

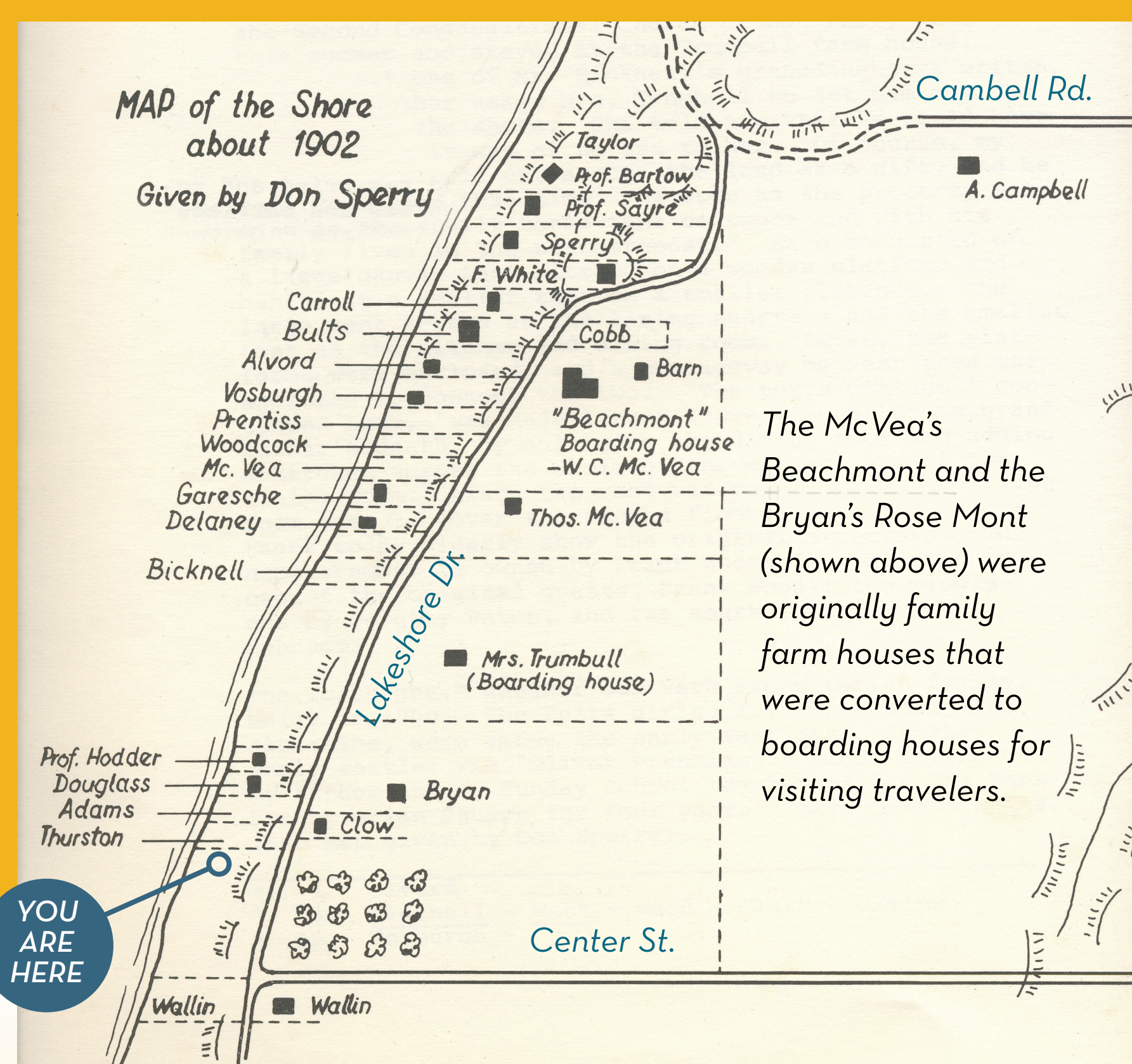
1909



# LAKESHORE DRIVE

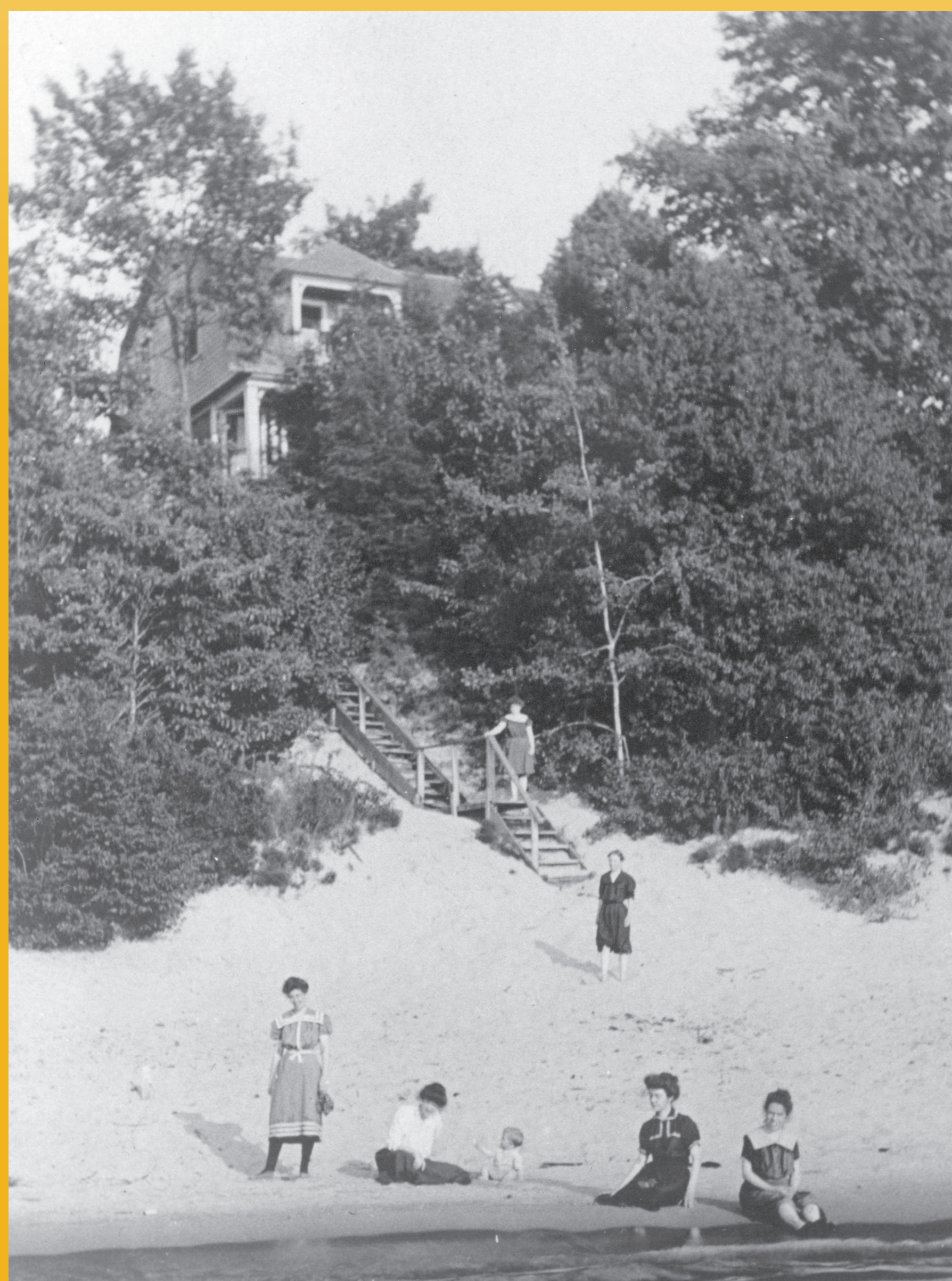
Imagine traveling down Lakeshore Drive one hundred years ago. A narrow dirt road, densely planted with trees, and frequented by horses and a few automobiles – and beyond the road exquisite cottages, many of which still stand today.

The first people to live along the Lake Michigan shoreline were the *Odawa* and *Bodewadmi* peoples, followed by fur traders, and later migrants from New England. By the 1850s, the area where you are standing was owned by the McVea family. Sailors and farmers by trade, they used this land as pasture until it was developed by cottagers in the 1900s.



The McVea's Beachmont and the Bryan's Rose Mont (shown above) were originally family farm houses that were converted to boarding houses for visiting travelers.

At the turn of the 20th century, industrialization in America's cities opened the door to extended summer travel and vacationing for the upper class. Saugatuck and Douglas proved to be a popular destination for families coming from places such as Chicago, St. Louis, and Cincinnati. Accessible by both steamship and train, Lakeshore Drive soon became a summer cottage hub. Developed communities, such as Shorewood, were created during this time and remain popular seasonal escapes to this day.



The Garesche family cottage Sans Facon, meaning "without care," circa 1905



SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
**HISTORY**  
CENTER  
www.MySDHistory.org

*This marker is presented by the  
Saugatuck-Douglas History Center and sponsored by*  
Given in remembrance of Dave and Sallie Erlandson,  
longtime Douglas residents.  
With love, from Tim, Kay and Luke Erlandson