

492

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 Zahn, Albert, House  
other names/site number Bird's Park

2. Location

street & number	8223 State Trunk Highway 57	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Baileys Harbor	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Door	code 29 zip code 54202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Flavia J. Coyle Signature of certifying official/Title  
3/27/2000 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

*Edson H. Beall*

5-11-00

*[Signature]*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)

district

structure

site

object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing noncontributing

1 buildings

sites

structures

13 objects

14<sup>1</sup> 0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources

is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENT

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

<sup>1</sup> The contributing resources consist of a residence, eight concrete piers, two concrete display stands, and three fieldstone landscape foundations.

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   1  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

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**Describe the historic and current condition of the property.**

The Albert Zahn Residence/Bird's Park is located on the west side of STH 57 in the Doc County community of Baileys Harbor. The property is situated on a .96-acre lot that features scattered trees to the south and rather densely wooded tracts along the northern and western boundaries. Fourteen elements are associated with the property. These include the residence and thirteen objects that are separate from the house. All are considered to be contributing.

Residence (contributing, 1924):

Oriented on a north/south axis, this rather distinctive, concrete house was designed by its owner, artist Albert Zahn. Reportedly, Zahn mixed the concrete by hand in a wooden bucket measuring 3' x 5'. He poured the concrete into molds for an 8"-inch wall, at which time he added 4"- to 5"-long cedar blocks. The cedar was intended to help keep out moisture preventing the formation of frost inside the house. As for form, Zahn built this low pitched, gable-roofed, rectangular residence on a raised basement, atop of which is a slightly recessed main level; he subsequently added a cupola-like, centrally positioned room as an upper level. The upper block--which also has a flat roof--is sided with clapboard and trimmed with wooden corner boards, while the basement and main levels are constructed with painted blue and white concrete, respectively. The latter two floors carry a small, central bay and enclosed porch along the south and west facades respectively; the two projections are individually capped with a stepped, false-front parapet similar to clapboard-sheathed parapets accenting the house's north and south end walls. In addition, the bay and enclosed porch are each punctuated with various openings including a door and windows. Fenestration throughout the remainder of the residence largely consists of new, one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. On the east elevation a sign above the porch roof denotes "BIRD'S PARK, BAILEYS HARBOR, WIS." The name is indicative of the many bird carvings Zahn sculpted and displayed around the house. These include four identical wooden birds adorning the top of each facade in the upper-level block.

The primary (east) facade of the basement and main level block is symmetrical; below wide overhanging eaves, a pair of one-over-one, double-hung sashes at the main level flank each side of the centrally positioned main entrance. A single, one-over-one, double-hung sash is located at the basement level and is slightly off-centered beneath each of the previously described window pairs. As for the central entry, it includes a screen enclosed, original wooden panel/glass door. It is enveloped within a simple wooden surround, which consists of board-and-batten siding with sidelights and a transom. The flat-roof, open porch that projects beyond the entry includes a stepped, false-front parapet with clapboard siding; the hand-painted sign denoting "BIRD'S PARK" is centered above the parapet. Two square, wooden posts rise from simply carved, paneled piers on wooden plinths and support the plain porch entablature. Low railings with wooden balusters extend between each pier and the east facade. Rather dilapidated steps with an aggregate core and concrete finish access the entry porch. The steps do not feature a railing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

---

however, an eroding, formerly painted concrete pier that resembles the wooden porch pier flanks each side at the mid-section of this series of eight steps. The steps appear to be centered on a slightly raised, concrete foundation. This rectangular base extends several feet beyond each side of the entry porch and adjoins the east facade of the house at the basement level. Each half of the base to either side of the steps is divided horizontally into two sections; the rear portions individually consist of a solid concrete slab, while the front sections are dug out to serve as flowerbeds. Both the northeast and southeast corners of the concrete base (the corners of each flowerbed) are decorated with a square concrete pier with a smooth cap. Initially, these piers--as well as those flanking the steps--served as pedestals for displaying Albert Zahn's sculpted artwork. His carvings were undoubtedly the highlight of this otherwise plain front facade.

The south end wall is distinguished by a centered, three-sided, squarish bay that rises to the height of the basement and main levels. The bay has a gabled roof; however, the gable is obscured by a stepped, false-front, clapboard-sheathed parapet located above the central bay section. The bay parapet resembles the larger, parallel parapet that outlines the entire south end wall. At the main level, the bay itself features wooden corner boards around a series of four large, replacement, single-pane windows; the latter effectively constitute the walls of each of the three sides, although some concrete is visible above and below the windows. The basement level of the bay includes a similar series of four windows on only the west and east sections. The openings are set within wooden surrounds which occupy the entire wall. The surrounds include projecting window heads that serve as a belt course, separating the basement and main levels. The remaining south section at the basement level is defined by a screen-enclosed, original wooden panel/glass door. The door is encased within a wooden surround with sidelights and a vertically divided transom. Aside from the bay, the only notable features along the south end wall include four identical, symmetrically arranged windows; a single, one-over-one, double-hung sash flanks each side of the bay at both the basement and main levels.

The rear (west) facade largely echoes the primary (east) facade; however, the rear porch which rests on an extended portion of the raised basement, is enclosed. The north and south sides of the enclosure consist of low, concrete walls topped with one-over-one double-hung sashes. Two wooden posts on wooden piers define the corners of the east side. A screen-enclosed door surrounded by sidelights and a vertically divided transom occupies the remaining space and shelters an original, wooden panel/glass door set within the west wall of the house. Similar to the front porch, a stepped, false-front parapet outlines the flat-roof portion between the post supports. A series of approximately eight concrete steps leads to the porch. A pair of concrete, pedestal-like piers flanks the base of the steps; the northern pier is almost completely destroyed. The more intact, southern pier adjoins a curved, concrete border that wraps around the house to the west side of the aforementioned south bay. The edging, which is approximately six-inches high, encloses the garden area. The only remaining details regarding the rear porch include a single-pane window located at the basement level along the north and south sides.

The north end wall is identical to the south end wall, except the subject facade does not

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   3  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

---

feature a central bay.

The flat-roofed, cupola-like upper level is visible from all sides of the residence. The north, east and west facades of the block each feature a centered, one-over-one, double hung sash; the south facade has a wooden panel/glass door enclosed by a pair of very narrow double doors. The doors lead to a small landing on the roof. As mentioned, a carved wooden bird resembling an eagle is centered above each facade's opening.

The interior is as modest as the exterior. An east/west staircase effectively divides the house in half. The south half of the raised basement level includes a living room with outside access provided by the door in the south bay; the north half features a kitchen to the east and a bathroom to the west. The space under the front (east) porch is used for storage, while a laundry room occupies the rear porch area. Regarding the main level, a hall surrounds the central staircase and accesses the enclosed rear porch. A sunroom is located in the south bay, with an adjacent bedroom occupying the south half of the house; another bedroom and a bathroom define the north half. Lastly, steep steps lead to the cupola-like upper block, which consists of a small office.

As for modifications, exterior alterations are largely limited to window replacements; while interior changes are more numerous. These include complete remodeling of the kitchen/bathrooms/laundry room, the resurfacing of all interior walls with what appears to be drywall and the installation of new tile flooring in the basement level and carpeting throughout the main level/cupola-like upper block. These modifications notwithstanding, the residence retains a significant amount of interior woodwork including the following: original doors; built-in cabinetry; wainscoting; the staircase and banister leading to the upper level; window and door surrounds; and narrow, paneled ceilings. In addition, one of Zahn's whitewashed carvings (resembling the sculpted bird on the exterior of the upper block) remains on display in the main level hall.

Concrete Piers (contributing, ca. 1924):

Eight seemingly identical concrete piers parallel STH 57. Groupings of three of these equidistant piers are located toward both the south and north ends of the property; the remaining two piers constitute a centrally positioned pair. The piers are similar to those flanking the front entry steps. That is, the squarish objects each consists of an aggregate core that rises from a concrete slab plinth and features a smooth concrete top. Observation suggests these piers were built when the house was erected and were likely once used as pedestals to display Zahn's artwork. Faded paint is apparent on the piers which are in various states of disrepair.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   4  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

---

Concrete Display Stands (contributing, ca. 1924):

These two diagonally positioned objects are located near the southeast corner pier off the front entry porch. Although one of them lies in disrepair on the ground, the other remains standing. It consists of a battered concrete base that supports a rectangular, hollow box, which is also constructed of concrete. A projecting concrete band envelops the box; however, most of the band is deteriorating. Similar to the concrete piers, it is thought these display stands were built around the same time the house was erected, presumably for the purpose of exhibiting Zahn's sculptures.

Fieldstone Landscape Foundations (contributing, ca. 1924):

Three circular bases are located toward the northeast corner of the residence. These consist of fieldstone set in an aggregate mortar. The rings are less than one foot in height and each is wide enough to accommodate several mature coniferous trees. These landscape elements complement the concrete piers throughout the yard and are believed to date to the construction of the residence.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

ART  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1924-1950 (2)

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**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.

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Zahn, Albert

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Zahn, Albert (b)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

<sup>2</sup> The period of significance begins with the date of construction of the residence, and concludes with the year Albert Zahn vacated the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1 Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

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**Explain the significance of the property.**

Statement of Significance:

The Albert Zahn Residence/Bird's Park was evaluated for the National Register under Criteria A, B and C. No evidence was found to support eligibility under Criterion A. With regard to Criterion B, the subject property is locally significant due to its association with Albert Zahn, a primitive artist whose work dates from the early- to mid-twentieth century. Additionally, the poured concrete method of construction offers a potential unique, vernacular interpretation of design using a modern building material, thus suggesting eligibility under Criterion C.

Historical Background:

Baileys Harbor was the first village site white settlers chose on the Door peninsula. The village was the nucleus of Baileys Harbor Township, which was officially organized in 1860 and enlarged in 1871. But the creation of the township occurred over a dozen years after the namesake of both the township and village initially discovered the area's excellent harbor off Lake Michigan.<sup>3</sup>

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

An ambitious entrepreneur, Sweet recognized the potential profit these natural resources represented in the building industry. Therefore, in 1849, he bought a 125-acre tract near

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

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



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8  

Page   2  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

---

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

As quickly as the fortunes of the village soared, they slid. Sweet's interest inexplicably vanished; fire destroyed the sawmill, while the pier and log houses deteriorated. In the throes of this downturn, Sturgeon Bay replaced Baileys Harbor as the county seat in 1857. Still, the natural advantages of the area attracted subsequent stone and lumber entrepreneurs, respectively including A. K. Sea and Joseph Smith ("Cedar King of Door County"). In particular, a lively lumber/shipping trade emerged by the 1870s. Woodcutters lived alongside fishermen, who plied the harbor's coast, and among farmers, who began settling inland. With a population of four hundred in 1879, the Village of Baileys Harbor featured a flour- and sawmill, two general stores, two hotels, and two piers; carpenters, blacksmiths and shoemakers offered services in the village, which had been established as a post office as early as 1860. In addition to many of the latter services and shops, the village included several saloons and a shingle mill by 1895.<sup>6</sup>

Despite this growth, market gluts and nationwide financial panics continually plagued the village's lumber/shipping industry; timber depletion effectively destroyed it. As population figures fluctuated between 150 and 300 from 1895 to 1927, the village became more of an agricultural support center as the township increasingly relied on farming. Furthermore, the village began to reflect Door County's evolution as a vacation destination, featuring the Evergreen Camp Summer Resort, the Old Homestead Inn and the Scenic Grove Resort, all by 1917. By mid-century, there were at least twice as many accommodations--not including trailer camps and Camp Henry Graas for Boy Scouts--while popular tourist attractions included an eighteen-hole golf course as well as the subject property, popularly known as Bird's Park. The recreation/resort industry remains

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   3  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

---

significant aspect of the village's economy. For instance, as recently as 1996, the village offered charter fishing boats, a wildflower preserve known as The Ridges, a hiking and birding facility called Ridge's Sanctuary and numerous galleries, shops, restaurants and lodges. In addition, the village serves an important municipal function, housing the town hall for the civil town of Baileys Harbor, which had a population of approximately eight hundred in 1996.<sup>7</sup>

Resource-Specific History:

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the residence is the history of its builder and owner, Albert Zahn. A German immigrant, he arrived in Door County when he was twelve years old. He spent much of his adult life dairy farming and, after retiring at the age of sixty, Zahn moved to Baileys Harbor. Along with his wife, Louise, he began to build the extant concrete house in 1924. The relatively odd appearance of the residence in an area of vernacular farmhouses was an indication of Zahn's ingenuity. This trait was further illustrated when Zahn, displeased with the cost of electricity, opted to install a wire charger on the roof. He used a gasoline engine for alternative power on windless occasions. Yet, the extent of his creative spirit was most evident through his hobby as a wood carver.<sup>8</sup>

Zahn was a skilled woodworker. Indeed, he had had experience as a carpenter and helped his nephew, August Zahn, erect a blacksmith shop and half-timber/stovewood house in Bailey Harbor. But Albert's first experience in woodworking occurred in Germany, where he cared for geese. This occupation undoubtedly inspired many of the bird carvings he began to make as he whiled away cold Wisconsin nights. Other subjects included fish, deer, totem poles, angels and Biblical characters. Louise generally painted his carvings, which ultimately represented part of his image of an ethereal afterlife. Zahn dubbed his concrete home "Bird's Park," which served as the backdrop for this vision and all of his carvings; he displayed his small birds on the vertical posts that are still extant in the front yard of the property. Historic photographs illustrate the profusion of carvings that he placed

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<sup>7</sup>Holand, *Old Peninsula Days*, 237-41; *History of Northern Wisconsin*, 266-67; *Wisconsin State Gazetteer, 1895-1896*, 162; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1903-1904* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co. 1901), 192; *R. L. Polk & Co.'s Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1907-1908* (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1907), 201; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1917-1918* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co. 1917), 168; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1919-1920* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1919), 172; *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1927-1928* (Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1927), 13-35; Hjalmar Rued Holand, *History of Door County Wisconsin: The County Beautiful*, 2 vols. (Chicago: S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1917), 1:173; *Tourist Map of Door County, Wisconsin, with Directory of Summer Resorts* (n.p.: Door County Chamber of Commerce, ca. 1950[?]); Mary Ann Johnson, "Carvings of Albert Zahn found in major museums," *The Door County Advocate*, 15 October 1993; *State of Wisconsin 1997-1998 Blue Book* (Madison, WI: State of Wisconsin, 1979), 729; "Door County's Bailey's Harbor," Website at <http://doorcountyvacations.com/Communities/BH.html>, accessed 13 February 1998.

<sup>8</sup>Johnson, "Carvings of Albert Zahn," Madeline Tourtelot, "Artists Around," *The Door County Advocate*, August 1968, Newspaper clipping in "Baileys Harbor History" Vertical File, located at the Baileys Harbor Branch Door County Public Library, Baileys Harbor, WI.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8  

Page   4  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

---

around the yard and on the building itself, creating a unique, visionary spectacle. At one time, Zahn sold his bird carvings for thirty-five cents each, a price based on the amount of time it had taken him to whittle them. However, his folk carvings eventually received far more than local recognition. Long after Zahn died in 1953, a newspaper account was written, describing how his "mystical figures were all sold to the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. The power of his art was its ability to document, describe and reflect on the form and meaning of human experience and visions." A greater national stage for Zahn's work was set as some of his carvings have been displayed at the Art Institute of Chicago and New York's Guggenheim Museum. The Art Institute retains in its permanent collection one of Zahn's pieces, titled "Figure with Birds" (circa 1940-1950); the artwork consists of a woman and four birds, carved from white pine and painted.<sup>9</sup>

Zahn's work differs somewhat from the well-known folk art in Wisconsin of the period. Unlike the larger scale religiously inspired grottoes and patriotic figures erected around Wisconsin, Zahn's creations were smaller and not permanently installed. However, Zahn shared with these artists the creation of a mythic vision at his residence. And, in contrast to his house, built of the concrete material favored by many folk artists, Zahn used wood for many of his carvings. However, he is similar in other respects to Wisconsin folk artists. Like many of them, Zahn came to art later in life after pursuing an earlier profession and he created his art out of found materials. He was also an immigrant, perhaps recalling in his life and work the northern European folk decorative traditions.

As for the concrete house that served as the original showcase for Zahn's craft, Albert left it vacant after Louise died in 1950. Vandals lifted some of the remaining carvings. In more recent times, Bobby McCullough purchased the property, attempting to return it to its visionary appearance. This would entail tracking down and acquiring original carvings which reportedly have been auctioned for as much as \$1,200 each.<sup>10</sup> At present, the house is in good condition and still carries Zahn's sign denoting the site as "Bird's Park Baileys Harbor, Wis." Furthermore, several bird carvings remain. Despite the loss of some of Zahn's carvings as a result of vandalism, the property's lengthy association with the artist meets the requirements for eligibility under Criterion B. This is the property most closely associated with Zahn's artistic career.

Architecture:

The subject dwelling illustrates poured concrete construction, also called monolithic concrete construction. The poured concrete walls of the residence take on the appearance of the formwork Zahn constructed. The imprint of the formwork provides the walls with

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<sup>9</sup>Johnson, "Carvings of Albert Zahn"; Reference staff at the Art Institute of Chicago, Telephone conversation with Lena L. Sweeten, 17 February 1999, Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd, Menomonee Falls, WI; Tourtelot, "Artists Around."

<sup>10</sup>Johnson, "Carvings of Albert Zahn"; Tourtelot, "Artists Around."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8  

Page   5  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

---

texture and with visible horizontal markings. While other examples of the period using this technique were often coated with stucco, Zahn's home provides a clear display of its construction method. One of the problems of the poured concrete wall was making the building or structure frost proof. Zahn addressed this issue by adding cedar blocks within the walls.

The subject property is notable both for its use of concrete construction, as well as the vernacular nature of the dwelling's design. By the early decades of the twentieth century mass production had increasingly diminished the need for vernacular construction techniques and building design. Nevertheless, Zahn's homemade concrete walls render his residence a locally significant, vernacular interpretation of a modern construction material. As a result, it is eligible for listing under Criterion C.<sup>11</sup>

Summary:

"Bird's Park" is eligible for the Register under Criterion C as an example of poured concrete construction. Even more significant, the house is clearly the best extant resource directly associated with the nationally recognized artwork of Albert Zahn, thus meeting the requirements of Criterion B.

1950 marks the year that Zahn left the house after the death of his wife Louise. Because of the close proximity of the 50 year mark, the property is being nominated for the span of years that Zahn built and occupied the house, 1924-1950.

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<sup>11</sup>Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management*, Vol. 2, Architecture, 4/8-9.

Albert Zahn House/Bird's Park  
Name of Property

Door  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

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

**Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

1 1/6 4/9/0/3/0/0 4/9/9/0/6/2/0  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Lena L. Sweeten, Laura Abing, Traci E. Schnel	date	9/27/99
organization	Heritage Research, LTD.	telephone	414 251-7792
street & number	N89 W16785 Appleton Avenue	zip code	53051
city or town	Menomonee Falls	state	Wisconsin

United States Department of the Interior  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page   1  

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

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**Major Bibliographical References:**

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the east corner of the south property line, proceed in a generally north northeast direction 233.09 ft, thence west 181.3 ft, thence in a generally south/southeast direction 230.42 ft, thence 181.75 ft to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary lines coincide with the existing property lines and encompass an appropriate historical setting.

Albert Zahn House/Bird's Park

Door

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

<b>name/title</b>	Robert McCullough	<b>date</b>	10/9/98
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	(503) 771-5090
<b>street&amp;number</b>	6123 SE Reed College Place	<b>zip code</b>	97202
<b>city or town</b>	Portland	<b>state</b>	OR

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 1

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

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ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (Perspective view)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View to Northwest  
Photo #1 of 8

ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (South and east facades)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View to West/Northwest  
Photo #2 of 8

ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (South and west facades)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View to North/Northeast  
Photo #3 of 8

ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (North and west facades)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View to South/Southeast  
Photo #4 of 8

ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (Porch detail)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View to West  
Photo #5 of 8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 2

Zahn, Albert, House/Bird's Park  
Door County, Wisconsin

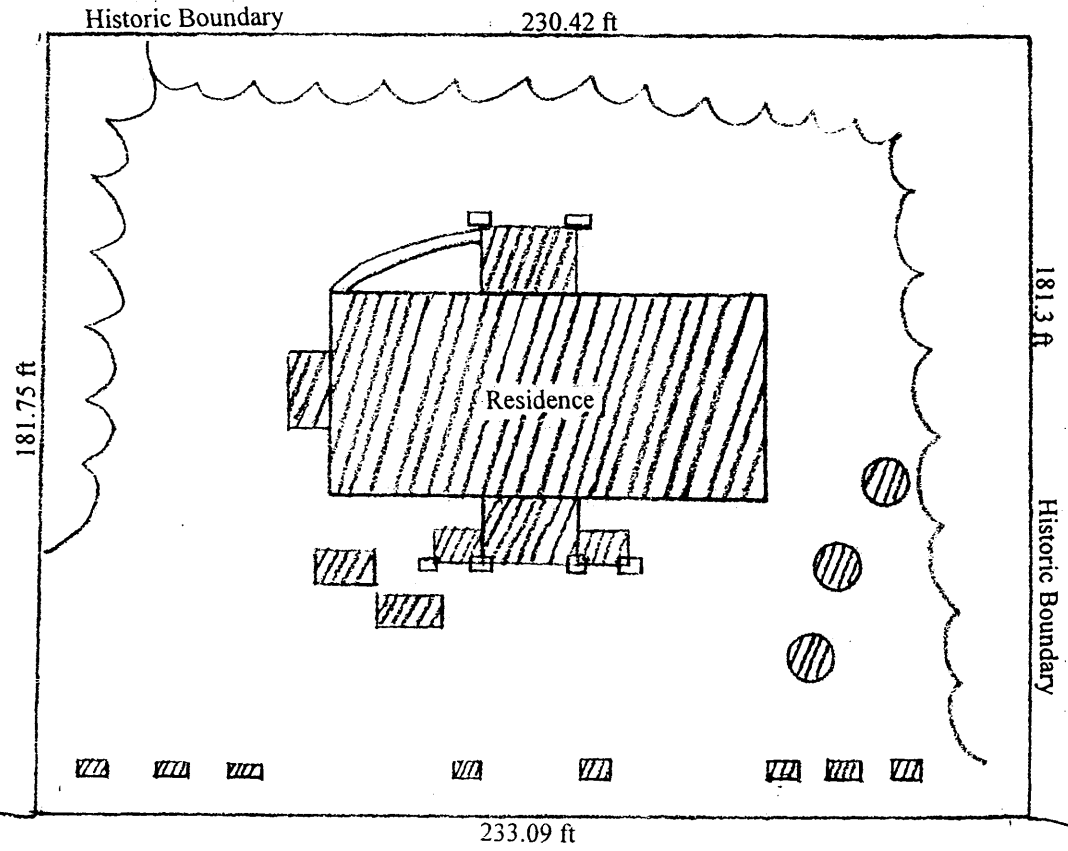
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ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (Interior: rear entry)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View of Rear entry  
Photo #6 of 8

ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (Interior: bird carving)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View of Bird carving  
Photo #7 of 8




ALBERT ZAHN RESIDENCE/BIRD'S PARK (Interior: door, upper level)  
8223 STH 57  
BAILEYS HARBOR, Door County, WI  
Photo by Lena L. Sweeten  
February 1999  
Negative at SHSW  
View of Door  
Photo #8 of 8

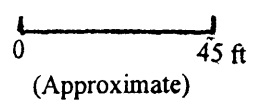
Albert Zahn House  
Bird's Park  
Town of Baileys Harbor  
Door County, WI



-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing

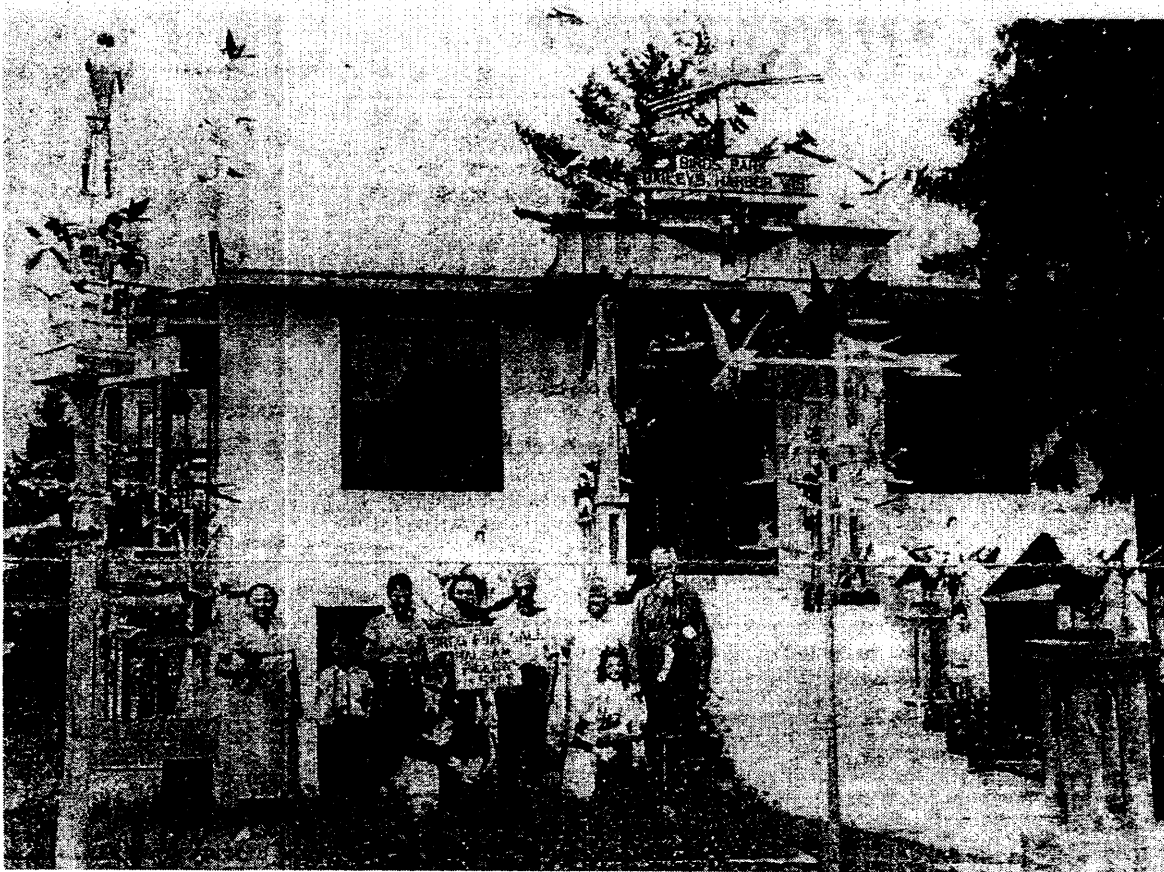
Key

-  Concrete Pier
-  Concrete Display Stand
-  Fieldstone Landscape Foundation



"Carvings of Albert Zahn found in major museums" The Door County Advocate, n.d., p.2

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH #1  
Albert Zahn House/Birds Park  
Baileys Harbor, Door Co., WI



"Door County tis of Thee", Green Bay Press Gazette, special insert, n.p., n.d.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS #2  
Albert Zahn House/Birds Park  
Baileys Harbor, Door Co., WI



"Artists Around" The Door County Advocate 1 Aug. 1968, n.p.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH #3  
Albert Zahn House/Birds Park  
Baileys Harbor, Door Co., WI

