

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000614

Date Listed: 5/31/88

Bell, Marcus Sears, Farm
Property Name

St. Croix
County

WI
State

New Richmond MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

5/31/88
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

The correct count of resources is 3 contributing buildings, and 1 contributing structure.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

City, Village or Town: New Richmond		County: St. Croix	Surveyor: Stager Roberts	Date: 1983 1986	Heritage Drive 1100
Street Address: 1100 Heritage Drive			USGS Quad and UTM Reference: New Richmond South, Wis. 15/536590/4995120	Acreage: 1.65 acres	
Current Name & Use: New Richmond Preservation Society HQs			Current Owner: New Richmond Preservation Society, Inc.		
Film Roll No. SC27	Affix Contact Prints		Current Owner's Address: P. O. Box 184 New Richmond, WI. 54017		
Negative No. 24			Legal Description: SW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ Sec. 2, com SW ¹ / ₄ Sec. 2, S. along south line of SW ¹ / ₄ N a LG E. line ST 761.62' to POB N. 323.74' S. 65 Deg. E 50.90' S. 71 Deg. E 157.30' S. 47 Deg. E 50.31' S 254.89' N 81 Deg. W. 235.81' Along N Right of Way Ln. Prop St. to POB		
Facade Orient. W					

Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
2 farmhouse and 4 Marcus Sears Bell Farm; contrib. outbldgs.	A				
Dates of Construction /Alteration 1884, 1982-84	Source A, B				
Architect and/or Builder:	Source				

<p>3 <u>Architectural Significance</u></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Engineering</p> <p><input type="radio"/> None</p>	<p>4 <u>Historical Significance</u></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> None Period of significance: _____</p>
<p>Architectural Description and Significance:</p> <p>See Attached</p>	<p>Historical Background and Significance:</p> <p>See Attached</p>
<p>Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	

<p>5 <u>Sources of Information (Reference to Above)</u></p> <p>A <u>St. Croix Republican</u>, 12/19/1883; 6/4/1884; 7/2/1884</p> <p>B Interview with Lynn Wood, Past-President, <u>New Richmond Preservation Society</u>, 1986</p> <p>C <u>Easton-Hist. of the St. Croix Valley</u>, 1909, Vol. 2, pp. 862-864</p> <p>D 1897 Plat Map</p> <p>E <u>Wisconsin State Gazetteer</u>, 1895-96, R. L. Polk, and Co.</p>	<p>6 <u>Representation in Previous Surveys</u></p> <p><input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> LDMK <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP _____</p> <p><input type="radio"/> other: _____</p> <p>7 <u>Condition</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> excellent <input type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins</p> <p>8 <u>District:</u> _____</p> <p><input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing</p> <p>9 <u>Opinion of National Register Eligibility</u></p> <p>date: <u>7/21/86</u> initials: <u>nk</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown</p> <p><input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local</p>
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NEW ALUMINUM INTENSIVE SURVEY City Map 27-24

Record No. L

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of Property: BELL, MARCUS SEARS, FARM
Address: 1100 Heritage Drive
City: New Richmond

Owner: New Richmond Preservation Soc. Date: 1/11/88
Owner's address: P.O. Box 184, New Richmond, WI
County: St. Croix (Code # 109)

*160 NRHP Certification

(a) _____ (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____

165 NRHP Certification Date

(a) _____ (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____

*170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name

Historic Resources of New Richmond

180 NRHP List Name Bell, Marcus Sears Farm

*200 Level of Significance Local

*190 District Classification n/a

*210 Applicable Criteria C

*215 Criteria Considerations

B - Moved Building

*220 Area of Significance

Architecture

230 Period of Significance 1884-1920*

*Dates of construction contributing resources.

60 Verbal Boundary Description

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2; Comm SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2 S
along south line of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ N alg E line ST 761.62
to P-O-B; N 323.74' S 65Deg. E 50.00' S71
Deg E 157.30' S47Deg E 50.31' S254.89' N81
Deg. W 235.81' along N Right of way Ln.
Prop st. to P-O-B.

70 USGS Quad Map New Richmond South WI

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99/999999/9999999)
15 / 536590 / 4995120

85 Listed Acreage 1.65 acres

340 Review Board Date _____

Number of Resources:

Four contributing Buildings
One Contributing Structure (silo)

*use code tables for response

Record: L Address: 1100 Heritage DriveDESCRIPTION

This property consists of the farmhouse and four contributing outbuildings.

Clapboard is the exterior fabric on the two story Italianate farmhouse. Endboards are pilastered with flat capitals. The plan is basically rectangular. The house has a hipped roof with gabled roof on the rear one story summer kitchen. An ell to the north extends about eight feet and has a hipped roof. A narrow one foot ell extends to the south with a two story angled bay window and gabled roof. The eave line has a plain frieze and large scroll sawn Italianate paired brackets between two decorative scroll sawn smaller brackets in a pair-one-one rhythm. The original foundation was stone, but the new foundation is concrete cinder block.

The front facade has three windows on the second floor and a door on the north with two windows to the south. Windows are two-over-two with wood four-over-four wooden storms. Most window heads on the house are pointed. On the first story is a double door with upper lights at the north end and two large windows to the south. A full one story porch with slightly sloped hipped roof stretches across the front story with sawn and turned porch columns. Porch columns have square wood bases and capitals. Sawn wood scrolling decorates the tops. The turned porch balustrade has been removed, but a few balusters exist and will be used as a pattern to duplicate the original balustrade. The porch has a wide frieze under the eaves and single scroll sawn brackets ending in pendants which project over the frieze.

In the north ell are two front (west) facing windows with pointed heads similar to the front windows on the second story. Two windows west of the ell on the north facade have horse-shoe shaped Italianate drip molds. A rear one story screened porch on the north facade with a flat roof fell off when the house was moved in 1982 and sat on blocks for two years. It was not original to the house as built in 1884.

The south facade is dominated by a two story angled bay window with a shingled pent roof between the stories under a gabled roof in the attic. Eaves on the bay at the first and second floors are single-bracketted. The bay windows are surrounded by vertical and horizontal wood panelling where the bay meets the main walls and under the first story windows in the spandrel area.

The interior of the house has a period staircase leading to the second floor with an Eastlake newell post. Ceilings are high and floors are pine and maple. Wood trim around doors and windows and between rooms are grooved and have corner blocks with round "bullet" centers. Baseboards are high. All wood trim in the major rooms appear to be original to the house. There is a small kitchen in the southeast rear of the house which has new plumbing and cabinetry probably dating rom around 1940. The New Richmond Heritage Society has repainted and papered in period wall papers most of the rooms on the first and second floor. Their intention is continue restoration and furnish some of the rooms with period furniture.

DESCRIPTION, continued

There are four outbuildings and two silos on the property. To the north of the present location of the house is a concrete slab with a concrete silo. It was attached to a pig shed on the west which has been razed. The main barn is gambrel roofed with wood shingles. It is rectangular and has vertical plank siding. An attached tile and concrete with wood silo is located on the west and sliding barn doors with steps up to the main floor are located south of the silo. The entrance to the ground floor of the barn is from the south. The barn is post and beam. Two metal ventilators are located at the north and south ends of the gables. Attached to the northwest corner of the barn is a frame one story gabled milk house. East of the barn's north wall is a gabled one and a half story wood frame grainery. Gables on this structure run east-west. The age of these outbuildings is unknown, but the barn and grainery appear to date from ca. 1890-1910. This would suggest that they were built before Marcus S. Bell moved into town in 1897 or during the 1897-1905 period when his son, Ernest Bell, ran the farm. The silos are undoubtedly later, probably constructed ca. 1920-30 when the Tierney family owned the farm.

In 1982, the Bell Farmhouse was in immediate danger of demolition to make way for a motel facing South Knowles Street. The New Richmond Preservation Society found money to have the house put up on blocks and spent the next two years raising money to build a new foundation approximately 300 feet southeast of its original location. Originally, the house sat approximately 150 feet directly in front (west) of the large barn. It now sits approximately 80 feet southeast of the barn. The pig shed, which was falling down, was removed. A newer garage which sat south of the house was demolished. The original drive onto the property came off S. Knowles south of the house and ended in a semi-circular drive at the rear of the house in the area between the house and barn. In the Spring of 1986, landscaping was begun around the house grounds. Foundation shrubs and bushes have been planted along with flower beds and several young trees. A white picket fence has been added to the front of the house. Except for the missing porch balustrade (which will be remanufactured and replaced), the house has been restored to its appearance when the Bell family owned it. It sits on an open lot surrounded by grass. None of the extant outbuildings were moved in 1982. The new motel is located on S. Knowles northwest of the barn approximately 250 feet. See sketch map.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Marcus Sears Bell was born in Newhall, New York in 1844 and came to St. Croix County in 1860. He initially worked with James Johnston in Richmond Township running teams and operating a threshing machine business. In 1869, Bell bought 120 acres of land south of New Richmond and property in town. The acreage south of town became the nucleus of his farm. He married James' sister, Katherine Johnston, in 1870 and the Bells lived in town until their farm was completed in 1884. Marcus Bell's family was originally from Vermont and Ohio and Katherine's family was of Canadian and Irish descent. Mr. Bell was an active citizen and one of the largest real estate owners in New Richmond. Beginning with 120 acres for his farm, his holdings grew to 320 acres south of town and scattered lots in town. Bell and his family lived in

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, continued

the farmhouse and operated the farm from 1884 until 1897 when the family moved into the new house at 350 West First Street. Their son, Ernest Bell then moved into the farmhouse (St. Croix Republican, 3/21/97; 4/15/97; 5/27/97; 6/3/97; 7/29/97; 8/12/97), and lived there until 1905 (The Republican Voice, 4/1/1905). Marcus Bell was actively acquiring real estate at the time of his death in December, 1904.

Bell was the last president of the village board of trustees in 1884 when the city of New Richmond was incorporated and stepped down because his farm was south of the city limits. In fact the Bell farmstead did not become part of the incorporated limits of the city of New Richmond until 1982.

The 1895-96 Wisconsin State Gazetteer listed Bell as a cattle breeder one mile south of the city just before he completed his new house in town. After the 1899 tornado, Bell was on the building committee and lost 8 to 10 houses and 3 or 4 stores in the storm. At his death, Bell had been a school board member for five years and was a city alderman from the First Ward (Easton, vol. 2, 862-864).

The St. Croix Republican followed the progress of the Bell farmhouse in 1883 and 1884. On December 12, 1883, the paper reported that Bell was hauling materials for his farm. By June 4, 1884, the frame of the house was up and the paper noted that the house "is near enough to be claimed in town." In July, 1884 the house was almost completed and Bell had to resign his post as village president (7/2/84).

SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Bell farmhouse is an outstanding local example of the Italianate style in farm houses from the early 1880s. The paired eave brackets, hood molding on the west windows, angled bay, pilastered cornerboards, and slightly pitched hipped roof are textbook examples of Italianate detailing. Italianate styling was very popular in New Richmond before 1890, but the best examples of the style have been altered almost beyond recognition. Only the Kell House at 215 S. Green Avenue comes close to the Bell farmhouse as a good example of the style. Italianate houses at 222 West First Street and 251 W. Second Street (see district nomination) have been too altered to stand as examples of the style. The Bell farmhouse is an instructive point of beginning in any explanation of alterations to these other once-fine examples of the style.

INCLUSION OF EXEMPTED PROPERTIES

There are several factors in deciding to include an exempted property: i.e., the farmhouse. Although the outbuildings were in no danger, a group of local citizens learned on 48 hour notice that the farmhouse was to be burned to make way for a new motel, AmericInn. In high gear, they persuaded the owners to let them put the house up on blocks and move it a short distance (approximately 250 feet to the southeast of its original site). The house is still on the original Bell farm and is still associated with its outbuildings. It has been moved only a short distance. It now sits on a similar site. Had it not been moved, the house would have been destroyed and New Richmond would have lost the only fine example of Italianate architecture remaining in the city. The property meets the criteria exception as a building removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for its architectural value.

M. S. BELL FARM

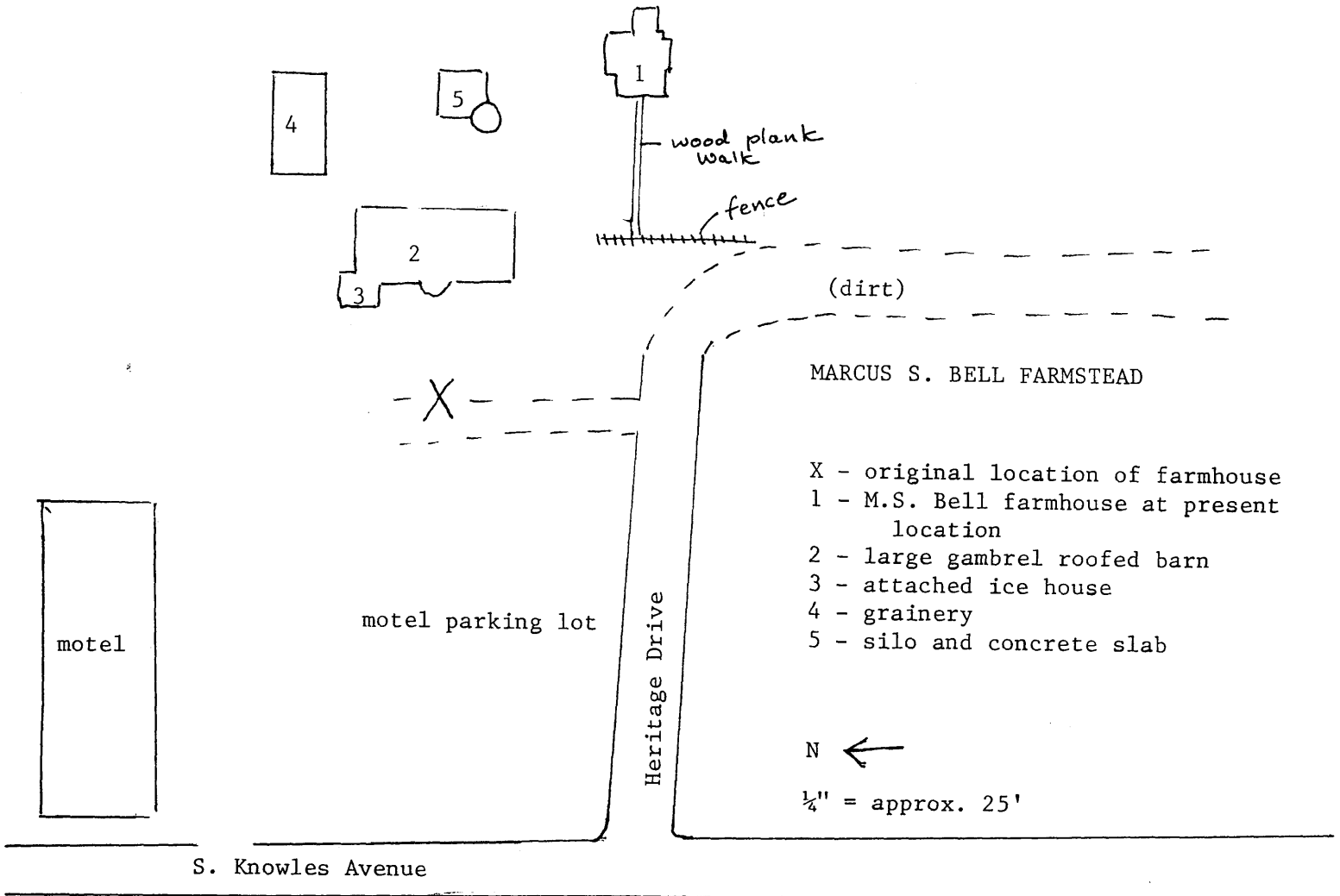
Record: L

Address: 1100Heritage Drive

The farm outbuildings are part of the nomination and considered contributing elements because of their value in representing typical agricultural support buildings common to the physical setting of such rural farmsteads. The outbuildings represent the continued development of the rural areas of the community. Due to annexation and enlargement of the community of New Richmond, this once rural site is now within the corporate limits of the city and represents the best remaining resource complex tied to the early agricultural base that depended on the community as a market and supply center. Taken as a whole the complex presents a much fuller historic picture of a type and period of development within the New Richmond area.

M.S. BELL FARM

L



MARCUS S. BELL FARMSTEAD

- X - original location of farmhouse
- 1 - M.S. Bell farmhouse at present location
- 2 - large gambrel roofed barn
- 3 - attached ice house
- 4 - grainery
- 5 - silo and concrete slab

N ←

1/4" = approx. 25'

S. Knowles Avenue

Heritage Drive

motel

motel parking lot

4

5

1

3

2

(dirt)

X