

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 *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 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 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 Johns Hotel

other names/site number 20IR64

2. Location

street & number Washington Harbor, Barnum Island not for publication

city or town Isle Royale National Park vicinity

state Michigan code MI county Keweenaw code 083 zip code 49931

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

JUL 10 1997

Ronald M. Greenberg
Signature of certifying official

Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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.)

William B. Whit
Signature of certifying official

11/20/96
Date

MI SAPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of Keeper

8/8/97
Date of Action

Johns Hotel
Name of Property

Keweenaw County, Michigan
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Not applicable

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/hotel; domestic/single dwelling
Government/post office; Agriculture/subsistence/fishing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation dry rock piers
roof wood/log; asphalt roll roofing in later years
walls wood/log; posts

other shed walls; wood

Narrative Description

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

The Johns Hotel is located on Barnum Island at the southwestern end of Isle Royale. Originally called Johns Island, Barnum Island is a site of much historic activity on a scant four-and-a-half acre islet. According to the Keweenaw County records, in 1902 there were sixteen buildings and structures on the site. They included the hotel, dining room, store, barn, three fish houses, warehouse, five cottages of various sizes, root house, and two docks. All but two buildings, the hotel and one cottage, have been dismantled or burned and the remains have been overgrown by trees and grasses to the point of being undiscernible today, but are represented by archeological features and midden.

The Johns Hotel is a one-and-a-half-story front gable, six-room log building measuring 32 feet by 19 feet with a full width front porch and a small rear shed addition. The walls are of tamarack logs - an unusual Isle Royale building material. The logs were cut during the winter on Johns Island and hauled .8 mile across the ice to the site by a team of Newfoundland dogs. The building was constructed by John F. Johns and his son William using only hand tools such as an axe, an adz, a bucksaw and a draw knife. Peeled logs with both vee and saddle notches form the building corners. The hotel has log, cement, and quarter pole chinking with unfinished board interior walls. With the later addition of the second story and the attached porch and shed, the hotel provided 1375 square feet of living space.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Johns Hotel
name of property
Keweenaw County, Michigan
county and State

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Exposed log rafters with horizontal board roof sheathing covered with another layer of exterior vertical boards form the main roof. Gable ends are sided with plain boards on a frame construction. The front verge is ornamented with scalloped bargeboards and a gable cross at the peak. The 6 foot by 19 foot open porch is trimmed with ornamental diamond-shaped pole crosspieces and a curved log archway. The porch roof is supported by a cedar post frame with rafters and board sheathing of finished lumber milled on the mainland and transported to the site. The small shed which forms the back entrance to the hotel is 5 feet by 9 feet. It is of frame construction, boarded and covered with drop siding. A stairway, roughly in the center of the building, connects the two floors. It is open to the living room and closed on the kitchen side, forming the principal wall between the two rooms. The upstairs is partitioned into four bedrooms: two over the kitchen and two over the living room. Both kitchen and living room contained wood stoves with chimney pipes extending up through the main roof. The second story floor is supported by log joists mortised into the log walls. The sill logs rest primarily on a foundation of dry rock piers and partially on the ground, which has escalated decay.

The building faces southeast, towards a former complex of buildings and cleared ground. Each second-story gable end contains two double hung six over six pane glass windows. The ground floor doorway entrance is centered and flanked by two double hung, six over six pane windows. The southeast side, facing Washington Island and the inner harbor, has two irregularly placed double hung, six over six pane windows. The shed contains two single pane windows and a wooden door with separate screen door facing northwest. A large two pane sliding window is also located on this side of the building. A single doorway opens to the north. It is opposite the bottom steps of the interior stairway. All of the roofs have had asphalt roll roofing installed from time to time, but it has deteriorated and no longer keeps water out of the building.

An overgrown footpath and clearing leads from the north facing door to a contributing building, the Johns cottage. Built only a few years after the hotel, the one and one half story, log structure was used for family members and employees. It is a 12 foot by 12 foot cabin with simple saddle notches and plaster chinking. Each gable is framed and covered with wood shingles and contains a stationary window with three over three glass panes. The north facade has a wooden door covered with vertical boards and a double hung sash with six over six pane windows. A similar window in the back faces the shoreline. The cottage contains two rooms with a stairway leading to the upper room. The interior of the cottage is unfinished with exposed beam and rafter ceilings. Torn asphalt roll roofing provides some protection to the building.

The physical integrity of the hotel is compromised by dry rot, various types of insect infestation, badly warped logs (erected before they were air dried), and torn roofing which permits water damage. Parts of the lower logs are severely rotten, as are the remnants of the porch floorboards. Despite these deteriorative effects, the building is yet evocative of its earlier shape and historic use.

Johns Hotel and cottage are recognized by the State of Michigan as archeological site 20IR64. Early historical materials found on the site were plentiful and included clay pipe fragments, cut nails, mold trimmings from net sinkers, glass, and buttons. Some prehistorical debitage and worked copper were also recorded. Yet, relative to other archeological sites on Isle Royale, the prehistoric findings fail to reveal any solid diagnostic evidence.

Johns Hotel
Name of Property

Keweenaw County, Michigan
County and State

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.

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 a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/recreation (resorts)
Maritime history (commercial fishing)

Period of Significance

circa 1892 to 1924

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

None

Cultural Affiliation

None

Architect/Builder

John F. Johns and William T. Johns

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Johns Hotel
name of property
Keweenaw County, Michigan
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Johns Hotel is significant under criterion A of the National Register guidelines. Opened circa 1892, the Johns Hotel was the first lodge for vacationers on Isle Royale and was the beginning of the once flourishing summer resort business on the island. The site served during the twentieth century's first two decades as the base of operations for the Johns family's commercial fishing and fish hauling operations, which included four other fishing stations.

Isle Royale is a rugged archipelago in northwestern Lake Superior. Life on Isle Royale has been shaped by contrasting forces: both its remote and isolated location and its legendary resources--copper, fish, and scenic resources. Isle Royale history reflects regional patterns of the Lake Superior mainland, but extra transportation costs and problems have handicapped their presence on Isle Royale. "Island" copper mining and logging ventures were largely unsuccessful and periodic. Lodge based recreation--a much more successful "island" industry which continues today--began at the Johns Hotel. Nineteenth century elites traveled to Isle Royale earlier on cruises but they stayed mostly on-board, watching the jagged coastline, listening to bands, and eating sumptuous meals. The nature of recreational activity on Isle Royale changed, however, with the establishment of the Johns Hotel. With the availability of a room or cottage, vacationers were invited off the large passenger ships to investigate Isle Royale. Formerly copper miners, the Johns family were hardscrabble and opportunistic entrepreneurs who found a way to remain on Isle Royale through recreation. Their "resort" evolved from providing a spare room to ship passengers to catering to paying guests.

Initially, the hotel business flourished, overflow guests were accommodated in the boat house, and a second story was quickly added to the hotel. Like all subsequent Isle Royale and Lake Superior resorts, Johns Hotel catered to hay fever sufferers, anglers, and those fleeing the heat of midwestern summers. The Johns Hotel enterprise survived despite the rudimentary accommodations, meager fare, and few activities. But the success of the hotel and post office, albeit on a small scale, was the business's undoing. Others with greater capital and connections to ship lines offering regular passenger service to "the island" began their own resorts. By 1902, John Johns closed his resort and his son, Will Johns, sold his island property, with the stipulation that his family could remain. At the same time, across the harbor on Washington Island, W. Singer made ambitious plans to build the Island House resort. Between 1904 and 1920 "Singer's Resort" was the premier resort on Isle Royale.

These events did not stop the former hotel from being the scene of bustling enterprise, however. The Johns family simply shifted its attention to commercial fishing. Isle Royale's extraordinary fish populations provided a base for a century and a half old industry and an occupational folk culture. Renowned for its trout and, to a lesser degree, herring and whitefish, fisheries sprang up in many protected coves and inlets. The hotel became Will and Edgar Johns' base of fishing operations which included four satellite fishing stations on Isle Royale and the Minnesota "north shore."

Later the Johns brothers expanded from commercial fishing into fish hauling. They ran the 77-foot steamer Crescent, the steamer Liberty and the tug Fred B. Hall in competition with the Great Lakes fishing magnate, A. Booth. By 1924, the Johns abandoned Crescent and their island dependent fish hauling business. Through time, the "hotel" became a residence for family members fishing or shipping fish, then simply the Johns' family summer cottage until the 1970s, when Edgar Johns died. Since then, the life lessee on Barnum Island, George Barnum, has irregularly had work done on the "hotel." The Johns Hotel relates directly to two of the most stable and long standing Lake Superior and Isle Royale enterprises: recreation and commercial fishing.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 9 Page 1 Johns Hotel
name of property
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Major bibliographic references are:

Clark, Caven P. "Group Composition and the Role of Unique Raw Materials in the Terminal Woodland Substage of the Lake Superior Basin." Ph.D. dissertation. (Lansing: Michigan State University, 1991).

Gale, Thomas P. and Gale, Kendra L. Isle Royale. A Photographic History

Johns, Edgar. Isle Royale National Park Library, Mott Island, Isle Royale, Michigan. Interview, September, 1965 by Lawrence Rackstraw.

Johns, Edgar. Isle Royale National Park Library, Mott Island, Isle Royale, Michigan. Interview, October, 1970 by Glen Merritt and Helen White.

Johns, Edgar. Isle Royale National Park Library, Mott Island, Isle Royale, Michigan. Interview, 1972 by Jim Marshall.

Johns, Robert. "Brief History of the Johns Family at Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, Michigan," unpub. mss., Isle Royale National Park Library, Mott Island, Isle Royale, Michigan.

Karamanski, Theodore and Zeitlin, Richard. Narrative History of Isle Royale National Park. Mid-American Research Center, Loyola University of Chicago, 1988.

"Building File." Isle Royale National Park Library, Mott Island, Isle Royale, Michigan

Commercial picture of Barnum Island, Isle Royale, by Crandell and Fletcher, Copyright 1902. Carl Swenson collection, Monticello, Minnesota.

Keweenaw County Record Book. Liber W, Courthouse, Eagle River, Michigan.

Private communication with Robert Johns, September 28, 1989, notes placed in the Johns family file, Isle Royale National Park, Isle Royale, Michigan.

"The Johns Fish Company Expands." The North Shore Fisherman 1:1 (October 5, 1918): 1. Northeast Minnesota Historical Center, Duluth, Minnesota.

Johns Hotel

Keweenaw County, Michigan

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres (site reservation area only; entire island is 4.5 acres)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 16 333060 5305002
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 333060 5304994

4 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 Cochrane/Elizabeth Amberg--CRMS/Karen Whitehair--Museum Aide/Carl Swenson--Grandson of John F. Johns

organization Isle Royale National Park date 12/01/92; Revised 4/28/96

street & number 800 East Lakeshore Drive telephone (906) 487-7153

city or town Houghton state Michigan zip code 49931

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 10 Page 1 Johns Hotel
name of property
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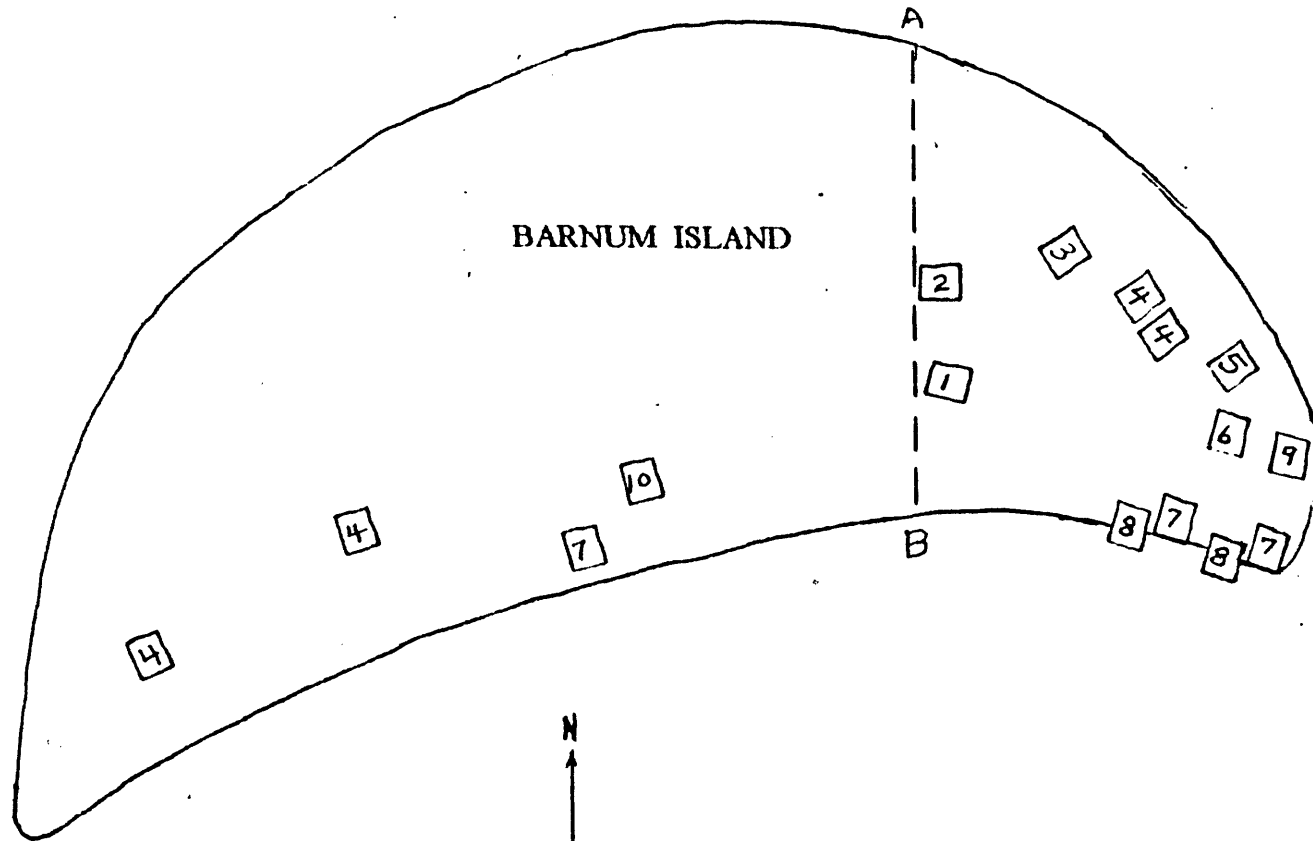
Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for this nomination includes both the Johns Hotel and Cottage and the grounds between them. Further, the boundary is designated to include the grounds upon which were located other Johns' buildings or land uses now demolished or difficult to ascertain. The property lies east of a line drawn between the UTM coordinates "A" 16 333060 5305002 and "B" 16 333060 5304994 which divides the Johns' property and a former life-lessee property. The reservation begins at a point 140 feet north of the west end of the Johns' cottage where the starting point meets Lake Superior; from there along the shoreline east and south to the eastern edge of Barnum Island, from there along the shoreline west and south 300 feet, and from there north back to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the grounds upon which the Johns Hotel and the Johns Cottage are sited, as well as the area in which most of the other outbuildings were located. Now largely overgrown, the area included the hotel, three cottages, a dining house, a barn, two fish houses, two docks, a root house, and a warehouse. The other two cottages, the store and a fish house were located further west on Barnum Island as shown in the location sketch. In addition, the Johns family planted a garden and kept livestock (dairy cows, chickens, pigs) in the area to provide food for their guests and family.

JOHNS HOTEL SITE
Isle Royale National Park - Keweenaw County - Michigan



Building Locations

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Hotel | 6 - Root House |
| 2 - Johns Cottage | 7 - Fish Houses(3) |
| 3 - Dining Place | 8 - Docks(2) |
| 4 - Cottages(4) | 9 - Warehouse |
| 5 - Barn | 10 - Store |

Note: Four buildings were located West of the site reservation.

U T M Reference

A. 16 230060	5305002
B. 16 230060	5304994

Island area : Approx. 4.5 acres.

Site reservation area: Approx. 1.5 acres.

Scale: 1 inch = 40 meters.

Drawn by: C.A.Swenson 4-28-96