

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall Date of Action: 2-16-09

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal
- private

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1 (pond)		sites
14 (piers, etc.)		structures
	7 (sculptures)	Objects
17	8	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/Hotel
- Domestic/Secondary Structure
-
-
-
-

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/Hotel
- Domestic/Single Dwelling
- Recreation and Culture/Work of Art
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Wood/Weatherboard

Stucco

roof: Asphalt

other: Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Lakeside Inn is a two-and-one-half-story wood frame hotel building whose broad front overlooks Lake Michigan in southwestern Lower Michigan a few miles north of the Indiana line. The simply detailed clapboarded building has a side-gable form but also presents a pair of broad gables toward the lake. An open shed-roof verandah, with gable in the center at the front entrance, extends across the entire front and there is an enclosed porch at one end. The main and porch roofs and broad shed dormers on the roof display exposed rafter ends. Like the exterior, the interior also possesses a simple Arts-and-Crafts finish that includes two large cobblestone fireplaces. The inn's grounds also contain a long garage/studio building, a small man-made pond with outdoor sculpture display around it, and an early twentieth-century wood-frame house moved to the site from nearby in 2002.

Narrative Description

The hotel stands on the inland side of Lakeshore Road and faces west-northwest toward the road and, several hundred feet beyond, Lake Michigan. It occupies an irregularly shaped two-acre site bounded on the west-northwest by Lakeshore Road, a narrow two-lane paved road that, once the main shore road before Red Arrow Highway was built nearby to the southeast, takes a tree-shaded route past a mix of older and modern cottages and year-round homes in this decidedly upscale southwest Michigan lakeshore resort area. The inn's property is bounded on the south-southwest by Park Drive, a narrow side road. A small patch of woods fills the west corner of the property at the road intersection, and large deciduous and pine trees dot the rest of the site. In addition to the inn with its graveled and paved parking lots to the southeast and southwest, the grounds also contain a long garage/stable building, a 1904 house moved to the site in 2002, and a small man-made pond. Small modern sculptures dot the grounds near the pond.

The inn is located at the lower end of Lakeside, a small old resort settlement whose scattered surviving historic buildings stand interspersed with more modern homes, and about a mile above Union Pier, another small old resort community. The location was once known as the Clay Banks because of the eroded clay bluffs that faced Lake Michigan along this high part of the shoreline. The inn stands atop an embankment above the road. From the front of the hotel the lake can be seen through the trees, and the waves lapping or crashing on the shore clearly heard. The inn stands perhaps fifty feet back from the top of the embankment overlooking the road. The land slopes more gently from the inn's front down to the embankment, but also slopes downward toward the north and south ends of the front. The building is fronted by lawn.

A low concrete retaining wall fronts the lower part of the embankment across the entire length of the hotel and a little beyond at each end, the tallest part of the retaining wall standing directly in front of the center of the building. There a broad concrete staircase rises between concrete retaining walls on either side fifteen steps to a concrete sidewalk on the more level ground atop the embankment that leads straight to the inn's central front entry.

Square-plan cobblestone piers with broadly projecting flat slab concrete caps, each topped with a small lantern added by the present owner, form a prominent feature of the inn's street frontage. Two of these piers frame the lower end of the staircase, two more the upper end, two more the end of the walk near the inn at the intersection with another concrete sidewalk that fronts the inn's porch from end to end, one on the outer side of the walk near either end of the inn, one at either end of the streetside retaining wall, and pairs flanking the Lakeshore Road accesses to narrow drives at either end of the inn leading to the parking lots. The cobblestone piers and concrete retaining wall are evident in a 1930 photo.

Lakeside Inn is a two-and-a-half-story wooden structure with its long axis ranged parallel with Lakeshore Road. Its tall side-gable roof is intersected in front by two side-by-side front-facing gables that rise to the main roof ridge nearly in the center of the front. Shed dormers project from the front roof slope near the north-northeast end and in the valley between the two front-facing gables. The broadly overhanging eaves of the main and shed dormer roofs display exposed rafter tails. The clapboarded building is fronted by a shed-roof one-story verandah, supported by square paneled wood posts, that extends from end to end. A small gable nearly in the center of the porch below the valley between the gables marks the location of the main entry on the lake side. The front displays a not quite symmetrical fenestration that is comprised primarily of square-head double-hung windows containing four-vertical-light upper sash over single-light lowers. Across the south-southwest end of the main building the windows are paired. A shallow square-plan shed-roof bay window, with tripartite front-facing window, projects from the center of each front-facing gable.

An early photograph of the inn, published in the *Centennial History of Lakeside* (p. 43), makes it clear that the main part of the building fronting on Lakeshore Road was not all built at one time, and this is supported by the old cornerboards that remain in place at two points on the front between today's corners. One cornerboard marks the north-northeast end of the more southerly front-facing gable, the other the north-northeast end of the northerly gable. The photo and cornerboards make it clear that the section between these two intermediary cornerboards – the more northerly gable-front section and short side-gable section to its right (south-southwest) down to the beginning of the southerly front gable section – constitutes the original part of the inn.

An enclosed hip-roof verandah extends around the inn's south-southwest end and the lower end of the east-southeast or rear side, its front on the lake side aligning with the open verandah's front. Because the ground slopes downward at this end of the building, the enclosed porch stands on a nearly story high basement, faced in rough stucco and pierced by low square-head windows with brick sills. The porch is illuminated with paired double-hung windows with shorter three-vertical-light upper sash and longer two-vertical-light lowers.

The inn's back is less regular in form than the front. A two-and-a-half-story rear wing, with jerkinhead rear gable, projects a few feet from the inn's main rectangular mass in line with the more northerly front gable on the lake side. In front of it rises a picturesque assemblage of one, two, and three-story extensions – all finished in stucco. These include the projecting gabled main entrance from the rear parking lot – labeled the “motor entrance” in an old brochure – plus shed and low gable-roof open and enclosed porches and other spaces. The main roof displays more broad shed-roof dormers.

The inn's main floor focuses on the lobby. Access to it is provided by a front entrance directly into it from the front verandah nearly in the center of the front and by a broad corridor leading to it from the rear “motor entrance” near the main parking area. The lobby is rectangular in form and extends across the center of the inn's front side. It has plastered walls and a modern wood floor that, replacing linoleum that covered the original, deteriorated wood floor, was installed by the present owner. Square-plan cased wood posts support cased wood beams that span the room from front to back. Smaller widely separated “rafters” subdivide the space between the main beams. The panels of plastered ceiling between now display painted Arts-and-Crafts-inspired decorative borders that include plant forms.

A cobblestone fireplace, with firebrick hearth, projects outward from the lobby's south-southwest wall near the room's west corner. The cobblestones had been painted gray before the current owner's restoration. With its small, square-head firebox, the fireplace flares out toward the top and is crowned by a broadly projecting concrete slab shelf whose front now displays the painted inscription, borrowed from one in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building at 410 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago,

ALL PASSES – ART ALONE ENDURES.

The inn's front desk stands about midway along the lobby's east-southeast wall, with the corridor leading to the rear entrance and the main second-story staircase between it and the room's south corner. The desk's front is formed of panels outlined by raised vertical and horizontal boards. The office entrance is to its left, and the several-room office area located behind the desk and lobby's east-southeast wall to its left. Restrooms adjoin the lobby on the north-northeast wall near the inn's front, the men's opening off the lobby near the front wall, the women's off a corridor entered from midway along the lobby's north-northeast wall.

Two guest rooms occupy the narrow-fronted part of the building north-northeast of the lobby, reached via the above corridor or hallway from the lobby. This hallway cuts through the center of this end of the building to a central entrance at the inn's north-northeast end. Room no. 2 on the hallway's rear side, much larger than typical, is finished with fine Arts-and-Crafts woodwork – including near ceiling height paneling and T-panel doors, the one used for the entry from the hallway finished with a T-shaped art glass panel – salvaged by the inn's previous owner from a house in Dowagiac about to be demolished for a Lee Memorial Hospital expansion project. The house in question was most likely the Bishop House at the corner of Main and High, built in 1908 by Fred E. and Mary (Gray) Lee as a wedding present for their daughter and her husband, Mary (Lee) and Dickinson Bishop. Prior to the house's demolition in 1976 it was in use as a convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph attending the hospital (Cook).

Back in the lobby, a broad corridor next to the desk leads to the main, "motor entrance" from the rear parking lot. From the lobby the corridor leads through a door to a concrete staircase down to a tile-floored lower landing and passageway to the outer door. The lower corridor and staircase walls and ceiling are finished in rough plaster. A small window containing frosted glass and a shallow planter niche along the north wall are outlined in a quoin treatment along the sides and a flat-arch treatment lined out in voussoirs and keystones across their tops. Two similarly outlined low windows along the south side open into a kitchen area.

The main staircase to the second story rises off the lobby's south corner adjacent to the motor entrance corridor. It is a broad wooden, double-run structure, with beefy square-plan newels and simple square-plan balusters.

A broad square-head doorway in the lobby's south-southwest wall near the staircase leads to a larger room that served as a dining room and ballroom in the past but has not been used for that purpose for many years. Serving as a lounge/recreation room, it occupies the entire south-southwest end of the inn's main structure. A sloping wooden ramp transitions the step down to the lounge's level.

The lounge is also rectangular, with windows along three sides. It retains its original wood floor. Here a row of rounded-corner square metal columns down the center of the space has replaced the original timber posts to provide adequate support, but these are tinted the same color as the woodwork so that they "read" as wood. Steel beams encased in wood span between the posts, and additional smaller beams subdivide the plaster ceiling into large panels. On the room's east-northeast wall, back to back with the lobby fireplace, stands another, larger cobblestone fireplace, with broad base containing the firebox and a narrower and shallower breast stepping and slanting inward up to the ceiling. The hearth is made of stone slabs. This fireplace is also topped by another broad concrete slab shelf, also displaying a painted inscription – this one the current owner's very slightly abridged version of a phrase from a poem that reportedly inspired sculptor Lorado Taft in designing the Fountain of Time (completed 1923) in Chicago (see Riedy, p. 48):

TIME GOES, YOU SAY? AH NO. TIME STAYS; WE GO!

Opposite the fireplace against the east-northeast wall beyond the entry from the lobby stands a massive oak buffet with glass doors and column at either end supporting an entablature. Nearby stands a large piano. Like the lobby, this room is furnished with old furniture appropriate in character to a comfortable early twentieth-century summer hotel in the country.

Doors along the room's east-southeast side near the buffet open into a kitchen and another rear parking lot access located at the back of the inn. Stairs descend a half flight to a small lobby inside a gabled rear entry. From this rear lobby, a short staircase descends to a long, narrow exercise room, with rough-finished plastered walls, in the mostly above-ground basement along the south-southwest side of the building. This room historically served as a bar. A July 14, 1933, *Lakeside Life* article notes this as new – "Downstairs there is another new room with long bar, over which the 3.2 beer and wine is being served" – this despite stories that the room served as a speakeasy during Prohibition. Beyond the bar is another room that served as a storeroom prior to the present owner's renovation into a sauna.

An enclosed dining porch, used for breakfast service, adjoins the lounge along half of its east-southeast side and across its entire south-southwest end. Several sets of doors from the lounge provide access. The wood floor is now painted and finished with a red and green stenciled pattern featuring stylized plant forms. The porch's ceiling and walls on both sides are finished in rough plaster panels held by wood battens. A modern refreshment bar with narrow vertical tongue-and-groove board front extends across the porch's south corner. An August 1, 1930, issue of *Lakeside Life* describes "a large open veranda for dancing directly connected with the dining room" as one of that year's improvements, and the July 14, 1933, issue makes note of "a new dancing and refreshment room adjoining the dining room" – suggesting that what is now the dining porch may have been built in 1930 as an open porch and then enclosed in 1933.

Back to the main lobby, the main staircase from the corner of the lobby rises to an upper landing and a hallway that passes through the center of the second story from end to end of the building. There is a steel fire escape at the north-northeast end. A short corridor beside the stair's upper run on the south-southeast leads to a second staircase leading down to the lounge's east corner. Another short corridor alongside the main staircase's lower run (on the east-northeast) leads to the guest rooms in the short rear extension.

The second-floor main hallway's plastered walls and ceilings are finished with stenciled plant forms. The wood-floored hall is lined on both sides with rooms, most with simple painted molded trim around the dark stained wood, two-panel (upper and lower) doors. The rooms have kept much of their plain finishes intact. Old wall-hung sinks that existed in some rooms have been kept, while the current owner has updated all guest rooms with their own bathrooms.

The staircase to the third or attic floor rises directly above the main-to-second-floor one. It is finished with square-plan newels and balusters similar to the lower staircase. The mid-level landing and upper stairhall is illuminated by low shed dormer windows. The staircase leads to another hallway extending through the building from end to end, providing access to guest rooms on either side. Prior to a renovation by the current owner, the northeast end of the building at the attic level once formed a single room, but the central hallway has now been extended through the space to lead to a fire door and upper end of the fire escape at the north-northeast end. A room has been partitioned off on either side of the hall, the front one given a lake prospect through the addition of a new shed dormer matching the others. The hallway has a wood floor and plastered walls and ceiling. Wooden trim includes simple painted board baseboards and door trim with more of the two-panel doors.

Pond and Sculptures

Narrow gravel drives at either end of the inn provide access from Lakeshore Road to two parking areas, a gravel lot directly behind the inn and a paved overflow lot beyond the drive south-southwest of the building. Behind the inn and rear parking lot the level grounds contain a small man-made pond, perhaps 100 feet in length and less than that across, thought to have been created by Arthur J. Aylsworth in the 1920s as part of a gardens development that is otherwise no longer in place. The landscaping is informal, with a few scattered large and small trees nearby around the pond and more woods farther away on the adjoining property to the east and southeast. The grounds around the pond's east end display a variety of contemporary sculptural features created by artists who lived and practiced at the inn summers during the years 1968-94 when it served as an art center. Current owner Devereux Bowly states that there were several more of these sculptural pieces – several have been destroyed and one other removed by the previous owner, who accepted these works of art in lieu of rent when the artists were short of cash. Seemingly sited informally close to and also well back from the shore, these often whimsical sculptural features number six or seven in all, the largest being a steel ring from which suspended large rounded stones, forming another ring, are held in place by metal hangers and fasteners.

Garage

Southeast of the inn, set back from Park Drive, stands a one-time garage or garage/stable building. Long and narrow, the building is a jerkinhead-roof structure with large shed dormers on each roof face and a short, slightly lower section – also with jerkinhead roof – perhaps originally an office, at the end nearer the inn. Finished in novelty siding, the building now displays widely spaced small double-hung windows on both sides replacing the garage doors on one long side and groups of triple windows on the other. The building was lengthened to the east probably in the 1960s. An old photograph makes it clear that the garage was originally shorter than at present; its east end, nearly half the structure, is an addition. The original garage displays three shed dormers on each face plus metal ventilators, while the addition is finished with one long shed dormer on each roof face.

House (moved to site 2002)

The property now also contains a clapboarded side-gable two-story house. It stands facing Lakeshore Road just northeast of the entrance drive at the inn's north-northeast end. The house has two broad, side-by-side gables each facing front and back and a shed-roof front porch with turned-post columns. Reportedly built in 1904, this house stood several hundred yards to the northeast along Lakeshore Road. The inn's current owner purchased and moved the house to this location in 2002 to prevent its demolition. A much larger house has been built on the old site. While the house has no historic associations with the inn, it is one of the houses from the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century resort settlement of Lakeside.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
Entertainment/Recreation _____

Period of Significance

1916-53 _____

Significant Dates

N/A _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

N/A _____

Period of Significance (justification)

Begins with presumed date of construction of original part of inn; ends with end of the Aylsworth period of ownership.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Built for John and Nancy Aylsworth probably during the 1910s, with some later additions into the early 1930s, Lakeside Inn meets national register criterion A in reflecting the growth of tourism and vacationing in the Lakeside area and along southwest Michigan's Lake Michigan shore in the early twentieth century. The building also meets criterion C as a highly intact example of the region's early twentieth-century summer hotels, so few of which have survived.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Tourism and recreation along West Michigan's Lake Michigan shore began very early in the state's history. One early episode was the establishment of the Bay View Methodist camp meeting grounds near Petoskey in 1873. By the 1880s and 90s a number of resort associations, often established by people affiliated with one religious denomination or primarily from one town or area, were founding hotels and cottage resorts such as Ottawa Beach and Macatawa Park near Holland, Highland Park at Grand Haven, and the Chicago Summer Resort (Chicago Club) and Charlevoix Summer Resort (Belvedere Club) at Charlevoix. The same years saw the proliferation of large hotels and small summer "resorts," often farmhouses converted into small hotels or boardinghouses with the addition of a few spartan cottages, along with individually owned summer cottages. People from Midwestern cities such as Chicago and Indianapolis, as well as from Michigan's cities, were attracted to Michigan's Lake Michigan shoreline because of its fine scenery and beaches and peace and quiet. The growing railroad network plus passenger steamer service from Chicago and other ports directly to Michigan's lakeshore communities such as St. Joseph, Saugatuck, and Holland made getting there a simple matter. In the early twentieth century the automobile also began to play an important role as a means of getting to the shore resorts. One important auto route was the West Michigan Pike. First projected in 1911 by local boosters in the communities along the route as part of a great lakeshore highway from Chicago to Mackinac City, Michigan, the West Michigan Pike, along with the Indiana connection known as the Dunes Highway, was completed in 1922. The pike, part of US-12 beginning in the 1920s, ran past the Lakeside Inn site.

The 1880 Berrien and Van Buren County history states that the "Clay Banks" that overlook Lake Michigan at Lakeside, with a peak elevation of ninety-eight feet, form the highest part of the shoreline between St. Joseph and New Buffalo. What is now Lakeshore Road past this spot is likely part of the original road laid out between St. Joseph and New Buffalo in the 1830s or 40s. The 1880 history reports three separate authorizations by the Michigan Territory legislative council and then the state legislature between 1833 and 1840 for laying out a road between what seems to be the same endpoints, St. Joseph at one end and New Buffalo or the Indiana line at the other, presumably signifying that little progress was made before 1840 (pp. 48-50). The 1860 Geil, Harley and Siverd county map shows the road in about its current location (this part of the road became part of the West Michigan Pike but was then bypassed as the main highway by the construction of Red Arrow Highway in 1929).

What would in 1856 become Berrien County's Chickaming Township received its first settlers in the early 1840s. Settlement and development in the heavily wooded township were slow until the Michigan Central Railroad line connecting Detroit and Chicago was completed to New Buffalo in 1849 and through to Chicago in 1852. Much of the early development, including the construction of several piers along the shore, related to sawmilling activities.

Vermont natives Alfred W. Ames and his wife Mary (Fisher) Ames became the first settlers at what later became Lakeside, purchasing property that included the present inn site in 1844 and settling there in 1845. But the real development of the settlement began in 1854 with a first purchase of property there by Joseph N. Wilkinson for J. N. Wilkinson & Co. The Wilkinson brothers, John W., Dr. James, and Joseph N., were Virginia natives who became interested in the area after John W. Wilkinson settled in New Buffalo in 1847. John W. Wilkinson soon built a sawmill, boarding house, warehouse, and 600-foot long pier and began lumbering activities. The new settlement that resulted, known as Wilkinson, acquired a post office in 1858 (Ellis, pp. 233-36).

In 1870 a second railroad, initially the Chicago & Michigan Lake Shore but reorganized in the late 1870s as the Chicago & West Michigan, was completed between New Buffalo and St. Joseph (it was extended as far north as Pentwater and built several branches, including one to Grand Rapids, by 1872). A station was established at Wilkinson.

The Wilkinson post office had been discontinued before the railroad was built, but in 1874 it was re-established with the name Lake Side (revised to Lakeside in 1894). It is said that the Wilkinson name was not used again because the Wilkinsons had been southern sympathizers during the Civil War (Romig, p. 315).

The property of early settlers Alfred W. and Mary (Fisher) Ames included the site of the inn. In the late nineteenth century Ames Grove, located along the lakeshore across the road from the future site of the inn and by then owned by the Ames' son Fisher Ames, was a popular picnic and recreation spot complete with an ice cream stand. It was used not just by the locals but for picnics and other

gatherings by larger groups, including the Lakeside Anti-Horse Thief Association and Sunday school groups (*Centennial History of Lakeside*, p. 27).

In the early 1890s Lakeside, with its attractive scenery and good railroad connections, began to attract summer vacationers. Local families began taking in boarders, some of whom eventually built their own cottages. Soon some local residents were building "resorts" with a few cottages and/or a small hotel. Some time shortly before his death in 1897, Fisher Ames reportedly established the Pleasant Grove Resort on the approximate site of Lakeside Inn (*ibid.*, pp. 35-43). During the early twentieth century the building of summer cottages accelerated. Summer people from Chicago built many of the early cottages, and Lakeside retains a very strong Chicago connection today.

Lakeside Inn

The early history of Lakeside Inn is poorly documented. The standard research tools of tax records, Sanborn fire insurance maps, and directories are not available (the state gazetteer and business directories, often so useful, take little notice of summer resort hotels before the late 1920s).

The *Centennial History of Lakeside* states that, "As boys on a camping trip, Arthur and Roscoe Aylesworth discovered the Lakeside property which they pressured their parents into buying" (p. 43). In July 1901 the parents, John J. Aylsworth and wife Nancy E., purchased several tracts of land at Lakeside, including the property on which the inn was subsequently built (abstract, no. 153). John J. and Nancy E. Aylsworth were the inn's first owners. The *Centennial History* claims that, "By 1913, the Lakeside Inn looked much as it does today" (p. 43). It is not clear on what basis this statement is made. By April 1922, however, the property included "all the fixtures, furnishings, tools, equipment and machinery contained in, belonging to and used in the operation of the hotel building and cottages now on said premises..." (abstract, no. 167). Mortgages referenced in the above deed that were made in September 1916 and January 1919 for \$3500 and \$5500, respectively, may very well relate to construction of the inn and additions. A 1930 article in *Lakeside Life*, the Lakeside newspaper, noted that the inn "has been operated for the past fifteen years ...," or since about 1916 (Aug. 1, 1930).

In addition to the inn itself, there were "a half dozen or so cottages near" it. One of the cottages has been described as having "a bare stud and rafter interior. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting and all water had to be brought in buckets from the hand pump at the hotel" (*Centennial History of Lakeside*, p. 44). The much altered cottages that have survived now stand on property no longer associated with the inn.

An undated early photograph of the inn (*Centennial History*, p. 43) shows a gable-front building with short side-gable wing to its right. A one-story porch, though not the present one, extends across the entire front and across the left side. This photo clearly shows what is now the part of the inn capped by the more northerly gable and the short piece of the front to its right between the two front-facing gables. Cornerboards still mark the outer edges of this original part of the building. When the narrow-fronted side-gable extension at the north-northeast end and the larger front and side-gabled south-southwest end section were added is unclear – perhaps in 1919. The owner reports a belief that the north-northeast end section is the oldest part of the hotel and that it once had a front-gable roof rather than the present side-gable one. The oldest photo of the inn clearly does not show it, but it *could* have been moved from elsewhere, and it is *possible* it was even part of the former Pleasant Grove Resort. In any event, a photo of the inn in the Aug. 1, 1930, *Lakeside Life* article shows the front as it exists today. Portions of the inn's backside finished in stucco may date from the 1920s or early 1930s. The rear façade of the original front-gable section now displays a probably non-original stucco finish and a jerkinhead roof. Other porch and rear extensions, including the "motor entrance" from the rear parking lot, may have been newly built in the 1920s.

John Aylsworth died in December 1917 and in 1919 Nancy Aylsworth transferred the inn and property to Arthur and Grace Aylsworth. In 1922 they deeded it to the Lakeside Property Owners Trust, organized two years earlier over "concerns ... related to the growing number of resorters of an incompatible socio-economic group" (*Centennial History of Lakeside*, p. 72). The trust's function seems to have been to foster appropriate development that would maintain Lakeside's character and discourage types of commercial development that brought in crowds of undesirables. One of its roles was as developer – buying under-developed property and refurbishing older, run-down resorts or replacing them with up-to-date facilities – with a view toward making a profit on these investments (*ibid.*, pp. 72-73).

In May 1923 the trust had a cottage subdivision labeled "Lakeside Park" laid out on a large tract fronting on Lakeshore Road centered on the inn property obtained from the Aylsworths. There were seventy-seven lots, including the large lot no. 52 on which stood the inn, fronting on Lakeshore Road and several narrow lanes running inland from it (abstract). Either this plat was never implemented or lot sales constituted something less than a land rush.

In any event, in May 1930 the original Lakeside Park Subdivision was vacated by order of the circuit court. This action seems to have been the first step in a program to boost both the inn and lot sales. The trust then platted a new subdivision using the same name, but

with its streets arranged somewhat differently from the old. Still apparently under Arthur Aylsworth's management, the inn assumed the name "Lakeside Park Country Club." In explaining the change, *Lakeside Life* stated that, "There will be no change in management or policy of operation, but Mr. Aylsworth feels that a more desirable and exclusive class of patronage may be secured by operating on a 'club membership' system. This change is especially desirable at this time on account of the opening of the new Lakeside Park subdivision, in connection with the inn. All lot purchasers will be given membership in the new club." The article also noted other improvements, including a nine-hole putting green, tennis courts, swimming pool, and "Tom Thumb Golf Course" (Aug. 1, 1930), but much of this may never have been implemented (*Centennial History of Lakeside*, p. 89). Reading between the lines, "a more desirable and exclusive class of patronage" likely means "non-Jewish": this period in general is one in which the general level of prejudice against Jews was high across the nation, and many if not most of the lakeshore resorts are known to have practiced often not very subtle discrimination against Jews. Previously, in December 1929, the trust members recorded mutual covenants that, in effect until January 1, 1940, included ones specifically prohibiting use or occupation by or sale, giving, conveying, or leasing of parcels within the subdivision "to any Jew, or to any person who is not of the Aryan Caucasian race ... except to those actually employed for service in and about the premises..." (abstract, no. 201).

The 1920s were reported to be prosperous years for the inn under Arthur Aylsworth's management. The *Centennial History* (p. 91) provides the following portrait of life at the inn, presumably during the later 1920s:

In its heyday the Inn was a sought-after place to stay. Reservations were made a year in advance, even though such prices as \$7.50 per night and \$2.50 for Sunday dinner were considered expensive. The guests dressed for dinner and enjoyed the fine food served with finesse by the black waiters, whose summers were a sort of busman's holiday from the Palmer House. The Inn was noted too for its beautiful gardens and for a zoo which included deer, goats, a wild cat, geese, peacocks, and talking crows. Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago presented the Aylsworths with a Japanese ape, but he was too much to handle and was traded to the House of David zoo. Regular guests at the Inn were Judge John Sharbro, Mayor Cermak, John Toman who became sheriff of Cook County, and Dr. Frank A. King of St. Joseph.

One of the improvements of 1930 when the inn became the "country club" was the addition of the verandah off the side and back of the dining room: "Another pleasing feature and improvement has been added this season by the building of a large open verandah for dancing directly connected with the dining room, and with a splendid five piece orchestra the dinner dances are becoming immensely popular with the guests and surrounding cottagers" (*Lakeside Life*, Aug. 1, 1930). The verandah may have been enclosed, the way it is today, in 1933 (see *Lakeside Life*, 7/14/1933).

Arthur Aylsworth bought the inn back from the trust late in 1930. During the Depression of the 1930s he reportedly barely held onto the property. Aylsworth's "country club" plan may have reflected the entrepreneurship of a resourceful businessman simply looking for a new angle to make the inn successful during hard times. Later during the 1930s and early 40s he reportedly operated the inn as the "Lakeside Health Resort" (McClure). In his later years he and a second wife, Virginia Harned Aylsworth (he and Grace were divorced by 1930) ran the inn - Mrs. Aylsworth reportedly the real manager - until the early 1950s. Virginia Aylsworth died in 1953 and Arthur two years later. Following the Aylsworth years, the already declining inn went into further decline, with owner Bob Creevy for a time operating a baby clothing factory in the former dining room/ballroom while still renting rooms upstairs during the summer.

In 1968 John and Kay Wilson purchased the inn. Wilson, an internationally known print dealer with graduate degree in art from the University of Notre Dame, was then agent for a Baltimore gallery and traveled all over the country selling prints for them. In 1967 the Wilsons had bought a house across the street from the inn.

Wilson made the inn into a "Lakeside Center for the Arts," running his print business in part of the downstairs and converting the former garage building into artists' studios. "For three months each summer, he opened the Inn to artists from across the country and later around the world. Wilson also had activities involving the performing arts, such as one-act plays and concerts in the ballroom, and gourmet dinners cooked by chefs brought over from Europe" (Jackson and Bowly, pp. 6-7). A series of sculptures standing on the grounds east of the small pond behind the hotel date from the art center years of 1968-94.

Current owner Devereux Bowly, a lawyer and writer from Chicago, in 1994 "approached Wilson about possibly buying the Lakeside Inn with the promise to maintain the artistic heritage Wilson had cultivated there for almost three decades. A deal was struck that involved Wilson retaining ownership of some of the small buildings in the rear of the property as a smaller Lakeside Center for the Arts. John Wilson continued to have his office and print sales gallery in the Inn for several more years" (*ibid.*, p. 7).

Following his October 1994 purchase of the inn, Bowly carried out a massive rehabilitation of the by then severely deteriorated building that stabilized the building structurally and refurbished and furnished it in a style appropriate to its early twentieth-century Arts-and-Crafts character, re-wired the building and updated the previously non-functional heating system, and added bathrooms to all guest rooms. The rejuvenated inn reopened on Memorial Day weekend 1995 and remains in operation today.

Architecture

Lakeside Inn is a remarkably intact example of the large summer hotels that dotted the Lake Michigan shore in West Michigan in the early heyday of summer tourism along the shoreline at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth. Old photographs and post cards – along with a few survivors – are all that is left to represent the substantial number and the architectural variety of these buildings. In Berrien County alone the variety was extreme: from the 175-room Golfmore Hotel (1922), with its turrets and half-timber French touches, at Grand Beach, at one end of the spectrum, to the Lake View Hotel at Union Pier, a smaller and simpler version of Lakeside Inn, at the other. Lakeside Inn stands out among the relatively few survivors along the whole Lake Michigan coast for its fine state of preservation and for still serving its original hotel/inn function.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Abstract of Title. Copy in site file, MI SHPO.

Cook, Grif and Barb. "Setting the Record Straight on Lee Memorial." *The Daily News*, Dowagiac, MI. Sept. 13, 2007.

Ellis, Franklin. *History of Berrien and Van Buren Counties, Michigan*. Philadelphia: D. W. Ensign & Co., 1880.

Jackson, Judy, and Devereux Bowly. "Lakeside Inn History." 2002.

"Lakeside Inn Country Club." *Lakeside Life*, 8/1/1930.

McClure, Ray. "Old Lakeside Hotel Finds New Life." *South Bend Tribune*, 3/19/1972.

"New Lakeside Inn Addition Attractive." *Lakeside Life*, 7/14/1933.

Riedy, James L. *Chicago Sculpture*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981.

Thomopoulos, Elaine Cotsirilos. *Resorts of Berrien County*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.

"Very Mobile Home...." *Southcounty Gazette*, 5/13/2002.

Village of Lakeside Association, Inc. *Centennial History of Lakeside*. Lakeside, MI, 1974.

Maps

Geil, Harley & Siverd. *Map of the Counties of Cass, Van Buren & Berrien*. 1860.

Titus, C. O. *Atlas of Berrien County, Michigan*. 1873.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Lakeside Inn

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property About 2
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u> 16 </u>	<u> 526670 </u>	<u> 4632200 </u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Pt of Lot 56 Lakeside Park Com at Nwly cor Lot 56; th S 60 deg 38 min 05 sec E 142.02 ft; th S 25 deg 18 min 48 sec W 75.87 ft; th S 18 deg 42 min 56 sec W 23.44 ft; th S 58 deg 34 min 03 sec E 25.58 ft; th S 23 deg 40 min 50 sec W 288.24 ft; th N 80 deg 26 min W 168.24 ft; th N 13 deg 55 min 38 sec E 174.66 ft; th N 29 deg 09 min E 275.09 ft to POB.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Entire property currently associated with the inn.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert O. Christensen, National Register Coordinator
organization MI SHPO date March 2009
street & number 702 W. Kalamazoo St. telephone 517/335-2719
city or town Lansing state MI zip code 48909-8240
e-mail christensenro@michigan.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Lakeside Inn

City or Vicinity: Chickaming Township (Lakeside)

County: Berrien

State: Michigan

Photographer: R. O. Christensen

Date Photographed: March 19, 2009

Prints: Hewlett Packard Vivera Inks (tri-color cartridge) and HP Premium Plus Photo Paper (high gloss)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Retaining wall and staircase along Lakeshore Road
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0001.tif
2. Verandah
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0002.tif
3. Front showing nearly full length
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0003.tif
4. Front view
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0004.tif
5. NNE end and front; porch of 1904 house at left
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0005.tif
6. Front and SSW end
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0006.tif
7. Back of inn, SSW and SSE sides
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0007.tif
8. Lobby looking south
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0008.tif
9. Dining room, looking SSE
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0009.tif
10. Dining porch, looking ESE
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0010.tif

11. Garage/studios, looking SE
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0011.tif
12. 1904 house from west, with entry drive piers
MI_Berrien County_Lakeside Inn_0012.tif

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



LAKE DE WY

LAKE DE WY
The Lake De Wy property was purchased by the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1910. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1915. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1920. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1925. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1930. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1935. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1940. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1945. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1950. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1955. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1960. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1965. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1970. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1975. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1980. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1985. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1990. The property was then divided into two lots. The larger lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 1995. The smaller lot was sold to the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. De Wy in 2000.

Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
1



Lakeside Inn
Berrion Co MI
2



Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
3



Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
4



Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
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Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
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Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co. MI
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HP Premium Plus

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Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
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Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
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Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
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Lakeside Inn
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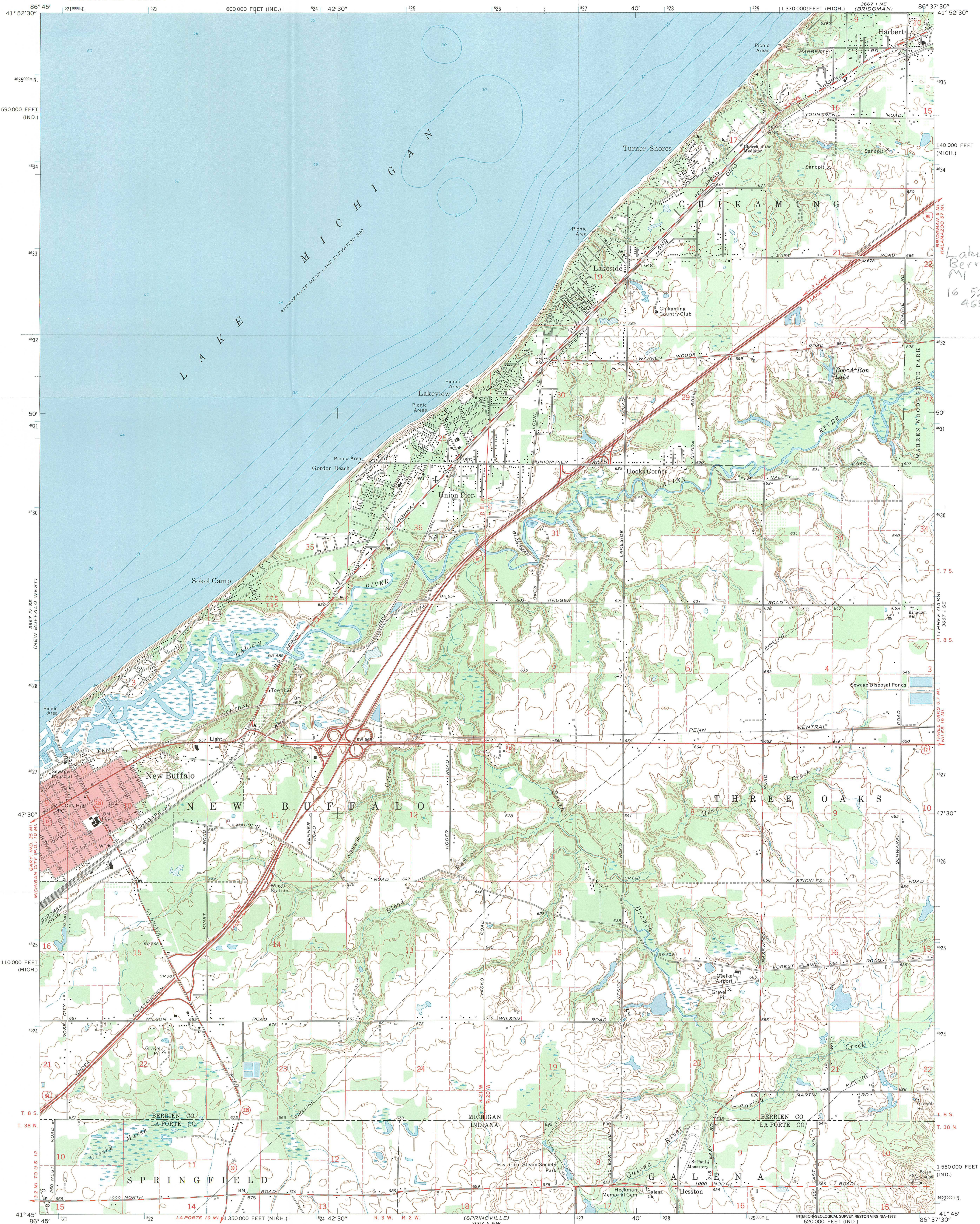
HP Premium Plus



EXIT

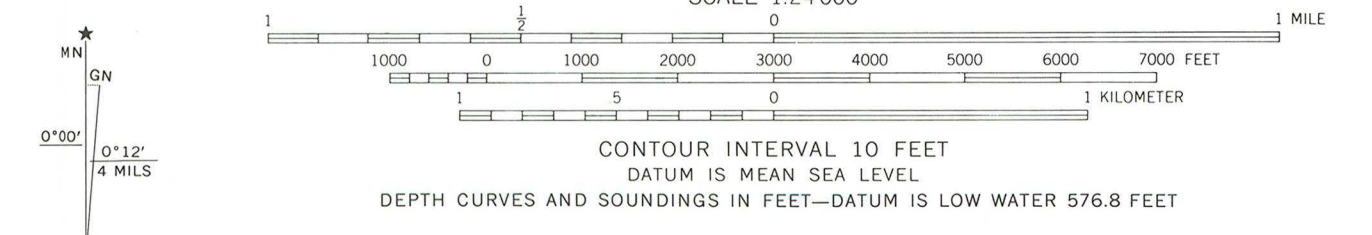
19233

Lakeside Inn
Berrien Co MI
12



Lakeside In
Berrien Co,
MI
16 526670
4632200

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Michigan and Indiana agencies
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography of Michigan area by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Topography of Indiana area by photogrammetric methods from
aerial photographs taken 1957. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data from U. S. Lake Survey
Chart 75 (1969). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone
and Indiana coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ———— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface ———— Unimproved road
Interstate Route ———— U. S. Route ———— State Route ————

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NEW BUFFALO EAST, MICH.-IND.
SW 74 THREE OAKS 15' QUADRANGLE
N4145-W8637.5/7.5
1970
AMS 3667 1 SW-SERIES V862



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Lakeside Inn
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Berrien

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/22/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/07/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/17/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000521

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.16.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

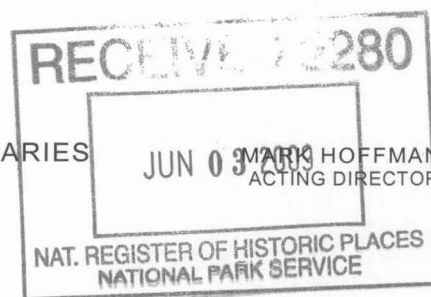
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JENNIFER GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES
LANSING



May 20, 2009

Ms. Janet Matthews, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Ms. Matthews:

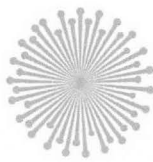
Enclosed are national register nomination materials for Lakeside Inn in Berrien County, Michigan. This property is being submitted for listing in the national register. All written comments concerning this nomination submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you are enclosed.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, national register coordinator, by phone at 517/335-2719 or by email at christensenro@michigan.gov.

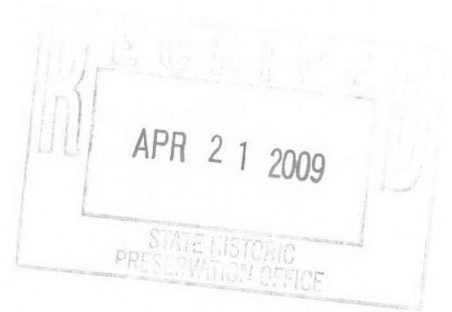
Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

BDC:roc



**HARBOR
COUNTRY**
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



April 17, 2009

Robert Christensen
National Register Coordinator
State of Michigan
Dept. of History, Arts & Libraries
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8240

RE: Lakeside Inn, 15251 Lakeshore Road, Lakeside, MI

Dear Mr. Christensen:

The Harbor Country Convention & Visitors Bureau is pleased to learn that Lakeside Inn is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lakeside Inn has been a vibrant fixture in Harbor Country for many years and is believed to be the oldest continually operating resort hotel in southwest Michigan.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to support this nomination and hope that you will recognize the importance of Lakeside Inn in local history and culture.

Sincerely,

Viki Gudas

Viki Gudas
Executive Director