

564

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 MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 21496 Ivey Road N/A not for publication

city or town Willow Springs Township N/A vicinity

state WI code 55 county Lafayette code 065 zip code 53565

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.)

Alicia L. Volz
Signature of certifying official/Title

April 6, 2001
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Mottley Family Farmstead
Name of Property

Lafayette County, WI
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:)

Edson A. Beall 5/25/2001
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site		_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing. (Enter N/A if property is 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/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
VACANT/ NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
MID-19TH CENTURY

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone
walls Stone
roof Shingle
other Weatherboard

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

SETTING AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The entire property which was once the Mottley family farm consisted of 320 acres in Sections 21 and 28 of Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin, of which approximately 8 acres in Section 21 are encompassed in this nomination. The landscape is one of high tablelands that are cultivated, broken by wooded slopes and narrow valleys, the latter being used for grazing cattle. Section 21 is traversed in its east portion by Highway 23, running north to the town of Mineral Point, which is in adjacent Iowa County and is the nearest town. On its west side Section 21 is bordered by Ivey and Schwitzer (or Schweitzer) roads. From the intersection of these roads, at the center of the north/south section line, a rutted path leads east across a field, through a hedge on the quarter-section line and southeast toward the house, located in the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 21. (The US Geological Survey map of the area, dated 1952, shows a road leading directly east from Schwitzer Road to the farmstead, as do the 1874 and 1895 plat maps. The only trace of this road, which traversed a half section not included in the present property, is a derelict windmill, probably marking the location of another farmstead, shown on the 1895 map as belonging to a member of the Mottley family.) A near neighbor to the Mottley farmstead, it should be noted, is the recently restored Prairie Spring Hotel, listed in the National Register and the subject of the book Biography of a Building: the 1834 Prairie Spring Hotel, by Dean Connors and Dana Duppler. Col. Daniel Morgan Parkinson, who built the hotel, was one of the first permanent settlers in the immediate area.

Today the buildings and structures on the Mottley farmstead and shown on the accompanying sketch map are a one and one-half story stone house on the northeast side of a ravine (a), a bank barn with a stone basement and a wooden superstructure which faces the house from the southwest side of the ravine (b) and a small garage or woodshed with a dirt floor (c) at the northwest end of the farmstead. These are contributing resources. On the hilltop to the southwest of the barn, is a substantial hay shed, (d) on the map, constructed of heavy wooden poles and metal siding, built in 1960 and shown as NC (non-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

contributing.)¹ Also shown on the map are a derelict shed (g), the remains of a windmill tower and probable milkhouse located between the house and the barn to the south (e). These elements are not included in the resource count because of their insubstantial size and scale, derelict condition and overall lack of integrity.

Hidden in the dense growth of brush and young trees that covers the property, but not included in the resource count, are several foundations. These contribute to the interest of the farmstead because they indicate possible additional economic activities.

Southwest of the house, near the bottom of the ravine, is the wall of what may have been a spring house, shown as (f) on the map. Given that up to 1889 butter was a major cash product of the farm, the spring house may have been one of its important features. Near the spring house is a well, with stone casing, and a derelict hand pump. At the east corner of the house is a stone-lined cistern with a derelict hand pump. In an interview in August 2000, Mrs. Elsie Baker, a descendent of the Mottleys, recalled that in the 1940s the windmill tower supported a wooden water tank. Taken together these structures suggest the difficulties the residents of the farm may have had with their water supply. Other interesting ruins on the farmstead are the foundations of a chicken or hog house, (h) on the map, and close to the barn (b) two stone foundations, the one on the south incorporating the base of a silo and supporting a derelict addition to the barn, and on the east what may have been a pre-existing horse barn and possible granary. Near the house (i) and (j) on the map, are two poured concrete foundations indicating the location of a 20th century garage and outhouse. The boundaries of the nominated property are drawn to encompass the standing structures and the remains of other structures of the farmstead.

There may be additional sites of interest on the farmstead, hidden in the dense brush that covers it. Archeological investigation would probably reveal more about the economic progress and eventual decline of the Mottley family at this location.

¹ Interview 8/17/2000 with Delmar Grange, a former neighbor, in Mineral Point.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

THE HOUSE (contributing) --DESCRIPTION

The stone house is a rectangle measuring approximately 36' by 24'. It is entirely of stone construction, the stone being locally quarried yellow limestone, or dolomite.² It consists of a 1 1/2 story "upright" section to the southwest and a single story "wing" extending northeast. The roof was rebuilt about 1975, and is covered with wood shingles. There is no setback to the wing on either side of the house. Entrance to the house is by one of two doors: in the southeast wall of the wing adjacent to the upright section, and in the center of the southwest wall. The house is set on a steep slope; the southwest door overlooks a narrow ledge and a steep drop-off to the floor of the ravine. A cement walkway and an overgrown lilac bush on the narrow ledge, as well as the symmetrical arrangement of a central door flanked by two windows, and a finer quality of stone work suggests that the southwest was meant to be the front facade of the house. There are no second floor windows in this facade, which rises more than a story to the axial eaves.

The southeast facade consists of the gabled end of the upright section of the house and the axial wall of the wing. A single second story window in the upright section is off center to the left. Directly below it is a single first story window. A cellar entrance, to the right of the gable center, has steps and the remains of a sloping wooden door. In the southeast wall of the wing, besides the door, is a single window, centered between the door and the east corner of the house.

On the northeast, the gabled end of the wing is partially below grade due to the steep slope. Again, the single windows to the first story and an attic are off center, to the left. The attic window is unusually large so that its lintel intersects the eave while its sill

² A booklet issued by the Mineral Point Historical Society, Historic Mineral Point Architectural Driving Tour, distinguishes between Galena limestone, Trenton limestone and St. Peter's sandstone. The stone in the Mottley house is Galena limestone, as it contains some embedded iron oxide. This stone is also called dolomite, as it contains magnesium carbonate. It is similar in color and texture to the stone used for building in northeast Dane County and in southern Sauk County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

is at or near the floor level of the low attic, suggesting that it was used as an entrance, possibly to a storage or extra sleeping space. In this wall the presence of a brick chimney above the roof at the ridge and evidence of fire damage to the stones in the center of the wall explain why the windows in all three gables are off center, as there are flues centered inside the stone walls. (The chimneys in the upright section no longer extend through the roof, but evidence of them is seen in a bit of stovepipe projecting from the southeast upstairs interior wall and a round opening in the ceiling near the center of the southwest interior wall downstairs, which allowed heat from a stove into the bedroom above.) The chimneys in the upright section were replaced by a brick chimney against the northwest wall near the joint between the upright and wing sections. The remains of a wood burning furnace, connected to this chimney, are in the basement under the southwest section of the house.

The northwest facade of the house displays a gabled upright section, which, like the southeast, has one window on each floor, off center to the left, and a second basement entrance, off center to the right. In the wing there is a window opposite the door in the southeast wall, and a smaller window, centered between the first window and the north corner of the house. The remains of the outside chimney, mentioned above, extend along the ground near the house.

The eaves and door and window frames of the house are extremely simple. There is no frieze and the bargeboard is an unornamented, narrow board. There are simple exterior panel doors with ceramic handles and case locks; there is 2/1 sash on the first story, and 1/1 in the second story. One window in the wing retains 6/6 sash, suggesting that the sash in the other windows has been replaced. The only decorative elements are a three-pane light over the door in the southwest (front) facade and a small bracket supporting the eave of the wing where it joins the upright section of the house. More attention was given to the stonework. The corners of the upright section of the house comprise squared and surfaced quoins and the entire front (southwest) facade is finished with an ashlar surface of squared and surfaced stones laid in courses. The remaining walls are uncoursed rubble but are laid with great care. The masonry has been repointed with a cement mortar incised with scratched lines. In both sections of the house the windows have wide lintels of finished stone

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

and stone exterior sills. The stonework is somewhat finer in the upright section than in the wing, and on the northwest wall, evidence can be seen that the wing was joined to the upright by replacing some stones to bridge the joint.

The interior gives further evidence that the upright part of the house pre-dates the wing. The wall between the two sections of the house is stone, over 18" thick, suggesting that it was once the exterior, rear wall. There are two openings in this wall: one leads from the large kitchen that occupies most of the wing into the larger of two rooms in the first story of the upright section. The other opening is narrow. Immediately behind its board door a small, steep transverse stair passes through the wall and ends in a landing centered approximately under the ridgeline. There is a small bedroom on either side of this landing.

In the larger room in the upright section is a hatch door to the cellar, which contains the ruins of a furnace and shelves. The cellar extends only under this portion of the house. The furnace may explain why it was necessary to have two outside entrances to the cellar, since the one in the southeast wall may have been too low to admit the furnace when it was installed. The northeast wall of the cellar has been excavated to make a short passage for a vent to a grate in the floor of the kitchen wing.

In the kitchen, the outside door has four glass panes. The four downstairs windows of the upright section are voussoired at a wide angle. The wooden interior sills are almost 18" deep. In the wing the voussoirs are not so wide and the walls are about 12" thick. There is no basement under the ell, and the wooden floor is in poor condition, so that a sandy crawl space can be seen about 6" below the floor. The interior walls of the wing are finished in lathe and plaster. The wing has wainscoting extending about 4 1/2 feet from the floor on its two exterior walls and on an axial partition wall which forms a pantry and another small room against the northwest wall. The stone wall separating the wing from the upright section is merely plastered. In the upright section the downstairs rooms are finished in lathe and plaster which is almost flush with the window and door casings. Upstairs in the upright section the larger of the two bedrooms is finished in lathe and plaster but in the smaller one the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

outside walls are finished with plaster applied directly to the stone. The lathe seen in the house consists of narrow boards nailed to stringers with wire nails. In the cellar it can be seen that the joists were sawn with a circular saw. The kitchen which occupies most of the rear addition has wainscotting up to about waist height. Coat hooks along the wall dividing the kitchen from the front part of the house indicate the strictly utilitarian nature of the room. The windows in the front part of the house have widely flared voussoirs and nicely finished wooden sills. Despite long exposure to variations in temperature and moisture, the wide pine floorboards in the front of the house, and the woodwork are not warped. The exterior and interior doors are paneled, except for the narrow door leading to the stairs, and the upstairs bedroom doors, which are shiplapped vertical boards.

Based on the physical evidence, restoration expert Dana Duppler states that the upright section of the house was built about 1860, and the wing probably within a decade thereafter.³ The furnace and the replaced window sash indicate that improvements were made before or about 1900. The house has neither plumbing nor inside pump or drain. There is some, very minimal, wiring, probably dating to 1940.⁴

The house shows a plan common to many parts of western Europe. A "best" front entrance centered on an axial wall leads to the larger of two rooms in the main section of the house. From this "hall" a door in a transverse partition gives access to a smaller "parlor." In the wall opposite the front entrance a doorway which may once have been the rear entrance to the house connects the "hall" with a large wing addition containing a kitchen. The "everyday" outside entrance to the house is a door to the kitchen, placed close to the wall of the original house. From the kitchen the small transverse stair leads through the rear wall of the upright section, rising steeply between the two downstairs rooms to a landing and two small bedrooms, each

³ Phone interview, 5/20/2000

⁴ This is the date, according to the abstract, when an easement was given to Wisconsin Power and Light for electric poles to cross the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

with a window in the gable ends of the upright section of the house. Under the stair, in the "parlor", is a small closet. The author saw houses built by urban German settlers in Belleville, Illinois, which duplicated the plan of the "upright" part of this house, oriented with a high axial wall facing the street, with a symmetrical arrangement of door and window openings. These houses had small, wooden shed-roofed additions at the back, which contained a kitchen and gave a sheltered access to the stairs which, as in this house, passed through the rear wall of the main house to a landing, with a bedroom on each side.⁵

It seems probable that the Mottley house had some sort of addition at the rear prior to construction of the stone wing, which at a minimum would have provided a rear entrance to the house and access to the stairs. That the stone wing was added later is attested to by the presence of a shingled roof under the roof of the wing where it joins the upright part of the house, and by the visible joint in the stonework of the two sections. Remnants of plaster near the kitchen door suggest that there was once a roofed stoop or porch in front of this door, and that the wall under the roof was plastered to give a more finished appearance. A Mineral Point resident who remembers the Mottleys and the farmstead states that there was an enclosed porch along the southeast wall of the wing, leading to the cistern and pump, which are located at the east corner of the house.⁶ Close examination of the eaves shows small mortised notches at 30"

⁵ The plans of several houses in the Swiss Rural Historic District are shown in "The Honey Creek Swiss Settlement in Sauk County: An Expression of Cultural Norms in Rural Wisconsin," by Jane Eiseley and William H. Tishler, Magazine of Wisconsin History, Vol. 73, 1 1989, pp. 3-20. The plan most relevant to the Mottley house is the Leutscher house, shown in the middle of page 11. Other houses in this area were found to have a simple transverse stair similar to the one seen in the Mottley house. The custom of building a hall and parlor, one-and-one-half or two-story upright portion first, and adding a kitchen wing later, is documented. On Page 9 the Willy house, built in 1854 in Honey Creek, has a large attic window in the gable end of the wing, similar to that seen in the Mottley house. The buildings in Belleville, IL, are documented and discussed in a 1995 survey report on file with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Springfield.

⁶ Interview with Elsie Baker, a niece of the Mottley family, in Mineral Point, 8/17/2000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 8

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

intervals which may have been for lightweight rafters for this porch.

BARN AND OUTBUILDINGS--DESCRIPTION

Barn (Contributing)
Small Garage/Woodshed (Contributing)
Hay Shed (Noncontributing)

The barn consists of three sections. A bank barn with a stone basement comprises the west section. It has two doors and a window in the axial basement wall facing downhill (north) toward the ravine and the house, and windows in the gable wall and in the south wall. (The latter are barely above ground level, with the bank rising to the level of the superstructure floor at the east end of this section.) The superstructure of the west section of the barn is vertical board and batten. It measures approximately 20' along the axial wall, by 20'. The second, east, section extends the axis of the first section and is approximately 20' by 30'. It has a stone foundation wall on its east end, which appears to be dry-laid. Its axial basement wall and the superstructure are vertical boards. On the south, uphill, side, the superstructure of the barn was entered from ground level. The entrance, however, is blocked by a derelict shed addition that runs the length of the barn on its south side. The first two sections of the barn are roofed with corrugated sheets of galvanized iron. The derelict shed extension is attached to the southwest walls of sections one and two. It had a shingle roof partly covered with galvanized sheets and a dirt floor and was approximately 12' wide. A stone wall, about two feet high, supports the side of the shed parallel to the barn for part of its length. The circular stone base of what was probably a wooden silo projects inward from this wall. The interior of the basement is divided into pens, without the guttered alley usually seen in dairy barns. At the east end of the barn is a deep, dry-laid stone foundation which may indicate the location of a granary and horse barn, a typical precursor of the dairy barn on Wisconsin farms dating from the wheat-growing era. Agricultural census data for the Mottley farm supports the possibility that there would have been a grain storage facility and accommodation for horses at an early date.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 9

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

A small wooden garage or woodshed⁷ at the northwest end of the property has a dirt floor and poured cement walls to about 2 1/2 feet, with weatherboard above that. There is no door to the east-facing opening. A horizontal bar supported at one end by the garage and at the other by a pole, extending to the north, may have been used for hanging deer or other carcasses.

A hay shed built about 1960 on high land to the southwest of the barn is framed and braced with wooden poles.⁸ It has metal siding, a standing seam galvanized roof and is open to the east. It is approximately 30 feet long and 15' deep and is about 20' high. Because of its late date of construction, it is counted as a noncontributing resource in item 5.

There is one other building visible on the property, a small shed that is derelict and falling down. Northeast of the barn, in the ravine that separates the house and the barn, are the remains of a windmill and what may have been a milkhouse. Immediately south of the house a small complex of dry-laid stone walls indicates the location of a springhouse. At its southwest side is a well with a stone casing and the remains of an iron pump. East of the house are two concrete foundations; one appears to be the remains of a garage, the other encloses a pit and was probably the outhouse. There is a barbed wire fence enclosing the house and most of the land on the northeast slope of the gully; the area inside this fence, not having been grazed, has grown a lot of brush and small trees. On the other side of the ravine, northwest of the barn, a cast concrete foundation indicates the location of what may have been a chicken or hog house. The faint impression of a track indicates that at one time a drive entered the farmstead somewhere near the garage or woodshed, that is, at the northwest end of the nominated property, and then circled the upper end of the gully to reach the south side of the barn. It is not clear

⁷ A woodshed was among the buildings mentioned by Mrs. Baker, along with a springhouse, a milkhouse, a chicken house, and a garage east of the house as having been on the farm in the 1940s.

⁸ Delmar Grange, of Mineral Point, interviewed 8/17/2000, states that he was a neighbor of the Mottleys and built the hay shed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 10

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

how this drive related to the house or the present road into the property, which becomes impassable and finally invisible as it approaches from the east; however the remains of a garage east of the house suggest that this latter drive once reached close to the house.

SUMMARY

The Mottley Farmstead is in an isolated location in southwestern Wisconsin. Its most interesting feature is a stone farmhouse that represents stone construction some 30 years after the earliest settlements in the area. The house has been little altered since the 1870s. Except for a large bank barn and a small shed, the historic period outbuildings have collapsed. Because it was in the same family for its entire existence up to 1972, and because the owner since then has not used it nor made changes except for a shingle roof on the house, the farmstead offers an opportunity to reconstruct the life of a rural family over the last part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as it is reflected in their home and farm buildings. The masonry in the house is of fine quality and it presents a virtually unaltered example of a stone building from the settlement period.

Mottley Family Farmstead
Name of Property

Lafayette County, WI
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.)

- 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c1860--c1940

Significant Dates

1860, 1873, 1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Mottley farmstead is located in an isolated ravine near the Iowa County line in northern Lafayette County. The farmstead buildings include a stone house built about 1860 and expanded about 1873, a large bank barn with a stone basement, probably built before 1880 and expanded about 1889, a hay shed built in 1960, and a small wooden garage. Also located on the property are the remains of a windmill tower and a number of collapsed structures, including a milk house, a chicken house, and a spring house. These are not included in the resources count because of their insubstantial size and scale and because of their poor condition. The farmstead was occupied by a single family, descendants of the settlers Abraham and Susan Motley, from its first settlement in 1854 until 1972 and was subsequently abandoned. Because no substantial change was made after about 1890, it preserves the economic record of a settlement household as it grew and prospered in its first generation and then began a slow decline into decay. The social history of the Mottley family unfolded in the house and is reflected in it.

The house is locally significant under Criterion C for its method of construction, as an almost untouched instance of domestic stone architecture from the settlement period in Southwestern Wisconsin. The barn is unusual in that it is not adapted for commercial dairying. The farmstead is of interest because it reflects an aspect of the social and economic history of rural Lafayette and Iowa counties up to about 1940.

SETTLEMENT HISTORY

"The prairie land," says the 1881 history of Willow Springs township, "being the best, is taken primarily by Americans, who were the pioneers of the town and could choose the best. The rougher pasture is taken by Irish, while here and there are scattered a few Germans, Englishmen and Norwegians." The Town of Willow Springs was one of the first settled in Lafayette county, the 1881 history reports, having both lead and the springs, "though they should sometime cease..."¹ The township had by that date a Disciple Church

¹ History of Lafayette County, 1881. P 626-8

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

"substantially built of stone by Phillip Allen, of Mineral Point."

A century later the Lafayette County Bicentennial Book 1776-1976, remarked, "Many of the original homesteads appeared to have been built in what we now consider 'off the road' locations, but these were the locations with good springs."² A "rock house" built by John Stauffacher "dates back to 1860."

The Mottley³ farmstead was one of those in an "off road" location.⁴ The original farm occupied an 80 acre tract that is bisected by a ravine. Abraham Motley was not an "American" but one of those latecomers who got the pasture land. (The original 80 acres entered by Motley is mostly steeply sloping and wooded; although as he bought more land, Abraham did acquire several large tableland fields.) Below the house are the stone ruins of a spring house, with a stone-lined well and rusted pump bearing witness that the spring did in fact, "sometime cease." (A cistern and pump next to the later part of the house, and the fact that the windmill is reported to have had a wooden tank, suggest that water was a constant and probably increasing problem through the years.) The references cited above indicate that masons were available to build in the countryside as early as 1860; stone construction dates back to the 1830s in nearby Mineral Point. These facts are cited to show that the farmstead typifies aspects of the settlement history of the area. The list of cheese factories in the bicentennial history fails to include the Mount Pleasant factory that was established on Mottley land (but not on the original 80 acres and not within the boundaries of the nominated property) in 1889 and which functioned until sometime in the 1930s,⁵ but it does appear that a cheese factory was another

² p. 181-183

³ The name is spelled Motley in early documents, later becoming Mottley.

⁴ The location is so concealed that neither Dana Duppler nor Dean Connors, who co-authored a book about a nearby landmark, had ever seen it.

⁵ The title abstract for the land includes reference to five farmers, in addition to Abraham Motley, jointly establishing the cheese factory in 1889. Delmar Grange, interviewed in Mineral Point in 2000, remembered that the cheese factory ceased "about 70 years ago," and later fell down. He also recalled having built the hay barn, about 1960. Grange lived on a neighboring farm, and remembered having put hay up for the cheesemaker, and going out drinking with the last of the Mottleys (Ervin). He also recalled that the spring house had water "up to 60 years ago," and that there was at one time a wooden water tank on the windmill tower, which still stands.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

typical feature in the area.

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin mentions (Vol. 2, "Agriculture", 8-1, 8-3 and 8-7) that a very limited livestock production was typical even in the early, wheat-growing period in southwest Wisconsin. In this too, the Motleys were typical. As noted below, Abraham Motley grew mostly wheat and oats in his first years, but he also had cows and pigs. By the 1880s much of the state had gone over to dairying, and the Motleys were no exception. While the number of cows on the farm increased, they continued to raise half a dozen or so pigs. Lafayette County was one of the two largest producers of sheep in 1870 ("Agriculture," 8-15). It is not known at what date they began to raise sheep but in the 1940s the Mottleys were raising sheep, geese and beef cattle.⁶

HISTORY OF THE MOTTLEY FAMILY

As noted, the story begins with Abraham and Susan Motley, from England but already in the United States at least 11 years in 1860. Abraham Motley entered the east half of the southwest quarter of section 21 in 1854. The census of 1855 does not show a Motley in Willow Springs, however. In October of 1857 Abraham and his wife Susan mortgaged the 80-acre east half of the southwest quarter of Section 21. In 1873 they again mortgaged their original holding. The tax records are unfortunately very incomplete. Records are available for 1859, 1861 and 1867. In 1859 Motley paid taxes on land in Willow Springs, although the amount suggests that the stone house was not yet built. In 1860 Abraham told the census taker he had \$600 in real estate and \$300 in personal property, an amount that suggests that the first part of house had been built. The family consisted of Abraham and his wife Susan, and Mary, 11, Hannah, 8, Maria, 6, Fanny, 3, and Sarah, 2. On the agricultural census they claimed 23 acres of improved land, 57 unimproved. The cash value of the farm was one of the smallest shown for the township. The Motleys had two horses, three cows and six pigs. They produced 100 bushels of wheat, 200 of corn, six tons of hay, 45 bushels of oats, 50 pounds of potatoes and

⁶ Interview with Elsie Baker, Mineral Point, August 17, 2000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

200 pounds of butter. Their first son, John, was born in December of that year.⁷

The first mortgage was paid off in 1868. In the same year Abraham and Susan bought on land contract a 40-acre parcel that joins their original holding at its northwest corner. By 1870, sons Lincoln and Charles had been added to the family. Abraham's personal property had risen, on the 1867 tax roll, to \$556, a little higher than was typical for the township. The 1870 agricultural census shows him with 80 acres of improved land and 40 unimproved, in addition to woodland. (The 1874 plat map shows him with all of the southwest quarter of Section 21, and a quarter of the northwest quarter as well.)⁸ He had four horses, eleven milk cows, and seven pigs. He produced 490 bushels of wheat, 300 of corn, 311 of oats and 110 bushels of potatoes, 800 pounds of butter and ten tons of hay. It can be assumed that the house was expanded about this time, since a new mortgage was taken in 1873 and paid in 1878.

By 1880 a sixth daughter, Laura, and a fourth son, William H., had been born. Abraham and Susan now had the services of at least five adult or teenaged children, all living at home, and there were only Laura, aged 11, and William, aged 8, who could be considered dependent. (Since daughter Anna (Hannah), 27 is listed in the census as "housekeeper" while Fannie, 24, is listed as "milliner," these two daughters may have had outside employment.) Abraham and Susan were 59 and 48, respectively. It was this period, between about 1875 and 1885, that was the apogee of the Mottley farmstead. The growth of production that Abraham achieved between 1860 and 1870 probably peaked at this time, and the barn, the first part of which was probably built prior to 1880, was likely expanded to increase hay storage and house additional cows. Land in Section 28 was purchased in 1882, with a mortgage that was satisfied in 1889. A lean-to shed on the south side of the barn had a small silo attached to it but the barn did not accommodate rows of milk cows. The layout of the farmstead, with the house and barn facing each other across a ravine, and the unusually large distances between buildings, must have been a

⁷ Mineral Point Public Library, Mineral Point Room, index of cemeteries.

⁸ The west half of the southwest quarter was left to son Lincoln Motley when Abraham died in 1902.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

problem. The house, with its four small bedrooms, housed six adults, three teenagers and two school children.

The abstract of title shows that Abraham and five others established a cheese factory on his land (but not within the site being nominated) in the northwest quarter of Section 21 in 1889, when half an acre was deeded to the Mount Pleasant Cheese Factory Co. The cheese factory appears on the plat maps of 1895 and 1916. It enabled the family to take some advantage of the new commercial dairying, and this may have been the source of sufficient prosperity to enable the replacement of all but one of the 6 over 6 windows in the house with the newer style, 2 over 1, and to install the small furnace. The windmill and milkhouse, improbably located some distance downhill from the barn, probably date to this same period, i.e. c1889.

In the 1900 census Abraham's son Lincoln is listed in a new household, also in Willow Springs, with a wife and daughter, aged 3. A new house is shown on the plat map of 1895, in the west half of the section near Schwitzer Road. The 1900 census shows a much reduced household on the home farmstead, with only son Charles, born in 1867, left at home.

Abraham died in 1902.⁹ The paper noted that he was "a long time resident of his town and was well known and highly respected." The farmstead was left to Charles and William, with life tenancy to Susan. (John was made executor and left \$500. Each of the girls was to receive \$250. The names of the girls indicate that Fanny, Laura and Anna (Hannah) were still unmarried when the will was made, but the 1900 census indicates that they, too had left home.) The terms of Abraham's will may have depleted the working capital, although in 1904 the brothers Charles and William made a final expansion of the farm, buying an additional 40 acres in Section 28. Lincoln had received the 80 acres west of the farmstead in the will. He died young in 1915, leaving a widow and three children.¹⁰ Nothing remains of this neighboring farmstead but the tower of the windmill. Susan died in 1919, aged 86.¹¹ Her obituary states that "she was one of

⁹ Iowa County Democrat, Dec. 25, 1902.

¹⁰ Mineral Point Tribune, August 8, 1915.

¹¹ Wisconsin Death Index, Lafayette County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

those grand, persevering pioneer women for which this section is noted."¹² The census of 1920 shows Charles and William, with William's wife and three children, Ethel, Laura and Ervin living in the house. Thus the farm which had been such a going concern in 1880 began a decline soon after the turn of the century. Hard times began in the 1920s and continued throughout the '30s, making it still more unlikely that the farm would ever recover the prosperity of the late 19th century. By the time prosperity returned, in the 1940s, the household lacked the manpower and the capital to restore the ageing buildings or to modernize the house.

Charles died in 1948, aged 82. William died in 1951,¹³ leaving one son, Ervin, and his widow still living in the house. (Daughters Ethel and Laura were already married and living in Darlington and Rockford, respectively.) The terms of William's will gave his interest in 320 acres of farmland, livestock, farm implements, etc. in equal shares to his widow and son. Again, an elderly widow and son occupied the farmstead. After the death of his mother in 1971, Ervin sold the farm. He was still living, alone, in the house at his death, at age 65, in 1972.¹⁴ The present owner put a new roof on the house but it has been unoccupied since.

Of the other children of Abraham and Susan, the first son, John, died in 1920 at age 60. His obituary states that "His entire life was spent in the vicinity of the old homestead," although apparently not on it.¹⁵ He left a widow and five children in Mineral Point. Fanny is a bit of a mystery. The Mineral Point Tribune reported¹⁶ that at age 75 she "came from Canada... and was confined to a Dodgeville hospital for three weeks where she passed away." Her sister, Hannah Motley died a year earlier at the home of her son Fred Motley (of whom it would be said a few years later "farming...was not only his

¹² Mineral Point Tribune, April 10, 1919.

¹³ Iowa County Democrat, June 21, 1951. An easement to allow electric lines to cross the property, dated 1940, names Emma Thomas, a sister, as Charles' guardian, indicating that he was incompetent by this date. Emma appears to be a name taken by one of the sisters, possibly Maria, since it is unlikely that Susan and Abraham had children born after 1880.

¹⁴ (Mineral Point) Democrat Tribune December 21, 1972.

¹⁵ Mineral Point Tribune, January 6, 1921.

¹⁶ August 27, 1931.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

occupation, but a way of life...") She was said to be "...painstaking to all duties of life, sympathetic and kind of nature."¹⁷ They are buried in adjacent plots, labeled, "Mother," and "Son."

Tracing the composition of the household living in the stone house reveals a pattern of early growth and expansion followed by decades in which for long periods only the elderly and bachelor sons remain. It is this long tenure by the same family, much reduced in their ability to change with the times, that seems to account for the preservation of the original features of the house. The abstract shows an easement to Wisconsin Power and Light in 1940. This is presumably when the minimal wiring in the house was installed. Sometime before Ervin's death, according to Mrs. Baker (see below) a Mr. Davison tuckpointed the house.

Elsie Baker, a descendant of Abraham and Susan, remembers the farm as it was about 1940.¹⁸ At that time the household consisted of two of Abraham Motley's sons, Charles and William, and William's family, including son Ervin and the two girls, Laura and Ethel. Mrs. Baker states that the cheesemaker also lived with them. Hay was the big crop, she remembers, along with sheep, geese and beef cattle. The daughters, Laura and Ethel, used to turn out big meals for the haying crews. She believes there were no milk cows. The buildings included the barn, a chicken house, a woodshed, the milkhouse and a springhouse. The southeast side of the house included an enclosed porch, with a small room partitioned off. There was a hand pump in the house, (probably in the room off the porch, which is the location of a cistern and pump, now seen outside the east corner of the wing) but no other plumbing. There was a "good sized garage" near the house. Since then the porch, the garage, the chicken house, the springhouse and the milkhouse have fallen entirely to ruin. The small building identified as "D" on the map may have been the woodshed.

THE STONE HOUSE

The house has similarities with houses in Mineral Point and with

¹⁷ Mineral Point Tribune, October 9, 1930 and December 14, 1944.

¹⁸ Mrs. Baker and Delmar Grange were interviewed August 17, 2000 in Mineral Point.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8 Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

houses found in German-settled areas of southern Illinois and south central Wisconsin. The stonework, like that seen in Mineral Point and the other areas, features large quoins and lintels, made by turning the stone 90 degrees from its plane in the ground ("bed-faced") smoothing the surface with a chisel, and cutting it into exact rectangles. The finished stones are not, however, given a final texture or border with a hammer, as is common in central Wisconsin. Like some houses in and around Mineral Point, the axial front facade of the house is made entirely of chisel-finished stones, cut into precise rectangles and closely fitted together in an ashlar surface. Where the Greek Revival style popular in the middle west at the time the house was built dictated small windows under the eaves of a one-and-one-half story building, the axial walls of the Mottley house, like some seen in Belleville, Illinois and other early German settlements, simply give an impression of extra height over the door and first floor windows. The front facade is symmetrical, with three bays. The other three walls of the house are made of uncoursed rubble, very finely fitted together. Despite being open to the weather for more than 20 years, the house has not settled and there are few cracks in the walls.

The floor plan of the original, "side-gabled" (the term preferred by Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol.2, "Architecture, 3-3) one and one half story house, is one common throughout northern Europe: two rooms of unequal size, one, the "hall" reached through a door centered in the front facade, the other, the "parlor" giving off the "hall." A half-story second floor is reached by a transverse stair between the two rooms, and contains a small bedroom in each gable. Entrance to the stair is through a door in the rear wall of the house. Like many farmhouses, particularly in German and Swiss areas of Wisconsin, later expansion of the house was accomplished by adding a rearward wing with its gable at right angles to that of the original house. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin calls these houses "gabled ell." The wing is somewhat atypical in having no setback, its walls being continuous with the gable-end walls of the original house. (That the setback is more functional is attested by the fact that an entry porch was later tacked on to the axial wall of the addition, a porch that has since collapsed completely.) Another feature common to Swiss and German farmhouses is the large window in the gable of the wing, giving access to a low attic which may have been used to store grain or other food, or as extra sleeping space.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

The same feature has been documented in an English settlement in Ulster County, New York.¹⁹

Thus the house resembles both houses seen in mainly Cornish Mineral Point and those seen in Swiss and German areas of Wisconsin. The Mineral Point Intensive Survey Report 1991-92²⁰ gives a list of masons associated with early Mineral Point history. Most of these have Cornish or English names but there are a few German names among them. In a telephone interview, Audrey Parkinson,²¹ author of a forthcoming book on Mineral Point stonework, stated that there were many masons in Mineral Point, not all of them Cornish, while the house forms seen there are common to all of Western Europe. The house is totally lacking in elements of Greek Revival, Italianate or other decoration, its only decorative feature being a row of three small panes over the front door.

THREATS TO PRESERVATION

The house has stood empty for almost 30 years. At some point in that period, the roof was damaged by the collapse of the outside chimney, added when the furnace was installed, probably in the 1880s. Recently the current owner has repaired the roof and the interior of the west wall, which was in serious disrepair. The farmstead is overgrown with small walnut and other trees, and brush. The main sections of the barn appear solid; the superstructure and galvanize roof are intact and the foundation in good condition.

A major difficulty is the lack of road access to the farmstead.

CONCLUSION

The Mottley Family Farmstead is an unusual instance in which the

¹⁹ Teller, Myron S. The Early Stone Houses of Ulster County, New York, Ulster County Historical Society, 1974.

²⁰ Architectural Resources Inc., LaCrosse, WI, 1992, Joan Rausch and Carol L. Cartwright.

²¹ Mineral Point, September 10, 2000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

domestic and economic development of a farmstead ceased around the turn of the century while surviving family members preserved the house and buildings until the early 1970s. The farm experienced rapid growth from its settlement in 1854 until the turn of the century, and these developments can be related to events in the family and expansion of the farmland, and can be seen in the buildings. Change ceased abruptly, although some family members lived in the house until 1972. While several of the buildings have collapsed, the house and barn are intact and other buildings and structures are at least partially visible. Thus the farm preserves the circumstances of life as it was lived there, in the manner of the late 19th century, from the turn of the century through the Depression and has the potential to reveal more about the economics and daily life of a modest Lafayette County farm from the late 1850s to the mid-20th century.

The stone house, built about 1860 and expanded about 1873, is exceptionally well built while being completely functional and vernacular in design. It is notable for the minimal improvements that were made to the original construction, so that it is possible to see or easily impute the features of the house as it was originally built and subsequently expanded.

Mottley Family Farmstead
Name of Property

Lafayette County, WI
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):

- 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 8 acres

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

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | <u>1/5</u> | <u>7/3/3/3/8/0</u> | <u>4/7/4/2/7/8/0</u> | 3 | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> |
| | Zone Easting | | Northing | | Zone Easting | | Northing |
| 2 | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | 4 | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> |
| | Zone Easting | | Northing | | 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 Jane Eiseley
organization _____ date Oct. 20, 2000
street & number 3433 Richard Street telephone 608-249-8818
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53714

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township
Lafayette County, WI .

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township
Lafayette County, WI .

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Many thanks to Janice Terrill in the Mineral Point Room of the Mineral Point Public Library.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township
Lafayette County, WI .

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property define part of the 320-acre holdings of the owner, Gregory Klimock, in sections 21 and 28 of Willow Springs township. The nominated property is defined in reference to the 1000 and 1040 foot contour lines shown on the US Geological Survey map, 7.5 minute series map, 1952, revised 1980, and an intermittent stream, also shown on the map.

Beginning at the point of intersection of an intermittent stream, and the 1000 foot contour line, the boundary runs due north to its intersection with the 1040 foot contour line. This defines the eastern boundary of the nominated property. From this intersection the boundary follows the 1040 foot contour line north and west until it again intersects the intermittent stream. This defines the north boundary of the nominated property. From this intersection the boundary runs due south along the east boundary of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 21, past the midpoint of the southeast quarter and continuing south until it meets a line running due west from the point of beginning. This defines the west boundary of the nominated property. The boundary then runs along the line running due west from the point of beginning. This defines the south boundary of the nominated property.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The farmstead is situated on the slopes of a ravine on land that is overgrown and brushy. The only fence line that is continuously visible follows the east boundary of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter, which is also a boundary of Mr. Klimock's property. This fence line has been used as the west boundary of the nominated property. The intermittent stream bed is deeply incised into the bottom of the ravine and is clearly marked on the topological map. It is a defining feature of the farmstead. It and the fence line mentioned above are the only clearly visible and permanent features of the farmstead other than the buildings. The

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 2

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township
Lafayette County, WI .

topological contours provide a convenient method of defining points along the intermittent stream. A boundary drawn along the 1040 foot contour captures the house and what appears to have been a driveway that skirted the farmstead on the north and east, leading from near the house to the vicinity of the barn.

Mottley Family Farmstead
Name of Property

Lafayette County, WI
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)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 1

Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township
Lafayette County, WI

Photo 1 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
House looking southwest

Photo 6 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
Interior: partition wall of
house

Photo 2 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
House looking southeast

Photo 7 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
Garage looking west

Photo 3 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
House looking northeast

Photo 8 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
House, barn, looking NE

Photo 4 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
House: detail of northeast wall

Photo 9 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
Barn, looking east

Photo 5 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Photo by Jane Eiseley
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
House: detail of southeast wall

Photo 10 of 10
MOTTLEY FAMILY FARMSTEAD
Lafayette County, WI
Photo by Jane Eiseley
April, 2000
Photo by Jane Eiseley
Negative at State Historical
Society of Wisconsin
Hay shed, barn looking NW

Mottley Family Farmstead
Name of Property

LaFayette County, WI
County and State

Property Owner

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

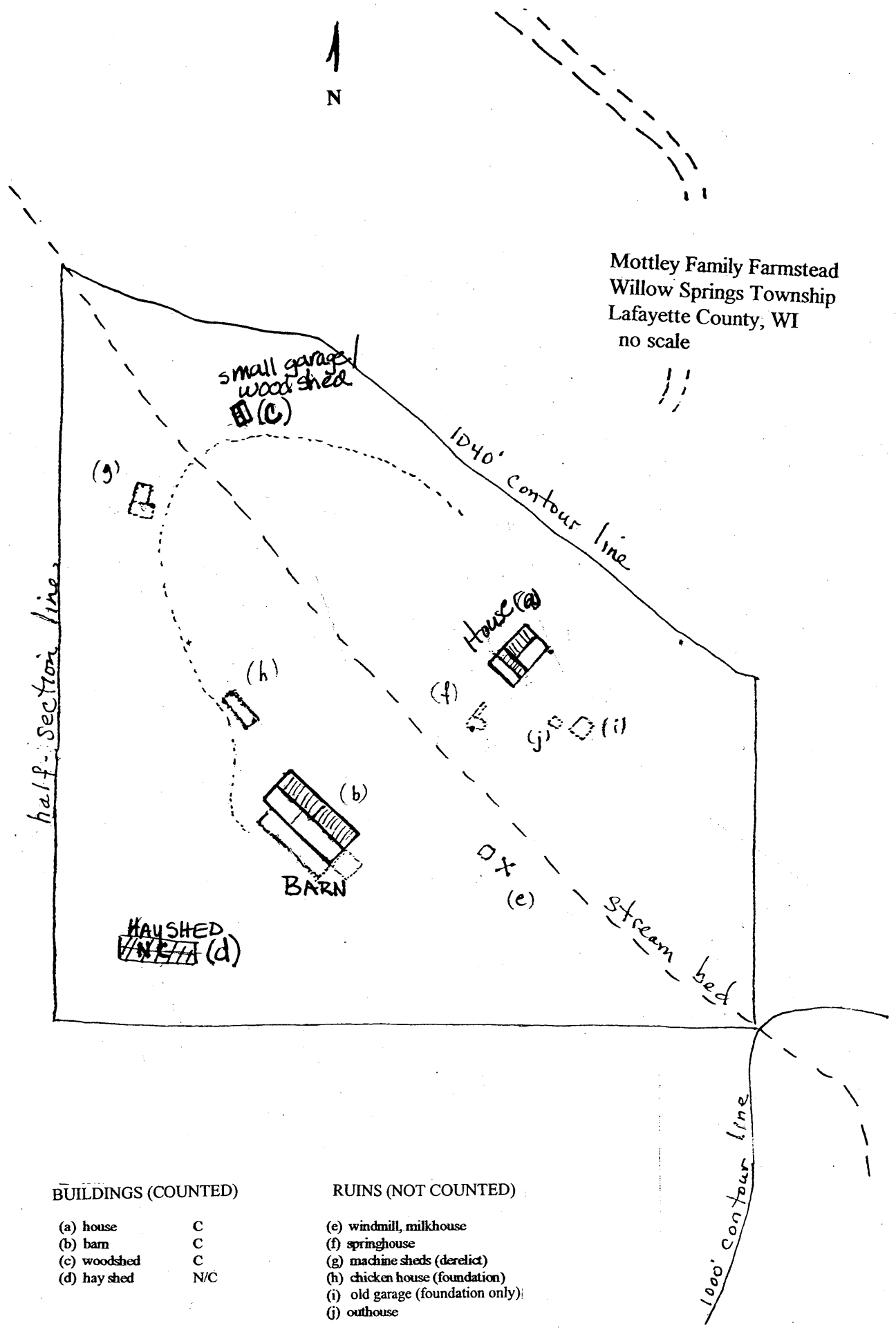
name Gregory Klimock
street & number Box 103 telephone 305 745 3121
city or town Summerland Key state FL zip code 33042

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.



Mottley Family Farmstead
 Willow Springs Township
 Lafayette County, WI
 no scale



BUILDINGS (COUNTED)

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| (a) house | C |
| (b) barn | C |
| (c) woodshed | C |
| (d) hay shed | N/C |

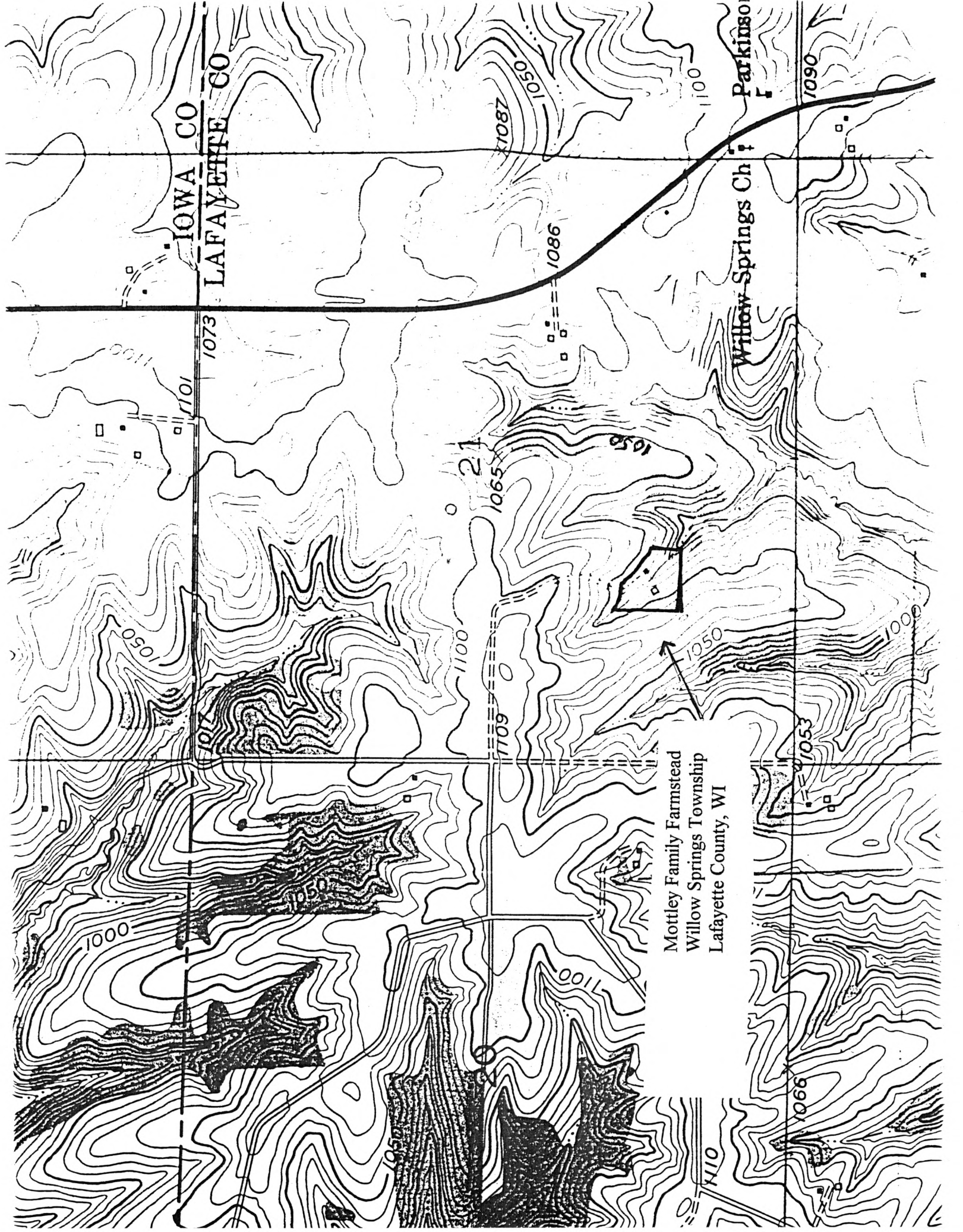
RUINS (NOT COUNTED)

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| (e) windmill, milkhouse |
| (f) springhouse |
| (g) machine sheds (derelict) |
| (h) chicken house (foundation) |
| (i) old garage (foundation only) |
| (j) outhouse |

IOWA CO
LAFAYETTE CO

Willow Springs Ch
Parkinson

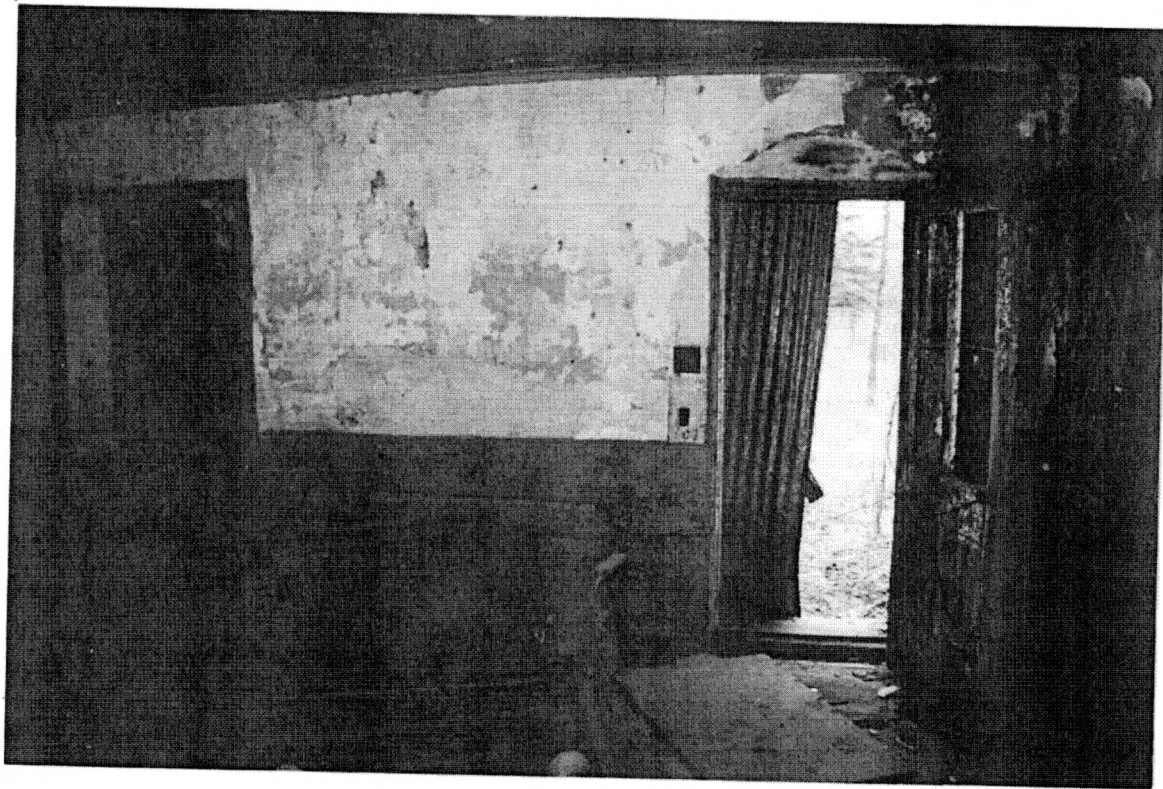
Mottley Family Farmstead
Willow Springs Township
Lafayette County, WI



INTERIOR - MAIN FLOOR

Kitchen

this is
the main
entrance



↓ stairway
to 2nd floor

↓ doorway to
Bedroom #1

↙ door way
to a bedroom
or some other
room off the
Kitchen



INTERIOR - MAIN FLOOR

Kitchen-area - pantry off kitchen



INTERIOR - MAIN FLOOR

Bedroom # 1

