

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

**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

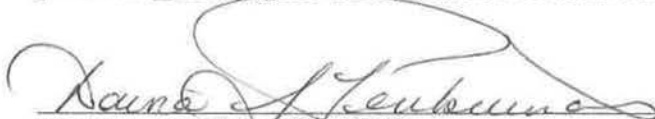
historic name Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
other names/site number Northern Grace

2. Location

street & number	8680 Highway 101	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Armstrong Creek	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Forest	code 041
			zip code 54103

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.)


Signature of certifying official/Title

9/22/2016
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
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

Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead

Forest County

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(check as many boxes as
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
6	1 buildings
1	0 sites
1	0 structures
0	0 objects
8	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
previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single dwelling

AGRICULTURE / Animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single dwelling

OTHER / Storage

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: front gabled

Other: basement barn

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: concrete

Walls: stucco, wood shingle, vinyl

Roof: asphalt, metal

Other: N/A

Narrative Description

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

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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.)

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1918-1946

Significant Dates

1918, 1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Schultz, Adam (builder)

Wywiałowski, John (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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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:

X State Historic Preservation Office

- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 41.8 acres

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

1 16T 388592.44 5060232.00
 Zone Easting Northing

2 16T 388589.05 5059831.63
 Zone Easting Northing

3 16T 388308.81 5059844.87
 Zone Easting Northing

4 16T 388054.92 5060056.19
 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 Gail Klein
organization
street & number 607 East Street
city or town Stoughton

state WI

date January 3, 2016
telephone 541-285-0352
zip code 53589

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Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, WI

Introduction

The John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead is a collection of eight historic resources and one non-contributing resource located in a rural area in the Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, Wisconsin. All contributing resources were constructed between 1918 and 1946 and include a front-gabled house (1918), a large dairy barn (1942-1944), a chicken coop (1940), a granary (1940), an outhouse (1946), a garage (1926), a windmill (1939), and an apple orchard (1938). The Ranch house (1970) was constructed five years after the farm ceased operations therefore is outside the period of significance as a farmstead. Individual resources range from fair to excellent condition, and all retain moderate to high degrees of individual integrity. Taken as a whole, this collection of resources is an excellent local representative of a relatively rare property type: a successful, early-twentieth-century Cutover farm.

The farmstead is accessed via a long, paved driveway off of the east side of Highway 101. A heavy tree line separates the property from the public right-of-way along Highway 101. All built resources are centrally located around the historic domestic yard space and farmyard. An L-shaped line of trees and shrubbery shield the northern and western sides of the domestic yard while wooded acreage is located south of the group of buildings. Aside from these areas, the remainder of the property consists of open agricultural fields, with the exception of an approximately 100 foot by 120 foot apple orchard that is located about 360 feet northeast of the building group.

Front Gabled House

This one-and-a-half story, approximately 700-square foot, front-gabled house was constructed in 1918. It is rectangular in plan with its foundation and walls comprised of structural terra cotta blocks with an exterior stucco overlay, wood shingles inside the gables and on the entry bay, and an asphalt-shingled gable roof. A red brick chimney with slight corbelling at its mouth, projects from the roof peak. The front elevation faces west and is nearly symmetrical in plan with a central front door flanked by one-over-one windows on each side; all fenestration across the first story is slightly off-center. A pair of one-over-one windows is located just below the gable. The south elevation contains two pairs of one-over-one windows. The east (rear) elevation contains a single one-over-one window at the first story and a one-over-one window just below the gable. The wall within the gable is clad in wood shingles. A one-story, shed-roofed addition (constructed c.1936) projects from the southern end of the rear wall. The addition is clad in wood shingles and contains a door of vertical board construction in its south elevation. All first story windows have narrow concrete sills.

The interior of the house consists of a total of six rooms: a kitchen, multi-purpose room, dining room, and bedroom at the first floor and two bedrooms at the second floor (see Figure 2). Throughout the first floor, board floors are covered in patches of linoleum tile and sheet flooring and walls and ceilings are plastered with sections of the structural terra cotta visible where the plaster has fallen

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away from the walls. Simple, painted wood trim frames all interior windows and doors. Doors are of paneled wood construction. The rear entry bay is the house's primary access point. A door in the east wall of the kitchen provides access from the rear entry bay. Doorways in the north and west walls of the kitchen lead to the multi-purpose room and dining room, respectively, and a door in the north wall of the dining room leads to the first-floor bedroom. A ceiling grate in the dining room provides heat to the rooms on the second floor. A floor hatch in the southwest corner of the multi-purpose room leads to a cellar which was used for the storage of potatoes and other vegetables. The only closet in the house is located in the under-stair recess in the north wall of the multi-purpose room. A steep flight of board steps in the northeast corner of the room leads to the second floor. The second floor is divided into two bedrooms with the boys' room on the west side and the girls' room on the east side. Both rooms have board floors covered in patches of linoleum flooring. Plastered walls are angled to follow the roofline and have been wallpapered throughout.

Dairy Barn

The dairy barn was constructed over a 30-month period between 1942 and 1944. It is rectangular in plan with the central building mass measuring approximately 110 feet x 40 feet with its long side oriented along an east-west axis. The barn has a raised concrete foundation, wood shingled walls, and an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof with three metal ventilators projecting from the roof peak. The barn is comprised of the main building mass, a small, 1-story silo house on the south side, and a 2-story milk house on the north side. A single silo of glazed tile construction with a domed metal roof was originally connected at its base to the east (rear) side of the silo house; due to structural failure, the silo was demolished in the early 1960s.

The west elevation contains a single, pedestrian door at the center of the foundation wall; one six-pane window is located on each side of the doorway. Smaller four-pane windows are located in the west wall of the silo house and milk house. Another four-pane window is located in the second story of the milk house's west wall. A pair of large hayloft doors is located below the hanging gable; the hayloft doors are flanked by six-pane windows on each side. The south elevation contains nine regularly-spaced six-pane windows in its foundation wall and a one-story shed-roofed silo house located near the barn's southwest corner. The silo house has concrete walls and a single door of vertical board construction in its south wall; wood shingles are located under the shed roof on the east and west sides. The barn's east elevation contains a central pair of hinged barn doors in its foundation wall with one six-pane window on each side. Three six-pane windows are located below the gable end. The north elevation contains seven regularly-spaced six-pane windows in its foundation wall and a two-story, shed-roofed milk house at its western end. The milk house has a raised concrete foundation wall, a wood-shingled second story, and an asphalt-shingled shed roof. Single pedestrian-scale doors are located in the foundation wall of its north and east sides. The milk house's north wall also contains a small four-pane, fixed-sash window. A hinged door clad in wood shingles and a four-pane, fixed-sash window are located in the second story of the milk house's east elevation.

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The interior of the barn consists of storage areas inside the silo house and the lower level of the milk house, a granary inside the upper level of the milk house, and large open spaces at the lower and upper levels of the main building mass. The lower level of the barn consists of a concrete floor, board walls, and a board ceiling. Heavy timber beams run horizontally along the length of the barn and are supported by metal poles at regular intervals. Metal milking stanchions run the length of the barn on each side and are paralleled by feeding troughs along the outer walls and waste gutters along the inside aisle. The concrete floor of the center aisle between the milking stanchions is slightly convex to allow for runoff towards the waste gutters. A large, metal water tank sits in the southwest corner. A hatch in the ceiling near the west wall provides access to the barn's hay loft. The hay loft has a board floor with walls and ceiling showing the open framework of the barn's roof. Hay lifts are located at either end of the loft.

Chicken Coop

The astylistic utilitarian chicken coop was constructed in 1940. It is rectangular in plan with poured concrete walls and a shed roof clad in corrugated sheet metal. The west elevation contains a single hinged door of vertical board construction. The south elevation contains a row of four evenly-spaced, four-pane, fixed-sash windows; exposed rafter ends project along the length of the roofline. The east elevation contains a single hinged door of vertical board construction and a single four-pane, fixed-sash window. The chicken coop's north elevation contains no fenestration; exposed rafter ends project along the length of the roofline.

Granary

The astylistic utilitarian granary was constructed in 1940. It is rectangular in plan with wood shingled walls and an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The west elevation contains a single hinged door of vertical board construction, located slightly off center. The south elevation contains no fenestration. The east elevation contains a small glass-block window located below the gable, slightly off center. The granary's north elevation contains no fenestration. In 2012, the asphalt-shingled roof was replaced in-kind.

Outhouse

The astylistic utilitarian outhouse was constructed in 1946 out of unused wood from the construction of the dairy barn. It is rectangular in plan with wood shingled walls and an asphalt-shingled shed roof. A small, narrow window opening is located off-center in the western wall. Exposed rafter ends project from the roofline of the south wall above an off-center door.

Garage

The front-gabled garage was constructed in 1926. It is rectangular in plan with vertical board walls and a gable roof clad in corrugated sheet metal. The western elevation contains a single pedestrian-

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scale doorway. The south elevation contains a number of hinged vehicular doors of vertical board construction. The east and north elevations contain no fenestration.

Windmill

The windmill was constructed in 1939. It is of metal construction with four legs that taper toward the top and are supported by metal x-braces in between. The windmill is missing its blades and is connected to a metal hand pump at the base.

Apple Orchard

The apple orchard was planted in 1938 and contains a number of mature apple trees. The orchard is located northeast of the building group and covers an area measuring approximately 100 x 120 feet.

Ranch House (non-contributing)

The one-story Ranch house was constructed in 1970. It is rectangular in plan with a concrete foundation, vinyl siding (added over the original aluminum siding in 2015), and an asphalt-shingled, side-gabled roof. The front facade faces south and is asymmetrical. From left to right (west to east), the front façade contains two small sliding windows just below the roofline, a single front door, a picture window flanked by one-over-one sidelights, a second entry door, and an overhead garage door. A small red-brick chimney projects from the front roof slope. The east (side) facade contains a single, off-center sliding window. From left to right (east to west), the north (rear) facade contains a single doorway, a large sliding window, two single pane casement windows, and a small sliding window. The west (side) facade contains two small sliding windows.

Integrity

The John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead retains a high degree of overall integrity. The property retains its original front-gabled house as well as most of the original outbuildings constructed by the Wywialowski family during the period of significance (a c.1936 pig house and an older barn that was included with the 1936 land purchase have since been removed). With the exception of the addition of vinyl siding to the Ranch house, no major alterations have been made to any of the buildings' location, setting, building materials, or overall design outside of the property's period of significance. The removal of the silo from the barn was carried out by John Wywialowski in the early 1960s and does not diminish the property's overall integrity, given the strength of the remaining collection of buildings. Although the 1918 house is not in especially good condition, it retains a high degree of integrity as no alterations have been made outside of the period of significance, and its current owner intends to pursue stabilization and sensitive repair of the building where needed. The original function of each historic resource on the property has not been obscured over time, and although the site is no longer a working dairy farm, the relationship between resources remains clear.

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Summary

Constructed between 1918 and 1946 (with the non-contributing Ranch house being constructed in 1970), the John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead is a collection of relatively simple buildings, sites, and structures that retains a high degree of overall integrity. Beginning with the small, front-gabled house that had been abandoned during the Depression by a neighboring family, and ending with the construction of the last outbuilding during the farm's operation, each building on the property performed a function necessary to the survival and eventual success of the Wywialowski family's dairy farm in the demanding Cutover region of northern Wisconsin.

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Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, WI

Introduction

In 1936, John and Anna Wywialowski purchased this property as an expansion of the dairy and potato farm that they had begun ten years earlier on an adjacent plot. John and Anna, along with their seventeen children, worked through the Depression to turn their Cutover property from a struggling, two-cow frontier farm to a successful dairy farm that, at its height, handled over one hundred head of cattle. With its eight contributing resources and one non-contributing resource, the John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead is an excellent representative of a Cutover-region dairy farm. The property's period of significance is 1918 to 1946, the earliest and latest years of contributing building construction. Because it is one of the best-preserved and few remaining dairy farms in Forest County, the property is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as an example of a farmstead under Criterion C: in the area of Architecture.

Farming the Cutover

Throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, logging had been northern Wisconsin's chief industry; however, by about 1900, much of the woodlands in the northern third of the state had been cleared of timber, leaving large landowners – primarily logging companies, railroads, and land speculators – looking for a way to unload these so-called “Cutover” lands.¹ To many people, opening the land to farming seemed to be the clear answer. The first major obstacle to this end was the sparseness of the region's existing population. Although the Cutover comprised one third of the state's total land area, it contained only about ten percent of its population. Population density in the majority of the region was less than five persons per square mile, with three counties, including Forest County, falling notably below this level.² As a result, settlement of the Cutover required rigorous promotion by its largest landholders, with additional encouragement from newspapers, colonization societies, the Wisconsin State Board of Immigration, and the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture.³

As early as 1907, land speculators regularly placed advertisements in Chicago, Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha newspapers promising “riches and happiness” through the “sure existence” that would come with the purchase of farmland in northern Wisconsin.⁴ Meanwhile, railroad companies advertised the sale of their northern land holdings with advertisements, flyers, and postcards that promoted an idealized farming lifestyle through images and text printed in English as well as German

¹ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986).

² Robert Gough, *Farming the Cutover: A Social History of Northern Wisconsin, 1900-1940* (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1997), 48.

³ Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*.

⁴ *Armstrong Creek Memories* (Armstrong Creek, WI: Armstrong Creek Diamond Jubilee Committee, 1997), 14-15.

“We Have What You Want in Land Bargains,” *Racine Journal News*, August 3, 1920.

“Stock and Dairy Farms,” *Waukesha Freeman*, December 13, 1917.

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Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
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and Polish. Not without their own interests, various county offices also began their own advertising campaigns with the goal of increasing land sales and settlement in the region. In 1912, the Forest County Board of Supervisors boasted in a promotional booklet that “no locality offers greater natural advantages to the farmer and settler than this county of Forest” and that such advantages would “cause land values to double and treble in the next five years.”⁵ The result of this intense, and often deceptive, promotion from so many sources was that during the first decades of the twentieth century, waves of settlers, many of them northern European immigrants, came to Wisconsin’s Cutover region and “attempted to turn acres of pine stumps into family farms with little success.”⁶

Although the failure of so many fledgling farms in the Cutover cannot be attributed to a single source, without question, the largest factor was the land itself. Much of this land was simply not ideal for farming as it was highly acidic from years of supporting pine forests. Furthermore, the ground was very rocky and nearly all of it was covered in stumps, the clearing of which was a slow, extremely labor intensive undertaking.⁷ As settlers arrived in the Cutover in the first decades of the twentieth century, they soon discovered that stump clearing would occupy a disproportionately large amount of their time. Many settlers removed stumps by hand or with teams of horses. Others used steam-powered stump pullers. Following World War I, surplus TNT purchased by the UW College of Agriculture was promoted as a safe, quick, and relatively easy means of stump removal. As part of this promotion, the Department of Agricultural Engineering organized a traveling “Land Clearing Special” to give field demonstrations to Cutover farmers.⁸ For those who could afford it, TNT quickly became the farmers’ preferred method of stump removal.⁹

Clearing the land of stumps and rocks, like all other farm work in the Cutover, was a family activity, and nearly all of the farms in the Cutover were family farms. Compared to the rest of the state, these farms were small in scale and the heads of the families who operated them were often foreign-born.¹⁰ In 1920, 24 percent of Cutover residents were immigrants (statewide, this was only 18 percent) and another 43 percent had at least one foreign-born parent.¹¹ Poles, in particular, sought out the Cutover in the first decades of the twentieth century.¹² This was, in part, the result of the common tendency of all of America’s immigrant groups to “cluster among themselves,” as well as land promotions that

⁵ “A Few Facts about Forest County, Wisconsin” (Crandon, WI: County Board of Supervisors of Forest County, 1912), np.

⁶ “Logging and Forest Products,” Wisconsin Historical Society, www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/tp-027/?action=more_essay (accessed February 11, 2016).

⁷ Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*.

⁸ James I. Clark, “Cutover Problems: Colonization, Depression, Reforestation” (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1956), 4.

⁹ Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*.

¹⁰ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 49.

¹¹ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 49.

¹² Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 53.

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specifically targeted Polish populations in cities like Chicago and Milwaukee.¹³ The Grimmer Land Company, in particular, found this a profitable undertaking and established an entire “Polish Department” to oversee its communications with potential Polish customers.¹⁴

In addition to the immigrant status of many of its settlers, northern Wisconsin in the early-twentieth century resembled a frontier in other ways. Initially, the notion of farming the Cutover attracted more men than women, and more young people than old – a demographic that was common to many of America’s previous frontier regions. In addition, Cutover residents tended to marry at relatively young ages which, more often than not, resulted in large families. For instance, in 1910, one Wisconsin study of Polish-born residents in a single town in Taylor County (located southwest of Forest County) found that women between the ages of 45 and 54 had averaged 8.6 births each.¹⁵ Finally, like western pioneers of previous generations, many settlers arrived in the Cutover with few possessions and little money.¹⁶

In order for these settlers to survive the frontier conditions of their first years on a Cutover farm, they relied heavily on family labor. Following their arrival, a family generally needed two or three summers of shared work to build a rough house and a small barn, dig a well, clear a plot of land for a subsistence garden, and clear a few acres of stump pasture for a milk cow and a team of horses.¹⁷ Once these necessities had been established, the family’s focus could turn to the two activities that served as Cutover farms’ most reliable sources of income: potato growing and dairying. Forest County boasted a number of creameries, including one in Armstrong Creek, and its potato harvests could usually be counted on to bring good prices in the Chicago market (although the county board’s 1912 claim that “a crop of potatoes will pay for a farm in one year” may not have been the typical settler’s experience).¹⁸

The difficult task of making a living on a new farm in the Cutover was made more so by the agricultural depression that followed World War I. Crop prices throughout the nation dropped sharply and remained low, so that the Depression that hit the rest of American society in the 1930s was felt in the Cutover as the last nail in the coffin for many family farms. Settlers in the region abandoned thousands of acres of land in response, resulting in an increased tax burden on those who chose (or had no other choice) to remain.

¹³ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 51.

¹⁴ *Armstrong Creek Memories*, 14-15.

¹⁵ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 57.

¹⁶ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 58.

¹⁷ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 63.

¹⁸ “A Few Facts about Forest County, Wisconsin” (Crandon, WI: County Board of Supervisors of Forest County, 1912), np.

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Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, WI

The situation was worse in Forest County than any other in the state. Between 1927 and 1936, 327,000 acres in Forest County left the tax rolls, leaving only 274,000 taxable acres by 1936. On a quarter of this, the owners were unable to pay the previous years' taxes. In addition, declining land values meant that the agricultural land in Forest County was worth only half of what it had been worth ten years earlier. To make ends meet, the county increased property taxes by over 20 percent between 1927 and 1936. As a result, by the outset of the Depression, the ratio of taxes to the value of farm properties was about ten percent higher here than in the rest of the state.¹⁹

With over 30 percent of their residents on relief, Wisconsin's eight northernmost counties (along with parts of Appalachia, the Dust Bowl region, and comparable Cutover counties in Minnesota and Michigan) comprised one of the most relief-dependent regions of the United States. By March of 1938, about a quarter of the residents of Northern Wisconsin received some form of government relief. Hardest hit was Forest County where most residents were "reliefers."²⁰ Government aid typically came in the form of Works Progress Administration (WPA) or Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work or Farm Security Administration subsistence grants.

By this time, it had become clear that reforestation was the only plausible solution to the vast acreage that was being abandoned by both farmers and lumber companies. The state legislature, as well as private business entities, had also begun to realize that tourism could supplant the logging industry as a major economic force in the northern part of the state. To this end, in 1927, the state passed the Forestry Crop Law to reduce the tax on planting and growing trees. In 1933, this legislation was followed by the establishment of two National Forests (Chequamegon and Nicolet) covering parts of twelve northern counties (including more than two-thirds of Forest County) in what would grow to over 1.5 million acres. With over one hundred camps throughout the two new National Forests, the CCC was responsible for the reforestation of much of this acreage.²¹ Along with the nationwide prosperity that followed World War II, the new National Forests helped to create a boom in the new Northwoods tourism and resort industry. The economy of the Cutover region had finally recovered.²²

John and Anna Wywialowski

John Wilhelm Wywialowski was born in Niepolomice, Poland on January 10, 1901 and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1907.²³ In 1909, after losing his father in a coal mining accident

¹⁹ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 133.

²⁰ Gough, *Farming the Cutover*, 129.

²¹ Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*, 4-3.

²² "Logging and Forest Products," Wisconsin Historical Society, www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/tp-027/?action=more_essay (accessed February 11, 2016).

²³ "John Wywialowski," U.S. Naturalization Record, Ancestry.com, *U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes* [database online], (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010).

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and working as a child laborer in the mines himself, John, along with his mother and step-father (Theodore Stefanski) moved to Forest County, Wisconsin where the family had purchased a farm near the village of Armstrong Creek. Anna Eve Jacher was born to Polish immigrants in Chicago on March 5, 1910 and arrived in Forest County with her family in March of 1915. The Jacher family purchased a farm near the Stefanskis along today's Highway 101. Anna attended school through the 6th grade before working full-time clearing land (primarily chopping brush and picking rocks) and harvesting potatoes on hers and a neighboring family's farm.²⁴ This type of shared work was typical of farming communities in the Cutover. As such, it was during a shared potato harvest in September of 1925 that John Wywialowski and Anna Jacher met. The two were married on October 27, 1925.

Following their marriage, the couple homesteaded 30 acres of land east of Highway 101, just over the Forest-Marinette County line. On this property, the Wywialowskis began clearing land to build a two-room cabin with a potato cellar below and a small fenced yard for chickens. When cold weather set in, they covered the little cabin in paper and whatever siding was available to insulate it as best they could. By their first winter, the couple had also fenced the property and built a hay shed and small log barn to care for the two cows they had been gifted by both sets of parents.²⁵ The cabin, the log barn, and the hay shed are not extant today.

Within a year or two, the Wywialowskis had purchased three additional dairy cows, bringing their total to five. Although the potato crop would help pay for some of the taxes and the general upkeep of the farm, the sale of cream provided grocery money to buy whatever the farm could not provide.²⁶ By the late 1920s, like so many other families in Forest County at the time, the Wywialowskis found themselves unable to pay their increasingly high property taxes. Consequently, John spent the winter of 1927 living with relatives in Chicago where he worked to earn enough money to avoid the tax delinquency that had caused other Cutover families to abandon their farms.²⁷

In May of 1927, seventeen-year-old Anna had the first of her seventeen children, with the others arriving approximately every other year through 1953. Although caring for the children was a full-time job, the difficult task of establishing and maintaining a farm in the Cutover required Anna to keep up with her farm work regardless of her maternal responsibilities. As she noted, "I had a big box. I would take the box to the field and put the baby inside. I would do the field work and nurse the baby [when he] was hungry."²⁸ By 1928, the Wywialowskis had added two pigs to their farm stock, as well as a pair of horses to aid in the fieldwork. In the summer of 1931, they began growing corn in addition

²⁴ Anna Wywialowski, "My Life" (unpublished personal narrative), 1-7.

²⁵ Wywialowski, "My Life," 7-10.

²⁶ Wywialowski, "My Life," 10-12.

²⁷ Wywialowski, "My Life," 11.

²⁸ Wywialowski, "My Life," 12-13.

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to their regular potato crop. Although small improvements to the farm continued, Anna writes that during the 1930s “nothing was worth much” and “it was hard to get a dollar for whatever we had to sell.”²⁹ Consequently, in 1934, John began working for the WPA using his team of horses to grade land and construct local roads for a measure of extra income.

In December of 1936, John and Anna had saved enough to purchase the neighboring 120-acre farm.³⁰ This property was initially owned by the S.J. Murphy Lumber Company, who sold it to the Grimmer Land Company in 1909; nine years later, the Grimmer Land Company sold the property to former lumberman, Adam Schultz who constructed the existing house and two outbuildings (a barn and a smaller outbuilding that the Wywialowskis used as a garage). By the mid-1930s, like so many other farms in the Cutover, the Schultz farm had been abandoned.³¹ Although the barn on the new property was “very poor,” the house was notably larger and “better situated to get water” than the two-room house in which they had been living for the previous ten years.³² The family, which by then included six children, quickly moved into the old Schultz house. The acquisition of the Schultz farm quadrupled the size of the Wywialowski’s property. As Anna wrote, “We had more land. We also had a lot more work.”³³ The family soon constructed a pig house, chicken coop, windmill, and granary near their “new” house (the pig house is no longer extant) and planted an apple orchard in the field east of the house.³⁴

The old Schultz barn was in poor condition and was too small to hold the Wywialowski’s growing herd of dairy cows.³⁵ In the fall of 1942, the Wywialowski family began construction of a new dairy barn following plans devised by John Wywialowski. Because the older boys that were still living at home did not attend high school, they were able to assist in the completion of the barn in addition to their normal farm work. As one son, Frank Wywialowski, explained, “Very little ‘hired labor’ was used to help build this unique barn, which was mostly Dad’s ideas. The older and stronger family members helped with the heavier work, while the younger children did what they could to help complete the barn project in about thirty months.”³⁶

The remainder of the 1940s and the early 1950s saw a series of improvements to the farm that made the farm work a little lighter and life a little easier. In 1944, the family purchased their first truck

²⁹ Wywialowski, “My Life,” 17-18.

³⁰ Warranty Deed, Citizens State Bank of Goodman to John and Anna Wywialowski, December 7, 1936.

³¹ The Schultz property had initially been sold by the S.J. Murphy Lumber Company to the Grimmer Land Company in 1909; the Grimmer Land Company sold the property to Adam Schultz in 1918.

³² Wywialowski, “My Life,” 35.

³³ Wywialowski, “My Life,” 24.

³⁴ Wywialowski, “My Life,” 27.

³⁵ Wywialowski, “My Life,” 27.

³⁶ *Armstrong Creek Memories*, 127.

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(until then, they walked to town when necessary and had neighbors haul their milk to the creamery); in 1945, electricity was brought to the farm; in 1948, they purchased a milking machine for the farm and a washing machine and refrigerator for the house; in about 1949, they acquired their first tractor, replacing the team of horses that they had used to do the heavy farm work; in 1954, the family bought a freezer, allowing them to freeze, rather than can, meat in the fall; and finally, in 1955, they purchased a threshing machine. In the early 1950s, Paul, one of the Wywialowski children, planted a row of pine trees along the west side of the house.³⁷ Within a few years, the southern end of the old Schultz barn was taken down (the remainder of the building was razed in the 1980s).³⁸

By the early 1960s, the Wywialowskis had begun to scale down their farming operations. Finally, in 1965, an auction was held in which the family sold their tractors, other farming equipment, and cattle; they would have sold the farm as well, but, as Anna noted, “no one tried to buy it, so we kept on living there.”³⁹ In 1970, the family built a new, modern Ranch house into which John and Anna moved. Meanwhile, the 1918 house remained in use as a summer kitchen where Anna continued to can fruits and vegetables as long as she remained on the property. John Wywialowski died in 1980, and Anna continued to live on the property during the summer months until her death 2001. Following Anna’s death, the 150-acre property passed to their seventeen children. In an effort to avoid multiple divisions of the property, Elizabeth and Alice Wywialowski bought out their siblings’ interests. Following Alice’s death in 2012, Elizabeth Wywialowski became the sole owner and retains ownership of the farmstead today.

In 2014, Elizabeth Wywialowski established a conservation easement on the property through the Northwoods Land Trust to prevent any future division or development of the property and to maintain the natural integrity of the surrounding land in accordance with Aldo Leopold’s Land Ethic. Plans for the historically sensitive rehabilitation of the Wywialowski dairy barn are currently being developed with the goal of opening it as a local community center.

Architectural Context and Comparative Analysis

A typical early-twentieth-century dairy farm in Wisconsin included a number of outbuildings, the most important of which was the dairy barn. As the center of a dairy farm’s operations, the dairy barn was commonly a large gable-, gambrel-, or arched-roof bank or basement barn that was divided between an upper and lower level. The upper level was generally clad in board or board and batten siding while the lower level was typically of masonry construction with one or more entrances located in the end walls and small windows at regular intervals along the side walls. The upper level was generally used for hay, feed, or implement storage while the lower level housed dairy cows. Many dairy barns

³⁷ Wywialowski, “My Life,” 33-43.

³⁸ Elizabeth Wywialowski, interview with Gail Klein (Armstrong Creek, WI, February 12, 2016).

³⁹ Wywialowski, “My Life,” 40.

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featured an attached milk house for the temporary storage of milk and milking equipment and an attached silo for the efficient distribution of feed. Dairy barn roofs were typically punctuated by a number of ventilation cupolas to improve air quality within the barn.⁴⁰

Other outbuildings associated with dairy farming might include any combination of cattle shed, hay barn, corncrib, granary, silo, and milk house. Each of these was typically smaller in scale than the dairy barn and was of simple, utilitarian design. With the exception of granaries, silos, and milk houses, which were just as often of masonry construction to prevent vermin infiltration and to provide a degree of insulation, outbuildings were commonly of frame construction with board or board-and-batten siding.

As an early-twentieth century dairy farm, the Wywialowski Farmstead contains a large dairy barn with attached milk house and silo house as well as a freestanding granary. Its other resources, including a windmill, orchard, outhouse, chicken coop, and garage, are typically associated with most types of general farming in the early-twentieth century.

No other Forest County farmsteads have been recorded in the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD). Only one other agricultural outbuilding has been recorded in WHPD in Forest County; this building, an undated barn with log and board walls, is of a relatively diminutive scale and does not represent a complete farming operation, but instead appears to be indicative of the abandoned farmland commonly found throughout the Cutover region during the 1920s and 1930s. Furthermore, the barn, last surveyed in 1976 is no longer visible in its previously recorded location and is presumed to have collapsed. An informal survey of the Town of Armstrong Creek did not identify any comparable properties (no other farms were found to possess a historic farmhouse as well as a collection of historic outbuildings); in addition, no other dairy barns were found to be comparable to the Wywialowski barn in size or scale. For these reasons, the John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead is almost certainly the best preserved and most representative early-twentieth-century dairy farm in the area.

Conclusion

The harshness of the Cutover frontier, the agricultural depression that followed World War I, and the Great Depression of the 1930s made the failure of many family-run Cutover farms more common than success. The history of the Wywialowski family is one of the region's few success stories, and the John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead is the physical representation of that success. As such, the property is an excellent representative of an early- to mid-twentieth-century Cutover farm. The property's eight contributing resources represent the evolution of the farm from a very simple,

⁴⁰ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Vol.2 (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 5-2 – 5-6.

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Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
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frontier-like outfit in the 1930s to a modern, mid-century farming operation. For this reason, the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an example of a farmstead under Criterion C: in the area of Architecture.

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Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, WI

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Wywialowski, Anna. "My Life." Unpublished personal narrative, 1997.

Wywialowski, Elizabeth. Interview with Gail Klein. Armstrong Creek, WI, February 12, 2016.

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Section 10 Page 1

Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, WI

UTM References, cont.:

5	16T	388129.33	5060253.28
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description:

The historic boundary of the John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead is a six-sided polygon encompassing the property's eight contributing and one non-contributing resources (see Figure 1). Beginning at the northeast corner of the agricultural field east of the building group, as defined by a wire fence that marks the north, east, and south edges of the field, the historic boundary continues south for approximately 1,330 feet along the eastern fence line. From there, the boundary turns west for approximately 860 feet along the southern fence line to the edge of the woods at the property's southeast corner. At that point, the boundary extends north for approximately 457 feet along the edge of the tree line. From there, the boundary continues west for approximately 800 feet along the northern edge of the southeastern woods. At that point, the boundary follows the curve of the tree line along the eastern edge of Highway 101 for a length of approximately 890 feet. From there, the boundary continues east along the northern fence line for approximately 1,530 feet to the point of beginning. Overall, the historic boundary does not coincide with the property's existing tax parcel so as to exclude the vast acreage east, southwest, and west of the farmstead's contributing resources.

Boundary Justification:

The historic boundary of the nominated area coincides on the north and south sides with the tax parcel on which all contributing resources are located. The north, south, and east boundary lines are also visually defined by a wire fence that runs along three sides of the adjacent agricultural field. All other boundary lines are defined by the edge of the tree line that runs along the eastern edge of Highway 101 and the northern edge of the woods at the southwest edge of the property. The historic boundary encompasses all of the property's historic resources as well as the adjacent agricultural field to provide the farmstead with an appropriate setting. The land conservation easement established in 2014 includes additional land not included within the boundaries of this nominated property because that additional land is located across the road and does not include any built resources.

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Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, WI

Name of Property: Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
City or Vicinity: Town of Armstrong Creek
County: Forest County
State: WI
Name of Photographer: Gail R. Klein
Date of Photographs: February and July, 2016
Location of Original Digital Files: Wisconsin Historical Society

Photo 1 of 17

Front-gabled house, west and north facades, camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 17

Front-gabled house, south and east facades, camera facing northwest

Photo 3 of 17

Front-gabled house, first floor, kitchen, camera facing northwest

Photo 4 of 17

Front-gabled house, first floor, multipurpose room, camera facing southwest

Photo 5 of 17

Front-gabled house, second floor, stairwell in boys' room, camera facing north

Photo 6 of 17

Front-gabled house, second floor, girls' room, camera facing east

Photo 7 of 17

Dairy barn, west and south facades, camera facing northeast

Photo 8 of 17

Dairy barn, east and north facades, camera facing southwest

Photo 9 of 17

Dairy barn, lower level, camera facing east

Photo 10 of 17

Dairy barn, hay loft, camera facing east

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Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
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Photo 11 of 17

Chicken coop, north and east facades, camera facing southwest

Photo 12 of 17

Granary, west and north facades, camera facing southeast

Photo 13 of 17

Garage, west and south facades, camera facing northeast

Photo 14 of 17

Outhouse, west and south facades, camera facing northeast

Photo 15 of 17

Ranch house, west and south facades, camera facing northeast

Photo 16 of 17

Orchard, camera facing northeast

Photo 17 of 17

Windmill, camera facing east

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Figure Index:

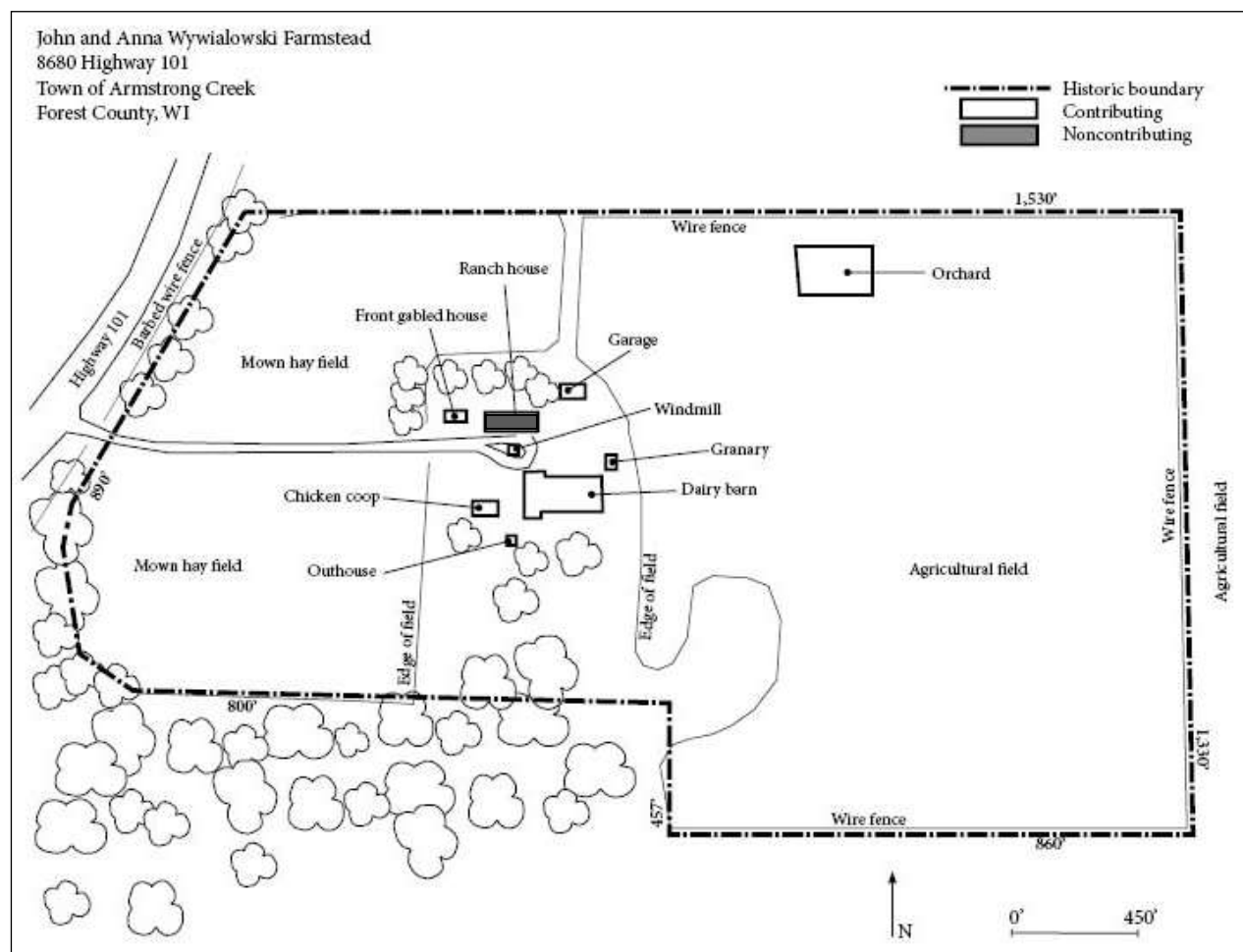
Figure 1: Sketch map of John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead nominated area, February 2016.

Figure 2: Floor plan of front-gabled house, February 2016.

Figure 3: John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead, looking northwest, c.1955.

Figure 4: Photo key.

Figure 1: Sketch map of John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead nominated area, February 2016.



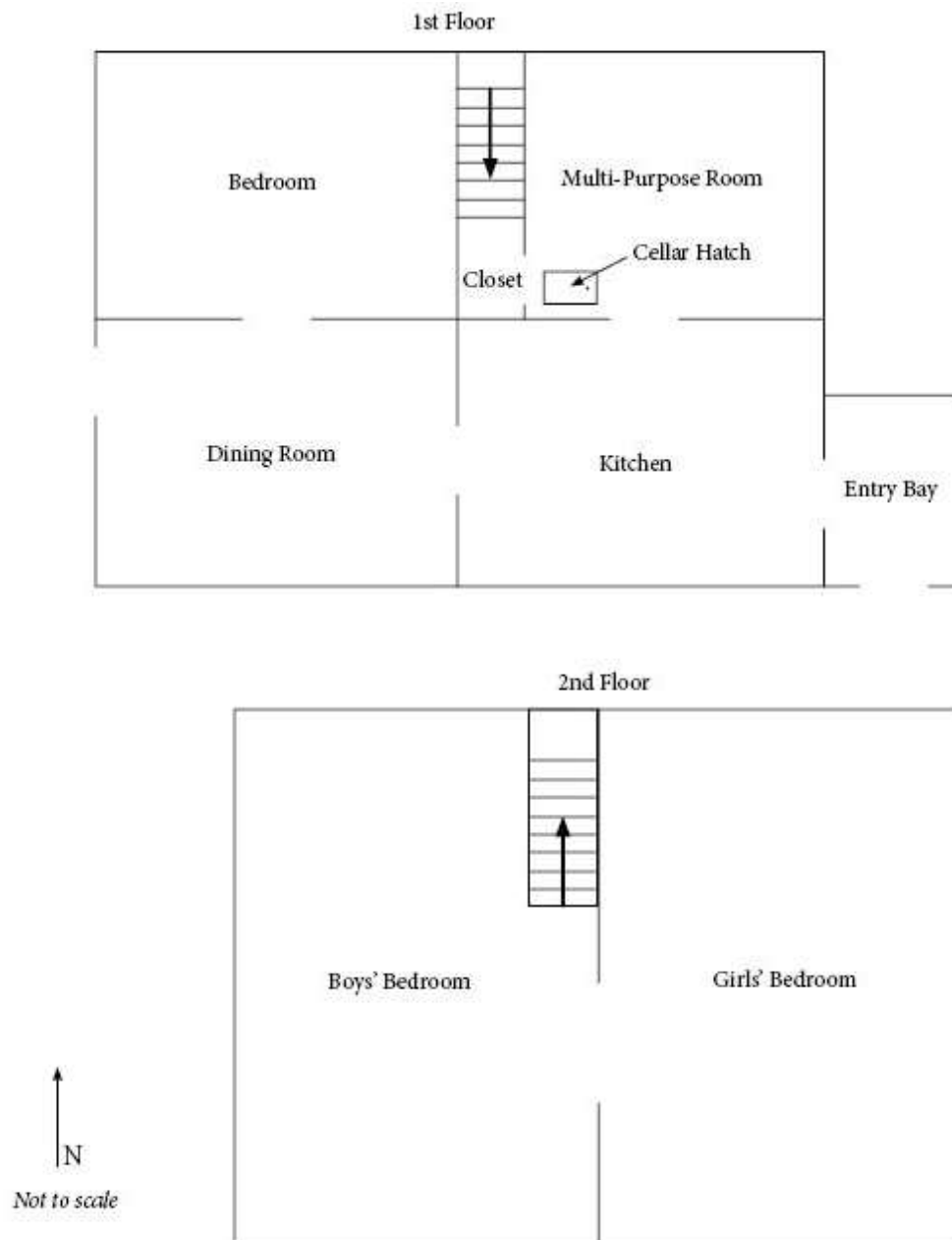
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Figure 2: Floor plan of front-gabled house, February 2016.



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Section figures Page 3

Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
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Figure 3: John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead, looking northwest, c.1955.



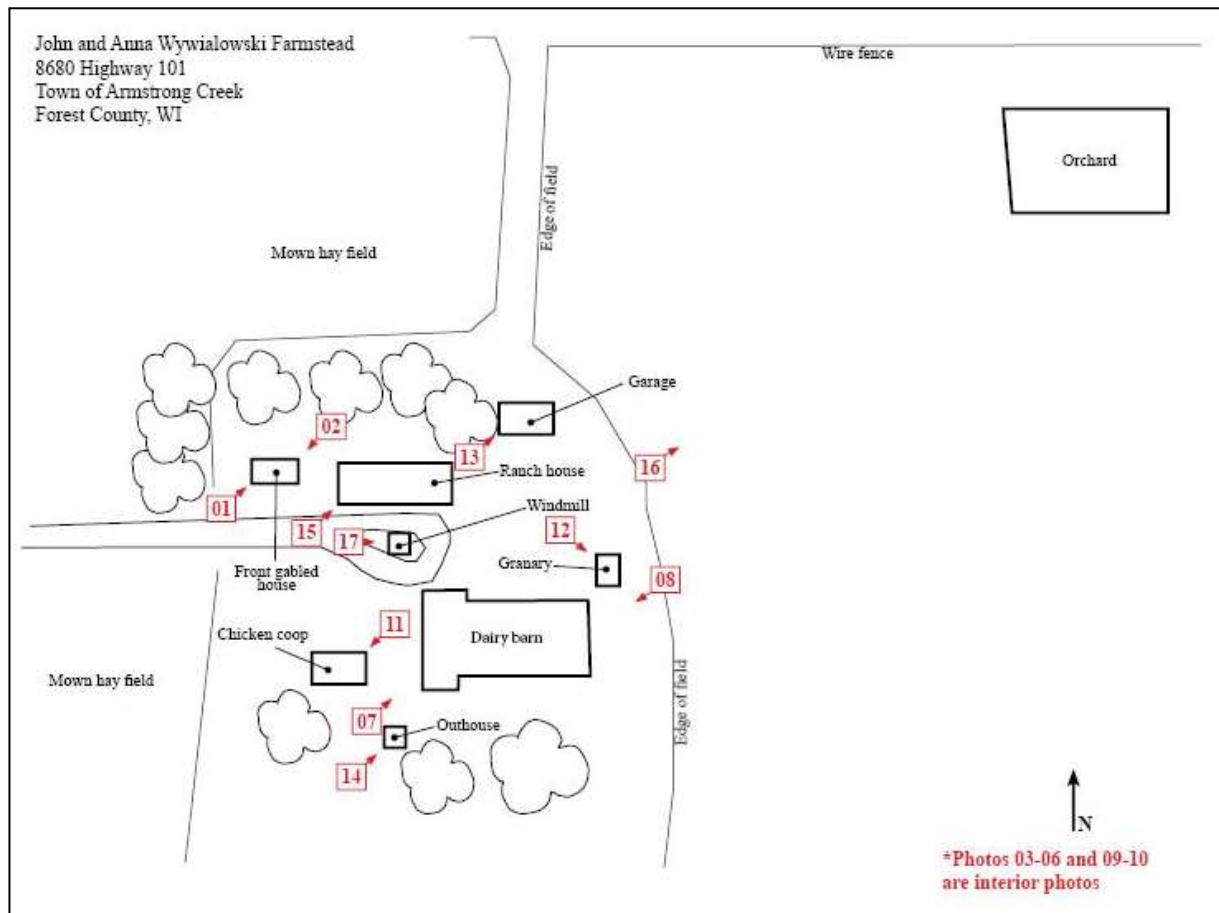
United States Department of the Interior
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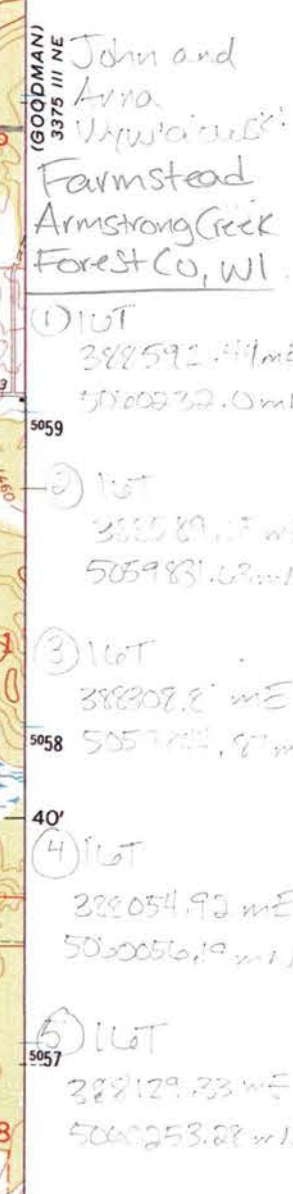
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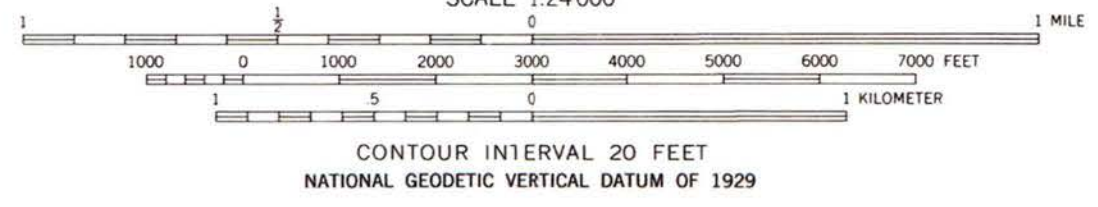
Wywialowski, John and Anna, Farmstead
Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, WI

Figure 4: Photo key.










generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unche



WISCONSIN

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface		Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface		Unimproved road	
 Interstate Route	 U. S. Route	 State Route	

ARMSTRONG CREEK, WIS.
NW/4 GOODMAN 15' QUADRANGLE
45088-F4-TF-024

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 7 meters north and
9 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Map photoinspected 1980
No major culture or drainage changes observed

































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wywialowski, John and Anna
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Forest

DATE RECEIVED: 9/23/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/21/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/07/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/08/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000766

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11-7-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Twenty-second day of September 2016, for the nomination of the John and Anna Wywialowski Farmstead to the National Register of Historic Places:

1	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
1	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
	Multiple Property Nomination form
17	Photograph(s)
1	CD with image files
1	Map(s)
4	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
1	Piece(s) of correspondence
	Other:

COMMENTS:

	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property
	owners
	Other: