

INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1 City, Village or Town: Waldo		County: Sheboygan	Surveyor: Mirian Rowe	Date: 8/15/83	Highway 57 street number
Street Address: Highway 57		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Plymouth South Quad. 16 424140 4836040		Acreage: Less than 1 acre	
Current Name & Use: Waldo Mill- Residence & Craftshop		Current Owner: Michael Menzer			
Film Roll No. N/A	Affix Contact Prints		Current Owner's Address: Waldo Mill Waldo, Wisconsin		
Negative No. N/A			Legal Description: S.E. 1/4 of S.E. 1/4 of Sec. 4 T. 14 N., R. 21 E.		
Facade Orient. East					

2 Original Name & Use: <u>Waldo</u> Onion River Flouring-Mill - grist Mill <i>19th Century Grist Flouring Mills of Sheboygan Cty. TR.</i>	Source A	Previous Owners Schoeckel & Stroub	Dates 1889-90	Uses Grist Mill	Source B	14N Town
Dates of Construction/Alteration Built - 1859 1905 North Addition 1915 South Addition	Source A	Wierman & Bennink	1904-11	Roller Mill	C	
Architect and/or <u>Builder</u> Abner Heald & Mark and Alonzo Martin	Source A	Bennink	1911-1944	Feed Mill	C	21E Range
		Joose Bros.	1944-1979	Feed Mill	D	
		Michael Menzer	1979-	Craftshop	D	

3 Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Engineering <input checked="" type="radio"/> None	4 Historical Significance <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input checked="" type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: <input type="radio"/> None Period of significance: <u>1859</u>	14 Section
---	--	---------------

Architectural Description and Significance:	Historical Background and Significance:	USGS-Plymouth South Quadrangle Map Name
Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above) <b>A</b> Buchen, Gustav, <u>HISTORIC SHEBOYGAN COUNTY</u> , 1944, pp. 264-268 <b>B</b> Wright's Dir. of Sheboygan County 1889-90 <b>C</b> Sheboygan Press, 4/29/27, p. 20 <b>D</b> Interview with Michael Menzer, owner, by Miriam Rowe, August 15, 1983 <b>E</b>	6 Representation in Previous Surveys <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> other:	Map Code
	7 Condition <input type="radio"/> excellent <input checked="" type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins	
	8 District: <u>N/A</u> <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing	
	9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility date: _____ initials: _____ <input type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input type="radio"/> local <i>Rec'd 11/27/84</i>	

### Description

The Waldo Mill in Lyndon Township is situated on the south side of the Onion River in what was once the village of Onion River and is not a part of Waldo. It is on the west side of Highway 57, just north of Highway 28. The original structure was built as a grist mill in 1859 just below an existing sawmill. (1) It is a sturdy two and a half to three story structure with hand hewn timbers and clapboard siding. (2) The mill operated as a grist mill with French Burr stones, common in those days (3) and a turbine made by Leffel, which remains today. In 1888 the roller milling process was adopted (4) and in 1905 the one-story office addition was made to the north of the building. (5) This addition was a typical addition where there was a wood-burning stove and space for the miller and his clients to chat and wait for the wheat to be ground. It is a wood building with a stone foundation, with an intersecting gable roof. In 1915, the two-story gabled addition to the south was built. This wood addition is approximately 30 x 40', doubling the size of the mill. The vertical siding is now covered with tin. An addition was later made to the south addition. This is a lean-to building, made of wood and used for storage. The intersecting gabled addition to the south, the lean-to addition to the south and the north office addition are all significant and

contribute to the nomination. Even though they are not significant to the early period, they are typical of a commercial mill in the county undergoing adaptations in appearance due to the changes in technology.

The present owner had made some changes in the building to accommodate its new use as a residence and craft/antique shop. The appearance of the original building has been maintained or reestablished with the repair of the elevator shaft and the replacement of the vertical siding. The interior retains the flavor of an old mill, but has undergone many changes through the years. There is nothing in the interior which contributes to the nomination other than the remaining evidence of the manner of construction. This mill was able to make the transitions in product and new technology to be able to survive. At the turn of the century, the mill was still going strong. (7) As late as W.W. I, flour was being shipped East by rail. (8) In 1944 when the mill changed owners, the flour milling operation was changed to feed milling with water power and an attrition feed grinder and electric hammer mills were also added. (9) The only technical feature of the mill's productive days which remains is the Leffel turbine, which is still encased in concrete in the northwest corner of the basement of the mill. The overall appearance of the mill has changed gradually over a period of years, beginning with the north addition in 1905. Its present appearance has remained since 1944 when the Joose Brothers ran the mill.

The mill pond remains and is situated west or to the rear of the mill. Though this pond remains for the most part in tact, it is not significant to this nomination. The mill race, which once connected the pond and mill, is no longer evident and the mill now stands at the end of a dry bed and quite a distance from the Onion River. These elements are therefore not a part of this nomination.

### Significance

The Waldo Mill is an excellent survivor of the once very important milling industry in Sheboygan County. It was once a commercial mill and was known to have been the busiest mill in the county. It once shipped surplus flour from the docks in Sheboygan to Boston and New York. (10) In 1875 and also 1876, over 500 freight cars, weighing 15 tons each, of grain was shipped from Waldo. (11) All kinds of flour were made as late as 1927 - rye, wheat, buckwheat and grist. (12) The mill saw many changes and adaptations through the years. It is significant as an example of the largest remaining commercial grist and flouring mill in the county. Its history reveals the change from custom to commercial milling, the history of wheat agriculture in the county and the role the mill played in settlement. It is also a good example of the changes necessary for a mill to adapt and survive into the 20th Century.

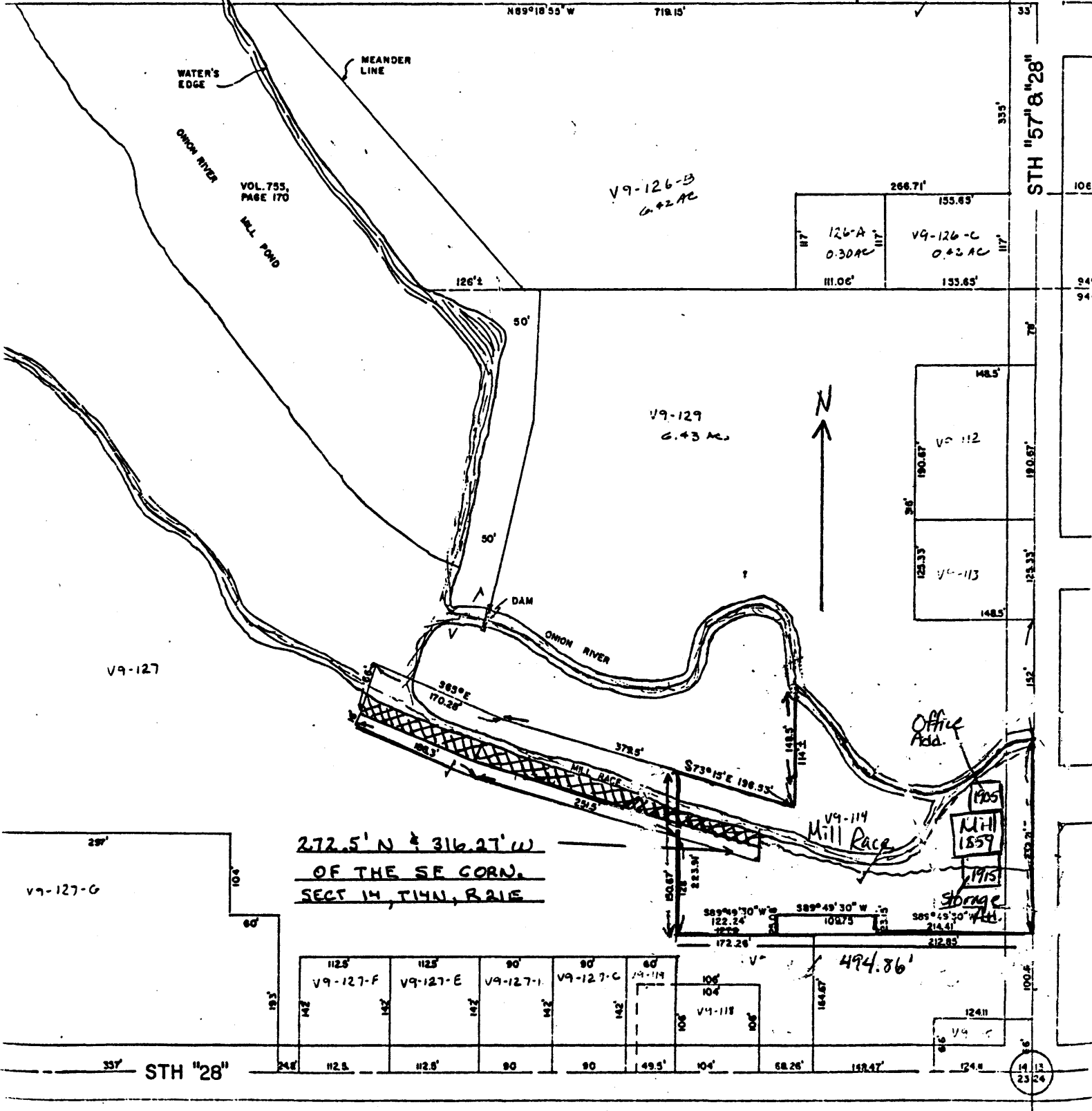
### References

- (1) Buchen, Gustav, HISTORIC SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, 1944, page 264.
- (2) Ibid
- (3) Howell, Charles and Keller, Allan, THE MILL, Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Tarrytown, N.Y., 1977, p. 100
- (4) Buchen, Op Cit, p. 266
- (5) Buchen, Op Cit, p. 267

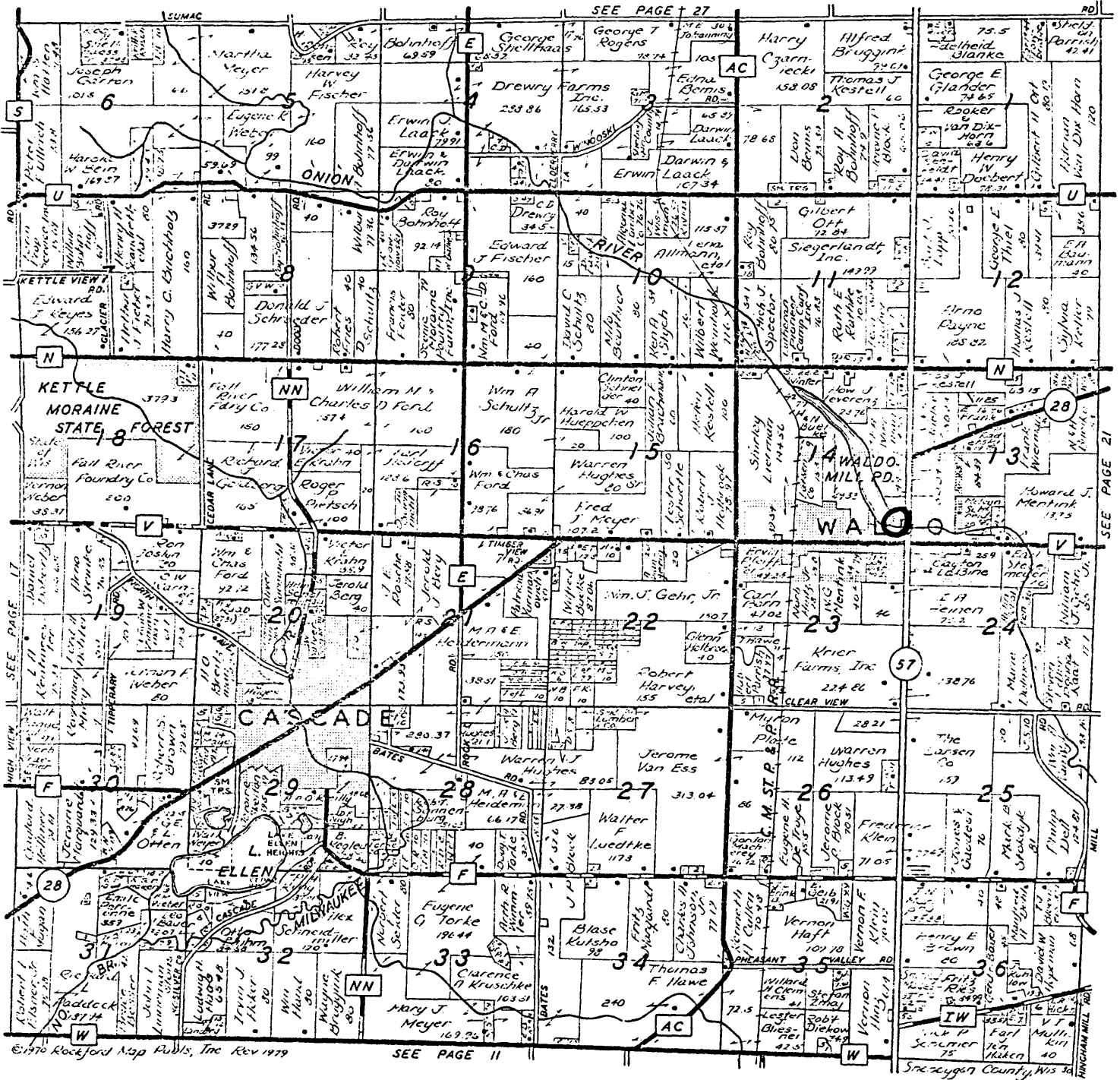
SE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 - SECTION 14

VILLAGE OF WALDO  
TOWN OF LYNDON T14N R21E

SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"



Waldo (Onion River) Mill  
Waldo, WI. (Sheboygan County)



**SUEMNICHT  
FARM EQUIP.**

BADGER & ACORN SALES & SERVICE  
NORTHERN FREEPORT SILOS

West of Waldo  
on V



GARY SUEMNICHT - PHONE: 528-8096

**FORD FARMS STORES LTD.**



1832 North 8th Street - SHEBOYGAN  
1432 North 5th Street - SHEBOYGAN  
334 Broadway - SHEBOYGAN FALLS  
Waldo - COUNTY TRUNK E

MILK FROM COW TO CONSUMER - SAME DAY  
"You Can't Get It Fresher, And Still Get It Cold"  
BUTTER - CHEESES - VEAL  
COMPLETE LINE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

WALDO, WISCONSIN - PHONE: 528-8113