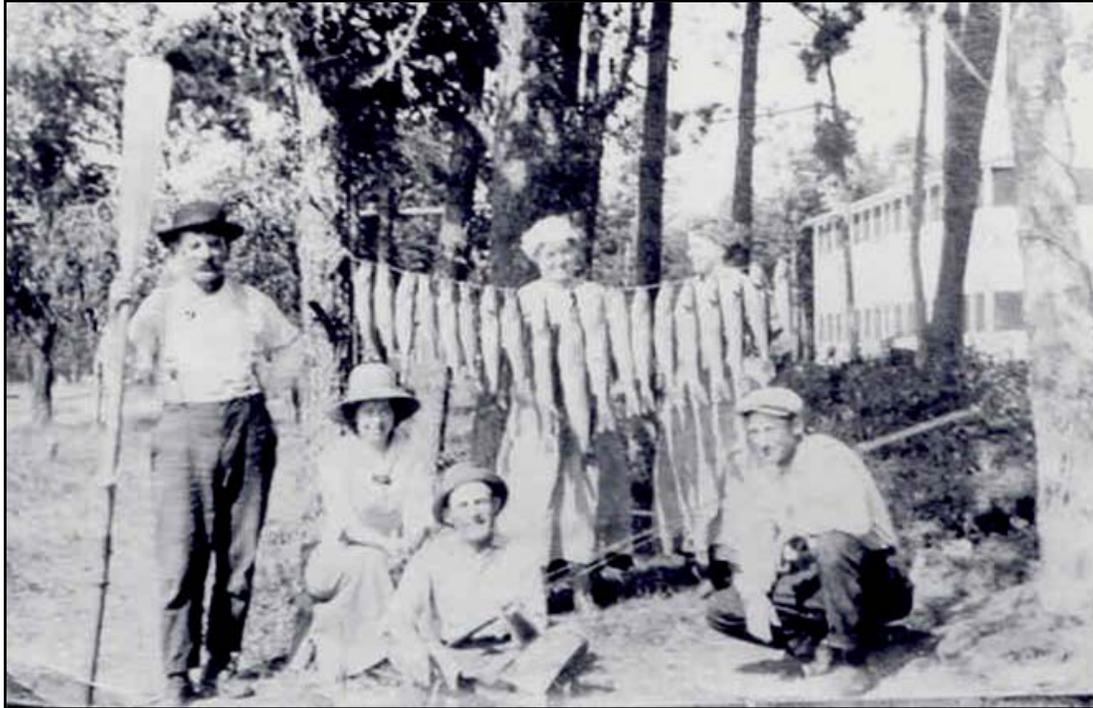


**National Register Evaluation of Star Island  
T145N and 146N R31W in Cass Lake  
Beltrami County and Cass County, Minnesota**



**Submitted to:**

**USDA – Forest Service  
Chippewa National Forest  
Supervisor’s Office  
200 Ash Avenue NW  
Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633**

**Contract No. 43-6392-3-0037, February  
25, 2003**

**FINAL REPORT February 2004**

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## **Abstract**

Star Island is located in Cass Lake, about two miles northeast of the town of Cass Lake, Minnesota, in Townships 145N and 146N Range 31W. While most of the island is in Beltrami County, a portion of the island is in Cass County. Three recreation residence tracts (originally Summer Home Groups) called East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff, are located on Star Island under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. This National Register evaluation seeks to determine if these three groups have achieved significance as historic districts under Criterion A, “for association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history” in the area of Entertainment/Recreation, and under Criterion C, for containing properties that “embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.” Star Island and its three groups have also been evaluated as part of the statewide context “Minnesota Tourism and Recreation in the Lake Regions, 1870-1945.”

Star Island was incorporated into the Minnesota National Forest when it was established in 1908. Three areas of the island were made available for summer homes beginning in 1909 under the permit program of the Forest Service. These became the East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff Summer Home Groups. The Summer Home (recreation residence) program played an important role in promoting tourism and recreation in the national forests, both nationally and in Minnesota. The three Summer Home Groups of Star Island gain further distinction because of their location in an island setting. They were among the first Summer Homes to be established in the Chippewa National Forest and in Minnesota. The three communities contain 49 lots with buildings and other improvements that form the most concentrated group of recreation residences in the Chippewa National Forest (out of a total of 286 lots). The residential cabins and outbuildings, all of wood, are well-preserved examples of cabin and cottage architecture, much of it of a rustic character, as manifested in Minnesota lakeside settings. Some of the buildings are the work of Emil Johnson, a local craftsman, who took advantage of the local materials and settings to create distinctive designs. A number of the cabins were built by the permit holders themselves, following the vernacular architecture tradition.

This study has examined the historical records and has analyzed the buildings and sites through fieldwork and photography. The analysis has been discussed with representatives of the Chippewa National Forest and representatives of the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.

The study concludes that the three Summer Home Groups (recreation residence tracts) of Star Island appear to meet National Register criteria and to maintain sufficient historic integrity. They are therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as the East Beach Summer Home Group of Star Island Historic District, the Sandy Beach Summer Home Group of Star Island Historic District, and the Norway Bluff Summer Home Group of Star Island Historic District. Contributing buildings and features would be considered National Register eligible properties under the Section 106 review process if a proposed project calls for removal or alteration.

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## **INTRODUCTION: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY**

The USDA – Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest has commissioned this study of Star Island and its three recreation residence tracts to determine potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places prior to the expiration and renewal of special use permits in 2008.

Star Island is located in Cass Lake, northeast of the town of Cass Lake, Minnesota, in Townships 145N and 146N Range 31W. While most of the island is in Beltrami County, a portion of the island is in Cass County. Of the three recreation residence tracts, Sandy Beach is solely within Cass County, while East Beach and Norway Bluff are split between Cass County and Beltrami County. (See USGS map.)

This study and evaluation are based on: 1) research in a variety of sources (discussed in greater detail in the next section) to establish specific information about the property and broader contextual information about the Forest Service, the Summer Homes program, the Chippewa National Forest, and architecture and site planning in summer resort communities; 2) on-site photography and physical inspection; and 3) oral interviews. Minnesota Architecture-History Inventory Forms have been compiled as part of this process.

The Forest Service awarded the contract for this study to Loucks Associates, with Michael Madson, Ph.D., to serve as Principal Investigator. After Loucks closed its archaeology unit in May 2003, Hess, Roise and Company assumed the work. Marjorie Pearson, Ph.D., has been the Principal Investigator. Elizabeth A. Gales has been the Historian and Architectural Historian, assisted by Penny A. Petersen, Researcher.

### **Research**

Michael Madson reviewed files relating to Star Island in the Forest Service Supervisor's Office in Cass Lake and in the District Ranger's Office in Walker. He also made copies of pertinent information in the Iron Range Resources History Center. The materials he collected were transferred to Hess Roise. Elizabeth A. Gales and Penny A. Petersen undertook much more detailed research in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and the Cass County Historical Society, as well as the University of Minnesota Libraries and the offices of the Beltrami County Clerk and Cass County Clerk. Ms. Gales made a detailed examination of all individual recreation residence permit folders in the Walker office. These folders contain a record of permit holders for each lot, site plans from 1979 with updates, data sheets and inventory forms compiled by the Forest Service in 1961 and 1967, and applications for changes to the properties. Unfortunately, records of work prior to the 1950s are limited, and not every folder contains the same type of information. Keith Matson of the Deer River Ranger District Office provided additional information on the history of permittees. Information on various properties has been supplemented by the transcripts of oral interviews conducted in 1976 and 1985 by Carol Crawford Ryan and others as part of the Minnesota Historical Society's Minnesota Resort Industry Oral History Project. Carol Ryan accumulated much research on Star Island and its summer residents, which she then incorporated into her Ph.D. dissertation, "Summering: Everyday Life in a Vacation Community, 1909-1985" (University of Minnesota, 1987). In her dissertation, informants' names were changed, Cass Lake was called James Lake,

and Star Island was called Arrowhead. Much of this material was published with the true names as a book, *Star Island: A Minnesota Summer Community* (Saint Paul: Pogo Press, 2000). Prior to the completion of her dissertation, she published “Saving Star Island: Land Use, Local Economy, and Community Interaction in Northern Minnesota,” *Minnesota History* 48 (Fall 1982). John Mosedale’s book, *The First Year: A Retirement Journal* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1992) provides an account of Star Island life from the perspective of one who spent 55 years there at the time of that writing. Carol Ryan and other island residents have provided useful information during the course of this study, including: Caroline Dostal, John and Betty Mosedale, the Coens, Janet Lloyd Hoff, Annabelle Chilcott Zimmerman, the Marstellers, Debbie Haecker Wyatt, and Marcia Wolfe Haecker. Mrs. Stanley Johnson, Emil Johnson’s sister-in-law, and Carol Russell, Mrs. Johnson’s daughter, shared photographs and documents pertaining to Emil and Star Island. Pertinent material is cited as footnotes in the following discussion and in the Bibliography.

### **Fieldwork**

An initial reconnaissance site visit was made by Elizabeth A. Gales on July 30, 2003. Jim Tande of the Forest Service assisted with background information and site access. Ms. Gales and Dr. Pearson completed the island fieldwork between August 25 and August 27, 2003. A selection of photographs is included in this report. Black and white photographs are attached to the inventory forms.



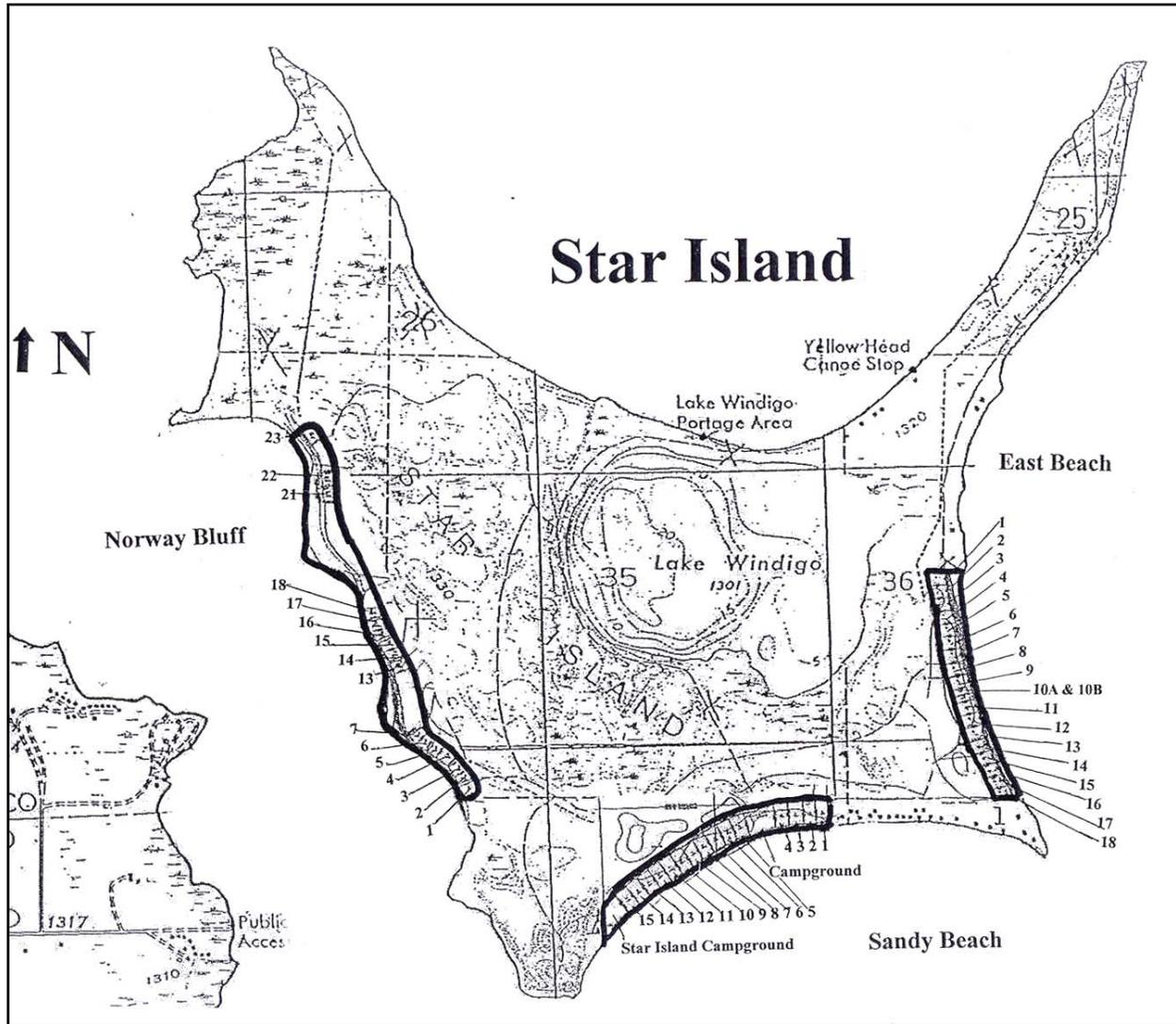
USGS Quad Map—Cass Lake, 7.5 minute series

## PROPERTY DESCRIPTION<sup>1</sup>

Star Island, located in Cass Lake about two miles northeast of the town of Cass Lake, is accessible only by boat or on ice, when the lake is frozen. The island, which is 1160 acres or slightly less than two square miles, acquired its name because of its irregular configuration with points of land jutting out from the mass of the island. Lake Windigo, accessible by portage from Cass Lake on the north shore of the island or by trails from the interior of the island, occupies about 180 acres. The south shore of the island is only slightly above the level of the lake, but much of the land rises steeply from the shorelines. With the exception of a few marshy areas,

<sup>1</sup> The physical descriptions are based on fieldwork by Elizabeth A. Gales and Dr. Marjorie Pearson between August 25 and August 27, 2003. All photographs were taken at the same time, unless otherwise noted.

much of the island is heavily wooded. A series of trails lead along the shorelines, either at lake level or along the bluffs, and into the interior. A trail along the power line right-of-way connects the residential sections of the island on the interior.



*Star Island Site Map*

**East Beach Summer Home Group (see map)**

The East Beach Summer Home Group, originally the East Shore Group, consists of nineteen contiguous lots, numbered 1 through 18 (Lot 10 is divided into A and B sections), from north to south. Each lot is approximately 150 feet wide and 200 feet deep and extends from the trail at the top of the bluff along the east shore westward to the power line right-of-way. The permit holder for each lot is entitled to waterfront access, which is obtained via steps or a path from the front of

the lot, and has the right to install a dock in the lake and maintain a boathouse or other storage building at the lake edge, although all such improvements are off the permit holder's lot. Typically each lot contains a house or cabin, and one or more outbuildings, generally an outhouse or privy and storage building or shed. Lots where early permits were granted, between 1911 and 1925, often have guest houses or guest cabins that also contain storage space. The lots are heavily wooded with the cabins generally set close to the trail along the bluff. In some cases, space has been opened in front of the cabin and grass has taken hold, but there is little in the way of planned landscaping. Unpaved paths lead from the cabins to the bluff trail and to outbuildings and neighboring lots. Septic fields have been located west of the cabins towards the power line right-of-way.

The earliest permit on the East Shore was granted in 1910 for Lot 12, and the cabin was built in 1911. The last initial permits were granted in 1958 for Lots 15 and 16. The first house on Lot 15 was built in 1959, but it was replaced in 1969 after a fire. The house on Lot 16 was designed in 1962 and built in 1963. Changes and modifications have been made to the various lots since the initial permits were granted and the cabins constructed. The following entries discuss the buildings and their dates in greater detail. A list of contributing and noncontributing buildings and structures is appended to this report.<sup>2</sup>



*Looking north along East Beach, ca. 1910  
(photo: Dana V. Wardner album,  
Minnesota Historical Society)*

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<sup>2</sup> The narrative information for all of the properties is taken from United States Forest Service's Recreation Residence Previous Permittee's list for each property, from the 2001 residency list assembled by Carol Ryan for *The Loon*, and from the Recreation Residence Permittee files for each lot. Other sources will be cited as needed.

### ***East Beach Lot 1***

The cabin is a wood-frame building with a rectangular plan. The one-story building has a two-story addition on the south end. The building is clad in board-and-batten siding, stained dark brown with dark-brown trim. The hipped roof of the main section and the gable roof of the addition are covered with brown asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafters with metal pipes bracing the eaves on the north end of the first story. A stone chimney rises from the peak of the one-story hipped roof on the north end. The building is set on a wood posts with concrete footers. Metal screens between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either four-light or six-light casement sash. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the north and east sides of the building. A small wood-frame addition with a shed roof is located on the north end of the west facade. It is clad in brown-stained plywood and likely contains the water heater. No outbuildings could be seen on the lot.

The cabin sits on a bluff overlooking the lake. The front of the building is close to the bluff, but the rear has a small open area. Worn dirt and grass paths lead around the building and also lead to neighboring lots. Wood stairs lead from the front of the lot down to the dock.

### **History**

Lot 1, currently leased by Thomas and Susan McElligott, is the northernmost of the Forest Service lots on the east shore. The first permit was let in 1921 to Dr. P. E. Miller, a University of Minnesota faculty member from Morris, Minnesota. The cabin was constructed the following year by Emil Johnson, a local carpenter. In 1946 a permit was issued to John S. Oden, but by 1952 Kenneth L. Erickson was leasing the lot. In 1955 the permit was transferred to James K. Mugg and his wife Mary. The Muggs maintained the property until 1979 when their daughter, Polly, took it over. The Muggs added the second-story bedroom on the building's south end in the 1960s. In 1982 the McElligotts purchased the building and took over the lease.<sup>3</sup>

### ***East Beach Lot 2***

This summer house is unique on the island, designed in the form of an elaborate pagoda. The building is a wood-frame structure with a square plan that is modified by a one-story addition extending to the west. The three-story building is faced in stucco painted in a cream color, with orange and light-green wood trim. The hipped and gable roofs of the main section and the intersecting hipped roof of the west addition are covered with red asphalt shingles. A stucco-clad chimney rises on the west wall of the main cabin section. The building is set on concrete pads, and screens between the pads shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-light or eight-light casement sash. The addition contains contemporary one-over-one sash windows and one section of casement windows salvaged from the original wall. Two round-arched wood and glass doors set behind round-arched wood screen doors provide access on the east side of the building. A wood and glass door, with an aluminum screen door, leads into the addition's north side.

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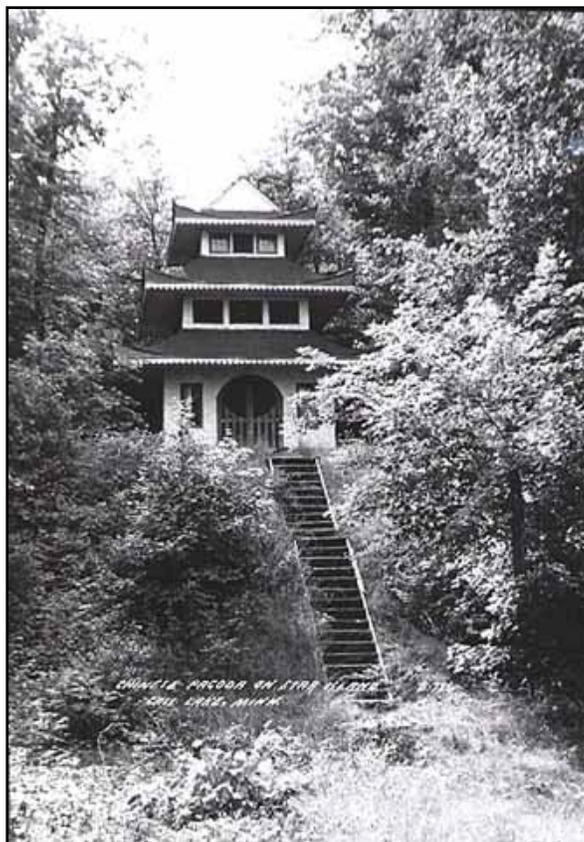
<sup>3</sup> Carol Ryan, *Star Island: A Minnesota Summer Community* (Saint Paul: Pogo Press, 2000), 142.

A wood-frame storage building, clad in green lap siding, is situated west of the cabin. A wood-frame outhouse, also covered with wood siding, sits on the shed's west side.

The building sits on the bluff overlooking the lake. The land around the building is open with a few mature trees remaining. A concrete walk leads from the stone-lined terraced lake steps to the front door and continues around the north side of the house to a side door. The remainder of the lot is grass or dirt.

### **History**

The pagoda-style cabin on Lot 2 was constructed in 1926 by Dr. C. R. Christiansen, a dentist from Starbuck, Minnesota, and brother of then-Minnesota governor, Theodore Christiansen. It is probable that Dr. Christiansen's political connections swayed the Forest Service to overlook the building's exotic architecture. The building was designed by Minneapolis architect W. W. Purdy and built by a Cass Lake contractor, A. A. Protzman. In 1936 the permit was transferred to Aldine and Arthur Kenworthy, who maintained the property until 1976. Mrs. Kenworthy had the one-story addition to the west facade built in 1973 by Harry Stilwell, a local builder. The Kenworthys' daughter, Mary Lou, and her husband, William King, are the current owners.<sup>4</sup>



*Pagoda on East Beach Lot 2, ca. 1950  
(photo: Minnesota Historical Society)*

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<sup>4</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 54-55, quotes an account of the building from the *Cass Lake Times*, July 26, 1926. See also, Paul Clifford Larson, *A Place at the Lake* (Afton, Minn.: Afton Historical Society Press, 1998), 135-136.

### ***East Beach Lot 3***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with an L-shaped plan that resulted from additions extending to the north of the original cabin. The one-story building is faced in wood shingles, painted brown with brown trim. The hipped roof over the main section and the intersecting gable roofs of the northern additions are covered with light-gray asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises on the exterior of the south facade. The building is set on concrete blocks that are covered with plywood panels to shield the crawl space and create storage. Window openings contain one-over-one sash, modern sliding sash, or casement-sash windows. Aluminum doors set behind aluminum screen doors provide access on the west and east sides of the building. An open wood deck on the east facade is a recent addition. A small wood-frame storage building clad in vertical board-and-batten siding is located west of the cabin.

The cabin sits above the lake on a bluff. The land surrounding the building is open and has scattered areas of grass. The septic system drainage field is north of the house. The remainder of the land has worn-dirt paths leading from the cabin to the outhouse and to neighboring lots, and shaded sections where grass doesn't grow. A series of wood and terraced-earth steps lead from the front of the lot to the dock.

### **History**

C. M. Sundwall of Minneapolis was the first person to hold a permit for Lot 3, and he probably built the cabin in 1919. The permit did not change hands until 1952 when John Oden of Des Moines bought the cabin and renovated it, after living in the cabin on lot 1 for several summers. It is uncertain what changes Oden made. William and Lois Lloyd of Chicago purchased the cabin in 1974 and made gable-roof additions to the north and northwest of the original hipped-roof building by 1979, all with Forest Service approval. A 10-foot by 20-foot deck was added to the front facade in 1991. Ownership of the cabin was recently transferred to Ann Lloyd.

### ***East Beach Lot 4***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a C-shaped plan. The one-story building is faced in wood board-and-batten siding, painted brown with brown trim. The gable roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. A stone chimney rises from the peak of the gable roof on the north end. The building is carried on wood blocks set on concrete footers. Screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung-sash. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the west, north, and south sides of the building. Three open wood porches and stairs, one each on the north, west and south facades, replace earlier steps.

A contemporary wood-frame shed, clad in the same materials as the cabin and stained to match, is located southwest of the cabin.

The cabin is situated close to the east edge of the bluff overlooking the lake. The entrance to the cabin is on the west side. The site is heavily wooded and has no grass, but dirt paths lead around the cabin, to the storage shed, and to neighboring lots. The residents of Lot 4 share the stairs and dock of the Lot 3 residents.

## **History**

The cabin on Lot 4 was constructed for Dr. Donald Cowling by local carpenter Emil Johnson in 1919. Cowling was president of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, from 1909 to 1945. In 1950 the permit was transferred to Cowling's daughter, Mary Ellen, and her husband, the Reverend John Guice of Kansas City, Missouri. The building was sold to Mary Lee McHenry of Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1989 and sold again in 2000 to John and Janet (Lloyd) Hoff of Pittsford, New York, who added low-rise decks on the cabin's north, west, and south facades and the gambrel-roof storage shed in summer of 2002. Until the Hoff's purchased the building, the shed (originally the maids' quarters) on the property line between Lots 4 and 5 was shared by both lots. That building is now located on lot 5.

## ***East Beach Lot 5***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a C-shaped plan. The one-story building is faced in wood board-and-batten siding, stained dark brown with dark-brown trim. The gable roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. A stone chimney rises from the peak of the gable roof on the north end. The building is carried on wood blocks set on concrete footers. Screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung-sash. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the west, north, and south sides of the building. Simple wood stairs lead to each doorway.

The former maids' quarters, now used as a storage shed, is located northwest of the cabin. The wood-frame building is clad in board-and-batten siding stained to match the cabin. A wood-frame triple-seat outhouse is situated southwest of the main cabin. It is covered in the same materials as the cabin and shed.

The cabin is situated close to the east edge of the bluff overlooking the lake. The entrance to the cabin is on the west side. The heavily wooded site has no grass, and there is low wooded undergrowth around buildings. Dirt paths lead around the cabin, to the other buildings, and to the neighboring lots. A set of steps northeast of the cabin leads down to the dock.

## **History**

This cabin was constructed in 1919 by Emil Johnson and is similar to the cabin that belonged to Dr. Donald Cowling on Lot 4. Both buildings were designed with three or four exterior doorways and an open floor plan that fostered entertaining. Dr. Marion Burton, president of the University of Minnesota from 1917 to 1920 and the University of Michigan from 1920 to 1925, was the original owner. After moving to Michigan in 1920, Burton's sister and her family used the cabin. Following Burton's unexpected death in 1925, his brother-in-law, Dr. Howard Brubaker of Manhattan, Kansas, officially took over the permit. The permit was transferred in 1957 to Brubaker's daughter Barbara and her husband E. D. Chilcott. In 1999 Annabelle Chilcott Zimmerman of Sunset Hills, Missouri, took over the cabin and remains the current permittee. Until 2000, the shed (originally the maids' quarters and contemporary with the construction of the cabin) on the property line between Lots 4 and 5 was shared by both lots.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 49-50.

### ***East Beach Lot 6***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with an L-shaped plan. The one-story building is faced in wood beaded-lap siding painted dark brown, with dark-brown trim. The gable roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles. The roofs are carried on prominent eave brackets. A brick chimney rises on the exterior of the west wall. The building is set on a wood posts with concrete footers. Bead-board panels cover the posts and shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain nine-light casement sash. A fixed-pane window is located on the east facade. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south side of the west ell. A wood and glass door leads into the cabin on the east side. Wood stairs and an open wood porch are centered on the east facade. Narrow wood porches are on the south side of the rear ell.

A wood-frame guest cabin clad in the same materials as the main cabin and painted to match, is situated to the southwest (listed as “Extra Quarters” on a 1989 site plan). Two wood and glass doors, set behind wood screen doors, provide access to the east facade. The screened window openings on each facade hold six-light casement-sash. Two single-seat outhouses are located west and northwest of the main cabin. Like the main cabin and guest cabin, the buildings are wood frame with dark-brown lap siding.

The cabin sits in a heavily wooded site atop the bluff overlooking the lake. An extensive system of dirt paths, some of which are sanded, lead around the cabin and to the guest cabin and outhouses, and to neighboring lots. Wood steps lead from the front of the lot down to the dock.

### **History**

There is no Forest Service documentation for the first permittee Carol Ryan lists on Lot 6, an individual named Gray. Because the cabins on Lots 6 and 7 are nearly identical and it is known that the first permit for Lot 7 was granted in 1918, it is probable that the Lot 6 cabin was constructed around 1918 by Emil Johnson, the builder of the cabin on Lot 7. In 1928, Dr. Harold Diehl and his wife Julia became the owners. When the Diehls expanded the rear ell westward in the 1940s, the guest cabin was already on the site. It is not shown on a 1940 Forest Service plan. The two outhouses are listed in a 1961 Forest Service inventory form. The Diehls’ children, Dr. Antoni Diehl and Annabelle Diehl Bush, and their spouses took over the permit in 1974 and are the current permittees.

### ***East Beach Lot 7***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with an L-shaped plan. The one-story building is faced in wood lap siding, painted dark brown with dark-brown trim. The gable roofs are covered with brown asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends and are carried on prominent eave brackets. A brick chimney rises on the exterior of the west facade. The building is set on wood posts with concrete footers that are covered with plywood to shield the crawl space and create storage. Screened window openings contain either six-light or twelve-light casement sash. Window openings on the east side hold modern single-light casement sash. A wood door set behind a wood screen door provides access on the south side of the rear ell. A covered wood porch with stairs is situated on the south wall of the rear ell.

The wood-frame guest cabin, clad in the same materials and painted to match the cabin, is southwest of the main cabin (listed as “Extra Quarters” on the site plan). Two wood and glass doors, one each on the west and east sides, are set behind wood screen doors. Screened window openings hold six-light casement sash. A wood-frame outhouse, covered with the same materials as the other buildings, is situated southwest of the guest cabin.

The cabin sits in a heavily wooded site atop the bluff overlooking the lake. A small grassy clearing on the west side of the building has a wood picnic table. Worn dirt paths lead around the cabin, to the outbuildings, and to the neighboring lots. Wood and earth steps lead from the top of the bluff down to the dock.

### **History**

The first permittee on Lot 7 was R. H. Wells in 1918. Like other cabins on the east shore, Wells’s cabin was constructed by Emil Johnson, who likely built the cabin on Lot 6 at the same time. The guest cabin is shown on a 1940 Forest Service plan. In 1944 the permit was transferred to Dr. John McKelvey who maintained it until 1972, when the current permittee, Dr. John R. Amberg of La Jolla, California, bought the cabin.

### ***East Beach Lot 8***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan. The one-story building is faced in wood board-and-batten siding, painted dark brown with dark-brown trim. The hipped roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles. A stone chimney rises from the roof peak on the north end. The building is set on a poured-concrete foundation. Screened window openings contain six-light casement sash. Other window openings hold modern single-light casement sash. A wood and glass door set behind a wood screen door provides access on the east side of the building. A wood and glass door leads into the cabin on the north side. An open wood deck has been added to the east facade.

The guest cabin, clad in the same materials and painted to match the main cabin, is situated to the northwest. Screened six-light casement-sash windows wrap around all sides of the cabin. A single wood and glass door is centered on the east. A stone chimney projects from the north end of the hipped roof’s ridgeline. A wood-frame storage building, covered with the same materials as the cabin and guest cabin, is located west of the cabin. The wood-frame outhouse, clad in the same materials as the other buildings, is southwest of the main cabin.

The cabin is sited back from the edge of the bluff overlooking the lake. The front of the site has a small grassy clearing, while the surrounding sides are wooded. A boardwalk leads from the north door around the northwest corner to the pumphouse addition. Worn dirt paths lead from the outbuildings to the main cabin and from the main cabin to the neighboring lots. A set of terraced wood and earth stairs leads from the front of the lot down to the dock.

### **History**

Like several other lots on East Beach, Lot 8 was first leased in 1918, and Dr. Charles A. Reid and his wife built the cabin. In 1932, Dr. Lawrence D. Steefel, Sr., of Minneapolis and his wife Genevieve bought the cabin. Family history states that the guest cabin was constructed around

that time. It is shown on a 1940 Forest Service plan. In 1969 the permit was transferred to Lawrence Steefel, Jr., and his wife Marion of St. Louis, who added the 12-foot by 16-foot wood deck onto the east facade in 1992. The permit remains in the family today; the Steefels' daughter Sarah and her husband Jim Moore of Minneapolis took it over in 1999.

### ***East Beach Lot 9***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan and shed-roof additions on the east, south, and west facades. The two-story building is faced in wood lap siding painted orange-brown with matching trim. The side-gable roof over the two-story section and the shed roofs of the additions are covered with brown asphalt shingles. The roofs are carried on carved eave brackets. A brick chimney rises from the peak of the gable roof. The building is set on wood posts with concrete footers. Plywood panels shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain six-light casement sash windows, single-light sliding-sash windows, or fixed-pane windows. Wood and glass doors provide access on the east and west sides of the building. Stone and concrete steps lead to the east facade doorway. An open wood deck has been added to the southwest corner of the building.

A wood-frame storage building is located northwest of the cabin. It has a front-gable roof and a door on the east side. The window openings have been covered with wood siding. A small wood outhouse is set back in the woods southwest of the cabin. Both buildings are clad in the same materials as the house and are painted to match.

The cabin is situated on a bluff overlooking the lake. While the land immediately around the cabin is clear, the remainder of the lot is densely wooded. Worn dirt paths lead through the grass around the cabin to the outbuildings and to the neighboring lots. Terraced wood and earth steps lead from the front of the lot to the dock.

### **History**

Carol Ryan lists Mary Gold, a resident of Minneapolis, as the earliest permittee of Lot 9, beginning in 1916. Gold probably constructed the original cabin before selling it to Victor G. Pickett in 1934. In 1944 Dr. John M. Adams, of Minneapolis, is listed as the permittee. Only the cabin and two privies are shown on the 1940 Forest Service plan. By 1948 the permit had been transferred to Dr. Charles D. and Carolyn Creevy. On the 1961 Summer Home Data Sheet, all of the shed-roof additions to the cabin are listed, as are a utility building, privy, and a shower stall. In 1975 Michael H. Creevy took over the permit and the cabin. Since 1979, a deck has been added to the southwest corner of the building, and after 1988 the shower stall was removed and the shed moved closer to the house, probably in conjunction with the installation of a new septic system in 2001-02.

### ***East Beach Lot 10A***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan and a shed-roof addition to the west facade. The two-story building is faced in wood lap siding, painted green with matching trim. The hipped roof over the two-story section and the shed roof of the addition are covered with gray asphalt shingles. Two bubble skylights project from the addition's shed roof. The roof eaves

have exposed rafter ends. A brick chimney rises on the exterior of the building's west facade. The building is set on a poured-concrete pads and has screens between the pads to guard the crawl space. Contemporary one-over-one sash windows are located in the openings on the east facade and the east openings on the north and south facades. The west openings on the north and south facades and the west facade openings hold screen windows and either six-light, nine-light, or fifteen-light casement sash or two-over-two double-hung-sash. A wood and glass door is set behind a wood screen door on the west end of the south facade. A modern metal and glass door provides access on the east side of the building. An open wood deck has been added to the east side.

A wood-frame storage shed is located northwest of the cabin. It has a gambrel roof and a door on the north side.

The building sits on a bluff overlooking the lake and is surrounded by a grassy clearing. Paths are worn into the grass leading from the neighboring lots and from the cabin to the storage shed to the west. Stairs lead from the northeast corner of the property down to the dock.

### **History**

This building was originally constructed in the 1920s by Emil Johnson as a dormitory for Camp Kawajiwin, a girls' camp. After the camp relocated to Wolf Lake in 1929, Dr. Donald McCarthy of Minneapolis and his family received a permit for this lot in 1932. They added the shed-roof addition, which holds the kitchen and bathroom, onto the west facade. In 1971 Lee and Tessa Caswell took over the permit, but by 1975 it had been transferred to Jay and Carol Ryan of St. Paul, who had a cabin on private land further north on East Beach. The Ryans removed the outhouse before 1979 and constructed the shed in the 1980s. They also installed the skylights in the kitchen and new one-over-one sash windows on the eastern end of the building. The deck was added in 1997.

### ***East Beach Lot 10B***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan and one-story additions to the west and north of the original cabin. The two-story building is faced in wood shingles, clapboard siding, and plywood, all painted dark brown with matching trim. The hipped roof over the main section and the hipped roofs of the additions are covered with red asphalt shingles. A bubble skylight is set in the north addition's roof. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. A brick chimney rises on the exterior of the main section's south facade. The building is set on concrete piers, except for the west addition, which is a poured concrete slab. Screens between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either four-light or nine-light casement sash or four-over-four double-hung-sash. There is a single-light hinged window on the south facade. Two wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access to the east and west ends of the building's north facade. Stone and concrete steps lead to the east doorway, and a wood platform leads to the west doorway.

A double-seat wood outhouse is set back in the woods southwest of the cabin. It is clad in wood clapboards painted to match the house.

The cabin sits on a bluff overlooking the lake. The site is open to north with trees close to the cabin on the other sides. Wood planks laid on ground create a "board walk" from front entrance to rear entrance. Dirt paths lead from the cabin to the outhouse and to neighboring lots. Wood stairs leading from the front of the site to the dock

### **History**

This building, constructed in the 1920s by Emil Johnson, served as a dormitory for Camp Kawajiwin, a girls' camp, along with the building on Lot 10A. After the camp left the island in 1929, George Gray Cowie of Minneapolis took over the permit for this lot in 1932. The Cowies added a one-story section for a porch, kitchen, and dressing room to the north and west sides. In 1947 Dr. A. O. C. Nier of St. Paul and his family moved into the cabin. In 1948, the Niers installed new wood windows in all of the window openings; the second story had only been screened, and the first story had double-hung-sash windows. Nier enlarged the west addition in 1961 and resided the house with wood shingles. In 1994, Janet Nier Marx of Springfield, Virginia, took over the permit; she shares the property with her brother Keith Nier.<sup>6</sup>

### ***East Beach Lot 11***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan and an addition to the south. The one-story building is faced in vertical wood siding, painted dark orange with red-brown trim. The steeply pitched side-gable roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. A metal stove pipe rises from the west slope of the gable roof. The building is set on concrete piers with lattice panels between the posts shielding the crawl space. Window openings contain either one-over-one sash or sliding sash windows. Double wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the east side of the building. A sliding glass door set behind a wood screen door provides access to the west side of the building. Open wood decks have been added to the east and west sides by the doorways.

A metal storage shed is located at the northwest corner of the cabin. It has a shed roof and doors on the south side. A wood outhouse is set back in the woods northwest of the cabin. It is clad in the same materials as the cabin, but is painted in a reverse color scheme.

The cabin sits on a bluff overlooking the lake. The site is open on east side and wooded on remaining three sides. While there is some low forest ground cover, but no grass; paths are worn from cabin to outhouse and to neighboring lots. Stairs lead down to the lake from the front of the lot.

### **History**

Carol Ryan lists the first permittee as a man named Abercrombie in 1925. It is probable that the original cabin was constructed during his ownership. Abercrombie is shown as the occupant on the 1935 map drawn by Christian Ruckmick. In 1936, Viola A[bercrombie?]. Guss held the permit, and by 1954, Charles Abercrombie had purchased the cabin. The permit was given to Vernon and Millie LaDoux in 1967 and transferred to Howard and Mary Schneider in 1974. The 1961 Summer Home Data Sheet records the building as having a hipped roof with a shed addition to the north and faced with drop lap siding. David and Connie Olson bought the cabin in

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<sup>6</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 102-103.

1983; in 1987, they constructed an addition, expanding the existing cabin to the south and adding a porch. The roof was altered to a gable with a twelve-over-twelve pitch. James and Heidi Richter are also listed as the owners on the 1987 application for the addition. Sometime after the 1987 construction, the decks and metal storage shed were added to the property.

### ***East Beach Lot 12***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with an extension at the southwest. The one-story vernacular building is faced with horizontal board-and-batten siding on the east front and on the south side below the windows of the enclosed porch and with vertical board-and-batten siding on the other sides, all painted brown. The cabin has a side gable roof, and the southwest extension has a shed roof. All are covered with red-brown asphalt shingles. An exterior stone chimney rises from the north side of the cabin. The building is set on a poured concrete foundation, visible on the west side, and is carried on wood posts set on concrete footers on the east side. Wood panels screen the openings between the wood posts to prevent access to the crawl space. Screened window openings contain eight-light wood casement sash. The enclosed porch has replacement aluminum one-over-one double-hung combination sash. Window openings in the southwest extension have wood and glass sash that are hinged at the top. A wood and glass door set behind a screen door opens onto the wood deck on the north side of the house.

The cabin is located on a bluff overlooking the lake and close to the east edge of the lot. While there is an open area in front of the house, the remainder of the site is heavily wooded with very tall pine trees behind the house. Dirt paths lead around the building and to the neighboring lots. Steps lead down to the dock from the front of the lot.

### **History**

Dr. J. B. Johnston, dean of the College of Science, Literature and the Arts at the University of Minnesota, was granted the first permit for Lot 12 in 1910. According to his wife, Juliet Johnston, the family started building the cabin in 1911. The property was transferred to Dr. A. J. Chesley, also of Minneapolis in 1939, then to Dr. Curtis Lund in 1950. Dr. Lund probably added the shed-roof extension at the west. Carol and Jeffrey Shaw acquired the permit in 1980. They seem to have added the present window sash in the porch. They also added the deck on the north side of the cabin in 1996.<sup>7</sup>

### ***East Beach Lot 13***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan, oriented east-west, with an extension to the west. The one-story vernacular building is faced in lap siding, painted brown. The cabin has a shallow hipped roof, rising to a steep center pyramidal roof, covered with green asphalt shingles and set on prominent carved eave brackets. A brick chimney rises from the west edge of the pyramidal roof. The building is set on a concrete-block foundation on the east, and is carried on wood posts set on concrete footers on the west. Panels screen the crawl space openings between the posts. Screened window openings contain sixteen-light casements. Sliding sash are set in the extension at the west. A wood and glass door, set behind an aluminum screen door, provides

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<sup>7</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 21, 23.

access to the enclosed porch that forms the east front. Another wood and glass door is on the west side.

A wood outhouse with a shed roof is located near the western edge of the lot.

The cabin is situated on a bluff overlooking the lake. Trees surround the building on three sides, with a grassy open area on the east side. Dirt paths around the cabin lead to the outhouse and to neighboring lots. Steps at the southeast corner of the lot lead down to the dock.

### **History**

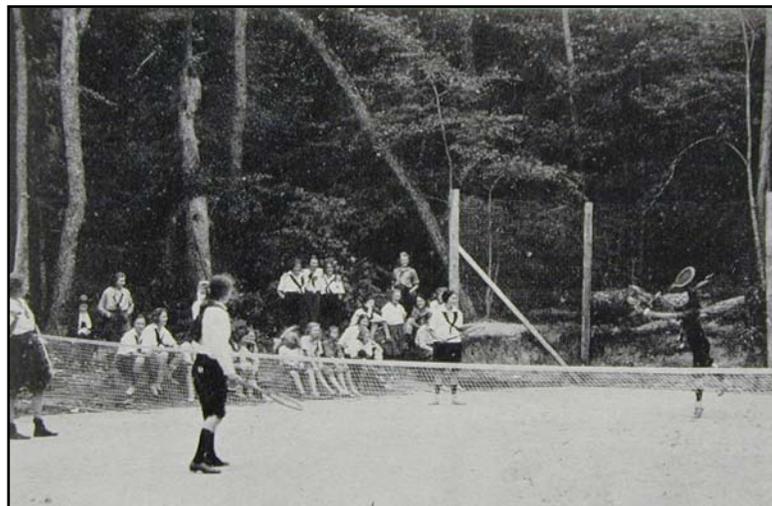
According to Carol Ryan's research, the first permit holder on Lot 13 was someone named Sanderson from North Dakota, who appears in 1917 listings. Lester B. Shippee of Minneapolis acquired the permit in 1929.<sup>8</sup> A site plan dated 1938 shows the installation of the outhouse in its current location. Norman W. Hines of Olathe, Kansas, acquired the permit in 1960. He added the extension to the west in 1968-1969. The property was transferred to his widow Mary Ellen Hines in 1995.

### ***East Beach Lot 14***

This lot is occupied by a deteriorated rectangular concrete-paved area, oriented east-west, that was used as a tennis court. A basketball hoop is mounted on a pole at the northern edge of the paved area. Chicken-wire fencing encloses a portion of the lot at the east, to prevent balls from rolling down the slope. Dirt paths lead from the paved area to the neighboring lots.

### **History**

The tennis court originally was installed by Camp Kawajiwin and gradually deteriorated after the camp moved in 1929. It was refurbished and put back into active use in the 1950s by the residents of East Beach.<sup>9</sup>



*Tennis match at Camp Kawajiwin, ca.1920  
(photo: Kawajiwin brochure, Minnesota Historical Society)*

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<sup>8</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 64. Shippee's son Warner purchased the house on Lot 15 in 1969.

<sup>9</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 103-104.

### ***East Beach Lot 15***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with a screened porch extending to the north. The one-story ranch-style building is faced in wood vertical sheathing and horizontal board-and-batten siding, painted brown. The side gable roof is covered with reddish-brown asphalt shingles and set on shallow eave brackets. A metal chimney stack rises from the south end of roof. The building is set on concrete block posts with concrete footers. Wood panels between the posts prevent access to the crawl space. Screened window openings contain single-light casements. Sliding wood and glass doors set behind screens open onto the wood deck on the east side of the building. Screen doors provide access to the porch.

A wood-frame shed with shallow gable roof and vertical wood sheathing is located northwest of the cabin.

The cabin is set on a bluff overlooking the lake but back from the trail passing at the front of the lot. The area immediately around the cabin is open and grassy, but wooded further to the west. Dirt paths lead to the shed and to the neighboring lots. Steps lead from the front of the lot down to the dock.

### **History**

The first permit for Lot 15 was issued to Dr. Gerald T. Evans in 1958, and a cabin was built the following spring. Following a fire which destroyed the Evans cabin, the property was transferred to Warner and Elizabeth Shippee of Saint Paul. According to correspondence in the Forest Service files, they hired architect Joseph Michel to design a new cabin, which was to be constructed by Hugh Krause, a Cass Lake contractor, reusing as much of the original foundations as possible. The new cabin was, in fact, reoriented from an east-west to a north-south axis and given a somewhat more elongated footprint when it was built in 1969.<sup>10</sup>

### ***East Beach Lot 16***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with a screened porch extending to the north. The one-story ranch-style building is faced in wood vertical board-and-batten siding, painted blue-green with light blue-green trim. The side gable roof is covered with reddish-brown asphalt shingles and set on shallow eave brackets. A brick chimney stack rises from the center of roof. The building is set on a concrete-block foundation. Screened window openings contain single-light casements. Paired wood and glass doors set behind screens open onto the wood deck on the north side of the building. A single wood and glass door set behind a screen door is located on the south end of the cabin. The deck extends around to the east front of the cabin.

A wood storage shed, with vertical wood siding painted to match the cabin and a shed roof, is located north of the cabin.

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<sup>10</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 68.

The cabin is set on a bluff overlooking the lake but is somewhat back from the trail fronting the lot. The area immediately in front of the cabin is grassy and open, but heavily wooded on the remaining three sides. Steps lead from the front of the lot down to the dock.

### **History**

Dr. Lawrence Steefel, Sr., who owned the cabin on Lot 8 further north along East Beach, acquired the permit for this property in 1958. According to Forest Services records, his daughter and son-in-law, Nina Steefel Cutler and Jean Cutler, commissioned the cabin from architect Eugene Canino of Eugene, Oregon, in 1962. Emil Johnson was hired to build it during the following year. The property was transferred to Donald and Betty Jo Zander in 1973. They added the existing storage shed in 1987. Alicia Toomey Amberg and John Amberg acquired the permit in 1994.

### ***East Beach Lot 17***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with an L-shaped plan, with an extension to the south and an addition to the west. The one-story vernacular building is faced in lap siding, painted salmon color with dark red trim. The hipped roof over the eastward extending front section, the intersecting gable roofs over the north-south wing and the westward addition, and the shed roof over the southern extension are covered with reddish-brown asphalt shingles and have exposed rafter ends. A brick chimney stack rises from the intersection of the hipped and gabled roof. The building is set on a poured concrete foundation in front and wood posts with concrete footers at the rear. Wood panels between the posts prevent access to the crawl space. Screened window openings contain four-over-four or six-over-six double-hung sash or multi-light casements. Two wood and glass doors set behind screen doors provide access on the east and west sides. Both doorways open onto wood platforms.

A wood-frame storage building is located northwest of the cabin. It has a gable roof, doors on the east and south, and multi-light double-hung sash in the window openings. A small wood outhouse is set far back in the woods.

The cabin is set on a bluff overlooking the lake, but is somewhat back from the trail fronting the lot. The area around the house is open to the east and north and covered with grass. The remainder of the lot is wooded. Dirt paths lead to the storage building and to the neighboring lots. Steps lead from the front of the lot down to the dock.

### **History**

According to Carol Ryan's research, Lot 17 was part of Camp Kawajiwini, a girls' camp that relocated to Wolf Lake in 1929. The lot permit was taken over by Janet Wilson, a niece of the camp owners. She is shown as the owner of the site on the 1935 Star Island map drawn by Christian Ruckmick. It is likely that the oldest portion of the cabin, the section of the L extending eastward, is a surviving cabin from the girls' camp. The permit was transferred to Anna Smart (later Mrs. E.S. Byron) in 1942. She probably added the extension at the south that contains a bedroom. In 1955 Donald C. Creevy acquired the property and filed plans for long-term improvements with the Forest Service. He planned to enlarge the cabin with the section that completes the L, and to remove the shingles from the walls of the existing cabin and to replace



*Camp owners and directors: Miss Thomas  
and Miss Berthold, ca. 1926-1929  
(photo: Mildred Hillyer Moody album,  
Minnesota Historical Society)*

them with board-and-batten siding. The addition was finally constructed in 1968-1969, with a somewhat larger footprint than had been filed in 1955. It is not known if the shingles were replaced then or later. In 1977, William E. Davidson II of Galena, Missouri, took over the permit. The addition to the west postdates 1979, as it is not shown on a site plan of that year. The storage building postdates 1989, as it is not mentioned a site permit issued that year. Both William Davidson and his wife Ila died in 2000.

### ***East Beach Lot 18***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with an extension to the south and an addition at the northwest. The one-story vernacular building is faced in lap siding, painted gray with dark gray trim. Each section of the cabin has a side gable roof with exposed rafter ends and covered with gray asphalt shingles. All the rooflines are parallel to each other. An exterior stone chimney rises from the north side of the main cabin section. The building is set on a poured concrete foundation. Screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung sash or single-light casements. Paired wood and glass doors open onto the screened porch across the east front. Wood and glass doors set behind screen doors provide access to the addition at the northwest and on the west side of the main section.

A metal storage shed is located to the west of the cabin. An outhouse is located near the southwest corner of the lot.

The cabin is very close to the east edge of the lot on the bluff overlooking the lake. A small area is open around the cabin, but otherwise the site is heavily wooded. Dirt paths lead to the outbuildings and to the neighboring lots. Steps down to a dock are located at the southeast corner of the lot.



*Cabin on East Beach Lot 18, ca. 1910s  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

### **History**

According to Carol Ryan's research, A. J. and Maybelle Starr were the first permit holders of Lot 18, beginning in 1913. According to their son Ralph, his father built the main cabin section in 1914. Roy E. Stevens acquired the permit in 1924, after the Starr family moved into a new cabin on the southeast point of the island (not Forest Service land). The extension at the south and the addition at the northwest appear to have been added in the 1950s. Even though his daughter Martha Stevens Burton and her family were using the cabin, Roy Stevens is still listed as the permit holder on Forest Service records from about 1961 and 1967. The permit was transferred to Dr. James and Virginia Ginsberg in 1986.<sup>11</sup>

### **Sandy Beach Summer Home Group (see map)**

The Sandy Beach Summer Home Group, originally the South Shore Group, consists of fifteen lots, numbered 1 through 15 from east to west, and two public campgrounds. The east campground is located between Lots 4 and 5 and the west campground, the site of Star Island Lodge, is west of Lot 15. Each lot is approximately 150 feet wide and 250 feet deep and extends from the concrete sidewalk at the north edge of the south shore beach northward to the power line right-of-way. The permit holder for each lot is entitled to waterfront access via a boardwalk or other walkway, from the concrete sidewalk in front of the lot, and has the right to install a dock in the lake, although all such improvements are off the permit holder's lot. Typically each lot contains a house or cabin, and several outbuildings, generally a boathouse, an outhouse or privy, and storage building or shed. Many of the lots also have guest houses or guest cabins that may also contain storage space. The lots are fairly open to the south and more heavily wooded at the north with the cabins generally set back approximately 30 feet from the sidewalk. Many of the lots have lawns in front or alongside the cabins and modest landscaping with bushes and

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<sup>11</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 26, 44-46.

other plantings. Concrete pathways lead from the cabins to the main sidewalk and to outbuildings. Septic fields have been located north of the cabins towards the power line right-of-way.

The earliest extant building on the South Shore was a log cabin built in 1905 for the Forest Service ranger. This cabin was incorporated into the larger cabin, built ca. 1920, on Lot 5. The two earliest permits were granted in 1909 for Lots 3 and 4. The cabin on Lot 4 was replaced in 1959. The last initial permit issued on the South Shore was for Lot 14 in 1925. Changes and modifications have been made to the various lots since the initial permits were granted and the cabins constructed. The following entries discuss the buildings and their dates in greater detail. A list of contributing and noncontributing buildings and structures is appended to this report.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 1***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan. The one-story building is faced in wood clapboard siding, stained dark-brown with matching trim. The steep side-gable roof is carried on prominent eave brackets and is covered with gray asphalt shingles. A stone chimney rises on the exterior of the west facade. The building is set on a solid concrete-block foundation. At the time of the survey, the window openings were covered with panels so the type of window could not be identified. Wood doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the north and south sides of the building. A solid wood door leads into a utility room on the north side. A concrete-block porch is located on the northeast corner by the doors.

A one-story storage building that also has living space is situated immediately northeast of the cabin. A concrete walkway links the two buildings, and a freestanding cross-braced structure shelters the open space between the two. The storage building is clad in the same materials as the cabin.

The site is open with grassy lawns on all sides of buildings and some deciduous trees on the south and west sides of house. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the house. A dock is located off the lot in front of the cabin.

### **History**

The first permittee for this lot is listed in *The Loon* as Andy Johnson of Cass Lake in 1913. Johnson constructed the original building, a one-story cabin with a square plan. In 1925, William W. Gerrish purchased the cabin and probably made a shed-roof addition to the north facade. Bob Rush bought the building in 1951, but by 1954 the cabin and permit had transferred to the Reverend Einar Oberg. In 1987, Charles and Nancy Munger of Los Angeles took over the permit. They already owned property on the south shore east of Lot 1. In 1988, the Mungers tore down the original cottage without Forest Service permits and built the current cabin and storage building.

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<sup>12</sup> The narrative information for all of the properties is taken from United States Forest Service's Recreation Residence Previous Permittee's list for each property, from the 2001 residency list assembled by Carol Ryan for *The Loon*, and from the Recreation Residence Permittee files for each lot. Other sources will be cited as needed.



*Cabin on Sandy Beach Lot 2, ca. 1910s  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 2***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan that resulted from additions to each side of the original cabin. The one-story building is faced in vertical wood siding, painted light gray with dark-brown trim. The hipped roof of the main section and the intersecting side shed roofs of the additions are covered with brown asphalt shingles. A stone chimney rises from the slope of the east shed roof where it joins the hipped roof. The building is set on a solid concrete-block foundation and has lattice panels to disguise the concrete. Screened window openings on the south facade contain modern single-light casement sash, while the openings on the east and west sides hold eight-light casement sash. One-over-one double-hung-sash and modern sliding-sash windows are set in the openings on the north facade. Wood doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and north sides of the building. A solid wood door leads into the cabin on the east side of the north addition.

The site has trees and shrubs close to the building on all sides, although the front (south side) faces an open grassy lawn. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the cabin. The walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

A. W. Foss of Fosston, Minnesota, is listed in *The Loon* as the first permittee in the early 1910s. He probably constructed the original section of the cabin. In 1920 A. S. Dougall of Lincoln, Nebraska, is listed as the owner, and in 1942 the permit was transferred to M. E. Dougall. The shed-roof additions on each facade were probably constructed by 1942. G. M. Richardson Dougall and Donald Dougall became the permittees in 1947. Today the cabin is owned by G. M. Richardson Dougall and Kathleen C. Dougall of Portland, Oregon. They are responsible for installing the new windows and removing the pit toilet.

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 3***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan modified by additions on the east, north, and west facades. The one-story building is faced in narrow clapboard siding, painted light green

with matching trim. The pyramidal roof over the main section and the intersecting gable and shed roofs of the additions are covered with gray asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the north slope of the pyramidal roof. The building is set on a solid concrete-block foundation. Window openings contain either modern one-over-one sash, modern sliding sash, or modern casement-sash windows. A metal and glass door set behind an aluminum screen door provides access on the south side of the building. Sliding glass patio doors are set on the west side and a solid wood door with an aluminum screen door set on the north side.

A wood-frame boathouse is located west of the cabin. It is clad in the same materials as the house and painted to match.

The site is open with a well-developed lawn; some mature trees remain on the south, west, and east sides of the cabin. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the cabin. The walkway continues off the lot to a dock.

### **History**

Unlike other lots on this shore, Lot 3 has had several permittees who were not related. Albert Marshek, a Cass Lake businessman, was the first permittee in 1909 or 1912, although the *Cass Lake Times* has notice of him staying on the island in 1909. Marshek built the original section of the cottage. In 1931, H. C. Shur from Duluth took over the permit. The cabin, boathouse, and privy are shown on a 1940 Forest Service plan. By 1945 the permit had passed to Gilbert



*Sandy Beach Lots 3 and 4, ca. 1919  
(photo: Minnesota Historical Society)*

Edwards from Sioux City, Iowa, and then to his daughter Gilberta Kolb in 1948. Raymond Miller bought the cabin in 1950. When John Blankenship took over the permit in 1957, gable-roof additions had already been made to the east and west sides and a shed-roof addition to the north side. Blankenship applied in 1960 to add a gable-roof extension to the west side. It appears that another addition was made to the northwest corner at the same time. In 1972, Bruce Blankenship took over the permit, and Elizabeth Blankenship appears on the permit list in 1973. A shed-roof addition on the north side of the westernmost addition was made between 1968 and 1979, and the pit toilet was removed. Both Elizabeth Blankenship Dube and Bruce Blankenship are listed in 1980, when Elizabeth applied for another addition. The application was denied because the square footage for the cabin exceeded the 900-foot limit by 496 feet. The permit was transferred to Elizabeth Blankenship Dube's name alone in 1986, and she retains it today.<sup>13</sup>

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 4***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan. The one-story building is faced in particle-board shingles, painted blue-gray with white trim. The multi-gable roof is covered with gray asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the west slope of the front-gable roof on the building's rear section. The building is set on a poured-concrete foundation. Window openings contain one-over-one sash. Wood and glass doors set behind aluminum screen doors provide access on the south and east sides of the building.

A wood-frame shed is situated northeast of the cabin. It has a gable roof that slopes into a shed roof on the south side of the building. It is clad in lap siding and painted to match the cabin.

A lawn surrounds the house and outbuilding. Mature trees are located close to each side of the cabin. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the house and around the east side of the house to the side door. The walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

This lot has had three permittees. The first was Frank Gorenflo, a Cass Lake resident who had the honor of having the first Forest Service summer home permit issued in Minnesota. Gorenflo probably built his cabin in 1910, but when Dr. Wilson Wolfe and his family took over the permit in 1958, the building had become infested with carpenter ants and was in poor condition. The Wolfes salvaged the poured-concrete foundation, the fireplace, and the chimney. A local contractor, Art Rogholt, constructed a new cabin by summer 1959. The family was apparently displeased with the small window size, but did not enlarge the openings to improve ventilation. In 1983, Marcia Wolfe Haecker and her husband F. Woods Haecker took over the permit. They have not added to the building or significantly altered the exterior.

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<sup>13</sup> "Another cottage is going up on Sandy Beach," *Cass Lake Times*, July 24, 1909. Ryan, *Star Island*, 112-115. According to Ryan, 15, Edwards's cabin was dubbed "The Addmore" because of the many additions, although one of her informants (113, 115) states that the cabin on Lot 7 (see below) was "The Addmore."

## *East Campground*

The East Campground is a partially open grassy area ringed by large deciduous and evergreen trees. The camping area contains two log and plank benches and a firepit.



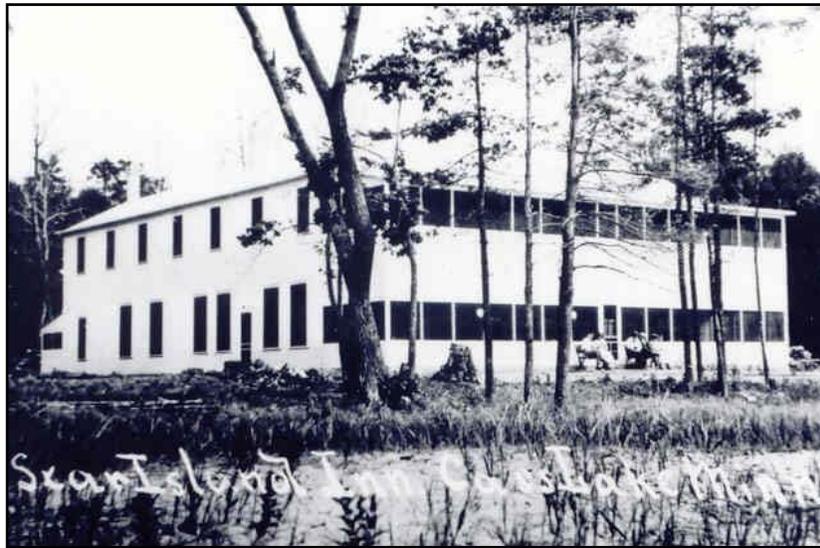
*Cottage Inn, ca. 1910*  
(photo: Dana V. Wardner album,  
Minnesota Historical Society)

### **History**

The first hotel on the island, the Cottage Inn, was constructed on this site between 1910 and 1911. The building was a long one-story wood-frame structure clad in wood planks. It was set on timber piers slightly raised above the ground. In 1912, the building was destroyed in a fire, but later that year two local developers named Frank Suitor and a Mr. Seelye built a new hotel named the Star Island Inn. The new hotel was a two-story wood-frame building clad in white-painted siding. The building took up most of the lot and left little buffer space on the east and west sides. In 1917 the inn was destroyed by another fire. Although the Cass Lake Commercial Club tried to find new financial backers, no one came forward to develop the site. The Forest Service then closed the site to further occupancy permits and transformed the space into a public campground.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> “Star Island Inn Burns to Ground,” *Cass Lake Times*, May 17, 1917.



*Star Island Inn, ca. 1915*  
(photo: Minnesota Historical Society)

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 5***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan modified slightly by an addition on the northeast corner. The one-story building is faced in narrow clapboard and tongue-and-groove siding, painted pinkish-tan and cream with dark-brown trim. The hipped roof and the intersecting shed and gable roofs are covered with brown asphalt shingles. The roofs are carried on prominent eave brackets. A brick chimney rises from the west slope of the roof. The building is set on a continuous wire-cut brick foundation. Screened window openings contain twelve-over-one double-hung-sash windows. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the north and south sides of the building. Wood stairs and an open wood porch with built-in bench seats are centered on the south facade, providing access to the cabin.

A wood-frame storage building, once the boathouse, with a T-shaped plan is located west of the cabin. It is clad in lap siding and painted to match the cabin. A wood-frame outhouse and a wood-frame shed, once the icehouse, are situated north of the boathouse. Both are clad in lap siding and painted to match the cabin.

The site is open with mature pine trees and pine saplings scattered throughout the east and north yards; the remainder of the yard is grass. Concrete walkways lead from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the cabin and connect the cabin with the shed and outhouse. The front walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

The core of this building, a log cabin constructed between 1905 and 1906, is the oldest extant building on the island. The log cabin was built for the Forest Service ranger, E. G. Hill, and predates the creation of the Minnesota National Forest. After the ranger had left the island, the lot was opened to occupancy. James Conkling of Franklin, Nebraska, was the first non-Forest Service occupant of Lot 5. In 1922, Alice and F. M. Conkling took over the permit and enlarged the building with shed-roof additions on each facade. Mary Marsteller (later Caswell) of Wilcox,

Nebraska, became the permittee in 1945, although she appears to have been using the lot since 1937. The permit was transferred in 1970 to Mary's daughter and grandson, Myrna and Jim Marsteller, who maintained the cabin and outbuildings in the 1920s layout and size.



*Cabin on Sandy Beach Lot 5, ca. 1910  
(photo: Minnesota Historical Society)*

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 6***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with an L-shaped plan that resulted from additions extending to the east of the original cabin. The one-story building is faced in narrow wood lap siding, painted ecru with brown trim. The hipped roof over the main section and the intersecting hipped, gable, and shed roofs of the east additions are covered with brown asphalt shingles. A stone chimney rises on the exterior of the west facade. The building is set on a wood posts with concrete footers. Vertical sheathing panels over and between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung-sash on all the facades except the south. Modern casement sash and fixed-pane windows are set in the south facade's window openings. A wood and glass door set behind a wood screen door provides access on the south side of the building. A solid wood door set behind a wood screen door allows access on the north side. An open wood porch with steps has been built on the south facade, and wood steps and a wood ramp are located on the north side.

A wood-frame guest cabin, clad in the same siding and trim as the main cabin and painted to match, is situated east of the main cabin. The screened window openings hold one-over-one double-hung-sash windows, and solid wood doors are set behind wood screen doors on the north and south sides. A wood-frame boathouse covered with the same materials as the main cabin is located north of the guest cabin. To the west side of the main cabin is the wood-frame laundry building, which also has guest quarters. It has the same trim and siding as the other buildings. Another smaller storage building with lap siding is located north of the laundry building.

The site is fairly open and grass-covered with large trees framing the area. Concrete walkways lead from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the house and connect the house with the various outbuildings. The walkway continues off the lot partway across the beach towards a dock.

## **History**

According to Carol Ryan's research, the first resident of Lot 6 was a person by the name of Lindsay in 1916. The Forest Service lists the first permittee as William T. Fletcher in 1918, who appears to have constructed the original cabin and most of the outbuildings. His daughter Florence Fletcher Davis took over the permit in 1937. Fletcher was probably responsible for the hipped-roof addition to the cabin's east side, although his daughter could have also made that addition, as well as the shed-roof and gable-roof additions. In 1964, Florence's son Raymond Davis and his wife Billie took over the permit and have retained it since. A 1961 Forest Service data sheet lists the residence, two guest houses, one boathouse, one utility building, and a privy. All of these buildings, except for the east guest house, are shown on a 1940 Forest Service plan.

## ***Sandy Beach Lot 7***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a T-shaped plan. The one-story building is faced in vertical wood siding, stained brown with cream trim. The gable roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the peak on the east end of the building. The building is set on a solid concrete-block foundation. Window openings contain modern single-light casement sash and fixed-light windows. Solid wood doors provide access on the south and north sides of the building.

A wood-frame storage building, clad in the same materials as the cabin, is located north of the cabin's eastern end. A chain-link fence forms a dog run against the east wall. The storage building's gable roof connects to the cabin's roof and covers the walkway between the buildings. A wood-frame outhouse is situated at the northeast corner of the lot. A wood-frame pump house sits east of the cabin.

The site is open site and grass-covered with mature pine trees on each side of cabin. A flagpole with a rough stone base is located southwest of the cabin. Concrete walkways lead from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the cabin and connect the cabin with the shed and pump house. The front walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

## **History**

Carol Ryan lists the first resident of Lot 7 as C. C. Orthwein in 1912. The first cabin on the site was probably built by Orthwein. In 1921 Ralph and Gertrude Orthwein took over the permit, and after Ralph's death Gertrude remarried and maintained the permit until 1951. That year Gilberta Kolb, the daughter of Gilbert Edwards, bought the cabin after selling the cabin on Lot 3. In 1967 the permit was transferred to Richard and Barbara Wintermote of Lawrence, Kansas, who, for unknown reasons, were given permission to demolish the original cabin and build new. The present cabin and all of the outbuildings date from 1968. John and Mary Ramsey of Des Moines, Iowa, received a permit for the lot in 1987.<sup>15</sup>

## ***Sandy Beach Lot 8***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan modified by one-story additions on each side. The two-story building is faced in wood clapboard siding, painted dark brown with red

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<sup>15</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 113, 115.

trim. The hipped roof over the main section and the hipped roofs of the additions are covered with brown asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. A brick chimney rises from the north slope of the main section's hipped roof. The building is set on a poured-concrete foundation. Screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung-sash windows. Wood doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and north sides of the building. An open wood porch has been built by the doorway on the north facade.

A wood-frame boathouse, clad in the same materials as the house and painted to match, is situated east of the cabin. The door features decorative panels. Chain-link fencing forms a dog run on the building's northwest corner. A wood-frame outhouse is located north of the cabin and is screened from view by lattice panels.

The site is fairly open and grassy with mature pine trees and some saplings surrounding the cabin. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the cabin. The walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

C. C. Flansberg, of Lincoln, Nebraska, was the first permit holder for Lot 8. The main two-story section of the cabin was constructed in 1910, and the one-story wraparound porch on the east, south, and west sides was added over the next few years. The one-story addition on the north side was also added by Flansberg in the 1910s. All of the work was done by Emil Johnson. In 1931, Doctor Harry and Mary Flansberg took over the permit. The permit was transferred to their daughter Judith and her husband, Dr. Robert Burton, in 1976. The Burtons have not made any additions or alterations to the buildings.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 9***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan and additions extending to the north and east. The one-story building is faced in "natural log," wood lap siding, and stucco, painted light tan and dark brown with dark-brown trim. The gable roof over the main section and the intersecting shed roofs of the additions are covered with brown asphalt shingles. The roofs are carried on carved prominent eave brackets with exposed rafter ends below the eaves. A stone chimney rises on the exterior of the west wall. The building is set on a wood posts with concrete footers. The whole-log and lap siding shield the crawl space. Some of the screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung-sash. The remaining double-hung-sash and fixed-pane windows have no screens. Wood doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and north sides of the building. Concrete and stone steps are located below the south doorway.

The wood-frame guest cabin, clad in the same lap siding and painted to match the cabin, is situated north of the cabin on the west side. It has six-light casement-sash windows and wood doors set behind wood screen doors. The wood-frame boathouse sits northeast of the cabin. It is also clad in lap siding. The utility building, which holds a laundry room and shower, sits between the cabin and the guest cabin (it is labeled on the 1979 site plan as a toilet building). It is finished in materials similar to the other buildings.

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<sup>16</sup> Photographs showing the cabin in various stages of construction are in the possession of the Burton family.

Mature pine and deciduous trees surround the complex, which is set in a grassy lawn. Concrete walkways lead from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the cabin and connect the cabin to the utility building and a concrete patio north of the cabin. The front walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

Members of the Coen family of Kansas City, Missouri, have always held the permit for Lot 9. Initially, they lived in a tent on the lot and in the Star Island Inn, while the cabin was under construction. According to Wilbur F. Coen, Jr., the family started building the cabin in 1912 or 1913, and the cabin was enlarged over the next few years with shed-roof additions for a porch, dining room, and kitchen. The 1940 Forest Service plan shows the cabin, boathouse, and privy on the lot. The 1961 Summer Home Data Sheet lists the cabin, guest house, boathouse, and utility building; the privy had already been removed. The permit was revised in 1962, probably reflecting a transfer to Wilbur F. Coen, Jr. In 1969, Charlotte, Wilbur, and Gilbert Coen were listed as the permittees. Thomas Coen became the sole permittee in 1986, although *The Loon* also lists Richard and Larry Coen, and Diane Coen Ostenburg as residents. There is no record in the Forest Service file reflecting multiple permittees, but it is possible that all four Coens own the buildings. The buildings have not been altered on the exterior, with the exception of different paint color.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 10***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with extensions to the original cabin on the east and north. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding, painted brown. Low shed roofs on the extensions rise to a hipped roof (that terminates in a gable at the rear). Small knobs adorn the ends of the ridgepole. The roof slopes are covered with red-brown asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney rises on the west side of the cabin. The building is set on a brick foundation. The window openings contain single-light casements that appear to be replacements for the original casements. A metal and glass door provides access on the south front, and a wood door is placed in the entrance at the rear.

A wood boathouse at the west end of the lot has a gable roof and is covered with lap siding. A shed to the north of the main cabin is formed of two sections, one with a shed roof and one with a gable roof. The walls are faced with lap siding. The projecting bay window appears to be a recent addition. The guest cabin to the east of the main cabin has a shed roof and is faced with lap siding. A sign reading “Love Nest” is placed above the door. The concrete step is inscribed “7-9-57, BRITT, CRAIG.” A wood storage shed is attached to the rear of the cabin.

The site is fairly open and grassy with mature trees and saplings set close to the cabin and the outbuildings. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the front of the house and then around the east side of the house to the east guest cabin. The front walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

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<sup>17</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 31-33. The Forest Service file says the first permit was granted in 1917, but this might be a misreading of a handwritten numeral.

## **History**

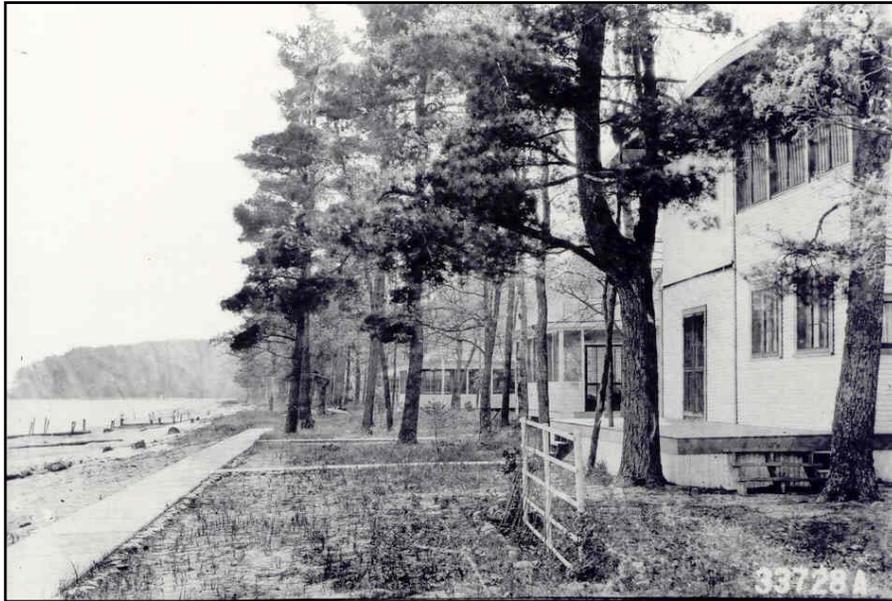
According to Carol Ryan's research, the first permit for lot 10 was issued to A.F. Rauch of Crookston, Minnesota, in 1911. This was transferred to M.A. Rauch in 1936. Claude C. Jessee of Grand Island, Nebraska, acquired the property in 1952. The 1940 Forest Service Plan shows the cabin, boathouse, shed, and privy. All of the buildings now on the lot were in place by 1961 when the Forest Service compiled a Summer Home Data Sheet. The permit was transferred to Charlene Jessee Miller, also of Grand Island, Nebraska, in 1972.

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 11***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan, oriented north-south, with extensions for porches at the front (south) and rear (north) and an addition for a dining room wing at the west. The two-story chalet-style building is faced in wood lap siding, painted light green. The wood siding on the front has been replaced by green vinyl siding. The main roof is front gabled with wide overhanging eaves carried on prominent carved brackets. A shed roof covers the wing at the west. The roof slopes are covered with green asphalt shingles. A brick chimney stack rises from the center of the roof. Another brick chimney stack rises from the dining room addition. The building is set on a stone foundation. Screened window openings contain eight-light casement sash. Some of the windows in the front and rear porches are replacements. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and north sides of the building. A balustrade has been constructed on top of the one-story front porch. The rear porch is two stories high and has sleeping quarters at the second story.

The original boathouse, now used for storage, is located northwest of the main cabin. It is wood frame with a gable roof and lap siding, painted green. The wood-frame laundry and storage building, originally called the wash house, is to the east of the boathouse. It has a gable roof section and a shed-roof section. Both have lap siding, painted green to match the cabin. The small wood-frame outhouse with gable roof and lap siding is north of the laundry and storage building. It is now used for storage. Loon Cabin, called "extra quarters" on a 1979 site plan, is located north of the main cabin. The wood-frame building has two intersecting gable-roof sections and is covered with lapboard siding. It was formed by combining the old ice house and the men's quarters, previously located just north of the wash house. The remaining building is a small rustic playhouse, formed of logs and covered with a gable roof.

Much of the site is grassy and open, but a variety of trees are placed close to the main cabin and the outbuildings. A stone fireplace is site on the lawn northeast of the cabin. A dog pen set on a concrete slab is located north of Loon Cabin. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the front of the main cabin, then around the east side and north side, continuing in front of the laundry and storage building to the small storage building (former outhouse) and to Loon Cabin. In front of the main cabin, the Sandy Beach sidewalk has a concrete slab inscribed with the date "1916." The front walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.



*Cabins on Sandy Beach Lot 11 (foreground) and Lots 12 and 13 (background),  
ca. late 1910s  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

### **History**

This cabin and related outbuildings on Lot 11 are one part of a family complex built on three lots in 1915 and 1916 by Sam A. Foster of Lincoln, Nebraska. There is a resemblance in buildings and site planning between Lot 11 and Lot 15. According to Foster's granddaughter Suzanne Woodruff Batten, Emil Johnson did the construction. Sam's daughter Lucile married Reginald D. Woodruff, and they took over the permit for Lot 11 in 1937. The Forest Service Summer Home Data Sheet from 1961 indicates that two outbuildings are going to be combined into one larger unit. Undated plans and elevations show the relocation of the men's house and its combination with the old ice house. This is now Loon Cabin. The log playhouse was reputedly built for James J. Hill's granddaughters. It was on the lot at least by 1961, although the building appears to date from the 1930s. Suzanne Woodruff Batten talks about playing in it as a child, although she seems to suggest that it was on Lot 15 at that time. The permit was transferred to the Woodruffs' son, Foster Woodruff, and his wife Sydna in 1975.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 12***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with an extension for a porch at the rear (north). The one-story vernacular building is faced in gray vinyl siding that imitates the original wood lap siding that covered it. The wood corner posts and other wood trim are painted dark gray. The main roof is hipped and has exposed rafter ends under wide overhangs. It encompasses a screened porch at the south front. Additional support for the eaves is provided by freestanding posts at the front and rear. A shed roof covers the screened porch at the rear. The roof slopes are covered with gray asphalt shingles. A brick chimney stack rises from the center of the roof. The building is carried on concrete block posts. Screened window openings contain one-over-one or four-over-four double-hung sash. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on all four sides of the building.

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<sup>18</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 24-25, 126-127.

A wood-frame guest cabin is located west of the main cabin. It has a gable roof and is covered with vertical board-and-batten siding, stained green. The screened window openings contain multi-light casement sash. Wood and glass doors on the east and south sides are set behind wood screen doors. Another smaller wood-frame guest cabin is located northeast of the main cabin. It has a gable roof and is covered with wood lap siding, painted gray to match the main cabin. The wood and glass entrance door on the south side is set behind a wood screen door. A wood-frame storage building, originally the boathouse, is located north of the main cabin. It has a gable roof and is covered with wood lap siding, painted gray to match the main cabin. It also retains its paired utility doors and wood entrance ramp. A small wood outhouse with gable roof and lap siding is located north of the storage building.

The site is fairly open and partially grass-covered with larger trees located by the buildings and surrounding the area. A concrete walkway extends from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the front of the house, then continues around the east side and extends northward past the storage building to the outhouse. Walkways also extend from the rear of the cabin to the two guest cabins. At the front the walkway extends off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

Supposedly the first permit on lot 12 was issued in 1912 to a Dr. Turnbull of Bemidji, Minnesota. However, this cabin and related outbuildings on lot 12 are one part of a family complex built on three lots in 1915 and 1916 by Sam A. Foster of Lincoln, Nebraska. The cabin was occupied by his son J. Earle Foster. All of the buildings except the smaller guest cabin appear on the 1940 Forest Service plan. It is likely that all were constructed by Emil Johnson, since he worked on the other Foster properties. The permit was transferred to his daughter Letitia Foster Haecker in 1947. The second guest cabin is listed on the 1961 Summer Home Data Sheet. The roof of the main cabin was reframed and reshingled in 1995/96. Vinyl siding replaced the original wood siding in 1998, shortly before Mrs. Haecker's death. The property is now owned by her daughter Deborah Haecker Wyatt.<sup>19</sup>

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 13***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with extensions for enclosed porches at the front (south) and rear (north), and a small wing to the east. The one-story vernacular building is faced in white vinyl siding that imitates clapboard and replaced the original wood lap siding that covered it. The wood corner posts and other wood trim are painted white. The main roof is hipped and extends into shed roofs over the enclosed porches. An overhang at the rear is carried on wood posts. The east wing has an intersecting gable roof. The roof slopes are covered with gray asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney stack rises from west side of the cabin. The building is carried on wood posts set on concrete block footers. Window and door openings retain their wood casings. At the time of this survey all were covered by wood-panel shutters, so sash and door configuration could not be determined.

A guest cabin, called "Extra Quarters" on a 1979 site plan, is located west of the main cabin. The wood-frame structure has a T-shaped plan with intersecting gable roofs and three doorways. Part

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<sup>19</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 126.

of the building is covered with lap siding painted white and part is covered with vinyl siding imitating clapboard. The window and door openings were covered by wood shutters at the time of this survey. A wood-frame storage shed is located north of the main cabin. It is covered with vertical board-and-batten siding and has a gable roof that extends over an open shed for wood storage at the north side.

Some portions of the site are open and grass-covered, although the buildings are surrounded by trees. A dirt path leads from the rear of the cabin to the storage shed. A concrete walkway leads from the front of the cabin to the Sandy Beach sidewalk. It continues off the lot as a boardwalk across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

The cabin on lot 13 was constructed for L.W. Larson of Fosston, Minnesota, in 1912. His daughter Lillian Larson Lohn took over the permit in 1928. The Summer Home Data Sheet from 1961 records two guest houses on the property. These two buildings were combined to create one guest house sometime during the 1960s. Lillian Lohn's son and daughter-in-law Houghton and Margaret Lohn became permit holders in 1975. The vinyl siding appears to have been added during their tenure, although no record of it is in the Forest Service files.

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 14***

The cabin is a two-story wood-frame structure originally with a square plan, oriented north-south, with one-story extensions at the front (south), rear (north), and east. The chalet-style building is covered with vertical board-and-batten siding, painted gray, and dark-red wood shingles. The cabin has a complex arrangement of gable roofs with wide eaves carried on prominent carved brackets. The roof slopes are covered with gray asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney stack rises from the east side of the cabin through the roof overhang. The building is set on a concrete block foundation. Screened window openings contain one-over-one, six-over-six, or eight-over-eight double-hung sash. An aluminum and glass door provides access to the enclosed front porch. A wood and glass doors set behind a wood screen door provides access at the rear.

A rectangular wood-frame storage building is located north of the main cabin. It has a gable roof carried on eave brackets and is covered with vertical board and batten siding. The one-over-one double-hung windows and wood and glass door are set behind screens.

The site is partially open and grass-covered with large trees surrounding the buildings. A concrete walkway leads from the Sandy Beach sidewalk to the front door of the cabin. Another concrete walkway leads from the rear of the cabin to the storage building. The front walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

According to Carol Ryan's research, the cabin was built for Homer and Bessie Larson Hagna of Watertown, North Dakota, in 1925. It is likely that Bessie was Lillian Larson's sister. Both the cabin and the storage building appear to date from the Hagna ownership. George and Sarah

Silknitter of Sioux City, Iowa, acquired the permit in 1958. James and Priscilla Meeks of Columbus, Ohio, became permit holders in 1980.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Sandy Beach Lot 15***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan, oriented north-south, with extensions for porches at the front (south) and rear (north). The two-story chalet-style building is faced in wood lap siding, painted white. The wood siding on the front has been replaced by white vinyl siding. The main roof is front gabled with wide overhanging eaves carried on prominent carved brackets. Shed roofs covers the porch extensions. The roof slopes are covered with red asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney stack rises along the east side of the cabin. The building is set on a stone foundation, except at the rear where the porch is carried on wood posts set on concrete footers. Screened window openings contain eight-light casement sash. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and north sides of the building.

A long rectangular wood-frame storage building, labeled “Extra Quarters” on a 1979 site plan, is located north of the main cabin. It has a gable roof with exposed rafter ends under the eaves, is faced with lap siding, and has screened window and door opening. A smaller wood-frame storage shed with a gable roof and lap siding is north of the storage building. The tall doorway with a divided door suggests that this originally was the boathouse. Behind this is a small wood-frame outhouse with gable roof.

Portions of the site are open and grass-covered, although the buildings are surrounded by trees. A concrete walkway extends from the Sandy Beach sidewalk along the east and north sides of the main cabin, then extends along the west side of the outbuildings. At the front, the walkway continues off the lot across the beach to a dock.

### **History**

This cabin and related outbuildings on lot 15 are one part of a family complex built on three lots in 1915 and 1916 by Sam A. Foster of Lincoln, Nebraska. There is a resemblance in buildings and site planning between Lot 11 and Lot 15. According to Foster’s granddaughter Suzanne Woodruff Batten, Emil Johnson did the construction. Sam’s daughter Lucille Woodruff and his son J. Earle Foster took over the permit for Lot 15 in 1937. All the buildings on the lot appear to predate this permit transfer. Lucille’s daughter Suzanne Woodruff Batten acquired the permit in 1952. Since 1989 the property has been owned by her son Rollin Morgan Batten III who added the vinyl siding to the front of the main cabin, although there is no record of the work in Forest Service files.<sup>21</sup>

### ***West Campground***

The West Campground is divided into three sections. Each is an open grassy area partially surrounded by deciduous trees. Each has a fire pit and a rustic wood picnic table. The east section has two picnic tables. Two wood outhouses are set back in the woods. Portable outhouses are located closer to the shore near the trail extending along the beach.

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<sup>20</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 205.

<sup>21</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 126.



*Star Island Lodge, ca.1920s-1930s  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

### **History**

The campground was originally the location of the Star Island Lodge Resort, which was established under Forest Service permit to Truman Rickard and J. W. Furber in 1923. As was typical of resorts during this period, the site contained a central lodge building flanked by smaller housekeeping cabins and other outbuildings such as boathouses, storage buildings, and privies. Rickard managed the property for over twenty years, and then the permit was transferred several times. Star Island Lodge finally ceased business in 1972, after it had been purchased by the Forest Service. The buildings were subsequently demolished and the campground created.<sup>22</sup>

### **Norway Bluff Summer Home Group (see map)**

The Norway Bluff Summer Home Group, originally the West Shore Group, consists of sixteen lots, organized into three groups numbered 1 through 7, 13 through 18, and 21 through 23, from south to north. Each group is organized along a bay: Norway Bluff Bay, Sunset Bay, and Trail Bay. Each lot is approximately 150 feet wide and 200 feet deep and extends from the trail at the top of the bluff along the west shore eastward to the power line right-of-way. The permit holder for each lot is entitled to waterfront access, which is obtained via steps or a path from the front of the lot, and has the right to install a dock in the lake and maintain a boathouse or other storage building at the lake edge, although all such improvements are off the permit holder's lot. Typically each lot contains a house or cabin, and one or more outbuildings, generally an outhouse or privy and storage building or shed. The elevation of many of the lots drops down to the east and the cabins are designed to accommodate the change in grade. The lots are heavily wooded with the cabins generally set close to the trail along the bluff. In some cases, space has been opened in front and to the sides of the cabin and grass has taken hold, but there is little in the way of planned landscaping. Unpaved paths lead from the cabins to the bluff trail and to outbuildings and neighboring lots. Septic fields have been located east of the cabins towards the power line right-of-way. Forest Service trails through the woods link the three cabin groups.

<sup>22</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 10, 130, 141; "New Hotel at Star Island," *Walker Pilot*, April 26, 1923.



*Looking south along Norway Bluff, ca. 1910s  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

The first permit on the West Shore was issued in 1909 for Lot 5. The cabin was subsequently upgraded and enlarged in 1936 and later. The last initial permit was issued for Lot 21 in 1949, but the cabin does not appear to have been built until 1959. Changes and modifications have been made to the various lots since the initial permits were granted and the cabins constructed. The following entries discuss the buildings and their dates in greater detail. A list of contributing and noncontributing buildings and structures is appended to this report.<sup>23</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 1***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a modified T-shaped plan, oriented east-west, with a bedroom wing extending to the south. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding, painted dark green with light green trim. The intersecting gable roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles and have exposed rafter ends below the eaves. The slope of the gable extends into a shed roof on the east side of the residence. A metal chimney stack rises from the south end of the west roof slope. The building is set on wood posts with concrete footers with wood panels between the posts to prevent access to the crawl space. Screened window openings contain six-over-six double-hung wood-framed sash or six-light and single-light casements. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the north and south sides of the building. The doorway on the north is sheltered by a shed-roofed canopy. A large wood platform has been added in front of the doorway.

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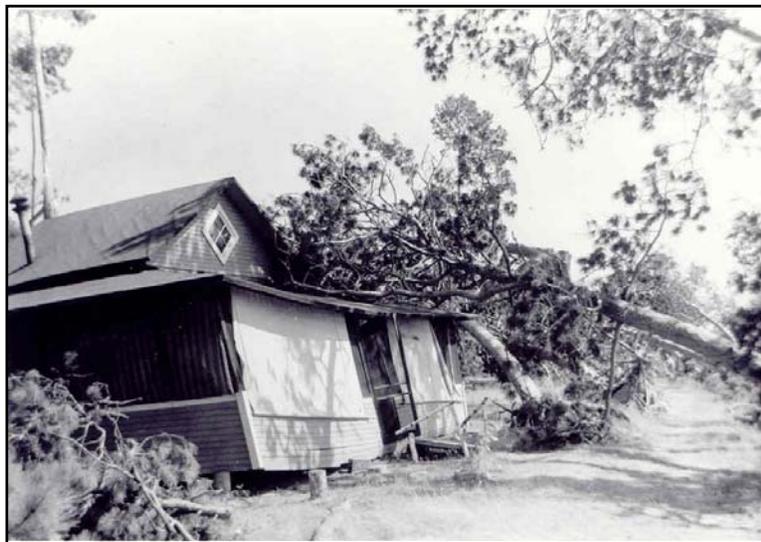
<sup>23</sup> The narrative information for all of the properties is taken from United States Forest Service's Recreation Residence Previous Permittee's list for each property, from the 2001 residency list assembled by Carol Ryan for *The Loon*, and from the Recreation Residence Permittee files for each lot. Other sources will be cited as needed.

A large wood-framed shed is situated to the east of the cabin. It has a gable roof with green asphalt shingles and wide clapboard siding, painted green. The entrance, above two wood steps, is on the west end. Window openings are on the west, north, and south sides. The wood outhouse, near the southeast corner of the lot, has a shallow gable roof and is faced with green-painted clapboard siding.

The cabin is located at the top of the bluff overlooking Cass Lake although set back from the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grass-covered with birch and pine trees to the south. A firepit is sited north of house. Dirt paths lead from the cabin to the outbuildings and to the trail. At the edge of the lot, a wood platform at top of the bluff leads to wood and earth steps with a railing that goes down to the dock.

### **History**

In 1933, Will Mandeville was issued the first permit to build a cabin on the lot. This cabin was severely damaged in a tornado and was replaced with the existing cabin in 1940. Dr. Mark Keith, who had been renting the cabin, rebuilt it. In 1946, the property was transferred to Dr. Keith, and it remained with members of the Keith family until 2002. The Keiths also improved and later owned the cabin on Lot 2. Maurice H. Keith added the bedroom wing to the south of this cabin in 1987, according to Forest Service records. His son, David Keith, removed a shed that had been near the south end of the lot, and replaced it with the present shed in 1995. The property was sold to Mark and Anne Haecker in 2002. They made some site improvements including the addition of a small wood platform at the edge of the bluff.<sup>24</sup>



*Cabin on Norway Bluff Lot 1 after the Big Blow-Down, 1940  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

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<sup>24</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 30.

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 2***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan, oriented east-west, with a small bedroom addition at the southeast corner. The one-story vernacular building is faced in green vinyl siding that simulates the original wood lap siding. Low shed roofs rise to a central pyramidal roof. The roof slopes are covered with green asphalt shingles. A metal chimney stack rises from the south roof slope. Another chimney stack rises from the bedroom addition. The building is set on wood posts with concrete footers with wood panels between the posts to prevent access to the crawl space. Screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung wood-framed sash or nine-light and single-light casements. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the west and east sides of the building.

A small wood-frame shed with green painted lap siding is located to the east of the cabin. The asphalt-shingled gable roof has exposed rafter ends below the eaves. A center wood-paneled door on the west wall is flanked by window openings. Just to the north of the shed is a smaller open shed for wood storage. The outhouse is situated close to the northwest corner of the lot. It is faced with wood lap siding and has a side gable roof. These outbuildings appear to date from about 1960, but they replaced similar buildings of an earlier date.

The cabin is located at the top of the bluff overlooking Cass Lake and fairly close to the trail along the ridge line. The site is open and grassy and surrounded with trees. Dirt paths lead from the cabin to the outbuildings. A diagonal dirt path leads off the lot from top of the bluff down to the lake. An electrified pulley system on rails extends from the lake shore up the side of the bluff.

### **History**

C. M. Taylor of Cass Lake was the first occupant of Lot 2, in 1911, according to Carol Ryan's research, and the cabin appears to date from this period. She lists Winworth Williams, a Minneapolis schoolteacher, as the occupant in 1919, but existing Forest Service files do not record a permit to Williams until 1931. In 1952, the property was transferred to Verona M. Keith, the wife of Dr. Mark Keith. Her daughter, Verda Keith Murray, acquired the property in 1970. Verda's son and daughter-in-law, Douglas and Julia Murray, became permit holders in 2002. In 1964, the Forest Service issued a permit to install a well enclosed by a pumphouse near the lakeshore. It supplied water to the Keith cabins on Lot 1 and Lot 2. The Murrays also installed a rail for a cart and a platform and winch to assist in hoisting materials and supplies from the lakeshore. While there are no records of its installation, it is shown on a 1977 plan and authorized on a 1988 permit. The Murrays received a permit in 1983 for the bedroom addition at the southeast corner. There is no record of the vinyl siding, which was installed in the late 1990s.<sup>25</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 3***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented north-south, with a small shed-roofed addition at the northeast corner that encloses a well. The two-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding that is painted yellow-green. The side-gable roof is covered

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<sup>25</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 28-30.

with green asphalt shingles and has exposed rafter ends below the eaves. A brick chimney stack rises from east roof slope at the ridge pole. The building is set on wood posts with concrete footers with wood panels between the posts to prevent access to the crawl space. Screened window openings contain one-over-one double-hung wood-framed sash or six-light casements. The sash on the west front are non-historic replacements. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the north and east sides of the building. A one-story gable-roof enclosed entrance porch on the west front contains a metal screen door. A roll-up canvas awning is placed above the doorway.

A small shed-roofed wood sided outhouse is located near the southeast corner of the lot.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, very close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy and surrounded by trees. Wood and earth steps lead from top of bluff down to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

The cabin was built in 1911 for C. M. Taylor, who also owned Lot 2, according to Carol Ryan's research. Will Shephard of Minneapolis was listed in 1919. Winworth Williams says that he and Shephard, both bachelors at the time, took over the property together in 1919, then Shephard bought him out. Audrey Marsh became the permit holder in 1947. She added the well and the addition enclosing it in 1949. Her son John E. Marsh took over the property in 1975. A 1989 permit authorized a fence, a lean-to shed for wood storage, and the dock and motor locker at the lakefront.<sup>26</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 4***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a modified cross-shaped plan, oriented east-west. A small shed-roofed addition at the northeast corner encloses a well, and is located next to another shed-roofed addition on the north wall. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding that is painted yellow-brown with dark brown trim. The intersecting-gable roofs are covered with brown asphalt shingles. An exterior stone chimney rises on the east side of the house. The building is set on wood posts with concrete footers. Screened window openings contain six-light casements or sliding sash. The sash on the west front are non-historic replacements. In addition, the porch which extends across the west front has alternating screen and glass panels. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and east sides of the building. One wood screen door leads into the porch. Inside the porch, two sets of paired wood and glass doors lead into the main part of the cabin. A wood deck has been built at the southeast corner of the house.

An L-shaped wood frame storage shed with wood lap siding is located southeast of the cabin. It has intersecting gable roofs carried on eave brackets and covered with asphalt shingles. It has two wood-paneled doors and several six-light casement windows. A wood platform extends along the front. A wood outhouse with shed roof and lapboard siding is located east of the cabin.

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<sup>26</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 28. This source spells Shephard's name as "Sheperd." Christian Ruckmick's 1935 map of Star Island uses the alternate spelling.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, quite close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy and surrounded by trees. Dirt pathways lead from the cabin to the outbuildings. At the edge of the lot, wood steps lead from top of bluff down to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

The original cabin on this site was built in 1927 for Adelaide Salmon, widow of a prominent Minneapolis judge, according to Carol Ryan's research. Forest Service records do not show a permit for her until 1935. It is likely that the cabin assumed its cross-shaped plan during Salmon's ownership. The property went to Dr. Donald W. Dostal in 1955 and is still owned by members of the Dostal family. The Dostals added a motor storage box at the base of the steps by the lakeshore in 1958. The storage shed was added in 1992, and the main cabin was repainted and reshingled in 1995. The deck was added in 1996. Examination of site maps in the Forest Service records suggest that the outhouse was relocated to its present site sometime between 1979 and 1996, although the actual structure appears to be older.<sup>27</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 5***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, originally with a square plan, oriented east-west, modified by several additions. A shed-roofed addition at the northeast corner encloses a screened dining area. Another smaller shed-roofed addition extends from the southeast corner. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding that is painted ochre with dark brown trim. The hipped roof over the main section of the cabin and the intersecting shed-roofed sections are covered with red-brown asphalt shingles. An exterior stone chimney rises on the east side of the house. The building is set on wood posts with concrete footers. Wood panels between the posts close off the crawl space. Screened window openings contain eight-light casements or sliding sash. The sash on the west front are non-historic replacements. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and east sides of the building. One wood screen door leads into the screened porch at the southwest corner of the cabin. Inside the porch, a wood and glass doors lead into the main part of the cabin.

A wood outhouse with a side gable roof and lap siding is located east of the cabin.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, quite close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy and surrounded by trees. Dirt pathways lead from the cabin to the outbuildings. At the southwest corner of the lot, wood and earth steps lead from top of bluff down to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

The original cabin on this site is the oldest on Norway Bluff, being built for Miss Alice Pearson, a Cass Lake schoolteacher, in 1909. In 1935, the property was acquired by Harriet Mosedale of Milwaukee who improved and gradually enlarged the original structure. The dining area addition

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<sup>27</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 29.

was made in 1940. Her son, John P. Mosedale, became a permit holder in 1959, and he and his wife Betty Drake Mosedale still own the property.<sup>28</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 6***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a square plan, oriented east-west, modified by several additions. A shed-roofed addition at the west front encloses a screened porch. Another low hipped-roof addition extends along the south side of the cabin. The one-story vernacular building is faced in natural cedar shingles, a 1966 replacement for the original wood lap siding. The trim is painted dark green. The hipped roof over the main section of the cabin and the south side and the intersecting shed-roofed sections are covered with green asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. Two metal chimney stacks rise from the roof; one is a Van Packer type imitating brick and the other is shiny metal. The building is set on a concrete block foundation. Screened window openings contain six-light casements. The wood sashes are painted white. Green roll-up awnings are placed above the windows on the west and south sides. Wood and glass doors set behind aluminum screen doors provide access on the west, south, and east sides of the building.

A wood-frame storage shed with lap siding and a gable roof is located northeast of the cabin. The siding is painted ochre. The roof has exposed rafter ends under the eaves. The shed has aluminum-framed double-hung sash and a doorway on the south side. The wood shed-roof outhouse is located southeast of the cabin.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, at the edge of the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy and surrounded by trees. A firepit is set north of the cabin. Slightly south of the house, concrete steps lead from the front of the lot at the top of the ridge to a dirt path down to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

Ray Phelps from Kelso, Washington, was the first occupant of Lot 6, according to Carol Ryan's research. The existing cabin appears to have been built by C. Byron Kuhlman in 1928. The property was transferred to Lawrence Steefel, Jr., in 1959, who seems to have added the screened porch on the west and the screened room on the south. Thomas and Barbara Recht acquired the permit in 1964. They were responsible for replacing the original lap siding with cedar shingles. Some of these have been replaced fairly recently. The Rechts also added the storage building sometime between 1979 and 1989, as indicated on the 1989 permit.

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 7***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan, oriented east-west, modified by several additions. The various additions accommodate themselves to the site which slopes down to the east. One gable-roof addition steps down from the original cabin and extends to the east. A shed-roofed addition at the west front encloses a porch. Two gable-roofed additions, flanking a

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<sup>28</sup> The family of Dr. Thomas Barbour spent a week in Miss Pearson's cottage that first summer. *Cass Lake Times*, August 28, 1909. John Mosedale, *The First Year: A Retirement Journal* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1993), 100-102.

shed-roofed addition, extend to the north. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wide horizontal boards painted brown, a replacement for the original wood lap siding. Green roll roofing material has been applied to the front gable end. The intersecting gabled roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles. A concrete-block chimney stack rises from the south roof slope of the main cabin section. The building is set on a wood posts with concrete footers. Panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain two-over-two double-hung sash. Aluminum-framed sash have been added to the porch openings. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the south and east sides of the building. A gabled roof section marks the location of the south door.

A small tool shed (storage building) is located just east of the house. Even further east is a wood shed-roofed outhouse covered with smooth siding, painted brown.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake. The site is quite open and slopes down to the east. Trees surround the grassy area around the cabin. A path from the top of bluff leads down to the lake and the dock shared with Lot 6.

### **History**

The original cabin section was built by R. E. Bliss, the original permit holder, in 1926. It was transferred to Daniel Bliss in 1947. The Blisses probably made some of the first additions to the original cabin, possibly the porch at the west and the section to the east. However, the cabin assumed much of its present appearance after it had been acquired by Donald Harstad in 1952. An application was made to extend a bedroom section on the north side of the building in 1963 and approved in 1965. The window sash also appear to have changed by Harstad. He also replaced the wood siding sometime between 1961 and 1967. Based on an examination of the 1977 site plan in the Forest Service records, the shed-roof extension between the two gable-roof additions on the north side was added sometime after that date.



*Trail along Norway Bluff, ca. 1910s-1920s  
(photo: Minnesota Historical Society)*

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 13***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with an L-shaped plan that resulted from an addition to the original cabin extending to the north. The cabin accommodates itself to the site which slopes down to the east. The one-story vernacular building is faced in narrow beveled wood siding, painted red-brown with blue-green trim. The hipped roof over the main section and the intersecting side gable roof of the northern addition are covered with green asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. A stone chimney rises from the west slope of the gable roof, and a metal chimney stack rises from the north roof slope of the main cabin section. The building is set on a wood posts with concrete footers. Either piled stones or panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-light or nine-light casement sash. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the west and east sides of the building. A solid wood door leads into a utility room on the east side. An open wood deck has been added to the northeast corner, replacing a smaller open porch.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, close to the trail along the ridge line. The site is open and grassy with pine trees at the north and south sides of the lot. A dirt pathway leads from top of the bluff, joining another pathway about halfway down the slope, which then extends down to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

Louis and Mike Bratten of Cass Lake initially held the permit for Lot 13 in 1919 and built the cabin. The Brattens served as caretakers on the island, according to Win Williams. Dr. Christian and Katherine Ruckmick purchased the original cabin on this lot in 1927 and subsequently enlarged it with a bedroom and kitchen. The property is still owned by Ruckmick family members. They obtained a permit to add the northern extension for the dining room in 1951. An interior bathroom and septic tank were added in 1965. The deck was added in 1975. A motor locker was installed by the lakefront in 1995. Although an outhouse is shown on a 1995 site plan, it appears that it has since been removed.<sup>29</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 14***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure with a rectangular plan oriented north-south with extensions at the north and east sides. The cabin accommodates itself to the site which slopes down to the east. The one-story vernacular building is faced in narrow lap siding, painted blue-green. The side gabled roof over the main section and the intersecting shed roofs on the northern and eastern additions are covered with blue-green asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends. Two metal chimney stacks (one of the Van Packer type) rise from the west slope of the gable roof, and another metal chimney stack rises from the shed roof of the eastern extension. The building is set on a poured concrete foundation under the west front and on concrete posts elsewhere. Plywood panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-light or nine-light casement sash. The windows on the northern extension are top hinged. A few double-hung replacement sash have been added on the east side. Wood and

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<sup>29</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 28, 74-76.

glass doors set behind outer doors provide access on the west and east sides of the building. That on the west side is a metal storm door. An open wood deck has been added to the east side.

A wood gable-roofed outhouse is located northeast of the cabin.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy and surrounded by trees. Dirt paths lead around the cabin and to the outhouse. A pathway branching from the trail leads down to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

The cabin was built by Roy T. Tenney in 1931. The Tenney family may have added the extensions at the east and north, or they were added shortly after Walter and JoAnn Walmsley assumed the permit in 1963. The permit is still held by members of the Walmsley family. According to a review of a 1979 site plan, the deck was added to the east side and the outhouse relocated after that date.

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 15***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, originally with a square plan oriented east-west, with extensions at the northwest and southeast. The cabin accommodates itself to the site which slopes down to the east. The one-story vernacular building is faced in split-log siding, stained brown with dark green trim. The hipped roof over the main section, the intersecting shed roof on the northwest addition, and the intersecting shed and gabled roof on the southeast extension are covered with green asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends painted green. Two metal chimney stacks rise near the ridge line of the hipped roof, and a brick chimney stack rises from the shed roof of the northwest addition. The building is set on concrete posts. Panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either multi-light or single-light casement sash. The windows on the west front have three-over-six double-hung sash. The window openings on the south side are screened only with exterior lifting shutters for protection. Green roll-up awnings are placed above the windows on the west front and the western section of the north side. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the west and east sides of the building. An open wood deck has been added to the east side adjacent to the northwest addition.

The wood storage building to the northeast of the cabin has split-log siding, similar to that on the cabin. It has a front gable roof, double-hung windows, and paired doors, and is set on wood posts linked by latticework panels. An open wood shed is attached to the north side. The wood outhouse, on axis with the cabin to the east, has a gable roof and is faced with lap siding painted green.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy with pine trees clustered at the south side of the lot. Dirt paths lead from cabin to the outbuildings. Earth and wood steps following a curving line, lead from the top of the bluff down to the lake and a dock. A mechanical lift system has been installed from the dock to the top of the bluff.

## **History**

The original cabin was constructed by S. E. Silliman in 1933. In 1946 the property passed to Jeanne J. Tenney and Arthur Tenney, relatives (children?) of Roy Tenney on Lot 14. Jeanne subsequently married Captain H. L. Wehrly who took over the permit in 1954. The southeast extension for a screened porch, bedroom, and storage seem to have been in place by the time Arthur and Nadine Ide took over the permit in 1963. The Ides added a bedroom wing at the northwest in 1975 and the adjacent deck in 1994. They also had the storage building constructed in 1989. All of the Ides' work is recorded in Forest Service files.

## ***Norway Bluff Lot 16***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, built with a rectangular plan oriented east-west, with extensions at the northeast and southeast. The cabin accommodates itself to the site which slopes down to the east. The one-story vernacular Arts and Crafts style building is faced in wood lap siding, painted beige. The front gable roof over the main section and the intersecting shed roofs on the northeast and southeast extensions are covered with green asphalt shingles. The roof eaves have exposed rafter ends; those on the west front are decoratively carved. Two metal chimney stacks rise from the gable roof. The building is set on wood posts resting on concrete footers. Panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-over-six double-hung sash or nine-light casements set below three-light transoms. The porch window openings on the east side are screened only. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provide access on the north and south sides of the building. Another wood screen door leads into the screened porch on the east side.

A wood outhouse to the east of the cabin has horizontal wood siding painted green and a shed roof.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is partially open and grassy, but pine trees are set around the cabin. Earth and wood steps located south of house lead from the top of the bluff to the lake and a dock

## **History**

The original cabin was constructed in the 1930s by Dorothy and Nina Hurlbert or by Miss Kern Bayliss. The extension at the northeast was probably added by the time Russell and Helen Drake acquired the property in 1946. Their daughter Betty married John Mosedale in 1956. The southeast extension, which contains a dining room, was added by Russell P. Drake in 1971, under a permit from the Forest Service. The property was transferred to their daughter Barbara Drake Fulton in 1988.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> The Hurlberts are listed on the 1935 map drawn by Christian Ruckmick, while the Forest Service files record a permit to Kern Bayliss in 1935.

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 17***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, built with a square plan oriented east-west, with an extension at the southeast. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding, painted green. The hipped roof over the main section and the intersecting shallow gable roof on the southeast extension are covered with red-brown asphalt shingles. The overhanging roofs have exposed rafter ends below the eaves. One metal chimney stack of the Van Packer type rises from the center of the hipped roof. The building is set on wood posts resting on concrete footers. Panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-over-six or two-over-two double-hung sash windows. One wood and glass door set behind a wood screen door provides access on the west front of the building. An aluminum and glass door provides access on the east side.

A storage building is located north of the cabin. The wood-frame structure has wood lap siding painted green. The gable roof has exposed rafter ends below the eaves and is covered with red-brown shingles. Three sets of triple windows are placed on the west side. A doorway and a single window are on the south side. A wood outhouse with a shed roof and horizontal siding is located southeast of the cabin.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy with pine trees clustered at the south side of the lot. Dirt paths lead from the cabin to the outbuildings. Steps lead from the bluff down to the lake.

### **History**

This cabin was constructed by Clyde Middleton in the 1930s. The permit was transferred to George C. Fetter in 1940. Fetter was a minister who held worship services on the island. Fetter added the southeast extension in 1950. Correspondence with the Forest Service calls it a porch. Harvey Breckenridge acquired the property in 1964; he installed a septic system and indoor toilet in 1970. Annie Mosedale Cowie, John Mosedale's older sister, assumed the permit in 1977. It was transferred to her daughter Victoria Wallis in 1986. Wallis added the storage building in 1989. Her cousin Laura Mosedale, John and Betty Mosedale's daughter, acquired the property in 2002.<sup>31</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 18***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, built with a square plan oriented east-west, with extensions at the east and the north. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding, painted red. The hipped roof over the main section, the shed roof over the east extension, and the intersecting gable roof on the north extension are covered with gray-green asphalt shingles. The overhanging roofs have exposed rafter ends below the eaves. One metal chimney stack of the Van Packer type rises from the south slope of the hipped roof. The building is set on concrete blocks resting on concrete footers. Panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-light or nine-light casements or one-over-one double-hung sash windows. One wood and glass door set behind a wood screen door provides access on the

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<sup>31</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 81.

west front of the building. Two aluminum and glass door provide access on the east side, and one aluminum and glass door provides access on the north side.

A storage building is located northeast of the cabin. The wood-frame structure has wood lap siding painted red. The gable roof has exposed rafter ends below the eaves and is covered with green shingles. Two pairs of double-hung sash windows are placed on the west side. A doorway and a single window are on the south side. A wood outhouse with a shed roof and horizontal siding is located east of the cabin.

The cabin is located at the top of a bluff overlooking Cass Lake, close to the trail along the ridge line. The area around the cabin is open and grassy and surrounded by birch trees. Dirt paths lead from the cabin to the outbuildings. Stone steps lead from the top of the bluff down to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

The cabin was constructed by Irma Walker in the 1920s and was probably quite similar to the cabin on Lot 17. The permit was transferred to her niece Dorothy Walker (later Hanauer) in 1961. Philip S. Schmidt, a Minneapolis schoolteacher, acquired the property in 1964. The Schmidts added the shed roof extension at the east in 1970 and the gable-roof extension at the north in 1992. The storage building appears to have been added in about 1990 as it is shown on the modified site plan filed in 1992.<sup>32</sup>

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 21***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, built with a rectangular plan oriented north-south, with an extension on the east side. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood vertical board-and-batten siding, painted brown with green-painted trim. The end gable roof over the main section and the shed roof over the east extension are covered with green asphalt shingles. The overhanging roofs are carried on prominent eave brackets (double tiered on the west front). One metal chimney stack rises from the west slope of the gable roof. The building is set on a concrete block foundation and on wood posts at the south end and under the east extension. Panels between the posts shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-light casements or one-over-one aluminum double-hung sash windows. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provides access on the west front of the building and at the southeast corner. One aluminum and glass door provides access to the eastern extension. A raised wood deck extends across much of the west front.

A wood-frame storage building, set on skids, is located southwest of the cabin, near the edge of the bluff. It has vertical board-and-batten siding and a gable roof with exposed rafter ends below the eaves. A metal chimney projects from the roof. The presence of the chimney and the skids suggests that the building may be used for ice fishing. Two outhouses are located east of the cabin. The older of the two, no longer in use, has a gable roof and vertical board-and-batten siding. The newer one has a prominent gable roof with a projecting overhang and is faced with split-log siding.

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<sup>32</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 161-163.

The cabin is located on a wooded site, which is only slightly higher than the level of the lakefront. Dirt paths lead from the cabin to the outbuildings. Another path leads from the front of the cabin to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

While Fred B. Meyer was issued a permit for the site in 1949, the Forest Service records seem to indicate that the present cabin was constructed by Richard H. Bachelder in 1959. Based on their design characteristics, the old outhouse and the storage building are from the same date. Bachelder added the extension at the east side in 1977. Anne B. Creevy took over the permit in 1987. The property was sold to Warner and Carey M. Ide in 1991.

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 22***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, built with a rectangular plan oriented north-south. The one-story vernacular building is faced in wood lap siding, painted brown. The side gable roof over the main section and the shed roof over the porch on the west front are covered with green asphalt shingles. The overhanging roofs have exposed rafter ends below the eaves. A stone chimney stack rises from the west slope of the gable roof, and a brick chimney stack rises from the east slope. The building is set on concrete piers. Panels between the piers shield the crawl space. Screened window openings contain either six-light or nine-light casements or four-over-four or two-over-two double-hung sash windows. Wood and glass doors set behind wood screen doors provides access on the west front of the building, the southeast corner, and the east side. The doorways on the west and the east are approached by stone and concrete steps.

A wood-frame storage building with gabled roofs and lap siding is located northwest of the cabin. It has paneled wood doors on the south side and double-hung windows on the other sides. An abandoned outhouse with attached lean-to shed is sited to the east of the cabin.

The cabin is on a wooded site and surrounded by pine and maple trees. It is relatively low, only slightly elevated above the level of the lakefront. The ridge line is at the east edge of the lot. Dirt paths lead from the cabin to the outbuildings. Another path leads from the front of the cabin to the lake and a dock.

### **History**

L. E. and Helen Melchers obtained the initial permit for Lot 22 in 1942; however, the cabin may not have been constructed until the 1950s. Harvey C. Morris obtained the property in 1957. It was acquired by Dr. Fred A. Rice in 1966. Dr. Rice constructed the storage building in 1990, according to Forest Service records.

### ***Norway Bluff Lot 23***

The cabin is a wood-frame structure, built with an irregular, angled plan oriented north-south. The one-story vernacular Usonian-inspired building is faced in wood vertical board-and-batten siding, painted brown. The intersecting gable roofs and the shed roof over the extension at the northeast corner are covered with red asphalt roll roofing. The overhanging roofs have exposed rafter ends below the eaves. Three brick chimney stacks rise from the slopes of the gable roofs.

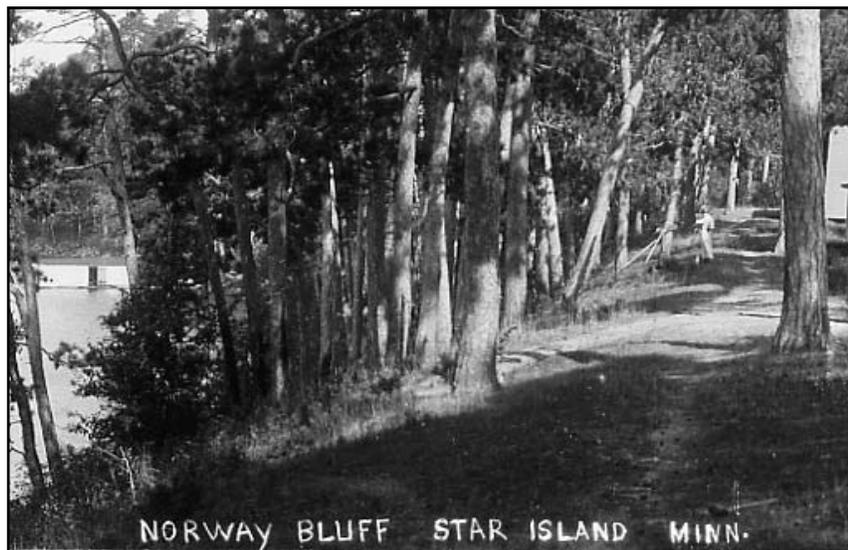
The building is set on concrete piers. Panels between the piers shield the crawl space. Panels covered the screened window openings at the time the site was surveyed so the sash configuration could not be determined. Panels also covered the doors that provide access on the west front of the building, the southeast corner, and the east side. A small open porch is located at the southeast corner.

A wood-frame storage building is located northwest of the cabin. A portion of the building is enclosed with vertical board-and-batten siding. The remainder has screened openings above wood panels. The gable roof is covered with green asphalt rolled roofing. The wood outhouse, to the north of the shed, has vertical board-and-batten siding and a gable roof with green roll roofing.

The cabin is set into the bluff overlooking Cass Lake, with pine trees surrounding the cabin and the outbuildings. A path from the south end of house leads down the bluff to the lake and a dock.

### History

The first permit for this lot was acquired by Herbert T. Park in 1919. Herman A. Garmers took over the permit in 1949. The existing cabin appears to date from about that time period. A small extension for a washroom was added in 1969 at the northeast corner. The permit was transferred to Paul Garmers in 1994.<sup>33</sup>



*Trail along Norway Bluff, ca. 1910s-1920s  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

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<sup>33</sup> Ryan lists the 1919 date. The Forest Service files do not show a permit to Park until 1930. The name is indicated on the 1935 map of Star Island drawn by Christian Ruckmick.

## EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL FOREST

When Europeans first came to northern Minnesota, the Dakota and Ojibwe were well-established in the region. The Ojibwe migrated west after the European fur trade decimated hunting in the eastern half of North America. Canadian fur trappers came to the Leech Lake area in the eighteenth century. Following the American Revolution, explorers were sent to lay claim to the land, map the river systems, and make contact with American Indians. The Dakota were eventually forced west of the Mississippi River by the Ojibwe, and the two groups fought each other until the mid-nineteenth century when treaties with the United States government bound each group to reservations. The Cass Lake Reservation was created in 1855 and amended in 1867 to become part of a larger reservation known thereafter as the Leech Lake Reservation. The 1867 reservation surrounded Cass Lake and included the islands in the lake. Following the Civil War, northern Minnesota became known for its forests and mineral deposits, and the red and white pine of the primeval North Woods attracted lumbermen from across the country. The Dawes Act in 1887 and the Nelson Act in 1889 tried to relocate all Minnesota Ojibwe onto the White Earth Reservation, which would be platted so each person had a specific land allotment. Any unclaimed land on the White Earth Reservation and all of the vacated reservations would be platted and sold. The federal government would collect the profit from the sales and distribute it to the Ojibwe after a fifty-year period. Both bills found favor with the lumber interests in northern Minnesota because the lumber industry had nearly exhausted forest resources by that time and needed to expand operations into reservation land. However, the proposed relocation did not work as planned because of a last-minute amendment to the legislation that allowed individual Ojibwe to remain on their old reservations if they did not want to move to White Earth. The Leech Lake Reservation was still an important holding of the Ojibwe, but lumber interests quickly whittled land parcels out of the reservation.<sup>34</sup>



*Congressional trip to Cass Lake, 1899  
(photo: Minnesota Historical Society)*

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<sup>34</sup> William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, rev. ed., vol. 1 (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1956), 81-85, 68; William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, rev. ed., vol. 4 (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1969), 190-235.

In the late 1890s, Minnesota's first Chief Fire Warden, General Christopher C. Andrews, proposed to protect a section of remaining forest, then part of the Leech Lake Reservation, for use by pleasure and health resorts. When Andrews presented his idea at a meeting of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs in 1898, the ladies were quick to adopt the concept and proposed the creation of a northern Minnesota national park. In 1899, with the federation's persuasion, the Minnesota legislature petitioned Congress to prevent the sale of reservation land around Cass, Leech, and Winnibigoshish Lakes in Cass County for two years so Minnesota could explore the creation of a state park. The moratorium was an elaborate stalling tactic that gave the national park advocates more time to lobby Congress.<sup>35</sup>

By 1899 two interest groups had organized to promote the permanent protection of the north central forest, the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs and the Minnesota National Park and Forestry Association. The former was composed of middle- and upper-class women from urban areas, and the effort was headed by the legislative committee's chairwoman Mrs. William E. Bramhall of Saint Paul. The Minnesota National Park and Forestry Association, begun by a sportsman, Colonel John S. Cooper, from Chicago, consisted mainly of Chicago and Saint Paul businessmen, who in 1899 enticed members of Congress to visit Cass County to investigate the potential for a national park. James J. Hill provided a ten-coach train on the Great Northern Railway, and the congressmen and other dignitaries visited the towns of Walker and Cass Lake, as well as Star Island in Cass Lake. While the men's group would disband after the trip, the women's federation would become the staunchest advocate for the park. Over the next two years, the women altered their proposal to follow a forestry plan devised by Herman Haupt Chapman, the superintendent of the North Agricultural Experiment Station for the University of Minnesota. Chapman's plan proposed a compromise with the lumber industry and provided for managed logging of a national forest reserve. In 1902 Congress passed the Morris Act, introduced by Representative Page Morris of Minnesota but prepared with assistance from Gifford Pinchot, head of the Bureau of Forestry (precursor to the United States Forest Service, established in 1905). A section in the bill created a 225,000-acre reserve that was to be managed by the Bureau of Forestry and included most of the Ojibwe reservation in Cass County. Logging activity was allowed in most of the reserve, but the islands and certain points of Cass and Leech Lakes were reserved from sale and settlement and protected from logging. Six years later Congress created the Minnesota National Forest to protect the forest reserve from industrial pressures.<sup>36</sup>

## **TOURISM IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA**

Not long after the Minnesota National Forest (renamed Chippewa National Forest in 1928) was created in 1908, recreation enthusiasts began to arrive in Cass County. The forest was established with the support of middle- and upper-class citizens who were also the driving force behind the conservation movement. Many of the early visitors had conservation backgrounds and were able to afford leisure time. These tourists arrived by train to participate in outdoor activities like fishing, canoeing, hunting, and hiking. Around the same time, Minnesotans began to realize the state's potential for tourism, and periodicals like the *Western Magazine* printed articles that

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<sup>35</sup> The office of Chief Fire Warden was created by the state Forest Preservation Act of 1895, in response to the Hinckley fire in 1894. Newell Searle, "Minnesota National Forest: The Politics of Compromise, 1898-1908," *Minnesota History* 42 (Fall 1971): 243-257; Folwell, 4: 253-261.

<sup>36</sup> Searle, 243-257; Folwell, 4:253-261.

promoted the state's allure. After automobiles began to be widely produced in the mid-1910s, recreation tourism nationwide reached an unprecedented high. As one article cited, "it is conservatively estimated that tourists in this country annually spend about seven hundred millions of dollars."<sup>37</sup>

The monetary benefits of tourism impressed northern Minnesota businessmen who had previously focused on lumber and agricultural enterprises. Cass County commercial clubs and chambers of commerce pledged time and money to tourism to the extent that a highway was constructed in 1917 linking the towns of Cass Lake and Walker and carrying visitors between Leech Lake and Cass Lake. At the state level a 6,000-mile highway system was planned and promoted for the "thousands of tourists" it would attract to Minnesota. That same year tourism was further advanced by the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, a statewide chamber of commerce offering voluntary memberships to towns and cities. In 1918 the association organized a national advertising campaign known as "Come to Minnesota." Newspapers, magazines, leaflets, booklets, maps, and moving pictures were used to inform the country of Minnesota's wonders. People were encouraged to take vacations, despite the ongoing world war, and come enjoy the "climatic, scenic and piscatorial advantages" of the state. Permanent residents were also asked to be welcoming to the tourists. Advertising campaigns and increased automobile travel succeeded in boosting the state's tourism industry. In 1922, 125,000 people visited the Minnesota National Forest and an estimated \$160,000 was spent at the resorts and towns in and around the forest.<sup>38</sup>



*Scenic highway to Cass Lake, ca.1910  
(photo: Minnesota Historical Society)*

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<sup>37</sup> Searle, 256; "Immense Tourist Traffic," *Western Magazine* 9 (April 1917): 192.

<sup>38</sup> "Cass Lake-Walker Road Open," *Western Magazine* 10 (August 1917): 67; "Proposed Highway System for Minnesota," *Good Roads* 16 (December 1918): 249-250; Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, *Annual Report* (Saint Paul: Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, 1918), 2-7; "Minnesota Opens Wide Her Gates," *Western Magazine* 11 (May 1918): 170; "To All Minnesota," *Western Magazine* 11 (June 1918): 1; "New Camps in National Forest," *Western Magazine* 21 (May 1923): 187.

In the town of Cass Lake, the Cass Lake Commercial Club was begun in 1906 to encourage commercial activities in the immediate area. In its articles of incorporation the members also stated that one of the club's purposes included "the promoting of the interests of the community as a summer resort, undertaking or aiding in the permanent location of summer assemblies, meetings and other attractions." Star Island, situated in the western half of Cass Lake, was a prime attraction. An early Commercial Club publication from the 1910s brags "as a summer resort, Cass Lake is already the mecca of a large number of tourists, many of them having built summer homes on Star Island and other lake points. This lake has more good points than any other in this part of the state." While this was an exaggeration on the part of the Cass Lake businessmen, their energy and persistence paid off.<sup>39</sup>

Key to this early twentieth-century tourism were reliable roads to carry people to the wilderness. The creation and advertisement of clearly marked routes were part of a larger plan to attract tourists to northern Minnesota. Good roads encouraged automobile travel and good signage encouraged visitors to stop and spend money. To promote dependable roads, a popular movement of "blazing" roads, or marking routes with signage, began to spread across the country in the 1910s. Periodicals like *Western Magazine* and *Good Roads* printed articles that reinforced the long-term value of blazed roads and the symbiotic relationship between tourism and road signage. Scenic highways, linking towns with a common theme and stylish signage, were promoted nationwide. Part of Cass County had initially been included in a possible route for the Jefferson Highway, a coast-to-coast road. When the county was eliminated from the route, local business leaders met with peers from other bypassed towns and formed the Minnesota Scenic Highway Association. This scenic highway began in the Twin Cities, and led northward through Elk River, Princeton, Mille Lacs, Brainerd, Walker, and Cass Lake to International Falls. It followed the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods until the Red River Valley where the route turned south and made its way back to the Twin Cities via Glyndon, Detroit Lakes, Perham, Henning, Alexandria, Sauk Center, and Saint Cloud. Later the route was expanded to Duluth and the North Shore. The towns of Cass Lake and Walker, hoping to expand Cass County's tourism, played central roles in the Minnesota Scenic Highway's creation. Matthias N. Koll, a member of the Cass Lake Commercial Club, served as the secretary for the Minnesota Scenic Highway Association and was a major force behind the project.<sup>40</sup>

In addition to participating in the scenic highway organization, the Cass Lake Commercial Club served as an informal broker for tourists interested in summer residences on the lake, whether building a vacation home or renting a summer house. The club checked for likely places and passed the information on to the tourists. Many individuals were keenly interested in summering on Star Island; because most of the island was owned and protected by the United States Forest Service, only a limited number of summer home lots were available.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> First quote from a newspaper clipping, n. d., Matthias N. Koll Papers, Minnesota Historical Society (MHS), Saint Paul; second quote from *Cass County Minnesota: The Land of Clover and Cows* (Walker, Minn.: Walker Pilot Print, n.d.), available at MHS.

<sup>40</sup> Arthur J. Larson, *The Development of the Minnesota Road System* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1966), 431-435; Miscellaneous correspondence concerning the Minnesota Scenic Highway Association, Matthias N. Koll Papers, MHS, Saint Paul.

<sup>41</sup> Miscellaneous correspondence concerning the Cass Lake Commercial Club, Matthias N. Koll Papers, MHS, Saint Paul.

## THE FOREST SERVICE'S RECREATION POLICY

The Division of Forestry was created in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1881, and spent its earliest years fighting for funding and credibility in the government hierarchy. In 1891, President William Henry Harrison authorized the creation of forest reserves from the public domain and their management by the Department of the Interior. While the USDA and Interior had a cooperative agreement, the Division of Forestry's Chief, Gifford Pinchot, wanted all national forest management placed under the USDA's forestry division. A Division of Forestry was established in the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior (Interior) in 1901. That same year the Division of Forestry became the Bureau of Forestry. Pinchot actually controlled both forestry offices, but the Bureau only had power to research and report on forest conditions while Interior's division patrolled the forests and enforced regulations. In 1905, the forest reserves were transferred to the Bureau of Forestry, and the agency was renamed and reorganized into the United States Forest Service.<sup>42</sup>

An important tool, *The Use of the National Forest Reserves* (informally called *The Use Book*), was published in 1905 and came into effect on July 1 of that year, the same day the Forest Service officially began. The book was a pocket-sized reference to Forest Service regulations and protocol. The agency's first official recreation policy, the regulation of special-use permits, was published in the 1905 volume. The next policy development was the 1915 Occupancy Permit Act, which was passed after years of lobbying by the Forest Service. In the *Report of the Forester for 1912*, the need for an official act was suggested by Forester Henry S. Graves even though, "some objection is heard to the fact that the permit is revocable in the discretion of the department. If occupancy of lots wanted for summer camps, cottages, and hotels for a period of years could be authorized, more substantial buildings than are now being erected would probably be put up." The agency was supportive of private construction in national forests because resorts and summer homes were popular forms of recreation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Recreation was also seen as a good public-relations tool for the Forest Service after the general public criticized the agency's timber management policies. Graves ordered the public-relations department to emphasize national forest recreational uses in press releases. He also foresaw the impact the automobile would have on national recreation trends.<sup>43</sup>

In 1916, the Forest Service faced competition from Interior's newly created National Park Service (NPS). The NPS took control of all national monuments within national forests and also acquired national forest land to furnish national parks. In order to preserve resources in national parks, recreation was the only use permitted in the parks. The Forest Service was criticized for not promoting recreation, although the agency had been quietly supporting widespread recreation use since its establishment eleven years earlier. Forest Service staff began to rethink the role of recreation in national forests and hired one of the nation's leading landscape architects, Frank A. Waugh, to study Forest Service recreation facilities.<sup>44</sup>

Waugh was a contemporary and friend of Chicago landscape architect Jens Jensen and the head

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<sup>42</sup> Harold K. Steen, *The U.S. Forest Service: A History* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976), 52-74.

<sup>43</sup> Quote from Henry S. Graves, *Report of the Forester for 1912* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1912), 71. Steen, 117. The Forester was the head of the Forest Service and appointed by the President.

<sup>44</sup> Steen, 119-120.

of the landscape gardening program at Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst. He toured the country in the summer of 1917, visiting forests in each of the seven districts. Two reports were published the following year, *Recreation Uses on the National Forests* and *Landscape Engineering in the National Forests*. In the former, he explored types of recreation in national forests, the affect recreation had on the forests, and the positive results recreation produced. The second report contained recommendations for designing and managing recreation sites and emphasized the Forest Service's need for a trained landscape architect on the staff of each district. Waugh found that recreation and the national forests' other uses, like timber and grazing management, did not often interfere with each other. This finding countered ranchers and lumbermen who argued that tourism and summer residences hampered their industries. Waugh also assigned a monetary value of ten cents an hour to recreation. When this figure was multiplied by the average number of hours annually spent in national forests, the total amount was \$7.5 million. He believed that "the recreation use of the National Forests has a very substantial commercial value, and that recreation stands clearly as one of the major Forest utilities."<sup>45</sup>

During the 1920s, the Forest Service continued its policy of issuing occupancy permits for national forests. Public campgrounds were developed, but not with the same speed as those in the national parks under the NPS. There were signs that a shift to accommodate the tourists who traveled by automobile was beginning to occur within the Forest Service. Comments on a draft recreation policy for the Minnesota National Forest encouraged the recreation engineer to plan more public recreation use, especially on Star Island.<sup>46</sup>

In the 1930s, national recreation policy shifted from private summer homes and resorts to public recreation. The shift was spurred by the increase in automobile travel, an increase in Forest Service labor and money, and an increase in recreation experience and knowledge within the Forest Service. Half of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in the United States were operated by the Forest Service, which also had project funding from the Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA). Using CCC, WPA, and PWA personnel, hundreds of projects from fire prevention to construction of recreation facilities were completed. In the 1920s, the NPS had set a standard for rustic-style buildings and facilities in national parks while Forest Service public recreation structures were more modest. The Forest Service countered with more elaborate recreation plans and buildings in the 1930s. A Forest Service consultant, E. P. Meinecke, developed a new campground concept that was published by the Forest Service in 1932. The plan proved so useful and popular that it was adopted by the NPS. The Forest Service also stepped up general construction efforts after receiving New Deal funding, and privies, bath houses, picnic shelters, and camping shelters were built in all its regions. The height of Forest Service design and construction was the Timberline Lodge, a WPA-funded hotel, erected on Mount Hood in Washington. The building was completed in 1937

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid.; Robert E. Grese, *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 58-61; Frank A. Waugh, *Recreation Uses on the National Forests* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1918), 23-26, 28; Frank A. Waugh, *Landscape Engineering in the National Forests* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1918), 9, 12. Quote from Waugh, *Recreation*, 26.

<sup>46</sup> E.W. Tinker to Forest Supervisor, Minnesota National Forest, March 20, 1925, Collection of Recreational Use Policy for the Minnesota National Forest, United States Forest Service (henceforth called Recreation Policy Collection), available at Chippewa National Forest Supervisor's Office, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

and showcased hand-crafted decoration in a 53,000 square-foot space.<sup>47</sup>

During World War II, recreation was pushed to the background as the country concentrated all efforts on the war. The country rebounded from economic depression and war in the 1950s and 1960s. Construction of the interstate highway system, the largest public works project in the history of the world, allowed people to drive more easily from place to place, and Americans took advantage of the system and increased their recreation time. Increase in personal wealth, the affordability of mobile homes, and improvement in roadways led the Forest Service to focus on public campgrounds in the national forests. The campgrounds, many cleared and landscaped during the New Deal, were simple to maintain and available to all income classes. Summer homes, renamed recreation residences, were pushed to the background as the agency tried to maintain existing general campgrounds and keep up with the demand for new ones. *Reports of the Chief of the Forest Service* from the last half of the 1950s listed the number of resorts, winter sports areas, and summer homes under special-use permits and justified the permits because such uses “supplement free public areas and constitute an important part of national-forest recreation.” The Winter Olympics in 1960 brought a new dimension to the agency’s recreation policy. Some of the events were held on national forest land near Squaw Valley. The *Reports of the Chief of the Forest Service* from the early 1960s have sections devoted to winter sports facilities. The agency also increased the number and acreage of wilderness areas nationwide. With the continual increase in campground use and winter sports and a shifting focus towards wilderness areas, the Forest Service no longer mentioned special-use permits for summer homes or resorts. Development of summer home tracts tapered off as other forms of recreation gained popularity. In the Chippewa National Forest, the two final recreation tracts were opened in 1955 and consisted of only three lots (none on Star Island). The number of total recreation residences held steady from the 1960s to the present, with the exception of twenty-one residences that were removed when land was developed into the Norway Beach Recreation Area. The current total number of residences in the Chippewa National Forest is 286; Star Island is the area with the most, 49. In comparison, the Superior National Forest, the only other national forest in Minnesota, has 173 recreation residences.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> William C. Tweed, *Recreation Site Planning and Improvement in National Forests, 1891-1942* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1981), 21-24; Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 7.

<sup>48</sup> Tweed, 21-24. Quote from United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, *Report of the Chief of the Forest Service, 1957* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1959), 13. Annual statistics for recreation in the national forests can be found in the *Report of the Chief of the Forest Service*. For this report, the years 1955 through 1966 were consulted.

## STAR ISLAND HISTORY

Star Island is owned by the Forest Service, with the exception of privately owned land on the northeast and southeast points, but the island was originally part of the Ojibwe Cass Lake Reservation, created in 1855 and incorporated into the Leech Lake Reservation in 1867. The Morris Act of 1902 prevented the sale of land and timber on the island and kept the land in the reservation. Under the law that established the Minnesota National Forest in 1908, most of the island's land was transferred to the Forest Service. While the Ojibwe retained title to the island's four points, these were quickly sold to the Forest Service, Beltrami County, and private citizens. A 1905 *Minneapolis Journal* article expressed surprise that the Bureau of Indian Affairs abolished the custodian position on the island and allowed the Forest Service to take responsibility for the land. It is probable that the Forest Service jockeyed for control of the land to serve the goal of creating a national forest in Minnesota. By laying claim to as much land as possible, including the island, the Forest Service was able to include it in the 1908 act without raising warning flags within the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After taking control of the island in 1905, the Forest Service constructed a log cabin on the south shore to serve as a forest ranger's residence.<sup>49</sup>



*Aerial photograph of Star Island  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)*

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<sup>49</sup> The Forest Service purchased the southwest point, Beltrami County purchased part of the northeast point, and individuals purchased the southeast and northwest points and land along the north shore. Beltrami County later platted its land and sold lots to private citizens and the Forest Service. Folwell, vol. 4, 259-261; *United States Statutes at Large* 32 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1909), 270; "Cass Lake Surprised Abolishment of Custodian's Office at Star Island Causes Wonder," *Minneapolis Journal*, December 29, 1905.

The island became the first site in the Minnesota National Forest opened for summer homes when Frank Gorenflo, a Cass Lake businessman, received a special-use permit to set up residence on the south shore of the island in 1909. Albert Marshek, another Cass Lake businessman, was soon granted a permit for the lot next to Gorenflo. Forest Service special-use permits were begun elsewhere in 1905, and the regulation first published in *The Use Book* stated “hotels, stores, mills, summer residences, and similar establishments will be allowed upon reserve lands wherever the demand is legitimate and consistent with the best interests of the reserve.” The Forester, the chief of the Forest Service, approved the applications and controlled the permit restrictions. This system for regulating summer residences continued until 1915 when Congress passed the Occupancy Permit Act. The act specifically addressed businesses and summer homes on Forest Service land. It also set a maximum plat-size of five acres and restricted the maximum permit period to thirty years.<sup>50</sup>

Following Gorenflo’s lead, several families began to camp and eventually construct permanent buildings on the island. By 1910 three cabins existed on the south shore and one cabin on the west shore. Between 1911 and 1919, ten cabins and a hotel named the Star Island Inn were built on the south shore, along with a variety of outbuildings, and the shore was known as Sandy Beach. The number of cabins on the west and east shores also increased during this period. Ten cabins were constructed on East Beach and three cabins on Norway Bluff, along the west shore.



*Senior campers, ca. 1926–1929*  
(photo: Mildred Hillyer Moody album, Minnesota Historical Society)

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<sup>50</sup> *The Use Book* was a pocket-sized, soft-bound booklet designed for easy use and meant to be carried by every Forest Service employee when in the field. Secretary of Agriculture, *The Use of the National Forest Reserves: Regulations and Instructions* (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1905), 49; United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, *The Principal Laws Relating to Forest Service Activities* (Washington, D.C.: General Printing Office, 1993), 25.

A girls' camp, Camp Kawajiwin, was also begun on the east shore. The earliest south shore residents were families from Cass Lake, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Most of the men were entrepreneurs. In contrast, most of the early East Beach residents were academics from Midwestern universities. Norway Bluff's residents had a variety of occupations and were self-described as "the common folks" (mainly teachers from Minneapolis and locals who used the cabins as fishing shacks).<sup>51</sup>



*Senior campers pose in front of the "Spice Box," ca. 1926-1929  
(photo: Mildred Hillyer Moody album,  
Minnesota Historical Society)*

The number of summer homes on each shore continued to grow in the 1920s. East Beach had three new cabins, Norway Bluff had four cabins, and Sandy Beach had two cabins built. A summer resort, the Star Island Lodge, was also built on the west end of Sandy Beach in 1922. The girls' camp moved to Wolf Lake in 1929 and left behind eighteen buildings and a tennis court in the camp proper (now Lots 14, 15, 16, and 17) and two dormitory buildings north of the main camp (now Lots 10A and 10B).

Lots 10A and 10B were first leased to someone other than the girls' camp in 1932. The Forest Service undertook a survey in 1936 that verified the lot lines and classified each shore. From 1930 through 1939, five cabins were built on Norway Bluff. Buildings had been constructed on all of the south shore lots, while the buildings from the girls' camp still remained on the east shore. In the 1940s, two new cabins were constructed on the west shore and two of the existing cabins were replaced, one after a disastrous windstorm in 1940. In 1958 the last initial occupancy permits were issued for Lots 15 and 16 (former girls' camp sites) on East Beach. Although

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<sup>51</sup> Building dates were established after consulting the "1909 to 2001 Star Island Housing Chart (Fourth Edition)," *The Loon*, 2001, 20; and occupancy lists included in most of the recreation residence files at the Walker Ranger Station, Chippewa National Forest. Ryan, *Star Island*, 12-15. Early newspaper accounts refer to Sandy Beach, but it is not clear when the Forest Service classified the three Summer Home Groups as East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff. Christian Ruckmick's 1935 map of Star Island does not use these names. See following note.

Norway Bluff had seven vacant lots at that time, permits for those lots were never issued. The closure to new permits reflected a shift in the Forest Service's national recreation policy from private summer homes to general public campgrounds. One of the Sandy Beach lots had a replacement cabin built on it in the 1950s because of severe damage to the original cabin. In the 1960s, Lot 16 on East Beach received its first cabin, while the 1950s cabin on Lot 15 was replaced after a fire. One replacement cabin was also built on Sandy Beach during the 1960s. The last new cabin construction on Forest Service land was in 1989 when the cabin and outbuildings on Sandy Beach Lot 1 were razed and new buildings constructed.<sup>52</sup>

The hotel which briefly occupied a section of Sandy Beach between Lots 4 and 5 was first opened in 1910 as the Cottage Inn. In 1912, the one-story hotel building burned down, but later that year a new hotel, the Star Island Inn, was constructed on the same site. This enterprise also suffered a fire in 1917, and the Forest Service converted the lots into a public campground. The Star Island Lodge resort constructed on the westernmost edge of Sandy Beach in the early 1920s had a longer life. Like the other Sandy Beach lots, the resort was privately owned but the land was leased from the Forest Service. Six different people owned the resort from 1922 to 1970 when the Forest Service bought the business after the owners could no longer afford to operate it. The buildings were demolished and the lots turned into a large public campground.<sup>53</sup>

Life on the island revolved around the family and friends who lived on the island or came to visit. Activities included boating, fishing, and walking the island trails. Occasionally boat races and other events were organized to entertain the young people. Because no automobiles were allowed on the island, getting from cabin to cabin depended on boat and the system of trails developed from old logging roads. Residents savored the slower and quieter pace of life and were very protective of the island. Although no formal screening process existed, new owners were usually visitors who had invested time renting or using a cabin on the island before buying an available cabin. Star Island contacts often sent letters of reference vouching for the character of the prospective buyer and ensuring that the family would fit into island culture.<sup>54</sup>

Part of that culture was the Star Island Protective League, a homeowners' association open to anyone who had a summer residence on the island, whether it was on private land or Forest Service land. The Protective League was created in 1916 for the purpose of hiring a caretaker to maintain buildings in the off season. Eventually the Protective League took up other issues

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<sup>52</sup> Star Island Housing Chart; Occupancy lists from recreation residence files. The 1936 survey identified the three groups as the Norway Bluff Sub-Unit Plan Summer Home Group, Sandy Beach Sub-Unit Plan Summer Home Group, and East Beach Sub-Unit Plan Summer Home Group. Copies of the survey maps are available from the Chippewa National Forest, Deer River Ranger District.

<sup>53</sup> Ryan, 10, 13; Star Island Housing Chart; Occupancy lists from recreation residence files.

<sup>54</sup> Further discussion of Star Island culture can be found in Carol Ryan's *Star Island* book; Carol Crawford Ryan, "Saving Star Island: Land Use, Local Economy, and Community Interaction in Northern Minnesota," *Minnesota History* 48 (Fall 1982): 108-118; Carol Crawford Ryan, "Summering: Everyday Life in a Vacation Community, 1909-1985" (Ph.D. diss., University of Minnesota, 1987); and John Mosedale, *The First Year: A Retirement Journal* (New York: Crown Publishers, 1993). Development of the trail system appears to have occurred over several years. A map of the island drawn by resident Christian Ruckmick in 1935 shows a trail system similar to the existing routes. A 1940 topographic map produced by the Forest Service shows a series of "old logging roads" with the note "Old logging roads to be signed and used as foot trails." The Ruckmick map is available at the Cass County Historical Society, Walker, Minnesota. The topographic map is at the Chippewa National Forest Supervisor's Office, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

relating to life on the island. In 1937, it also began to publish *The Star Island Loon*, a mimeographed newsletter intended to bring the island's residents together.<sup>55</sup>

In the 1920s and 1930s, island residents faced a challenge from a group of north shore property owners. The group had purchased Ojibwe allotment land on both of the northern points and a large amount of the north shore. Their plan was to construct a bridge from the northwestern point to the mainland and build a road along the north shore. One of the development group's members went so far as to plat several lots on the northeastern end of the island. The members of the Cass Lake Commercial Club did not support the plan because they believed it would only benefit Bemidji businesses. The island residents were also united against the bridge. They wanted to protect their isolated way of life, and the Forest Service agreed. The agency maintained a consistent point of view that the island best served the general public as a semi-wilderness. There was also public access to the island through a Cass Lake-based ferry that provided affordable daily service to the island. The land developers, supported by the Beltrami County commissioners, repeatedly lobbied Congress through the 1920s and 1930s for the right to construct a bridge. The Protective League members wrote their congressmen, the Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the War Department to try to prevent the project. In 1937, after sixteen years of battle, a House bill to fund construction of the bridge was tabled in committee. Persistence by the Protective League, Cass Lake businessmen, and the Forest Service, and the influence of a powerful Minnesota congressman, Harold Knutson, saved the island. In 1938, using New Deal funds, the Forest Service exercised an option to buy most of the privately held land on the north shore and effectively ended any large-scale development plans, including construction of a bridge to the mainland.<sup>56</sup>

Not long after the bridge challenge, the Star Island residents faced the prospect of another change to their lifestyle. In the 1940 issue of *The Star Island Loon*, it was reported that the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was going to connect Star Island to the power grid. The editor published letters received from a variety of island residents. While the island residents had united against the proposed bridge, bringing electricity to the island was a different issue. Many people supported the REA and looked forward to the modern advantages electricity could provide, but just as many were opposed to the idea. Electrical lines were extended onto the island at the northwest point, but not until 1952. Individuals could decide if they wanted their cabin hooked up to the system. Currently all of the cabins on the island have electricity. The wide power line right-of-way is located at the rear of the lots and extends around the entire island. By the late 1960s, most of the south shore lots, several of the east shore lots, and a few of the west shore lots had septic systems, often in addition to privy vaults. In the last ten years all of the lots on East Beach, with the exception of Lot 5, have received septic systems as part of Beltrami County's code requirements. Several of the Norway Bluff lots have also updated to septic systems to meet the county's regulations. Most of the lots on each shore still retain the privy vaults and outhouses. When a lease transfers to a new owner, a septic system must be installed to code. The last fifty years have seen little change on the island. Although electricity and indoor plumbing came to the island, no other widespread developments occurred, as some residents feared.<sup>57</sup>

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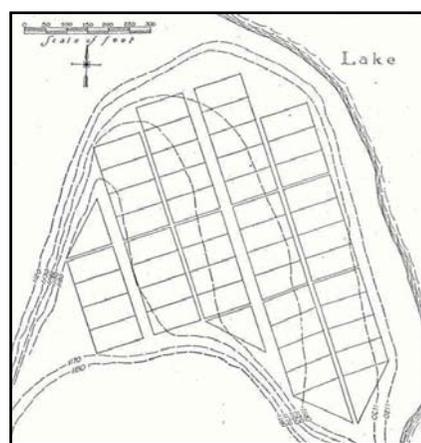
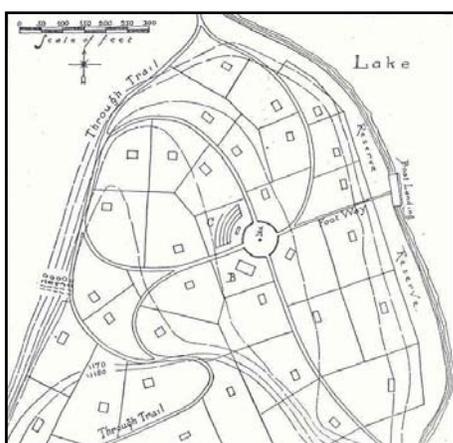
<sup>55</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 11.

<sup>56</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 11; Ryan, "Saving Star Island," 108-118.

<sup>57</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 72-73; 110-111.

## STAR ISLAND PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

Common sense appears to have been the only policy for the initial platting of the three Star Island recreation residence tracts. The earliest permittees chose to build on the south shore and the Forest Service personnel in charge of the special-use and occupancy permits followed the residents' initiative. Juliet Johnston explained how she and her husband chose their lot on the east shore: "[The ranger] took us around the Island in a little launch and we just loved the height and the trees on the east side. However, the east side had not been surveyed yet. We stayed overnight and it was surveyed the next morning and we picked our lot." Lots were only platted along the shorelines, never on the interior. Although no records of the earliest survey remain, the 1936 survey clarified the lot lines and reinforced the lakeshore-only design.<sup>58</sup>



*Waugh's sample plans*

*Star Island fits Waugh's ideal plan (left side), where the lot lines follow the shoreline (from *Landscape Engineering in the National Forests*)*

The Star Island "plans" followed the recommendations of Frank A. Waugh, who was hired in 1917 to survey the national forests in each region. The reports were commissioned because of the growing number of summer homes in national forests, especially in California. In his reports for the Forest Service, Waugh identified the types of recreation occurring on national forests and classified recreation as an important and valid use of the national forest. In *Landscape Engineering in the National Forests*, he provided recommendations for each category of recreation use. For residences he volunteered a specific measurement of one acre for standard-size summer-residence lots. He also recommended that lots be laid out parallel with streams or lake shores and that the recommended standard lot size act only as a guide because "a strict uniformity in the size or shape of lots should be regarded as particularly undesirable." The Star Island lots are approximately 30,000 and 37,500 square feet, which is less than an acre, but many of the lots were laid out before Waugh's reports.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Johnston is quoted in Ryan, *Star Island*, 21. See note 52 for the 1936 survey.

<sup>59</sup> Quote from Waugh, *Landscape Engineering*, 9. In the Mineral King Valley, in Sequoia National Forest, special use permits for a hotel and several summer homes appear to have been issued by 1906, predating the Star Island residences by three years. For more information on national forest summer residences in California please refer to

The only guideline Waugh offered for summer residences was that the buildings should not stand out or disfigure the surrounding natural landscape; he also offered his opinion on building design: “It is evident that a cheap log hut, properly placed, and neatly built, may be more in keeping with its forest environment than would a \$50,000 Italian villa. This might be called a matter of taste; it is in fact merely a matter of common sense.” A 1926 Recreational Use Policy for the Minnesota National Forest provided a similar guideline: “The character of improvements to be constructed by permittees will be controlled only in a general way and under requirements providing for neat and orderly conditions and appearance, not inconsistent with the surroundings. Improvements may cost \$500 or \$5,000, just so long as they are neat, sanitary, reasonably congenial to the surroundings, and as fireproof as possible.” The Star Island buildings followed these guidelines and also developed characteristics specific to each shore. The Arts and Crafts bungalow movement provided early influence for buildings on all of the shores. This architectural style promoted the use of native materials, avoided artificial appearances on the buildings, took advantage of scenic vistas, and unified the buildings’ interiors with the exteriors through the use of porches, terraces, patios, and gardens. The vernacular Star Island buildings have these characteristics, but in more modest forms than houses in urban or suburban settings.<sup>60</sup>



*Emil Johnson*  
(photo: Mrs. Stanley Johnson)

Several of the Star Island cabins are also examples of the work of local craftsmen. One builder in particular, Emil Johnson, left a significant mark on the island’s buildings. Johnson was a carpenter who arrived in Cass Lake in the first decade of the twentieth century. Documentation of Johnson’s business is limited, but he was called a “pioneer builder” by the local newspaper for his work in and around the town. On Star Island he constructed buildings beginning in the 1910s with several single-family cabins on both the south and east shores and the girls’ camp, Camp Kawajiwin, on East Beach. The first cabin he built was in 1910 on Lot 8 on Sandy Beach. He built the cabins on Lots 11, 12, and 15 of Sandy Beach in 1915-1916. The last cabin Johnson constructed was on Lot 16 of the East Beach tract, in 1962.<sup>61</sup>

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Ethan Carr and Steve McNiel, “The Cultural Landscape of Mineral King, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks,” National Park Service, Denver Service Center, January 25, 1999; and Kevin (Lex) Palmer and Alexandra C. Cole, “Historic Structure and National Register Eligibility for Tenured Recreation Residences within the Santa Ynez Recreation Tract—Los Padres National Forest,” prepared for Heritage Resources, Los Padres National Forest, Santa Barbara, 1998.

<sup>60</sup> First quote from Waugh, *Landscape Engineering*, 10. Second quote from “Recreational Use Policy, Minnesota National Forest,” June 15, 1926, Recreation Policy Collection. McClelland, 116-117.

<sup>61</sup> “Emil Johnson Will Be Laid to Rest on Saturday,” *Cass Lake Times*, January 21, 1965.

Another Star Island building tradition was for residents to build their own cabins. Juliet Johnston explained that, “the next summer, we had tamarack poles cut for uprights and sides and Mr. Johnston and a man built our house and did all the hauling.” Winworth Williams described the work of Dr. Mark Keith: “Dr. Mark Keith, who had rented the Mandeville cottage for a short term, and who, as you know, is a skilled carpenter, offered to rebuild on a partnership basis. Shortly after, he became full owner, and proved a wonderful neighbor; helpful in improving our own place, which he later bought.”<sup>62</sup>

Each shore developed a distinct feeling based on the topography and architecture, which in turn affected the residents. Buildings on the Sandy Beach tract have a cottage appearance in keeping with more accessible, lake-level sites that facilitate beach activities. Most of the cabins have clapboard or shiplap siding and are painted light colors. There are also more outbuildings on average compared to the other shores. Several of the lots had guest quarters separate from the main cabins by the 1930s. Most lots also had boathouses, icehouses, sheds, and privies (outhouses). Many of these outbuildings remain in place.

In contrast to the south shore, the East Beach cabins are more rustic; they are often clad with board-and-batten siding and stained or painted brown or green to blend in with the forest. Some of the lots have guest quarters, all built before 1940. Boathouses and motor sheds are constructed at the base of the bluff if there is enough land. Cabins on the Norway Bluff tract have a greater variety of architectural forms and expressions because of the extended period of permit issuance. Lap siding is used on most of the buildings although there are also a few half-log- and board-and-batten-sided cabins. Colors also ranged from natural wood to green and brown to bright red and blue-green. All of the lots had sheds and privies when the cabins were originally constructed. Some of these outbuildings have been removed or replaced. A few boathouses and storage sheds are located at the base of the bluff along the beach.<sup>63</sup>

Because of Forest Service guidelines for recreation residences and a process of permit review, the buildings of Star Island have retained a high degree of integrity and architectural character.

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<sup>62</sup> Johnston is quoted in Ryan, *Star Island*, 21, and Williams is quoted on page 30.

<sup>63</sup> Ryan, *Star Island*, 12-13.

## EVALUATION OF NATIONAL REGISTER POTENTIAL

Star Island and its three recreation residence communities—East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff—should be assessed in accordance with *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

Properties must meet at least one of four criteria, embodied in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.

Associative value/Event—Criterion A: Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. This is one criterion for the evaluation of Star Island.

Associative value/Person—Criterion B: Properties that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Design or Construction value—Criterion C: Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This is another criterion for the evaluation of Star Island.

Information value—Criterion D: Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition, properties must be at least fifty years old unless they are of exceptional importance (Criteria Consideration G).

Furthermore, properties listed in the National Register must retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance. Seven aspects of integrity are identified; these are location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. A historic property must retain most of them.<sup>64</sup>

*National Register Bulletin 15* defines a district and describes its characteristic features: “A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects unified historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.” “A district derives its importance from being a unified entity . . . The identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources. . . A district can reflect one principal activity.” “A district can comprise both features that lack individual distinction and individually distinctive features that serve as focal points. . . . A district can contain buildings, structures, sites, objects, or open spaces that do not contribute to the significance of the district.”<sup>65</sup>

The three recreation residence communities of Star Island—East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff—may be classified as districts and their components analyzed according to the above-listed factors.

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<sup>64</sup> *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1977, updated 1997), 44-45.

<sup>65</sup> *National Register Bulletin 15*, 5.

## **Star Island: Areas of Significance**

The three recreation residence communities of Star Island, the first area developed in Minnesota under the Summer Home (later recreation residence) program of the U.S. Forest Service, have achieved significance as historic districts under Criterion A, “for association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history” in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. The Summer Home (recreation residence) program played an important role in promoting tourism and recreation in the national forests, both nationally and in Minnesota. The three Summer Home Groups of Star Island gain further distinction because of their location in an island setting without roads or automobiles. They were among the first Summer Homes to be established in the Chippewa National Forest and in Minnesota. The three communities contain 49 lots with buildings and other improvements that form the most concentrated group of recreation residences in the Chippewa National Forest (out of a total of 286 lots).

The three Summer Home Groups of Star Island also contain properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction which qualify them for listing under Criterion C. The residential cabins and outbuildings, all of wood, are well-preserved examples of cabin and cottage architecture, much of it of a rustic character, as manifested in Minnesota lakeside settings. Some of the buildings are the work of Emil Johnson, a local craftsman, who took advantage of the local materials and settings to create distinctive designs. A number of the cabins were built by the permit holders themselves, following the vernacular architecture tradition.

Star Island also falls under the statewide context “Minnesota Tourism and Recreation in the Lake Regions, 1870-1945.” In 1989, Star Island was evaluated as part of a statewide context “Minnesota’s Geographic Features of Cultural and Historical Significance, 1800-1939.”<sup>66</sup>

## **Period of Significance**

The period of significance is the length of time when the property associated with important events, activities, or persons, or attained the characteristics which qualify it for National Register listing. Under Criterion A, for properties associated with historic trends, the period of significance is the span of time when the property contributed to the trend. Under Criterion C, for architecturally significant properties, the period of significance is the date of construction and/or dates of any significant additions and alterations.

The three recreation residence communities of Star Island have slightly different periods of significance. The period of significance for Sandy Beach begins in 1905 when the Forester’s

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<sup>66</sup> Carole Zellie, “Star Island,” Geographic Features of Cultural and Historic Significance Inventory Form, prepared by Landscape Research for Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, 1989. A report on Star Island’s archeological features was prepared in 1985. Carl F. Hendrickson and George E. Avery, “A Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey of Forest Service Land on Star Island in Cass Lake, Beltrami and Cass Counties, Minnesota,” Reports of Investigation: Number 143, prepared by Archaeological and Consulting Services, Madison Wisconsin, 1985.

Cabin was built; the first summer home was built under permit in 1909. In the case of Norway Bluff, the period of significance would begin in 1909 when the first residence was constructed on National Forest land. The period of significance for East Beach begins in 1911 when the first residence was constructed. The Forest Service continued to issue permits for new residences, either on previously unbuilt sites or as replacements for earlier structures, into the 1960s. However, new construction occurred in several waves: the 1910s (pre-World War I), 1920s (post World War I) and 1930s, and late 1940s and 1950s (post World War II). The last permits for initial construction were issued in 1958, although in two cases the work was not executed immediately. This would extend the period of significance for East Beach to 1963 and for Norway Bluff to 1959. The period of significance for Sandy Beach also ends in 1959, when construction was completed on the replacement cabin on lot 4. (The permit had been issued in 1958.)

### **Contributing Buildings and Structures**

It is proposed that all buildings and structures constructed within the periods of significance be considered contributing to the district in which they are located unless extensively altered after that district's period of significance. Application of vinyl siding is not enough in and of itself to make a building noncontributing; however, replacement of vinyl siding with historically more appropriate materials should be encouraged as a condition of permit transfer or renewal.

### **Noncontributing Buildings and Structures**

It is proposed that buildings and structures constructed after the period of significance be considered noncontributing. However, it must be recognized that many buildings and structures constructed after the period of significance under Forest Service permits and guidelines are compatible with contributing buildings. Compatible noncontributing buildings and structures should be allowed to remain, if these buildings and structures are desired by the permittee and they are allowed under Forest Service policy.

### **Integrity**

An evaluation of integrity must consider the property's current physical condition in light of its historic evolution. The buildings in the three districts of Star Island generally retain a high degree of integrity, both as individual entities and in their relationship to each other. The paths and linking trails are also largely intact.

The three proposed districts of Star Island have integrity of location: "the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred." The cabins and outbuildings of the three recreation residence tracts of Star Island remain in their original locations.

The three proposed districts of Star Island have integrity of design: "the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. . . . Design includes such elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials." For districts, "design concerns more than just the individual buildings or structures located within the boundaries. It also applies to the way in which the buildings, sites, or structures are related." The cabins of the three recreation residence tracts of Star Island and their related

outbuildings generally retain their design characteristics. Additions to residences and new or replacement outbuildings have, for the most part, been made according to Forest Service guidelines that have ensured compatibility with overall architectural character.

The three proposed districts of Star Island have integrity of setting: “the physical environment of a historic property. . . Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historic role.” Forest Service guidelines have helped ensure that the three recreation residence tracts retain their historic settings with buildings set along or above the lakeshore and sheltered by trees.

The three proposed districts of Star Island have integrity of materials: “the physical elements that were combined during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.” Contributing buildings (as well as compatible noncontributing buildings) retain their essential exterior materials of wood siding and historic windows and doors of wood and glass.

The three proposed districts of Star Island have integrity of workmanship, “the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.” This quality is particularly evident in the cabins designed and constructed by Emil Johnson along East Beach and Sandy Beach.

The three proposed districts of Star Island have integrity of feeling: “a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.” The three recreation residence tracts of Star Island evoke the historic and aesthetic character of a secluded summer residential enclave, established in the first half of the twentieth century.

The three proposed districts of Star Island have integrity of association: “the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.” Because of the long history of family ownership among many of the residences, a direct link is present and physically apparent in the properties.

## **Boundaries**

The proposed historic districts on Star Island consist of three noncontiguous areas, Sandy Beach, East Beach, and Norway Bluff, that correspond to the three areas on the island that were developed under the Summer Homes (recreation residence) permit program. The boundary of each district extends along the lake shoreline and along the lot lines of the end residences (with the exception of Sandy Beach where the western boundary is the west edge of the campground), then along the rear lot lines. (The rear lot lines roughly correspond to the edge of the power line right-of-way.) The Sandy Beach district also encompasses the two campgrounds which once contained buildings associated with the Sandy Beach development. The campgrounds are public-use areas that were constructed as recreational facilities. The Norway Bluff district, which contains three groups of residences opening onto three bays, also encompasses the trails and forest land between these clusters, as much of this area was platted for recreation residences but never built on. Additional residences have been constructed on the south, east, and north shores of Star Island on non-Forest Service land. None of these residences are proposed for inclusion in

any of the districts, largely because their construction dates postdate the periods of significance, even though the broader social trends that characterize Star Island also apply to these buildings.

### **Consultation with Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office**

On October 9, 2003, Marjorie Pearson and Elizabeth A. Gales of Hess Roise participated in a conference call held at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Dennis A. Gimmestad, Government Programs and Compliance Office, and Susan Roth, National Register Historian, represented the SHPO. Andrea LeVasseur, William Yourd, and Cathy Thompson, of the United States Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest, joined the conversation by telephone. At that time the period of significance was discussed, and all buildings were reviewed for contributing or noncontributing status to a district or districts. Dennis Gimmestad and Susan Roth also recommended that the three recreation residence tracts—East Beach, Sandy Beach, and Norway Bluff—be considered as three separate districts rather than three noncontiguous areas forming a single Star Island Historic District. They also requested further evaluation of the periods of significance and contributing and noncontributing buildings. A follow-up meeting was held with Mr. Gimmestad and Ms. Roth on November 13, 2003. The periods of significance were again reviewed and all buildings again assessed for contributing or noncontributing status. The information and evaluation have been incorporated into the above discussion. They also concurred with the following recommendation.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on historical and architectural research and analysis, the three Summer Home Groups (recreation residence tracts) of Star Island appears to meet National Register criteria and to maintain sufficient historic integrity. They are therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as the East Beach Summer Home Group of Star Island Historic District, the Sandy Beach Summer Home Group of Star Island Historic District, and the Norway Bluff Summer Home Group of Star Island Historic District. Contributing buildings and features would be considered National Register eligible properties under the Section 106 review process if a proposed project calls for removal or alteration.

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# **APPENDIX 1**

## Building Eligibility List

### East Beach

		<u>Contributing/Noncontributing</u>
Lot 1	Cabin	Contributing Built 1922; addition, 1960s
Lot 2	Cabin	Contributing Built 1926; addition, 1973
	Storage building	Contributing Built 1920s
	Outhouse	Contributing Built 1920s
Lot 3	Cabin	Contributing Built 1919; interior renovations, 1960s; additions, 1970s, 1991
	Storage building	Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 4	Cabin	Contributing Built 1919
	Shed	Noncontributing Built 2002
Lot 5	Cabin	Contributing Built 1919
	Storage shed	Contributing Built 1919
	Outhouse	Contributing Built 1910s-1920s
Lot 6	Cabin	Contributing Built 1918; addition, 1940s
	Guest cabin	Contributing Built 1910s-1920s
	Outhouse	Contributing Built 1920s
	Outhouse	Contributing Built 1920s
Lot 7	Cabin	Contributing Built 1918
	Guest cabin	Contributing Built 1910s-1920s
	Outhouse	Contributing Built 1920s
Lot 8	Cabin	Contributing Built 1918; addition, 1992
	Guest cabin	Contributing Built 1930s
	Storage building	Contributing Built 1930s
	Outhouse	Contributing Built 1930s

## Building Eligibility List

Lot 9	Cabin Shed Outhouse	Contributing Built 1916; additions, 1920s-1930s Contributing Built 1910s-1920s Contributing Built pre-1958
Lot 10A	Cabin Storage shed	Contributing Built 1920s; additions, 1930s, 1997 Noncontributing Built 1980s
Lot 10B	Cabin Outhouse	Contributing Built 1920s; additions, 1930s, 1961 Contributing Built 1920s
Lot 11	Cabin Storage shed Outhouse	Noncontributing Built 1920s; addition and remodel, 1987 Noncontributing Built 1980s Contributing Built 1930s-1940s
Lot 12	Cabin	Contributing Built 1910; additions, 1950s, 1996
Lot 13	Cabin Outhouse	Contributing Built 1917; addition, 1968-1969 Contributing Built 1930s
Lot 14	Tennis Court	Contributing site Built 1920s; refurbished, 1950s
Lot 15	Cabin Shed	Noncontributing Built 1969 Noncontributing Built 1969
Lot 16	Cabin Shed	Contributing Built 1963 Noncontributing Built 1987
Lot 17	Cabin Storage building	Contributing Built 1920s; additions, 1940s, 1968-1969, 1980s Noncontributing Built post-1989

## Building Eligibility List

	Outhouse	Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 18	Cabin	Contributing Built 1914; additions, 1950s
	Shed	Noncontributing Built 1970s
	Outhouse	Contributing Built pre-1958
<b><u>Sandy Beach</u></b>	<b><u>Buildings</u></b>	<b><u>Contributing/Noncontributing</u></b>
Lot 1	Cabin	Noncontributing Built 1988
	Storage building	Noncontributing Built 1988
Lot 2	Cabin	Contributing Built 1910s; additions, 1920s-1940s
Lot 3	Cabin	Contributing Built 1910s; additions, 1930s-1950s, 1960s, 1970s
	Boathouse	Contributing Built 1910s-1920s
Lot 4	Cabin	Contributing Built 1959
	Shed	Contributing Built 1959 from 1910s material
East Campground		Contributing site Developed 1920s
Lot 5	Cabin	Contributing Built by 1910; additions, 1920s
	Storage building	Contributing Built 1920s
	Shed	Contributing Built 1920s
	Outhouse	Contributing Built 1920s
Lot 6	Cabin	Contributing Built 1916; additions, 1920s-1940s
	Guest cabin	Contributing Built 1910s-1920s
	Boathouse	Contributing Built 1910s

## Building Eligibility List

	Laundry	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
	Storage building	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
Lot 7	Cabin	Noncontributing	Built 1968
	Storage building	Noncontributing	Built 1968
	Pump house	Noncontributing	Built 1968
	Outhouse	Noncontributing	Built 1968
Lot 8	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1910; additions, 1910s
	Boathouse	Contributing	Built 1910s
	Outhouse	Contributing	Built 1910s
Lot 9	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1912-1913; additions, 1910s
	Guest cabin	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
	Boathouse	Contributing	Built 1910s
	Shower/Laundry building	Contributing	Built 1920s
Lot 10	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1911
	"Love Nest" cabin	Contributing	Built 1957
	Boathouse	Contributing	Built 1910s
	Shed	Noncontributing	Built 1910s; altered at an undetermined date
Lot 11	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1916; additions, 1910s-1920s
	"Loon Cabin"	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s; 1960s
	Laundry/Storage building	Contributing	Built 1910s
	Boathouse	Contributing	Built 1910s
	Outhouse	Contributing	Built 1910s
	Playhouse	Contributing	Built 1930s
Lot 12	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1915-1916; additions, 1910s-1920s

## Building Eligibility List

	Guest cabin (west)	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
	Guest cabin (east)	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
	Storage building	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
	Outhouse	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
Lot 13	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1912
	Guest cabin	Contributing	Built 1910s; 1960s
	Shed	Contributing	Built 1920s
Lot 14	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1925
	Storage building	Contributing	Built 1920s
Lot 15	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1915-1916
	Storage building	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
	Shed	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
	Outhouse	Contributing	Built 1910s-1920s
West			
Campground		Contributing site	Developed 1970s
<b><u>Norway Bluff</u></b>	<b><u>Buildings</u></b>		<b><u>Contributing/Noncontributing</u></b>
Lot 1	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1940; addition, 1987
	Shed	Noncontributing	Built 1995
	Outhouse	Contributing	Built 1940s
Lot 2	Cabin	Contributing	Built 1911; addition, 1983
	Shed	Noncontributing	Built 1960s
	Open shed	Noncontributing	Built 1960s
	Outhouse	Contributing	Built 1930s

## Building Eligibility List

Lot 3	Cabin Outhouse	Contributing Built 1911; addition, 1949 Contributing Built pre-1950
Lot 4	Cabin Storage shed Outhouse	Contributing Built 1927; addition, 1996 Noncontributing Built 1992 Contributing Built pre-1950
Lot 5	Cabin Outhouse	Contributing Built 1909; additions, 1930s, 1940 Contributing Built 1930s
Lot 6	Cabin Storage shed Outhouse	Contributing Built 1928; additions, 1960s Noncontributing Built 1980s Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 7	Cabin Shed Outhouse	Contributing Built 1926; additions, 1940s, 1965, 1980s Noncontributing Built 1970s Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 13	Cabin	Contributing Built 1919; additions, 1930s, 1951, 1965, 1975
Lot 14	Cabin Outhouse	Contributing Built 1931; additions, 1960s, 1980s-1990s Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 15	Cabin Storage building Outhouse	Contributing Built 1933; additions, 1950s-1960s, 1975, 1994 Noncontributing Built 1989 Contributing Built 1930s
Lot 16	Cabin Outhouse	Contributing Built 1930s; addition, 1971 Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date

## Building Eligibility List

Lot 17	Cabin Storage building Outhouse	Contributing Built 1930s; addition, 1950 Noncontributing Built 1989 Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 18	Cabin Storage building Outhouse	Contributing Built 1920s; additions, 1970, 1992 Noncontributing Built 1990 Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 21	Cabin Storage building Outhouse Outhouse (log)	Contributing Built 1959; addition, 1977 Contributing Built 1959 Contributing Built 1959 Noncontributing Built at an undetermined date
Lot 22	Cabin Storage building Outhouse	Contributing Built 1950s Noncontributing Built 1990 Contributing Built 1950s
Lot 23	Cabin Storage building Outhouse	Contributing Built 1949; addition, 1969 Contributing Built 1949 Contributing Built 1949