

**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 Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
other names/site number 'Helgaland'

2. Location

street & number	1000 US Highway 14/61	N/A	not for publication
city or town	La Crosse	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county La Crosse	code 063
			zip code 54601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer – 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
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 structure
 site
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
2	0 buildings
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
2	0 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)

DOMESTIC/camp/seasonal residence

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls LOG

roof ASPHALT SHINGLE

other STUCCO

Narrative Description

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

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 (C)

Medicine (B)

Period of Significance

1918

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Gundersen, Dr. Adolf

Cultural Affiliation

Norwegian

Architect/Builder

Bentley and Merman

Peter Nelson and Son

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: University of Wisconsin – La Crosse Archives and Special Collections, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, La Crosse County Register of Deeds

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 61.5 acres

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

1 15N 638933 4853809
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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	Rowan Davidson, Associate AIA & Jennifer Lehrke, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB	date	December 2, 2016
organization	Legacy Architecture, Inc.	telephone	(920) 788-6808
street & number	605 Erie Avenue, Suite 101	zip code	53081
city or town	Sheboygan	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	Sigurd, Jean, and Ann Gundersen	date	December 2, 2016
organization	Gundersen Family Revocable Trust	telephone	(608) 785-2645
street & number	1000 US Highway 14/61	zip code	54601
city or town	La Crosse	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

Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

Narrative Description

The Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is a fine and unique example of a Scandinavian inspired rustic Arts and Crafts summer home constructed in 1918. The linear, one-and-one-half story, east-west cottage is composed of a long and broad house with smaller crossing gables near either end. The cottage features vertical log walls, leaded glass windows, half-timbering, massive stone chimneys, decorative arched openings, wood brackets, rafter ends, and scalloped bargeboards, in addition to an interior with heavy beams, wood carvings, and Nordic designs. A small wood frame shed, or ice house, is also located on the secluded property and is considered a contributing resource. The unusual design, like vernacular Scandinavian summer cottages, was produced by the notable Prairie Style architects Otto Merman and Percy Bentley of La Crosse. The cottage design also carries traits of the Arts and Crafts style, and possibly some formal similarities to Prairie style houses, while exhibiting the log construction, open beam interior, and Nordic designs associated with Scandinavian building traditions.

Adolph Gundersen was a prominent Norwegian medical doctor who immigrated to La Crosse in 1891. Gundersen and his family played a large role in the establishment of the Gundersen Clinic, the Lutheran Hospital, and the advancement of modern medical practices and standards in La Crosse in the early twentieth century. The cottage was constructed in 1918 at the northern end of Barron Island, in what was then a remote and wetland location surrounded by the Mississippi River while still close to the City of La Crosse. Now within the City of La Crosse, the cottage, sited opposite the Minnesota west bank of the river, is set back from adjacent parts of the island occupied by a public park and US Highway 14/61 and a couple bridges. The cottage and its surroundings are largely unchanged since its construction.

Building Description

The Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage was constructed in 1918 on Barron Island, then in the State of Minnesota. The site, consisting of a landscape of sandbanks and low-lying woods, has shifted and altered since the cottage's original construction. Originally named 'Helgaland' after Dr. Adolf Gundersen's wife, the building was built on dredged land, leveled at sixteen feet, to raise the site above the floodplain of the surrounding river. Though it seems removed from the nearby City of La Crosse, the Gundersen summer cottage is located at the edge of La Crosse facing the main channel of the Mississippi River opposite Minnesota. Adjacent to the property to the east is La Crosse's Pettibone Park, one the largest public parks in the area and a significant wildlife refuge along the river. Constructed on a large sixty-one-acre site of woods and wetland, the cottage is set back even further from the nearby highway, bridges, and roads at the northern point of the island. The cottage is oriented east-west so that its long single-story axis is parallel to views of the river to the north. The building

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

has two cross-gable wings, one single story and the other two story, at either end of the long orientation. The non-extant matching garage and contributing large ice house are located to the west of the cottage. The cottage was originally fitted with a septic tank, sub-irrigation system, and pump on the site for water. There was also a design for a non-extant monumental gateway along the drive to the cottage featuring a stone base and small wood-frame tower along with a swinging gate included in the original architectural drawings. It is unknown if this feature was ever constructed.

The south façade of the Gundersen Cottage is primarily a single-story building with raised cross-gabled central block that extend up to one and one-half story. The cottage rests on a shallow exposed concrete foundation with screened vent openings to the crawl space below. The small stoop in front of the main entry consists of brick steps. The exterior walls of the cottage are constructed with large vertical pine timbers. This method of building can be found in more rustic building types in the United States and occasionally in the vernacular architecture of Scandinavia. These timbers are caulked, painted, and terminate at approximately eight feet up the façade. The lower vertical logs give way to decorative dark wood half-timbering and stucco at the upper levels of the cottage, especially at the gabled end-wall sections. There are two small wood windows with a leaded diamond pattern centered on the façade to the west of the main entry. Beyond these are two sets of two large wood casement windows with a leaded diamond pattern spaced evenly on the center of the south façade. There is a single wood casement window towards the far west end of the façade. All the windows have wood trim, sills, and a dark wood band wrapping around the cottage expressing the header above the windows. Except for the large screened openings at the east side porch, all the windows have leaded glass with a diamond pattern and a casement out-swinging mechanism. The main door, set near the larger of the two gable ends to the east end of the south façade, is a wood door with an integrated fixed leaded glass window in a Tudor-arch opening and wrought-iron hardware. All the wood windows and doors are original. There is a large shed dormer that extends from the main exterior wall at the western end of the south façade. This dormer has a set of three smaller windows at the first-floor level, a set of three carved wood panels immediately above, and another set of three small windows at the top above the roof line. The large gable end at the east end of the south façade of the cottage is divided into five typical windows at the first floor with a band of sawn wood boards above and three more windows above the roof line. These fixed windows have angled tops complementing the gable end and serving as clerestory windows for the interior. There are copper lined flower boxes immediately in front of the first-floor windows.

The roof is asphalt shingles on a low slope and terminates with deep overhangs and exposed rafter tails. The rafters are carved into intricate curving shapes. Heavy curved brackets extend from the underside of the overhang at the gable ends facing the south. Details at or around the roof line feature alternating spindles and flat posts with decorative scalloped bargeboards at the gable ends. There are also two short, but massive split boulder chimneys with metal flashing at the intersection of the roof

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

plains with the narrow side facing the driveway. The gutters and downspouts are iron and have dragon-headed forms at either side of the entry.

The other facades of the cottage share the same material palette as the south façade. The west façade for instance is arranged with the same low concrete foundation wall. However, in this location there is a basement interior space and thus a concrete window well and a small fixed window centered on the façade. The side entry is a pair of simple wood screen doors and a series of concrete steps. The majority of the west façade is also vertical timbers along the first floor and half-timber and stucco above in the gable end. There is a single small window in the center of the façade and a larger one balancing the pair of doors at the south end of the façade. The gable of the first-floor dining room extends to the north and is visible along the west façade. The fenestration along this section of the cottage has large double-hung windows with the same leaded glass in a diamond pattern. This is the only location on the building with double-hung windows. There is a large set of louvers centered in the top of the gable end, and the roof is like elsewhere with a decorative bargeboard, heavy wood brackets supporting the overhang, exposed rafter ends, and a hip knob finial at the top of gable along an asphalt shingled roof.

The north façade is long with a strong horizontal emphasis like south façade and is almost its mirror image. The cottage stretches out along an east-west axis as a one-story building with two gable ends extending out at either end toward the north. The eastern gable end is one and one-half stories in height. The siding is vertical pine timber, painted and caulked, along the first floor with dark wood half-timber and stucco above the line of fenestration. The rear entry, which closely resembles the main entry, has a brick stoops and steps, a pair of large wood doors in a Tudor-arch opening, wood brackets, and a deep overhang with iron gutters and downspouts, and is located next to the one and one-half story gabled end section toward the east end of the north façade. There are four pairs of casement windows spread across the center of the façade directly beneath a wood band and the stucco finish above. Like elsewhere, these windows are wood with leaded glass in a diamond pattern. There is a single smaller pair towards the western end of the façade and a pair of screened openings at the porch at the eastern end of the façade. The large gable end at the east end of the façade contains the living room and is identical to the opposite side on the south façade with a series of five windows, sawn boards, and pointed fixed windows above with vertical timber siding below and half-timber and stucco above. The gable end of the dining room towards the west end of the façade has a set of three large wood double-hung windows. Except for the large screened openings at the east side porch, all the windows are leaded glass with a diamond pattern. The gable ends have exposed heavy brackets and decorative bargeboards to compliment the exposed rafters and deep overhang of the side gabled portion of the north façade. The large stone chimneys along the low-sloped asphalt shingle roof are also clearly visible.

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The east façade of the Gundersen Cottage is symmetrical with the same materials and massing as found elsewhere on the building. The cottage is constructed with an exposed concrete foundation with occasional vents to the space below. The porch section of the cottage is most visible along this façade with a series of three large screened openings spaced equally in the gable end of vertical timber exterior walls and a pattern of half-timber and stucco above. The roof of the porch gable end has exposed wood brackets, detailed bargeboard, and a single hip knob finial. Behind the gable end of the single-story portion of the east façade the side of the one and one-half story gable of the living room space is visible. At the first floor, the band of wood casement windows wraps around with a single window visible at each corner on the north and south sides of the cottage. Like elsewhere, the first floor at this location is vertical pine timber and half-timber and stucco above along the side.

The main first floor is arranged with two poles of the living room and porch at the eastern end and the dining room and kitchen at the western end of the cottage. A large gallery serves as a hall with a maid's room, two bedrooms, two toilets, a bath, a large closet, and the main entry arranged between the two sides. The upper floor consists only of a lofted space, a balcony overlooking the one and one-half story space of the living room, and a large and low attic for storage. The basement is largely unexcavated with a shallow concrete foundation walls with a small cellar for storage at the western end of the cottage under the side entry and maid's quarters. The Scandinavian architectural theme is most noticeable on the interior of the Gundersen Cottage. A rustic cottage aesthetic is displayed using natural materials and wood craftsmanship. The unpainted vertical log walls found on the exterior continue on the interior of the exterior of the walls. Other walls are finished with plaster or wood panels with leaded glass wood windows. Specifically, the living room features a one and one-half story height ceiling supported by large timber trusses and a balcony with an open wooden railing around the massive, tapered stone fireplace and chimney.

The balcony is supported by nine wood beams cantilevered from the wall; each end carved with a whimsical human face. These carvings were produced by Rudolph Blatter, a Swiss woodcarver working with the Hackner Altar Company of La Crosse, a successful altar and furniture maker. Likewise, the dining room has stenciled friezes and another large stone fireplace with a brick hearth and a wrought iron crane. The kitchen has paneled and glazed doors to various wood drawers and cupboards. Throughout the cottage molding and spaces between beams is stenciled with traditional Scandinavian patterns featuring intertwining vines, dragons, gnomes, chains, and geometric shapes. The roof structure of 4 x 8 wood joists is typically exposed and detailed. There are wood doors, often set in tudor-arch or pointed openings and panels of sawn boards serve as wainscoting on the interior. Some of the furniture, specifically tables and benches, were designed along with the house to further enhance the cottage's aesthetics.

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There is a wood ice house to the west of the cottage. This side gable building was a part of the original construction and is considered a contributing resource in this nomination as its materials and style approximately match the cottage. While the foundation of a garage, constructed in 1918 and designed to match the cottage, remains, the building was destroyed by flooding in 1965. There are no other significant structures on the large site besides the Gundersen Cottage though smaller outbuildings and objects such as a pigeon coop, chicken coop, pump house, a small animal shed, a dock, and assorted tree plaquards once existed.

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

Statement of Significance

The Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is a fine and unique example of a Scandinavian inspired rustic Arts and Crafts summer home constructed in 1918. The linear, one-and-one-half story, east-west cottage is composed of a long and broad house with smaller crossing gables near either end. The cottage features vertical log walls, leaded glass windows, half-timbering, massive stone chimneys, decorative arched openings, wood brackets, rafter ends, and scalloped bargeboards, in addition to an interior with heavy beams, wood carvings, and Nordic designs. A small wood frame shed is also located on the secluded property and is considered a non-contributing resource. The unusual design, like vernacular Scandinavian summer cottages, was produced by the notable Prairie Style architects Otto Merman and Percy Bentley of La Crosse. The cottage design also carries traits of the Arts and Crafts style, and possibly some formal similarities to Prairie style houses, while exhibiting the log construction, open beam interior, and Nordic designs associated with Scandinavian building traditions.

Adolph Gundersen was a prominent Norwegian medical doctor who immigrated to La Crosse in 1891. Gundersen and his family played a large role in the establishment of the Gundersen Clinic, the Lutheran Hospital, and the advancement of modern medical practices and standards in La Crosse in the early twentieth century. Dr. Gundersen was honored with the knighthood of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olaf in 1926, an honorary member of the Medical Society of Oslo, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, in the Scandinavian Surgical Society, an honorary member of the Christiania Surgical Society, a regent of the University of Wisconsin, and was inducted into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame in 2013. In 1918, Adolf and Helga Gundersen constructed a summer cottage. The cottage was constructed at the northern end of Barron Island, in what was then a remote and wetland location surrounded by the Mississippi River while still close to the City of La Crosse. Now within the City of La Crosse, the cottage, sited opposite the Minnesota west bank of the river, is set back from adjacent parts of the island occupied by a public park and US Highway 14/61 and a couple bridges. The cottage and its surroundings are largely unchanged since its construction.

The Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places having local significance under Criterion C for Architecture as an unusual example of a Nordic interpretation of Arts and Crafts design and having local significance under Criterion B for Medicine for its relationship to the life of Dr. Adolf Gundersen, a notable and influential La Crosse physician.

Historic Context

The area that is now the City of La Crosse was originally a popular location for fur traders along the east bank of the Mississippi River, and a fur trading post was established there in 1840s. In 1841, Nathan Myrick established the first trading post and constructed a non-extant log building on Barron

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

Island. In 1843, the post was moved to the east bank of the river and renamed 'La Crosse.' The site remained a small settlement until the 1850s when it experienced rapid growth. The surrounding prairie proved to be excellent farm land, and the geographical advantage of the high banks of the Mississippi River made the location an excellent dock for river traffic and steamboats and immune to flooding. River trade spurred on economic growth, and the population went from 573 inhabitants in 1853 to 3,860 people in 1860. In 1857, Alzono Barron established "Island City" in Houston County, Minnesota on the opposite bank of the Mississippi River from La Crosse. Various attempts in the late nineteenth century to subdivide and develop the island failed.¹

The name La Crosse is derived from the common name of the field sport, which was popular with the native Ho-Chunk tribe that occupied the area as a frequent meeting place and location for trade along the Mississippi River. The area was originally known to settlers by the French 'Prairie La Crosse.'²

The 1860s and 1870s saw the establishment of large industries, railway lines, banks, local government, and an economy based on transportation and access to a large river port. The neighboring Village of North La Crosse was annexed in 1871. La Crosse became the second largest city in the state with 7,785 people in 1870 and 14,505 by 1880. The Milwaukee Railroad (the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul) arrived in 1858 and expanded over the following decades as two more railways were introduced in 1876. The railroads slowly displaced steamboats as the main mode of transportation and trade serving a vibrant lumbering industry. The lumber industry eventually declined and moved away. The 1890s saw a decline in growth due to economic recession, and by the 1910s and 1920s, the economy of the City had completely changed, with the lack of both lumber mills and the end of widespread river traffic. Infrastructure such as paved streets, municipal electricity, deep wells and water works, a public health department and hospitals, large public schools, zoning laws, and a park system were all introduced by 1913. The population of La Crosse reached 30,421 people in 1920.³

Notable La Crosse native, lumber baron, and two term mayor, A.W. Pettibone acquired most of Barron Island in 1901 and deeded the 200-acre property to the Pettibone Park Commission to serve as Public Park for the City of La Crosse. The following year, Pettibone encouraged Barron Island to be deeded to Wisconsin from Minnesota. The park was developed over the following years with a bathhouse designed by architect Otto Merman, small park buildings, and a public swimming area. The

¹ Hessel, Susan and Gayda Hollnagel. *A History of La Crosse, Wisconsin in the Twentieth Century*. La Crosse, WI: La Crosse Historical Society, 2007; & Rausch, Joan and Richard Zeitlin. *City of La Crosse, Wisconsin Intensive Architectural/Historical Survey Report*. Prepared for City Planning Department, City of La Crosse. 1984.

² Sanford, Albert and H.J. Hirshheimer. *A History of La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1841-1900*. La Crosse, WI: La Crosse County Historical Society, 1951.

³ Godden, Laura and Paul Beck. *La Crosse, Postcard History Series*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015; & Rausch, Joan and Richard Zeitlin. *Historic La Crosse: Architectural and Historic Record: A Summary of an Intensive Survey Report*. Architectural Researches, Inc. and Historical Resources, Inc., 1984.

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
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northern portion of the island was divided from Pettibone's property and was known as Thompson Island, named after its owner Theodore Thompson. This portion of the island was purchased by Adolf Gundersen in 1916 for \$1.00, and a cottage was constructed in 1918. The land was finally transferred to Wisconsin in 1918 by an act of Congress and annexed by the City of La Crosse one year later.⁴

The growth of La Crosse slowed considerably in the 1920s and 1930s as the Depression further eroded the transportation based economy of the city. The population reach in 39,614 in 1930 and 47,535 people in 1950. Labor trouble in the 1950s was commonplace and further slowed growth of the city in comparison to other cities in Wisconsin.⁵

The Gundersen Family

Adolf Gundersen was born in Asnes, Norway in 1865, and Helga Sara Isaksetre was born in Norway in 1867. Adolf attended medical school in Norway and graduated from the Royal University in Oslo in 1890. He immigrated to the United States in 1891, settling in La Crosse, Wisconsin to work with Doctor Christian Christensen, also a Norwegian immigrant. Two years later he returned to Norway, married Helga, and then returned to La Crosse to practice as a physician. The couple had eight children, including Sigurd born in 1895, Gunnar born in 1897, Alf Helge born in 1898, Trygve born in 1902, Thorolf born in 1911, and Helga born in 1913.

The Gundersen Cottage has since been owned and occupied by members of the family. Adolf and Helga Gundersen moved to an extant Queen Anne style house at 1231 Ferry Street in the City of La Crosse in 1895. The family then moved to a non-extant home along King Street in La Crosse in 1914.⁶

Norwegians were the second largest historical immigrant group to locate in La Crosse and the surrounding region, arriving as early as 1851 and continuing to immigrate into the early twentieth century. The community was prominent in farming, business, and medicine, and two Norwegian language newspapers appeared in La Crosse in the late nineteenth century. Like other immigrant groups, there was some friction with the socialite elite, and Gundersen specifically disliked the Yankee

⁴ Marcou, David, Ed. *Spirit of La Crosse: A Grassroots History*. La Crosse, WI: Speranza Publishing and Western Wisconsin Technical College, 2000; & "Prairie Steps," Footsteps of LaCrosse: A Journey through Time and Architecture website. <www.footstepsoflacrosse.org/tours/prairie-steps>, accessed November 14, 2016.

⁵ La Crosse Historical Society. *La Crosse, Wisconsin, Images of America Series*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1999.

⁶ Gundersen Cottage National Register Nomination Questionnaire, 1984. On file at the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI.

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

clients who were hesitant to trust an immigrant doctor. The Gundersen family maintained ties to Norway, actively fostering relations between American and Norwegian medical fields.⁷

Adolf Gundersen became a prominent and influential doctor in La Crosse and a local household name by the early twentieth century. He often conducted house visits, which were common and often safer than hospital visits due to contamination at the turn-of-the-century. Before the Gundersen clinic opened in 1902, doctor's visits and operations were conducted in private homes.⁸

In 1918, the Gundersen family constructed a summer cottage on what was then known as Barron Island in the Mississippi River adjacent to the City of La Crosse. Dr. Gundersen was honored with the knighthood of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olaf in 1926, and was an honorary member of the Medical Society of Oslo, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and in the Scandinavian Surgical Society, an honorary member of the Christiania Surgical Society, a regent of the University of Wisconsin, and was inducted into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame in 2013.⁹

Gundersen established the new Gundersen Clinic in 1930 with four of his sons: Sigurd, Gunnar, Alf, and Thorolf. Previously, the clinic was in a drug store in downtown La Crosse. Helga founded the Ibsen Club in La Crosse and served as its president for fifty years.¹⁰

Dr. Adolf Gundersen died in Norway in 1938 at the age of 72. After his death, his family established the Gundersen Foundation to encourage continuing education amongst the medical profession. The Gundersen cottage was inherited by their son Sigurd and his wife Eleanor Gundersen. The remainder of Thompson Island, the northern portion of Pettibone's original property, was purchased by the Gundersen family and added to the land occupied by the summer cottage. Helga Gundersen died in 1951 at the age of 83. Both Adolph and Helga are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in La Crosse. In 1979, ownership of the property was passed on common ownership of the Gundersen family, which established a trust in 2006.¹¹

While the Gundersen Cottage has a clear association with the lives of Adolf and Helga Gundersen and their children, the extant Gundersen family home, located at 1231 Ferry Street in the City of La Crosse, was their primary residence during the height of influence for Dr. Adolf Gundersen's practice

⁷ Midelfort, H. Christine. *A Norwegian Immigrant's Accommodation to America: The Early Letters of Dr. Adolf Gundersen*. Peninsula Nordic Study Circle Lecture Series, 2005-2006; & Bergland, Betty A.; Lori Ann Lahlum. *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities*. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society, 2011.

⁸ "Physician is father of family of doctors," *Milwaukee Journal*. May 4, 1930.

⁹ '1941-1945, Gundersen Island.' Photographs on record at the Murphy Library Special Collections, UW-La Crosse.

¹⁰ Parlin, Geri. "Opening the door on the Gundersen Cottage," *La Crosse Tribune*. October 1, 2006.

¹¹ Gundersen Cottage National Register Nomination Questionnaire, 1984; Deed record for Lots 2 & 3, Section 12, Township 104 North, Range 4 West in LaCrosse County.

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
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in the early twentieth century from 1893 to 1914. However, the house along Ferry Street lacks architectural integrity from its original Queen Anne design. In 1914, the Gundersen family moved to non-extant house located at 1509 King Street in the City of La Crosse. Therefore, the Gundersen Cottage is the best historic property associated with the life of Dr. Adolf Gundersen, a significant person in La Crosse's medical community.

Four generations of the Gundersen family have been involved with the Gundersen Clinic, Gundersen Lutheran, and Gundersen Medical Foundation since their establishment. Adolf's son, Gunnar, attended Columbia University School of Medicine and specialized in orthopedic surgery and returned to practice in La Crosse. In 1958, Gunnar Gundersen was elected president of the American Medical Association.¹²

La Crosse Medical History

While the La Crosse Medical Society was established in 1855, the City of La Crosse only had thirty-three physicians listed in the city directory when Adolf Gundersen immigrated to the area in 1891. Medical practice at the time was performed by traveling salesmen, quack doctors, clergymen, and barbers. However, St. Francis Hospital incorporated in 1883, and Lutheran Hospital incorporated in 1890 in La Crosse. Advances in medical technology and microbiology at the turn-of-the-century improved medical conditions considerably, and the La Crosse Board of Health was instituted in 1910.¹³

When local clergy planned for a new hospital, Dr. Gundersen recognized the opportunity and served as the first director of the hospital. The Gundersen Clinic and Lutheran Hospital have a historically close relationship due to the role of Dr. Adolf Gundersen as the first medical director of the hospital and the manager of the clinic next door. In 1917, Adolf Gundersen went to the hospital board to insist that his clinic have control over medical practice at Lutheran Hospital.¹⁴

Originally located in downtown La Crosse in the extant Solberg Building at 127-129 South 3rd Street, listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the La Crosse Commercial Historic District, the Gundersen Clinic moved to a new extant 17,000 square-foot building located at 1836 South Avenue adjacent to the La Crosse Lutheran Hospital in 1930. In 1944,

¹² Parlin, Geri. "Opening the door on the Gundersen Cottage."

¹³ "2013 Laureates. Dr. Adolf Gundersen. Gundersen Health System," *Gundersen Health System*. March 20, 2016; & Hessel, Susan. *Medicine, the Gundersen Experience, 1891-1991*. La Crosse, WI: Gundersen Clinic, 1991.

¹⁴ "Celebrating our 125th Year of Caring," *Gundersen Health System*. March 20, 2016; & Boudreau, Richard. *National Attention: Local Connection*. La Crosse, WI: 2013

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Gundersen's physician sons created the Gundersen Medical Foundation, now known as Gundersen Health System.¹⁵

The Gundersen Medical Foundation's presence could attract specialists and encouraged the development of special local services such as the Gundersen Heart Institute, the Gundersen Cancer Center, a renal-dialysis unit, comprehensive rehabilitative medicine services, nurse-midwifery services, bariatric patient surgery, and obstetrical care. In 1995, the Gundersen Clinic officially merged with Lutheran Hospital to form Gundersen Lutheran, later renamed Gundersen Health System. Gundersen and Lutheran served a market larger than La Crosse and needed to expand further. The institution now has clinics in three states and more than 6,000 employees.¹⁶

Architecture

The Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is locally significant in the area of Architecture as an unusual example of a rustic Arts and Crafts style cottage drawing its design from Nordic inspiration, having a high level of integrity. The Architectural Study Units of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) does not address this combination, nor does it attribute a period of time for similar architecture. While not fitting neatly into a common architectural style of the period, the design of the Gundersen Cottage can be considered a rustic cottage in the spirit of the Arts and Crafts movement, with which the architects were familiar. The origins of the Arts and Crafts movement, focused on the revival of craftsmanship, medieval tradition, cooperation, and decorative arts as a counter to industrial standardization and stylistic eclecticism and revivals, was reinterpreted in the United States, where it is relatively rare, as a conscious influence on the Prairie and Craftsman styles and their purveyors. The Arts and Crafts movement can also be understood as the first phase of the development of modern architecture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The architectural emphasis on modernized ornament, 'honesty' in materials, and structural expression inspired further developments including the Prairie style in the United States. The architects of the Gundersen Cottage, Percy Bentley and Otto Merman, applied these concepts to create a design which reflected the identity and values of their client. The case of the Gundersen Cottage can be understood in this stylistic context not as a literal application of the Arts & Crafts style, but rather as a design adaptation that stressed a vernacular Norwegian type as inspiration combined with the methods of modern architecture.¹⁷

¹⁵ "The Gundersen Brothers and the Growth of the Gundersen Clinic," *Massachusetts General Hospital Surgical Society*. Vol. 6, no. 2, Fall 2005.

¹⁶ Gundersen Lutheran Health Plan, January 1, 2009; & 'History,' Gundersen Health System website. <www.gundersenhealth.org/our-system/history>, accessed November 14, 2016.

¹⁷ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2, a Manual for Historic Properties*. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986; & McAlester, Virginia

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Adolph Gundersen had the cottage constructed for his wife, Helga, and the building was even named 'Helgaland' initially. The family still refers to the site as 'The Island.' Gundersen consciously wanted to create a rustic and secluded retreat for his family near the City of La Crosse, and it is likely that the specifically Norwegian elements can be traced to the owner's influence. The site itself, covering over sixty acres of wetland, was an integral component of how the cottage and its surroundings were used by the Gundersens. While much of the area was not developed, the family used the land for exploring, resting, and boating regularly and constructed outbuildings, a road, and various objects on the grounds and in the woods. The architecture of the cottage is consciously stark and Nordic. The result is a unique building with few, if any, analogous examples.¹⁸ Very little of the Cottage has changed since its construction, and the building possesses a high degree of integrity.

The original garage, which matched the style of the cottage, was destroyed by flooding in 1965, though the foundation remains. Likewise, an original well structure was also destroyed at the same time; however, the well itself is still present and functional. The only existing outbuilding on the property is a large ice house west of the house which was constructed at the same time as the cottage.

The Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage was designed by Percy Dwight Bentley and Otto Merman Architects of La Crosse and completed in 1918. The house was constructed by the Peter Nelson and Son Construction Company. The cottage features a combination of rustic and Arts and Crafts design elements and is sited on a large sixty-acre lot on a wooded island in the Mississippi River near the City of La Crosse. The cottage itself was one of the most architecturally notable homes constructed in La Crosse County. The Gundersen Cottage reflects the spirit of the Arts and Crafts movement with characteristic elements of Rustic and Prairie style architecture with added Scandinavian elements and iconography.¹⁹

The design of the cottage consciously referred to the Norwegian heritage of the Gundersen family and particularly to the form of vernacular Scandinavian summer cottages. In this sense, the cottage is a revival of a vernacular building type native to Northern Europe, like other Arts and Crafts style buildings. Characteristics of the Nordic style include vertical or horizontal log walls, gabled roofs, heavy beams, leaded glass windows, massive fireplaces and chimneys, arched openings, wood brackets, decorative rafter ends and bargeboards, half-timbering, and Scandinavian iconography and traditional designs carved and stenciled throughout the interior.

Savage. A Field Guide to American Houses, Second Edition. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

¹⁸ *Summer Residence for Dr. A. Gundersen. Helgaland, in Minnesota.* Bentley and Merman Architects, LaCrosse, WI. February-March, 1918.

¹⁹ Deeds Record, Theodore Thompson to Adolph Gundersen (sp.) October 23, 1916. On record at the Murphy Library Special Collections, UW-La Crosse.

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The building also maintains some elements, such as its linear plan, low-pitched gable roofs, projecting eaves, contrasting exterior finishes, balcony, banding, geometric patterns in the fenestration, casement windows, massive chimneys, the narrow façade featured upon the approach, and some of the building materials, of the popular Prairie style, which the cottage's architects, Bentley and Merman, worked in extensively in La Crosse at the time.²⁰

It is instructive to compare this house with other buildings built in La Crosse at the time and other Rustic, Prairie, and Arts and Crafts style houses in the rest of La Crosse County. A study of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) was undertaken to establish a context for the Gundersen Cottage and assess its National Register of Historic Places potential. The only other rustic style structure in La Crosse County is a small log gun club shelter. There are fifty-seven Prairie style homes designed by Bentley and/or Merman as recorded in the Architecture and History Inventory at the Wisconsin Historical Society, almost all of these in the City of La Crosse. However, these resources exhibit the true stylistic traits of the Prairie style directly rather than the uniquely unusual rusticated version found in the Gundersen Cottage. The Gundersen Cottage remains a unique combination of Arts and Crafts sentiment, the influence of a Norwegian vernacular building type, and the influence of Prairie style proclivities and design.

Architect

Bentley and Merman

Percy Dwight Bentley was born in La Crosse in 1885, the son of the notable local banker E.E. Bentley. He studied at Ohio Wesleyan University from 1904 to 1906, not graduating; he then attended Chicago's Armour Institute for a couple of years, again not graduating. While in Chicago, he visited Louis Sullivan's and Frank Lloyd Wright's offices, which would later inspire his work. Otto Merman was born in La Crosse in 1890 and received his training in the early 1900s working in the architectural office of Parkinson and Dockendorff.²¹

Between 1907 and 1910, Bentley worked in La Crosse for Wells Bennett as a draftsman. In 1910, he formed a brief partnership with William Bajari, hiring Otto Merman as a draftsman in 1912. Both Merman and Bentley left La Crosse in 1914 for St. Paul, Minnesota. The two returned to La Crosse

²⁰ Gundersen Cottage National Register Nomination Questionnaire, 1984; & Blumenson, John J. G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. Second Ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1981.

²¹ Brooks, H. Allen. *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 1972.

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periodically and formally announced their partnership in La Crosse at the end of December 1917.²² Their offices were located at the Linker Building in downtown La Crosse, and working together or individually, Bentley and Merman are credited with designing the most significant Prairie style residences in the City of La Crosse and the surrounding region during the 1910s. In 1918, the pair designed the Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen House.²³

Examples of their work include the mirror-image, matching houses, the Chase and Wohlueter bungalows, at 221-23 11th Street which date from 1913. They were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Their designs also make up a good number of the buildings in “The Cass and King Street Residential Historic District” listed in 1997.²⁴

In 1921 Bentley moved to St. Paul permanently, where he partnered with Charles Hausler for nearly a decade. In 1922, Merman associated with Herbert W. Skogstad until Skogstad’s death in 1929. Skogstad was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the nature of commissions expanded after this partnership was established to include work for local institutions and businesses as well as residences. Merman continued to design many public buildings as well as some commercial and residential buildings. Otto Merman died at the age of 45 in June 1935. In the mid-1930s Bentley moved to Hood River, Oregon, and later to Eugene, Oregon, where he continued his architectural practice, though in more traditional and revival styles, up until his death in 1968 at the age of 83.²⁵

Builder

Peter Nelson and Son

Peter Nelson and Son was established as a general construction business in 1890 by Peter Nelson of La Crosse. Peter Nelson and Son served as the general contractor for the construction of the Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage.²⁶ His brother, Bernt Nelson, was the general superintendent of the company and, in the 1930s, Bernt purchased the company and operated it as a partnership with his sons. Peter Nelson and Son was incorporated in 1945. A prolific local builder, many of the churches, schools, hospitals, houses, apartment buildings, banks, and municipal buildings of La Crosse were

²² “Bentley Work Recognized: Former City Architect Feted by Roswell, N.M.,” *La Crosse Tribune*. January 23, 1957; & “Otto Merman, Prominent as Architect, Dies,” *La Crosse Tribune*. June 3, 1935.

²³ Guide to the Bentley, Merman, and Skogstad Architectural Drawings, 1918-1935. LaCrosse Public Library Archives and Local History Department.

²⁴ “Bentley & Merman New Designers Here: Percy Bentley in Partnership with Local Man,” *La Crosse Tribune*. December 27, 1917; & “Otto Merman, Prominent as Architect, Dies,” *La Crosse Tribune*. June 3, 1935.

²⁵ “Architect P. D. Bentley Dies at 83,” *La Crosse Tribune*. February 8, 1968; & “Funeral Services of H. W. Skogstad to be on Monday,” *La Crosse Tribune*, September 15, 1929.

²⁶ Gundersen Cottage National Register Nomination Questionnaire, 1984.

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constructed by Peter Nelson and Son. Successful in introducing modern building technologies such as Armco Building Systems and Loma Stone, the company did not survive the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009 and went out of business.

Conclusion

The Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is nominated at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of a Nordic and rustic interpretation of the Arts and Crafts style and modern architectural design. The cottage was designed by the notable La Crosse architects Percy Dwight Bentley and Otto Merman and was constructed in 1918. The cottage features vertical log walls, massive stone chimneys, wood brackets and decorative rafter ends, heavy beams, and interior wood carvings and Scandinavian inspired stenciled painting designs. These features have been maintained and preserved during the years since its construction. The Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is now one of La Crosse County's most architecturally intact and significant residential buildings. The cottage is also nominated at the local level under National Register Criterion B in the area of Medicine for its relationship as the remaining primary residence of Dr. Adolf Gundersen, a prominent and influential La Crosse Physician who established the Gundersen Clinic and La Crosse Lutheran Hospital, later merged as Gundersen Health System.

Statement of Archeological Potential

The area of the state along the Mississippi River was likely home to considerable Native American activity and early European settlement. Archeologists have identified significant evidence of a prehistoric culture dating from 1300 to 1550 AD called Oneota that occupied the area around the present City of La Crosse. Artifacts from this culture have frequently been found along the broad, sandy terraces of the Mississippi River valley. Excavations in La Crosse in 1991 revealed many artifacts that indicate widespread settlement up to the seventeenth century.²⁷ While it is almost certain that the construction of the extant resources would have greatly disturbed or completely obliterated remaining archeological artifacts directly within their footprints, it is possible that archaeological remains may be extant outside of the footprint of resources within this property. Especially considering the wetland and impermanent landscape of the site. Archaeological potential for the property remains unassessed.

²⁷ Arzigian, Constance et al. *The Gundersen Site: An Oneota Village and Cemetery in La Crosse, Wisconsin*. Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. Report No. 155, 1993.

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Preservation Activities

Thanks to its history of restoration and good maintenance by the Gundersen family, the Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage continues to serve as a well preserved, distinctive home. In addition, the current homeowners, descendants of the Gundersen family, have been proactive in protecting this historic resource, and this nomination is a continuation of their efforts. The summer cottage will soon be remodeled with new plumbing, electrical, and heating systems to make the cottage viable for year-round living. In certain areas, the concrete foundation and wood detailing will also be repaired. In listing this property, the homeowners, Sigurd and Jean Ann Gundersen, hope to obtain the opportunity to utilize historic tax credits and/or other incentives to maintain their property.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The property that is the subject of this nomination consists of 2 contributing resources, the Gundersen Cottage, and, an adjacent ice house building, sited on a 61.5-acre lot at the northwest end of Barron Island, also known as Pettibone or Thompson Island, in the City of La Crosse in La Crosse County, just opposite from the Minnesota State line. The legal description of the lot is as follows: Lots 2 and 3 of section 12, Government Island Number 104. The boundary for the Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage described above matches the boundaries for the wetland and wooded property exactly and is clearly delineated on the accompanying sketch map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses the entire 61.5-acre parcel identical to the current legal parcel for the property at 1000 US Highway 14/61 in the City of La Crosse. This property was deeded from Theodore Thompson to Adolf Gundersen in 1916, two years before the Cottage was constructed, while most the island was purchased by A.W. Pettibone earlier for use as a La Crosse city park. The northern and western boundaries of the parcel are the Mississippi River while the eastern boundary adjoins Pettibone Public Park and Nature Area. The southern boundary of the parcel is the right-of-way of US Highway 14/61 as it crosses the river. The terrain of the site is wetland and has shifted since the time when the cottage was constructed, experiencing several floods and nearby civil engineering projects. The wetland site was used and enjoyed recreationally by the Gundersen family since the cottage's construction and appreciated for its natural beauty. Much of the property has been maintained and consciously preserved as woods and wetland, evaluated by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy as holding significant value due to its location within the City of La Crosse and containing unique and varied flora and fauna.

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Name of Property:	Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage
City or Vicinity:	City of La Crosse
County:	La Crosse
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:	Marcus Zettler, HSR Associates
Date of Photographs:	April 13, 2016, May 13, 2016, Dec. 7, 2016
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Madison, WI

(Several of the included photos will be retaken and resubmitted in the late spring of 2017 to improve their quality.)

Photo 1 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0001)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the southwest

Photo 2 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0002)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the south

Photo 3 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0003)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the southeast

Photo 4 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0004)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the east

Photo 5 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0005)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the northeast

Photo 6 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0006)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the north

Photo 7 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0007)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the northwest

Photo 8 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0008)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the west

Photo 9 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0009)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the southwest - closer

Photo 10 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0010)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the northwest, Living Room detail

Photo 11 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0011)

Exterior, Cottage, view from the northwest, Dining Room detail

Photo 12 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0012)

Exterior, Ice House, view from the northeast

Photo 13 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0013)

Interior, Living Room, fireplace detail, view from the east

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Photo 14 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0014)

Interior, Living Room, balcony detail, view from the southeast

Photo 15 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0013)

Interior, Balcony, living room detail, view from the southwest

Photo 16 of 16: (WI_LaCrosseCounty_AdolfandHelgaGundersenCottage_0014)

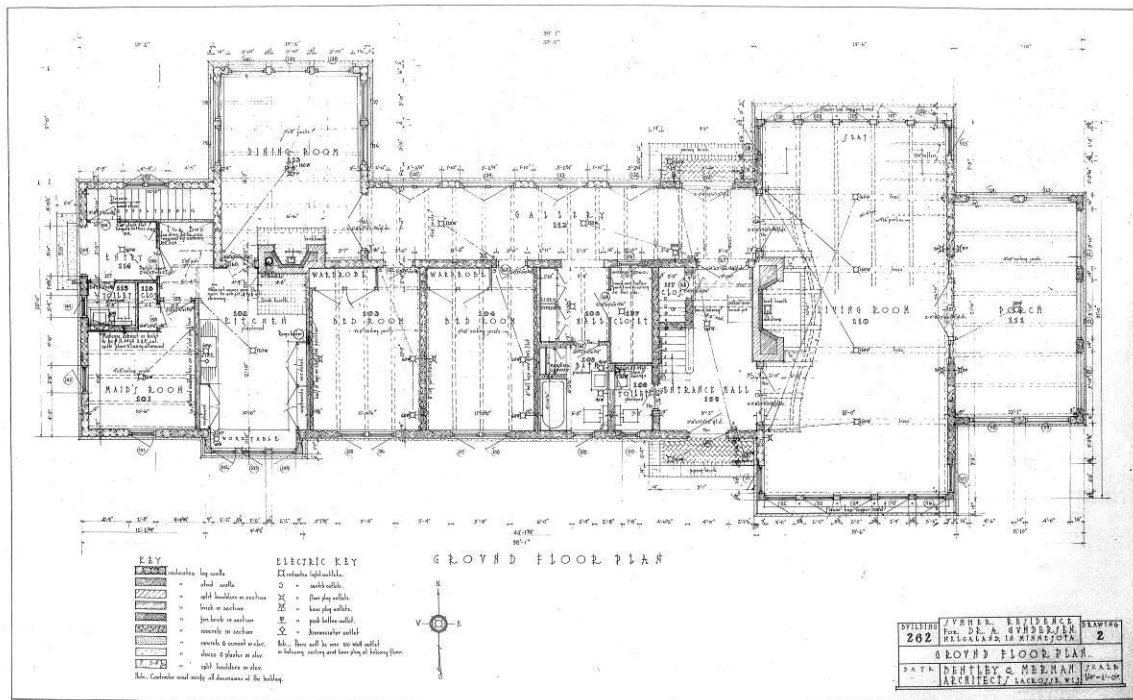
Interior, Gallery, towards the Dining Room, view from the east

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI



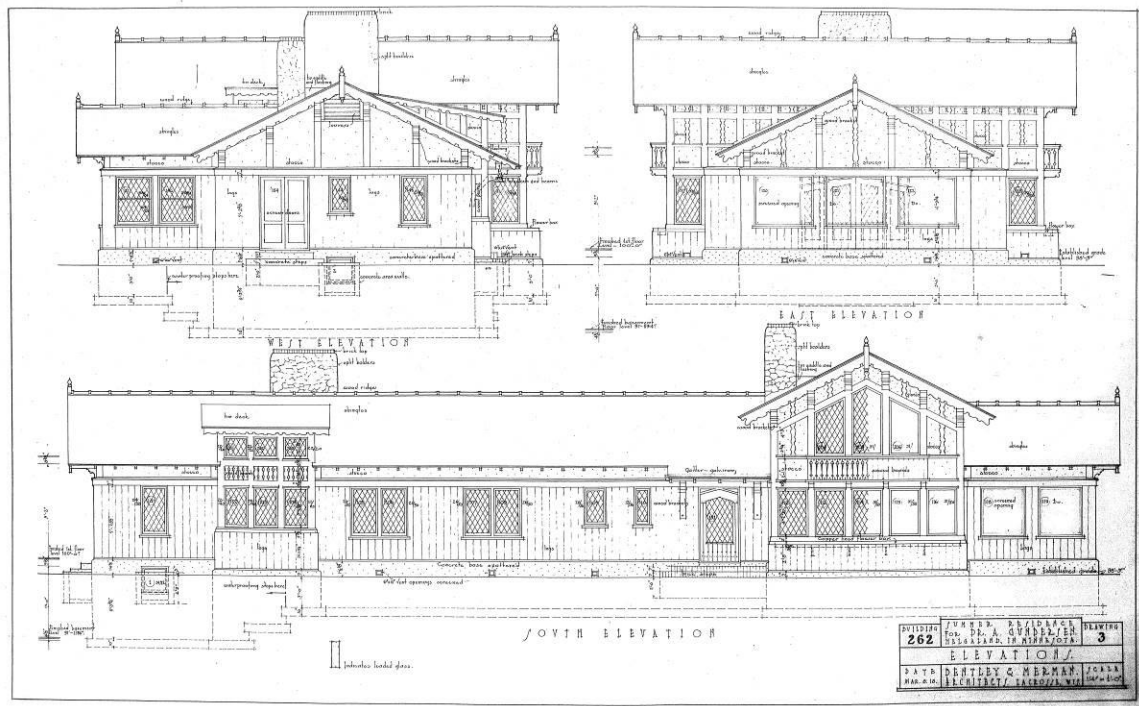
Ground Floor Plan. Bentley and Merman Architects, La Crosse. "Summer Residence for Dr. A. Gundersen, Helgaland, In Minnesota," Architectural Plans. 1918.

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI



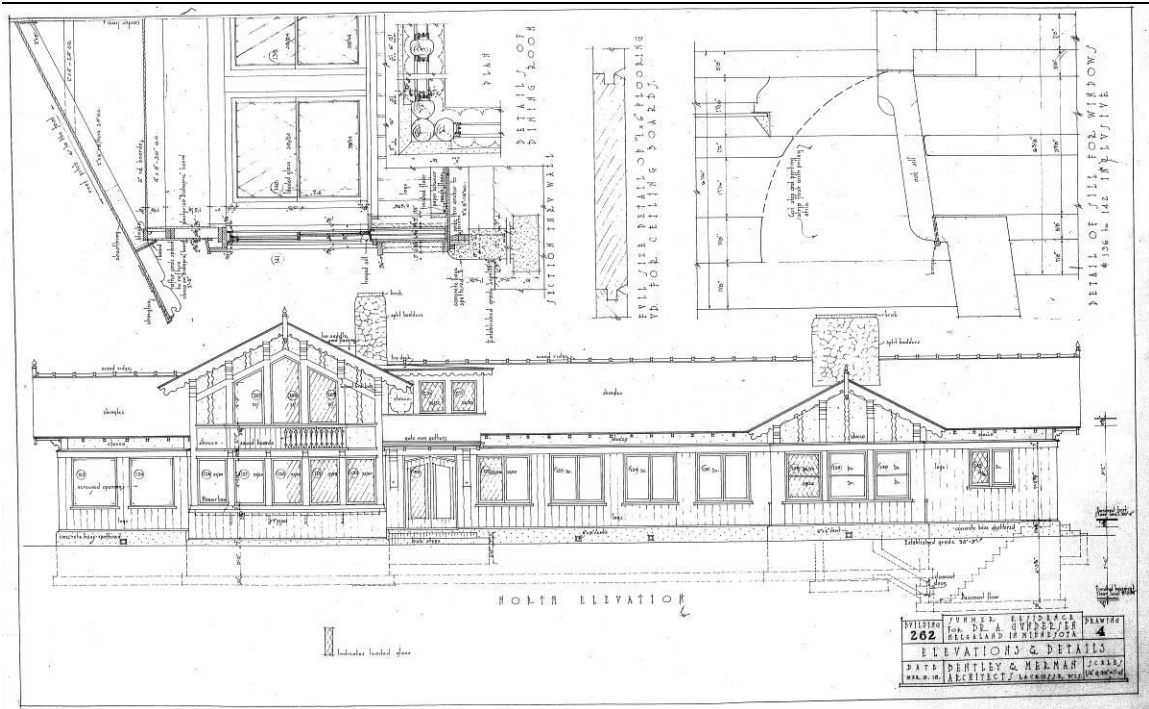
Elevations. Bentley and Merman Architects, La Crosse. "Summer Residence for Dr. A. Gundersen. Helgaland, In Minnesota," Architectural Plans. 1918.

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Section figures Page 5

Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI



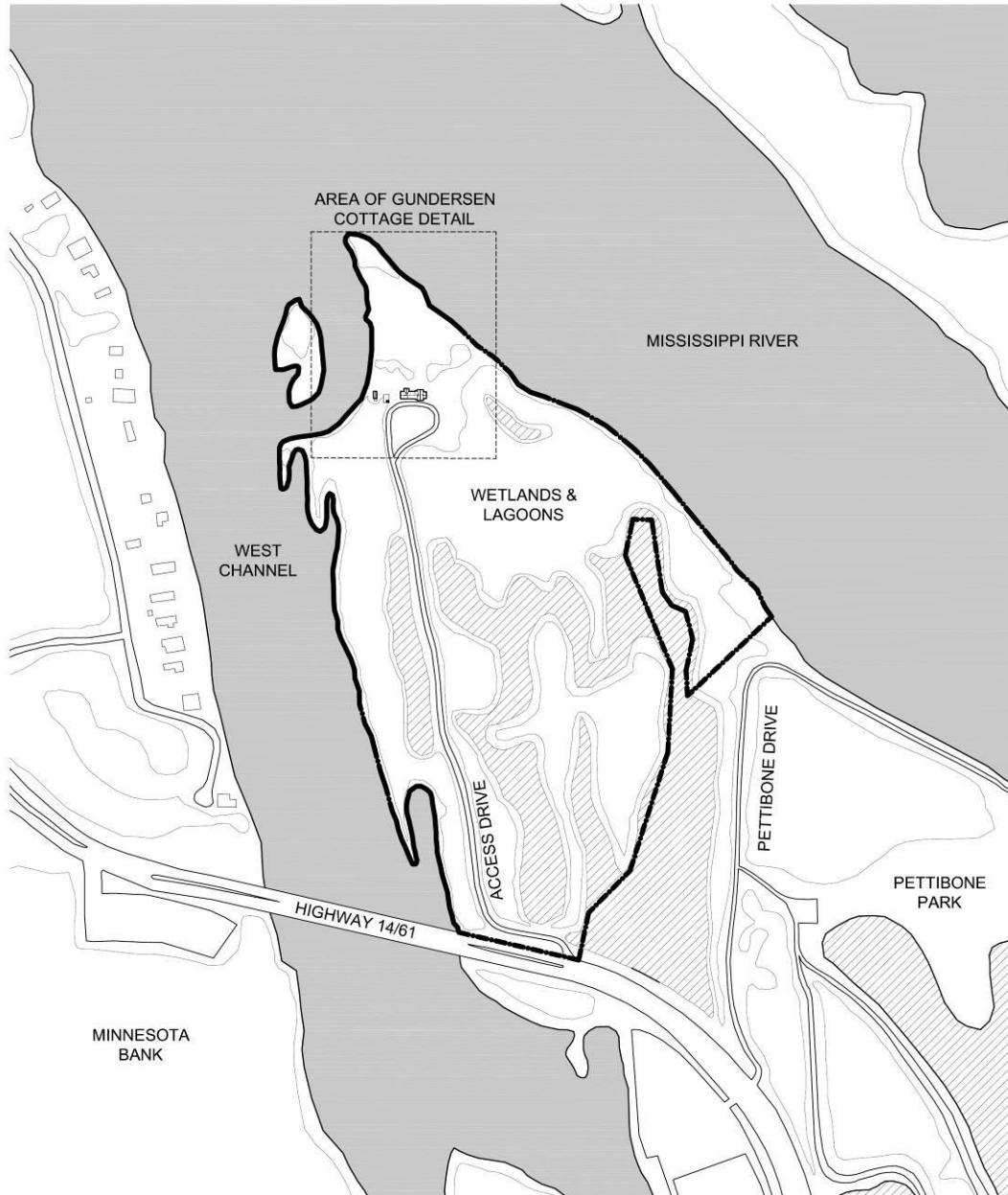
Elevations and Details. Bentley and Merman Architects, La Crosse. "Summer Residence for Dr. A. Gundersen. Helgaland, In Minnesota," Architectural Plans. 1918.

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Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

Section sketch map Page 1



LEGEND

	PROPERTY LINE & NRHP BOUNDARY
1 →	PHOTO NUMBER & VANTAGE POINT
	LAGOONS

SKETCH MAP

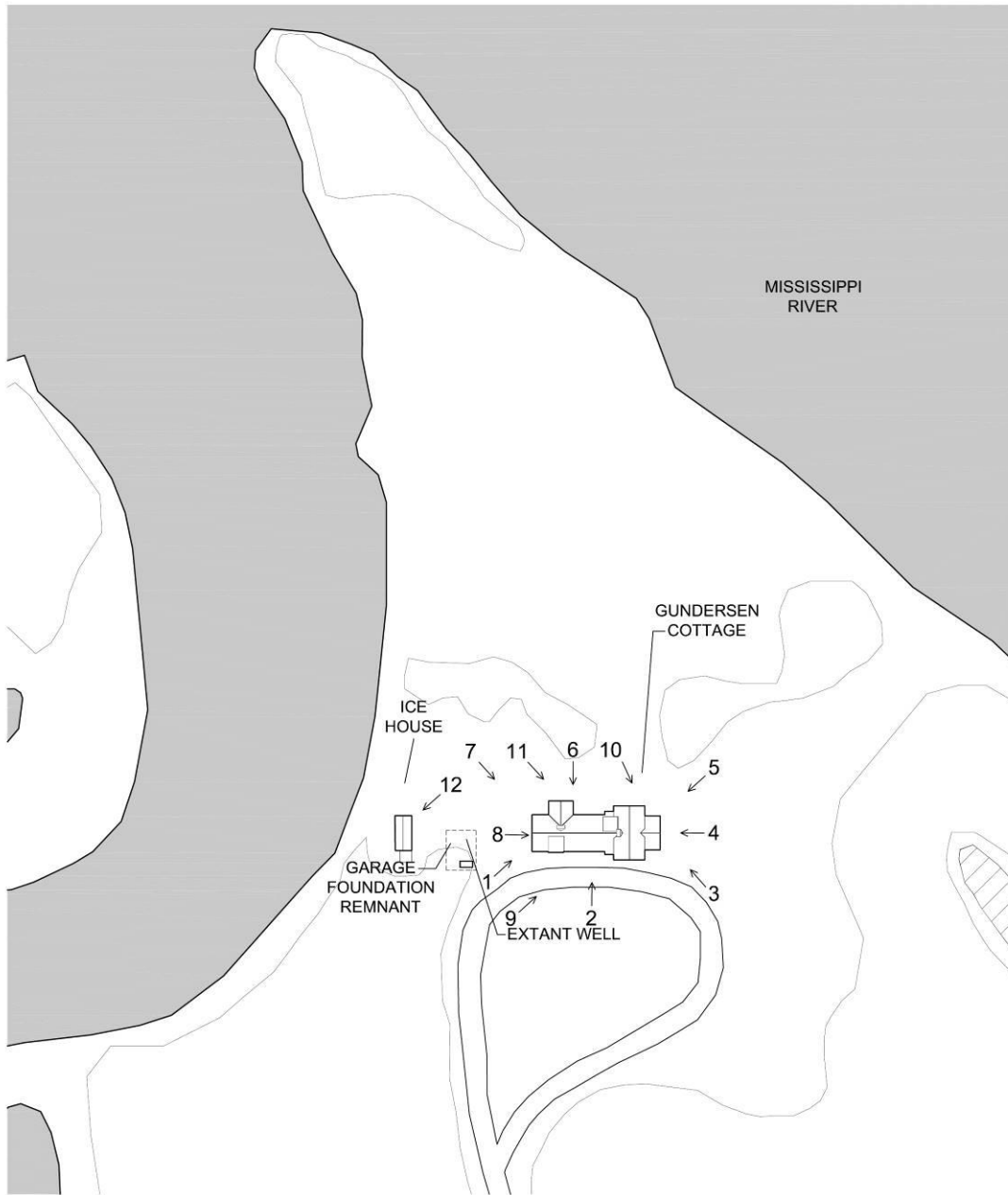
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United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

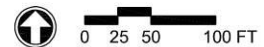
Section sketch map Page 2



LEGEND

- 1 → PHOTO NUMBER & VANTAGE POINT
- ▨ LAGOONS

SKETCH MAP DETAIL



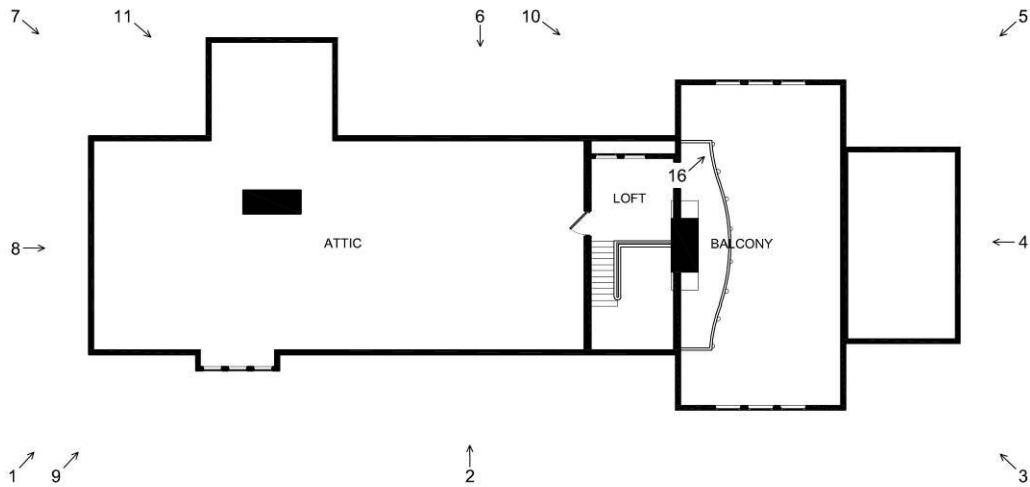
United States Department of the Interior
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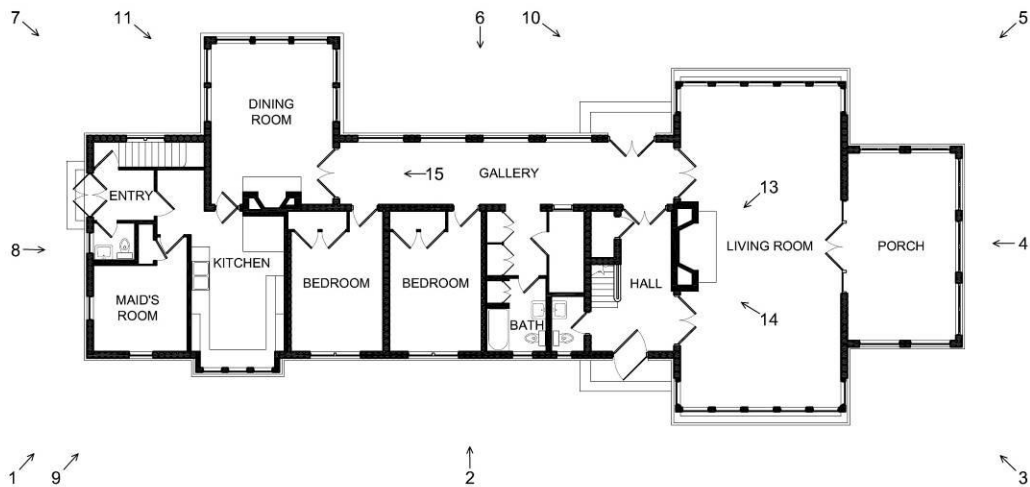
Section sketch plan Page 1

Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



LEGEND

1 → PHOTO NUMBER & VANTAGE POINT

SKETCH PLAN



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Section summary statement Page 1

Gundersen, Dr. Adolf and Helga, Cottage
City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, WI

Summary Statement

The Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is a fine and unique example of a Scandinavian inspired rustic Arts and Crafts style summer home constructed in 1918. The linear, one-and-one-half story, east-west cottage is composed of a long and broad house with smaller crossing gables near either end. The cottage features vertical log walls, leaded glass windows, half-timbering, massive stone chimneys, decorative arched openings, wood brackets, rafter ends, and scalloped bargeboards, in addition to an interior with heavy beams, wood carvings, and Nordic designs. A small wood frame shed is also located on the secluded property and is considered a non-contributing resource. The unusual design, similar to vernacular Scandinavian summer cottages, was produced by the notable Prairie Style architects Otto Merman and Percy Bentley of La Crosse. The cottage design also carries traits of the Arts and Crafts style, and possibly some formal similarities to Prairie style houses, while exhibiting the log construction, open beam interior, and Nordic designs associated with Scandinavian building traditions. The Dr. Adolf and Helga Gundersen Cottage is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places having local significance under Criterion C for Architecture as an unusual example of a Nordic interpretation of the Arts and Crafts style and having local significance under Criterion B for Medicine for its relationship to the life of Dr. Adolf Gundersen, a notable and influential La Crosse physician.

Adolph Gundersen was a prominent Norwegian medical doctor who immigrated to La Crosse in 1891. Gundersen and his family played a large role in the establishment of the Gundersen Clinic, the Lutheran Hospital, and the advancement of modern medical practices and standards in La Crosse in the early twentieth century. Dr. Gundersen was honored with the knighthood of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olaf in 1926, an honorary member of the Medical Society of Oslo, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, in the Scandinavian Surgical Society, an honorary member of the Christiania Surgical Society, a regent of the University of Wisconsin, and was inducted into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame in 2013. In 1918, Adolf and Helga Gundersen constructed a summer cottage. The cottage was located at the northern end of Barron Island, in what was then a remote and marshland location surrounded by the Mississippi River while still close to the City of La Crosse. Now within the City of La Crosse, the cottage, sited opposite the Minnesota west bank of the river, is set back from adjacent parts of the island occupied by a public park and US Highway 14/61 and a couple bridges. The cottage and its surroundings are largely unchanged since its construction.