

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 5 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Hokenson Fishing Dock

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of Bayfield at
Little Sand Bay

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Town of Russell Bayfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Bayfield: 54814

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Eskel Hokenson, et al. (Acquisition for Apostle Islands National lakeshore in process.)

commercial fishing operation

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Bayfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54814

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Bayfield County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Washburn

STATE

Wisconsin 54891

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Building Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This property consists of three buildings and a dock on the southeast shore of Little Sand Bay, at the northern tip of Bayfield County.

The L-shaped dock is built of wooden piles driven into the lake bed and a superstructure or crib of logs. The deck is made of wide wooden planking. Large rocks have been placed within the crib, causing the dock to act somewhat as a breakwater, enabling boats to tie up within the "L" and be protected from wind and waves. The builders consciously left relatively unobstructed gaps in the rock fill in order to relieve the pressure built up against the dock during a storm. The dock is left in place during the winter months and has withstood the ice fairly well. During the summer of 1975, some repairs were made including the replacement of several boards and piles which had deteriorated over the years.

Toward the landward end of the dock is the herring-storage shed. This building rests on the same pile foundation as the dock itself. It is a frame building with unpainted wood tongue-and-groove siding. Its single-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is cantilevered four-to-five feet over the dock, providing a sheltered walkway and an outdoor storage area close to the boats.

On shore, at the end of the dock, is a one-and-one-half story wood frame structure that was used as the ice house. The single-gable roof is shingled. The siding is whitewashed tongue and groove. Facing the dock is a double-width barn door which slides horizontally on an exterior track.

At the southwest corner of the ice house is a short stairway up an embankment. Approximately forty feet from the top of the stairs is a two story, barn-like building. Its first floor is used as a workshop and boat storage. The second floor is used to store fishing nets. The building rests on concrete block foundations, is of frame construction and its walls have whitewashed tongue-and-groove siding. The builders chose a gambrel roof because it allowed increased first-floor ceiling height without the corresponding decrease in usable second floor storage space common in gabled structures. As in the ice house, a wide barn door hung on an exterior track was placed on the north side facing the dock. The track is cantilevered past the side of the building to allow complete clearance of the opening.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) commercial fishing
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1927-1931**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These buildings are of exceptional importance because they are part of the only intact fishing and packing operation within the boundaries of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. This type of local enterprise played a significant role in the commercial fishing industry of the region.

When the three Hokenson brothers, Eskel, Roy, and Leo, decided to start their own fishing operation at Little Sand Bay, a few miles from the farm where their father had homesteaded many years before, small scale fish packers were facing stiff competition from national corporations which offered a constant market and stable prices. In the Apostle Islands area, the Booth Fisheries dominated the market. The isolation of the brothers' chosen location both guaranteed and necessitated independence from the larger operators. They could ill afford to spend the entire day required to transport their catch into Bayfield, the roads to Little Sand Bay were difficult to travel, and the brothers were quite certain that they would make out better on their own.

The first structures built were, in 1927, the dock and ice house, though the dock was not completed until 1930. The net storage building was constructed in 1930-31 and the herring-equipment shed on the dock was finished at about the same time. All of the buildings were designed and built by the brothers themselves.

During the fishing season, usually April through November, the brothers were able to retain control over all aspects of their trade except the final distribution of the fish to markets. This entailed setting the nets, collecting the fish daily, and packing them in ice at the dock. Then they would take the fish to a broker in Cornucopia, Bayfield or wherever the price was best.

The inconvenience of having to take their boat into town for mechanical repair during the frantic twenty-hour days of the herring run led the Hokensons to set up a workshop on the ground floor of their net storage building. With the installation of a forge, they became capable of manufacturing their own spare parts. During the winter months, they would spend much of their time in the net storage building repairing nets and preparing their equipment for the next fishing season.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Local Interviews Only

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 660470 5201170
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Herschel L. D. Parnes, Field Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

DATE

21 July 1975

TELEPHONE

608/262-9504

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

S.H.P.O. Signature

James Morton Smith

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

W. M. Smith

DATE

6/18/76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. Henry

DATE

6.19.76

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Significance (continued).

The operation at Little Sand Bay was non-mechanized. There are some tools and metal working implements still located in the shop on the ground floor of the net storage building. Assorted nets and buoys and other non-permanent objects directly associated with the gathering of fish can be found in the other buildings on the site.

Although this property is slightly less than fifty years old, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin feels that its placement on the National Register at this time will ensure that the National Park Service planners will consider the historic value and integrity of the Hokenson property in preparing their master plan for the Little Sand Bay headquarters of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

The National Park Service is authorized to acquire this property in fee. Pending acquisition, the listing of this property will enable the Hokensons to apply for grants through our Grants-in-Aid Program to undertake periodic restoration of parts of the property vulnerable to the severe weather of Lake Superior. After acquisition, the listing would encourage the National Park Service to maintain the property and perhaps use the property for interpretive purposes.

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HOKENSON FISHING DOCK

State of Significance Continued

Over the years, their isolation has decreased. One or two other fisherman moved to the area, a hard-surfaced road was built, a small town park with a boat launching facility was created nearby, and even a restaurant and bar was established. The National Park Service has chosen Little Sand Bay as the headquarters for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and the area adjacent to the Hokenson property is slated for development in accordance with the National Park Service's master plan. Possibilities include an interpretive center, picnic areas, campground, and a marina.

Meanwhile, the Hokenson dock is still being used by fisherman Jack Erickson. One of the Hokenson brothers is deceased. The other two, though they still own the property, have retired.

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Bibliographical References:

Interviews with Roy and Irene Hokenson, Summer, 1975.
Letter from Roy Hokenson, July, 1975.