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OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

# 1. NAME OF PROPERTY Port Oneida Rural Historic District historic name Pyramid Point, Port Oneida other names/site number 2. LOCATION street & number Rural Route Port Oneida not for publication city or town Maple City state Michigan code MI cip code 49664

## 3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_\_ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally  $\times$  statewide\_\_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_\_\_ %ee continuation sheet for additional comments).

Rathrin B. Mkest	2/20/27
Signature of certifying official	an pietrural lister, State Pretric Preumation
State or Federal agency and bureau	Africe
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the	he National Register criteria.
( See continuation sheet for additional comments).	
Konald my Greenlery	5/13/97
Signature of commenting or other official $\mathcal{J}$	Date
National Park Service	

State or Federal agency and bureau



4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CER	TIFICATION	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	atile Andres	125/97
$\underline{\checkmark}$ entered in the National Register	family frame	- et ~ 111
See continuation sheet.	¥.	•
determined eligible for the National	Register	
See continuation sheet.		
determined not eligible for the Nation	nal Register	
removed from the National Register		
other (explain):		

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

## 5. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
- X public-local
- \_\_\_\_\_public-State \_\_\_\_\_public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- \_\_\_\_ building(s)
- X district
- \_\_\_\_ site
- \_\_\_\_ structure
- \_\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
121	<u>14</u> buildings
5_	$\underline{0}$ sites
	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>0</u> objects
146	<u>14</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) <u>N/A</u>

# 6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

CATEGORY Agriculture/Subsistence	<b>SUBCATEGORY</b> processing, storage, agricultural field, animal facility, horticultural facility, agricultural outbuilding
Domestic	single-dwelling
Social	clubhouse
Education	schoolhouse
Funerary	cemetery, grave/burial
Landscape	forest

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY
Recreation	outdoor recreation
Domestic	single-dwelling

Vacant/not in use

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Other: upright and wing house (balloon frame) with Greek Revival elements, gable roofed barn
(heavy timber frame), various agricultural outbuildings

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation:	stone, concrete
roof:	asphalt, asbestos, aluminum, wood shingle
walls:	weatherboard, stone, weatherboard with asphalt roll
other:	

Narrative Description (See continuation sheets, page 7).

# 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

<u>X</u> A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B	removed from its original location.
C	a birthplace or a grave.
D	a cemetery.
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F	a commemorative property.
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

# Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Û X	Agriculture
	Ethnic heritageEuropean
	Settlement
Period of Significance	1870-1945
Circuificant Datas N/A	
Significant Dates <u>N/A</u>	-
	_
	-
Significant Person (Com	blete if Criterion B is marked above)
Cultural Affiliation	
Architect/Builder	
Marrativa Statement of St	mificance (See continuation shorts, name 22)

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets, page 23)

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheets, page 29)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

\_\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

\_\_\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register

\_\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register

\_\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark

X recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # <u>MI-350, MI-351, MI-351A, M-352, MI-352A, MI-352B, MI-353, MI-353A, MI-353A, MI-354A, MI-355A, MI-356, MI-357, MI-358, MI-359, MI-360A, MI-363, MI-364A, MI-65A, MI-383, MI-393, MI-394, MI-395, MI-396. recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #</u>

Primary Location of Additional Data (Homestead and Pre-Emption claims)

\_\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_ Other State agency

X Federal agency

\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: Cultural Resources, NPS-Midwest Field Area, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

## **10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property approx. 3400 acres

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

 Zone Easting Northing
 Zone
 Easting
 Northing

 1
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 3
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 2
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 X
 See continuation sheet (page 33).
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet, page 33).

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet, page 34).

## **11. FORM PREPARED BY**

name/title Marla J. McEnaney, Historical Landscape Architect

organization National Park Service, Midwest Field Area

date 31 December 1996

street & number 1709 Jackson Street telephone (402)221-3309

city or town Omaha \_\_\_\_\_\_ state Nebraska zip code 68102

## **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets** 

## Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

## Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

name			
street & number _		telephone	
city or town	state	zip code	

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>

## OMB No. 1024-0018

Port Oneida Rural Historic District name of property Leelanau County, Michigan county and State

# Narrative Description of Property

## SUMMARY

Port Oneida was a small closely-knit farming community that was founded in the early 1860's primarily by immigrants from the German states of Hanover and Prussia. Initially, it was a logging community, with small farms cultivated by homesteaders. Agricultural production in the area from the earliest years focused on a variety of grain crops that were used to support small herds of livestock, usually dairy cattle. Potatoes, corn, and garden vegetables were also cultivated for own use by the families. This trend continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Following the demise of logging activity, residents turned to farming as the primary source of income.

Overall, farming in Port Oneida may be characterized as marginal at best. Sandy glacial soils and a limited and unreliable water supply curtailed the success of most farms during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Throughout the community's history, farmers grew an assortment of crops--potatoes; garden produce, and poultry and hogs-- to feed their large families; and, most notably, they raised grain to sustain small herds of dairy cattle. Port Oneida's landscape was greatly affected by dairying because of the substantial amount of acreage devoted to pasture and cultivation of grain crops such as oats and hay. This resulted in fairly extensive clearings in level areas. Today, the remaining open fields and pastures are an essential landscape feature that defines and reinforces the historic character and appearance of the proposed district.

Because many of Port Oneida's residents enjoyed only modest success in farming, most men and many women were employed outside their farms, usually in seasonal jobs. As the years progressed, the importance of non-farming jobs increased; around WW II, their economic advantages superseded those of farming.

## PHYSICAL SETTING

The Port Oneida Rural Historic District is located within the boundaries of Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The National Lakeshore is located along the southwestern edge of the Leelanau Peninsula in the northwestern corner of the state's lower peninsula. Port Oneida itself is situated at the northern part of the National Lakeshore, located along State Highway M-22 between Glen Arbor and the Lake Leelanau, in an area once generally known as Pyramid Point.<sup>1</sup> The site includes portions of Glen Arbor and Cleveland townships.

Township names and boundaries have changed since the community was first settled during the 1860's. In 1860, the entire Pyramid Point area was included in Glen Arbor township. By 1870, however, the federal population census indicated that the area was encompassed parts of both Glen Arbor and Sleeping Bear townships. Since 1870, Port Oneida has been divided between Glen Arbor and Cleveland townships.

The overall boundaries of the proposed district are determined by natural landscape features: Lake Michigan to the north and west, a steep linear ridge of land to the east, and a wooded ridge along the southern boundary. These features were formed during the Port Huron substage of the Wisconsin glacial stage, in which the ice retreated after creating moraines, bluffs, drainage channels, and carving out the bays that characterize the Sleeping Bear Dunes region. Following the glacial retreat, the low-lying areas in the district were covered by at least two prehistoric lakes: the first, known as Lake Algonquin, covered all of what later became Port Oneida. The high hills that remain in the center of the district were formerly islands in the lake. The second and smaller Lake Nipissing disappeared within 700 years of the glacial retreat.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pyramid Point refers to the large perched dune that extends into Lakes Michigan at the northernmost point in Port Oneida.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Christopher Drexler, "Geologic Report on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore," in <u>Natural History Surveys of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and</u> <u>Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore</u> (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Biological Station, 1975).

The thick layer of till left by the retreating glacier covers most of the Lakeshore's underlying bedrock. This rubble remains in the form of ridges and hills that terminate in steep bluffs near Lake Michigan. These bluffs eventually developed into perched dunes after prevailing westerly winds deposited sand from the bluffs on upland areas. Pyramid Point, near Port Oneida, is an example of such a dune. Other topographical features created by glacial activity include the wetlands and small inland lakes that constitute a sizable portion of the inland areas of the proposed district. When the ice retreated approximately 11,000 years ago, the area was opened for human occupation, which commenced around 9000 BC.<sup>3</sup>

The glacial landscape influenced Port Oneida's agricultural development in several ways. The former islands presented favorable microclimatic conditions: the hills were utilized by farmers for orchards as cold air pockets predominated in the low-lying areas. The forested portions of the hills were utilized as woodlots, providing a fuel source and trees for building material and maple syrup production. The broad, low-lying former meltwater channels found in the center of the district, and level areas near the shoreline were transformed into fields and pastures for crop production and grazing.<sup>4</sup>

Port Oneida's glacial legacy is most evident in the area's soils, which generally consist of a coarsely textured subsoil with rapid permeability. This reduces the available water holding capacity and continually leaches natural fertility. Thus, areas with such a soil configuration offer marginal viability for agriculture. In Port Oneida, agricultural soils appear in sporadic pockets,<sup>5</sup> historically, area farmers experienced only subsistence levels of production. To compensate, they focused on dairy production—fields were kept open for pasturing or cultivation of grain crops to feed the cattle and other livestock, and alterations were made to the existing barns to accommodate increased dairy-related activities.

#### **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES**

## • Land Use and Activities

From approximately 1900 to 1945, agriculture was the predominant land use in the Port Oneida area, with sizable expanses of land devoted to sustaining livestock. The land was cultivated for such grain crops as oats, wheat, and rye and the major cash crop of potatoes; pasture areas were used for grazing both dairy and beef cattle and sheep. Fields and pastures were found in low level to gently-sloping parcels in the southern and central portion of the district, delineated by fences, windbreaks, or roads, and surrounded by forested moraines. Today, these large open spaces are punctuated by occasional farmsteads, isolated trees, and long-standing tree lines and windbreaks. To maintain the historic landscape pattern, the former fields and pastures are periodically mowed by the National Park Service.

Remnant orchards found throughout the proposed district also exemplify another important land use. Historically, these orchards consisted of five to ten apple, peach, or pear trees, and were located near the farm house. Today, the remnants are scattered throughout the proposed district, and are limited almost exclusively to apple and pear trees. These small orchards represent a significant activity in Port Oneida's history—small-scale fruit production for domestic use by farm families. The orchards may also offer valuable information about historic pomological varieties and cultivation practices.

Logging was a historic land use that permanently shaped the Port Oneida landscape. The legacy of reforestation that followed the demise of this activity is evident in the second-growth forests of the proposed district and the 1940's-era pine plantations that are found south of the Dechow/Klett farm, north and west of the Burfiend/Garthe farm, north of Miller Road, southeast of the Thoreson farm, south of the Werner/Basch farm, and in several locations along Baker Road.

## • Patterns of Spatial Organization

Port Oneida's spatial character is primarily defined by topography and vegetation. Open fields and pastures are framed by forested moraines, roadways are lined by rows of large sugar maples that were once tapped by farmers, and rows of conifers delineate fields and property lines as reminders of attempts to conserve the sandy soil that dominates the proposed district.

Lake Michigan is a imposing presence in Port Oneida. Not only does it have a significant climatic and sensory impact on the area, played a vital role in the development of the community. Early settlers arrived on the shores in the years before the area was connected to a road system, and the lake continued to be used as a transportation system between Port Oneida and other shoreline communities, such as the Manitou Islands and Glen Arbor. Native tribes as well as European settlers also relied heavily upon the lake's fish for their own use. Surplus fish were traded between farmers and were packed in salt-filled barrels for sale at the dock.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> George Weeks, <u>Sleeping Bear: Yesterday and Today</u> (Franklin, Michigan: Altwerger and Mandel Publishing Company, 1990), 10, 146.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Personal correspondence from former NPS ranger Chuck Kruch to Arnold Alanen, 19 August 1993, and to Historical Architect Kimberly Mann, Summer 1994. Letter on file at the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Michele D'Arcy, <u>Draft: Cultural Landscape Report: Port Oneida Rural Historic District, Part I: Administrative Data Section and Part II: Field Data Section</u> (Omaha, Nebraska: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, 1986), 6.

#### Circulation

Port Oneida's circulation system has remained mostly intact since the earliest years of settlement. The path of State Highway M-22 follows the glacial meltwater channel through the south central portion of the proposed district; migrating indigenous tribes also may have used this area as a transportation corridor.<sup>6</sup> The road was slightly realigned in the early 1920's between the Charles and Hattie Olsen and Dechow/Klett farms, and was rerouted from its path around the north side of North Unity School to the south side of the building (the date of this action is unknown). Secondary roads such as Baker and Kelderhouse road have been slightly rerouted over the years: with the shift from animal drawn vehicles to cars, trucks, and tractors, sharp turns became more gradual to facilitate travel.

The path of Port Oneida Road has been the most drastically altered. In 1923, in response to shoreline resident's complaints about visitors picnicking in their front yards, the road was moved several hundred yards inland to its present location. The former road bed is still visible in front of the Burfiend and Baker/Barratt farms. It appears as a linear depression with some gravel remaining, and is lined by cedar trees in several locations. Basch Road has followed its present alignment for over a century, although its connection to Port Oneida Road near the former Schnor farm is more recent. The primitive, seasonal character of this route is similar to Thoreson, Baker and Kelderhouse Roads: they are narrow, surfaced with sand and gravel, and follow a curving path leading through second growth forest and pine plantations over the glacial moraines. Most of the logging roads that appeared on plat maps in the late 1800's have left only traces. Although they were used by farmers to transport cattle and other livestock to pasture or watering holes; with the cessation of active farming and the removal of fencelines, they have all but vanished. Two exceptions are near the Miller Barn, where a road running in a north-south direction is still visible in the field west of the barn. Another road is evident along Baker Road: when traveling west to east, a road can be seen leading north from the first curve in Baker Road as it enters the wooded hillside.

## Cultural Landscape Features

## A. Wooded Ridges and Open Fields

The history of land use in Port Oneida is reflected in the wooded ridges and open fields. Although the open fields are no longer cultivated or used for grazing, they are visual reminders of those activities. This overall spatial pattern of woodlands and open fields is the most important component of Port Oneida's landscape because it perpetuates the area's historic character.

The former fields and pastures now consist of forbs, grasses and wildflowers, including common milkweed, smooth brome, spotted knapweed, wild carrot, wild strawberry, king devil, common St. John's wort, blackmedic, timothy, sheep sorrel, goldenrod, common mullein, sparrow vetch, and wild bergamot.<sup>7</sup> The 1987 Open Field Management Plan preserves the meadow character through periodic mowing and removal of encroaching shrubs and small trees.

## B. Remnant Orchards

Small subsistence orchards were an important utilitarian planting type throughout the district. Although these plantings provided food for the families, they are also aesthetically important. The seasonal bloom and harvest that continues into the present creates sensory qualities essential to the landscape character. Remnant orchards are found at the William Kelderhouse, Thoreson, Schmidt/Hayms, Lawr/Chapman, Laura Basch, Dechow/Klett, Milton Basch, Burfiend/Garthe, and Howard Olsen farms, the Miller barn, and the former Schnor farm. The orchards primarily consist of apple, peach, cherry, and pear trees. An apple tree located near the Miller barn is nine feet in circumference and may be a remnant of a two-hundred year old Indian orchard.<sup>8</sup>

Small-scale orchards reflect overall subsistence farming trends in the upper Great Lakes. These orchards were not commercial enterprises, but supplied the needs of farm families and occasionally produced a limited surplus. Most orchards in Port Oneida consisted of around twenty apple or cherry trees. Some of the cultivars grown included Russet, Spy, Wagener, Ben Davis, Yellow Transparent, King, and Jonathan for cooking, and Maiden Blush, Snowapple, and Wealthy for eating.<sup>9</sup> Further research is needed to determine if these varieties are extant in the remnant orchards.

The character of the remnant orchards has evolved over time, due mostly to the absence of active maintenance: trees have grown larger, with a reduction in the number of trees. Few of the cherry trees have survived, and because the extant are no longer pruned, they do not possess the highly manicured appearance that characterizes orchards found throughout the greater Sleeping Bear Dunes area. Ground vegetation has grown around the trees due to infrequent mowing, and cover crops that were often planted to prevent weeds within orchards have been replaced by grasses and/or shrubs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Personal correspondence from Chuck Kruch to Marla McEnaney, March 1995.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Brian T. Hazlett, <u>The Terrestrial Vegetation and Flora of the Mainland Portion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore</u>, <u>Technical Report #13</u> (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Biological Station).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Bullington, "Memorandum to concerned staff members," [n.d.] on file at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Empire, MI.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Interview with Laura Basch, conducted by Tom Van Zoeren, 1993; tapes and transcript on file in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Library, Empire, Michigan.

## C. Sugar Maple Rows

The planted rows of sugar maple (<u>Acer saccharum</u>) trees are also important landscape features in Port Oneida. They line the roads in several locations and mark the entrance into the district from both the east and west, near the Lawr/Chapman and Charles and Hattie Olsen farms, respectively. Because they are also found near the Kelderhouse farm and the cemetery along Port Oneida Road, and near the Milton Basch farm on Basch Road, they provide a sense of unity by visually connecting several sites in the proposed district. Another prominent maple row is located in a large field behind the Dechow/Klett farm. This row has a north/south orientation that projects northward from an extensive wooded area. The district's only sugar shack is found within this sugar maple row, complete with an intact tank and arch, the feature that held the syrup pan over the fire. Many residents who made maple syrup tapped the roadside trees as well as those found in the forests surrounding their farms.

#### D. Conifer Windbreaks

Spruce and pine windbreaks were planted during the 1930's and 1940's in attempt to conserve soil and control erosion. These windbreaks are most noticeable near the Charles and Hattie Olsen farm and along Miller Road between the Burfiend/Garthe and Miller barn. Although they were introduced several decades after the construction of the farms and other contributing sites and structures, they have been intact for over fifty years and represent an important trend in the agricultural developments associated with the Soil Conservation Service and County Agricultural Extension Office in Leelanau County.

## E. Pine Plantations

The pine plantations (termed "pineries" by local residents) found throughout the proposed district are unmistakable evidence of human efforts to replace vegetation for erosion control. They were planted by farmers during the 1940's with the help of the Soil Conservation Service at several locations: southeast of the Thoreson farm, north of Thoreson Road near the Brunson barn, on the ridge south of the Dechow/Klett farm, south of the Werner/Basch farm, northwest of the intersection of M-22 and Port Oneida Road, north and west of the Burfiend/Garthe farm, north and west of Baker Road, west of Basch Road, and northeast of the Laura Basch farm. Mrs. Basch, a lifelong resident of Port Oneida, remembered planting 6,500 trees—"one of the best things I've ever done."<sup>10</sup>

### F. Black Locust Groves

Small groves of Black Locust (<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>) are evident in at least three locations—west of the Miller barn, northeast of the Charles and Hattie Olsen farm, and east of the Howard and Bertha Olsen farm. Laura Basch stated that, as a child, she and her father George Olsen, also planted these trees at the Olsen/Houdek farm.<sup>11</sup> The groves were planted in order to provide wood for fence posts and wagon tongues.<sup>12</sup> Cedar trees cut from wetland areas were also used for fence posts.<sup>13</sup>

## G. Fences

Although most of the fencelines that once existed within the proposed district have been removed since the cessation of farming, at least four examples of fencing types are extant, reinforcing the landscape's agricultural legacy. These include milled-board fences, woven wire and post fences, barbed wire and post fences, and an unusual post fence that is found along Basch Road near the Weaver farm. Board as well as post and wire fence appear in several locations, usually near extant farmyards, or defining boundaries of fields or pastures and enclosing farm courtyards. They are also define contemporary gardens at privately owned farms. The unusual post fence along Basch Road consists of a short hand-hewn post (approximately 18 to 24 inches), with a longer hewn log leaned upon the upright in a horizontal position. There is little documentation regarding the name or origin of this fence style, however, it is similar to those constructed by immigrants from Scandinavia , and fits the description of what was once termed a "pitchpole" fence.<sup>14</sup> Further research is needed to understand the history of this particular fenceline, and the origin of the overall style

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Personal correspondence from Chuck Kruch to Marla McEnaney, March 1995.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Interview with Laura Basch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "A Pioneer Past Remembered," <u>Duluth News-Tribune</u>, Thursday, June #, 1993, and Mannie Meredith, "A Nomenclature of American Pioneer Fences,: <u>Southern Folklore Quarterly</u>, June, 1951.

## H. Farmsteads

#### 1. BAKER/BARRATT FARM

The Barratt farm is located near the original Port Oneida townsite, on land purchased by Thomas Kelderhouse in 1864. The initial dwelling, a log cabin now enclosed within the contemporary house, as well as the barn, were built in the early 1880's by the Kelderhouse family. In 1910, Fred and Grace DeBest Baker from Dixon, Illinois, arrived in Port Oneida and bought the 180 acre farm from Bertha Brammer Kelderhouse, widow of Minor Kelderhouse (Thomas Kelderhouse's grandson). Soon after purchasing the farm, they moved the barn from its original location—due east of the house—to its present location—northeast of the house on the opposite side of the driveway. At one time, this farm consisted of 450 acres. The Bakers raised and rented American Saddlehorses that were rented to the summer camps located at the former Schnor farm, and had an extensive dairy operation that sold cream to the camps.<sup>15</sup> The Baker's daughter and son-in-law, Lucille and Jack Barratt, are the present owners of the farm, one of two large inholdings in the district.

The Barratt farm is located on the shoreline of Lake Michigan at the former intersection of Baker and Port Oneida Roads. It is situated in a cleared area between the shoreline and the steep wooded ridge on the eastern side of Port Oneida Road. The former fields and pastures surround the farm courtyard to the north, east and south. They are delineated by post and barbed wire fencing. Apple and peach trees and berry species remain, and the Barratts continue to cultivate extensive flower and vegetable gardens that are defined by barbed wire fencing. Ornamental plants include lilacs, forsythia, mock orange, roses, iris, daylilies, maple trees, and arborvitae. The southern edge of the yard is defined by the former road bed of Baker Road, and is lined along one side by a conifer windbreak.

At one time, Port Oneida Road ran between the farm and the Lake Michigan shoreline. It was rerouted in 1923 after residents complained of tourists parking alongside the road in front of their homes. The former road bed, which is lined with cedar trees, is still visible at the edge of the bluff, parallel to the shoreline.

The house has an irregular floor plan and gable roof. A large brick chimney and brick step are located at the south wall. Wings have been added at the eastern and northern walls. The house has vinyl siding and a deck was added in 1993.

Like many in the district, the Barratt's three-bay barn features heavy timber construction with splayed queen posts, pole rafter and tie beams, and extensive knee bracing. It has a cut stone foundation, painted vertical board siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingles, and gable and shed roof additions at the north wall. A poured concrete silo foundation is located between these additions. The gable roof also extends over a 1930's addition at the east wall. An earthen bank leads to the sliding threshing door at the west wall.

The chicken coop represents the subsistence level of agricultural activity in the Port Oneida area, and the milkhouse, built by Martin Basch, reflects the importance of dairy production. Both structures feature balloon frame construction and have one story. The chicken coop has a shed roof and metal and asphalt roll on the roof and walls, the milkhouse has a gable roof and vinyl siding.

The privy is a contributing element in the farm complex, reflecting the lack of modern improvements resulting from the subsistence level of rural life in Port Oneida. The building has a shed roof covered with sheet metal.

The farm also features a WWII-surplus quonset hut. This structure reflects the evolution of agricultural activity—it was used instead of the dairy barn to house mechanical equipment which had replaced the animal power used in earlier years. It consists of prefabricated corrugated metal (open on the southern wall) with I-beam supports, and an enclosed bay at the eastern end. It rests on a poured concrete pad with a foundation wall around the perimeter.

The Barratt garage contributes to the overall architectural cohesiveness of the farm as it utilizes a similar method of construction and building materials. It represents the transition from animal power to the automotive age. It has one story, lap siding and cornerboards, a gable roof, an overhead glass and panel door at the east end, and a concrete floor and apron at the door.

The pig barn provides an example of the diversity of buildings types once utilized in the community, and the variety of farming activities necessary to compensate for marginal agricultural conditions. The pig barn is located in a field on the eastern side of Port Oneida road to the southeast of the farm. It was built from timbers recycled when the buildings at the original Port Oneida townsite were torn down in 1952. It has a gambrel roof, concrete floor and foundation, vertical boards and doors at the gable ends.

## 2. LAURA BASCH CENTENNIAL FARM

The Laura Basch Centennial Farm was homesteaded in 1866 by Nicholas Basch, who emigrated from Germany in 1859. By 1873, he had cleared five acres of land and constructed a log dwelling measuring 20'x30'. This structure is now enclosed within the contemporary house. Claus Basch, Nicholas' son, inherited the farm around 1891. Claus' son, Arthur, was born on the farm in 1897. He and Laura Olsen, married in 1931, farmed at this site. Following Arthur's death, Laura managed the farm for many years.

The Basch farm is located on a hilltop along Basch Road in a somewhat remote location in the northern part of the district. The house is elevated above Basch Road. The area to the east of the farm has open views toward Good Harbor Bay, with uneven and steeply sloped topography between the farm and shoreline. The farm is surrounded by forest in the remaining three directions. A pine plantation is located to the north and east of the farm courtyard.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The land for the camps located to the north of the Baker/Barratt farm was purchased from Fred Baker in the 1920's.

Until her death in November 1995, Mrs. Basch maintained many ornamental flowers, shrubs, and trees, fruit trees, and a vegetable garden in her yard. A "Centennial Farm" sign and two wooden scarecrows greet visitors to the farm. The western boundary of the farmyard is formed by Basch Road and is lined with a barbed wire fence and a number of shade trees, including elms and maples.

This farm that has been owned by the Basch family for over 100 years. The original log homestead cabin was located west of Basch Road, south of the present location. A third dwelling is enclosed within the contemporary house, which has one and a half stories, an irregular "T" shaped plan with a gable roof addition at the north wall and a half hip addition at the west wall. The central wing of the house has an asphalt shingle roof and clapboard siding and the northeast wing has clapboard siding, cornerboards, laps, a dormer on the northern side, contemporary windows, an enclosed porch, and eight-pane casement windows.

The three-bay barn is one of several in Port Oneida that feature Northern European construction techniques, utilizing hand hewn timbers and hand-wrought iron hardware. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and the siding is vertical board with swinging threshing doors on the north and south walls. There is a shed roof addition on the north wall, and a ghost image of the second Basch cabin can be seen on the west exterior wall.

The chicken coop and brooder house reflect the variety of farming activities in which Port Oneida residents were involved. They both feature shed roofs covered with corrugated galvanized sheet metal, the chicken coop has corrugated metal siding, while the brooder has shiplap siding.

The construction of the milkhouse reflects the transition to dairying that occurred in Port Oneida in the early 1900's. It has one story, a gable roof, cornerboards, drop lap siding, an asymmetrical entrance with a screen door on the north side, a corner stoop, and one and six-light windows on the east and west walls.

The privy has a shed roof covered with corrugated metal, shiplap siding and cornerboards, a vertical board door, a small fixed window, and three holes.

The Laura Basch farm also features three sheds, including a tool shed (shed #1) with drop and shiplap siding and a metal roof, shed #2, which has a gable roof with shed roof extension, vertical board siding, and two sets of double Z-braced, vertical board doors on the north wall, and shed #3, which has a shed roof, shiplap siding, and a central Dutch door made of horizontal shiplap on the north wall.

The fencing present at the farm contributes to the historic scene and facilitates interpretation of the agricultural landscape. It consists of closely-spaced pole posts with horizontal rails. The fence extends from the southeast corner of the barn in an easterly direction. Another post and wire fence encloses gardens to the west and north of the barn, and a third section connects the wood fence to the post and wire fence. A small scale element is the metal and glass "Marathon" gas pump, which reflects the shift from animal power to the combustion engine.

#### 3. MARTIN BASCH FARM

Martin Basch, a former German soldier and alleged political prisoner, initially settled at Port Oneida in 1868. His brother, Nicholas, had previously immigrated to North Manitou Island in 1859. Martin bought the 110 acre parcel in 1883 from another German farmer, Martin Haft, who had homesteaded the site in 1863. Basch also purchased land containing several other abandoned farms. In addition to farming, he and his son, also named Martin, were blacksmiths and carpenters, providing horseshoes for many local farmers and constructing farm buildings and churches in Port Oneida and other local communities.

The Martin Basch farm is found in a small field along Baker Road. The farmyard is connected to the road by a long, curving driveway. The yard is surrounded by large trees and seedlings that have grown up since the farm was abandoned. According to Gordon Basch, the elder Martin's grandson, the area surrounding the farm was once cleared of trees, allowing a view of Lake Michigan to the west. The house and outbuildings are arranged in a loose linear pattern. The outbuildings are separated from the house by the driveway. Only the foundation of the barn remains, located southwest of the other structures. A garbage dump remains north of the farmyard.

The farmhouse reflects the carpentry skills of the Basch family. The window pediments and gables feature ornate wood details, and the gable porch pediment has a decorative sunburst pattern. The vernacular Queen Anne house has an irregular floor plan, two stories, a gable roof with several one story cross-gables, and clapboard siding with cornerboards.

Extant outbuildings at this farm include a one story machine shed with a compound gable roof and board and batten siding, a blacksmith shop (the only surviving example of this building type in Port Oneida) with a gable roof, vertical board siding, and a interior brick chimney, a one and a half story granary with horizontal board and clapboard siding and a shed roof addition, and a detached corncrib. A deteriorated turkey shed is also present at the site, it may have incorporated remnant of Martin Haft's original Haft log cabin.

## 4. MILTON BASCH FARM

The early history of this farm may be traced to Joseph Brunson, who settled on the site in the 1860's. Eighty acres of the farm were purchased by Peter and Jenette Burfiend in 1882. Three years later, the Burfiend's bought additional land from Thomas Kelderhouse's estate. They built a log cabin, but only lived at this location until 1891 when they moved to what is now known as the Burfiend Farm. Ole Olsen then purchased the farm, which at that point included the farmhouse, built by Martin Basch. The extant outbuildings date to the 1900's. Mr. Olsen eventually sold the farm to his daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Fred Miller. In the 1940's, the current resident, Milton Basch,

purchased the farm. The original log cabin, which was located west of the contemporary house, was dismantled in the 1960's, and the barn, located about 100 yards north of the house was removed in 1978.

This farm is located on the western side of Basch Road, north of the intersection with M-22. It is surrounded by open fields, with large maple trees marking the farmyard and lining the road in front of the house. A remnant orchard consisting of four or five trees is located south of the farmyard. The Basch family maintains large flower beds to the southeast of the house near the driveway and a large vegetable garden surrounded by barbed wire fence is located west of the house.

The farmhouse has two stories, a "T" shaped plan, and a gable roof, typical of the vernacular balloon frame dwellings built in the Port Oneida area. It features details such as circular windows in the gable ends and elements of Greek Revival styling in the massing and gables, and the eave window on the east wall, as well as a hip-roofed porch at the east wall. The associated outbuildings include a one and a half story granary with a gable roof and cornerboards, a one story gable roof tractor shed, a rabbit hutch, and the ruins of a balloon-frame chicken coop.

#### 5. BRUNSON BARN

The Brunson barn is the only remaining structure of a farm built by Frank and Margaret (Burfiend) Brunson around 1900. It is located on the northern side of Thoreson Road, in the western part of the district. It sits in a small field that slopes up to a wooded ridge to the north of the barn. Several fruit trees which may mark a former orchard site are located between the barn and Thoreson road. A one and a half story frame house, shed, garage, corn crib, and wellhouse have been removed from the site since it was acquired by the National Park Service. The barn has two and a half stories, heavy timber construction, queen posts and corner bracing, vertical board siding, and a gambrel roof. It also features a "spirit-symbol" cut into the gable end wall, and concrete ramps on the west and east walls. The basement of the barn contains wood horse stalls, pens, and manure trenches.

#### 6. BURFIEND FARM

The Burfiend farm was established by descendants of Carsten and Elizabeth Burfiend, Port Oneida's first European settlers. They emigrated from Kootenhold, Germany; Carsten arrived at North Manitou Island in 1846, Elizabeth remained in Buffalo, New York with their children. After Michigan's mainland was opened for settlement in 1852, the Burfiend's immediately purchased 275 acres and built a log cabin on the shoreline. Their choice of building site proved to be precarious, due to raiding pirates and fierce storms, and they soon moved to a site on top of the bluff, where they built a second cabin. The site of this structure is marked by a large clump of lilacs between the shoreline and Port Oneida Road. The town of Port Oneida eventually developed near this location. The existing Burfiend farm is located a short distance north of the original settlement site.

Carsten and Elizabeth Burfiend's son, Peter built the first farmhouse in 1893. The house contains original timbers from the second log cabin. Peter and Jenette [Goffar] Burfiend's son Howard and his wife Orpha [Fralick], began managing the farm in 1926. They hired a contractor to build the second house around 1930. At that time, they also began constructing outbuildings on the eastern side of Port Oneida Road; this decision may have been the reaction to a fire that destroyed the initial barn in the 1920's. The second barn and pumphouse burned in 1992.

The Burfiend farm is bisected by Port Oneida Road, and is located between Miller and Baker Roads. The two houses, a privy, and garage are adjacent to the Lake Michigan shoreline on the western side of the road; the barn foundation, granary/corn crib, butchering shed, chicken coop, machine shed, and privy are located on the eastern side. The granary/corn crib is the only remaining building of those that were moved from the western side of Port Oneida Road. The houses sit on top of a steeply sloped bluff, sheltered by a conifer windbreak to the south and several large trees to the east. The former Port Oneida Road bed runs parallel to the wooded shoreline west of the houses. Open fields surround the houses to the south, east, and north. A former garden site may be located near House #2. Several ornamental and food producing plants remain in the yard around the houses; they include an apple tree, lilacs, vinca, grapevines, hops, rhubarb, roses, and spirea. One large lilac clump at the southwest corner of the yard may mark the burial site of several members of the Burfiend family.

The outbuildings on the eastern side of Port Oneida road are sited on low-lying, level ground and are surrounded by extant fields and pastures, with a large wetland area to the south. Some of the fields and an extant roadbed are still defined by post and wire fencing. Some of the small scale elements that remain near the outbuildings include fruit trees, a stone pile, abandoned farm machinery, a gate and fence, and ramps to the barn foundation.

House #1 has two stories, a hand-hewn timber frame, a "T" shape plan with a cross gable roof. It has clapboard siding, two-over-two double hung windows, gable dormers and entry, circular Greek Revival gable end details, and a sunburst detail in the gable end dates to a later alteration. House #2 was added to accommodate the Burfiend's third generation. It features a vernacular style with Colonial Revival elements and massing. It has one and a half stories, a gable roof, two gable dormers on the north side and one on the south, and a gabled porch on the west wall with square porch columns. It has clapboard siding with cornerboards and six-over-one double hung windows.

Two outbuildings on the west side of Port Oneida Road are privy # 1 and the garage. The privy has a gable roof, drop lap siding, and cornerboards. The garage, which also functioned as a wellhouse, has a gable roof, ship lap siding, cornerboards, and two pair of vertical board double doors on the east side.

The agricultural buildings are clustered in a rather linear pattern on the eastern side of Port Oneida Road. They include the poured concrete foundation of the second barn, with outlines of the bays visible on the concrete floor, the granary/corn crib, which has one and a half stories, a gable roof with metal roofing over wood shingles, and a concrete pier foundation on a concrete slab. The corn crib is located at the western edge, with widely-spaced horizontal board siding. A shed roof addition is located at the eastern edge. The butchering shed is immediately east of the granary/corn crib. It has one story, a corrugated metal gable roof with clapboard and asbestos siding, and a concrete apron at the outward swinging double doors at the northern wall. The interior of the structure features a corner stove and scalding tank, livestock pens, and an intact rope, pulley, and hook system. A machine shed is located north of the butchering shed. It has one story, a gable roof and aluminum siding. The older chicken coop #1 is at the west end of the machine shed. It has an asymmetrical gable roof and aluminum siding. The older chicken coop #2 is located north of the machine shed. It is a ruin, with a balloon frame, wide horizontal board siding, and roll roofing. Privy #2, also a ruin, was a one story shed roof structure located next to the old chicken coop. It featured vertical board siding and asphalt roll roofing. The agricultural buildings are enclosed on the eastern edge by a barbed wire fence which runs from the eastern edge of the butchering shed in a southeasterly direction, where it connects to a fence which has a northeast/southwest orientation. Access from the farmyard to the fields east of the farm is gained through an opening in this fence.

#### 7. BURFIEND/GARTHE FARM

This parcel of land was purchased by Carsten Burfiend in 1858. It was later sold to Thomas Kelderhouse for one dollar, with the agreement that Kelderhouse would build a dock to provide access to Lake Michigan near this site. Plat maps from 1891 show John Burfiend, Carsten's son, as the parcel's owner. A structure, probably the contemporary house, was located in the southeastern corner of the site. In the eastern portion of the parcel, the Kelderhouse sawmill was active during Port Oneida's years of intensive logging.

This farm was managed by John Schmidt, of the Schmidt/Hayms farm during the early 1900's. He eventually purchased the farm; his daughter Betty inherited it following his death. Mrs. Garthe claims that the house was originally located near Lake Michigan with the other the Kelderhouse buildings, and was moved to the site by John Burfiend.

The farm is located at the corner of Port Oneida and Miller roads. It is surrounded by extensive open areas to the south and north, and a large wooded wetland is located across from the farm on the eastern side of Port Oneida Road. An extensive pine plantation forms the southwestern and western boundary of the farmyard. Remnant orchards are scattered across the farmyard, and contemporary fruit trees have been planted between the house and barn. At least two vegetable gardens and several flower beds are cultivated near the house. Both functional and ornamental plant species present on the site include black locust, raspberries, rhubarb, grapes, asparagus, lilac, viburnum, spirea, and daylilies. Post and wire fencing has been constructed between the house and barn, and between the farmyard and the pine plantation.

The house is a two story, gable roofed structure with a shed roof addition at the north wall. The roof is covered with sheet metal, with asphalt shingles over the addition. It has replacement two-over-two horizontal pane windows, and asbestos siding.

The outbuildings are arranged in a row between the house and barn approximately parallel to Port Oneida Road. They include a granary with a gabled asphalt roll roof, a shed roof addition, and asphalt shingle and wood shingle siding, a WWII-era garage with a gable roof and asphalt shingle siding, a gable roof privy, a one story gable roof shed with fiberboard siding, and a gable roofed chicken coop.

The three-bay barn is located to the north of these structures. It reflects Port Oneida's Germanic heritage with its star-shaped gable end cut out ("spirit symbol"), and its heavy, hand-hewn timber frame. It has a gable roof, with a shed roof addition at the north wall. The frame utilizes upright queen posts, unlike most Port Oneida barns, which feature splayed queen posts.

A second garage is located southeast of the barn. It has one story, a gable roof and wood and asphalt shingle siding.

#### 8. DECHOW/KLETT FARM

Frederick and Fredericka Dechow emigrated from Hanover, Germany in 1853. They first arrived in Buffalo, New York, and traveled to Pyramid Point via the Great Lakes. They purchased land in the south-central portion of the proposed district in 1857. The original Dechow cabin was located to the right of the contemporary driveway. Their sons, John and Charles, inherited the farm. In 1910, Frank Dago (Dechow), John's son, purchased the farm and built the existing house. Around 1915, he increased the size of his holdings when he purchased the Behrens farm, which was located to the east of the Dechow farm. The extant "pasture barn," is the only remaining evidence of that farm. The Dechow's raised apples and maintained a small herd of dairy cows. They sold milk, cream, and eggs to local resorts. According to a local resident, they had extensive orchards located between the house and pasture barn.

The Dechow farm is conspicuously located in a large field south of the intersection of M-22 and Port Oneida Road, connected to the road by a long driveway. The fields surrounding the farm are remnants of the prehistoric glacial meltwater channel. The edge of the channel forms a ridge in the center of the field, parallel to the southern perimeter of the farmyard. The ridgeline is marked by a spruce windbreak. The field edge is defined by wooded moraines.

The farmhouse is shaded by large maple trees. Clusters of fruit trees are scattered around the farmyard; several pear trees mark the location of the original log cabin. Historically, a natural spring existed south of the farmyard, between the barn and ridgeline. It was

surrounded by a fence which is extant. Partial fences can also be found above the ridge, and gates marking the possible location of former fencelines remain at the south wall of the brooder house and the southeast corner addition of the diary barn. A capped well is located in the open field west of the farmyard.

A pine plantation is located on the ridge to the south of the farmyard. A row of sugar maple trees extends from the wooded ridge north into the open field. The sugar shack is found at the southern end of this row, southeast of the Dechow/Klett farm. It is a one story structure, with balloon framing and a gable roof, vertical board siding, exposed rafter tails, and corner log posts inside. Hopper shutters located on the east and west walls provided ventilation during the sugaring process.

The farmhouse was constructed in a modified bungalow style. It has a gable roof, with a hip roofed front porch at the north wall. The siding is clapboard with cornerboards, gabled dormers are located at the north and south walls, and shed roof addition is at the south wall.

The three-bay dairy barn is one of the best examples of an early twentieth century barn converted to grade-A dairy operation. The heavy timber frame with its splayed queen posts, tie beams, and diagonal knee bracing, reflects the old world heritage of the community, contrasting with the dairy addition located at the south edge, which contains twelve manufactured metal pipe stanchions, a milking machine, silage cart, and manure track. The initial wing of the barn has a stone foundation, vertical board siding, a metal roof with gable hay hood, and an outward swinging threshing door at the north wall. The dairy addition has vertical board siding, concrete foundation, metal gable roof, six-light windows, and a concrete masonry unit at the southwest corner that was used as a milkhouse. A concrete silo is located at the eastern wall of the barn.

The outbuildings include a balloon frame chicken coop with a gable roof, board and batten siding, and original hardware, a frame brooder house with an asymmetrical gable roof, clapboard siding, cornerboards, a semi-attached granary and corn-crib with one and a half stories, balloon frame, asbestos shingle siding, and concrete pier foundation. The interior features a grain-lifting track leading to the second floor and a chute for filling feed bags. A 1940's era garage is located west of the dairy barn. Although it was built approximately twenty years after the agricultural buildings, it represents the technological shift from animal power to automotive transportation. The garage has one story, a gable roof, drop lap siding, cornerboards, six-light fixed window, and an overhead steel garage door on the north wall.

The Dechow/Klett pasture barn is the only remaining structure from the Behrens farm, which was located east of the Dechow farm. It has four bays, a heavy timber frame with upright queen posts, pole rafters and large horizontal beams. The barn has been raised from the ground and placed on a fieldstone foundation to allow room to house livestock.

### 9. ECKHERT LOG CABIN

This cabin was built by Henry and Catherine Eckhert in 1857 after they had immigrated from Saxony. It is the only extant settlement cabin in Port Oneida; however, it has been moved from the original location to a new site several hundred feet to the east. It is used by its present owners as part of a summer camp. It has one and a half stories, a gable roof, hand-hewn square logs with ½-dovetail notching. A lean-to has been added to one side. The rafters are notched through walls, with exposed rafter tails. The three lowest courses of logs have been replaced with concrete block, and the north wall has vertical cedar board siding. It has one-over-one double-hung windows with vertical board shutters. A vertical plank door is found on the east wall, hung on a wood pintle hinge.

#### 10. ECKHERT/BAUR FARM

Henry and Catherine Eckhert immigrated from Saxony between 1850-1855, arriving in Michigan in 1857. By 1862, they had purchased 40 acres, built a dwelling and were farming rye, corn, and potatoes. Their original log cabin is now owned by the A.I.R. foundation, and has been moved from its original location near the farm to a site further east of Basch Road. The Eckhert family owned the farm until the 1940's or 1950's when they sold it to the Baurs.

The Eckhert/Baur farm sits at the corner of Basch and Baker roads. It is located on a high point of land and has views over and extensive pattern of former fields and pastures in the eastern half of the proposed district. The farm is protected from northern winds by a wooded ridge that slopes up from behind the farmyard to the northwest, and the farm buildings are clustered to form a courtyard arrangement. A grapevine trellis and a variety of conifers and ornamental trees and shrubs can be found in the farm courtyard, which is defined by a post and wire fence at the eastern edge, parallel to Basch Road, south of the driveway and north of the large barn.

The house is a vernacular example of the upright and wing style that is typical in Port Oneida, with Greek Revival elements found in the massing and large eave "frieze" boards. It has two stories, a "T" shaped plan, an open front porch on the south wall, cross gable roof, clapboard siding, two brick chimneys, and elaborate lightning rods. A one story shed roof addition with a concrete foundation is located at the north wall, it may be an enclosed porch.

The three-bay barn is similar to those found throughout the proposed district. It has a gable roof, vertical plank board siding, a stone foundation, and a heavy timber frame with pegged connections. A wood ramp leads to the double sliding door at the west wall. A shed roof addition with vertical plank board siding, stone foundation, and corrugated metal roof has been built at the east wall. A small barn is also

extant; it encloses the northern edge of the farmyard. It has one and a half stories, irregular vertical board and cedar shingle siding, a gable roof, and a stone foundation. A shallow wood ramp leads to the vertical board outward swinging double doors at the south wall.

The shed has been altered for use as a carport. It has one story, a gable roof and a shed roof addition with exposed rafters over the carport (west side of building), and horizontal plank siding. A vertical plank door is found at the southern wall.

The brooder house and chicken coop reflect the variety of farming activities that were once commonplace in Port Oneida. The brooder house has a sheet metal shed roof with exposed rafter tails, vertical board siding, and a concrete foundation and floor. The coop has a saltbox roof with exposed rafter tails. Asphalt roll covers the roof and walls. A tarpaper covered door is located at the south wall. The privy, located west of the shed, has a gable roof, tarpaper over siding on the walls, and cornerboards. It forms the western edge of the farmyard arrangement.

## 11. GOFFAR/ROMAN FARM

This parcel of land was first owned by Jacob Ridk, who purchased 80 acres in 1861 under the 1841 Preemption Act. He later sold the property to Alexis J. Goffar, a Belgian immigrant. Mr. Goffar and his wife Catherine [O'Brien], bought this parcel and an additional 140 acres in 1868. They built a log cabin on the site. Mr. Goffar was the Postmaster of the village of North Unity, as well as a shoemaker, town clerk, and school superintendent. By 1891, the farm was sold to Julius and Ida [Dago] Prause; they eventually sold it to Milton and Olive [Dago] Manney. Milton Manney sided the original log cabin and hired Martin Basch to convert it from a chicken coop to guest house. The structure burned in 1975.

This farm is located along State Highway M-22, at the southeastern corner of the proposed district. Lake Narada forms the northern boundary of the farmyard; a grove of large trees is located between the farmyard and lake, and the farm is surrounded by forest to the east and west. M-22 forms the southern boundary of the farmyard. Fence posts can be found at the southwestern and southeastern corner of the barn and at the eastern edge of the yard.

The front entrance to the house is marked by two conical arborvitae and a number of large ornamental trees and shrubs remain in the yard, including a privet hedge running between and parallel to the house and driveway, perpendicular to the poured concrete sidewalk that connects these two areas.

The house has two stories, "T" shaped plan, a gable roof, and circular gable windows at the south and east walls. The rear window hoods and wide fascia boards reflect elements of the Greek Revival style. The house has a balloon frame, ship lap siding, and cornerboards. A one story shed roof addition is located at the north wall, and the front porch has been enclosed.

The barn is similar to those found throughout the proposed area. It is a three bay-ground barn with a heavy timber frame, splayed queen posts, cedar pole rafters, and mortise and tenon connected corner bracing. It has a stone foundation and basement, vertical board siding with a sliding threshing door at the south wall, and basement access on the west side.

## 12. KELDERHOUSE FARM

This parcel of land was owned by descendants of Thomas Kelderhouse from 1863 until the time it was acquired by the National Park Service in 1970. The first known structure, a log cabin, was built around 1890 by Kelderhouse's son William.

The 65-acre farm was a central gathering space for Port Oneida residents. It is centrally located at the intersection of M-22 and Port Oneida Road, near the Port Oneida Cemetery and former location of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

The present house, which William built around 1910, was once used as a grocery store, telephone headquarters, and post office, all operated by William's wife Charlotte. The road in front of the house is lined with sugar maple trees planted by students from the Port Oneida school around the turn of the century and tapped by the Kelderhouse's to make maple syrup. Remains of the once extensive orchards, planted by William and Charlotte's son Rolland in 1920's, can be seen in fields to the east and south of the farm. The barn was removed in the late 1940's or early 1950's.

The house has two stories, an "ell" shaped plan, gable roof, gabled dormers, and an enclosed front porch. A shed roof addition is located at the eastern wall. The main wing of the house has a stone foundation, and the porch at the north wall has a concrete foundation.

The pig barn is one of several functional buildings that were once common to Port Oneida's farms. It is a one story structure, with a gable roof with exposed rafter tails and a small bracket-supported porch overhang over the front door. It has asphalt roll covering the walls and roof.

The remaining outbuildings help to define the domestic activity areas of the farm. This includes the privy, which has a gable roof, exposed rafter tails, horizontal board siding, and a vertical board door that has fallen off its hinges, and the chicken coop and brooder house. The coop has a concrete slab foundation, asphalt roll siding, an asymmetrical gable roof, and a chicken door. The brooder house also has an asymmetrical gable roof, and asphalt roll covering the walls and roof. A vertical board door is located in the gable end of the building.

#### 13. LAWR/CHAPMAN FARM

This parcel was purchased by Thomas Kelderhouse in 1861. After his father's death in 1884, James Kelderhouse inherited the property, and in 1889, deeded 40 acres to George and Louisa [Burfiend] Lawr. They purchased 80 adjacent acres and built the farm--the

house, barn, and outbuildings date to the 1890's. The Lawr's farmed at this site until 1945. Since that time, the farm has had several owners.

The Lawr/Chapman farm is situated near the corner of M-22 and Wheeling Road. Both roads are lined with large sugar maple trees near the farm. A large remnant apple orchard is located in the field north of the farm, and a vegetable garden is defined by a barbed wire fence east of the house. The farmyard and remaining fields are delineated by both board and post and wire fencing. Two large cottonwood trees mark the circular driveway in front of the house, and a well is located in between the barn and chicken coop.

The house is an upright and wing form with Greek Revival elements evident in the massing and blank eave "frieze." It has one and a half stories, a "T" shaped plan, gable roof, gabled wall dormers, and enclosed porches at the south and north walls. A modern lean-to garage has been added to the east side of the house; the entire structure has been covered in aluminum siding.

The three-bay barn has a heavy timber frame with splayed queen posts and horizontal beams. It has a gable roof, vertical board siding, and large dairy wing added to the north wall. The dairy wing has 9' cut stone walls, with board siding above and a board roof. A manufactured cupola has been added to the roof on the initial wing. The entrance of the barn has been altered from side gable to end gable, with outward swinging doors on the west wall, and double sliding doors on the east wall.

The extant outbuildings include a chicken coop, with one story, a shed roof, clapboard siding, and cornerboards, six-pane windows, and a door and chicken door on the south wall, and a garage. The garage has one and a half stories, a gable roof; a garage door has been added to the west side. The garage has been moved from its original location since 1970.

#### 14. MILLER BARN

This large barn (ca. 1891) was built on 202 acres of land purchased by Frederick Werner in 1855. A 1891 plat map lists John Miller, Werner's son-in-law, as owner, and indicates one structure existing on the site. The land was farmed by John Miller's son, Charles, who provided dairy products to many local resorts and residents. Charles Miller was also a talented boat and house builder who constructed many of Port Oneida's buildings.

The Miller farmhouse burned and was rebuilt in 1940. The second house was removed by the National Park Service following acquisition in 1970. The barn is the only remaining structure on this farm. It is located at the end of Miller Road near the bluffs adjacent to the Lake Michigan shoreline. The steep bluffs wrap around the barn, sheltering it from wind and blowing sand. The land immediately west of the barn is covered with dense second-growth vegetation; further west is a black locust grove that was used to supply wood for fence posts and wagon tongues. A remnant orchard with large apple trees, an extensive pasture, and a cow path lie between the grove and the shoreline. Extensive pine plantations are located to the north of the barn. Ornamental shrubs and fruit trees such as roses and apples mark the location of the original house.

The barn has a heavy timber frame, with mortise and tenon joinery, splayed queen posts, diagonal corner braces, and closely spaced double horizontal beams at the bents. It has four bays, a corrugated metal gable roof, a "T" shaped plan, and vertical board and batten siding. The foundation under the initial wing consists of large corner boulders, and a sliding threshing door is located at the west wall.

The dairy wing reflects the growing importance of dairy activity that occurred in the early 1900's when additional livestock stalls were needed. The wing has a concrete floor, timber stalls and troughs, and utilizes recycled timbers in the balloon framing.

#### 15. MILLER/ADAIR RESIDENCE

This parcel was first purchased in 1856 by William Foster. "Foster. . . never settled the land and does not appear in the 1860 census."<sup>16</sup> At some point, he sold to Mary Jane Duvas and William Freer. They were unable to make payments on the land; in 1864, a public auction was held and the land was purchased by Thomas Kelderhouse. By 1891, Kelderhouse had sold part of the property to Christopher Johnson, and a structure had been built on lot 1. Fred and Ellen Miller purchased the land from the Johnsons around 1910 and developed a resort.

The resort consisted of an eight-bedroom dormitory that also functioned as the Miller's residence, and an agricultural operation that supplied food for the resort and local residents. The dormitory burned in 1922, and a second house was soon built. The house features a stone foundation built by a local mason. The same mason, Mr. Sharnowski, also built a stone entrance gate in the 1950's as a gift to the family.

The second house was built in the Craftsman/rustic style that was commonly used for recreational structures in the 1920's. It is 1.5 stories, has a gable roof has two shed additions on each side, eight-light casement windows, a stone chimney, and stone and concrete steps to the south door. A gabled entry porch is located at the east side. The garage has one story, a gable roof and two sliding doors, one of which has a diamond-shaped window.

The mortared fieldstone gate consists of an arch with battered bracing. It provides a sense of entrance into the property and complements the rustic style of the house and sidewalks. It reflects the use of local materials that was popular in 1920's era recreational

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Scott Searl, <u>Draft: Cultural Landscape Report: Port Oneida Rural Historic District, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore: Documentary Data Section</u> (Omaha, Nebraska: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service), 57.

design. In addition, the fieldstone and concrete sidewalk complements the design style of the house and arch. Although the exact construction date of the sidewalk is unknown, it may have been installed by the same stonemason that built the entrance gate. Brick pavers have replaced stone in several locations. Another contributing element in the complex representing an important activity of daily domestic life is the hand pump. It is cast iron, stamped with "The Oshkosh," Pat. May 4, 1887.

#### 16. NORTH UNITY SCHOOLHOUSE

This school dates to the 1850's and was built by members of the Bohemian community of North Unity, once located east of Port Oneida on Good Harbor Bay. Students from the eastern portion of Port Oneida also attended this school. It is located south of Narada Lake, near the Goffar/Roman farm. It is sited on a moderate slope and is surrounded by trees and shrubs. State Highway M-22, which initially traveled around the north side of the school was realigned to its present location south of the building. A narrow road runs north of the school into the forest to join the former road bed.

The buildings consists of one room, a gable roof and a concrete foundation. It has a hand-hewn log frame and log purlins. A 5-panel door is located at the north wall.

## 17. CHARLES AND HATTIE OLSEN FARM

Charles and Hattie [Brammer] Olsen bought this parcel of land in 1915 from Frederick Dechow, who had first purchased it in 1857. The Olsen's farm was built around 1918. Charles and Hattie's son Everett bought the farm in 1963 and sold it to the National Park Service in 1973.

The farm is a focal point for visitors entering the district from the west. It is located at a wide curve on the northern side of State Highway M-22. The open field across the road from the farm contrasts dramatically with the forests that surround the highway prior to entering the Port Oneida area. A Norway spruce windbreak defines the western boundary of the farmyard, and rows of sugar maples line both sides of the highway in front of the house. The farm is protected from northwestern winds by a steep ridge that slopes up from behind the farmyard to the north. A black locust grove remains on the side of the ridge, northeast of the house. Post and wire fencing defines small fields to the west of the farmyard. A grandmother's house, located behind the primary residence, has been removed. Its site is marked by ornamental plantings, which are also scattered across the farmyard. A concrete sidewalk leads from the north wall of the house to a garden area and the location of former chicken coop, and to a clothesline.

The house is a modified bungalow with details reflecting the transition between the Queen Anne and Bungalow style. It has 2.5 stories, a side-facing gable roof, with a shed roof wall dormer featuring ornamental window hoods. A diamond-shaped window and sunburst details are found in the gable ends. A front porch with a concrete floor and tapered posts is located at the southern wall. It has a shed roof, with an arch and sunburst design in a gabled pediment. The exterior also features cornerboards and decorative bargeboards. Two shed additions have been added to the north wall.

The three-bay barn is the only remaining gambrel-roofed barn in the proposed district. It reflects the area's shift to dairy production, which necessitated increased storage space for hay. The Charles Olsen farm was the first to achieve Grade A dairy status in Port Oneida, thus the barn also represents the emergence of scientific agriculture. It has a large timber frame with hand-hewn splayed queen posts, vertical board siding, and concrete foundation walls. An earthen ramp with concrete retaining walls leads to a sliding wagon door at the east wall. The lower level has cow stalls, and shed roof additions have been added to the north and south walls. A silo is located at the north wall; it has a concrete foundation, vertical wood staves clad in sheet metal, steel tie straps, and a metal roof with a finial. Lightning rods and a wind vane are connected to the roof of the barn.

## 18. HOWARD AND BERTHA OLSEN FARM

Eighty acres of this parcel were first purchased in 1865 by Andrew Tuffner. He soon sold the land to Thomas Kelderhouse. In 1877, Kelderhouse sold it to Ole Olsen, a Norwegian immigrant; two years later, Olsen sold the property to Carsten Burfiend, and bought it back in 1881.

The land was improved by Olsen, who built the house and barn in the 1870's. The farm eventually included 120 acres, and has changed ownership many times, usually among members of the Olsen family. Ole and Magdalena [Burfiend] Olsen's son Charles resided at the farm from 1891-1915; he then sold it to Albert and Ida [Dago] Prause. In 1954, Charles' nephew Howard purchased the farm from the Prauses. Howard's widow, Bertha, currently resides in the house, the remaining structures are owned by the National Park Service.

The farm is located near the corner of Basch and Baker Roads. The short driveway is an eastward extension of Baker Road and is defined by an arborvitae allee. The farm buildings are arranged in a linear pattern and are bisected by the driveway. A ramp extends to the northern threshing door of the barn, which was raised to accommodate a masonry basement for sheltering livestock. Although shrub vegetation partially surrounds the southern edge of the farmyard, the farm is sited on a gentle slope which affords wide views to the fields located to the south.

A black locust grove is located at the northeast corner of the farmyard near an extant barbed wire fence, and a small garden area is cultivated next to the house. Several apple trees are scattered throughout the courtyard.

The house has one and a half stories, a stone foundation, gable roof, and is a good vernacular example of the upright and wing style. It has Greek Revival elements in its massing and the blank eave "frieze" boards. The roof is covered in metal and asphalt shingles. It has numerous additions at the north and eastern walls. The shed roof front porch at the south wall has square posts and a concrete foundation.

The barn is one of the best examples of a ground barn converted for use as a banked dairy barn. The initial heavy timber frame barn was lifted to accommodate a masonry basement with cow stalls and an earthen floor. The eight stalls are hand-hewn wood, reflecting the most basic agricultural practices. The barn has three bays, splayed queen posts, timber piers, and diagonal bracing. It has vertical board siding; access is gained to the basement through a vertical board door with original hardware.

A number of small functional outbuildings are extant in the work areas of the farm, including a pig barn, which has a gable roof, horizontal board siding with corrugated metal patching, and a number of small openings providing access for animals, a semi-attached one story granary/corn crib, with a gable roof, concrete pier foundation, and wood lathe siding on the corn crib, a gable roof garage, and chicken coop (# 2). The coop has a shed roof and walls covered with corrugated metal. These structures, along with the house, reinforce the linear arrangement of the farmyard. Three small structures found close to the house create a domestic work space: an additional chicken coop (#1), brooder house, shed, and rabbit hutch. They are all simply constructed, using wood, metal, and recycled materials. A privy, also located northwest of the house, has a shed roof covered in corrugated sheet metal, horizontal board siding, and a vertical board door.

#### 19. OLSEN/HOUDEK FARM

The earliest owner of this farm, George Olsen, resided in Port Oneida from his earliest childhood years. He lived for a short time at the Milton Basch farm, and his father, Ole, built what is now the Howard Olsen farm. As an adult, he and his wife Vena [Peters] moved their family to this 130 acre farm. The Olsen's daughter, Nettie, and her husband Wilbur Houdek, inherited the farm. They later passed it on to their son Walter, whose family continues residing there.

The farm is located on the eastern side of Basch Road, in a low-lying area between two small ridges. The barn burned in the early 1950's; the masonry foundation is still visible at the eastern edge of the farmyard. The remaining outbuildings are arranged in a compact courtyard pattern, with views to other parts of the district restricted by hilly terrain and dense vegetation.

Most of the buildings on the farm have been altered. Several additions have been made to the house, but it retains massing and size similar to others in Port Oneida. It has one and a half stories, a central gable roof with shed roof additions at the north and south walls. Greek Revival details are evident in the central wing's massing and large soffit boards. The original siding and windows have been replaced: the siding is now aluminum.

A modern garage has been added to the farm, reflecting the transition from animal power to automotive transportation. It has a asphalt shingle gable roof, and a metal overhead door is found on the north wall. It has aluminum siding identical to that on the house. The outbuildings, which include a shed/garage, shed, and privy, are also covered with aluminum siding, and feature gable roofs. A windmill, the only intact example in the proposed district, is located within the farmyard.

#### 20. PORT ONEIDA CEMETERY

This site is centrally located in the district at the intersection of M-22 and Port Oneida Road. Because of the cemetery's ties to many early Port Oneida residents, as well as its prominent siting, it is an important visual and historic landmark for the area. It features forty-six headstones that mark at least fifty-nine graves, and the entire cemetery is surrounded by a post and wire fence. A row of large cedar trees provides a buffer between the cemetery and the road, shading the headstones located closest to the road. Those found in the eastern part of the cemetery are surrounded by open fields.

#### 21. PORT ONEIDA DOCK

All that remains of this structure is two pilings that are only occasionally visible above the surface of Lake Michigan. The dock was located near the site of the original logging town developed by Thomas Kelderhouse. It was no longer actively used by the turn of the century and the town was abandoned shortly thereafter.

#### 22. PORT ONEIDA SCHOOLHOUSE

This ca. 1860 structure is located on the west side of Port Oneida Road, north the intersection with State Highway M-22, in an area that functioned as the social gathering space of the Port Oneida farming community. Other important sites in this area include the Port Oneida Cemetery, the Burfiend/Garthe and Kelderhouse farms--the latter of which was used as a general store, telephone exchange and post office--and the former locations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Kelderhouse sawmill.

The schoolhouse is sited within the glacial meltwater channel, at the base of a ridge once used as a sledding hill by students. It has one story, a front gable roof with a shed roof porch at the east wall, and a bell tower. A row of sugar maple trees defines the southern edge of

the schoolyard and continues on the opposite side of Port Oneida Road. The trees were planted by students during an Arbor Day celebration and were tapped by the Kelderhouses to make maple syrup. A post and wire fence defines the schoolyard, which also includes two privies.<sup>17</sup> The school is presently owned and maintained by the Glen Lake School system.

## 23. SCHMIDT/HAYMS FARM

Forty acres of this property were first settled in 1861 by a Hanoverian immigrant named George Hessell. By 1880, the land had been purchased by George and Flora Schmidt from Prussia. They developed the farm, including the original farmhouse that burned shortly after it was constructed in the early 1890's.

The farm is located on the western side of Basch Road in the hilly northeastern section of the proposed district. The second house, granary, privy and a shed are the only remaining structures. The Schmidts raised a variety of crops, cultivated a small vineyard and orchard, and raised dairy cattle. Remnants of their apple orchard are visible between the house and road. The farmyard is connected to the road by a long curving driveway lined by Lombardy poplars; its hilltop siting affords scenic views to the broad, level fields that characterize the southern half of the Port Oneida area.

The property is now owned by the Hayms family, who have used it as a summer residence since the 1940's. This trend toward recreational activity represents the second generation of land use in the area. The house has one and a half stories, a gable roof, and a cut stone foundation. Greek Revival elements are evident in the massing and large eave "frieze" boards. The roof and siding consists of asphalt shingles, and several additions have been made to the house, including a lean-to addition at the west wall. The granary/corn crib has one and a half stories, a gable roof extending over the corn crib at the east wall, lap siding, and cornerboards. The space between the crib and granary has outward swinging doors with original hardware.

The privy and shed have gable roofs, the former has board and batten siding, and the latter has vertical board siding.

## 24. SCHNOR FARM

The agricultural buildings on this site are remnants of the Diedrich and Abbie Schnor farm. They emigrated from Germany in 1854, claimed this parcel of land and built the house and barn in the 1870's. They raised dairy cattle and farmed until the WWI period. Their son Chris inherited the farm, but only remained for a short time. The farm became a Christian Scientist summer camp, "Innisfree," in the late 1950's, reflecting the shift from farming to recreation now characterizing much of the greater Sleeping Bear Dunes area. The camp was sold and renamed "Kohanna" and "Leelanau" in the 1960's, and is currently operated under a scenic easement with the National Park Service.<sup>18</sup>

The house and barn are located at the north end of Port Oneida Road in a secluded, wooded area. Port Oneida Road bisects the farmstead from the remaining camp structures, with the exception of the riding ring. Rugged wooded topography, characteristic of the northern portion of the proposed district, dominates the site. A mature orchard located in front of the house is maintained by the camp owners. Another remnant orchard is found on the hillside to the east of the farmhouse. A barbed wire fence surrounds the corral and field to the southeast of the farmhouse. Large groves of sumac cover the former fields to the north and the sloped areas to the east of the house.

The house is one and a half story, gable roofed, with two modern one story additions at the south wall. A shed roof porch with square posts is located at the west wall. The gable ends feature curved eave inserts. It has two brick chimneys and two-over-two and oneover-one windows.

The Schnor barn has been converted from a dairy barn to a horse operation. It has four bays, and contains a hand-hewn timber frame, plate to sill diagonal bracing and splayed queen posts, and a star-shaped gable end cutout. It has board and batten siding with vertical plank double sliding doors in place of the original outward swinging threshing doors. It has open shed roofed additions covered with asphalt shingles on the east and west walls.

#### 25. THORESON FARN

This 160 acre parcel of land had two original owners, William Foster and John Hartel. Both men sold their property to Thomas Kelderhouse, the owner until 1881. A 1891 plat map reveals three owners, Fred and John Anderson, and Lisbet Johnson. All three parcels were purchased in the late 1890's by John Thoreson, a relative of the previous owners. Thoreson and his wife, Engeboad, first arrived in Port Oneida from Norway in 1883. Along with their sons Ole and Fred, they built the farm around 1890.

Ole and Fred Thoreson and Ole's son Leonard ran the farm though the 1950's. Electrical service was installed in 1945; the Thoresons bought their first tractor in 1947 and purchased a milking machine in 1949. The farm was sold to a local realtor in the 1960's.

The Thoreson farm is sited on a gently sloped hillside and surrounded by rolling open fields with scenic views of Lake Michigan. The fields are defined by post and wire fencing. The farm buildings are arranged in a courtyard pattern: three sides of the yard are formed by structures and barbed wire fence and the fourth by the hillside. Remnants of the families' once extensive apple and cherry orchard are visible

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Interview with Eric and Beth Leinbach, conducted by Scott Searl, 6 June 1986; notes on file in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Library, Empire, Michigan. The Leinbach's are former owners of Camp Innisfree.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> According to the camp brochure, "Kohanna" is a Native American word for "achievement," "Leelanau" means "the land of delight."

in a field northwest of the farmyard, with the grid layout still evident. Ornamental vegetation near the house includes a lilac hedge, daylilies, barberry, and catalpa. Several very large cottonwood trees can be found at the western and eastern sides of the house. A cistern is located about forty-five feet from the house on the side of the hill.

The Thoreson house is built in the Queen Anne style. It has one and a half stories, and an "ell" shaped plan, a gable roof, shiplap siding, cornerboards; a hip roofed porch with turned posts and gabled entrance is located at the east wall. The entrance features pedimented gable, and the gabled dormers on the east wall have sunburst patterned detailing.

The Thoreson farm has two barns. The large barn is the most important built element that defines the spatial character of the courtyard. It is crudely built, with unhewn upright posts, heavy timber framing, and a balloon frame addition at the south end. It has a stone foundation which has been replaced with concrete in several locations, and a metal gable roof with a large gabled dormer at the east wall. A silo foundation is present at the east side, and asymmetrical threshing doors are found at the east and west walls. The majority of the vertical siding is missing.

The small barn was used to shelter cattle. It forms the southern edge of the courtyard and is set into the hillside that forms the southern and eastern perimeter of the farmyard. The small barn has two stories, a gable roof with board and batten siding and a stone and concrete foundation. A third barn, built of fieldstone, is directly west of the small barn. It was initially used as a chicken house, but proved too cold during the winter. Its primary function was storage, but it was also used as a milkhouse. It has one story, a gabled shingle roof, and the 9' masonry walls consist of randomly placed stones with cornerstones, with vertical boards at the gable ends. A board fence connects this building with the small barn, creating a continuous boundary at the south end of the courtyard.

The eastern perimeter of the courtyard is formed by the hillside, reinforced by the concrete block milkhouse that is set into the hill. This structure reflects the importance of dairying in the Port Oneida area. It has a gable roof with exposed rafter tails, and the north and south gable ends are covered with shingles.

The northern edge of the courtyard is formed by the granary and detached corn crib, and a barbed wire fence that runs east-west. The granary has one and a half stories, a cut stone addition, drop lap siding with cornerboards, and a cross-gable roof with a large dormer and a metal shed roof addition. The corn crib is one of only two detached cribs in Port Oneida. It is tapered at the bottom, has horizontal lath siding and a gable roof, and is set on concrete piers. The roof is covered with corrugated galvanized steel. A poured concrete trough is located next to the southwest corner of the corn crib.

The transition from animal power to equipment driven by combustion engines is reflected in the machine shed. This structure is located at the northwestern corner of the farmyard. It has a long, narrow shape, an asymmetrical gable roof covered with corrugated metal, board siding, and three sliding doors on the east wall. The gable ends are finished with decorative metal balls.

Two small outbuildings are located at the north end of the farmstead, separated from the remaining buildings by the driveway. A gable roofed privy with horizontal drop lap siding and cornerboards; and a shed which may have functioned as a brooder house. It has an irregular shape, and appears to be a combination of two smaller structures. One has a gable roof, the other a shed roof, both are covered with wood shingles. The overall structure has both vertical and horizontal board siding, and is set on the same concrete pad as the privy.

#### 26. WEAVER FARM

This parcel was first purchased by Jacob Mantz in the early 1860's. In the 1880's it was sold to Harrison and Almeda Weaver. Harrison Weaver was a proficient blacksmith—he shod many of the horses in Port Oneida, including the American Saddlehorses owned by Fred Baker.

The farm is located along Basch Road, among the hills that characterize the northeastern portion of the proposed district. It is located at the base of a hill, and the house is sited close to the road.

Unfortunately, the Weavers faced some difficulties as farmers. Their buildings were poorly sited in the path of water draining from the ridge north of the farm. The farm was inundated by water on at least two occasions during the 1910's and 1940's. The barn, initially located east of the house, was moved in the 1930's to another site north of the house. According to Milton Basch, the house, the only remaining structure, was built by Albert Prause, another Port Oneida resident, in the early 1890's.<sup>19</sup>

There is little remaining evidence of agricultural activity at the Weaver farm. The orchards have virtually disappeared and the only remaining structure, the house, is surrounded by vegetation that has emerged since the farm was abandoned prior to 1970. The house has two stories, an "ell" shaped plan with a gable roof, lap siding, and a wood shingle roof. It is in an advanced state of deterioration.

#### 27. WERNER/BASCH CENTENNIAL FARM

This 204 acre parcel of land was claimed in 1855 by Hanoverian immigrants, Frederick and Margaretta Werner, the second family to arrive in the Port Oneida area. The farm dates to the late 1850's or early 1860's, making it the oldest mainland unit still surviving from the early settlement period. In 1885, the Werner's son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Katie [Portner] were farming at the site. After

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Interview with Milton Basch, conducted by Scott Searl, June 1986; notes on file in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Library, Empire, Michigan.

Richard's death in 1890, Katie married Benjamin Holland, who took over the farm. By 1891, Frederick and Margaretta had divided the parcel, ceding the northern 122 acres to their daughter and son-in-law, Maggie and John Miller. The Werner's great-grandson, Franklin Basch, is the current owner. He was raised on the farm and purchased it in 1943. He never farmed the land, instead it was leased to other local farmers.

The farm is located southwest of the greater Port Oneida area, on the western side of M-22, close to the curve leading the Charles and Hattie Olsen farm. The farmyard is sited close to the road, arranged in a somewhat linear cluster. The northern and southern edges of the farmyard are defined by conifer windbreaks; the barn forms the western edge of the cluster, and a large sloped field begins immediately west of the barn and continues to the bluff adjacent to the Lake Michigan shoreline. Ornamental planting beds are located in the farmyard, and a large vegetable garden is cultivated north of the house on the other side of the conifer windbreak.

The house forms the eastern edge of the cluster. It represents a classical vernacular farmhouse design: a "ell" shaped plan, two stories, with a number of additions made to the original log structure. The basement and foundation are stone, with hand-hewn timbers and square nails in the frame.

The barn forms the western boundary of the farmyard. It has four bays, a heavy timber frame with splayed queen posts, knee braces at the corners and bents, and diagonal bracing, all reinforced with square pegs, a stone foundation, vertical board siding, metal gable roof with lightning rods, and a large sliding threshing door at the east and west walls.

This farm features one of only two masonry structures in Port Oneida. Its origin is unknown; at one time it was used as a chicken coop. It features tooled stone walls with concrete buttresses added at the front corners. It has one story, a gable roof, horizontal lap siding at the south and north gable ends, and horizontal double doors at the south wall. It is immediately west of the garage, which is a one story frame building with a gable roof, and board and batten siding with clapboards at the gable ends. There are two large, outward swinging, hinged doors on the south wall. A gable roofed privy is located east of the garage. It has a gable roof, board siding, and a vertical beaded door with a crescent-shaped wood decoration nailed to the door.

The granary/corn crib forms the south boundary of the farmyard. It is a one story structure with a gable roof. The gable roof of the granary extends over the corn crib, which is at the east end of the building. A shed roof addition is located at the west end. The corn crib area has been converted to storage space, with a set of outward swinging doors. A vertical sliding vinyl garage door provides access to the addition.

#### 28. WERNER FAMILY CEMETERY

This burial site is located in a secluded setting at the western end of Miller Road, ¼ mile north of the Miller Barn on a bluff near the Lake Michigan shoreline. The cemetery overlooks the lake and North and South Manitou Islands. It was used historically by the Werner/Miller family, and is still visited by family members. The family's ethnic heritage is evident in several of the headstone inscriptions, which are written in German. The site is surrounded by beech-maple forest, and a large beech tree marks the location of the cemetery, which is defined by an ornate woven wire and post fence. The forest forms a dense canopy over the cemetery and dark, glossy periwinkle forms a thick carpet around the headstones. The headstones are arranged in a geometric pattern; several are marked with artificial flowers. It is unlikely that more graves are planned for this location. A cistern and trail leading to the beach is located south of the cemetery.

#### • CHARACTER OF ADJACENT AREAS

Unlike the small subsistence-level farms found in Port Oneida, most agricultural areas in Benzie and Leelanau Counties consist of "modernized" farms with large, prefabricated structures, usually aluminum barns, corn cribs, and silos. Frequently, original farm houses have been replaced with contemporary ranch style homes. Although they represent economically successful farms, these buildings rarely reflect the use of local materials or methods of construction, and do not reinforce a sense of architectural cohesiveness.

The almost total lack of post WWII-era development within the Port Oneida contrasts with the surrounding Sleeping Bear Dunes landscape. The exceptions are eight residences: the Mason and Elmer homes, which may become National Register eligible in the next twenty years as they reflect the practice of subdividing parcels for sale or transfer to children; the Watkins, Eckert, and Zeits cottages are small non contributing seasonal residences—two are in the western and one in the north eastern corners of the district, respectively. None are visible from the highway road corridor or any major viewpoint within Port Oneida's boundaries. The remaining three, the Richardson, Barnes, and Barratt rental house are located along Lake Michigan's shoreline and are buffered from view by dense vegetation.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u> Page <u>1</u>

Port Oneida Rural Historic District name of property Leelanau County, Michigan county and State

#### Narrative Statement of Significance SUMMARY

The Port Oneida Rural Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A as a rural agricultural landscape reflecting the general settlement patterns of Northern European immigrants in the Upper Great Lakes region. The district derives its significance from its ability to convey the land use patterns that resulted from subsistence level agriculture practiced by these settlers through the end of WWII. The district reflects the loose social organization of the community known as Port Oneida through its circulation patterns, community buildings, scattered farms, and the kinship relationships of the former and current landowners. The use of heavy timber framing and spirit symbols reflects the continuation of Northern European building traditions in the New World. The practice of arranging structures to form a tight courtyard or linear pattern can also be seen in Port Oneida's farms.

Port Oneida's significance and integrity also results from the continuum of farming technology displayed by the agricultural buildings and intact field patterns constituting the majority of the district. This continuum, which extends from the 1870's through the mid-1940's, is most evident in the contrast between the Howard and Bertha Olsen barn, which features medieval-type wooden cow stalls, and the manufactured cement and steel stanchions, silage cart, and milking machine found in the Dechow/Klett dairy barn (one of the first operations to achieve Grade A dairy status). Post WWII development was limited due to relatively poor soil conditions, thus, Port Oneida did not progress fully into the scientific period of agriculture. Overall, the contemporary Port Oneida landscape reflects historic land use patterns and a historic range of agricultural advancements from approximately 1870 through 1945.<sup>20</sup>

The earliest European settlers were predominantly from the German states of Hanover and Prussia, with a significant number from Norway and Canada. They obtained property under the 1841 Preemption Act and the 1862 Homestead Act and made improvements on their land as part of the requirements stipulated by both Acts. Improvements usually included constructing dwellings, clearing portions of land, cultivating small areas of grain crops and garden vegetables, and raising several cattle, sheep, or pigs. Most residents made a living selling logs from their cleared land, working in mills and at the dock, and selling the limited surplus from their crops. The community development was initially focused at the logging station, which consisted of a boarding house, sawmill, dock, and a warehouse. The dock at Port Oneida was only the second to be constructed on Sleeping Bear Bay. It was a fueling station for steamships traveling on the Great Lakes, and thus played an important role in the commerce and transportation systems between Buffalo, New York, and Chicago, Illinois.

The Port Oneida area sustained logging activities for approximately thirty years, until most of the forested land was cleared. In the early 1890's, the community was threatened with extinction, but residents were able to make use of the cleared land and shift to agricultural production as the primary means of economic survival. Like many farmers living in the Upper Great Lakes region, their efforts were only marginally successful; they were hindered by poor soil conditions, a short growing season, and limited transportation systems. As a result, most Port Oneida farms did not develop as quickly as those located in Michigan's southern counties. The proposed district's resources portray the subsistence level of agricultural production; most barns do not possess technological advances past the WWII era, many farms feature a number of small multi-purpose outbuildings and remnant orchards that reflect the variety of activities performed to obtain income, and former fields and pastures demonstrate the importance of dairy cattle in the area.

## PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance for the proposed district ranges from 1870 to 1945. This period spans the approximate date from which agricultural features associated with the first generation European-American settlers are extant to the approximate point at which the farming economy had begun to decline and the peak of agricultural technology.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Hemalata C. Dandekar and Daniel F. Schoof, "Michigan Farms and Farm Buildings," Inland Architect, January/February 1988, 61-67.

Port Oneida's resources reflect a continuum of agricultural technology that evolved throughout the period of significance. The early settlement period is represented by several historic sites: the remains of the dock, the original townsite, the Port Oneida School and Cemetery, and archeological resources at the sites of abandoned farms. These farms consisted of several simple log structures, usually one to two story dwellings, a barn or stable, and a chicken coop surrounded by a small cleared and/or cultivated area. They were situated within the densely forested ridges and open lowlands. These farms were strictly subsistence endeavors, intended to support families as they gradually cleared the area through logging. There are no extant agricultural or logging structures from this period.

The majority of farms reflect the midpoint of the continuum, which occurred around 1890 when the community shifted from logging to agriculture. These farms consist of heavy timber framed barns with hand-hewn materials, relatively primitive silos, granaries, corn cribs, and interior features related to dairy operations, such as wooden stalls and stanchions and earthen floors and foundations. Because surplus income was severely limited, farmers rarely possessed capital to make alterations in accordance with technological advancements. This overall lag, which existed throughout the period of significance, was compounded by the fact that most residents—men, women, and adolescent children—had to obtain non-farming jobs to support themselves. Eventually farming income became secondary, even though ties to the land remained strong, and land ownership remained fairly constant. When Port Oneida became part of the National Lakeshore in 1970, farming effectively came to a complete stop. Although fencelines and deteriorated buildings were removed following federal acquisition, Port Oneida's landscape has retained a high level of integrity. The primary changes have occurred in the configuration of open space and the enclosure of historic views: former fields and pastures and views from and to farmsteads are threatened by encroaching vegetation, especially at the woodland/field edge. This is controlled to a certain degree by the NPS' Open Field Management Plan, which provides for periodic mowing of the fields. The predominant threat to landscape integrity is further deterioration of uninhabited buildings, and loss of the historic pattern of open space surrounded by wooded ridges.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

Port Oneida's first European residents arrived in 1852, after Michigan's mainland was opened to settlement. The earliest, Carsten and Elizabeth Burfiend, purchased 275 acres on the west side of Pyramid Point. He worked as a fisherman and ferried early settlers between the mainland and North and South Manitou Islands, while Mrs. Burfiend cared for their growing family.<sup>21</sup> They were joined by other emigrants from Hanover, including Frederick and Margaret Werner in 1855, and Frederick and Fredericka Dechow in 1857. By 1860, the population of what would soon become known as Port Oneida had grown to 87 people, many of whom arrived from Hanover and Prussia.

Between 1860 and 1865, sixteen land claims were entered—twelve under the Preemption Act of 1841 and four under the Homestead Act of 1862. Parcels claimed under the Preemption Act ranged from six to one hundred sixty acres, those under the Homestead Act from twenty to one hundred twenty acres. Both acts required claimants to make improvements on the land, such as clearing vegetation, planting crops, and constructing a dwelling, barn, outbuildings and fences. Typical dwellings featured log construction, with board floors and a wood shingle roof. The most common crops grown by the early farmers included corn, potatoes, grains such as wheat, rye, and oats, and a variety of garden vegetables as well as fruit trees.<sup>22</sup>

The arrival of Thomas Kelderhouse in the Pyramid Point area signified an important event in Port Oneida's growth as a community. Kelderhouse, originally of Albany, New York, was responsible for much of the settlement's initial economic development. He first traveled to the Pyramid Point area in 1861. On April 1 of that year, he struck a deal with Carsten Burfiend: he would build a dock if Burfiend would provide the land, which comprised 177 acres of shoreline property. By 1862, the dock was built and Kelderhouse had moved to what was now known as Port Oneida. The community was named for the SS Oneida, one of the first steamships to stop at the dock.<sup>23</sup>

With completion of the dock, the mainland's extensive forest could be harvested. Kelderhouse continued his land acquisition, and built a sawmill to process the harvested trees into cordwood for sale to the passing ships. Over the next twenty-five to thirty years, Port Oneida grew to include a blacksmith shop, a boarding house/hotel, a general store/post office, two barns, and the Kelderhouse residence. Most of these structures were owned by the Kelderhouse family, as was approximately half the land on Pyramid Point.

Logging provided a relatively-short lived economic foundation for the community, but the affects of resource extraction altered the immediate landscape for several generations. By the 1890's, the Pyramid Point area had been almost completely deforested and most Great Lakes steamships were coal burning. As a result, the community's economic base had disappeared. The death of Thomas Kelderhouse in 1884 also meant the end of a driving force in Port Oneida's development. Fortunately, the community was able take advantage of the logging legacy: the cleared land allowed the second generation of Euro-American settlers to expand their agricultural operations. By the turn of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>Ron Cockrell, <u>A Special History of Port Oneida and the Pyramid Point Agricultural District, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore</u> (Omaha, Nebraska: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, 1984), 5. Mr. Burfiend lived on North Manitou Island from 1846 to 1852. During this period, Mrs. Burfiend had been residing in Buffalo, New York with their children.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Preemption and homestead claims, Traverse City, Michigan Land Office, on file in National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.
 <sup>23</sup>Scott Searl, <u>Draft: Cultural Landscape Report: Port Oneida Rural Historic District, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore: Documentary Data Section</u> (Omaha, Nebraska: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, 1986), 12.

century, most Port Oneida individuals and families were purchasing land outright and supporting themselves through subsistence farming.<sup>24</sup> The shift to agriculture and its impact on the land and community have been described as follows: ". . . [while] the Kelderhouse dock and sawmill represent[ed] the high point of Port Oneida's existence as a town, agriculture was the lifeline which gave the land the character it retains today."<sup>25</sup>

By 1908, the dock and all the buildings at the original Port Oneida townsite were abandoned, with the exception of the Kelderhouse residence. At that point, the social center of Port Oneida shifted approximately three-quarters of a mile inland to the intersection of Port Oneida Road and M-22 to the site of the Port Oneida School, the Evangelical Lutheran church and the Port Oneida cemetery. This symbolized the transition to an agricultural community and by 1952, all built features related to the logging era had disappeared.

From the turn of the century until 1945, Port Oneida existed as a subsistence level farming community dedicated to raising dairy cattle and cultivating a variety of grain crops. This period is described in detail below. From the end of WWII until 1970, farming constituted a secondary form of income for most of the community's residents—non-farming jobs were the primary means of support, and limited agricultural activities occurred seasonally, after working hours, or on weekends. A small number of residents left the area entirely, and others leased their land to neighbors who were still farming. This resulted in a reduced number of farms with a simultaneous increase in the acreage of successful farms. In the 1960's, attempts to recognize the surrounding area as a National Park Service unit resulted in land speculation—long time residents were encouraged by local realtors to sell their property. Following designation of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in 1970, realtors sold the land to the government at increased prices.

Since 1970, at least ten to fifteen farmhouses and dozens of agricultural buildings have come under federal ownership. The NPS, however, has been able to support only minimal upkeep of the buildings and surrounding landscape. Some were already in a deteriorated condition upon acquisition, others damaged by vandalism were removed, and at least one major structure, the Burfiend barn, was lost due to fire. The most obvious features that have disappeared are the cultivated fields and the pattern of fencing that defined property boundaries and delineated crop and grazing areas.

## AGRICULTURAL TRENDS

Port Oneida's farms produced a variety of crops, rarely surpassing a subsistence level. Limited agricultural surplus, including cream, butter, garden vegetables, and orchard products, as well as fish were sold in nearby villages and later, to tourists. After the turn of the century, dairy-related activities became dominant. The importance of this shift is seen in the area's resources, and the transition was manifested in the landscape in a number of ways. Most noticeably, barns became larger, gable roofed barns were replaced by those with gambrel roofs to provide more room for hay storage. Increased dairying activities necessitated altering the original gable roofed barns. These alterations took three forms: existing gable roof barns were raised to add a masonry basement to house their livestock. Masonry or wood frame wings were added to an existing barn, and other farmers constructed free standing milkhouses. Granaries, corn cribs, and silos were also needed to store feed for cattle and other livestock. As dairying increased in importance, a greater percentage of land was used for pasture and for cultivating crops such as hay, alfalfa, and oats for forage. Agricultural census manuscripts from 1870 through the early 1900's, the years for which specific data is available, reveal that grain production was significant from the local to county level. Aesthetically, these crops provided a uniform vegetative cover for the fields, with less exposed soil than that present in the early years of farming. Other abiotic landscape features that developed with increased dairying included more post and wire fences for pasture and feed and water troughs.

The quality of life of Port Oneida's farmers improved during the late 1940's with the installation of electric service and the services provided by the Soil Conservation Service and Michigan State University's County Extension offices. These events mark the introduction of scientific agriculture into the community. At this point, a few farmers had reached a certain level of success in farming, although they never moved far beyond a subsistence level of production. The Dechow/Klett and Charles Olsen farms were designated Grade A dairies, and one Port Oneida farmer, Howard Burfiend (grandson of Carsten and Elizabeth Burfiend) received national recognition in 1937 for his livestock when an article describing his experiences appeared in "Hoard's Dairyman."

Many residents point to the period following WWII as the time when farming began to decline in Port Oneida. They provide several explanations for this decrease, such as the cumulative impact of the Depression, when farmers were forced to overtax marginal soils to increase production, the distance of their farms from the southern Michigan market, and the younger generation's postwar exodus to nearby towns and cities to obtain higher paying, less physically demanding jobs. Despite the move away from a tightly knit, interdependent farming community, the land ownership in Port Oneida was constant up to the 1970's when the area became part of the National Lakeshore.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Manuscript schedules for the Federal Population Census, 1900.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>Searl, 25.

#### **ETHNIC HERITAGE**

It is possible to determine the ethnic history of the Port Oneida community from its earliest years of development through 1920 using data from the manuscript schedules for the Federal Population Census.<sup>26</sup> It is somewhat difficult, however, to obtain exact population figures for Port Oneida because the community was never a legally defined political entity, and has always been included as part of two townships.

Population data for Port Oneida was derived from early plat maps, homestead records, farmers included in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 Federal Agricultural Census manuscript schedules, and other individuals mentioned in oral interviews. From 1860 through 1880, the majority of residents were immigrants, primarily from Hanover, Prussia, and Canada. After 1900, most residents were U.S. born, with a significant number of Norwegians, Canadians, and immigrants from the German states.

Although the majority of Port Oneida's Euro-American settlers emigrated from Hanover, Prussia, and later, from other areas of Germany, the agricultural landscape features and buildings do not exhibit representative "Germanic" approaches regarding the location of agricultural fields or the siting of farm buildings. An explanation for this relative lack of a distinguishable ethnic characteristics may be because structures created by settlers with the closest ties to Old World traditions have been removed over time, and the extant landscape features and structures in the district were primarily constructed by second generation settlers. First generation settlement complexes consisted of a small log dwelling, a barn and a small cleared area. After several years, complexes developed, and log cabins were placed by balloon-frame houses. In Port Oneida, the earliest structures have either been encompassed by a second house or dismantled and the timbers recycled to construct outbuildings. These alterations are evidence that area farmers enjoyed a modicum of success, as the second generation houses are substantial frame buildings reflecting popular architectural styles.

The overall arrangement of farm complexes reveals the Northern European legacy of the area in a generalized manner. While only the Thoreson farm features buildings are laid out to create a courtyard area, other farms, such as the Eckhert/Baur farm, possess a somewhat less concentrated geometric arrangement. Others, such as the Martin Basch and Werner/Basch Centennial farm, feature outbuildings arranged around an axis which is or was terminated by the barn.

The Germanic background of Port Oneida's farmers is most clearly expressed in their barns. Although they did not utilize a consistent framing system, the barns share similar construction methods, including the heavy, hewn timbers, splayed queen posts, extensive diagonal corner and knee bracing, and a father uniform corner post and beam arrangement where beams are set between and below the top of upright posts and mortised into them. The barns that incorporate this latter characteristic include the Laura Basch Centennial, Dechow/Klett, Miller, Burfiend/Garthe, and Schnor barns.

#### **CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES**

## • Spatial Organization, Topography And Vegetation

Port Oneida's historic character is defined by both built and landscape features that developed over several generations of human activity. The most important large-scale landscape features include the wooded ridges that frame most of the views within the proposed district and the open areas that reinforce the agrarian scene and allow contemporary visitors to enjoy long-standing views of the fields and pastures, and small-scale features such as comfer windbreaks, remnant orchards, and extant structures. Although the open fields are no longer cultivated or used for grazing, they portray the proposed district's agricultural legacy.

## Circulation

Port Oneida's circulation system has not been significantly altered for over seventy years. The character has been impacted by encroaching vegetation near the road corridor, blocking historically open views. The overall pattern and alignment of paved and gravel seasonal roads has not changed, with the exception of broadening sharp turns and curves to better accommodate vehicular travel. Interestingly, the roads in Port Oneida contrast with the traditional Midwestern layout: areas that were surveyed via the 1785 Land Ordinance later developed roads along section lines to maximize agricultural use areas. In Port Oneida, the township and range system was utilized for land ownership, but the roads only follow section lines near the Lawr/Chapman farm and the Port Oneida Schoolhouse and Cemetery. In the northeastern corner of the proposed district, they appear to relate more to natural features by following the edge of the ridgeline that forms the eastern boundary of the area. In the western and south central portions, however, there is no evident pattern.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> The original manuscript schedules include the years 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. To protect individual privacy, the manuscripts are not made public until seventy-two years have passed after the enumeration. As a result, the 1920 census manuscript provides the most recent information. The 1890 Census Manuscripts for the entire nation were destroyed by fire during the 1930's.

#### Landscape Features—Plantings, Fences, Wetlands

A variety of intentional planting types reveal the legacy of agricultural use in Port Oneida. These include functional plantings, such as remnant orchards, which provided food for the farm families and small supplementary income when surplus could be sold to local resorts or at the docks. The subsistence level fruit production contrasts with the large orchards for which the Leelanau Peninsula is known.

Pine plantations reflect the emergence of scientific agricultural knowledge conveyed to local farmers by the Soil Conservation Service and County Agricultural Extension agent during and following the Depression. The plantations are found south of the Dechow/Klett farm, northeast of the Thoreson farm, west and north of the Burfiend farm, northwest of the Martin Basch farm, and northeast of the Laura Basch farm. They represent the farmer's attempts to prevent soil erosion caused by strong winds from Lake Michigan. Another common approach intended to supplement the sandy soil was planting vetch on hillsides. This was done by Fred Baker on the fields on the eastern side of Port Oneida Road opposite his farm, and by the Werner's on the hills west of their farm.

The other planting type that plays a significant role in creating Port Oneida's landscape character are the sugar maple tree rows that line the area's roads in several locations. They unify the character of the road corridor, and mark entry points into the proposed district for those traveling via the state highway. They are found near the Charles Olsen farm at Port Oneida's western boundary and in front of the Lawr/Chapman farm in the southeastern corner, as well as along Port Oneida Road, in front of the Kelderhouse farm and the Port Oneida Cemetery, and along Basch Road in front of the Milton Basch farm. The sugar maples also had functional value: they were tapped by farmers for maple syrup production.

Ornamental plantings remain at many of the farms in the yards near the domestic work areas. These include shrubs, such as spirea, roses, and viburnum, and herbaceous and tuberous species, including "butter and eggs," campanula, vinca, hosta, iris and daylilies. These plantings represent attempts to improve the aesthetics of the farm, and were often obtained through sharing or trade with other farm families. In some cases, this plant material is a primary indicator of the location of missing structures, most noticeably the Miller barn. a pear tree and rose hedge mark the location of the house, which was removed in the 1980's. Lilacs are also important indicators: the site of the original logging town is marked by a large lilac clump in a field west of Port Oneida Road, and the initial location of the Eckhert log cabin is marked by a lilac shrub along Basch Road.

Water features define landscape character in several locations in the proposed district. Obviously, Lake Michigan defines the northern and western boundary of the area; it also has a significant impact on sensory experiences—the sound of waves, fog rolling in from shoreline areas. These microclimatic conditions add to the landscape character. Other water features include the large wooded wetland that is located in the center of the proposed district. This area has historic importance as it was frequently the site of berry picking excursions by Port Oneida's children, as was the wetland area that surrounds Narada Lake in the eastern section of the district. While the wetlands were not the site of intensive cultivation, marsh hay may have been harvested in these areas by local farmers.

Although the majority of fencelines have been removed since the decline of agricultural activity in the area, they are extant in several locations. They reflect the property divisions, usually along section lines, and define pasture areas for dairy cattle and other livestock. A unusual fencing type is found along Basch Road, near the Weaver farm. It consists of short uprights with a longer post leaned on the top of the upright, somewhat resembling a fence type constructed in communities settled by Northern Europeans, primarily from Scandinavian countries. It is also similar to the description of a fence type known as a "pitchpole" fence.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to the overall landscape character created by the wooded ridges and open lowlands and the diverse cultural landscape features that have resulted from agricultural use, a sense of cohesiveness among the farms is reinforced by the consistent building styles and construction materials. The houses are predominantly balloon-frame, with locally milled pine and hardwoods used for the framing and siding. They utilize an upright and wing configuration with a front facing gable roof on the upright portion of the house, with two exceptions: both the Dechow/Klett and Charles Olsen residences resemble vernacular adaptations of the bungalow style. Many of the houses feature Greek Revival stylistic elements such as wide trim on the gable ends. The Charles and Hattie Olsen, Martin Basch, and Thoreson houses all have Queen Anne detailing, specifically decorative wood sunbursts in the gables.

Port Oneida's barns are almost exclusively gable-roofed, only the Charles and Hattie Olsen barn features a gambrel roof. This ca. 1918 barn reflects the trend toward accommodating the need for greater reserves of hay for dairy cattle. Although the Burfiend barn (ca. 1923) which burned in the early 1980's, was also a large gambrel roofed structure, the majority of farms retained their original gable-roofed barns and altered them to increase the size of their dairy herd. These adaptations took several forms: ground barns were raised to construct a masonry basement to house livestock, a balloon frame or masonry wing was added to the initial barn, or a separate, freestanding milkhouse was constructed. The transition to increased dairying occurred in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly in response to soil conditions that were poorly suited to most commercial crops. Dairying kept fairly extensive parcels open following logging and during the reforestation period of the early 1900's, as land was needed to grow grain crops and provide pasture for livestock.

Granaries and corn cribs are additional evidence of the importance of dairy cattle and the predominance of grain crops. Corn cribs in the district were constructed with a wide top and narrow bottom to provide for better ventilation as corn settled during storage. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> "A Pioneer Past Remembered," <u>Duluth News-Tribune</u>, Thursday, June #, 1993, and Mannie Meredith, "A Nomenclature of American Pioneer Fences,: <u>Southern Folklore Quarterly</u>, June, 1951.

emergence of scientific agriculture is represented by the silos or silo foundations present at the Dechow/Klett, Charles Olsen, Barratt, Burfiend, and Thoreson farm. The Charles Olsen silo, which consists of wood staves clad in sheet metal with iron rings, is an example of a method of construction that was commonly utilized throughout the upper Great Lakes. With the emergence of prefabricated silos and the decline in small farms, however, many of these structures have vanished from the landscape.

Another characteristic of Port Oneida's farms is the variety of small specialty-purpose outbuildings, most of which utilize milled board siding, asbestos or asphalt shingles over gable or shed roofs. These include chicken coops, brooder houses, and pig barns. They reflect the attempts of farmers to engage in diverse activities in order to provide food for their families and to sell or trade to area resorts and/or neighbors. Garages and machine/equipment sheds are present on several of the farms, reflecting the national trend from animal-drawn wagons and plows to equipment run with the aid of combustion engines.

#### Cemeteries

At least three burial sites or cemeteries can be found within the boundaries of the district. The Werner Family Cemetery is a small plot located on a bluff adjacent to the Lake Michigan shoreline. Members of the second family to establish residence in Port Oneida, the Werners, are buried at the site. The family's Hanoverian heritage is evident in the headstones, some of which are inscribed in German. The land on which the cemetery is located was owned by descendants of the Werners from the mid 1800's until the National Lakeshore was established in 1970. The original Werner residence is owned by their great-grandson, Franklin Basch, reflecting the trends of multigenerational land ownership common in Port Oneida.

The other major burial site in Port Oneida is the resting place of many of the community's early residents. The Port Oneida Cemetery is located at the corner of M-22 and Port Oneida, in an area that emerged as the focus of the agricultural community at the turn of the century. Members of the Kelderhouse, Olsen, Dechow, and Brunson families are buried in the cemetery, as are a number of residents from other nearby farms.

Several members of Port Oneida's oldest family, the Burfiends, are reputed to be buried near the Burfiend farm. The exact location of this burial site is unknown. It may be at the large clump of lilacs that mark the approximate location of the original logging town, or near a lilac shrub that is in the front yard of the farm, between the House #1 and Lake Michigan.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Port Oneida Rural Historic District name of property Leelanau County, Michigan county and state

## **Geographical Data (continued)**

UTM References

#### **Boundary Description**

South Boundary: The boundary for the Port Oneida Rural Historic District begins in the southwest at the point on Sleeping Bear Bay where the property lines of the former Fred Miller farm and Frank G. King property coincide. The boundary follows the property line east until it intersects with Sunset Trail. At this point, the boundary proceeds south along Sunset Trail, excluding the Sunset Haven Subdivision on the west side, until the open field to the east abruptly ends and a dense forested landscape begins at the approximate elevation of 700 feet (Point D). The boundary proceeds due east and south following this elevation to the southwest corner of the former Thoreson farmstead. The boundary follows the southernmost edge of the Thoreson land east until reaching the Werner-Basch farm property (Point C). The boundary continues following the 700 foot elevation line east along the southern boundary of the Werner-Basch farm, crossing State Highway M-22, until it meets the wooded ridge south of the Dechow/Klett farm at elevation 834'. At this point the district boundary proceeds north and east along the 800'elevation line south of the Dechow/Klett farm which can be clearly discerned from M-22. The ridge line meets M-22 southwest of the North Umity schoolhouse shortly after bisecting the first principal bend in Wheeler Road. At this juncture, the boundary proceeds east along M-22, excluding all property to the south, until meeting the eastern edge of the Goffar/Roman property on the north side (Point B).

East Boundary: The boundary line follows the edge of the Goffar/roman farm property north and west, encompassing all of Narada Lake, until meeting the southeast corner of the Howard Olsen property. The boundary then follows the Olsen property line north until meeting an escarpment which is readily seen from Basch road and in aerial surveys. The boundary follows this escarpment line north and slightly to the west, excluding all territory to the east. The escarpment forks at the dunes at the top of Pyramid Point. The boundary proceeds west and north along the edge of the dunes, thereby excluding them until meeting Lake Michigan.

<u>North and West Boundaries</u>: At the point where the western edge of the Pyramid Point dunes meet Lake Michigan, the district boundary proceeds west and south along the shoreline, encompassing the Port Oneida dock ruins, until coming full circle to the southwest edge of the Miller property which borders on Sleeping Bear Bay.

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OMB No. 1024-0018

Port Oneida Rural Historic District name of property Leelanau County, Michigan county and state

## **Geographical Data (continued)**

## **Boundary Justification**

The primary boundaries of the proposed district are defined by natural landscape features: Lake Michigan to the north and west, an escarpment to the east and a wooded ridgeline along the southern edge. Wooded slopes are included within the district boundary in order to preserve the historic natural setting of the community. Small deviations from these natural boundaries occur in a few areas in order to exclude substantial non-contributing structures and development, such as the Sunset Haven subdivision at the southwest corner of the district.

## **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

This information is primarily included to clarify contributing structures and objects and document their current condition.

# BAKER/BARRATT FARM

Inventory numbers:

<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
34-169A	15339	Good
34-169B	15340	Good
34-169C	15176	Fair
34-169D	15177	Good
34-169F	72534	Good
34-169H	72535	Good
34-127	72537	Fair
	34-169A 34-169B 34-169C 34-169D 34-169F 34-169H	34-169A1533934-169B1534034-169C1517634-169D1517734-169F7253434-169H72535

## LAURA BASCH CENTENNIAL FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-187A	15349	Good
Barn	3 <b>5-187</b> B	15350	Fair
Tool Shed	35-187C	15202	Good
Milkhouse	35-187D	15203	Good
Brooder House	35-187E	15204	Good
Garage	35-187F	15205	Good
Shed #2	35-187G	15206	Fair
Chicken Coop	35-187H	15207	Good
Gas Pump	35-187I	15208	Fair
Privy	35-187J	72561	Good
Shed #3	35-187K	72562	Good
Barbed Wire Fence	3 <b>5-187</b> L	72511	Good

## MARTIN BASCH FARM

Inventory numbers:

<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
35-199A	15351	Poor
35-199B	15352	Poor
35-199C	15353	Fair
3 <b>5-</b> 199D	15354	Fair/Poor
35-199E	72564	Poor
	35-199A 35-199B 35-199C 35-199D	35-199A1535135-199B1535235-199C1535335-199D15354

## MILTON BASCH FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-116A	15341	Good
Granary	35-116C	15343	Fair

STRUCTURE Chicken Coop Ruin Tractor Shed Rabbit Hutch Barbed Wire Fence	<u>HS #</u> 35-116D 35-116E 35-116F 35-116G	<u>LCS #</u> 15344 15346 72541 72511	<u>CONDITION</u> Poor Fair Poor Fair
BRUNSON BARN Inventory numbers:			
<u>STRUCTURE</u> Barn	<u>HS #</u> 34-121 D	<u>LCS #</u> 15164	<u>CONDITION</u> Poor
BURFIEND FARM Inventory numbers:			
STRUCTURE	HS #	LCS #	CONDITION
House #1	34-139A	15327	Fair
House #2	34-139B	15328	Fair
Privy #1	34-139C	15329	Good
Garage	34-139D	15330	Fair
Barn Foundation	34-139E	15331	Poor
Chicken Coop #2	34-139F	15332	Poor
Granary/Corn Crib	34-139G	15333	Fair/Poor
Butchering Shed	34-139H	15334	Fair
Machine Shed	34-139I	15335	Good
Chicken Coop #1	34-139J	15336	Good
Barbed Wire Fence	34-139K	72511	Fair
Privy #2	34-139L	72512	Poor

# **BURFIEND/GARTHE FARM**

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	34-145A	15337	Good
Barn	34-145B	15338	Fair
Granary	34-145C	15170	Fair
Garage #2	34-145D	15171	Good
Privy	34-145E	15172	Good
Shed #1	34-145F	72538	Good/Fair
Chicken Coop	34-145G	72539	Fair
Shed/Garage #1	34-145H	72540	Fair
Post and Wire Fence	34-145I	72535	Fair

# DECHOW/KLETT FARM

# Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	34-116A	15321	Good
Dairy Barn	34 <b>-</b> 116B	15322	Fair
<u>STRUCTURE</u> Chicken Coop	<u>HS #</u> 34-116C	<u>LCS #</u> 15323	<u>CONDITION</u> Fair
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Granary/Corn Crib	34-116D	15324	Good/Fair
Brooder House	34-116E	15325	Good
Pasture Barn	34-116F	15326	Good/Fair
Sugar Shack	34-116H	15158	Fair
Garage	34-116I	72501	Good
Well	34-116J	72502	Good
ECKHERT LOG CABIN Inventory numbers:			
STRUCTURE	<u>HS #</u>	LCS #	<b>CONDITION</b>
AIR Foundation Cabin	35-192	72563	Good
ECKHERT/BAUR FARM Inventory numbers:			
STRUCTURE	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-118A	15180	Good
Large Barn	35-118B	15181	Good
Small Barn	35-118C	15182	Good
Shed	35-118D	15183	Good
Chicken Coop	35-118E	15184	Fair
Brooder House	35-118F	15185	Good
Privy Barbed Wire Fence	35-118G 35-118H	15186 72511	Good Fair
Darbed whe rence	33-1160	72311	Fall
GOFFAR/ROMAN FARM Inventory numbers:			
STRUCTURE	<u>HS #</u>	LCS #	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-202A	15210	Good
Barn	35-202B	15211	Good
Steps/Walkway	35-202C	72565	Good
KELDERHOUSE FARM Inventory numbers:			
<u>STRUCTURE</u>	<u>HS #</u>	LCS #	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-183A	15199	Good/Fair
Pig barn	35-183C	15201	Poor
Privy	35-183D	15202	Fair/Poor
Chicken Coop	35-183E	72559	Poor
Brooder House	35-183F	72560	Fair/Poor

## LAWR/CHAPMAN FARM

#### Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-175A	15195	Good
Barn	35 <b>-</b> 175B	15196	Fair
Chicken Coop	35-175C	15197	Poor
Garage	35-175D	15198	Fair
Well	35-175E	72557	Good
Post and Wire Fence	35-175F	72535	Good/Fair

#### MILLER BARN

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
Barn	34-153	15173	Good

#### MILLER/ADAIR RESIDENCE

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	34-166	72530	Good
Garage	34-166B	23769	Poor
<b>Entrance</b> Gate	34-166C	72531	Good
Sidewalk	34-166D	72532	Good
Pump	34-166E	72533	Good

#### NORTH UNITY SCHOOLHOUSE

#### Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS#</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
Schoolhouse	35-203	15209	Good

#### CHARLES AND HATTIE OLSEN FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	34-118A	15159	Fair
Barn	34 <b>-</b> 118B	15160	Fair
Sidewalks	34-118C	72503	Good
Post and Wire Fence	34 <b>-</b> 118D	72535	Poor

#### HOWARD AND BERTHA OLSEN FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-146A	15347	Fair
Barn	3 <b>5-</b> 146B	15348	Fair
Pig Barn	35-146C	15189	Poor

HS #	LCS #	CONDITION
35-146D	15190	Fair/Poor
35-146E	15190	Good/Fair
35-146F	72544	Fair/Poor
35-146G	72545	Fair/Poor
35-146H	72546	Poor
3 <b>5-</b> 146I	72547	Good
35-146J	72548	Poor
35-146K	72549	Poor
	35-146D 35-146E 35-146F 35-146G 35-146H 35-146I 35-146J	35-146D 15190   35-146E 15190   35-146F 72544   35-146G 72545   35-146H 72546   35-146I 72547   35-146J 72548

## OLSEN/HOUDEK FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-151A	15192	Good
Garage	35-151C	72551	Good
Shed #1	35-151D	72552	Good
Shed #2/Garage	35-151E	72553	Good
Privy	35-151F	72554	Good
Windmill	35-151G	72555	Good
Barn foundation	35-151B	72556	Poor
Post and Wire Fence	35-151H	72535	Fair

#### PORT ONEIDA DOCK

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
Dock Ruins	34-131	15169	Poor

PORT ONEIDA CEMETERY

This site is not federally owned; inventory numbers do not apply.

### PORT ONEIDA SCHOOL

This site is not federally owned; inventory numbers do not apply.

#### SCHMIDT/HAYMS FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	3 <b>5-1</b> 23A	15187	Good
Granary/Corn Crib	35-123B	15193	Good
Privy	35-123C	72542	Fair
Shed	3 <b>5-123D</b>	72543	Good

# SCHNOR FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>
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STRUCTURE House Barn Barbed Wire Fence	<u>HS #</u> 34-165A 34-165B 34-165C	<u>LCS #</u> 15174 15175 72511	CONDITION Good Good
THORESON FARM Inventory numbers:			
STRUCTURE	HS #	LCS #	CONDITION
House	40-157A	15361	Fair
Barn	40-157B	23671	Poor
Small Barn	40-157C	23670	Fair
Stone Barn	40 <b>-</b> 157H	23666	Good/Fair
Milkhouse	40-157K	72566	Fair
Privy	40-157E	23669	Fair
Shed	40-157F	23668	Poor
Corn Crib	40-157G	23667	Fair
Granary	40-157I	23665	Good
Equipment shed	40-157J	72567	Fair
Feeding Trough	40-157L	72568	Good
Post and Wire Fence	40-157M	72535	Fair

## WEAVER FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	35-125	15188	Poor

# WERNER/BASCH CENTENNIAL FARM

Inventory numbers:

<b>STRUCTURE</b>	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
House	34-114A	15153	Good
Stone Barn	34-114B	15154	Good
Garage	34 <b>-114C</b>	15155	Good
Barn	34 <b>-</b> 114D	15156	Good
Granary/Corn Crib	34-114E	15157	Good
Privy	34 <b>-</b> 114F	15158	Good

## WERNER FAMILY CEMETERY

Inventory numbers:

STRUCTURE	<u>HS #</u>	<u>LCS #</u>	<b>CONDITION</b>
Fence	34-128A	23681	Good
Carl Erickson Headstone	34-128B	72504	Good
Fredericka and Johann Werner Headstone	34-128C	72505	Good
Heinrich Werner Headstone	34-128D	72506	Good
Margaretha [Burfiend] Werner Headstone	34-128E	72507	Good
Frederick Werner	34-128F	72508	Good
Abraham Erickson Headstone	34-128H	72509	Good

STRUCTURE	HS #	LCS #	CONDITION
Katie Erickson Headstone	34-128G	72510	Good

#### Non Contributing Structures

Elmer house, Mason house, Watkins house, Eckhert cottage, Kelderhouse garage, Garthe garage, Richardson cottage, Barnes cottage, Olsen cottage, Barratt shed (modern), garage, and rental house, Zeits cottage, and Houdek shed.

#### Location Map/Site Plans

The attached map and site plans illustrate the location of individual farmsteads, contributing sites, and non-contributing structures. The farmsteads and contributing sites are numbered to correspond to the descriptions in Section 7. Individual non-contributing houses and cottages are labeled by name on the map, and those that are part of farmsteads are labeled on the site plans.



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