OMB No. 10024-0018

562092

NPS Form 10-900 (Expires 5/31/2012) 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 Beck, Michael & Margaritha, Farmstead other names/site number

#### 2. Location

	& number r town	W2803 U.S. I Town of Jeffe	-	ay 18			N/A N/A	not for p vicinity	ublication
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Jefferson	code	055	zip code	53137

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

ama

Signature of certifying official/Title

12017

#### State Historic Preservation Office - 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

DEC © 2 2017

Beck, Michael and Margaritha, Far	mstead	Jefferson	Wisconsin
Name of Property		County and St	tate
4. National Park Service	ce Certification		20
Thereby certify that the property is: 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 t	m H. Beal	Date of Action
5. Classification			Ducorrenon
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		rces within Property eviously listed resources
X private public-local public-State public-Federal	X building(s) district structure site object	contributing 6 0 1 0 7	noncontributing 0 buildings 0 sites 0 structures 1 objects 1 total
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property not p listing.)		Number of contri previously listed i	buting resources n the National Register
N/A		0	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instru DOMESTIC/single dwelling AGRICULTURE/animal fac	1	Current Functions (Enter categories from in DOMESTIC/single dwel DOMESTIC/secondary s	ling
AGRICULTURE/agricultura	al outbuilding	D officiol for the second and the	
AGRICULTURE/storage			
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instru- Late 19 <sup>th</sup> and Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Cent	ictions)	Materials (Enter categories from in foundation STONE walls BRICK/WC	
		walls BRICK/WC roof ASPHALT	
		other CONCRET	

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

Name of Property

Jefferson

County and State

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

#### **Criteria Considerations**

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

#### Property is:

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

# Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

#### **Period of Significance**

1865 to 1937

#### **Significant Dates**

1865

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

N/A

#### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Wisconsin

Name of Property

Jefferson

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): Primary location of additional data: preliminary determination of individual X State Historic Preservation Office listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested Other State Agency previously listed in the National Federal Agency \_ \_ Local government Register previously determined eligible by University \_ X Other the National Register designated a National Historic Name of repository: landmark Dwight Foster Public Library recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # Hoard Historical Museum recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.00 acres

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

1	16N	363499	4763686	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
_							
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
					See Cor	tinuation 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	Rowan Davidson, Associate AIA	& Jennifer Leł	rke, AIA,	LEED AP, NCARE	3
organization	Legacy Architecture, Inc.			date	September 28, 2016
street & number	605 Erie Avenue, Suite 101			telephone	(920) 788-6808
city or town	Sheboygan	state	WI	zip code	53081

## National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

	Beck, Michael and Margaritha Beck, Farmstead
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#### **Narrative Description**

The Town of Jefferson is located in the central part of Jefferson County in southeastern Wisconsin. The southwestern and central portions of the county have a terrain of lakes, rivers, marshland, and low hills. This rural area is predominantly farms; and within this farming region, the Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead just east of the small settlement of Helenville, stands out as an excellent example of a historic period farmstead. The Beck Farmstead consists of seven contributing resources including a farmhouse, bank barn, machine shed, granary, milk house, corn crib, and privy and one non-contributing flagpole.

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The farmstead's development likely started in May of 1865, when the property was purchased by Michael Beck (also spelled Bieck on a number of documents including historic plat maps) from Michael Probst. Improvements, such as a farmhouse and barn, followed shortly after. A collection of resources, including historic deeds, family history, and plat maps were used to determine the dates of the resources on the Beck Farmstead. The development continued over the next few decades, with a number of the contributing resources constructed in subsequent years. The historic resources of the farmstead were all extant by 1937, if not before that date. Representative of the wide variety of vernacular agricultural architecture of nineteenth century Wisconsin, the farmstead demonstrates a high level of integrity and quality. The design of the buildings, including the Gable Ell farmhouse, is vernacular, accumulated through knowledge of farmers and builders alike and drawn from ethnic and standardized building practices. In this sense, the Beck Farmstead is representative of a wider historical and architectural tradition, a tradition that can be found in southeast Wisconsin during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead's resources consist primarily of wood framed utilitarian buildings constructed of wood boards on stone and concrete foundations. The exceptions are the farmhouse, which is a cream brick, two-story building with a single-story wing, and the milk house, which is built with rough faced pre-cast concrete block. The flagpole is non-contributing. The farmstead's contributing resources were constructed between 1865 and 1937, although most of them were likely completed during the nineteenth century. Exterior alterations to the buildings have been minimal and have generally been limited to repairs and a few notable additions that are also historic including a chicken house constructed as an addition onto the existing granary. The farmhouse has two additions, an enclosed front porch and a garage at the rear. These additions, constructed before 1937, fall within the period of significance. The resources within the Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead are well preserved and have much the same appearance today as they did when they were originally constructed.

Typical to Jefferson County's 576 square miles of terrain, the Town of Jefferson generally feature flat

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land and gently rolling hills. Low points in the land tend to be near bodies of water with substantial areas of marshland. The area's plains, forests, moraines, and marshes were viewed as ideal for development by the earliest white settlers and were soon drained and tilled for agriculture.<sup>1</sup> The Beck Farmstead is set in this rural landscape of Jefferson County. The farm buildings and other resources are sited at the northeast corner of a historic 80 acre farm along the present U.S. Highway 18. The Beck farmstead is surrounded by low rolling hills, interrupted occasionally by low marshland. The farm itself has a landscape that slowly rises to the south and is still used for agricultural purposes.

The farm is accessed by a long driveway along the eastern edge of the nominated boundary. A large expanse of mown lawn separates the house from the street, with the house set back quite far from the road. This front lawn has numerous pine and shade trees; a row of arborvitae trees form a visual boundary close to the west edge of the nominated parcel. One passes the large flagpole (on the west side of the driveway) as the long driveway gently curves to the southwest. The driveway splits in front of the large bank barn, with a driveway segment continuing to the west terminating at the back of the farmhouse. The farmhouse is surrounded by trees, shrubs and mown lawn. Where the driveway terminates in front of the bank barn marks the location of the collection of agricultural buildings. To the east is the machine shed, and to the west are the granary, corn crib, and privy. The milk house is behind the barn to the south. These buildings are surrounded by mown grass and scattered trees and shrubs. An area of mown grass extends south from behind the agricultural buildings and agricultural fields surround, but are outside of, the nominated boundary.

#### **Building Descriptions**

#### Farmhouse (contributing), c.1865

The farmhouse, constructed circa 1865 according to Beck family deeds and plat maps of Jefferson County, is a Gabled Ell, a vernacular form common in rural Wisconsin from 1860 to 1910. The plan consists of a two-story section with the front gable facing the highway to the north, and a one-story side gabled wing with an enclosed porch to the east. The house is constructed of cream brick on a stone rubble foundation.

There is a double cellar door propped against the stone foundation at the front (north) façade of the two-story gabled section of the house. A pair of large, vertical, wood, two-over-two, double-hung windows are spaced equally across the first floor. The windows have stone sills vinyl storm windows and screens are found on most of the windows on the house. The second floor also has a pair of double-hung windows aligned with the windows below. Slightly smaller than those below, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ott, John Henry. *Jefferson County Wisconsin and its People*. Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1917, pages 1-5.

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windows otherwise match those elsewhere on the house. The brick work is largely without ornament or detail with the exception of soldier course segmental arches over each window. The wall of the farmhouse terminates with a painted wood frieze and cornice; the gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The porch, which has been enclosed, is located at the junction of the two wings of the Gabled Ell plan and to the east. The porch consists of a stucco base on a concrete foundation with a set of cast-in-place concrete steps leading up to an entry door. The porch's concrete foundation implies that it was added to the house at a much later date, likely during the early twentieth century. The wood entry door, with three tall vertical wood lights, is flanked by one window to the west and six windows to the east. The porch windows are vertical, wood, three-over-one, and double-hung, having aluminum storm windows and screens. The windows and doors are surrounded by simple painted wood trim and the wall below is of painted, wood clapboard siding.

The east side of the porch matches the north façade but has a band of only three windows. The roof of the porch has a shallow hip shed which joins with the roof of the gabled single-story wing and is finished with asphalt shingles like the rest of the house. To the left or south of the porch, the east façade features the gable end of the single-story wing. This wing matches the larger two-story portion in its materials, details, and construction. The cream brick walls, on a stone rubble foundation, are largely unadorned. A pair of large, wood, double-hung windows are equally spaced with stone sills and brick soldier course segmental arches. In the peak of the gable end is a small fan-shaped wood window with wood brickmold and a small wood sill surrounded by a rowlock course of brick. The wall terminates in a similar wood frieze and a cornice. Like the two-story section, the one-story wing also has an asphalt shingle roof, and a small brick chimney placed at the center of the roof peak, set back from the facade. There is a single-story, wood frame garage addition at the back of the house. Its east wall has a wood door at the north end, accessed by two wood steps, and a sliding wood garage door hung on an exterior overhead track at the south end, similar to a barn door. The addition is finished with painted, wood clapboard siding.

On the south façade of the single-story wing, there is a single wood, double-hung window adjacent to the garage addition that is similar in size to the windows elsewhere on the house, but has a four-over-four configuration. The south façade of the garage addition is clad with painted, wood clapboard siding. It has a single large, vertical, wood, one-over-one, double-hung window just to the right of center. The shed roof of the addition slopes from the east down to the west and terminates in a simple wood cornice. To the west, or left, the rear of the main two-story portion of the house mirrors the front façade with two pairs of wood double-hung windows, one over the other, set in the gable end.

The west façade of the main two-story section of the house has the same cream brick and stone foundation as the rest of the house. A tall and narrow red brick chimney rises from the west façade, slightly north (or left) of the center of the façade. There is a pair of matching wood double-hung

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windows, one on each side of the chimney, along the first floor of the west façade. Directly above each window is a smaller, wood, awning window on the second floor just below the eaves.

While the Gabled Ell house is a vernacular form, it derives its architectural detail in its cornice lines, large vertical fenestration, and curved fan windows. The west façade of the garage addition is finished with painted, wood clapboard siding. It has a single large, vertical wood, one-over-one, double-hung window to the north (or left side) of the addition. The wall terminates with a simple wood cornice and a shingled, shed roof.

The additions to the house, including the enclosed front porch and the one-story garage in the rear, were constructed before 1937. The house has been maintained and repaired consistently since its construction. The present owner has regularly made repairs to the building, with large projects spaced approximately every five years since the 1990s including replacing and re-shingling the roof. The interior of the house, including its its finishes and room layout, have been altered a number of times since 1937.

#### Bank Barn (contributing), c.1865

The Bank Barn on the Beck Farmstead is a medium sized barn constructed with heavy tamarack beams, painted vertical wood board exterior siding, and a stone rubble foundation. The barn consists of a lower level, which during the time the farm was a dairy was used for milking, and an upper level hayloft. The barn is asymmetrical along the east-west axis, with the north side of the barn at grade at the upper level and the lower level accessed at grade from the south façade. The barn is built into a low slope rising to the north. The peak of the roof runs east-west with the gable end also being asymmetrical. The slope of the roof extends further to the south.

The north façade consists of the vertical painted wood boards fastened to the timber frame of the barn. There is a pair of large sliding barn doors, the full height of the exterior wall, hung from tracks beneath the shallow eave of the roof. The door opening is slightly left, or east, of center on the façade. There is no other opening or fenestration along the north façade. The roof is of interlocking asphalt shingles with a metal weathervane centered at the peak.

The east façade features the same stone rubble foundation and painted vertical wood boards. There is a small, fixed, square window in the gable end under shallow eaves. The stone foundation has been parged with cementious plaster over the stone as the exterior grade slopes down. At the bottom the slope, centered on the east façade, is a small wood barn door hung from a metal sliding barn door track above. The door slides to the south and provides access to the lower level. At the northeast corner of the barn is the ruin of a concrete silo. A large, wood stave silo resting on a concrete foundation was

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constructed before 1937. The silo was taken down in the 1970s, leaving the large, cast-in-place concrete foundation attached to the barn in ruins.

The south façade continues with the parged, cementious plaster over the stone rubble foundation with a recessed swinging wood door and five horizontal window openings at the top of the wall for ventilation and light. These openings, approximately two feet high and four feet wide, are equally spaced along the façade, and have been boarded over. Above are the vertical painted wood boards of the barn with a pair of large barn doors on hinges.

The west façade is asymmetrical due to the offset ridge and different lengths of the roof on either side. The stone foundation wall is exposed along the rise of the slope to the north and has two small fixed windows at the top of the stone wall spaced equally across the façade. Above these is a continuation of the vertical wood boards found elsewhere on the barn with a matching fixed square window in the gable end.

The roof of the barn has recently been repaired with new plywood sheathing and asphalt shingle roofing. The barn was completed before 1937 and was likely constructed, given its style and size, in the nineteenth century, probably close to the date of construction of the house in c.1865.

#### Machine Shed (contributing), pre-1937

The Machine Shed is a low and long, side gabled building with a stone rubble foundation, a timber frame, and vertical painted wood board siding. Similar in its construction to the bank barn, the machine shed on the Beck Farmstead also has an interlocking asphalt shingle roof. The long east façade features a plain wood frame wall with painted vertical wood boards, nominally 1" x 6", without any fenestration or detail. There is a pair of large sliding barn doors centered on the eastern façade. The doors extend up to underneath the shallow eaves and slide to the north on overhead metal tracks. The north façade at the gable end also has vertical wood board siding and a single, rectangular, wood frame window, divided into six lights. The west façade is similar to the east façade though it lacks any overhead doors. The south façade is similar to the north façade, but lacks the single window in the gable end. The machine shed was completed before 1937 and, given its appearance, could have been constructed at any time around the turn of the century. Like other buildings on the Beck Farmstead, the present owner has maintained and repaired the building, and invested in the replacement of the roof.

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Beck, Michael and Margaritha Beck, Farmstead Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, WI

Granary & Chicken House (contributing), pre-1937

The Beck Farmstead Granary, like many of the other agricultural buildings at the farm, is constructed with a stone rubble foundation, wood frame structure, painted vertical wood board siding, and interlocking asphalt shingle roof.

The small granary has a west façade that reveals that it, like the neighboring barn, is built into a slight slope with the grade receding to the south. The stone foundation has a small wood frame window centered at the top of the foundation wall. Above is the vertical wood board siding extending up approximately two stories to the shallow eaves. There is another small wood frame window centered in the gable end. The north façade of the granary is plain without any added detail, with only the stone foundation and vertical wood siding visible under the shallow eaves. The east façade has a stone foundation with a small wood frame window south or left of center at the top of the foundation wall. Above is the vertical wood board siding extending up to the shallow eaves. The east façade also has a flight of wood stairs leading up to the landing and a sliding barn door centered on the façade. The door is supported by an overhead metal track and slides to the north (or right) side. There is a small wood frame window centered in the gable end.

The Granary also has a significant addition in the form of a chicken house attached to the south façade. This small poultry barn was also constructed before 1937, and has a shed roof which is pitched down away from the main granary building. The foundation of the chicken house is concrete, and the siding is painted, horizontal, lap wood siding. The east façade of the chicken house has a wood door to the north (or right) and a vertical wood window to the left. The south façade has two large slider wood windows spaced equally in the façade. The deep eave of the interlocking asphalt shingled roof extends over the windows. Above the chicken house, the south façade of the granary is plain with only the vertical wood siding and roof visible. The west façade of the chicken house has one large operable slider window centered in the façade.

The granary and chicken house were completed before 1937, and given their functions could have been constructed at any time after circa 1865 during the nineteenth century. Like other buildings on the Beck Farmstead, the current owner maintained and repaired the building, including investing in the replacement of the roof.

#### Corn Crib (contributing), pre-1937

The corn crib on the Beck Farmstead is a small rectangular structure set on stone blocks with a painted wood frame and asphalt shingled, gabled roof. The walls are constructed of horizontal wood slats, spaced a few inches apart for ventilation. These walls are sloped on the north and south elevations

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with a wider top and a narrower base. The west façade is similar to the others; however, it also has a small hinged door constructed with vertical wood slats on a wood frame centered on the façade. The corn crib was completed before 1937. Like other buildings on the Beck Farmstead, the present owner has maintained and repaired the structure, including having replaced the roof.

#### Privy (contributing), pre-1937

The Beck Farmstead privy is a small latrine building constructed on stone blocks with a wood frame, horizontal Dutch lap, painted, wood siding, and an asphalt shingle gabled roof. Located near the house, this outhouse has an east façade of horizontal painted wood siding terminating at vertical trim at each corner. There is a small window opening centered directly under the gable end. The north façade is similar with the same wood siding and trim. The north façade has a small hinged door, constructed out of the same material, centered in the north façade. The west façade is exactly identical to the east façade with the same siding and a centered window opening. The rear (south) façade has the same horizontal siding and trim with a horizontal hinged opening at the bottom to serve as a clean-out location. The Privy was completed before 1937. Like other buildings on the Beck Farmstead, the present owner has maintained and repaired the building, including investing in replacing the roof.

#### Milk House (contributing), pre-1937

The Beck Farmstead milk house is a small, single-story rectangular building constructed with roughfaced, pre-cast concrete block on a cast-in-place concrete foundation. There is vertical, wood boardand-batten siding under the eaves of the jerkenhead roof. The roof is finished with interlocking asphalt shingles and has shallow wood eaves. The west façade has a square, wood-frame window centered on the short facade at the top of the concrete block wall. The north façade has a single wood board door at the east end of the longer concrete block wall. The east façade approximately matches the west façade with a single, wood-frame, square window on a small concrete sill in the concrete block wall. The south façade has a matching window at the west end of the long façade. The milk house was completed before 1937, and given its materials was likely constructed during the earlytwentieth century. Like other buildings on the Beck Farmstead, the present owner has maintained and repaired the building, and replaced the roof.

## Flagpole (non-contributing), 1995

A large flagpole is located near the driveway close to Highway 18. This flagpole is tall rising to 70 feet with a circular cap at the top and an internal rope and crank system. The pole supports a 15-by 25-foot American flag to commemorate the military service of the owner, Garfield Bienfang, and his father. The flag is also locally recognized, being the largest privately owned flag in this part of

## **United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

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Jefferson County.<sup>2</sup> The pole was erected in 1995. Because the flagpole's construction falls outside of the property's period of significance, it is considered non-contributing.

#### **Resource Inventory**

The following inventory lists every building in the farmstead and includes the historic name, the date or circa date of construction, the resource's contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) classification, and the architectural style of the building.

Historic Name	Date	Class	<u>Style</u>
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Farmhouse	c.1865	С	Gabled-Ell
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Bank Barn	c.1865	С	Astylistic Utilitarian
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Machine Shed	pre-1937	С	Astylistic Utilitarian
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Granary & Chicken House	pre-1937	С	Astylistic Utilitarian
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Corn Crib	pre-1937	С	Astylistic Utilitarian
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Privy	pre-1937	С	Astylistic Utilitarian
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Milk House	pre-1937	С	Astylistic Utilitarian
Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Flagpole	1995	NC	Object

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bienfang, Garfield. Personal Interview with Owner, January 22, 2016.

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#### **Statement of Significance**

The Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places having local significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as an excellent example of a late- nineteenth and early-twentieth century farmstead. This collection of buildings maintains a high level of integrity in comparison to other small farmsteads in Jefferson County. The period of significance for Architecture is from circa 1865, the beginning of the farm's construction and development, to 1937, when it can be confirmed through historic aerial photography and personal accounts that all of the existing farm buildings were extant.

#### **Historic Context**

Prior to permanent Euro-American settlement, the southwest quadrant of Jefferson County was the domain of the Potawatomi with the occasional temporary habitation of French fur traders. Jefferson County was included in territory ceded to the United States by the Potawatomi under the Treaty of 1833. By the end of that year, most of the land in southeastern Wisconsin was surveyed by the federal government. A land office was established in Green Bay in 1835 from which to sell the land, and private land claims began to be made. Most of the earliest land claims in Jefferson County were made by Yankee settlers. Jefferson County was divided from Milwaukee County in 1835, and the county's population doubled from just fewer than 500 to 914 people between 1838 and 1840. Across Jefferson County, many small settlements were established during the late 1830s and 1840s. Several of these experienced sustained growth, incorporated, and grew to become small and medium-sized municipalities like the City of Jefferson while other settlements founded during that same time period failed to grow and remain unincorporated communities that dot the rural landscape like the local settlement of Helenville.<sup>3</sup>

The population of Jefferson County grew rapidly between 1840 and 1850, increasing from less than 1,000 residents to over 15,000. The vast majority of residents lived in family groups on farms at this time. By 1860, the county's population doubled again to over 30,000 residents.

In 1878, the northern 18 sections of the Town of Hebron, including Section 1, where the Beck Farmstead is located, were set apart and allocated to the Town of Jefferson instead. The 1870 Census found a small decrease in the county's population, followed by thirty years of a stabilized population starting in 1880. By this time, the county's farmland was largely developed, and its larger communities slowed in their industrial growth; however, each federal census since the early-twentieth

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Swart, Hannah. Koshkonong Country – A History of Jefferson County Wisconsin. Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin: W. D. Hoard & Sons Co., 1975, pages 16 and 21-22; & The History of Jefferson County Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879; & Ott, John Henry, Jefferson County Wisconsin and its People, page 86.

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century has shown steady growth in the county's population. As of 2010, Jefferson County has a population of 83,693.<sup>4</sup>

Most farms in Jefferson County maintained a few dairy cows during the mid-nineteenth century to provide milk that could be made into cheese and butter for their own personal consumption. But by the 1870s, farmers sought the next stable cash crop after the demise of the wheat and hops crazes of the mid-nineteenth century. Dairy farming proved to be it, as farmers realized that the sale of milk to cheese and butter factories could provide a steady income and would not require the making of these products on the farm themselves. Farmers, especially those in Jefferson County, embraced dairying and converted many existing barns into dairy barns. New dairy barns were constructed on almost every farmstead, along with structures related to dairy farming such as silos and corn cribs.<sup>5</sup> Plat maps from the 1860s indicate the area of the Beck Farmstead, along with some other nearby plots in the northern portion of the Town of Hebron, later the Town of Jefferson, was occupied by the Beck (spelled Bieck) family, immigrant farmers from Germany. Michael and Margaritha Beck (sp. Bieck) purchased the farm from Michael Probst in May of 1865, and the farmhouse and barn were constructed shortly thereafter. By 1872, plat maps clearly show a farmhouse on the Beck property and the name M. Bieck associated with it along with other nearby farm plots. Michael Beck's brothers, George and Andreas Bieck, also settled in Section 1 of the Town of Jefferson in 1856 and 1860, respectively. The spelling on deed records was usually Beck instead of Bieck and Michael and Margaritha Beck's children all used the 'Beck' spelling. Therefore, Beck was used for the name of the farmstead in this nomination.<sup>6</sup>

In 1878, when Michael Beck died, ownership of the farm was transferred to his widow Margaritha and their son Leonhard Beck. Margaritha eventually sold the farm in 1885 to John F. Keller and his wife Anna. Plat maps of Jefferson County from 1887 indicate the forty acre property of the Beck Farmstead was owned by J.F. Keller with an indication of a farmhouse. Most of the Beck family had left Jefferson County by the 1890s.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ott, John Henry, *Jefferson County Wisconsin and its People*, pages 321-322; & *Portrait and Biographical Record of Walworth and Jefferson Counties, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Lake City Publishing Co., 1894; & United States Census Bureau website. <www.census.gov> accessed January 21, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Swart, Hannah. Koshkonong Country, pages 51-53.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Plat Maps and Atlases of Jefferson County; 1862, 1872, 1887, 1899, 1919, 1931, 1941 and 1850. On file at Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives, Madison, WI; & Deed Records for Jefferson County, 1838-1876, 1878, 1885, 1894 and other dates. On file at the Jefferson County Courthouse, Jefferson, WI; & United States Census, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. 1870, 1880, and 1890.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Plat Maps and Atlases of Jefferson County; 1862, 1872, 1887, 1899, 1919, 1931, 1941 and 1850; & United States Census, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. 1870, 1880, and 1890; & Jefferson County Rural Directories; 1899 and 1918. On file at Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives, Madison, WI.

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John F. and Anna Keller and their family had left the farmstead in 1894, when the Martin family owned the farm for a short time. L. Smerick occupied the forty-acre farm in 1899 according to plat maps. However, the farm soon passed on to George F. and Lizetta (Lizzy ne: Bienfang) Schmieg, the son and daughter of two German immigrant farming families in Jefferson County. The farm expanded to eighty acres by 1919.<sup>8</sup> Jefferson County became a focal point in the expanding dairy industry by the early-twentieth century. Almost all farms in the county were dairy farms, selling their milk to creameries and cheese factories throughout the county which became increasingly industrialized. In 1900, there were 3,400 farms in the county, a number that was stable through the 1930s.<sup>9</sup>

In 1917, the State of Wisconsin introduced an improved highway system that included Wisconsin Highway 19, which followed a route across the entire state from Prairie Du Chien to Milwaukee, crossing Jefferson County. With the introduction of the Federal Highway System in 1926, Wisconsin Highway 19 was renumbered and became U.S. Highway 18. The highway, which fronts the Beck Farmstead to the north, became the second most heavily used highway in the state before the development of the Interstate Highway System in the 1950s.<sup>10</sup>

Aerial photography from 1937 indicates that the farm site today is largely the same as it was in 1937, including all of the farm buildings. The Schmieg family continued to operate the former subject farm until at least 1941. By 1950, the farm was owned and operated by Arthur and Dola Brammer, who in turn sold the property to Harvey Bienfang, a local farmer, grandson of Lizzy Bienfang, and veteran of World War II, in the early 1950s. The Bienfang family had been prominent dairy farmers in the Town of Jefferson since the 1851, when the first Bienfang family from Germany settled in Jefferson County. Bienfangs also owned and operated a number of notable businesses in the nearby cities of Jefferson and Fort Atkinson.<sup>11</sup>

With growing opportunities in nearby cities after World War II, the number of farms in Jefferson County slowly began to decrease along with the rate of continuing family farms. By 1964, there were 2,200 farms in the county, with only 1,235 of those being dairy farms.<sup>12</sup> By 1975, the typical family farm operated with a herd of fewer than 50 dairy cows. Due to low milk prices and increasing competition from other states, small farms discontinued dairy farming by the hundreds beginning

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Jefferson County Rural Directories; 1899 and 1918. On file at Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives, Madison, WI; & Plat Maps and Atlases of Jefferson County; 1887, 1899, 1919, 1931, 1941 and 1850.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Plat Maps and Atlases of Jefferson County; 1862, 1872, 1887, 1899, 1919, 1931, 1941 and 1850; & Deed Records for Jefferson County; 1838-1876, 1878, 1885, 1894 and other dates. On file at the Jefferson County Courthouse, Jefferson, WI.
<sup>10</sup> Swart, Hannah. *Koshkonong Country*, pages 26-27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder." Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office website. <a href="http://www.sco.wisc.edu/whaifinder.html">http://www.sco.wisc.edu/whaifinder.html</a> accessed January, 2016; & Jefferson County Rural Directories;

<sup>1899</sup> and 1918; & Plat Maps and Atlases of Jefferson County; 1887, 1899, 1919, 1931, 1941 and 1850.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Swart, Hannah. Koshkonong Country – A History of Jefferson County Wisconsin, pages 51-53.

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around that time. By 2007, the number of dairy farms was as low as 158, meaning nearly ninety percent of the county's dairy farms since 1964 ceased operations.

According to the recollections of Garfield Bienfang, the present owner of the Beck Farmstead, the farm was a typical, if not idyllic, family dairy farm in Jefferson County. His father, Harvey Bienfang, owned 12 to 14 dairy cows along with heifers and a wide variety of other farm animals including chickens, hogs, and ducks. Crops were rotated and dominated by feed for the dairy cows. Garfield Bienfang was born in 1946, served in the army from 1966 to 1968, and later moved to Illinois to work in the automotive industry and finance. He and his wife Janet married in 1974, and although the couple lives in Naperville, Illinois, they visit the farmstead regularly. Garfield took over ownership of the farm in 1990 when his father passed away and has worked to maintain it since. The surrounding farmland is presently rented out for agricultural production.<sup>13</sup>

#### Architecture

The Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead is locally significant in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of a late- nineteenth and early- twentieth century farmstead. All of these buildings are vernacular in design and possess a high level of integrity. The Gabled Ell and Agricultural Outbuildings style sections of the Architecture Study Unit of *Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan* (CRMP) date the occurrence and popularity of these building forms in Wisconsin from approximately 1860 to 1910. Such buildings, especially in a group, are relatively rare given their relatively decreased use as farm buildings.

A farmstead is understood as a collection of associated farm buildings, which may not be individually eligible on their own. Recent architectural and intensive survey reports for all four quadrants of Jefferson County identified a total of 39 potentially eligible farmsteads: six in the Northwest Quadrant, seventeen in the Northeast Quadrant, eight in the Southeast Quadrant, and eight in the Southwest Quadrant, including the Beck Farmstead. Only 34 farmsteads in Wisconsin are presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a number of these listings are under Criteria A and B for an association with historical events or lives of significant persons, rather than Criterion C for the property's architecture. There are no farmsteads in Jefferson County listed in the National Register of Historic Places. While the Beck Farmstead is relatively small for a farmstead, it possesses a high level of integrity and a holistic architectural and historic context. The period of significance begins in 1865, with the purchase of the farm and the construction of the farmhouse and barn, to 1937 by which date the development of the farmstead was complete.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Bienfang, Garfield. Personal Interview with Owner, January 22, 2016.

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## Gabled Ell

The Gabled Ell form is one of the most ubiquitous vernacular house forms built in Wisconsin from 1860 to 1910. The name is attributed to all buildings that are cruciform, "L," or "T" shaped in plan. Gabled Ells generally appear as a front-gabled main section and a side-gabled wing (or ell) perpendicular to the main section, with the exception of the cruciform version which appears as a central Front Gable section flanked by perpendicular wings on each side.

Examples of the Gabled Ell form exhibit a variety of combinations of stories amongst its multiple wings, although a one-and-one-half story main block with a one-story side wing is most common. Constrained by generally narrow urban lot sizes, Gabled Ells appear more commonly in rural or small communities. Exterior surfaces are most often covered with clapboards; however, brick and stone are not uncommon. A porch with either a shed or hipped roof is most always located at the ell created by the junction of the two wings and has often been enclosed. The main entry door, located on the porch, is commonly located on either or both walls. The only decorative elements of the Gabled Ell are generally brackets, turned posts, and a balustrade on the porch, making it the most visually interesting element of the otherwise simple form. Early examples may exhibit modest references to the Greek Revival or Italianate styles.<sup>14</sup> The Beck farmhouse is an excellent example of a Gabled Ell farmhouse.

#### Agricultural Resources

The term Astylistic Utilitarian is used to describe buildings and other structures built for their utility alone and cannot be attributed to any other architectural styles or forms. Generally reserved for service and outbuildings, these buildings and structures were typically constructed with minimal architectural detail, and their form was dictated by functional requirements. The following is a list of agricultural buildings found on the Beck Farmstead.

#### Bank Barn

Bank barns are large or medium-sized, rectangular two-level barns in which the upper level is used for hay, feed, implement, or vehicle storage; and the lower is used for animals, often dairy cows as farms transitioned to dairying. The bank barn's identifying feature is that its lower level is constructed into the rise of a hillside, with a large door on the upper level opening directly onto the rise. Bank barns generally feature a masonry lower level with the upper level constructed with board, board and batten, or log siding. In Wisconsin, some examples may be found constructed entirely of stone or brick. Bank barns may feature a symmetrical or asymmetrical gable, gambrel, or arched roof. Ventilation cupolas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vols. I, II, & III, A Manual for Historic Properties*. Madison, WI: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, page Architecture 3-5.

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and dormers are common. Windows or vents, commonly louvered, are typically found on the second level. One or more entrances and small windows are generally found in the end walls of the lower level. The long wall opposite the hillside may feature a slight extension of the upper floor cantilevered over the lower, or supported by posts, providing a sheltered area for animals and usually containing one or more doors for animal entry. Older, gable roofed examples may have originally been threshing barns that have been raised to accommodate a milking parlor below with hay loft above.<sup>15</sup>

#### Machine Shed

Long, low sheds in which to store machinery were constructed on most farms. Built of frame construction, with a shed or gable roof, they typically are rectangular in plan and feature sliding or hinged doors on one of the long sides.<sup>16</sup>

#### Granary and Chicken House

Granaries were commonly built on farms during Wisconsin's earliest years of settlement when wheat dominated the state's agricultural production; they were rarely built after the wheat era. Commonly constructed of wood frame, masonry, half-timber, and log, granaries can be found in a variety of materials. Granaries are generally small buildings, square or rectangular in plan, with a gable or shed roof; some were constructed on blocks or pilings. A single doorway can be located on any side. Many were built with sloped walls.<sup>17</sup>

#### Corn Crib

Corn cribs are generally rectangular structures with horizontal, wood slat walls for ventilation. Walls were frequently sloped with a narrower base. Roofs are commonly gable or shed, but gambrel examples can be found. They were often constructed on blocks or pilings to prevent the nesting of rodents underneath. Corn cribs vary in size, with the earliest examples being rather small. More modern corn cribs can be constructed of metal.<sup>18</sup>

#### Milk House

Milk houses are multi-purpose dairy buildings used to wash cans and equipment and store milk temporarily. Small buildings constructed of wood, brick, concrete block, or stone, they are generally

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, page Architecture 5-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, page Architecture 5-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, page Architecture 5-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, page Architecture 5-5.

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attached or located close to a farm's dairy barn.<sup>19</sup>

#### Privy/Outhouse

Small latrine buildings, commonly referred to as outhouses, were generally constructed of wood and located near the house; however stone and brick examples can be found. They typically feature a gable roof, small windows or vents high in the gable wall, and a clean-out trap door on the rear wall.<sup>20</sup>

#### Silo

Silos are tall, narrow structures used for the storage of grain or silage. While silos are typical features on farms, the silo on the subject farm has been demolished.

#### Conclusion

The Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead is nominated at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a fine example of an intact farmstead in rural Jefferson County. The farm, including a farmhouse, bank barn, machine shed, granary, milk house, corn crib, privy, and flagpole maintains remarkable integrity and quality in its organization, materials, and appearance. While taken individually each of these resources is merely an example of its respective agricultural building type, taken as a whole they represent a late- nineteenth and early- twentieth century Wisconsin farmstead. The Beck Farmstead is one of Jefferson County's most architecturally intact historic farmsteads.

#### **Statement of Archeological Potential**

This area of the state, with its numerous lakes and rivers, was home to considerable Native American activities. Earthen Woodland Culture effigy mounds can be found across Jefferson County, particularly along waterways and lakes. While it is likely that the construction of the extant resources would have greatly disturbed archeological artifacts, it is highly likely that Native American resources may be extant within the boundaries of the property. The archaeological potential on this property remains unassessed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, page Architecture 5-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, page Architecture 5-6.

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#### **Preservation Activities**

Thanks to its history of restoration and good maintenance, the Beck Farmstead is an excellent example of an historic farmstead. The current owner has been proactive in protecting and caring for the historic resources contained therein. In listing this property, the owner hopes to obtain the opportunity to utilize historic tax credits and/or other incentives to maintain their property.

#### Acknowledgments

The Certified Local Government program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849C Street NW; Washington, DC 20240. The activity that is the subject of this Nomination has been financed entirely with Federal Funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society. Nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society.

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Beck, Michael and Margaritha, Farmstead Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, WI

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The property that is the subject of this nomination consists of seven contributing resources and one non-contributing resource, all of which are sited on the extreme northeast corner of the property associated with the southwest portion of the northwest quadrant of section 1, range 15, and township 6 in the Town of Jefferson in Jefferson County. The boundary of the nominated property begins at a point at the northeast corner of the farm parcel, the boundary line follows a straight line toward the south approximately 435 feet, turns 90 degrees to the west and continues west approximately 225 feet, turns 90 degrees to the north and continues north approximately 435 feet, then turns east and continues on a slightly curving line to the point of beginning at the northeast corner of the property.

The boundary for the Beck Farmstead as described above is clearly delineated on the accompanying sketch map.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary encloses a 2.00-acre parcel which is a sub-set of land located within the current legal parcel for the property. The northern boundary of this parcel is the right-of-way of US Highway 18. The eastern, western, and southern edges of the boundary abut extraneous agricultural land. The agricultural land, though associated with the property, is not included within the boundary of the resources included in this nomination. These boundaries, part of a larger farm parcel, are made evident by the edges of the wooded and mown sections of the property around the buildings of the farmstead. The result is a tight boundary with as little extraneous acreage as possible.

# United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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Section <u>photos</u> Page <u>1</u>	Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, WI
Name of Property: City or Vicinity: County: State: Name of Photographer: Date of Photographs: Location of Original Digital Files:	Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead Town of Jefferson Jefferson Wisconsin Rowan Davidson October 2, 2015 Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Madison, WI

**Beck Michael and Margaritha Farmstead** 

Photo 1 of 12: (WI_JeffersonCounty_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead	_0001)
Farmhouse, camera facing south.	

- Photo 2 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0002) Farmhouse, camera facing west.
- Photo 3 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0003) Farmhouse and yard, camera facing south.
- Photo 4 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0004) Machine Shed, Barn, Granary, Flagpole, camera facing south.
- Photo 5 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0005) Machine Shed, Barn, Granary, camera facing south.
- Photo 6 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0006) Machine Shed, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 7 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0007) Barn, Milk House, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 8 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0008) Barn, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 9 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0009) Granary & Chicken House, Corn Crib, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 10 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0010) Corn Crib, Granary and Chicken House, East Facade, camera facing east.
- Photo 11 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0011) Privy, Corn Crib, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 12 of 12: (WI\_JeffersonCounty\_MichaelandMargarithaBeckFarmstead\_0012) Milk House, camera facing southeast.

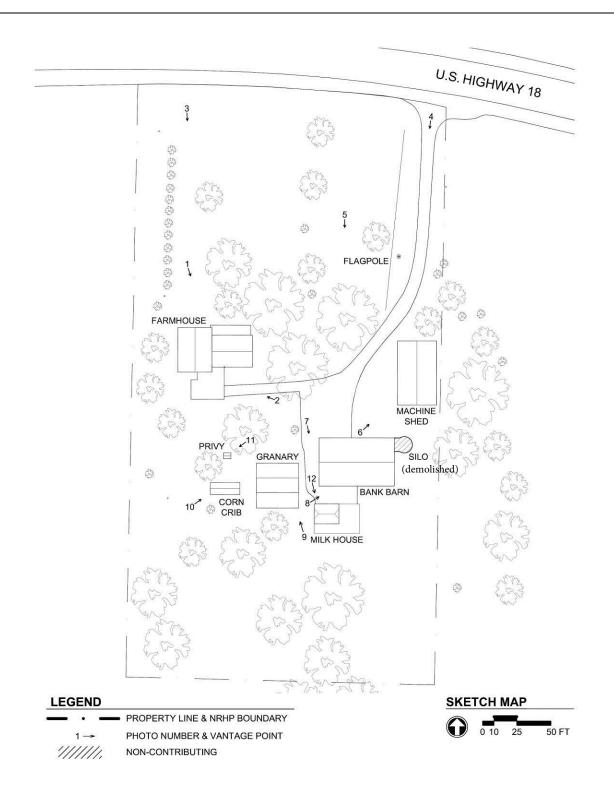
# United States Department of the Interior

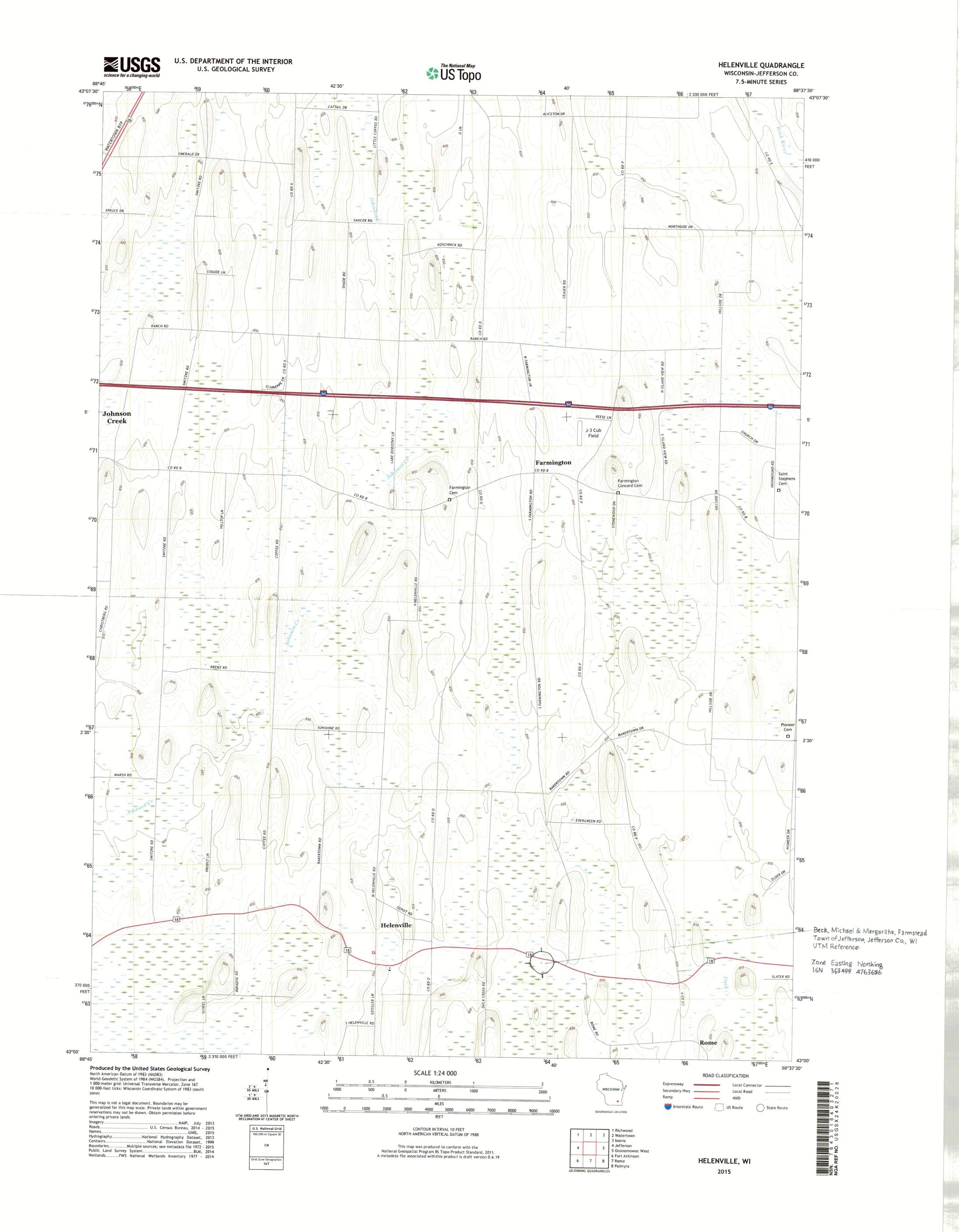
National Park Service

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#### Section <u>sketch map</u> Page <u>1</u>

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Michael & Margaritha Beck Farmstead, Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, 4 of 12



Michael & Margaritha Beck Farmstead, Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, 5 of 12



Michael & Margaritha Beck Farmstead, Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, 6 of 12



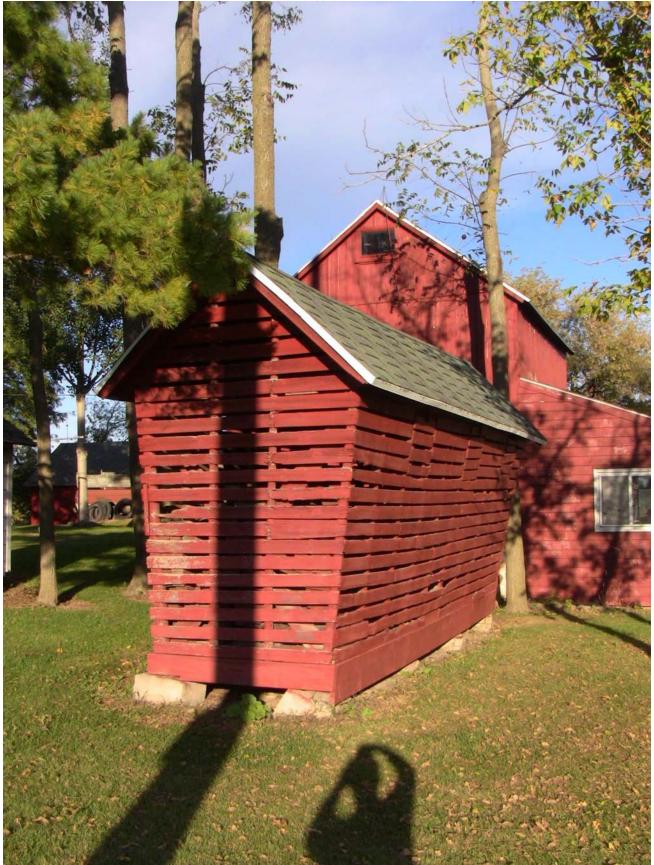
Michael & Margaritha Beck Farmstead, Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, 7 of 12



Michael & Margaritha Beck Farmstead, Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, 8 of 12



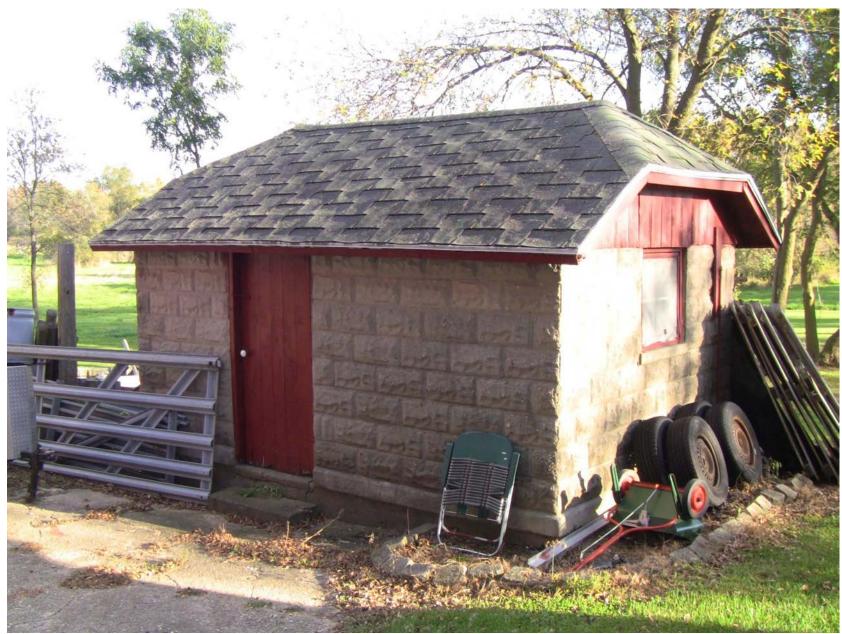
Michael & Margaritha Beck Farmstead, Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, 9 of 12



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Michael & Margaritha Beck Farmstead, Town of Jefferson, Jefferson County, 12 of 12

























## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination		
Property Name:	Beck, Michael and Margaritha, Farmstead		
Multiple Name:			
State & County:	WISCONSIN, Jefferson		
Date Recei 12/22/20		Date of Weekly List: 2/9/2018	
Reference number:	: SG100002092		
Nominator:	State		
Reason For Review:	N:		
X Accept	Return Reject <b>2/5/2018</b> _ Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:	All procedural requirements have been met; The nomination form is ade The nomination form is technically and professionally correct and suffici		
Recommendation/ Criteria	ACCEPT		
Reviewer Edson	Beall Discipline Historian		
Telephone	Date		
DOCUMENTATION	N: 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.



TO: Keeper National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination



The following materials are submitted on this <u>Twenty first</u> day of <u>December 2017</u>, for the nomination of the Michael and Margaritha Beck Farmstead to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 12 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)
- 1 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
  - Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

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: