

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Ephraim Village Hall
Address: 9996 South Water Street
City: Ephraim County: Door

Owner: Village of Ephraim
Owner's address: Ephraim, WI 54211

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
- Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
- Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
- Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
- Boundary Increased (BI)
- Boundary Decreased (BD)
- Delisted (DL)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

Multiple Resources of Ephraim

180 NRHP List Name Ephraim Village Hall

190 Level of Significance

- national (NA)
- state (ST)
- local (LO)

200 District Classification

- pivotal (P)
- contributing (C)
- non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria

- event (A)
- person (B)
- architecture/engineering (C)
- information potential (D)

215 Criteria Considerations

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

220 Area of Significance (code)

Politics/government
Architecture

230 Period of Significance

1927-1934

340 Review Board Date

70 USGS Quad Map

Ephraim Quadrangle

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-99999999)

16-486550-0-5000100

85 Listed Acreage Less than one

60 Verbal Boundary Description 121-24-0037D -

tract in Lot 34, Blk M

Historical Background

Ephraim was founded in 1853 by a small group of Scandanavian Moravians. From its beginnings as an isolated community with an economy based on fishing and lumbering, through the onset of its development as a summer resort area in the 1890's and into the twentieth century when Ephraim was well established as a resort, the village was unincorporated and governmentally a part of the town of Gibraltar.

The advent of better transportation and greater leisure time after World War I helped to establish Ephraim's popularity as a resort area. The community of nearly 200 would often double in population during the summer (G, H). People who first stayed in hotels or rented cottages began to build their own summer homes and, therefore, became local taxpayers. This increase in visitors and permanent summer residents generated a demand for more direct local government and ancillary services. As a result, in 1919 Ephraim was incorporated as a village with four of the first elected village officers being hotel owners (F).

The need for a village hall for the new government coincided with the growing demand among many Ephraim citizens for a community center. Around 1915 the Ephraim Mens Club started a fund for building a community center and in 1922 the village voted to increase local taxes \$1,000 per year and put the money in a fund for a hall. Money from lyceum courses, entertainments and donations were also put into the fund (I). No building was erected until the present structure at first called the "Memorial Town Hall", was completed in 1927 (A). One indication of the support the hall had among

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Historical Statement of Significance

Area of Historic Significance: Politics/Government

The Ephraim Village Hall is historically significant for its association with the development of Ephraim during the early twentieth century, serving as a center of village government and community events for both permanent and summer residents since its construction in 1927. Designed to reflect the Scandanavian heritage of the founders of Ephraim, the hall has functioned as a nucleus for civic and community activities, including village board meetings, elections, library, post office, and information center. Built during a pivotal era in the development of Ephraim, soon after its incorporation and when tourism was becoming established as the economic base of Ephraim, the Ephraim Village Hall is not only an excellent representation of this time but the only public building from the era.

Record No. _____

Address: 9996 South Water Street, Ephraim WI

Description

Located on the main highway and at the center of the village, the Ephraim Village Hall is a one and one half story uncoursed rubble limestone building with a bell cast gable roof. When constructed in 1927, approximately 150 loads of limestone from nearby Eagle Bluff were hauled to this location by teams of horses and trucks (A). Henry Anschutz of Sturgeon Bay supervised the building work (A). The front portico is centrally located on the west facade and is delineated by one story stone pillars and two sets of steps leading to a central hall inside the building. A two story tower, surfaced with concrete stucco and surmounted by a pyramidal bell cast roof, is centrally located on the cross shaped plan. Small brackets along the cornice and narrow windows ornament the tower. Heavy wooded brackets and ornamental rafters project from below wide eaves and a large wooden bargeboard in the steeply pitched gable roof over the front portico accent the Scandinavian motif of the symmetrically proportioned building. Signage on the structure uses Gothic or Old English lettering in blue to match the color of the brackets. Most windows are rectangular, 6/6 and capped by radiating voussiors with keystones.

Inside, the wing on the north contains the kitchen and south wing is now the information office, formerly the post office. The east section of the hall contains a 40' x 60' auditorium, stage, and rest-rooms. The one and a half story auditorium room with an arched ceiling has a seating capacity of 240 people.

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Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

The Ephraim Village Hall is architecturally significant as an unusual example of Scandinavian design motifs applied to a twentieth century building. No other historic structure in the village reflects the same attempt to evoke the ethnic heritage of the villagers. The notable Scandinavian elements include the use of natural materials (including local stone and shingled roof), the steeply pitched gables, the flaring eaves, the exposed rafters and the stick work in the entry gable. Built during the era of "period" revivals, the Ephraim Village Hall is the best and most complete example of a historic design, drawing upon the heritage of the community.

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

- A- Door County Advocate, January 7, 1927, February 18, 1927, and May 13, 1927.
- B- Specifications for Village Hall alterations by William Bernhard of Ephraim, WI, 1943. Located at Ephraim Village Hall, Ephraim, WI.
- C- Plans for Library Addition by Mittlebusher and Tourtelot of Chicago, IL, 1960. Located at Ephraim Village Hall, Ephraim, WI.
- D- Door County Advocate, July 22, 1927 and July 27, 1927.

See Continuation Sheet

700 Study Units (code)

350	Demolished	360	Date Demolished
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_____ yes _____ no

Description

In 1943 Architect William Bernhard made specifications for new basement entries, stairs and interior work and in 1961 a one story library wing, consistant with the style of the 1927 building, was constructed on the south side of the building (C, B). Designed by Henry Tideman of Mittlebusher and Tourtelot, the addition is barely visible from the front of the building and does not detract from the integrity of the hall.

The hall is surrounded on three sides by parking spaces. The small irregular shaped lot is minimally landscaped with grass and pereninal flowers.

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

- E- Door County Advocate, October 26, 1922, November 15, 1922, and July 10, 1923.
- F- Door County Advocate, October 24, 1919.
- G- Door County Advocate, June 4, 1926.
- H- Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, State of Wisconsin in Blue Book (Madison, State of Wisconsin), various years. Census figures are contained in the books.
- I- Door County News, July 14, 1927.

700 Study Units (code)

_____	_____
350 Demolished	360 Date Demolished

_____yes _____no

6

Historical Background

different factions of the village population was shown when a group of resort owners and summer residents threw a fund raising party to benefit the nearly completed hall (D).

The Village Hall, located in the commercial center of Ephraim was a multi purpose building serving the community in various ways. It was used as a village hall, basketball court, lecture room, library, lounge, and U.S. post office (until 1983). It is still used as an information center for tourists during the summer months. The library, once located in the basement of the hall was moved to a new addition of the building built in 1961 (C). Besides village governmental meetings, the hall has been used for community activities such as movies, fish boils, music lessons, and rummage sales.

Historical Statement of Significance