

Description

Situated near the top of a bluff on Moravia Street, the frame schoolhouse is a rectangular building with clapboard siding and limestone foundation. The gable roof is surmounted by a hipped roof bell tower located at the south end of the roof. Six 4/4 windows on both the east and west sides of the school are symmetrically placed, while the main entry, a paneled single door, is located on the south facade. The schoolhouse was originally about half its present size and without a bell tower when built in 1869 (J). By the 1890's it had attained its present form (K).

The interior of the school is characterized by the same basic and functional design as the exterior. Beaded wood panels are used for ceiling and wainscoting in the single classroom. A metal floor register for heat pierces the center of a wood plank floor.

(See Continuation, page 5)

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

A- Iverson, A.M., "A Brief Account of the Activity (Its Commencement and Continuation since 1849) of the Evangelical Moravian Church among the Scandinavians in Wisconsin". (Written between 1896-1899 and translated from the Norwegian by Jno. Bolter, 1929). Located at Door County Library, Sturgeon Bay, WI.

B- Martin, Charles, History of Door County, Wisconsin, Together Biographies of Nearly 700 Families and Mention of 4,000 Persons (Sturgeon Bay, WI, Expositor Job Print, 1917).

C- Holand, Hjalmer Rued, History of Door County, Wisconsin Vol. I and II (Chicago, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1917).
700 Study Units (code) See Continuation Sheet

Education: Elementary and Secondary education - public education

350 Demolished 360 Date Demolished

_____ yes _____ no _____

Historical Background

The Moravians who founded Ephraim in 1853 believed strongly in educating their children and by 1854 they had established a local private school (C). When the town of Gibraltar was organized in 1857, Ephraim became a part of School District No. 2 (A, B). Reverend Andreas Iverson, the Moravian church pastor in Ephraim, was named the first school superintendent of the town and donated land and a log building for use as a school (A, C). This building, located at 9966 Moravia Street, is also included in the nomination and probably served as the school until 1868-1869. During this time, however, the county school system was beginning to standardize and consolidate the educational system, including building graded schools, and to give towns greater control over schools. During that period, the Gibraltar District School No. 2 was built, reflecting the new standards of primary education.

Previous to the building's construction, the Ephraim School, like others in the county, needed improvements. While visiting the school taught by C.S. Burt in Ephraim in the 1860's, the new county superintendent of schools reported that he found "good house furniture and methods of instruction, but very poor order. Miss Burt is too tender hearted for an unruly school" (E). She was teaching thirty-five grade school students with an average age of seven years (E).

In the late 1860's the Gibraltar schools taught approximately 150 students aged four to twenty out of a county total of 1,454 students (F). By 1869 the school located in Ephraim was one of twenty nine schools in the county. The school term lasted an average of 5½ months each year. The superintendent's opinion was that "a great many improvements are

Historical Statement of Significance

Area of Historic Significance: Education

The Gibraltar District School No. 2 is locally significant for its historic association with education in Ephraim. It was built in the late 1860's when the county was making an early attempt to improve the school system, including upgrading teaching methods and physical facilities. Ephraim has two nineteenth century school buildings extant and both are included in the nomination. The first log structure used as a school is significant for its association with pioneer education in the village. Built not so much as a school than as a shelter, it nevertheless has historic significance. The Gibraltar District School No. 2 built as a one room schoolhouse, like so many other one room schools found in rural areas and small towns, represents a later era when education was no longer a luxury but had become an important facet of village life. The school is now used as a museum and office. It has retained both its historical and architectural integrity and is an excellent representation of early education in the village.

The Thomas Goodletson cabin, located southeast of the school was moved to the present site in 1974 to insure its preservation. It is historically associated with the Free Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was organized in the house in 1882 (L).

The Thomas Goodletson Cabin was moved from a location close to the lakeshore in order to insure its preservation. The original location is now the site of a condominium project. Due to the loss of integrity caused by the movement of the cabin, and a number of exterior alterations, the Goodletson Cabin structure is not considered a significant feature of this nomination. (Future evaluation may support an attempt to nominate the site as an exception to the normal criteria for moved buildings.)

See Continuation Sheet

Historical Background

required in our schoolhouses, which will be made as soon as the people are able. We live in a timbered county...sparsely settled by small farmers ... (G). That same year, in a series of five "Educational Papers" printed in the county newspaper, the major problems of Door County schools were stated as being the lack of comfortable buildings with adequate heat and furnishings, no uniformity in text books and a lack of good teachers (G).

In March 1869 a "township system" school law was passed by the Wisconsin legislature consolidating schools and giving towns more direct supervision in school affairs. It was hoped this would help standardize teaching methods and texts improve facilities, and equalize taxes (H). Ephraim was now part of a newly formed district that included Egg Harbor, Jacksonport, and Baileys Harbor. Five school buildings were located within the district (C). All this occurred when the one room frame building in Ephraim was either recently constructed or about to be built. Ephraim, then in existence for sixteen years, had outgrown its first schoolhouse not only in size but in attitude. The school built in the late 1860's was well lit by windows and relatively spacious, meeting at least some of the recommendations of the county.

The village, still a part of the Gibraltar school system, continued to use the one room school until well into the twentieth century when another one room school was built to replace it in 1948. Since it was restored by the Ephraim Foundation, a local non-profit organization that strives to preserve the historic character of Ephraim, in 1950 the school has been used as a museum and summer office space for the Peninsula Arts Association (D).

Historical Statement of Significance

See Continuation Sheet

Description

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

- J- Kahlert, John, Early Door County Buildings and the People Who Built Them 1849-1910 (Batleys Harbor, WI, Meadow Lane Publishers, 1978).
- K- Sohns, Helen, Ephraim, WI, July, 1984.
- L- "Seventy Fifth Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Church, Ephraim, Wisconsin, 1882-1957". Pamphlet on file at Ephraim Village Library, Ephraim, WI.
- M- Martin Charles, History of Door County, Wisconsin Together with Biographies of Nearly 700 Families and Mention of 4,000 Persons (Sturgeon Bay, WI: Expositor Job Print, 1881).

700 Study Units (code)

350 Demolished	360 Date Demolished
_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no

Historical Statement of Significance

Historical Background

Also located on the property is the Thomas Goodletson cabin. Thomas Goodletson was a Norwegian farmer (b. 1816) who emigrated to the United States in 1853 and arrived in the Town of Gibraltar around 1857 (M). The Goodletson cabin was built around 1858-1860 on Eagle Island (Horseshoe) and skidded over the ice in 1867 to the peninsula. It was located near Highway 42 in the south part of the village until 1973 when condominiums were built on its site. The cabin was given to the Ephraim Foundation and moved to its present site. Prior to being moved and used as a museum, the cabin remained a Goodletson family house until 1904 and was the place where Bethany Lutheran Church was formed (DR 30/16. 3028 Church Street). (L) Then it was used as a farm building by the Zachariason and Woodruff families (c. 1925) and as a cottage for the Ephraim Hotel (gone) (I).

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Accepted - 2011 11 15

Name of property: Gibraltar District School No. 2 and
(Thomas Goodletson Cabin)
Address: 9988 Moravia Street
City: Ephraim County: Door

Owner: Ephraim Foundation
Owner's address: Ephraim, WI 54211

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)

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)

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

220 Area of Significance (code)
Education

180 NRHP List Name Gibraltar District School No. 2

230 Period of Significance
1869-1934

190 Level of Significance
national (NA)
state (ST)
X local (LO)

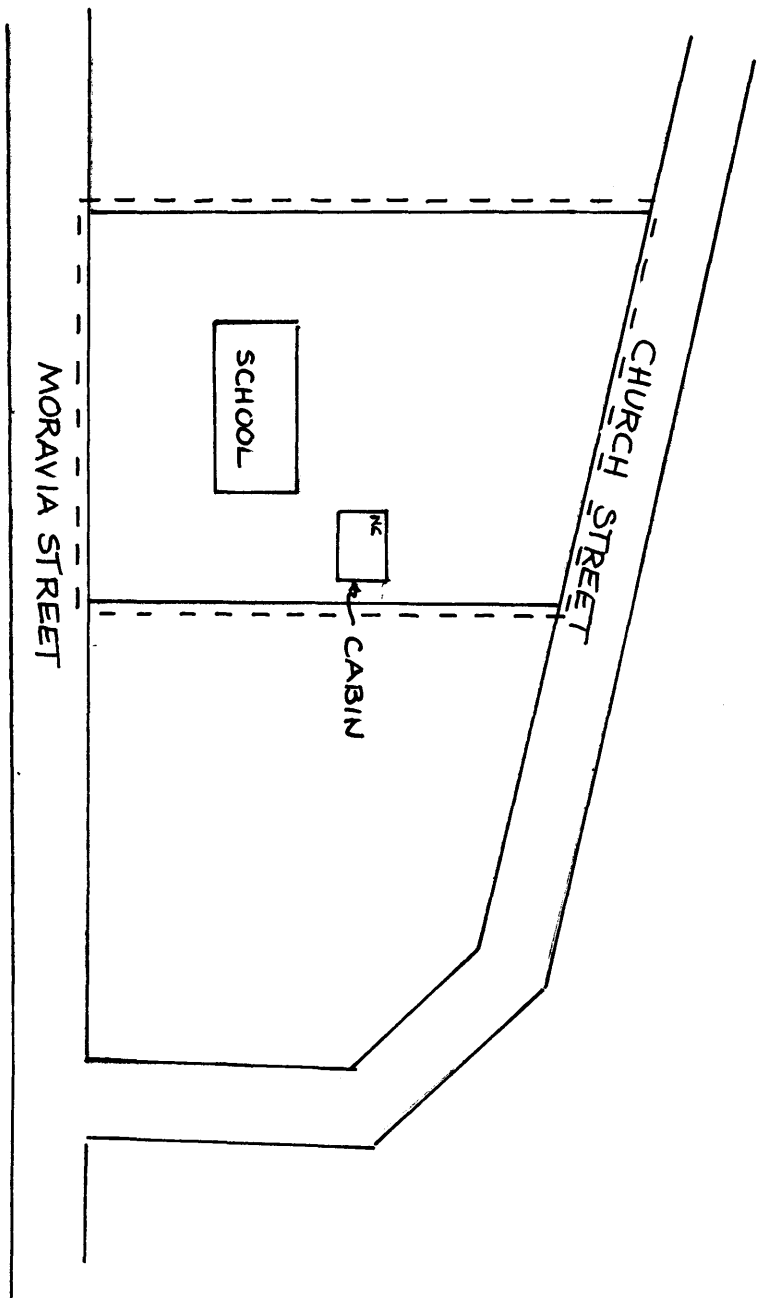
340 Review Board Date
70 USGS Quad Map
Ephraim Quadrangle

200 District Classification
pivotal (P)
contributing (C)
non-contributing (NC)

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-99999999)
16-486-740-5000080
85 Listed Acreage less than one

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

60 Verbal Boundary Description 121-24-0028B
Ephraim Plat, Lot 22 W of road, Blk. I



N ←
GIBALTAR DISTRICT SCHOOL NO. 2
9988 MORAVIA STREET
--- BOUNDARY