

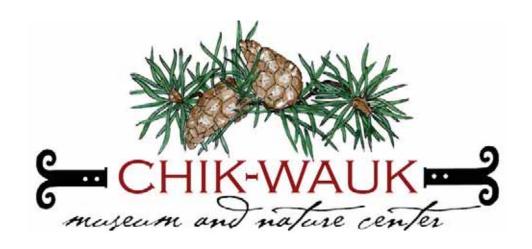
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT FINAL - APRIL 2014

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Gunflint Trail Historical Society Mission Statement: The mission of the Gunflint Trail Historical Society shall be to preserve the history of the Gunflint Trail and its early settlers for residents, guests, travelers, and future generations.



### CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

### Prepared for:

# GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Prepared by:

Quinn Evans Architects 1037 Sherman Avenue Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Final - April 2014

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The preparation of this report has been greatly enhanced by contributions made by several individuals. Throughout the project, the members of the Gunflint Trail Historical Society (GTHS) have provided information, assistance, criticism, and guidance reflecting their outstanding knowledge of, and dedication to, the resources and local community. It has been a privilege working with these individuals whose long-term commitment to the community and museum have contributed greatly to the preservation of their cultural heritage. In particular, Sue Kerfoot served as the project contact for the GTHS, providing well-organized research materials, advice, local knowledge and introductions to key contacts.

Oral history information and historic photographs were generously shared by several people with connections to Chik-Wauk including Robert and Cornelia Einsweiler, Janet Butler Gouvas, John and Claudia Daly, Nancy Nunstedt Bargen, Norbert Mayer, Phyllis Noyes, Rick Anderson, and Ted Sage. Although circumstances sadly did not provide the opportunity to discuss Chik-Wauk with Ralph and Bea Griffis, their earlier contributions to the museum were of great value to the project.

Superior National Forest staff members Lee Johnson, Forest Archeologist, Nancy Larson, Gunflint District Ranger, and Christy Iozzo, Realty Specialist, offered essential contributions related to future management of the property. Lee Johnson also offered support throughout the project by supplying background materials and thoughtful review comments. Natascha Weiner of the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office provided guidance, suggestions, and reviews to ensure that the CLR addresses concerns of that office and provides a foundation for future additions to the property.

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### CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center occupies a property that served as a Minnesota Northern Border Lakes fishing resort and canoe trip outfitter from ca. 1930 until 1980. Today, the property is located within the Superior National Forest adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on Saganaga Lake at the end of the Gunflint Trail National Scenic Byway (Cook County Highway 12). The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 for its local significance as a representative of "a unique historical pattern of fishing-resort outdoor recreation that flourished in the Border Lakes Country of northeastern Minnesota, in and around the lakes and streams of the Superior National Forest, from the 1920s to the early 1960s."

The museum and nature center are housed in the former Chik-Wauk Lodge building. Constructed in 1933-34, the rough-cut stone lodge building was the centerpiece of the rustic resort complex that provided tourists with fishing excursions, lodging in rustic-style cabins with a choice of American Plan accommodations (including meals in the lodge) or housekeeping cabins (where visitors cooked their own meals). A bunkhouse was also available for wilderness trippers to spend the night at the beginning or end of their trip.

The intent of this *Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)* is to guide treatment and use of the above-ground resources associated with the significant historic landscape within the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center project area (see Figure 1-1). A thorough investigation and evaluation of the historic landscape has been conducted using National Park Service (NPS) and National Register of Historic Places guidelines. The documentation of historic significance and evaluation of integrity of the landscape serves as a framework upon which treatment recommendations are developed. The report provides site managers with a comprehensive understanding of the physical evolution of the historic landscape, and guidance for future landscape management.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

A number of project objectives laid the framework for the development of the project and report:

- 1. Document the development of the historic landscapes within the Chik-Wauk Resort Complex.
- 2. Document the existing conditions within the Chik-Wauk project area.
- 3. Evaluate the significance and integrity of the historic landscapes.
- 4. Develop and evaluate treatment alternatives for landscape design and management.
- 5. Provide treatment recommendations for managing the historic landscape resources within the project area.
- 6. Provide management recommendations and schematic designs for the historic core that accommodate current and future needs while preserving the historic character and significant landscape features present.
- 7. Enhance visitor experience by providing information about the history of the development of the historic landscape to interpreters and site managers.

### LOCATION

Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center is located in northeastern Minnesota, on the southeast edge of Saganaga Lake near the end of the Gunflint Trail. The site is located approximately 55 miles northwest of Grand Marais, Minnesota, and can be reached via the Gunflint Trail (Cook County Road 12) and Moose Pond Drive (Cook County Road 81).

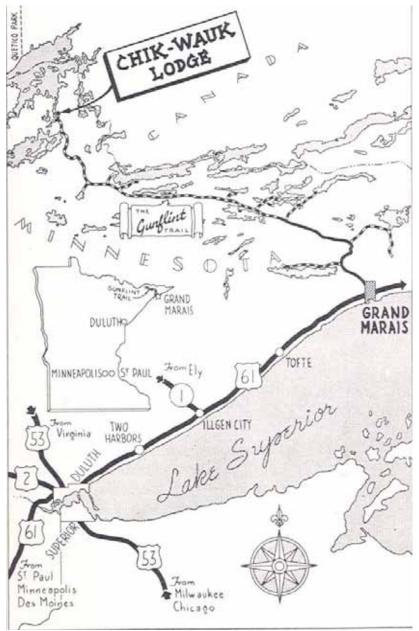


Figure 1-1: Location of Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center (source: C-W 241a)

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

The facility is operated by the Gunflint Trail Historical Society (GTHS) through a partnership with the Superior National Forest, Gunflint Ranger District (operating under a Special Use Permit). The goal of the society is to "preserve the history of the Gunflint Trail and its early settlers for residents, guests, travelers, and future generations." The story of the Gunflint Trail is relayed to visitors at the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center through exhibits and interpretive displays that present the cultural and natural history of the community.<sup>2</sup>

Since it opened in 2010, the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center has become a popular destination for visitors and residents of the area. The museum is housed in the former Chik-Wauk Lodge, a stone building constructed in 1934 as the main lodge and dining area for Chik-Wauk Resort. The National Register boundary for the property encompasses an area including the lodge/museum building as well as the peninsula and surrounding harbor area (see figure 1-2).

When the nomination was prepared, the boundary was intended to include the historic view-shed from the main lodge building, as well as the area of resort operation during the period of significance (1930-1962). The boundary includes the footprints of multiple guest cabins and outbuildings and other historic features relating to the period of resort operations. Further analysis of the historic landscape is provided in Chapters 3 and 4 of this report.

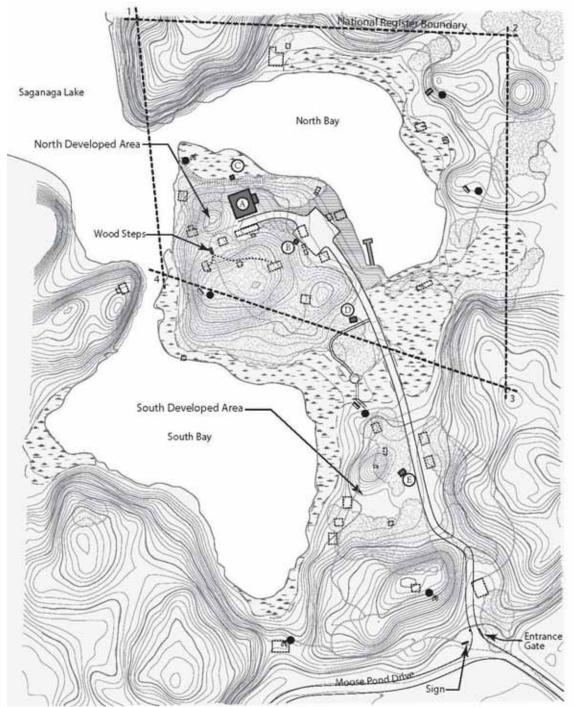


Figure 1-2: Chik-Wauk project area and National Register Boundary (see Figure C, Existing Conditions)

### REPORT METHODOLOGY

This project has been undertaken using a *cultural landscape approach* according to federal standards guiding cultural landscape projects including *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, and other pertinent documents.<sup>3</sup> This approach includes building a foundation of historical documentation as a basis for understanding the evolution of significant landscapes. The historical information is presented herein in the form of historic landscape chronologies that outline the physical development of the Chik-Wauk property during key time periods. Period of landscape change diagrams illustrate two historic phases using consistent scales and graphic styles, to allow for easy comparison of landscape conditions from one period to the next.* 

Research was based on three main sources of historic information including the Chik-Wauk Museum archives, oral history interviews and questioners, and documents provided by the United States Forest Service Superior National Forest. Sue Kerfoot shared a wealth of historic photographs, oral history interview transcripts, and local knowledge from the Chik-Wauk Museum collection that served as the foundation of research for the project. A number of individuals who used to work or vacation at Chik-Wauk were contacted and asked to fill out questioners. Respondents included John and Claudia Daly who were employees at Chik-Wauk during the summers of 1964-1968 and in 1971 and continued to visit the Griffis until they no longer came to the property; Janet Gouvas (nee Butler) who worked at Chik-Wauk during the summers of 1971-1978 and also visited later; Rick Anderson who worked as a dock boy/fishing guide during the summer of 1973; Norbert Mayer who lived at the property with his parents (the Nunstedts) beginning in 1933; Nancy Nunstedt Bargen, who lived at the property with her parents (the Nunstedts) during her childhood; Phyllis Noyes who owned and operated the resort with her husband Carl Noyes and sister and brother-in-law, Erma and Herb Brugger from 1951 to 1953; Robert and Cornelia Einsweiler; Ted Sage, and Jan Baucom Myers who worked for the Griffis in the 1970s. Lee Johnson of the Superior National Forest provided documents related to the federal acquisition and management of the property, as well as historic aerial photographs.

Following documentation of the historic evolution of the physical landscape, existing landscape characteristics were assessed. Landscape characteristics include tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape from the historic periods; these aspects individually and collectively give a landscape its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance. Landscape characteristics relevant to Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center include: response to the natural environment, spatial organization, vegetation, patterns of circulation, views, topography, buildings and structures, and small scale features. Descriptions of existing conditions and an analysis of integrity are provided for each of the landscape characteristics.

The information regarding the development of the historic landscape, existing conditions, and analysis of integrity of the property provide a foundation upon which decisions are made regarding future design and management of the landscape. This began with the selection of a Rehabilitation Approach to treatment as the most suitable approach given the future needs of the Museum and Nature Center. Management issues related to current and future plans for the facility were outlined, as were the goals of the Gunflint Trail Historical Society for the

| operation. Potential sites for necessary facilities were evaluated with careful consideration for potential impacts to cultural resources and a recommended treatment plan was developed. |  |  |
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### CULTURAL LANDSCAPE TERMINOLOGY

This section includes definitions of terminology used in the report that may be unfamiliar to the reader.

Cultural Landscape – a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. There are four general types of cultural landscapes, not mutually exclusive: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.<sup>4</sup>

Cultural Landscape Report - refers to the primary management document for cultural landscapes within the National Park Service. A cultural landscape report documents the history and existing conditions of a cultural landscape, evaluates its significance according to Secretary of Interior standards, and provides design and management recommendations for the property.

Integrity – the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evinced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period. The seven qualities of integrity as defined by the National Register Program are location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship, and materials.

Significance – the meaning or value ascribed to a cultural landscape based on the National Register criteria for evaluation. It normally stems from a combination of association and integrity.

Treatment - work carried out to achieve a particular historic preservation goal.

*Vernacular* - a term used to categorize methods of construction which use locally available resources and traditions to address local needs. These resources tend to evolve over time and reflect the environmental, cultural and historical context in which it exists.

Historic vernacular landscape - a landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, a family, or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of everyday lives. Function plays a significant role in vernacular landscapes. This can be a farm complex or a district of historic farmsteads along a river valley. Examples include rural historic districts and agricultural landscapes.

Character-defining feature - a prominent or distinctive aspect, quality, or characteristic of a cultural landscape that contributes significantly to its physical character. Land use patterns, vegetation, furnishings, decorative details and materials may be such features.

Feature - The smallest element(s) of a landscape that contributes to the significance and that can be the subject of a treatment intervention. Examples include a woodlot, hedge, lawn, specimen plant, house, meadow or open field, fence, wall, earthwork, pond or pool, bollard, orchard, or agricultural terrace.

*Historic character* - the sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and spaces associated with a cultural landscape's history, i.e. the original configuration together with losses and later changes. These qualities are often referred to as character-defining.

Landscape Characteristics<sup>5</sup> – tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape from the historic periods; these aspects individually and collectively give a landscape its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance. Those relevant to the Chik-Wauk property include:

Response to the Natural Environment - Ways that natural aspects influence the development and resultant form of a landscape.

Spatial Organization - Arrangement of elements creating the ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

*Views* - Features that create or allow a range of vision which can be natural or designed and controlled.

*Topography* - Three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation.

*Vegetation* – Native or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous materials.

Patterns of Circulation - Spaces, features, and materials that constitute systems of movement.

*Buildings and structures* - Three-dimensional constructs such as houses, barns, garages, stables, bridges and memorials.

Small Scale Features - Elements that provide detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics.

Archeological Resources – Material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities that are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. They are capable of revealing scientific or humanistic information through archeological research.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center website: www.chikwauk.com.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Page, Robert R., Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, 1998. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program), and Birnbaum, Charles A. and Christine Capella Peters, 1996. *The Secretary of the Interior's* 

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Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes. Washington DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 3-5.

- <sup>4</sup> United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, Defining Landscape Terminology, http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/landscape-guidelines/terminology.htm.
- <sup>5</sup> Page, Robert R., Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, 1998. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program).



### CHAPTER 2:

# CHIK-WAUK LANDSCAPE CHRONOLOGY & PERIOD OF CHANGE PLANS

### OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER 2

The cultural landscape at Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center is a vernacular landscape that evolved through the use and activities related to a backwoods cabin resort at the property. Unlike places that are built according to formal designs prepared to reflect a specific style, this landscape was designed by the people operating the resort, based on their day-to-day needs. Choices of locations for buildings, roads, docks, and service areas were made to capitalize on views of the surrounding lake for visitor-related facilities, and ease of use for the many service-related activities associated with the resort. During the fifty years that the property operated as a resort, changes occurred on a regular basis. Cabins and out buildings (including generator sheds, ice houses, fish cleaning houses, boat houses, and other outbuildings) were added, relocated, or removed as needed to adjust to modifications at the property made to meet tourist expectations, staff housing needs, equipment storage, and other requirements. Buildings were repurposed to serve new uses as their former operations became obsolete. The landscape chronology and period of change plans presented in this chapter document known events that occurred at the property that affected the physical landscape conditions.

The landscape chronology is presented as six time periods, organized according to the owners and managers of the landscape. The initial section is a brief description of conditions known to exist during the period prior to the development of Chik-Wauk Resort. This is followed by information related to the original development of Chik-Wauk Resort by the Nunstedt family who owned and operated the resort from 1931 through 1952. A Historic Period Plan illustrates the conditions known to exist during this period (see Figure A, Nunstedt Ownership, 1931-1952). Only a small amount of information related to the landscape during the period between 1952 and 1958 was found. During the short span, the resort was owned by Carl and Phyllis Noyes and Herb and Erma Brugger. It appears that only minor changes occurred to landscape conditions during this episode. In 1958, Ralph and Bea Griffis purchased the property from the Bruggers. The Griffis ran the resort until 1980, when they sold the property to the United States Forest Service. A second Historic Period Plan illustrates the conditions at the resort during the Griffs' ownership (see Figure B, Griffis Ownership, 1958-1980).

Although the Griffis retained a lease on a portion of the property and continued to live there seasonally until the year 2000, the resort ceased to operate, and major changes to the landscape were implemented by the USFS after 1980. In 2010, the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center opened in the newly rehabilitated lodge building, marking the beginning of a new era of use and activity at the site.

# ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF CHIK-WAUK RESORT

### Regional First Nations Cultures<sup>1</sup>

| 11,000 to 9,000 BP | Believed post-glacial settlement of Paleoindian Tradition in |
|--------------------|--|
|                    | northeast Minnesota. <sup>2</sup>                            |

# 6,000 to 3,000 BP Believed Late Archaic transition to pottery-producing Initial Woodland tradition in northeast Minnesota.<sup>3</sup>

# 2,100 to 900 BP General time range for Initial Woodland Culture (Laurel Culture) includes pottery production, burial in earthen mounds, net-fishing,

greater food diversity and increased population.<sup>4</sup>

## 1,400-1,200 BP to European Contact

Time range attributed to the Terminal Woodland period (including the Blackduck Configuration, Sandy Lake Configuration, and the Selkirk Composite cultures) during which intensive exploitation of wild rice becomes evident and pottery style transitions from Laurel vessels to Blackduck Ware.<sup>5</sup>

### European Contact

- The French initiated contact with First Nations (Native Americans) at the west shore of Lake Superior during the Seventeenth Century. Tribal groups present included the Dakota, Cree, Assiniboine and Ojibwe. In addition, the Ottowa, Monsoni, Potawatomie, Menominee and Fox were located in adjacent areas and participated in fur trade activities.<sup>6</sup>
- The French Fur Trade period includes the French Contact Phase (mid 1600s-1700) and the French Expansion Phase (1713-1763).<sup>7</sup>
- The British Fur Trade era begins with the end of the Seven Year War and the Treaty of Paris in 1763. During this phase, the North West Company, XY Company and the Hudson's Bay Company operate in the area.<sup>8</sup>
- The American Fur Trade period begins at the end of the War of 1812, and the Treaty of Ghent in 1815. At the beginning of this period, both British and American trading posts operate on the Border Lakes. American companies include the American Fur Company and the Northern Lake Company.<sup>9</sup>
- Land Act of 1820 allowed individuals to purchase land from the United States government for \$1.25 per acre.

1850 Mineral survey found iron ore in area west of Gunflint Lake. 10

1854 Treaty of 1854. Land in the area became the property of the United States government (and eligible for purchase under the 1820 Land Act). This began a shift in the way that land was owned, occupied and used, in the area. Earlier patterns of occupation and use responded to seasonal and ecological events or opportunities to hunt, gather, fish, trap and trade within a wide regional area. Cyclical events spanned intervals according to environmental conditions and likely shifted from time to time (for example, populations of specific fish or wildlife might be found in different locations due to lower temperatures or higher water levels from one year to the next). Following the Treaty of 1854, land was purchased by individuals and entities for specific purposes establishing a more static condition of land use. In the remote landscape of the Border Lakes a great deal of property continued to be used in a limited reflection of the aboriginal users. Examples include hunting, trapping and fishing as well as the use of waterways (both frozen and thawed) for transportation. Although well established, these routes changed with the seasons and responded to annual weather conditions.<sup>11</sup>

Mid-1860s Mining in the Border Lakes region begins with a gold rush that is short-lived.

### 1870s – 1911: Development of the Gunflint Trail

1870s First section of current Gunflint Trail constructed as a tote road from Grand Marais to Rove Lake (23 miles). 12

1876 24 February 1876, Vermilion and Grand Marais Iron Company incorporated. 13

North Shore Mining companies tested sites along the North Shore and adjacent inland areas. 14

3 October 1888, Alice S. McKinley of Duluth, Minnesota received title to 131.75 acres including lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Section 30, T66 4 W, land she purchased for \$164.60. 15

5 December 1888, McKinley sold the entire parcel to the Vermilion and Grand Marais Iron Company for \$6,145.20.

Paulson Mine developed to explore the possibility of extracting iron ore from the deposits just west of Gunflint Lake. Tote road extended to area south of Gunflint Lake so that supplies could be brought in to the mine. Quickly after the mine opened, discovery of higher grade ore on Mesabi

Iron Range combined with a national financial panic resulted in the permanent closure of the Paulson Mine.<sup>16</sup>

- 1892-1896 Gunflint Iron Mine Company operations in the Arrowhead region. <sup>17</sup>
- The Big-Pine Logging Era began in 1895 and continued until 1930. The Gunflint Trail was improved to facilitate the transportation of crews and supplies to large logging operations on the shores of several lakes including, Poplar, Hungry Jack, Clearwater, Daniels, and Rose. The General Logging Company cut red and white pine stands during this era. 18
- 1905 Chik-Wauk property sold by Vermilion and Grand Marais Iron Company. Between 1905 and 1912, the Chik-Wauk property was owned by a series of people involved with the Farm Land Investment Company, which was established in 1908 in Minneapolis. 19
- The Superior National Forest was established in 1909. Today, the forest includes three million acres spanning 150 miles along the United States-Canadian border. The area is frequently referred to as the Border Lakes Region. Over 625 square miles of the Forest is surface water. The boreal forest ecosystem, extensive fresh-water lakes, and rich cultural history of the area attract recreational users who fish, hunt, camp, canoe, swim, hike, snowmobile and ski. Fish are abundant, including walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, lake trout, brook trout, rainbow trout and brown trout. The northern forest community includes pine, fir and spruce trees and is home to wildlife including deer, moose, gray wolf, and black bear. In addition, pulpwood and sawtimber are harvested for use in the forest products industry.<sup>20</sup>

### 1912 – 1930: Early Tourism on the Gunflint Trail

- 1912 First tourist cabins built at Greenwood Lake.<sup>21</sup>
- 1913 Chik-Wauk property sold to Alfred and Carrie Dean of Hennepin County Minnesota.<sup>22</sup>
- 1916 Tourist cabins built at Clearwater Lake.<sup>23</sup>
- County and federal funds used to widen and improve the road over many years. By 1929, the road was improved all the way to Seagull Lake. By the end of the 1920s, numerous lodges and outfitters operated along the Gunflint Trail including: Bearskin Lodge (East Bearskin Lake), Clearwater Lodge (Clearwater Lake), Gateway Lodge (Hungry Jack Lake), YMCA Camp Menogyn (West Bearskin Lake), Rockwood Lodge (Poplar Lake), Borderland Lodge and Gunflint Lodge (Gunflint Lake),

Loon Lake Lodge (Loon Lake), Windigo Point and Seagull Lodge (Seagull Lake). 24

1929-1931 Private funds were used to acquire land and construct the road extending from Seagull Lake to Saganaga Lake. Once built, a toll of one dollar was charged for non-guests to use the road to get to Saganaga Lake to fish. <sup>25</sup>

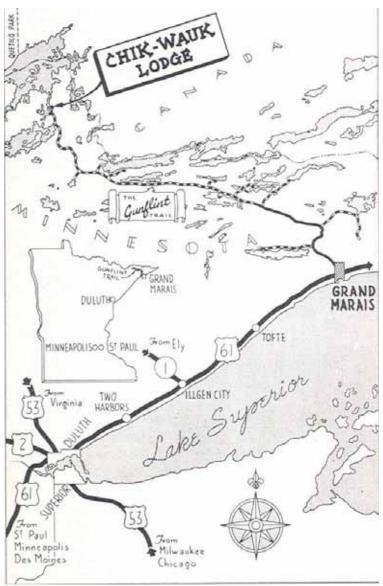


Figure 2-1: Location of Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center (source: C-W 241a)

# 1931 TO 1952: NUNSTEDT OWNERSHIP AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CHIK-WAUK RESORT

When Edwin Nunstedt purchased property on Saganaga Lake in 1931, there were a number of rustic lodge/resorts operating along the Gunflint Trail. Initially, Nunstedt and his son Art built a lodge near the road (see Figure A, "Old Lodge"). Having access to the new road was important and considered an amenity. This was soon followed by the first lodge built at the site of the current museum (see Figure A, "Lodge"). Nunstedt and his son Art selected a site with dramatic views of the surrounding landscape to build a lodge that would be the centerpiece of their rustic fishing resort. The building was designed to take advantage of the views. The name Chik-Wauk was chosen for the resort. The local understanding of Chik-Wauk is that it is the Ojibwe term for "Jack of the Pines." Consultation with a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa indicates that the Ojibwemowin translation is closer to "pine tree lodge." The operation included the lodge and five small cabins. A Historic Period Plan illustrates the conditions known to exist during this period (see Figure A, Nunstedt Ownership, 1931-1952).

The first lodge at the current museum site was of log construction and it burned soon after its completion. It was replaced by a stone building – the extant museum, referred to herein as the lodge, the main lodge, and Chik-Wauk lodge. Additional guest cabins, docks, sheds, a boathouse, quarters for the owners and workers, and other necessary structures were built during the ensuing years. Eventually they had six "American Plan" cabins—including meals served at the Lodge; four "housekeeping" cabins—with kitchen facilities so guests could prepare their own meals; and one remote cabin in Canada on Northern Light Lake (outside the project area).

The site of each American Plan cabin was carefully selected.<sup>28</sup> They were in the vicinity of the Lodge and the housekeeping cabins were near the small bay to the south, about half-way between the entrance gate and the lodge area. The American Plan cabins (Carey, Judges, Crow's Nest, Cabin Across the Bridge, and Cabins #1 and either #2, or the Large cabin) were constructed of logs, had one or two beds, no running water, and either kerosene lamps or electricity provided by the generator near the Lodge. A fresh pitcher of water and a basin were provided for each cabin on a daily basis. The Utility Building had bathrooms with flush toilets, sinks and showers for the guests to use, as well as a laundry room and linen storage. There were no roads leading to these cabins, they were spaced far apart, and difficult to take care of, but their locations were beautiful.<sup>29</sup> The four housekeeping cabins were frame construction and clustered in the South Bay area. There was an access road from the main driveway and visitors could park near the cabins. Two privies provided bathroom facilities for the guests in this area.

The extension of the Gunflint Trail to Saganaga Lake in 1931 precipitated the establishment of Chik-Wauk Resort. The opening of the section of the road between Seagull and Saganaga Lakes meant that the Chik-Wauk property could be reached by automobile from Grand Marais. The road was rough and scenic. Once at the Chik-Wauk driveway, visitors would travel as far as they could by car. They would switch to boat when the access road was flooded—typically in the Spring. The guest cabins near the

main lodge were sited to afford striking views of the lake and adjacent rocky landscape and woods. A wood pedestrian bridge provided a link across the bay to the "cabin across the bridge." The bridge also provided extraordinary panoramic views of the bay, lake, and surrounding landscape.

During this early period, the majority of the guests were men on fishing trips and couples who came for fishing vacations. While the lodge was the centerpiece of the resort, the docks provided the connection to fishing that the visitors came to experience. The bay included docks, a boathouse, areas for storing boats and supplies, and several sheds that were used for cleaning fish, storing ice, and other task-related items. Boats were constantly present, pulled up along the shores of the lake, or moving through the water at the beginning or end of an excursion. The resort served as an outfitter for canoe/fishing trips, and as an "outpost" of sorts for people who lived up the lake in more remote locations. Since Chik-Wauk was at the end of the Gunflint Trail, it was the closest place for those living beyond this point to acquire supplies and information via road from Grand Marais. Trails on the property were mainly to provide access to the cabins. One "hiking" trail led to "Lookout Mountain" to the northeast of the property.

An aerial photograph of the property taken in 1937 illustrates a number of landscape features (see Figure 2-15). There are at least three docks in main cove including a primary dock with structure / platform on the west bank of the bay; a small dock on east bank; and a linear dock on north bank of the bay. Buildings are hard to distinguish on the plan because of the dense vegetation and small size of many of the buildings. The lodge is definitely present and it is likely other small structures are partially obscured by canopy. The entrance road is clearly evident. There is no foot bridge present. Another aerial photograph taken in 1948 illustrates some changes at the property. A dock with a structure/platform is present on the west bank of the North/Front Bay. It is difficult to see, but it appears there is a linear dock on the north bank of the same bay. The lodge is visible as well as an open area around it and the dock/parking area. Other, small buildings are hard to distinguish, but definitely a number are apparent (south of the bridge on the southeast shore of the Back/South Bay). The road is clearly evident. The pedestrian bridge is present.

This section of the report includes a chronological outline of events that affected the landscape during this period. Conditions at the property during this period are illustrated in Figure A, Historic Period Plan, 1931-1952, and Figures 2-2 through 2-12.

1930s

Along the Gunflint Trail several new lodges were in operation (in addition to those present in 1929) including: Balsam Grove Lodge (Nor'wester Lodge) and Old Northwoods Lodge (Poplar Lake), Heston's (Gunflint Lake), Tuscarora (Round Lake), Wildwood Lodge (Seagull Lake), Swanson's Lodge (Hungry Jack Lake), Saganaga Fishing Camp and Chik-Wauk Lodge (Saganaga Lake).<sup>30</sup>

1931

In 1931, the Chik-Wauk property was purchased by Edwin Nunstedt of Cook County, Minnesota. Also in 1931, the Nunstedts deeded land to

|          | the United States Forest Service for a boathouse site in 1931. Property measured 79.20 feet by 99 feet with 79.2 feet of frontage on Saganaga Lake, directly across the bay from Chik-Wauk Resort. The property was used by the Forest Service until ca.1957. 32   |
|----------|--|
| 1932     | Boathouse at Chik-Wauk constructed in 1932 on land across the bay by USFS. One story frame building with two rooms with a gross floor area of 588 square feet. The building was set on a foundation of log sills, with lap siding, 2x4 framing and rafters, roll roof (by 1963), and a stove pipe chimney. <sup>33</sup>   |
| 1931-32  | Edwin Nunstedt and his son, Art, constructed a log lodge ("Old Lodge") near the road and five small cabins on the property. <sup>34</sup>  |
| 1933-34  | Summer – the log lodge at the current museum location accidentally burned. The entire structure, excepting the stone porch, was lost. In the fall of the same year construction of a new stone lodge began. <sup>35</sup>  |
| ca. 1933 | County united private toll portion of the road with the official county road, completing the 57-mile long Gunflint Trail.  |
| 1933     | Arthur (Art) Nunstedt took over operation of the resort, which he operated until 1952. <sup>36</sup>   |
| 1934     | By 1934, in addition to the main lodge, there were ten cabins and "the old lodge building." Four cabins included kitchens and were rented as "housekeeping" cabins. The other six did not have kitchens and were rented as part of the "American Plan" that included meals in the Lodge. The "old lodge" was rented as a bunk-house to large canoe trip groups. The American Plan cabins did not have running water. |
| 1936     | Art Nunstedt married Lydia Mayer. During the same year, ownership of the Chik-Wauk property was transferred from Ed Nunstedt to Art and Lydia Nunstedt. (Art and Lydia Nunstedt owned the resort from 1936-1952.)  |
| 1947     | A portion of the Gunflint Trail was realigned in 1947, straightening a very windy section and shortening the trip to Chik-Wauk from Grand Marais. <sup>39</sup>  |
| 1948     | USFS Timber Survey of area.  |
| 1952     | Art and Lydia Nunstedt sold Chik-Wauk Lodge to Carl and Phyllis Noyes and Herb and Erma Brugger. <sup>40</sup>   |

Next page: Figure A, Historic Period Plan, Nunstedt Ownership, 1931-1952

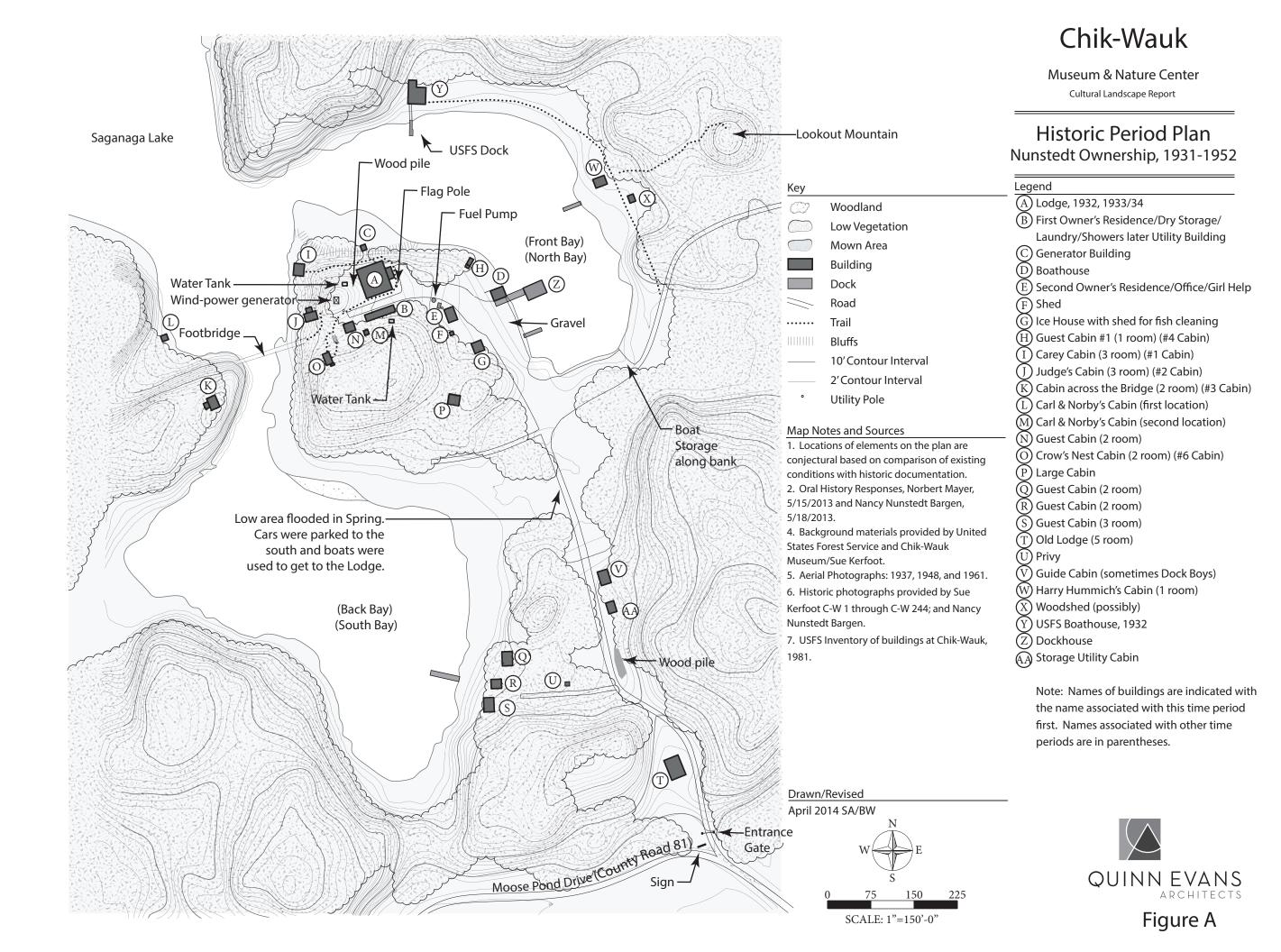




Figure 2- 2: Second Chik-Wauk Lodge (first building in this location), constructed of logs with stone porch, ca. 1932 or 1933. (source: C-W 198)

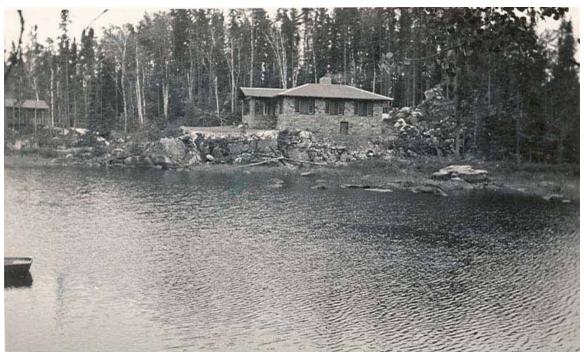


Figure 2- 3: Third Chik-Wauk Lodge/Main Lodge (second at this location), constructed of stone on site of original lodge, October 1934. (source: C-W 2)



Figure 2-4: Chik-Wauk Lodge, ca. 1933-34. (source: C-W 5)

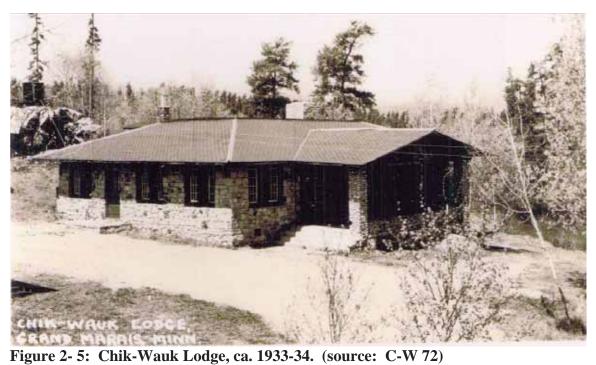




Figure 2- 6: Chik-Wauk Lodge, Saganaga Lake, End of Gunflint Trail, ca. 1933-34. (source: C-W 4)

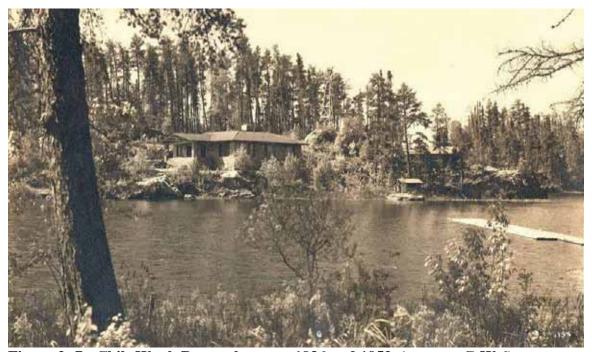


Figure 2-7: Chik-Wauk Resort, between 1936 and 1952. (source: C-W 6)



Figure 2- 8: Chik-Wauk Lodge, between 1936 and 1952. (source: C-W 18)



Figure 2- 9: Chik-Wauk Resort, ca.1936 (source: USFS)



Figure 2- 10: Chik-Wauk Lodge, the Laundry/Pantry/Dry Good Storage building is in the background on the left. (source: C-W 70)



Figure 2-11: Laundry/Pantry/Dry Good Storage building. (source: C-W 162)



Figure 2- 12: Housekeeping Cabin in the south area of resort. (source: C-W 23)

### 1952 TO 1958: NOYES/BRUGGER OWNERSHIP

In 1952, the Nunstedts sold the Chik-Wauk property to Phyllis and Carl Noyes and Erma and Herb Brugger. Phyllis and Erma were sisters. The Bruggers and Noyes ran Chik-Wauk together for a couple of years. In 1954 the Noyes sold their share of the resort to the Bruggers. During the 1950s, development in the area was increasing, with small parcels being platted near the resort. Although electricity reached other parts of the country many decades earlier, the remote nature of the Gunflint Trail is evidenced by the arrival of the Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, and electrification, in 1956. While resort guests wanted to "get away from it all" to the Northwoods, they also expected certain amenities. The need to update cabins, improve roads, maintain docks, equipment, boats, and other aspects of the resort were demanding on resort operators. The addition of phone and electric service improved communication and safety along the trail, but it also added an expense and on-going challenge for maintaining lines that extended along the remote right of way. Information regarding the landscape conditions at Chik-Wauk relating to this time period is scarce.

They had laundry lines at the end of building "B." There were about six lines and they ran from east to west from the end of the building. All of the cabins had outhouses in the 1950s. 43

No documentation has been located indicating that major changes were made at the resort.

- Art and Lydia Nunstedt sold Chik-Wauk Lodge to Carl and Phyllis Noyes and Herb and Erma Brugger. On 19 January 1952 a Mortgage deed between the Noyes/Bruggers and Nunstedts was established for \$20,000 to be paid over five payments ending on 1 October 1955. 44
- In September 1952, County Surveyor Ed Muligan prepared a platt laying out lots along the peninsula on the west shore of the South Bay/Back Bay of the Chik-Wauk property. It appears that a road had been extended partially into the area, and indicates "R.G." (possibly Ralph Griffis) as owner of several parcels including one at the south end of the south bay extending to the road. Although the survey sketch is rough, it identifies twenty-one buildings present at Chik-Wauk including eleven cabins. The survey does not cover the area on the east side of the entrance road, or on the east/north side of the North Bay. Comparison of this plan to the 1931-1952 Historic Period Plan (Figure A) indicates that only minor changes to building quantities and locations occurred.
- An agreement was filed between the Bruggers and the Noyes indicating that the Bruggers would "supply electric energy from the Chik-Wauk Lodge lighting system" to the Noyes' until "such time as the R.E.A. Co-Op makes their service available to the premises" owned by the Noyes. The Bruggers did not charge the Noyes' for the energy, but the Noyes'

had to provide their own poles, connections, wiring, and maintain them. The power supply was only available during the open season of the lodge, and was transferrable in the event that the property was sold. The same agreement included a right of way agreement from the Bruggers to the Noyes to allow a driveway providing access to the resort. This arrangement indicates that the two couples may not have jointly purchased the entire property from the Nunstedts. It appears that they purchased specific portions of the parcel separately. A detailed title search might provide illumination regarding this question.

- Herb and Erma Brugger purchased the resort from the Noyes. 46
- Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, Inc. acquired easements for right-ofway through properties to "construct operate and maintain an electric transmission or distribution line or system."
- The United States Forest Service discontinued use of the boathouse across the bay around 1957. 48



Figure 2-13: Cabins viewed from west side of pedestrian bridge (source: C-W 250, from Phyllis Noyes)



Figure 2- 14: Multipurpose / laundry building. (source: C-W251, from Phyllis Noyes) Note the stone path to the door, the flower boxes, and the bare earth.





Figure 2- 15: Top: Aerial View of Chik-Wauk property in 1937; Bottom: Aerial View of Chik-Wauk property in 1948 (source: USFS Superior National Forest, 2645 and DGK-15-143).

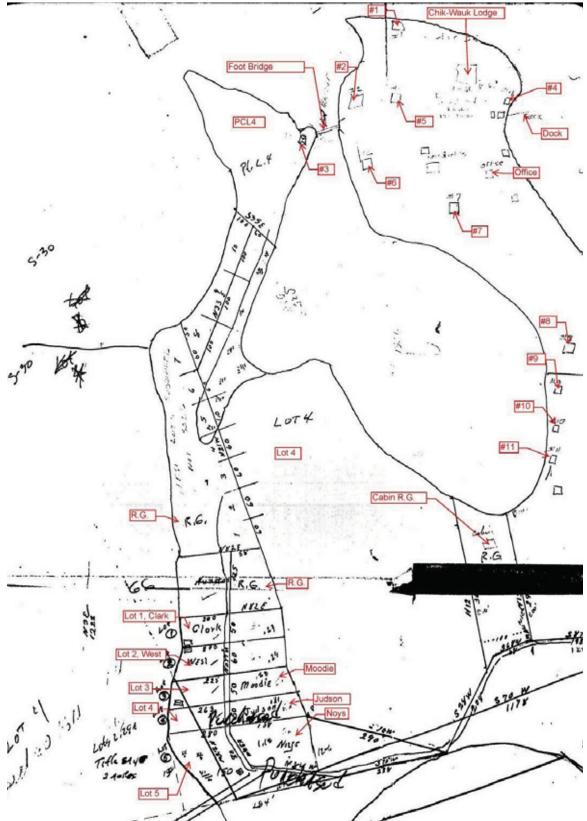


Figure 2- 16: Survey by County Surveyor Ed Muligan, September 1952 (source: USFS with notations by QEA)

### 1958 TO 1980: GRIFFIS OWNERSHIP

In 1958, Ralph and Bea Griffis purchased Chik-Wauk Resort from the Bruggers. They ran the resort until 1980. A Historic Period Plan illustrates the conditions at the resort during the Griffs' ownership (see Figure B, Griffis Ownership, 1958-1980). By all accounts, the Griffis operated the resort as a first-rate seasonal tourist destination. Brochures, post-cards, and oral history accounts from former guests and staff describe the resort as an exceptional environment that was managed admirably. A brochure prepared for the Griffis stresses a balance between the rustic charm of the remote location and "modern accommodations designed for comfort" and "complete vacation enjoyment." Guests were treated to "modern facilities in an unspoiled wilderness." The lodge included a dining room, trading post and lounge with fireplaces for "telling evening tales." The brochure presented a vision of potential vacations to prospective visitors:

"Vacation in a mighty wilderness—a land first inhabited by the Indians, the French Voyageurs, trappers and fur traders. Today this country is little changed. Fish and game are still abundant. Your family may enjoy this true wilderness area with the comforts afforded by the modern resort facilities at Chik-Wauk Lodge, the northernmost American resort on Saganaga Lake."

"Enjoy these facilities in an area which, until several years ago, could be reached only by canoe after a long, arduous trip. A land of Indian legends, trappers' tales, and abundant wildlife. Come, enjoy this most bountiful area in its natural state. Experience its wonders with the comfort of modern accommodations in warm, congenial surroundings." <sup>50</sup>

Fishing continued to be the primary draw for visitors. Guests spent most of their time each day out on the lake fishing. When asked about what other activities there might have been at the property, interviewees indicated that the focus was on fishing and canoeing. "Most guests were focused on fishing, but the staff often swam, had saunas, and hiked to Lookout Rock during blueberry season (late July)."<sup>51</sup> Families and couples came to Chik-Wauk in the mid-summer period, but early in the season the visitors were mainly men. In addition to the resort guests, there was a "large transient population that just used the resort as a place to park their car and stage their canoe or camping trip."<sup>52</sup> The resort brochure highlighted fishing:

"Fishing is the primary sport at Chik-Wauk. Angle in some of America's and Canada's gamest inland waters. Big Saganaga is noted for its exceptional walleye pike fishing; great northern pike and salmon trout are also in these waters." <sup>53</sup>

Bob and Cornelia Einsweiler were guests at Chik-Wauk beginning in 1964 until 1980. While at Chik-Wauk they fished, swam, hiked, and canoed. When asked about playgrounds or other areas set aside for recreation, Mr. Einsweiler indicated that the woods and water were where the kids liked to play.<sup>54</sup> Most of the former staff did not

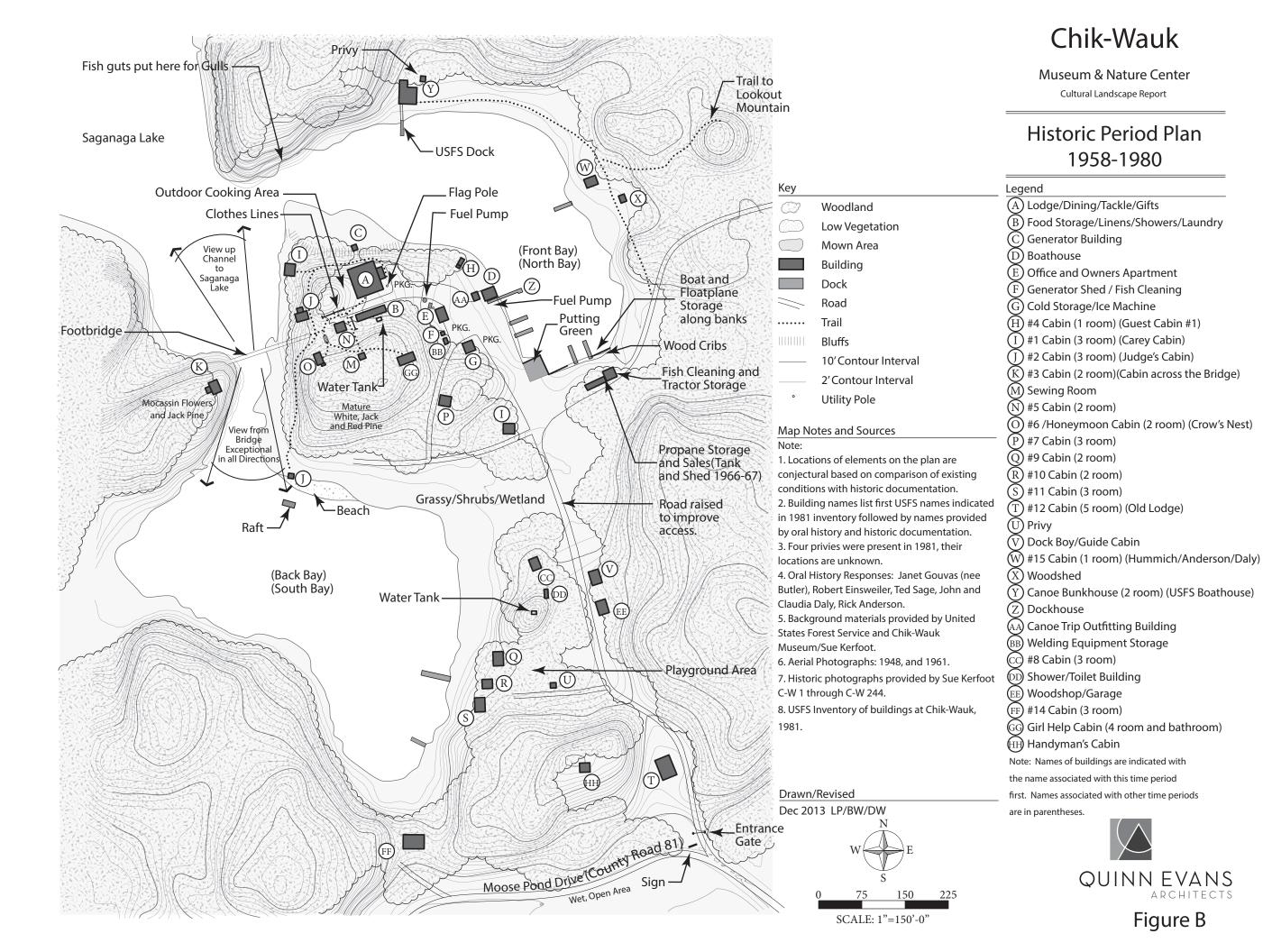
remember any playground on the property, they indicated that people came to fish and get out on the lake.

During the Griffis' tenure indoor plumbing was added to all of the cabins, some cabins had showers and others used central shower facilities.<sup>55</sup> Changes to the landscape included the addition of buildings (including cabins and outbuildings for storage and work areas) and docks, but the character of the resort was consistent with the earlier period. By 1971 there were thirteen cabins and a final cabin (off Moose Pond Drive) was the last added.<sup>56</sup> The shores around the North Bay continued to be a hub of activity, with boats arriving, leaving, being prepared for fishing/canoe trips and being cleaned out after trips. More docks were added and a small putting green was established on the shore in 1966. Mr. Griffis had a float plane which was frequently docked in the bay.<sup>57</sup>

The Boy Scouts of America held a Special Use Permit for the boathouse (constructed in 1932) across the bay from the main Chik-Wauk docks until 1962.<sup>58</sup> The building was subsequently leased by Ralph Griffis for boat storage.<sup>59</sup> In 1963, the surrounding landscape consisted of "mainly sapling and pole-sized birch with a few scattered spruce," and a gently sloped shoreline good for recreational development. The Griffis wanted to acquire the building and associated property. The Forest Service was not using it, but could not sell the land. They could trade for another parcel of equal value, so Griffis requested that they select a parcel for him to buy and then trade with them. A parcel was selected, Griffis purchased it, and on 24 June 1963, the United Stated exchanged the half-acre parcel valued at \$1,968.00 with Griffis for a 50 acre parcel within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area to "protect the wilderness characteristics of the area." The Griffis now owned all of the property within the view of the North Bay/Front Bay at Chik-Wauk.

Initially, the Griffis continued to offer American Plan and housekeeping cabins as well as wilderness excursions to their Canadian outpost cabins on Northern Light Lake. The Griffis typically hired summer seasonal help including a cook, one or two dock boys, one to three girl helpers/housekeepers, and guides to lead fishing parties. Dock boys primarily took care of boats, motors, canoes, sold gas, bait, ice, and whatever else guests needed. They helped outfit for canoe trips, guided fishing parties, took groups on sightseeing excursions, transported canoe parties to Canadian Customs, the entrance to Quetico Park, or Monument Portage. They cleaned fish, parked cars, carried suitcases, collected garbage, and did any maintenance or repair task that Mr. Griffis asked them to do. Cabin girls waited on tables in the dining room, worked in the kitchen washing dishes, helped the cook, worked in the store, helped prepare food for canoe parties and shore lunches, did laundry, cleaned cabins, and did anything else that needed to be done to keep the resort running. 1972 was the last year the Griffis hired a cook

| Next page: | Figure B, Historic Period Plan, Griffis' Ownership, 1958-1980 |
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Rick Anderson explained that most of the guests had the American Plan, which included a boat, motor, and guide service, as well as meals. "All they had to do was be there." According to Rick, the "overall experience was impeccable" and while he was there the resort was booked full all of the time. Rick explained that Ralph and Bea had extremely high standards that they imparted to their staff. The staff were not allowed to leave the property during the season without permission, as they were expected to be available if needed at any time. 65

Janet Gouvas (nee Butler) echoed Rick's sentiments about the Griffis. She was a "cabin girl" at Chik-Wauk during the summers of 1971-1978. She explained that working at the resort was a great experience for her.

"Chik-Wauk was an exceptional place to work as a young woman. I was given opportunities to grow in experience and maturity by the Griffis while living in a morally strict but welcoming environment. I learned to operate boats, paddle a canoe, drive a car, cook, clerk, etc... while living in the north woods. Ralph had a float plane, and I saw the landscape from the air while flying to Canada to fish from the plane's pontoons." 66

Clotheslines were located to the west of building B and the lodge. Laundry for staff was always done on site, but the guest's laundry was sent into town when the weather was bad. Most of the cooking was done indoors. A barbecue pit was located behind (west side) the lodge. The pit was used to grill steaks on Saturday nights. Fish was frequently fried in this location as well. No other outdoor cooking facilities were provided.<sup>67</sup>

Social activities at the resort were different during the Griffis tenure than they had been when the Nunstedts ran the operation. The dancing and singing at the lodge was replaced by "sitting around telling stories, playing scrabble, or pool on a small pool table." "There was some socializing that went on in the lodge building after dinner was served. About once a week the Chik-Wauk movie might be shown." According to the Dalys, "Mr. & Mrs. Griffis worked hard every day and did not encourage socializing at the lodge building at night and tried to get the building closed by nine or ten o'clock each night." <sup>69</sup>

The resort and surroundings were exceptionally beautiful. Former staff and visitors recall the view from the foot bridge as being "exceptional because you could see into the back bay where many of the cabins were located and also up the channel toward the main lake." In 1973 the site was chosen as the location for filming a Hamm's Beer commercial, featuring views of the surrounding landscape and a grizzly bear to the theme music "Land of Sky Blue Waters." Views of the iconic "pristine wilderness" landscape of Chik-Wauk were featured on a variety of Hamm's marketing materials, including a clock (see Figure 2-37). The Griffis had a film of the property prepared that highlights the natural setting and great fishing available to Chik-Wauk visitors. They used the film to attract guests and as a form of entertainment at the lodge.

In 1964, the federal Wilderness Act was passed and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) was designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Within the boundaries of the BWCA private owners were obliged to sell their land to the federal government. Although Chik-Wauk was not located within the boundary, the establishment of the BWCA affected the entire region, including Chik-Wauk. Changes to development patterns and regulations addressing the use of land and lakes were initiated to conserve the wilderness values associated with the BWCA. The United States Forest Service had been an integral part of the management of the Superior National Forest since its establishment in 1909, but the new focus on wilderness management in the region resulted in expansion of public lands, reduction of private ownership, and new rules that conflicted with traditional activities.<sup>71</sup> Long-range plans for the BWCA culminated in the passage of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) Act in 1978. The Act added some acreage, eliminated much of the motorized watercraft use, reduced snowmobiling, and prohibited logging and mining federally-owned minerals. The legislation also directed the Forest Service to establish quotas for motorboat use.72

Forest Service land use regulations also addressed increased controls on sewage disposal in order to protect water quality. This became a major concern for the Griffis. Updating the facilities at the resort to meet these requirements would have meant a large investment at a time when profits from the resort were shrinking. During the Griffis' tenure at Chik-Wauk, the resort experienced its height as a tourist operation. The highest gross income for the business was \$76,000 in 1966. By 1978, gross receipts had dropped to \$53,000. In an assessment prepared by the Forest Service, the decrease was attributed to "the overall decline in the use of small fishing resorts which was felt state wide...."

The report also indicated that the Griffis were not advertising as heavily as they had previously, due to their declining health.

Forest fires in 1974 and 1976 impacted the area and may have affected business at Chik-Wauk. Janet Gouvas (nee Butler) recalls events related to one of the fires: "During the Roy Lake Fire of 1976 (or possibly the fire of 1974) when we thought we might lose Chik-Wauk, I drove the boat alone to Canada where I picked up Ralph who had flown the plane there for safe-keeping at his island. When we returned, all of the guests had evacuated some never to return."

In April 1979, the Griffis offered the Chik-Wauk property to the United States Forest Service for purchase.<sup>75</sup> The property was examined in August of that year by Forester Wayne Ash who recorded that the property contained fifteen cabins, one lodge, three staff cabins, one office building, a boat house, laundry building (including washrooms and store), utility building (ice house), canoe equipment building, guide shack, storage building, helpers shack, cook shack, generator house, bath house, shed, sauna, outhouses, docks, wood water storage tank on legs, sewer system, water system, three propane tanks, telephone line, electric line, a service road, foot bridge and parking lot.<sup>76</sup>

On 30 July 1980, the Griffis sold their 52.75 acre Chik-Wauk property to the USFS for \$525,200, the parcel became Tract 4287 of the Superior National Forest. The Griffis'

retained a 20-year reservation of use for a portion of the property and continued to spend summers at the site until 2000, when their failing health made the trip impossible.<sup>77</sup>

Following the sale of Chik-Wauk, the Griffis sent a letter to the USFS clarifying the "ideas of why we offered the sale of our property to the government," and cited sections of Public Law 95-495, 95<sup>th</sup> Congress, Second session, that they felt were pertinent to their property.<sup>78</sup> Excerpts from the letter:

"Section 1. The Congress finds that it is necessary and desirable to provide for the protection, enhancement, and preservation of the natural values of the lakes, waterways, and associated forested areas known (before the date of enactment of this Act) as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and for the orderly management of public use and enjoyment of that area as wilderness, and of certain contiguous lands and water, while at the same time protecting the special qualities of the area as a natural forest-lakeland wilderness ecosystem of major esthetic, cultural, scientific, recreational and educational value to the Nation."

"Section 2. (2) Protection of natural values and environmental quality of the lakes, streams, shorelines and associated forest areas of the wilderness, (3) maintain high water quality in such areas, (5) prevent further road and commercial development and restore natural conditions to existing temporary roads in the wilderness, and (6) provide for the orderly and equitable transition from motorized recreational uses to non motorized recreational uses on those lakes, streams, and portages in the wilderness where such mechanized uses are to be phased out under the provision of this Act."

"Section 4. Horsepower limitation and restrictions; tow boat phase out; the phasing out of the snowmobile."

"Section 5. Resort Purchase. Our feelings were if we didn't sell first we would be required to sell later on since we could not continue operating as a Resort and comply to the Act's regulations."

The Griffis went on to indicate that they chose to retain the use of the lodge building with the hope that it might be utilized as a Forest Service Headquarters when their use of the property ended. They also indicated that their understanding was that the remainder of the property would be managed as a "wilderness-type setting" and stressed their hope that the property not be "exchanged to some business or political system that would exploit the property into a commercial type development that would not be in keeping with the intent of the Act."

## Landscape Chronology

| 1958 | Ralph and Bea Griffis purchased Chik-Wauk from the Bruggers.  |
|------|---|
| 1963 | Ralph Griffis traded land with USFS to acquire property on the north side of North Bay/Front Bay at Chik-Wauk.  |
| 1964 | Wilderness Act passed congress. The 1964 Wilderness Act designated the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.   |
| 1974 | Forest fire in the area.  |
| 1974 | Hamm's Beer commercial filmed at Chik-Wauk in October.  |
| 1976 | Forest fire in the area.  |
| 1978 | Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) Act passed.   |
| 1979 | Ralph and Bea Griffis offered the Chik-Wauk property to the Secretary of Agriculture for purchase on 30 April 1979. On 18 August 1979, Forester Wayne Ash examined the property.  |
| 1980 | 21 January 1980 US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service appraisal of Chik-Wauk Lodge (made by Douglas E. Fruen, St.Paul, MN)   |
| 1980 | 30 July 1980, the Griffis sold their Chik-Wauk property to the USFS for \$525,200. Tract 4287 of the Superior National Forest includes 52.75 acres. The Griffis' retained a 20-year reservation of use for a portion of the property. They continued to summer at the site. <sup>82</sup> |



Figure 2- 17: Erma Brugger and Bea Griffis at Kitchen door at Lodge, ca. 1958. (source: C-W 153)



Figure 2- 18: Aerial View of Chik-Wauk Resort. (source: C-W 60 and C-W 150 Aerial photo of Chik-Wauk Lodge taken by Cliff Waters and given by his daughter Barb Dull)



Figure 2- 19: Aerial View of Chik-Wauk Resort. (source: C-W 61)



Figure 2- 20: Office, boathouse and area around docks, ca.1960. (source: C-W 240a, excerpt from Chik-Wauk brochure, page 2)



Figure 2- 21: Arrival area at Chik-Wauk Resort. (source: C-W 165)



Figure 2- 22: Looking up to lodge from dock at Chik-Wauk, Aug 1974 (source: C-W 191)

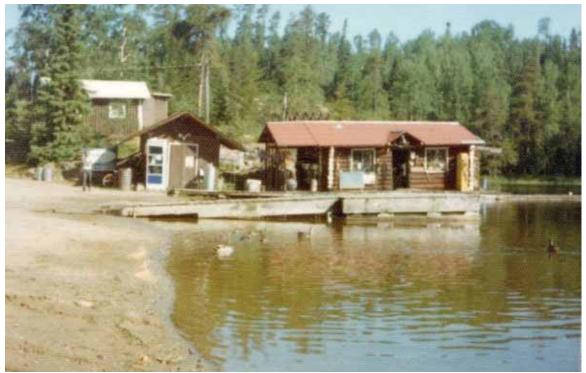


Figure 2- 23: Dock and buildings, ca. 1970s. (source: C-W 210)



Figure 2- 24: Guest Cabin #1 (#4 Cabin), left and Canoe Outfitting building, right. (source: C-W 202)



Figure 2- 25: Guest Cabin #1 (#4 Cabin), left and Laundry/Pantry/Dry Good Storage building, right, with spring supplies. (source: C-W 203)



Figure 2- 26: Herb Brugger and Ralph Griffis at Chik-Wauk Dockhouse, ca. 1958 (source: C-W 152)



Figure 2- 27: Delivery at the Dock, 1958 (source: C-W 205)

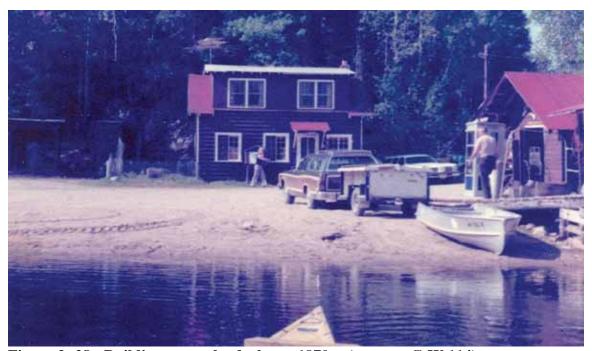


Figure 2- 28: Buildings near the dock, ca. 1970s. (source: C-W 114)



Figure 2- 29: Chik-Wauk Office, 1973 note: the sign was added for the Hamm's Beer commercial (source: C-W 179)



Figure 2- 30: Sheds and fence near Office, 1974 (source: C-W 184)

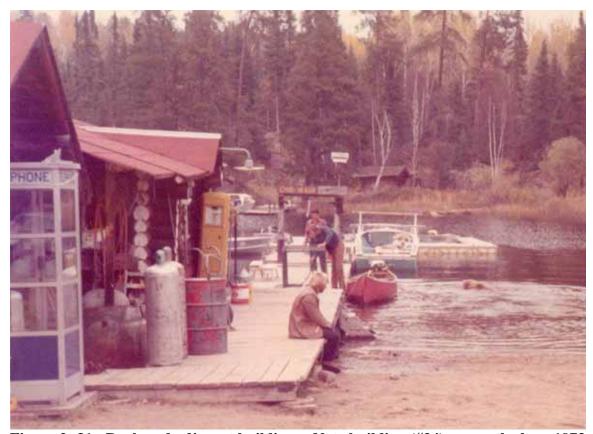


Figure 2- 31: Dock and adjacent buildings. Note building (#24) across the bay, 1973 (source: C-W 168)



Figure 2- 32: Docks at Chik-Wauk, note the building (#15) and dock in the background on the left, 1973/4 (source: C-W 187)



Figure 2- 33: Dock and buildings, 1979 (source: C-W 223)



Figure 2- 34: Dock with building in background (#24), across the bay, DATE? (source: C-W 208)



Figure 2- 35: Bay at Chik-Wauk, notice trucks in background on right, DATE? (source: C-W 220)



Figure 2- 36: Dock and boat storage along shores of bay, 1973 (source: C-W 172)



Figure 2- 37: Chik-Wauk landscape view on Hamm's beer clock. (source: C-W 10)



Figure 2- 38: John and Claudia Daly at fuel pump, view of North Bay/Front Bay at Chik-Wauk, May, 1971. (source: C-W 206)



Figure 2- 39: Garage/ Ice House/ Fish Cleaning building, 1973 (source: C-W 174)



Figure 2- 40: Garage/ Ice House/ Fish Cleaning building, 1973. The sign was added for the Hamm's beer commercial. (source: C-W 181)



Figure 2- 41: Canoe Trip Outfitting Building, 1974 (source: C-W 188)

# CHIK-WAUK LODGE MOST NORTHERLY RESC

#### MODERN ACCOMMODATIONS

Chik-Wauk is designed for comfort. The modern lodge - constructed entirely of native granite - contains the dining room, trading post and a big comfortable lounge. The huge fireplaces are most conducive to the telling of evening tales when their cheery warmth brightens the hearth.

Cabin accommodations at Chik-Wauk are both American Plan and Housekeeping. For those dining in the lodge, be assured that meals are of the best quality. Families will enjoy the ease and convenience of American Plan northwoods dining.

Plan northwoods dining.

Each cabin has electricity, gas or oil heat, inside toilets. Some with showers; others served by conveniently located central shower facilities. Housekeeping cabins are furnished with gas ranges, refrigeration, dishes, linens and blankets. Cabin construction is of log or log siding. They are comfortably furnished, fully screened

and well equipped.
Your family will find complete vacation enjoyment at Chik-Wauk — modern facilities in an unspoiled wilderness — the thrill of your private cabin nestled among the native pine, balsam and birch — an adventure you will not soon forget!

#### **FAMILY FUN**

Chik-Wauk — home away from home — is a great outdoor playground. Where better can your family find fun and relaxation? — together! Exciting fishing — when and where you wish — swimming and sunning on our private beach, water skiing, hiking trails, playground for children with swings and slide, badminton and volleyball. Your pets are welcome!

#### WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS

Should you wish to "rough it" on your journey North and explore inland water routes beyond the reach of heavy boats, Chik-Wauk has complete supplies and equipment for outfitting canoe parties. Chik-Wauk's location, the most northerly Minnesota Arrowhead resort on the Gunflint Trail, provides the best starting point for striking out into the Minnesota-Canadian Wilderness. Necessary information, maps and guides, if desired, available. Write for canoeing information.

Address inquiries for additional in-formation and reservations to:

Ralph and Bea Griffis CHIK-WAUK LODGE Phone Grand Marais 7534



Figure 2-42: Chik-Wauk Lodge Brochure (source: C-W 240)

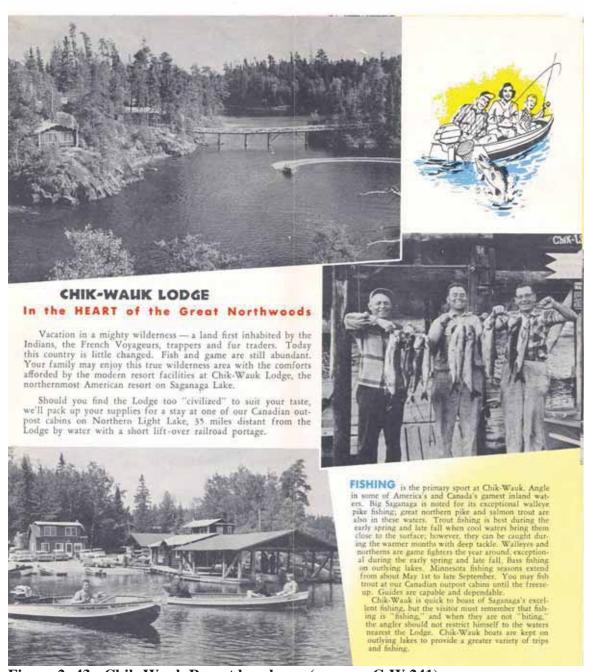


Figure 2- 43: Chik-Wauk Resort brochure. (source: C-W 241)



Figure 1: Chik-Wauk Resort Lodge during Griffis' Ownership Period. (source: C-W

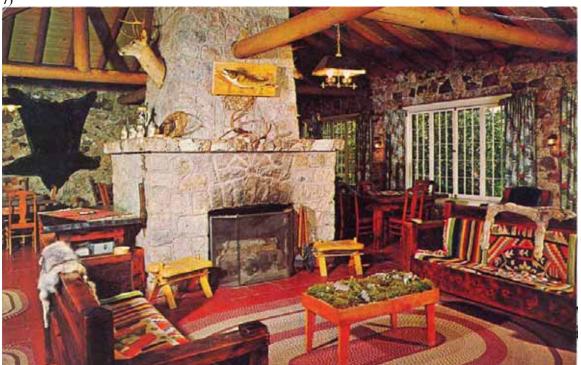


Figure 2- 44: Interior view of Chik-Wauk Lodge during Griffis' Ownership Period. (source: C-W 8)

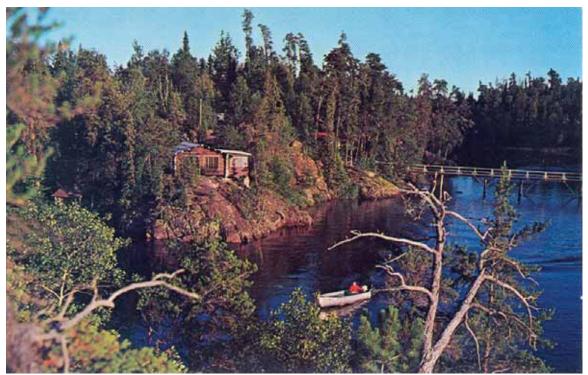


Figure 2- 45: Postcard view of Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin) and footbridge, ca. 1958-1963. (source: C-W 11 same as C-W 48)



Figure 2- 46: Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin). (source: C-W 241b, excerpt from Chik-Wauk brochure, page 3)



Figure 2- 47: Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin) from boardwalk on other side of bridge (near Cabin Across the Bridge, #3 Cabin). (source: C-W 84)



Figure 2- 48: Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin). (source: C-W 25; This post card is from Norbert Mayer.)



Figure 2- 49: Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin). (source: C-W 38, This postcard was from Sharon Eliasen.)

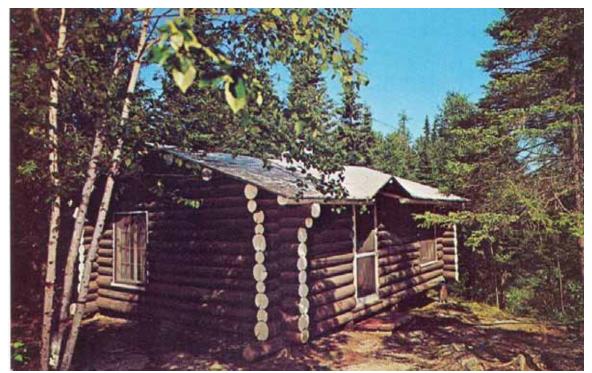


Figure 2- 50: Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin), ca. 1958-1963. (source: C-W 13)



Figure 2-51: Judge's Cabin (#2 Cabin) viewed from the south. (source: C-W 245 from Phyllis Noyes.)

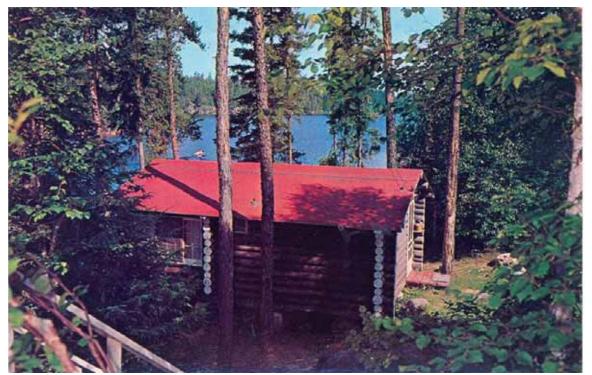


Figure 2- 52: Postcard view of Judge's Cabin (#2 Cabin), note the railing at the lower left corner of the image. (source: C-W 12 same as C-W 47)



Figure 2- 53: Guest Cabin #1 (#4 Cabin). (source: C-W 24, from Norbert Mayer, note on back says "Crow's Nest-behind the lodge, but this appears to be the cabin

near the Canoe Equipment building, #4 Cabin on the map. Note the car on the right side of the image and the utility pole on a stone base in the background on the left.)



Figure 2- 54: Guest Cabin (#5 Cabin), date noted is ca. 1936, but more likely to be 1980 (source: USFS)



Figure 2- 55: Early image of Crow's Nest Cabin (#6 Cabin), from across the bridge. (source: C-W 69)

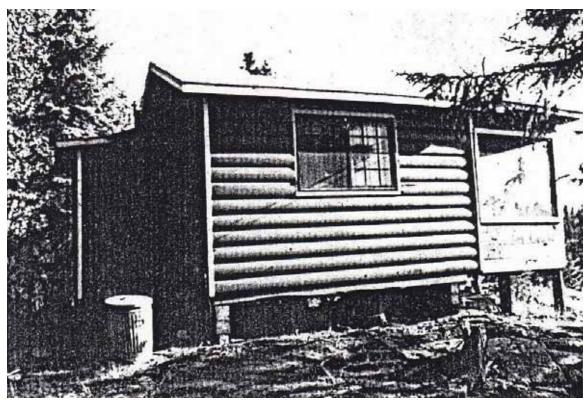


Figure 2- 56: Crow's Nest Cabin (#6 Cabin), date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)

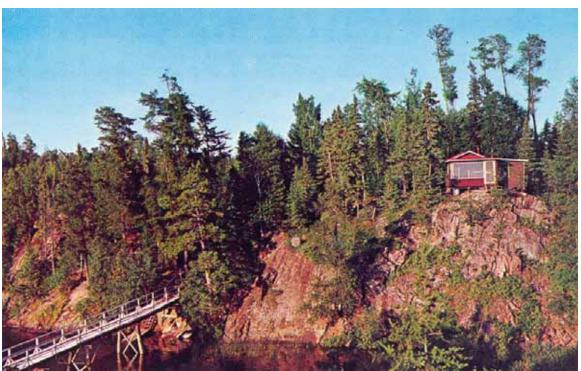


Figure 2- 57: Crow's Nest Cabin (#6 Cabin), footbridge on left, ca. 1958-1963. (source: C-W 14 same as C-W 49)



Figure 2- 58: Footbridge at Chik-Wauk with Judge's Cabin (#2 Cabin) on left. (source: left C-W 21, right C-W 45 & same as C-W 54)



Figure 2- 59: Footbridge, Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin), left and Judge's Cabin (#2 Cabin), near bridge on right. (source: C-W 55)

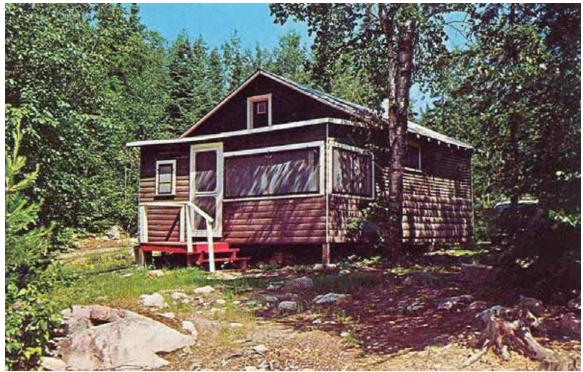


Figure 2- 60: Postcard view of Large Cabin (#7 Cabin), ca. 1958-1963. This cabin was moved to Sea Gull Lake. (source: C-W 15)

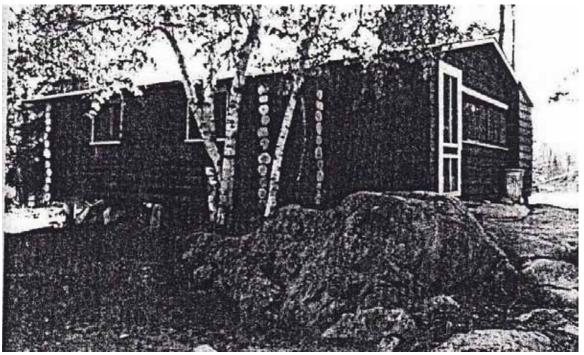


Figure 2- 61: #8 Cabin, date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)

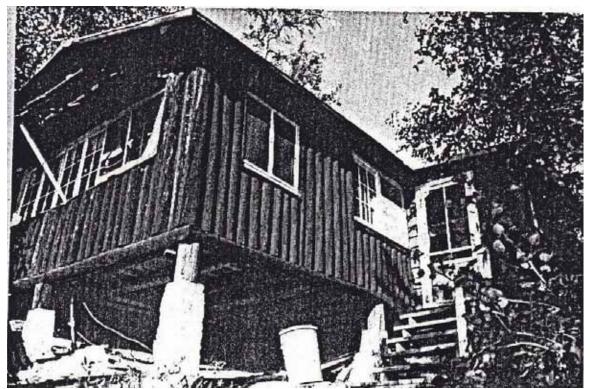


Figure 2- 62: Guest Cabin , #9 Cabin, date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)



Figure 2- 63: Postcard view of #9 Cabin, ca. 1958-1963 (source: C-W 16)

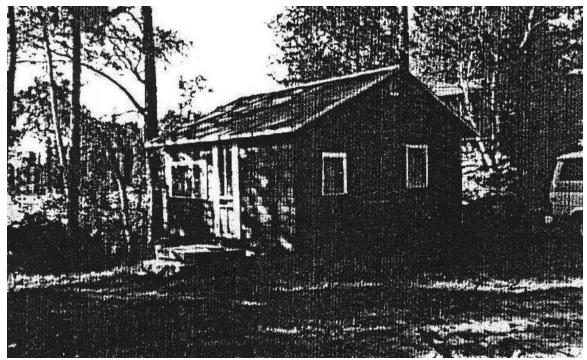


Figure 2- 64: Guest Cabin, #10 Cabin, date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)

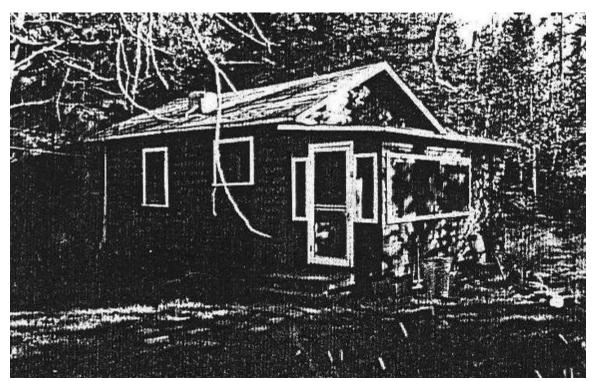


Figure 2- 65: Guest Cabin, #11 Cabin, date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)



Figure 2- 66: Old Lodge (#12 Cabin), early view with log foundation. This was the first lodge at the property and it faced the road, rather than the lake shore. (source: C-W 26, This post card is from Norbert Mayer.)

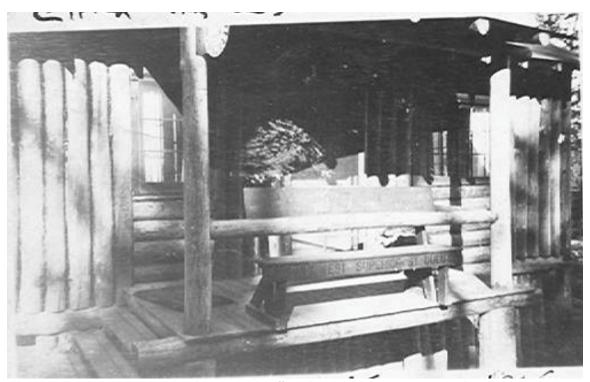


Figure 2- 67: Porch at the Old Lodge, (#12 Cabin), 1935 (source: C-W 50)

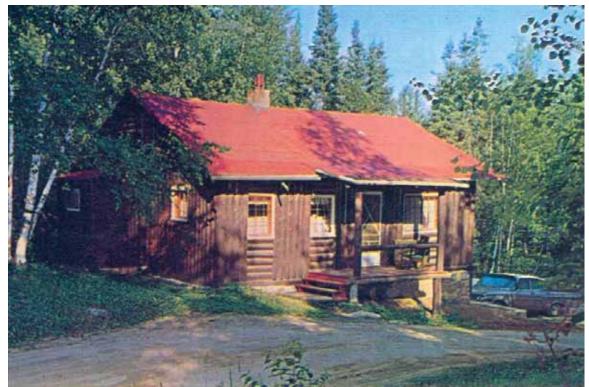


Figure 2- 68: Old Lodge (#12 Cabin), later view with stone foundation. (source: C-W 46, picture is from Sharon Eliasen)

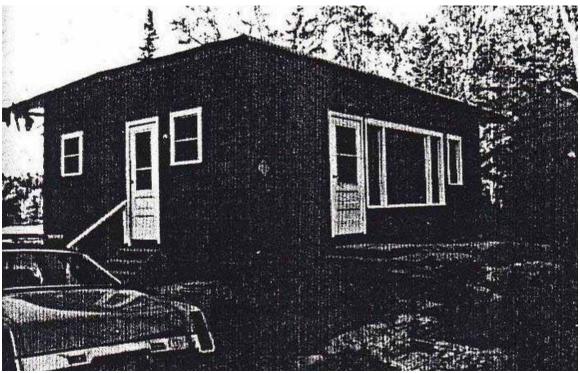


Figure 2- 69: #14 Cabin, date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)

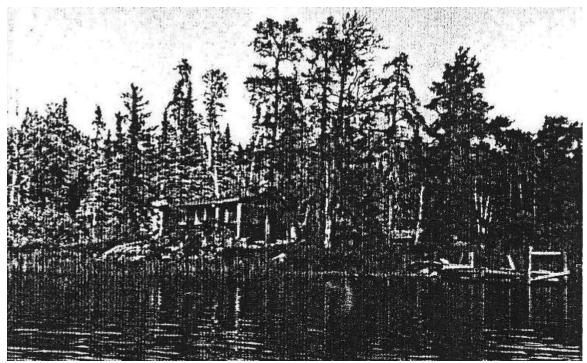


Figure 2-70: #15 Cabin and dock on right, date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)

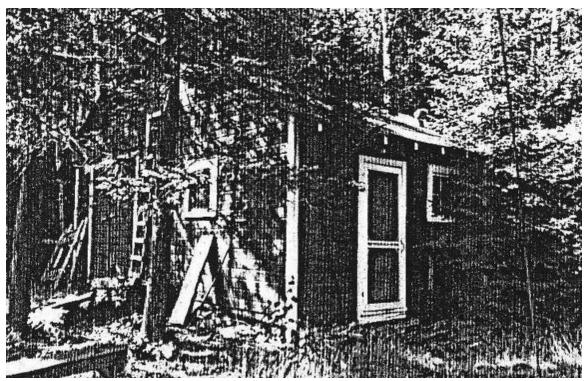


Figure 2-71: #16 Cabin, date noted is ca. 1936 but more likely to be 1980. (source: USFS)



Figure 2-72: Entrance sign, gate, and Christmas decorations at Chik-Wauk during Griffis' ownership period, 1958-1980. (source: C-W 228)

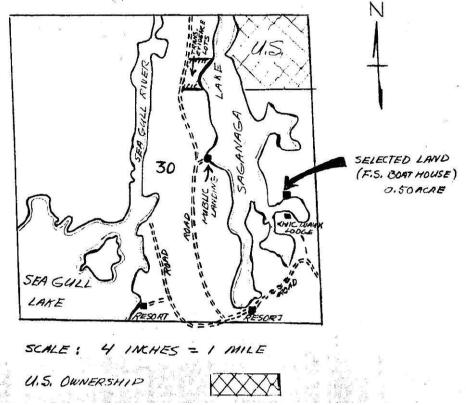


Figure 2-73: Location of USFS Boat House at Chik-Wauk property, on Section 30, Township 66 North, Range 4 West, 1963. (source: USFS)

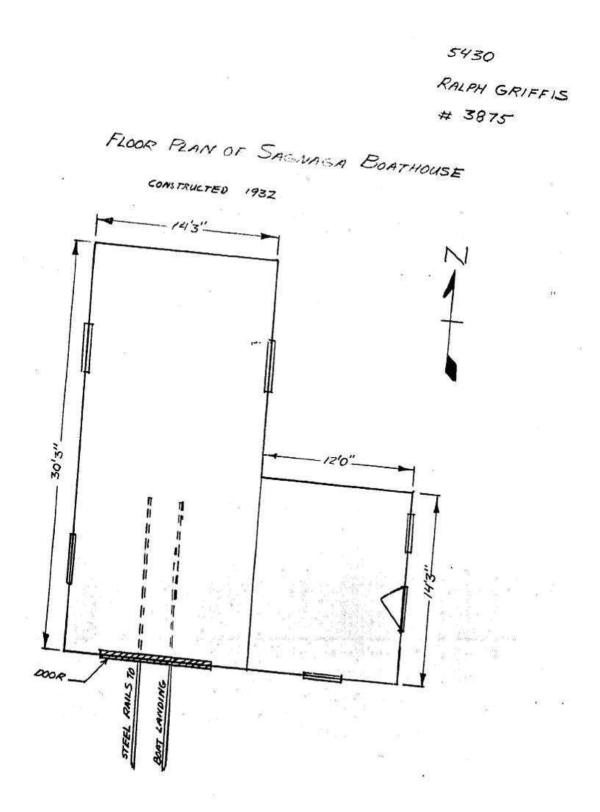


Figure 2-74: Floor plan of USFS Boathouse at Chik-Wauk (source: USFS)

### 1980 TO 2005 USFS OWNERSHIP

The federal government purchased several resorts and canoe outfitters in the area as a result of the 1978 Wilderness Act. Those purchased included Top of the Trail Outfitters, Saganaga Outfitters, Seagull Resort, Seagull Outfitters, Chik-Wauk, End of the Trail, Kirk's Landing, and North Point Outfitters. These businesses were eligible for purchase by the government because they were located on lakes that were riparian to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) but they were not located within the BWCAW boundary. In each case, the decision to sell was the owner's personal decision and they were not forced to do so by the government.

Following the United States Forest Service purchase of Chik-Wauk and other resorts in the area, the government needed to determine how best to utilize these properties. A report prepared by the USFS in the early 1980s evaluated potential uses for four resorts acquired by the federal government including Chik-Wauk, End of the Trail, Kirk's Landing, and North Point Outfitters. The report indicated that the majority of the facilities at Chik-Wauk were in fair condition. In order to successfully run the resort in the future (within the USFS requirements) a number of improvements were necessary including improvements to the septic system and updates to facilities. "It is doubtful that the income from the resort would provide money to bring the improvements up to standard and provide a profit for the operator." This report concluded with a recommendation to "remove the improvements and rehabilitate the site" at Chik-Wauk. The report cited the cost of improving the sewer system and the reserved use of the main lodge by the Griffis as reasons for not attempting to run a resort or encourage use by a non-profit organization.

During the summer of 1981, the USFS sold and removed the "excess buildings" from the Chik-Wauk property. This included buildings that were not part of the use reservation held by the Griffis'. The reservation included the "lodge, pumphouse, boathouse, canoe equipment shed, laundry, diesel shed, adjacent storage shed, and the docks." Buildings removed included the majority of the guest cabins and support buildings. <sup>84</sup> In the year 2000, the USFS took full possession of the Chik-Wauk property following the Griffis final seasonal occupation of the property. <sup>85</sup>

- USFS proceeded with the sale and removal of "excess buildings" from the Chik-Wauk property.<sup>86</sup>
   Superior National Forest Plan guided treatment of forest areas.
- The BWCA Wilderness Management Plan and Implementation Schedule (1993), an amendment to the 1986 Forest Plan, describes the management and uses that can occur in the BWCAW. The direction for BWCAW Management Areas is carried forward as it was in the amended 1986 Forest Plan. The direction in the BWCA Wilderness Management Plan

and Implementation Schedule was also not changed in the revision process.

2000 USFS took full possession of the Chik-Wauk property following the

Griffis last seasonal occupation of the property.<sup>87</sup>

2004 Superior National Forest Plan

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/superior/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fs

m91\_049716

# 2005 TO PRESENT CHIK-WAUK MUSEUM AND NATURE CENTER

In 2007, the Chik-Wauk lodge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The site's National Register boundary encompasses the main lodge (now used as the museum) as well as the peninsula and surrounding harbor area including the estimated historic view from the main building. The boundary includes the footprints of several guest cabins and outbuildings and other historic features relating to the period of resort operations. Extant buildings on the site include the museum building (lodge), generator building, and a storage building that has been relocated several times.

On 4 July 2010 the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center (CWMNC) opened in the former main lodge building associated with the historic Chik-Wauk resort. It is a public facility located on Saganaga Lake at the end of the Gunflint Trail National Scenic Byway (Cook County Highway 12) in northeast Minnesota. The mission of the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center is to preserve and interpret both the human and natural history of the Gunflint Trail. The facility is administered by the Gunflint Trail Historical Society (GTHS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, under a Special Use Permit issued by the United States Forest Service, Superior National Forest, Gunflint Ranger District (USFS).

Since the grand opening of CWMNC, the GTHS has identified additional display and interpretive opportunities on the grounds to present the history and ecology of the area to the public. Visitors to CWMNC are eager to learn more about the cultural and natural history of this unique place. Visitors are particularly interested in learning about historic resort life at Gunflint Trail resorts, such as Chik-Wauk Lodge, and about the natural history of the region through naturalist programs. The GTHS has identified the need for new facilities to support existing and future programs at the property. It has been challenging to add new functional structures within the historic site due to the National Register boundary and lack of existing historical structures. The vast majority of the guest cabins and support buildings were removed from the site following the purchase of the property by the USFS in 1980. This cultural landscape report has been prepared to help guide the GTHS as they make decisions regarding the future management of the property at Chik-Wauk.

| 2005      | Members of the Gunflint Trail Historical Society identify Chik-Wauk as a potential site for a local history museum and nature center.  |
|-----------|--|
| 2005-7    | USFS Passport in Time volunteers and GTHS conduct several rehabilitation projects on the main lodge. Projects included refinishing doors and door hardware, window pane replacement and re-glazing. Concurrent with these volunteer projects were contracted projects to replace the roof and reconstruct the poured concrete front porch. |
| 2007      | Chik-Wauk lodge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and repairs to the building were made.   |
| 2007      | The Ham Lake Wildfire had a major impact on vegetation in the area.  |
| 2008-2009 | Gunflint Green-Up volunteers planted thousands of tree seedlings to help speed regeneration of burnt-over areas.   |
| 2008      | Split Rock Studio was hired to prepare an exhibit plan for the museum.   |
| 2010      | Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center opened 4 July   |
| 2012      | GTHS contract with Quinn Evans Architects to prepare a Cultural Landscape Report for Chik-Wauk   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The terms "Native American" and "American Indian" are not uniformly preferred by aboriginal peoples in the United States. The project area is closely associated with the Canadian border. The indigenous populations were established prior to the Canadian/United States boundaries. The term "First Nations" is used in Canada to refer to aboriginal peoples in that country who are neither Inuit nor Metis. The use of both a term familiar in the United States, as well as one utilized in Canada, is deliberate to imply the shift in occupation and use of land that occurred with the application of a European style of ownership.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> USFS, Superior National Forest, Regional Historic Overview. Unpublished table.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid. <sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Cochrane, Timothy. *Minong-The Good Place, Ojibwe and Isle Royale*, 2009. (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ibid., 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> USFS, Superior National Forest, Regional Historic Overview. Unpublished table.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Clayton, William J. *National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge*, 2007, Section 8, page 3-4. <sup>16</sup> Ibid., 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> USFS, Superior National Forest, Regional Historic Overview. Unpublished table.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Heinselman, 1996; and Raff, 1981.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Superior National Forest webpage: www.fs.usda.gov/superior.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 2.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 4.

<sup>26</sup> Brandt, et.al., A Taste of the Gunflint Trail: Recipes and Stories from the Lodges as shared by the Women of the Gunflint Trail. 2005. (Cambridge, Minnesota: Adventure Publications, Inc.) 340.

- <sup>27</sup> Berens, Rose, email correspondence with Lee Johnson, 17 December 2013. Rose is the Executive Director at Bois Forte Heritage Center, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. She indicated that zhingoob is any kind of pine tree, zhing gwak is a pine tree, and chik wauk is probably mispronounced and means pine tree
- <sup>28</sup> Bargen, Nancy Nunstedt, written response to interview questions, 18 May 2013.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

- <sup>30</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 2.
- <sup>31</sup> Harper, James, attorney with Martini, Perkins and Harper, representing Ralph Griffis, letter to L. P. Neff, United States Forestry Service, April 5, 1960. (from USFS, Griffis, Ralph L. and Alice B., 3875.pdf), 71-79/136.
- <sup>32</sup> Supplemental Valuation Statement of Selected Lands, 5430, Ralph Griffis, #3875, no date, after 1960 and likely 1963.
- <sup>33</sup> Neff, L. P., Forest Supervisor, letter to Tri Valley Council Boy Scouts of America, April 20, 1962. (from USFS, Griffis, Ralph L. and Alice B., 3875.pdf, 33/136); and Supplemental Valuation Statement of Selected Lands, 5430, Ralph Griffis, #3875, no date, after 1960 and likely 1963.
- <sup>34</sup> Bargen, Nancy Nunstedt, oral interview conducted in 1999 by Cook County Historical Society; and Brandt, et.al., A Taste of the Gunflint Trail: Recipes and Stories from the Lodges as shared by the Women of the Gunflint Trail. 2005. (Cambridge, Minnesota: Adventure Publications, Inc.).
- Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 4-5. Although the nomination indicates that the resort opened for business in 1932, other accounts indicate that the resort did not open prior to the destruction of the first lodge by fire in 1933.
- <sup>35</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5.
- <sup>36</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>37</sup> Nunstedt, Carl, Art Nunstedt, and Norbert Mayer, oral history interview conducted on 8 August 2006. Interview conducted by Sue Kerfoot and Linda Hendrickson.
- <sup>38</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5.
- <sup>39</sup> Trail Route Straightened, Cook County News-Herald, 9 October 1947.
- <sup>40</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5.
- <sup>41</sup> Kerfoot, Susan. *Email correspondence to Brenda Williams*, 19 June 2013.
- <sup>42</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5.
- <sup>43</sup> Noyes, Phyllis, oral interview with Sue Kerfoot, 4 May 2013.
- <sup>44</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5. Brandt, et.al. 2005, indicate that the property was purchased for \$40,000, indicating that the buyers paid \$20,000 cash in addition to securing the \$20,000 mortgage.
- <sup>45</sup> 22-Misc 59 D. G. Brugger, Sr. and Erma Brugger, and Carl A. Noyes and Phyllis E. Noyes, October 25, 1953. (page 186 of pdf "Griffis, Ralph L. 4287.pdf" from USFS.
- <sup>46</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5.
- <sup>47</sup> 25-Misc, 95, Carl A. Noves and Phyllis E. Noves, to Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, Incorporated, 20 April 1956. The agreement stated that a tract of land 100 feet in width extending from Saganaga Lake to the roadway was conveyed subject to the condition that the premises "are not to be used for commercial resort purposes prior to January 1, 1960." (provided by USFS)
- <sup>48</sup> Harper, James, attorney with Martini, Perkins and Harper, representing Ralph Griffis, letter to L. P. Neff, United States Forestry Service, April 5, 1960. (from USFS, Griffis, Ralph L. and Alice B., 3875.pdf, 71/136)
- <sup>49</sup> Chik-Wauk Lodge Brochure, C-W 241.
- <sup>51</sup> Gouvas, Janet Butler, questioner response, 3 May 2013.
- <sup>52</sup> Daly, John, email correspondence to Brenda Williams, 6 May 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Ibid., 2-3.

- <sup>53</sup> Chik-Wauk Lodge Brochure, C-W 241.
- <sup>54</sup> Einsweiler, Robert C., questioner response, 27 April 2013.
- <sup>55</sup> Chik-Wauk Lodge Brochure, C-W 241.
- <sup>56</sup> Gouvas, Janet Butler, questioner response, 3 May 2013. According to Janet, no cabin was ever assigned the number thirteen.
- <sup>57</sup> Anderson, Rick, oral history interview conducted on 18 December 2012. Interview conducted by Brenda Williams and Sue Kerfoot.
- <sup>58</sup> Neff, L. P., Forest Supervisor, letter to Tri Valley Council Boy Scouts of America, April 20, 1962. (from USFS, Griffis, Ralph L. and Alice B., 3875.pdf, 33/136)
- <sup>59</sup> Supplemental Valuation Statement of Selected Lands, 5430, Ralph Griffis, #3875, no date, after 1960 and likely 1963.
- <sup>60</sup> Correspondence between James Harper and L.P. Neff, April 1960 and letter from James Harper to Ralph Griffis, April 18, 1960. (from USFS, Griffis, Ralph L. and Alice B., 3875.pdf, 62-64/136; and United States Will Grant, June 24, 1963, exchange with Ralph Griffis.
- <sup>61</sup> Chik-Wauk Lodge Brochure, C-W 241.
- <sup>62</sup> Daly, John and Claudia, questioner response, 2 May 2013; and Rick Anderson, oral history interview conducted on 18 December 2012 by Brenda Williams and Sue Kerfoot.
- <sup>63</sup> Daly, John and Claudia, questioner response, 2 May 2013.
- <sup>64</sup> Gouvas, Janet Butler, questioner response, 3 May 2013.
- <sup>65</sup> Anderson, Rick, oral history interview conducted on 18 December 2012. Interview conducted by Brenda Williams and Sue Kerfoot.
- <sup>66</sup> Gouvas, Janet Butler, questioner response, 3 May 2013.
- <sup>67</sup> Daly, John and Claudia, questioner response, 2 May 2013.
- <sup>68</sup> Daly, John, email correspondence to Brenda Williams, 6 May 2013.
- <sup>69</sup> Daly, John and Claudia, questioner response, 2 May 2013.
- <sup>70</sup> Gouvas, Janet Butler, questioner response, 3 May 2013.
- <sup>71</sup> Kerfoot, Justine. 1986. Woman of the Boundary Waters: Canoeing, Guiding, Mushing, and Surviving. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press).
- <sup>72</sup> Superior National Forest Final Plan 2004
- http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/superior/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsm91 049716.
- <sup>73</sup> United States Forest Service, no date, Disposition of Resorts Acquired Under PL 95-495, 13.
- <sup>74</sup> Gouvas, Janet Butler, questioner response, 3 May 2013.
- <sup>75</sup> Griffis, Ralph and Bea. Letter to Robert O. Rehfeld, Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest. 4 September 1980.
- <sup>76</sup> Ash, Wayne. August 18, 1979. Certificate of Possession, Superior National Forest, Tract 4287.
- <sup>77</sup> Curtis, Eric J. Regional Attorney, Memorandum to Cook County Auditor, date stamped 12 September 1980. Subject line: FS Purchase, Minnesota, Ralph L. Griffis, Tract No. 3825, Superior National Forest.
- <sup>78</sup> Griffis, Ralph and Bea. Letter to Robert O. Rehfeld, Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest. 4 September 1980.
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid.
- 80 Ibid.
- <sup>81</sup> Ash, Wayne, August 18, 1979. Certificate of Possession, Superior National Forest, Tract 4287.
- <sup>82</sup> Curtis, Eric J. Regional Attorney, Memorandum to Cook County Auditor, date stamped 12 September 1980. Subject line: FS Purchase, Minnesota, Ralph L. Griffis, Tract No. 3825, Superior National Forest.
- <sup>83</sup> United States Forest Service, no date, Disposition of Resorts Acquired Under PL 95-495, 13.
- <sup>84</sup> Crosby, C. E., Lands Staff Officer, Superior National Forest, letter to Ralph Griffis, 24 June 1981.
- 85 Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5.
- <sup>86</sup> Crosby, C. E., Lands Staff Officer, Superior National Forest, letter to Ralph Griffis, 24 June 1981.
- <sup>87</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik-Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 5.



## **CHAPTER 3:**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### OVERVIEW OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chik Wauk Lodge property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 for its local significance as a representative of "a unique historical pattern of fishing-resort outdoor recreation that flourished in the Border Lakes Country of northeastern Minnesota, in and around the lakes and streams of the Superior National Forest, from the 1920s to the early 1960s." The nomination indicates that the 1933 Lodge meets National Register Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Entertainment / Recreation.

"The rough-cut stone lodge building was once the centerpiece of a large Gunflint Trail resort complex, which offered to tourists: lodging in rustic-style cabins, cooked meals as well as access to above-average fishing and northern Minnesota scenery. The lodge served as a store, resort office, restaurant, and lounge area for resort guests. Since the lodge has not been significantly altered or moved from its original site and the surrounding landscape and socioeconomic patterns of the upper Gunflint Trail have changed little, the building retains all seven aspects of integrity to a substantial degree."<sup>2</sup>

The nomination goes on to indicate that the lodge is an

"artifact of a historic pattern of recreational tourism in northeast Minnesota that saw fluorescence in the early and middle decades of the 20th Century. This pattern was centered around family owned and operated resort facilities that catered to automobile tourist that sought out rustic accommodations, guided fishing and scenic character of the Gunflint Trail landscape."

The relationship between Chik-Wauk Resort and the Gunflint Trail is described in the nomination. A broader contextual basis for the significance of Chik-Wauk is provided by the multiple-property National Register Nomination for Tourism and Recreational Development in Voyageurs National Park.<sup>4</sup> An excerpt from that nomination is pertinent to the Chik-Wauk property:

"In Minnesota, as elsewhere across the Great Lakes states, urban tourists followed national trends with annual trips to the scenic lakes of the North Woods. Before the 1920s, mostly wealthy sportsmen and families of the leisure class traveled to hunting and fishing clubhouses, luxury resorts, or summer homes on the northern lakes. A significant recreational fishing industry developed on Minnesota lakes where small-scale entrepreneurs established fishing resorts with clubhouses and rental cabins to support the urban tourists. Many outdoorsmen, including Native Americans of the region, offered guide services to sportsmen. During the 1920s and subsequent decades, tourists of the upper middle class and middle class

invaded the North Woods in automobiles. Like many of their wealthier counterparts they often aspired to owning a scenic lakefront summer home. More cabins began to dot the lakes across Northern Minnesota."<sup>5</sup>

The Voyageurs nomination identifies *Resorts* as a property type that is significant:

"Resort development in Minnesota began in the central lake district in the 1920s. Initially, resorts arose within remote scenic locations and railroads carried the privileged elite to various recreational destinations. As time progressed, resorts diversified and catered to the growing number of middle-class travelers. Smaller, mom-and-pop resorts offered recreational opportunities for the new tourist class. The resorts served the growing number of tourists who traveled to experience the natural environment. They offered an escape from the cities, but not a complete separation from contemporary technologies and amenities. Resorts represent the diversifying tourist industry and its transformation to accommodate the growing number of individuals and their families who stayed for shorter lengths of time and had fewer connections to the surrounding community." 6

Resorts provided tourists with the same remoteness and relaxation of lakeside summer cottages, without the investment in ownership and maintenance required for cottages. These visitors could not afford, or chose not to buy property. Instead, they travelled to resorts similar to Chik-Wauk to experience the natural setting of northern Minnesota. By the 1920s, the typical resort included a central lodge and several cabins as well as numerous outbuildings and landscape features. Resorts offered choices that ranged from the American Plan (in which meals were provided in the main lodge), housekeeping cottages (equipped with beds and kitchen supplies), and bunk houses for canoe trippers. The Voyageurs nomination explains some of the typical aspects of resort lodges and their associated landscapes:

"Constructed to serve as gathering, recreation, and dining areas for guests, they range from large, rustic structures reminiscent of the Adirondack lodges found in the east to more humble structures. Many include large native stone fireplaces and some contain rustic details such as bark-covered interior walls. The associated cabins are small, generally 300 to 600 square feet, and constructed of a variety of materials. The cabins and lodges are generally sited along lake edges to optimize views and access to the water. Other features associated with this properties include docks, roads (in some cases), and numerous small utilitarian outbuildings. The outbuildings tend to be either located behind the cabins or close to the road and include privies, ice houses, boat houses, workshops, storage sheds, tool sheds, fish cleaning houses, laundries, stores, generator buildings, pump houses, water tanks, cisterns, saunas, root cellars, and employee quarters. Other landscape features include breakwaters, ramps for lake access, paths, driveways, flag poles, beaches, fire circles, and informal play areas."<sup>7</sup>

#### NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chik-Wauk National Register Nomination is focused on the lodge building, which is the only contributing resource counted. The nomination also counts one non-contributing building, however it is not clear what building is addressed. Research conducted for the cultural landscape report indicates that the generator building and former Forest Service Cabin (indicated as "relocated Cabin on Figure C) both contribute to the significance of the property. In addition, the landscape associated with the former resort also contributes to an extent that is not reflected in the nomination.

A description of the setting associated with the lodge building is included, noting:

"The resort complex was built on approximately 7,250 feet of ledge rock dominated shoreline that encompasses a small bay and point of land on the east side of a narrows on the southeast corner of Saganaga Lake. The cabins and docks, as well as the lodge itself, were strategically situated on the landscape to afford resort visitors optimum access to the lake as well as the abundant northwoods scenery. The lodge is situated on an upland landform composed of outcrops of local tonalite. This location provides a commanding view of the bay and the surrounding north-woods landscape."

The National Register boundary encompasses the main lodge as well as a portion of the peninsula and surrounding harbor area (see Figure C). Although the boundary was chosen to include "most of the original use area of the resort and the bay that was once the focus of resort operations," research conducted for this cultural landscape report indicates that the original use area was more extensive. The boundary also includes the "opposite shore of the bay, which constitutes much of the view-shed as can be seen from the lodge." Although rather limited, the description of the setting and inclusion of views from the lodge imply that the landscape contributes to the property, indicating that a contributing site should be added to the counted resources. The existing boundary also includes the footprints of several guest cabins, outbuildings and other historic features relating to the period of resort operations. It is recommended that the nomination be updated to reflect the findings of this report.

The period of significance for the lodge is recorded as 1931-1957. The 1957 end date was based on the 50 year time period at the time of writing. This period of significance was assigned prior to the completion of the multiple-property National Register Nomination for Tourism and Recreational Development in Voyageurs National Park in 2008.8 Given the new information uncovered as part of this cultural landscape report, and the precedent set by properties nominated in association with the Voyageurs multiple-property nomination, it is recommended that the nomination be revised, extending the period of significance to 1980, the last year the property was operated as a resort. This would include the entire resort operation period, as well as the height of the operation, which occurred in the mid-1960s. In addition, it is recommended that the revised nomination include a description of the contributing landscape characteristics, including response to the natural environment, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, topography, and small scale features. The landscape analysis provided in Chapter 4 includes an explanation of the integrity of each of these characteristics.

#### CHIK-WAUK MUSEUM AND NATURE CENTER CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

CHAPTER 3: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Clayton, William J. National Register Nomination, Chik Wauk Lodge, 2007, Section 8, page 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Quinn Evans Architects. *National Register Nomination, Tourism and Recreational Development in Voyageurs National Park*, 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Quinn Evans Architects. *National Register Nomination, Tourism and Recreational Development in Voyageurs National Park*, 2008, Section E, Page 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Quinn Evans Architects. *National Register Nomination, Tourism and Recreational Development in Voyageurs National Park*, 2008, Section E, Page 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Quinn Evans Architects. *National Register Nomination, Tourism and Recreational Development in Voyageurs National Park*, 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Quinn Evans Architects. *National Register Nomination, Tourism and Recreational Development in Voyageurs National Park*, 2008.



## CHAPTER 4: EXISTING CONDITIONS & LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

#### OVERVIEW

The historic landscape at the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center contains heritage resources related to the development and use of the site as a Minnesota border country resort from the 1930s through 1980. A site survey was conducted in December 2012 to record the existing conditions of the landscape features at the property. This report includes an assessment of existing cultural landscape characteristics relevant to the historic landscape including responses to the natural environment, spatial organization, topography, views, vegetation, circulation, buildings, and small scale features. Landscape characteristics include tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape from the historic periods; these aspects individually and collectively give a landscape its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance. In this section, the existing conditions for each landscape characteristic are described, followed by a summary of historic conditions. Next, a comparison of the existing to historic conditions is used to determine the integrity of the landscape based on The Secretary of the Interior Standards.

The Chik-Wauk landscape retains significant landscape characteristics related to the use of the property as a Minnesota Border Lakes Country resort from 1931 through 1980. Characteristics that retain a high level of integrity and contribute to the significance of the landscape include responses to the natural environment, topography, views, vegetation and patterns of circulation. The few extant buildings and small scale features retain integrity and contribute to the significance of the property however, overall the loss of the majority of buildings and small scale features related to the historic use of the resort results in a low level of integrity for these landscape characteristics. For the same reason, integrity related to spatial organization is diminished, although the strong structure of the natural land forms and relationships between extant features and those forms result in a moderate level of integrity related to spatial organization.

Figure C presents a plan drawing illustrating the existing conditions of the property.

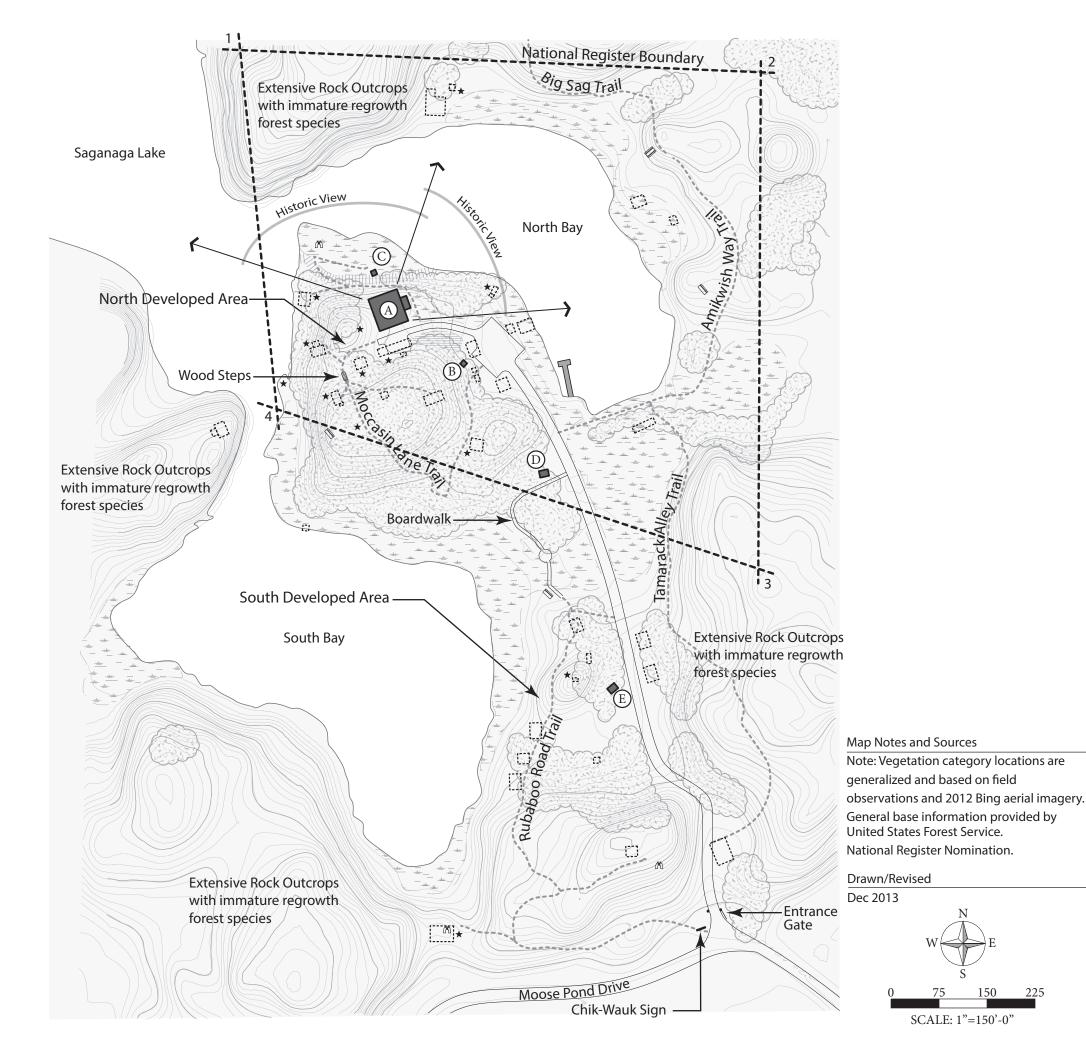
## LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

## Response to the Natural Environment – Existing Conditions

The location of the lodge clearly reflects the intent to provide a beautiful setting with dramatic views, access to safe harbors and excellent fishing.

## Response to the Natural Environment – Landscape Analysis

The site of the Chik-Wauk resort was carefully chosen for its exceptional beauty and access to Saganaga Lake and the surrounding border lakes. The proximity to excellent fishing was a major feature that drew visitors to the location. The two small bays offered sheltered harbors for boats, an important feature for the resort (see Figures 4-1 through 4-7). The lodge and American Plan cabins were situated upon rock outcrops that afforded dramatic views of the surrounding landscape. The scenic qualities of the site were the result of the irregular shoreline, combined with diverse topography, dramatic rock outcrops and masses of evergreens and northern hardwoods. These combined provided a high level of visual diversity and interest. The property retains a high level of integrity associated with responses to the natural environment.



## Chik-Wauk

Museum Nature Center

Cultural Landscape Report

## **Existing Conditions**

## Legend (A) Historic Lodge (B) Vault Toilet (C) Historic Generator Building (D) Relocated Canoe Trip Outfitting Building (See "AA" on Figure B) (E) Storage Pod Key **Mature Trees Wetland Species Trimmed Grass** National Register Boundary Building Non-extant Building Dock Road Trail Bluffs 10' Contour Intervals 2' Contour Intervals Wayside Bench Picnic Table Visible Remnant of Historic Feature



Figure C

## Spatial Organization – Existing Conditions

The landforms and water bodies associated with the property are the strongest elements related to spatial organization at Chik-Wauk (see Figures C, 4-4 and 4-6). The north and south bays define the peninsula upon which the northern development area is situated, as well as the shores and views that play a large part in the overall layout of the property. The entrance drive extends from Moose Pond Drive to an arrival area/parking area that is adjacent to the southwest side of North Bay. The Lodge site affords dramatic views of the surrounding lake and landscape, and is closely associated with the sites of several non-extant cabins and outbuildings.

## Spatial Organization – Landscape Analysis

At Chik-Wauk, the historic organization of buildings, docks, bridges, paths, and roads on the landscape related directly to efforts to maximize scenic views for guests, and efficiently arrange utilitarian structures. The relationships between the bays and land provided a strong basis for spatial arrangement. Historically, the resort included two main areas of development. The north area included the lodge, main docks, American Plan Cabins, office/laundry facilities, and housing for the owners and girl help. The southern area included the housekeeping cabins, a bunkhouse for canoe trippers, and lodging for guides and dock boys. From Moose Pond Drive, the entrance road alignment took advantage of the relatively gentle grade found by curving around steeper areas and rock outcrops. The terminus of the road in an area shared by parking, boats, docks, office, ice house, fish cleaning, and other small structures, was a major hub of activities at the resort.

Comparison of the historic conditions to existing spatial organization reveals that the bays and shores associated with the resort have remained consistent since the establishment of the resort (see Figures 4-1 through 4-6). The northern development area, including the lodge, parking area, and former sites of several cabins and outbuildings, is still legible as a resort landscape, despite the loss of the majority of the buildings. The extant lodge and strong association between it and views of the surrounding landscape are of primary importance to this area. The road and arrival area on the southwest side of north bay are also key aspects of this area. The southern development is harder to recognize, as the former building sites are not as apparent.

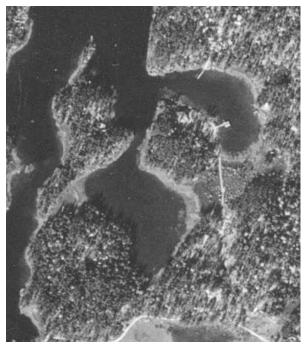


Figure 4- 1: Aerial photograph of Chik-Wauk property, 1937 (source: USFS, Superior National Forest)



Figure 4- 2: Aerial photograph of Chik-Wauk property, 1948 (source: USFS Superior National Forest)



Figure 4- 3: Aerial photograph of Chik-Wauk property, 1961 (source: USFS Superior National Forest)



Figure 4- 4: Chik-Wauk property aerial view, 2011 (source: bing aerials)



Figure 4- 5: Historic view of Chik-Wauk property, facing northwest. (source: C-W 61, image taken by Cliff Waters, donated by Barb Dull)



Figure 4- 6: Oblique view of Chik-Wauk property, facing northwest, 2012 (souce: bing aerials)

## Vegetation – Existing Conditions

Vegetation at the Chik-Wauk property represents a variety of successional stages of mixed conifer-hardwood forest (see Figure C, Existing Conditions). Conifers include several varieties of pine, fir and spruce trees. The principal deciduous species noted are paper birch with some mountain ash, maple, aspen, and oak present. The northern development area, or peninsula upon which the lodge is situated, includes a mature stand of evergreens including Pinus banksiana (Jack Pine), Pinus strobus (White Pine), and Pinus resinosa (Red Pine), mixed with Betuala papyrifera (Paperbark Birch). This is a rarity in the immediate area, as the Ham Lake Wildfire burned off mature trees throughout the vicinity in 2007. Wetlands species are located at gently sloped shores in a section directly south of the northern development area (in the location of the boardwalk). Mown turf is found at the east and south sides of the lodge and along the edges of the parking area. A few ornamental plants are in small stone edged planters at the east and south sides of the lodge. Patches of wildflowers are also found sporadically around the property. Vegetation in the remainder of the project area consists of regrowth in burned areas including green undergrowth and pine seedlings interwoven with burnt tree trunks and rock outcrops.

## Vegetation – Landscape Analysis

The native mixed conifer-hardwood forest was a constant presence at the property throughout the historic period. During the time that the resort was operational, forest fires in the region occurred on a somewhat regular basis. Although the visual appearance of the forest has changed due to the Ham Lake Wildfire, it continues to retain integrity as the same plant communities are present today as were historically. The mature stand on the peninsula surrounding the lodge is of particular significance, as masses of mature forest are now a rarity in the area. The wetland and mown areas are also reflective of conditions present during the historic period.



Figure 4- 7: Aerial photograph of Chik-Wauk property, 2012 (source: bing aerials)

## Views – Existing Conditions

The Chik-Wauk property is exceptionally scenic. Dramatic views of the surrounding lake, rock outcrops, irregular shoreline, and masses of vegetation all contribute to the beauty of the property. Rock outcrops are especially dramatic today, as they are more visible due to the removal of large quantities of vegetation by the 2007 Ham Lake Wildfire. Most notably, very little development is visible from the property. A few vacation homes are barely visible to the north and a pole barn is visible to the west, however, as vegetation regenerates, these buildings will no longer be visible.

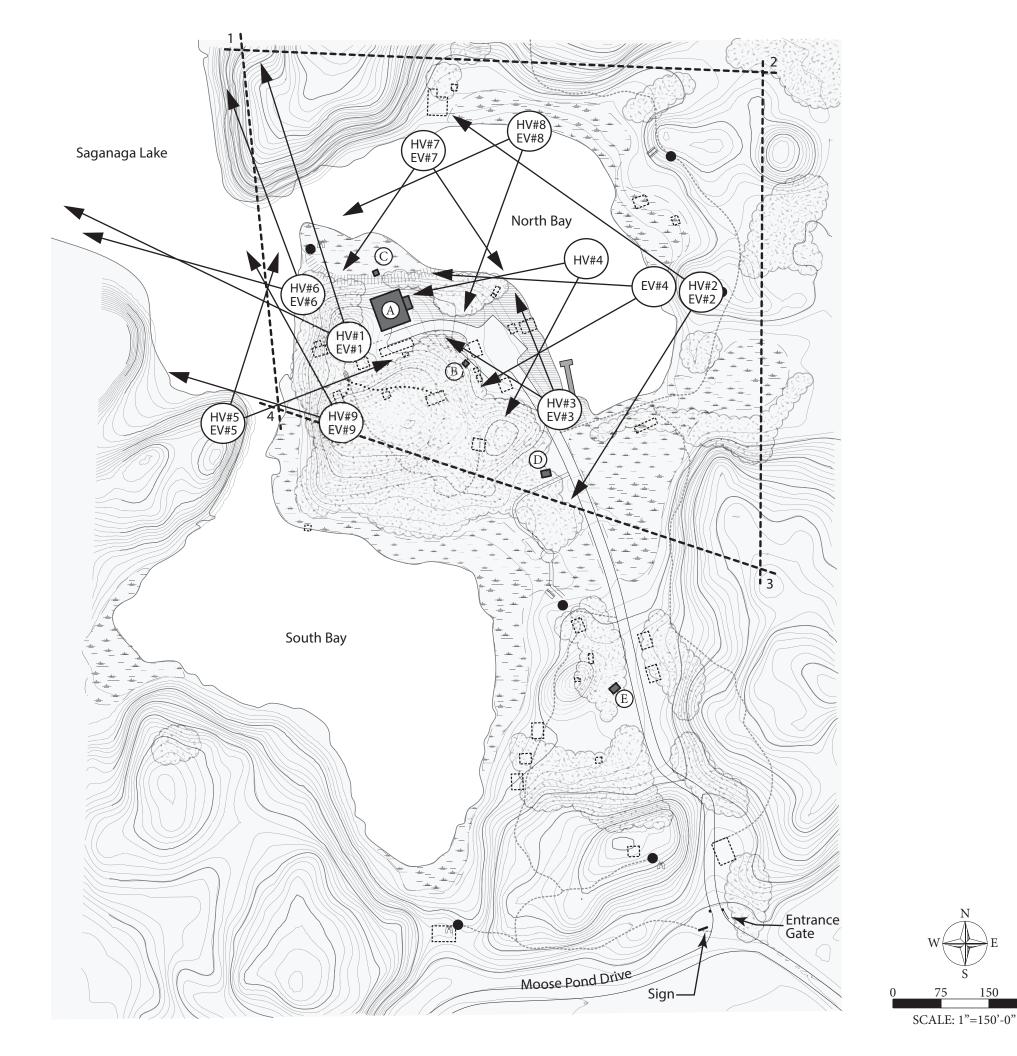
Specific existing views are discussed in the narrative associated with the figures in this section. The View plan illustrates historic and existing view locations that correspond to the photographs in this section (see Figure D).

#### Views – Landscape Analysis

Views have been a primary characteristic associated with the Chik-Wauk property since it was selected as the site for the resort. The site of the Chik-Wauk resort was carefully chosen for its exceptional beauty and access to Saganaga Lake and the surrounding border lakes. The sites of the lodge and cabins were selected to provide visitors with excellent views. The pedestrian bridge presented long-distance views of Saganaga Lake that were frequently mentioned by oral history interviewees.

Specific historic views are discussed in the narrative associated with figures in this section, and compared to existing views. Overall, Views contribute to the historic significance of the property and retain a high level of integrity.

| Next page: | Figure D: | View Locations |  |  |
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## ChikWauk

## Museum Nature Center

Cultural Landscape Report

## Views

#### Legend

- (A) Historic Lodge
- (B) Restrooms
- (C) Historic Generator Building
- (D) Relocated Canoe Trip Outfitting Building (See "AA" on Figure B)





Historic View #1



Existing View #1

## Key



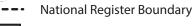
Mature Trees



- Wetland Species



Mown Turf



Building

Non-extant Building

Dock

Road

..... Trail

Nature Center Trail

Bluffs

10' Contour Intervals

2' Contour Intervals

● ₼ 🎶 Waysides

## Map Notes and Sources

2012 Bing Aerial

Miscellaneous Materials Provided by **United States Forest Service** 

**National Register Nomination** 

## Drawn/Revised

Dec 2013 LP/BW

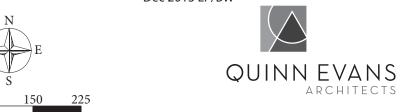




Figure 4- 8: HV #1: Historic View north from top of rock directly behind the lodge (source: Kerfoot C-W 20)



Figure 4- 9: EV #1: Existing View north from top of rock directly behind the lodge, June 2013, compare to HV #1 (source: QEA)

A rock outcrop directly behind the lodge (west) is a high point where a wind turbine was located during the Nunstedt period of operation (1931-1952). From the high point facing north a view of the south end of Saganaga Lake is provided. Comparison of HV#1 and EV#1 reveals that the overall composition of this view has remained intact. The land forms and lake are still the dominant features. Two vacation homes are barely visible on the far shore in EV#1. Their visibility is due to the loss of surrounding vegetation as a result of the Ham Lake Wildfire. As vegetation regenerates, these structures will be less visible.

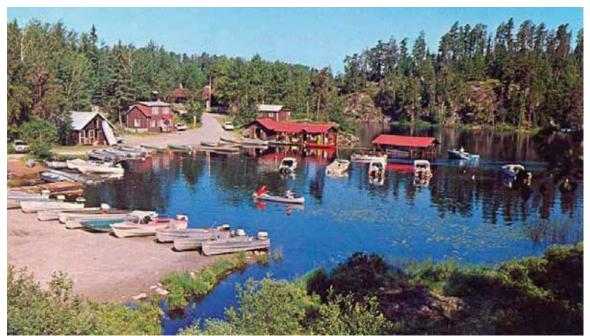


Figure 4- 10: HV#2: Historic View of Chik-Wauk Lodge and Canoe Outfitters, 1964. (source: Kerfoot, C-W 9)



Figure 4- 11: EV#2: Current View from vantage of HV #2, August 2012 (QEA)

A postcard featuring the boats, docks, and buildings in North Bay was used during the Griffis' tenure (1958-1980) for promotional purposes. Comparison of HV#2 to EV#2 reveals that the land forms have remained intact, but the numerous structures and activities associated with the historic resort are no longer apparent. The view today presents a very naturalistic scene where one might imagine extensive development had never occurred.



Figure 4- 12: HV#3: Historic View of main parking area at Chik-Wauk, ca. 1940s (source: C-W 165, Picture is from Gloria Martineau, daughter of Fred and Lola Drouillard.)



Figure 4- 13: EV#3: Existing View of main parking lot at Chik-Wauk, August 2012 (QEA)

The parking/dock area at the resort was the major hub of activity during the historic period. Comparison of historic conditions in this area (seen in HV#3) to existing (EV#3) reveals that the presence of multiple buildings helped to define an arrival court during the historic era that is no longer apparent today. The continued use of the area for parking is definitely consistent with historic use, and the visual relationship between the parking area and the lodge and north bay area also intact.



Figure 4- 14: HV#4, Historic View of office, boathouse and area around docks from the water ca.1960. (source: C-W 240a, excerpt from Chik-Wauk brochure, page 2)



Figure 4- 15: EV#4 Existing View of parking area from the water and lodge from across the bay, August 2012 and July 2013 (source: QEA and Bruce Kerfoot)

Historically, spending time at Chik-Wauk Resort included getting out on the water in boats. HV#4 illustrates a typical historical scene at the resort, viewed from a boat in North Bay, where boaters departed and returned from fishing trips and other excursions. From the water, the lodge was in the background and multiple other buildings, including the office, boathouse, canoe outfitters building, and #4 Cabin were visible. Docks, boat landings, and automobiles were also important elements in the scene. A similar existing view presents a less active scene due to the loss of boats, buildings, and docks in this area.

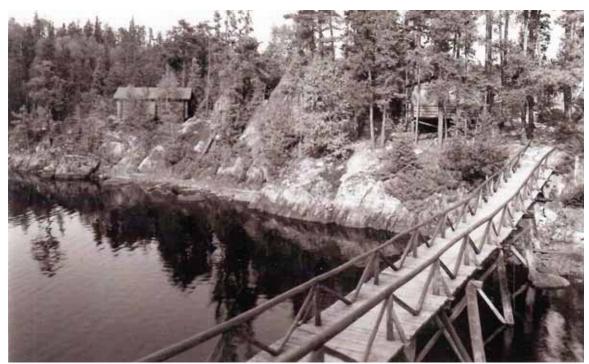


Figure 4- 16: HV#5, Historic View of Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin) at left, Judge's Cabin (#2 Cabin) at right, and pedestrian bridge, facing east, ca. 1940s (source: Nancy Nunstedt Bargen)



Figure 4- 17: EV#5, Existing View from similar vantage as HV#5, in the winter, December 2012 (source: QEA)

Access to the "Cabin Across the Bridge" (#3 Cabin) was provided by a wood pedestrian bridge from the north development area. The view from this cabin to the east included the bridge, rocky shoreline, and cabins perched on the rock outcrops. Although the bridge and cabins are no longer extant, the rocky shore line has remained greatly intact and recognizable.



Figure 4- 18: HV#6, Historic View of Lake Saganaga from Chik-Wauk Resort (source: C-W 20)



Figure 4- 19: EV#6, Existing View from site of Cabin #1 to the north toward Saganaga Lake, August 2012, compare to HV#6. (source: QEA)

Views of Saganaga Lake to the north from Chik-Wauk were expansive and beautiful, presenting a seemingly unexplored wilderness. This remains true today, as the view is greatly unchanged. The appearance of two vacation homes in the distance is a reminder of the fragility of this view. It remains intact because the landscape has remained the same and also because development of new elements have not imposed upon the view.



Figure 4- 20: HV#7, Historic View of Chik-Wauk lodge and surrounding area from across the bay, facing south, ca. 1936 (source: USFS)



Figure 4- 21: EV#7, Existing oblique aerial View of Chik-Wauk lodge and surrounding area from across the bay, facing south, 2013 (source: Bing Maps)

Viewed from across the bay, the grading of the lodge site to create a level building location is apparent. Fill was added on the east side of the building. Today vegetation partially obscures views of the lodge from across the bay, but the scene is otherwise unchanged.

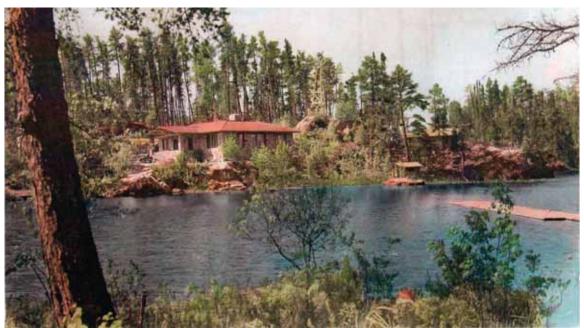


Figure 4- 22: HV #8, Historic View of Chik-Wauk lodge and surrounding area from across the bay, facing south, ca. 1936 (source: Nancy Nunstedt Bargen –this is the same as C-W 6, with color added)





Figure 4- 23: EV#8, Left: Existing View of Chik-Wauk lodge and surrounding area from across the bay, facing south, December 2012 (source: QEA); Right: Existing View of Chik-Wauk lodge and generator building from the water, July 2013 (source: Bruce Kerfoot)

The relationship between the lodge, generator building, and Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin) is apparent in HV #8 and EV#8. Although the Carey Cabin is no longer extant, the rocky outcrop upon which it was situated remains. The wind turbine on the high point behind the lodge, and the laundry building to the south of the lodge are apparent in HV#8 as well. Comparison of these two images show the relationship between the lodge and surrounding landscape has changed very little.



Figure 4- 24: HV#9, Historic View of pedestrian bridge and Saganaga Lake, from site of Crow's Nest Cabin (#6 Cabin), facing northwest (source: C-W 71)



Figure 4- 25: EV#9, Existing View at similar location of HV#9, facing northwest (source: QEA)

Views from all of the American Plan Cabins were excellent during the period of resort operation (1931-1980). HV#9 illustrates the historic view from the Crow's Nest Cabin (#6 Cabin). The pedestrian bridge in the foreground provides an interesting built element in the otherwise naturalistic scene. Today the bridge is absent, but the shores of Saganaga Lake have remained consistent and the view is greatly intact. The lack of visible new development in this view is an important aspect as well.

### Topography – Existing Conditions

Topography at Chik-Wauk is dominated by a series of granite knobs that protrude above the surrounding ground surface to heights ranging from twelve to thirty feet. These knobs are composed of steep rocky slopes and outcrops that contrast with relatively level low areas. The rocky ground surface's topographic variation is especially apparent in areas where forest vegetation was burned off during the 2007 Ham Lake Wildfire (see Figure 4-26). Other topographic characteristics include the gradually sloping route of the entrance road, and low level wetland areas (see Figure C).

#### Topography – Landscape Analysis

The interesting topographic features were utilized when developing the resort. The lodge and American Plan cabins were situated upon rock outcrops that afforded dramatic views of the surrounding landscape. The scenic qualities of the site were the result of the irregular shoreline, combined with diverse topography, dramatic rock outcrops and masses of evergreens and northern hardwoods. These combined provided a high level of visual diversity and interest. One example is at the entrance of the property, where a rock knoll rises above the road and provides a backdrop for the entrance sign (see Figures 4-27 and 4-28). The property retains a high level of integrity associated with topography.



Figure 4- 26: Rock outcrops at the edge of Saganaga Lake, facing west toward the former site of the Cabin Across the Bridge (#3 Cabin), July 2013. (source: Bruce Kerfoot)



Figure 4- 27: Entrance to Chik-Wauk Resort during Griffis' ownership (source: C-W 228)



Figure 4- 28: Entrance to Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, December 2012 (source: QEA)

# Patterns of Circulation – Existing Conditions

The Museum and Nature Center property is accessed via one main entrance road that extends from Moose Pond Drive to the north to the arrival area near the lodge. An information parking area is located along the southwest edge of the properties north bay southeast of the lodge. Pedestrian circulation at the property includes several interpretive and nature trails. These include Moccasin Lane, Amikwiish Way, Big Sag Trail, Rubaboo Road, and Tamarack Alley (see Figure 4-29). A small dock is located at the southwest edge of the north bay, providing an opportunity to access Saganaga Lake by boat. However, this is not an established access point for the Museum.

# Patterns of Circulation – Landscape Analysis

The extension of the Gunflint Trail beyond Seagull Lake in 1931 had a direct impact on the development of Chik-Wauk Resort. Road access enabled resort visitors to travel via automobile to this remote location, from which they could explore the northern border lakes to the north. The resort entrance road was a part of the arrival sequence for guests and staff. Its terminus at the shore of the North Bay of Saganaga Lake served as the entrance to the resort and the hub of activities related to the water. The road has had some minor adjustments in alignment, grading, and surface treatment since its initial establishment. Most notably, during the time that the Griffis' operated the resort, the road was raised in the low area that flooded frequently, to avoid the need to use boats to provide access to the peninsula. Two short road spurs used to access cabins historically have been abandoned.

During the period of resort operation, trails at the resort were limited to those providing access to the buildings, the pedestrian bridge, and a trail that extended to the northeast to a site called "Lookout Point." Current trails on the property that related to those historic routes include Moccasin Lane, Rubaboo Road, and Amikwiish Way.

Patterns of circulation contribute to the significance of the Chick-Wauk landscape. The entrance road, parking area, and three trails (Moccasin Lane, Rubaboo Road, and Amikwiish Way) retain integrity.

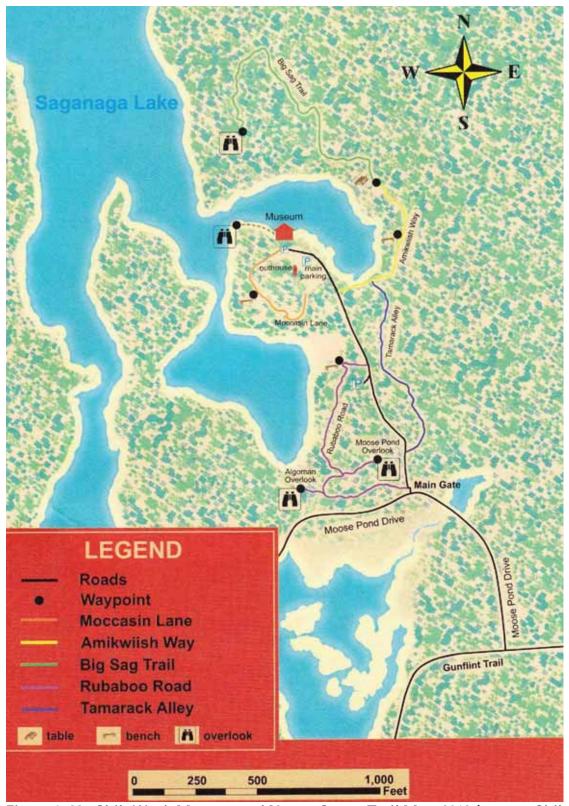


Figure 4- 29: Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center Trail Map, 2012 (source: Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center)

# Buildings and Structures – Existing Conditions

Three historic buildings remain on the site, including the lodge/museum, generator building, and the relocated canoe outfitting building. A newly constructed outhouse is also present.

# Buildings and Structures – Landscape Analysis

All three of the extant buildings contribute to the historic integrity of the property. The lodge and generator building both retain high levels of integrity related to design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and location. Integrity of association is diminished for all three buildings due to the lack of the associated resort facilities and operations. The relocated canoe outfitting building retains integrity related to design, materials, and workmanship. The relocation of the building several times has diminished integrity of location, setting, and feeling. The outhouse was added recently for museum guests and does not contribute to the historic significance of the property. The building is a neutral style and color, small in size and screened by vegetation. It does not impact the integrity of the landscape.



Figure 4- 30: Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, August 2012 (source: QEA)



Figure 4-31: Generator Shed, December 2012 (QEA)



Figure 4- 32: Relocated Canoe Trip Outfitting Building, December 2012 (QEA)



Figure 4- 33: Outhouse at Chik-Wauk, August 2012 (source: QEA)

# Small Scale Features – Existing Conditions and Landscape Analysis

Small scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics at historic landscapes. At Chik-Wauk these fall into two categories, including those that are extant resources that date to the period of significance and new features that have been added since 1980. The extant resources contribute to the historic significance of the property and include concrete and mortared stone building foundation piers (present at former cabin sites), stone steps, stone path edging, the foundation of a former water tank, and a stone barbecue pit.

Non-contributing small-scale features include a boardwalk, wood steps, interpretive signs, information signs, a stone edged path, a soda machine, screen fence, and small garden with an old stove at the edge of the parking lot. The majority of these features are compatible with the historic landscape and do not impact the integrity of the property. The soda machine, stone lined path and garden with a stove and hand pump in it are not compatible with the historic landscape, as they present a confusing scene that appears to relate to historic conditions, but does not.



Figure 4- 34: Circular concrete cabin foundation post at cabin site, August 2012 (source: QEA)



Figure 4- 35: Threshold (background) and square concrete cabin foundation post at Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin), August 2012 (source: QEA)



Figure 4- 36: Mortared stone foundation pillar at former Carey Cabin (#1 Cabin), December 2012 (QEA)



Figure 4- 37: Stone steps at former site of Guest Cabin #1 (#4 Cabin), August 2012 (QEA)



Figure 4- 38: Stone edged path south of Crow's Nest Cabin (#6 Cabin), August 2012 (source: QEA)



Figure 4- 39: Stone and cement circular foundation of former water tank, December 2012 (QEA)



Figure 4- 40: Mortared stone barbecue pit, June 2013 (source: QEA)



Figure 4- 41: Boardwalk near relocated canoe trip outfitting building, August 2012 (source: QEA)



Figure 4- 42: Wood steps southwest of lodge, August 2012. (source: QEA)



Figure 4- 43: Interpretive signs near parking lot, August 2012 (source: QEA)



Figure 4- 44: Soda machine, screen fence, stove, pump, and stone lined path, August 2012 (source: QEA)

### Archeological Resources – Existing Conditions/Analysis

Potential archeological resources at the Chik-Wauk property are limited to the foundations of non-extant cabins and traces of historic walkways. The potential for these archaeological features to provide meaningful data regarding historic resort era activities is negligible. Archaeological surveys conducted by the Forest Service in 2006 suggested that the potential for intact sub-surface deposits was extremely low; the property has poor soil development and thin soil horizons overlaying bedrock. Also, Forest Service records suggest that many surface artifacts and features were removed after the Forest Service assumed control of the larger site area in 1980.

There are no precontact archeological sites located in the immediate vicinity of Chik-Wauk. Saganaga Lake has approximately fifty sites spanning the Late Archaic through the historic resort time period. Sites associated with Saganaga are most noted for contact era Ojibwe habitation sites and fur trade era sites.

# SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The following table provides a summary of contributing and non-contributing resources present at the Chik-Wauk site.

| Map Key                   | Building /Feature /<br>Landscape<br>Characteristic | Contributing/<br>Non-cont. | Rationale/Integrity  |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| n/a                       | Response to the Natural Environment                | Contributing               | The site of the Chik-Wauk resort was carefully chosen for its exceptional beauty and access to Saganaga Lake and the surrounding border lakes. The proximity to excellent fishing was a major feature that drew visitors to the location. The two small bays offered sheltered harbors for boats, an important feature for the resort (see Figures 4-1 through 4-7). The lodge and American Plan cabins were situated upon rock outcrops that afforded dramatic views of the surrounding landscape. The scenic qualities of the site were the result of the irregular shoreline, combined with diverse topography, dramatic rock outcrops and masses of evergreens and northern hardwoods. These combined provided a high level of visual diversity and interest. The property retains a high level of integrity associated with responses to the natural environment. |
| Figures A<br>through<br>C | Spatial<br>Organization                            | Contributing               | Comparison of the historic conditions to existing spatial organization reveals that the bays and shores associated with the resort have remained consistent since the establishment of the resort (see Figures 4-1 through 4-6). The northern development area, including the lodge, parking area, and former sites of several cabins and outbuildings, is still legible as a resort landscape, despite the loss of the majority of the buildings. The extant lodge and strong association between it and views of the surrounding landscape are of primary importance to this area. The road and arrival area on the southwest side of north bay are also key aspects of this area. The southern development is harder to recognize, as the former building sites are not as apparent.  |

| Map Key  | Building /Feature /<br>Landscape<br>Characteristic | Contributing/<br>Non-cont. | Rationale/Integrity   |
|----------|--|----------------------------|---|
| Figure C | Vegetation   | Contributing               | The native mixed conifer-hardwood forest was a constant presence at the property throughout the historic period. During the time that the resort was operational, forest fires in the region occurred on a somewhat regular basis.  Although the visual appearance of the forest has changed due to the Ham Lake Wildfire, it continues to retain integrity as the same plant communities are present today as were historically. The mature stand on the peninsula surrounding the lodge is of particular significance, as masses of mature forest are now a rarity in the area. The wetland and mown areas are also reflective of conditions present during the historic period.  |
| Figure C | Views  | Contributing               | Views have been a primary characteristic associated with the Chik-Wauk property since it was selected as the site for the resort. The site of the Chik-Wauk resort was carefully chosen for its exceptional beauty and access to Saganaga Lake and the surrounding border lakes. The sites of the lodge and cabins were selected to provide visitors with excellent views. Overall, Views contribute to the historic significance of the property and retain a high level of integrity.   |
| Figure C | Topography   | Contributing               | The interesting topographic features were utilized when developing the resort. The lodge and American Plan cabins were situated upon rock outcrops that afforded dramatic views of the surrounding landscape. The scenic qualities of the site were the result of the irregular shoreline, combined with diverse topography, dramatic rock outcrops and masses of evergreens and northern hardwoods. These combined provided a high level of visual diversity and interest. One example is at the entrance of the property, where a rock knoll rises above the road and provides a backdrop for the entrance sign (see Figures 4-27 and 4-28). The property retains a high level of integrity associated with topography. |

| Map Key  | Building /Feature /<br>Landscape<br>Characteristic | Contributing/<br>Non-cont. | Rationale/Integrity   |
|----------|--|----------------------------|---|
| Figure C | Patterns of<br>Circulation                         | Contributing               | The extension of the Gunflint Trail beyond Seagull Lake in 1931 had a direct impact on the development of Chik-Wauk Resort. Road access enabled resort visitors to travel via automobile to this remote location, from which they could explore the northern border lakes to the north. The resort entrance road was a part of the arrival sequence for guests and staff. Its terminus at the shore of the North Bay of Saganaga Lake served as the entrance to the resort and the hub of activities related to the water. The road has had some minor adjustments in alignment, grading, and surface treatment since its initial establishment. During the period of resort operation, trails at the resort were limited to those providing access to the buildings, the pedestrian bridge, and a trail that extended to the northeast to a site called "Lookout Point." Current trails on the property that related to those historic routes include Moccasin Lane, Rubaboo Road, and Amikwiish Way. Patterns of circulation contribute to the significance of the Chick-Wauk landscape. The entrance road, parking area, and three trails (Moccasin Lane, Rubaboo Road, and Amikwiish Way) retain integrity. |
|          | Buildings  |                            |   |
| A        | Historic Lodge                                     | Contributing               | Primary historic resource constructed in 1933 and used as the lodge for the resort until 1980. Retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and location. Integrity of association is diminished due to the lack of the associated resort facilities and operations. See Figure 4-30.   |
| В        | Vault Toilet                                       | Non-Cont.                  | Brought to the property for use by the Chik-<br>Wauk Museum and Nature Center in 2010.  |

| Map Key    | Building /Feature /<br>Landscape<br>Characteristic | Contributing/<br>Non-cont. | Rationale/Integrity   |
|------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| С          | Historic Generator<br>Building                     | Contributing               | Part of historic resort operations, reflects the need to generate power on site. Retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and location. Integrity of association is diminished due to the lack of the associated resort facilities and operations. See Figure 4-31.   |
| D          | Relocated Canoe<br>Trip Outfitting<br>Building     | Contributing               | Re-purposed USFS cabin brought to Chik-Wauk for use as a canoe trip outfitting building during the resort period. The relocation of the building reflects the common practice of re-using and relocating small outbuildings in this remote location. Retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The relocation of the building several times has diminished integrity of location, setting, and feeling. See Figure 4-32. |
| Е          | Storage Pod  | Non-cont.                  | Added in 2010.  |
|            | Small Scale<br>Features                            |                            |   |
| * Figure C | Visible remnants of historic features              | Contributing               | Remnants of historic building foundations, steps, bridge abutments, stone trail edges, barbecue pit, and water tank are directly associated with the historic resort operations. These elements provide visual cues that help visitors to understand the extent of development and use that occurred historically at the site (see Figures 4-34 through 4-40).  |
| Figure C   | Boardwalk  | Non-cont.                  | Added for use by museum visitors after 2010.  |
| Figure C   | Wood steps   | Non-cont.                  | Added in location of historic steps for use by museum visitors after 2010. The threshold stones are historic.   |
| Figure C   | USFS dock  | Non-cont.                  | Added by USFS after 2010.   |
| Figure C   | Waysides   | Non-cont.                  | Added for use by museum visitors after 2010.  |
| Figure C   | Benches  | Non-cont.                  | Added for use by museum visitors after 2010.  |
| Figure C   | Picnic tables                                      | Non-cont.                  | Added for use by museum visitors after 2010.  |
| Figure C   | Entrance gate                                      | Non-cont.                  | Added in 2010.  |
| Figure C   | Chik-Wauk sign                                     | Non-cont.                  | Added in 2010.  |



# CHAPTER 5: TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY, MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND SITE PROGRAM

This chapter explains the selection of rehabilitation as the most appropriate treatment philosophy for the Chik-Wauk property, based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historic preservation. It also includes a summary of management issues and site programming needs identified by the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, Gunflint Trail Historical Society, United States Forest Service, and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. The selected management philosophy, management issues and site programming needs provide a basis for the Landscape Master Plan presented in Chapter 6.

#### TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY

Selection of a treatment philosophy for a historic site provides a fundamental structure upon which future management decisions may be made. The United States Secretary of the Interior indicates four types of treatment approaches that may be appropriate for historic landscapes. Each is defined herein, and their applicability to the Chik-Wauk property is discussed.

*Preservation* is the act of sustaining the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. This approach is most appropriate for properties that have a high level of integrity and often requires acceptance of representations from multiple time periods at the site. This approach is not the best choice for Chik-Wauk because the removal of numerous historic buildings and features has diminished integrity and alterations are necessary in order to address the current use of the property.

Restoration is the process of depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period in time. Elements that relate to earlier or later periods are removed in order to clearly represent one time period. A high level of documentation is necessary to ensure that the site accurately represents the historic period. This approach is not appropriate for Chik-Wauk because numerous historic buildings and features have been removed from the landscape and adaptive use of the property necessitates the presence of non-historic elements.

Reconstruction is the act of using new construction to depict a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object as it appeared at a specific period of time in its historic location. This approach is used only in cases where the highest level of significance applies and detailed documentation exists regarding the historic conditions of the property. Chik-Wauk does not meet either of these requirements therefore this approach is not appropriate for the site.

Rehabilitation allows repairs, alterations, and additions necessary to enable a compatible use for a property, as long as the portions or features which convey the historical, cultural or architectural values are preserved. Rehabilitation is the recommended treatment approach for the Chik-Wauk landscape. This will allow for accommodating compatible use through additions and alterations while preserving the features which convey the historical values of the property. Under this approach, new elements that are compatible with the historic conditions may be added to address current needs without creating a false sense of history.

#### MANAGEMENT ISSUES / SITE PROGRAM

Since the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center opened on 4 July 2010 it has been extremely popular. The museum averages 430 visitors per week or 51 visitors per day during its open season. The museum is open from Memorial Day through mid-October. The museum building accommodates 50 people. The facility's largest annual event is an ice cream social that is attended by approximately 200 people. During this event, parking is accommodated along the road to supplement the regular parking areas.

In the initial years of managing the museum, the Gunflint Trail Historical Society has identified the need to add facilities to preserve resources, accommodate visitor needs, expand interpretive programs and support the operations of the museum.

Issues related to the current and planned future use of the property are described in this section.

- Issue: A clear understanding of the contributing historic landscape features and
  potential archeological resources is needed to help guide preservation and avoid
  impacting the resources when making alterations to the site.
   Response: This has been provided by Part 1 of this CLR. The CLR identifies locations of
  potential archeological resources, which may be investigated by USFS in the future.
- 2. Issue: The "arrival area" no longer reflects its historic role as an activity hub for the resort. This area accommodated vehicle parking, but also included docks, boats, buildings, fences, gas tanks, and a variety of activities. Today, the lack of buildings, docks and boats diminishes the ability of visitors to understand that this space was a busy hub for the resort.
  Response: Recommendations for approaches to rehabilitate this area to provide a more
  - **Response:** Recommendations for approaches to rehabilitate this area to provide a more appropriate beginning to visitor's experience at the site are needed.
- 3. **Issue**: A clear understanding of the quantity of parking necessary to support the museum, and recommendations for how to appropriately accommodate parking without impacting historic resources, is needed. **Response**: The parking present is adequate for activities held at the property.
- 4. **Issue**: The museum has acquired three small historic boats to display and interpret on site. They are likely to acquire additional boats and would like to be able to display between four and six boats at a time.
  - **Response:** A shelter is needed to protect the boats from the elements and display them as part of the interpretive program. The year-round shelter should accommodate four to six 14-19 foot boats and canoes. (512 sf) (approximately 32' long by 16' wide, one story, two-layer boat display)
- 5. **Issue:** Possibilities for providing barrier-free experiences need to be considered. **Response:** Barrier free access will be provided at all new facilities and barrier free trail routes will be identified.

**6. Issue:** There is a need for barrier-free parking and toilet facilities at the property, as well as a barrier-free route between the facilities.

**Response**: A barrier-free vault toilet will be provided near the barrier-free parking space located to the south of the museum.

7. **Issue:** Although the existing single vault toilet is sufficient currently, it is likely that increasing facilities and programs at the property will result in a greater demand for restrooms. Also, it is likely that the local building code will require a minimum number of restroom facilities based on the size of the assembly area.

Response: Given the remote location and expectations of visitors it is acceptable to provide a lower than average amount of restroom facilities for the property. However, the addition of new facilities warrants the presence of at least two vault toilets on the property. The development of the building designs for the property (not included in the CLR) should be undertaken with knowledge of the local building code.

8. **Issue:** Space for a museum office is needed. **Response:** Add a facility that will accommodate one to two people with desks, file cabinets, basic office equipment and storage for office supplies. (205 sf to accommodate

2 people at 90 sf per person, plus 25 sf lockable storage space)

9. **Issue**: The museum has a collection of artifacts that are currently stored in a portable storage container (8x20') and private residences. This amounts to about 600 square feet of storage. It is anticipated that the collection will continue to grow as more items are donated. There is a need for a climate controlled storage facility on site for a portion of the collection. Some items in the collection can be kept in cold storage (including boat motors and other equipment).

**Response**: Add a climate controlled facility that will accommodate existing materials and projected additions to the collection. (960 sf)

10. **Issue**: Space for gift shop storage is needed.

Response: Include 100 sf of storage space for the gift shop. (100 sf)

11. **Issue:** Indoor space for a nature center is needed to accommodate about 50 people in theater style seating with the option of rearranging to use tables and chairs for smaller groups.

**Response:** Provide minimum 10 sf per person for the theater-style facility. Exhibits will not require additional floor spaces, as they will be graphic wall displays but some exhibits will project from the walls. Also allow for storage space for tables and chairs. (864 sf)

12. **Issue:** A break room for museum staff/volunteers is needed. (100 sf to accommodate 4-6 people, refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot)

**Response:** Provide room for six people and minimal appliances, 100 sf)

13. **Issue:** Opportunity to interpret the type of scale, style, setting, and proximity of resort cabins to the other site features.

**Response:** Add trails to known sites related to cabin resort resources and a self-guided walking tour brochure for visitors to reference to learn about the historic conditions of the property.

14. **Issue**: The museum has identified additional interpretive opportunities that can occur on the grounds at Chik-Wauk to enhance the educational programs related to the history and ecology of the area. Visitors express interest in this type of information and are particularly interested in learning more about historic resort life at Gunflint Trail resorts, such as Chik-Wauk Resort, and about the natural history of the region through naturalist programs.

**Response:** Add facilities and programs focused on the history of the Gunflint Trail, Chik-Wauk Resort, and the natural resources in the region.

**15. Issue:** The lack of cabins makes it hard for visitors to visualize the character of the resort during its operational period. The cabins were an essential part of the resort, and the locations of the American Plan cabins provided privacy and spectacular views of the surrounding landscape.

**Response:** Consider building a small cabin at the site of one of the historic cabins and provide exhibits and interpretive materials at the structure.

**16. Issue:** The museum needs a maintenance facility to store equipment and tools used to maintain the property.

**Response:** Provide a maintenance facility in a location that is not visible and does not impact the historic core of the property.

#### CHIK-WAUK BUILDING SPACE NEEDS

| PROGRAM ROLE           | ESTIMATED     | POSSIBLE   |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|
|                        | SPACE         | BUILDING   |
|                        | REQUIRED (SF) | DIMENSIONS |
| Boat Exhibit (4 boats) | 512 sf        | 32' x 16'  |
| Maintenance facility   | 480 sf        | 20' x 24'  |
| Vault Toilet Building  | 64 sf         | 8' x 8'    |
| (handicap)             |               |            |
| Museum Office          | 205 sf        | varies     |
| Artifact Storage       | 480 sf        | Varies     |
| Gift Shop Storage      | 100 sf        | Varies     |
| Nature Center          | 864 sf        | Varies     |
| Break Room             | 100 sf        | Varies     |
| Cabin Exhibit          |               | Varies     |



### CHAPTER 6: LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

This chapter presents the recommended landscape master plan for Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. The master plan was developed based on the philosophy and issues presented in Chapter 5. Four alternative approaches were developed. These were evaluated by the Gunflint Trail Historical Society, Superior National Forest management staff and a representative of the Minnesota State Historical Society. Alternative 4: Combined Approach, was selected as the solution that best meets the needs of the museum. It is described in this chapter. Alternatives 1 through 3 are described and evaluated in Appendix A: Treatment Alternatives.

Both the Minnesota State Historical Society and the Superior National Forest have agreed to this recommendation with the stipulation that the design of the buildings themselves, including massing, facades and details, be carefully developed with their input. As the GTHS moves forward in design of the facilities, it is recommended that experienced historical architects be involved in the design development and detailing of the proposed buildings to ensure that they do not impact the historic character of the property. Although many of the buildings that were on the site historically were not designed by professionals, the nature of the site has changed. It is no longer a private resort operation, but a public property listed on the National Register of Historic Places for is significance. The public and interpretive nature of the site requires a high level of design consideration to ensure preservation of the special qualities of the property.

#### ALTERNATIVE 4: COMBINED APPROACH

Alternative 4 is a blend of Alternatives 1 and 2 (see Appendix A: Treatment Alternatives) that strives to achieve the enhancement of the landscape associated with Alternative 1 while addressing operational needs at a higher level. This is achieved by providing the majority of the visitor-related facilities and programs in small scale buildings near the north bay and lodge/museum while providing artifact storage at the southern portion of the property. The storage facility can be specifically designed for its special use, and screened to be out of the view from the road and trail.

#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS:**

- 1. Preservation of extant historic resources.
- 2. Preservation of historic views from the lodge/museum.
- 3. New dock at historic dock location for museum interpretation.(H)
- 4. New boat exhibit building at historic boathouse site to store six 14 to 19' boats/canoes (512 sf, approximately 32' long by 16' wide, one story, two-layer boat display). (I)
- 5. New cabin exhibit at historic cabin location. (330 sf)(K)
- 6. New administration building with office, gift shop storage and break room at historic laundry building site.
  - a. (16' x 26' building = 416 sf) The building would include an office with a wall of fireproof storage cabinets for photographs and other fragile archival materials. (J)
- 7. New nature center/meeting space at historic office site  $(24' \times 36' = 864 \text{ sf})$  (L)
- 8. Add building (24' x 40') with space for workshop (240 sf), tool shed (240 sf) and large artifact cold storage (480 sf) at the south portion of the property out of visitor's view. (M)
- 9. Relocated vault toilet and additional toilet (total 2 vault toilets) (B)
- 10. Small parking area at lodge/museum with handicap access (van accessible, barrier-free parking space) and one or two regular parking spaces. (N)
- 11. New barrier-free vault toilet west of the accessible parking space (64 sf). (O)
- 12. Dock for USFS use located at south portion of property away from most visitor use. (P)
- 13. Relocate the USFS storage building (D) to the south portion of the property.
- 14. Interpret the role of the generator building in the historic use of the property. (C)
- 15. Relocate storage pod to the south portion of the property near the new workshop/shed/storage building. (E)

#### ADVANTAGES:

- 1. Style fits well with historic site.
- 2. New facilities do not overwhelm or compete with the historic Lodge/Museum and do not impact views from the building.
- 3. Arrival to the museum has similar character to historic arrival, with office and boat storage clustered around parking.
- 4. Activities spread out on the property, lowering density and impacts and reflecting historic conditions.
- 5. Program needs are met at a high level.

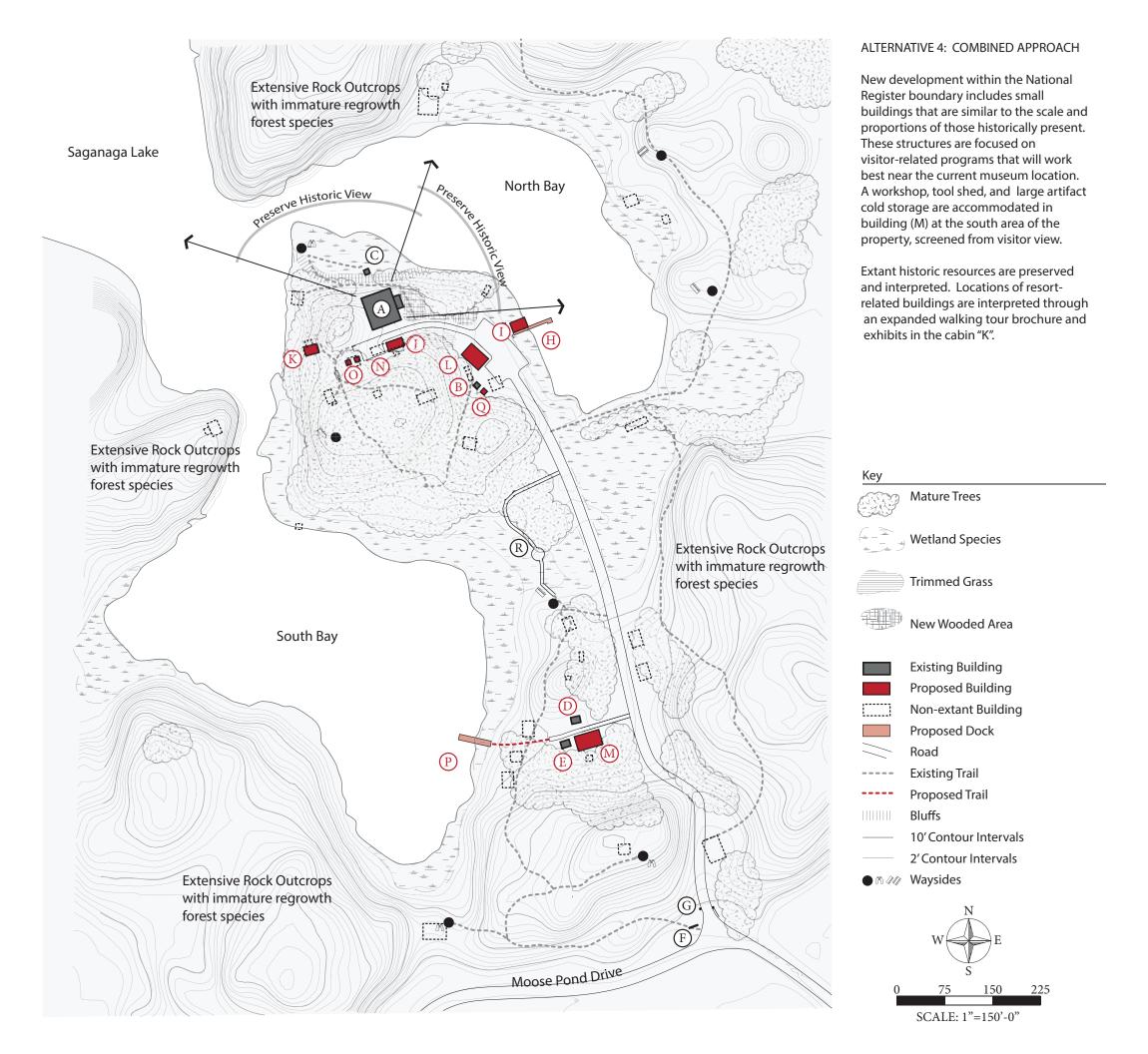
#### **DISADVANTAGES:**

- 1. Maintenance of several small buildings is less efficient than maintenance of one large building.
- 2. Operation of several small building is less efficient than operation of one large building.

# BUILDING SPACE STATISTICS

| PROGRAM        | ESTIMATED         | POSSIBLE   |        |
|----------------|-------------------|------------|--------|
| R O L E        | SPACE             | BUILDING   | ALT    |
|                | REQUIRED          | DIMENSIONS | 4      |
|                | (SF)              |            |        |
| Boat Exhibit   | 512 sf            | 32′ x 16′  | (I)    |
| (4-8 boats)    |                   |            | 512 sf |
| Maintenance    | 480 sf + 480 sf   | 20' x 24'  | (M)    |
| Facility and   |                   |            | 2 sty  |
| Artifact       |                   |            | 960 sf |
| Storage        |                   |            |        |
| Vault Toilet   | 64 sf             | 8' x 8'    | (B)    |
| Building       |                   |            | 25 sf  |
| Administration | 205 sf + 100 sf + | varies     | (J)    |
| Building       | 100  sf = 405  sf |            | 416 sf |
| (Museum        |                   |            |        |
| office, Break  |                   |            |        |
| Room and gift  |                   |            |        |
| shop storage)  |                   |            |        |
| Nature Center  | 864 sf            | Varies     | (L)    |
|                |                   |            | 1 sty  |
|                |                   |            | 864 sf |
| Cabin Exhibit  | 330 sf            | 15′ x 22′  | (K)    |
|                |                   |            | 330 sf |

| Next Page: | Figure RT: | Master Plan A | Alternative 4: | Recommend | ded Treatmen | t |
|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|---|
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|            |            |               |                |           |              |   |



# Chik-Wauk

Museum Nature Center

Cultural Landscape Report

# Master Plan Alternative 4 Recommended Treatment

#### **Legend- Existing Features**

- (A) Historic Lodge / Museum
- B Vault Toilet (relocated)
- vadit follet (felocated)
- C Historic Generator Building
  D USFS Storage Building (relocated)
- E) Portable Storage Container (relocated)
- (F) Chik-Wauk Sign
- G Entrance Gate
- (R) Boardwalk

# Legend- Proposed Features

- (H) Proposed dock at historic dock location
- Proposed boat exhibit building at historic boathouse location
- Proposed office, break room and gift shop storage
- K Proposed interpretive exhibit at historic cabin location
- L Proposed one-story building at historic office site with Nature Center/Meeting Room
- M Proposed workshop, tool shed, and large artifact cold storage
- (N) Handicap parking
- (i) Barrier free vault toilet
- P USFS dock
- Add second vault toilet

#### Map Notes and Sources

Refer to existing conditions plans for sources.

Drawn/Revised April 2014 BW





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#### APPENDIX A: TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

#### ALTERNATIVE 1: CABIN RESORT STYLE

This alternative focuses development of museum support facilities in the area immediately surrounding the existing parking lot and museum building. Small buildings that are similar to the scale and proportions of those present historically are added to accommodate current program needs and enhance visitor's understanding of the character of the historic landscape. If possible, historic buildings from local properties that are endangered will be re-used at locations that match the historic use types (for instance, an unused cabin from a nearby resort could be used for the cabin exhibit / nature center / meeting room).

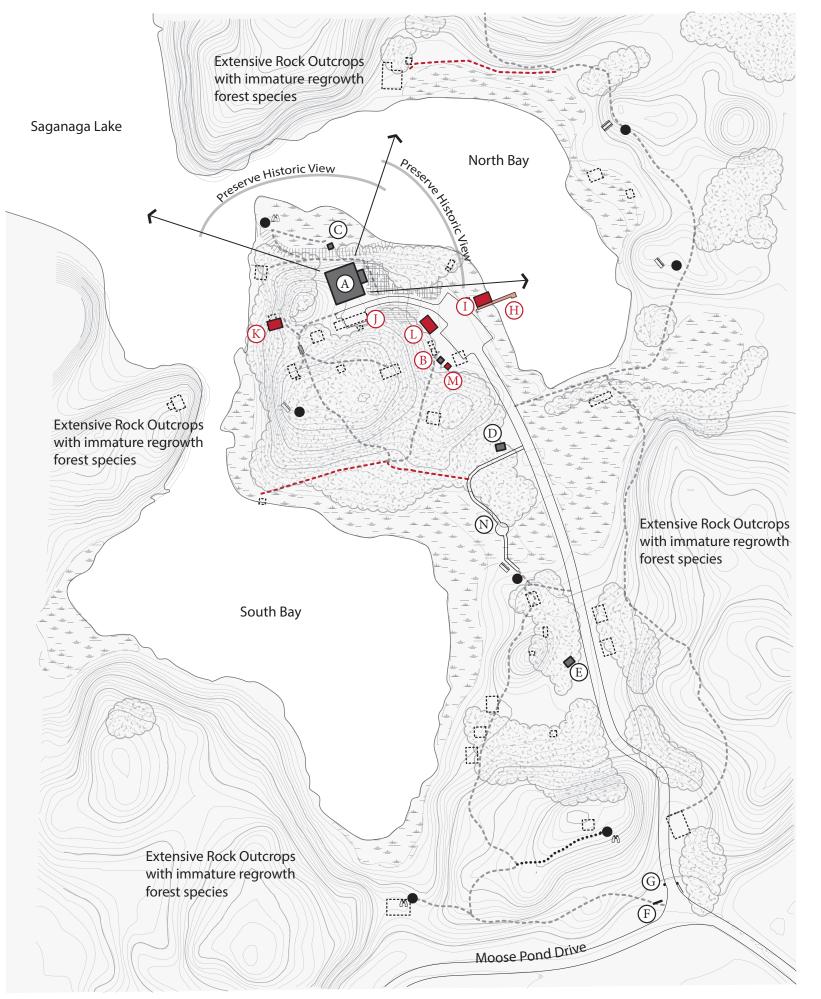
#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS:**

- Preservation of extant historic resources.
- Preservation of historic views from the lodge/museum.
- New dock at historic dock location
- New boat exhibit building at historic boathouse location. (437 sf to display up to 4 historic boats at two levels)
- New cabin exhibit / nature center / meeting room at historic cabin location (330 sf)
- New office, storage and archives at historic office site (17x24'/1.5 story building = 612 sf)
- Relocated vault toilet and additional toilet
- Small parking area at lodge/museum with handicap access
- Continued parking at office area
- Additional trails to historic cabin sites

#### **ADVANTAGES:**

- Style fits well with historic site.
- New facilities do not overwhelm or compete with the historic Lodge/Museum and do not impact views from the building.
- Arrival to the museum has similar character to historic arrival, with office and boat storage clustered around parking.
- Activities are spread out on the property, lowering density and impacts and reflecting historic conditions.
- Potential to conserve endangered buildings from other sites.

- The small building sizes do not allow for an indoor assembly area for 50 people.
- Maintenance of several small buildings is less efficient than maintenance of one large building.
- Operation of several small building is less efficient than operation of one large building.



#### ALTERNATIVE 1: CABIN RESORT STYLE

New development of museum support facilities is focused on the area immediately surrounding the existing parking lot and one historic cabin site. Small buildings that are similar to the scale and proportions of those present historically are added to accommodate future program needs and enhance visitor's understanding of the character of the historic property. If possible, historic buildings from local properties that are endangered will be re-used at locations that match the historic use types (for instance, an unused cabin from a nearby resort could be used for the cabin exhibit / nature center / meeting room).

Extant historic resources are preserved and interpreted. The existing trail system is expanded to include sites related to the historic resort operations and the former locations of resort-related activities are interpreted through an expanded walking tour brochure.

#### Key



**Mature Trees** 



**Wetland Species** 



**Trimmed Grass** 



New Wooded Area



**Existing Building Proposed Building** 



Non-extant Building



**Proposed Dock** Road



**Existing Trail** 



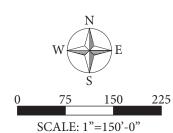
**Proposed Trail** Bluffs



10' Contour Intervals

2' Contour Intervals

● M 🐠 Waysides



# Chik-Wauk

Museum Nature Center

Cultural Landscape Report

## Master Plan Alternative 1

#### **Legend- Existing Features**

- (A) Historic Lodge / Museum
- B Vault Toilet (relocated)
- (C) Historic Generator Building
- (D) USFS Storage
- (E) Portable Storage Container
- (F) Chik-Wauk Sign
- (G) Entrance Gate
- (N) Boardwalk

#### Legend- Proposed Features

- (H) Proposed dock at historic dock location
- Proposed boat exhibit building at historic boathouse location
- (J) Handicap Parking
- (K) Proposed Nature Center/Meeting Room at historic cabin location
- (L) Proposed office, storage, and archives at historic office site
- M Add second vault toilet

#### Map Notes and Sources

Refer to Existing Conditions Plans for sources.

#### Drawn/Revised

Dec 2013



Figure E

#### ALTERNATIVE 2: SOUTH MUSEUM CAMPUS

Museum support facilities are developed in the southern portion of the property, outside the existing National Register boundary. A parking area, multi-purpose building, and boat display shelter are constructed near the historic location of cabins 9-11.

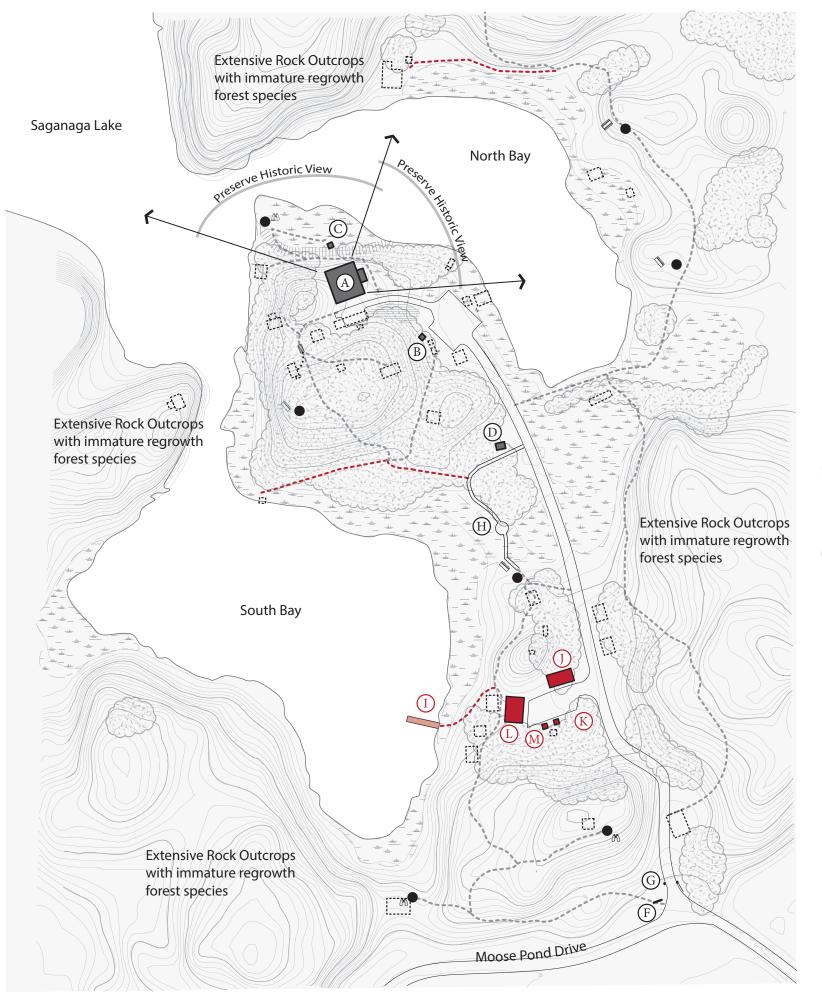
#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS:**

- Preservation of extant historic resources.
- Preservation of historic views from the lodge/museum.
- New dock at historic dock location on south portion of property.
- New boat exhibit building at historic boathouse location. (800 sf to display up to 8 historic boats at two levels)
- New two-story multi-purpose building including nature center/meeting room, office, break room, storage and archives (28'x40' = 1,120 sf x 2 stories = 2,240 sf)
- Two new vault toilets (50 sf)
- New parking at south portion of property.
- Continued existing parking.
- Additional trails to historic cabin sites.

#### ADVANTAGES:

- Minimum impacts within current National Register boundary.
- New facilities do not compete with the historic Lodge/Museum and do not impact views from the building.
- The new facilities provide ample space for program elements and can be designed to respond directly to the program needs.
- Operations and maintenance are clustered in two main locations. (better than many, but too far apart?)

- Report recommends expanding National Register boundary to include entire historic property extents. Regardless of whether or not this is done, there is great potential for historic archeological resources throughout the property.
- The cabin resort character and bustling activity center near the north bay is not reflected.
- Distance between the facilities at the south part of the site and the museum could cause logistical problems for the small volunteer staff.



# ALTERNATIVE 2: SOUTH MUSEUM CAMPUS

Museum support facilities are developed in the southern portion of the property outside the existing National Register boundary. A parking area, multi-purpose building, and boat display shelter are constructed near the historic location of cabins 9 through 11.

Extant historic resources are presrved and interpreted. The existing trail system is expanded to include sites related to the historic resort operations and the former locations of resort-related buildings are interpreted through an expanded walking tour brochure.

#### Key



Mature Trees



**Wetland Species** 



Trimmed Grass



**Existing Building** 



Proposed Building



Non-extant Building Proposed Dock



Road

- Existing Trail



Proposed Trail



10' Contour Intervals



● M 🎶 Waysides

# W E S E 0 75 150 225 SCALE: 1"=150'-0"

# Chik-Wauk

Museum Nature Center

Cultural Landscape Report

# Master Plan Alternative 2

#### **Legend- Existing Features**

A Historic Lodge / Museum

B Vault Toilet

C Historic Generator Building

D USFS Storage

E Portable Storage Container

F Chik-Wauk Sign

G Entrance Gate

(H) Boardwalk

#### Legend- Proposed Features

(I) Proposed dock at historic dock location

Proposed boat exhibit building

R Proposed Parking

Proposed building includes Nature
Center/Meeting Room, Office, Break
Room, Storage, Restrooms, and Archives

M Proposed Vault Toilets

#### Map Notes and Sources

Refer to Existing Conditions Plans for sources.

#### Drawn/Revised

Dec 2013



Figure F

#### ALTERNATIVE 3: CONDENSED DEVELOPMENT

Alternative 3 condenses new development at the existing parking area with the addition of two new buildings on the west side of the parking area. The proposed two-story multipurpose building is larger than the office formerly located in this area, to help fulfill the program needs of the museum in a convenient location. The new boat exhibit building is located near the multi-purpose building, on the site of the former ice house/boat house.

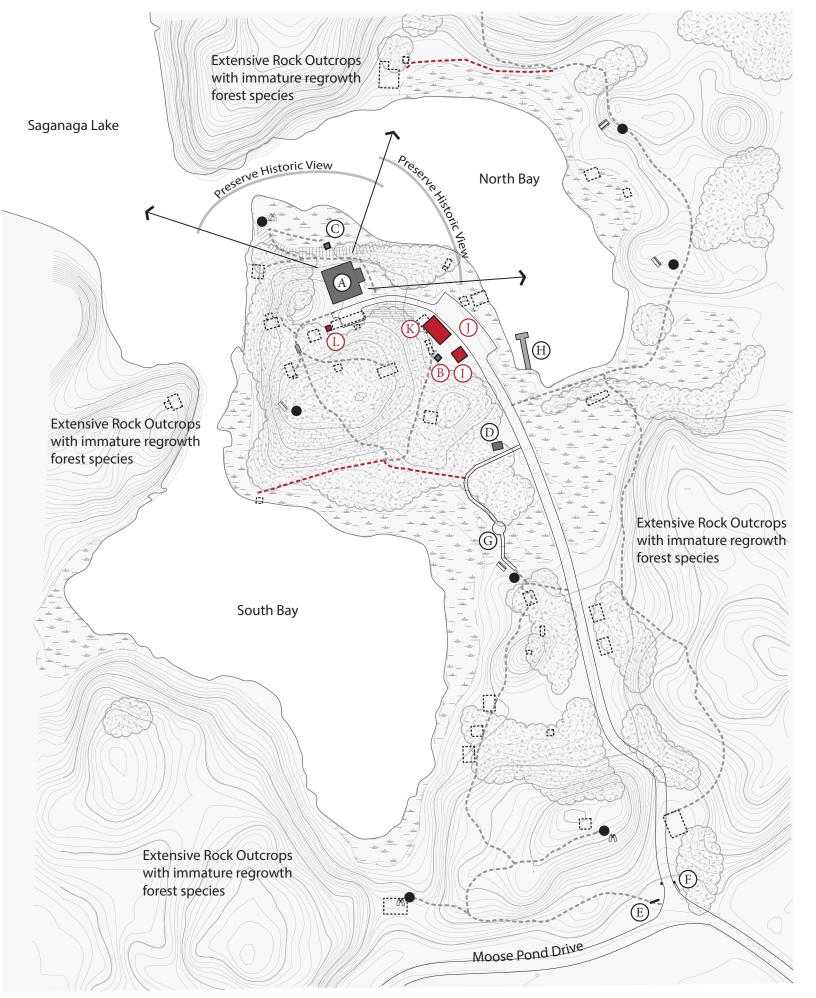
#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS:**

- Preservation of extant historic resources.
- Preservation of historic views from the lodge/museum.
- Existing dock remains.
- New boat exhibit building at historic icehouse location. (18'x19' = 342 sf to display up to 4 historic boats at two levels)
- New two-story multi-purpose building including nature center/meeting room, office, break room, storage and archives (24'x40' = 960 sf x 2 stories = 1,920 sf)
- Relocated vault toilet and additional toilet
- Additional trails to historic cabin sites.

#### **ADVANTAGES:**

- Programming needs are met at a moderately high level.
- Facilities are clustered in one central location on the property for ease of operations and maintenance.
- The two new buildings can be designed to create an arrival experience for visitors.

- Two-story multi-purpose building is larger than the historic office building and may seem out of scale on the site. Design and site location will need to carefully consider potential visual relationships between the new building and the historic lodge/museum.
- Artifact storage and nature center/meeting room do not completely meet stated goals.



#### **ALTERNATIVE 3:** CONDENSED DEVELOPMENT

Museum support facilities are developed in the southern portion of the property outside the existing National Register boundary. A parking area, multi-purpose building, and boat display shelter are constructed near the historic location of cabins 9 through 11.

Extant historic resources are preserved and interpreted. The existing trail system is expanded to include sites related to the historic resort operations and the former locations of resort-related buildings are interpreted through an expanded walking tour brochure.



**Mature Trees** 



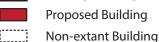
- Wetland Species



**Trimmed Grass** 



**Existing Building** 



**Proposed Building** 



Road

**Existing Trail** 



10' Contour Intervals

2' Contour Intervals

● M //// Waysides



SCALE: 1"=150'-0"

# Chik-Wauk

Museum Nature Center

Cultural Landscape Report

## Master Plan Alternative 3

#### **Legend- Existing Features**

- A Historic Lodge / Museum
- B Vault Toilet (relocated)
- (C) Historic Generator Building
- (D) USFS Storage
- (E) Chik-Wauk Sign
- F Entrance Gate
- (G) Boardwalk
- (H) Existing Dock

#### Legend- Proposed Features

- (I) Proposed boat exhibit building
- (T) Proposed parking
- Rroposed building with Nature Center/Meeting Room, office, break room, gift shop storage and artifact storage
- (I) Proposed Vault Toilet

Map Notes and Sources

Refer to Existing Conditions Plans for sources.

Drawn/Revised

Dec 2013



Figure G

#### ALTERNATIVE 4: COMBINED APPROACH

Alternative 4 is a blend of Alternatives 1 and 2 that strives to achieve the enhancement of the landscape associated with Alternative 1 while addressing operational needs at a higher level. This is achieved by providing the majority of the visitor-related facilities and programs in small scale buildings near the north bay and lodge/museum while providing artifact storage at the southern portion of the property. The storage facility can be specifically designed for its special use, and screened to be out of the view from the road and trail.

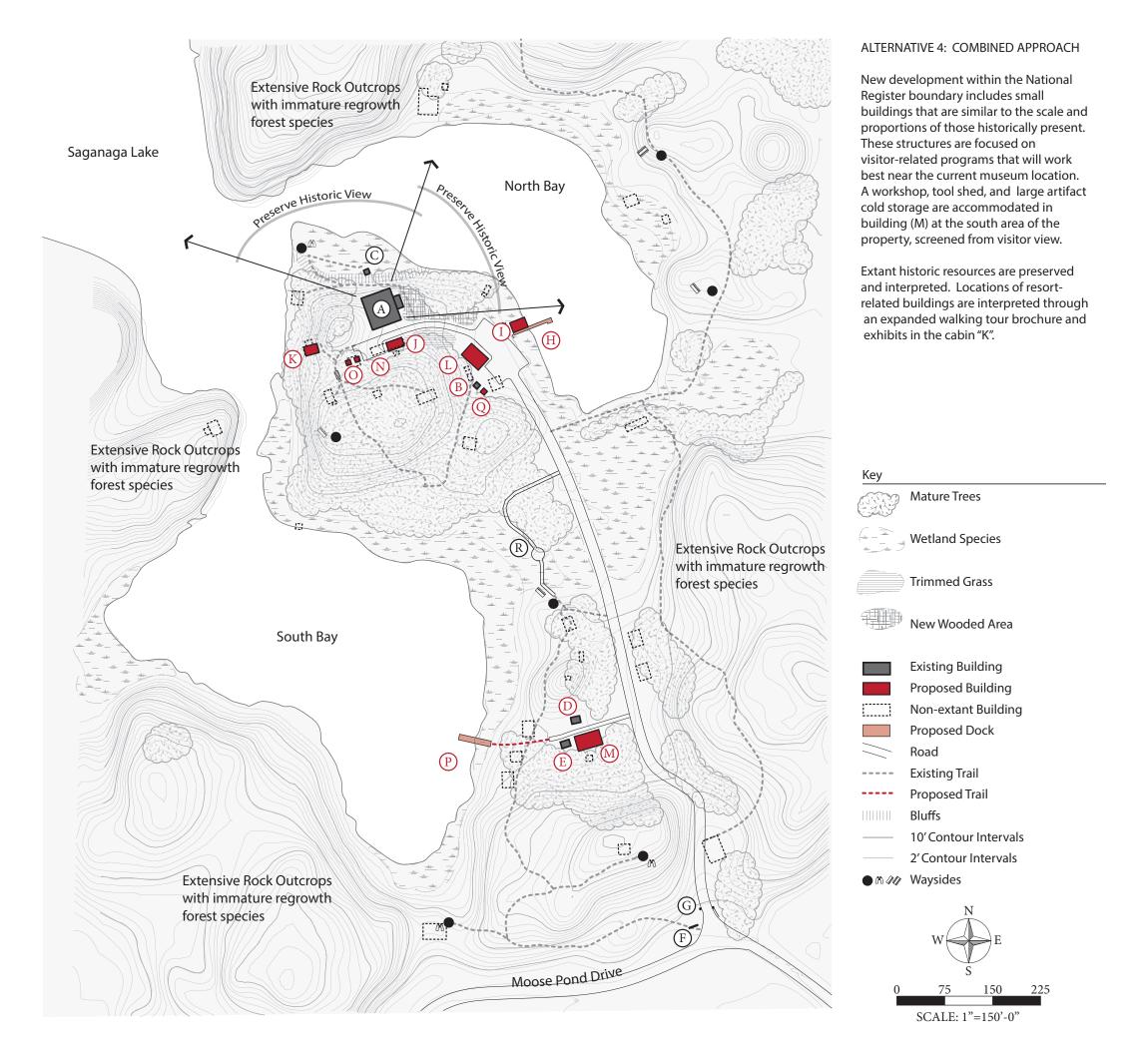
#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS:**

- 1. Preservation of extant historic resources.
- 2. Preservation of historic views from the lodge/museum.
- 3. New dock at historic dock location for museum interpretation.(H)
- 4. New boat exhibit building at historic boathouse site to store six 14 to 19' boats/canoes (512 sf, approximately 32' long by 16' wide, one story, two-layer boat display). (I)
- 5. New cabin exhibit at historic cabin location. (330 sf)(K)
- 6. New office, gift shop storage and break room at historic laundry building site.
  - a. (416 sf) The building would include an office with a wall of fireproof storage cabinets for photographs and other fragile archival materials. (J)
- 7. New nature center/meeting space at historic office site (24' x 36' = 864 sf) (L)
- 8. Add building (24' x 40') with space for workshop (240 sf), tool shed (240 sf) and large artifact cold storage (480 sf) at the south portion of the property out of visitor's view. (M)
- 9. Relocated vault toilet and additional toilet (total 2 vault toilets) (B)
- 10. Small parking area at lodge/museum with handicap access (van accessible, barrier-free parking space) and one or two regular parking spaces. (N)
- 11. New barrier-free vault toilet west of the accessible parking space. (O)
- 12. Dock for USFS use located at south portion of property away from most visitor use. (P)
- 13. Relocate the USFS storage building (D) to the south portion of the property.
- 14. Interpret the role of the generator building in the historic use of the property. (C)
- 15. Relocate storage pod to the south portion of the property near the new workshop/shed/storage building. (E)

#### **ADVANTAGES:**

- Style fits well with historic site.
- New facilities do not overwhelm or compete with the historic Lodge/Museum and do not impact views from the building.
- Arrival to the museum has similar character to historic arrival, with office and boat storage clustered around parking.
- Activities spread out on the property, lowering density and impacts and reflecting historic conditions.
- Potential to conserve endangered buildings from other sites.
- Program needs are met at a high level.

- Maintenance of several small buildings is less efficient than maintenance of one large building.
- Operation of several small building is less efficient than operation of one large building.



# Chik-Wauk

Museum Nature Center

Cultural Landscape Report

# Master Plan Alternative 4 Recommended Treatment

#### **Legend- Existing Features**

- (A) Historic Lodge / Museum
- B Vault Toilet (relocated)
- C Historic Generator Building
- USFS Storage Building (relocated)
- E) Portable Storage Container (relocated)
- F Chik-Wauk Sign
- (G) Entrance Gate
- (R) Boardwalk

#### Legend- Proposed Features

- (H) Proposed dock at historic dock location
- Proposed boat exhibit building at historic boathouse location
- Proposed office, break room and gift shop storage
- K Proposed interpretive exhibit at historic cabin location
- L Proposed one-story building at historic office site with Nature Center/Meeting Room
- M Proposed workshop, tool shed, and large artifact cold storage
- (N) Handicap parking
- (i) Barrier free vault toilet
- P USFS dock
- Add second vault toilet

#### Map Notes and Sources

Refer to existing conditions plans for sources.

#### Drawn/Revised

Dec 2013



Figure H

### BUILDING SPACE STATISTICS

| PROGRAM       | ESTIMATED | POSSIBLE   |                     |                     |                     |        |
|---------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| ROLE          | SPACE     | BUILDING   | ALT                 | ALT                 | ALT                 | ALT    |
|               | REQUIRED  | DIMENSIONS | 1                   | 2                   | 3                   | 4      |
| Doot Eybibit  | (SF)      | 201 v 1/1  | /1)                 | (1)                 | (1)                 | (1)    |
| Boat Exhibit  | 512 sf    | 32′ x 16′  | (I)                 | (J)                 | (1)                 | (l)    |
| (4-8 boats)   |           |            | 437 sf              | 800 sf              | 342 sf              | 512 sf |
| Vault Toilet  | 64 sf     | 8' x 8'    | (B)                 | (M)                 | (L)                 | (B)    |
| Building      |           |            | 25 sf               | 2 seat              | 25 sf               | 64 sf  |
|               |           |            |                     | 50 sf               |                     |        |
| Maintenance   | 480 sf    | varies     | N/A                 | N/A                 | N/A                 | (M)    |
| Facility      |           |            |                     |                     |                     | 480 sf |
| Museum Office | 205 sf    | varies     | (L)                 | (L)                 | (K)                 | (J)    |
|               |           |            | 1st flr             | 1st flr             | 1st flr             | 205 sf |
|               |           |            | 208 sf              | 240 sf              | 205 sf              |        |
| Artifact      | 480 sf    | Varies     | (L)                 | (L)                 | (K)                 | (M)    |
| Storage       |           |            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> flr | 2 <sup>nd</sup> flr | 2 <sup>nd</sup> flr | 2 sty  |
|               |           |            | 204 sf              | 1,120 sf            | 960 sf              | 480 sf |
| Gift Shop     | 100 sf    | Varies     | (L)                 | (L)                 | (K)                 | (J)    |
| Storage       |           |            | 1st flr             | 1st flr             | 1st flr             | 100 sf |
|               |           |            | 100 sf              | 100 sf              | 100 sf              |        |
| Nature Center | 864 sf    | Varies     | (K)                 | (L)                 | (K)                 | (L)    |
|               |           |            | 330 sf              | 1st flr             | 1st flr             | 864 sf |
|               |           |            |                     | 680 sf              | 555 sf              |        |
| Break Room    | 100 sf    | Varies     | (L)                 | (L)                 | (K)                 | (J)    |
|               |           |            | 1st flr             | 1st flr             | 1st flr             | 100 sf |
|               |           |            | 100 sf              | 100 sf              | 100 sf              |        |
| Cabin Exhibit |           | Varies     | (K)                 | N/A                 | N/A                 | (K)    |
|               |           |            | shared              |                     |                     | 330 sf |
|               |           |            | 330 sf              |                     |                     |        |