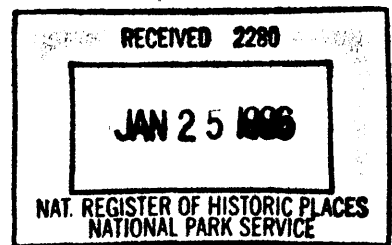


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
Approved 3/87



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets. (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve.

1. Name of Property

historic name Noble, Alexander, Residence
other names/site number N/A

2 Location:

Street & number: 4167 Highway 42 N/A Not for Publication
city, town: Fish Creek N/A vicinity
state: Wisconsin code WI county: Door code: 029 zip code 54212

3. Classification

Ownership of property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	No. 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)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
previously(Enter N/A if property is not
part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register
0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ___See continuation sheet.

1/3/1996
Signature of certifying official _____ Date
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ___meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria.
___See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
___See continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall 2/23/96

___determined eligible for the National Register. ___See continuation sheet

Entered in the National Register

___determined not eligible for the National Register. ___See continuation sheet

___removed from the National Register.

___other, (explain:)

Bar Signature of the Keeper _____ Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

foundation stone
walls Aluminum

roof asphalt
other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

x See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
 nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

<u>Community Planning and Development</u>	<u>1868-1912¹</u>	
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	
_____	<u>N/A</u>	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	

Significant Person

Noble, Alexander (see text)

Architect/Builder

Noble, Alexander (see text)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

x See continuation sheet

¹Albert Quinlan and John Kahlert. Door County Buildings and the People Who Built Them. Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin. Meadow Lane Publishers, 1978; Tape recording, 12 December, 1984, by Gibraltar Historical Association, of community members, including Gertrude Howe, Roy and Virginia Kinsey, Duncan and Ann Thorp, Ed and Lois Schreiber; Door County Register of Deeds, book P150 pages 310 and 306, book P16 page 379, book 4 page 512, and book D page 48.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

 x see continuation sheet

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:

- x State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 acres

UTM References

A	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 4/8/Q6/1/0 </u>	<u> 4/9/9/6/9/4/0 </u>	B	<u> / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u> / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>	D	<u> / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>
---	--------------	----------------------	----------------------	---	--------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 4; all but the east 33 feet of the north 72 feet of Lot 1, and Lots 2 and 3, Asa Thorp Plat, Fish Creek, Wisconsin.

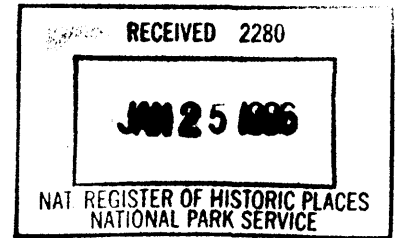
Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Alexander Noble Residence.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Sample Bernstein
organization for Gibraltar Hist. Assoc. date January 31, 1993
street & number 601 S. Dickinson St. telephone (608) 251-4615
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53703

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Page 1

7. Architectural Description

The nominated property is situated within the unincorporated village of Fish Creek, located in the town of Gibraltar on the western shore of the Door County Peninsula. The village is situated on the south shore of Green Bay on a flat stretch of land beneath a steep bluff.

The Alexander Noble residence, constructed in 1868², is a simple front gable residence with design influences from the Greek Revival style. It is located on the northwest corner of a grassy block in the center of the village of Fish Creek. The Noble house is centrally placed among other residences, resort accommodations and small retail ventures. The feel of the surrounding area would be one of a sleepy village if it were not for the heavy usage by vacationers.

The house consists of a two-story main block and a one-story rear wing. The three-bay by three-bay main block is square in plan and measures approximately 30.5' x 30.5'. The rear wing is approximately 30.5' wide x 22.5' deep.

The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles and has moderately overhanging eaves. The walls of the house were originally clad in narrow clapboard, which exists in its entirety under sympathetically-installed narrow gauge aluminum siding. A ten-inch-thick cut stone foundation supports the house. The building is in very good condition.

The raking cornice of the main (north) elevation features wide fascia boards under the eaves. This fascia is similar to those often seen on examples of the Greek Revival style. A slatted vent pierces the wall under the gable.

The main elevation is divided into three bays. Six-over-six double hung wood sash windows are regularly placed on the first and second floors. The windows are encased by simple wood frames crowned with a slightly projecting drip-cap. The sills also project slightly. Operable wood shutters flank all of the windows but those on the first floor of the main elevation.

²Quinlan and Kahlert; Tape recording, 12 December, 1984, by Gibraltar Historical Association, of community members, including Gertrude Howe, Roy and Virginia Kinsey, Duncan and Ann Thorp, Ed and Lois Schreiber.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Page 2

The main entrance occupies the west bay of the first floor of the main elevation. A pair of four-panel doors is housed in a simple doorway. The jambs are unadorned wood while the lintel is crowned by a projecting series of moldings similar to the drip-cap of the windows. An ill-fitting wood-frame screen door with decorative turned and sawn pieces covers five-eighths of the front door opening - apparently to allow the right half of the front door to be opened while the left half remains closed.

The one-story front porch appears to have been added after the original construction, perhaps in the 1890s, when Mrs. Noble had the interior re-wallpapered. The slightly sloping hipped porch roof is supported by four columns with simple block capitals. A balustrade of square balusters (probably later replacements) enframes the porch and flanks the stairs leading to the main entrance. The porch is level with the front door, and is five stairs above the front yard. Square lattice screens fill the spandrels below the porch floor above the ground.

The west-facing side elevation of the main block is also divided into three bays. On both stories of the west elevation, the windows are absent (historically) in the left-hand and center bays of the first story and in the left-hand bay of the second story. The windows and window surrounds are of the same style as on the main elevation.

The rear (south) elevation of the two-story main block features the same wide raking cornice as the front (north) elevation. Two slatted vents pierce the wall either side of center beneath the gable peak. It is evident that the second story of the rear elevation is also divided into three bays, but only the west and east bays actually contain windows. The one-story rear wing covers the other bays on the rear elevation of the main block.

The east-facing side elevation of the main block is three-bays-wide. Windows identical to the others on the main block are regularly spaced on the first story, but are absent (historically, this is not an alteration) in the center and right-hand bays of the second story.

The gable- and shed-roofed rear wing is three-bays-deep and is as wide as the main block. On both of its side elevations (west and east) recessed porches occupy the two bays between the main block and the back of the rear section. Each porch is as deep as the shed roof above it.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Page 3

Narrow turned posts support the shed roof over the porches.

On the west-facing side elevation of the rear wing, a smaller six-over-six double hung wood sash window is located in the north bay (next to the main block). A secondary entrance is located in the center bay. It consists of a wood and glass door and a wood and glass storm door in a simple door surround. The door surround is similar to, but smaller than, the main entrance. The south bay houses a window of the type previously described.

The south elevation of the rear wing features a single off-center window of the type previously described and a slatted vent in the gable peak.

The east elevation of the rear wing is a mirror image of the west elevation except that the placement of the window and the door in the recessed porch are reversed.

The interior is inaccessible due to private ownership. The current owner is in a nursing home and was unapproachable regarding accessing her house. According to friends, neighbors, and earlier research, an original bedroom was converted for used as the bathroom,³ but few other interior alterations have been made. The plan of the house is illustrated in the attached sketch⁴.

Alterations that have been made to the building include the addition of the front porch during the period of significance, the conversion of a bedroom into a bathroom circa 1960⁵, and the installation of narrow aluminum siding in the early 1990s. A non-contributing garage was constructed in the mid-1950s, but does not negatively impact the property. The alterations that have been made do not obscure the historic character of the house and it remains essentially as built by Alexander Noble.

³Quinlan and Kahlert.

⁴Compiled from looking in the windows and from conversations with the owners friend Virginia Kinsey who was a visitor in the house.

⁵Virginia Kinsey, Fish Creek resident, telephone conversation with the author, May 15, 1995.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 1

8. Statement of Significance
Summary Statement of Significance

The Alexander Noble Residence is locally significant under Criterion B of the National Register of Historic Places for its association with Alexander Noble in the area of community planning and development. The house served as the residence of Noble, who was an important local personage in the history of Fish Creek, from its date of construction in 1868, to Noble's death in 1912. Noble was the local blacksmith during most of this time, but he was also the village postmaster, a long-time Town of Gibraltar member of the county board, and he platted an extension to the original plat of the village. The house retains its historic identity and appears largely as it did when Noble lived there. The simple front gable house with Greek Revival-influenced details is an example of housing built by and for a local businessman when Fish Creek was still establishing itself as a viable community. It is now the only surviving building associated with Noble and it retains a high degree of integrity. In addition, the house is now the oldest extant dwelling in Fish Creek on its original site.

Historic Overview of Fish Creek

The village of Fish Creek was first settled by Increase Claflin in 1842 "and prospered on the strength of local timber supplies and a fine harbor."⁶ In 1857, Asa Thorp organized Gibraltar Township and created the first plat of the village of Fish Creek. The entire peninsula of Door County was isolated until the late 19th century; there were no dependable roads and the railroad did not reach Sturgeon Bay until 1894.⁷ Water travel was most common in both summer and winter. Steamers hauled huge shipments between Green Bay and Milwaukee and Chicago.

⁶Edward Schreiber, "Fish Creek Then and Now," Fish Creek Voices, an Oral History of a Door County Village, William Caxton, LTD., Sister Bay, Wisconsin, 1990, 5.

⁷John Enigl, "Old R.R. Depot Has Seen Lots of History," Door County Almanak No. 5, The Dragonsbreath Press, Sister Bay, Wisconsin, 1990, 151.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 2

Some of the "boats" could carry 250,000 to 1,500,000 board feet of lumber.⁸ The weight of the cargo required several refueling stops. One of these stops was Fish Creek, where visitors extolled the beauties of the area.

By the post-Civil War period, Fish Creek had become the major fishing port of Door County. Asa Thorp started to take traveling teamsters and salesmen as paying guests into his private home in the 1860s. By the 1870s Fish Creek was a thriving fishing port and lumbering center with two stores, a sawmill, and two large piers. A resort industry began to develop in the village when the Goodrich Transit Company started to transport relief-seeking urban dwellers from Chicago to the shores of Fish Creek.⁹

In 1885 the L.P. Hill Steamship company established its boat yard and headquarters in Fish Creek. The company provided a passenger line from Kenosha to many harbors on Door County. As a result of this industry Fish Creek was to become, by the turn of the century, a prosperous summer resort community, providing lodging for a seasonal population. These new visitors required housing accommodations, and hotels began to spring up in Fish Creek. Asa Thorp would greatly expand his home, transforming it into a hotel in the next twenty-five years. By the early twentieth century, he could accommodate 125 people.¹⁰

As soon as dependable transportation came to Fish Creek, so did more seasonal visitors. The year after the railroad reached Sturgeon Bay, the Crundon and Clark families of St. Louis began

⁸Barbara Wyatt, Project Director, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 2. A Manual for Historic Properties. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Industry 16-1, 4-1.

⁹Hjalmar R. Holand. History of Door County, Wisconsin, the County Beautiful. The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company: Chicago, 1917, 360; Door County Almanak No. 5: Tourism, Resorts, Transportation. Sister Bay, Wisconsin: The Dragonsbreath Press, 1990.

¹⁰Ibid.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 3

house construction on Cottage Row, which became the largest enclave of summer homes in Fish Creek. In 1896 Dr. Herman Welcker established Welcker's Resort as a "health spa." By 1917, Welcker's could accommodate 150 guests.¹¹ There were also five other hotels and resorts in Fish Creek, all in what was still a small unincorporated village. The majority of these hotels and resorts could accommodate over 50 people each.

A general building pattern soon followed - initially Fish Creek homeowners took paying guests into their private houses, later they built guest cottages on their properties. By the 1930s and 1940s a significant number of private residents either converted, adapted, or moved structures to serve as cottages or cabins on

their property for the specific purpose of renting to Fish Creek tourists.¹² From the late 1890s to the Depression of the 1930s, summer visitors were summer residents and an integral part of the Fish Creek population. From the 1930s on, tourism - visitors staying from one night to a few weeks - has greatly increased, and has, by 1995, expanded into the autumn and winter seasons as well. Economic dependence on tourism has continued to the present day.¹³

Historic Background: Alexander Noble

The house at 4167 Highway 42 was the home of Alexander Noble and his family. Noble operated a blacksmith shop in town and was responsible for platting the town eastward from the stream known as Fish Creek to Green Bay at Sunset Park. Noble also served two different

¹¹"The Summer Resort Business," Door County Almanak No. 5. The Dragonsbreath Press, Sister Bay, Wisconsin, 1990, 19.

¹²Rebecca Sample Bernstein, Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Fish Creek, Wisconsin. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, February, 1993, 30.

¹³Harwood W. Hill, "Transportation Conquers Distance," Door County Almanak No. 5. The Dragonsbreath Press, Sister Bay, Wisconsin, 1990, 134-6.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 4

appointments as postmaster for Fish Creek,¹⁴ and held many different local political offices.¹⁵

Alexander Noble was born November 29, 1829, in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1837, he moved to Canada with his parents. In 1856 he moved from Washington County, New York to Chambers Island off the Door County peninsula. By 1859 he had moved to the village of Fish Creek where he pursued blacksmithing and farming. Noble's first appointment as postmaster for Fish Creek began August 6, 1859 and lasted to April 7, 1865.¹⁶ He was Fish Creek's first postmaster. Noble married Emily Vaughn of New York in 1852. She died twenty years later at age thirty-eight. From that marriage were two daughters and one son. Noble remarried in 1873, to Maria Campbell of Mackinaw. That marriage produced two daughters and one son.¹⁷

In 1862, Noble received a land grant for a large parcel of land in Fish Creek. By 1881, he owned 200 acres of land in Door County. He was also very active in local politics, holding many different offices including that of the Town of Gibraltar member to the Door County Board of Supervisors from 1872-1875 (he was chairman of the county board in 1875) and from 1879-1885.¹⁸ Noble was also instrumental in expanding the village, creating the first addition to the

¹⁴Typed manuscript from James B. Hale, 5401 Raymond Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711. Hale states that the information was gleaned from records in the U.S. National Archives and the Wisconsin Postal History Society.

¹⁵Quinlan and Kahlert.

¹⁶Hale manuscript.

¹⁷History of Northern Wisconsin, containing and account of its settlement, growth, development and resources; an extensive sketch of its Counties, Cities, Towns, and Villages, their improvements, industries, manufactories; biographical sketches, portraits of prominent men and early settlers; views of county seats, etc., (Chicago: The Western Historical Company), 1881.

¹⁸Quinlan and Kahlert.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 5

village's original plat in 1898.¹⁹

Alexander Noble bought the property on which his house is located (lots 2 and 3 of Block 4) from Asa and Eliza Thorp in 1862. There was originally a small house on the property which was destroyed by fire. In 1868, he built and probably designed this house, which originally had ten rooms, six of which were bedrooms. Noble's second appointment as Fish Creek's postmaster began on June 15, 1885 and lasted to June 14, 1889. It was during this tenure that the small room in the southwest corner of the house was used as the local post office. Until 1897, the interior walls of the house were bare, but in that year Mrs. Noble purchased wallpaper, which is still on the walls, from Lundberg's store across the street.²⁰

When Noble died in 1912, the property passed to his widow, Maria Noble, and his children, Gertrude, Alex, Nellie, and Robert. Robert Noble died in 1959, and left his interest in the property to Gertrude Howe in his will. The other interests in the property were left to Gertrude Howe and Donnell Howe in 1962.²¹

¹⁹1898 plat for "Alex Noble's Addition to the Village of Fish Creek" on file at the Door County Register of Deeds, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

²⁰Quinlan and Kahlert; Virginia Kinsey, interview with Rebecca Sample Bernstein, December 19, 1992, Kinsey residence, Fish Creek, Wisconsin.

²¹Door County Register of Deeds, book/page; P150/310, P150/306, P16/379, 4/512, D/48

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 6

Historic Background: Blacksmithing

Blacksmith shops were the main-stay of small agriculture-based communities in the mid and late 1800s. The blacksmith provided services from shoeing horses to repairing wagon wheels and general tools. Although specialty carriage/wagon-making shops and agricultural-implement manufacturers were well established by the 1870s in the larger communities of Wisconsin, especially in the south-eastern part of the state and in the major great lakes port cities, in smaller communities the blacksmith shop retained its vital role.²² The relative isolation of the village of Fish Creek made the services of the blacksmith valuable since the services of larger foundries and manufacturers available to Wisconsin residents in larger urban areas were not available to Fish Creek residents.

Alexander Noble had the only blacksmith shop in Fish Creek until George Schuyler established a foundry sometime between 1896 and 1901.²³ Noble's blacksmith shop was located north of this house at the site of the Schreiber/Allen house at 9430 Spruce Street. From the village's founding until the mid 1880s, Fish Creek's economic base was lumbering, shipping, and the surrounding agricultural community. After the 1890s when the summer resort business began to play a significant role in the village's economy, the blacksmith shop was still integral to the residents for maintenance and repair of daily transportation and all variety of tools. Noble worked his shop until his death in 1912. It is interesting to note that Schuyler's shop continued to be an important feature in Fish Creek well into the early decades of the 20th Century, indicating the dependance of the isolated community on local craftsmen. Noble's blacksmith shop was no longer standing when the Schreiber/Allen house was built in 1922 and there are no other extant structures related to Noble's blacksmith enterprise.²⁴ Consequently, the house at 4167 Highway 42 is the only extant property associated with Alexander Noble. George Schuyler's shop was at 4144 Highway 42, at the site of what is now Edgewater Cottages. It is no longer extant.

²²Wyatt, Volume 3, Industry 13-1, 14-1.

²³Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1895-1920. R.L. Polk & Co: Chicago. 1895 - 1920.

²⁴Schreiber, ed. p.102.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 7

Historic Significance

The Alexander Noble Residence is locally significant under Criterion B of the National Register of Historic Places for its association with Alexander Noble in the area of community planning and development. Noble is considered to have been one of the pioneer leaders in the history of Fish Creek and like so many other men of Noble's day who were pioneer settlers in the places that they became most closely associated with, Noble was called upon to play multiple roles in the development of his community. Noble was the only blacksmith in Fish Creek from the 1860s until sometime between 1896 and 1901, and he continued this trade until he died in 1912, providing vital services to the community as a blacksmith. Noble was also instrumental in furthering the development of the Village of Fish Creek, platting the first addition to the original plat (Alexander Noble's Addition is located just to the east and south of Block 2 of the original plat) in 1898. Noble also played a significant role in many other areas of the life of Fish Creek besides, serving as the local postmaster on two occasions (during the last of which he operated the post office from an office in his house) and for almost two decades as the Town of Gibraltar member to the Door County board of supervisors. For all of these activities, Noble is considered to be a significant person in the history of Fish Creek and to have met the standards for such persons under National Register Criterion B.

The Noble House retains its historic integrity from the period of significance between its construction in 1868 and Alexander Noble's death in 1912. It retains integrity of location as it has never been moved. Although the house has been re-sided, it retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship to the extent that it would be immediately recognizable by Alexander Noble. It also retains integrity of setting, feeling and association - the entire block historically associated with the property is still associated with the property except for the Vorhous General Store at 4153 Highway 42. Noble sold a corner of this block to Levi Vorhous in 1895. The commercial building that Vorhous built was constructed within the period of significance and its being nominated to the National Register in a separate nomination. A garage was added to the rear (south) of Noble's house after the period of significance but it is sympathetic in design, scale, and materials to the main house.

The house is now the only extant structure in Fish Creek associated with Alexander Noble and it is also the oldest house on its original site in Fish Creek. The Asa Thorp cabin, an older

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 8

structure, has been moved several times, reinked, re-roofed, and is now featured at Polyventures Founders Square in a setting completely unrelated to its original surroundings. The C. A. Lundberg house, the home of another prominent Fish Creek business man, was constructed a decade later, circa 1890. The Redman house is also a front gable form house, but is of a later generation, has alterations including the addition of a glassed-in front porch, and was moved to its present site from its original site around the corner on Highway 42.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 9 Page 1

9. Bibliography

Bernstein, Rebecca Sample. Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Fish Creek, Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, February, 1993.

Door County Almanak No. 5: Tourism, Resorts, Transportation, (Sister Bay, WI: The Dragonsbreath Press), 1990.

Door County Register of Deeds, book/page; P150/310, P150/306, P16/379, 4/512, D/48

Door County Register of Deeds, 1898 plat for "Alex Noble's Addition to the Village of Fish Creek"

Enigl, "Old R.R. Depot Has Seen Lots of History," Door County Almanak No. 5, The Dragonsbreath Press, Sister Bay, Wisconsin, 1990, 151.

Hale, James B. Fish Creek's Postmasters, Typed manuscript. Located in Gibraltar Historical Association's collections.

History of Northern Wisconsin, containing an account of its settlement, growth, development and resources; an extensive sketch of its Counties, Cities, Towns, and Villages, their improvements, industries, manufactories; biographical sketches, portraits of prominent men and early settlers; views of county seats, etc., (Chicago: The Western Historical Company), 1881.

Hjalmar R. Holand. History of Door County, Wisconsin, the County Beautiful, The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company: Chicago, 1917.

Virginia Kinsey, Fish Creek, Wisconsin, interviews with Rebecca Sample Bernstein, 20 December, 1992, 15 May 1995.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 9 Page 2

Albert Quinlan and Jahn Kahlert. Door County Buildings and the People Who Built Them.
Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin. Meadow Lane Publishers, 1978.

Edward and Lois Schreiber, editors, Fish Creek Voices. An Oral History of a Door County Village, (Sister Bay, WI: Wm Caxton Ltd), 1990.

Tape recording, 12 December, 1984, by Gibraltar Historical Association, of community members, including Gertrude Howe, Roy and Virginia Kinsey, Duncan and Ann Thorp, Ed and Lois Schreiber.

Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1895. R.L. Polk & Co: Chicago. 1895

Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1920. R.L. Polk & Co: Chicago. 1820

Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2. A Manual for Historic Properties. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, June, 1986. Industry, 13-1, 14-1, 16-1.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number photos Page 1

List of Photographs

Noble, Alexander, Residence
4167 Highway 42
Fish Creek, Door County, Wisconsin
Photographer: Rebecca Sample Bernstein
May, September, 1992
Negative housed with the Fish Creek Architectural and Historical Survey material at the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

1. Noble, Alexander, Residence
view from the north east
2. Noble, Alexander, Residence
view from the south east
3. Noble, Alexander, Residence
view from the south west, including garage
4. Noble, Alexander, Residence
view from house (south west) showing open lot
5. Noble, Alexander, Residence
view of porch from the northwest
6. Noble, Alexander, Residence
detail of main entrance
7. Noble, Alexander, Residence
detail of west recessed porch

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number photos Page 2

8. Noble, Alexander, Residence
view from the southeast

9. Noble, Alexander, Residence
window detail, southeast corner of the house

10. Noble, Alexander, Residence
view of garage

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Noble, Alexander Residence
Fish Creek, Door County, WI

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number owner Page 1

Current Owner Address

Gertrude Howe Trust
John Hauser, Trustee
Baylake Bank
P.O. Box 9
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Noble, Alexander Residence

Fish Creek, Door County, WI

SKETCH PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR
not to scale NW

