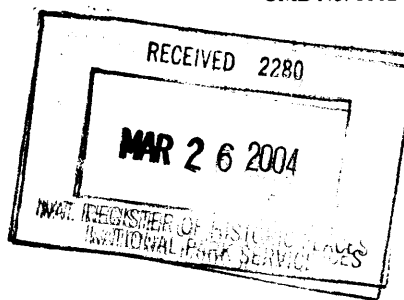


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1514 Dump Road N/A not for publication
city or town Town of Brussels N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Door code 029 zip code 54204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] SHPO 3/23/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House

Door County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

5/6/04

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> noncontributing |
| 1 | 2 buildings |
| | sites |
| | structures |
| | objects |
| 1 | 2 total |

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof METAL

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

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Description

The Louis Vangindertahlen House is located at 1514 Dump Road in the town of Brussels, Door County. The property contains three buildings – a contributing poured-concrete, front-gabled house; a non-contributing modern shed; and a non-contributing barn.

Louis Vangindertahlen House *c. 1921* *Contributing*

The Vangindertahlen House, c. 1921, is a front-gabled structure with poured-concrete walls. The one-and-one-half-story house is in good condition, although numerous repairs to the concrete are visible on the house's exterior. The roof has a sheathing of standing-seam metal, a center ridge chimney, exposed rafter ends, and centered wall dormers on both the north and south facades. The main (west) facade displays two, four-over-one, double-hung windows and an off-center modern door in original openings on the first story. A set of paired one-over-one, double-hung windows in original openings are located on the second floor, centered under the gable peak. A concrete patio extends across the length of the main facade. The north facade has asymmetrical massing. A wood door is situated slightly off-center to the west; and one-over-one, double-hung windows are unevenly spaced to both sides of this door. The wall dormer on the north elevation includes paired one-over-one, double-hung windows and wood clapboard siding on its sides under a shed roof. All openings on the north facade are original. The basement window has been boarded over.

The rear (east) elevation has been altered with a small gabled vestibule centered on the facade. The vestibule has a concrete foundation; wide wood clapboard walls; a modern door on its north facade; and one-over-one, double-hung windows on the south and east facades. To the north of the vestibule on the original house is a one-over-one, double-hung window, while above the vestibule in the gable is a set of paired one-over-one, double-hung windows. The windows of the south facade include a one-over-one, double-hung window on the west half; paired one-over-one, double-hung windows on the east half; and a larger pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows in the wall dormer. The south-facing wall dormer also has wood clapboard sides under a shed roof. The two basement windows of the south facade have been boarded over. The house is in good condition and has remained largely unchanged, with a small clapboard vestibule on the rear of the house being the only alteration.

The interior space of the house contains a living room and bedroom in the west half of the first floor; and a laundry, bathroom, and kitchen in the east half. The second floor has three bedrooms and a storage space. The interior of the house features simple wood detailing and plastered walls, with the exception of the paneled living room walls. The floors are covered with linoleum or carpeting throughout the house.

Threshing Barn *c. 1940* *Non-Contributing*

A rectangular threshing barn, c. 1940, is the largest building on the property and stands in fair condition. The barn has a low-pitched, gabled roof; walls of corrugated sheet metal; and a concrete foundation. The west facade displays two sliding wood garage doors and one, one-over-one, double-hung window to the far south. The north elevation displays one sliding wood garage door at the center. A small gabled addition with a standing-seam metal roof is connected to the south facade. The addition is covered with rolled sheet metal and has a multi-paned wood door on the west facade and a four-light fixed window on both the west and south

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Section 7 Page 2

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

facades. To the west of the addition is an open entryway; while to the east are two, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The south end of the east facade contains an open entryway and a centered sliding wood garage door. The barn is considered non-contributing because it does not contribute to our understanding of the significance of the property.

Modern Shed

c. 1955

Non-Contributing

A modern shed, c. 1955, with a rectangular footprint and curved roof is also a non-contributing building on the property. The entire building is covered in corrugated sheet metal. The roof is elliptical and extends from the top of the main facade to the foundation in the rear. The front of the building has two fixed multi-paned windows and two sliding metal doors. Both the north and south facades contain one fixed window; while the rear facade has no openings. The shed is in fair condition and is considered non-contributing because of its recent construction date and because it does not contribute to the significance of the property.

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Name of Property

Door County
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1921

Significant Dates

c. 1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cumber, Joseph

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Section 8 Page 1

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Louis Vangindertahlen House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C: Architecture* as a distinctive example of a poured-concrete house constructed by local builder, Joseph Cumber. Built c. 1921, the house has a one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled form, and was constructed of a nontraditional material. The house is in good condition and has remained largely unchanged, with a small clapboard vestibule on the rear of the house being the only alteration. Two outbuildings located on the property are non-contributing, due to their later date and because they do not contribute to our understanding of concrete construction. In the early twentieth century concrete was highly promoted, precipitating its wide acceptance for many types of buildings and structures. However, poured concrete never gained great favor as a material for residential construction. The Vangindertahlen house is thus a rare example of a poured-concrete residence in Wisconsin, and one of seven known examples in this region Door County. The period of significance for the Vangindertahlen House is c. 1921, the approximate year the house was constructed.

Historic Context

History of Belgian Settlement¹

The difficult economic situation in Belgium that followed the country's independence in 1830, combined with promotional activities by immigrant recruiting agents, resulted in an exodus of rural Walloon peasants seeking a better life in America. Wisconsin was advocated as a place to settle by recruiters who worked for Antwerp shipowners and were equipped with promotional guidebooks. The Belgians who emigrated to Wisconsin's Door Peninsula between 1853 and 1857 came primarily from the south-central provinces of Brabant, Hanaut, and Namur. Belgians from these southern provinces were Catholics and spoke Walloon, a French Patois dialect. In 1857, however, emigration slowed due to restrictions by the Belgian government and discouraging letters from previous emigrants.

¹ Belgian settlement in northeast Wisconsin has been well studied, most recently by Professors William Laatsch, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and William H. Tishler, University of Wisconsin-Madison. This section was compiled from a number of secondary sources, including William G. Laatsch and Charles F. Calkins, "Belgians in Wisconsin," in *To Build in a New Land: Ethnic Landscapes in North America*, ed. by Allen G. Noble (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992); William H. Tishler, "Namur Belgian-American District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 6 November 1989; Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape*, Vol. 2, *Barns and Farm Structures* (Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984); Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, 3 Vols. (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986); Deborah B. Martin, *History of Brown County, Wisconsin: Past and Present*, Vol. 1 (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1913); Xavier Martin, *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, Vol. 13, *The Belgians of Northeast Wisconsin*, ed. by Reuben Gold Thwaites (Madison, WI: Democrat Printing Co., 1895); William H. Tishler and Erik Brynildson, "The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin" (Madison, WI., July 1986); and Virginia C. Dell, "Bay Settlement: A Hamlet in Northeastern Wisconsin," 1974, Belgian-American Research Collection, Special Collections, Cofrin Library, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI.

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Section 8 Page 2

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

Most of the Belgian settlements in the Door Peninsula were concentrated in the towns of Gardner, Union, and Brussels in Door County; the communities of Red River and Lincoln in northern Kewaunee County; and the towns of Humboldt, Scott, and Green Bay in Brown County. The majority of the settlers were farmers, but a few were skilled laborers or factory workers who left these professions in their native country to farm their own land in America. The number of Belgians in the peninsula by 1860 was estimated to be 4,647.

Dense forests and scattered swamps physically isolated the Belgian enclave from other nearby settlements. Language and cultural misunderstandings also kept the Belgians apart from their German, Irish, and Scandinavian neighbors who lived in communities 10 to 15 miles away. This isolation, coupled with economic troubles, denied these Belgian settlers benefits that were enjoyed by other tax-supported populations in the area, including expanded county roads and schools. However, in 1858, the Belgians, as a group, finally decided to exercise their right to vote and run for office. The result was a Belgian coup of local government through which they assumed the upper hand in the affairs of Bay Settlement – the nearest large community. The community of Belgians was thereafter recognized as an important faction in the county. Newly elected Belgians were instrumental in establishing school districts, obtaining teachers, and improving roads in their settlement. Upon application to the federal government, post offices were soon established at Bay Settlement and Robinsonville, also located in Brown County. By the 1860s large tracts of previously forested land were under cultivation and larger, more commodious houses and barns were being built.

History of Door County

Menominee, Winnebago, and Fox Indian tribes inhabited the shores of Green Bay when Jean Nicolet landed there in 1634. In the 1650s and 1660s, French traders began fur trading and missionary activities and soon established Wisconsin's first community of European settlers. In 1835 Increase Chafin, a trapper and trader, settled at Little Sturgeon in Door County. Besides trapping and trading, other early settlers to the area fished the waters of Green Bay. The timber industry, namely the harvest of pine and cedar, began around 1850 with mills being built in Sturgeon Bay and other communities. The population of Door County reached 2,948 in 1860, rising to 4,919 by 1870.²

Beginning in the 1850s, a large number of Belgian immigrants settled in southern Door County, forming ethnic enclaves in Brussels and Union Townships. Belgian Ferdinand Debraux and his family and three other Belgian immigrant men first settled the town of Brussels in 1856. Within 2 years, 55 families had settled in Brussels, and by 1861 the first business – a tavern – was opened by Francois Pierre. The first Brussels post office was established in 1862. In 1870, 216 of the 406 residents were Belgian natives.³ The County Board established a new township from a portion of Brussels Township in November of 1865. A town meeting was held shortly

² Holand, 1:83.

³ Tishler and Brynildson, 25.

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Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

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thereafter at the home of X. Braus, where the name "Union" was decided upon because its townspeople were thought to be unified in areas of public interest.⁴

Early settlement of townships typically involved the development of villages at major road intersections or near mills and general stores, as these areas were better able to support commercial activities. Rosiere and Brussels in Brussels Township, and Namur in Union Township, are communities that developed in the early history of southern Door County. Typically, these communities included a commercial center with a general store, mill, and other services, and houses surrounded them.

In the 1890s the village of Rosiere had the largest population in Brussels Township with 300 residents and supported three general stores. The Charles Rubens General Store in Rosiere was also a hotel and cheese factory, and it commanded a prominent location in the village on the main thoroughfare. Rosiere also sustained three blacksmiths, a carpenter, a mason, a shoemaker, and a notary public. At the same time, the village of Namur in Union Township supported three general stores, including Frank Everard's General Store. With a population of 100, Namur also boasted two physicians and a blacksmith. In contrast, by 1895 the smaller village of Brussels had only one business – the Pierre Virlee & Company General Store.⁵

By 1903 business in Rosiere and Namur had decreased. The population in Rosiere had dropped from 300 to 50. Rosiere possessed the Charles Rubens General Store, three blacksmiths, a carpenter, a shoemaker, a creamery, a cooper, a mason, a hay presser, and a sculptor; while just one general store continued to operate in Namur. At the same time, Brussels' population grew to 160 as the village gained many new businesses, including two saloons, two masons, a hotel, a tailor, a shoemaker, a carpenter, and a blacksmith. According to the *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, the Pierre Virlee & Company General Store added a flour mill on-site.⁶

Brussels continued to grow through 1912 to a population of 200, while the population of Rosiere and Namur remained static. Namur still supported one general store as did Rosiere, with only a few other surrounding businesses. Brussels, on the other hand, added three new stores, including the Gabe Pierre General Store and Agricultural Implements.⁷

⁴ Chas I. Martin, *History of Door County, Wisconsin* (Sturgeon Bay, Wis.: Expositor Job Print, 1881), 90.

⁵ *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1895-96). The Pierre Virlee & Company General Store is still extant and was determined to be eligible for the National Register in a report by Mead & Hunt, Inc., "State Trunk Highway 57 Reconstruction, Door County, Reconnaissance Survey of Potentially Significant Historic Properties," April 1995, Madison, Wisc.

⁶ *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1903-04).

⁷ *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1911-12).

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Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

By 1918 Brussels had doubled in population to 400, and besides having six general stores, added businesses such as the Rex Theater, a restaurant, newspaper, pharmacist, cement contractor, and two horse breeders. The Pierre Virlee & Company had disbanded, but Gabe Pierre and Jules Pierre, who may have been proprietors of this enterprise, operated separate businesses in Brussels.

Architecture

Building Materials

Belgian immigrants in the Door Peninsula built their first domestic structures, including homes and agricultural outbuildings, of log. Wood was the most logical construction material to these early settlers, in that it was both abundant and inexpensive. Other early wooden buildings and structures not entirely built of logs utilized timber and balloon-frame construction. Balloon framing became very popular in Wisconsin in the late nineteenth century because it was inexpensive and expedient. However, as with all wood construction, buildings with balloon frames were vulnerable to catching fire.⁸ On October 8, 1871, the great Peshtigo fire took a number of lives and destroyed many of the buildings and structures made of log and wood in the Door Peninsula. Shortly after the Peshtigo fire, Belgians in the Door Peninsula began to expand their farms onto former timberland cleared by the fire and to rebuild their farmsteads with fireproof materials such as stone, brick, and metal.⁹ In the early twentieth century, several area houses, including the Louis Vangindertahlen House, were constructed of poured concrete.

Concrete is considered to be the oldest synthetic building material.¹⁰ It is produced by combining aggregate (a mixture of sand, gravel, and stone) with cement and water. Cement is composed primarily of lime and clay. The aggregate, cement, and water create a chemical bond in a process called "curing" that causes these materials to harden and form a unified mass.¹¹ Due to the fact that the components, proportions, and production of cements have historically differed, so too has the quality of concrete. It was not until the invention of portland cement by Joseph Aspdin of Leeds, England, that concrete exhibited the uniformity, consistency, and strength necessary to gain favor over other building materials. Portland cement is created by calcining, or burning lime matter with other earthen materials until they are fused together, and then grinding the resulting "clinker" into a fine powder. Although portland cement was patented in 1824, its production grew slowly, first

⁸ Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:4.4 - 4.5.

⁹ Noble, 2:139-140.

¹⁰ Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:4.8.

¹¹ Paul Lambert, "Cement and Concrete - History and Development", abstracted from *Corrosion Protection Association*, Monograph 1, n.d. <<http://www.azom.com/details.asp?articleID=1317>> (12 March 2002).

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Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

in Europe and then in the U.S. By the turn of the twentieth century concrete was being widely used in construction projects, and the U.S. produced the majority of its own portland cement.¹²

Prior to portland cement, the use of concrete in the United States was largely an experimental process. The quality of cement was often unpredictable, and sufficient lime deposits were not common in some regions of the country. Although concrete was slow to catch on in the U.S., it was still being utilized by builders on a small scale. An early example of concrete construction can be seen in the Milton House, built in 1844 by Joseph Goodrich and located in Milton, Wisconsin. Goodrich experimented with a form of concrete, called grout, in which he mixed together lime, gravel, sand, and water. He then poured it into wooden forms until it hardened. This method was relatively successful, and was adopted by others in the surrounding area. The use of grout gained greater attention in Orson Fowler's 1854 book, *A Home For All*, in which he praised its qualities and functionality for use in house construction. In the U.S., however, the process of manufacturing high-quality cement was still in its infancy.¹³

Portland cement was introduced in the United States in 1865. In 1871 David Saylor received the first U.S. patent for portland cement and began manufacturing it in Coplay, Pennsylvania. The United States' annual production did not reach the million-barrel mark until 1896. For many years, portland cement manufactured in Europe exhibited a higher degree of quality than that of the U.S. product. In the late 1800s the U.S. began producing a comparable product to that of the Europeans. Prior to that time, the majority of portland cement used in the U.S. was shipped here from overseas. However, with improved domestic cement production and with advents such as steel reinforcement, the use of concrete grew rapidly in the U.S. during the first 20 years of the twentieth century.¹⁴ Prior to its use in the construction of buildings, concrete and reinforced concrete were used extensively in the construction of bridges. The first concrete bridge in the United States was built in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, in 1871.¹⁵

In the early 1900s portland cement manufacturers and builders alike were marketing concrete as a superior construction material. Several journals, books, and how-to guides promoted its plasticity, functionality, and economical aspects. Because it is virtually impervious to the elements, as well as energy efficient, concrete was touted for its wide variety of farm-related applications, such as the construction of silos, barn and pen floors,

¹² William A. Radford, ed., *Cement and How to Use It* (Chicago, Ill: The Radford Architectural Company, 1910), 12-15.

¹³ Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:4.8.

¹⁴ Radford, 12-15.

¹⁵ Jeffrey A. Hess and Robert M. Frame III, *Historic Highway Bridges in Wisconsin*, Vol. 1, *Stone and Concrete Arch Bridges* (Madison, Wisc.: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 1986), 205.

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Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

water troughs, and culverts. In addition to these advantages, construction with concrete was often less expensive and more timely than using frame, brick, or stone.

Poured-concrete structures were, for the most part, erected using wooden forms. The concrete was mixed on-site and then poured into the forms until it hardened. Upon setting, the forms were removed and placed on top of the previous course, where a new batch of concrete would be poured. This process was repeated until the entire height of the wall was completed. Although the pouring was done in separate sections and courses, the resulting structure was monolithic. Early examples of poured-concrete structures were often crude; but with improved form work, mixing, and pouring methods, they gained greater complexity, uniformity, and refinement. Oftentimes plaster or stucco was applied to the exterior walls in order to achieve a smooth surface. If the exterior surface was left untreated, the joints between the separate courses and sections were visible.¹⁶

Though it exhibited many desirable qualities as a building material, poured concrete was unusual for house construction. In 1909 Thomas Edison developed a technique of concrete construction in which an entire house could be set up in forms and completed in one pour, but this method proved too complicated and costly for broad acceptance. Only 11 of these houses were built, ten of which exist today in Union Township, New Jersey.¹⁷ By 1920 corporations such as Minnesota Steel in Duluth; Carnegie Steel at Youngstown, Ohio; and the General Chemical Company at Claymont, Delaware; recognized the advantages of concrete and its efficiency, and thus funded the construction of worker housing using this material. In such cases, many houses were erected in a short period of time using the same forms.¹⁸ For the typical homeowner, concrete construction was made most readily available through catalogs, in which companies marketed various designs and models to prospective buyers. Most house construction, however, made use of pre-cast concrete blocks due to the fact that they were modular and cheaper than monolithic construction, and could be produced on-site by builders. Concrete blocks became popular after 1900 and remained so until the 1930s.¹⁹

Houses constructed of poured concrete are quite rare in Wisconsin, but some examples exist. Several poured-concrete houses were built in Door County around 1920. A 1995 field survey of the Door Peninsula by Mead & Hunt revealed seven extant poured-concrete houses in this area of Door County. All seven of the houses lie within a 4-mile radius of each other within Brussels Township, and southern Gardner and Union Townships.

¹⁶ The Atlas Portland Cement Company, *Concrete Construction About the Home and On the Farm* (New York, 1905), 40-41.

¹⁷ "Building Homes of Enduring Beauty," *Michigan Concrete Association Homepage*, 24 August 2002, <<http://www.miconcrete.org/page.cfm/124/>> (2001).

¹⁸ Harvey Whipple, *Concrete Houses: How They Were Built* (Detroit, Mich.: Concrete Cement Age Publishing Company, 1920), 9-10.

¹⁹ Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:4.8-4.9.

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Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

Four of these were constructed in the front-gabled form, and one is a gabled-ell house. The two other concrete buildings include a Dutch Colonial Revival style house and a duplex. While these houses are not identical in form, they display similar methods of construction as seen in the separate course lines and wood form imprints on the exterior of the houses.

Local residents in the Door Peninsula attribute the construction of the concrete houses in Door County to Joseph Cumber.²⁰ Although Cumber is listed in the 1920 census as a farmer, the 1917-18, 1920-21, and 1924-25 *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* lists Cumber as a cement contractor in Brussels Township.²¹ Cumber is also known as the contractor for many of the concrete bridges in the area.²² The *Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Door County* of 1917 through 1935 show that Door County paid Cumber for bridge construction work completed in Brussels, Union, and Gardner Townships.²³ The dates that Cumber worked as a cement contractor and concrete-bridge designer coincide with the construction of the poured-concrete houses in Door County. The 1920 census listed Cumber to be 43 years of age, and a native of Wisconsin.²⁴

Front Gable Houses

The Vangindertahlen House is an example of the front-gable form. According to the *Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in Wisconsin*, front-gabled houses were generally built in Wisconsin from c. 1840 to 1925. Front-gabled houses are characterized by a rectangular plan, gabled roof, and the placement of the major facade in the gable end of the building. The Vangindertahlen House is uncharacteristic of typical front-gabled houses in both its squat proportions and its use of dormer windows.

²⁰ Ed Rass, interview by Mead & Hunt, Inc., 5 August 1995; and *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1917-18, 1921-22, 1924-25).

²¹ "Door County, Wisconsin, 1920 Federal Census," n.d., <<ftp://ftp.us-census.org/pub/usgenweb/census/wi/door/1920/ed54-pg008a.txt>> (16 August 2002).

²² Ed Rass, interview by Mead & Hunt, Inc., 5 August 1995; Lawrence LeRoy, interview by William H. Tishler and Erik Brynildson, in "The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin" (Madison, Wisc., July 1986), 78; and *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1917-18, 1921-22, 1924-25).

²³ *Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Door County* (Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.: Door County News Print, 1917-1935). Joseph Cumber was paid for work on the following bridges during the following years: DeKeyser and Dubois Bridge, 1917; Union State Bridge, 1918-1920, 1923-1927, 1929, 1931-1932, 1935; Brussels Bridge, 1923-1928, 1930; Gardner Bridge, 1923-1929.

²⁴ "Door County, Wisconsin, 1920 Federal Census," n.d., <<ftp://ftp.us-census.org/pub/usgenweb/census/wi/door/1920/ed54-pg008a.txt>> (16 August 2002).

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Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

*History of the Property*²⁵

As indicated on the Door County atlas of 1899 and the Brussels Township tax roll of 1900, William Myette was the owner of this property at the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 10, Township 26 North, Range 24 East. In 1901 Louis Vangindertahlen became the owner of the same parcel. The tax rolls of 1901 through 1925 and the 1914 plat map of Door County indicate his ownership. Tax rolls also indicate that the house was constructed c. 1921 during Vangindertahlen's ownership. The c. 1930 plat map shows Louis Vangindertahlen Sr. as the owner of this parcel of land, giving the Vangindertahls over 30 years of continuous ownership. Louis Vangindertahlen was born in Belgium, and his wife was born in Illinois. Both sets of their parents were born in Belgium, and their five sons were all born in Wisconsin. Lloyd and Dawn Abel currently own the property.

The construction of the Vangindertahlen House has been attributed to Joseph Cumber, a local cement contractor in Brussels Township.²⁶ The dates that Cumber worked as a cement contractor and concrete bridge designer coincide with the construction of the poured-concrete houses in Door County. The *Wisconsin State Gazetteer* of 1917-18 included Cumber for the first time as a cement contractor in Brussels, Door County. Tax roll records are inconclusive as to the date of construction. While the value of the Vangindertahlen property increased significantly in 1915 and 1921, property values in the area generally increased during those years. However, a slight increase in improvement value is also indicated for the Vangindertahlen property in 1921. It is therefore most likely that the Vangindertahlen house was constructed in 1921.

Conclusion

The Louis Vangindertahlen House, consisting of a c. 1921 poured-concrete house and two non-contributing agricultural outbuildings, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C: Architecture*. The house is believed to have been constructed by local builder Joseph Cumber, and exhibits a one-and-one-half-story, front gabled form. However, the Vangindertahlen house was constructed of a non-traditional material and is one of seven known poured-concrete houses in this area Door County. The house has few alterations and is in good condition.

²⁵ Information regarding property owners, assessment, and familial history was compiled from Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin, *Assessment and Tax Rolls, 1900-49*, Door County Courthouse, Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.; and Special Collections, Cofrin Library, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, Wisc.; *Illustrated Atlas of Door County, Wisconsin* (Oshkosh, Wisc.: Randall & Williams, 1899); *Atlas of Door County, Wisconsin* (Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.: Otto Nelson, 1914); *Plat Book of Door County, Wisconsin* (Rockford, Ill.: W.W. Hixson & Co., c.1930); *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory* (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1917-18); and *Wisconsin State Census, 1905* (Madison, Wisc.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives Division, 1952).

²⁶ Local residents attribute the construction of the Vangindertahlen house and other concrete houses in the area to Joseph Cumber.

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Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

The Vangindertahlen House is locally significant as an unusual example of monolithic poured concrete construction. The house illustrates the relatively short-lived use of concrete in home construction as popularized by concrete manufacturers and their associated trade organizations and periodicals. Adoption of monolithic concrete was largely a consequence of its heavy promotion in scores of journals, builder's handbooks, how to guides, plan books, and popular publications. Seen as a low-cost and highly durable material, concrete enjoyed increasing popularity in the nineteen teens and twenties. The simplicity of monolithic construction was viewed as an alternative to more mainstream masonry construction such as brick and stone, or even concrete block. Monolithic concrete appealed primarily to do-it-yourself builders, but was soon supplanted by the increasing popularity of the concrete masonry unit, or concrete block in the nineteen thirties. The hollow-core concrete block's lighter weight and economy of material eclipsed the vogue for monolithic construction, and buildings like the Vangindertahlen house remain today as uncommon survivors of an experimental period in concrete construction.

The Vangindertahlen House is also an early twentieth century continuation of a local masonry construction tradition that was an outcome of the devastation wrought by the Pestigo Fire. Following the fire, many surviving houses were wrapped in masonry veneer to provide additional fire protection and new houses were often constructed of masonry. In this context, the poured concrete construction of the house may be seen as a continuation of a strong cultural preference brought on by a tragic natural disaster.

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

1 16 454100 4954450
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Erin Pogany, Matt Becker, and Jeremy Happel	date	April 2003
organization	Mead and Hunt, Inc.	telephone	(608) 273-6380
street & number	6501 Watts Road	zip code	53719-2700
city or town	Madison	state	WI

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Section 9 Page 1

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

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Section 9 Page 2

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

-
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Section 9 Page 3

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

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Maps

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Section 10 Page 1

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic boundary is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east edge of Dump Road approximately 63 feet from the southwest corner of the house proceed north for 240 feet, turn east for 157 feet, turn south for 240 feet, and turn west for 157 feet to the beginning point. The west boundary line is concurrent with the eastern edge of Dump Road. The map is to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the buildings that were historically associated with the Louis Vangindertahlen Farmstead.

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Name of Property

Door County
County and State

Wisconsin

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name/title	Lloyd and Dawn Abel	date	1/2004
organization		telephone	920 825-7594
street&number	1514 Dump Road	zip code	54204
city or town	Brussels	state	WI

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

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

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Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 1

Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

The following information pertains to all photographs:

*Vangindertahlen, Louis, Farmstead
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin
Date: November 2002
Photographer: Matt Becker, Mead & Hunt, Inc.
Negatives located at the Wisconsin Historical Society*

*Photograph 1 of 9
General view of farmstead
View looking southeast*

*Photograph 2 of 9
House, north and west facades
View looking southeast*

*Photograph 3 of 9
House, north facade
View looking south*

*Photograph 4 of 9
House, east facade
View looking west*

*Photograph 5 of 9
House, south and east facades
View looking northwest*

*Photograph 6 of 9
House, south facade
View looking north*

*Photograph 7 of 9
House, south and west facades
View looking northeast*

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Section photos Page 2

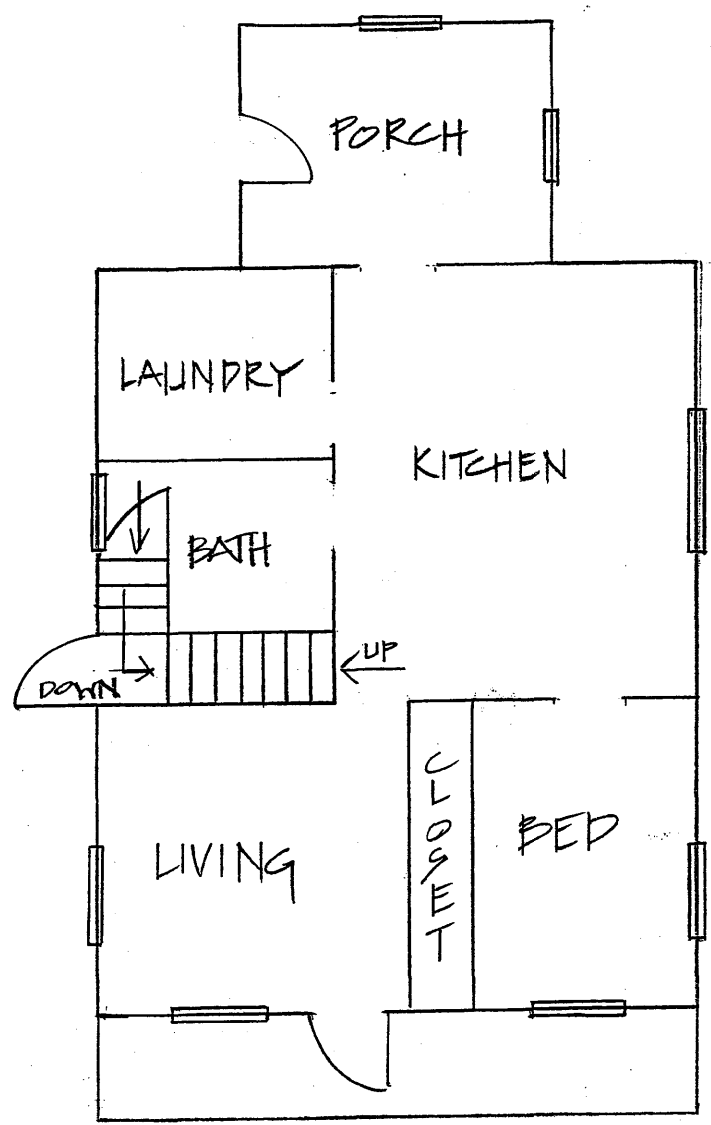
Vangindertahlen, Louis, House
Town of Brussels, Door County, Wisconsin

Photograph 8 of 9
**Threshing barn, south and west facades
View looking northeast**

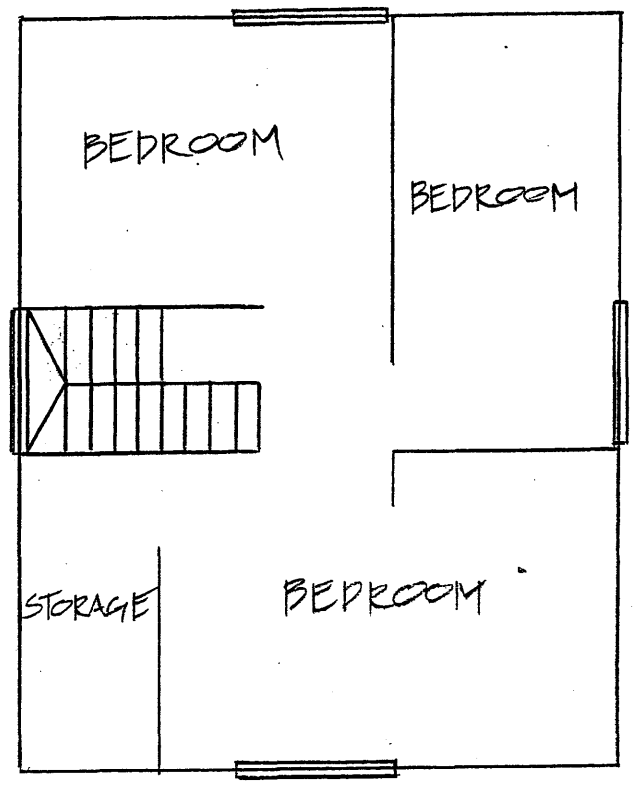
Photograph 9 of 9
**Shed, north and west facades
View looking southeast**

VANGINDERTAHLEN HOUSE

FIRST LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

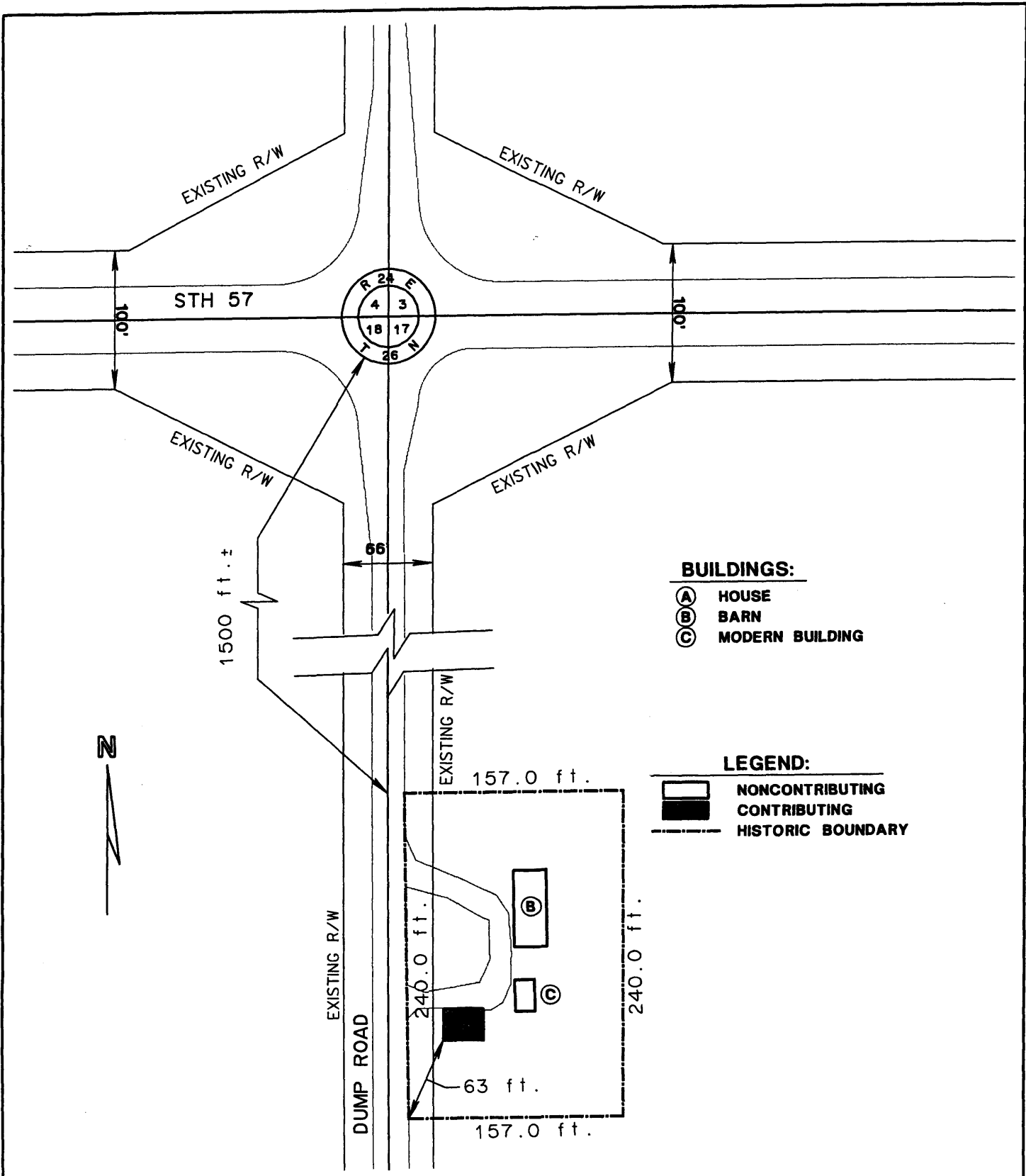


SECOND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN






FLOOR PLAN
1514 PUMP ROAD
TOWN OF BRUSSELS
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN

← N →
NOT TO SCALE



- BUILDINGS:**
- (A) HOUSE
 - (B) BARN
 - (C) MODERN BUILDING

- LEGEND:**
-  NONCONTRIBUTING
 -  CONTRIBUTING
 -  HISTORIC BOUNDARY

LOUIS VANGINDERTAHLEN HOUSE

**1514 DUMP ROAD
TOWN OF BRUSSELS
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

