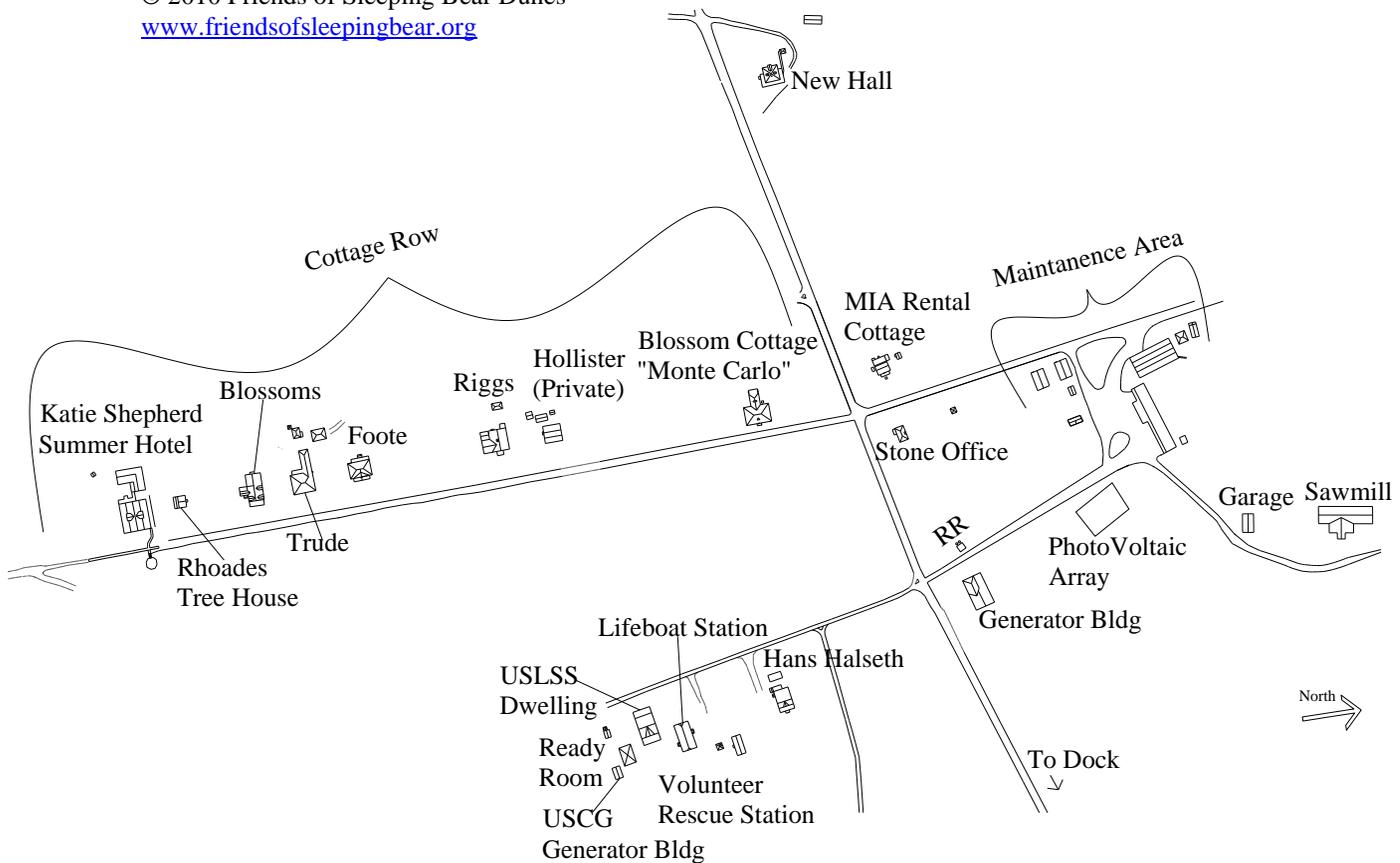


North Manitou Island Village Visitor Guide

Sleeping Bear Dunes
National Lakeshore
Michigan



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Welcome to North Manitou Island! The buildings that greet you when you arrive on North Manitou Island are the “village”. For all but a few years, this was the only village on the island, so it needed no other name. The settlement began when Nicholas Pickard moved his cordwood station from the south end of the island to this location in the mid-1850s. Lumbering and fishing dominated the early years but none of the existing buildings are connected with these activities. The surviving buildings are related to three later activities. The U.S. Life-Saving Service Station (USLSS) sits along the beach; Cottage Row rests on the bluff behind the station and the rest of the village buildings are from the Manitou Island Association (MIA) Farm that dominated island agriculture. As you explore the village please respect the privacy of those who live here.

When you walk off the dock, you will see the Life-Saving Station on your left. We’ll come back to this later. Ahead and to your right is the old MIA generator building where you will have your island orientation with an NPS ranger. If you continue to the right past the generator building, you will see an array of photovoltaic cells. An interpretive sign describes how the sun is used to provide power for the island. Continue past the PV array to the sawmill.

Like South Manitou Island, North Manitou was settled before the mainland because it was accessible to passing steamships. Ships stopped to add wood for fuel, but they also took on loads of lumber, barrels of fish and fresh produce. Pickard operated a sawmill located just north of the Life-Saving Station. While that mill is gone, you can still get an idea how it looked because a similar sawmill was built on the north edge of the village in 1927. This mill used the 1875 steam engine and equipment from the Stormer Mill south of the village. Although almost every little village in Northern Michigan once had a steam sawmill, this is the only known original steam-powered sawmill remaining in the state.

U.S. Life-Saving Service Complex

When you head back to the village, walk past the generator building and continue toward the Life-Saving Station. The first house you see is the **Hans Halseth House**. It is now used as a private residence for NPS staff. The house was built in 1890 near Nicholas Pickard’s dock north of the village. It was relocated here in 1910, and the shed behind it was built at about the same time. This simple 1.5 story wood-frame, side-gabled house was the residence of surfman, Hans Halseth and is a good example of the modest dwellings where USLSS crew members lived.

The **1854 Volunteer Rescue Station** is located about 50 feet southeast of the Hans Halseth house. It is the only structure of its kind from the 1854 federal appropriation to place volunteer rescue stations along the Atlantic Seaboard and the Great Lakes. Nicholas Pickard and his lumber crew built this structure from written specifications provided by the Treasury Department upon receipt of a bond for a Francis Metal Surfboat to be delivered to his care and use. The 1.5 story front-gabled building has a heavy timber frame, and walls sheathed with cedar boards.

The **1877 U.S. Life Boat Station and Capstan** is the next building. Francis Chandler designed the structure as the architect for the Treasury Department. The structure is an open one-story boat house with a clipped gable roof. The building was later renovated by the MIA, which removed the boat door and added a new door and new windows. They also removed the lookout tower, which originally had surmounted the roof of the building.

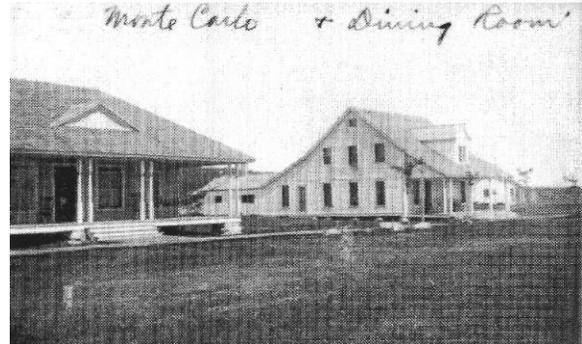
The **1887 U.S. Life-Saving Service Dwelling** was designed by Albert Bibb as the architect for the Treasury Department. The design is believed to be unique in the nation. The 2-story structure is roughly square with a steep gabled roof and a large central cross gable. The U.S. Coast Guard remodeled the dwelling in 1932, and the MIA further altered the building during the 1940s and 1950s to serve as quarters for its employees and a lodge for guests.

Cottage Row

Now let's head back toward the dock. As you approach the Generator Building, turn left, and you will see the **Manitou Island Association (MIA) Office**. It is a simple rectangular building with fieldstone walls.

Cottage Row is a series of cottages that were built between 1893 and 1924 on the bluff overlooking the Life-Saving Station. Ten neighboring lots were divided and included a park, where each had 1/10th ownership with the understanding that no construction other than boathouses and ancillary structures could be built. The land was owned by Silas Boardman, a Chicago business man, who had come to North Manitou Island in the 1880s for his health. He had begun an orchard business with Fredric Beuham on the island and was visited by his daughter Carrie and her husband George Blossom. The Blossoms and their friends Fredrick and Mary Trude purchased the land to sell to their friends to build cottages where they could vacation together just a one-day boat ride from Chicago.

Walking down the site of the old board walk on **Cottage Row**, the first building you come to is the **Blossom** cottage (also known as Monte Carlo). Constructed in 1893 by George and Carrie Blossom, it is situated at the north end of Cottage Row. The cottage shared this plot with the former home of the U.S. Life-Saving Service keeper Daniel Buss, which was moved from its original location near the Life-Saving Station. The house was remodeled to serve as a communal dining facility for Cottage Row property owners. The original cottages on Cottage Row did not have kitchens or dining rooms since they would eat at the dining hall. The dining hall was eventually converted into a lodge for guests of the MIA. It was destroyed by fire in 1953.



Monte Carlo (left) and MIA Dining Hall (right)

George and Carrie Blossom commissioned a young, unknown 26 year old Frank Lloyd Wright to design and build the cottage. Wright had designed their home in Oak Park, IL which was built in 1892. The structure is known as a “dog-trot” style house, based on buildings that Wright worked on while at Louis Sullivan’s office in Chicago.

Cottage Row Lot 10 – This lot was never built on. During the 1930s and 1940s the lot was used as a small alfalfa field intended to entice deer to the area.

Cottage Row Lot 9 – Howard Foote built his second cottage here in 1901. The house was destroyed by fire in 1935 and in its place, Foote’s daughter, Shirley Foote Alford erected a small house purchased as a kit from Sears & Roebuck. A cabin built by the MIA during the 1930s to house migrant orchard workers is behind the cottage.

Cottage Row Lot 8 – The Margaret Riggs Cottage was built in 1924 by Nicholas Feilen, who built several of the other cottages on the island. While there is no front verandah, the floor plan is similar to the “dog-trot” design of the Blossom cottage. Note the arch-roofed hood that projects over the front stoop.

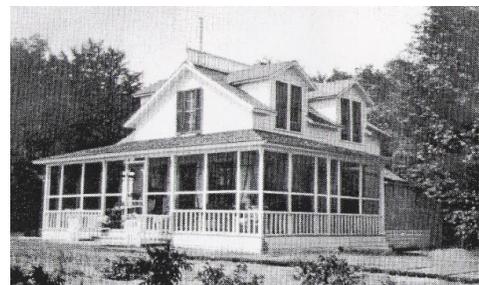
Cottage Row Lot 7 – This lot was never built on.

Cottage Row Lot 6 – The lot was purchased by John Keating in 1894 and built a cottage the following year. During the early 1940s the Keating cottage was relocated to a site north of the Campbell house. Lacking a stable foundation at the new site, the structure collapsed and has been removed.

Cottage Row Lot 5 – Howard Foote owned a music store in Chicago and had a booth at the 1893 Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition. At the close of the Fair in October 1893, he dismantled all of the booths surrounding his and loaded the materials and two carpenter brothers, John and Nicholas Feilen, onto a boat with instructions to begin building cottages on North Manitou Island when they arrived. The Feilen’s modified the dog-trot plan for the Blossoms when constructing this cottage. In 1900 Foote sold the cottage to S.W. McMunn, the father of Mary Bournique.

Cottage Row Lot 4 – The Frederick and Mary Trude Cottage was also built by John and Nicholas Feilen in 1894. The Trudes were one of the developers of the Cottage Row resort colony, and this cottage is one of the three houses based on the dog-trot architectural plan similar to the Monte Carlo cottage. This cottage was also constructed of materials reused from dismantled exhibition booths at the 1893 Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition.

Cottage Row Lot 3 – The George and Carrie Blossom Cottage was originally located in the farmhouse yard of Silas Boardman’s farm near the site of the dining hall. It was moved to the Cottage Row lot in 1894. The 1 ½ story structure had a light wood frame and gabled dormers with a full verandah across the front. The Blossoms later sold the cottage to the Burdick family, who called it Tanglewood. After decades of neglect, the cottage is now a ruin.



Cottage Row Lot 2 – The Hewitt cottage was built in 1895 or 1896. It was a shingle-style cottage furnished in “burlap and calico” and was described as “the prettiest cottage of all.” A few years later the Hewitts sold the cottage to Dr. John Edwin and Louise Rhoades. In a wooded area adjacent to the cottage, the Rhoades’ built a small play house for their daughter, Margaret. Shortly after Margaret married Roderick Peattie, a lower floor was added to the play house, transforming it into a small, two-story, private cottage they called the **Treehouse**. The cottage eventually fell into disrepair and was removed, but the Treehouse remains.

Cottage Row Lot 1 – The **Katie Shepard Hotel**, “The Beeches” was built in 1895 for Mrs. William Shepard for their daughter Katherine, who was popularly known on the island as “Miss Katie.” She opened the house as a hotel known as “The Beeches” around the time the Newhalls began logging around 1908 when they discontinued meal service at the dining hall at the northern end of Cottage Row. Miss Katie operated the hotel and dining room until poor health forced her to discontinue the business in the early 1930s.