

PH# 366269

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 15 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 3 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**\*\*** HISTORIC

Hutzler's Barn

AND/OR COMMON

Hutzler's Barn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Manitou Island

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Michigan

VICINITY OF

CODE

26

COUNTY

Leelanau

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

68102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Leelanau County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leland

STATE

Michigan

49654

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

DATE

July 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State of Michigan, Michigan History Division

CITY, TOWN

Lansing

STATE

Michigan

48918

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From oral history accounts Hutzler's Barn was built sometime between 1870 and 1880. It was built by George Johann Hutzler and his sons George and John. It is an example of a functional building, built for an island farm, that was for the most part self-supporting. The distance from the old Coast Guard Station, now the Park Ranger Station, is approximately two and three-quarters miles northwest. The Hutzler Barn is a two-story swine barn. The top story was used for the storage of hay, which also acted as insulation from the cold in the winter protecting the swine who were in a half story area.

The foundation for the barn was constructed from huge, wooden, hand-formed beams; some are as large as sixteen inches square. These beams are notched at the end to form the corners of the barn. These corner joints were made with a hewed square notch and held together with spikes. The interior area was divided into sections by huge beams across the shorter length of the barn. Each section has its own entrance. The three sections of the barn are created by two troughs and hand-formed beams supported over the trough. These beams are eighteen inches above the trough and form the wooden trough the supports for wooden doors. These wooden doors have leather hinges and open up into the center section used for feeding. The feed was stored in the center section and the swine were penned on either side. The wooden troughs were carved out to hold the feed.

Each side section is divided into one-third and two-thirds areas. The sow was put in the one-third area and her piglets were able to run from this section to the two-thirds section for protection from the mother who was too big to move into the two-thirds area.

The barn has a wooden foundation and is made of handformed wooden beams notched and spiked together. The weathered wood siding is attached to this framework with square nails. The roof rafters are made of poles from small trees and notched at the ends to fit the supporting cross beams. The roofing boards are now covered with tar paper.

The Hutzler Barn is located on land homesteaded by George Johann Hutzler and comprised at one time by two quarter sections of land (320 acres), this land cleared in part by Hutzler and his sons for farming. The area has rolling hills with open grassy areas and trees. The barn faces the wooded area on two sides. The other two sides face the open grassy field. The land is now owned by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, a part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES *1870 - 1880*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *George Johann Hutzler*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hutzler Barn is the oldest remains of an island farm community that was famous for its unique isolation which made it possible to grow Rosen Rye seeds and Michelite pea bean seeds. The South Manitou farm community also represented an important role played by the farmers in the commerce of Lake Michigan. The modest barn was built with hand-hewn lumber using locally available materials on an island where shelter was needed from the harsh winters.

South Manitou's main economic activities have been farming, fishing, lumbering, trading, and tourism. Over the years the most reliable and consistent economic activity was farming. Farming brought international recognition to the island because of the ability to grow pure seed without the threat of cross pollination. Though the barn was not directly related to the seed operations, it was part of the farm and the island community which became famous because of the seed operations. The island farmers were credited with bringing back the pure Rosen Rye seed, which at one time was Michigan's greatest field crop. In 1920, George Hutzler's (step brother of George Johann Hutzler) handpicked sample of rye won the first prize at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. Between 1920 and 1927 the Hutzler's missed first prize at this show only twice. There were a total of seven farms growing Rosen Rye seed on the island. They were known in agricultural circles as a certified source of absolutely pure Rosen Rye and orders came in from as far as California and South Africa.

In the early days of the Traverse Bay Region South Manitou Island played an important role because all economic activities of that area depended on water transportation. South Manitou was the earliest of that region to be settled in 1835. It became an integral part of the Great Lakes shipping because of its deep harbor, lumber for fuel, and farms for supplies. The mainland was a wilderness until the 1850s and people would first stop on the island before they would head for the mainland to homestead or explore. The settling of the mainland occurred dramatically in the 1860s.

(Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Littell, Edmund M., 100 Years in Leelanau, Leland, Michigan; The Print Shop, 1965  
 Vent, Myron H., South Manitou Island, From Pioneer Settlement to National Park, Springfield, Va.; The Goodway Press Inc. 1973  
 (Continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,6,9	7,5,0	4,9	8,7	3,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Koenig, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Art Department

DATE

10/21/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Michigan State University

(507) 353-9046

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

East Lansing, Michigan 48823

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Michael J. DeLoach*  
 Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 60 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Charles A. ...*

TITLE

DATE *June 7, 1977*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. J. ...*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*1-3-78*

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*1-3-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The first man to officially homestead on South Manitou was the builder of the barn, George Johann Hutzler. He discovered the island by working on one of the ships which stopped for lumber and supplies. Mr. William Burton, the original settler of the island, gave George J. Hutzler a job cutting wood but Hutzler's plans for the future were to farm on the island. He thought that the ships would buy almost anything he could grow. After getting established George brought his family to the island in 1856. As soon as the Homestead Act of 1862 was passed, Hutzler took the boat to the mainland and then walked thirty miles to Traverse City to claim the land he had staked out.

In 1903, Sprague's History of Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties, Michigan described South Manitou Island as having a dock, wood for steamers, fine farming, fruit land, and a place where summer visitors would pass the time. At one time potatoes were the principle crop. Walter Havighurst, in The Long Ships Passing: The Story of the Great Lakes (1943) described South Manitou's relationship with the Great Lake shipping in the following manner. A typical ship would take a load of posts from South Manitou and sell them at Milwaukee, then take on a load of flour to sell to storekeepers on the Manitou Islands, where the ship would take on a load of potatoes and take them to Chicago.

The vernacular architectural tradition of the Hutzler Barn represents a time when buildings were not built from published plans. It was designed in the builder's mind and then built from local materials. The Hutzler Barn is characteristic of other sow barns of the time, using the animals known needs as a guide. The solution at the same time is unique. It is unique given the island's relative isolation, not following a published plan, and using hand-hewn materials. The barn, built with local materials, was functional and without ornamentation. It represents a period when all the inhabitants on the island had to work to survive. At the same time the island excelled in agricultural circles. The isolation that made the agriculture community famous also created the atmosphere for the local residents to be resourceful.

The Great Lakes shipping brought the island life. It also ended farming on the island with its decline. With the disappearance of schooners and steamers and the coming of larger vessels, the farmers found it impossible to dispose of their products with a profit and eventually moved off the island.

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ITEM NUMBER

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Lord, Russell, "My Visit With the Island Farmers Who Grow the Best  
Rosen Rye in the Country", Farm and Fireside, December, 1925.

Havighurst, Walter, The Long Ships Passing: The Story of the Great  
Lakes, New York: Macmillan, 1943.

Sprague, E. L. & Smith, G. N., Sprague's History of Grand Traverse and  
Leelanau Counties, Michigan, B. F. Bowen, Publisher, 1903.