

United States Department of the 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

RECEIVED 2280

JUN 12 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: West Bay Club

Other names/site number: Frank Eha Hunting Lodge

Name of related multiple property listing:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: Sand Island, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (APIS)

City or town: Bayfield State: WI County: Bayfield

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  x   A     B   x   C     D

<u>Sandra McLeemeth</u>	<u>6/4/2015</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>NPS Federal Preservation Officer</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name West Bay Club  
other names/site number Frank Eha Hunting Lodge

## 2. Location

street & number Sand Island; Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (APIS)

X

 not for publication  
city or town Town of Bayfield vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Bayfield code 007 zip code 54814

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
   national    statewide X local

Diana J. Teubman 3/9/2015  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official Date  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register  
 other (explain: LISTED IN NR ON 7/28/15)  
[Signature] 8/6/15  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
3		sites
2	1	structures
		objects
8	2	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/camp

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DOMESTIC/camp

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/rustic

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foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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## Section 7. Description

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### Summary Paragraph

The West Bay Club is located on Sand Island, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (APIS) on the south shore of Lake Superior. Designated in 1970, APIS is comprised of a narrow strip of land 12 miles long on the Bayfield Peninsula and 21 islands located to the north, east, and west of the mainland near Bayfield (2010 population: 530). Sand Island, approximately 2,860 acres, is located at the western edge of the National Lakeshore. Historically, the island is one of the few in the area that had year-round permanent residents who engaged in commercial activities associated with fishing, agriculture, and logging. Sand Island was also a popular destination for seasonal recreation; the West Bay Club is a notable example of that recreational history. Located in a clearing at the western edge of the island facing the mainland to the south, the West Bay Club consists of eight (8) contributing resources: the large 1913 Rustic style lodge constructed of logs; a reverse-framed Rustic style ice house; a wood-frame tool shed in poor condition; remnants of a road system which include a bridge, that linked West Bay to the Sand Island community; a collapsed water tower; the ruins of two outbuildings; and the submerged piers and footings of a boat dock. Noncontributing resources (2) are a privy and a dock. There are several site features which are part of the setting: 12 concrete steps leading up the hillside from the shore to the lodge, and plantings consisting of four apple trees and non-native roses. These are minor resources, not having substantial size or scale to be included in the resource count. Despite some deterioration of the main building, the West Bay Club retains its historic integrity in all seven aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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### Narrative Description

The West Bay Club complex, constructed in 1913, is located in a small clearing on the northwest side of Sand Island's southern shore (location indicated on attached USGS map; see also Appendix Figure 1: historic map of Sand Island) and is visually and historically dominated by the large, one-and-a-half-story Rustic style lodge (Photo 1). The façade faces Lake Superior and the mainland in the distance. The lodge building (Photo 2), described below, was designed by architects Charles Buechner and Henry Orth, who were West Bay Club members. According to Buechner and Orth's original 1912 site plan (Appendix Figure 2; original drawings housed at the University of Minnesota Northwest Architectural Archives), the site was intended to include a wash house/laundry building northeast of the main lodge, a water tower to the northwest, a tool shed to the east, and a root cellar located to the southeast. Although the lodge, tool shed, ice house, and water tower were placed as planned, surviving visible ruins indicate the wash house was instead built to the northwest of the lodge while a fifth building, also currently surviving only as a ruin, was built farther to the northeast (see contemporary site plan, Appendix Figure 3).

Approached from Lake Superior to the south, the lodge building is clearly visible despite encroaching vegetation (Photo 1), as is the reverse-frame ice house, a contributing resource. Twelve concrete steps (contributing) leading up from the dock toward the main lodge building have been affected by the deterioration of the shoreline, which has eroded through time. The contributing and noncontributing resources associated with the West Bay Club, keyed to the site map and photograph numbers are described as follows:

## Contributing Resources

### 1. The West Bay Lodge

The primary building at the West Bay Club (WBC) is the lodge, a one-and-a-half story side-gable log building with one story shed roof ells (Photos 2, 3). The building was designed by St. Paul architects and WBC members Charles Buechner and Henry Orth. The main facade faces south toward Lake Superior and the mainland (Photo 4). The façade, which is 60 feet in length, features a wraparound open porch with a wood-planked floor; the porch roof is supported by eight log posts. The open porch also extends along the east (Photo 5) and west (Photo 6) sides of the building. The porch roof is hipped at the southeast and southwest corners, but has half gables where it terminates on the northeast and northwest corners of the building. This is a deviation from the original plan (see Appendix Figure 4). An open balustrade constructed of small peeled and painted logs extends along the main and side porches and measures approximately three feet in height (Photos 7). There are three shed-roof dormers on the south roof (Photo 8) and one shed-roof dormer on the north.

The original fenestration—three-over-one wooden windows—is retained throughout. There are two shed ells on the north side of the lodge. These ells were part of the original construction: the kitchen, located on the north side (Photo 9); a shed enclosure for the stairs on the northwest corner; and the men’s bathroom located on the northeast corner. A similar ell for the women’s bathroom is no longer extant (see Appendix Figure 4 for original floor plans.)

The log walls of the lodge, built from timbers harvested on site, have irregular projecting ends and typically measure at least 12 inches in diameter. The logs are joined with saddle notched corners and the gaps are daubed with mortar that appears to be a cement mixture (Photo 10). A tall brick chimney extends approximately 10 feet above the roof line near the west elevation and visually anchors the lodge.

### *Interior*

The main (south) entrance to the lodge features centrally located double French doors with 15 glass panes (5 by 3) (Photo 11). The first floor interior is a large, open room that retains its original fenestration, as does the entire building. A deviation from the original plan (see Appendix Figure 5, cross section) is the main supporting post; the plan called for a rusticated post with visible branches, but the existing and assumed original post is a simple peeled log, similar to the exterior porch upright log posts (see Figure 12, historic photograph). The first floor of the lodge features a centrally-located fireplace on the north wall. The fireplace has a raised brick hearth with brass fenders (Photo 12). Above the firebox beneath a prominent brick ledge mantel is a 1’ x 4’ *bas relief* plaster depiction of a Native American on horseback pursuing several bison (Photo 13). The artist of the *bas relief* is unknown.

A turnback staircase (Photo 14) at the northwest corner of the lodge’s main room leads to the second floor which has four bedrooms, each of which had a corner sink plumbed for running water (Photo 15). The original architectural drawings indicate six rooms on the second floor (Appendix Figure 3); two rooms located on the north side, in the center and northeast corner, have since been removed. Although in a deteriorated condition, the original room partitions constructed of Sackett board (an early type of gypsum wallboard) are still visible (Photos 16, 17). Over time, the lodge has settled and suffered some deterioration. It has also lost some of its features, including an exterior stairway at the northwest corner and the women’s bathroom.

Despite these losses the lodge retains its historic integrity with original exposed log interior walls, hardwood floors, fenestration, and open three-sided porch. Unlike many of the rustic Adirondack-style lodges constructed

in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the West Bay Club has never been modernized, noticeably modified, or suffered from encroaching development.<sup>1</sup> The lodge and its setting remain much as they appeared at the time it was first used 100 years ago. An historic photograph shows that the porch was screened, but otherwise, historic features and materials are intact. The rolled asphalt roofing material, for example, is the same as that specified in the original architectural drawings, the fenestration is unaltered, and the first floor interior is essentially unchanged from 1913 (Photo 18).

2. Ice House (Photos 19, 20): Constructed in 1913, the single story end-gable building, oriented east–west, measures 10 by 16 feet and is located approximately 60 feet southeast of the lodge near the current dock. The building has a rolled asphalt roof with a central ridge vent with louvers and a gable hood. The ice house was built using a cedar post and beam foundation system with 1x10-inch tongue-and-groove pine boards for flooring. The walls consist of 1x10 inch-tongue-and-groove boards attached to a log pole external frame. The wood panel entry door hinged to swing inward is centrally located in the west gable end. The interior of the building has been modified to function as a sauna. The ice house is visible from the water as visitors approach the Complex by boat. In the summer of 2013, members of the Minnesota Conservation Corps performed restoration work on the ice house in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

3. Tool Shed (Photo 21): The circa 1913 tool shed is a small, one story side-gable building to the east of the lodge. The building is in poor condition with much of the roof missing. There is a door on the south elevation of the building and a window opening on the north, although the sash and glazing are missing. The building was constructed of 2" x 6" tongue-and-groove planking. A thick growth of young balsam fir and other trees surrounds the building on all four sides making both photography and measurement difficult, but the building appears to be approximately the same size as the ice house, i.e., 10 by 16 feet. Despite its notable deterioration, the building contributes to the overall setting of the complex.

4. Water Tower (Photos 22, 23): The circa 1913 metal tower supported a 500 gallon metal water tank to supply water to the lodge. The tower collapsed when the tank was overfilled and the weight of the water proved too much for the aging structure. Although crumpled and bent, the components of the water tower retain sufficient integrity to make the structure's intended function and historic use clear. The current leaseholders plan to repair the water tower following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.<sup>3</sup>

5. Remnant road system and bridge (Photo 24): Located to the northeast of the ice house, a wooden bridge crosses a small ravine. The circa 1913 bridge is approximately 4 feet wide by 15 feet in length. The bridge does not appear to be missing any components, but the wood is sufficiently weathered to make it unsafe for foot traffic. The bridge was part of a road system that connected West Bay to other locations on the island (see

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Christina Slattery. Forest Lodge. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places nomination prepared for Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest June 2001. See also Seven Pines Lodge. Wisconsin National Register of Historic Places. [Accessed 2012 Apr 28]. <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/register/viewSummary.asp?refnum=78000125>; "Wondering what happened to Seven Pines Lodge." Midwest Weekends.com. 2010. [Accessed 2012 Apr 29] [http://www.midwestweekends.com/ask\\_a\\_question/seven\\_pines\\_lodge.html](http://www.midwestweekends.com/ask_a_question/seven_pines_lodge.html); Nathan Lump, "Wilds of Wisconsin," *Travel+Leisure*, August 2004 [Accessed 2012 Apr 30]. [http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/the-wilds-of-wisconsin/1?comments\\_page=1](http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/the-wilds-of-wisconsin/1?comments_page=1); Stout's Island Lodge. [Accessed 2012 Apr 29] <http://stoutislandlodge.com>.

<sup>2</sup> "West Bay Club Ice House restoration a success," *Ashland Daily Press*, August 8, 2013.

[http://www.ashlandwi.com/news/local/article\\_78437518-ffc8-11e2-9b7b-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.ashlandwi.com/news/local/article_78437518-ffc8-11e2-9b7b-001a4bcf887a.html) [Accessed 19 Aug 2013]; *The Secretary's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-guideline.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy, West Bay Club Lodge Condition Assessment/ Building Structural Condition Report to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. November 14, 2011, p. 10.

Appendix Figure 1, historic map of Sand Island) and is a visual reminder that the West Bay Club did not exist in isolation but was part of a vibrant rural community.<sup>4</sup>

6. Ruin 1: Possible wash house. A small log circa 1913 building located approximately 100 feet northwest of the lodge may have been the wash house or laundry for the lodge. The building's location relative to the water tower as well as the presence of artifacts such as clay tiles and pipes supports this suggestion. Although the structure exists now only as a ruin, its potential for providing information about the complex as a whole makes it a contributing resource. As noted in the National Register Bulletin *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, "a property possessing information potential does not need to recall *visually* an event, person, process, or construction technique. It is important that the significant data contained in the property remain sufficiently intact to yield the expected important information, if the appropriate study techniques are employed."<sup>5</sup> Thick undergrowth at the time of survey (2012) hindered photography and efforts to obtain accurate measurements.

7. Ruin 2: Original use unknown. This circa 1913 ruin is located approximately 150 feet northeast of the lodge and was a frame building. Its original function is unknown, but the presence of several artifacts including a stove pipe suggests that this structure may have served as living quarters for overflow guests or for a caretaker. Although the building exists now only as a ruin, its potential for providing information about the complex as a whole makes it a contributing resource.<sup>6</sup> Thick undergrowth hindered photography and efforts to obtain accurate measurements.

8. Historic dock cribbing: Aerial photographs show what appear to be remnants of circa 1913 rock cribs about 40 feet west of the current 60-foot long pier.<sup>7</sup> This cribbing, located entirely underwater, is aligned with the concrete steps that ascend the hillside, which suggest that they indicate the location of the original West Bay Club dock.

### Noncontributing Resources

9. Boat dock (Photo 26): Constructed in 2008, the current pier is only the most recent of several piers built at the West Bay Club to replace previous ones damaged by the fierce winter storms and ice of Lake Superior.<sup>8</sup> Although the 2008 pier is built in similar style to its predecessors – timber cribs with rock fill and plank decking – its recent construction date and location render this resource noncontributing. Aerial photographs from 1938 show a dock at this location, suggesting that the current pier may be underlain with dock remains dating back to the 1930s. This dock was apparently the successor to the 1913 historic dock, whose remains are located approximately 40 feet to the west.

10. Privy (Photo 27): A shed-roofed wood-frame single-hole pit privy is located approximately 100 feet north of the lodge. Although it is probable that a privy has always existed at the West Bay Club, first during the construction period and later as a back-up facility in case the plumbing in the lodge stopped working, based on available information, this privy appears to be outside of the historic period, rendering it a noncontributing resource.

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, James Feldman, "The view from Sand Island: reconsidering the peripheral economy, 1880–1940," *The Western Historical Quarterly* 35.3(2006). <http://www.historycooperative/journals/whq/35.3/feldman.html>.

<sup>5</sup> National Park Service. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb15.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> National Park Service, previously cited.

<sup>7</sup> Google Earth. Accessed 2013 May 1.

<sup>8</sup> Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy, previously cited.

Site Features not Included in the Resource Count

1. Concrete Steps: The twelve poured concrete steps, circa 1913, ascend the hillside from the Lake Superior shore to the clearing and main lodge. Each step measures two feet deep by three feet wide with an eight inch rise. The top step has stones set into the concrete that spell out “EHA” in capital letters; EHA refers to Frank Eha, one of the founding members of the West Bay Club and from 1922-1952 sole owner of the property. Several steps have been lost to natural erosion of the Lake Superior shoreline. The remaining steps, however, exhibit a high degree of historic integrity.

2. Apple Trees and Rose Bushes: A cluster of four apple trees is located north of the lodge building at the edge of the clearing. These trees, a non-native species, are planted in a regular pattern. There are also two living apple trees and two dead ones planted in a similar pattern west of the lodge. In addition to the apple trees, there are several nonnative rose bushes at the front of the lodge next to the porch. At the present time, dates for the plantings are unknown.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1913–1954

**Significant Dates**

1913, 1922

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Buechner, Charles W.

Orth, Henry

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The West Bay Club is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria C and A. It is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an intact example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Rustic architecture designed by architects Charles W. Buechner and Henry Orth. The West Bay Club is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation as an example of two important trends in outdoor recreation in Wisconsin: the shared ownership of recreational property and the evolution toward ready access by the general public to outdoor recreational activities that had previously been the domain of the wealthy. As noted in *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, recreation is a primary

theme in the evaluation of the state's historic resources.<sup>9</sup> In 2002 the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) approved a consensus determination of eligibility for the property under Criteria C and A.<sup>10</sup> The period of significance, 1913–1954, encompasses the years when six families joined together to develop the West Bay Club until 1954, the year when the last of the original families relinquished their ownership.

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

### *Criterion C – Excellent Example of Rustic Architecture in Wisconsin*

Rustic architecture became popular for recreational properties during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. As Jim Draeger of the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office has noted, “Rustic style emerged from the resort architecture of the Adirondack region of northern New York state in the 1870s.”<sup>11</sup> The style evolved from that of the Swiss chalet, a style described in Alexander Jackson Downing’s *The Architecture of Country Houses*,<sup>12</sup> and is evident in many of the “Great Camps” of the Adirondacks.<sup>13</sup> The first of the Great Camps, William West Durant’s Pine Knot, merged chalet style with a local vernacular form known as Adirondack ramshackle. Adirondack ramshackle utilized easily obtainable local materials – logs, bark, and rock – for construction. Gobrecht notes that “The typical Adirondack ramshackle had saddle-notched log corner joints and a stretched bark roof sometimes held in place by large boulders.”<sup>14</sup> Ramshackle cabins were small and primitive, especially in comparison with the Great Camps that succeeded them. Although Durant designed Camp Pine Knot himself, the other wealthy men who built the Great Camps hired architects such as Robert H. Robertson, John Russell Pope, and firms such as McKim, Mead, and White.<sup>15</sup> The ideal Great Camp was an eclectic assemblage of buildings constructed of materials chosen to blend with a natural setting and might include a main lodge, guest cabins, a boat house, and servants’ quarters.<sup>16</sup> By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Adirondack Great Camp rustic style had been widely popularized nationwide in guide books, popular periodicals such as *Outing and Wheelman*, magic lantern slide shows, stereopticon cards, and architectural pattern books.<sup>17</sup>

Buechner and Orth’s design for the West Bay Club may have been influenced by the Great Camps of the Adirondacks in upstate New York or they may simply have been emulating the style employed at other Wisconsin resort sites such as Seven Pines Lodge.<sup>18</sup> Given the style’s growing popularity in northern Wisconsin, it is not surprising Buechner and Orth would chose to try their hand at it, too, especially as the logs for the lodge could be felled on site. Further, the routine use of logs in northern Wisconsin for vernacular construction of logging camps and pioneer farm buildings meant a workforce familiar with log construction was

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<sup>9</sup> Barbara Wyatt, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: A Manual for Historic Properties, Volume III* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986).

<sup>10</sup> The West Bay Club. State Historical Society of Wisconsin Determination of Eligibility Form prepared by Nancy Farm Mannikko for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Submitted February 14, 2002, approved March 1, 2002. (Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives, Madison, Wisconsin)

<sup>11</sup> Jim Draeger, “Rustic Style (1900–1940).” Manuscript. (Madison, WI: Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives, n.d.)

<sup>12</sup> Alexander Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (NY: D. Appleton & Co., 1850), pp. 124-127.

<sup>13</sup> Larry E. Gobrecht, “Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources” (National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, 1996).

<sup>14</sup> Draeger, previously cited; Gobrecht, previously cited.

<sup>15</sup> Harvey Kaiser, *Great Camps of the Adirondacks* (Boston: D.R. Godine, 1996 [1982]).

<sup>16</sup> See Slattery, previously cited, for a description of Forest Lodge, which includes a maid’s cottage and a dairy barn in addition to the main lodge, boathouse, and other buildings.

<sup>17</sup> See, for example, William P. Comstock, *Bungalows, Camps, and Mountain Houses* (NY: William T. Comstock Co., 1908), the full title of which noted that “hunting lodges and log cabins are also presented, suggesting designs for vacation dwellings in woods and mountains.”

<sup>18</sup> Cf. Kaiser, previously cited; “Seven Pines Lodge,” previously cited.

readily available. Indeed, the first permanent structures (circa 1870s) at the Frank Shaw Farm nearby on Sand Island were log construction.<sup>19</sup>

The West Bay Club is typical of Rustic style. In addition to the lodge constructed of logs harvested on site, the ice house has reverse framing with logs used as studs (Photos 20, 21). This use of a different construction technique for the ice house from that used for the lodge is a common feature of the Adirondack Great Camps: each building in a camp would be different from the others in size, design, or materials to give the complex overall a more organic feel, as though the camp had grown naturally over time rather than being deliberately designed.<sup>20</sup> Thus, the West Bay Club is significant as an example of rustic architecture that retains a high degree of integrity. Unlike many of the rustic lodges constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, West Bay has never been modernized, noticeably modified, or suffered from encroaching development.<sup>21</sup> The lodge and its setting remain much as they appeared at the time the lodge was first used 100 years ago. An historic photograph shows that the porch was screened, but otherwise, historic features and materials are intact. The current roofing material, for example, is the same as that specified in the original architectural drawings, the fenestration is unaltered, and the interior is essentially unchanged from 1913. Indeed, according to Buechner's granddaughter, Elizabeth Eha Seaquist, the lodge even retains some original furnishings, such as the iron beds used by the current occupants (see Photo 21).<sup>22</sup>

#### Charles Buechner and Henry Orth

The West Bay Club was designed by the architectural firm of Buechner and Orth of St. Paul, Minnesota. The partnership of Charles W. Buechner (1859–1924) and Henry Orth (1866–1946) constituted one of the most successful architectural practices in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area and surrounding region during the early decades of the twentieth century. Charles Buechner was born in Germany and came to the United States as a 15-year-old. After working for the Northern Pacific Railroad, he apprenticed in 1883 to study architecture in the office of Clarence H. Johnston, one of Minnesota's best known architects. Nine years later, Buechner left Johnston to enter into a partnership with John H. Jacobsen. This partnership ended with Jacobsen's death in 1902.<sup>23</sup>

Like Buechner, Henry Orth was an immigrant. After emigrating from Norway, Orth practiced architecture in Austin, Minnesota. In 1902, he moved to St. Paul and became Buechner's new partner. Over the next 22 years Buechner and Orth designed numerous buildings that became landmarks within their communities. The partners were known for their ability to listen to their clients and give them exactly what they wanted. Rather than being mere pragmatists, however, Buechner and Orth ably balanced functionality with aesthetics; their surviving buildings demonstrate a strong sense of proportion and skillful detailing. The firm's commissions included the Lagoon Theater in Minneapolis (lost in a fire in the 1930s), Shubert Theater in St. Paul (now known as the Fitzgerald Theater) the Pierce County, Wisconsin, courthouse, thirteen courthouses in North Dakota, the St. Paul Masonic Temple (razed in 1981), and the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children in Minneapolis (demolished in 1990).<sup>24</sup> Although the firm of Buechner & Orth was well known for designing public and

<sup>19</sup> Herschel L. D. Parnes, "Shaw Farm." Listed on the National Register of Historic Places June 18, 1976. Accessed 23 April 2013. <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/76000052.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Cf. Draeger, previously cited.

<sup>21</sup> Cf. Slattery, previously cited; The Hazen Inn. [Accessed 2012 Apr 4] <http://www.hazeninn.com>.

<sup>22</sup> Elizabeth Eha Seaquist, interviewed by Nancy Farm Mannikko, October 15, 2001. Interview notes on file at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

<sup>23</sup> Kurt P. Schweigert, Buechner and Orth Courthouses in North Dakota. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1980; National Park Service List of Classified Structures. Sand Island: West Bay Club. <http://www.hscl.cr.nps.gov/insidenps/summary.asp>; Alan K. Lathorp, *Minnesota Architects: A Biographical Dictionary*. Minneapolis, MN: The University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

<sup>24</sup> Schweigert, previously cited; National Park Service List of Classified Structures, previously cited; Lathorp, previously cited.

commercial buildings, their firm also designed over 100 private residences in the Twin Cities area, including Henry Orth's home.

Many buildings designed by Buechner and Orth are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As Kurt Schweigert noted in his 1980 nomination of courthouses in North Dakota, Buechner and Orth left an indelible mark on the Upper Midwest.<sup>25</sup> Most Buechner and Orth structures on the NRHP are commercial or public buildings, such as the Fargo Theater in Fargo, North Dakota; the Ramsey County Poor Farm Barn in Minnesota; and the First National Bank in Glasgow, Montana. Several of the private residences they designed are also on the Register as contributing resources within historic districts.<sup>26</sup>

The West Bay Club is an additional example of their design work on a private residence. The architects also had a personal association with the project: Buechner and Orth designed a lodge that they and their families would use. Based on currently available information, the West Bay Club appears to be the firm's only commission for a Rustic style "hunting lodge" as indicated on the original architectural drawings now housed at the University of Minnesota's Northwest Architectural Archives.

### ***Criterion A – Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin***

The West Bay Club is eligible under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with the evolution of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Casual visitors to northern Wisconsin and the Chequamegon Bay region were relatively few until the 1850s. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, only the wealthy had the time and money required for leisure travel, and they generally preferred to visit established spa hotels, such as the Greenbrier in West Virginia, or well-known natural wonders, such as Niagara Falls. As Jane C. Busch and others have reported, the advent of steamboat tours increased tourist traffic on Lake Superior, but it was not until railroads reached Ashland and Bayfield that tourism emerged as a major industry in the region.<sup>27</sup>

Early travelers to northern Wisconsin stayed in hotels. Soon however, they established their own summer homes, fishing camps, or hunting lodges. Just as in upstate New York and Maine where the wealthy had created elaborate Great Camps,<sup>28</sup> rich Midwestern businessmen began building hunting lodges for themselves in the northwoods.<sup>29</sup> Charles E. Lewis, Frank Stout, and Crawford Livingston were among those who developed high style rustic estates in rural Wisconsin. The estates of Lewis, Stout, and Livingston—Seven Pines Lodge, Stout's Island Lodge, and Forest Lodge—have survived and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>30</sup>

Persons who were financially comfortable but not sufficiently wealthy to construct a great camp for themselves stayed at simple resorts, such as Sam Fifield's Camp Stella on Sand Island.<sup>31</sup> These vacationers soon realized

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<sup>25</sup> Schweigert, previously cited.

<sup>26</sup> National Park Service. National Register Information System. Accessed 2012 Mar 16. [www.nps.gov/nr](http://www.nps.gov/nr); Buechner & Orth Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Minnesota State Historical Society. Minnesota's National Register Properties. [Accessed 2012 Aug 31]. <http://nrhp.mnhs.org/>

<sup>27</sup> Jane C. Busch, *People and Places: A Human History of the Apostle Islands Historic Resource Study of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore* (Omaha, Neb: National Park Service Midwest Regional Office, 2008); see also Courtnee Cain, "The West Bay Club." Draft National Register of Historic Places nomination. Manuscript. (Madison, WI: Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives, 2002).

<sup>28</sup> See, for example, Gladys Montgomery. *An Elegant Wilderness: Great Camps and Grand Lodges of the Adirondacks, 1855–1935* (New York: Acanthus Press, 2011); Jack Ahern. *Bound for Munsungun: the history of the early sporting camps of northern Maine* (Bradford, Mass.: Pear Tree Publishing, 2008); or Gobrecht, previously cited.

<sup>29</sup> Slatery, previously cited. Forest Lodge was listed on the National Register on January 2, 2002. See also Theodore J. Karamanski, *History of the McCormick Family's Use of White Deer Lake Camp, McCormick Experimental Forest, Michigan* (Chicago: Mid-America Research Center, 1985)

<sup>30</sup> Seven Pines Lodge, previously cited; "Wondering what happened to Seven Pines Lodge," previously cited; Lump, previously cited; Stout's Island Lodge; previously cited.

<sup>31</sup> Timothy Bawden, "Escape to Wisconsin: the Early Resort Landscape of Northern Wisconsin, 1890–1920," *Wisconsin Preservation*

that by joining together and pooling their resources, they, too, could enjoy a private Great Camp experience. The West Bay Club was conceived as a shared space, a private vacation place to be used by several families who were financially secure but not wealthy. It was part of a trend in the early twentieth century that witnessed the establishment of a number of private clubs or resorts in northern Wisconsin. In addition to the West Bay Club, the Indianapolis Club (Oneida County), the Long Lake Club (Vilas County) and the Eagle River Fishing and Shooting Club (Vilas County) featured shared ownership. The Indianapolis Club, for example, which was listed on the NRHP in 2004, was established by six business associates from Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1902. The 8-acre complex included a clubhouse, guest house, garage, and boathouse jointly owned by club members until 1924.<sup>32</sup>

It is notable that, unlike Stout's Island and Forest Lodge, plans for West Bay Club never included provisions for servants' quarters. WBC members were typical of the comfortable urban middle class; they might have a hired girl or a housekeeper but household help was often part-time and did not live in. The club's caretaker, Louis Buechner, was a family member; Sand Island residents were hired to help part-time with laundry or housekeeping, but commuted to work from their own homes via the road that led from East Bay to West Bay.<sup>33</sup>

Thus, the West Bay Club is significant on the local level as an example of important trends in recreation in the Wisconsin northwoods: the concept of shared ownership of recreational property, which can still be found in numerous locations throughout the region.<sup>34</sup> While not being able to mimic the grandeur of the Rustic resorts, these properties provided a vacation setting more closely tied to nature, emulating the Rustic trend and represents the evolution of vacation home ownership from being the exclusive purview of the wealthy to a benefit accessible to the average person. Ownership of these club vacation properties often followed a progression from group ownership to private ownership, often by an original club member or descendent of an original club member.

Today, many Wisconsinites own recreational property, including hunting camps and lakeside cottages dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Currently there is limited documentation of these places and their histories. A search of the National Register of Historic Places and the Wisconsin State Historical Society databases revealed that although numerous recreational properties enjoyed by the wealthy have been identified, along with a number of resorts open to the general public, formal documentation of privately owned camps and cottages used by the middle class is limited.<sup>35</sup> The West Bay Club provides a rare opportunity to document a private, middle class, group-owned recreational property, which is located in a remote area but is now accessible to the public as part of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

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## Historic Context

Many scholars have documented the history of Americans' emerging interest in a space for recreation in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During this period Americans at all levels of society became enthusiastic about camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, bird watching, and other activities that focused on the natural world.<sup>36</sup> As the notion of the ideal holiday changed from a stay at a spa hotel in locales such as Saratoga

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*News* 22(July/August 1998): 1–4; Sheree L. Peterson, "Camp Stella: meeting place of kindred souls." Report prepared for Eastern National Park and Monument Association, 1997.

<sup>32</sup> Mary Jane Hettinga, "Indianapolis Outing Club." Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Listed January 14, 2004.

<sup>33</sup> Feldman, previously cited.

<sup>34</sup> Dairymen's Country Club in Boulder Junction was founded as private club in 1937 and continues as one today.

<sup>35</sup> See, for example, The Everett Resort (Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory record number 24488) or Holst's Log Cabins Resort (WAHI record number 79600) located in Vilas and Iron Counties, Wisconsin, respectively.

<sup>36</sup> Bawden, previously cited; Donna R. Braden and Judith E. Edelman, *Americans on Vacation* (Dearborn, Mich.: Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, 1990); Busch, previously cited; Thomas R. Dunlap, *In the Field, Among the Feathered: A History of Birders and Their Guides* (NY: Oxford University Press, 2011); Abigail A. van Slyck, *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the*

Springs, New York, or Greenbriar, West Virginia, or Wisconsin's spa resorts such as Fountain Spring House in Waukesha,<sup>37</sup> Americans sought recreation in more rustic settings. Wealthy industrialists and financiers built lodges in wilderness areas, including the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York, the forests of Maine, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the shorelines of lakes in Minnesota and Wisconsin.<sup>38</sup>

Other Americans sought out vacation resorts which were "rustic", basic buildings having few amenities, such as Fifield's Camp Stella, which was established in the 1880s on Sand Island.<sup>39</sup> At the time the island had few year-round residents. In 1870, Civil War veteran Frank Shaw used his bonus to buy 37 acres at the southeast corner of the island; Shaw initially stayed on the island only during the summer months while engaged in commercial fishing. He did not become a farmer and year-round resident of the island for over a decade. By the mid-1890s, Norwegian immigrants had also purchased land and built a farming and fishing community at East Bay. As Feldman has recorded, workers at Camp Stella were drawn from this local community.<sup>40</sup>

The accommodations at Camp Stella were platform tents, in which guests could feel as though they were roughing it while they enjoyed such luxuries as prepared meals and laundry service. Camp Stella provided the perfect setting for the six middle class businessmen who founded the West Bay Club to solidify their desire to summer in the Apostle Islands. They were architects Charles Buechner, Henry Orth and G.A. Yocum, boilermaker Robert Wellisch, general contractor Fred Romer, and plumbing and heating contractor Frank Eha. Both Eha and Wellisch had worked on projects Buechner and Orth had designed. The six business associates who formed the West Bay Club were also linked as friends and in-laws; Eha's son Frank Jr. was married to Buechner's daughter Erna.<sup>41</sup>

The members of the West Bay Club also represent a trend in early 20<sup>th</sup> century America for middleclass persons to purchase their first recreational property as a cooperative or partnership venture. For example, in addition to the Indianapolis Club mentioned above, the Hazen Inn, formerly the Long Lake Lodge, in Phelps, Wisconsin, is an example of an early joint initiative by several friends to develop a hunting camp. Unlike the Indianapolis Club and West Bay Club, which remained private residences, the Long Lake Lodge evolved into a commercial resort that continues to operate today.<sup>42</sup>

### ***History of the Property***

Shortly after Buechner and Orth became business partners in 1902, they and their families began spending the summer on Madeline Island, the largest of the Apostle Islands.<sup>43</sup> Located to the east of the Bayfield Peninsula and easily accessible by ferry from Bayfield, Madeline Island was a well-known tourist destination. Business acquaintances from the Twin Cities who frequented the island recommended it to Buechner as a good escape from the city. Oral histories provided by family members suggest that Buechner and his friends, most of whom were first generation Americans, soon decided that although they enjoyed the physical setting of the Apostle Islands, they found the social atmosphere on Madeline "too snobbish."<sup>44</sup> Sam Fifield persuaded them to try Camp Stella, his Sand Island resort. After spending a summer or two at Camp Stella, in 1910 Buechner and five

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*Shaping of American Youth, 1890–1960* (Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press, 2006).

<sup>37</sup> The Greenbrier Fact Sheet. [Accessed 2012 Apr 22] [http:// www.greenbrier.com/press-room/fact-sheet.aspx](http://www.greenbrier.com/press-room/fact-sheet.aspx)

<sup>38</sup> Ahern, previously cited; Donna Catt, "The Huron Mountain Club: guardian of a legacy," *Harlow's Wooden Man* 17(Winter 1981):7–9; Kaiser, previously cited; Montgomery, previously cited.

<sup>39</sup> Busch, previously cited; Peterson, previously cited.

<sup>40</sup> See Feldman, previously cited; see also Robert F. Nelson, *Apostle Islanders The People & Culture* (Bayfield, WI: Blue Box Press, 2011).

<sup>41</sup> Elizabeth Eha Seaquist, personal interview, previously cited.

<sup>42</sup> The Hazen Inn. [Accessed 2012 Aug 31] [www.hazeninn.com](http://www.hazeninn.com).

<sup>43</sup> Madeline Island is not included in the designated national lakeshore because of its extensive development.

<sup>44</sup> Seaquist, previously cited.

of his colleagues purchased land about two miles away on which to build a lodge. They purchased several parcels totaling slightly more than 100 acres.

Buechner and Orth's original plans envisioned a large central lodge that would serve as a dining hall and social space; six bedrooms on the second floor of the lodge would house guests. The master plan for the site indicated that each family would eventually have its own private cabin. Frank Eha, a successful heating and plumbing contractor and a partner in the venture, designed the plumbing system for the lodge to include modern bathrooms, one for the men and one for the women, as well as hot and cold running water into a corner sink in each bedroom. Although the West Bay Club hunting lodge was never as elaborately decorated with rustic detailing as W. W. Durant's Gilded Age camps, the Adirondack influence is evident in decorative elements such as unfinished poles for the porch posts and rails, as well as landscaping with rustic benches.<sup>45</sup>

Buechner's brother Louis Buechner was hired to supervise construction of the lodge. In 1912, workmen cut the logs for the building as part of clearing the site for the lodge (Photo 33). After the lodge was completed in 1913, Louis Buechner and his wife stayed on as caretaker and cook, respectively. Other than island residents hired part-time to help with laundry, there were apparently no other servants.

In its early years the West Bay Club was well used by its founding families. By the 1920s, however, most of the aging founders and their now-adult children became less interested in the rustic charms of an island lodge.<sup>46</sup> Buechner, for example, decided shortly before his death in 1924 to build a summer home on the mainland at Little Sand Bay, a site that was more accessible than the island lodge. Oral histories provided by Buechner's grandchildren also hint at personality conflicts arising as time passed.<sup>47</sup> In 1922, the members decided to sell the Club. Frank Eha eventually bought the shares of the other partners. Of the six original partners in the West Bay Club, Eha had always taken the strongest interest in the island and may have pushed the hardest for creation of the Club; plans for the lodge are filed in the Buechner & Orth papers under Eha's name.<sup>48</sup> After buying out his partners, Eha and his wife continued to summer at West Bay until 1952. By then, both were elderly and unable to stay at the lodge alone. In 1954, the Ehas sold their Sand Island property to a trustee. The property then passed to a lumber company which used the lodge as a bunkhouse for its logging crew. In 1960, the property was part of a large tract of land sold to Budvic, Inc., a privately held corporation based in Mellen, Wisconsin. One of the two principals, Howard "Bud" Peters, later became sole owner of the company. Following the establishment of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the National Park Service acquired the property; Mr. Peters obtained a life estate for West Bay and is the current lessee.

## Summary

As the *National Register Bulletin How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* notes, "For a property to qualify for the National Register it must meet one of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation by: Being associated with an important historic context *and* Retaining historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance."<sup>49</sup> The West Bay Club retains a remarkably high level of historic integrity. The National Park Service evaluated the West Bay Club in 2001 and requested a consensus determination of eligibility for the property. The Wisconsin SHPO concurred in 2002 that West Bay is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century rustic architecture.

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<sup>45</sup> Buechner & Orth Papers, previously cited.

<sup>46</sup> One notable exception was Robert Wellisch's daughter, Gertrude. Ms. Wellisch's response to her family's sale of their share in the West Bay Club was to find another property on Sand Island to lease. Robert Mackreth, "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," *The Retread Ranger Station*. [Accessed 2012 Sep 2] <http://bobmackreth.com/wellisch.htm>

<sup>47</sup> Seaquist, previously cited.

<sup>48</sup> Buechner & Orth Papers, previously cited.

<sup>49</sup> National Park Service National Register Bulletin, previously cited.

In addition, this nomination proposes that the West Bay Club be listed as significant at the local level under Criterion A for its association with two important trends in outdoor recreation in Wisconsin: the movement of the middle class into the ownership of recreational property, and the emergence of shared ownership of recreational property by creating private clubs and ownership associations and the eventual transition of many of these clubs to private ownership. The West Bay Club retains unusually high levels of integrity and is little changed from when it was built over 100 years ago. It has never been modernized, significantly modified, or threatened by development. Its setting in a National Lakeshore means that this property can be preserved for generations to come to inform public understanding of a little known aspect of the history of recreation in the Wisconsin northwoods in the early- to mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- x preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency

West Bay Club  
Name of Property

Bayfield, Wisconsin  
County and State

previously determined eligible by the National Register  
designated a National Historic Landmark  
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Local government  
University  
Other  
Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 5 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	653983	5203965	4	15	653851	5204135
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	15	653992	5204037	5	15	653855	5203976
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	15	653936	5204121				
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the West Bay Club is an irregular five-sided polygon with each corner indicated by a UTM reference point. WBC is located on Sand Island in a wooded area with no distinctive features, such as remnant fencing or distinct boundaries between clear and wooded areas that can be used as clear boundary guidelines. The first point (UTM 653983 E 5203965 N) is located in Lake Superior southeast of the underwater ruins of the historic dock. The second point (UTM 653992 E 5204037 N) is located to the north of Point 1 on the shoreline northeast of the contemporary dock; from there the boundary runs northwest to the third point (UTM 653936 E 5204121 N), then west-northwest to the fourth point (UTM 653851 E 5204135 N), then south to the fifth point (UTM 653855 E 5203976 N), and from that point east-southeast to the first point, or point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

Although the original property included slightly more than one hundred acres, only this five acre area was improved with the construction of the lodge and associated outbuildings and structures. This boundary encompasses all the currently known historic resources, including ruins and resources located on or under Lake Superior, and approximates the size of the original clearing for the West Bay Club lodge and secondary structures and objects. The result is a tight boundary with as little extraneous acreage as possible.

**11. Form Prepared By**

West Bay Club  
Name of Property

Bayfield, Wisconsin  
County and State

name/title Carol Ahlgren, Architectural Historian, and Nancy Farm Männikkö, Historian  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date September 5, 2012  
street & number 4624 Nevada Avenue North telephone 763-432-3416  
city or town Crystal state MN zip code 55428  
e-mail Ahlgren.Carol@gmail.com; Nancy.Mannikko@gmail.com

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs:

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property: West Bay Club**

**City or Vicinity: Bayfield**

**County: Bayfield State: Wisconsin**

**Photographer: Carol Ahlgren, unless otherwise noted.**

**Date Photographed: May 31, 2012**

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 27. The West Bay Club lodge as seen from Lake Superior when approaching the property from the south.  
Photographer: Jeff Peters.

2 of 27. The West Bay Club lodge south and east elevations as seen from the top of the stairs leading up from the shore.

3 of 27. The West Bay Club lodge as seen from the northeast.

4 of 27. The view of Lake Superior from the front porch of the West Bay Club lodge.

5 of 27. East side of the West Bay Club lodge.

6 of 27. West side of the West Bay Club lodge.

7 of 27. Looking to the east on the front porch of the West Bay Club Lodge.

8 of 27. The southwest corner of the West Bay Club lodge.

9 of 27. North side of West Bay Club lodge.

10 of 27. Detail of saddle-notched corners of West Bay Club lodge.

- 11 of 27. Main entrance, which faces south, of the West Bay Club lodge.
- 12 of 27. Fireplace with raised hearth, West Bay Club lodge. The panel door to the left of the fireplace leads to the stairway to the second floor.
- 13 of 27. Decorative *bas relief* panel above fireplace, West Bay Club lodge.
- 14 of 27. Turnback stairway to second floor, West Bay Club lodge.
- 15 of 27. Sink in corner of bedroom, second floor, West Bay Club lodge. This bedroom is in the southwest corner of the building.
- 16 of 27. Second floor, West Bay Club lodge looking from the east end of the building to the west and two bedrooms.
- 17 of 27. Detail of interior partitions, second floor, West Bay Club lodge.
- 18 of 27. Interior, first floor of West Bay Club lodge. This is the northwest corner of the room; the metal bed frame is among the original furnishings that remain in the lodge.
- 19 of 27. Ice house, West Bay Club, west facade.
- 20 of 27. South facade, Ice House, West Bay Club.
- 21 of 27. Tool shed, West Bay Club
- 22 of 27. Collapsed water tank and tower at West Bay Club.
- 23 of 27. Water tank and west facade of West Bay Club showing spatial relationship between the two resources.
- 24 of 27. Rustic bridge over ravine southeast of the West Bay Club lodge. This bridge is part of a road system that once connected the West Bay Club with other locations on Sand Island.
- 25 of 27. Setting of the West Bay Club with lodge and apple trees.
- 26 of 27. Dock at West Bay Club as seen while standing by the Ice House and looking south toward the mainland. (Non-contributing)
- 27 of 27. Shed-roof privy at the West Bay Club. (Non-contributing)

---

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

name National Park Service, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore\*

street & number 415 Washington Ave. telephone 715-779-3398

city or town Bayfield state WI zip code 54814

*\*submerged lands and dock ruins are property of the State of Wisconsin, under joint management of Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.*

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photographs:

1 of 27. The West Bay Club lodge as seen from Lake Superior when approaching the property from the south.



2 of 27. The West Bay Club lodge south and east elevations as seen from the top of the stairs leading up from the shore.



3 of 27. The West Bay Club lodge as seen from the northeast.



4 of 27. The view of Lake Superior from the front porch of the West Bay Club lodge.



5 of 27. East side of the West Bay Club lodge.



6 of 27. North and West sides of the West Bay Club lodge.



7 of 27. Looking to the east on the front porch of the West Bay Club Lodge.



8 of 27. The southwest corner of the West Bay Club lodge.



9 of 27. North side of West Bay Club lodge.



10 of 27. Detail of saddle-notched corners of West Bay Club lodge.



11 of 27. Main entrance, which faces south, of the the West Bay Club lodge.



12 of 27. Fireplace with raised hearth, West Bay Club lodge. The panel door to the left of the fireplace leads to the stairway to the second floor.



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16 of 27. Second floor, West Bay Club lodge looking from the east end of the building to the west and two bedrooms.



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19 of 27. Ice house, West Bay Club, west facade.



20 of 27. South facade, Ice House, West Bay Club.



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22 of 27. Collapsed water tank and tower at West Bay Club.



23 of 27. Water tank and west elevation of West Bay Club showing spatial relationship between the two resources.



24 of 27. Rustic bridge over ravine southeast of the West Bay Club lodge. This bridge is part of a road system that once connected the West Bay Club with other locations on Sand Island.



25 of 27. Setting of the West Bay Club with lodge and apple trees.



26 of 27. Dock at West Bay Club as seen while standing by the Ice House and looking south toward the mainland. (Non-contributing)



27 of 27. Shed-roof privy at the West Bay Club. (Non-contributing)



Figures

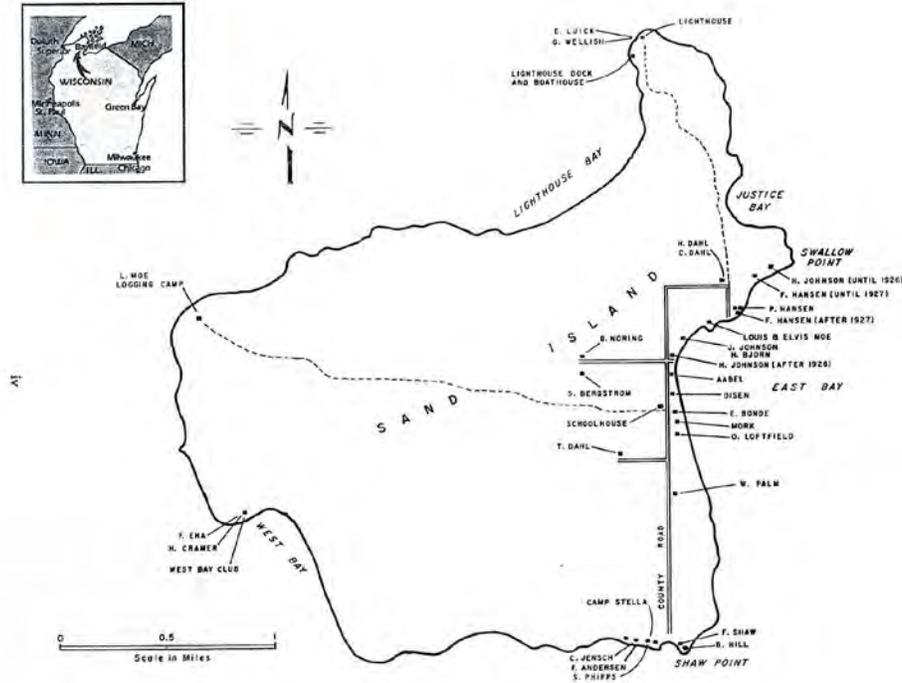


Figure 1: The location of the West Bay Club on Sand Island in relation to Camp Stella and East Bay. From Robert A Nelson, *Apostle Islanders: The People & Culture* (Bayfield, WI: Blue Box Press, 2011). Used with permission.

**Figures**

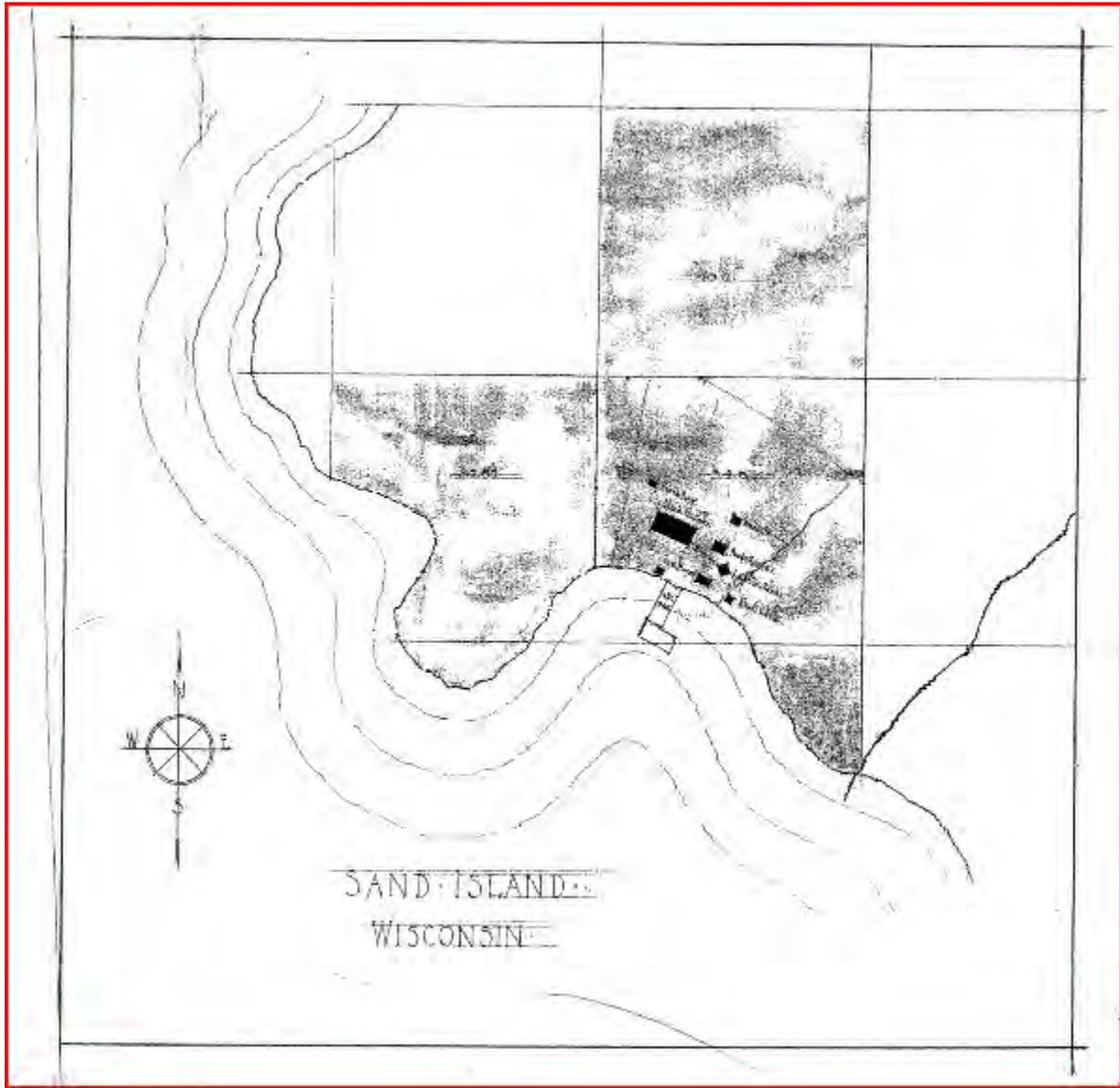


Figure 2: 1912 Proposed Site Plan for the West Bay Club, Buechner & Orth drawing

Figures

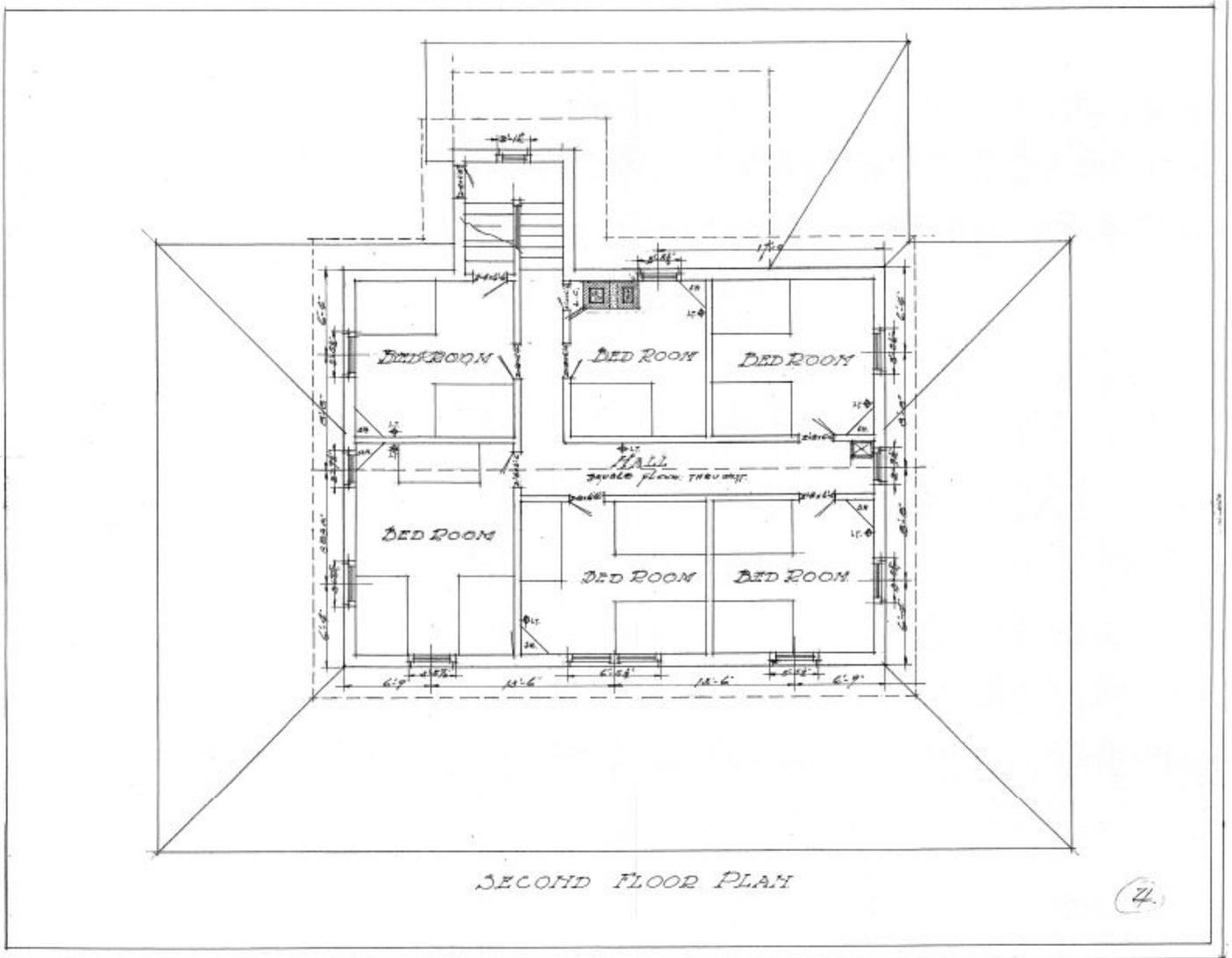


Figure 3: Second floor plan, Buechner & Orth. Note planned hipped corners for porch roof and kitchen roof.

Figures

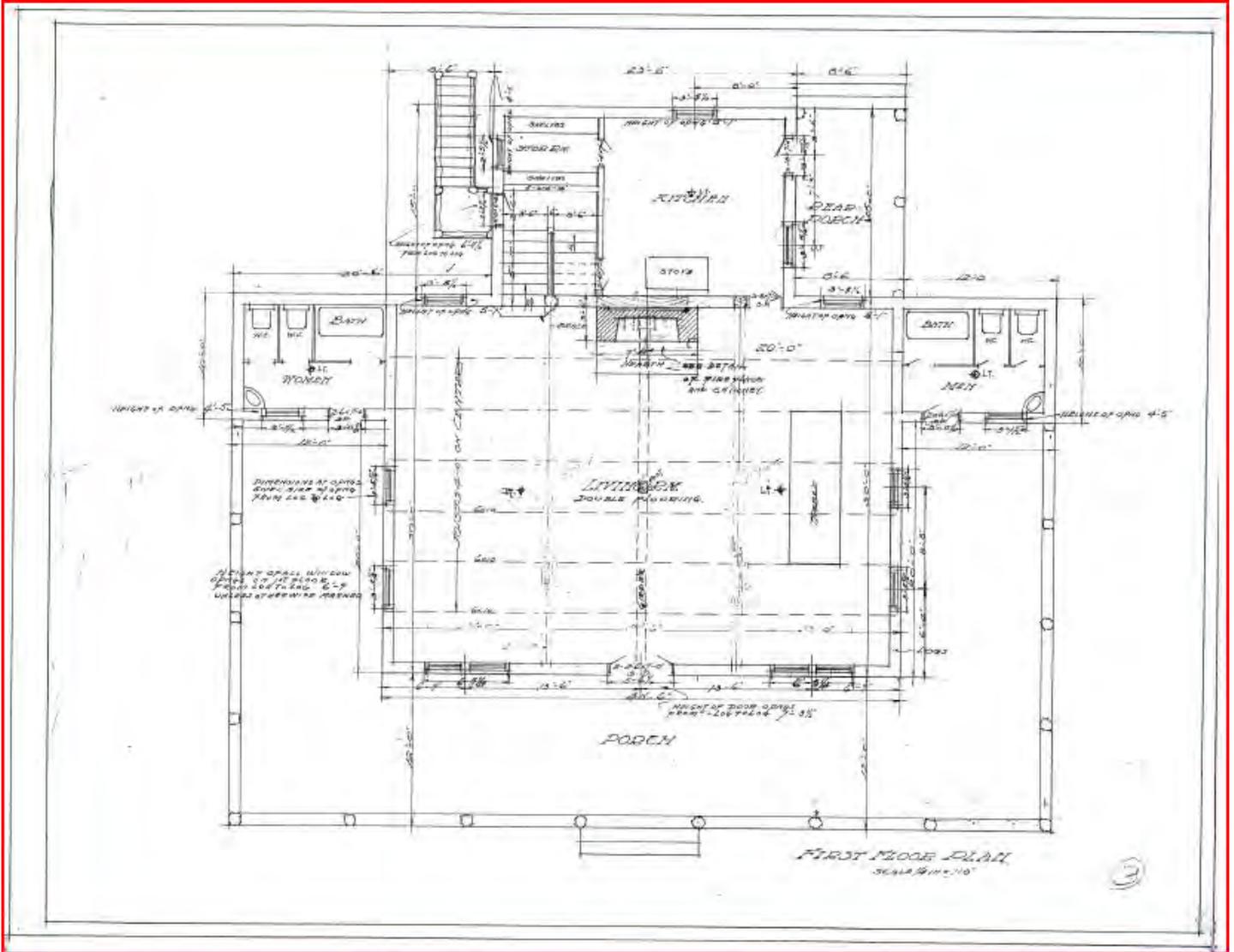


Figure 4: Floor plan, first floor. Buechner & Orth.

Figures

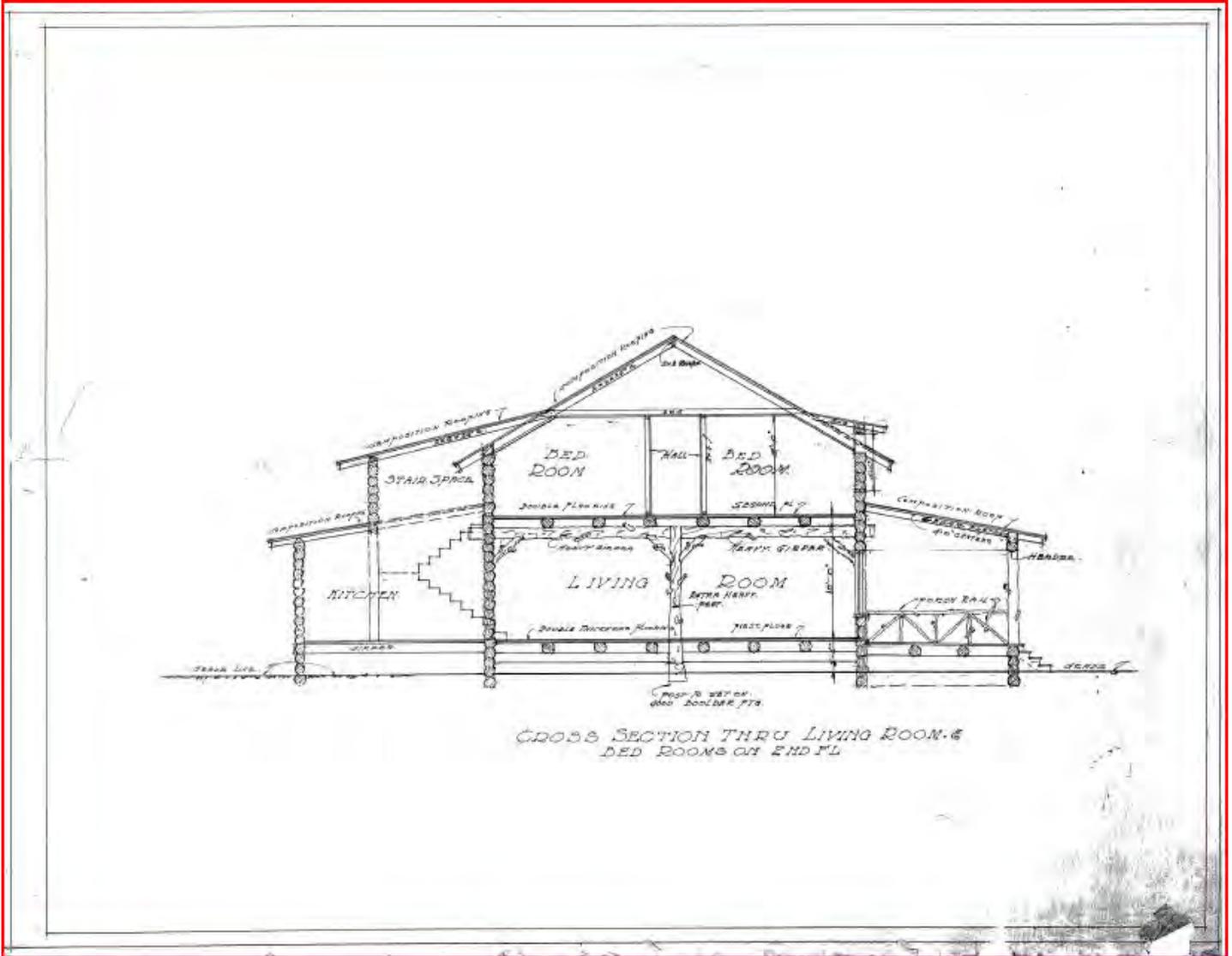


Figure 5: Cross section showing rusticated main post. Buechner & Orth.

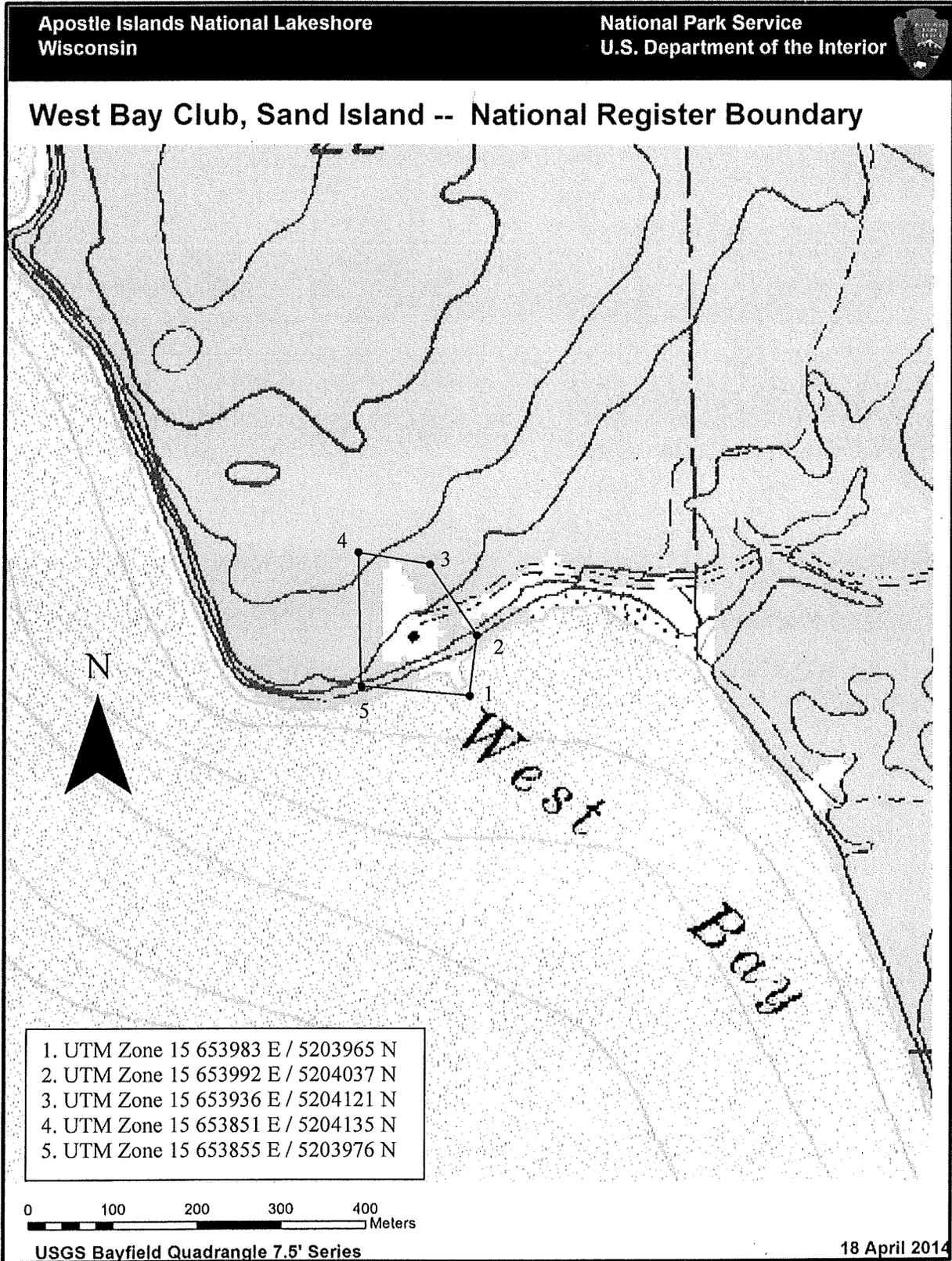


Figures

Figure 7

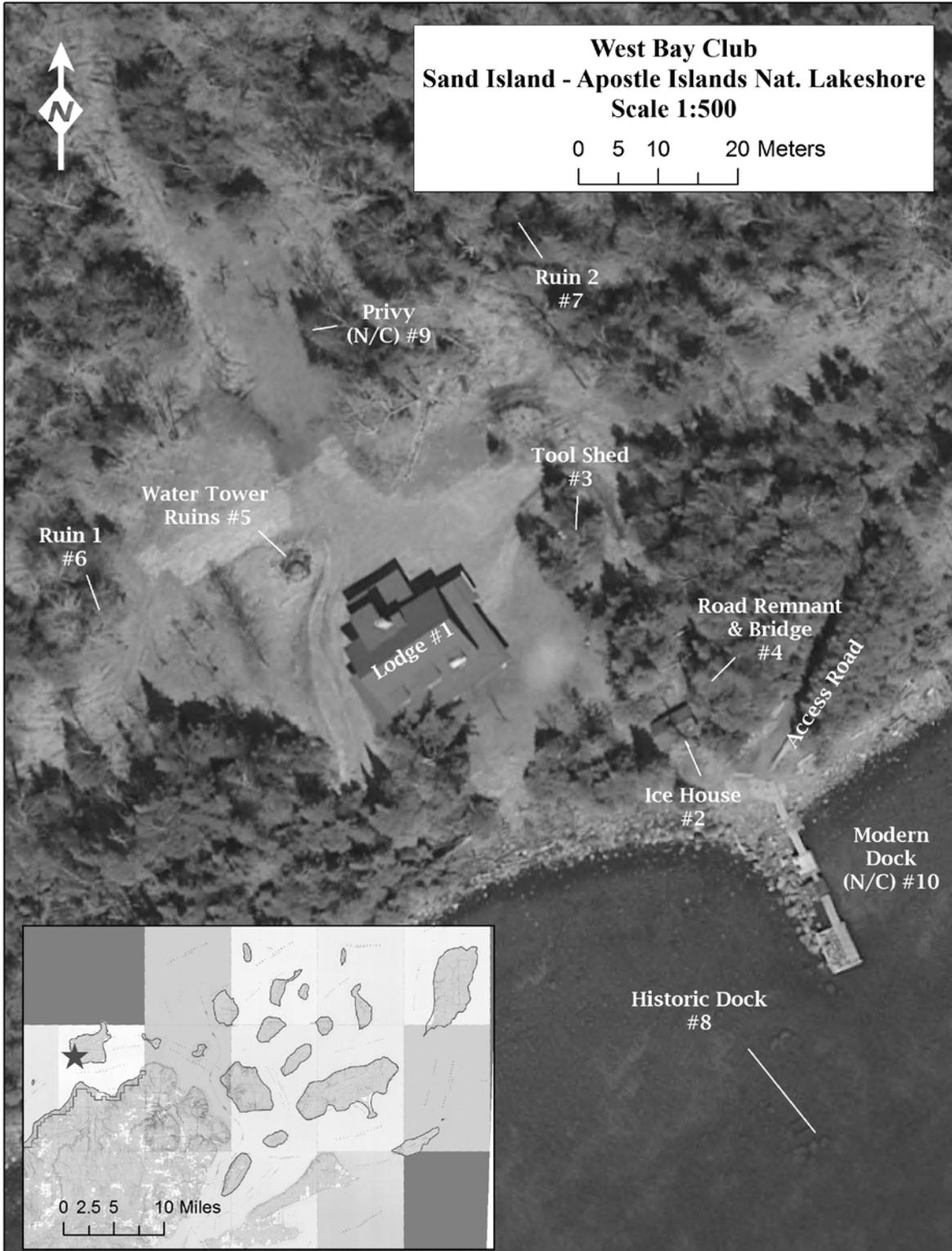


Figure 8



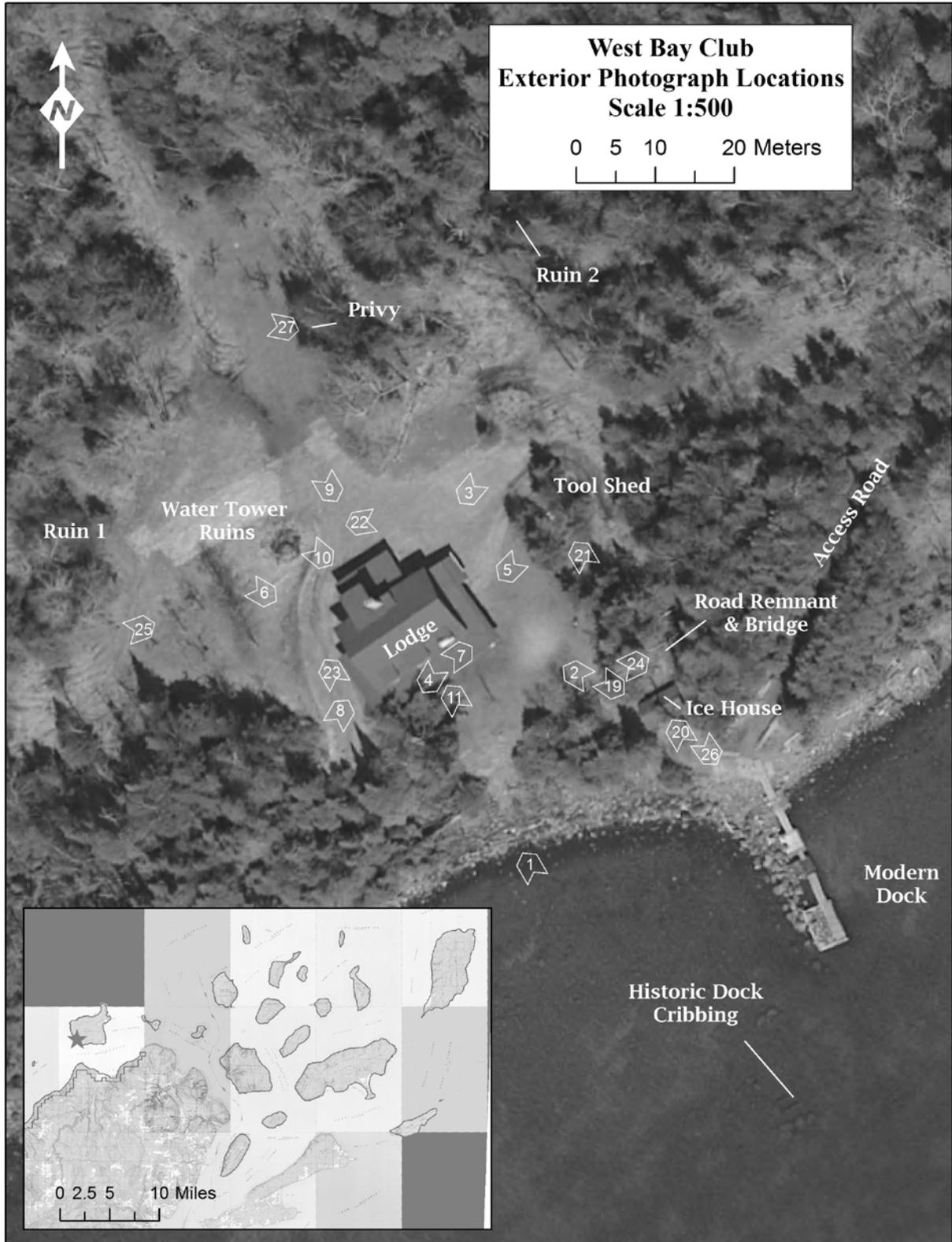
Figures

Figure 9: Site Plan Showing Contributing and Non-contributing Resources.  
(Non-contributing identified by N/C annotation)



Figures

Figure 10: Photograph Locator Map



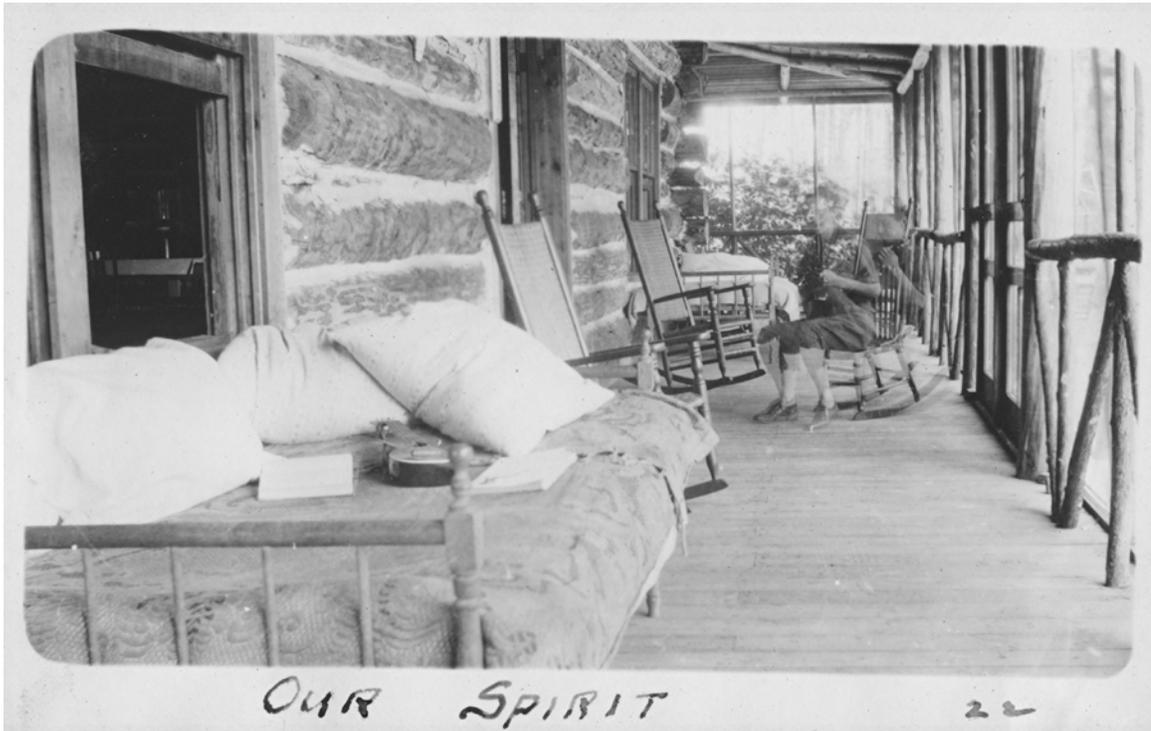
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**Figures**

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Figures 11-14: Historic Photographs (Historic photographs from the collections of Jeff Peters or Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Used with permission.)

11. Looking east on the front porch of the West Bay Club Lodge. From the Jeff Peters Collection.



12. Interior of the first floor of the West Bay Club. From the Jeff Peters Collection.

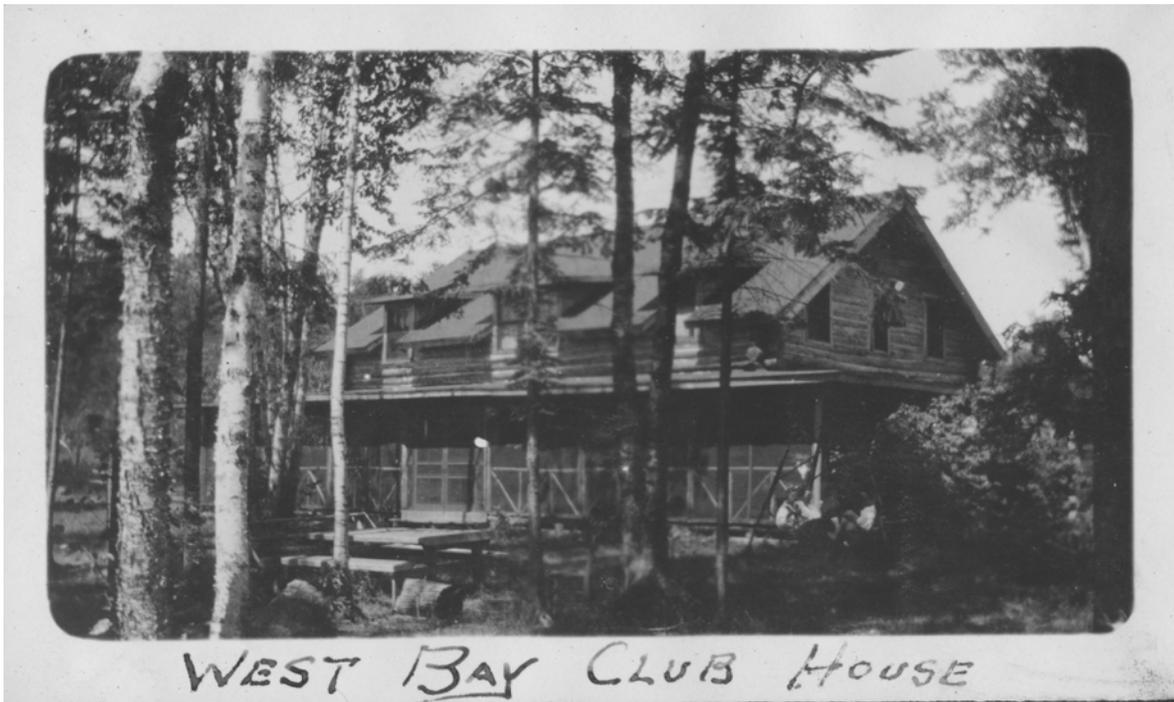


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**Figures**

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13. The West Bay Club lodge circa 1920. From the Jeff Peters Collection.



14. The lodge under construction. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.





**West Bay Club**  
**Sand Island - Apostle Islands Nat. Lakeshore**  
**Scale 1:500**



Ruin 2  
#7

Privy  
(N/C) #9

Tool Shed  
#3

Water Tower  
Ruins #5

Ruin 1  
#6

Lodge #1

Road Remnant  
& Bridge  
#4

Access Road

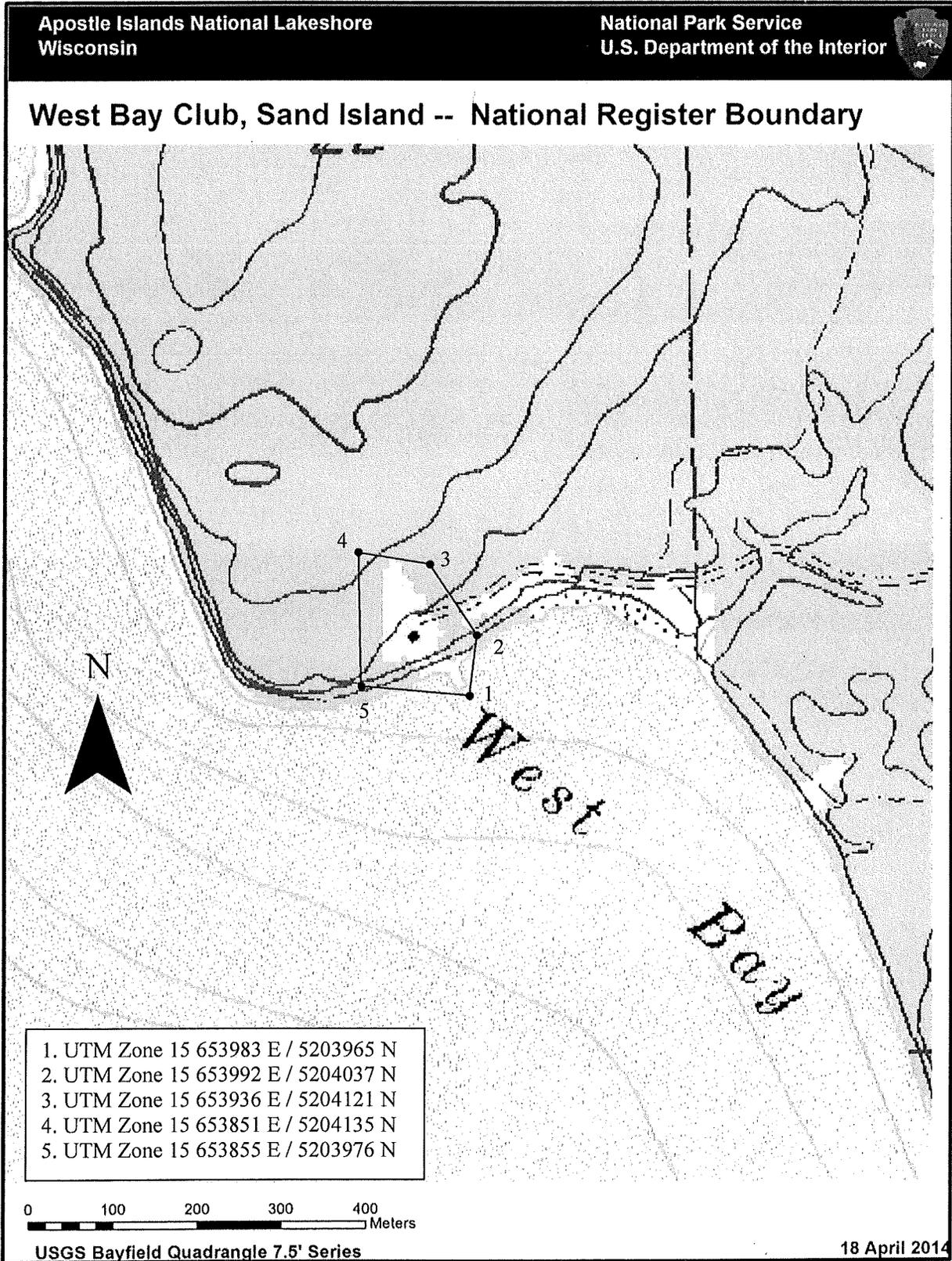
Ice House  
#2

Modern  
Dock  
(N/C) #10

Historic Dock  
#8



Figure 8

























WELCOME



JILL  
ANNE  
PETERS













EDWIN DE VITO



















National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: West Bay Club

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Bayfield

DATE RECEIVED: 06/12/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16<sup>th</sup> DAY: DATE OF 45<sup>th</sup> DAY: 07/28/15

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000385

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 7.28.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The documentation meets all requirements for listing the resource in the National Register of Historic Places. It has been signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Wisconsin, the Federal Preservation Officer for the National Park Service and the Deputy Keeper, National Register of Historic Places. The official listing date is 07/28/2015.

RECOM./CRITEREA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attsched comments Y/N

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



**TO:** Local and State Officials

**FROM:** Jim Draeger, State Historic Preservation Officer

**RE:** State and National Register of Historic Places nomination

**DATE:** April 8, 2014

We are pleased to inform you that the *West Bay Club located on Sand Island in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore which is in the vicinity of Bayfield, Bayfield County, Wisconsin* will be considered by the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

The nomination will be considered at the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board meeting on *Friday, May 16, 2014 at the Sauk County History Center, 900 Second Avenue, Baraboo, Wisconsin*. The enclosed agenda provides the times of the full board and committee meetings. A Baraboo area map is copied on the back of the enclosed agenda.

Any comments or questions should be directed to Peggy Veregin at (608) 264-6501.



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Superintendent  
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore  
415 Washington Avenue  
Bayfield, WI 54814

April 9, 2014

Dear Superintendent:

We are pleased to inform you that the *West Bay Club located on Sand Island in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the vicinity of Bayfield, Bayfield County, Wisconsin* will be considered by the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. The State Register is Wisconsin's parallel program. Listing in the state and national registers provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

Listing of the property provides recognition of its historic importance and assures protective review of federal, state and municipally-planned projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. If the property is listed in the National Register, certain federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply. The Wisconsin statutes also provide for state tax credits for certain qualified projects.

Listing in the State Register or National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the federal or state government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. Neither the state nor federal government will attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them. Under section 66.0437 of the Wisconsin Statutes, local units of government must submit written notification to the Wisconsin Historical Society when owners of Register properties apply for demolition permits. The Society, if it chooses, has a 30-day period to document the property prior to demolition.

You are invited to attend the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board meeting where the nomination will be considered. The board will meet on *Friday, May 16, 2014 at the Sauk County History Center, 900 Second Avenue, Baraboo, Wisconsin*. The enclosed agenda gives the times of the full board and committee meetings. A Baraboo area map is copied on the back of the enclosed agenda.

Attached please find a notice that explains, in greater detail, the results of listing in the State Register and National Register and that describes the rights and procedures by which an owner may comment on or object to listing in the National Register.

Should you have any questions about this nomination before the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, please contact Peggy Veregin of our office at 608/264-6501.

Sincerely,



Jim Draeger  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

[wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org)



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Jeff Peters  
31354 Long Lake Road  
Mellen, WI 54546

April 9, 2014

Dear Mr. Peters:

We are pleased to inform you that the *West Bay Club located on Sand Island in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the vicinity of Bayfield, Bayfield County, Wisconsin* will be considered by the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. The State Register is Wisconsin's parallel program. Listing in the state and national registers provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

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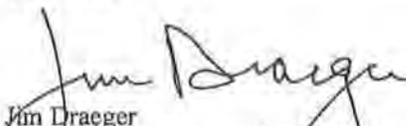
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Sincerely,

  
Jim Draeger  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

[wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org)



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

April 23, 2014

Dr. Stephanie Toothman  
FPO/Associate Director, Cultural Resources  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Room 3128 MIB  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Toothman:

Enclosed, please find a copy of a National Register nomination for the **West Bay Club, Town of Bayfield, Bayfield County, Wisconsin**. The property is located on Sand Island within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (APIS). The property will be considered for listing in the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places as well as for submittal to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at our upcoming State Review Board meeting on May 16, 2014.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at (608) 264-6501. I may also be reached at [peggy.veregin@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:peggy.veregin@wisconsinhistory.org).

Sincerely,

Peggy Veregin  
Interim National Register Coordinator



RECEIVED

MAY 09 2014

DIV HIST PRES

REPRESENTATIVE JANET BEWLEY

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

May 7, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Veregin

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the West Bay Club located on Sand Island to be considered by the Wisconsin Historic Review Board for nomination to the Wisconsin State and National Register of Historic Places.

The West Bay Club Lodge has great historical significance in our state of Wisconsin for the role it has played in the growth of the tourism industry of the Apostle Islands. The lodge is also linked to the architecture firm of Charles Buechner and Henry Orth, which is famous for having built several court houses in Minnesota and surrounding states. Buechner and Orth designed and built the lodge in 1912 as a vacation retreat for themselves and their friends.

Recently, much has been done to keep the West Bay Club Lodge in the condition which the designers left it, including replacing the dock, protection of the building's log foundation, and the restoration of the ice house by a youth group from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa.

I am confident that the West Bay Club is an excellent candidate to be considered for the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and also the National Register of Historic Places. The West Bay Club helps to preserve our heritage in Wisconsin so that future generations will be able to appreciate the long history of our state.

Thank you for your consideration of the West Bay Club as an addition to the Registers of Historic Places. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Janet Bewley  
State Representative  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



74th Assembly District



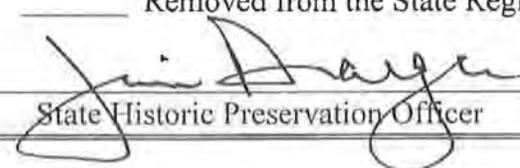
**Wisconsin Historical Society  
Division of Historic Preservation-Public History  
STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CERTIFICATION FORM**

Nominated Property:	<u>West Bay Club</u>
Property Address:	<u>Sand Island</u>
City or Town:	<u>Town of Bayfield</u>
County:	<u>Bayfield</u>

**REVIEW BOARD EVALUATION**

<b>Historic Preservation Review Board Date: <u>May 16, 2014</u></b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nomination meets the criteria and is adequately documented
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nomination meets the criteria, but is not adequately documented
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nomination is adequately documented, but does not meet the criteria
	<u>16 May 2014</u>
Chair of Historic Preservation Review Board	Date

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated officer under s. 44.32, Wis. Stats., I hereby certify that this <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nomination, <input type="checkbox"/> interim listing, or <input type="checkbox"/> petition for removal (check one) meet the documentation standards of the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in s. 44.36(2) Wis. Stats., and that this property or district is hereby:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Listed in Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places
<input type="checkbox"/>	An interim listing in the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places
<input type="checkbox"/>	Removed from the State Register of Historic Places
	<u>5/16/14</u>
State Historic Preservation Officer	Date



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

**TO:** Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Peggy Veregin

**SUBJECT:** National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 9th day of March 2015,  
for the nomination of the West Bay Club to the National Register of Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document

         Multiple Property Nomination form

27 Photograph(s)

1 CD with electronic images

1 USGS map(s) in nomination

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

         Piece(s) of correspondence

         Other \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

         Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

         This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67  
         The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
         constitute a majority of property owners.

         Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

May 29, 2015

Kelly Spradley-Kurowski, PhD  
Historian and Manager, National Maritime Heritage Program  
National Park Service  
1201 I (Eye) Street NW, #2261, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Dr. Spradley-Kurowski,

Enclosed is a letter of support for the nomination of the West Bay Club, Sand Island, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, to the National Register of Historic Places. I'm afraid a copy may have been inadvertently sent instead of the original letter. Please accept this letter from State Representative Janet Bewley and include it with the rest of the nomination file. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Peggy Veregin  
National Register Coordinator  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
608.264.6501  
[peggy.veregin@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:peggy.veregin@wisconsinhistory.org)



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

RECEIVED 2200

JUN 12 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

June 4, 2015

### Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: *for* Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service *Sande McDermott*

Subject: National Register nomination for West Bay Club, Apostle Islands National Seashore, Bayfield County, Wisconsin

I am forwarding the National Register nomination for the West Bay Club, located in Apostle Islands National Seashore, in Bayfield County, Wisconsin. The Park History Program has reviewed the nomination and found the property eligible at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C, with areas of significance of Entertainment/Recreation and Architecture. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Spradley-Kurowski is 202-354-2266, or [kelly\\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov](mailto:kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov).