

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 29 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sevona Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

Sevona Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of Bayfield on
Sand Island (SW 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 25, T52N,

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

R5W)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Town of Bayfield via

VICINITY OF

Seventh

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wisconsin

55

Bayfield

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☒ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Christine E. Anderson

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bayport

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
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

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

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.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			association with historically important person.

SPECIFIC DATES

1905-1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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 1890's 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."¹ 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.

¹Fifield, Sam. "Among the Historic Apostle Islands," article in National Magazine, Boston, July 1898.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fifield, Sam , "Among the Historic Apostle Islands," National Magazine, Boston, July 1898.

Sheridan, Chick, "Sinking of Sevona Was Epic Apostle Islands Event," The Evening Telegram, Superior, Wisconsin, Sept. 10, 1973.

Chapple, John, editor, Fifield Centennial Preview, Ashland, Wisconsin, 1974?

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one.

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 65,69,4,0 5,20,29,6,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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

DATE

18 July 1975

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-9504

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 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

James Horton Smith

TITLE

DATE

1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/29/96

Act. ~~96~~ DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/27/76

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. Parnes
1975

Neg. at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin

View of cabin from south
Photo #2 of 2