

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

DEC 28 1987

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common Namur Belgian-American District

2. Location

street & number Village of Namur (unincorporated) Gardner and Union N/A not for publication

city, town Townships. (T 26 & 27 N. R23E).
Brussels, 54204 -X- vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Door code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Door County Courthouse

street & number 138 South 4th Street

city, town Sturgeon Bay state Wisconsin 54235

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer-Fall 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date (see footnote)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Namur Belgian-American Rural Historic District is located near the southwestern corner of Door County and lies within the nation's largest rural settlement of Belgian-Americans. Encompassing the hamlet of Namur in Union Township at its southern extremity, it is a rectangular-shaped area of more than 3500 acres that extends three miles north to the shoreline of Green Bay in Gardner Township. It includes agricultural land, expanses of natural landscape, farmhouses and other agrarian structures, the residential dwellings of Namur, a local parish church, two cemeteries, and two commercial establishments. Based on a survey of the nine-township Belgian-American settlement area in Brown, Door and Kewaunee Counties, this district has the area's best concentration of surviving buildings, farmsteads and landscape-related features from this ethnic group.

The district is situated on a gently rolling plateau atop the Niagara Escarpment that runs through the entire Door County peninsula. Higher elevations provide a visual buffer along portions of the eastern boundary, while vegetation helps define much of the district's western edge. At the area's northwest corner, high ground commands breathtaking panoramic views of the adjacent water before sloping abruptly to the Green Bay shoreline. Highway 57 runs near the district's southern edge and Sugar Creek flows in a northerly direction through most of the area. With its adjacent corridor of undeveloped forests and wetlands this small, meandering waterway provides a visual contrast to the surrounding cultivated farmland. The pastoral agrarian landscape is evident throughout the district which retains an unspoiled rural character and a delightful visual interplay of topography, natural vegetation, fencerows, and a rich mosaic of field patterns interspersed with clusters of vernacular farmstead buildings. While the district does not have distinctive man-made landscape features as such, it retains a very special overall character because of its relative lack of modern-day unsympathetic development intrusions.

Belgian immigration to Wisconsin began in 1853, when eight French speaking Walloon families settled in the state. Upon the advice of a Belgian priest (Fr. Daems) at Bay Settlement ten miles northeast of Green Bay, they bought land in Brown County at what is now the community of Champion. By 1860, growing numbers of Belgian immigrants, primarily from the Walloon Provinces of Brabant and Namur, had pushed their settlement area into adjacent Kewaunee and Door Counties and the state's Belgian immigrants numbered 4,647.¹ In time, clusters of commercial, religious and educational activities evolved into communities that became service centers for the surrounding agricultural economy. Development came to a temporary halt in 1871 when the catastrophic Peshtigo fire swept through the region. A phase of rebuilding followed and a growing population brought continuing development to the area. By the turn of the century, the Door County hamlet of Namur, near the northern edge of the Belgian-American settlement zone, contained an enclave of residential dwellings, a public school, a general store and saloon, a post office, and a church and parochial school. Agriculture became the established enterprise for the area, with an emphasis on grain production, and some fruit and vegetables grown for home consumption. Over time, a more diversified system of farming evolved that specialized in dairying. Today, this activity remains the primary livelihood for the district's

*(It is unknown to what extent resources within the district have been moved, particularly outbuildings and sheds. None of the major, pivotal resources are known to have been moved however.)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Belgian Ethnic History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1880-1930

Builder/Architect See Continuation Sheet

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

I. INTRODUCTION

To this day, the Belgian-American settlement area of northeastern Wisconsin remains a distinctive ethnic enclave. French is still spoken with a Walloon dialect. The churches continue their important role as social and religious centers and many of the Belgian-Americans residents remain devout Catholics. Traditional Belgian cuisine including breads, pies, chicken "boohyah," tripe and other foods are served with family meals and can be found at local restaurants and stores. While not as numerous as in the past, religious and ethnic festivals continue, highlighted by the annual "Belgian Days," celebration during the first week in July. The most lingering and visible heritage resource, however, can be found in the local architecture. Here, Old World masonry building traditions were adapted to the new Wisconsin environment. In addition, a large concentration of log buildings reflect this group's adoption of American pioneer building materials and methods. Today, this enclave of structures reflects an ethnic architectural expression that is unique in the rural American landscape.

The Namur Belgian-American Rural Historic District is nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C. It possesses historical significance for its association with Wisconsin ethnic history and settlement, specific themes identified in Wisconsin's cultural resource management plan. More specifically, it is associated with the unique element of rural Belgian settlement in Wisconsin and the greater Midwest, a historical phenomena discussed in the Low Countries Settlement study unit of the plan.

Architecturally, the district is significant for its relationship to an ethnic group, as well as its construction materials and methods, and agricultural outbuildings. The state's cultural resource management plan gives high priority to "...resources representing identifiable Belgian building traditions or that are directly associated with individuals, groups, or activities that played significant roles in the perpetuation of Belgian ethnic traditions."⁴ It also notes that some sites associated with Belgian settlement "may merit...national significance."⁵

As such, the district is significant for its association with Belgian immigration to Wisconsin, the resulting settlement patterns, the vernacular architecture within the district, and the area's potential for future research. As one of the state's largest, and probably the most homogeneous, ethnic settlements, the Namur Belgian-American Rural Historic District exemplifies the importance of the role of immigrants in settling rural areas of the Upper Midwest, and specifically the part played by French-speaking Walloon Belgians in northeastern Wisconsin. The district is also an excellent example of the establishment and maintenance of a rural ethnic enclave during the height of immigration to the United States. Traditional Walloon Belgian building types and Belgian-American versions of them in agricultural complexes, and a village with a church and related religious features as its nucleus, reflect Belgian-American settlement patterns in the state and are

9. Major Bibliographical References

DEC 28 1987

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3500

Quadrangle name Namur and Little Sturgeon SW, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

E	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

F	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
---	-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

G	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-----------	-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

H	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
---	-----------	-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William H. Tishler, Landscape Architect

organization NA date 20 March 1987

street & number 3925 Regent Street telephone (608) 263-8973

city or town Madison WI state WI

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 [Signature]

title SHPO Wisconsin date DEC. 17, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Beth Boland date 11/6/89

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

DEC 28 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 3/7 Page 1

Namur Belgian-American District, Door Co. WI

RESOURCE COUNT
Number of Resources in District

	Contributing	Noncontributing
BUILDINGS	184	77
SITES	2	0
TOTALS	186	77

263
Resource
total

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

 37

Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American Dist. Item number 7

Page 1

Belgian-American descendants. Following a trend throughout rural America, farming has declined somewhat in recent years, but the district has experienced relatively little intrusive subdivision or roadside commercial development and remains a remarkably attractive and unspoiled agricultural landscape.

II. BUILDING TYPES

The product of indigenous carpenters and masons, the well-proportioned vernacular buildings in the district were constructed of locally-produced wood, brick and stone. They exhibit a consistency of scale and detail and add a cohesive visual quality to their rural landscape setting. Here, masonry houses and outbuildings reflect a preference for the traditional stone and brick buildings so common in their Belgian homeland. In addition, other structures such as rural chapels, outdoor bake ovens and churches--the latter being the traditional nucleus of their settlements--also portray the retention of important cultural ties from this ethnic group's European homeland. While outdoor bake ovens were also built in Wisconsin by northern Germans, Poles and Bohemians, a surviving concentration can be found only in the Belgian settlement area. The wayside, or votive chapels, still used in parts of Central and Eastern Europe, also were built in Wisconsin only by Belgian-Americans. While not representative of a widely-used method of construction in Belgium, the large number of accompanying log barns and other farm buildings found throughout the district indicate an acceptance of new American building influences where economy and practicality dictated. Collectively, these vernacular buildings form a regional architectural expression that is perhaps the largest and most intact concentration of ethnic-related buildings surviving from any of the more than 30 nationality groups that settled in Wisconsin.

A total of 77 individually-owned properties, including 41 farmsteads, are located within the district. The inventory of these properties (Appendix A) is numbered to correspond to numbered locations on the map of the district (Appendix B). Also included on the inventory list is the owner's name, mailing address (all are for Brussels, Wisconsin unless otherwise indicated), and classification as to contributing or non-contributing. Buildings were considered non-contributing if they did not fall into the 1880-1930 period of significance, or had suffered a loss of integrity through renovation.

Within the district, a total of 261 buildings & 2 sites can be found. These are classified into three categories as follows:

- A. Farmsteads. 41 individually-owned properties fall into this category. These complexes contained an average of 5.3 buildings and all but 5 still retain houses as part of their complement of buildings. The typical farmstead consisted of a red brick farmhouse, a frame or log cattle barn and a variety of related outbuildings. The latter might consist of any of the following: domestic buildings such as summer kitchens and bake ovens, woodsheds, and privies; stock shelters including additional barns, chicken coops, and piggeries; crop storage facilities such as granaries, corn cribs and silos; and equipment storage structures including garages and machine

DEC 28 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet ^{Namur Belgian-American District} Item number 7 Page 2

sheds. (For additional descriptive documentation see Section 8: Significance.)

Generally, these buildings were sited in a loose configuration around a central farmyard, or outdoor work area. Typically, the house was located nearest the adjacent road, and a single lane, unpaved drive provided access to the farmstead complex. This assemblage of buildings was surrounded on three sides by outlying fields enclosed by fences and used for crop cultivation or pasture land. Today, most of the farmstead buildings contribute to the integrity of the district. Those that do not consist of recently-built metal sheds and other structures with forms, colors or materials that are out of character with traditional buildings in the district. This category contained a total of 220 individual buildings. Of these, 172 were contributing buildings and 48 were non-contributing.

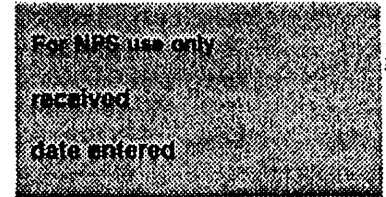
A description of six selected farmsteads, by their inventory list number, follows. These represent a generalized overview of the visual appearance of the majority of farms in the district.

17. Roger Bacon farmstead, 10216 Ledge Road; built c. 1880-1925. This farmstead contains a number of significant buildings including an early red brick house and a wayside chapel. The former, now used as a barn, is a brick version of the stone axial wall entrance rectangular house identified in the Belgian-American settlement region reconnaissance survey. One of the earliest masonry dwelling types found in the area, it is similar to the James Baudhuin stone farmhouse found at site 57. The frame wayside chapel is one of 3 found in the district and is in excellent condition. Other buildings found on the farmstead include the frame bungalow house, a log barn, and two frame barn extensions to the east gable end wall of the early brick house. Two additional outbuildings, both more recent in construction and non-contributing, make up the farmstead ensemble. The buildings are sited in an almost-linear arrangement paralleling the road with the present house located the east end of the complex.
24. The Louis Whery farmstead, 10440 Ledge Road; built c. 1880-1930. One of the more intact early farmsteads in the district, this property retains most of the traditional Belgian-American agrarian building types. The farmstead consists of 10 buildings arranged around an outdoor work space. The front gable, red brick, two story dwelling has few alterations and retains its south-facing porch. In plan, it is typical of the layout of many houses built by this ethnic group with two large rooms adjoining one lateral wall, and four smaller rooms along the opposite lateral wall. The cow barn with an attached threshing barn, located east of the house, and the piggery are built of logs. The latter is the only building on the farm located across adjoining Hedge Road. A frame garage, wood shed, summer kitchen, outhouse, chicken coop, machine shed, and granary with attached sheds comprise the remaining structures of this farmstead.

(Smaller elements of insubstantial size, scale or design, such as wood sheds, outhouses and shacks were not generally noted in the inventory.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American District Item number 7 Page 3
Door County, WI

25. Carol Parins farmstead, 1749 Highway N; built c. 1880-1910. This well-preserved agricultural complex is one of the few in the district that is bisected by a road. Distinguished by its handsome red brick dwelling and many log outbuildings, it is perhaps the most intact traditional farm in the district. The east-facing, front gable ell, two story house is sited close to the road and has slightly-arched window and door openings and half moon windows at the gable peaks. A log shed and a frame garage are located to the rear of the house. Immediately across the road, 3 log barns and a log shed are grouped in a U-shaped configuration around a small farmyard.

27. Alex Parins, Jr. farmstead, 1872 Highway N; built c. 1895-1920. Set back some distance from the adjoining road and surrounded by cultivated fields, this agrarian complex is highlighted by a red brick, front gable, one and one-half story farmhouse. The porch, initially attached to the west facade has been removed, but, with the exception of the rear entrance location in the lateral wall, the dwelling resembles many of the brick farmhouses in the area. A long entry drive terminates in the farm yard near the two surviving outbuildings. These consist of a long log and frame barn, and frame shed with an attached wing.

55. Ralph Baudhuin farmstead, 1020 Highway 57; built c. 1895-1930. Located on the north side of Highway 57 just east of Namur, this farmstead has as its nucleus a handsome front gable, one and one-half story, red brick house. Built c. 1895 by Marcelin Baudhuin,² the dwelling has a front porch, central door location and five windows arranged symmetrically in the front gable wall. At the gable peak can be found a distinctive "bullseye" window and, to the rear, an unobtrusive summer kitchen has been built. The house has not been altered and is a good example of the size and form of early Belgian-American brick houses found throughout the area. The house and five outbuildings behind it are arranged around a loosely-enclosed farmyard. These associated buildings consist of a log garage, two attached frame barns, a small frame shed and a non-contributing concrete block garage.

57. James Baudhuin farmstead, 10240 Highway 57; build c. 1880-1930. This agricultural complex incorporates all of the major building types typical of early Belgian-American farmsteads in the area. These include a side gable, two story, rectangular, stone house sited parallel to Highway 57 and facing south. On the dwelling's facade, two rows of windows are arranged symmetrically around the central entrance and a chimney is built within each of the gable end walls. Built in 1880 by Jean Joseph Baudhuin,³ it is constructed of limestone quarried on the farm and measures 28' x 42'. To the front and slightly east of the house is located a stone summer kitchen with an attached outdoor bake oven. The best surviving example of a combined summer kitchen/bake oven in the area, it incorporates the same type of limestone and masonry construction techniques used on the house. To the rear of the house, four barns are sited to form an open farmyard. These buildings consist of a large frame dairy barn with an attached milk

DEC 28 1961

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

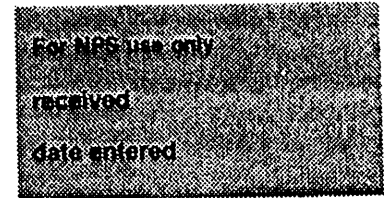
Section number 7 Page 4 Namur Belgian-American District, Door Co. WI

house and non-contributing metal shed, a large double-crib log barn with a central threshing bay, another non-contributing metal barn, and a log shed with an attached frame chicken coop. Across Highway 57 from the house, and slightly to the west, is located a small, frame, wayside chapel--one of three found in the district.

- B. Distinctive Individual Properties. This category consisted of 9 separate properties containing 13 buildings and two sites. Twelve of the buildings were classified as contributing and one was non-contributing. The two sites were both contributing. Included were such non-agrarian buildings as the local church, parsonage, former school, headquarters building for the Peninsula Belgian-American Club, a former general store, and several non-farm rural dwellings. A parish cemetery separate from the Namur church-parsonage-cemetery complex was also included. A brief description of the nine properties, by inventory list, follows:
37. St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church, Highway 57, Namur; built in 1891, with stone front porch later added. Red brick church with rectangular plan, gable roof, entry centered on front gable wall and pointed-arched window openings. The original steeple has been removed. Includes a small adjacent cemetery of early Namur area burials.
 38. St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church Parsonage, 10390 Highway 57, Namur; built c. 1910. Red brick, front gabled-ell dwelling, attached front and side porch, asymmetrical window and door locations. Includes frame garage and yard shrine.
 39. Peninsula Belgian-American Club Headquarters, Highway 57, Namur. Two story rectangular frame building with a one story extension built on the north-facing gable wall and an added small entry porch. Original door centered on axial wall with symmetrical arrangement of windows and two inside chimneys located at gable end walls. (19th century structure) Includes a frame wayside chapel built in 1915 and moved from original location.
 46. Former Fairview School, Highway 57, Namur; c. 1915. One story frame elementary school, square-shaped in plan, hip roof, elongated windows adjoining classrooms and small bell tower.
 53. Mamie Virlee house, 1543 Pit Road, c. 1900. One and one-half story red brick, front gable, dwelling. Rectangular-shaped in plan, central entry, symmetrical window arrangement, with quarried limestone foundation and small frame addition at rear gable end wall. Sizable outbuilding to rear of property is a contributing element.
 64. Norbert LeGrave house, 1289 Highway 57, c.1900. One and one-half story, red brick, front gable dwelling. Rectangular-shaped in plan, central entry, symmetrical window arrangement with front porch and half-moon window at front gable peak. Non-contributing outbuilding to north.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Namur Belgian-American District

Continuation sheet Door County, WI

Item number 7

Page 5

65. Harold Euclide General store, Highway 57, Namur; originally built by Wm. Struck in 1916. Two story, concrete block store building, with flat roof, large display windows on one end of the first floor facade, and raised full front porch.
 66. Mrs. Adam Dier house, 10383 Highway 57, Namur; c. 1900. One and one-half story, red brick, front gable ell dwelling. Front gable has full attached porch and bullseye window at gable peak. Includes red brick shed/summer kitchen and garage.
 70. St. Mary of the Snows Cemetery, Pit Road South of Highway 57. An unassuming burial ground located in a pastoral setting at the southernmost edge of the district. The site contains several score of tombstones, of varying shapes and materials, that mark the graves of Belgian-American members of St. Mary's parish.
- C. Non-Contributing Buildings. Twenty-eight individually-owned properties were included in this category. These consisted of 19 recently-built, ranch-style houses that were not in character with the district's traditional residential buildings, 7 mobile homes, 1 tavern that, because of extensive remodeling, did not reflect traditional building patterns of the district, and 1 associated outbuilding .

Man-made characteristics of the district landscape

Man-made landscape features of the Namur Belgian-American District are not particularly distinctive. The narrow roads are generally laid out on a grid following the section lines with the most notable exception being the gently curving state highway 57 which bisects the southeast corner of the district. The roads have broad, gently sloping shoulders and are paralleled at some points by mature tree lines. Fields are flat, wide and generally unbroken by wind rows or fencelines. Fences are generally simple wood posts with barbed wire strands.

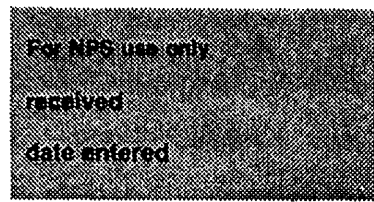
The farmsteads are characterized by mixed clusters of mature conifers and deciduous trees around the houses and outbuildings. The untillable lands, such as along Sugar Creek have reverted to second-generation woodlands.

Regional relief patterns always play an important role in human development. The Belgian farmsteads tend to be positioned and arranged on flat, level sites where available within the rolling landscape of the district. Depressions and topographical configurations were avoided in positioning agrarian buildings. Areas permanently ponded or ephemerally inundated with high groundwater levels were too wet for crops and impossible to cultivate, thus forcing the Belgian immigrant farmers to till higher and drier sites. At Namur, the result was a rich mosaic of vegetation and fluid patterns--one that today still exhibits a far more harmonious blend of cultural and natural interplay than the typical monocultures found throughout most of the Midwest.

A study of pioneer plantings characteristic to the Belgian study area can be found at the end of Section #8.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American Dist. Item number 7

Page 6

BELGIAN DISTRICT INVENTORY
NAMUR BELGIAN-AMERICAN RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY
All mailing addresses are for Brussels, WI, except as noted

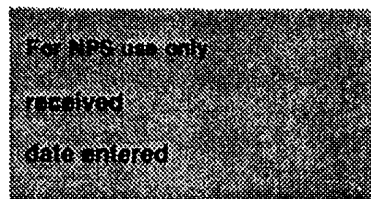
Map#	Address	Current Name	Class
------	---------	--------------	-------

GARDNER TOWNSHIP

1.	34-35A #2057 Hwy. N Lot 2, Sec.35	Harold Euclide Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E	C C C NC C
2.	-- #10447 Woods Rd. SW, SE, 35	Bradford Guilette Farmstead (Barns only) Bldg. A Bldg. B Bldg. C	C C C
3.	-- #10286 Gardner Rd. SW, SW, 36; NW, NW, 1	Lester Hempel, Jr. Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E	NC C C C NC
4.	-- NW, SW, 36	Robert LeCloux New House	NC
5.	SE, NW, 36	Donald Springaire Farmstead (Log Barns only) Bldg. A Bldg. B Bldg. C	C C C
6.	-- #10150 Co. "K" SW, NE, 36	Lyle DeCremer Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E	NC C C NC C

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Namur Belgian-American District

Continuation sheet Door County, WI

Item number 7

Page 7

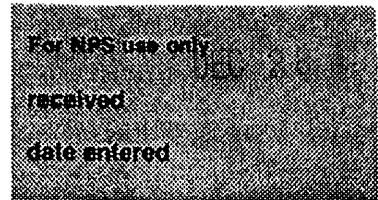
		Bldg. F	C	
7.	--	Co. "K" SW, NE, 36	Henry Springaire, Jr. Mobile Home	NC
8.	--	#10075 Co. "K" NW, SE, 36	Donald Springaire Farmstead	
		Bldg. A--House	C	
		Bldg. B	NC	
		Bldg. C	C	
		Bldg. D	C	
		Bldg. E	NC	
		Bldg. F	C	
9.	--	#10144 Gardner Rd. SW, SE, 36	George Delveaux Farmstead	
		Bldg. A--House	C	
		Bldg. B	C	
		Bldg. C	C	
		Bldg. D	C	

UNION TOWNSHIP

10.	--	#10281 Gardner Rd. NW, NW, 1	Lester Hempel, Jr. Mobile Home	NC
11.	--	#10202 End Rd. SE, NW, 1	David Brunette Farmstead	
		Bldg. A--Mobile Home	NC	
		Bldg. B	C	
12.	--	#1752 Pit Rd. NW, SW, 1	Ervin Jadin New House	NC
13.	--	#10226 Ledge Rd. SW, SW, 1	Dwayne Tebon New House	NC
14.	--	#1695 Tru Rd. NE, SW, 1	Ray Baudhuin New House	NC
15.	39-5	NE, SW, 1	Ray Baudhuin Farmstead	
		Bldg. A	C	
		Bldg. B	NC	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

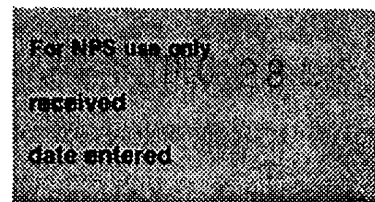


Namur Belgian-American District
Continuation sheet Door County, WI Item number 7 Page 8

16.	39-4	#10146 Tru Rd. SW, SE, 1	Mark Erner Farmstead Bldg. A Bldg. B Bldg. C	C C C
17.	39-3	#10216 Ledge Rd. & 38-36 SE, SW, 1	Roger Bacon Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E (Not shown on map) Bldg. F (Not shown on map)	C NC C C C NC
18.	--	#1621 Tru Rd. SE, SW, 1	Myron LaLuzerne New House	NC
19.	--	Ledge Rd. SE, SW, 1	Louis Jadin (1407 Harvey St. Green Bay) Mobile Home	NC
20.	--	#1754 Tru Rd. SW, NE, 1	Marvin DeGrave Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E Bldg. F	NC NC NC C C C
21.	--	#1694 Tru Rd. NW, SE, 1	Ray Baudhuin Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E	NC NC NC NC NC
22.	--	#1661 SW, SE, 1	Ray Baudhuin New House	NC
23.	--	#1751 Pit Rd. N 1/2, NE, SE, 2	Wm. Faller Mobile Home	NC
24.	39-23	#10440 Ledge Rd.	Louis Wery	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American District Item number 7 Page 9
Door County, WI

SW, SE, 2	Farmstead	
	Bldg. A--House	C
	Bldg. C Bldg. B	C C
	Bldg. D	C
	Bldg. E	C
	Bldg. F	C
	Bldg. G	C
	Bldg. H	C
	Bldg. I	C
	Bldg. J	C

25. 39-24 #1749 Hwy. N NE, SW, 2	Carol Parins Farmstead	
	Bldg. A--House	C
	Bldg. B	C
	Bldg. C	C
	Bldg. D	C
	Bldg. E	C
	Bldg. F	C
	Bldg. G	C

26. 39-26 #1853 Hwy. N NE, NW, 2	Douglas Pierre Farmstead	
	Bldg. A--House	NC
	Bldg. B	C
	Bldg. C	C
	Bldg. D	C
	Bldg. E	C
	Bldg. F	C
	Bldg. G	C
	Bldg. H	NC

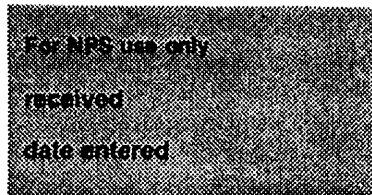
27. 39-27 #1872 Hwy. N NW, NE, 2	Alex Parins, Jr. Farmstead	
	Bldg. A--House	C
	Bldg. B	C
	Bldg. C	C

28. 39-29 #10525 Gardner Rd. SW, NW, 2	Yau Chun Wong Farmstead	
	Bldg. A--House	C
	Bldg. B	C
	Bldg. C	NC
	Bldg. D	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Namur Belgian-American District



Continuation sheet Door County, WI Item number 7 Page 10

- 29. -- #1603 Ledge Rd. James J. Parins
SE, SE, 3 Farmstead
Bldg. A--House NC
Bldg. B C
Bldg. C C
Bldg. D C
Bldg. E C
Bldg. F C

- 30. 39-33 #1579 Ledge Rd. Joseph Lamperer
NE, NE, 10, NW, NW, 11 Farmstead
Bldg. A--House C
Bldg. B C
Bldg. C C
Bldg. D C
Bldg. E C
Bldg. F C

- 31. -- SE, NE, 10 Wayne Gigot
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House C
Bldg. B C
Bldg. C C
Bldg. D C
Bldg. E C
Bldg. F C
Bldg. G C
Bldg. H C
Bldg. I C

- 32. -- #1441 Co. "N"
NW, SE, 10 Thad Chaudoir
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House NC
Bldg. B NC
Bldg. C C
Bldg. D C
Bldg. E C

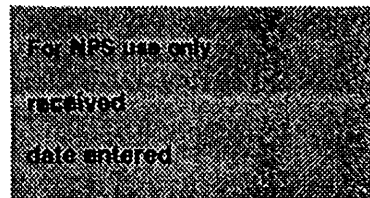
- 33. -- #1350 Co. "N"
SE, SE, 10 Clarence Rass
New Home NC

- 34. -- #1320 Co. "N"
SE, SE, 10 George Jaquet
New House NC

- 35. -- #1593 Pit Rd. Myron Challe

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



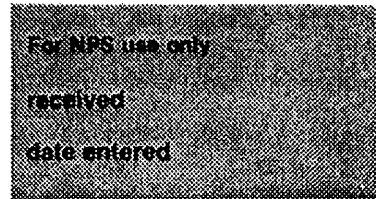
Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American District Door County, WI Item number 7 Page 11

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | N1/2, NE, NE, 11 | Mobile Home | NC |
| 36. -- | #1547 Pit Rd.
S1/2, NE, NE, 11 | Sanford Dekayser
Mobile Home | NC |
| 37. 38-25 | Hwy. 57, Namur
SW, SE, 11 | St. Mary of The Snows
Catholic Church &
Cemetery | C
C |
| 38. 38-26 | Hwy 57
SW, SE, 11 | " "
Parsonage | C |
| 39. 38-27 | Hwy 57, Namur
SE, SE, 11 | Peninsula Belgian-
American Club &
Chapel | C
NC |
| 40. -- | Hwy 57, Namaur

SE, SE, 11 | Doug Massonette
Mobile Home
Bldg. B | NC
NC |
| 41. -- | Hwy 57, Namur
SE, SE, 11 | Wes Boyd
Belgian Inn Tavern | NC |
| 42. -- | Hwy 57, Namur
SW, SE, 11 | John Chaudoir
Tavern & Farmstead
Bldg. A--House & Tavern
Bldg. B
Bldg. C
Bldg. D
Bldg. E
Bldg. F | NC
NC
C
NC
C
C |
| 43. -- | 10548 Bay Shore Rd
SW, SW, 11 | Irene Conard
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C
Bldg. D | C
C
NC
C |
| 44. -- | SE, SW, 11 | David Chaudoir, Sr.
New House | NC |
| 45. -- | 10526 Bay Shore Rd
SW, SW, 11 | Harry Chaudoir
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B | NC
C |

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Namur Belgian-American District
Continuation sheet Door County, WI Item number 7 Page 12

		Bldg. C	C
		Bldg. D	C
		Bldg. E	C
46. --	SE, SW, 11	Harold Euclide Former Fairview School	C
47. 38-15	1376 Pl. Ridge Rd. NW, SW, 11	Kermit Conard Farmstead	
		Bldg. A--House	C
		Bldg. B	C
		Bldg. C	C
		Bldg. D	C
		Bldg. E	C
		Bldg. F	C
		Bldg. G	NC
48. --	#10519 Ledge Rd NE, NW, 11	Gerard Monfils New House	NC
49. --	#10529 Ledge R. NE, NW, 11	Randall Monfils New House	NC
50. --	#10543 Ledge Rd. NW, NW, 11	Michael Lampereur New House	NC
51. 38-33	#1375 Pit. Rd. NE, SE, 11	Eugene Garbowski Farmstead	
		Bldg. A--House	NC
		Bldg. B	C
		Bldg. C	C
		Bldg. D	C
		Bldg. E	C
		Bldg. F	C
52. 38-34	#10261 Ledge Rd. NW, NW, 12	Joseph Virlee Farmstead	
		Bldg. A--House	C
		Bldg. B	C
		Bldg. C	C
		Bldg. D	C
		Bldg. E	NC
		Bldg. F	C
53. 38-11	#1542 Pit Rd.	Mamie Virlee	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

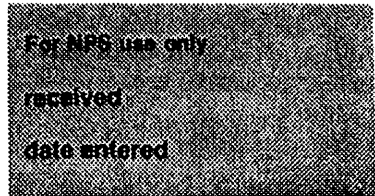
Namur' Belgian-American District

Continuation sheet

Door County, WI

Item number 7

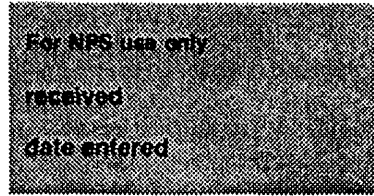
Page 13



	SW Corner, NW, NW, 12	Bldg. A--House Bldg. B	C C
54.	38-12 #1492 Pit Rd. SW, NW, 12	John Rass, Jr. Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E Bldg. F Bldg. G Bldg. H Bldg. I	 C NC C C C C C C C C
55.	38-20 #1020 Hwy 57 SW, SE, 12	Ralph Baudhuin Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E Bldg. F	 C NC C C C C
56.	38-21 #10153 Hwy 57 SE, SW, 12	David Jeanquart Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E Bldg. F Bldg. G	 C C C C C C C
57.	38-23 #10240 Hwy 57 SW, SW, 12	James Baudhuin Farmstead Bldg. A--House Bldg. B Bldg. C Bldg. D Bldg. E Bldg. F Bldg. G Bldg. H	 C NC C NC C C C C

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

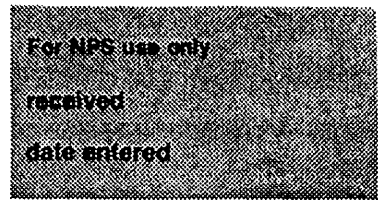


Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American District Door County, WI Item number 7 Page 14

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 58. -- | #1457 Tru Rd.
SE, NW, 12 | Ray Delcorps
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C | NC
C
C |
| 59. -- | #10109 Ledge Rd.
NW, NE, 12 | Fred Jadin
New House | NC |
| 60. -- | #10099 Ledge Rd.
NW, NE, 12 | Harry Brunnette
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C
Bldg. D
Bldg. E
Bldg. F
Bldg. G
Bldg. H | NC
C
C
C
C
C
C
C |
| 61. -- | NW, NW, 13 | Eugene Collins
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C | C
NC
C |
| 62. -- | Hwy. 57
NW, NE, 13 | Alvin Martin
Farmstead
Bldg. A
Bldg. B
Bldg. C | C
C
C |
| 63. -- | #10207 Hwy. 57
NE, NW, 13 | Gable Dekayser
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C
Bldg. D
Bldg. E
Bldg. F | C
C
C
C
C
NC |
| 64. 38-32 | 1289 Hwy 57
NE, NW, 14 | Norbert LeGrave
Brick House
Bldg. B | C
NC |

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American District Door County, WI Item number 7 Page 15

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 65. -- | NE, NW, 14 | Harold Euclide
Old General Store | C |
| 66. 38-30 | #10383 Hwy. 57
NW, NE, 14 | Mrs. Adam Dier
Brick House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C | C
C
C |
| 67. -- | NW, NE, 14 | Allen Moore, Jr.
New House | NC |
| 68. -- | #10375 Hwy. 57
N1/2, NE, 14 | Edward Price
New House | NC |
| 69. 38-16 | #10369 Hwy. 57
NE, NE, 14 | Desire Gerondale
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C
Bldg. D
Bldg. E | C
C
C
C
NC |
| 70. -- | SE, NE, 14 | St. Mary of The Snows
Cemetery | C |
| 71. -- | Bay Shore Rd.
NW, NW, 14 | Jos. Boulanger
(1620 Westfield Ave. Green Bay)
New House | NC |
| 72. -- | Bay Shore Rd.
NW, NW, 14 | Meadow Brook Farms, Inc.
Farmstead
Bldg. A--House
Bldg. B
Bldg. C
Bldg. D
Bldg. E
Bldg. F
Bldg. G | NC
C
C
C
NC
NC
C |
| 73. -- | #1259 Hwy. 57
NE, NW, 14 | Ricky LaCrosse
(Rt. 2, Luxemburg, WI)
New House | NC |
| 74. -- | #10659
NE, NE, 15 | Ron Engelbert
Farmstead | |

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

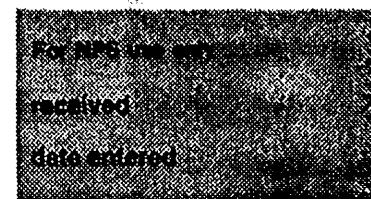
Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American District
 Door County, WI Item number 7

Page 16

		Bldg. A--House	NC
		Bldg. B	C
		Bldg. C	NC
75. --	#10667 NW,NE,15	Peter Jauquet, Jr. New House	NC
76. --	#10665 NW,NE,15	Wayne Jauquet New House	NC
77. --	Bay Shore Rd. NW,NE,15	Peter Jauquet Farmstead	
		Bldg. A--House	C
		Bldg. B	C
		Bldg. C	C
		Bldg. D	C

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Namur Belgian-American District

Continuation sheet

Door County, WI

Item number

8

Page 1

significantly associated with Belgian-American culture in the Namur rural district. The architecture embodies numerous distinctive features of Walloon Belgian material culture, as well as Belgian-American vernacular building using American construction materials and the cultural selection and adaptation of American forms. The Namur Belgian-American is a significant architectural manifestation of a culture that formed an important part of the history of Wisconsin and the Midwest in general.

Potential for research remains in a variety of unanswered architectural questions as well as more specific identification of cultural and historical associations.

II. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In 1853, the initial contingent of Belgian immigrants came to Wisconsin. This group of eight French-speaking Walloon families from Brabant Province settled in what was then virtually a wilderness in nearby Brown County. Subsequently, thousands of Belgian immigrants, primarily from Brabant and Namur Provinces, came to the area and the Walloon colony spread into neighboring Kewaunee and Door Counties.

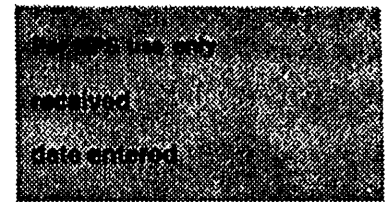
With timber abundant in the area, secondary historical sources provide numerous references to the ubiquitous log cabin as the first impermanent shelter built by many Belgian immigrants.⁶ Eventually, the settlers became established and small communities sprang up providing centers for social and economic activities. Most, like Namur in its early days, had at least a church, school, post office and general store. Frequently, their names (Namur, Rosiere, Aux Premiers Belges, Walhain, Thiry Daems, Aaux Flamands or Tonet, Duval and Brussels) reflected their resident's ethnic origin.

Most of the Belgian immigrants had known agriculture as a way of life in their homeland, and they brought their proven agrarian skills to this new environment. As was common elsewhere in Wisconsin, wheat became their first major cash crop and its dominance as an agricultural product continued until the latter part of the 19th century. A more diversified system of farming then evolved to include raising hay, oats, barley, corn and potatoes. Along with fruit production, dairying later became important to the region. As one early agricultural publication noted "perhaps the most thriving dairying community (in Door County) is the so-called Belgian settlement in the vicinity of Brussels," where the district is located.⁷ Today, agriculture and agri-business activities remain the primary livelihood for the district's Belgian-American descendants.

Late in 1871, the great Peshtigo fire swept through much of the settlement. This conflagration destroyed many wood buildings and devastated much of the local supply of timber. Where feasible, those who lost their homes rebuilt. In time, many residents with dwellings that survived the fire outgrew their small initial shelters, and erected more commodious vernacular houses. While sometimes incorporating log or frame construction, many of the new dwellings were built of red brick produced at area brickyards and some local farms. These structures, like the stone houses also built by Belgian settlers in the region, reflected a preference for the masonry building tradition of their European homeland.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Namur Belgian-American District
Door County, WI

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Since brick and stone were the common building materials in their native Belgium, log construction was a new building phenomenon for most Belgian settlers. Thus, their log structures typically lacked the skilled refinements and tight joinery found among the Wisconsin ethnic groups that came from a wood building tradition in northern and parts of eastern Europe. In time, as some degree of prosperity was achieved, most of the surviving log dwellings were covered with a sheathing of clapboards or, in some cases, a veneer of brick.

The Wisconsin cultural resource management plan has identified Belgian immigration as a significant element in the historic patterns of settlement in the state and particularly the northeastern region encompassing portions of Door, Brown and Kewaunee Counties. It identified churches, farmsteads, schools, chapels and outdoor bakeovens as important physical elements associated with Belgian settlement. It also determined that the area in which the Namur district is located was to be a specific priority for nomination.

III. ARCHITECTURE

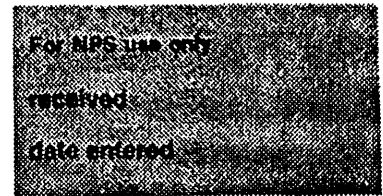
The Namur Belgian-American Rural Historic District portrays an architectural character which has distinct and significant associations with the predominant Walloon-Belgian culture of the area. Composed of rural building types and methods of construction that are explicit in their Old World associations, along with culturally-derived selections from "American" influences, the district elicits an Old World rural character in a New World setting.

With both indigenous limestone and brick-making clays available in abundance, Belgian settlers readily turned to the traditional masonry construction of their homeland. Irregular blocks of stone, quarried from stratified limestone surface deposits, were typically laid up in a generous bed of lime mortar to create handsome, enduring houses. Generally square, or nearly-square in plan configuration, their moderately-pitched gable roofs were framed with unhewn cedar rafters nailed to square-hewn timber plates. Floor plans and room arrangements varied and can be classified into three types: the square house plan, the gable wall entrance rectangular house plan, and the axial wall entrance rectangular house plan. The gray to a light-tan colored, thick rubble walls frequently incorporated irregular stone quoins at the corners. While little ornamentation was used, there is evidence that some houses had exterior walls that were given a thin surface coating of calcimine that has nearly disappeared over time.

Red brick remains the most distinctive and characteristic building material of Wisconsin's Belgian-Americans and is found throughout the district. Most of the large brick manufacturers in or near the area began operating in the 1880's,⁸ although some limited production of brick occurred earlier on local farms. This date coincides with the start of the region's brick house construction period. The simple, well-proportioned, traditional brick houses of the area generally conform to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Namur Belgian-American District

Continuation sheet

Door County, WI

Item number

8

Page 3

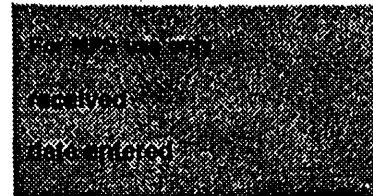
a rectangular, 1 1/2 story, gable-roof form. Their 8" thick walls are fashioned of stretchers with many dwellings having headers about every sixth course. Eighteen houses in the nine-township survey area incorporated an underlying structure of logs covered with a single layer of stretcher course bricks--an unusual form of construction that is rarely found elsewhere in America.⁹ While floor plans vary, many conform to a "four-and-two" floor plan consisting of four small rooms along one axial wall and two large rooms along the other, with one of the latter used as the living room and the other as a kitchen/dining area. Many incorporate a "bulls eye" window just under the roof peak on the gable facing the road. Some houses were also adorned with cream-colored decorative bricks at the corners and/or around door and window openings. Wood front porches were a common feature, but many have been removed over time. The preference for building with brick has continued to the present day with the more recently-built brick dwellings incorporating gambrel roofs, and bungalow or even "ranch house" stylistic features.

Throughout the district, the massive limestone houses and well-proportioned red brick dwellings form the nucleus of farmsteads that include a variety of other structures. The most common of these agrarian buildings are the large wooden barns. These consist of three types: the double-crib log threshing barns; the smaller, single-crib log cattle barns; and the timber-framed dairy barns. The first of these were built during the 19th century for a grain-related economy and consist of two equal-size cribs of cedar logs separated by a central drive-through passage. Rectangular in size, and built close to the ground, they typically have gable roofs and measure approximately 28' x 60' in size. The second barn type, smaller in size, was built as a shelter for large livestock and consists of a single crib of chinked cedar logs. Later, many of the early grain barns were converted into cattle barns, but as barn building technology changed, larger frame barns were constructed and these constitute the third barn type in the area. Built on low stone foundations, they are larger and framed with heavy squared timbers covered with a sheathing of vertical boards. Early versions of this barn type incorporated a gable roof, but at the end of the first decade of the 20th century, the new and more spacious gambrel roof became popular. Throughout the area, it was common for new buildings to be built attached to existing structures creating ells, or long, somewhat rambling, rectangular units.

A variety of additional, smaller outbuildings can also be found on farmsteads in the district. The most distinctive of these include summer kitchens with attached outdoor bake ovens, and wayside or votive chapels. Both reflect their counterparts in Belgium. The former are virtually identical in form and consist of two attached gable-roofed stone structures of unequal size, the smaller unit being the actual bake oven. The diminutive rectangular chapels, typically of frame construction, were sited close to the roads and used as places of prayer. Other farmstead structures include granaries, woodsheds, small cattle and poultry sheds, garages, privies, corn cribs and silos. Almost all of these, except for the concrete silos, are built of wood. Frame construction was typically used after the turn of the century, but many early granaries, woodsheds and small cattle barns built of logs can still be found on most of the farmsteads in the district.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Namur Belgian-American District Item number 8 Page 4
Door County, WI

IV. ETHNIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Namur Belgian-American Rural Historic District is significant in the area of ethnicity under Criterion A at a state level of significance.

The importance of immigration in the settlement of the United States is widely accepted phenomenon and has long been recognized in the work of historians, geographers and others. A massive influx of European immigrants was especially important in populating the growing state of Wisconsin. As noted in the state's cultural resource management plan, "Wisconsin actively encouraged new settlement, both foreign and native-born"¹⁰ and as a result "between 1850 and 1890, Wisconsin's foreign-born population increased five-fold."¹¹ Wisconsin historian Richard Nelson Current, noted this large proportion of immigrants when he wrote: "The 1860 census showed that Wisconsin, in proportion to its population, contained more immigrants than any other state except California";¹² and that all the states, "Wisconsin in 1870, with about the same proportion of immigrants (over 34 per cent) as ten years earlier, still contained proportionally the largest number of the foreign-born except for California, Nevada and Minnesota".¹³ Thus, he noted, "for many years Wisconsin was something of a living ethnological museum...the natural result of immigration from a variety of countries, settlement largely in homogeneous groups, and attachment to inherited ways of doing things".¹⁴ While not one of the state's largest ethnic groups Wisconsin's Belgians, nonetheless "...formed the largest rural settlement of their nationality in the United States".¹⁵

The Belgian-American settlement of northeastern Wisconsin, epitomized by the Namur Belgian-American Rural Historic District, has been clearly viewed as an ethnically separate entity both by the residents themselves and by Wisconsinites from the surrounding area. Here, "New Belgium took on the foreign look of Old Belgium".¹⁶ Few, if any, other ethnic enclaves in the state have survived with both the size and homogeneity of the Belgians. While Belgians settled in other parts of America, this region retains, to date, the nation's largest known concentration of rural buildings relating to this ethnic group, and has perhaps the purest retention of other distinctive cultural features from the Walloon region of that country.

V. PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

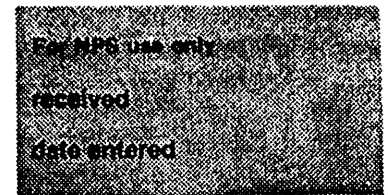
The period of significance for this nomination is 1880-1930. This time period covers the era during which buildings were built that reflect the history, character and purpose of the district. During this period, Belgian immigrants employed traditional and adapted architectural and construction forms which were distinctive and defined.

VI. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION

Starting from the northeast corner of the district located in Gardner Township at a point 1320' north of County Highway K and 1320' west of Brussels Road, the eastern boundary runs due south into Union Township to a point 1320' south of Highway 57.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Namur Belgian-American District

Continuation sheet

Door County, WI

Item number

8

Page 5

From this point, the southern boundary runs due west to St. Mary's of the Snow's parish cemetery meanders around the south side of the cemetery to include it in the district, and then continues running due west to the district's southwest corner located at the edge of Belgian Drive at a point 1320' south of Bay Shore Road. The western boundary then runs north to County Highway N, then east 1320' to the intersection with Ledge Road, then north 2640', then east 1320' to Ledge Road, then north to the waters of Green Bay, then northeast along the water's edge to the northeast edge of the Harold Euclide property. The north boundary then runs southeast to County Highway N, then northeast along N to a point 1320' due north of County Highway K, then due east to the point of beginning.

Approximate boundaries for the district were selected after a careful analysis of the integrity and location of nearly 500 sites documented during the nine-township Belgian-American settlement area reconnaissance survey. Specific boundary locations were then established after intensive on-site inspections of the area to determine the most suitable district edges. The northern boundary was located at the most northerly extension of the best concentration of contributing architectural features. Immediately beyond this northern edge there is considerable open farm land, and the number of contributing buildings diminishes substantially. Much of the eastern boundary runs along high ground that provides a natural visual buffer for defining this side of the district. There is considerable non-contributing, new development to the east of this boundary. The south edge was selected to, in general, parallel Highway 57, and also to define the limits of the best concentration of contributing buildings in this vicinity. The western boundary was established to include the westernmost extension of the area's rural character and architectural integrity. It also adjoins several woodlots that act as a natural buffer for the district. Extending this edge further west would have included a zone of recently-built, non-contributing seasonal home development on property near or adjacent to the Green Bay shoreline. While the northernmost portion of the western boundary does include a short length of Green Bay shoreline in Gardner Township, the land here is wooded and relatively undeveloped.

VII. ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Because the district has not been systematically surveyed for archeological resources, its archeological potential is essentially undefined. However, selected areas to the west, adjacent to the waters of Green Bay, have been examined by the Great Lakes Archeological Research Center. This survey included a few acres extending into the district in the NW of the SE of Section 10.¹⁷

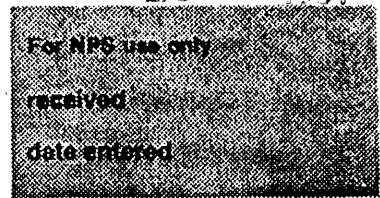
The State Archeologist's inventory lists two sites within the district. The first, a habitation-worksite, is located in Section 1 of Union Township. The second, refers to Indian burials unearthed in 1901 in Section 11 of Union Township.¹⁸

VIII. PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

To date, the most important preservation activity in the area has been the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Namur Belgian American District

Door County, WI

Item number

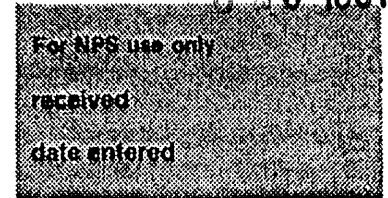
8

Page 6

nine-township reconnaissance survey. This nomination is based on the results of that survey. No other comprehensive historic preservation activity has been initiated in the district and surrounding rural area, however, some independent preservation efforts are noteworthy. The Peninsula Belgian-American Club has preserved two buildings in the district, including the stabilization of their headquarters building and a wayside chapel on their property at Namur. The former was an early frame dwelling that is now used as a social center, meeting hall and small museum. The chapel, built in 1915, was moved to its present location from another site and has been meticulously maintained for public visitation. One other local preservation effort, where the owner of the Ralph Baudhuin farmhouse (site 55) has kept the dwelling in its pre-1900 condition, should be mentioned. Several years ago Heritage Hill State Park staff examined Belgian-American buildings in the area and developed a Belgian-American farmstead at their outdoor museum in Green Bay. Included in this complex is a large log barn that was originally built at location number 15 in the district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Namur Belgian-American District
Continuation sheet Door County, WI Item number 8

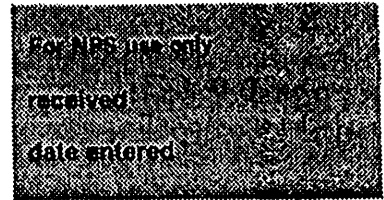
Page 7

NAMUR BELGIAN-AMERICAN RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
FOOTNOTES

1. Françoise Lempereur, Les Walloons d'Amérique du Nord, (Belgique, Gembloux: Editions J. Duculot, 1976), p. 12.
2. John Kahlert and Albert Quinlin, Early Door County Buildings and The People Who Built Them, 1849-1910, (Baileys Harbor: Meadow Lane Publishers, 1976), p. 58.
3. Ibid, p. 53.
4. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 1, (Madison: State Historical Society), pp. 4, 8.
5. Ibid.
6. See, for example, Françoise Lempereur, "The Walloon Settlement of North-East Wisconsin," Belgians in the United States, (Brussels: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1976), p. 75.
7. A.R. Whitson, W. J. Geib and H. V. Geib, Soil Survey of Door County, Wisconsin, (Madison: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 1919), p. 59.
8. See Ernest Robertson Buckley, The Clays and Clay Industries of Wisconsin, (Madison: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 1989) for a discussion of brickyards in the region.
9. Charles F. Calkins and William G. Laatsch, "Belgians," America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups That Built America, Edited by Del Upton, (Washington: The Preservation Press, 1986), p. 9, 100.
10. Cultural Resource Management, p. 1-2.
11. Ibid.
12. Richard Nelson Current, Wisconsin: A Bicentennial History (New York: W.W. Norton Company, Inc., 1977), p. 36.
13. Richard N. Current, The History of Wisconsin: Volume II, The Civil War Era, 1848-1873, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1976), pp. 415-416.
14. Current, Bicentennial History, p. 56.
15. Ibid, p. 37.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Namur Belgian-American District

Continuation sheet

Door County, WI

Item number 8

Page 8

16. Fred L. Holmes, Old World Wisconsin, (Eau Claire: E.M. Hale and Company, 1944), p. 163.
17. David F. Overstreet, Archeological Survey of the Green Bay Coastal Corridor, (Waukesha: Great Lakes Archeological Research Center, Inc., 1980).
18. See survey card code numbers DR-40 and 47-DR-140, on file with the State Archeologist at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D

The Namur Belgian-American District contains within its boundaries two cemeteries which are identified as contributing elements. These cemeteries are both exceptions to Criteria Consideration D. The cemeteries are strongly associated with the broad historical events which have given a distinctive ethnic significance to the district. As noted in the nomination, the religious sentiments of the Belgian-Americans formed the traditional nucleus of their settlements and the accompanying cemeteries are an identifiable and significant element which helps to evoke these strong historical and cultural ties. The cemeteries are a visual historical record of the lives of Belgian-Americans who participated in the historical development of the district and as such are intimately tied to its history.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A

Religious properties in the Namur Belgian-American District are an exception to Criteria Consideration A. As noted previously, the religious beliefs of the Belgian-American community in the district were one of the traditional cultural values which formed the core of the community. As such the religious elements of the district derive their primary significance from their connection to the broad historical development and importance of the district as a distinctive settlement of Belgian-Americans. It is therefore an exception to Criteria Consideration A.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 Namur Belgian-American District Door Co., Wi

5. Landscaping and Site Characteristics.

Pioneer Plantings Characteristic to the Belgian Farmstead:

<u>Trees</u>	<u>Occurance in Study Area</u>
apple (mixed varieties)	common
cherry (mixed varieties)	moderate
pear (mixed varieties)	moderate
Norway spruce (Sears Roebuck promotions)	moderate
sugar maple	common
white pine	moderate
white cedar likely forest	common
basswood transplants	moderate
white ash	moderate
box elder (left if farmyards for shade)	common
American elm (last of the area's great-vase specimens)	moderate
silver maple (fence row "volunteers")	common

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Namur Belgian-American District, Door CO., WI

Shrubs

lilac (assorted colors)	common
honeysuckle	moderate
mock orange (fragrance)	moderate
American gooseberry (current)	common
blackberry	common
raspberry (red and black)	common
grape (cultivars)	moderate
bridleweath spirea	moderate
snowball viburnum	moderate
hydrangea	moderate

Herbaceous Plants

Occurrence

lily (assorted varieties)	common
rose (red-pink typical)	common
peony (assorted colors)	common
poppy (white-pink-orange)	moderate
dill	moderate
chervil	rare
rhubarb	common
strawberry (domestic)	common
pumpkin-squash	common
watermelon	moderate
cabbage (for tripe)	common

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Namur Belgian-American District Door Co., WI

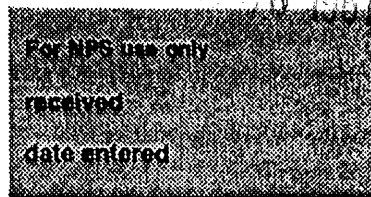
onion-leek-chives (<i>Allium</i> spp.)	common
orange hawkweed (naturalized exotic)	common
blue chicory (naturalized exotic)	common
buckwheat (for honeybees)	moderate
iris	common
lily of the valley	common
columbine (white-pink-yellow-red-blue)	moderate
lupine (large hybrids)	moderate
fern (assorted; interrupted form typical)	moderate
violet	common
golden yarrow	rare
asparagus (wild and tame)	common
Phlox spp.	common
zinnia	moderate
dahlia	moderate
delphinium (blue)	moderate

and other common farm vegetables . . .

This listing is based solely on field observations and is meant to be an average composition of deliberately planted species frequently found on the Belgian-American farm. Yard shrine gardens were also fairly common and one old-fashioned "bluebird garden" was documented as well. Most pioneer Belgian farms also had family "kitchen gardens."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Namur Belgian-American District
Continuation sheet Door CO. WI Item number 9 Page 1

NAMUR BELGIAN-AMERICAN RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Calkins, Charles F. and Laatsch, William G. "Belgians." In America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups That Built America. Edited by Del Upton, Washington: The Preservation Press, 1986.

Current, Richard N., The History of Wisconsin: Volume II, The Civil War Era, 1848-1873. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1976.

Current, Richard Nelson, Wisconsin: A Bicentennial History. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1977.

Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. I, II. Edited by Barbara Wyatt, Madison: State Historical Society, 1986.

Holand, Hjalmar R., Wisconsin's Belgian Community. Sturgeon Bay: Door County Historical Society, 1933.

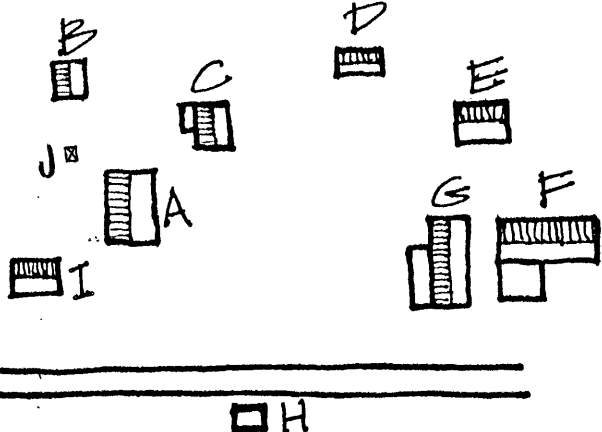
Holmes, Fred L., Old World Wisconsin, Eau Claire: E.M. Hale and Company, 1944.

Kahlert, John and Quinland, Albert, Early Door County Buildings and The People Who Built Them, 1849-1910. Baileys Harbor: Meadow Lane Publishers, 1976.

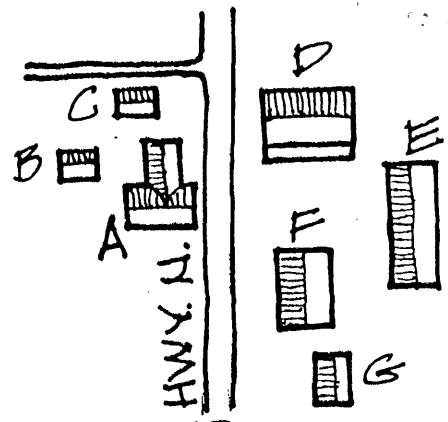
Lempereur, Françoise, Les Walloons d'Amérique du Nord. Belgique, Gembloux: Editions J. Duculot, 1976.

Martin, Xavier, "The Belgians of Northeast Wisconsin." Wisconsin Historical Collections, XIII (1895).

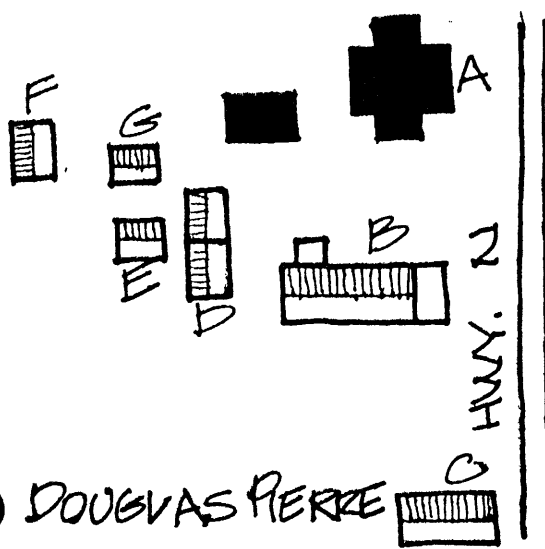
Tishler, William H. and Brynildson, Erik, The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin. Manuscript on file, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.



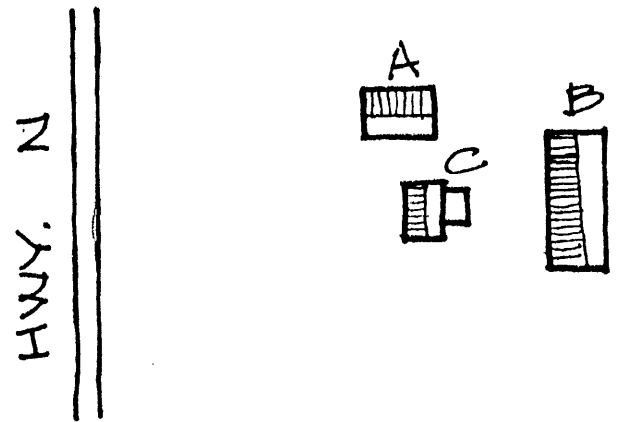
24 LOUIS WERY



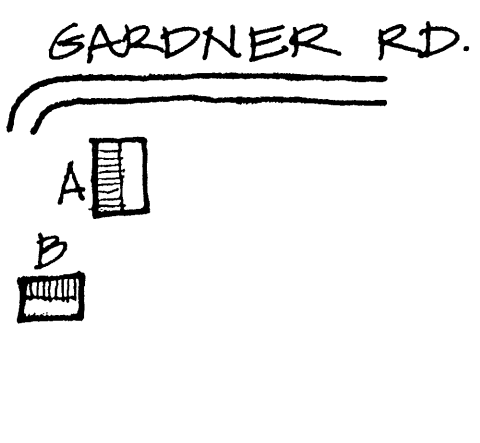
25 CAROL FARINS



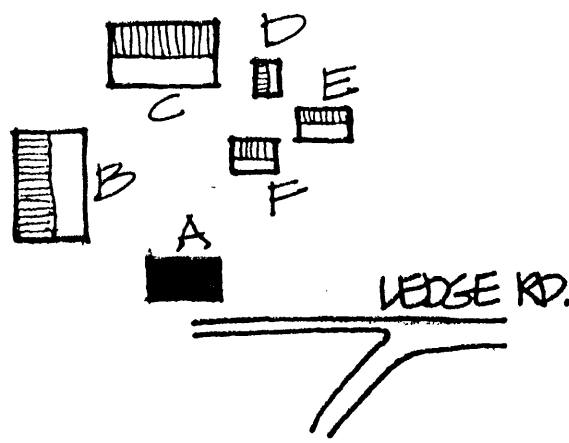
26 DOUGLAS PERRE



27 ALEX FARINS, JR.



28 YAO CHUN WONG





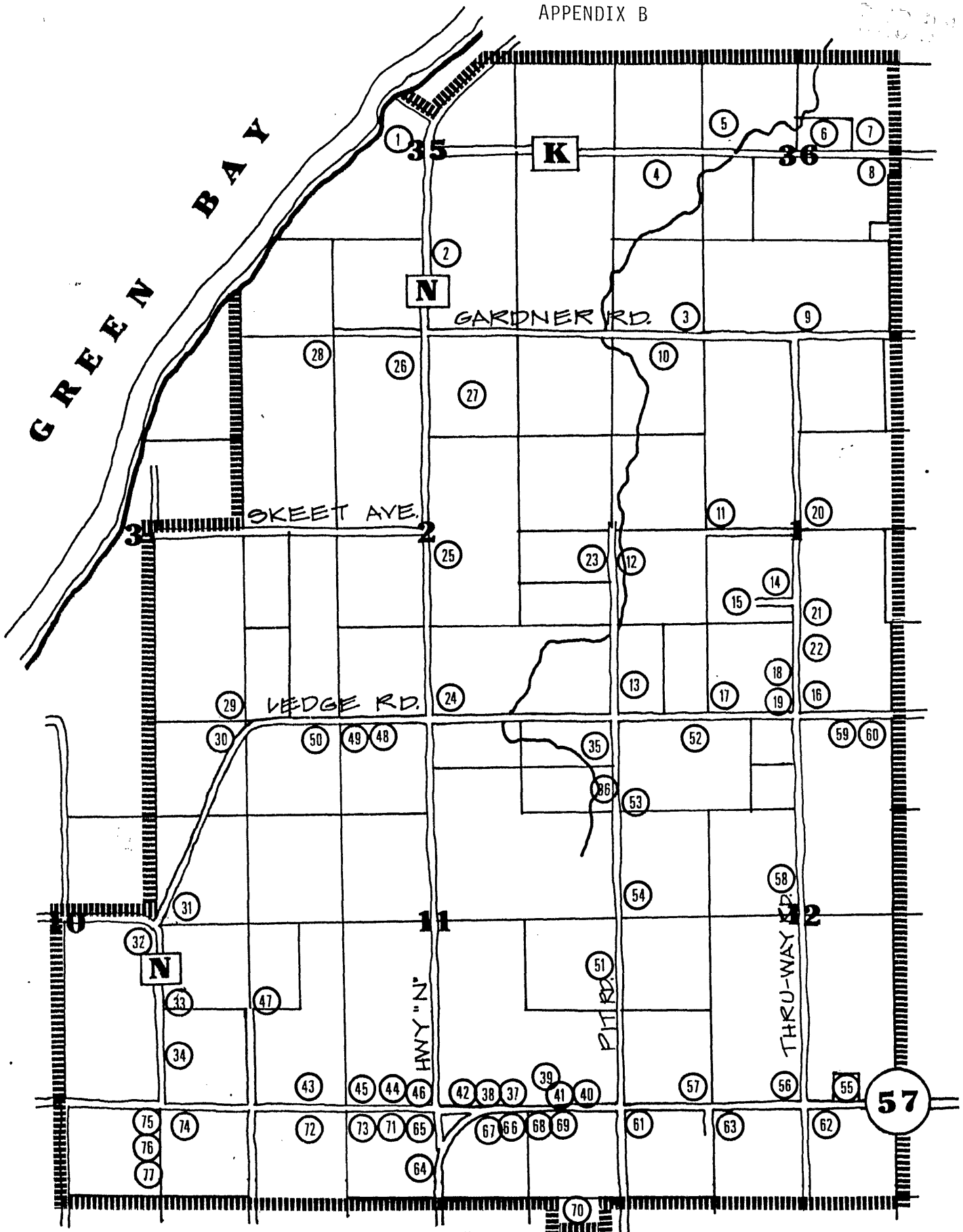
29 JAMES FARINS, JR.

NAMUR

RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

 = CONTRIBUTING;
  = NON-CONTRIBUTING

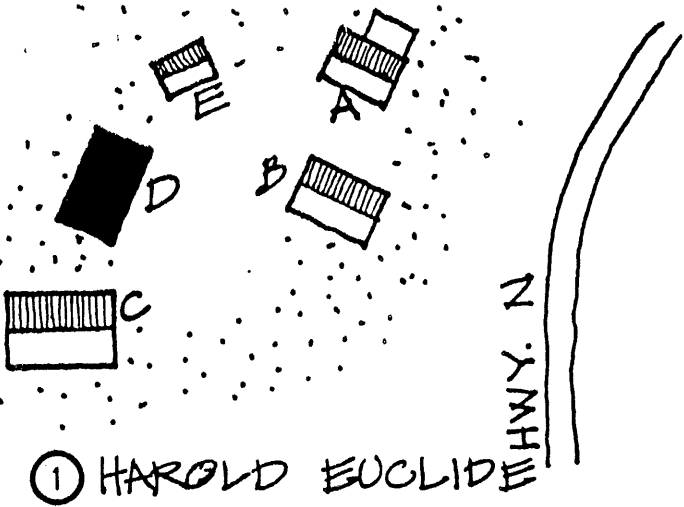


NAMUR

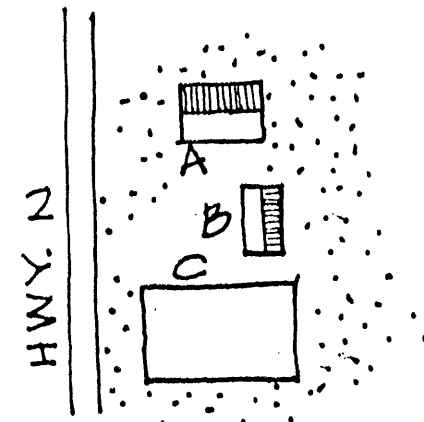
RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

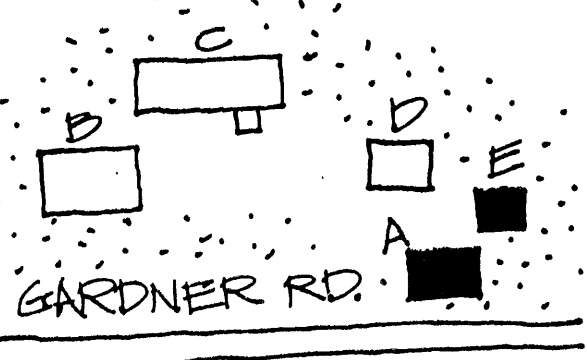




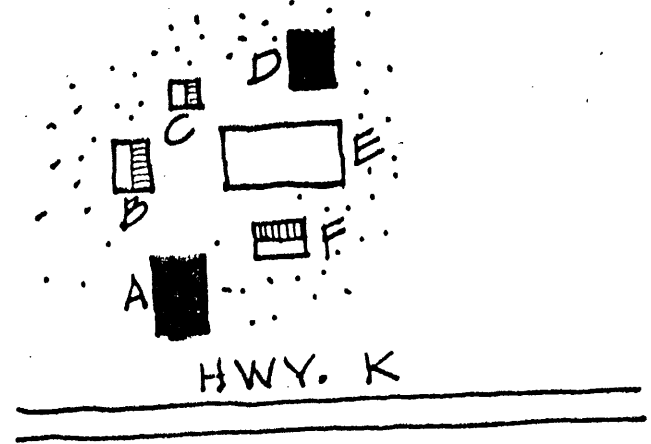
① HAROLD EUCLIDE



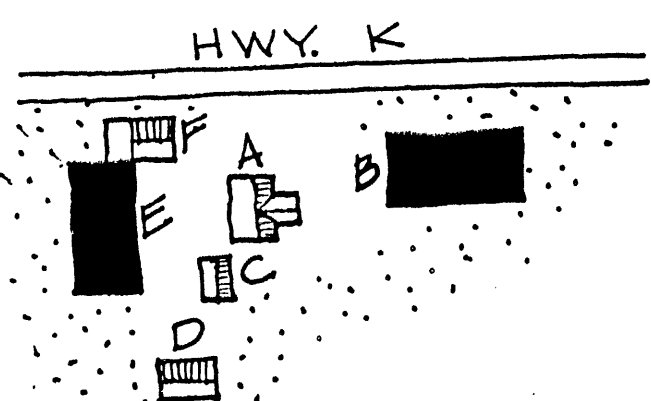
② BRADFORD GUIVETTE



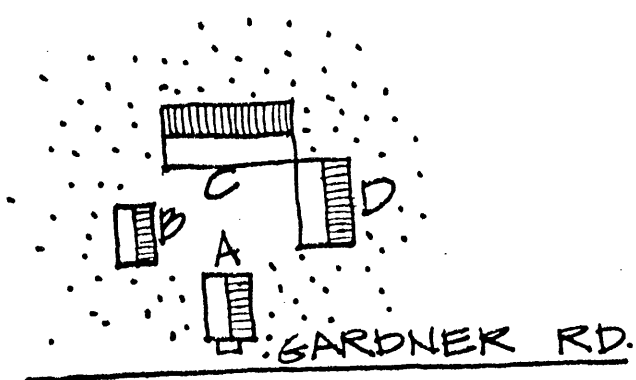
③ LESTER HEMPEL, JR.



④ LYLE DE CREMER



⑤ DONALD SPINGAIRE



⑥ GEORGE DELVEAUX

NAMUR

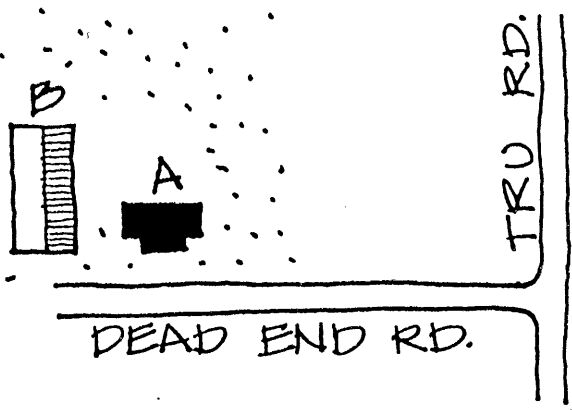
RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

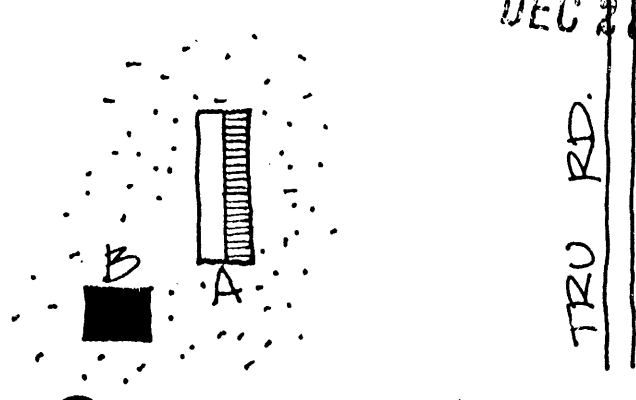
= CONTRIBUTING; = NON-CONTRIBUTING

APPENDIX C

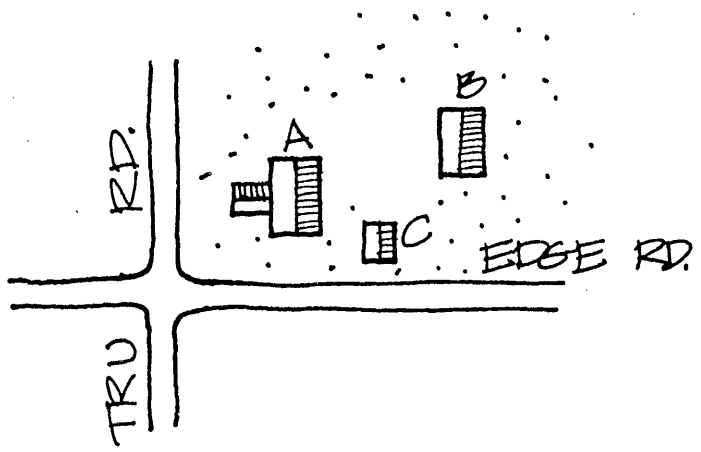




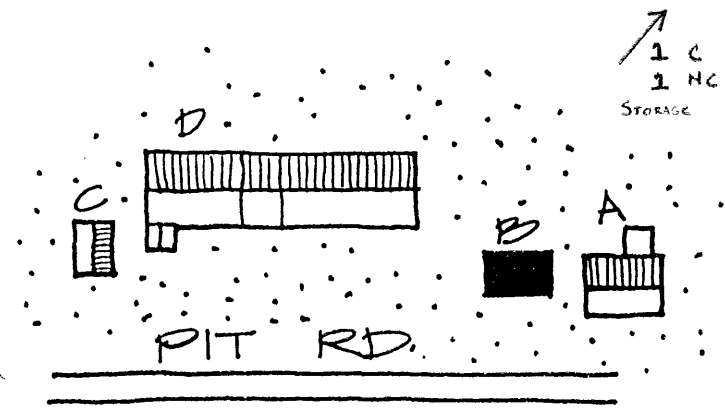
11 DAYID BRUNETTE



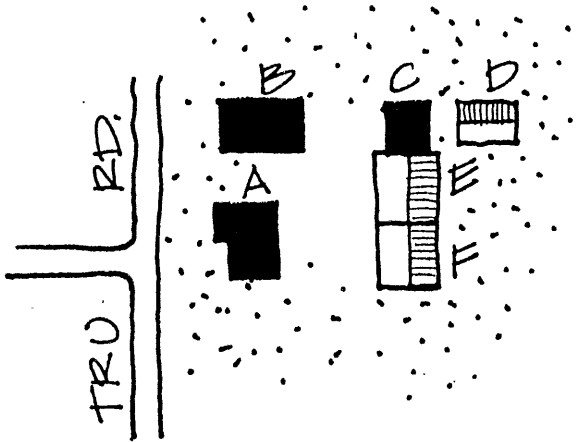
15 RAY BAUDHUIN



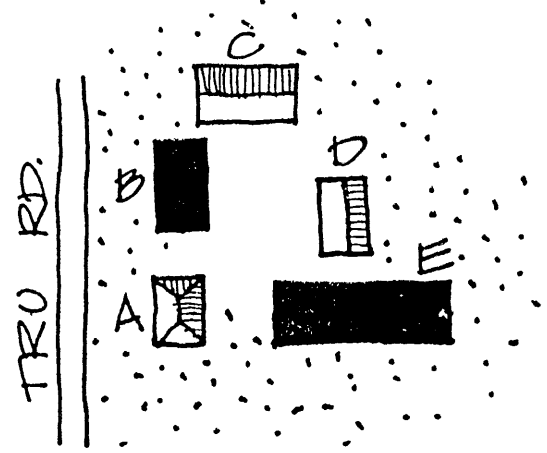
16 MARK ERNER



17 ROGER BACON



20 MARVIN DE GRAVE



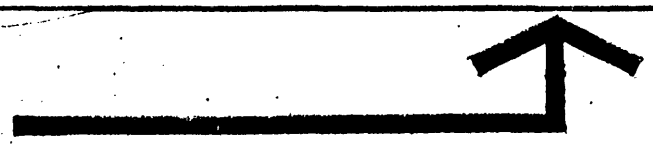
21 RAY BAUDHUIN

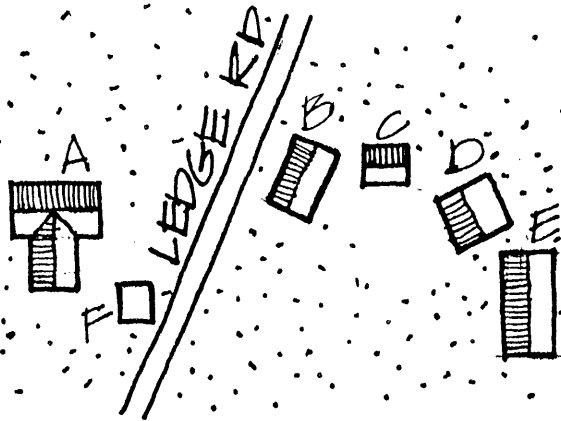
NAMUR

RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

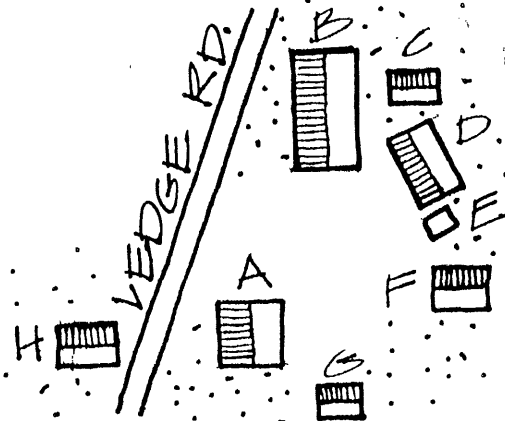
Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

▤ = CONTRIBUTING; ■ = NON-CONTRIBUTING



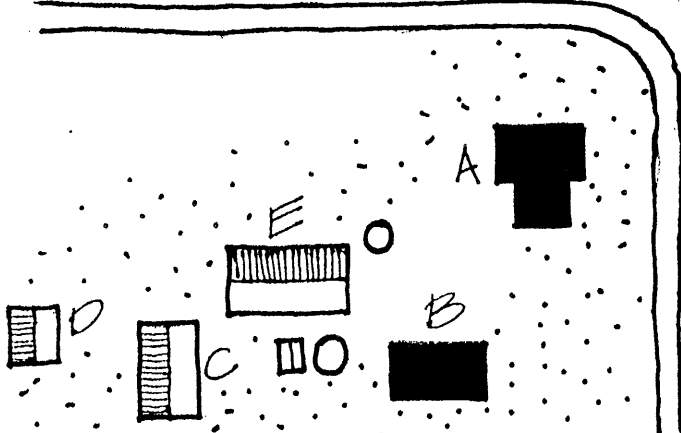


30 JOSEPH LAMPERER

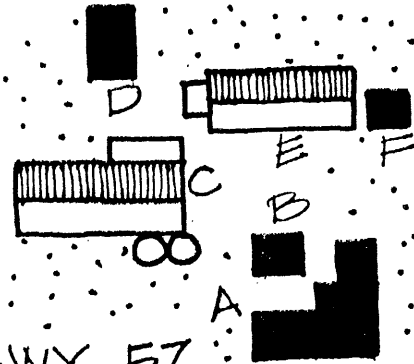


31 WAYNE GIGOT

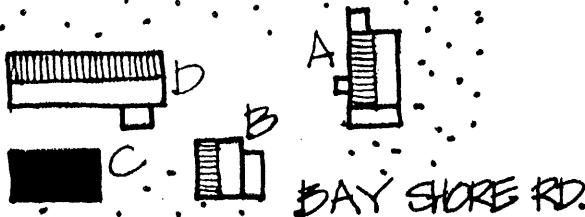
HWY. "N"



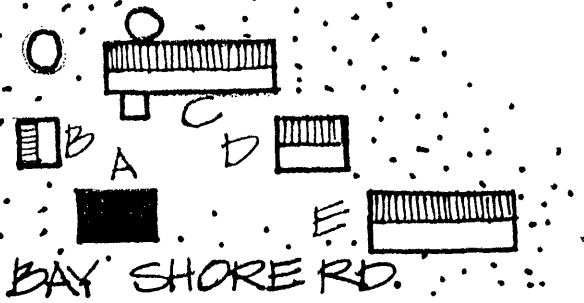
32 THAD CHAUDOIR



42 JOHN CHAUDOIR



43 IRENE CONARD



45 HARRY CHAUDOIR

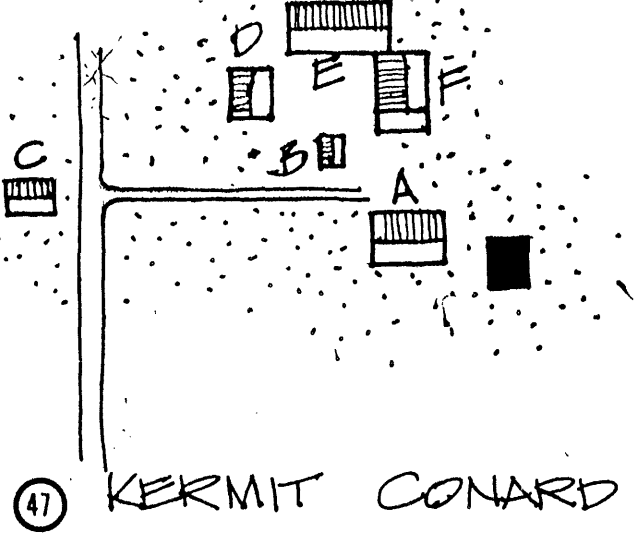
NAMUR

RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

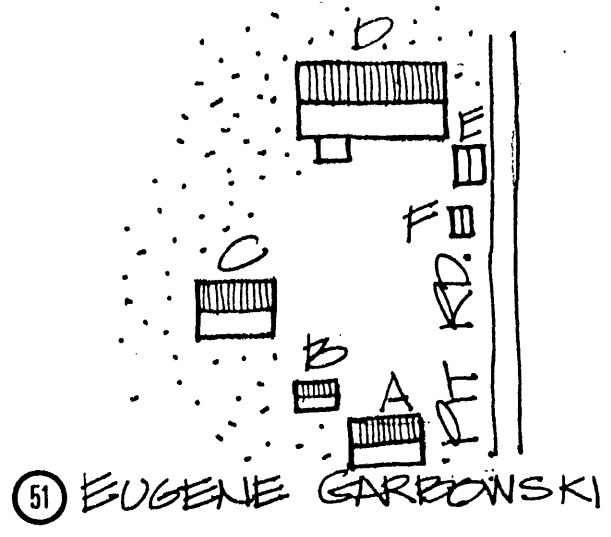
Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

= CONTRIBUTING; = NON-CONTRIBUTING

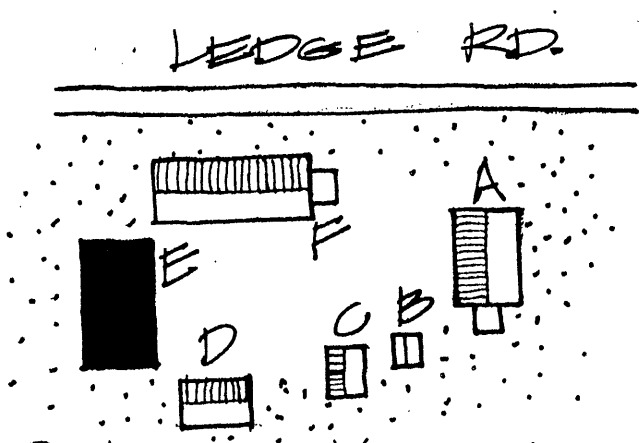




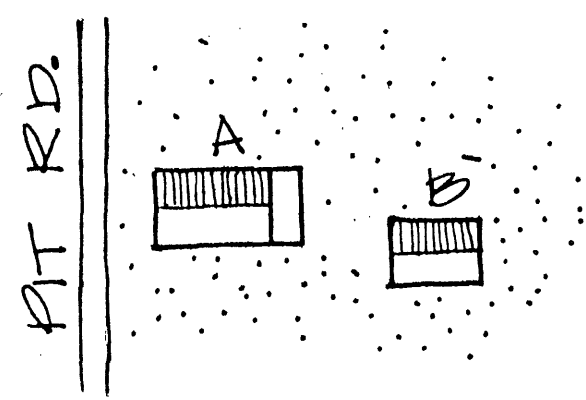
47 KERMIT CONARD



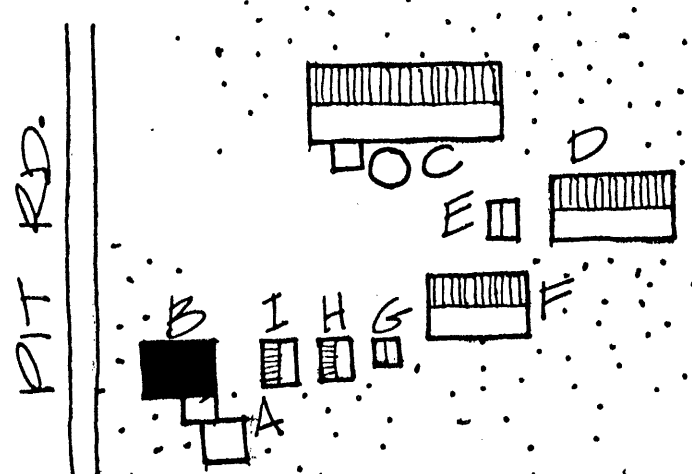
51 EUGENE GARBOWSKI



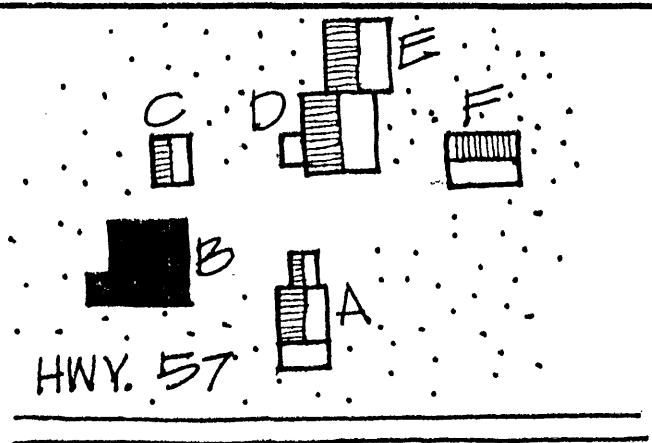
52 JOSEPH VIRLEE




53 MAMIE VIRLEE

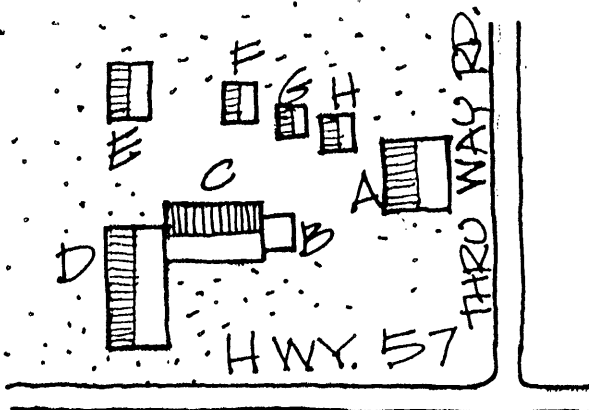


54 JOHN RASS, JR.

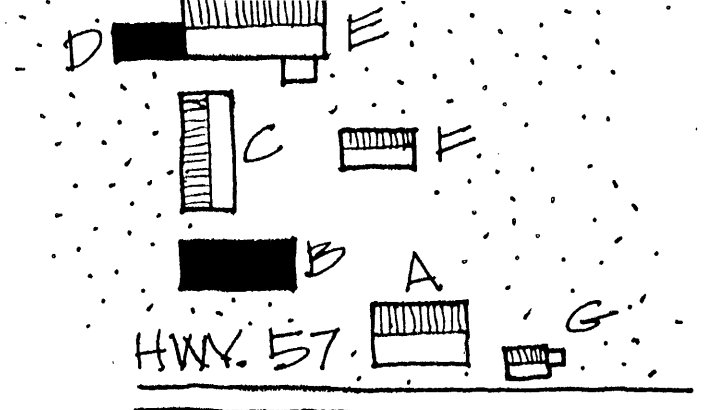


55 RALPH BAUDHUIN

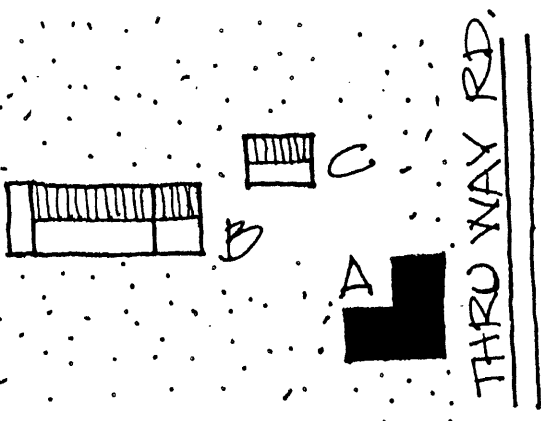
NAMUR 
RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI
 [hatched box] = CONTRIBUTING; [solid black box] = NON-CONTRIBUTING



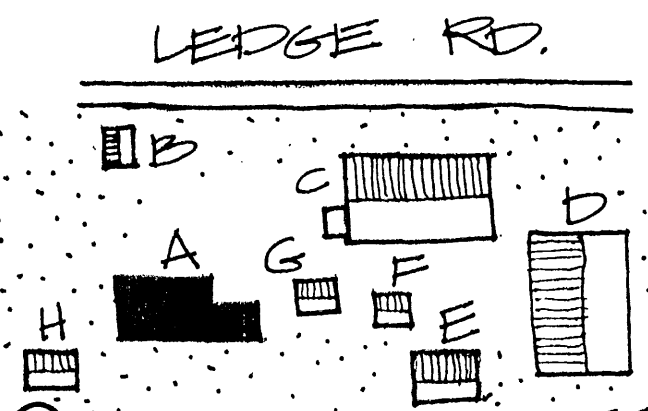
56 DAVID JEANQUART



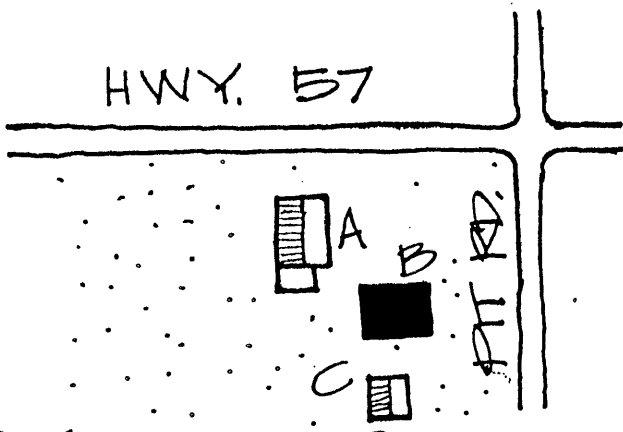
57 JAMES BAUDHOIN



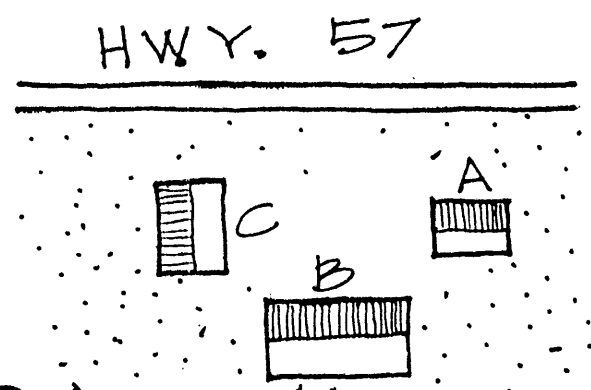
58 RAY DELCORPS



60 HARRY BRUNETTE



61 EUGENE COLLINS



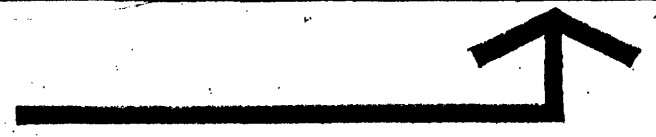
62 ALVIN MARTIN

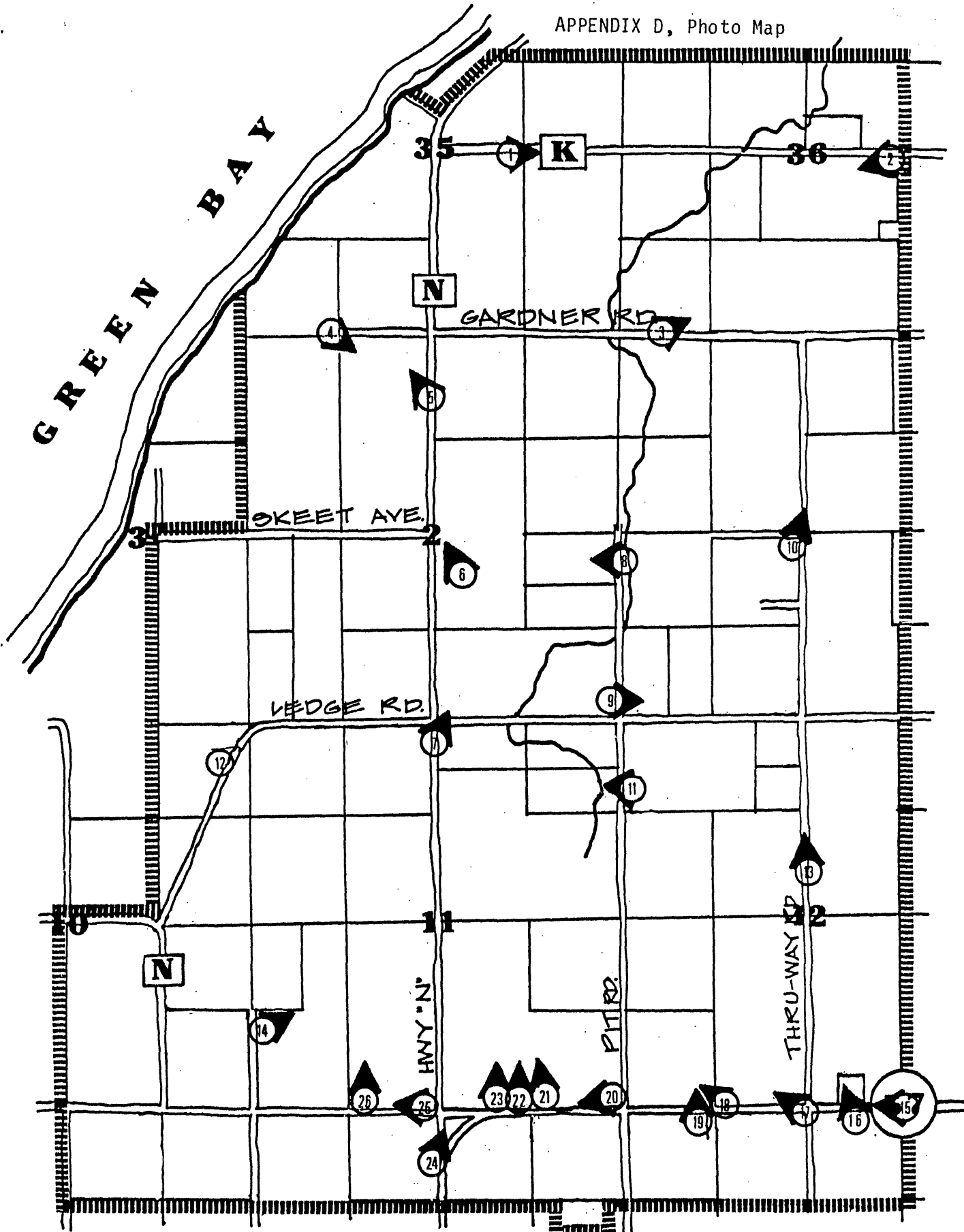
NAMUR

RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

= CONTRIBUTING; = NON-CONTRIBUTING



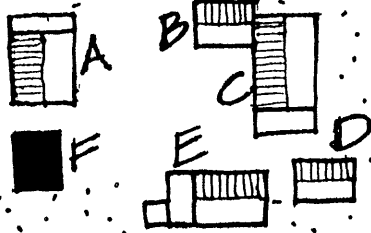


NAMUR 

RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

HWY. 57



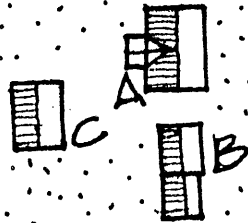
63 GABLE DEKAYSER

HWY. 57



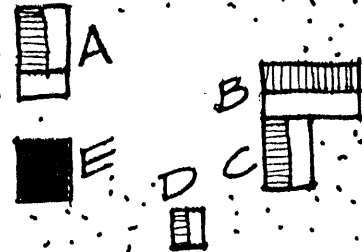
64 NORBERT LE GRAVE

HWY. 57



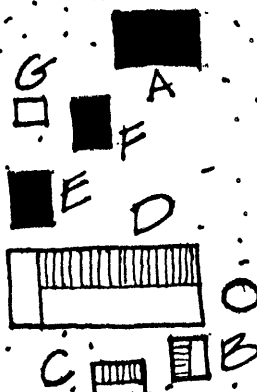
66 MRS. ADAM DIER

HWY. 57



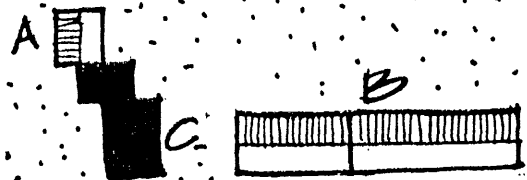
69 DESIRE GERONDALE

BAY SHORE RD.



72 MEADOW BROOK FARMS

BAY SHORE RD.



74 RON ENGUEBERT

NAMUR

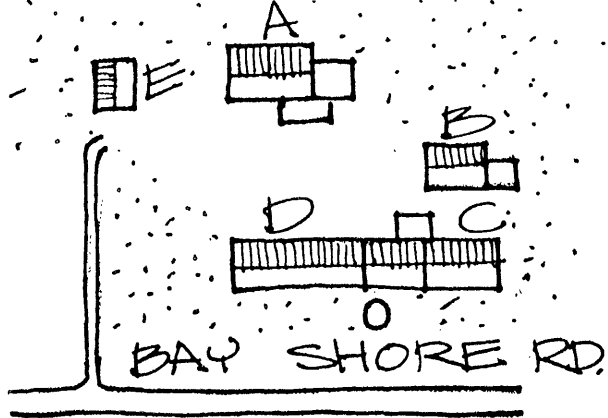
RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

= CONTRIBUTING; = NON-CONTRIBUTING



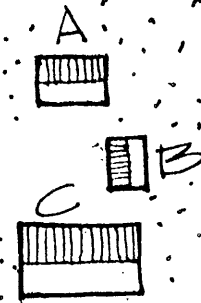
NORTH
↓



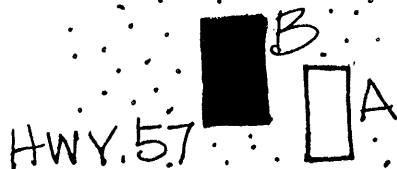
① PETER JAUQUET

DEC 28 1977

CO. HWY. "N"



⑤ DONALD SPINGAIRE



④ DOUG MASSONETTE

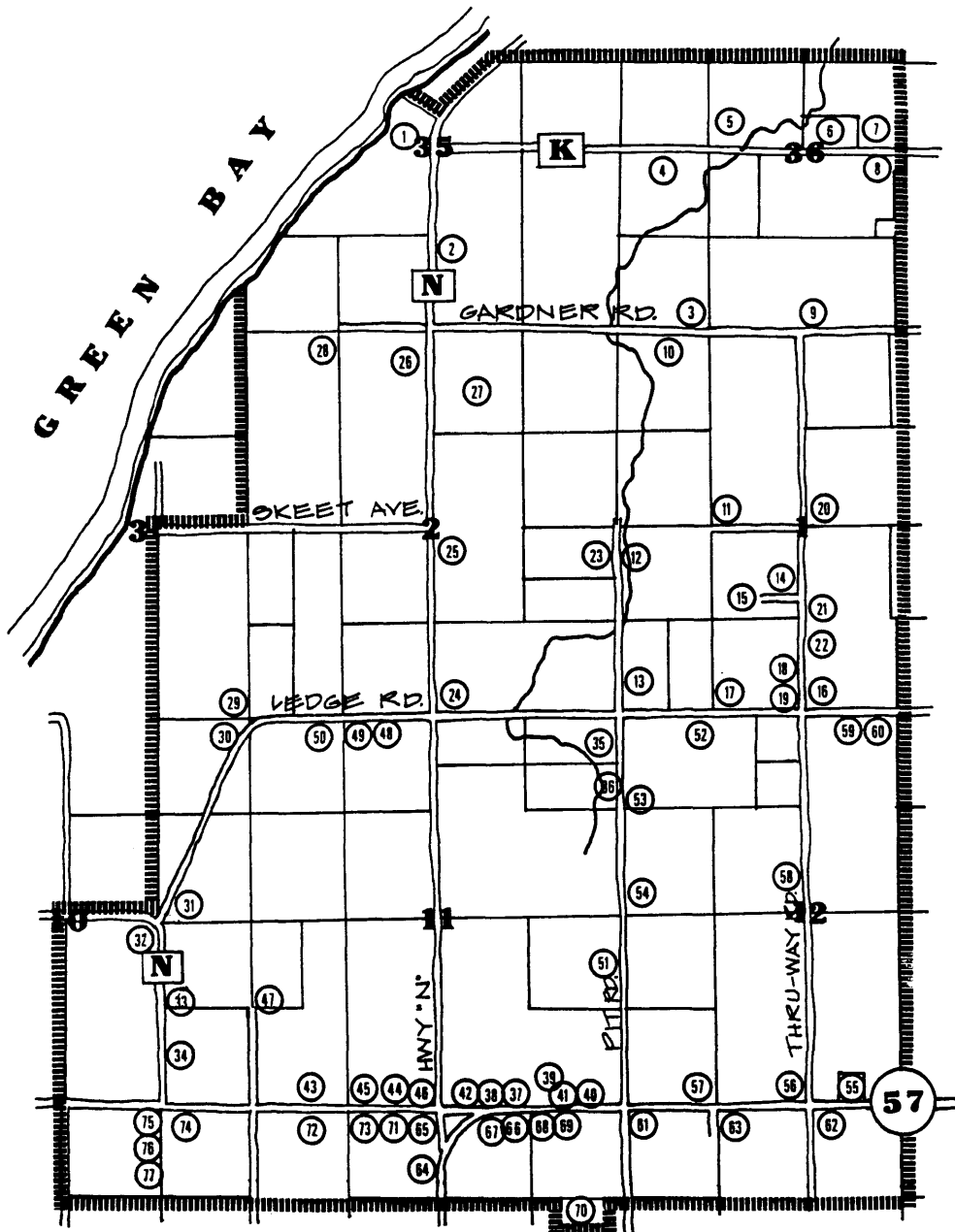
NAMUR

RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

▨ = CONTRIBUTING; ■ = NON-CONTRIBUTING





NAMUR
RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

28
18

64%