



**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 Murphy Farms Number 1  
other names/site number Horseshoe Bay Farm

**2. Location**

street & number 7195, 7199, 7203, 7207, 7212, and 7213 Horseshoe Bay Road N/A **not for publication**  
city or town Town of Egg Harbor N/A **vicinity**  
state Wisconsin code WI county Door code 029 zip code 54209

**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 of certifying official/Title

2/29/12  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

Murphy Farms Number 1

Door

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*

5-24-12

*for*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as  
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)

contributing	noncontributing
12	5 buildings
	sites
2	1 structures
1	objects
15	6 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  
previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ institutional housing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ animal facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ institutional housing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ animal facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Other: Wisconsin Dairy Barn

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

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Section 7 Page 1

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., Wisconsin

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**Description:**

The outstanding, exceptionally complete and exceptionally large and intact historic agricultural complex known as Murphy Farms Number 1 consists of a nearly 13 acre portion of a 700-acre former stock-raising farm located on the eastern shore of Green Bay and on both sides of Horseshoe Bay Road in the Town of Egg Harbor in Door County.<sup>1</sup> The twelve contributing buildings and the other contributing resources in this complex were all built between 1918 and 1920. The farm's earliest buildings were built for the United Fruit Growers Company, a real estate development company, whose large plans for the hundreds of acres of land that they purchased here beginning in 1914 included the sale of residential lots that fronted on the Green Bay shore portion of their property, the construction of a summer hotel, and the development of other portions of the land for fruit growing and cattle raising. Most of the farm's buildings, however, were built for Frank E. Murphy and his nephew, Elbridge N. Murphy, both of Green Bay, who were heavy investors in the United Fruit Growers Co. and who took over its lands and buildings when the Company's plans faltered. It was their plan to turn this 700 acre parcel of land into Wisconsin's premier stock-raising farm and fruit-growing enterprise and all of the buildings and structures that are located within the complex were built with these aims in mind.

The farm complex is bisected by the northeast-southwest-running Horseshoe Bay Road (County Highway G) and it contains two distinct types of resources. Located on the east side of Horseshoe Bay Road is an 8.48-acre parcel that contains all the farm buildings, structures, and objects in the complex that were associated with the work of the farm while on the west side of this road are two adjacent parcels that total 4.0-acres and which together contain the five Dutch Colonial Revival style houses and their associated outbuildings that were built to house the farm's permanent employees. Under the Murphys' ownership, the farm was operated from 1917 until 1922 primarily as a stock-raising enterprise that specialized in the breeding of Holstein-Friesian dairy cows, although hundreds of acres of cherry trees were also planted elsewhere on the farm during this period. During this period, the farm achieved state-wide renown both for the pure-bred stock it bought and for the pure-bred stock it raised and sold. In 1925, however, the partnership between Frank and Elbridge Murphy was dissolved and Frank E. Murphy became sole owner. As a consequence, the 150-cow breeding herd was sold off and was replaced by a much smaller dairy herd, and greater emphasis was put on the fruit-producing activities of the farm, an emphasis that would last past Murphy's death in 1934 and well into the 1990s under the ownership of Murphy's daughter, Emily Murphy Cowles, his son-in-law, Dr. Robert L. Cowles, and their children. Although the farm's outbuildings are no longer in use as such today, they are still highly intact, as are the five associated houses, which continue to be occupied primarily by employees of the adjacent Horseshoe Bay Country Club, and they are all still in excellent, highly intact condition. Taken as a whole, the Murphy Farms No. 1's resources are believed to be of both architectural and historical significance because they are excellent,

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<sup>1</sup> The Murphy Farms No. 1 is located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the Village of Egg Harbor, whose year round population in 2004 was 262.

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highly intact and well maintained examples of their respective architectural styles and vernacular forms and because the complex as a whole is a very rare intact surviving example of the show farms that many wealthy Americans built in the first three decades of the twentieth century.

As noted above, the Murphy Farm No. 1 is bisected into unequal size parcels by the northeast-southwest-running Horseshoe Bay Road (CTH G) and the two parcels are very different in character. The smaller west parcel that contains the five employees' houses slopes gently downward from the road westward to the east shore of Green Bay. The land directly around the houses consists of squared off yards that have mowed lawns, ornamental shrubs and flower beds, and mature deciduous shade trees, while the remainder of the land that is located between the west ends of these yards and the shore consists of occasionally mowed open land that is dotted with still more deciduous trees.

Cultivated fields are located to the north and south of the east parcel where the agricultural outbuildings are located and the land that is associated with both of these fields and also the parcel itself is flat. The land immediately behind this parcel, however, consists of a very steep heavily wooded bluff that rises 100 feet up to the equally flat land above.<sup>2</sup> This bluff is part of long ridge that effectively separates the flat land at its base along the shore of Green Bay from the flat land at the top of the ridge. Since the 700-acre parcel that the Murphys owned was partially bisected by this ridge, it was divided into separate farms with two somewhat different functions. Farm No. 1 was given over to stock raising and the fields on either side to the north and the south were given over to the raising of feed and bedding for the stock. The land on top of the bluff became Murphy Farms No. 2 and while it was also used for stock raising, most of this much larger acreage was given over to orchards that were associated with the growing of cherries, apples, and plums.

All of the agriculture-related resources associated with Murphy Farm No. 1 are grouped on the east side of Horseshoe Bay Road and access to the buildings is via two gravel driveways. The northernmost of the two enters the farmstead at a right-angle from the highway and it continues east for some 300-feet and passes just to the north of Barn No. 1 and Barn No. 2 before it splits and turns north and south and provides access to Barns 3, 4, and 5. The second, southernmost driveway also enters the farmstead at a right angle from the highway and it continues east for some 70-feet, splits, and provides access to Buildings 6, 7, 8, and 9. Because the farmstead is no longer an operating farm, all the land that encircles these buildings now is given over primarily to mown lawns. The five houses on the west side of the highway, meanwhile, are all accessed via short black-topped driveways that enter their respective yards at right angles from the highway.

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<sup>2</sup> This ridge extends north as far as the village of Egg Harbor and for many miles beyond and it extends south for many miles beyond the farm as well.

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**INVENTORY**

The following inventory lists all the resources in the farm complex, the resource's contributing ( C ) or non-contributing ( NC ) status, the type of the resource, the map number, and, when available, the name, and the construction date of the resource.

C/NC	Original Name	Date	Type	Map No.
C	Cow Barn & Crop Storage, with Creamery Wing	1918	Building	1
C	Barn	1918	Building	2
C	Test Barn	1920	Building	3
C	Horse Barn	1919-1920	Building	4
C	Root Cellar & Stables	1918-1919	Building	5
C	Power Plant & Oil Storage	1918	Building	6
C	Machine Storage & Cattle Storm Shed	1919	Building	7
NC	Garage	Post-1945	Building	8
C	Manure Pit	1918-1919	Structure	9
C	Wagon Scale	1919	Object	10
C	Dwelling A	1918-1919	Building	11
NC	Dwelling A Garage	Post-1945	Building	12
C	Dwelling B	1918-1919	Building	13
NC	Dwelling B Garage	Post-1945	Building	14
C	Dwelling C	1918-1919	Building	15
NC	Dwelling C Pool Building	Post-1945	Building	16
NC	Dwelling C Pool	Post-1945	Structure	16
C	Dwelling D	1918-1919	Building	17
C	Dwelling E	1918-1919	Building	18
NC	Dwelling E Garage	Post-1945	Building	19
C	Yard Enclosure Walls	1919-1920	Structure	[No #]

**Map No. 1 Cow Barn & Crop Storage, with Creamery Wing Contributing 1918<sup>3</sup>**

This architecturally significant, highly intact, rectilinear plan, one-story-tall, 38-foot-deep by 105-foot-wide barn was begun late in 1917 and completed in 1918. It housed cows in its basement story and hay storage in the first story above. The barn's basement story has a poured concrete floor and foundation walls built of rubble stone covered in rough cast stucco; these walls extend upward several feet above ground level. The walls of the upper portion of the barn that rest on these foundations are clad in drop siding and the entire barn is sheltered by a tall gambrel roof that has overhanging open eaves that are supported by exposed rafter ends, a ridgeline that runs north-south, and slopes that are clad in asphalt

<sup>3</sup> *Door County News*. October 11, 1917, p. 6; June 13, 1918, p. 6.

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shingles. This roof is crowned by three regularly spaced sheet metal ventilators and the two southernmost ones are themselves crowned by their original cow-shaped wind vanes that also bear the name "James," this being the name of their manufacturer, the James Manufacturing Co., which was located in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

The two main entrances to the hay storage upper portion of the barn are placed in the first story of the barn's 105-foot-wide west-facing main elevation and these large openings are accessed by concrete ramps and they both contain a pair of tall, sliding wooden board doors, each one of which has a grid-shaped batten pattern in the center of which is placed a six-light window. Placed immediately above each of these entrances is a shed-roofed transom-like dormer that contains four six-light windows that admit additional natural light to the barn's interior. Still more light enters through four gable-roofed dormers that are placed on the lower slope of the main roof, each of which contains a pair of six-light windows and is ornamented with decorative barge boards that bear scroll-sawn cut out ornaments. In addition, three six-over-one-light windows are placed on the main wall surface between the two entrances and two more are placed to the left of the left-hand entrance and another two to the right of the right-hand entrance.

The first story of the 38-foot-wide north-facing side elevation of this barn has another pair of six-over-one light windows centered on it, a second pair is located above them in the peak of the gambrel end, and two pairs of ventilator openings are placed high on the wall in between them. In addition, the gambrel end of the elevation is ornamented with decorative barge boards that bear scroll-sawn cut out ornaments.

The first story of the 105-foot-long east-facing rear elevation of the barn repeats the fenestration pattern of the west-facing façade and has seven more six-over-one-light windows arrayed across its width with two small sliding doors that allow hay to be lifted out of the hay storage area being placed in the same relative position as the main entrances on the west-facing elevation. Also identical are the four gable roofed, ornamented dormers that are placed on the lower slope of this elevation's roof, while the exposed basement story of this elevation contains six pairs of six-light windows and several Dutch style doors having superposed "X" pattern battens that open out onto the animal yard outside.

The interior of this barn is equally intact. The basement story's floor consists of a poured concrete center aisle that is flanked on both sides by parallel raised, poured concrete aisles and by two parallel rows of cast iron posts that support the large joists that support the floor of the hay mow above.<sup>4</sup> The underside of this ceiling is plastered over metal lath as are the basement walls, which lathing covers hollow tiles that are themselves laid over the rubble stone that makes up the bulk of these walls. The first story above consists of the barn's hay mow and it has a board floor and is open to the roof, which is supported by a system of purlins that are themselves supported by self-supporting trusses.

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<sup>4</sup> The original metal cattle stalls and other equipment that originally furnished this barn have now all been removed. These fixtures were all supplied by the James Manufacturing Co. of Fort Atkinson, WI.

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In addition to the barn itself there is a creamery wing attached to its southwest corner. This one-story rectilinear plan wing measures 22-feet-wide by 45-feet-deep and it has a basement story that is enclosed by 20-inch-thick rubble stone foundations walls on its north, south, and east sides, the exterior surfaces of which are clad in rough cast stucco. These walls are sheltered by a side gambrel roof whose ridgeline runs east-west, whose overhanging open eaves are supported by exposed rafter ends, and whose slopes are clad in asphalt shingles. This roof is crowned by a single sheet metal ventilator which is itself crowned by an original cow-shaped wind vane that bears the name "James," this being the name of its manufacturer.

The west-facing end elevation of this wing faces onto Horseshoe Bay Road and it has a shallow stucco-clad rubble stone base, but most of the gambrel end above this is clad in drop siding. A six-light over-one-panel wood entrance door is centered on this elevation and it is flanked on the left by a small six-over-one-light window and on the right by a small wooden door whose batten pattern transcribes half of an "X." The gambrel end is then ornamented with decorative scroll sawn bargeboards.

The slope of the site through the building means that the left-hand (west) end of the south-facing side elevation of this wing is partly hidden from view. This elevation is of rough cast stucco-clad rubble stone, a band of nine six-over-one-light windows is set into it, and a Dutch style door having superposed "X" pattern battens is placed to the right of this band.

The east facing rear elevation of this wing is fully exposed and its first story is a mixture of concrete block and rubble stone that has a single entrance door centered on it that is closed with a board door while its upper story is clad in drop siding.

The interior of the upper story of this wing has a board floor and wood walls that constitute the roof decking, while the basement story's floor is poured concrete.

**Map No. 2 Barn**

**Contributing 1918**

This highly intact, rectilinear plan, one-story-tall, 35-foot-deep by 70-foot-wide barn was also begun late in 1917 and completed in 1918 and it housed cows in its first story and hay storage in the story above. The barn's basement story has a poured concrete floor and foundation walls built of rubble stone covered in rough cast stucco. The walls of the upper portion of the barn that rest on these foundations are clad in drop siding and the entire barn is sheltered by a tall gambrel roof that has overhanging open eaves, a ridgeline that runs north-south, and slopes that are clad in asphalt shingles. This roof is crowned by two regularly spaced sheet metal ventilators that are themselves crowned by their original cow-shaped wind vanes that bear the name "James" for the James Manufacturing Co.

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The first story of the 35-foot-wide north-facing side elevation of this barn contains the centered main entrance, which is filled by a broad sliding wooden board door that has a grid-shaped batten pattern in the center of which is placed a four-light window. The only other opening on this elevation is a large triangular arch opening in the gambrel end that is covered by two sliding wooden board doors that also have grid pattern battens.

The first story of the 70-foot-wide west-facing elevation of the barn has seven nine-light windows arrayed across its width, while a large sliding board door with grid pattern battens that allows hay to be lifted out of the hay storage area is centered on the story above. In addition, two shed-roofed dormers are placed on the lower slope of this elevation's roof.

The first story of the 70-foot-long west-facing elevation of the barn repeats the east-facing elevation's fenestration and has seven more six-over-one-light windows arrayed across its width, along with two Dutch style doors that open out onto the animal yard. In addition, three gable-roofed, ornamented dormers are placed on the lower slope of this elevation's roof, each of which contains a six-light window.

The interior of this barn is equally intact. The first story's floor consists of a poured concrete center aisle that is flanked on both sides by parallel raised, poured concrete aisles and by two parallel rows of cast iron posts that support the large joists that in turn support the floor of the hay mow above.<sup>5</sup> The underside of this ceiling is plastered over metal lath as are the first story's walls, which has been laid over the rubble stone that makes up these walls. The upper story above consists of the barn's hay mow and it is open to the roof, which is supported by a system of purlins that are themselves supported by self-supporting trusses.

**Map No. 3 Test Barn**

**Contributing 1920<sup>6</sup>**

This largely intact, rectilinear plan, one-story-tall, 34-foot-deep by 158-foot-wide barn was completed in 1920 and it also housed cows in its first story and hay storage in the story above. The barn's first story has a poured concrete floor and this story is encircled by concrete block walls. The walls of the upper portion of the barn that rest on these foundation walls are clad in drop siding and the entire barn is sheltered by a tall gambrel roof that has overhanging open eaves, a ridgeline that runs north-south, and slopes that are clad in asphalt shingles. This roof is crowned by five regularly spaced sheet metal ventilators.

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<sup>5</sup> The original metal cattle stalls and other equipment that originally furnished this barn and the other barns have all now been removed. These fixtures were all supplied by the James Manufacturing Co. of Fort Atkinson, WI.

<sup>6</sup> *Door County Advocate*, September 19, 1919, p. 10. *Door County News*, May 20, 1920, p. 5.



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The first story of the 34-foot-wide north-facing side elevation of this barn contains the centered main entrance, which is filled by a broad sliding wooden board door that has a grid-shaped batten pattern. The only other opening on this elevation is a large triangular arch opening in the gambrel end that is covered by two sliding board doors that also have grid pattern battens.

The first story of the 158-foot-wide east-facing rear elevation of the barn now has a single window opening and a single small door opening while a single door opening is centered on the story above.<sup>7</sup> In addition, four shed-roofed dormers that each contains a six-light oblong window are placed on the lower slope of this elevation's roof.

The first story of the 158-foot-wide west-facing rear elevation of the barn has a centrally placed single large door opening; it is now sheltered by a gable and shed-roofed entrance porch that was added at a later date. There are no openings in the upper story, although several original openings that have now been filled in with drop siding can still be discerned.<sup>8</sup> In addition, four gable-roofed dormers that each contains a six-light window are placed on the lower slope of this elevation's roof as well.

The interior of this barn is the least intact of all the complex's farm buildings, parts of it were remodeled in recent years to serve other uses that are associated with the present Horseshoe Bay Country Club. The basement story's floor still consists of poured concrete, and much of the upper story above is still open to the roof, which is supported by a system of purlins that are themselves supported by self-supporting trusses.

**Map No. 4 Horse Barn**

**Contributing 1920<sup>9</sup>**

This highly intact, T-plan, one-story barn was completed in 1920 and it housed horses in its first story and feed storage in the story above. The main portion of this barn is rectilinear in plan and measures 36-feet-deep by 56-feet-wide and a lower rectilinear plan 16-feet-wide by 18-feet-deep wing is attached to and centered on the east-facing main facade of the main portion. The first story of this barn has a poured concrete floor that has pads of cedar blocks set into it and the entire story is encircled by rubble stone foundation walls covered in rough cast stucco. The walls of the upper portion of the barn that rest on these foundation walls are clad in drop siding and the main portion of the barn and its wing are both

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<sup>7</sup> An historic photo shows that there were originally twenty-two small windows arrayed across the width of this elevation's first story and there were also four sliding doors arrayed across the width of its upper story. It is possible, therefore, that the first story walls of this barn were all rebuilt with concrete block at a later date when this barn was being used for fruit processing.

<sup>8</sup> The original appearance of this elevation is not known.

<sup>9</sup> *Door County Advocate*. September 19, 1919, p. 10.

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sheltered by tall gambrel roofs that have overhanging open eaves and slopes that are clad in asphalt shingles.<sup>10</sup>

The main entrance to this barn is centered on the 16-foot-wide east-facing elevation of the wing that is attached to the main portion of the barn. This entrance is filled by two sliding wooden board doors. Two smaller doors of similar design that allow hay to be lifted into and out of the hay storage area are placed in the upper story directly above them. The only other openings on this elevation are four nine-light windows that are arrayed across the east-facing elevation of the first story of the main portion of the barn, there being two to the left of the wing and two to the right.

The first story of the 34-foot-wide south-facing side elevation of the main portion of this barn contains an asymmetrically positioned Dutch style door, which is flanked on either side by a nine-light window. The only other opening on this elevation is a large triangular arch opening in the gambrel end above that is covered by two sliding board doors that have grid pattern battens.

The symmetrical west-facing rear elevation of the barn is also the rear elevation of the main portion of the barn and it is 56-feet-long and has five nine-light windows arrayed across the width of its first story. There are no openings in the upper story.

The interior of this barn is highly intact. The first story of the barn's main portion has poured concrete floor and consists of a center aisle that is flanked on both sides by parallel raised, poured concrete aisles into which pads of cedar blocks have been inset. These pads demarcate where the original horse stalls were once located. The concrete floor in the wing has a single large pad made of boards set into it, these pads having been placed to ease the maintenance caused by the wear and tear of the horse's hooves. In addition, two parallel rows of cast iron posts that support the large joists that support the wood floor of the hay mow above also parallel the center aisle. The first story's walls are plaster over metal lath; the lathing covers hollow tiles that are themselves laid over the rubble stone that makes up the bulk of these walls. The upper story above consists of the barn's hay mow and it is open to the roof, which is supported by a system of purlins that are themselves supported by self-supporting trusses.

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<sup>10</sup> The ridgeline of the main portion runs north-south while that of the wing runs east-west.

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**Map No. 5 Root Cellar & Stables**

**Contributing**

**1919**

This highly intact, rectilinear plan, one-story-tall stable was completed in 1919 and it housed the farm's root cellar in its basement story and stabling for horses in the story above. This barn measures 37-feet-deep by 90-feet-wide and its first story has a poured concrete floor. The massive, 20-inch-thick rubble stone foundation walls are covered in rough cast stucco. The walls of the upper portion of the barn that rest on these foundations are clad in drop siding and the entire barn is sheltered by a tall gambrel roof that has overhanging open eaves, a ridgeline that runs north-south, and slopes that are clad in asphalt shingles. This roof is crowned by two regularly spaced sheet metal ventilators.

The downward slope of the site through this building means that the basement story of its main west-facing façade is fully exposed, while the rear elevation of this story is not. Two entrance doors and a single, now filled, window opening are placed in the basement story of the west-facing facade. The right-hand entrance is filled with a pair of side-hinged board doors that together have an X-shaped batten pattern, while the left-hand entrance has a single door of identical design but whose batten pattern makes up only one-half of the "X."

The basement story of the 37-foot-wide symmetrical south-facing side elevation of this barn contains no openings, while two six-over-six-light double hung windows are located in the upper story above.

The basement story of the 37-foot-wide symmetrical north-facing side elevation of this barn contains four former window openings, all of which have now been filled with boards, while two six-over-six-light double hung windows are located in the upper story above.

While the downward slope of the site reveals the west-facing elevation's entire basement story, only the top two feet of this story is visible on the barn's symmetrical east-facing rear elevation. As a result, the twin entrances to the stable space in the upper story are actually located in two large, shed-roofed, drop siding-clad dormers that extend down almost to ground level. Large concrete mounting blocks are placed in front of these two entrances; both are filled with a pair of side-hinged board doors that together have an X-shaped batten pattern.

The interior of this barn is also highly intact. The plastered walls of the basement story are almost two feet thick in order to properly conserve the root vegetables that were stored here. The floor of this story is poured concrete and so is the reinforced concrete ceiling, which is supported by rows of massive reinforced concrete piers. The upper story consists of stabling for horses and it is open to the roof, which is supported by a system of purlins that are themselves supported by self-supporting trusses. In addition, this floor features pads of cedar blocks inset into the concrete, which demarcate where horse stalls were originally located.

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**Map No. 6 Power Plant & Oil Storage**

**Contributing**

**1918**

This small, 16-foot-square, one-story-tall Astylistic Utilitarian Form building was built in 1918 and it originally housed the farm's electric power plant in its basement story. This consisted of a 12 hp. generator and back up storage batteries. The upper story housed the farm's oil storage depot and other flammables. The slope of the site at this location means that all of the east-facing rear elevation of the building's basement story can be seen, but only the top three feet of this story's west-facing main elevation is visible. This basement story has a poured concrete floor and the foundation walls that enclose it are made of hollow tiles that, like the barns described above, have a rough cast stucco exterior surface. The first story above has walls clad in drop siding that, again, are identical to the barns, and the building is sheltered by a gambrel-like hipped roof that has flared overhanging open eaves that are supported by extended rafter ends.

Like the Cow Barn next door (Map No. 1), the main façade of this building faces west onto Horseshoe Bay Road, which may account for the decorative touches in its design. The only opening in this façade is the centered entrance, which consists of a pair of eight-light over one-panel wood doors that are accessed by ascending a single flight metal staircase that replaced the original larger twin flight wooden staircase. A gablet shelters the entrance and this gablet is supported by brackets and it is ornamented with scroll sawn bargeboards that have the same cut-out pattern as the ones found on the dormers on the Cow Barn.

The north and south-facing side elevations of this building are identical to each other and each of their basement stories has a pair of six-light windows centered high up on its wall surface and a gable roofed wall dormer is centered in the upper story above it. These dormers each contain a nine-light window and they both have decorative bargeboards whose scroll sawn ornamentation is identical to the ornamentation above the front entrance doors.

The fully exposed basement story of the building's east-facing rear elevation contains a second pair of eight-light over one-panel wood doors which, in this case, are flanked by two small four light windows, but the upper story has no openings.

The interiors of both stories consist of one room each. The basement story has a concrete floor and plastered walls, while the upper story is open to the roof decking and has a concrete floor and walls that are clad in unpainted board siding.

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Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., Wisconsin

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**Map No. 7 Machine Storage & Cattle Storm Shed**

**Contributing 1919**

This one-story-tall Astylistic Utilitarian Form building was built in 1919. It originally housed farm machinery and served as a storm shed for cattle. The two-part building standing today measures 48-feet-deep by 63-feet-wide and its right-hand (south) part consists of a one-and-one-half-story barn-like building that has a gambrel roof clad in asphalt shingles with a ridgeline that runs east-west, while the left-hand (north) part consists of a one-story wing having a gable roof that is covered in a rolled membrane and a ridgeline that runs north-south.

The right-hand part of the overall building is the portion that was used for machine storage and it is rectilinear in plan, it measures 22-foot-wide by 48-foot-deep, it has a concrete pad foundation, and its upper story has exterior walls that are clad in drop siding. The original appearance of the first story of this portion's west-facing elevation is not known but it now consists of two large garage door openings that are closed with modern multi-panel overhead garage doors. Centered in the lower portion of the upper story above is a sliding door made of boards and there is also a six-light window located in the peak of the gambrel end above. The upper portion of this part's east-facing rear elevation is almost identical to its west-facing elevation, but the first story below on this side has no openings and it is constructed of rubble stone. The only opening in the south-facing side elevation is a single large opening that occupies much of the right (east) half of the elevation. This opening does not have a door and it opens directly out onto a side yard. Finally, the first story of this part's north-facing side elevation is hidden from view by the attached, equally deep, south-facing side elevation of the north part of the building.

The left-hand part of the overall building is the portion that was used as a storm shed for cattle and it is rectilinear in plan, it measures 41-foot-wide by 48-foot-deep, and it has a concrete pad foundation and exterior walls that are mostly made out of rubble stone. The south-facing side elevation of this part of the building is attached to the north-facing side elevation of the south part, while its own north-facing side elevation has a single door opening that is placed just to the left of center. Otherwise, the lower part of this north-facing elevation consists of a rubble stone wall, while the gable end above it is clad in drop siding. The original appearance of this part's west-facing elevation is not known but it now consists of four garage door openings that are each closed with a modern multi-panel overhead garage door. Historic photos of the east-facing rear elevation of this part of the building show that it originally had a single large opening and this opening is still extant today and it is not closed by doors.

Historic photos and historic records also show that this building was originally larger than it is today. The original building was a three-part building that measured 48-feet-deep by 104-feet-wide and it consisted of the two still extant parts and a now demolished 41-foot-wide by 48-foot-deep south wing that was identical to the still extant north wing and which was also used as a storm shed for cattle.









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It is not known when this building was constructed but it is all but certain that it lies outside the period of significance. Never-the-less, care was taken in its design and construction in order to make it fit in with the older buildings that surround it and while it is not a contributing building it does not detract from the highly original house that it serves.

**Map No. 15**

**Dwelling C**

**Contributing**

**1918-1919**

Dwelling C was built between 1918 and 1919 and this is the largest of the five houses built on the west side of Horseshoe Bay Road. This two-story-tall Dutch Colonial Revival style house has an L-plan and its main block measures 23.5-feet-deep by 36-feet-wide and has a full basement story. The basement has a cement floor and its rubble stone foundation walls that have been plastered over on the inside. The exterior walls are clad in wide cedar clapboards and the house is sheltered by a side gambrel roof whose ridgeline runs north-south and whose slopes are covered in asphalt shingles.

The principal façade of the main block of the house faces east onto Horseshoe Bay Road and it is symmetrical in design and three bays-wide. The first story's center bay contains the deeply inset main entrance of the house. A pair of eight-over-eight-light double hung wood sash windows is located in the bays on both the left and right sides of this entrance and two single eight-over-eight-light double hung windows and one smaller six-over-six-light double hung window is placed in the wide shed-roofed dormer that spans much of the width of the house in the second story above. These and all of the house's other windows are original and they retain their original multi-light storm windows.

Both the north and south-facing side elevations of the main block are two-bays-wide and each bay contains a single eight-over-eight-light double hung window in both its first and second stories, save for the left-hand bay on the first story of the south-facing elevation, which is covered by a shed-roofed porch or sun room ell.

In addition to the main block there is a 26.5-foot-wide by 36-foot-deep two-story-tall gable-roofed rectilinear plan wing attached to the rear of this house. The south-facing elevation of this wing is four-bays-wide and the first story of each bay contains an eight-over-eight-light double hung window. In addition, there are also four six-over-six-light double hung windows located in the second story above and these are placed in two shed-roofed wall dormers. Four additional six-over-six-light double hung windows are located in the second story of the north-facing side elevation of this wing and these are placed in two shed-roofed wall dormers; these windows open onto the deck of a one-story wraparound porch that encircles the first story of the south and west sides of this wing.

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Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., Wisconsin

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The interior of this house is typical of the interior of the other four houses in its finish and fittings. One enters into a central entrance hall that contains a staircase that ascends to the second story. There is a living room to the right of the hall and a dining room to the left, behind which is the kitchen. The floor consists of narrow varnished maple boards and plastered walls and ceilings. Casework is simple in design but of good quality, and doors, when present, have five horizontal panels. The staircase consists of a boxed newel post and plain square plan balusters. Four bedrooms open off of the second story's hall and more bedrooms and bathrooms are located in the second story of the wing.

**Map No. 16      Dwelling C Pool House and Swimming Pool**  
**Non-Contributing      Post-1945**

A much later addition to this house is the large L-plan swimming pool located behind it, which was used by members of the Cowles family. There is also a rectilinear plan one-story-tall associated pool house located behind the pool to the west. This building has a gable roof whose ridgeline runs north-south and its exterior walls are clad in wooden boards and lattice work. Both lie outside the period of significance and are non-contributing resources within the farm complex.

**Map No. 17      Dwelling D      Contributing      1918-1919**

Dwelling D was built between 1918 and 1919 and it is a two-story-tall Dutch Colonial Revival style rectilinear plan house that measures 24-feet-deep by 40-feet-wide and has a full basement story. This basement story has a cement floor and it is enclosed by rubble stone foundation walls that have been plastered over on the inside. The exterior walls that rest on these foundations are clad in wide cedar clapboards and the house is sheltered by a side gambrel roof whose ridgeline runs north-south and whose slopes are covered in asphalt shingles.

The principal façade of the main block of the house faces east onto Horseshoe Bay Road and it is symmetrical in design and three bays-wide. The first story's center bay contains the deeply inset main entrance of the house; it is sheltered by a gable roofed gablet supported by two posts. A pair of eight-over-eight-light double hung wood sash windows is located in the bays on both the left and right sides of this entrance and two pairs of six-over-six-light double hung windows and one smaller six-over-six-light double hung window are all placed in the wide shed-roofed dormer that spans much of the width of the house in the second story above. These and all of the house's other windows are original and they retain their original multi-light storm windows.

Both the north and south-facing side elevations of this house are two-bays-wide and each bay contains a pair of six-over-six-light double hung windows in its first story and a single six-over-six-light window in





Murphy Farms Number 1  
Name of Property

Door  
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)

Agriculture

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1918-1922

1918-1961

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Crandall, Fred D.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., Wisconsin

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**Significance**

The Murphy Farms No. 1 is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) criterion A and criterion C. Research was undertaken to assess this potential utilizing the NR significance areas of Agriculture and Architecture, both themes that are identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the resources in the farmstead utilizing the Dutch Colonial Revival style subsection of the Period Revival styles subsection and the Agricultural Outbuildings subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit and also the Livestock and Poultry Production and the Fruit and Vegetable Cultivation study units of the Agriculture theme portion of the CRMP.<sup>12</sup> The results of this research are detailed below. The five fine Dutch Colonial Revival style farmhouses built to house the farm's permanent employees and their families and the numerous highly intact, architecturally impressive agricultural outbuildings that are associated with this farm are significant under criterion C because collectively they constitute a rare surviving example of the often enormous show farms that were built by the wealthy in the last decades of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century, both in Wisconsin and in other states.<sup>13</sup>

Research also determined that the Murphy Farms No. 1 is significant under NR criterion A for its historic associations with the important role that the Murphy Farms played in the history of agriculture in Door County. The first of the farm's resources were built in 1917 by the United Fruit Growers Company, a real estate development company based in Sturgeon Bay that purchased several farms containing several hundred acres of wooded land along the Green Bay shore south of the village of Egg Harbor in 1914. The Company intended to create a summer resort along the shoreline, while the rest of its lands would be devoted to fruit raising and dairy cow breeding, both of these being agricultural pursuits that were then becoming increasingly important factors in Door County's economy. Once the project got under way, however, the Company's plans changed and it was decided that the hotel should become a country club instead and that a golf course would be laid out over a portion of the Company's lands. By late 1917, the new Horseshoe Bay Country Club's club house was finished, several thousand cherry trees had been planted, a thoroughbred Holstein herd had been purchased and was being housed in one of the barns that had been acquired with the earlier farm purchases, and the basement of the first of the much finer barns that are now part of Murphy Farms No. 1 was under construction. For reasons that are unclear, the golf course was never built and the

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<sup>12</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2.

<sup>13</sup> The Period of Significance for Architecture extends from 1918, when the first farm building was completed, to 1922, when a very complete insurance inventory of the farm that was done in that year shows that all the farm's contributing buildings had been completed by that time.

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Company's plans remained unrealized. Instead, the property was acquired late in 1918 by two of its largest investors, Frank E. Murphy and his nephew, Elbridge N. Murphy, the latter of whom had been the vice-president of the Company. Both of these men lived in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and they were not only members of a distinguished, very rich Detroit, Michigan family, but also they had amassed considerable additional wealth of their own by investing in and developing numerous Green Bay business enterprises. Once the Company's properties became their own, the two men abandoned its real estate development plans and instead concentrated on the breeding of Holstein-Friesian dairy cows and on growing fruit such as cherries and apples on a commercial scale. During the next six years, the two men invested heavily in the best available Holstein-Friesian cattle breeding stock and in the construction of the buildings necessary to house them. By 1920, the farm complex that is extant today was complete and the Murphy Co.'s farms were one of Wisconsin's finest stock-raising establishments and were the pride of Door County. This part of the farm's history lasted only until 1925, because in that year the two men dissolved their partnership and Frank E. Murphy became the sole owner of the 700-acre farm. Murphy then disbanded the breeding herd and replaced it with a much smaller dairy herd and made horticulture and fruit growing the primary focus of the farm. After Murphy's death in 1934, his farm was inherited by his daughter, Emily Murphy Cowles, and she and her husband, Dr. Robert L. Cowles, continued the farm's fruit raising operations and expanded them to the point where at one time the farm was the largest seasonal employer in Door County and was also the largest grower of cherries, apples and plums in the county. The farm continued in operation under the Cowles family's ownership until 1995, when they decided to turn much of the farm's land into a new Horseshoe Bay Country Club, complete with extensive residential developments surrounding a world class golf course. This new development occurred on the land belonging to Murphy Farms No. 2 on the top of the bluff that is located behind the Murphy Farms No. 1 complex. Fortunately, Farm No. 1 retains its historic setting and while the farm complex's buildings are no longer used for agriculture and are mostly empty they are still in a highly intact, well maintained condition and they continue to represent this important part of Door County's twentieth century agricultural history.<sup>14</sup>

### **History**

Horseshoe Bay and Horseshoe Point, which forms the southern end of this small bay, is located on the east shore of Green Bay at a point that is about 13 miles north of the city of Sturgeon Bay, the Door County seat, and two miles south of the thriving resort village of Egg Harbor. The first settlement at this place occurred in the 1870s and was associated with the logging that was then the most important economic activity in the area.

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<sup>14</sup> The Period of Significance for Agriculture begins in 1918 with the start of the breeding farm operation and continues to the end of the historic period in 1961. In the future, further research into the history of the cherry farm may indicate a later end to the period of significance.

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The first pioneer loggers to fell the beautiful white pine trees at Horse Shoe Bay were Albee and Taylor around 1870. In 1875 they sold their holdings to Walt Young and John Fetzer, the latter the father of Henry Fetzer, the president of the Bank of Sturgeon Bay for many years. Logging was booming then and they employed many Indians as well as white men in their logging and sawmill operations. The saw mill [non-extant] was then located on the south point of the harbor. .... During this same period John Leathem and Tom Smith were doing extensive pine logging just one mile south of Horse Shoe Bay to help supply their saw mill in Sturgeon Bay.

About 1880 Andrew J. Anderson purchased the 500 acres of timber from Young and Fetzer and that first year built a commercial dock where the present [1962] Horse Shoe Bay Dock is located. This dock was in constant use (there was always a boat docked along side being loaded with cordwood, hemlock bolts, hemlock bark for tanning, and lumber) until Oct. 5, 1905, when a terrific storm out of the northwest shattered the dock to pieces and washed it out. Mr. Anderson immediately began construction of a new dock that would withstand the storms of Green Bay. It took two years of construction from 1906 to 1907, before the new dock was completed but his efforts were not in vain as the dock still stands. ....

During the hey day of the large logging operations Horse Shoe Bay consisted of a store, saloon, blacksmith shop (operated by David Lykens), a cooper shop, 15 dwelling houses and a school house which was located two miles north of the harbor. In 1912 [sic] Mr. Anderson sold most of his holdings to United Fruit Growers Corp., retaining Horse Shoe Bay Point.<sup>15</sup>

This last land purchase was just one of a number of large purchases being made at this time by outside interests whose goal was to capitalize on Door County's increasing regional fame as a summer resort. Door County is a peninsula bounded on the east by Lake Michigan and on the west by Green Bay and by 1910, it was already well established as a summer recreation area and resort hotels of generally modest size could be found in most of the county's shorefront communities, such as Ellison Bay, Ephraim, Fish Creek and Egg Harbor.<sup>16</sup> The reason for this was partly because Door County's shorefront communities were mostly located on bays that had spectacular natural scenic values but it also had much to do with the county's transportation infrastructure or the lack of it. Because of its small size and modest population, Door County was one of the few counties in Wisconsin that still had

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<sup>15</sup> Vrooman, Eva M. "Egg Harbor Settled by Many Nationalities; Horse Shoe Bay Once a Bustling Community." *Door County Advocate*, March 22, 1962, Sec. 3M, p. 3 (Centennial Issue).

<sup>16</sup> In addition, the State of Wisconsin had also begun the development of the very large Peninsula State Park between Ephraim and Fish Creek in 1909.



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no railroad service by this time, which meant that both travelers and commercial traffic were dependent on either the county roads or on Great Lakes shipping.<sup>17</sup> As a result, Door County's county road system was, of necessity, probably better than most at this time and its construction was aided by the readily accessible Niagara Limestone that underlies most of the county and is an excellent road building material. Never-the-less, most vacation travelers generally arrived at their Door County destination by passenger ships such as those operated by the Goodrich Line out of Chicago, and much of the county's commercial traffic used this and other shipping lines to move goods and produce into and out of the county as well. Of course this meant that economic activity in the county tended to be seasonal in nature since Lake Michigan and Green Bay would ice over during the winter months. But, during the months when the water was open, Door County was a favored recreation spot for city dwellers seeking relief from summer heat, and lake steamers were their favored means of getting there.

The advent of the automobile and gasoline powered trucks, however, was about to change all that. In 1905 there were just 1492 registered vehicles in Wisconsin but by 1916 there would be 124,603. Not surprisingly, this transportation revolution was also accompanied by a growing demand for better roads, which culminated in a new public roads initiative that was passed by the state legislature in 1911.

The passage of a public roads law in 1911 climaxed a campaign for state-aid for roads and ushered in a new era of transportation in Wisconsin. With increasing pressure from automobile and agricultural interests, the good roads movement soon embarked on new programs of road improvements, bridge repairs, and state trunk highway marking.<sup>18</sup>

The new law created a state highway fund and it also created a State Trunk Road System that at first used existing county roads as part of the new system and Door County was quick to understand the potential importance of the good roads movement, as an article in a Sturgeon Bay newspaper early in 1914 makes clear.

Many people in Sturgeon Bay are watching with keen interest the marvelous development of the concrete driveway from Fond du Lac to Green Bay. The driveway, more than seventy miles long, will, when completed, serve as an artery for the thousands of tourists and automobilists to Door County. This would serve as a mighty factor in developing our county, as the Door county peninsula offers more inducements to tourists and business men to come here and locate than perhaps any other section of the middle west. The vast possibilities of

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<sup>17</sup> Even by 1936, no railroad extended farther north into Door County than Sturgeon Bay, and it is believed that none were ever built north of this city.

<sup>18</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2, Transportation, p. 8-2.

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orcharding are as yet in their infancy and the bringing of men and capital to our county is sure to mean that some will remain permanently.

The construction of the proposed driveway would mean a mighty thing to the tourist business alone. The reason that several more thousands of tourists do not visit this county is in a large measure due to the bad roads south of Green Bay, which are not passable at all times during the summer months. It is predicted that there will be ten automobiles come to Door county to every one that comes now, and this is an item we cannot afford to overlook at any time.<sup>19</sup>

Another factor driving the need for better roads was the development of agriculture in the county. By 1910, large scale commercial logging activities were a thing of the past in Door County and the cutover land that was left was quickly being reclaimed for agriculture, and for fruit farming and dairying in particular. The latter activity was still in its infancy, however.

Door county's dairy industry has been developing rapidly during the past three years, and promises to become within a short time, the leading industry in the county. At present there are several herds of valuable blooded stock owned in the county, the majority of the pure bred stock being Holstein-Friesian and Guernsey cattle. ... Door county's dairying industry is a much more important business than we realize. The dairymen of this county supply milk to 33 cheese factories, receiving as high as 7,000 pounds of milk a day and averaging 2,000 pounds of milk, each, making a grand total for the year of 18,000,000 pounds, which will produce 1,710,000 pounds of cheese valued at \$250,000. In addition to this many patrons supply milk to several county creameries, or ship cream to the large cities.

The total value of the Door county's dairy products easily reaches \$400,000 with the industry only [just] well established.<sup>20</sup>

It was the promise of tourism more than any other factor that attracted outside capital to Door County when Arthur Anderson sold much of his land to the United Fruit Growers Company in 1914. Indeed, just prior to the United Fruit Growers Company's first purchase, two other major purchases of land had already been made by outside capital elsewhere in the county. The first was the purchase of 1115 acres in the Town of Liberty Grove in the northernmost part of the county by E. E. Galle & Co. of Minneapolis, who planned to plat the land and open it as a summer resort with lots available for summer houses. This company had other plans for the peninsula as well.

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<sup>19</sup> "Wisconsin's Million Dollar Road." *Door County Democrat*. March 6, 1914, p. 4.

<sup>20</sup> "Dairying Important Industry." *Door County Democrat*. February 27, 1914, p. 3.

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E. E. Galle & Co. is the Minneapolis company, which is furthering the project of building the electric railroad thru northern Door county which, when built, will develop the entire northern section of the county. Door county has the natural advantages of becoming one big summer resort from Death's Door to Sturgeon Bay on both sides of the peninsula, there being many beautiful spots which are awaiting development.<sup>21</sup>

Less than a month later, the Cabot Brothers of St. Louis, Missouri announced that they were about to build a \$50,000 summer hotel on the large tract of land they had purchased at Idlewild on the south shore at the west end of Sturgeon Bay, which opened in July of the following year.<sup>22</sup>

The first purchase of land for development purposes in the Horseshoe Bay area occurred just a month later, in July of 1914, when the United Fruit Growers Co. paid \$5500 to Grant Haskell for a 110-acre tract of land along the shore just north of the bay.<sup>23</sup> This was only the first of a number of similar purchases that the Company made during this month.

A new company which has for its purpose the development of Door county's picturesque spots, and also the development of fruit lands, has just been organized by the incorporation this week of the United Fruit Growers' Co., with a capitalization of \$25,000. The headquarters and office of the new enterprise will be in Sturgeon Bay.

The company has purchased 271 acres of land in the town of Egg Harbor, consisting of the 80 acre farm until recently owned by Guy Bingham, 111 acres of Grant Haskell, and 80 acres from A. J. Anderson, which includes the Horseshoe Bay cave. The property is located about 13 miles north of the city, and the Haskell and Anderson property has a frontage of three quarters of a mile on the Green Bay shore, being just north of what is known as Horseshoe Bay.

That portion of the property suitable for fruit raising will be developed for this purpose, there being an eight-acre cherry orchard on part of it. The shore property, however, is to be platted out into lots and sold to parties desiring a most picturesque spot on which to erect cottages and summer homes. ... Roads leading to this property from the main traveled Egg Harbor highway, and also along the bay shore from Egg Harbor, which makes a most beautiful drive, will be improved. A private road 50 feet wide and about 200 feet from the shore, running the full length of the shore property, will also be constructed.

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<sup>21</sup> "Buys Knudson Tract." *Door County Democrat*. May 22, 1914, p. 1. The railroad was never built.

<sup>22</sup> "\$50,000 Summer Hotel." *Door County Democrat*. June 12, 1914, p. 1. See also: "Opening of Cabot's Lodge." *Door County Democrat*. July 2, 1915, p. 1. This hotel is no longer extant.

<sup>23</sup> "Big Deal Closed Tuesday." *Door County News*. July 22, 1914, p. 1.

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H. C. Kibbey of Minneapolis, who has spent the past several months in Door county. is one of the principal stockholders of the new company. Mr. Kibbey has great faith in the future development of the peninsula, and is confident that the new resort which the company is about to open up will become one of the most popular in this section of the state. ... Considerable outside capital is invested in the project, and it is rumored that local capital will also be invested.<sup>24</sup>

In January of 1915, the United Fruit Growers Company established a second office in Green Bay headed by H. C. Kibbey "in order to accommodate the large number of people locally who are interested in the proposition," while the Sturgeon Bay office was left in charge of the Company's treasurer and fellow Minnesotan, Eugene W. Odbert.<sup>25</sup> During the rest of this year the company's efforts were expended on the sale of the lots it had platted along the bay shore, the clearing of the recently purchased land, the planting of 100 acres of cherry trees on parts of this land, the construction of a new road along the bay shore portion of their property, the rebuilding of the Anderson dock, and the construction of a club that was to be used at first as a kind of hotel or a dormitory to house the workers who were engaged in building cottages and other work on the land.<sup>26</sup> The Company also purchased nearly 500 additional acres of land south of and adjacent to its existing holdings in October, this being another 320 acres from A. J. Anderson and 40 acres each from Henry Fetzer and Mrs. E. H. Robb.<sup>27</sup>

All of this expenditure and activity on the part of the United Fruit Grower's Company did not go unnoticed in the county's newspapers, which saw this project as yet more evidence of an ongoing development boom that had the potential to have a real impact on the northern part of the county.

The United Fruit Growers company, without flourish or ostentation, have invested thousands of dollars in Horseshoe Bay property and a total sum of \$150,000 is being put in land and improvements. According to those who know, the land is adapted to fruit growing. It is situated on a high bluff overlooking Green Bay and the water and drainage are perfect. It has rocky soil which fruit trees thrive in. Trees planted there during the last two years show an

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<sup>24</sup> "To Develop Resort." *Door County Democrat*. July 24, 1914.

<sup>25</sup> "Establishes Office in Green Bay." *Door County Democrat*. January 15, 1915, p. 10.

<sup>26</sup> The new bay shore road that was being built in this year was a portion of what is now known as Horseshoe Bay Road (CTH G) and its route parallels the shoreline and runs north into the village of Egg Harbor.

<sup>27</sup> "A \$40,000 Land Transaction." *The Sturgeon Bay Advocate*. October 14, 1915, p. 10. See also: *Door County Democrat*. October 22, 1915, p. 1. The sum mentioned in this headline also included the 271 acres of land that the Company had purchased earlier from Anderson, Haskel and Bingham.

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unusual growth and at present, even at this advanced season, it is almost impossible to find a yellow leaf in the 100 acres the company has already planted. ...

The United Fruit Growers company has nearly 700 acres of land in the vicinity of Horseshoe Bay and it is being cleared as fast as twenty men can do the work. All the old buildings: the store, blacksmith shop, residences, barns, and other structures are being torn down and the site cleared of the decaying landmarks. The bay shore, of which the company owns 8300 feet has been platted out into lots, many of these have been sold, and cottages will be erected along the bay front at once. The large farm buildings and two large barns will be started this fall and a lodge is now being completed. The latter is one of the prettiest summer buildings in the county and when finished will be equipped with electric lights and hot and cold water system. It will be used in housing and boarding the people who are to build cottages along the bay shore next summer.

Next year the company's plans arrange for continuing the development of the property by clearing land and building a few cottages, but the year following a big hotel will be built. According to the plans of the contemplated building, which have already been drawn and in the hands of H. C. Kibbey, manager of the company, the hotel will be the equal of any summer hotel building in the resort regions of the Great Lakes. To date Mr. Kibbey has spent approximately \$60,000 in Door county and it is all outside money. The stockholders of the company are mostly wealthy people from the larger cities who realize the advantages of getting in on the ground floor of Door county summer resort propositions. When the company was organized in 1914, \$100,000 in bonds were issued but during this week the issue has been retired. The sale of stock has been so successful and the holdings of the company have already increased in value to so great an extent that the bond issue is found to be unnecessary.

Officers of the company are: H. C. Kibbey, president and general manager; E. N. Murphy, vice-president; E. W. Odbert, treasurer, T. A. Sanderson, secretary.<sup>28</sup>

The year 1916, however, began with a significant change in the company's plans for its land.

The Horse Shoe Bay Country Club, with golf links, tennis courts, baseball field, billiards, bathing, and all the comforts to be desired by its proposed membership of two hundred, is in process of organization into an exclusive Door county summer colony. Architect Crandall of this city has completed the plans for a big club house upon which work will start at once. The

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<sup>28</sup> "Horseshoe Bay Boom." *Door County Democrat*. October 15, 1915, p. 1.

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building will be 36 by 72 feet, two stories, with two large L's and plenty of porches and balconies.

In order to obtain the exclusiveness desired at Horse Shoe Bay the United Fruit Growers company changed their plans regarding the building of a large summer hotel as was first proposed, and have launched the country club proposition, whose membership will consist of two hundred of the best families. Already a substantial number have joined the club, insuring its successful promotion. People from this city, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Madison, Chicago, Minneapolis and other cities have already enrolled. Membership is confined to those owning lots in the Horse Shoe Bay plat owned by the United Fruit Growers company and situated on Green Bay in Egg Harbor township.<sup>29</sup>

A month later it was announced that nationally known Chicago-based golf course architect Tom Bendelow had completed plans for a nine hole golf course for the club. As work on the new club house and on several new cottages commenced, the company was busy planting another 100 acres of cherry trees on the land it owned on top of the bluff as well.<sup>30</sup>

In August of 1916, the club filed articles of incorporation and it was announced that the incorporators of the club were H. C. Kibbey, T. A. Sanderson, and H. L. Peterson, all residents of Sturgeon Bay, and that a board of governors would soon thereafter be elected from the club's membership.<sup>31</sup> A surviving promotional brochure for the club printed later in the year contains, among other things, a membership list of this first board of governors, all of whom were prominent business men and professional men from Green Bay, and two of them, Elbridge N. Murphy, President of the Murphy Supply Co., and Frank E. Murphy, Vice-President of the Morley-Murphy Hardware Co., would soon play a central role in the history of this property.<sup>32</sup>

The reasons for what happened next are still largely conjectural, but a small item in a local newspaper in February of 1917 may offer a clue. This article noted that A. J. Anderson had purchased (actually re-purchased) four forties of land from the United Fruit Growers Co. that he had sold to them two years before.<sup>33</sup> This sale may have had nothing to do with the financial status of the country club, of course, and may have been prompted by nothing more than the realization that this acreage was no

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<sup>29</sup> "Form Horse Shoe Bay Country Club." *Door County Democrat*. April 14, 1916, p. 1 (illustrated).

<sup>30</sup> *Door County News*, May 17, 1916, p. 5. By 1916, Bendelow was one of this country's most prolific designers of golf courses. His Horse Shoe Bay course, however, was never completed. See also: <<http://tclf.org/pioneer/tom-bendelow/biography-tom-bendelow>>

<sup>31</sup> "Club is Incorporated." *Door County Democrat*. August 4, 1916, p. 1.

<sup>32</sup> "A Vacation Triumph." *Sturgeon Bay: Horse Shoe Bay Country Club*, n.d. but ca.1916.

<sup>33</sup> *Door County News*. February 7, 1917, p. 10.

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longer central to the club's needs. Never-the-less, when viewed in the light of subsequent events this sale appears to have been a sign of things to come.

Meanwhile, work on the Club's new club house and on six new cottages continued throughout the summer of 1917 and so too did the planting of several thousand more cherry trees.<sup>34</sup> By July, the new club house was almost complete and plans were being made for a grand opening, which finally took place in early August.<sup>35</sup> A few months later, in early October, work also began on the foundations of the first of the barns that are now associated with Murphy Farms No. 1.<sup>36</sup>

By June of 1918, the work on the new barn was well underway and by October the barn was nearly completed and work had also begun on the first of the dwellings for the farm's staff.<sup>37</sup> The last mention of the United Fruit Growers Company in the local newspapers occurs in November of that year. Subsequently, all references to the company's former Horseshoe Bay property refer to it as the "Murphy Farms." It appears that a change of ownership occurred during these months and that the ownership of the 700 acre property and all of the buildings on it that were not individually owned by others was transferred to Frank E. Murphy and Elbridge N. Murphy of Green Bay at this time. No explanation for this change has been found as yet, but it is reasonable to suppose that the hopes of the club's incorporators did not pan out, possibly due to insufficient interest and possibly too because the timing of the opening of the club also happened to coincide with the nation's entrance into World War I. Whatever the reason, the future history of the land that the United Fruit Growers Co. had assembled now belonged to two members of the Murphy family of Green Bay.

### **Agriculture**

The Murphy Farms No. 1 is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under NR criterion A, History, for its local significance in the history of agriculture because this multi-generational family-owned farm contains numerous highly intact buildings that represent the Murphy-Cowles family's important role in the agricultural history of Door County. Begun in 1914 as part of a real estate development scheme, the farm was soon after acquired by Frank E. and Elbridge N. Murphy, who greatly enlarged it and made it into a showcase for selective Holstein-Friesian dairy cattle breeding. In 1925, however, the partnership between the two men was dissolved and Frank E. Murphy became the sole proprietor of the farm. Murphy then disbanded the breeding herd and decided instead to have a more modest dairy herd and to emphasize the fruit growing potential of the 700-acre farm, which

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<sup>34</sup> Four of these cottages belonged to the club itself and the other two belonged to individual members.

<sup>35</sup> "Horse Shoe Bay Ready." *Door County Democrat*. July 6, 1917, p. 8. *Door County News*, August 9, 1917, p. 8.

<sup>36</sup> *Door County News*, October 11, 1917, p. 6.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid*, October 17, 1918, p. 6.

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under his and his descendants' ownership it is said to have been the largest single producer of cherries, apples and plums in Door County, as well as the county's largest seasonal employer.

As was noted earlier, Elbridge N. Murphy was the original vice-president of the United Fruit Growers Company, which suggests that he was not only interested in this new development project from the earliest days of the company, but was also probably a significant investor. Elbridge N. Murphy was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 27, 1878 and was one of the seven children born to Albert Montgomery Murphy (1852-1915), a lumberman who was himself one of the twelve children of Simon J. Murphy, an even more successful lumberman. Simon J. Murphy (1815-1905) was born in Windsor, Maine and was himself the grandson and the great-grandson of lumbermen. At the age of 18 he went to work in a sawmill in Milford, Maine and from that time onward lumber and milling were his trade. By 1845, Murphy, in partnership with Jonathan Eddy and Newell Avery in the firm of Eddy, Murphy & Co., owned and operated mills of his own in Maine, and when the lumber supply there began to diminish, he and his wife and family followed Avery to Detroit, Michigan in 1866 and began the development of the highly successful lumber firm of Avery and Murphy, which had major timber land holdings in Michigan and Wisconsin. After Avery died, the timber lands and associated saw mills passed to Murphy and in 1886 he established yet another and much larger lumber mill in Green Bay, Wisconsin and sent two of his sons there to run it: Simon J. Murphy, Jr. (1851-1926), and Frank E. Murphy (1862-1934).

The Murphy Lumber Co.'s mill soon became the city's biggest industry and largest employer and Frank E. Murphy served as the firm's secretary and treasurer from 1886 until ill health forced him to resign in 1894. His brother, Albert M. Murphy, who had moved to Green Bay with his family in 1892, then took his place and was just in time to see the company's main mill burn down in a spectacular fire in 1895. Fortunately, the mill was fully insured and it was rebuilt and was later sold to the North Land Lumber Co. in 1906. Fortunately too for Albert M. Murphy, his son, Elbridge N. Murphy, had also joined the company by the time of the fire and some of the burden of management was subsequently transferred to the younger man. Soon thereafter, E. N. Murphy became secretary and treasurer of the Murphy Box Company, a branch of the Murphy Lumber Company, and he soon became its manager as well. In 1907, a year after the Murphy Lumber Co. was sold, the Murphy Supply Co. was incorporated with F. E. Murphy as its president and with E. N. Murphy as its secretary-treasurer. In 1912, F. E. Murphy sold out his interest in this firm to his nephew and by 1913, the year before the United Fruit Growers Co. was formed, E. N. Murphy was also secretary-treasurer of the Green Bay Planing Mill and was considered to be one of Green Bay's most successful younger businessmen.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> *History of Brown County, Wisconsin, Past and Present* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., 1913), pp. 111-112.



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After Albert M. Murphy died in 1915, his son, E. N., then appears to have forged close personal and financial ties with his father's surviving brother, Frank E. Murphy. Like his brothers, Frank E. Murphy was born in Maine, but was raised and educated in Detroit.

He made his initial step in the business world by entering the employ of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad Company as lumber and tie inspector and subsequently was sent by his father with his brother Simon J., Jr., to Green Bay in 1886 to keep the books and act as secretary of the lumber company. He filled the offices of secretary and treasurer until 1894, when ill health caused him to resign, his brother Albert M., taking his place. In that year our subject became interested in the Green Bay Electric Railroad, purchasing bonds to make a success of the enterprise and thus help the town. Later this company was merged with others and the name was changed to the Green Bay Gas, Electric & Traction Company and finally sold in 1912 to the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. On the first of October, 1904, Mr. Murphy entered into his present connection as vice president of the Morley-Murphy Hardware Company, opening a well appointed establishment on South Washington street. At one time he was also president of the Murphy Supply Company, engaged in plumbing, gas, and steam fitting, but in 1912 sold out to his nephew Elbridge Murphy, who now conducts it.<sup>39</sup>

In addition to the foregoing, Frank E. Murphy served as an alderman in the Green Bay city council from 1888 to 1894 and again from 1902 to 1904, periods that also coincided with his older brother Simon J. Murphy Jr.'s three consecutive terms as Green Bay's mayor, from 1889 until 1901.

By 1914, both F. E. and E. N. Murphy were in financial positions that allowed them to pursue new goals, one of which turned out to be the newly formed United Fruit Grower's Co. What the goals of these two men were at this time in regards to this new firm is conjectural, as is the extent of their involvement in the firm. E. N. Murphy appears to have had the more public role of the two and it is not clear if F. E. Murphy actually had any role in the company's formation. What *is* known is that E. N. Murphy was definitely in on the ground floor of the new company, being its vice-president, and a year later, in 1915, he also purchased the former Mallory cottage, which was located on the lake shore at the head of Horseshoe Bay on land that was either within or adjacent to the company's new land holdings, and began the construction of a cottage of his own on the land adjacent to it.<sup>40</sup> Additional evidence of the Murphys' growing involvement in the United Fruit Grower's project can also be found in their decision to form a new equity firm called the Real Estate Securities Co. of Green

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<sup>39</sup> *History of Brown County, Wisconsin, Past and Present* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., 1913), pp. 480-484.

<sup>40</sup> *Door County Democrat*, December 3, 1915, p. 5. See also: *Door County News*, December 8, 1915, p. 5.

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Bay in March of 1916, with Frank E. Murphy as its president, H. C. Kibbey, the president of the United Fruit Growers Co., as its vice-president, and E. N. Murphy as its treasurer.<sup>41</sup>

Frank E. Murphy soon followed his nephew's lead by deciding to build a summer house of his own on waterfront lots he purchased that had been part of the United Fruit Grower's property at Horseshoe Bay. In June of 1916, just a few months after the Horse Shoe Bay Country Club proposition had been announced, Murphy began the construction of a \$10,000 house designed by Sturgeon Bay architect Fred D. Crandall, who was also the architect of the new club house.<sup>42</sup> While construction on this new house was beginning, E. N. Murphy's Horseshoe Bay cottage was nearing completion and he and his family moved in at the end of June. Also nearing completion at this time was the new summer home of Mrs. E. N. Murphy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Joannes of Green Bay, which was being constructed next door to their daughter's cottage. By the end of the year, F. E. Murphy's summer house was complete and both F. E. and E. N. Murphy had been voted onto the nine-man board of governors of the new Horse Shoe Bay Country Club. This, coupled with the fact that E. N. Murphy was also an officer of the United Fruit Growers Co., meant that the two men were in a good position to gauge the actual state of the United Fruit Grower's Co.'s finances and its prospects. Consequently, when the company's plans for developing a country club failed to materialize, they were in an excellent position to initiate plans of their own.

Just what plans the two men had actually made at this point in time is, of course, entirely conjectural, but subsequent events show that by 1918 they already apparently had decided to acquire the holdings of the United Fruit Grower's Company and then abandon the real estate development plans of the company and concentrate instead on stock raising and horticulture. Just why they chose this path is something of a mystery but the considerable efforts that the company had already made in these directions seems to have decided the matter. As has already been mentioned, by 1917, the company had planted at least two hundred acres of cherry trees on its property and had begun construction on the first of the new barns that were meant to house a herd of pure bred Holstein cattle, the first members of which arrived at Horseshoe Bay in June of that same year.<sup>43</sup> Just why the company decided to grow cherries and raise cattle in addition to its principal business is not known, but it probably made good business sense at the time. Since the prospects for the future of the summer resort business in Door County looked promising, it made sense for the company to buy as much land as it could at what were still relatively low prices. It would have been prudent, however, to realize that not all of the newly purchased land could or should be developed at once and since much of this land

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<sup>41</sup> *De Pere Journal-Democrat*. March 14, 1916, p. 3.

<sup>42</sup> "Starts \$10,000 Summer Home." *Door County Democrat*. June 9, 1916, p. 4. Neither the club house nor Murphy's own house are extant today.

<sup>43</sup> *Door County News*. June 4, 1917, p. 7.

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first had to be cleared of timber. Why not clear the land, sell the timber, replant the land with cherry trees, and put the land to profitable use while waiting for a time when it could be developed? In addition, starting a dairy herd meant that another portion of the company's land could be turned into pasture, which would also be easy to develop later on, and the milk and cattle that the farm produced could generate income year round in the meantime.

There are also indications that by this time the Murphys were thinking beyond the boundaries of Horseshoe Bay when it came to getting involved in stock raising and fruit growing. In March of 1917, the creation of the Green Bay Packing Co. with a capital stock of \$500,000, was announced, with E. N. Murphy as the president and general manager, and Frank E. Murphy as its treasurer.<sup>44</sup>

The Green Bay Packing Company expects to begin operations in its big new plant in Green Bay within the next few weeks. Some 70,000 cattle a year will be needed to supply beef for canning and this is a matter of special interest to Door County farmers as this county is one of several counties adjoining Green Bay from which the company expects to draw heavily for its cattle. A large number of cattle are shipped out of Door county by dealers, the shipments practically all going to the Chicago market. According to the *Green Bay Review* two year contracts have already been made by the company with many of the farmers in Door, Kewaunee, and Brown counties.<sup>45</sup>

Naturally, this new enterprise meant that any cattle raised on the Murphy's farms could always be sold but it was also clearly good news for other Door County farmers as well.

Whatever future plans for the farm the Murphys may have had at this point is unknown, but when it became possible for them to acquire the holdings of the United Fruit Growers Company, they did so quickly and then set about turning their plans into reality. The new entity that they created was called the Murphy Farms and it was owned jointly by both F.E. and E.N. Murphy.<sup>46</sup> This farm was divided into two separate entities, Murphy Farms No. 1, which occupied all the land located at the foot of the bluffs and down to the lake shore, and Murphy Farms No. 2, which occupied the larger portion of land that was located on the top of the bluffs. The first mention of this new entity in the local newspapers occurred in November of 1918, as the Murphys sought to increase the acreage of the farm.

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<sup>44</sup> *De Pere Journal-Democrat*. March 11, 1917, p. 4.

<sup>45</sup> "Green Bay Packing Plant Starts." *Door County Democrat*. October 5, 1917, p. 4.

<sup>46</sup> Other news items suggest that the Murphys still retained the United Fruit Growers Co. name at this time and that they used this legal entity for some of their business.

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A big deal was closed here Thursday when the Murphy Co. of Horseshoe Bay bought the 260 acre farm of Joseph Pechette [sic] and father, with all personal property. Consideration, \$32,000. The Pechette family will vacate December 1<sup>st</sup> and move to Sturgeon Bay if a suitable place can be found.<sup>47</sup>

Shortly thereafter, another news item stated that the Murphys had offered the Town of Egg Harbor an interest free three-year loan to defray the cost of building a new three mile-long Horseshoe Bay Road parallel to the shoreline of their property.<sup>48</sup>

Along with land purchases and infrastructure development, the farm was also engaged in large scale purchases of pure bred cattle to further the stock-raising operations of the farm.

One of the most valuable shipments of stock ever received in this county was brought in on Saturday last, when a shipment of thoroughbred Holsteins arrived for E. N. Murphy and were taken to the stock farm at Horseshoe Bay. In the shipment was the \$25,000 sire and a number of cows, the latter being valued at \$35,000. This is the nucleus of a herd that the owner intends to build up that will make it one of the best and largest in the state.<sup>49</sup>

Additional land purchases continued as well:

E. N. Murphy of Green Bay, owner of the Murphy farm in the town of Egg Harbor, within the week closed a deal whereby he became the owner of the 200 acre farm of Edward Roscoe, chairman of the township. Mr. Roscoe was paid \$30,000 for the place which adjoins that of Mr. Murphy. The latter now has 700 acres of land devoted to agricultural purposes. He felt that he needed more land to carry out the projects he has under consideration.<sup>50</sup>

This new purchase gave the Murphys more land to the south of the Pichette purchase and this new land was again located both below and on top of the bluff.

The following January, an additional twenty-eight thoroughbred Holsteins arrived at the farm. By this time the Murphy Farms were becoming a source of real pride to the citizens of Door County, as reported in the local paper:

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<sup>47</sup> *Door County News*. November 11, 1918, p. 6. The Pichette property was located just to the north of the farm's existing holdings and included land both above and below the bluffs.

<sup>48</sup> *Door County News*. January 2, 1918, p. 1.

<sup>49</sup> "Murphy Stock Arrives." *Door County News*. June 26, 1919, p. 1.

<sup>50</sup> "Add to Murphy Farm." *Door County News*. October 2, 1919, p. 1. See also: "200 acres brings \$30,000." *Door County Advocate*. October 3, 1919, p. 1.

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This is the beginning of one of the largest full blooded stock farms in this part of the state and will be instrumental in putting Door county in the front ranks of the dairying community. Mr. Murphy has one of the largest and best equipped farms to be found in the state, which is in charge of E. S. Leverinch, a practical and experienced man. A specialty is to be made of blooded stock and this will in a short time become one of the most famous stock raising counties in the United States. The people of this county are to be congratulated on having Mr. Murphy establish this industry in their midst as it will be an incentive to improve the herds of the county and eventually attract as much attention as the cherry industry.<sup>51</sup>

By March of 1920, the Murphy herd numbered more than 100 and at the end of April, E. N. Murphy spent another \$20,000 to purchase Sir Ormsby Aberkirk Korndyke, a pure bred Holstein bull. As one newspaper noted: "This makes practically \$75,000 in stock and land that the Murphys have put into this county within the last few weeks, making their entire investment here approximately a half million dollars."<sup>52</sup> This emphasis on raising only the best pure-bred Holstein stock reflected a lesson the agricultural community had by this time taken to heart: the future of livestock raising lay in specialization and purchasing and breeding pure bred animals was the key to success. Holsteins (the "black and whites") were an especially favored breed for dairying purposes by this time and their popularity had given rise to the creation of a national Holstein-Friesian breeding association in 1885, one-fifth of whose members then lived in Wisconsin, and to the establishment of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Wisconsin in 1897, which had soon after adopted an "advanced register program," to certify pure bred Holstein stock in the state.

By 1921, the breeding programs at Murphy Farms were starting to produce dividends as the cattle it had raised started to bring high prices at local cattle shows and were setting statewide production records.<sup>53</sup> The expansion of the farm's existing cherry growing operations was ongoing as well.

Mr. Murphy of the Murphy farms is having his farm on top of the Horseshoe Bay hill laid out for a cherry orchard to be planted next spring. Mr. Larkin is planning and overseeing it.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> "Get Herd of Blooded Stock." *Door County News*. January 22, 1920, p. 1. This herd came from Minneapolis, MN and cost \$28,000 or \$1000 apiece.

<sup>52</sup> "Buys \$20,000 Bull." *Door County Advocate*. April 30, 1929, p. 1.

<sup>53</sup> For representative stories see: *Door County Advocate*: January 6, 1922, p. 1; September 22, 1922, p. 7; April 6, 1923, p. 11, and April 27, 1923, p. 10.

<sup>54</sup> *Door County News*. October 20, 1921, p. 6. This orchard amounted to 100 acres planted with 6000 trees. See also: *Door County Advocate*. May 12, 1922, p. 7, and November 10, 1922, p. 5.

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By 1924, the Murphy cattle herd was large enough and valuable enough to justify employing its own veterinary surgeon, Lloyd Gross. However, 1924 was a bad year for agricultural prices in general and this was reflected in the low prices paid for a large consignment of cattle that the farm sent to the Fifth Annual Brown County Holstein Breeders sale, even though the farm's cattle still brought in the top prices. Never-the-less, the Murphys continued to bid high for exceptional new breeding stock. The \$6500 they paid for Wisconsin Forbes, who was the largest dairy cow in the world at that time, was the highest price paid at the dispersal sale of the John Erickson Herd in Waupaca, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Holstein-Friesian Assoc. considers this sale the most important sale of the twentieth century in Wisconsin in terms of the future impact it had on the breed.<sup>55</sup>

When one looks at all the available information today, it seems clear that the cattle breeding aspect of the Murphy Farms operations was essential driven by E. N. Murphy's enthusiasm for the subject. In December of 1924, for instance, thirty Manitowoc County dairymen motored to Horseshoe Bay to visit the Murphy Farms and after the visit they were treated to lunch at the farm by Murphy, who, a subsequent newspaper report of the event stated "is recognized over the state of Wisconsin as being one of the best pedigree men especially for explaining sire pedigrees."<sup>56</sup>

Unfortunately, the great expense entailed in the creation and maintenance of the Murphy Farms was never equaled by the income it produced and by spring of 1925 a reckoning finally came. The first sign occurred in May of that year, when sixty head of cattle from the farm were consigned to a sale in Fond du Lac.<sup>57</sup> More bad news happened in June when Wisconsin Forbes, The Fifth, the \$6500 Holstein cow bought by Murphy just the year before, died of pneumonia. Finally, in October, the news came that the stock-breeding part of the Murphy Farms was being discontinued and the breeding herd sold.

The Murphy Stock Farm in the town of Egg Harbor is to be discontinued. The fine herd of 132 head of pure-bred cattle are to be placed on the auction block and disposed of and the raising of stock will no longer be continued, is the discouraging information that has been given out the past week. In this fine herd of cattle are some of the best to be found in the entire state of Wisconsin. Among them is the state champion Aurora Homestead Badger, only 30,000 pound cow in the entire commonwealth. Others of the herd of Holsteins are away up in their respective classes, some of the bulls being valued at many thousands of dollars. ...

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<sup>55</sup> "\$6500 For One Cow." *Door County Advocate*. June 20, 1924, p. 1. See also: Wendorff, Elmo Jr. (Ed.). *Wisconsin Holstein History: 1890-1990*. Baraboo, WI: Wisconsin Holstein Assoc., 1990, p. 271.

<sup>56</sup> "30 Farmers Visit At Horseshoe Bay ." *Door County Advocate*. December 5, 1924, p. 12.

<sup>57</sup> "Murphy Farms have Cattle at Big Fondy Sale." *Door County Advocate*. May 29, 1925, p. 3. See also: "Murphy Cattle Sold in 1 Hour at Big Auction." June 5, 1925, p. 5

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The decision to dispose of and break up this fine herd comes as a surprise to the people of this county, who took a pardonable pride in this wonderful farm and industry, which was the admiration of hundreds of summer visitors during the summer season. It has been said that there is close to three-quarters of a million dollars invested in the place, buildings and herd, which was possibly the finest in the state. It resembles an ideal village, with the well kept buildings for the help and the macadam highway. With the disposal of the herd there will be a large number of men employed there thrown out of work. It is said that the cost of operating this large farm runs into many thousands of dollars a month.

Of course, it has never repaid any return on the enormous investment, but it was the hope of the owner to build up a herd of cattle second to none in the United States. It is reported that this property, like all other buildings of the Murphy estate, is held in trust and those having control or being responsible have decided that some of the money put into the place should be returned, hence the sale of thoroughbred cattle.

The place was started by Frank E. Murphy seven years ago who developed [it] into what it is at the present time. Just what is to be done with the main buildings is not known at the present time as it is doubtful that it could be used for anything else than a stock farm. Last spring fifty head of the cattle was sold at one of the big sales and brought a good price per head. It is understood that the fruit farm in connection with the stock farm is to be continued, this being considered productive.

There is a large club house at this point also which with the numerous buildings used by the employees of this farm could be converted into an ideal summer hotel proposition. The location is one of the finest in the county with an ideal sandy shoreline and other attractions that are usually demanded by summer tourists.<sup>58</sup>

The reference to the Murphy estate is an especially interesting one in this context because there actually was such an entity called the Murphy Family Trust. When Frank E. Murphy's father, Simon J. Murphy, Sr., died in Detroit in 1905, he left an estate valued at over \$10,000,000, much of it consisting of large real estate holdings in Detroit, the most notable at that time being the new Penobscot Building that Murphy had developed. His estate was then folded into a new entity called the Murphy Family Trust, which managed various family holdings for his heirs, among them the Murphy Lumber Co. in Green Bay, which was sold in 1906, and the purchase in that same year of the Pacific Lumber Co. in Scotia, California, which members of the family ran until 1985. The news

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<sup>58</sup> "Murphy Herd to be Sold." *Door County News*. October 1, 1925.

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article above suggests that a part of the money that created and sustained the Murphy Farms might have come from this trust, and if so, this might explain why the decision to disband the unprofitable Horseshoe Bay herd was made.

The news of the dispersal was a blow to Door County. As another account put it: "The Murphy Stock farm has always been pointed out to visitors with pride by Door county people. Hundreds will regret its loss."<sup>59</sup> Two weeks later, the herd was shipped to Fond du Lac and by the end of the month the herd had been sold. Finally, in December, the partnership between E. N. and F. E. Murphy was also dissolved.

Notice is given this week of the dissolution of the partnership of Frank E. Murphy and Elbridge N. Murphy of Green Bay, who had been doing business under the firm name of Murphy Farms, conducting a stock and fruit farm at Horseshoe Bay. Elbridge Murphy has conveyed all his right and interest in the farm to Frank Murphy and the name has been changed to Horseshoe Bay Farms. It is understood that the farm will be restocked with dairy cattle to replace the high pure bred cattle that was formerly used on the farm for breeding purposes. In place of being one of the great show stock farms of the state as heretofore, it will become a practical dairy farm.<sup>60</sup>

Interestingly, the new Horseshoe Bay Farm dairy herd that replaced the Murphy Farms breeding herd also contained record-making milk producers, including Aurora Homestead Badger, who along with six other cows, had remained with the farm after the breeding herd was sold.<sup>61</sup> Dairying would continue on the farm for several years after 1925, but under Frank Murphy's ownership, the real focus of the farm turned instead to fruit raising. At the time of the dissolution of the partnership the Murphy Farms had about 260 acres planted as orchards, with 220 acres of cherries and 80 acres of apples, and as time went by more and more acreage was turned into orchards. In addition, smaller buildings on the farm that dated from the United Fruit Grower's Company's real estate development period, such as the following, were also gradually moved off the farm or were demolished.

A company of local men has been formed to open a summer colony at Horseshoe Bay just north of the Murphy stock farm on the Green Bay shore. Property was purchased last spring consisting of 31 acres with almost 1000 feet of waterfront, and was divided into seven lots each measuring 100 feet wide by 300 feet deep, facing the Horseshoe bay on the east and the shore on the west. Seven cottages formerly erected for summer use on the Murphy estate nearby

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<sup>59</sup> "To Discontinue Large Stock Farm, is Report." *Door County Advocate*. October 2, 1925, p. 6.

<sup>60</sup> "Partnership in Murphy Stock Farm Dissolved." *Door County Advocate*. December 4, 1925, p. 8.

<sup>61</sup> "Murphy Cow Great Dairy Producer." *De Pere Journal-Democrat*. January 27, 1927, p. 7.



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have been purchased by the company and are now being moved onto the new sites. ... The grounds will be put in good shape and seven of the summer homes will be ready for occupancy next year.<sup>62</sup>

Early in 1934, Frank E. Murphy donated 11 acres of land around the shore of Horseshoe Bay to Door County for use as a public park. This land, along with three additional acres donated by ancestors of A. J. Anderson, now comprises the present Frank E. Murphy Park. Murphy did not live to see the property developed into a park, however, because he died in August of that year at the age of 71.<sup>63</sup> Murphy was survived by his daughter, Emily Murphy Cowles (1889-1969), who was the wife of Dr. Robert S. Cowles (1891-1962), a prominent obstetrician in Green Bay, and the ownership and management of the farm subsequently became their responsibility. The transfer of the farm to a new generation did nothing to diminish the reputation of the farm that Mrs. Cowles' father and cousin had been at such pains to establish. In the years that followed, the dairy herd was gradually diminished in size and the barns on the farm were stripped of the interior fittings that related to the farm's cattle operations and they were refitted for the raising, harvesting, and storing of fruit produce. Historic photos show that these refitted barns contained what amounted to an industrialized work space complete with conveyor belt systems, motorized sorting tables, extensive overhead lighting systems to facilitate the sorting process, and vast storage facilities. The acreage devoted to fruit raising on the farms was expanded as well.

Door County's climate was favorable to the growing of fruit. While apples were grown in other regions of the state, cherry production on a large scale generally was limited to Door County. Here, the lake insured more stable temperatures and less frost than at other locations of similar latitude. The expansion of the orchards at Horse Shoe Bay Farms corresponds to the expansion of cherry production in general. While Wisconsin cherry growers harvested 4500 tons in 1919, that amount increased to 20,000 tons per year by 1946.<sup>64</sup>

Horse Shoe Bay Farms eventually became the largest fruit producer in the county and also its biggest seasonal employer.<sup>65</sup> Fruit continued to be raised at the farm until 1995, when Frank Murphy Cowles, one of the children of Emily and Robert Cowles, decided the time was ripe to fulfill the dream of his grandfather. Home sites were therefore developed on top of the bluff, as was a new Horseshoe Bay

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<sup>62</sup> "Summer Home Site Opened Up by Local Men." *Door County Advocate*. October 15, 1926, p. 1.

<sup>63</sup> "Frank E. Murphy Dies Sunday After A Lengthy Illness." *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. August 20, 1934.

Elbridge N. Murphy died just a few years later in 1937. See: "E. N. Murphy Passes Away." *Green Bay Press-Gazette*. March 15, 1937, p. 1.

<sup>64</sup> Barbara Wyatt, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin), vol. 2, 6-8.

<sup>65</sup> Nan Krause, "Horseshoe Bay Community" (Sturgeon Bay: Door County Historical Society, 2003).

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Country Club, complete with a world class golf course. The course was completed in 1990 and it is still in operation today, but Cowles died in 2004 after putting over \$12,000,000 into the project. In 2007, the buildings associated with Murphy Farms No. 1 became the property of the present owners, both Green Bay natives, who are determined to preserve the historic heritage of the farm and its buildings.

While the stock-raising operations of the farm did not last long enough for the farm to make a significance impact on the Holstein-Friesian breed itself, the farm did play a significant role in helping to educate other farmers in the northeast part of the state as to the importance of using only pure-bred cattle in their operations. In addition, the fruit growing operations of the farms eventually came to play an important part in the county's economy. Consequently, it is believed that the Murphy Farms No. 1 is eligible for listing in the NRHP because it contains all of the most important buildings that have historically been associated with the operations of the farm. All of the contributing buildings, structures, and objects on the farm were built during the lifetime of Frank E. Murphy and Elbridge N. Murphy and even the non-contributing ones were built by Frank E. Murphy's daughter and grand children during their own period of stewardship. The historic significance of these resources is further enhanced by the fact that all are still highly intact and are in excellent condition today.

**Architecture**

It is also believed that the Murphy Farms No. 1 is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C, Architecture. It is one of the most intact of the few large show farms built by the wealthy in Wisconsin at the end of the nineteenth century and the first three decades of the twentieth as showcases for the selective breeding activities that interested their owners. Such farms were built on a grand scale as were the sometimes equally large industrial dairy farms being developed in the early twentieth century. They differ from the latter in the greater attention paid to the architectural design of the show farm's components and because the typically higher quality of the materials used in the show farms was indicative of the fact that these farms were built without the intention of making financial gain. Such farms were a nationwide phenomenon during this period, but few were built in Wisconsin and they are therefore perhaps the rarest farm type to be found in the state. The Murphy Farms No. 1 was one of two adjoining farms totaling 700-acres that were developed between 1917 and 1920 by two Green Bay millionaires, Frank E. Murphy and his nephew, Elbridge N. Murphy. The five main barns on Farm No. 1, the five Dutch Colonial Revival style houses built to house permanent farm personnel, and the five other associated contributing buildings, structures, and objects on this farm now represent one of the most intact example of the farms of this type still remaining in Wisconsin.

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The Murphy Farms No. 1 comprises an unusually complete example of what Clive Aslet, in his book *The American Country House*, described as:

... the kind of farming enterprise that many American country house owners chose to indulge in. In England it would have been called a "model farm"; the term generally used in the United States was "farm group." Rearing livestock was a hobby that appealed to men who, though they had withdrawn from the sharp-edged world of business, missed the excitement of managing men, creating systems, and bending the world to their will. It had a competitive element that challenged them. Yields could always be increased, hygiene might be improved, experiment and innovation could open the way to greater efficiency.<sup>66</sup>

What is interesting about the Murphys' version of this type of farm is that it was not part of a large country estate of the usual kind that was dominated by the owner's grand country house. To be sure, both Frank E. and Elbridge N. Murphy each had a summer home on the Green Bay shoreline of their Horseshoe Bay property, but these were not mansions, they were homes, albeit very comfortable ones. Instead, both men's principal residences were located in or just outside the city of Green Bay. Frank E. Murphy's residence in particular is a very large Mediterranean Revival style mansion built in 1922 [extant]. Designed by the Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller, Schober, and Stephenson, it was the centerpiece of a fifteen-acre estate in the adjacent village of Allouez that Murphy called "Braebourne."

Not surprisingly, the Murphys realized from the onset that buying and breeding the highest quality stock was an integral part of good farm management. While profitability was not really one of the Murphys' goals, running their farms on a business-like basis and producing a first-class product was. Consequently, every effort was made to insure that the cows in the herd were of the highest quality and that the management of the herd was done according to the best scientific principles. In addition, no cost was spared in providing the herd with the highest quality quarters. The same approach was taken with other animal species that were also raised on the estate. Pure bred Duroc-Jersey hogs were also raised on the estate as were Rhode Island Red and White Leghorn breeds of chickens, and even turkeys, as well as the Holstein-Friesian dairy cows that the farm was famous for, and each species had its own building(s) and its own staff to care for it.<sup>67</sup>

While it would be easy to dismiss farms such as this as the amusement of wealthy dilettantes, this would be a mistake. In fact, the emphasis that owners like the Murphys placed on selective breeding was a significant contributor in the establishment of better breeding stock and in the creation of better farming practices. Freed from the economic restraints that limited the efforts of all but the largest

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<sup>66</sup> Clive Aslet. *The American Country House* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990), pp. 136-137.

<sup>67</sup> The barns related to hog raising and the chicken coops were removed.

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commercial farm operations, show farms could afford to experiment and this experimentation paid benefits. An article that first appeared in a 1932 issue of *Country Life in America* magazine and which was reprinted in Clive Aslet's book, *The American Country House*, gives what is perhaps a slightly over-generous but not inaccurate view of the role that gentleman farmers like the Murphys and model farms like Murphy Farms No. 1 played in the establishment of better agricultural practices.

The country gentleman of to-day does not farm for profit. He creates in the city and recreates in the country, and his herds and flocks are an investment in healthful diversion. He may, and usually does, exercise care in his expenditures and, once his establishment is equipped and manned, he maintains an orderly and economic plan of management. In the care and maintenance of his pedigreed herds, he is a specialist in a field which is little understood by the layman, ... he is the man behind the pure-bred industry.... The dairy cow owes its present unequalled efficiency to him. He has been the largest single buyer and breeder... He aspires to excel in the art of breeding great dairy animals – to attain the ideal which is ever eluding the grasp of the most persistent and skillful breeders. Regardless of what he may expend, his efforts result in quality breeding animals.<sup>68</sup>

The Murphy Farms No. 1's farming operations were also one of Door County's larger employers. Some of its employees lived on the farm, either in a purpose-built dormitory building (non-extant) or in one of the five houses located across Horseshoe Bay Rd. from the farm. Others commuted daily from the nearby city of Sturgeon Bay, the village of Egg Harbor, or from the surrounding area.

The first of the farm's buildings to be constructed was its Cow Barn (Map No. 1). The barn's foundation was laid in October of 1917 and work was well under way by June of the following year and was completed by October of 1918. Work on other buildings on the farm had begun by this time as well.

The United Fruit Growers have been building continuously during the summer. The most handsome up-to-date barn in the county has been erected and with the exception of its interior features, is completed. Two large silos have been built and are connected with it; a commodious machine shed has also been built, and a 20 x 60 chicken coop. Carpenters are now working on a large farm house [Map No. 11], which they plan on completing this fall.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Robert V. Hoffman, "The Country Gentleman of To-day," *Country Life in America* 61 (January 1932), p. 65. Reprinted in: Clive Aslet, *The American Country House* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990), p. 142.

<sup>69</sup> *Door County News*. October 17, 1918, p. 6. The chicken coop and machine shed are no longer extant.

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By the fall of 1919, much of the farm that exists today had been built and was the object of considerable local pride.

At Horse Shoe Bay, in this county, is a stock farm which, in point of buildings and equipment excels the Pabst stock farm or the Carnation Milk company's farm at Oconomowoc, or the Peter Reiss farm at Sheboygan, and it will be but a very short time before this Horse Shoe Bay farm is stocked with a great number of Holsteins and other farm animals making it the greatest pure bred home in the state.

It is the Murphy Farms and is owned by E. N. Murphy and F. E. Murphy of Green Bay. Murphy farms is situated in the south half of the Murphy holdings at Horse Shoe Bay. It is a beautiful spot on the Green Bay shore about 14 miles from this city [Sturgeon Bay] and little frequented by summer visitors. It is off the main highway. Cherry Lodge, owned by Donald Murphy, and the summer homes of Frank Murphy, and Dr. H. Kelley, all of Green Bay, are at the northern end of the property and on the bay shore. These summer homes are beautiful structures and there is an elaborate and handsome club house on the property. It is understood that next year the club, which was closed this year, will be opened by the Murphys for a number of their Chicago friends.

The entire southern part of the property beginning a half-mile from the cottages is devoted to stock farm purposes. ... A herd of 42 registered Holstein cows form the nucleus upon which will be raised a great herd of purest breed. There are a number of calves already running about the place and each one is worth from \$300 to \$500. The herd will eventually reach 150 head with the present accommodations and after that more buildings will undoubtedly be erected.

In the colony of buildings the big gabled, ornamented No. 1 barn [Map No. 1] has twin 90-ton silos, each 12 by 45 feet, No. 2 barn [Map No. 2], just as elaborate, has twin 70-ton silos, 12 by 34 feet. No. 2 barn is for young stock and the bulls. The James Mfg. Co., of Ft. Atkinson, furnished the equipment for these barns and every detail is complete. Besides the iron and concrete stalls there are electric lights and hot and cold water, with automatic pumps and water pressure. The private utility system consists of water and light. The power house [Map No. 6] besides its 12 h.p. equipment has storage batteries.

There is also a horse and mule barn [Map No. 4] with every convenience, all constructed within the last 16 months with numerous other buildings. Another barn for advanced registration work [Map No. 3], and a calf barn [non-extant], are to be built before next spring. There is a roofed manure pit [Map No. 9] with concrete bottom and carriers running from each barn.

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There is a newly constructed machinery shed [non-extant] -a pretty building as is every building on the property -a hog barn [non-extant] for the Duroc Jersey breed, a large chicken house [non-extant] with incubators for the Rhode Island Reds and White Leghorns. Turkeys are also raised. Then there are garages and other buildings, all erected with an eye for beautiful construction, and all arranged so as to economize time and labor.

While the farm buildings are up-to-date in every respect the dwellings of the men employed about the place are fitted with every convenience and are buildings that would do credit to any city. There is a large 10-room house [Map No. 11], two floors, with a lattice pergola connecting the house and garage, occupied by farm superintendent E. S. Leverich. The farm foreman and the herdsman each have homes as large as the superintendent's house. There is also a large boarding house and two or three other residences for the 30 men employed on the farm, besides several cottages [non-extant].

Macadam roads skirt the property and join federal highway No. 17. The road leading to Egg Harbor from Horse Shoe Bay will also be macadamed. The Murphys are paying part of the cost of these road improvements. The big hill road is being straightened out and cut down, making an easy incline. There is plenty of land for pasture and hay and grains. Machinery for a creamery is already at the farm and will be installed in a very short time.<sup>70</sup>

Unfortunately, the name of the designer of the barns, houses, and other buildings on the farm has not been discovered. Since all of the barns and other farm outbuildings originally contained interior fittings furnished by the James Manufacturing Co. of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, which was a major manufacturer of farm equipment that also furnished complete plans for barns and every other kind of farm building, it is tempting to imagine that they had a hand in the design of the Murphy Farms' buildings as well, but an article in one of the local newspapers that was written when the United Fruit Growers Co. was building cottages and its Horseshoe Bay Country Club's club house suggests otherwise.

Many new cottages, other buildings, and a dairy barn will be built at Horseshoe Bay. Of the barn, the James Manufacturing Company of Ft. Atkinson says: "Judging from the plan of the building it will be one of the finest, if not the finest barn for its size in the state."<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> "The Murphy Farms." *Door County Advocate*. September 19, 1919, p. 10. Donald Murphy was a brother and sometime business partner of E. N. Murphy.

<sup>71</sup> "Country Club Opening." *Door County Democrat*. March 23, 1917, p. 1. The size of the barns and the presence of the paired silos (no longer extant) do bear similarities to large projects completed by the James Manufacturing Co. However, the Horse Shoe Bay barns do not appear in any of the Company's publications or advertisements.

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This was the farm's main barn (Map No. 1) and in the absence of any other documentary evidence it seems most likely that the designer of the barn was Fred D. Crandall, an architect who practiced in nearby Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Crandall is known to have been the architect of the Colonial Revival style-influenced Craftsman Style Horse Shoe Bay Country Club's club house, which was then under construction, and he was also the architect of Frank E. Murphy's recently completed \$10,000 Craftsman Style Horseshoe Bay summer residence and it seems most likely that both the United Fruit Growers Company, and afterwards, the Murphys, would have utilized his services to design the farm's buildings since his work had already proven to be satisfactory to them both and his office was located only thirteen miles away.<sup>72</sup>

Fred D. Crandall was born in Burlington, Illinois in 1860 and moved to Sturgeon Bay with his family in 1877. Nothing is known of his education, but the numerous buildings he designed in Door County show that he was an able designer whose work kept up with the stylistic advances of his times. His earliest identified works are: a house located at 123 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave in Sturgeon Bay (1892); the Leatham D. Smith House in Sturgeon Bay; the Bank of Sturgeon Bay (extant), built in Sturgeon Bay in 1900; and the Carnegie Free Library in Sturgeon Bay, built in 1913. Other buildings Crandall designed identified in the course of the research for this nomination include the following buildings in Sturgeon Bay: addition to Door County Courthouse (1920, non-extant); the Egeland Hospital building, built in 1920-1921; the Door County Country Club's club house, built in 1921-22; the Pleck Co. factory building, built in 1924; the Hotel Roxna, built in 1929; and "The Congress" recreation building, also built in 1929. In addition, Crandall designed the following buildings located elsewhere in Door County: Cabot's Lodge hotel, Idlewild, Town of Nasewaupsee, built in 1915 (non-extant); the Consolidated District No. 4 School, Town of Gardner, built in 1915; Gibraltar High School, built in 1918; the District No. 4 School, Town of Egg Harbor, built in 1919; Hanson's Bay Shore Inn in the Town of Sevastopol, built in 1921; the State Bank of Maplewood, built in 1924; the District No. 1 School, Town of Nasewaupsee, built 1924; the Maplewood Graded School, Forestville District No. 3, built in 1924; the Newport School, built in 1924; the Ellison Bay School, built in 1924; and Dagneau's Mill Restaurant, Town of Sevastopol, built in 1930 (non-extant). Crandall died in Sturgeon Bay in 1936 at the age of 77.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> "Form Horse Shoe Bay Country Club." *Door County Democrat*. April 14, 1916, p. 1. See also: "Start's \$10,000 Summer Home." *Door County Democrat*. June 9, 1916, p. 4. Both of these buildings are illustrated in "A Vacation Triumph," cited in Footnote No. 30, and neither is extant today.

<sup>73</sup> "Fred Crandall, Architect Here, Dies This Week." *Door County Advocate*. September 18, 1936, p. 1.

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Regardless of who designed the farm's buildings, there is little reason to doubt that an architect was involved. This is most obvious when one looks at the five Dutch Colonial Revival style houses built to house the farm's permanent employees. These houses are all fine representative examples of the Dutch Colonial Revival style and would not have been out of place in any good middle class residential neighborhood of the period. While they all share common features, such as wide board cedar clapboard siding, each has a unique design; they are not copies of one another. A similar family resemblance characterizes all of the farm's agricultural outbuildings; all share general design and construction characteristics. All of these buildings, including even the manure pit (Map No. 9), have gambrel-roofed designs, poured concrete basement floors enclosed by thick foundation rubble stone walls coated with rough cast stucco, and exterior walls above that are clad in drop siding. This resemblance is further strengthened by the fact that these buildings were all built within a three-year period between 1918 and 1920. The careful layout of the farm buildings suggests that they were almost certainly built according to an overall master plan, which again suggests an architect's involvement, although probably with advice from specialists such as the engineers employed by the James Manufacturing Company.

The architectural significance of the Murphy Farms No. 1 is especially enhanced by the survival of its very intact twentieth century agricultural outbuildings. The Murphy Farms No. 1's most significant contributing agricultural buildings are its main barns, each of which is an excellent example of the Wisconsin Dairy Barn type as described in the Agricultural Outbuildings subsection of the CRMP.

This barn type was developed and promoted by the University of Wisconsin in the late nineteenth century. It is a long, narrow barn with two rows of stalls in the interior, divided by a corridor running from end to end. Several windows regularly spaced generally pierce the side walls. The Wisconsin dairy barn is generally built on a concrete foundation. Its gambrel roof usually has ventilators of some sort.<sup>74</sup>

Most of the Murphy farm's buildings, however, are more specialized types and the study of these types as distinct architectural entities is still in its early stages according to the CRMP's Agricultural Outbuildings study unit, and the systematic work necessary to identify such buildings and to develop a morphology that describes them has not yet been completed. In the absence of such research, a "correlation between crops, technology, ethnicity, and architecture cannot always be made."<sup>75</sup> Nevertheless, it is still possible to evaluate these buildings according to the standards embodied in the CRMP, which states: "Like other building forms, the most significant vernacular ... examples will be

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<sup>74</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Vol. 2, (Architecture), p. 5-4.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid, p. 5-1.



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those with the highest integrity."<sup>76</sup> Using integrity as an indicator of significance for vernacular and astylistic buildings it appears that all of the Murphy Farm's surviving outbuildings built between 1918 and 1920 may rightly claim to be contributing resources.

Integrity is also an important factor when judging the Murphy Farms No. 1 in relationship to its few peers. As mentioned earlier, show farms were always very rare in Wisconsin. The best known example was undoubtedly the very elaborate Fred Pabst Farm that was located outside Oconomowoc, in Waukesha County. This farm was developed in 1906 by Fred Pabst (1870-1958), a member of the Milwaukee family whose Pabst brewery was once the world's largest, and it was just one of a number of Pabst family farms in this area which collectively were unquestionably the most elaborate ones in Wisconsin. Fred Pabst's own farm was especially notable because it was first built around the breeding of horses and its earliest barns were built of fire proof concrete and were designed by prominent Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler at a cost of \$100,000. In 1907, Holstein cattle were brought to the farm and from then on it was the breeding of cattle that dominated its activities. By the end of his life, Pabst's farm had actually become less a show farm, and more an industrial dairy farm, but the rigorous scientific breeding that had been pursued on this farm over the years had made it world famous in the meantime and the cattle bred there still influence the breed today. Most of the Pabst family farms, however, disappeared when the land was sold for development. While important elements of Fred Pabst's farm are extant today on Pabst Road and may even be eligible for NRHP listing, they have been altered and the complex as a whole now lacks the completeness and the degree of integrity that characterizes the Murphy Farms.<sup>77</sup>

The same is true for another great show farm located on Green Lake in Green Lake County called Lawsonia. This 1060-acre estate also contained two dairy farms and it was the creation of Victor Lawson, a Chicago newspaper owner and multi-millionaire. Between 1888 and 1901, Lawson and his wife, Jessie, bought up nine additional farms surrounding their first ten-acre purchase, eventually creating a 1060 acre estate that stretched all the way from the north shore of Green Lake to today's STH 23. Remarkably, the house that the Lawsons occupied on their estate during their lifetime was the same modest clapboard-sided house that had been part of their first purchase. Even after an addition was added in 1902, the house (non-extant) remained modest in size and it must surely have been one of the least pretentious houses to have ever been the focal point of a great American estate.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>76</sup> Ibid, p. 3-10.

<sup>77</sup> Wendorff, Elmo Jr. (Ed.). *Wisconsin Holstein History: 1890-1990*. Baraboo, WI: Wisconsin Holstein Assoc., 1990, pp. 434-438. See also: Johnson, Jean Lindsey. *When Midwest Millionaires Lived Like Kings*. Milwaukee: 1981, pp. 243-252.

<sup>78</sup> It needs to be remembered that this estate was intended to be a retreat from the Lawson's Chicago life. Their four-story-tall, brick, Period Revival style mansion on Chicago's Lakeshore Drive cost \$1,000,000 to build, had two elevators, and had a staff of 14.

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The estate that surrounded the house, however, was an entirely different matter. By the time of Victor Lawson's death in 1925, the estate that he and Jessie Lawson had been instrumental in developing included two full-scale dairy farms, one, called the Point Farm, located near the heart of the estate close to the lakeshore and devoted to Jersey cattle, and the other, the North or Upper Farm, located along STH 23 and devoted to Guernsey cattle. In addition, the estate contained a nine-hole private golf course and more than 40 other buildings of all kinds, including a large boathouse, a tea house, a power plant, greenhouses, water towers, housing for the estate's staff, and many other buildings. It employed as many as 160 persons at a time during the Lawson family's tenure.<sup>79</sup>

Of these two farms, the Lawson's Upper Farm is now the most complete and it contains fifteen buildings. These buildings include a large horse barn, an enormous dairy barn, said to be the largest one in Wisconsin, and at least three other barns that are associated with the Lawson's period of ownership. In addition, the farm complex includes four small identical houses and two associated garages that housed the families of the men who tended the Upper Farm's dairy herd. All of these buildings have been altered to some degree and now serve different purposes, but their collective architectural identity is still largely intact and they still convey the feelings associated with the Lawson's period of ownership and the complex is believed to be eligible for NRHP listing.

The only other identified farms whose size and complexity rivaled that of the Murphy's Farms are all more accurately called industrial dairy farms, the primary function of which was industrial quantity milk production, but for whom cattle breeding was also a major part of life. One of the largest such farms was located near Sheboygan. This was the Pinehurst Farms, whose core farm was purchased by Peter Reiss in 1910. Over the years, this farm grew enormously and by 1955 it had 800 acres and was milking 300 Holstein cows. Fire destroyed all the original farm buildings in 1993, and the farm is now a golf course.<sup>80</sup> Most of the other farms of this type, along with the Pabst Farms, were located in Waukesha County not far from the city of Milwaukee. These farms included the Carnation Milk Co. farm near Oconomowoc, which was the eastern farm of the Carnation Milk Co., whose headquarters and principal farms were located in the state of Washington. This company's Oconomowoc farm is no longer extant.<sup>81</sup> Another Waukesha County example was the Brook Hill Farm of Col. Howard Greene, whose original 160 acres were purchased in 1902. By the early 1930s, this farm had grown to the point where it was milking 900 Holstein cows a day, all in stall barns, and dairying continued to be pursued until the herd was dispersed in 1958.<sup>82</sup> Remnants of this farm are still extant on Brook Hill

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<sup>79</sup> Kathleen Kleinpaste, *Just Do It Jessie's Way* (Ripon, WI: Ripon Community Printers, 2003). This book is a comprehensive history of Lawsonia.

<sup>80</sup> Elmo Jr. Wendorff (Ed.), *Wisconsin Holstein History: 1890-1990* (Baraboo, WI: Wisconsin Holstein Assoc., 1990), pp. 443-447.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 329-334

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 379-380.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 30

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., Wisconsin

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Rd. but most of these buildings lack integrity as does the complex as a whole. Yet another example was the Keystone Farm operated by the Rowland family which was developed as early as 1853 and then grew in size during the Rowland family's ownership. By the 1940s this large operation was milking nearly 800 Holstein cows a day, but the herd was dispersed in the 1960s and today nothing appears to remain of this historic farm complex. The only Waukesha County farm that does appear to retain integrity is the Wern Farms on Wern Way. The large scale dairy operation of this farm began in 1909 under the Williams brothers and it eventually grew to include 1800 acres and 1200 Holstein cows. Much of this main farm complex appears to be extant today and it is possible that it may have NRHP potential as an example of an historic industrial dairy farm.

What especially distinguishes the Murphy Farms No. 1 complex from all these others is the fact that it was created in the very short span of time of just three years, while the other farm complexes grew by a gradual process of accretion. As a result, the Murphy Farms No. 1 has a unity of design and a unity of plan that much more clearly demonstrates the results of the progressive thinking about dairying that was taking over the design of large scale farms in the first decades of the twentieth century. This significance is heightened by the fact that the individual resources within the farm complex and their setting still display such a high degree of integrity, and this integrity is further heightened by the high degree of maintenance that has characterized the care that four generations of the Murphy/Cowles family have given it.

The Murphy Farms No. 1 is therefore believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP because of its architectural significance as a very large, very intact historic show farm complex that contains both historic agricultural outbuildings and five houses designed to house the farm personnel. While certain elements of the original farm have been lost, including the silos and the secondary agricultural buildings, all of the major barns and the housing retain a high level of integrity and represent the farm's function and agricultural significance.

The Murphy Farms comprised one of Wisconsin's grandest examples of the "show farm" trend, and Farm No. 1 is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as an excellent and largely intact representative example of this rarified part of Wisconsin's agricultural history. Groupings such as this are now exceedingly rare in every part of Wisconsin due to age, obsolescence, changes in agricultural practices, and the march of real estate development. As a consequence, identifying these groupings and nominating them to the NRHP is becoming an important priority. Intact farms such as the one established by Frank E. and E. N. Murphy are thus of considerable importance because they can provide information that can be used to establish the significance of other farmsteads in the state.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 31

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., Wisconsin

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**Archeological Potential**

No information was found regarding any resources of pre-historic archeological significance on the property that is the subject of this nomination, but the fact that this property includes undeveloped shorefront land suggests that the possibility that such resources exist should not be ruled out. However, historic photos of the farm complex show that now non-extant outbuildings once existed and historic archeological evidence of these buildings may still be present today.

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Name of Property

Door  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
Owner

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.79 acres

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

1 16 474100 4985050  
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 474420 4985050  
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 474280 4984880  
Zone Easting Northing

4 16 474040 4984930  
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	Timothy F. Heggland	date	September 14, 2011
organization		telephone	608-795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Road	zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., Wisconsin

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**Major Bibliographical References:**

Aslet, Clive. *The American Country House*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.

"A Vacation Triumph." Sturgeon Bay: Horse Shoe Bay Country Club, n.d. but ca.1916.

*The De Pere Journal-Democrat*. Various issues.

*The Door County Advocate*. Various issues.

*The Door County Democrat*. Various issues.

*The Door County News*. Various issues.

*The Green Bay Press-Gazette*. Various issues.

*History of Brown County, Wisconsin, Past and Present*. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publ. Co., 1913.

Hoffman, Robert V. "The Country Gentleman of To-day." *Country Life in America* 61 (January 1932).

Insurance Summary of the Murphy Farms, Egg Harbor, Wisconsin. Milwaukee: The American Appraisal Co., August 1, 1922. In the possession of the owner.

Johnson, Jean Lindsey. *When Midwest Millionaires Lived Like Kings*. Milwaukee: [s.n.], 1981.

Kleinpaste, Kathleen. *Just Do It Jessie's Way*. Ripon, WI: Ripon Community Printers, 2003.

Krause, Nan. "Horseshoe Bay Community." Sturgeon Bay: Door County Historical Society, 2003.

Wendorff, Elmo Jr. (Ed.). *Wisconsin Holstein History: 1890-1990*. Baraboo, WI: Wisconsin Holstein Assoc., 1990.

Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., WI

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The Murphy Farms No. 1 complex is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 3, T29N, R26E, Town of Egg Harbor, Door County. This property is divided into three separate parcels, all under the same ownership, that are described below and which are listed by address.

7195, 7199, 7203, 7207 Horseshoe Bay Road. This parcel contains Dwellings B, C, D, and E and their associated garages and it is described as being: Lot 1, Certified Survey Map #2575, Vol. 15, pg. 239. A copy of this map is attached as Attachment A. This parcel contains 3.29 acres.

7212 Horseshoe Bay Road. This parcel contains the Farm's agricultural outbuildings (Map Number's 1-10) and it is described as being: Lot 1, Certified Survey Map #2481, Vol. 15, pg. 8. A copy of this map is attached as Attachment B. This parcel contains 8.48 acres.

7213 Horseshoe Bay Road. This parcel contains Dwelling A and its associated garage building and it is located immediately to the north of and adjacent to the parcel that is associated with 7195-7207 Horseshoe Bay Road. This parcel is described as being: Lots 10, 11, 12, Block 6, Horse Shoe Bay Plat, Town of Egg Harbor. This parcel contains less than one acre.

The boundary that encloses these three parcels begins at a point on the west ROW of County Highway G (Horse Shoe Bay Rd.) that corresponds to the southerly corner of Lot 1, Certified Survey Map #2575. The line then continues WNW along the south line of said Lot 1 a distance of 340.57-feet to a point on the highwater mark of the east shore of Green Bay. The line then turns approx. 90 degrees and continues in a NNE direction along said highwater mark a distance of 352-feet to the northerly corner of said Lot 1, then turns approximately 90 degrees and continues ESE along the north line of said Lot 1 a distance of 178.36-feet to a point that is located on the south edge of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The line then turns 90 degrees and continues NNE across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to a point on the north edge of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street that corresponds to the southwest corner of the parcel that contains Dwelling A (7213 Horseshoe Bay Rd.). The line then continues in a NNE direction 150-feet along the rear (West) lot line of this parcel to the NW corner of the parcel, then turns 90 degrees and continues ESE for a distance of 150-feet along the N line of said parcel to a point on the west ROW of County Highway G (Horse Shoe Bay Rd.) that corresponds to the NE corner of said parcel. The line then turns 90 degrees and continues SSW a distance of 50-feet along said west ROW, then turns 70 degrees and continues E across County Highway G (Horse Shoe Bay Rd.) to a point on the east ROW that corresponds to the NW corner of Lot 1, Certified Survey Map #2481. The line then continues E a distance of 558.43-feet to the NE corner of said parcel, then turns 82 degrees and continues S a distance of 255-feet, then turns

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 2

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., WI

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38 degrees and continues SSW a distance of 648.69-feet to the SE corner of the parcel. The line then turns 21 degrees and continues WNW a distance of 376.26-feet to a point on the east ROW of County Highway G (Horse Shoe Bay Rd.) that corresponds to the SW corner of Lot 1, Certified Survey Map #2481. The line then turns 85 degrees and continues NNE along said east ROW 100-feet, then turns 85 degrees and continues west across County Highway G (Horse Shoe Bay Rd.) to the POB. These boundaries do not include a concrete dock that is located on the east shore of Green Bay that is located at the west end of 3rd Street.

**Boundary Justification:**

The 12.8 contiguous acres contain all the built resources that have historically been associated with the Murphy Farms No. 1 and these parcels include enough land to protect their setting. The lands to the north and south of the parcel associated with 7212 Horseshoe Bay Road are owned by others and consist of open land that is still cultivated for crops. Similarly, the land to the north and south of the other two parcels is owned by others, and these two parcels are bounded by Green Bay on the west and by Horseshoe Bay Road on the east.



Murphy Farms Number 1  
Name of Property

Door  
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				Date
organization				telephone
street & number				zip code
city or town	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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 1

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., WI

**Name of Property:**

**City or vicinity:**

**County:**

**State:**

**Photographer:**

**Location of original digital files:**

**Number of photographs:**

**Murphy Farms No. 1**

**Town of Egg Harbor**

**Door**

**Wisconsin**

**Timothy F. Heggland**

**6391 Hillsandwood Rd., Mazomanie, WI 53560**  
**31**

Photo #1

Aerial View, (Ca.1952), View looking N

Photo #12

Root Cellar & Stables, View Looking NE

Photo #2

Cow Barn, View looking E

Photo #13

Root Cellar & Stables, View looking SE

Photo #3

Cow Barn, View looking NE

Photo #14

Power Plant & Oil Storage, View looking SE

Photo #4

Cow Barn, View looking NNW

Photo #15

Power Plant & Oil Storage, View looking E

Photo #5

Cow Barn, View looking SE

Photo #16

Power Plant & Oil Storage, View looking NE

Photo #6

Barn, View looking E

Photo #17

Power Plant & Oil Storage, View looking W

Photo #7

Barn, View looking NE  
looking SSE

Photo #18

Machine Storage & Cattle Storm Shed, View

Photo #8

Test Barn, View looking E  
looking SE

Photo #19

Machine Storage & Cattle Storm Shed, View

Photo #9

Test Barn, View looking SE

Photo #20

Garage, View looking SW

Photo #10

Horse Barn, View looking NE

Photo #21

Manure Pit, View looking NW

Photo #11

Horse Barn, View looking NW

Photo #22

Manure Pit, View looking SW

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 2

Murphy Farms Number 1  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., WI

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Photo #23  
Wagon Scale, View looking W

Photo #24  
Wagon Scale, View looking NE

Photo #25  
Dwelling A, View looking NW

Photo #26  
Dwelling B, View looking WNW

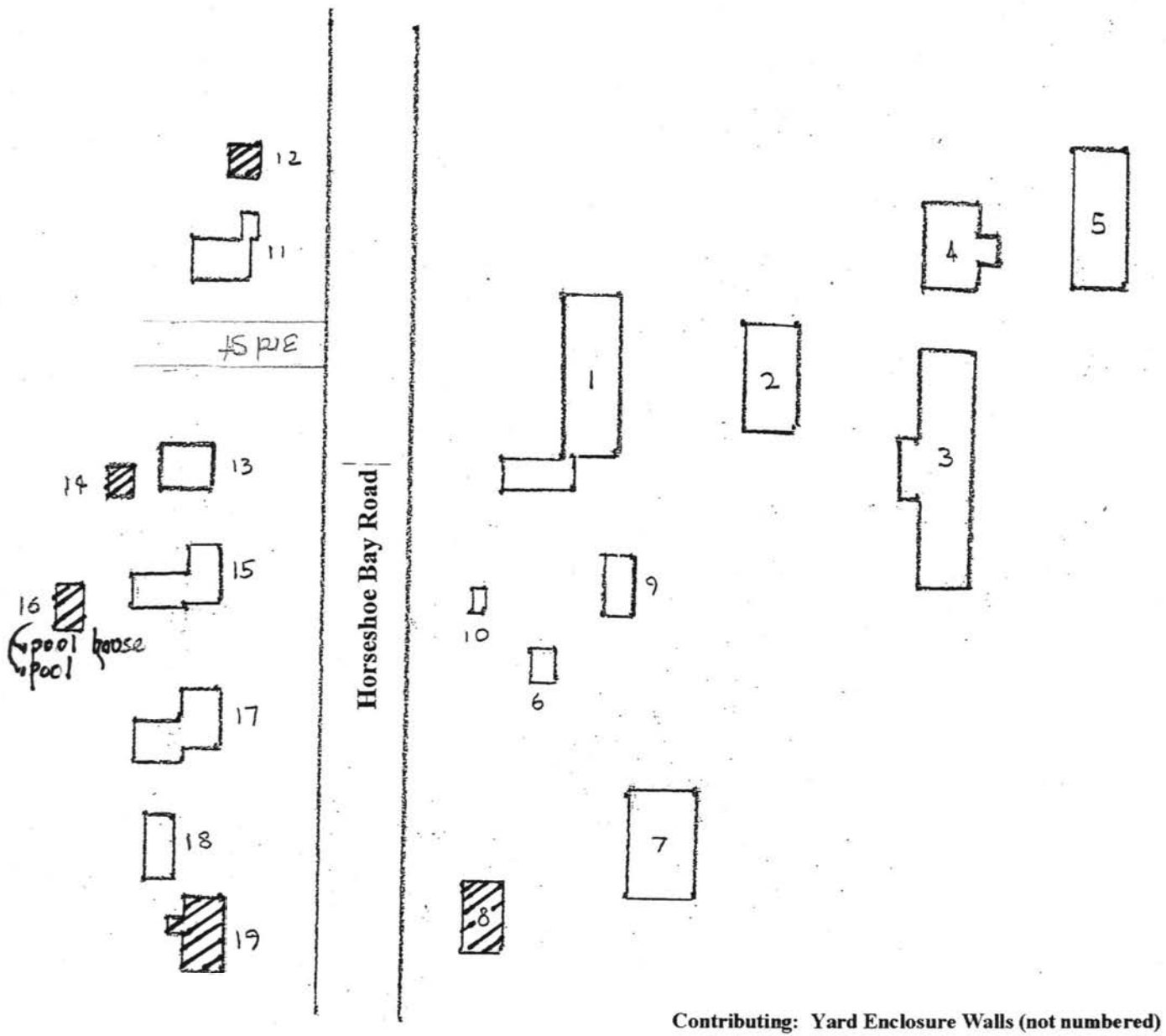
Photo #27  
Dwelling C, View looking WNW

Photo #28  
Dwelling D, View looking WNW

Photo #29  
Dwelling E, View looking SW

Photo #30  
General View with stone fencing, View looking SE

Photo #31  
General View with stone fencing, View looking SW



**FIGURE 1:** MURPHY FARMS NO. 1  
TOWN OF EGG HARBOR,  
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN



**KEY:** CONTRIBUTING   
NON-CONTRIBUTING 

Not to Scale

2575

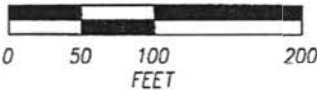
# CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP

BEING:  
LOTS 1 - 12 OF BLOCK 8 AND  
LOTS 1 - 12 OF BLOCK 9, AND THAT PORTION OF VACATED  
CEDAR DRIVE LOCATED BETWEEN 3RD & 4TH STREETS  
OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF HORSESHOE BAY.

LOCATED IN:  
GOVERNMENT LOT 2 OF SECTION 3,  
TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST,  
TOWN OF EGG HARBOR, DOOR COUNTY,  
WISCONSIN.



NORTH  
1" = 100'



- ⊙ - 1" SET IRON PIPE
- - 1" FOUND IRON PIPE

**NOTE:**

OUTLOT 1 IS UN-BUILDABLE AND IS TO REMAIN SO UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT IT CAN BE COMBINED WITH PROPERTY TO THE SOUTH TO MAKE IT BUILDABLE.

## Green Bay

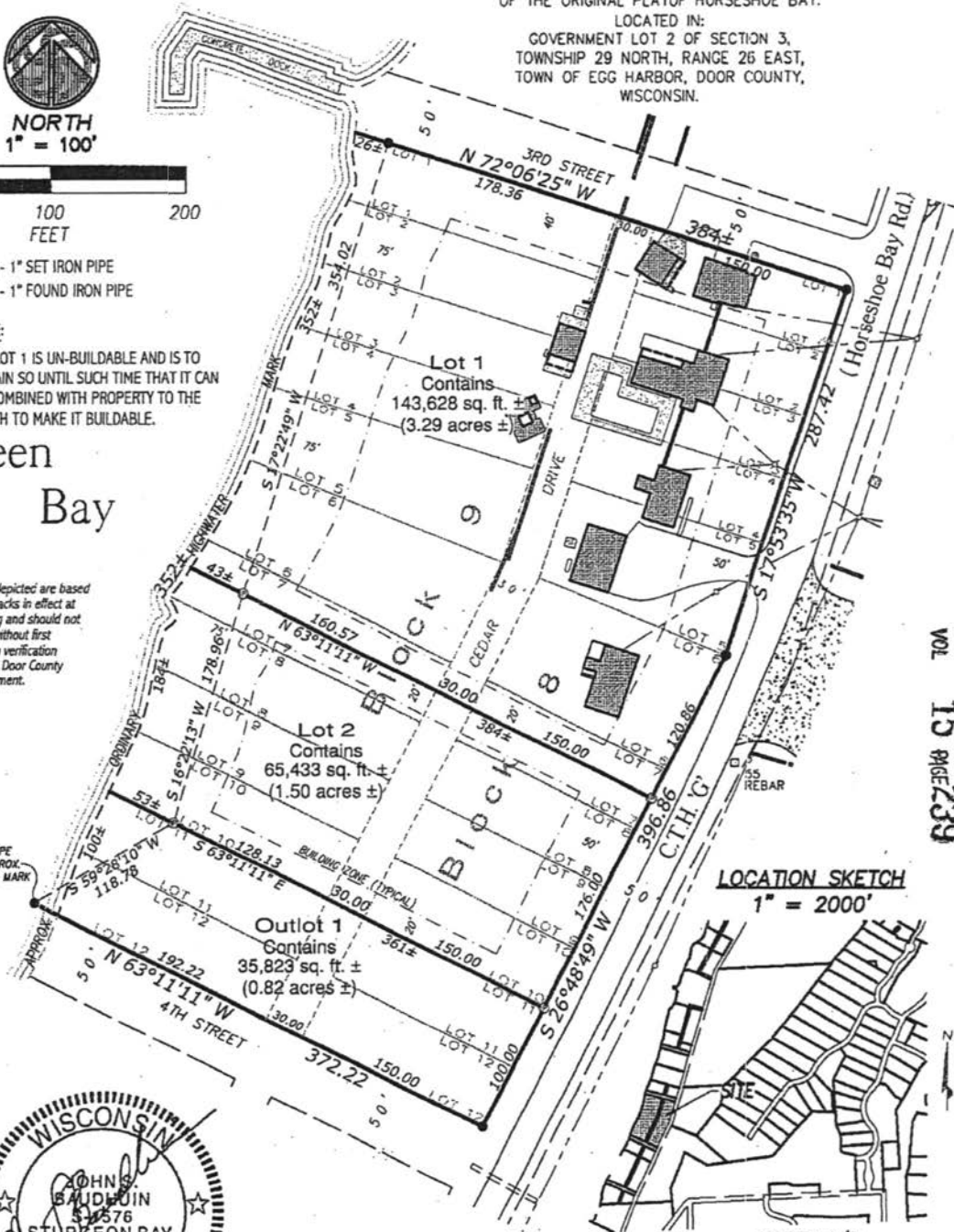
**CAVEAT:**

Building zones depicted are based on building setbacks in effect at time of recording and should not be relied upon without first obtaining written verification thereof from the Door County Planning Department.

1" FOUND IRON PIPE IS 19" BELOW APPROX. ORDINARY HIGHWATER MARK

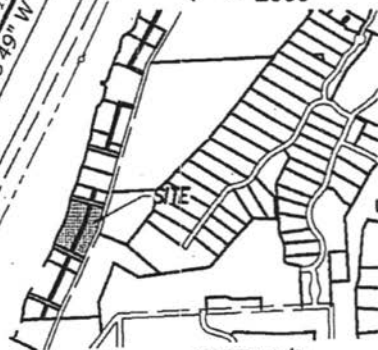


6.1.10



**LOCATION SKETCH**

1" = 2000'



NORTH 1/2  
SECTION 3-29-26

VOL 15 PAGE 239

FIGURE 2: MURPHY FARMS NO. 1  
TOWN OF EGG HARBOR,  
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN

2481

# CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP

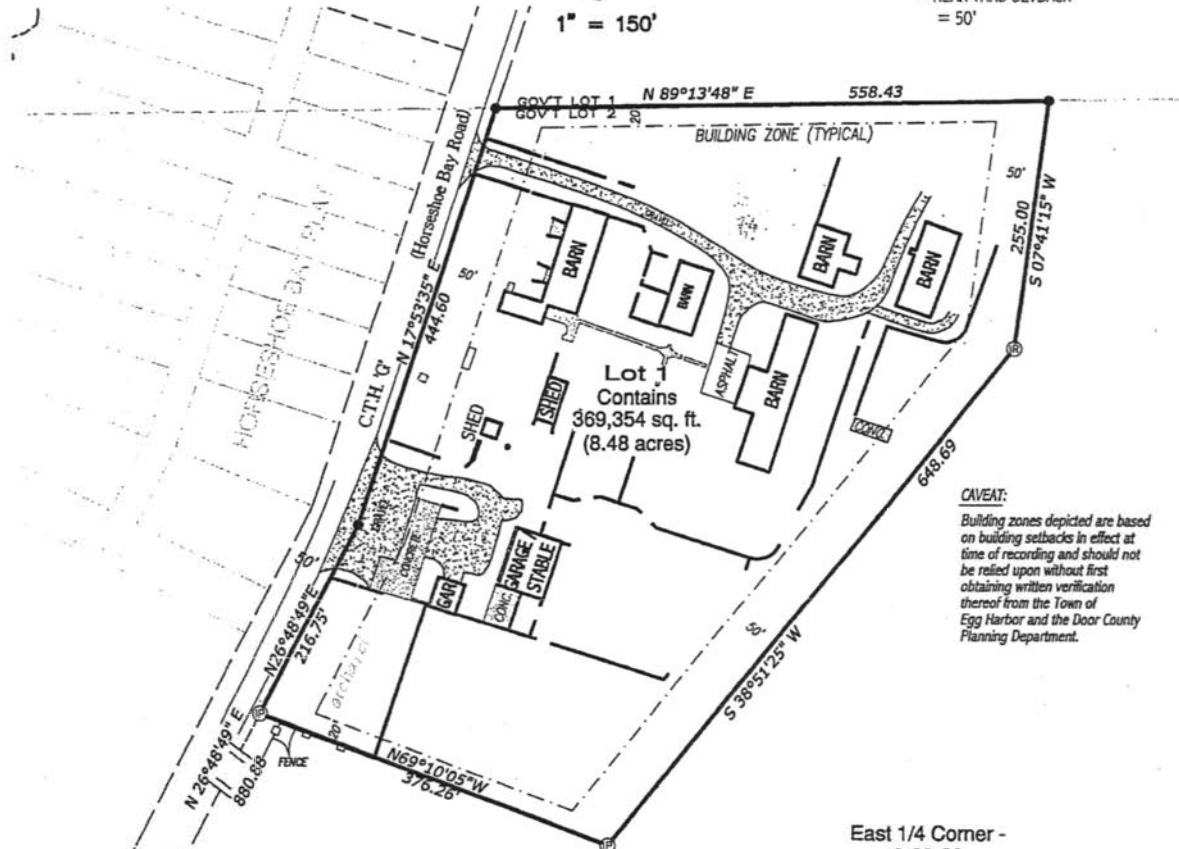
LOCATED IN:  
GOVERNMENT LOT 2 OF SECTION 3,  
TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST,  
TOWN OF EGG HARBOR, DOOR COUNTY,  
WISCONSIN.

- KEY**
- ⊙ - DOOR COUNTY MONUMENT
  - - 1" FOUND IRON PIPE
  - ⊕ - 3/4" FOUND REBAR
  - ⊖ - 1" SET IRON PIPE

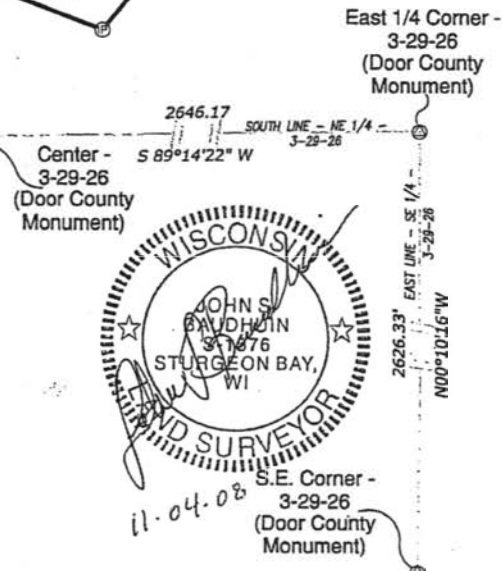
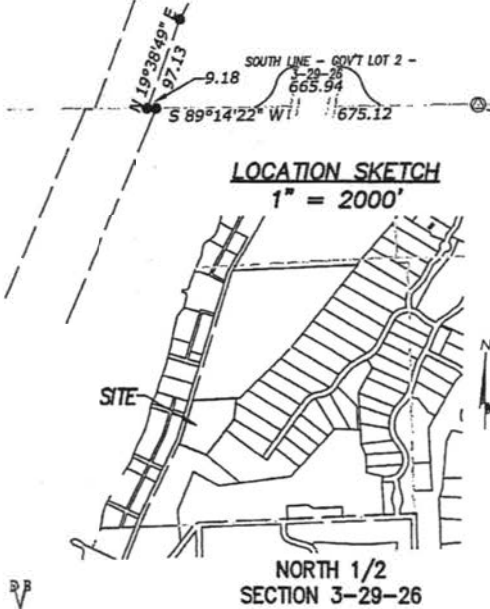
- NOTES:**
- SETBACK TO C/L OF C.T.H. 'G' = 75'
  - SIDE YARD SETBACK = 20'
  - REAR YARD SETBACK = 50'



1" = 150'

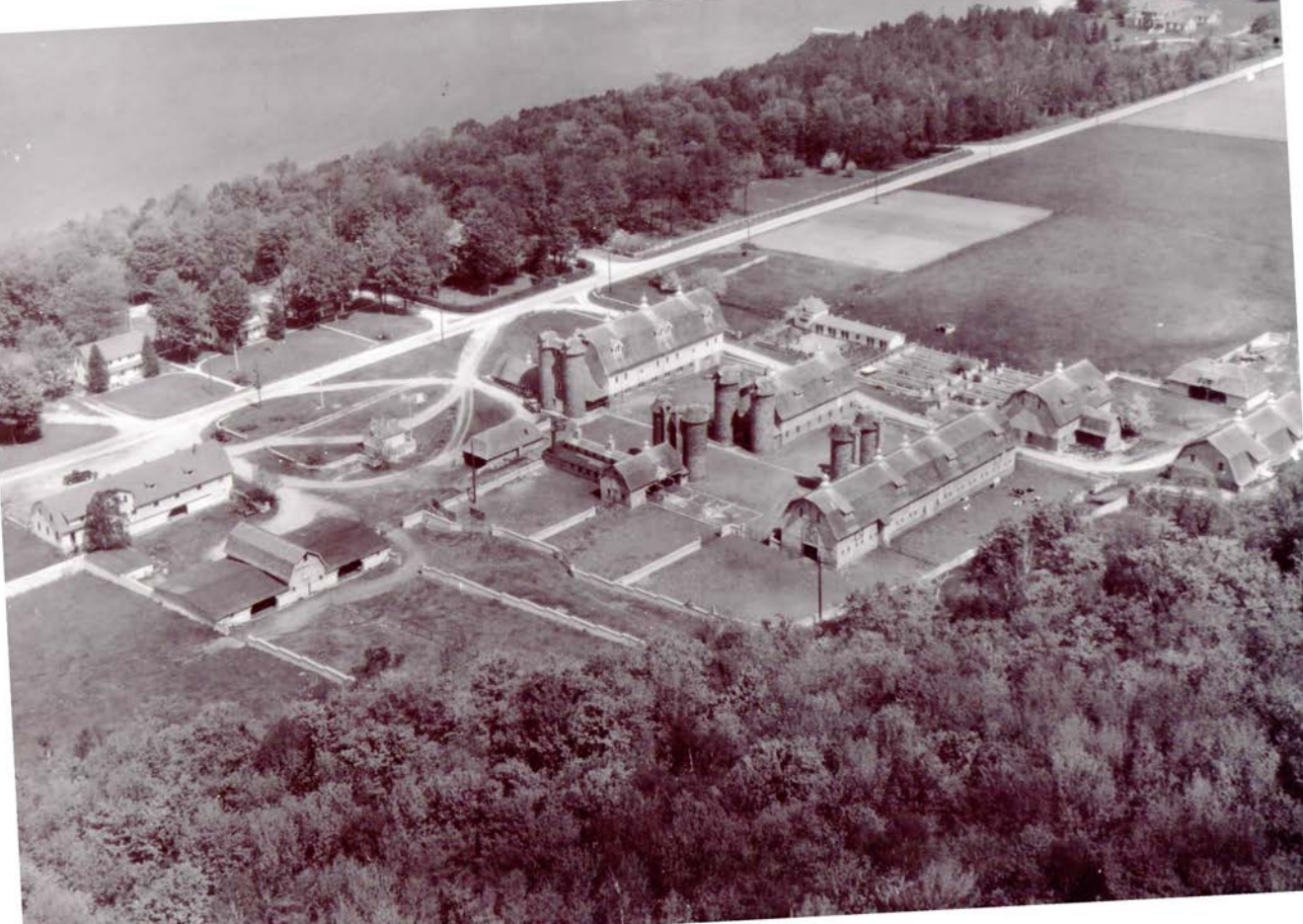


**CAVEAT:**  
Building zones depicted are based on building setbacks in effect at time of recording and should not be relied upon without first obtaining written verification thereof from the Town of Egg Harbor and the Door County Planning Department.



**FIGURE 3: MURPHY FARMS NO. 1  
TOWN OF EGG HARBOR,  
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

VOL 15 PAGE 8



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0001

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.





HORSE SHOE BAY FARMS

WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0002

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0003

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0004

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



HORSE SHOE BAY FARMS

WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0005

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.





WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0006

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0007

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0008

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County, - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0009

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.





WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0010

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0011

0217752. WI-Door Counts-Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0012

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0013

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.





WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 2014

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0015

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0016

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0017

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.





WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0018

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0019

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0020

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0021

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.





WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0022

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0023

0217752, WI\_Door\_County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0024

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No. 1



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0025

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.





WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0026

0217752, WI\_Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0027

0217752, WI-Door County\_Murphy Farms No.



WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0028

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WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0029

021752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.





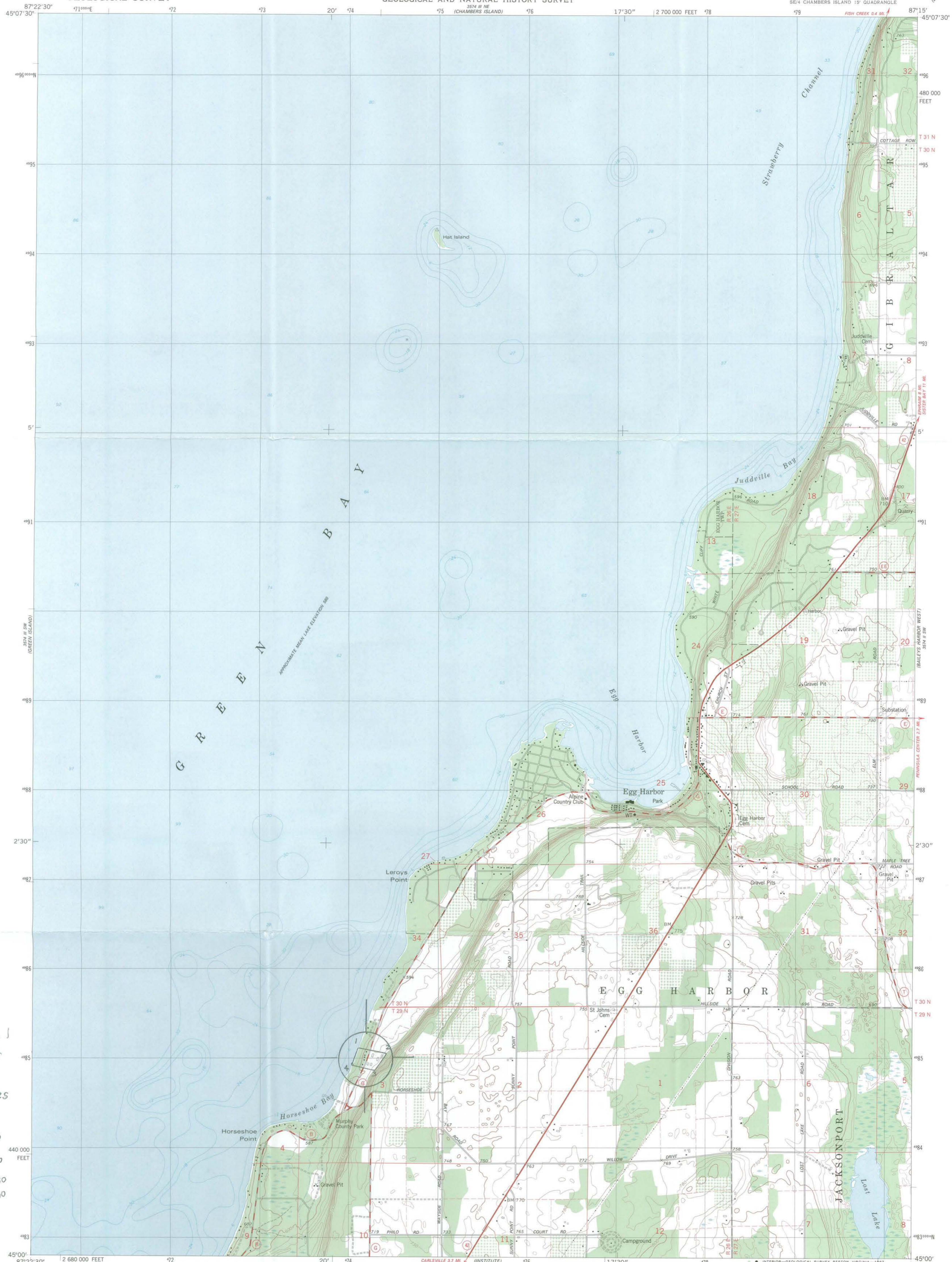
WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0030

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.



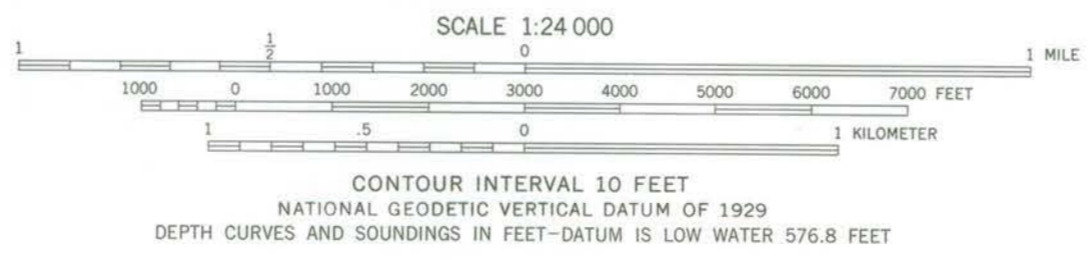
WI - Door County - Murphy Farms No. 1 - 0031

0217752, WI-Door County-Murphy Farms No.



Murphy Farms No. 1  
Town of Egg Harbor  
Door Co., WI  
UTM coordinates  
Z E N  
1. 16 474100 4985110  
2. 16 474420 4985050  
3. 16 474280 4984880  
4. 16 474040 4984930

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1954-55. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1978  
Field checked 1980. Map edited 1982  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 14909-14910 (1979). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters north and 5 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 576.8 FEET



EGG HARBOR, WIS.  
SE 1/4 CHAMBERS ISLAND 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4500-W8715/7.5  
1982  
DMA 3574 III SE—SERIES Y861

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2018

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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 Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)  
other names/site number Horseshoe Bay Farm

2. Location

street & number 7195, 7199, 7203, 7207, 7212, and 7213 Horseshoe Bay Road N/A not for publication  
city or town Town of Egg Harbor N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Door code 029 zip code 54209

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_ nationally \_ statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jim Daeger 10/12/18  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)

Door County

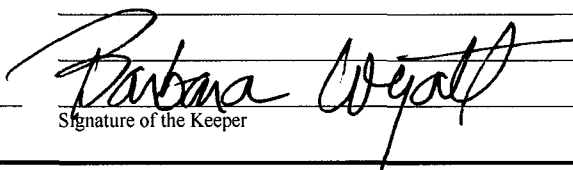
Wisconsin

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:)

  
 Signature of the Keeper

11-19-18  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as 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 |
|                                       | buildings                                |
|                                       | sites                                    |
|                                       | structures                               |
|                                       | objects                                  |
|                                       | 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 previously listed in the National Register**

(1 district added as a result of reclassification of this resource)

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/ institutional housing
- Agricultural/ Subsistence/ animal facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/ institutional housing
- Agricultural/ Subsistence/ animal facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial Revival
- Other: Wisconsin Dairy Barn

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Stone
- walls Weatherboard
- Wood
- roof Asphalt
- other Wood

**Narrative Description**

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



**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)

Agriculture

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1918-1922

1918-1961

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Crandall, Fred D.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)  
Name of Property

Door County  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 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:**

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

Name of repository:

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 12.79 acres

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

1	<u>16</u>	<u>474100</u>	<u>4985050</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>474280</u>	<u>4984880</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>474420</u>	<u>4985050</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>474040</u>	<u>4984930</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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

<b>name/title</b>	Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office	<b>date</b>	August 21, 2018
<b>organization</b>	Wisconsin Historical Society	<b>telephone</b>	608-264-6511
<b>street &amp; number</b>	816 State Street	<b>zip code</b>	53706
<b>city or town</b>	Madison	<b>state</b>	WI

Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)  
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	organization	date
street & number	state	WI
city or town	WI	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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section 5,7 Page 1Murphy Farms Number 1 (Additional Documentation)  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door County, WI

## Section 5. Classification

This additional documentation corrects the category of property from the original form. When Murphy Farms Number 1 was listed in 2012, it was entered in the category "Building(s)." Because of the size and variety of the collection of buildings, structures and objects, the selected category should have been "District." The new form submission reflects this change.

## Section 7

The inventory is revised to give the pool and the pool building separate map numbers. Both were listed as 16; they are now 16A and 16B.

C/NC	Original Name	Date	Type	Map No.
C	Cow Barn & Crop Storage, with Creamery Wing	1918	Building	1
C	Barn	1918	Building	2
C	Test Barn	1920	Building	3
C	Horse Barn	1919-1920	Building	4
C	Root Cellar & Stables	1918-1919	Building	5
C	Power Plant & Oil Storage	1918	Building	6
C	Machine Storage & Cattle Storm Shed	1919	Building	7
NC	Garage	Post-1945	Building	8
C	Manure Pit	1918-1919	Structure	9
C	Wagon Scale	1919	Object	10
C	Dwelling A	1918-1919	Building	11
NC	Dwelling A Garage	Post-1945	Building	12
C	Dwelling B	1918-1919	Building	13
NC	Dwelling B Garage	Post-1945	Building	14
C	Dwelling C	1918-1919	Building	15
NC	Dwelling C Pool Building	Post-1945	Building	16A
NC	Dwelling C Pool	Post-1945	Structure	16B
C	Dwelling D	1918-1919	Building	17
C	Dwelling E	1918-1919	Building	18
NC	Dwelling E Garage	Post-1945	Building	19
C	Yard Enclosure Walls	1919-1920	Structure	[No #]

There is no other change to the text of the nomination in Section 7.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

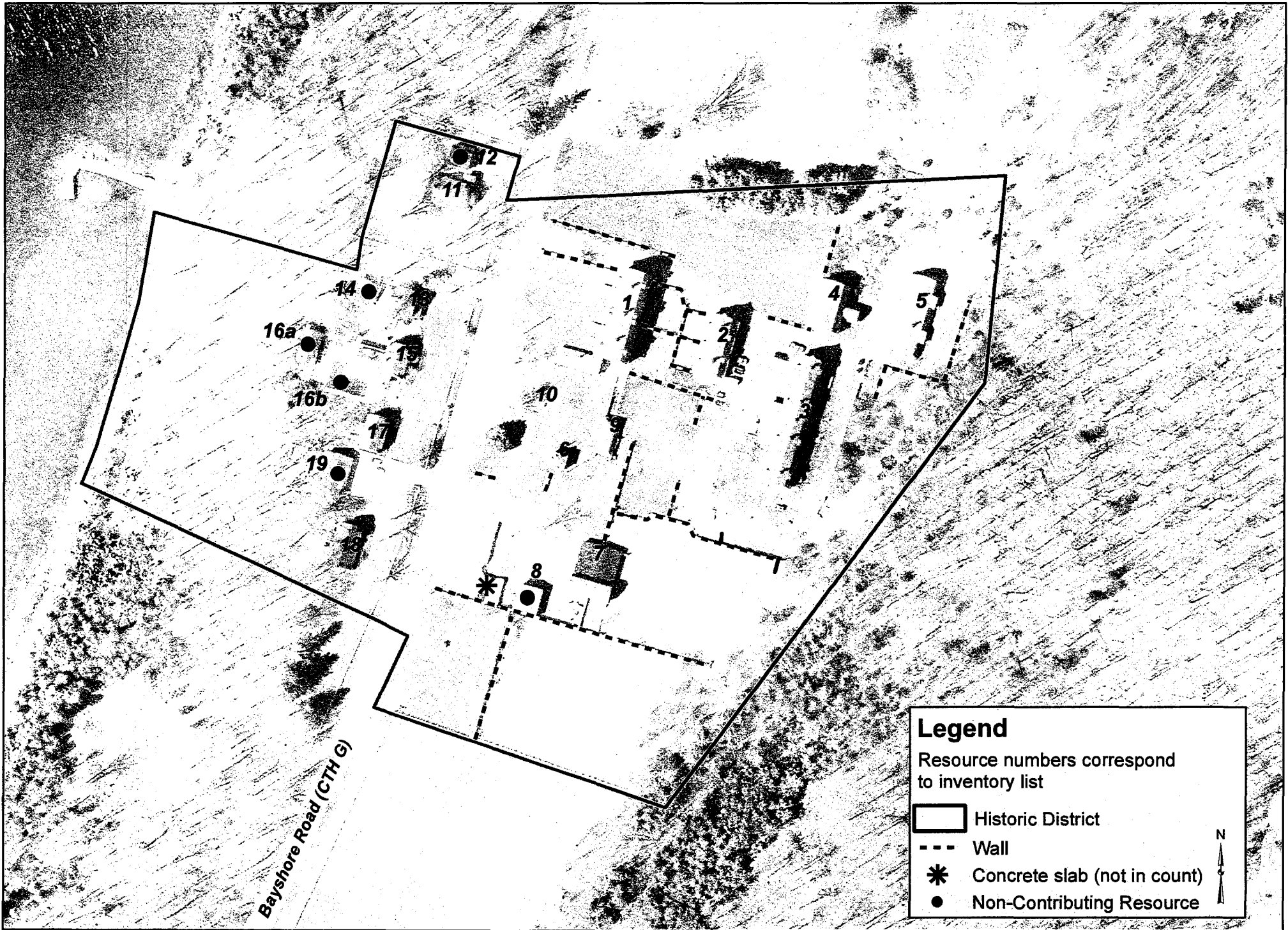
Section 10 Page 1

Murphy Farms Number 1 (Additional Documentation)  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door County, WI

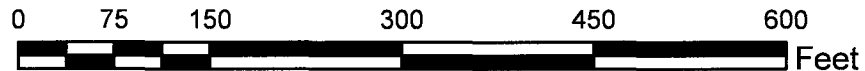
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10. Geographical Data

At the time of listing, the supplementary materials only contained separate certified survey maps of two of the three parcels being nominated. Included is a new map with all of the resources and the boundaries indicated on a single map. There has been no change to the acreage, verbal boundary description or boundary justification. The map does make a correction to the mislabeling of buildings 18 and 19 on the earlier nomination map. The mapping now corresponds to the contributing and non-contributing classification in the body of the nomination.



**Murphy Farms Number 1 Historic District**  
 Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., WI



October 12, 2018

National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Murphy Farms Number 1

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Door

DATE RECEIVED: 4/13/12      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/04/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/24/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/30/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000314

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5.24.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



OCT 25 2011

DIV HIST PRES

**COUNTY OF DOOR**

County Government Center  
421 Nebraska Street  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

**Michael J. Serpe**  
County Administrator  
(920) 746-2303  
mserpe@co.door.wi.us

October 24, 2011

Daina Penkiunas  
National Register Coordinator – Historic Preservation  
Public History, Rm 305  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Dear Ms. Penkiunas:

I am pleased to lend my support to the request of Barb and Glenn Timmerman, owners of the Horseshoe Bay Farms property for listing of Murphy Farms No. 1 on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Registry of Historic Places.

In the early 20th century the farm was a large and diverse operation, well known for its dairy herd, and was at one time the largest employer in Door County; in part due to the fruit orchards it also maintained.

The area was first commercialized by Andrew Anderson in 1870, prior to the formation of Horseshoe Bay Farms. Anderson built a pier at Monument Point (just south of Murphy Park) and began buying and selling cordwood, a thriving business in those days. A sawmill, black smithy, coopers (barrel makers) shop, a school and a dozen houses followed.

The historic significance of the complex lies in its place in the development of the modern dairy industry in Wisconsin. But it soon became obvious that there would be a number of limiting factors, Murphy Farm was designed to accommodate the issues of labor, feed storage and healthy condition for large numbers of cattle housed in close quarters. The barns and stables for storage and clean comfortable housing, having adequate land for pasture and feed production, and ways to efficiently use labor, since all work with dairy animals, at that time, required large amounts of manual labor, and skilled management. Only increasing the production of each cow could offset labor costs. Murphy Farm recognized this and devoted much effort to improve genetics of dairy animals.

The farm reflects the beginning of the industrial dairy farm, applying the techniques of industry to an agricultural operation. But there was a limit, and that was the direct proportion of manpower to a given amount of milk production.

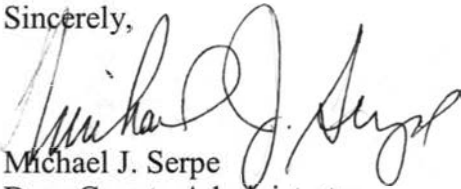
Daina Penkiunas  
National Register Coordinator  
October 24, 2011  
Page 2 of 2

Murphy Farm and industrial agriculture had to wait for the machines would boost productivity and many farms did not survive. Sadly, historically significant buildings were reused or fell into disrepair as the owners pursued other ways of earning a living.

The barn complex remains almost as it was when the farm was active except that the seven silos have been removed. We are fortunate to have most of the features of an early 20th century industrial farm in an historic site right in the middle of Egg Harbor.

I trust that you will agree that doing everything we can to preserve this site for generations to come is truly worth the appropriate designations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Serpe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael J. Serpe  
Door County Administrator

RECEIVED

NOV 01 2011

DIV HIST PRES

Glenn Timmerman  
7227 Horseshoe Bay Road  
Egg Harbor WI 54209  
October 27, 2011

Daina Penkiunas  
Wisconsin Historical Society

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to you about the Horseshoe Bay Farms property under review for historic register designation. My wife Barb and I are the owners of this property which includes 9 farm structures (including 5 barns), and 5 homes.

I'll let the facts in the application speak for themselves regarding historic designation; I wanted to offer my own perspective on the property.

Prior to us, the Murphy & Cowles families owned part or all of this property for almost 100 years. The barns are some of the best preserved in the state and the homes create a compound utilized by a group of people who still work the property on our behalf, much as others have done since the farm began.

The Horseshoe Bay Farms enterprise is a profile in the evolution of industry in Door County Wisconsin and a testament to Wisconsin entrepreneurial spirit:

- Members of the Murphy family began logging operations in Door County and owned several saw mills in Green Bay.
- After most of Door County land was cleared by many loggers, the Murphy family began buying land for farming purposes and created Horseshoe Bay Farms. They created a state of the art dairy farm and breeding facility, recognized throughout the country for its prized bulls.
- They added cherry and apple orchards and at one time were the largest employer in Door County.
- They also had a hand in initiating the tourist industry in Door County, creating the idea of a private golf club and summer home development along the shores of Green Bay. The first of its kind in that part of the state.

There are still a handful of artifacts that remain with the barns, including orchard picking equipment, an old truck used to transport the pickers and a 1927 Seagrave fire truck.

Stories abound regarding the property. Examples include:

- Tecumseh cave, one of Wisconsin's finest sits on the property.

[Recipient Name]

October 27, 2011


Page 2

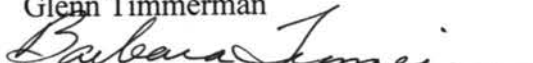
- The former residence of Frank Murphy on Green Bay was donated to Door County and is now a fine County park with a pier and a terrific sand beach.
- Many of the Cowles family members sat on the Green Bay Packer Board of Directors. Vince Lombardi was a frequent visitor to the housing compound. Packer players back in the 1930's and 1940's worked in the summers at the 'cheery picking camp' as counselors. Bob Hope visited and stayed in one of the guest houses.

The Egg Harbor historical society asked to have their 2011 annual picnic at the farm. With basic word of mouth publicity, over 2,000 people showed up. Most of these people were local residents who worked the farm much the same as their grandparents and parents did for decades. Barb and I were overwhelmed by the stories told and the emotional attachment these people displayed for the property.

We hope to receive the historic designation and move on, with the help of many of the visitors this summer, to preserve the barns for decades to come.

Sincerely,

  
Glenn Timmerman

  
Barbara Timmerman

NOV 03 2011



**Door County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 71 • Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235  
Email: [info@doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org)  
Website: [www.doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org)

DIV HIST PRES

Wisconsin Historical Society c/o Daina Penkiuna

October 27, 2011

816 State St Madison WI 53706

Re: Murphy Farm No. 1

Town of Egg Harbor, Door County, Wisconsin

The picturesque Barns at Murphy Farm are a Door County icon. While most visitors can appreciate the well-kept site, few fully understand the historic significance of the farmstead. The story of the dairy industry is inexorably intertwined with growth and development, both economic and socially, not only of Door County, but a large portion of the State of Wisconsin.

In its infancy the dairy industry consisted of pioneers' first chance to produce a product that could be consumed by the family and be sold or traded for other goods. As the land was cleared, more pasture was available and the opportunities for enlarging their operation emerged, with the limits always set by the amount of labor and equipment available. As the industry grew, each farm became an economic enterprise with the limiting factors being available land, labor and equipment and, of course, management ability.

By the late eighteen hundreds, enterprising minds began to inquire and explore the possibility of expanding a dairy into larger production units, encouraged by outstanding researchers of the University of Wisconsin; the markets were there, with cheese production growing along with the demand for fluid milk in population centers.

But it soon became obvious that there would be a number of limiting

factors: labor, feed storage and healthy conditions for large numbers of cattle housed in close quarters. Murphy Farm was designed to accommodate these issues - build barns and stables for storage and clean comfortable housing, have adequate land for pasture and feed production, and find ways to efficiently use labor, since all work with dairy animals, at that time, required large amounts of manual labor and skilled management. Labor was offset only by increasing the production of each cow. Murphy Farm recognized this and devoted much effort to improve genetics of dairy animals.

Thus began the industrial dairy farm, applying the techniques of industry to an agricultural operation. But there was a limit, and that was the direct proportion of manpower to a given amount of milk production.

The Murphy Farm and industrial agriculture had to wait until machines could amplify the manpower factor. Many did not survive, including many in southern Wisconsin. Soon the buildings were reused or fell into disrepair as the entrepreneurs sought other opportunities.

Because of the foresight of the owners, today we have a great opportunity to preserve a bench mark in the dairy industry at Murphy Farm. The beginning of the industrial age in dairying, the advent of artificial insemination, new management techniques, feeds and feed storage, application of electric power supplementing hand labor, more power for field work had to await their time—but it began here.

At the October Board meeting of The Door County Historical Society the application for designation of Murphy Farm No. 1 was reviewed and the vote was unanimous to support the designation as a National Historic Site.

Thank you,  
  
George Evenson, President DCHS

EGG HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 264  
EGG HARBOR, WI 54209

RECEIVED

NOV 9 2011

DIV HIST PRES

November 9, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The members of the Egg Harbor Historical Society and its Board of Directors wholeheartedly endorse the application for designation of the Horseshoe Bay Farm barn complex as a historic site.

Since its construction early in the 10<sup>th</sup> century the Horseshoe Bay barn complex has been a focus of agricultural innovation on the Door Peninsula. We understand that the owners have provided you with details as to the extensive history of the complex as well as digital videos and photographs. This documentation reveals that during the first half of the last century the Farm was one of the area's largest agricultural enterprises and produced milk, cattle and horses and later cherries and apples.

An unusual element of this request is the existence of videos of some of the enterprise's earliest farming activities including the personnel who operated the farm. Designation will offer the public more than a building frozen in time. The complex has the potential to visually exhibit farming practices as they developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and become an invaluable resource for future generations.

Our Society recently conducted our annual picnic at the site and conducted tours for the public. To our surprise, the event was attended by nearly 1,000 people and virtually all participated in the tours. This indicates the degree to which the public regards this as an historic site.

Our Historical Society is contributing to the research effort by collecting oral histories from former employees of the Horseshoe Bay enterprise and those whose ancestors worked there. The Society will welcome cooperative initiatives with the owners to further explore the history of the Horseshoe Bay farm.

Respectfully submitted,

EGG HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Myles Dannhausen, Sr.  
President

Cc: Glenn Timmerman



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



**TO:** Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Daina Penkiunas

**SUBJECT:** National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 6th day of April 2012,  
for nomination of the Murphy Farms No. 1 to the National Register of Historic  
Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

           Multiple Property Nomination form

31 Photograph(s)

2 CD(s) with electronic images

1 Original USGS map(s)

3 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

4 Piece(s) of correspondence

           Other \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

           Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

           This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

           The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.

           Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



June 15, 2012

Edson Beall  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

Dear Edson:

Enclosed is a replacement page for the Murphy Farms Number 1, Door County, Wisconsin. We recently discovered that two of the images had been reversed in the photo log. The new page keeps the original numbering on the images and adjusts the log. (It is numbers 27 and 28 on the sheet.)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (608) 264-6501 or [daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org).

Sincerely,

Daina Penkiunas  
National Register Coordinator  
Wisconsin Historical Society

# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Correspondence related to 2018 additional documentation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/15/2018      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 11/29/2018      Date of Weekly List: 11/26/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      11/19/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Dain Penkiunas  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Twenty-second day of August 2018, for the nomination of the Murphy Farm Number 1 (additional documentation) to the National Register of Historic Places:

_____	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
_____	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
_____	Multiple Property Nomination form
_____	Photograph(s)
_____	CD with image files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Map(s)
_____	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
_____	Piece(s) of correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: 1 nomination form with revisions and 1 CD with PDF

COMMENTS:

_____	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
_____	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
_____	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
_____	Other:

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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 Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)  
other names/site number Horseshoe Bay Farm

2. Location

street & number 7195, 7199, 7203, 7207, 7212, and 7213 Horseshoe Bay Road N/A not for publication  
city or town Town of Egg Harbor N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Door code 029 zip code 54209

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 of certifying official/Title *Jim Dreyer* Date 8/22/18  
State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

Returned

Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)

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:)

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 |
|                                       | buildings                                |
|                                       | sites                                    |
|                                       | structures                               |
|                                       | objects                                  |
|                                       | 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 previously listed in the National Register**

15

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ institutional housing

Agricultural/ Subsistence/ animal facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ institutional housing

Agricultural/ Subsistence/ animal facility

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Other: Wisconsin Dairy Barn

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Weatherboard

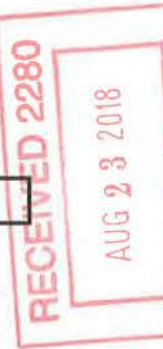
Wood

roof Asphalt

other Wood

### Narrative Description

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



Returned

Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)  
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.)

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Agriculture  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Period of Significance**

1918-1922  
1918-1961  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

**Architect/Builder**

Crandall, Fred D.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

Returned

Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)  
Name of Property

Door County  
County and State

Wisconsin



**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:**

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

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 12.79 acres

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

1	16	474100	4985050	16	474280	4984880	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	474420	4985050	4	16	474040	4984930
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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**

<b>name/title</b>	Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office	<b>date</b>	August 21, 2018
<b>organization</b>	Wisconsin Historical Society	<b>telephone</b>	608-264-6511
<b>street &amp; number</b>	816 State Street	<b>zip code</b>	53706
<b>city or town</b>	Madison	<b>state</b>	WI

Returned



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**



Section 5, 10 Page 1

Murphy Farms Number 1(Additional Documentation)  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door County, WI

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5. Classification

This additional documentation corrects the category of property from the original form. When Murphy Farms Number 1 was listed in 2012, it was entered in the category "Building(s)." Because of the size and variety of the collection of buildings, structures and objects, the selected category should have been "District." The new form submission reflects this change.

There is no other change to the nomination.

10. Geographical Data

At the time of listing, the supplementary materials only contained separate certified survey maps of two of the three parcels being nominated. Included is a new map with all of the buildings and the boundaries indicated on a single map. There has been no change to the acreage, verbal boundary description or boundary justification.

Returned

Murphy Farms Number 1 (additional documentation)  
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

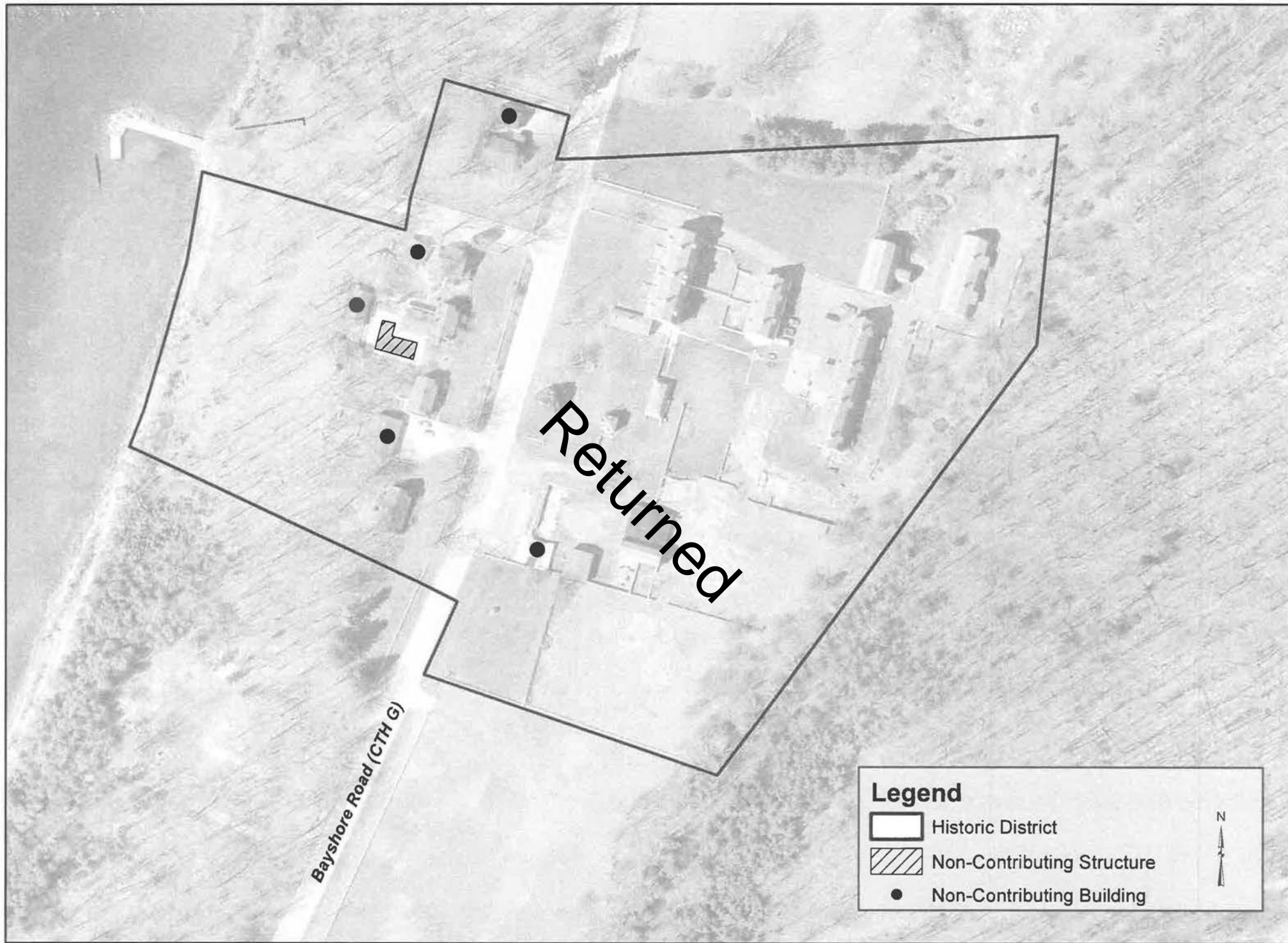
Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	date
organization	telephone
street & number	zip code
city or town	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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Returned



**Murphy Farms Number 1 Historic District**  
Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., WI

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places**

**Comments  
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

**Property Name:** Murphy Farms Number 1  
**Property Location:** Door County, Wisconsin  
**Reference Number:** 12000314  
**Date of Return:** 10-9-18

**Reason for Return**

Additional information was submitted for Murphy Farms Number 1 to change the property category from "building" to "district." The listed property consists of a total of 20 contributing and noncontributing buildings, structures, and objects, so it clearly should have been listed as a historic district.

**Reason for Return**

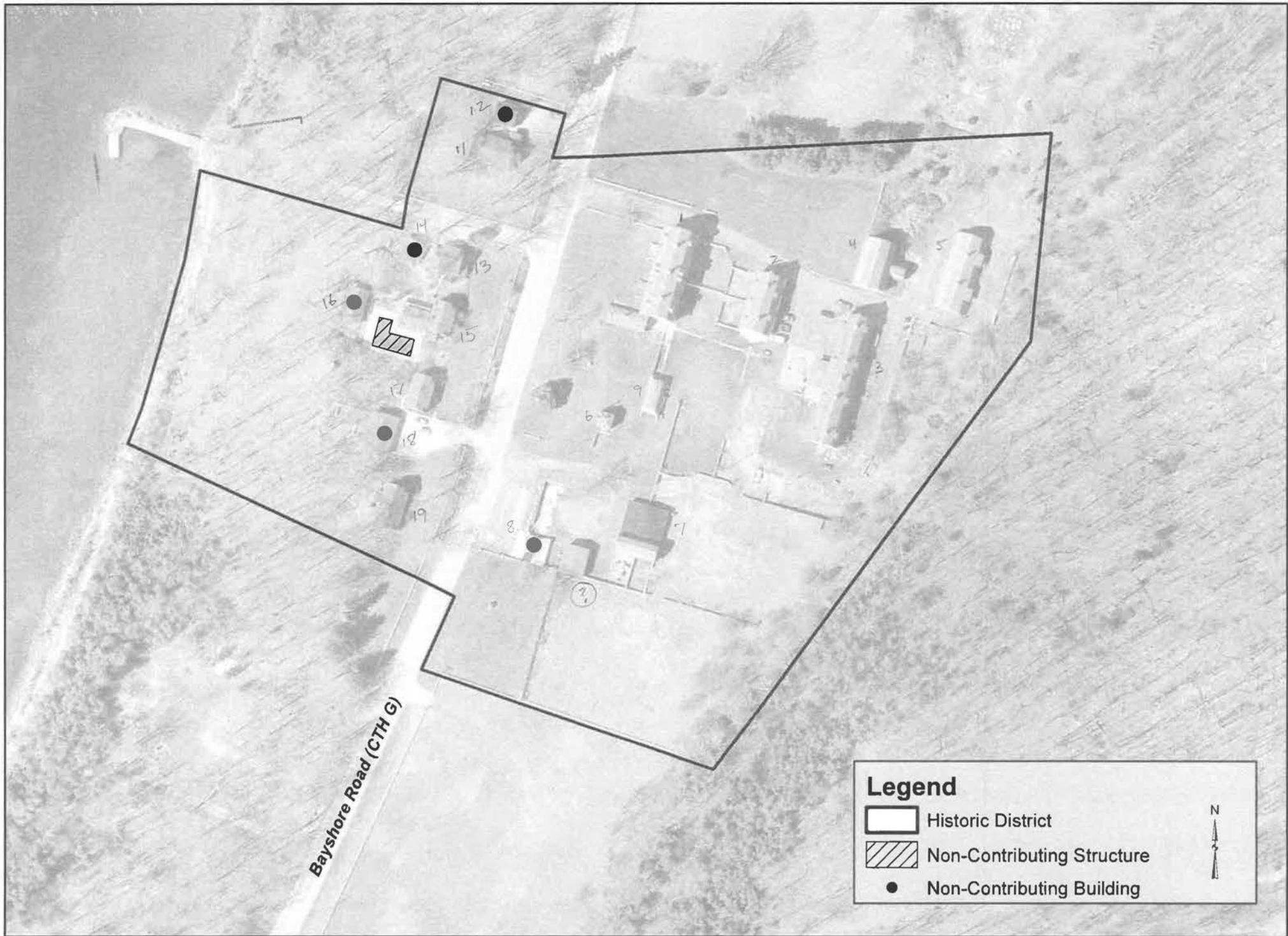
The nomination is being returned because of errors, discrepancies, and omissions. The following should be corrected prior to resubmission:

1. On the resubmitted map, #18 is shown as noncontributing and #19 is shown as contributing. The inventory and map in the original nomination show the opposite. If the evaluations have actually changed, this needs to be explained in an addition to Section 7.
2. The resubmitted map shows an outline of the "noncontributing structure". From the original inventory, the one noncontributing structure is a pool (#16) and the nearby contributing building is a pool building (also #16). These two separate resources, which are counted separately, need to have individual numbers, which could be 16-A and 16-B. Please map accordingly.
3. The map submitted with the original nomination does not indicate the location of the walls. From the text of the nomination it is clear that these are "integral" to the resource, consisting of several thousand feet of walls. The locations of the walls should be sketched onto the new district map. At a minimum, those buildings that include stone wall pens with need to be indicated.
4. A building or structure exists between 7 and 8 or to the west of 7. This part of the map needs clarification and needs to coincide with the inventory.
5. On the map, labels and inventory numbers need to be indicated for each property included in the district.
6. To clarify this situation to those updating NRIS: In Section 5, please indicate in parentheses in Number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register, (1 district added as a result of reclassification of this resource).

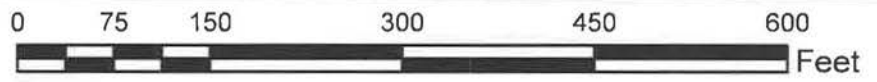
If you have any questions about this return, please contact me at [barbara\\_wyatt@nps.gov](mailto:barbara_wyatt@nps.gov) or at 202-354-2252.

Barbara Wyatt  
National Register of Historic Places

*Barbara Wyatt*  
10-9-18



**Murphy Farms Number 1 Historic District**  
**Town of Egg Harbor, Door Co., WI**





October 12, 2018

Barbara Wyatt  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Please accept our resubmittal of the additional documentation for Murphy Farms Number 1, Door County, Wisconsin. As requested, changes have been made to the new map, indicating the inventory numbers of all buildings, as well as the locations of the stone walls. Regarding point 4 in your memo, the element visible near building 8 on the map is a concrete slab. This has been identified on the map, but is not in the count.

There is also a clarification in Section 9 regarding the mapping of buildings 18 and 19. These were correctly noted as contributing and non-contributing in the original text and inventory, but had been mislabeled on the original resource sketch map. The new map corrects this error.

Section 7 of the resubmittal consists of an update to the inventory by giving new numbers to the pool house and the pool. As recommended, these are now 16A and 16B and are indicated as such on the attached map.

I hope that these updates address your concerns and we look forward to the acceptance of the additional documentation in the near future. If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at 608-264-6511 or [daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org).

Sincerely,

Daina Penkiunas  
Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office



W I S C O N S I N  
H I S T O R I C A L  
S O C I E T Y



TO: Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Daina Penkiunas  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Twelfth day of October 2018, for the nomination of the Murphy Farm Number 1 (additional documentation) to the National Register of Historic Places:

_____	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
_____	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
_____	Multiple Property Nomination form
_____	Photograph(s)
_____	CD with image files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Map(s)
_____	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
_____	Piece(s) of correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: 1 nomination form with revisions and 1 CD with PDF

COMMENTS:

_____	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
_____	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
_____	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
_____	Other: