1. Underpin existing footing
2. SIP structure + cladding
3. Restructure + fire-resist
4. Passive vent + light
5. Radiant heat + cool
6. Solar panel glazing
7. Wind power
John O. Johnson immigrated from Norway in 1893 at the age of 10. He worked at Amundson Boat Works for his friend, Carl Amundson. In 1900, John founded Johnson Boat Works. In 1906, he designed and built a 30-foot sailboat, "Minnezlka", which he called a "true inland scow". The flat-bottomed, planing hull design was the precursor to the Class A Scow, the world's fastest single-mast sailing craft.

John O. Johnson's inventive and creative mind led to his construction and flight in 1910 of the first successful powered airplane in Minnesota. In 1923, he designed, built, and patented the first rotary airplane.

Milford, Iver, and Walter, the next generation of the Johnson family, guided the growth of the Inland Scow classes throughout the country. They were instrumental in the design and construction of the first competitive fiberglass scows.

Shawn, Jesse, and Bryan, members of the third and fourth generations of the John O. Johnson family, undertook further expansion of the various row classes and also developed and manufactured additional national one-design racing sailboats.

After 102 years of sailboat manufacturing, and the delivery of thousands of Johnson scows throughout the United States, the manufacturing business was sold in 1995. The following year, the City of White Bear Lake purchased the property and marina.
[site history]

historic site photo: 1890
Lake Shore: 1900
Johnson boat works: 1930
White Bear Line: 1940
Johnson boat works: 1950
boat works: 1960