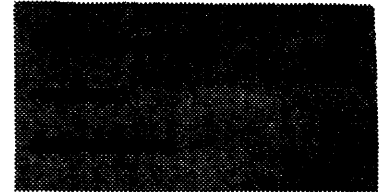


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



PETER PETERSON HOUSE,

Continuation sheet Historic Resources-Ephraim Item number

1

Page

1

1. NAME

Common name: Bethany Lutheran Parsonage

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/30/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for*

Keeper of the National Register

date 11/2/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Peter Peterson House  
 Address: 10020 North Water Street  
 City: Ephraim County: Door

Owner: Free Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Owner's address: 10020 North Water Street

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Listed in NRHP (LI) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Determined eligible in DOE process (DD) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Determined eligible in nomination process (DN) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional documentation added to nomination (AD) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boundary increased (BI) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boundary Decreased (BD) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delisted (DL) \_\_\_\_\_

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)  
Multiple Resources of Ephraim

180 NRHP List Name Peter Peterson House

190 Level of Significance  
 national (NA) \_\_\_\_\_  
 state (ST) \_\_\_\_\_  
 local (LO)  
 District Classification  
 pivotal (P) \_\_\_\_\_  
 contributing (C) \_\_\_\_\_  
 non-contributing (NC) \_\_\_\_\_

200 District Classification

210 Applicable Criteria  
 event (A)  
 person (B)  
 architectue/engineering (C)  
 information potential (D)

215 Criteria Considerations  
 religious property (A)  
 moved property (B)  
 birthplace or grave (C)  
 cemetery (D)  
 reconstructed property (E)  
 commemorative property (F)  
 less than 50 years old (G)

220 Area of Significance (code)  
Commerce

Religion \_\_\_\_\_

230 Period of Significance  
1874-1934

340 Review Board Date \_\_\_\_\_

70 USGS Quad Map  
Ephraim Quadrangle (7.5)

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-99999999)  
16-486602-5000265

85 Listed Acreage less than one

60 Verbal Boundary Description The east 200' of the west 400' of lot 37 block N, Ephraim plat.

Description

The Peter Peterson house is a two-story frame structure with a gabled roof, clapboard siding, limestone foundation, and a front porch sheltered by a pent roof. Windows are framed with simple wooden trim. Two intersecting one-story additions project off the rear of the house. The present interior plan features a living room, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second. The property is surrounded by a lawn with several large trees and shrubs.

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

- A- "75th Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Church, Wisconsin, 1882-1957." Pamphlet on file at Ephraim Library, Ephraim, WI.
- B- Kahlert, John, Pioneer Cemeteries (Baileys Harbor, WI, Meadow Lane Publishers, 1981).
- C- Peterson, Peter, On Both Sides of the Ocean: A Part of Per Hagen's Journey. Translated, with introduction and notes by Kate Stafford and Harold Naess. (Norwegian-American Historical Society: Northfield, MN, 1984). See especially pages 4, 17, 38-41, 47, 48-51, 59-64, and 68.

700 Study Units (code)

RELIGION: Protestant (Moravian - Lutheran)

350 Demolished 360 Date Demolished

yes no

Historical Background

The Peter Peterson house was built in 1874 by one of Ephraim's leading merchants and has, since 1882, served as a parsonage of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Church. Born on a farm in Norway in 1821, Peter Peterson emigrated to Canada in 1846 and two years later settled in the forests southeast of Green Bay where he helped the community of New Denmark (C). While living there, Peterson met the Reverend Andreas Iverson, the Moravian leader of Ephraim, who stayed with Peterson during the difficult winter of 1855. Encouraged by Iverson, Peterson moved to Ephraim in the autumn of 1856, built a house, started a freight service, opened a store, and together with Aaslag Anderson, bought 150 acres of Ephraim lake front for the construction of the village's first pier (C).

Despite this early business success, Peterson moved to Green Bay during the Civil War and relocated to Sturgeon Bay in 1870. But in 1871, Peterson returned to Ephraim "where he bought a piece of land... with a small house on it, built a store... and set up business" in the community. Soon after his return, Peterson built a second wharf, in the southern part of the village (now demolished) where boats loaded local products like firewood, fence posts, telegraph posts, bark, and railroad ties. In addition, Peterson conducted an active wholesale business in both groceries and dry goods, selling items that ranged from hardware to farming implements, from prefabricated doors to medical supplies to grain. The house that Peterson built in 1874 served as both his residence and a storehouse for the stock of his trade. Peterson's central role in the community was reflected in the civic positions he held. Peterson served variously as town chairman, justice of the peace, and notary public (C).

See Continuation Sheet

Historical Statement of Significance

The Peter Peterson house is historically significant to both the commercial and religious development of Ephraim for its association with Peterson, a prominent Ephraim merchant and benefactor, and for its association with the Free Evangelical Lutheran Church. Peterson was among the village's pioneer merchants in the 1850s, when he started a store and helped Aaslag Anderson build the village's first dock. When Peterson returned to Ephraim in the 1870s, he built a second wharf which greatly expedited the export of local lumber products and the import of many hardwares, dry goods, groceries, and grains. Peterson's business was vital to the community and made Peterson a prosperous and influential man. Through his leadership, a Scandinavian Lutheran Church was established, a house of worship was built, and the congregation kept free of synodical affiliation. When Peterson returned to his homeland, he deeded his house (which once served as both residence and warehouse) to the Lutheran church. Since then the house has been the residence of the permanent and visiting ministers who have served the church.

Record No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 10020 North Water Street, Ephraim, WI

Description

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

700 Study Units (code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

350 Demolished \_\_\_\_\_ 360 Date Demolished \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Historical Background (Continuation)

During the 1870s and early 1880s, Peterson was the leading force in the establishment of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Church. His money helped pay for construction of a building and his influence helped steer the new congregation clear of any synodical affiliation. So closely was Peterson identified with the Lutheran church that Iverson, once a friend, eventually considered Peterson his chief rival (C). As a gift to the Lutheran congregation, upon his return to Norway in 1883, Peterson deeded his house for use as a parsonage. Since then, the house has served as a residence for the congregation's pastors and has been intimately tied to the history of the church. Peterson's autobiographical narrative, written in a fictionalized form as "A part of Per Hagen's Journey," was serialized in a Norwegian newspaper in 1901 and published in translation by the Norwegian-American Historical Association in 1984.

Historical Statement of Significance