1 NAME
HISTORIC Sevona Cabin
AND/OR COMMON Sevona Cabin

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER W of Bayfield on Sand Island (SW 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 25, T52N, RSW)
CITY, TOWN Town of Bayfield
STATE Wisconsin

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
X DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
X STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Christine E. Anderson
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Bayport
STATE Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Bayfield County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Washburn
STATE Wisconsin

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Building Survey
DATE 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Madison
STATE Wisconsin
7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

^EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR

CHECK ONE

—EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR

CHECK ONE

—EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR

DETERIORATED
RUINS
UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sevona Cabin is a one-and-one-half story building which rests on post foundations. Its steeply-sloped single-gable roof is covered with wood shakes. Except for the gable ends, the walls of the cabin are built from silver-gray weathered hatchcovers offset by decorative vertical battens painted deep red. In the gable ends, sawtooth and fish-scale patterned brown shingles cover wood frame construction. The double-hung windows and the doors are trimmed in red. There is a large screened porch which curves from the front of the building and continues along the west side. This porch is of post-and-beam construction and early photographs indicate that it was an original part of the cabin.

Entrance to the porch is made where it joins the building on the west side. The main door to the cabin itself is in the center of the south end directly off the porch. The first floor is divided into two rooms. One is used as a living room, the other as a small kitchen. There is a narrow stairway leading from the kitchen to the upper floor, now used primarily for storage. There is a small brick chimney which straddles the roof ridge. The building is in good repair and is well maintained by its present owner.

There is a small outbuilding northwest of the nominated property which is not considered significant.
The significance of this building derives from its unique construction and from its association with Samuel Fifield, author, founder of the Bayfield Press, founder and editor of the Ashland Press, speaker of the state legislature, state senator, and lieutenant governor of Wisconsin.

Beginning in the 1890s and until his death in 1915, Samuel Fifield spent most of his summers on the south shore of Sand Island where he operated a small resort. The resort, named Camp Stella in honor of his wife, consisted of a lodge, a number of tents, and the Sevona Cabin. It appears that Fifield and his wife resided in the Sevona Cabin after its construction in 1905-6. Fifield wrote many articles, some nationally published, extolling the beauty and the bounty of the Chequamegon Bay region. He urged farmers to make use of the fertile soil of the area, and with glowing words he described the scenic delights that awaited the tourist. Referring to his own Camp Stella in the National Magazine, he wrote: "Our camp, on one of the Apostle Islands, nestling among towering pines was indeed a captivating and beautiful retreat." He was one of the region's earliest boosters.

Fifield seldom mentioned the great storms that occasionally buffeted the islands. But it was one of these storms that led to the construction of the Sevona Cabin. On September 2, 1905, during one of the worst blows in memory, the steamer Sevona carrying a load of iron ore down the lake from Superior, broke apart on the Sand Island Shoals with the loss of seven lives. For months, the four-inch-thick wooden hatchcovers of the foundered ship washed up on local shores. Sam Fifield spread the word that he would pay one dollar apiece for the hatchcovers, and when enough had been collected, he began construction of the Sevona Cabin. Except for the gable ends, which are patterned shingles over frame construction, the four walls of the cabin are made entirely from these weathered hatchcovers. They serve as both exterior siding and structure. The tragedy which resulted in the building of the cabin is commemorated on its interior by numerous framed articles and letters dealing with the event.

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UMAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one.

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTING
C [161561940] 0
ZONE EASTING NORTING
D [ ] [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Herschel L. D. Parnes, Field Surveyor
ORGANIZATION
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
STREET & NUMBER
816 State Street
CITY OR TOWN
Madison
STATE Wisconsin
CODE 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

S.H.P.O. Signature

TITLE
DATE 1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
SEVONA CABIN
Sand Island, Bayfield County, Wisconsin
Photo by Herschel L. D. Parnes
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of cabin from southwest.
Photo #1 of 2

SEP 29 1976
SEVONA CABIN
Sand Island, Bayfield County, Wisconsin
Photo by Herschel L. D. Barnes 1975
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of cabin from south
Photo #2 of 2