

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3740 County PD N/A **not for publication**
city or town Town of Nasewaupée N/A **vicinity**
state Wisconsin **code** WI **county** Door **code** 029 **zip code** 54235

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

X public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

X structure

site

object

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

contributing

noncontributing

1

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property 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)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor
recreation**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor
recreation

VACANT/not in use

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD

roof WOOD

other STEEL (tension rods)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
 Recreation _____

Period of Significance

1931-1969 _____

Significant Dates

1931 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Stevens, William F.; architect _____
 Hansen, Louis; builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 4 66 192 49 69 319
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

* UTM derived using NAD27.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Wm. Jason Flatt, P.E.	Date	June 27, 2020
organization	Fairchild & Flatt Consulting, LLC	telephone	715-735-1881
street & number	1857 Riverside Ave	zip code	54143
city or town	Marinette	state	WI

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources	date	June 27, 2020
organization		telephone	608-266-2621
street & number	101 S Webster St, PO Box 7921	zip code	53707-7921
city or town	Madison	state	WI

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
Town of Nasewaupée, Door County, Wisconsin

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower in the Township of Nasewaupée, Door County, Wisconsin, is a purpose-built recreational observation tower within Potawatomi State Park. The tower was built by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, with funds provided by the Sawyer Commercial Club of Sturgeon Bay and is closely associated with the early development of Door County's tourism industry. The wooden structure, built in 1931, stands approximately 75 feet tall. Its major features include round corner posts, wide viewing platforms (a top platform and two intermediate-height platforms), a switchback staircase set at an inclination similar to residential staircases, and steel tie rods within the envelope of the structure. The staircase and larger viewing platforms set this tower apart from the fire lookout towers upon which the design was based. Potawatomi Tower holds the distinction of being Wisconsin's first purpose-built recreational observation tower constructed in a Wisconsin State Park, Wisconsin State Forest, or Wisconsin State Recreational Area, and significantly, it's design a standard that later recreational observation towers throughout Wisconsin have followed.

DESCRIPTION

Setting and Site

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is located in the Township of Nasewaupée, Door County, approximately four miles north by northwest of the City of Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wisconsin. It is located on land within Potawatomi State Park, encompassing roughly 1,200 wooded acres, administered by the Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Potawatomi State Park is located on the western edge of the city of Sturgeon Bay, on the peninsula separating the waters of the bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The observation tower is in the northern portion of Lot 2, Section 26, Township 28 North, Range 25 East, of the Extended Fourth Principal Meridian. Two state highways, 42 and 57, bring tourists to the area, principally from southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is located just north of N Norway Road (alternatively identified as N. Norwood Rd. on USGS Quadrangle Maps – a fire marker sign identifies this site as 4252 N. Norway Rd.), within the park, and encompassed by an elliptical loop lane alongside N Norway Road. This paved loop, which is not depicted on maps, surrounds approximately one-quarter of an acre of land upon which the observation tower stands. This land is situated atop a prominent limestone headland at the mouth of the bay of Sturgeon Bay, commonly known as Government Bluff.

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Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
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Here, the base of the tower is rooted roughly 160 feet above the waters at the base of the bluff, and is situated at the eastern trail head of the Ice Age Trail, a 1,000-mile, winding National Scenic Trail that follows the location of the terminal moraine from the the last continental glacier in Wisconsin. The tower's close proximity to the waters of Sturgeon Bay to the east and north allows for sweeping panoramic views over the water and the scenic irregular shoreline, and forested views to the south.

Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower stands approximately 75 feet tall. The tower's footprint is square, measuring roughly 24 feet from corner to corner along each side. The tower tapers inwards from the base, with the top platform measuring roughly 16 feet by 16 feet.

The framing of the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is comprised of five full height log poles. Microscopic observations of wood samples indicate that these five poles are Western Red Cedar.¹ Four of the poles are sloped, one at each of the tower's four corners, and one pole stands vertically at the center of the structure. Each corner pole stands on a concrete foundation measuring roughly 42 inches by 42 inches; the center pole's concrete foundation is approximately 34 inches by 34 inches. The corner poles support three wood-framed platforms. The first platform is approximately 25 feet above the ground, the second at 50 feet above the ground, and the top platform at 75 feet above the ground. The main horizontal landing support beams that support these platforms are mounted to the outside faces of the four main support poles, resulting in platforms that extend slightly beyond the perimeter of the main support poles. Typical platform decking consists of 2-1/2" thick timbers, generally around 10.5" wide, and each oriented lengthwise east-to-west.

A wood-framed, switchback stairway is at the center of the structure, encircling the center pole. Stair landings are positioned roughly every 7 feet in elevation (each flight of stairs consists of eight to ten steps²), with three landings below the tower's lower platform and two landings below the tower's intermediate and upper platform levels. Each landing and its associated flight of stairs is suspended from the platform above by two 5" x 5" wood members. The stairs themselves are typically 30" wide and constructed of 2-1/2" thick timber treads morticed into 2-1/2" thick timber stringers. Each stair tread is oriented lengthwise east-to-west. Each stair run has guardrails along the outer side of the

¹ Tingly, Dan. "Final Inspection and Condition State Report, Potawatomi Tower," a report by Wood Research & Development for Sturgeon Bay Historical Society, 7 March 2019.

² Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 146.

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Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
Town of Nasewaupée, Door County, Wisconsin

stairs, but many lack guardrails or handrails along the inner side of the stairs. Typical guardrails consist of a 2" x 6" horizontal cap member, oriented on the flat (width greater than height), and two intermediate height members, each oriented on the edge (height greater than width). These guardrails span approximately 8' horizontally and are fastened at their ends to 4" x 4" or 6" x 6" posts. Guardrail height at each platform is 40" to 41" high, while guardrails along the outer sides of the stairs measure only 36" high.³

Three pairs of steel tie-rod cross bracing are present at the four outer faces of the tower envelope, one pair attaching at the base of each of the three platforms. The pair below the lower platform extends from the base of the poles to just above the base of the lower platform. The pair below the intermediate platform extends from the base of the poles to just above the base of the intermediate platform. The pair below the upper platform extends from where the poles meet the lower platform to just above the base of the upper platform. The visual result is that the tie-rods do not form a single 'X' between each platform, but rather form visually interesting angles on each face of the structure. The tie-rods that extend up to the upper platform and those that extend up to the intermediate platform intersect between the lower and intermediate platforms. Similarly, the tie-rods below the lower platform and those below the intermediate platform extend from the same point at the base of each corner pole.

The tie-rods, each approximately 1-¼" in diameter, end in a circular loop where they are then attached to the corner poles by means of two curved steel collar plates that bolt together to form a circular collar around each corner pole (the outside piece is roughly ¾ of a circle, the inside corner piece is roughly ¼ of a circle). A threaded turnbuckle is located near the base of each tie-rod to allow for increasing or decreasing the tension within each line.

There is a concrete square foundation pad at the base of each of the structure's five main vertical poles. The poles are secured to these concrete footings by means of a pair of 5"-wide steel straps, one on either side of each pole. Each pair of steel straps has three through-bolts that firmly secures each pole between its respective pair of straps.

³ Kraft, Donald, and Giddings, James. "Potawatomi Observation Tower Structural Evaluation," a report by Brander Engineering, Inc. for Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Facilities Development, 21 January 2020.

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Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

Alterations and Integrity

The Potawatomi Observation Tower has undergone routine maintenance since its initial construction. This maintenance has included replacement of discrete portions of the tower's structure. Repairs were last carried out in 2012 and, as part of that work, a new 22-foot white oak beam replaced a deteriorated beam.⁴ Despite this routine maintenance and the occasional replacement of deteriorated material, the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower maintains a high degree of integrity. Its location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association all remain as they were when the tower was constructed in 1931.

⁴ Parr, Jackson. "Door County's Kind of Skyscrapers". (Door County Living, 4 September 2015). Accessed 6/2/2020, <https://doorcountypulse.com/door-countys-kind-of-skyscrapers/>

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Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

Land Acknowledgement

This nomination recognizes the depth of human presence here, the ancestral homeland of American Indians for millennia, including the Menominee and Ho-Chunk tribes. From as early as the 17th century, inter-tribal conflict, Euro-American exploration and settlement, and ensuing military campaigns, all had the effect of repeated displacement of Indians of many tribal affiliations. This continuous tribal movement resulted in Wisconsin being home to many tribes who originated from other parts of the country, generating a pattern of immigration, relocation, and formation of a new homeland. Some of these tribes remain in Wisconsin; others may not, but numerous count Wisconsin as home: Brotherton, Dakota, Fox/Meskwaki, Ho-Chunk, Kickapoo, Mascoutens, Menominee, Miami, Munsee, Odawa, Ojibwa, Oneida, Potawatomi, Stockbridge, Sauk, and Wyandot tribes. We acknowledge that the property that is the subject of this nomination is located on land long occupied by American Indians, and since 1850 by the Ojibwa and Potawatomi tribes.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A* in the area of Recreation, locally significant as an example of an observation tower built specifically for recreation purposes rather than for fire lookout purposes. This tower is closely associated with the development of Wisconsin State Parks in Door County as well as the tourism industry of Door County in the first half of the twentieth century. The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C* in the area of architecture, locally significant as the first purpose-built recreational observation tower in the state whose design was subsequently copied for other recreational observation towers at Wisconsin State Parks, Wisconsin State Forests, and Wisconsin State Recreational Areas for over fifty years following its construction. The tower is largely unchanged since its construction and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, specifically a recreational observation tower in a Wisconsin State Park, and also embodies the distinctive characteristics of the method of construction for such a tower.

Period of Significance

The period of significance under Criterion C is 1931, the tower's date of construction. The period of significance under Criterion A is 1931-1969. This time period begins with the construction of the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower and ends with the year the last observation tower was built

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Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

in a State Park in its image. The evaluation to determine the subject tower's period of influence included a survey of observation towers in Wisconsin State Parks. This survey demonstrates that six observation towers were constructed between 1931 and 1969 with towers being regularly constructed in every decade. While there was an additional observation tower constructed in 1984, given the span of time that passed before the 1984 tower was constructed, it cannot be grouped in with the others that appear to have been constructed as part of an ongoing trend over regular intervals of time and with dates of construction clustered up until 1969. For this reason, the period of influence has been determined to end with the construction of the 1969 observation tower. This period represents the highest concentration of recreational observation tower construction in Wisconsin State Parks. The tower is nominated at the local level under Criterion A for its association with outdoor recreation and tourism, and at the local level under Criterion C for being the first purpose-built recreational observation tower in a Wisconsin State Park or State Forest, the design of which significantly influenced all subsequent recreational observation towers built in Wisconsin State Parks, State Forests, and State Recreation Areas.

Historic Context

History of Door County

Door County is located in northeast Wisconsin and is also the state's easternmost county. Door county extends from Washington Island in the northeast, just beyond the tip of the peninsula, to Kewaunee County in the south. Door County is wholly within the Door Peninsula, as are northern portions of Brown and Kewaunee Counties; the peninsula separates the southern portion of the bay of Green Bay from Lake Michigan. Across the bay, to the west, are Marinette and Oconto Counties, both in Wisconsin, as well as Menominee County, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Delta County, Michigan, is to the north of the Door Peninsula.

Archaeological evidence suggests that the Door Peninsula has been continuously inhabited for 12,000 years. Permanent settlements date back more than 2,000 years. By the early 1600s, the dominant Native American tribe in the area was the Potawatomi, but other tribes have also had a presence, including the Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Sauk, Menominee, and Ottawa. The first European explorer, Jean Nicolet from France, arrived on the Door Peninsula in 1634. The native inhabitants came into contact with further French explorers, fur traders, and missionaries in the mid-1600s. Permanent European settlements were established at the southern end of the bay of Green Bay by the late 1600s and the fur

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Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

trade thrived through the late 1700s, but the Door Peninsula remained devoid of permanent European settlers until the 19th century.

The peninsula and county owe its name to the dangerous water passage between Washington Island and the tip of the peninsula where the bay of Green Bay meets Lake Michigan. The name given to this water passage by the native tribes was translated into French by the early explorers as *Porte des Morts*, or Death's Door.

The first permanent settler of European descent to arrive in what would become Door County was Increase Claflin and his family. In March of 1835 he moved from Kaukauna to an area now known as Little Sturgeon Bay, on the county's west coast, west of both the present-day city of Sturgeon Bay, first settled in 1850, and Potawatomi State Park.⁵ By 1851 sufficient numbers of settlers had moved to the peninsula such that Door County was created from portions of Brown County. The county's first post office opened in 1854 and the county government was organized in 1861.⁶

Early settlement of Door County was driven primarily by the availability of timber and fish. By 1900 these resources were showing signs of having been over-harvested, but improved transportation, including a regular schedule of passenger steamship visits to the county's towns and villages, gave rise to the county's tourism industry. By 1907 the idea of creating a State Park in Door County was gaining support as a way to preserve significant natural areas and as a means of increasing area tourism.⁷ Agriculture took root where forest land had been cleared, but soil conditions were not ideal for corn or wheat.⁸ Instead, dairy farms and fruit orchards became the backbone of the county's agricultural output. Industry also played an important role in the county's economy in the early twentieth century, including shipbuilding, which continues to the present day.

Today Door County has five State Parks, nineteen county parks, and a large number of local parks, nature preserves, and state natural areas. The five State Parks account for around 15% of overall

⁵ *Green Bay Press Gazette* (Green Bay, WI), 12 June 1951.

⁶ Hale, James. "The U.S. Mail Comes to Door County (1854)". *Door County Today*. Accessed June 11, 2020. <https://doorcounty.net/the-u-s-mail-comes-to-door-county-1854/>

⁷ Tishler, William H. *Door County's Emerald Treasure – A History of Peninsula State Park*. (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2006), 58.

⁸ Wyatt, Barbara L. ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Vol. 2, (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 5-15.

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Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

Wisconsin State Park visitation. Additionally, Door County has over 250 miles of shoreline, more than any other county in the nation, and ten historic lighthouses.⁹ Tourism is now the county's primary economic engine, with visitors spending over \$370 million in 2019 and supporting around 3,255 jobs.¹⁰

Land History of Potawatomi State Park

The area in and around present-day Potawatomi State Park once hosted extensive Native American activity, as evidenced by the archaeological record. The area was important for fishing during the late winter spawning season. The principle chief of the Potawatomi, Onanguisse, had a winter camp in the Idlewild area just north of the park where, in 1680, he hosted a handful of European guests, including Henry de Tonti, Father Membre, and Father Ribourde.¹¹

In the early 1830s, Samuel Straumbaugh, an Indian Agent at Fort Howard (a part of the present-day city of Green Bay), issued reports detailing the quality and quantity of stone available to be quarried along the shores of the Door Peninsula. He recommended that the Federal Government open a quarry on the peninsula.¹²

In 1834 the Federal Government began to quarry stone on the west shore of the bay of Sturgeon Bay at a place that later became known as Government Bluff, a prominent limestone headland at the mouth of Sturgeon Bay, now a part of Potawatomi State Park. In so doing, quarrying became the county's first industry as well as its first export.¹³ The bluff, which rises 150 feet above the shoreline, provided limestone that was particularly useful in harbor breakwater construction. Other quarries in the county followed, including Alanson Sweet's quarry at Bailey's Harbor in 1849, one at Door Bluff around 1854, the Laurie Stone Quarry in the township of Sevastopol in 1880, Frank Hogan's Green Stone Company in Sawyer in the early 1880s (Frank Hogan had been quarrying as a squatter at Government

⁹ "Economic Impacts of the Wisconsin State Park System: Connections to Gateway Communities". Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, November 2013. Accessed 6/3/2020, <https://dpla.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1021/2017/06/13EISPfinal.pdf>

¹⁰ "The Power of Wisconsin Tourism Economic Impact Fact Sheet – Door County". Door County, 2020. Accessed 6/3/2020, <https://www.doorcounty.com/media/18000/2020-door-county-toursim-economic-impact-fact-sheet.pdf>

¹¹ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 141.

¹² Vroman, Allison. "The Legacy of an Industry: Quarrying for Stone in Door County," *Door County Living*, accessed 5/5/2020, <https://doorcountypulse.com/the-legacy-of-an-industry/>.

¹³ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 141.

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Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

Bluff before this), Termanson & Jensen in Sawyer, and others at Ephraim, Moonlight Bay, and Ellison Bay.¹⁴ This quarrying of stone was not unique to Door County; by the 1870s and 1880s the quarrying of stone had become a major industry in Wisconsin.¹⁵ Millions of tons of stone would eventually be quarried in Door County and, as a result, almost every harbor on Lake Michigan was built using Door County stone.¹⁶

The land around Government Bluff, including the bluff itself, became the property of the Federal Government in 1837 following the Treaty of the Cedars in 1836. As part of this treaty, the Menominee ceded around 4-million acres of land for 17¹/₂ cents per acre.¹⁷ Much of this land was then sold and deeded to settlers, but the federal Government enacted a 1,000-acre military reservation that included Government Bluff.¹⁸ This and later treaties brought further settlers of European descent to the Wisconsin Territory, organized in July of 1836 and in existence until statehood in 1848.

In addition to quarrying, the Federal Government viewed Government Bluff as a good location for a fort in the event of a war with Canada. Those early plans for a fort never came to fruition. Government-sanctioned quarrying activity here ceased sometime prior to 1880 when larger, private enterprise quarries became the primary suppliers of stone. The opening of the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal in 1881 made large-scale commercial quarries possible, and some of the smaller quarries began to go out of business.¹⁹ By this time, with no need for a fort and government quarrying operations ceased, the War Department classified the area around Government Bluff as an abandoned military reservation.²⁰ The Federal Government continued to own Government Bluff and the surrounding 1,046.10-acre tract of land until 1928.

¹⁴ *Door County Advocate* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 03 November 1944.

¹⁵ Wyatt, Barbara L. ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Vol. 2, (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 2-1

¹⁶ Holand, Hjalmar R. *History of Door County Wisconsin, The County Beautiful*. (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1917), 166.

¹⁷ Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. *Classroom Activities on Wisconsin Indian Treaties and Tribal Sovereignty - Bulletin No. 96156*. (Madison, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 1996), 395.

¹⁸ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *Potawatomi State Park Master Plan Concept Element*. (Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1987), 8.

¹⁹ Vroman, "The Legacy of an Industry"

²⁰ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 141.

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Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

Other early settlers of European descent were quick to follow Increase Claflin to the Door Peninsula and some chose to settle on lands adjacent to the Federal Government's holdings around Government Bluff. In 1836, Peter Sherwood settled just north of the government tract and worked as a cooper. Sherwood Point, near Idlewild, is named after him. Frank Sawyer settled west of Government Bluff, near the shore, where he farmed and traded with Native Americans. The cove between Potawatomi State Park and Idlewild is named after him. Hainesville, a Norwegian settlement about a mile west of the park, was founded by Tallak Haines in the 1860s.²¹

Public access to Government Bluff and the surrounding tract of land owned by the Federal Government was restricted between 1837 and 1928. Nonetheless, by the 1880s squatters had begun to take advantage of the resources that remained on the abandoned military reservation. As noted above, Frank Hogan took up quarrying at Government Bluff in the early 1880s but was soon evicted. As the Federal Government continued to neglect the tract, other squatters followed, some of whom both lived on the land and harvested the remaining timber on the land.²²

In the first decade of the twentieth century public sentiment began to press for Government Bluff and the surrounding tract of land to be put to some productive use.²³ In 1904, the site was evaluated for its suitability as a site for the Great Lakes Naval Training School, but Glencoe, Illinois, was ultimately selected. In 1916 Government Bluff was considered as a potential site for a munitions plant, but this too did not happen.²⁴

The idea of turning the government-owned land into a park was first floated in 1923. That year, Thomas A. Sanderson, an attorney in Sturgeon Bay, presented a concept for turning the site into a national park to the Door County Chamber of Commerce, which supported the idea. Sanderson then wrote to U.S. Senator Irvine Lenroot to come visit Door County and to support the creation of the proposed national park. Senator Lenroot visited in September and promised to introduce a bill that December. The resulting bill for the Nicolet National Park gained the support of Congressman George J. Schneider who introduced a companion bill in April of 1924. Both the War Department and the

²¹ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 142.

²² *Door County Advocate* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 16 January 1904.

²³ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 142.

²⁴ "Potawatomi State Park," Door County Pulse, accessed 5/5/2020, <https://doorcountypulse.com/organization/potawatomi-state-park/>

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Department of the Interior were required to issue reports on the proposal, and it soon became evident that the Department of the Interior considered the site to be too small for a national park.²⁵

Congressman Schneider continued to support the proposal to turn Government Bluff into a park. Now recognizing that the area was too small to gain the support of the Department of the Interior as a national park, Congressman Schneider introduced a bill to sell the land to the State of Wisconsin for \$1.25 per acre. The bill received a favorable report from the Committee on Military Affairs and was passed by the House of Representatives and, on April 4, 1928, by the Senate, with the support of Wisconsin Senators Blaine and La Follette.²⁶

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission took up the task of making plans for the creation of this new State Park in Door County. (At the time, Door County had one State Park: Peninsula State Park.) The choice of name for the park was questioned on the basis that the proposed Nicolet Park might be confused with Nicolet Bay at Peninsula State Park, also in Door County. The Door County Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution endorsing the name Potawatomi State Park, and State Assemblyman Moulton B. Goff introduced a bill aimed at bestowing this name upon the new park. The Wisconsin Conservation Commission adopted this name for the park by the end of April 1928.²⁷

Wisconsin Conservation Commission

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission was initially formed in 1915, but this Commission is a part of the larger story of natural resource management in Wisconsin. At the time of Wisconsin's statehood in 1848, fisheries and forests were being exploited in an uncontrolled manner. High-catch gill nets caused declining fish populations and clearcutting of the forest was widely seen as progress towards the establishment of agricultural communities. The state had no resource management agency or policy board at this time, and the opinions of people like Increase Lapham, a prominent naturalist and academic who called for protection of the forests in 1854, were rare.²⁸

²⁵ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 145-146.

²⁶ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 146.

²⁷ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 147-148.

²⁸ Thomas, Christine L. *One Hundred Twenty Years of Citizen Involvement with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board*. (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Environmental History Review, Spring 1991), 62-65.

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In 1867 the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a bill establishing the first State Forestry Commission and charged that Commission with writing a report on the possible ill effects of forest destruction. This temporary Commission was composed of three men. Increase Lapham was appointed to head the Commission. He was joined by J. G. Knapp, the head of the State Horticultural Society, and Hans Crocker, an attorney and politician from Milwaukee. That year they wrote their *Report on the Disastrous Effects of the Destruction of Forest Trees, Now Going on so Rapidly in the State of Wisconsin*, now considered to be the beginning of Wisconsin's forest conservation movement. The report warned of climate change, fuel-wood shortages, soil erosion, and water availability problems. The report also recommended planting shelter-belt trees in agricultural areas. The result was that the legislature enacted a law allowing tax credits for planting trees on agricultural land and the Commission, having completed their task, passed out of existence.²⁹

Just as forestry policy was first coming into focus, so to was fisheries policy. In 1874 Wisconsin established its first Fisheries Commission. This Commission consisted of three unpaid citizens tasked with administrative and management tasks concerning fish stocking. Some of that Commission's early suggestions were, in 1875, supported by the governor. Those suggestions included a recommendation to build a fish hatchery, encouragement of private fish stocking, and the publication of fish and game laws in a convenient format that could be easily distributed to interested parties. Unlike the Forestry Commission of 1867, the Fisheries Commission remained in existence year after year, in part because available federal funding for fish stocking required recipient states to have such a commission in place to administer those funds.³⁰

The Forestry and Fisheries Commissions served some limited statutory purposes, but they served to focus public and legislative attention on Wisconsin's natural resources. The creation of numerous sportsman clubs, which lobbied for stocking and protection of game, further focused public attention on natural resources. The Wisconsin State Forestry Association, founded in 1893, was focused on introducing legislation that sought to preserve state timber lands.³¹ The result was that, in 1897, a bill was introduced to establish a system of state forests and provide for their management. This bill did not pass, but citizen interest in resource protection continued to gain support.

²⁹ Thomas, *One Hundred Twenty Years*, 65.

³⁰ Thomas, *One Hundred Twenty Years*, 65.

³¹ *The Daily Times* (Davenport, IA), 11 February 1893.

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Robert M. La Follette, a Progressive, was elected governor of Wisconsin in 1901. Two years later, in 1903, the state legislature passed a bill that created a Forestry Commission comprised of the State Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and two citizens appointed by Governor La Follette. In 1904 this Forestry Commission hired Wisconsin's first State Forester. In 1905 the legislature revised the state's forestry law and replaced the Forestry Commission with the State Board of Forestry, with three members from the University of Wisconsin appointed by Governor La Follette.

Related to conservation, the State Park Board was established in 1907 as a response to growing public awareness of the need to preserve places of natural beauty. This board's task was to investigate and report on potential park locations throughout the state. The three-person board consisted of Madison attorney Thomas E. Brittingham, State Senator E. E. Brown from Waupaca, and industrialist William H. McFetridge from Baraboo. The board sought to secure professional expertise to bolster its evaluations and recommendations for proposed park sites, and to that end the board contacted John Nolen, a landscape architect from Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1908 an arrangement was agreed upon under which Nolen would work for both the State Park Board and the City of Madison's Park and Pleasure Drive Association. Nolen was to maintain his office in Cambridge, but Wisconsin was to be given preferred client status and Wisconsin work was given a priority over other jobs, including extended visits to the state and regular correspondence with his Wisconsin employers.³²

Wisconsin's approach towards conservation continued to evolve and, in 1908, Governor James O. Davidson appointed an ad hoc Conservation Commission to report on the state's natural resources. In 1915 the state legislature consolidated the functions of all fish, game, and forestry commissions under the direction of a full-time, paid Conservation Commission organized under the direction of three politically appointed professionals, namely F. B. Moody, a professor of forestry, James Nevin, former Wisconsin Superintendent of Fisheries, and W. E. Barber, game commissioner.

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission, created in 1915, underwent some changes in the 1920s when the conservation movement in Wisconsin was a major political and social force. In 1922 the Wisconsin Izaak Walton League was established. This organization promotes natural resource protection and outdoor recreation, and shortly after its establishment it gained some political strength. In 1924, Aldo Leopold came to Wisconsin as Assistant Director of the U.S. Forest Service Products

³² Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 58-59.

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Laboratory, under Director Cap Winslow. Cap Winslow had been an organizer of the Madison chapter of the Izaak Walton League, which Aldo Leopold joined shortly after his arrival in Wisconsin. Through this association Aldo Leopold met William J. P. Aberg, an attorney and conservationist. This duo pushed for a reorganization of conservation in Wisconsin, leading to the Conservation Act of 1927. This legislation established a new Conservation Department, directed by an unpaid group of six citizens, and supervised by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission.

In 1933, the Wisconsin Conservation Commission sought public input through public hearings. The immediate result of these hearings was to further develop means by which public participation could be incorporated into the workings of the Conservation Commission. In 1934, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress was created to provide a means by which citizens could give their input on conservation matters. The Conservation Congress met annually and compiled recommendations for the Conservation Commission.

This organization of a Conservation Commission, Conservation Department, and Conservation Congress remained relatively unchanged until 1967 when reorganization of the state government was proposed. A result of that reorganization study was to merge the Conservation Department with Resource Development whose Water Resources Division was responsible for environmental protection functions. This merger created the current Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and its governing body, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board.

Wisconsin State Parks and State Forests

Against the backdrop of Increase Lapham's State Forestry Commission in the 1860s and the creation of the Fisheries Commission of 1874, Wisconsin was among the first states to create a state park. In 1878, just six years after the creation of Yellowstone National Park, the Wisconsin Legislature established "The State Park", consisting of over 50,000 acres of state-owned land within a total designated park area of roughly ten times that size in Vilas and Iron Counties in the northern portion of the state.³³ The State Park effectively ceased to exist in 1897 when lumber interests prevailed upon the state to sell most of the state-owned land so that the valuable timber could be harvested.³⁴

³³ Proctor, Deborah. *Wisconsin State Parks – 100 Years Young*. (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine, December 1999). Accessed 5/26/2020, <https://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/html/stories/1999/dec99/parkcent.htm>

³⁴ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 56.

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Interstate State Park, 1900

Interest in creating state parks grew across the nation, particularly following the creation of New York's Niagara Falls State Park in 1885. In Wisconsin, the end of "The State Park" in 1897 was quickly followed by a call for a forest reserve to be established at the Dalles of the St. Croix River on the Wisconsin-Minnesota border, roughly 40 miles northeast of downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota. Initial funds for the creation of this park, which was to become Interstate State Park, were approved by joint legislative action in both Wisconsin and Minnesota in 1900. The Wisconsin portion of the park consists of over 1,300 acres, compared to Minnesota's nearly 300-acres, and, with the exception of the earlier State Park of 1878, is Wisconsin's oldest State Park.

Devil's Lake State Park, 1911

It appeared that the Devil's Lake area, near Baraboo in Sauk County, was set to become the second State Park in Wisconsin. In 1903 a bill was introduced to authorize a three-member commission to investigate the feasibility of establishing such a park. The idea gained support, in part through a pamphlet published in 1906, and several legislators visited the area in 1907. Even so, it would not be until 1911 that Devil's Lake State Park was formally designated as a Wisconsin's State Park. At over 10,000 acres, Devil's Lake remains Wisconsin's largest State Park, followed by the nearly 7000-acre Buckhorn State Park in Juneau County, created in 1971.

Peninsula State Park, 1909

The creation of the State Park Board in 1907 and their subsequent hiring of landscape John Nolen in 1908 led to the creation of a report in which four additional State Park locations were recommended.³⁵ In addition to Devil's Lake, Nolen recommended a site in Door County, a site in Grant County, and a site at the Dells of the Wisconsin River. The Door County site, which received Nolen's highest recommendation, would go on to become a Wisconsin State Park in 1909, Peninsula State Park.³⁶

When first established in 1909, Peninsula State Park included 3,240 acres. Early development at the park included camping areas and a golf course. Two observation towers, called Eagle Tower and Sven's Tower, were built in 1914 for the dual purposes of fire lookout and recreational observation.³⁷

³⁵ Nolen, John. *State parks for Wisconsin: Report of John Nolen, landscape architect.* (Madison, State Park Board, 1909).

³⁶ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 67.

³⁷ *Door County Democrat* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 25 December 1914.

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At that time, memories of the Peshtigo Fire on October 8, 1871, which also burned portions of Door County, played a role in park planning, as did major Wisconsin forest fires in 1908 and 1910.

The establishment of Peninsula State Park was followed by other State Parks. Devil's Lake State Park became a State Park in 1911 (arguably the third, following Interstate State Park and Peninsula State Park, but excluding today's Brule State Forest), followed by Grant County's Nelson Dewey State Park in 1917 (renamed Wyalusing State Park in 1937), and Perrot State Park in Trempealeau County in 1918. In the following decade six more State Parks would be created, including Potawatomi State Park in 1928. The 1930s saw an additional seven parks added to the state's roster. Currently, there are 66 State Park units, the most recent being the roughly 6,500-acre Menominee River State Park and Recreation Area, established in 2010.

Park attendance numbers that are available for Door County Parks reflect the growing tourism industry of the County and that industry's importance to the County. Attendance at Peninsula State Park in Fiscal Year 2018 totaled just under 1.2-million visitors, roughly the same as had visited in 1979, but significantly higher than the nearly 600,000 who visited in 1965 and the 66,579 who visited in 1935 when park attendance records were first kept.³⁸ Potawatomi State Park had nearly 240,000 visitors in 2018.³⁹ This figure is significantly higher than the 41,679 who visited Potawatomi State Park in the 1936 season.⁴⁰

Here it is important to note that, in addition to State Parks, Wisconsin currently has thirteen State Forests. The oldest State Forest is Brule River State Forest, which was initially designated as a State Park in 1907. Wisconsin did not officially establish a State Forest until 1925 when it established the Northern Highland State Forest from forest reserves set aside by the state in 1904. Between 1925 and 1938 Wisconsin designated six additional State Forests, including Brule River State Forest, previously known as Brule Park. State Forests, unlike State Parks, were established primarily for growing timber and demonstrating forestry methods, but these forests also possess recreational value. The result is that

³⁸ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *Peninsula State Park Master Plan Concept Element*. (Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1981), 3.

³⁹ "Estimated Attendance by Year (Fiscal Years 2002-2018)". Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Accessed 6/3/2020, <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/documents/WSPSattendance.pdf>

⁴⁰ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 151.

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State Forests include special-use areas, including recreational sites.⁴¹ Some State Forests also have recreational observation towers.

Wisconsin's First Recreational Observation Towers

Observation towers have been used for recreation purposes throughout human history. One of the most famous and elegant recreational observation towers is the Eiffel Tower in Paris, built in 1887. Recreational observation towers have a long history in Wisconsin as well. At Lapham Peak, the highest point in Waukesha County in the southeastern portion of Wisconsin, Charles Hanson (sometimes spelled as Hansen) developed the land as a tourist attraction in the 1850s and erected a 20-foot tower for paying visitors to climb and view the landscape.⁴²

At Peninsula State Park in Door County, two fire lookout towers were built in 1914. Funding for the two towers was covered by an appropriation of \$18,000 for the maintenance and improvement of Peninsula State Park.⁴³ Much of that appropriation went towards the clearing of rotten timber, clearing and preparation of roads, clearing of grounds for the golf links, preparation of houses for rent, and other park improvements.⁴⁴ The two towers, Eagle Tower and Sven's Tower, were constructed from timber cut in Peninsular State Park. Eagle Tower, built atop Eagle Bluff, stood 76 feet tall, allowing an observer to stand 225 feet above the water. Sven's Tower was 40 feet tall, putting observers 200 feet above the water.

Construction of the towers involved first erecting a central gin pole. In this method of construction, the lower end of the gin pole is placed in a deep hole while the upper end is raised initially by jacks and then pulled upright by a tractor. The gin pole is then secured by cables. With a block and tackle on its upper end, the gin pole is effectively used in much the same way as a modern crane boom, angled slightly out of vertical and positioned with the upper tip above the load to be lifted.

⁴¹ Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Inc. *One Hundred Years of Wisconsin Forestry 1904-2004*. (Black Earth, WI, Trails Custom Publishing, 2004), 45.

⁴² Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *Lapham Peak Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest Master Plan Concept Element*. (Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1989), 8.

⁴³ Wisconsin, Legislature, Special Legislative Committee on Forestry. *Report of the Wisconsin Special Legislative Committee on Forestry of the Senate and Assembly Made to the Members of the 1915 Session of the Wisconsin Legislature Pursuant to Chapter 670 of the Laws of 1913*. (Ashland, 1915), 26.

⁴⁴ *Door County Democrat* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 25 December 1914.

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For the construction of Eagle Tower, a gin pole was used to raise the three sections of each of the long corner poles, one corner pole for each of a square tower's corners. Once lifted into place, each corner post had to be stabilized with long cables extending diagonally to the ground until the tower's structure was self-supporting. After the corner posts were erected, horizontal landing support beams were raised and attached to the corner posts. Decking planks were then nailed to these landing support beams to form the platforms at each level of a tower. Tie-rods, stairs, railings, and a protective coat of creosote round out the remaining work.⁴⁵

Eagle Tower and Sven's Tower were built primarily for use as fire lookout stations, but recreational use may have been envisioned when the towers were first planned. As soon as the towers had been constructed, they were noted as being excellent places from which visitors might view the entirety of the surrounding countryside.⁴⁶ In the 1916 Biennial Report of the Wisconsin State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin, it was noted that:

*Two lookout towers to aid in detecting forest fires have been erected on Sven's Bluff and Eagle Bluff, which are connected by telephone with the superintendent's residence and the local exchange. As these towers are built with railed stairways and landings, they may be climbed safely by anyone, and visitors to the park find the views well worth the climb. From both towers, buildings in Marinette, eighteen miles across the bay, may be seen on clear mornings with the naked eye.*⁴⁷

The fact that two towers were built also further support their intended primary use as fire lookout stations. In discussing the forest fire protection plan for a 1,260,000-acre protective area at the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Chippewa Rivers (spread across several north-central counties), the Wisconsin State Conservation Commission noted:

⁴⁵ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 87.

⁴⁶ *Door County Democrat* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 23 December 1914.

⁴⁷ Wisconsin State Conservation Commission. *Biennial Report of the State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin for the years 1915 and 1916*. (Madison, Cantwell Printing Co, 1916), 101.

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*As a general rule a fire is visible from more than one tower, and thus two bearings are reported to headquarters. From these two angles the exact location of the fire can be determined. This is known as the triangulation method of location.*⁴⁸

Of the fire lookout towers erected in the protective area at the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Chippewa Rivers, five were of steel construction, each 55 feet tall, and three were “tall poles” set on prominent hills, each just 20 feet tall. These towers, built in 1912, were the first fire lookout towers to be erected in Wisconsin public forest reserves, and they were built with the assistance of federal funding through the 1911 Weeks Act and in response to the USDA Forest Service’s introduction, in 1910, of the use of fire towers with telephone lines. Steel towers were superior to wooden towers, but they were also significantly more expensive.

A few short years later after their construction, it was observed that the two Peninsula State Park towers were proving to be not only effective fire lookouts, but also had become significant attractions for visitors to the park. In the 1918 Biennial Report of the Wisconsin State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin, it was noted that, “Two high towers have also been erected and during times of drought a constant watch is thus maintained”. The report went on to note of these towers that:

*At the extreme headland of Eagle Point stands Eagle Tower. This tower was built four years ago and the top story of it rises high above the towering trees. From the top one secures an excellent panoramic view of the park. While many do not climb the winding stairs of this tower, more than one thousand during the month of August had registered their names and places of residence.*⁴⁹

The success of Eagle Tower and Sven’s Tower as visitor attractions at Peninsula State Park in Door County inspired the construction of other recreational observation towers at other Wisconsin State Parks. The first purpose-built recreational observation tower to be built at a Wisconsin State Park was the Potawatomi Observation Tower at Potawatomi State Park, the subject property. This tower was never intended to serve as a fire lookout, but rather was built with the sole purpose of helping to attract visitors to the newly created Potawatomi State Park.

⁴⁸ Ibid, 133.

⁴⁹ Wisconsin State Conservation Commission. *Biennial Report of the State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin for the Fiscal years ending June 20, 1917, and June, 1918.* (Madison, Democrat Printing Company, 1918), 87.

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Potawatomi State Park

Potawatomi State Park was created in 1928 and located 32 miles south of Peninsula State Park. Although roughly one-third the size of Peninsula State Park, proponents of the park felt it appropriate that similar attractions should be included in the new park, including campgrounds, trails, and an observation tower. The idea for a “lookout tower similar to the one at Peninsula State Park” was suggested by members of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission who visited the site in 1928, but this tower was to be solely to “enable one to see a distance of many miles on a clear day”.⁵⁰

In 1931, during the Great Depression, the Sawyer Commercial Club donated a total of \$1,200 to the Park Commission for the erection of the observation tower. In making their investment in the park, the Sawyer Commercial Club viewed the project as, “bread cast upon the waters...which will return after many days”.⁵¹ In the first week after its completion, the new tower proved to be popular with visitors with “25 cars parked around the structure continually”.⁵²

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower was intended to be a near copy of Eagle Tower at Peninsula State Park, but it had key differences that distinguished it as a recreational observation tower rather than a fire lookout tower. Potawatomi Tower topped out at 75 feet high, roughly one foot shorter than Eagle Tower. Steel had been briefly considered for the Potawatomi Tower, but this was quickly ruled out due to cost.⁵³ With Eagle Tower as inspiration, Potawatomi Tower maintained the rustic appearance of a wooden fire lookout tower, but there were significant changes. Visually, the intermediate levels below the top platform were larger on the Potawatomi Tower than they were on either Eagle Tower or Sven’s Tower. In the earlier two towers, the footprint of the lower platform levels was completely within the envelope of the structure’s four corner posts. For Potawatomi Tower, these intermediate levels were enlarged such that they extend slightly beyond the bounds of the structure’s four corner posts. This was the result of mounting the main horizontal landing support beams for each platform to the outside faces of the four main support poles.

Another difference between Potawatomi Tower and the earlier Eagle Tower and Sven’s Tower was the design of the staircase. The staircase for Potawatomi Tower was built at a significantly shallower,

⁵⁰ *Door County News* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 6 September 1928.

⁵¹ *Door County Advocate* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 26 February 1932.

⁵² *Door County Advocate* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 9 October 1931.

⁵³ *Door County Advocate* (Sturgeon Bay, WI), 16 October 1931.

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visitor-friendly angle of inclination. The stairs on Eagle Tower and Sven's Tower were much steeper, resembling inclined ladders, and less accessible to casual visitors who were unaccustomed to climbing steep ladders.

These two changes, wider platforms and shallower staircases, reflect an important design change from fire lookout towers to recreational observation towers. A further structural difference is also noteworthy. Potawatomi Tower relied on steel tension rods within the envelope of the structure for stability. Eagle Tower, by comparison, was built with diagonal guy wires extending from the upper platforms to points in the ground well beyond the structure's footprint. Sven's Tower, the shorter of the two towers built at Peninsula State Park in 1914, had tension rods and no guy wires.

Following the construction of the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower in 1931, the second purpose-built recreational observation tower to be built at a Wisconsin State Park was a replacement for Eagle Tower at Peninsula State Park which had deteriorated since its construction in 1914. For the new Eagle Tower, constructed in 1932, massive logs were brought in from Washington State for the corner posts, and wider viewing platforms than had been previously present were built.⁵⁴ These wider viewing platforms were like those installed on the Potawatomi Tower, which would have been unnecessary for a fire lookout, but valuable for a recreational observation tower designed to accommodate several visitors at a time. Furthermore, the stairs on the new Eagle Tower had a much shallower angle of incline than those on the first Eagle Tower. These stairs would also have been unnecessary for a fire lookout, but immensely important for casual visitors who might be intimidated by the prospect of climbing steep, inclined ladders. These two changes, wider platforms and shallower stairway inclines, effectively made the new Eagle Tower a copy of the Potawatomi Tower, and visually this new Eagle Tower appears to be a clone of the Potawatomi Tower (recalling that Potawatomi Tower was intended to be a copy of the first Eagle Tower, but with wider platforms and shallower stairway inclines). The original Eagle Tower also relied on steel guy wires stretching diagonally from the upper platforms of the tower to the ground, away from the four corner posts. By comparison, the new Eagle Tower replacement used a series of steel tension rods within the structure in much the same fashion as had been used on the Potawatomi Tower and the significantly shorter Sven's Tower. Reconstruction of Eagle Tower as a purpose-built recreational observation tower affirms that its predecessor, the original Eagle Tower, had become and remained a popular attraction

⁵⁴ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 88.

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for park visitors, and the design of the Potawatomi Tower, with its wider platforms, residential style staircases, and tension rods, clearly established the design of the new Eagle Tower. It is unclear precisely how many of those visitors to Peninsula State Park climbed Eagle Tower or Sven's Tower; attendance records for Peninsula State Park were first kept beginning in 1935 and, in that year, Peninsula State Park had 66,579 visitors.⁵⁵

By the time of the construction of the Potawatomi Observation Tower in 1931 and the new Eagle Tower in 1932, Wisconsin had already moved toward favoring steel construction for fire lookout towers. A survey of the state's fire lookout towers was compiled in September 1937 and revised in 1940. The 1940 revision lists 120 active fire lookout towers in the Wisconsin Conservation Department's Forest Protection Division, all of which were constructed between 1928 and 1940. The average age of the towers listed in the 1940 survey was only 4.5 years. Of the 120 towers listed, only three were of wood, the rest were steel framed and built to standardized plans or kits, including Aeromotor, International Stacey, Baker, and Wisconsin Standard models.⁵⁶ The two towers in Peninsula State Park, Eagle Tower (by this time a reconstruction modeled after Potawatomi Tower) and Sven's Tower, are notably absent from the 1940 tower survey suggesting that they were no longer primarily considered to be fire lookouts but rather had by this time become valuable primarily as attractions to park visitors.

Nationally, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service published standard lookout structure plans that included both steel and timber framed towers. The timber framed towers in the 1938 publication include tower heights ranging from 31 feet up to 119 feet. All but one of the plans for timber towers calls for the main structural posts to be assembled from treated, flat-sawn lumber; plans for a 40-foot tower call for round posts with a minimum diameter of 8 inches. The length of each post is less than 16 feet, with multiple posts joined in-line to one another to reach the tower's overall height of 40 feet. Additionally, the timber tower designs presented all have diagonal timber

⁵⁵ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *Peninsula State Park Master Plan Concept Element*. (Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1981), 3.

⁵⁶ Choinski, Walter F. *Wisconsin Conservation Department Forest Protection Division – Map Manual - Lookout Tower Surveys*. September 1937, revised September 1940.

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bracing, absent on the Wisconsin recreational observation towers, and retain steep, inclined ladder style stairs for access to the upper platforms.⁵⁷

Compared to contemporary fire lookout tower design and materials, the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower and the newer replacement for Eagle Tower at Peninsula State Park were of a design that clearly diverged from fire lookout tower design. Neither of these two recreational observation towers were optimally designed for putting only a few fire observers at the highest point possible, but rather had design features specifically to accommodate the general population. As recreational tower design antecedents, the first Eagle Tower and Sven's Tower, with their landings at multiple levels, provided visitors with a structure that was both visually and physically approachable as compared to steel structures with ladders or steep stairs that lacked intermediate levels at which a group of people could stop to rest and muster courage for further climbing; however, the staircases for the first Eagle Tower and Sven's Tower were functional, but inclined at a very steep angle and somewhat intimidating. The Potawatomi Tower stairs had a much shallower angle, resembling those that a visitor would find in their homes. Aesthetically, the rustic nature of round wooden poles and sawn wood staircases speaks to the natural beauty that park visitors value. Although steel had been reportedly considered and ruled out based on cost for the Potawatomi Observation Tower in 1931, these other design considerations likely favored the construction of a wood observation tower resembling the first Eagle Tower at Peninsula State Park.

Later Recreational Observation Towers in Wisconsin

Several recreational observation towers have been built at Wisconsin State Parks since the completion of the Potawatomi Tower in 1931 and the second Eagle Tower in 1932, and they have generally followed the design and style established by these recreational observation towers in Door County. Specifically, the later recreational towers are wooden, usually with round corner posts, and typically include intermediate platforms, switchback staircases (not steep, inclined ladders), and steel tension rods. These later recreational observation towers are effectively copies of or slight variations of Door County's Potawatomi Tower. The proliferation of recreational observation towers throughout Wisconsin's State Parks, State Forests, and State Recreation Areas, particularly between 1931 and 1969 in Wisconsin State Parks, is a testament to the perceived importance of these structures as visitor

⁵⁷ Division of Engineering, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. *Standard Lookout Structure Plans*. 1938.

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attractions, and it was Door County's towers that began this trend. As with Potawatomi Tower, many of the later recreational observation towers were also funded through the generous contributions of local service organizations.

Copper Falls State Park Observation Tower at Copper Falls State Park, Town of Morse, Ashland County, was built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corp. This recreational observation tower is constructed of wood, with steel tension rods, and a switchback staircase, and, similar to the Potawatomi tower, complete with four round wood primary support poles at the corners, a wooden switchback staircase, and round steel tension rods. This similarity is not a coincidence—the design of the Copper Falls observation tower was based on plans drawn by W. F. Stevens for the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower. J. C. Steiro revised Stevens' plans to suit the needs of Copper Falls State Park, and the result is that the Copper Falls observation tower stands 58 feet tall, with a square base of 18'-8" on each side, compared with Potawatomi's height of 75 feet and a square base of roughly 24 feet per side.⁵⁸ A very significant visible change from the design of the Potawatomi Tower is the use of horizontal beams at regular intervals up the height of the tower. These beams, a total of five sets below those used to support the top platform, are comparable to the main horizontal landing support beams on Potawatomi Tower, but here they do not support platforms, nor are they affixed to the outside faces of the four corner poles. A steel tower could have been built, but here again the choice of materials and overall form was based on the design of Door County's recreational observation towers.

At Lapham Peak in Waukesha County's portion of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, where Charles Hanson (sometimes spelled Hansen) had erected a 20-foot tower for paying visitors in the 1850s, a 45-foot recreational observation tower was built in 1940 through a Works Progress Administration grant of \$9,000.⁵⁹ The Lapham Peak Tower is a wood tower with round corner posts, one intermediate platform, a switchback staircase, and steel tension rods—all hallmarks of the other recreational observation towers already constructed elsewhere in the state and distinct from the new steel fire lookout towers being constructed throughout Wisconsin's forests. Visually, this observation tower appears to be a near twin to the Copper Falls State Park Observation Tower, complete with horizontal

⁵⁸ Schueller, Mary K., "National Register of Historic Places nomination for Copper Falls State Park, Town of Morse, Ashland County, Wisconsin", July 2005.

⁵⁹ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *Lapham Peak Unit, Kettle Moraine State Forest Master Plan Concept Element*. (Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1989), 8.

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beams at regular intervals up the height of the tower, but with the addition of an intermediate platform. Later towers constructed in State Parks, identified below, abandoned the use of the regularly spaced horizontal beams present in J. C. Steiro's tower design and returned to being near copies of W. F. Stevens' original design for the Potawatomi tower.

At Peninsula State Park in Door County, Sven's Tower, one of the two purpose-built fire lookout towers in that park, was deconstructed in 1947.⁶⁰ It was never replaced, perhaps because one recreational observation tower, the 1932 incarnation of Eagle Tower, was thought to be sufficient for this park, and perhaps because the discontinuation of fire lookout activities in the park no longer necessitated a second tower from which to allow for the triangulation method of fire location.

The Rib Mountain State Park Observation Tower, also known as the Van Douser Tower, in Marathon County, was built in 1958 by the Wisconsin Conservation Department. A steel tower had been proposed for this site as early as 1933.⁶¹ Funding for this tower was provided by the Wausau Kiwanis Club and was felt to be needed as a summer tourist attraction.⁶² This wooden tower is 60 feet tall, with square-form corner posts, two intermediate platforms that extend slightly beyond the corner posts (like Potawatomi Tower, the horizontal support beams are mounted to the outer faces of the corner poles), a switchback staircase, and steel tension rods. The base of the tower has the same dimensions as the Potawatomi Tower, roughly 24 feet per side, and the top is 17 feet per side.⁶³ Despite the use of square-form posts, this tower is visually a clone of the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower, without the regularly spaced horizontal beams prominent on the towers at Copper Falls and Lapham Peak.

In 1966 two wooden observation towers were constructed in Blue Mound State Park, in Dane County west of Madison, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin State Conservation Department spent \$22,000 to construct these two 40 feet tall towers on the east and west ends of Blue Mound.⁶⁴ Each tower has round corner posts, an intermediate platform that extends slightly beyond the corner posts, a

⁶⁰ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 87.

⁶¹ Wausau Daily Herald (Wausau, WI). 15 December 1933.

⁶² Wausau Daily Herald (Wausau, WI). 20 August 1958.

⁶³ Wausau Daily Herald (Wausau, WI). 08 November 1958.

⁶⁴ Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI). 27 November 1966.

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switchback staircase, and steel tension rods. Both towers look like shorter versions of Potawatomi Tower.

The observation tower at Belmont Mound State Park was built in 1969. Funding was provided by the Belmont Lions Club. This wooden tower is 64 feet tall and features round corner posts, two intermediate platforms that extend slightly beyond the corner posts, a switchback staircase, and steel tension rods.⁶⁵ The design of this tower is virtually the same as Potawatomi Tower.

High Cliff Observation Tower, a 40-foot recreational observation tower in High Cliff State Park, Calumet County, was built in 1984 with private funds from the Kimberly-Clark Foundation, Inc., and the High Cliff State Park Association, Inc. This wooden tower has round corner posts, a wide intermediate platform, a switchback staircase, and steel tension rods, and could be easily mistaken for the two towers at Blue Mound State Park.⁶⁶

Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area in Dunn County includes a 60-foot recreational observation tower dedicated in 1986. Also known as the Greg Schubert Memorial Tower, funds for this tower were secured by the Menomonie Optimist Club. The wooden tower has round corner posts, wide intermediate platforms, a switchback staircase, and steel tension rods.⁶⁷ The design of this tower is virtually the same as Potawatomi Tower.

In 1988 the Parnell Tower in the Kettle Moraine State Forest was rebuilt. The original tower, built around 1940, was 50 feet tall and reportedly very similar to the Lapham Peak Tower, built in 1940, also in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.⁶⁸ The replacement tower is made of wood, stands 60 feet tall, and has round corner posts, wide intermediate platforms, a switchback staircase, and steel tension rods. The design of this tower is yet another copy of the Potawatomi Tower.

As effort has been made here to identify all recreational observation towers at Wisconsin State Parks and State Forests, but there may be other towers unknown to this report's author. Recreational observation towers at county parks, such as the one at Timm's Hill County Park in Price County,

⁶⁵ Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA). 21 November 2019.

⁶⁶ Post Crescent (Appleton, WI). 17 November 1984.

⁶⁷ Dunn County News (Menomonie, WI). 18 June 1986.

⁶⁸ Waukesha Daily Freeman (Waukesha, WI). 11 October 1966.

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Sheboygan Marsh Tower in Sheboygan, or the Mountain Park Lookout Tower on Washington Island in Door County, have been excluded from this list of comparable structures despite having much in common with the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower. The Mountain Park Lookout Tower on Washington Island is nonetheless notable as being one of Door County's recreational observation towers, built in 1968 with the same design features as the Potawatomi tower, and is often written about in connection with Eagle Tower and the Potawatomi tower. Additionally, observation platforms shorter than approximately 30 feet, such as the one at Woodland Dunes State Natural Area in Manitowoc County and Buckhorn State Park in Juneau County, have been excluded as they are too short to have a meaningful comparison to Potawatomi Tower.

The influence of Potawatomi Tower and Eagle Tower on observation tower design in Wisconsin may be nearing its end. The second Eagle Tower, built in 1932, was torn down in 2016. The concept drawings for its replacement, presented in 2017, show significantly different structures, each fully accessible to visitors with physical disabilities. Door County's new Eagle Tower, once built, may become the standard design for the next generation of recreational observation towers throughout the state.

Area of Significance: Recreation

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is closely associated with recreation in Door County and Door County's tourism industry. At Peninsula State Park in 1914, Eagle Tower and Sven's Tower were built primarily for use as fire lookout towers, but they quickly became popular with visitors as recreational attractions. The popularity of these attractions prompted the Wisconsin Conservation Commission to recommend in 1928 that a purpose-built recreational observation tower be built at the new Potawatomi State Park. The tower at Potawatomi State Park was built in 1931 and is Wisconsin's first purpose-built recreational observation tower to be constructed at a Wisconsin State Park, Wisconsin State Forest, or Wisconsin State Recreation Area. Door County has had four prominent observation towers closely associated with outdoor recreation. Neither the original Eagle Tower, built in 1914, nor its replacement, built in 1932, are extant—the replacement Eagle Tower was deconstructed in 2016 and is expected to be replaced with a new tower of a significantly different design. Sven's Tower was deconstructed in 1947 and never replaced. The Mountain Park Lookout Tower on Washington Island, built in 1968, is also closely associated with Door County tourism and observation towers. Although not located in a State Park it supports the idea that observation towers were popular amenities to attract visitors. The result is that Potawatomi Tower is the most important

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historical resource of its type, a recreational observation tower linked with the development and growth of Door County tourism. The proliferation of recreational observation towers throughout Wisconsin's State Parks, State Forests, and State Recreation Areas, all copies of the Potawatomi tower, is a testament to the perceived importance of these structures as visitor attractions, and it was Door County's towers that began this trend.

Area of Significance: Architecture

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is Wisconsin's first purpose-built recreational observation tower in a Wisconsin State Park, State Forest, or State Recreational Area, and was used as the design template for all other observation towers in Wisconsin's state parks. The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower, built in 1931, was intended to be a near copy of the earlier Eagle Tower, built in 1914 at Peninsula State Park for the primary purpose of a fire lookout tower. The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower had some key differences from Eagle Tower, including wider viewing platforms and shallower inclination of its stairways, as well as the use of steel tension rods contained wholly within the envelope of the structure (no guy wires). These features set the Potawatomi Tower apart from the earlier Eagle Tower and were then incorporated into the design of the new Eagle Tower, built in 1932 as a purpose-built recreational observation tower rather than as a fire lookout. Subsequent recreational observation towers built at Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas have all, to a high degree, followed the design precedents established by the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower. In this way, the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower both created and embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, specifically a recreational observation tower in a Wisconsin State Park or State Forest, and also embodies the distinctive characteristics of the method of construction for such a tower. The result is that Potawatomi Tower is the most important historical resource of its type—a recreational observation tower in a Wisconsin State Park, State Forest, and State Recreation Area—in the State of Wisconsin.

William Stevens, Architect

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower was designed in 1930 by William F. Stevens for the Bureau of Engineering in Madison, Wisconsin.⁶⁹ W. F. Stevens was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1885. He worked for the well-known French Beaux-Arts architectural firm of Emmanuel Louis

⁶⁹ Schueller, Mary K., "National Register of Historic Places nomination for Copper Falls State Park, Town of Morse, Ashland County, Wisconsin", July 2005.

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Mesqueray for a decade, during which time he worked on the design of the Beaux Arts St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was associated with the Wisconsin State Architect's office from 1922 until his retirement in 1948.⁷⁰ Among his notable architectural designs in Wisconsin is the Neoclassical style University of Wisconsin Field House at the University of Wisconsin Campus, built in 1930. W. F. Stevens died on October 7, 1964.

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower was constructed under the supervision of Louis Hansen of Racine, Wisconsin.⁷¹ Louis Hansen, often alternately spelled as Hanson, was born in Raymond, Wisconsin, in 1881. He worked as a general contractor and designer of residential buildings, primarily in and around Racine, Wisconsin. Examples of his domestic homes in Racine include 1917 Center Street⁷², 2200 Taylor Avenue⁷³, and 3011 Chatham Street^{74,75,76}, all extant. He also converted the grand residence at 926 S. Main Street into apartments in 1924⁷⁷, also extant. Louis Hansen died December 20, 1940.⁷⁸

Louis Hansen's Tudor Revival cottage at 3011 Chatham Street is notable for its method of construction. Here, the Tri-Ply process, licensed to Hansen by the Carroll Tri-Ply company of Chicago, was employed—exterior walls were laid out and built flat on the floor, then lifted into position through use of derricks. The weight of one such wall was reported to be 24,000 pounds, or 12 short tons.⁷⁹ This sort of experience with derricks is well-suited for use in the gin pole construction of a wood observation tower.

⁷⁰ *The Capital Times* (Madison, WI), 07 October 1964.

⁷¹ Tishler, *Door County's Emerald Treasure*, 151.

⁷² *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 16 Feb 1924

⁷³ *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 23 June 1928

⁷⁴ *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 30 November 1929

⁷⁵ *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 07 December 1929

⁷⁶ *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 10 May 1930

⁷⁷ *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 23 August 1924

⁷⁸ *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 21 December 1940

⁷⁹ *The Journal Times* (Racine, WI), 16 November 1929

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Integrity

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower maintains a high degree of integrity. Its location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association all remain as they were when the tower was constructed in 1931. The tower has been maintained since its initial construction, including the replacement of discrete portions of its structure with appropriate matching material, such as the replacement of a 22-foot white oak, horizontal, platform-supporting beam in 2012⁸⁰. The tower has also been the subject of several recent structural analysis reports, including one by the United States Department of Agriculture dated December 2018, one by Wood Research & Development dated March 7, 2019, and one by Bander Engineering, Inc., dated January 21, 2020. These reports indicate that discrete portions of the tower have decayed and should be replaced with new material. The extent of the material to be replaced has not been formally identified; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is currently evaluating options for the tower. The tower was closed to the public at the end of the 2017 visitor season.

Summary

The Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower, built in 1931, is significant for its association with outdoor recreation in Door County, including the development of Wisconsin State Parks in Door County and the county's tourism industry. Additionally, as the first purpose-built recreational tower in a Wisconsin State Park, the Potawatomi Observation Tower was built with features distinct from the fire lookout towers upon which its design was based. The distinctive design and form of this tower was then copied by subsequent recreational observation towers built in State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas throughout the rest of the state. For these reasons, the Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower is eligible for National Register listing under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically, the history of recreational trends which, due to the success of the Potawatomi tower, influenced the design and construction of additional observation towers across Wisconsin state parks. This tower is also eligible for listing under Criterion C as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, namely those associated with recreational observation towers in Wisconsin State Parks, and was the first instance of those distinctive characteristics being applied to a structure in a Wisconsin State Park.

⁸⁰ Parr, Jackson. "Door County's Kind of Skyscrapers". (Door County Living, 4 September 2015). Accessed 6/2/2020, <https://doorcountypulse.com/door-countys-kind-of-skyscrapers/>

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Archaeological Potential

The area in and around present-day Potawatomi State Park once hosted extensive Native American activity, as evidenced by the archaeological record. Development of nearby land for later quarrying activities and use as a park has disturbed some areas, but there remains some real possibility of extant archaeological resources predating current features. At present, no known archaeological resources are present within the boundary surrounding the Potawatomi Observation Tower, and no archaeological investigation has been undertaken as part of this nomination project; archaeological potential remains unassessed.

Acknowledgements

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Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower
Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the site is a circle of convenience drawn within the Potawatomi State Park. The center of the circle is located at the center pole of the Potawatomi Tower and has a radius of 100 feet.

Boundary Justification:

Given that the observation tower is located within 1,200 wooded acres of a state park, the boundary was chosen to encompass sufficient land to represent historic setting. The center of the Potawatomi Tower is located approximately 40 feet north of the northern edge of N Norway Road (sometimes identified as N. Norwood Rd., as on USGS Quadrangle Maps) in Potawatomi State Park. This road has a loop lane at this site that surrounds the observation tower. This roadway loop merges with N Norway Road approximately 70 feet to the east and 80 feet to the west of the tower, and curves to roughly 30 feet due north of the tower's center. The circular 100' boundary encompasses the Potawatomi Tower, which has a roughly 24-foot x 24-foot square base, and the paved road surfaces that surround the tower. The circular boundary also encompasses several trees and the upper portion of the bluff edge to the north of the tower. The circular boundary is closest to the tower at the bases of the structure's four corner posts, where it passes around 58 feet from the structure. A small, 8.5-foot x 18-foot vault toilet building is due south of the tower. The north wall of this vault toilet building is approximately 105 feet away from the tower's center support pole and is, therefore, not within the nominated boundary.

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Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

Name of Property: Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower

City or Vicinity: Nasewaupee

County: Door State: Wisconsin

Photographer: Wm. Jason Flatt

Date Photographed: June 12, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (WI_Door County_Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower_01)
View of the north side of the tower, camera facing south

Photo #2 (WI_Door County_Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower_02)
View of the south side of the tower, camera facing north

Photo #3 (WI_Door County_Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower_03)
View of the west side of the tower, camera facing east

Photo #4 (WI_Door County_Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower_04)
View of the northeast tower support, camera facing east

Photo #5 (WI_Door County_Potawatomi State Park Observation Tower_05)
View of the center tower support, camera facing west

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Town of Nasewaupee, Door County, Wisconsin

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