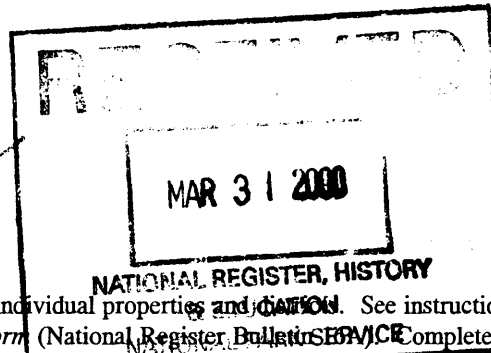


**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

453



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 39) or *How to 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 Zahn, August, Blacksmith Shop and Residence
other names/site number Blacksmith Inn

2. Location

street & number	8152 State Trunk Highway 57	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Baileys Harbor	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code	WI
county	Door	code	29
zip code	54202		

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.)

Alicia J. Cook
Signature of certifying official/Title
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

3/17/2000
Date

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

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence

Door

Wisconsin

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:)

Edson H. Beall

5/5/00

Edson

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 buildings

1 sites

3 1 objects

 1 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 is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE

DOMESTIC/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

Describe the historic and current condition of the property.

The August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence are located adjacent to STH 57 in the community of Baileys Harbor. The property is situated on a 0.524-acre lot on the shore of Lake Michigan. The surrounding area is largely comprised of a historic-period commercial district to the south, a historic town hall directly to the southwest and residential dwellings to the north and west. Four elements are associated with the property: the blacksmith shop, the residence/inn, a wrought iron fence, and a modern sign. Excepting the sign, all of these are notable for their method of construction and are considered to be contributing elements.

Blacksmith Shop (contributing, 1905; addition, circa 1916-1917):

This frame one-and-one-half-story blacksmith shop was originally constructed by August Zahn, shortly after he emigrated from Germany. The asymmetrical configuration results from a shed extension Zahn added sometime after 1912; additionally, a small, historic-period, lean-to is located on the north half of the east (rear) facade. The building's main block rises from a stone foundation and its walls are of clapboard construction. The front-gabled, asymmetrical roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney with metal stovepipe extends from the east end of the roof and is associated with the shop's original forge. Fenestration is largely comprised of original, two-over-two-light, double-hung sashes; however, one small, two-light window is centered above one set of the ground-floor doors. The style is essentially vernacular, with no exterior ornamentation.

Moving from north to south along the first level of the primary (west) facade, the openings consist of an original, two-over-two sash; a pair of original, wooden, double doors; another two-over-two sash; and a second set of double doors. The second level is punctuated by a two-over-two window; a pair of batten doors centered beneath the gabled peak; another two-over-two sash; and a small, two-light window.

The south elevation is the exterior wall for the shed-roof addition and carries three, regularly spaced, two-over-two-light windows.

An original, two-over-two sash is located on the south portion of the east (rear) facade's first floor, while a shingled lean-to addition occupies the northern half of this level. The lean-to is of frame construction. The walls are sheathed with wooden shingles, and asphalt shingles cover the shed roof. Along the east elevation's upper level, a small, square, boarded-over opening is directly above the first-floor sash, and two, two-over-two sashes are symmetrically placed above the lean-to.

¹Bryan Nelson, Interview with Lena L. Sweeten, 25 February 1999, Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd. (HRL), Menomonee Falls, WI; "The Blacksmith Inn," promotional brochure, n.d., copy on file at HRL.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

On both levels of the north elevation, fenestration consists only of one original, two-over-two sash located near the east corner.

Many of the shop's interior construction details remain extant. On both floors, the interior is largely unfinished, with exposed wooden ceiling beams and support posts. The first-floor shop itself consists of a single, large room. The floor is notable for its Nicholson paving, consisting of four- to five-inch sections of wood blocks placed on end and resting only on a bed of sand. Zahn's original forge is still in place within the northeast corner of the first floor, and continues to be used today. The interior walls exhibit the stovewood method of construction, and the exposed trusses are intact. An original staircase is situated at the southeast corner of the building. The ceiling of the upper level retains portions of its original white pine bead board--although some sections of the bead board have been removed by the current owner and reused to build closets in the adjacent inn. The second floor (which once functioned as the living quarters of the Zahn family) is now used largely for storage.²

Zahn initially constructed the building to include his blacksmith shop on the first floor and living quarters for his family on the second floor. The one-and-one-half-story structure was originally quite symmetrical, with the blacksmith shop's double doors centered on the ground level of the west (primary) facade and flanked by two-over-two sashes; the second level was punctuated by three, two-over-two sashes. The south elevation carried three, two-over-two windows along both stories. The front-gabled roof featured a rectangular parapet on the west and east facades. In circa 1916-1917, Zahn enlarged the blacksmith shop after he built a separate residence for his family (see below) and it is considered likely that the shop achieved its current appearance at this time. For the addition, he used beech lumber that was salvaged following a shipwreck in the harbor. The lumber was taken for planing and tongue-and-groove cutting at a local mill owned by Carl Prueter. The wood proved to be so hard that a hand auger had to be used to create nail holes. Finally, Zahn likely removed the rectangular parapets from this structure when he built the addition.³

Residence/Inn

(contributing, 1912):

Oriented on a north/south axis, the former Zahn family residence is located directly north of the shop. The vernacular, two-and-one-half-story building was built by August Zahn. The structure replicates the configuration of his father's shop in Germany, and Zahn originally intended to move his blacksmith shop into the residence. However, he was informed by county authorities that such a combined facility would not be permitted. As a result, the majority of the building remained unfinished on the interior for more than eighty years,

²Nelson, Interview with Sweeten, 25 February 1999.

³See historic photograph included in Annie Peil, comp., *Here's to the Way We Were* (n.p., 1976), 25; Nelson, Interview with Sweeten, 25 February 1999; "Baileys Harbor," collection of copies of historic photographs with accompanying text, On file at Baileys Harbor Branch, Door County Public Library, Baileys Harbor, WI.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 3

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

and the family occupied only a small apartment within the first floor's north third. Rising from a stone foundation, the walls of the residence/inn are sheathed with narrow clapboard siding, and the side-gabled roof is covered with shingles. Fenestration is comprised of the following: both original and modern, one-over-one, double-hung sashes; modern, sliding-glass doors; a modern rear door; and a main entrance that is a modern replica of the original. While the west (primary), south and north facades retain their historical appearance, the east (rear) facade has been considerably altered in recent years.⁴

The symmetrical west (primary) facade features a gabled wall dormer at its uppermost level and regularly placed, historic-period, one-over-one-light, double-hung sash openings with straight, raised windowheads along the first and second levels. All but three of the openings retain their original, one-over-one, wooden-frame storm windows. Primary entry is gained through the centered, wooden double doors that are fronted by a small raised landing with wooden railings. The landing was built in 1997. The entry consists of an exterior, paired set of wooden, paneled doors with screens in the upper one-third; these shelter the interior doors, which are identical in appearance to the former, but include glass panes instead of screens. The doors were custom-made to replicate the appearance of the original front doors, which are now located on the interior. A simple wooden surround with a raised cornice highlights the entry, and a pair of modern, reproduction light fixtures flanks it.⁵

A pair of wooden doors is centered on the first level of the south gabled end wall, indicating that this end of the structure was originally intended to serve as a blacksmith shop. The doors retain their original iron hinges and hardware. A paired set of one-over-one, double-hung sashes and a small, louvered opening are centered beneath the gabled peak on the uppermost level. A historic photograph indicates that the placement of the window opening is original to the building.

The east (rear) facade displays extensive alterations. A three-level, wooden deck was constructed in 1994-1995 to bring the building in compliance with current fire codes. The deck structure is largely free-standing, and is attached to the residence/inn at support points on each corner. The scale of the deck is not proportional to the building and is partially visible to onlookers from the north and south sides. Furthermore, virtually all of this elevation's fenestration has been modified with modern windows and doors. Along the first level, moving from south to north, there are a pair of sliding glass doors, tripartite one-over-one sashes, a metal-and-glass door with one-light sidelights, a second tripartite set of one-over-one sashes, and a single, one-over-one window. The second level carries two pairs of sliding glass doors flanking a one-over-one sash that is centered on the elevation. The uppermost level features two modern dormers with sliding glass doors; these flank the original, centered dormer, which retains its historic-period, one-over-one sash. The alterations are reflective of the fact that all of the inn's guest rooms face Lake Michigan; the sliding glass doors provide direct access from guest rooms to the modern deck.

⁴Nelson, Interview with Sweeten, 25 February 1999; "Baileys Harbor," collection of copies of historic photos. The latter source suggests that prohibitively high insurance rates prevented Zahn from moving the shop into the larger building.

⁵Nelson, Interview with Sweeten, 25 February 1999.

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Section 7 Page 4

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

The north elevation is punctuated by a square, one-over-one sash near the east corner of the first level; a smaller, one-over-one opening is centered on this level. Along the second level, only one small, one-over-one sash is slightly off-center. A pair of modern, one-over-one windows and a louvered opening are situated beneath the gabled peak.

The interior has been extensively renovated, but the building's most significant element-- its stovewood and half-timber construction--remains evident. As noted previously, Zahn left the building's interior largely unfinished. He and his family occupied an apartment on the north third of the first floor--which now serves as the living quarters for the current owners. In the 1950s, Walter Zahn (August's son) finished an apartment on the north third of the second floor; this space was rented on a weekly basis to tourists. The remainder of the building was untouched until the early 1990s, when David Hallinger purchased the property. He began to renovate and refinish the interior, a project that was completed by the current owners, Bryan Nelson and Joan Holliday. One of the largest tasks undertaken was the reconstruction of many of the stovewood portions. The mortar had begun to deteriorate, prompting the current owners to remove the original mortar and wood, add foam insulation and subsequently re-install the stovewood lengths with fresh mortar. The addition of insulation also necessitated that the stovewood pieces be slightly shortened; however, few visual differences are apparent between original stovewood walls and reconstructed sections. Both half-timber and stovewood construction are visible throughout the interior.

Aside from the owners' apartment on the north third of the first floor, the remainder of this level features a large great room/lobby area at the center; one of the inn's seven guest rooms occupies the south portion. In the mid-1990s, the tongue-and-groove hardwood floor in the lobby area was installed over a dirt floor and is constructed from a section of flooring that was originally located in an upper-story loft. A staircase built in 1996 is also in the center section; this replaced the original stairs. Although the new flight is in the same location, it is oriented to the rear entrance, whereas the original staircase faced the streetside entrance. The former exterior front doors are now located at the foot of the steps. Exposed beams in this area are also original to the building. The second floor consists of four guest rooms, while two rooms are located on the uppermost floor, which originally functioned as a loft area. The tourist apartment the Zahns built on the north third of the second floor during the 1950s has been divided into two sections and entirely gutted and refinished. Several of the closets in this building have been finished with the white pine bead board that was originally placed on the blacksmith shop's second-floor ceiling. All of the guest rooms feature modern elements, such as gas fireplaces and private baths; however, the decorative scheme is designed to recall the building's historic association with the Zahn family's blacksmith shop. In particular, the lobby area features wrought-iron artifacts created by August and Walter Zahn, including candle sconces, a decorative wall hanging and some of the molds they used in their craft.⁶

⁶Nelson, Interview with Sweeten, 25 February 1999.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 5

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

Wrought-Iron Fence (contributing, ca. 1920):

Situated between the inn/residence and blacksmith shop, this wrought-iron fence was crafted by August Zahn. It consists of a series of vertical pickets topped with diamond-shaped finials. The pickets alternate two different heights and are connected by two sets of horizontal members roughly at the center and near the top of the fence. Slightly thicker posts serve as the primary support elements, and each is topped with an acorn-and-foilage motif finial. The fence has been moved from its original location, but it is believed to have been erected elsewhere on the subject property by August Zahn. As a product of Zahn's craftsmanship, and due to its direct association with the blacksmith shop, the fence is regarded as a contributing element.

Sign (non-contributing, ca. 1995):

This modern sign was designed and built by David Hallinger, a former owner of the property. It is of wooden construction and rests on a wooden base. Each side of the painted sign reads "The Blacksmith Inn" and depicts a silhouette figure of a blacksmith with an anvil. The sign is considered to be non-contributing, due to its recent date of construction.⁷

⁷Ibid. Hallinger owned the property from 1994 to 1996.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1905-1949 (1)

Significant Dates

1905, 1912 (2)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Zahn, August (b)

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.

¹ The period of significance begins with the construction date of the blacksmith shop and terminates in 1949, in keeping with the National Register's general 50 year principle. However, the property remained in the Zahn family until 1994, and the blacksmith shop has continued to function as a working shop to the present day.

² The significant dates refer to the dates of construction of the blacksmith shop and residence, respectively.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

Explain the significance of the property.

Statement of Significance:

The August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence is locally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. With regard to Criterion A, the buildings are significant in the area of industry and represent the integral role of the blacksmith in an agricultural support center. Both buildings are also significant for their method of construction--half-timber and stovewood--and retain a sufficient degree of integrity to warrant listing under Criterion C.

Historical Background:

Baileys Harbor was the first village site white settlers chose on the Door peninsula. The village was the nucleus of Baileys Harbor Township, which was officially organized in 1861 and enlarged in 1871. But the creation of the township occurred over a dozen years after the namesake of both the township and village initially discovered the area's excellent harbor off Lake Michigan.³

Captain Justice Bailey navigated a schooner owned by Milwaukee industrialist Alanson Sweet. The cargo typically included stone and lumber, while the destination commonly was Detroit. In 1848, Bailey was returning to Milwaukee after shipping goods to either Detroit or Buffalo--sources are conflicting. Regardless, it is known that Bailey encountered a storm on Lake Michigan while he was off the shore of present-day Door County. The situation compelled him to consider seeking shelter in a large harbor he noticed on the east coast of the peninsula. Although navigation charts were sketchy regarding the harbor's depth and accessibility, Bailey risked piloting the vessel toward that point. Not only was the harbor deep enough to lay anchor, but pine trees along the shoreline provided protection from the treacherous weather. Waiting out the storm for several days, Bailey discovered that his safe haven consisted of abundant timber stands and stone ridges--resources he knew would interest his employer. Thus, along with favorable stories of the harbor--a harbor that fellow navigators quickly dubbed after Bailey--the captain brought samples of the area's resources to Mr. Sweet in Milwaukee.⁴

An ambitious entrepreneur, Sweet recognized the potential profit these natural resources

³Hjalmar Rued Holand, *Old Peninsula Days: Tales and Sketches of the Door County Peninsula*, 3d ed. (Ephraim, WI: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1925), 232; *History of Northern Wisconsin* (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881), 266.

⁴Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 232-33; Mary Ann Johnson, *A Mini Historical Walk of Downtown Baileys Harbor* (Baileys Harbor, WI[?]: Baileys Harbor Historical Research Foundation, 1995), 1; James B. Hale, *Going for the Mail: A History of Door County Post Offices* (Green Bay, WI: Brown County Historical Society, 1996), 8.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

represented in the building industry. Therefore, in 1849, he bought a 125-acre tract near the harbor Bailey discovered. Sweet wasted no time tapping the resources, sending men to build a sawmill and a stone quarry; they also constructed a pier, from which 2,500 cords of wood were shipped to Milwaukee in 1850. At this time, workers built six log houses and created the first road on the peninsula, which extended from the harbor to the Green Bay shore. These developments boded well for the fledgling village; moreover, they were truly significant for Door County, which had not been officially organized up to this point. Indeed, to bolster the success of his village, Sweet not only initiated the separation of Door County from Brown County in 1851, but had his village established as the new county's seat, complete with a lighthouse erected with the aid of a government contract. Sweet originally named the village "Gibraltar," symbolic of the area's rocky ledges; however, "Baileys Harbor" already had been a formal moniker, which served as the ultimate designation.⁵

As quickly as the fortunes of the village soared, they slid. Sweet's interest inexplicably vanished; fire destroyed the sawmill, while the pier and log houses deteriorated. In the throes of this downturn, Sturgeon Bay replaced Baileys Harbor as the county seat in 1857. Still, the natural advantages of the area attracted subsequent stone and lumber entrepreneurs, respectively including A. K. Sea and Joseph Smith ("Cedar King of Door County"). In particular, a lively lumber/shipping trade emerged by the 1870s. Woodcutters lived alongside fishermen, who plied the harbor's coast, and among farmers, who began settling inland. With a population of four hundred in 1879, the Village of Baileys Harbor featured a flour- and sawmill, two general stores, two hotels, and two piers; carpenters, blacksmiths and shoemakers offered services in the village, which had been established as a post office as early as 1860. In addition to many of the latter services and shops, the village included several saloons and a shingle mill by 1895.⁶

Despite this growth, market gluts and nationwide financial panics continually plagued the village's lumber/shipping industry; timber depletion effectively destroyed it. As population figures fluctuated between 150 and 300 from 1895 to 1927, the village became more of an agricultural support center as the township increasingly relied on farming. In this fashion, the historical evolution of Baileys Harbor is typical of the rural, unincorporated communities in Door County. Such hamlets generally provide only the lowest levels of services among the hierarchical categories of trade centers. Late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century business gazetteers clearly illustrate that the types of

⁵Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 234-36; Johnson, *Downtown Baileys Harbor*, 1; Hale, *Going for the Mail*, 8; *History of Northern Wisconsin*, 255.

⁶Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 237-41; Johnson, *Downtown Baileys Harbor*, 1; Hale, *Going for the Mail*, 8; Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), vol. 2, Industry, 18/2; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1879* (Milwaukee: William Hogg, 1879), 83-84; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1895-1896* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1895), 162.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

businesses found in Baileys Harbor consisted of those that are common among low-level support centers: blacksmith shops, general stores, hardware stores, flour mills and grocery stores. Over time, an evolution in available services has occurred, reflective of modernization. For example, blacksmith shops were an early commercial venture prominent among nineteenth-century business gazetteer listings. Blacksmithing was indispensable to rural residents, who relied on iron goods for use in the kitchen, for shodding their draft animals and for forging/repairing basic farm tools. As the twentieth century progressed, technological innovations introduced new types of businesses, such as modernized agricultural implement dealerships, gas stations and auto repair garages. Meanwhile, the few blacksmiths who remained in business, such as August and Walter Zahn, shifted their emphasis from producing household goods to creating decorative and specialty items.⁷

Furthermore, Baileys Harbor began to reflect Door County's evolution as a vacation destination, featuring the Evergreen Camp Summer Resort, the Old Homestead Inn and the Scenic Grove Resort, all by 1917. By mid-century, there were at least twice as many accommodations--not including trailer camps and Camp Henry Graas for Boy Scouts--while popular tourist attractions ranged from an eighteen-hole golf course to a local spectacle known as Albert Zahn's Bird's Park. The recreation/resort industry remains a significant aspect of the village's economy. For instance, as recently as 1996, the village offered charter fishing boats, a wildflower preserve known as The Ridges, a hiking and birding facility called Ridge's Sanctuary and numerous galleries, shops, restaurants and lodges. In addition, the village serves an important municipal function, housing the town hall for the civil town of Baileys Harbor, which had a population of approximately eight hundred in 1996.⁸

⁷*Wisconsin State Gazetteer, 1895-1896*, 162; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1903-1904* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1903), 192; *R. L. Polk & Co.'s Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1907-1908* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1907), 201; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1917-1918* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1917), 168; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1927-1928* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1927), 134.

⁸Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 237-41; *History of Northern Wisconsin*, 266-67; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer, 1895-1896*, 162; *Polk's Gazetteer, 1903-1904*, 192; *R. L. Polk & Co.'s Gazetteer, 1907-1908*, 201; *Polk's Gazetteer, 1917-1918*, 168; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1919-1920* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1919), 172; *Polk's Gazetteer, 1927-1928*, 134-135; Hjalmar Rued Holand, *History of Door County Wisconsin: The County Beautiful*, 2 vols. (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1917), 1:173; *Tourist Map of Door County, Wisconsin, with Directory of Summer Resorts* (n.p.: Door County Chamber of Commerce, ca. 1950[?]); Mary Ann Johnson, "Carvings of Albert Zahn found in major museums," *The Door County Advocate*, 15 October 1993; *State of Wisconsin 1997-1998 Blue Book* (Madison, WI: State of Wisconsin, 1997), 729; "Door County's Bailey's Harbor," Website at <http://doorcountyvacations.com/Communities/BH.html>, accessed 13 February 1998. Albert Zahn was a primitive artist of some renown; he was also August Zahn's uncle, and had moved to Baileys Harbor several years prior to August's arrival. His presence may have led August to choose to settle in Baileys Harbor as well.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

Resource-Specific History:

The history of the extant structures at this site is traceable to approximately 1905, when August Zahn built his blacksmith shop. A German immigrant, Zahn had reached Door County the previous year, when he was twenty-six years old. He had learned his trade in his father's shop in Germany. From his own new shop, the bachelor craftsman forged the necessary tools for the residents of this predominantly agricultural locale. He eventually expanded his shop to include a second level. This was needed for living space, especially after he married in 1910. As he and his wife, Martha, began a family, they outgrew the shop's living quarters. In 1912, Zahn built a separate residence, adjacent to the shop. The large house was also intended to contain a new blacksmith shop. Zahn never fulfilled this plan; the shop remained in the original, neighboring structure and as much as 65 percent of the residence was left unfinished. Both buildings remained in the Zahn family for most of the twentieth century. Indeed, August's son, Walter, also performed blacksmithing in the shop and resided in the house with his family. During the 1950s, Walter and his wife built an apartment on the second floor of the residence. Rented to tourists on a weekly basis, the added rooms reflected the increasing prevalence of tourist activities in Baileys Harbor. In the early 1980s, the Zahns placed the property on the real estate market, but were unable to locate interested buyers. Finally, in 1994, a Milwaukee architect named David Hallinger purchased the entire property from the Zahns and began to renovate the residence as an inn. After nearly eighty years, the interior of the house would finally be completed, accommodating seven guest rooms. In 1996, Hallinger sold the property to the current innkeepers, Joan Holliday and Bryan Nelson. Designed entirely by Holliday and Nelson, the current decor of the aptly named Blacksmith Inn reflects accoutrements from the era of the historic owner; furthermore, the original blacksmith shop has been maintained with little to no modification. Its historic sense is further facilitated as the innkeepers rent the shop to Dan Naumann, who practices the craft of blacksmithing using historic tools during summer and fall months.⁹

In addition to the artifacts collected by the current owners and displayed within the inn, examples of August Zahn's works are still extant at a few properties in Bailey's Harbor. Boynton Chapel, a circa 1920s replica of a Norwegian *stavkirke*, includes iron sconces, hinges, and hardware crafted by Zahn. The chapel is located on the Bjorklund property, a parcel of land that includes a lodge that also once displayed examples of Zahn's craftsmanship; however, the lodge experienced a fire in the early 1990s, at which time much of the ironwork was destroyed. Reportedly, St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Baileys Harbor displays examples of Zahn's workmanship; this conclusion is based on the close similarity between artifacts, such as candle sconces and hardware, and several paper patterns that were found in the attic of Zahn's shop.¹⁰

⁹"Baileys Harbor," collection of copies of historic photographs; Johnson, *Downtown Bailey's Harbor*, 1; "The Blacksmith Inn," promotional brochure; Bryan Nelson, interview with Traci E. Schnell, 28 May 1998, Notes on file at HRL.

¹⁰Joan Holliday, Telephone conversation with Lena L. Sweeten, 8 March 1999, Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI. Both the lodge and chapel are owned by Lawrence College in Appleton, and the chapel presently functions as an adult continuing education facility.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

Architecture:

The subject property displays two significant, vernacular construction methods: half-timber and stovewood. Half-timber construction is a solid building technique developed in medieval northern Europe. Many Wisconsin half-timber examples largely stem from German immigrants; they transplanted the half-timber or *Fachwerkbau* style for structures ranging from houses to commercial buildings. Specifically, half-timber consists of sturdy timber walls with mortise, tenon and pegged joints. For added support, end wall sections carry diagonally placed timber braces. Infill materials, ranging from stone and plaster to brick and mortar, are daubed between the timbered panels. Stovewood nogging is yet another infill used in some half-timber constructions. This is the case with the subject property. Interior wall surfaces have the appearance of short, stacked log ends embedded in mortar. Typical of many half-timber and stovewood examples, the exterior walls of the subject property are concealed by board siding.¹¹

It appears that stovewood construction may have been introduced in Scandinavia. In North America, surviving examples are most prevalent in Quebec and Wisconsin, with Door and Bayfield counties featuring stovewood structures largely built between 1895 and 1915. Many of the latter include outbuildings. As mentioned above, stovewood was used in conjunction with half-timber construction; yet, it historically was also used for what one source describes as "self-supporting stovewood walls." That is, larger, stacked and mortared logs--commonly white cedar--constitute the entire wall surface, which typically would not be resheathed on the exterior. Examples of self-supporting stovewood constructions exist west of Door County, while within the county, half-timber and stovewood combinations are more often found.¹²

The subject property features stovewood construction in the blacksmith shop, while the residence/inn includes both the stovewood and half-timber methods. Both buildings retain

¹¹Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*, Vol. 2, Architecture, 4/3-4.

¹²Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*, Vol. 2, Architecture, 4/3-4.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

a high degree of architectural integrity with regard to these methods, and are, therefore, considered to be locally significant examples of a comparatively rare, vernacular building technique.

Summary:

The August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence is eligible for the National Register on the basis of Criteria A and C. Its association with the history of Baileys Harbor as a local agricultural support center and the property's own historic function as a blacksmith shop render it eligible under Criterion A. The blacksmith played an important role in the local farm and business economy. This was a trade that served the agricultural community with practical implements; the blacksmith also produced decorative objects for the consumer trade. Both buildings offer eligibility under Criterion C for methods of construction. Both the blacksmith shop and the residence display stovewood construction. In addition, half-timbering is found at the residence. The blacksmith shop contains a rare type of nineteenth century flooring known as Nicholson paving. The blacksmith's vital role in the nineteenth century industrial community and the methods of construction displayed in the two buildings render the property eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Albert Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Name of Property

Door
County and State

Wisconsin

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1 _____ acre

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/9/0/2/5/0</u>	<u>4/9/9/0/1/5/0</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	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	Lena L. Sweeten, Laura Abing, Traci E. Schnel	date	9/27/99
organization	Heritage Research, LTD.	telephone	414 251-7792
street & number	N89 W16785 Appleton Avenue	zip code	53051
city or town	Menomonee Falls	state	Wisconsin

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 1

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

Explain the significance of the property.

Major Bibliographical References:

"Baileys Harbor." Collection of copies of historic photographs with accompanying text. On file at Baileys Harbor Branch of Door County Public Library, Baileys Harbor, WI.

"The Blacksmith Inn." Promotional brochure, n.d. Copy on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

"Door County's Baileys Harbor." Website at <http://doorcountyvacations.com/Communities/BH.html>. Accessed 13 February 1998.

Hale, James B. *Going for the Mail: A History of Door County Post Offices*. Green Bay, WI: Brown County Historical Society, 1996.

History of Northern Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881.

Holand, Hjalmar Rued. *History of Door County Wisconsin: The County Beautiful*. 2 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1917.

_____. *Old Peninsula Days: Tales and Sketches of the Door County Peninsula*. 3d ed. Ephraim, WI: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1925.

Holliday, Joan. Telephone conversation with Lena L. Sweeten, 8 March 1999. Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

Johnson, Mary Ann. "Carvings of Albert Zahn found in major museums." *The Door County Advocate*, 15 October 1993.

_____. *A Mini Historical Walk of Downtown Baileys Harbor*. Baileys Harbor, (WI): Baileys Harbor Historical Research Foundation, 1995.

Nelson, Bryan. Interview with Lena L. Sweeten, 25 February 1999. Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

Nelson, Bryan. Interview with Traci E. Schnell, 28 May 1998. Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

Peil, Annie, comp. *Here's to the Way We Were*. n.p., 1976.

State of Wisconsin 1997-1998 Blue Book. Madison, WI: State of Wisconsin, 1997.

Tourist Map of Door County, Wisconsin, with Directory of Summer Resorts. n.p.: Door County Chamber of Commerce, ca. 1950(?).

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 2

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory. Various published volumes from 1879 to 1928 cited in report. See individual footnotes for specific citations.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. 3 vols. Madison, WI: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Name of Property

Door
County and State

Wisconsin

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	Bryan Nelson and Joan Holliday	date	9/27/98
organization		telephone	920/839-9222
street&number	PO Box 220	zip code	54202
city or town	Baileys Harbor	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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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section Photographs Page 1

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Perspective view)

8152 STH 57

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Northeast

Photo #1 of 9

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Shop: north and west facades; wrought-iron
8152 STH 57 fence)

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Southeast

Photo #2 of 9

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Shop interior: original forge)

8152 STH 57

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View of Forge

Photo #3 of 9

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Residence/Inn: north and west facades)

8152 STH 57

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Southeast

Photo #4 of 9

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Residence/Inn: west and south facades; modern
8152 STH 57 sign)

BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI

Photo by Lena L. Sweeten

February 1999

Negative at SHSW

View to Northeast

Photo #5 of 9

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Section Photographs Page 2

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Residence/Inn: east and north facades)
8152 STH 57
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten
February 1999
Negative at SHSW
View to West/Southwest
Photo #6 of 9

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Residence/Inn: interior, wall)
8152 STH 57
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten
February 1999
Negative at SHSW
View of wall
Photo #7 of 9

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Residence/Inn: interior, original doors)
8152 STH 57
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten
February 1999
Negative at SHSW
View of Original doors
Photo #8 of 9

AUGUST ZAHN BLACKSMITH SHOP AND RESIDENCE (Residence/Inn: interior, iron artifacts)
8152 STH 57
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten
February 1999
Negative at SHSW
View of Iron artifacts
Photo #9 of 9

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Section 10 Page 1

August Zahn Blacksmith Shop and Residence
Door County, Wisconsin

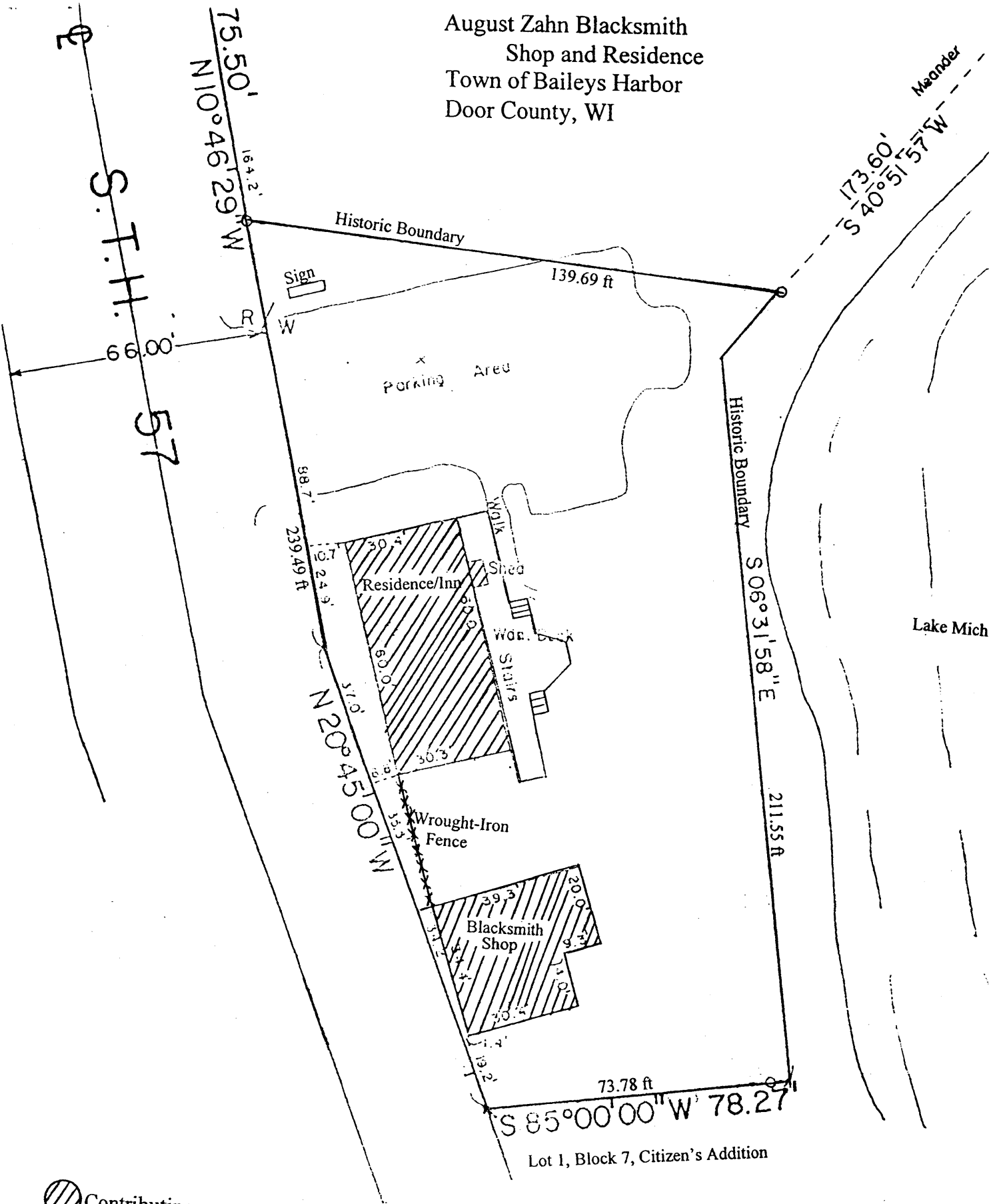
Verbal Boundary Description



Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 1, Block 7 of Citizen's Addition to the Village of Bailey's Harbor, proceed 239.49 ft in a generally north/northwesterly direction along STH 57, thence southeast 139.69 ft to the meander line of Lake Michigan, thence in a generally southerly direction 211.55 ft to the south property line, thence 73.78 ft in a generally west/southwesterly direction to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The east, south and west boundary lines coincide with the existing property lines, while the north boundary line was drawn to encompass an appropriate historical setting and extends to the historic property line.

August Zahn Blacksmith
 Shop and Residence
 Town of Baileys Harbor
 Door County, WI



-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing

0
 (Approximate)