lake at the north end of the east bluff. This three-story, wood frame building was a typical Victorian era resort hotel of the period whose vertical board-and-batten-clad facades were sheltered by galleries that encircled each story of the building. The Minniwauken could accommodate up to 20 guests at first but this number increased as the hotel was expanded in the years that followed. Marsh sold his hotel to Samuel Hartley a year after it was built and Hartley added to its attractions by purchasing a steamboat named the Capitola in 1869. This boat could accommodate up to 100 passengers and was used to make hour-long tours of the lake. Other activities for the guests included renting row boats, fishing, swimming (the bathhouse was located nearby), croquet, and climbing the nearby bluffs. All of these activities were typical for the resort hotels of that day and guests typically stayed for at least a week and some stayed for most of the summer.³⁰

The Minniwauken House was the first hotel on the lake and it would be the only one built at the lake's north end. In 1870, H. B. Sheldon built a second hotel (non-extant) at the south end of the lake called the Sheldon House (a.k.a. the Fountain House, the Lakeview House) which was another, though smaller three-story, wood frame, L-plan, Victorian era resort hotel building.³¹ Three years later, the Minniwauken House was expanded to accommodate 200 guests, and was renamed the Cliff House. The timing of the construction of this new addition was excellent because in that same year that tracks of the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad were completed from Madison to Baraboo along a route that ran through what is now Devil's Lake State Park and along the base of the east bluff of the lake.³² Once this track was completed, the railroad established flag stations at the north and south ends of the lake near the two hotels. With the coming of the railroad the lake entered into a new era.

In the days before satisfactory road systems existed, travel by railroad was the best and in some cases the only means by which tourists and their luggage could be comfortably brought from their homes to their destination. Resort areas with railroad access had a huge advantage over those that did not. It was direct railroad access, for instance, that was chiefly responsible for the growth of Wisconsin's earliest resort areas such as Lake Geneva and Waukesha, to name just two, and the railroads would continue to be a major factor in the development of tourists destinations in the state until the transition

²⁹ Minniwauken is the Ho-Chunk name for the lake.

³⁰ Lange, Kenneth I. and Ralph T. Tuttle. Op. Cit. pp. 15-26 (illustrated).

³¹ Ibid, pp. 34-37 (illustrated).

³² This line was the railroad's main line from Chicago to Minneapolis.

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to automobile tourism began. In the case of Devil's Lake, visitors to the lake from outside Sauk county who wished to stay at one of its hotels prior to the coming of the railroad would have had to entrain first to Portage or Kilbourn City (today's Wisconsin Dells) and then travel to Baraboo and on to the lake by carriage or wagon. The arrival of the railroad changed all that. Now, passengers staying at one of the lake's two hotels could be let off practically at the hotel doorstep and day-trippers could also spend a day at the lake before returning home on a later train. It was estimated that nearly 20,000 people from outside the neighboring area had already visited the lake in the year just before the arrival of the railroad and this number increased substantially in the years following its arrival.

The arrival of the railroad also propelled other lakeshore property owners into the tourist business as well. In 1854, Noble Kirk had purchased 200 acres of land at the southeast end of the lake, which land adjoined the property purchased by H. B. Sheldon in 1870. The new railroad tracks bisected Kirk's land, which up until then had been given over primarily to fruit orchards and grapes, from the latter of which Kirk made wine. After the railroad arrived, Kirk opened a wine cellar and laid out croquet grounds, arbors, and seating on his land, which was called 'Kirkland,' for use by day-trippers and guests at the Sheldon House next door. Then, in 1876, Kirk built a pavilion building on his land "where people could cook, eat, and dance. Parties rented it as a temporary home for several days."³³ A year later, Louis Claude built a cottage on his north shore property that was available for rent and in 1882 he built a second one next to it. Kirk followed and built 12 cottages on his own property in the early 1880s. In 1883, the owners of the Cliff House built a separate annex building (non-extant) next to the original building that increased the number of guests it could house to 400, and in 1889, Noble Kirk built a new and larger pavilion on his property to replace the original.

Additional new building activity continued throughout the 1890s, most of it being concentrated at the south end of the lake. In 1890-1891 the Sheldon House was expanded and renamed Lakeview House, and four cottages were built on its grounds. Also in the early 1890s a new hotel was built on the southwestern shore of the lake on land owned by the Messenger family. The Messenger House was a two-story, wood frame building surrounded by galleries. The property also had a separate one-story building that contained a kitchen and dining hall.³⁴ The 1890s also saw the construction of new infrastructure designed to serve the south shore hotels in the form of a new road that was built from the Sauk Road (this is today's South Shore Road) to the Lakeview House. In addition, numerous individually owned summer cottages were constructed along the southwest shore of the lake during this period.

By the mid-1890s, Devil's Lake had become an extremely popular regional summer tourist destination, which was helped immeasurably by the fact that the railroad operated special excursion trains to the

³³ Lange, Kenneth I. and Ralph T. Tuttle. Op. Cit., p. 27. See also pp. 27-33 (illustrated).

³⁴ Ibid, pp. 38-40.

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lake from various places and especially from Illinois. Even as early as 1875, the railroad was advertising excursion tickets from Madison to the lake for \$1.70 and on one memorable summer weekend in August of 1894, two separate trains pulling a total of 22 coaches containing 2000 excursionists arrived at the Cliff House, who, after emerging, "then began gazing in wonder at the sights. The crowd, increased by a large delegation from Baraboo, was one of the largest in memory of any who resides hereabouts."³⁵ Local newspapers also reported on excursions coming to the lake from La Crosse, Janesville, Lake Mills, and Milwaukee in Wisconsin, and Aurora and Chicago in Illinois, to name just a few. In 1896, the railroad added a second track alongside the first and by the end of the century as many as nine trains a day were running in each direction through the park.

Tourism was not the only commercial activity that developed at Devil's Lake in the nineteenth century. In 1882, Edward T. Hopkins purchased the Sheldon House at the south end of the lake and he then leased 57 acres of this land, which included part of the west end of the lake's south bluff, to the Devil's Lake Granite Co. for use as a stone quarry (a.k.a Hopkin's quarry). This quarry was in use by that company until 1907, when its lease was assumed by the American Refractories Company, which continued to operate it as a quarry for a while before establishing another more satisfactory quarry at the north end of the east bluff. For those who valued the lake and the surrounding area for its natural beauty, the quarry operations, coupled with the increased commercial development at the lake's north and south ends, combined to pose what they saw as a serious threat to the natural beauty of the lake and its future. Bonnie Gruber's 75th anniversary history of the park details this critical period of transition:

By 1900, most of Devil's Lake shoreline was privately owned and developed with tourist facilities. The resorts allowed non-guests to use their grounds. Kirkland, for example, was the site of an annual railroad picnic for several thousand people, and organizations from Sauk City and Baraboo often held picnics and festivals there. But many people couldn't afford resort prices.

In 1903, Assemblyman Franklin Johnson of Baraboo attained passage of a bill authorizing the governor to appoint a three-member commission "to investigate the advisability of establishing and maintaining a state park about Devil's Lake." Area residents were also working to establish Devil's Lake State Park. In 1906, an eight-member local committee, chaired by W. H. McFetridge, issued 2,000 copies of *An Appeal for the Preservation of the Devil's Lake Region*. The 38-page booklet, illustrated with full page photographs of the lake's scenery, was intended to influence the public to press the legislature to appropriate funds to buy and maintain a park at Devil's Lake, "this most beautiful and extraordinary unique region." ... In addition to writing their "Appeal," committee members wrote about the park in other publications, spoke to various

³⁵ *Baraboo Republic*. August 11, 1875; August 8, 1894.

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organizations and clubs and did "much personal advocacy." They gained support from local leaders as well as from the *Milwaukee Journal*.

In 1907, the governor's commission, after four years of study, recommended that the state buy at a reasonable price as much land as possible around Devil's Lake. "Not only are playgrounds essential for the welfare and happiness of children, but there is a demand, a necessity, for larger playgrounds or parks for older people—and it may well to remember that men and women are but children a little older grown," observed Assemblyman Estabrook of Milwaukee. ...

The park study commission evolved into a State Park Board [the first in the nation], directed by law to investigate, consider and make recommendations on the "propriety and desirability of securing all the points of historic interest and natural beauty." The board engaged the nationally known landscape architect John Nolen of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to survey Wisconsin for potential park sites. In 1909, Nolen recommended establishing state parks at Wisconsin Dells, Devil's Lake, Door County and Wyalusing. These parks should be "large, accessible, healthful in air and climate, reasonable in cost and beautiful," according to Nolen's report. "expenditures for State lands do not represent an expense in the ordinary sense but an investment, one that will increase in value and yield ever greater returns to succeeding generations," Nolen wrote. ... Finally, in 1909, the legislature appropriated land acquisition funds to the State Park Board—\$50,000 a year for two years. The Board later voted unanimously to purchase lands around Devil's Lake.³⁶

Nolen's comments about the park bear repeating.

Devil's Lake in Sauk County is, as everyone knows, a most accessible and popular resort, with a great wild forest around it, and fully sufficient in size for State Park purposes. The climate in summer is healthful, if not invigorating. In beauty—barring the ravages of the railroad, the quarries, and the scars of commonplace summer cottages—Devil's Lake meets all the requirements of a State Park. The lake itself, half a mile wide and more than a mile in length, is a gem, a characteristic example of Wisconsin's natural possessions. The bluffs rise impressively from the shores of the lake and afford broad and beautiful views of the Baraboo valley, the refreshing and soul-renewing value of which cannot easily be over-estimated. The romantic glens, the rock-walled and wooded hollows, the secluded creeks in little valleys, all make their contribution to the pleasure of the visitor. Devil's Lake possesses, too, scientific interest—geological, archeological, botanical—that can scarcely be duplicated in Wisconsin. Indeed, no long description of Devil's Lake is necessary, for it is well known how eminently

³⁶ Gruber, Bonnie. *The Diamond Anniversary: 75 Years of Devil's Lake State Park*. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1986, pp. 9-10. All of Nolen's recommendations eventually became state parks save only Wisconsin Dells.

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fitted it is to [sic] and most of the bluffs, with their outcropping rock, can be secured at reasonable rates and with little difficulty.³⁷

Evolution from Private Tourist Destination to State Park

The purchase of the land surrounding the lake was made much easier by the willingness of several of the lake's largest property owners. These owners were supporters of the park idea and were willing to sell their land to the state, often at a price well below market value.

By the end of 1910 the Board had acquired 740 of the 1150 acres it deemed essential for the park, namely the Kirk, Hopkins (Lake View) and Messenger properties and several estates at the south end, and the Vilas estate (the Cliff House property) at the north end.³⁸

Additional negotiations by the Board resulted in the acquisition in 1911 of the Claude family property on the north shore and many of the 31 individually owned south shore cottage properties, most of which were purchased by the State for a dollar each in exchange for a rent-free 60-year lease. By June of 1911, the State Board controlled some 1040 acres of land around the lake and it was finally able to announce that the State Assembly had voted 69 to 9 to establish Devil's Lake State Park, which thus became a reality.

The successful creation of the new park initiated a period of significant change at the lake as the State Park Board and its successor, the State Conservation Commission, wrestled with how to return the park to a more natural state while simultaneously meeting the needs of the ever growing numbers of park visitors. This problem brought to light two very different philosophies about how to preserve the natural landscape. On the one side were the preservationists, who sought to preserve the park's still unspoiled natural landscapes and to restore the rest to an equally unspoiled, more natural state. On the other side were the conservationists, who wanted to manage the natural landscape of the park in such a way that it could co-exist with human needs and desires. Not surprisingly, the Commission's short term goals for the park tended to favor the conservationists since the park had been established with the avowed intent of making the lake more accessible. In order to achieve this goal, new infrastructure would have to be built to serve the needs of the park's visitors and it would also be necessary to replace much of the park's outmoded existing infrastructure as well. And yet, as we will see, in the long term, the preservationists also managed to achieve many of their goals for the park as well.

³⁷ Nolen, John. State Parks for Wisconsin: Report of John Nolen, Landscape Architect. Madison?: [Wisconsin] State Park Board, 1909, pp. 29-30.

³⁸ Lange, Kenneth I. and D. Debra Berndt. Devils' Lake State Park: The History of its Establishment. Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Vol. 68, 1980, p. 160. This is by far the most complete account of the history of the park's establishment.

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As soon as the park opened for business the state accepted a bid from Lucius D. Prader to be its first concessionaire, the concessionaire being the entity who was responsible for establishing and running the park's visitor services. To this end, Prader tore down some of the Messenger buildings on the south shore in 1911 and reused the lumber to build a pavilion, a store building, a canvas bathhouse, boat houses, and a laundry facility, all of which were located on the north shore of the lake; none are extant today. Prader also installed U.S. Army tents (tepee-style) in the northeast corner of the lake and rented them out to visitors, this being the start of what would soon become a major tent colony and later, a cottage area.

Prader's building activities were intended to create a new park infrastructure that would help replace the park's old, privately built Victorian era hotels and associated buildings, which were both outmoded and also presented serious maintenance problems. The first of these, the Cliff House, had been unprofitable for years and had already been demolished in 1905, six years before the park was established. It was followed by the demolition of the Cliff House Annex in 1914, lumber from which was used to build a new Rustic style residence for the park superintendent (non-extant), and by the demolition of the Messenger House hotel in 1915. Two others, the Kirkland Hotel, which had been built in 1906, and the Lakeview Hotel, built in 1870 and expanded in 1882 and again in 1891, were both located at the south end of the lake and these buildings were retained even after their purchase by the state. Both of these hotels were then leased out and continued to be occupied until they were finally demolished, in 1946 and 1952, respectively.

The acquisition of additional land for the park also continued to be an issue during this period because while the park now contained sufficient acreage to protect the lake itself, there were still numerous pockets of privately owned lands that intruded into the park's land holdings and that needed to be acquired. In addition, there was also the state's long range intent of increasing the park's overall acreage as funds permitted so as to more fully realize Nolen's suggested ideal acreage for the park, which he had pegged as being 5,000 acres. At the top of the state's land acquisition list, however, was the 57 acres that comprised the American Refractories Company's east bluff quarry; still in operation in 1911. This goal was finally achieved in 1919, when the state legislature authorized the Conservation Commission to remove the quarry from the park. This land was subsequently purchased by the state in 1920, after which the company moved its operations to a site just east of the park's 1920 boundaries, where it continued to quarry stone until 1967, when the quarry was finally closed.³⁹

The end of World War I late in 1918 also heralded a new era for the park. In 1919, the number of visitors to the park reached 100,000 for the first time. It also marked the first time a substantial number of them were arriving by private automobile. While the railroad was still running weekend excursion

³⁹ This land was subsequently purchased by the State in 1978 and it was then added to the overall park holdings.

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trains to the park, the numbers of visitors who chose this method of arrival was dwindling. This was due partly because of the increase in automobile ownership in the state, (which had climbed from 88,390 in 1915 to 277,000 in 1920), and partly because of the lack of overnight accommodations in the park due to the closing of many of its hotels. The arrival of the automobile in the park was also accompanied by another new phenomenon; automobile camping. Even before the war began, motorists had begun to bring their own equipment along with them to places they wanted to visit and this proved to be especially popular in the state's new state parks, including Devil's Lake. As was noted above, Lucius Prader had already set aside a small area in the northeast corner of the north shore area of the park where he had erected tents that could be rented. After the war ended he made additional land near this site available to campers who arrived by automobile with their own camping equipment. This new influx of visitors into the park was aided by the steady improvement in the state's road system, and as chance would have it, some of this improvement actually occurred within the park itself, thanks to a fortuitous gift from former Baraboo native Wilbur W. Warner (1859-1916), the successful owner of a musical instrument store in Madison, Wisconsin. In his will, Warner left \$40,000 for the construction of a paved road from the High Bridge (non-extant) over the Baraboo River in Baraboo to the north shore of the lake in Devils Lake State Park. Construction of the road required the approval of the State Conservation Commission, which also helped with additional funding, as did Sauk county and the city of Baraboo. By July of 1921, the new road, the first concrete road in the area, was finished and its opening was greeted with enthusiastic praise in the local newspaper:

The ride from the entrance to the park to the lake is probably one of the most scenic in the state of Wisconsin. Soon after the car enters the deep woods, towering walls of rock are observed on the right. The formations are schistose quartzite, conglomerate, and sandstone. Long retaining walls skirt the lower side of the road and as the lake is neared a rich view of the placid body of water is observed, half-hidden in the distance. The road from the park entrance to the lake is along a terminal moraine and the descent to the lake is by means of an S-shaped curve.⁴⁰

This road, now simply called 'Park Road,' remains the principal entrance to the park. This entrance retains its two original stone pillars, of local quartzite, as are the several retaining walls along the length of the road. These features, constructed in 1921, are the earliest surviving Rustic style structures built in the park and are in excellent condition today.⁴¹

The new entrance road into the park was built none too soon because by 1924, park attendance had climbed to 200,000. Another new park feature that these visitors encountered was a nine-hole 20-acre golf course built on land at the extreme north edge of the park that had formerly been the Claude

⁴⁰ "Warner Road Open Saturday." *Baraboo Republic*, July 25, 1921.

⁴¹ The first Rustic style building in the park was the park superintendent's residence, which was built in 1914 and demolished in 1963-64.

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family's corn field. This land was leased from the state in 1922 by a local organization called the Baraboo Golf Club, incorporated in 1925, and was responsible for the laying out of the course and its maintenance.⁴²

Still another new feature greeting visitors to the park in 1925 was the new Chateau building, which had just been built on the north shore of the lake at the south end of the Warner Road and which still welcomes visitors to the park today. The construction of the Craftsman style, wood shingle-clad Chateau was the result of a change in park concessionaires. In 1925, Louis G. Roche and Lancelot A. Gordon acquired the park concession from Lucius Prader. This new building became the focal point of indoor activities in the park, and served as a social gathering place in the evenings; an orchestra played at the Chateau for six nights a week during the summer months from the 1930s into the 1950s.

The following year, the concessionaires added another new feature to the north shore when they constructed 23 cottages in an 11-acre area known as 'Vest Pocket Park'. This was the same site where Prader had established his tent colony previously. These one-story wood frame cottages had from one to three bedrooms and could accommodate up to eight people. They had electricity and were completely equipped and furnished with beds, furniture, linens and towels, and had maid service. In addition, wood-floored tents, completely equipped for bedroom use, were available as well.⁴³

All of this new construction was intended to take the place of the amenities that had once been offered by the park's hotels, but the cottages and the tent colony also added to the clutter of small buildings that already existed at both ends of the lake, which included both the new cottages built by the concessionaires, the thirty-plus privately owned cottages located around the south end of the lake, and numerous outbuildings and ancillary structures that had been associated with the lake's hotel era. As new buildings were built, some older ones were being taken down, including the cottages that had formerly been located on the Kirk's property at the lake's east end, some of which were moved outside of the park boundaries in 1928 by Louis Martin.

The year 1928 also saw the construction of a Norman Revival style-influenced clubhouse on the hillside overlooking the golf course in the park. The cost of this building was funded by the Baraboo Golf Club, whose clubhouse it was, and it was designed by Frank M. Riley, who was the most accomplished architect practicing in Madison, Wisconsin at that time. Today, this building houses the

⁴² Dewell, Bob. "The Old Golf Course at Devil's Lake." *Baraboo News Republic*, September 11, 2002, p. A7, (illustrated).

⁴³ *Baraboo Weekly News*, June 3, 1926. These cottages were subsequently purchased by Jim Halstead in 1945-46 and were then moved to property he owned behind the east bluff. Halstead rented these cottages out to tourists until 1967, when the state purchased the property and auctioned off the cottages, which were either demolished for lumber or moved outside of the park's boundaries.

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park's nature center but it continued to be used as a clubhouse until 1969, when the golf club surrendered its lease and its course was remade as the park's Quartzite Campground.

A year later, the park staff began work on a graveled walking path along the foot of the west bluff that was called the Tumbled Rock Trail because of the enormous talus slope that the path had to traverse. The announcement of this venture, which had been sanctioned by the Conservation Commission, quickly aroused considerable concern among preservationists and preservation groups such as the Friends of Our Native Landscape, whose president, John S. Donald, asked that the path, which had already been extended 500 feet south along the shoreline, be halted.

Conservationists contend that the public is entitled to enjoy the natural beauty of this area, impossible before because of its inaccessibility. Others argue that only those really interested in the scientific value of the area be encouraged to enter. It is possible for those persons to traverse the entire west side of the lake by climbing rocks and enduring a few hardships, Donald claimed. A foot path would soon result in the area's being commercialized like other sections of the park, he fears.⁴⁴

After much discussion and a visit to the site by several luminaries in the Friends of Our Native Landscape, including landscape architects Jens Jensen and Prof. Franz Aust from the University of Wisconsin, the Conservation Commission decided to proceed with the path, "whenever the necessary men and time was available." The advent of the Great Depression, however, halted work on what is now the park's most heavily used path, and it was not finally completed until 1966.⁴⁵ The Depression did more than halt the work on the Tumbled Rock Path, it also reduced state funding for the park, which had never been generous, to the point where little more than basic maintenance could be attempted. Fortunately, the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 and the creation of the first of his New Deal programs in the same year would provide the means to continue and expand the work already begun.

The Civilian Conservation Corps

One of the earliest of the new "make work" programs created by the Roosevelt administration's "New Deal" was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The CCC was perhaps the New Deal's most successful and far-reaching expression of social humanitarianism and landscape development. The program provided employment and training for approximately three million young men and in the process enabled them to help themselves in better economic times. In the program's early years, enrollment was limited to young men

⁴⁴ "State Will Look Into Proposition." *Baraboo Weekly News*, December 26, 1929.

⁴⁵ Lange, Kenneth I. and Ralph T. Tuttle. *Op. Cit.*, p. 77.

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between seventeen and twenty-three years of age selected from the relief rolls. By enrolling in the CCC, the men also helped their families: all but \$5 of their \$30-a-month earnings were sent home.⁴⁶

After receiving two weeks of military style training, the men who enrolled were sent to purpose built camps that were located in or near work sites. Each camp typically housed 200 men who had enrolled for six-month to one-year periods and the organization of these camps, which were designed to be essentially self sufficient, was loosely along military lines. The type and purpose of the work the men performed varied depending on the location of the camp but the primary purpose was to aid in conservation in one way or another.

Although the location of camps may have been obliterated over time, the legacy of the CCC endures on the American landscape. Miles of shelterbelts, dams, and fire roads, and thousands of park shelters, walls, and bridges remain throughout the United States. CCC camp enrollees, who were under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, planted billions of trees in cut-over areas of the Lake Superior region and New England, created shelterbelts on the Great Plains, and built dams or terraced land to prevent erosion. CCC work guided by the Department of the Interior resulted in trails, shelter buildings, campsites, and landscaping in national and state parks.⁴⁷

One of these CCC camps was established at Devil's Lake State Park in 1934, this being Camp Devil's Lake, 2669th Company, CCC, and by the time the camp closed in 1941, the enrollees there had essentially transformed both the park's landscape and its infrastructure into the park that is still enjoyed by visitors today. Fortunately, historian Robert J. Moore has just recently published an excellent, well documented and heavily illustrated history of Camp Devil's Lake and this history provides a far more detailed account of the camp than is possible within the confines of a National Register nomination.⁴⁸ What follows, therefore, is primarily a brief description of the camp itself followed by a listing and chronology of the CCC's accomplishments in the park:

There were more than 2600 CCC camps in the United State and 561 of them were assigned to parks; one was at Devil's Lake State Park. It was located along the south shore road a mile east of the lake and consisted of about 15 buildings, among them four 50-man barracks, garages, shops, a bathhouse, a mess hall, a supply and dispensary, a library and chapel, and a recreation

⁴⁶ Ahlgren, Carol. *The Civilian Conservation Corps and Wisconsin State Park Development*. Madison: Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 71, No. 3, Spring, 1988, p. 185. This article offers an excellent overview of the effect that the CCC had on Wisconsin's state park system during the Depression.

⁴⁷ *Ibid*, pp. 185-186.

⁴⁸ Moore, Robert J. *Devil's Lake Wisconsin and the Civilian Conservation Corps*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2011.

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hall. This camp, like all CCC camps, had its own water supply and sewage disposal system. The CCC camp was really a community in itself.

Two groups of CCC personnel arrived in the park in 1934 and stayed at the Kirk Hotel until the regular camp was activated in 1935. The permanent camp consisted of about 200 CCC boys, National Park Service personnel, and Army officers.⁴⁹

The arrival of the CCC at the lake in 1934 came at a crucial time in the park's history because in that year park attendance figures soared to 542,290, partly because the park offered the least expensive summer vacation a family could take during the Depression years. As a result, park personnel and the park concessionaire's employees were stretched to the limit, so the arrival of 200 eager and disciplined young men to work in the park must have seemed like an answered prayer to those in charge.

Summary of Civilian Conservation Corps Projects

The CCC work in Devil's Lake State Park was somewhat different from the work the CCC did in many other state parks because much of its efforts here were directed towards undoing or upgrading work that had previously been done, as can be seen by examining the following list that Eugene Odbert, Jr., the NPS project superintendent for the park, prepared in 1939 detailing the work that the CCC had accomplished in the park since 1935.

Bathhouse – North shore. A building 126 x 63 feet overall dimension. constructed of stone, rough lumber and logs, with open air dressing courts, toilets, showers, and basket space. Will accommodate 400 bathers per hour.

Sewer and Water – Service connection from main sewer and water lines to bathhouse.

Park Road – North end. A new road providing a right angle railroad crossing, access to the cottage area, campgrounds (entrance and exit) and North Park Road, and eliminating two hazardous angle railroad crossings.

Parking area – A surfaced parking area, complete with stone curbing and center islands, which will accommodate 225 parked cars. One-way traffic provides better control and eliminates the necessity of several traffic officers. (The construction of additional parking space is proposed).

Picnic or recreation area. – North Shore. The entire area between the park road – parking area and the lake has been graded (cut or fill) and sodded so that it provides drainage and is

⁴⁹ Lange, Kenneth I. and Ralph T. Tuttle. Op. Cit., p. 81. All of these buildings have now been demolished and the camp site is now the location of the park's Group Campground.

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otherwise suitable for picnic purposes. The popularity of this area for picnics (particularly towards the West bluff) can be seen on any day during the summer months. A person looking at the area between the bathhouse, Chateau and parking area as of today ... bring it up to grade before sodding.

Water Control Structures – The headwalls on the old culvert across the creek, just west of the bathhouse, were removed and the 60" inch steel culvert was extended to a total length of 144,' new headwalls were constructed and the same graded and sodded.

Power and Telephone Lines – North Shore. These two necessary utilities, requiring many poles and wires, were very unsightly in this small area. Therefore, over one-half mile of underground electric and three-quarters mile telephone cable was laid, eliminating 49 poles and all the overhead wires. In addition, new light standards were constructed and placed so as to give adequate light over parking areas and elsewhere as needed.

Sewage Disposal System – North shore. The old sewage disposal plant was in need of repairs and was inadequate in size to handle the proposed increased load. Therefore a new disposal system (concrete sludge tank and dosage chamber, complete with filter beds) capable of handling 60,000 gallons of sewage per day was constructed and connected to the existing sewer pipes.

Well – North shore. In order to provide an adequate water supply for the existing and proposed needs, one of the wells at the state garage building was deepened to 321,' 40' of 6" screen was installed and the well tested so that it has a known capacity of 200 G.P.M. The Wisconsin Conservation Department proposes to replace the two piston pumps, which have been used to date, with a turbine pump of 200 G.P.M. capacity.

Campgrounds – North shore. Thirty acres of park land lying northeast of the railroad have been converted into a campground, complete with surfaced roads, 40 trailer sites and 220 tent sites. This campground will be open to the public for the season of 1940. (See below for area facilities).

Water Reservoir – Campgrounds. A 30,000 gallon, reinforced concrete, underground reservoir has been constructed at the highest point in the campgrounds. Water will be supplied from the deepened well and will be used throughout the campgrounds and to supplement the 20,000 gallon tank near [the] clubhouse.

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Water Pipe – Campgrounds. 5438 lineal feet of water main (4, 3 & 1½” pipe) has been laid through the campgrounds.

Drinking Fountains – Campgrounds. A total of 15 drinking fountains have been constructed, 7 of which have a fire hose connection for emergency use.

Sewer Lines –Campgrounds. 4672’ of 6” cast iron soil pipe, complete with manholes, etc., has been laid in the campgrounds and connected to [the] disposal plant.

Toilet, Shower, and Laundry Building – Campgrounds. A 52’ x 27’ building of stone, rough lumber and glazed tile contains toilet and shower facilities for men and women, and provides space and facilities for laundry work.

Camp Stoves – Campgrounds. 100 steel camp stoves, 18” in diameter, 10” high and anchored to a concrete block in the ground have been constructed and placed for use in the campgrounds.

Tables and Benches – 130 picnic tables have been constructed of logs and lumber for use where needed.

Seats – 60 log seats constructed.

Foot Trails – A new foot trail starting at the CCC camp, leading up the East Bluff and along top of bluff as far as Devil’s Doorway is complete. Reconstruction of the major foot and horse trails and construction of new trails proposed.

White Pine Blister Rust Control - 245,000 ribes plants (gooseberry) were pulled to control the White Pine Blister Rust on 2251 acres of park and adjacent property.

Planting of Trees and Shrubs – 5350 trees or shrubs were planted throughout the park.

Fire Fighting – Fire patrol and fighting of fires within the park boundaries since the fall of 1935. By agreement with the Wisconsin Conservation Department, fire crews may be called by proper authorities for emergency fire fighting within a 40 mile radius of [the] camp.

General – The above accomplishments are concrete in nature, that is, they can be seen or evidence of them is available, and do not include the many phases of the various jobs necessary to bring them to completion, such as, the quarrying of building stone, the crushing of stone, etc., wildlife feeding, trail guiding, and many other activities.

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Future – The above comments cover only the work accomplishments to date. However, you will note that the foundations are now in place for an administration building on the North shore which will accommodate the park superintendent's office, information counter, first-aid room, men and women's toilets.⁵⁰

When looking over Odbert's list one sees that the bulk of the CCC's work at the park occurred at the north end of the lake. There was a good reason for this.

You will note that very little work was done at the south shore in the line of improvements. The north end of the park was the main use area, where all the activity was centered. Very few people went to the south end in those days, except a few that wanted the real rough type of camping. When the people were forced back from the water's edge at the north end, and told that they would have to go into the new camping area [the Northern Lights Campground], they started to drift to the south shore. From 1939 on, the south has continued to grow in attendance.⁵¹

By the time World War II began, Camp Devil's Lake had already been closed, but the work the hundreds of CCC enrollees who lived there completed while it was open transformed Devil's Lake State Park into a modern park, one that was ready to welcome the vastly increased numbers of visitors who would descend on it after the war ended.

Works Progress Administration

The CCC was not the only New Deal work relief program that was active in the park during the Depression years, however. Another important building that was built in the park during this period was the park's new North Shore service garage building, this being a two-story Rustic style building clad completely in the locally quarried quartzite that was built between 1940 and 1941 by the WPA. The WPA (Works Progress Administration) had been established by Congress in July, 1935, and it was the newest and would ultimately be the largest of the various federal Depression-era relief agencies. Unlike its predecessor, the FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration), the WPA was a federal program of works projects, not the grants-in-aid to states that had provided direct funding or work relief under the FERA. The WPA provided money just for labor and materials and unlike the Public

⁵⁰ Odbert, Eugene, Jr. Work Program at Camp Devil's Lake, Baraboo, Wisc. Typescript, 1939. Devils Lake State Park Archives. After this list was written, the CCC enrollees also constructed a second new toilet and shower building and a new shelter building in the Northern Lights Campground, the new park headquarters building, and they participated in the remodeling of the Chateau.

⁵¹ Tuttle, Ralph T. "History of the CCC Camp and Projects Accomplished." Unpublished Mss., n.d (post-1941), Devil's Lake State Park Archives.

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Works Administration (PWA), another federal program that paid union scale wages, the WPA paid much lower relief wages. This was because the goal of the WPA was employment; putting as many people to work as possible. Consequently, the kinds of projects it favored tended to be labor-intensive. Projects that were approved by the WPA originated with state and local agencies, which were known as "sponsors," and it was the sponsor's responsibility to do most of the planning that each project required. This included such things as a project's design and engineering, and it was also the sponsor's responsibility to handle the legal and financial aspects of a project as well. What the WPA provided was wages for the workers and funding for the materials to be used.

The North Shore Garage building was designed by J. C. "Jack" Steiro, who also designed some of the CCC and WPA-built resources that were constructed during this same period at Copper Falls State Park.⁵² To supervise the building of the garage building the NPS hired a German-American stone mason named Fritz Keeser, who supervised the WPA stone work on the garage building and also on the stone retaining wall behind the garage and on another retaining wall that is located on the north shore of the lake just in front of what was then the new North Shore bathhouse.⁵³

Park Plan

Another product of the Depression era that was to be beneficial to the park in the future was the Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Plan that was published in January of 1939 by the Wisconsin State Planning Board and the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. This statewide report had been commissioned by the State legislature, which had recognized the need for a planning document that would guide the state as it sought to meet the future recreational needs of its citizens. In addition, this report was also to be Wisconsin's portion of a projected national recreational plan "formulated by the appropriate agencies of the State and National governments" that sought to accomplish the same thing, but on a national level. Wisconsin's report began by discussing the recreational requirements of the state in a general way.

In recent times, the enjoyment of outdoor recreation has increased enormously. This may be result of all or any of the following: increases in leisure time; a growing desire for relaxation and for change from ordinary living and working conditions; greater realization of the variety of recreation to be found away from home; greater ease in traveling to recreation areas due to the development of high-grade automobiles at comparatively low prices, the growth of a comprehensive system of good highways and secondary roads; an increase in convenience and

⁵² Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. Architectural Drawings for Wisconsin Parks in the WPA period, 1931-1952. Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives Division, Series 2424. Unfortunately, no biographical information about Steiro has yet been found. See also the following for a mention of Steiro's Copper Falls projects. Schueller, Mary J. *Rustic Reflections of Copper Falls State Park*. Richfield, WI: Rustic Books, 2005, p. 70.

⁵³ Devil's Lake State Park Archives.

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facilities in existing recreational areas; the ability of public recreational agencies to supply areas and facilities for enjoyment at less cost than most other forms of recreation; the increase of urban industrial population and growth of larger cities.

The growing use of many existing public parks and similar areas is placing an ever increasing burden upon them. Popular demand exceeds the ability of these areas to furnish the type of recreation desired, and the purpose for which they were originally established may be actually defeated by excessive use. Additions to existing holdings, acquisition of new sites, and governmental programs for financing adequate administration and development of these areas, have not kept pace with the new and greater demands for recreational opportunities.⁵⁴

Following this, the report then went on to describe the present Wisconsin recreational areas and facilities, including Devil's Lake State Park.

Devil's Lake State Park, near Baraboo, Sauk County, is readily accessible over paved highways. The area comprises 1,233 acres of the rugged Baraboo Range. Devils Lake, from which the park gets its name, nestles between precipitous bluffs which tower 500 feet above. The Baraboo Range is a canoe shaped ridge of hills composed of very old quartzite, and is a remnant of a fold of the ancient Wisconsin mountains. This fold is overturned, the quartzite beds in the north range being tilted more than ninety degrees from the horizontal so that the bottom part of the beds are lying uppermost in position. The lake, one and one fourth miles long and one half mile wide, is situated in a gap through the range carved by the Wisconsin River in pre-glacial time. After the glacial drift had blocked the north and southeast ends of the gap, thus forming the lake basin, the Wisconsin River was forced to seek its present course.

Several Indian mounds exist in the park, adding to its interest. The rough topography of the district has prevented clearing, so that a large percentage of the forest cover remains. The glaciated areas at the north and south ends of the lake, being relatively level, readily lend themselves to points of concentrated use.

Existing developments include: a bathhouse; swimming beach; picnic area; a parking area; a nine-hole golf course; a large concession building; toilets; water supply; sewage disposal; custodian's residence; and service buildings. An extensive public camp ground area is under construction. There also exists a great number of private cottages, some on property leased from the State and others on private lands, crowding the use areas at both ends of the lake.

⁵⁴ Wisconsin State Planning Board and Wisconsin Conservation Commission. *A Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Plan*. Madison: January, 1939, Bulletin 8, p. 5.

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For a number of years the attendance has been far greater than at any of the other state parks, placing an enormous burden on the relatively small space available for public use. The intensive use of this park has resulted in crowding it to a degree which has proved harmful to vegetation. Major forms of use include picnicking, camping, swimming, hiking, riding, fishing, and boating. Several universities establish short term summer camps in the park for surveying practice and geological study. All uses of the area are logical and desirable when properly controlled to prevent deterioration of the park.

Operation and maintenance are handled by a year round custodian with a sufficient number of seasonal helpers to carry on the work and properly police the area.

The 1938 attendance was 419,861 persons, making this the heaviest used state recreation area. The bulk of the visitors come from the Milwaukee and Chicago regions, using the park as a summer resort. Such intensive use places an enormous burden on this area and strongly indicates the need for additional recreational lands in southern Wisconsin.⁵⁵

The description section of the report was then followed by a recommendations section for Devil's Lake State Park.

The ultimate size of this park should be 2,301 acres, or 1068 in addition to the present acreage. This would bring under state ownership all private lands within the present boundaries; the crests of the bluffs surrounding the lake, and enough land to the west to include the right of way of the road connecting the north and south ends of the park; an area to the north to include private lands now adjoining the north entrance for a distance of at least 400 feet north of the present north boundary, from the highway west to the railroad on the east.

Further recommended improvements in this park are: razing of undesirable structures; erection of a new and better located park combination building, and a contact station on the north end; the erection of a boathouse and dock; a well planned trail system; the marking with signs of the geological points of interest; the provision for public use of the south end as required; the erection of necessary utility buildings in the camp ground area; the erection of buildings to house organized groups in the south end of the park; and a more effective entrance treatment. Further study may point out the need for adequate overnight facilities as an inn and cabins, state owned and regulated. To provide for a more efficient control of traffic, which is seriously needed, it will be necessary to reduce the number of park entrances to one. This could be accomplished after the addition of the lands that are recommended for acquisition. An

⁵⁵ Wisconsin State Planning Board and Wisconsin Conservation Commission. Op. Cit., pp. 11-12.

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immediate objective would be to close the northeast and southeast entrances to vehicular traffic.⁵⁶

Because this report was published in early 1939 its authors did not include the new park administration building, the new toilet and shelter buildings in the Northern Lights campground, the remodeled Chateau building, and the new garage building, all of which were completed after the report was published and before the beginning of World War II, and each of which satisfied one of the improvement recommendations mentioned in the report. Nevertheless, the report's three principal recommendations; raze undesirable buildings, increase park acreage, and improve the park's south end, would all become important post-war park management goals.

Post World War II Era

The war years were a relatively quiet time at the lake because of gas and tire rationing and the loss of manpower to staff the park. Some of the buildings in the lake's closed CCC camp were later reopened to house offices related to the administration of the enormous Badger Ordnance plant that was developed just to the south of the park during the war years and some its barracks were also used to house workers at the plant during this period as well.

At the end of the war, Devil's Lake State Park contained 1451 acres of land, 360 of which had been added to the park between 1919 and 1923 and another 40 between 1935 and 1936.⁵⁷ Soon after the war ended, however, the federal government sold the state 800 surplus, heavily wooded acres of land located between the park's then existing southern boundary and the many thousands of federally owned acres that were associated with the adjacent Badger Ordnance plant. Although this was not the same land that the 1939 Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Plan report had requested, it was a welcome addition to the park nonetheless, and one that increased the size of the park to 2369 acres.

Much had also been accomplished in terms of removing old and outmoded buildings from the park even before the war ended and this effort continued after the war. As was noted earlier, 23 of the oldest north shore cottages were purchased by Jim Halstead and moved to a property he owned just to the east of the park in 1945-46, and the Kirk House hotel was razed in 1946. With its demolition all but one of the old hotels were gone, the sole survivor being the former Lakeview Hotel, which was also now state-owned. In addition, most of the ancillary buildings and cottages that had been associated with these hotels were gone as well, but this still left numerous privately owned cottages strung out along the south shore of the park and another larger group of cottages located in the former tent colony area on the north shore.

⁵⁶ Ibid, p. 49.

⁵⁷ Devil's Lake State Park Archives.

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Not surprisingly, after World War II ended, the world quickly found its way back to the park once more, as park attendance figures demonstrate. In 1945, 314,405 visitors visited the park. A year later the park welcomed 492,510 visitors, and the year after that, 584,830. This upsurge in visitors numbers put a considerable strain on the park. For instance, the park had only a single campground at this time, the new Northern Lights campground built by the CCC. Although this was a new facility, it could not begin to meet the public's demand for camp sites that accompanied the end of the war and the end of rationing. Consequently, attention now began to focus on what up till then had been the underutilized and underappreciated south end of the lake. The first steps taken were small. In 1947, the South Shore Road was widened and the present Rustic style South Shore Contact Station building was constructed in this year as well. By 1950, park attendance reached 844,621 and in 1952, the park hosted 1,132,920 visitors, of whom 70,644 were campers. Park attendance would never fall below 1,000,000 again. To cope with this demand, the park began remaking the former Kirk and Hopkins properties located in the southeast corner of the south shore of the lake into a second campground. Since this area was already being used in an unsupervised way by campers who either couldn't get into the Northern Lights campground or who wanted a lakeshore location, the decision to turn it into a proper campground was logical.

Work started in 1952, when the former Lakeview Hotel on the Hopkins property was demolished along with its pavilion building, and in the following year a new Contemporary style store building was constructed by the park on the lake's south shore.⁵⁸ This was followed by the construction of a new Contemporary style South Shore shelter building (the Red Oak Shelter Building) in 1954-5, and by a new Contemporary style South Shore Bathhouse (non-extant) in 1957, built at a cost of \$42,000.⁵⁹ During this same period more than 100 truckloads of rocks were removed from the southeast shore of the lake and this shore was then graded, sand was spread, and the area was turned into the south shore beach. Finally, in 1960, camping facilities were completed in this area and the entire southeast corner of the lake became the park's new South Shore Campground.

Other changes also occurred elsewhere in the park during this period. In 1953, the Louis Claude house located back of the north shore of the lake was finally demolished. Ten years later, the former park superintendent's house located on the north shore near the Chateau was also demolished and a new north shore bath and shelter house (the Sugar Maple Shelter) was constructed in its place. Also in 1963, the last passenger train arrived in the park and a year later the double tracks of the railroad were reduced to a single track. In 1967, another significant event occurred when all the cottages that had

⁵⁸ The Contemporary style was favored for all the post-war buildings in the park built after 1947, save only for the new North Shore Contact Station, which was built in 1987 and whose design reverted back to the Rustic style.

⁵⁹ This Contemporary style bathhouse has since been demolished. See: "New Sand Beach Bathhouse is Improvement." *Baraboo Weekly News*, October 18, 1957 (illustrated).

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replaced the original tent colony in the northeastern corner of the north shore were finally demolished or moved out of the park.

Many campers constructed tent platforms in the early years of the park, and since public use was relatively light in those days, portable cottages were substituted for tents. A favorite type, with an L-shaped screened porch, was adequate for a family of four; it was built by T. R. Deppe of Baraboo and cost around \$500. A community of about 100 cottages thus evolved in an 11 acre area east of the railroad tracks at the north end of the park. These sites were leased from year to year. At public hearings, the Conservation Commission in 1954 decided that all recreational land leases would terminate no later than the end of 1964. It was reasoned that the 10-year period would give the leaseholders time to dispose of their cottages and also cover the costs of improvements by the lessee. But a number of the cottagers in the park didn't want to leave at the end of the [new] ten-year lease, and for several years the case was in the courts. In June 1967 a settlement was announced—it was in favor of the state. By this time there were 73 cottages remaining; they were all removed in the fall of that year.. Most were sold for lumber or bulldozed and burned in place; about a third of them were sold and moved out of the park. Flat land is scarce in this rough terrain, and the former cottage row is now a picnic and parking area.⁶⁰

In 1968, the Halstead property at the back of the east bluffs and all the cottages that had been moved there from the north shore, were purchased by the state. The buildings were moved from the park in the next year. In 1969, all of the remaining buildings on the southwest shore of the lake that had once been associated with the Messenger Hotel, including buildings used since 1947 as a Girl Scout Camp and others, including University of Wisconsin civil engineering classes from 1920 to 1956, were either demolished or sold and moved off site. Yet another momentous event in the history of the park occurred in 1969, when the former Baraboo Golf Club's golf course in the park was converted into the park's Quartzite Campground.⁶¹ The new campground was opened just in time, too, because the need for it had become acute; park attendance the year before had reached 1,726,204, with 204,008 of these visitors being campers. Two years later, in 1971, most of the cottages at the south end of the lake were also moved or demolished. These cottages had been purchased by the state in 1911, when the park was first formed, and each of the cottage owners of that time was paid a dollar for their property and was given a rent-free 60-year lease in exchange, all of which expired in 1971. By the end of the following year, all 25 or so of these cottages had either been demolished or moved, leaving just ten whose original owners had never sold to the state. Of these ten, only four remain today and they represent the

⁶⁰ Lange, Kenneth I. and Ralph T. Tuttle. *Op. Cit.*, p. 73.

⁶¹ The Club had surrendered its lease in 1961 after it had decided to build a larger new course two miles north of the park and closer to Baraboo.

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only privately owned buildings that are located on the lakeshore.⁶² Consequently, by the end of 1972, all of the park's nineteenth century buildings and all but one of its pre-1911 buildings had been demolished or moved out of the park, and the land that had been associated with them was either restored or else put to more park appropriate use.

Long Range Planning Initiatives

All of these events represented the natural evolution of the park, which by 1964 totaled 2872 acres, an increase of 503 since 1948. This had been achieved by the purchase by the state of a number of small holdings of private land that were located within the existing park boundaries and which had been purchased as they became available and as funding allowed. This would soon change, though.

In 1964, Congress authorized establishment of the Ice Age Reserve in Wisconsin. Dr. Robert F. Black of the University of Wisconsin undertook a geological study and in 1968 recommended that Devil's Lake State Park be included along with eight other units.

In 1970, Congress passed a bill to fund the nine-unit reserve. The federal government was to pay for half of the land acquisition and 75% toward development up to \$425,000. This was the first time the National Park Service shared the cost of state-managed parks. To get ready for expansion and other changes at Devil's Lake State Park, the Natural Resources Board in 1974 proposed a master plan. ... So in 1977, the DNR [Department of Natural Resources] secretary appointed a 13-member ad hoc committee, with seven members from the Baraboo area, to work with the department on a new plan. The committee was instructed to balance local and statewide interests for the next 50 to 100 years with immediate needs. They were invited visit Devil's Lake State Park on one of its busiest days to see its traffic jams.

Most of the ad hoc committee's recommendations were incorporated into a plan approved by the Natural Resources Board on February 25, 1982. The plan aimed to provide quality recreational and educational experiences for 1.2-to-1.4 million visitors a year while preserving and protecting the park's unique geological and other natural features. It anticipated using 5,900 acres as natural areas, 3,200 acres for extensive recreation, 372 acres for intensive recreation and 309 acres as scientific areas.

The 1982 Devil's Lake State Park master plan also called for:

A new park headquarters and Ice Age interpretation center to be the largest in the Ice Age Scientific Preserve.

⁶² Page, Curt. "Devil's Lake Cottages Face Demolition Soon." *Baraboo Weekly News*, August 28, 1971 (illustrated).

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Adding land to make the park bigger.

Closing of the south shore campground, which was three times as crowded as state park standards, and converting the south shore to day use only.

A new campground and amphitheater at the north end of the park.

More hiking trails.

A new boat landing.⁶³

Two years later, in 1984, the South Shore Campground was officially closed and converted to day use, primarily picnicking and swimming. It was replaced two years later by the new Ice Age Campground, which was officially opened in 1986, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the park, and which is located on the north side of County Highway DL just across the road from the original portion of the park, to which it is connected by an underpass below the highway.⁶⁴ As a result, all of the park's campgrounds were now located at the north end of the park near the principal concession buildings and the nature center, which benefitted the campers themselves and also the park staff, which could manage the needs of the campers much more efficiently. In addition, in 1987, a new Rustic style North Shore Contact Station was built near the CCC-built park headquarters building.

By 1986, the park encompassed 7,759 acres, thanks to an influx of federal and state funds for additional land acquisition. Today, Devil's Lake State Park encompasses 9,217 acres, almost all of which is in its natural state or being restored to that state, and is now the largest park in the state's park system. That so much of this park is still essentially remote and almost unvisited is all the more remarkable when one considers that this is the busiest rural park in the Midwest and one of the busiest rural parks in the country. This represents the successful conclusion of ten decades of effort on the part of many people to find the right balance between the desire of the conservationists, who wanted the park lands preserved for the use of the public, and the preservationists, who wanted the land preserved so that the public could see what wilderness actually looks like. Fortunately, both points of view have prevailed at Devil's Lake, which has successfully managed to be both an enormously popular summer resort and a true nature preserve.

⁶³Gruber, Bonnie. Op. Cit., p. 15.

⁶⁴Devil's Lake State Park Archives. See also: Lange, Kenneth I. and Ralph T. Tuttle. Op. Cit., p. 75.

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Conclusion: Criterion A – in the area of Recreation/Tourism

Devil's Lake State Park Historic District is historically significant under Criterion A at the state level of significance. The park's resources constitute a visually impressive, highly intact, and architecturally significant state park whose history embodies many of the major themes that have been associated with the development of tourism in Wisconsin from the period of the Civil War up to the present.

The nation's discovery and appreciation of its wealth of outstanding natural landscapes began in earnest in the mid-nineteenth century, and the discovery of these places, many of which were at first known only to local inhabitants, was greatly accelerated by the growth of the nation's railroad system during this same period. As railroad lines spread to every part of the country, the public was finally able to gain access to places of natural beauty that lay outside their immediate surroundings and in the period just after the Civil War ended this was an especially important factor in the growth of tourism in Wisconsin. Early tourists destinations in this state such as Waukesha and Lake Geneva were almost always brought to prominence because a railroad line made them accessible; the only exceptions being places located on the Great Lakes shorelines of the state that were first accessed by excursion boats coming from lakeside cities in Wisconsin and other states. After the railroad reached Devil's Lake in 1873, the lake swiftly became yet another successful Victorian era resort complete with several privately owned hotels and a plethora of small seasonal summer cottages.

The effects of this unplanned and unregulated activity, however, caused grave concern about the future of the lake, which led in turn to the creation of a state park around the shore of the lake in 1911. This act was in itself a part of growing trend during this period wherein those who were concerned about the negative effects of unregulated commercial activity sought to protect areas of special natural beauty by turning them into publically owned entities such as national and state parks that placed an emphasis on conservation. This change in ownership, however, also made places like Devil's Lake especially attractive to the new automobile tourists who were replacing the railroad tourists of the past and much of the twentieth century history of Devil's Lake State Park concerns the effort that the State of Wisconsin's various agencies have put into managing this new form of tourism in such a way that the public's ever growing desire to enjoy the beauty of the park did not come at the expense of the natural beauty itself.

In this effort the state was enormously aided by the federal work relief programs that were put in place in the Depression years and especially by the CCC, whose enrollees were responsible for building much of the infrastructure in the park that is still in use today. The most obvious evidence of the CCC's work in the park today is embodied by the buildings that the enrollees built there. These buildings include: the North Shore Bathhouse (1937); the Northern Lights Campground's twin toilet and shower buildings (1939) and its shelter building (1941); the Park Office building (1941), and the

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remodeled Chateau Building (1939-1941), but in fact the CCC's work in the park extended to almost every aspect of the park's built environment and included parking lots, bridges, trails, picnic areas, tree planting, and many other things besides.

Once the Depression and World War II ended, automobile tourism profoundly influenced the direction of development in the park, just as it had been in parks all across the nation. To cope with these changes, many new structures were built. These buildings were constructed in the Contemporary style and though they don't have the naturalistic charm of the park's Depression era resources, their small scale and unobtrusive design allows them to blend into the landscape. Fortunately, despite its immense popularity, Devil's Lake State Park retains its natural beauty. Credit is due to the many persons who worked tirelessly for the benefit of the public, maintaining the park for recreational use and preserving this magnificent Wisconsin landscape .

Criterion C – in the area of Architecture

Devil's Lake State Park Historic District is eligible for listing in the NRHP, locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The park has a large, intact collection of buildings and structures constructed in the Rustic style. Many contributing resources in the district were constructed during the 1930s, funded by the best-known Depression-era federal work relief programs: the CCC and the WPA. These buildings and structures were built of wood and of local Devil's Lake quartzite. In addition, these same workers shaped the landscape. They removed invasive species, planted trees and shrubs, built a campground, built trails, buried electrical and telephone lines, created parking areas, and rebuilt Warner Road, the principal road into the park. Many of the park's other Rustic style Depression era resources are associated with erosion control and include bridges, culverts and the rip-rap at the banks of a small creek that flows through the park. All of these features were built out of locally quarried quartzite. As fine as the major resources in the park are though, it is the totality of the Rustic style resources in the park that gives it its special character.

The Rustic Style subsection of the CRMP defines this style 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

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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.⁶⁵

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 appropriate architectural imagery for vacation houses, roadhouses, resorts and camps built in heavily forested landscapes such as Wisconsin's northern resort areas. The style also proved to be an especially appropriate one for use in national and state parks as well, which were places that placed a premium on creating newly built resources that blended into the landscape. Indeed, not long after the National Park Service (NPS) was created in 1916, it issued a policy statement that directly addressed the need for sensitivity when designing new roads, trails and buildings in national park settings.

In the construction of roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. This is a most important item in our program of development and requires the employment of trained engineers who either possess a knowledge of landscape architecture or have a proper appreciation of the esthetic values of park lands.⁶⁶

The handcrafted, naturalistic appearance of Rustic style buildings and other resource types proved to be ideally suited to the needs of the NPS. As a result, new resources designed in this style soon began to appear in national parks throughout the nation and by the 1920s, they were appearing in the nation's state and county parks as well. Consequently, by the time the Depression began in the early 1930s, the Rustic style was already well established as the most appropriate style for park improvements and the emphasis that it placed on vernacular designs and hand-worked, rough-hewn materials was a perfect compliment for the needs of the new federal work relief programs such as the CWA, FERA, CCC, and WPA that were established to combat unemployment during this period.

The rustic influence spread to the State Park system through the combined efforts of the CCC and WPA relief programs and is seen today in numerous rustic retaining walls, benches, signs, and shelter, concession, bathhouse and sanitary buildings. The style was also widely used in other WPA projects due to its low material costs and labor intensive construction.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) Op. Cit., Vol. 2 (Architecture). 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.

⁶⁶ National Park Service, Statement of Policy, 1918. Quoted in: McClelland, Linda Flint. *Presenting Nature: The Historical Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*. Washington DC: National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, Interagency Resources Division, 1993, p. 73.

⁶⁷ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) Op. Cit., Vol. 2 (Architecture).

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The goal, after all, was to get people back to work and then keep them working. While a small crew of carpenters, for instance, could put up a sizable frame construction building in a few days, putting up a hand-hewn stone building required a larger crew and kept them employed for a longer period of time. The buildings and other resources that these federally funded crews built in Devil' Lake Park are excellent examples of how this process worked. These resources were built on-site by crews using mostly hand tools, and the principal material they worked with, quartzite in this case, was provided by still other work relief program-funded workers who quarried the stone from the former Devil's Lake Granite Co.'s quarry at the northeast end of the lake.

The park's Depression-era resources were designed by employees of the National Park Service. The general NPS design process had been developed even before the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came into being in 1933, but the process was given new life by this new funding source and it stayed in place, albeit in greatly expanded form, throughout the rest of Depression era. The process worked as follows.

In the 1930s, the National Park Service's programs for master planning, rustic design, and landscape naturalization extended to the development of state, county, and metropolitan parks. Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided the National Park Service with its first opportunity to give direct assistance to states in developing scenic and recreational areas. This assistance took the form of the supervision of conservation activities carried out by each CCC camp and the dissemination of information about park planning, the construction of park structures, and the design of recreational facilities. Supervision occurred through state park inspectors, who were employed by the National Park Service and who worked directly for the ECW district officer. These inspectors traveled to the parks to oversee and make recommendations on the master plans and the design and construction of park roads, trails, buildings, and other facilities. Technical specialists employed by the park service, including landscape architects, architects, and engineers, were assigned to each CCC camp and closely supervised the work of the CCC foremen and enrollees. The specialists developed plans and drawing under the direction of the state park inspectors. Each camp was headed by a superintendent and had several foremen who directly supervised the CCC enrollees carrying out the National Park Service plans. ...

In addition to staff assigned to CCC camps and a small regional or district staff, the CCC program relied upon inspectors who traveled from park to park and transmitted design ideas from the central office and communicated the essence of park work and provided critiques and

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constructive ideas for improving and perfecting the work in the state parks. The program also relied upon architects and landscape architects of the state or county park departments.⁶⁸

NPS employees were principally involved in the design of facilities in the national and state parks. Fortunately, the original blueprints for most of the NPS-designed buildings in Devil's Lake State Park are extant and show that the architect who designed the North Shore Bathhouse and the Park Administration Building was Bernard H. Knobla, while the architect who designed the two Northern Lights Campground bathhouse buildings was William E. Riemenschneider Jr., both of whom were employed by the NPS during this period. These four major resources and all of the other Depression era resources in the park exhibit the naturalistic, Rustic style aesthetic that was a feature of the designs sponsored by the NPS, and their architectural significance is collective as well as individual. This last point is of importance in evaluating the architectural significance of the park because, as the Context Consideration portion of the Rustic Style subsection of the CRMP states:

The evaluation of Rustic style resources should include a careful review of associated landscape features related to the resources. Man-made landscape elements such as building siting and setting, fences, trails, walls and scenic views are important contextual features that should be analyzed when evaluating the integrity of a site or property.⁶⁹

The design and placement of the contributing Rustic style resources in Devil's Lake Park all partake of the design philosophy adopted by the NPS, which placed great emphasis on naturalistic, environmentally appropriate design and sought to harmonize any new work with its natural surroundings. The guiding principles behind this philosophy were beautifully illustrated in Albert H. Good's book *Park and Recreation Structures*, which was published in three volumes by the NPS between 1935 and 1938 and which served as both an honor roll of the best NPS-sponsored work that had already been completed and also as a reference work and guide for those designing new buildings and other structures for the NPS.

Good advised, for example: "Every structural undertaking in a natural park is only part of a whole. The individual building or facility must bow before the broad park plan, which ...determines the size, character, location and use of each and every structure.... The structures necessary in a park are naturally less obtrusive if they are reasonably unified by use of one style of architecture.

Good also described specific architectural features and qualities, such as "native" materials, muted colors, and low silhouettes, that created "the desirable and appropriately rugged,

⁶⁸ McClelland, Linda Flint. *Op. Cit.*, pp. 229-230.

⁶⁹ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.) *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 2 (Architecture).

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handcrafted character of park structures.” By 1935, architectural construction for “Natural” parks (which could be any large park, whether under national, state, or local jurisdiction) quickly moved towards a common standard of “rustic” construction. That standard was set by hundreds of Park Service designers, and Good’s catalog of their work further consolidated their planning and design activities nationwide. But Park Service Rustic architecture, which Good later described simply as a style that “achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past,” adapted constantly to its landscape context; if rigorously maintained in every state park the Park Service planned, the style nevertheless yielded a great diversity of individual structures. ... Park Service architects attempted to conform to regional traditions and regional landscape character in each case. Huge boulders and logs were only appropriate to landscapes of rugged terrain clothed in ancient forests: traditional adobe construction appeared in desert parks, while milled lumber and more conventional outlines were typical in the east.⁷⁰

Devil’s Lake State Park was somewhat unusual in that much of the park’s infrastructure was already in existence by the time the first Depression era work relief programs began, but this infrastructure had been built before the great growth in automobile tourism that occurred in the late 1920s and early 1930s. By the mid-1930s, this infrastructure was both underdeveloped and functionally outmoded and was not up to the task of meeting the increasingly heavy demands being made on it as the numbers of park visitors rapidly increased.⁷¹ Consequently, the subsequent federally funded work done in the park was intended to address these shortcomings.

New buildings built in the park in the 1930s such as the Rustic style Park Headquarters, the North Shore Bathhouse, the two Northern Lights Campground bathhouses, the Northern Lights Campground shelter building, and the Park Garage and Ranger Station Building, were all built to meet important user needs and they were all constructed of wood and/or locally quarried quartzite and were carefully sited to blend in with the scenery and topography. New hiking trails were also established at this time on top of both the east and west bluffs overlooking the lake, and the steep, nearly vertical stone paths that accessed them from the lake shore were so beautifully built by the CCC that they actually appear to be naturally occurring. As such, they are exemplary examples of the “trail step sculpturing” illustrated by Albert H. Good in his book *Park and Recreation Structures*.⁷² Other new park structures built during this period that also partook of the Rustic style included bridges that carry roadways across a stream that runs along the edge of the hills at the north end of the lake, and rip-rap along portions of the banks of this stream, all of which also utilize the same locally quarried quartzite that was used in the construction of the park buildings.

⁷⁰ Carr, Ethan. *Wilderness by Design*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1998, p. 285.

⁷¹ Devil’s Lake State Park Archives. Park attendance in 1919 was 100,000; in 1924, 200,000; and in 1934, 542,990.

⁷² Good, Albert H. Op. Cit., Vol. 1, pp. 166-168 (illustrated).

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The federally funded work in Devil's Lake Park ended in 1942, just a few months after the nation had entered World War II. Ironically, the Rustic style was already falling out of favor by then because the need for such labor-intensive work projects had all but vanished. The ramping up of the war effort was putting an end to unemployment and it would also put an end to non-war-related work projects for the duration of the war. Today, however, the handmade character of the Rustic style is once again in fashion. Historic examples of the style are now appreciated and are being restored and new buildings and other resources designed in this style are now being built all across the country and in Devil's Lake State Park itself, an excellent recent example being the park's new North Shore contact station, which was built in 1987.

The two earliest contributing park buildings in Devil's Lake State Park both predate the Depression era and the NPS involvement in the design of the park, these being the North Shore concessions building (a.k.a. the Chateau) and the park's Nature Center, and both of these buildings were the work of prominent Madison, Wisconsin architects. The Chateau was designed by Philip M. Homer and it was and is the largest single building that has been built in the park since the park was founded in 1911. This one-story-tall, hip-roofed building was built in 1925 on the north shore of the lake and it served as both the indoor recreation center for the park and also as its principal concessions building when it was first built and it still fulfills this role today. Originally, this building had a Craftsman style-influenced design and it was clad in wood shingles, but by 1939 the building was in a deteriorated state and its facilities badly needed upgrading. As a result the building's exterior was substantially modified between 1939 and 1942 and given a more Rustic style appearance. The original wood shingle siding was replaced with narrow clapboards, a large new gable-roofed entrance pavilion that replaced the much smaller original one was built on the building's landward side, and an enclosed, hip-roofed porch was constructed along the entire length of the building's lakeside elevation. The resulting changes, which were constructed by the CCC and by the park's own staff, transformed the rather lackluster original building into what has since become the park's best known and best loved built landmark.

The park's other 1920s-era building, the Norman Revival style-influenced Nature Center, was built in 1928 on a hillside site overlooking what is now the park's Quartzite Campground. This small building was built as the clubhouse of the Baraboo Golf Club, which had leased land within the park in 1922 in order to build a nine-hole golf course. In 1928, the club decided to build a clubhouse overlooking the course to better serve both its own members and the general public, and for a design it turned to Frank M. Riley, one of Madison, Wisconsin's most respected architects. This building continued to be used as a clubhouse until 1962, when the golf course was turned into the park's Quartzite Campground. Subsequently, the clubhouse was converted into the park's Nature Center and it is still in use as such today and it is essentially unchanged. While not designed in the Rustic style, this building contributes to the district as a very fine local example of the work of master architect Frank Riley.

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Architects

As noted previously, four of the most important Depression era buildings built by the CCC in Devil's Lake State Park were designed by Bernard H. Knobla and William E. Riemenschneider, Jr., both of whom were Wisconsin-born architects employed by the NPS.

Bernard H. Knobla

Bernard Herbert Knobla (1908-1999) was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 1908 and he graduated from the University of Minnesota's architecture program in 1932, the same year that he won that school's Magney & Tussler Prize in Architecture, which was awarded biennially to the authors of the designs that placed first and second in a sketch competition, the subject of which pertained to civic beautification. After graduation, Knobla worked first as a draftsman in the Milwaukee firm of Dick & Bauer. In 1933, Knobla became a partner with Julius F. Dreger in Dreger's Oshkosh, Wisconsin, architectural practice. Knobla subsequently founded his own Oshkosh-based firm, Knoop & Knobla, but in 1935, he also became one of the many architects employed by the National Park Service. He continued to be employed there until 1941, after which he served as the Assistant Chief Architect-Engineer with the Contracts Branch of the U.S. Corps of Engineers until his retirement in 1955.⁷³ During his years with the National Park Service, Knobla worked in cooperation with the State of Wisconsin Conservation Department's Division of Forest & Parks in their state park planning branch and his principal identified projects during this period include: the design the Master Plan for Interstate State Park at St. Croix Falls; the Lodge and Winter Sports Building at Rib Mountain State Park; the Combination Building and Patio, an unbuilt shelter house, and the Contact Station Building in Copper Falls State Park; and the North Shore Bathhouse and the Park Administration Building in Devil's Lake State Park.⁷⁴ In addition, Knobla also designed picnic tables and signage for Copper Falls State Park and it is likely that he did similar as yet unidentified work at other state parks as well. Knobla died in Nokomis, Florida on Sept. 2, 1999 at the age of 91.

William E. Riemenschneider, Jr.

William E. Riemenschneider, Jr. (1893-1979), was born in Mequon, Wisconsin in April of 1893 and he was the second son of William and Emilie Riemenschneider, his father being a hotel keeper and a native of Germany.⁷⁵ Nothing is known of Riemenschneider's early education but by 1916 he was working in Milwaukee as a draftsman and in 1921 he entered the University of Pennsylvania, which had one of the nation's oldest and best architecture study programs, and he graduated from this

⁷³ Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1962, p. 388.

⁷⁴ Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. *Architectural Drawings for Wisconsin Parks in the WPA period, 1931-1952*. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Division, Series 2424.

⁷⁵ Wisconsin State Census, 1905.

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institution with a degree in architecture in 1923.⁷⁶ Nothing is known about his subsequent career but by 1936 he was one of the many architects employed by the National Park Service and he remained in its employ until at least 1941, at which time he was living in Madison, Wisconsin, with his wife, Edna, and their two sons. During his period of employment with the Park Service he is known to have designed the two bathhouses in Devil's Lake State Park's Northern Lights campground. He also assisted Knobla in the design of both the Park Headquarters Building and the North Shore Bathhouse, both of which are also located in the park.⁷⁷ Riemenschneider died in Detroit, Michigan, in November, 1979.

The park's two earlier pre-Depression era buildings were both the work of distinguished Madison, Wisconsin, architects.

Philip M. Homer

Philip Marvin Homer (1893-ca.1980) was born on his parent's farm near McGregor, Iowa, in 1893. He received his education in the La Crosse, Wisconsin public schools, followed by a 3½ year apprenticeship with the prominent La Crosse architectural firm of Parkinson & Dockendorff. In 1912, Homer came to Madison where for 2½ years he did drafting and other architectural work for local building contractor Charles E. Marks. This was followed in 1915 by an association with another young Madison architect, Robert A. Phillips. The two men practiced together for about two years as the firm of Phillips and Homer, but the firm was short-lived and by 1917, Homer had become a licensed architect and was the architect for and a vice-president of the Capitol Construction Co., a design/build firm specializing in residential construction that had been founded by prominent Madison real estate developer Paul E. Stark.

By 1921, Homer had become the architect for the Stark Land Co, another creation of Paul E. Stark that would become one of Madison's biggest developers of residential suburbs in the 1920s. Homer married in 1925, by which time he was practicing from offices of his own, and he maintained a successful private practice for the rest of the 1920s and most of his identified buildings date from this period.⁷⁸ His association with Paul E. Stark also continued during this period, since it was Stark who, in 1927, developed the Tudor Revival style Terrace Homes Apartments (114-118 N. Breese Terrace), which was one of Homer's finest designs and is still one of Madison's best historic multi-unit residential buildings.

Homer continued to occupy his offices though 1931, but the Depression made it difficult for architects

⁷⁶ *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, Nov/Dec., 2002.

⁷⁷ Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. Architectural Drawings for Wisconsin Parks in the WPA period, 1931-1952. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives Division, Series 2424.

⁷⁸ Quaipe, Milo (Ed.) *Wisconsin; Its History and its People*. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., 1924, Vol. 3, pp. 650-651.

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everywhere and it apparently affected Homer as well since the 1933 Madison City Directory listed him as an automobile salesman. By 1935, however, Homer was again working as an architect for the Wisconsin Emergency Relief Administration, and by 1937, he was again in private practice, with an office in his home in the Terrace Homes Apartments. Homer continued a modest private practice for the rest of his long life, during the course of which he executed a number of fine residential and small-scale commercial and public building commissions, one of the last being his Contemporary style design for Madison Fire Station No. 9 on N. Midvale Blvd. in 1959, which has been evaluated as being potentially eligible for NRHP listing.

Homer designed just a single building in Devil's Lake State Park. This was the Craftsman style Chateau building, which was built in 1925 on the north shore of Devil's Lake.⁷⁹ This large one-story wood shingle-clad building was subsequently altered by the CCC and by park staff between 1939 and 1942, it was given a more Rustic style appearance, and it is still highly intact today and houses the park's indoor recreation center, kitchen, and concessions.

Frank M. Riley

Frank Morris Riley (1875-1949) was one of the most important architects to practice in Madison in the first half of the twentieth century. Riley was born in Madison on September 10, 1875. His father, Edward F. Riley (1847-1927) was secretary of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents from 1888 to 1906 and was also well-known in business and real estate circles in Madison. Frank Riley first studied civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin beginning in 1894. In 1897, however, he left Madison for Boston, where he studied architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He studied there until 1900, then, from 1900 to 1908, Riley worked for three of Boston's best architectural firms, following which he worked in his own practice until 1911. From 1911 until 1913 he lived in London, and from 1913 to 1914, he lived in Italy and Germany. While in Germany, he worked for a year for an architect in Munich. In 1914, he came back to the U.S. and to Madison, where he remained for the rest of his life.⁸⁰

Riley is best known today for his residential designs, most of which were expertly and knowledgeably done in either the Colonial Revival or Georgian Revival styles. Like many other of the best architects of his time, though, Riley was equally at home with all the major period revival styles and his mastery of the Tudor Revival, Mediterranean Revival, French Provincial, and Norman Revival styles resulted in some of Madison's finest houses.

Riley was fortunate in that his return to Madison coincided with the beginning of the period in which the city's economic and social elite were starting to abandon the increasingly congested downtown

⁷⁹ "Devil's Lake May Become Winter Resort." *Baraboo Weekly News*, April 2, 1925, p. 1.

⁸⁰ Quaipe, Milo (Ed.) *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 4, pp. 184-186.

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neighborhoods that had been their traditional home for other areas, most of which were new suburbs then being developed on the outskirts of the city. In the years between 1914 and 1941, Riley designed many of the finest houses in such Madison suburbs as Nakoma, University Heights, and the Highlands and in the neighboring villages of Shorewood Hills and Maple Bluff. He also designed a number of outstanding fraternity and sorority houses on Langdon Street near the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison as well as some of Madison's more important non-residential and institutional buildings.⁸¹ In his later years he was also associated with Lewis A. Siberz, a former draftsman in his office, in the firm of Riley & Siberz.

Riley designed a single building in Devil's Lake State Park. This was the small Norman Revival style clubhouse of the Baraboo Golf Club, which was built in 1928 on a hillside overlooking the club's golf course, which is today's Quartzite Campground.⁸² This fine building is highly intact and now houses the park's Nature Center.

Conclusion: Criterion C – in the area of Architecture

Devil's Lake State Park is eligible for listing in the National Register having local level of significance under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture. The district includes a visually impressive, highly intact, and architecturally significant collection of buildings and structures that are individually and collectively very fine examples of Rustic style architecture. This style is characteristic of many of the national, state, and local park projects that were undertaken by the federal government during the 1930s and particularly by designers who were associated with the National Park Service (NPS).

The resources in the park are in line with the evaluation criteria as described in Appendix A of Linda Flint McClelland's *Presenting Nature: The Historical Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*, a publication developed to provide an historic context to be used when listing National and State parks in the NRHP. This appendix, which is entitled *Registering Historic Park Landscapes in the National Register of Historic Places*, deals primarily with the registration of historic park landscapes in national and state parks and it sets forth criteria that must be met if such a landscape is to qualify using this context. The appendix begins with a lengthy list of those property types that are associated with the Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks Multiple Property Listing whose general headings include: park roads and parkways; trail systems; major developed areas; minor developed areas; designated natural areas; day-use areas (state parks); overnight areas (state parks); overlooks (in conjunction with roads); overlooks (in conjunction with trails); entranceways; waysides; campgrounds; picnic areas; organization camps; and ECW/CCC camps. Each general heading is then followed by a lengthy list of specific property types that are associated with that heading and it is worth

⁸¹ *Wisconsin State Journal*. February 8, 1965.

⁸² Original blueprints for the clubhouse are kept in the Devil's Lake Nature Center.

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noting that the vast majority of these property types can be found within the boundaries of Devil's Lake State Park.

The appendix then sets forth the registration requirements for a park landscape that seeks to utilize this historic context as part of a National Register of Historic Places application:

Properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as members of the multiple property group, historic park landscapes in national and state parks, meet criteria A and/or C in any of the following areas: Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Community Planning and Development (park), Conservation, Engineering, Entertainment/Recreation, Politics/Government, and/or Social History. Properties must:

1. be associated with the 20th century movement to develop national parks for public enjoyment, to conserve natural features and scenic areas as public parks, to organize statewide systems of state or parks, or to develop natural areas, including sub-marginal lands, for public recreational use.
2. retain several or all the physical characteristics listed above that were developed for that area during or before the New Deal era (1933-1942).
3. reflect the following principles and practices of park landscape design developed and used by the National Park Service in national parks from 1916 to 1942 and in state and national; parks through ECW, CCC, PWA, or WPA projects from 1933 to 1942.

Protection and preservation of natural scenery and features.

Presentation of scenic vistas through the location of park facilities and development of overlooks.

Avoidance of right angles and straight lines in the design of roads, trails, and structures.

Use of native materials for construction and planting.

Use of naturalistic techniques in planting, rockwork, and logwork to harmonize manmade development with natural surroundings.

4. possess historic integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and overall reflect the physical appearance and condition of the land during the

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period of significance. Changes and additions to the landscape since the period of significance, including new campgrounds, buildings, trails, roads, lakes, and recreational areas, diminish historic integrity and are considered non-contributing. Historic park landscapes containing such changes are eligible for listing despite these changes if the overall historic plan is intact and a substantial number of historic characteristics possessing integrity of design, location, materials, and workmanship are present.⁸³

Devil's Lake State Park satisfies all of these registration requirements. Additionally, the park retains two important, intact, built resources that predate the Depression era; the park's North Shore Concessions Building (a.k.a. the Chateau), which was built in 1925 and remodeled in the Rustic style; and the Nature Center building, constructed in 1928 as the clubhouse of the Baraboo Golf Club. While not designed in the Rustic style, it is a fine local example of the work of master architect Frank Riley. In a very real sense, the historic appearance of this park as it existed in 1942 has been maintained; its overall plan is still largely intact, and its contributing resources still possess integrity of design, location, materials, and workmanship and represent the historic period of the park.

Summary Conclusion

The Devil's Lake State Park Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C and D.

The Park is eligible under Criterion A at the statewide level for its associations with events that have made significant contributions to our history, having significance in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. It meets this criterion as the largest, best known and most visited state park in Wisconsin. Since its founding in 1911, the park has embodied the full scope of recreational uses offered in a state park and has influenced generations of visitors in the way in which they experience the grandeur of natural and geologic features.

The Park is eligible under Criterion C at the local level for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period and method of construction, significant in the area of Architecture. It meets this criterion for its intact collection of park architecture, including buildings and structures designed in the Rustic style many of which were constructed by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) using wood and quartzite stone, harvested and quarried locally. The building from the pre- Rustic style era contributes to the significance of the district as a building designed by master architect Frank Riley.

⁸³ McClelland, Linda Flint. Op. Cit, pp. 275-276.

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The Park is eligible under Criterion D at the local level having yielded and remaining likely to yield information important in prehistory and history, having significance in the area of Archaeology. It meets this criterion for the collection of Native American burial mounds, their setting and any intact deposits within and surrounding them, and their potential to inform researchers about aspects of Late Woodland culture, social structure, ritual, cosmology and land use patterns.

Periods of Significance

The physical components of the park continue to represent the various historical periods for which it is significant. The periods of significance for Devil's Lake State Park include the following:

Criterion A, in the area of Entertainment/Recreation: 1894-1972.

The period of significance for Entertainment/Recreation begins in 1894, the date of construction of a resort hotel; the remains of which are still in the park. The period of significance ends in 1972, when the last group of buildings, privately constructed in the park, were demolished. This last act completed the transformation of the park from a privately owned entity into publicly owned, a process that had been ongoing since the establishment of the park in 1911. The period of significance encompasses the historic era of tourism at Devil's Lake. While the history of tourism in the area begins in 1866 when the first of the privately constructed and owned buildings were built in the park for tourist use, there are no extant architectural resources representing the years between the 1860s and 1894.

Criterion C, in the area of Architecture: 1921-1949.

The period of significance for architecture begins in 1921 and ends in 1949, dates that encompass the extant Rustic style buildings and other resources in the park. The Rustic style was favored by the State of Wisconsin's park system and also the U. S. Department of the Interior up until the end of World War II. Most of the park's Rustic style resources were built between 1936 and 1942 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), but others were built by the State prior to 1936 and after 1942.

Criterion D, in the area of Archaeology: AD 700-1200

The period of significance for Archaeology extends from AD 700-1200, the period that is generally associated with the works of the Effigy Mound Building Culture. The district includes at least eleven conical, linear, and effigy mounds that were built during this period and while more recent archeological remains from the historic period have been identified in the park, it is the resources associated with the Effigy Mound Building Culture that gives the district its archeological importance.

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United States Department of the Interior
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Devil's Lake State Park
Sauk County, Wisconsin

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Section 9 Page 4

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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 5

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Sauk County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Devil's Lake State Park
Sauk County, Wisconsin

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

UTM References: continued

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 5 | 16 | 280590 | 4809160 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 6 | 16 | 277880 | 4809220 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 7 | 16 | 277940 | 4812120 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 8 | 16 | 278430 | 4812120 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

The district boundary line begins at a point on the S edge of County Highway DL (CTH DL) that corresponds to the SE corner of the intersection that was formed by the intersection of Park Road and CTH DL.^{84[1]} The line then continues in an easterly direction along said S edge of CTH DL until reaching a point that corresponds to the SW corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 13, T 11 N, R 6 E. The line then turns 90 and continues S along the dividing line between Sec. 13 and Sec. 18, T 11 N, R 7 E and along the dividing line between Sec. 24, T 11 N, R 6 E, and Sec. 19, T 11 N, R 7 E until reaching a point that corresponds to the SE corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 24. The line then turns 90 and continues E along the S line of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 19 until reaching the SE corner of said NW $\frac{1}{4}$. The line then turns 90 and continues S along the E line of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 19 and S along the E line of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 30, T 11 N, R 7 E until reaching a point that corresponds to the SE corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 30. The line then turns 90 and continues W along the S line of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 30, the S line of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 25, T 11 N, R 6 E, and the S line of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 26, T 11 N, R 6 E, until reaching a point that corresponds to the SW corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 26. The line then turns 90 and continues N along the W line of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 26, N along the W line of the E $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 23, T 11 N, R 6 E, and N along the W line

^{84[1]} Note that while most of Park Road consists of a winding loop road that is located within the district and the boundaries of the northern portion of Devil's Lake State Park there is also another portion that runs west from the park entrance, which is located at the intersection of Park Road and County Trunk Highway DL. This second portion, which is also called Park Road, continues west from this intersection until it intersects with the north-south-running South Shore Drive.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 2

Devil's Lake State Park
Sauk County, Wisconsin

of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and along the W line of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14, T 11 N, R 6 E to a point that corresponds to the NW corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14. The line then turns 90 and continues E along the N line of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14 and along the N line of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 13, T 11 N, R 6 E until reaching a point that is located 50-feet W of the W edge of the westernmost part of Park Road, this being that part of Park Road that is located within the boundaries of Devil's Lake State Park. The line then turns 90 and continues in a northerly direction parallel to and 50-feet W of the W edge of said Park Road until reaching a point that is located on the S edge of the east-west-running portion of Park Road. The line then turns 30 and continues E along said S edge of Park Road until reaching the POB. Said boundaries contain approximately 1740 acres.

Boundary Justification:

The district's boundaries encompass 1740 acres which are entirely contained within the park's current boundaries and enclose all of the district's contributing resources. They also enclose most of the land that constituted the entire park as it existed in 1947, at which time the park contained 1451.97 acres. While additional lands are included in the district, they provide a setting for the district's resources and fully contain these resources. In addition, the boundaries are drawn to establish a clear and reproducible boundary. Extraneous acreage surrounding the district and owned by the park has been excluded.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 1

Devil's Lake State Park
Sauk County, Wisconsin

Items a-d are the same for photos 1 – 20.

Photo 1

- a) Devil's Lake State Park
- b) Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, April 29, 2013
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) Main Entrance, View looking S
- f) Photo 1 of 20

Photo 10

- e) North Shore Bathhouse, View looking N
- f) Photo 10 of 20

Photo 2

- e) Main Entrance, West Pillar, View looking SW
- f) Photo 2 of 20

Photo 12

- e) Northern Lights Campground Shelter, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 12 of 20

Photo 3

- e) West Bluff, North Access Steps, View looking S
- f) Photo 3 of 20

Photo 13

- e) South Shore Contact Station, View looking W
- f) Photo 13 of 20

Photo 4

- e) Warner Road, 2nd Retaining Wall, View looking S
- f) Photo 4 of 20

Photo 14

- e) South Shore Pump House, View looking N
- f) Photo 14 of 20

Photo 5

- e) Baraboo Golf Club Clubhouse, View looking N
- f) Photo 5 of 20

Photo 15

- e) North Shore Creek Bridge, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 15 of 20

Photo 6

- e) Park Office Building, View looking SE
- f) Photo 6 of 19

Photo 16

- e) Park Road Bridge, View looking NW
- f) Photo 16 of 20

Photo 7

- e) Chateau, View looking S
- f) Photo 7 of 20

Photo 17

- e) North Shore Garage Building, View looking W
- f) Photo 17 of 20

Photo 8

- e) Chateau, View looking WNW
- f) Photo 8 of 20

Photo 18

- e) Northern Lights Campground Toilet Building, View looking NW
- f) Photo 18 of 20

Photo 9

- e) North Shore Bathhouse, View looking SW
- f) Photo 9 of 20

Photo 19

- e) Northern Lights Campground Toilet Building, View looking N
- f) Photo 19 of 20

Photo 20

- e) Linear Mound, Mound Group SK-0026
- f) Photo 20 of 20

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Figures Page 1

Devil's Lake State Park
Sauk County, Wisconsin

List of Maps

Map 1 of 10: Boundary of the Historic District

Map 2 of 10: Park Boundary 1920-1947

Map 3 of 10: Current Park Boundary

Map 4 of 10: Site Plan – Archaeological Sites

Map 5 of 10: Site Plan 1 of 4 – Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Map 6 of 10: Site Plan 2 of 4 – Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Map 7 of 10: Site Plan 3 of 4 – Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Map 8 of 10: Site Plan 4 of 4 – Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Map 9 of 10: Photograph Key 1 of 2

Map 10 of 10: Photograph Key 2 of 2





DEER CREEK HAY







NATURE
CENTER

NATURE
CENTER





CHATEAU





Rock Elm/C.C.C. Shelter

1054





DO NOT
ENTER

DEVILS LAKE STATE PARK
VISITOR CENTER

DEVILS LAKE STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER





STICKER FEE
RESIDENT DAILY
RESIDENT ANNUAL
NONRESIDENT DAILY
NONRESIDENT ANNUAL

ADMISSION FEE REQUIRED
ON PARKED VEHICLES

SELF PAY STATION



10325















TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 28th day of November 2014,
for the nomination of the Devil's Lake State Park to the National Register of
Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

 Multiple Property Nomination form

20 Photograph(s)

1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document

1 CD with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

10 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

1 Piece(s) of correspondence

 Other _____

COMMENTS:

 Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

 This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

1 The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not X
constitute a majority of property owners.

 Other: _____

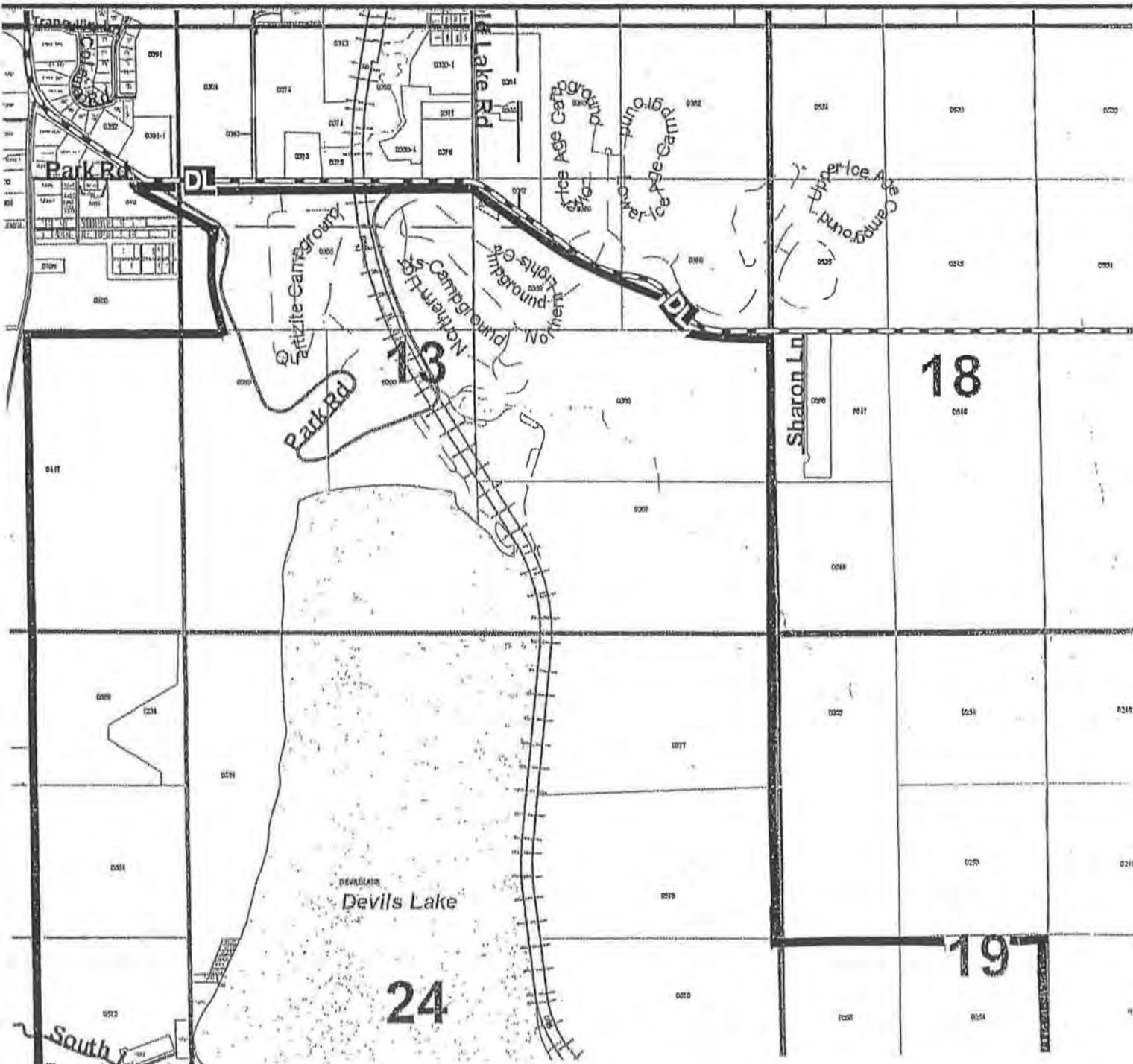
Devil's Lake State Park
Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Boundary of the Historic District
Map 1 of 10



748.3 0 748.3 1496.6

BOUNDARY LINE



Devil's Lake State Park
Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Park Boundary 1920-1947
Map 2 of 10

DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK.

SAUK COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

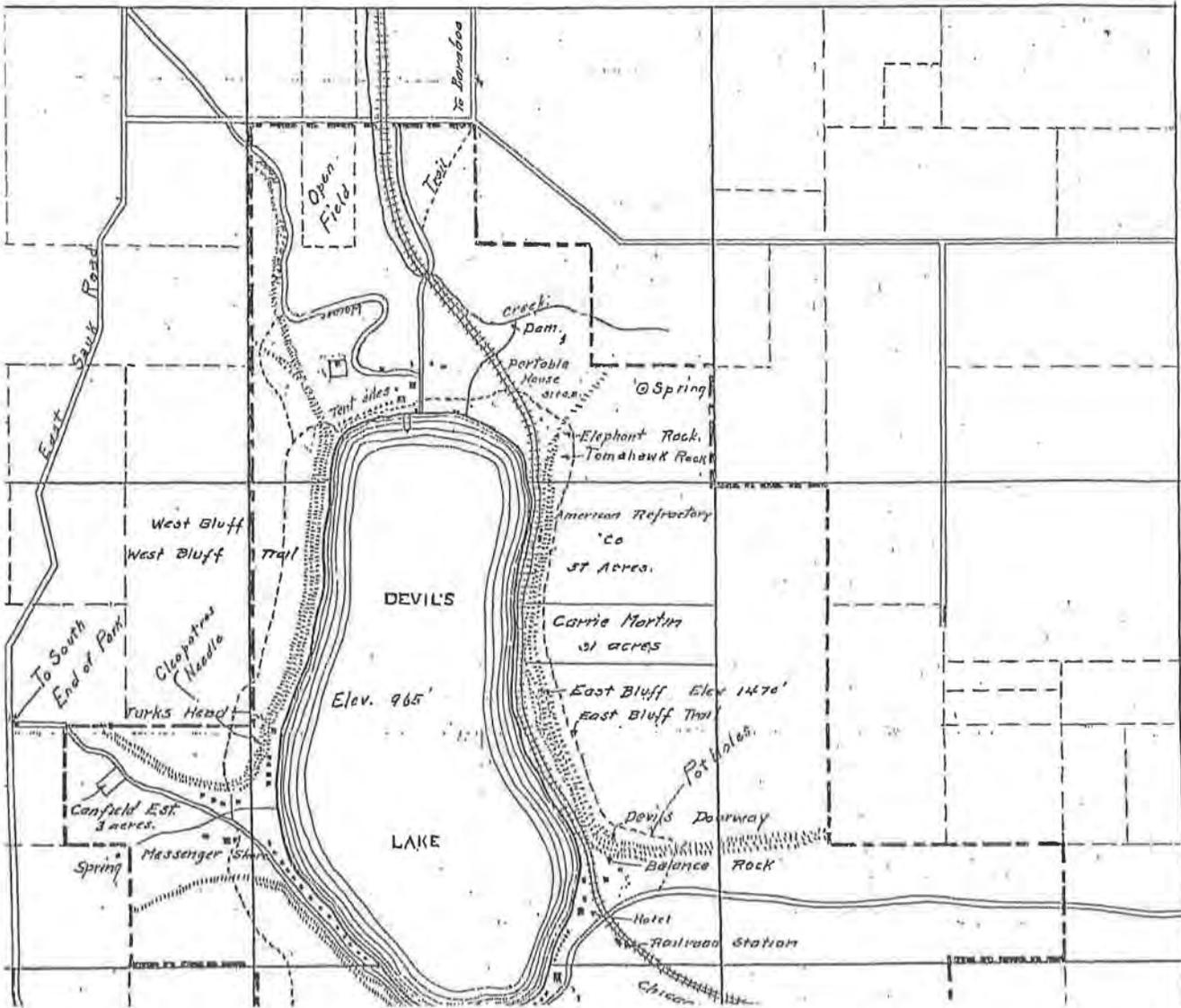
WISCONSIN CONSERVATION COMMISSION.



Scale: 4" = 1 mile.



--- Park Limits

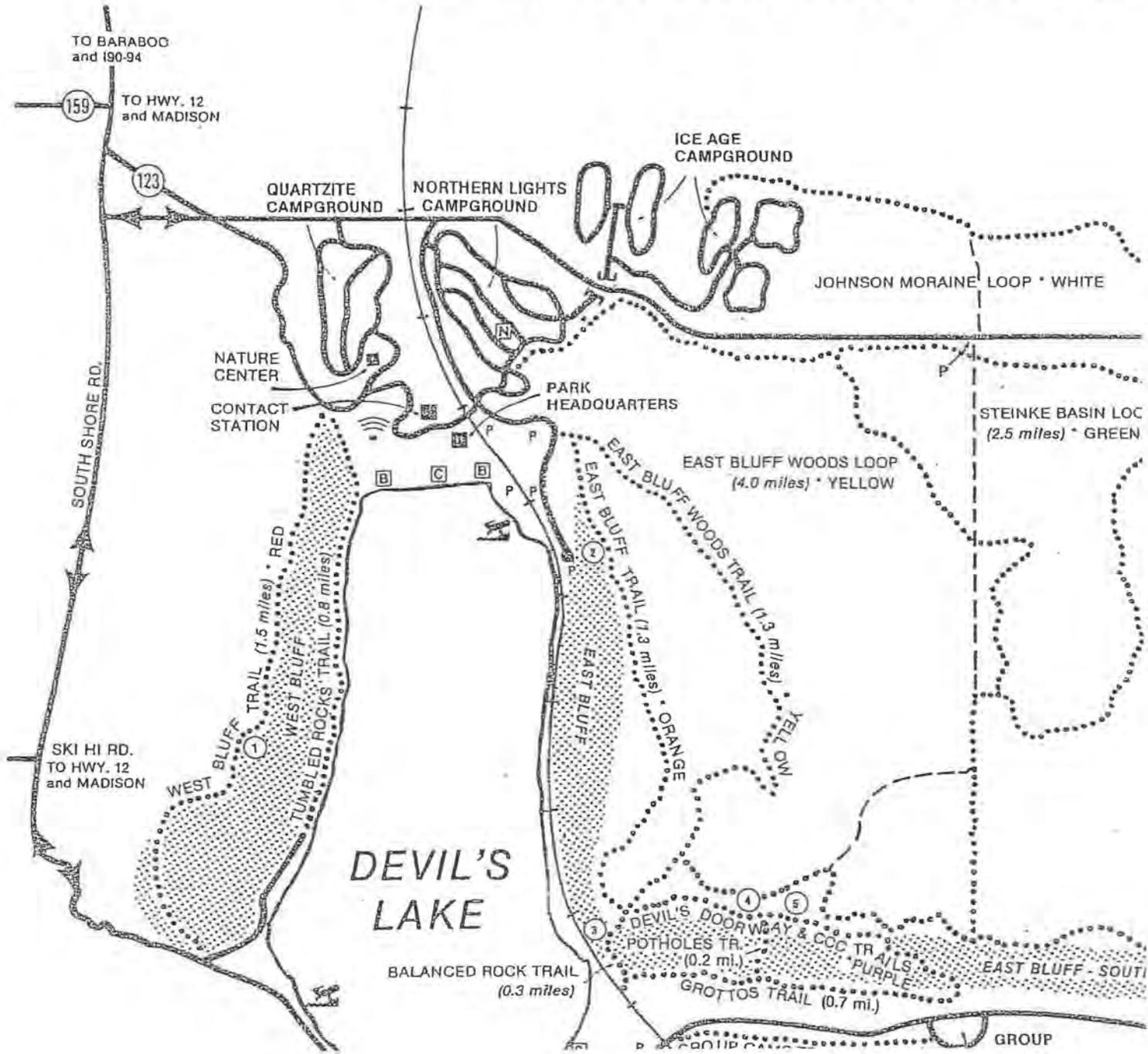


DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PA

Devil's Lake State Park
Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Current Park Boundary
Map 3 of 10

(Not to Scale)



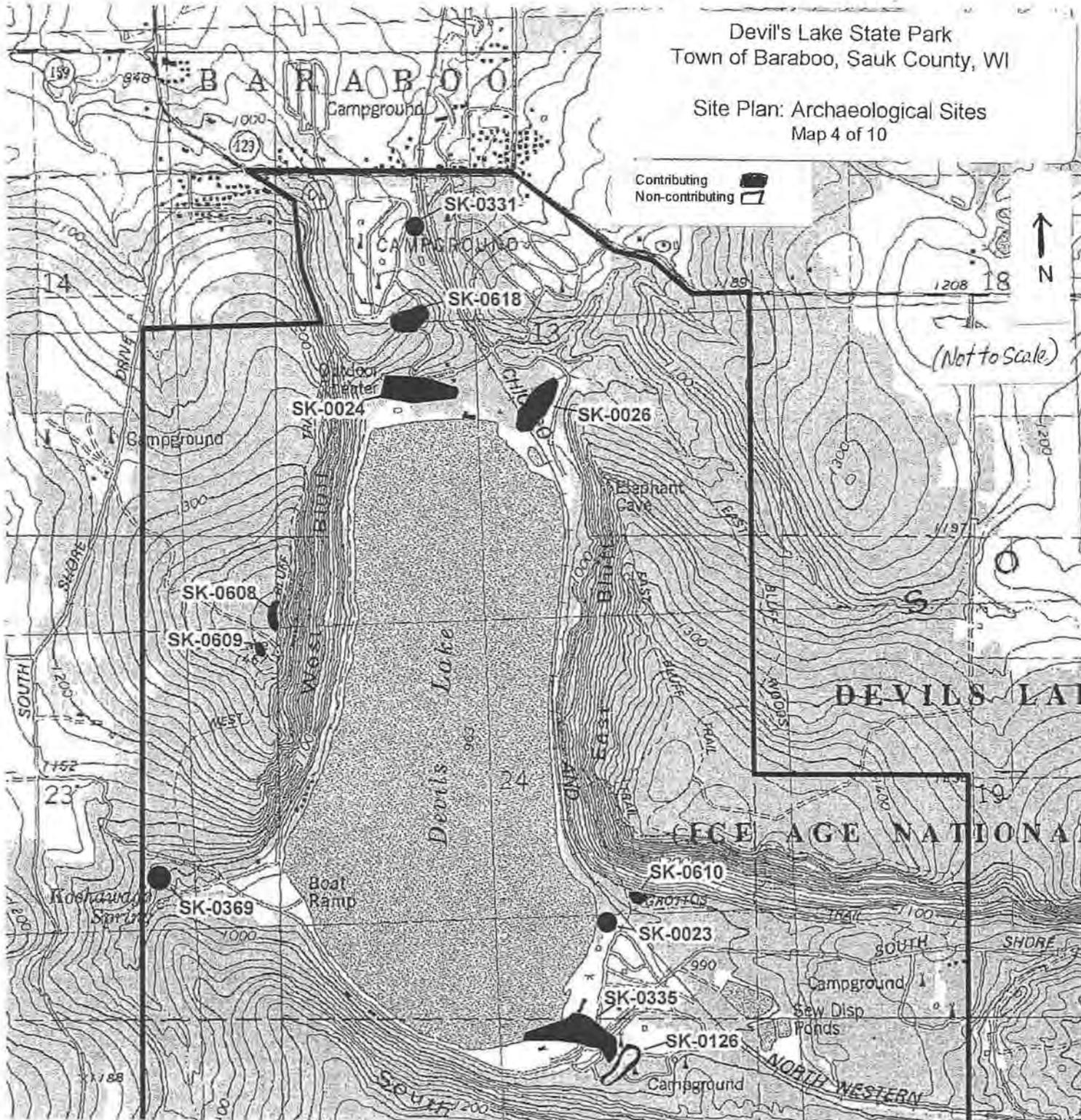
Devil's Lake State Park
Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Site Plan: Archaeological Sites
Map 4 of 10

Contributing 
Non-contributing 



(Not to Scale)



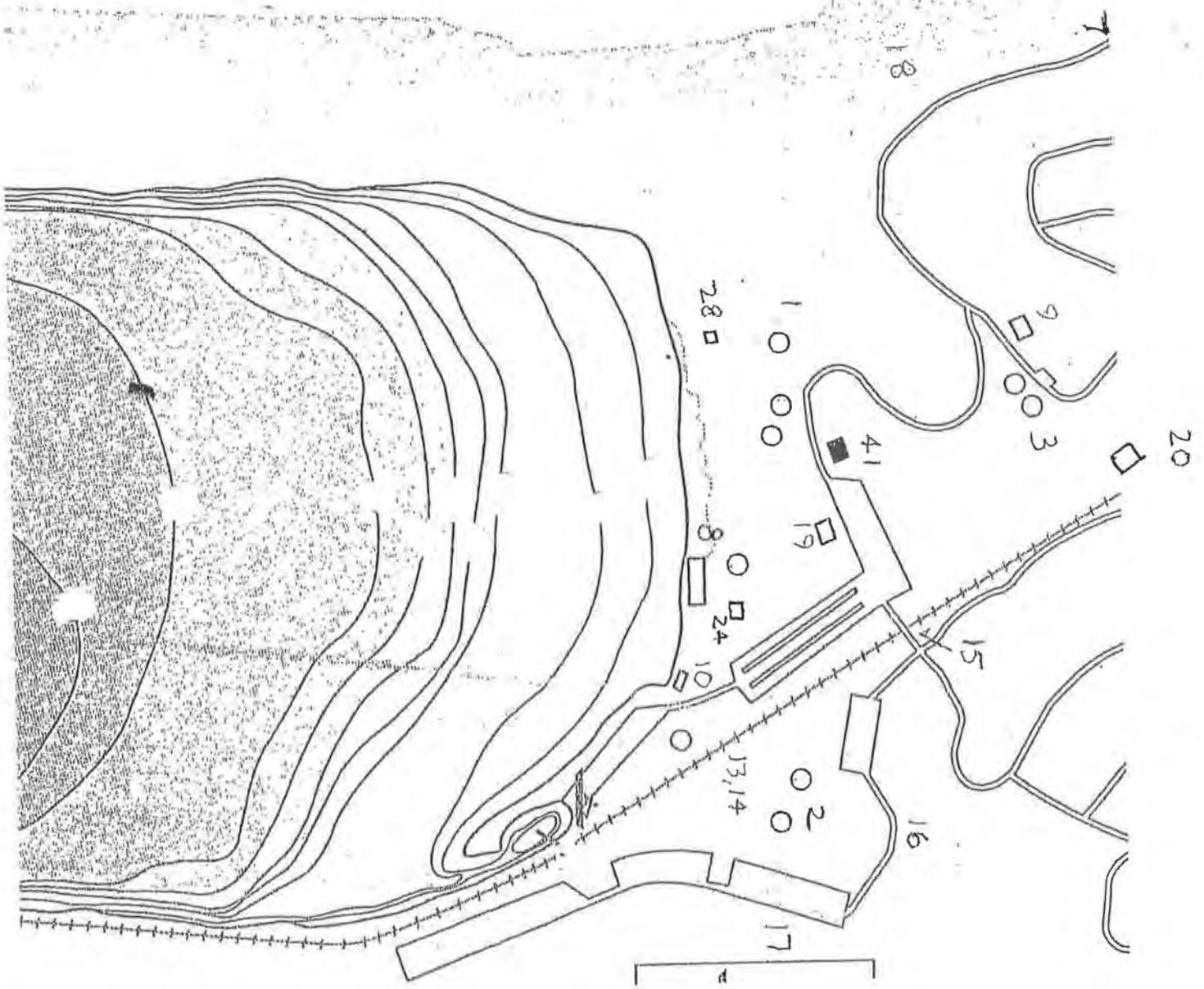
Devil's Lake State Park
Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Site Plan 1 of 4: Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources,
■ = Non-Contributing

Map 5 of 10



(Not to scale)

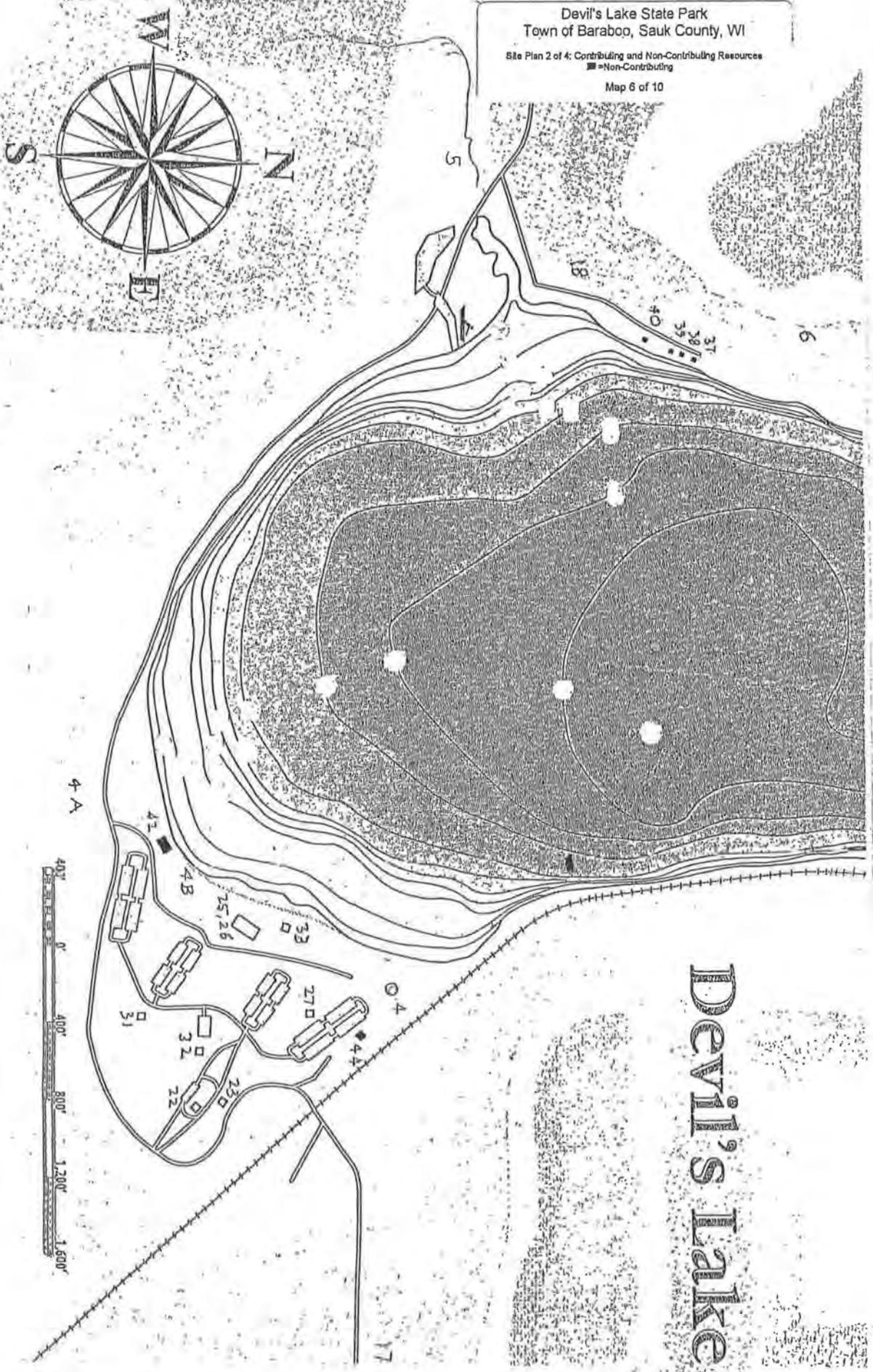


Devil's Lake State Park
Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Site Plan 2 of 4: Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

■ = Non-Contributing

Map 6 of 10

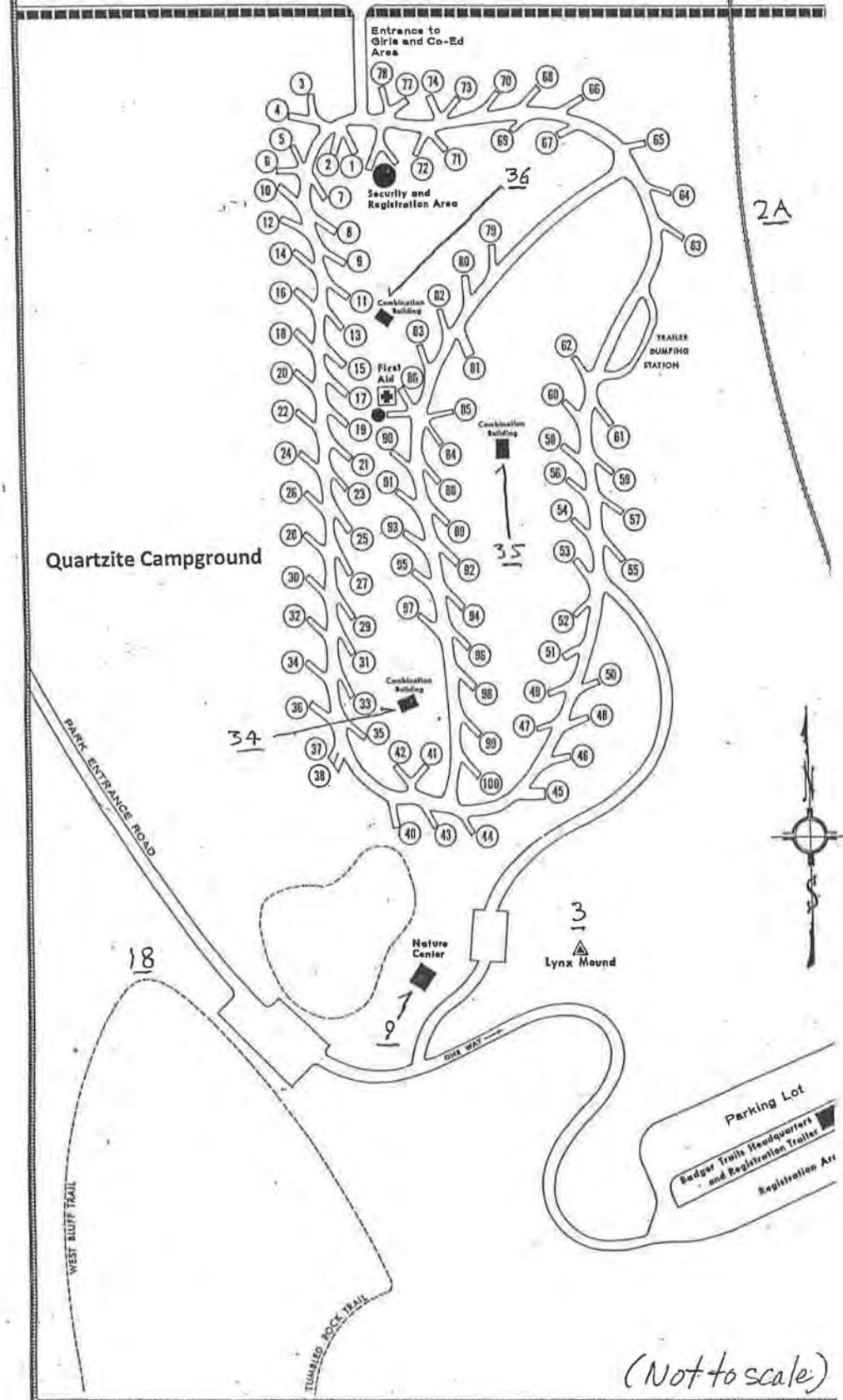


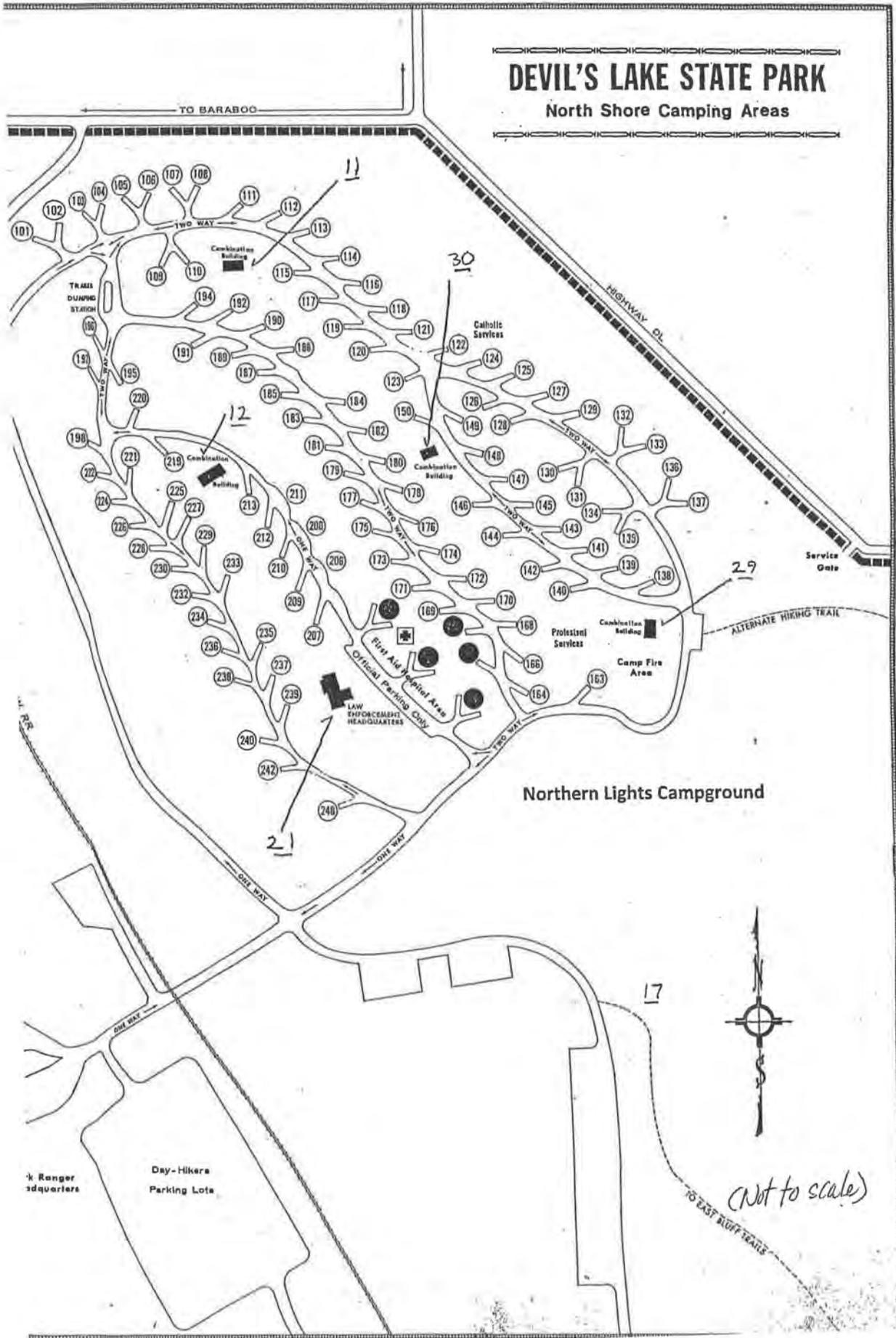
Devil's Lake

10A
43

DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK

North Shore Camping Areas

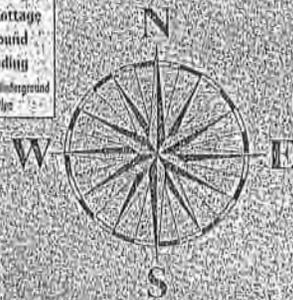




land 2

Devil's Lake Depth Survey Map

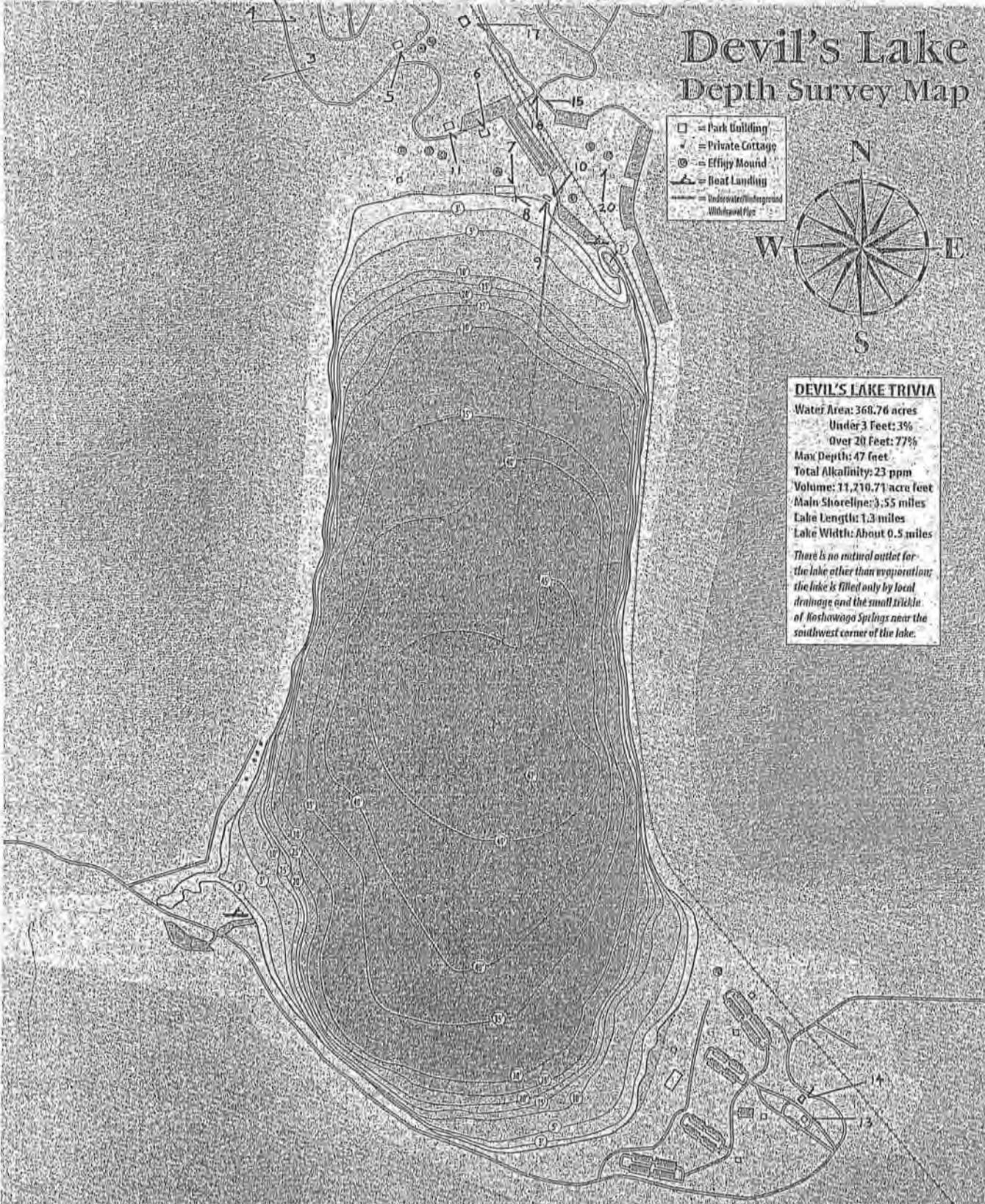
- = Park Building
- = Private Cottage
- ⊙ = Effigy Mound
- ▲ = Boat Landing
- = Underwater/Underground
- = With Road Pile



DEVIL'S LAKE TRIVIA

Water Area: 368.76 acres
Under 3 Feet: 3%
Over 20 Feet: 77%
Max Depth: 47 feet
Total Alkalinity: 23 ppm
Volume: 11,210.71 acre feet
Main Shoreline: 3.55 miles
Lake Length: 1.3 miles
Lake Width: About 0.5 miles

There is no natural outlet for the lake other than evaporation; the lake is filled only by local drainage and the small trickle of Koshawago Springs near the southwest corner of the lake.



Devil's Lake State Park
Town of Baraboo, Sauk County, WI

Photograph Key 2 of 2

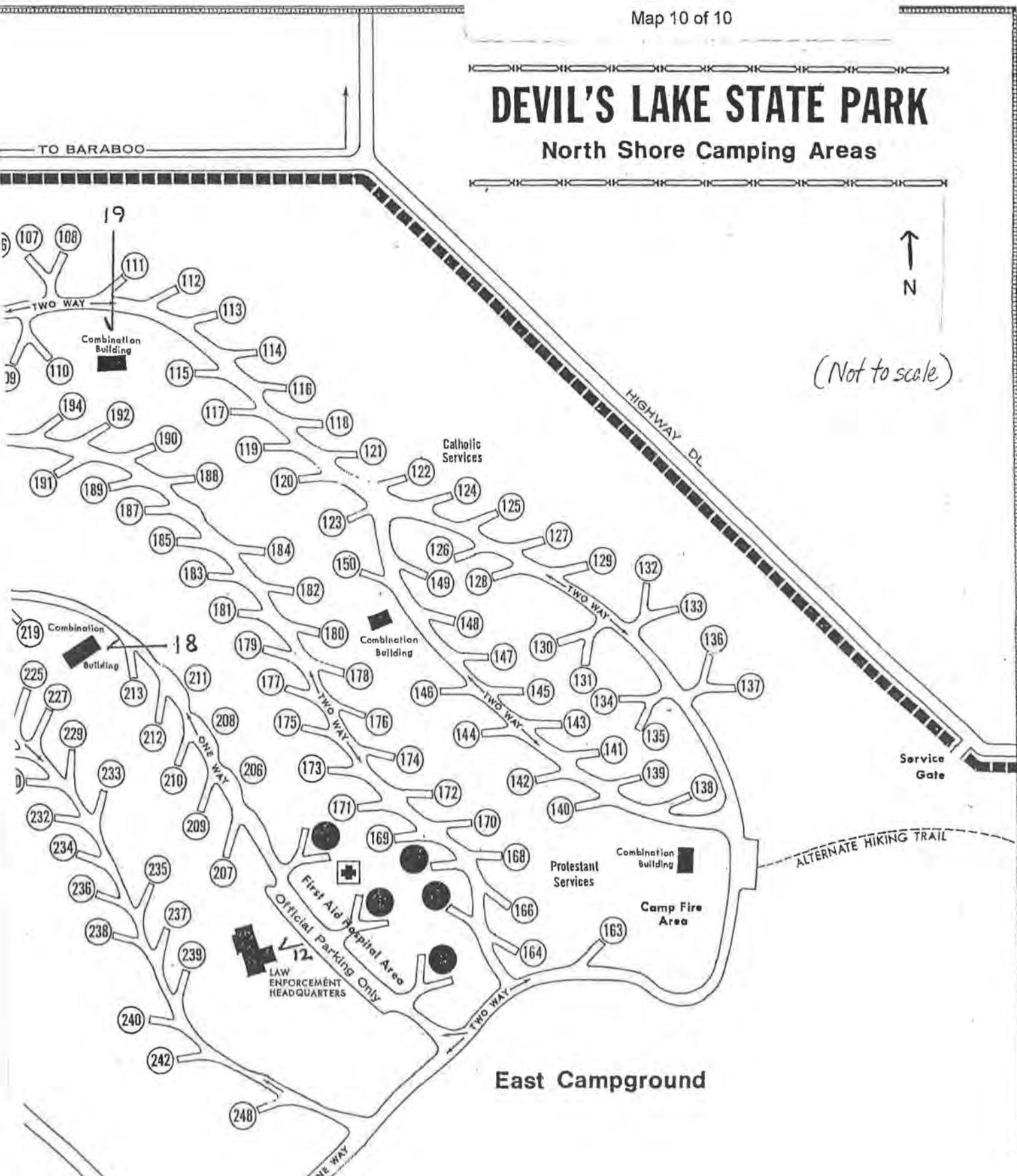
Map 10 of 10

DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK

North Shore Camping Areas



(Not to scale)



East Campground

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Devil's Lake State Park

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Sauk

DATE RECEIVED: 12/05/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/05/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/20/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/21/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001192

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.21.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Approved by
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2014

OBJECTION TO LISTING IN
THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DIV HIST PRES

OWNER IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT

Historic District Name: Devils Lake State Park

Address of Property in District: S 6314 Cottage Grove Road

City: Broncho County: Sauk

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 this historic district will not be listed in the National Register if a majority of persons owning property in the district sign and have notarized these statements, and that they submit them to the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer prior to the meeting of the State Historic Preservation Review Board during which the nomination of the district will be considered.

Signed: Sandra C Kaufmann Date: 1/30/2014

Print or Type Name: SANDRA C KAUFMANN

Mailing Address: 1812 Dewberry Dr

City: Madison State: WI Zip: 53719

NOTARY

State of Wisconsin, County of DANE

The above statement was subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of

February, 2014

[Signature]
Notary Public Signature

My commission Expires: 15 February



RECEIVED
FEB 11 2014
DIV HIST PRES

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

February 6, 2014

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

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

Dear Board Members:

We are pleased to provide our recommendation to the Board to officially recognize Devil's Lake State Park as a nominee to both the Wisconsin and National Register of Historic Places. As one of the state's premier state park destinations, Devil's Lake is visited by almost 2 million people each year and is host to many natural landmarks and historic buildings.

People have been coming to Devil's Lake for more than 10,000 years, seeking shelter at what is now Natural Bridge and Durst Rock. When the Park was founded in 1911, local residents and conservationists recognized the importance of preserving and protecting the park. Together they worked with local and state officials to expand the original few hundred acres to almost 10,000 acres of the most beautiful bluffs and recreational acreage in the state. Along with the natural beauty of the park, it boasts Great Depression-era park headquarters, ranger station, and trails, facilities and shelters built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The native Ho-Chunk Nation believed voices of spirits could be heard coming from the lake during their celebrations and named it "Spirit Lake."

The park offers much to do for visitors -- rock climbing, swimming, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, and camping. It also offers visitors an opportunity to learn more about the region and the park's history through its Nature Center Education Programs. Devil's Lake State Park has it all.

By officially naming Devil's Lake as a state historic site, future generations will be able to continue to experience its rich history and enjoy its natural beauty. It is indeed one of the state's most treasured properties.

Sincerely,

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CLARK
81ST Assembly District

SENATOR JON ERPENBACH
27th Senate District