

5G3061

NPS Form 10-900

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

OMB No. 10024-0018



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 Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
other names/site number Albertus Knapp Farmstead

**2. Location**

street & number W1420 State Highway 59 N/A not for publication  
city or town Town of Palmyra N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Jefferson code 055 zip code 53156

**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

9/7/2018  
Date

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

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: for Alexia Abeendky

Date of Action: 10/29/2018

5. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-headers for contributing and noncontributing resources.

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/single dwelling

Agricultural/storage

Agriculture/animal facility

Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Agriculture/Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

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)

Architecture

Art

### Period of Significance

1860-1950 (Architecture)

1881 (Art)

### Significant Dates

1881

### 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.)

**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:**

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

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.4 acres

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

1	<u>16</u>	<u>368780</u>	<u>4748650</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>368720</u>	<u>4748380</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>36880</u>	<u>4748380</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>368720</u>	<u>4748520</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>	Leah Penzkover (with Carol Cartwright)			<b>date</b>	3/22/18
<b>organization</b>				<b>telephone</b>	262-951-5498
<b>street &amp; number</b>	1310 O'Keeffe Ave. #313			<b>zip code</b>	53590
<b>city or town</b>	Sun Prairie	<b>state</b>	WI		

Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
Name of Property

Jefferson 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	Carol Calkins	<b>date</b>	3/22/18
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	262-495-2432
<b>street &amp; number</b>	W1420 State Highway 59	<b>zip code</b>	53156
<b>city or town</b>	Palmyra	<b>state</b>	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.

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Section 7 Page 1Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
Town of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

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Start description on line below

**DESCRIPTION**

The Knapp - Calkins Farmstead is a historic farmstead located in the town of Palmyra, just west of the village of Palmyra, but very near to the village's industrial park. Palmyra Township lies in eastern Jefferson County, in southeastern Wisconsin. The farmstead, located along State Highway 59, sits on 3.4 acres, and is part of a larger agricultural parcel, all having the same owner. State Highway 59 leads into the village of Palmyra, where it becomes Main Street. Even though it is located near Palmyra, a small village, the farmstead retains its rural setting.

The topography of the site is relatively flat, with a slight rise toward the south and east. On the farmstead, large expanses of mown lawn surround most of the buildings. The landscaping is punctuated with many mature trees along with shrubs and planting beds near buildings. A gravel driveway runs through the center of the farmstead from State Highway 59 to the south. The driveway circles around to access the farmstead buildings to the northwest of the house. A parking area sits off the driveway to the west of the house.

Eight buildings make up the farmstead; seven contribute to the significance of the property, and one is non-contributing. The non-contributing building is northeast of the contributing buildings. Each building will be described below. There are two contributing structures; both are silos.

**Period of Significance**

The period of significance corresponds to the dates of construction of the contributing buildings on the farm, 1860-1950.

**Farmhouse (1881, addition 1979); Contributing****Exterior, General Characteristics**

The farmhouse has a rectangular plan consisting of three sections: a main block, rear ell, and rear modern addition. Each section will be described in this order below. The house is a two-story Italianate style dwelling constructed of cream brick on a stone foundation and having an asphalt roof. The front of the farmhouse has a hipped roof with a large cupola, having tripartite window openings on each side. The openings are round-arched and the central window is significantly taller, influencing the form of the roofline; the eave of the cupola mimics the curve of the center window by curving above it. The main roof has wide overhanging eaves embellished by paired scroll brackets attached to a wooden frieze. The farmhouse's openings are round and segmentally arched with brick arches, and keystones and window sills of stone. The building sits on a stone foundation covered with stucco in some places.

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The rear ell is directly behind the main block and slightly wider at each side. The rear ell has an almost flat roof with wide eaves, decorated with paired brackets. The rear modern, one-story addition is attached to the north wall of the rear ell. The openings in the modern addition are rectangular and decorated with segmental brick arches, and the roof is hipped with a shallow pitch

The windows throughout the house are original: wood, double-hung with two-over-two lights. Those on the second floor are round-arched and those on the first floor are segmentally arched. The exception is at the basement level where windows are awning type, and at the first floor where there are one-over-one windows at the east bay and at the rear addition where the windows on either side of the chimney are one-over-one. Typical of the Italianate style, the windows and doors all have hood moldings above. The hood moldings are of brick, some are round arched, some are segmentally arched and all have decorative corbelled brick ends. The arch keystones and the window sills are of stone.

#### Chimneys

An historic photograph from 1882 shows the primary (south) and side (east) façades and in that photograph, brick chimneys with corbelled brick tops are visible. There is a chimney on the east wall of the main block, a chimney at the north façade of the main block and a chimney on the north wall of the rear ell. A photograph from the Architecture and History Inventory from 1991 shows that the chimneys of the main block were taken down, but three chimneys on the rear ell remain: two on the rear (north) façade and one more, possibly on the west façade. As of 2013, these chimneys on the rear ell had been taken down.

#### Main Block

##### Primary Façade

The primary façade faces south and is symmetrical, being two stories plus the cupola on the roof. The façade is arranged in three bays: on the first floor there is an entrance and two windows and on the second floor there are three windows, evenly spaced. Above the second floor windows is a wide cornice and deeply overhanging eaves with paired, scrolled brackets. There is a full width, one-story, open porch on the first floor.

The first story has three openings, a large entrance left of center, and two tall windows. The window openings are segmentally arched with sash, window hoods, and sills as described above. The windows are covered with combination storm-screen windows that slightly enclose the top of the opening, leaving the historic windows intact. The main entrance features two original wood paneled doors topped with a transom and a segmental hood. The fenestration at the second floor is symmetrical: three round arched windows with details as described above.

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An historic photograph shows an original one story veranda that wrapped around the east side and may have wrapped around the west side as well. It had a hipped roof, narrow wood posts, some of which were paired, on paneled wood bases sitting on a wood deck. The veranda was replaced with the current porch, which only extends across the front of the house, sometime during the early-twentieth century, according to family records, c1930. The porch has a flared hipped roof; slightly flared, squared posts; and a balustrade of rusticated concrete blocks. The porch posts sit on heavy bases of rusticated concrete blocks that are attached to rusticated concrete block balustrades. A wide concrete staircase leads from grade to the porch deck. The staircase is flanked by short concrete block balustrades and posts decorated with large concrete planters. Also, in the twentieth century, small porches were built over entrances on the east and west sides, each located on the south wall of the rear ell, possibly when the historic veranda was removed. In front of the porch, to the right of the steps is a planting bed framed with a low brick wall and concrete cap that extends the entire remaining width of the porch.

**East (Side) Façade**

The east elevation of the main block is divided into two parts: the south half is a solid brick wall, the north half is punctuated by four arched openings, two on the first floor and two on the second. The two openings on the second story are round arched and have two-over-two, double-hung sashes, window hoods and trim as already described. The windows on the first floor are the same, except they are segmentally arched.

At the intersection of the main block and the rear ell, there is a small, one-story, open porch that shelters the northernmost window. This simple wood porch with square posts also covers the entrance on the south wall of the rear ell.

**West (Side) Façade**

The west elevation of the main block is almost identical to the east elevation. The south half of the elevation is a plain brick wall, while the north half has three openings, two on the second story and one on the first story. The second story openings have two-over-two, double-hung windows, window hoods and finish details as previously described.

The first story opening has a window as previously described but is segmentally arched.

A small porch is located at the intersection of the main block and rear ell and shelters a door in the south wall of the rear ell. It features a hipped roof, a spool and spindle frieze decorated with scroll brackets, square and turned posts, and a turned post balustrade. The porch deck and steps are of poured concrete.



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Rear Ell

East (Side) Façade

Attached to the main block is a large rectangular rear ell. The ell projects slightly from the main block. The east elevation of the rear ell features cream brick walls and four openings.

Two round-arched openings are located in the second story. They are decorated with round brick arches with stone keystones and corbelled brick window hoods, and are filled with two-over-two-light sashes. Under these windows on the first story there is a bay window that has a hipped roof and eaves decorated with small scrolled brackets. The bay has three segmentally-arched openings filled with single-light, double-hung sashes. These windows sit on an inset paneled base decorated with a scalloped molding.

To the north of the bay is a segmentally arched opening filled with a two-over-two-light sash and decorated with a segmental brick arch as previously described. The south wall of the projecting rear ell features a round arch opening on the second story with a two-over-two-light sash and topped with a brick arched window hood. On the first story, there is a segmentally arched entrance into the rear ell. This entrance is filled with a wood paneled and glazed door and topped with a segmental, corbelled brick arch. A period screen door is located in front of the entry door.

West (Side) Façade

The west side of the rear ell has four openings. Two on the second story have round-arched windows, and the two on the first story have segmentally arched windows, all as previously described.

The south wall of the projecting ell has two openings. In the second story there is a segmentally-arched opening that sits above the first story entrance. The second story opening is filled with a two-over-two-light sash and decorated with a round arched hood. The first story entrance is filled with a wood paneled and glazed door. There is a period screen door in front of the entry door.

Rear (North) Façade

The rear wall of the ell is almost entirely concealed by the one-story rear addition, the roof of which extends close to the cornice. The visible components of the back of the ell include a first floor window at the far right side, a few segments of the second story wall on either side of the rear addition's-roof, and a partially obscured second floor window. The first floor window is of wood, two-over-two lights, double-hung, and has a segmental brick window hood matching others elsewhere on the ell.

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Rear Modern Addition (1979)

The modern rear addition, while only one story, has a cornice line and hipped roof that gives it height against the rear wall of the ell. The design of this addition blends almost seamlessly with the rest of the house because it was constructed of materials and with design features that duplicate the historic features. According to family documents, the addition included a large family room with a large fieldstone fireplace, laundry room, bathroom, walk-in closet, and basement level recreation room. The chimney of the large fireplace projects from the north wall on the exterior and stands out as a contemporary feature because its scale is large and blocky, unlike the historic features of the house. According to family history:

Eight thousand bricks from the old Creamery Package building in Fort Atkinson were salvaged and cleaned by family members to make the new addition look as much as possible like the rest of the house. The local contractor for the addition was Ray Leanna, with Hardscrabble mason Art Thomas doing the brick work and the fieldstone fireplace in the family room, and Richard Henry from Fort Atkinson did the cabinet work including the cherry woodwork and lighted china cupboards.<sup>1</sup>

The modern one-story addition projects from the rear ell. It has a rectangular plan, a slightly hipped, almost flat roof with wide eaves decorated with brackets. The walls are of multi-hued tan brick and they sit on a modern fieldstone foundation. A large brick chimney projects from the north elevation of the modern addition. Most of the openings are slightly smaller than the openings of the main block and rear ell. They are rectangular and filled with two-over-two-light sashes. The windows are decorated with segmental brick arches with reveals. Flanking the large chimney are two narrower, one-over-one windows with round arched hoods of brick.

The modern addition has two entrances. These entrances are covered with modern doors and metal and glass combination storm-screen doors. The west elevation entrance has a small porch with a hipped roof, spool and spindle frieze, and turned and square posts. This entrance has modern metal balustrades and concrete steps and deck. The north elevation is covered by a plain shed-roofed overhang with large brackets. This entrance also has modern metal balustrades and concrete steps and deck.

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<sup>1</sup> Unpublished narrative history from the Knapp-Calkins family, dated 1982.

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**Interior**

General Characteristics

Most of the original floor plan is intact in the main block and rear ell. The main alteration to the floor plan is the attached rear addition. Much of the original house has its interior fabric intact. This fabric includes historic plaster walls and ceilings, original wood floors, original doors, and trim around doors and windows, and period hardware. Many walls are covered with period wallpaper, and especially on the second floor, many of the floors are covered with more recent carpeting.

The most distinctive feature of the interior is that almost all of the doors and wood trim have the original faux wood grain finishes, in various colors and motifs, completed at the time that the house was added on to and completely remodeled in the summer and fall of 1881. These finishes were done by an itinerant painter who, as yet, has not been identified. Each of the wood grained elements will be discussed in the description of the individual rooms. These faux wood grain finishes are of exceptional artistry, quality, and variety of wood species. Further, these faux wood grain treatments are not limited to the most prominent public rooms in the house, as is typical, but are found at both the first and second floors, embellishing most of the wood trim throughout these spaces.

According to H. Russell Zimmerman in a 1974 Milwaukee Journal article:

Wood graining can be defined as the painting of common wood to imitate a more expensive wood. In the case of the Knapp house; however, this basically simple concept was elevated to the stature of a masterpiece. With no time deadline, and a patron who wanted to give him as much work as possible, the forgotten artisan grained everything in sight. The parlor doors are grained in six woods, including walnut burl, tiger maple, ebony, scotch elm and rosewood. Other first floor doors are birds-eye maple with walnut and poplar. Mop boards were done in three colors and even the coathanger rails inside the closets show the craftsman's skill.<sup>2</sup>

Only three areas of the house have alterations aside from the rear addition: the first-floor bathroom, the kitchen, and the second-floor rear ell which was converted to an apartment space. In these areas some modern fixtures were added. but many historic features were retained. The first floor will be described front to back (main block, rear ell, rear modern addition), then the second floor will be described in the same order.

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<sup>2</sup> Zimmerman, Milwaukee Journal, 1974.

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**First Floor**

Main Block

The first-floor main block includes the foyer with the main staircase, the front hall, two parlors, and a small bedroom (see floor plan).

**Foyer**

The main entrance is composed of two large double doors with a large transom. The doors lead into the foyer that contains a hall and staircase. This area has plaster walls covered with wallpaper, a plaster ceiling, and original wood floors covered with carpeting. The faux wood graining in this area is completed with a two-tone finish that suggests light and dark maple wood. The graining patterns are simple, except for the panels of the front entry doors that feature a burlled maple pattern. The same two-tone faux woodgraining finish was used on the steps of the main staircase. The balustrade is constructed of walnut and has turned balusters with a larger turned newel post.

There are two entrances off of the hallway of the foyer. The door closest to the main entrance leads into the south parlor and the second entrance leads to the north parlor.

**South Parlor**

The south parlor is decorated with a late nineteenth century motif of patterned wallpaper on both the walls and ceiling. This pattern suggests a beveled crown molding and the wallpaper on the ceiling suggests a paneled ceiling. The original wood floor is covered with carpeting. Trim around the doors and windows are faux grained to suggest light maple wood. The door to the foyer and the double doors leading from the south parlor to the north parlor have maple wood faux graining. The panels of these doors feature graining that suggests spalted maple. Period wood louvered interior shutters cover the windows, they are stained a dark maple color. Also included on the east wall is a dark marbled wood fireplace with an arched opening and a period coal insert firebox. This fireplace is now only for decoration, because the chimney has been removed above the roofline. A period bowl-shaped light fixture extends from the center of the ceiling.

**North Parlor**

The north parlor is accessed through the double doors of the south parlor. This parlor has wallpaper covering the walls, a plaster ceiling, and a modern fan with light fixture hanging from the ceiling. The wood floors are covered with carpeting. The wood trim around doors and windows has a light maple faux woodgrained finish. The doors of the north parlor have a faux woodgrain finish with a combination of light and dark maple. The wood panels of the doors feature graining that suggests spalted maple. The windows have period wood, louvered, interior shutters. In the west wall are two

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doors. The south door accesses the entrance hall. The north door leads into a small bedroom. The bedroom has plaster walls and ceiling, wood floor under the carpet, and wood trim around doors and windows that features light maple faux woodgrain. A closet door in this bedroom has panels with a tiger eye maple faux graining. The window in this bedroom also has the wood, louvered, interior shutters.

Rear Ell

Leaving the north parlor, one enters the rear ell. The rear ell is divided into four spaces; a large living room, a large dining room, a narrow kitchen, and a narrow bathroom.

Living Room

On the east side of the rear ell is a living room that is accessed via a single door from the north parlor. The living room features wallpaper covering the walls, a mid-twentieth century acoustical tile ceiling, and carpeting over original wood floors. Along the east wall is a bay window and nearby along the south wall is a door to the exterior. Both the bay and the door are segmentally arched and along with the other doors of the room, feature faux grained maple wood trim. The exterior door has a finish of a combination of light and dark faux grained maple.

Dining Room

A large double-door entrance in the west wall leads from the living room into the dining room. The dining room has features that include plaster walls above wide wainscot paneling. The partially exposed floor features medium sized wood boards with faux light and dark maple graining. The rest of the walls are covered with wallpaper. The ceiling is covered with mid-twentieth century acoustical tile. A modern fan light fixture is located at the center of the ceiling. The windows of the dining room are covered with wood louvered interior shutters. A segmentally arched exterior door that is similar to the one in the living room is located at the south wall of the dining room. The glazed and wood paneled entry door has a dark and light faux maple grained finish. A similar dark and light stained grained maple finish has been applied to the doors between the dining room and the living room. Along the north wall of the dining room are two doors that lead to the kitchen and the rear enclosed staircase.

Kitchen/Bath

The kitchen is located beyond the dining room toward the rear of the house. Similarly, a modern bathroom is located just past the living room toward the rear of the house. Both areas have had mid-twentieth century remodeling, but some historic features are extant. The modern spaces were carved out of the original kitchen, pantry, and a small bedroom of the rear ell. The kitchen still features original trim around an arched window and a bank of cabinets built into the west wall. These features have a simple, light wood faux grained finish. Along the north and south walls are modern cabinets with a modern sink. There are also plaster walls and ceiling, and a vinyl floor. The enclosed rear

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staircase is between the kitchen and bathroom. The bathroom can be accessed from both the kitchen and the living room. The bathroom has modern paneling and drywall, and modern sink, toilet, and bath fixtures. The doors leading into the bathroom and the enclosed staircase have simple, faux woodgrained finishes.

Modern Rear Addition

The modern rear addition was constructed in 1979 and the finishes date to this period. It consists of a large family room, a smaller combination laundry room and lavatory, and a staircase to the basement. The family room has modern drywall and wood wainscoting, carpeting, and a ceiling with wood beams. There is wood trim around doors and windows. Along the north wall is a large fieldstone faced fireplace with a simple wood mantel. East of the family room are the spaces for the laundry room and lavatory. These areas are all finished with modern drywall, vinyl flooring, and simple wood trim.

**Second Floor**

Main Block

The main staircase at the front of the house leads to the second floor of the main block. The original plan of this area included two large bedrooms, a small storage room, and a staircase to the cupola. In recent years, this area has been part of a second-floor apartment that was rented to tenants. It is currently vacant.

The hallway of the main block runs parallel to the staircase and it is bordered with a continuation of the main balustrade. In this area, the doors and wood trim are decorated in two-tone dark and light maple wood graining. The same decoration is continued in the wood trim around doors and a window, as well as the baseboards of the hallway. The hallway walls are covered with period wallpaper. The ceiling is of plaster, and the wood floor is covered with carpeting.

At the top of the staircase there is a door into a small storage room. Two bedrooms sit behind the hallway doors flanking the door to the cupola staircase.

**South Bedroom**

The southernmost door off the hallway leads into the large southern bedroom. This bedroom consists of a large rectangular space attached to a small alcove via an arched opening. The doors and wood trim in this room are decorated with faux woodgraining that suggests tiger eye maple. The walls are covered with period wallpaper. The ceiling is covered with modern acoustical tiles, and the floors are covered with carpeting. Full-size louvered, wood, interior shutters cover all of the windows.

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**North Bedroom**

The northernmost door off of the hallway leads into the north bedroom. It is a large rectangular room with another artistic pattern of faux woodgraining on the doors and wood trim around windows and doors. This graining is a tiger stripe pattern with distinctive feathering in the center of the wooden door panels. The finish of the trim around doors and windows is slightly darker. The walls are covered with period wallpaper, the ceiling is covered with modern acoustical tiles, and the floor is covered with carpeting.

In between the north and south bedrooms is a large closet that is accessed from the southeast corner of the north bedroom.

*Rear Ell*

The second floor of the rear ell was originally composed of three bedrooms, a small rear hall and a narrow rear staircase. The two west bedrooms, rear hall, and rear staircase are extant, but the third bedroom was divided in the late twentieth century into a kitchen and a bathroom for the second floor apartment.

**Kitchen and Bathroom**

A door in the northeast corner of the north bedroom of the main block leads into the rear ell kitchen. There are two steps down into this area. The kitchen has plaster walls and ceiling, and a vinyl floor. The kitchen contains late twentieth century era cabinets, a small stove, and a refrigerator.

Round arched windows let in light to the kitchen. The wood trim around the windows is finished with plain faux maple graining. The same graining can be seen on the kitchen doors and wood trim.

The door in the north wall of the kitchen leads into the bathroom. The bathroom has plaster and tile walls, vinyl flooring, and a plaster ceiling. Mid-twentieth century bathroom fixtures are extant.

**Hallway**

A door in the northwest wall of the kitchen leads into the rear ell hallway.

In the hallway there is a late-twentieth century built-in cabinet constructed of plywood. The hall accesses the rear staircase, the two bedrooms, and the bathroom. The hallway has original wide board flooring, plaster walls and ceiling, and simple wood trim finished in both a light and medium-toned maple faux woodgraining. The rear staircase features a short, plain wood balustrade along the hallway and a narrow, enclosed, winding staircase that leads to the first floor.

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**Rear Bedrooms**

The two rear bedrooms are currently in use as spare bedrooms and have similar features. The north bedroom has plaster walls and ceiling, a carpeted floor, and simple wood trim finished in the same manner as the hallway. The south bedroom has the same trim and carpeted floor, but its walls are covered with wallpaper and ceiling is covered with modern acoustical tiles.

**Cupola**

The cupola is accessed by a narrow stair in the hallway of the main block. At the top of the staircase is a rectangular space lighted by the windows of the cupola. Original plaster walls and ceiling, wood flooring, and plain wood trim around the windows are all extant.

**Basement**

The basement of this house consists of two spaces; the unfinished space under the original main block and rear ell, and a finished recreation room under the modern rear addition of the house.

There is a narrow staircase accessed through the first floor kitchen that leads to the unfinished basement area. This part of the basement is unfinished except for concrete floors. The fieldstone foundation walls are exposed, as is the ceiling structure. The ceiling structure features several large hand-hewn support beams. The basement is separated in this area into storage rooms and utility rooms.

A staircase in the northeast corner of the modern addition leads into the late-twentieth century style recreation room. The room is reached through a large sliding "barn style" door. The recreation rooms feature rough barn wood style paneling, acoustical tile ceiling, and carpeting. A large wood stove heats the area and there is a built-in bar. The room is decorated with antique farm artifacts.

**Dairy Barn, circa 1900, circa 1950; Contributing**  
(Photos 15, 16, 17)

The barn was built as a basement barn. It was converted to modern dairy operation around the mid-twentieth century. The large frame structure sits on a raised, well-constructed fieldstone foundation. It has a gabled roof and vertical wood siding. The barn is artificially banked on the east side and the sod covered ramp is reinforced with fieldstone walls. The ramp leads to the upper level. The entrance is enclosed by large sliding wood doors. Openings in the raised foundation are irregular and largely filled with multi-light windows.



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Attached to the northeast corner of the barn is a one-story, shed-roofed milk house addition. The addition is constructed of rusticated concrete blocks. The entry door and north window of the milk house are boarded over with plywood and there is an additional window south of the entrance.

Attached to the north elevation is a long one-story addition that extends the milking parlor. This addition was built in the mid-twentieth century. It was constructed of concrete blocks. There are symmetrical openings along the side walls filled with glass block. The glass block filled openings flank a wood sliding door on the north wall of the addition. The roof of the entire building is covered with modern standing-seam metal roofing. A concrete wall projects from the southwest corner of the dairy barn.

The south elevation has a sliding wooden door located in the center of the façade that leads into the lower level of the barn. Two windows, each with two-over-two lights, fill side-by-side openings in the eastern side of the south elevation. An opening in the upper wall under the gable has a single wood double-hung window with one-over-six lights.

*Interior*

The interior of the barn consists of a large upper level open space, or, hay mow. The lower level has a large intact milking parlor with stanchions and other equipment, all of which date from the late-twentieth century. At the south end of the barn is a space with wooden stalls, likely used for calves and heifers.

**Silos, circa 1920; (2) contributing structures**  
(Photo 16)

Two silos are located at the west side of the dairy barn. They are round, poured concrete structures with conical roofs. They are attached to the barn at the foundation level by a concrete connector.

**Basement Barn, circa 1860; Contributing**  
(Photo 18)

This large barn was constructed during the early era of the farm, when the family lived in a log farmhouse and engaged in grain farming as the cash crop. The basement barn is perpendicular to the dairy barn. The rectangular gable-roofed building is covered with wood board and batten siding. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The barn sits on a rough fieldstone foundation. On the long (south) façade of the basement barn, there are two large sliding doors in the upper level and a sliding door at the north end of the lower level. There are a few openings in both the foundation and upper level of the barn. The openings in the foundation are single-light rectangular windows that are far apart

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from one another. The openings in the upper level of the barn are rectangular windows that are six-light, three over three, and located next to each other. Sliding wood doors are on the west and south façades of the barn.

**Animal Barn, circa 1880; Contributing**  
(Photo 19)

This one-and-a-half-story rectangular building has a gable roof and a low field stone rubble foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Probably built earlier than the larger barns, it could have been a multipurpose animal and/or grain storage building. The building is covered with lap wood siding. On both the east and north elevations, there are several small rectangular windows lighting the lower level of the barn. On the north elevation there is an upper-level sliding door. There is a four-light diamond shaped opening. On the west elevation is a small sliding entry door that leads to the lower level. On the south elevation there is a larger sliding wood door that was probably added later to make an entrance for machinery. Also added later is a rectangular window west of the large sliding door.

**Schoolhouse-Granary; Contributing**  
(Photo 20)

This one-story building was moved to the farmstead sometime in the late-nineteenth century. It is a rectangular building with a low-pitched gable roof that is extended on the east to cover a one-bay extension to the building. The addition, on a raised rubble fieldstone foundation, is covered with wood board and batten siding. The section that was originally a school is covered with lap siding. The roof is standing-seam metal. On the south elevation is a sliding entry door. Most of the original school windows and entrance have been enclosed with the lap siding. On the west wall are two, six-over-six-light, double-hung sashes from the original school building. Similar windows can also be seen within the shed-roofed addition. After the building was moved it was used as a granary.

**Small Animal Building, circa 1900, circa 1950; Contributing**  
(Photo 21)

Originally constructed as a small animal building, this may have been used in the twentieth century as a garage. It is one story with a gabled roof, covered with asphalt shingles, lap siding, and a concrete wall at the southwest corner of the building runs toward the basement barn. The front (south) elevation features a fixed eight-light wood window, and large early-twentieth century garage type doors. On the side (east) elevation is a sliding door. There is visual evidence of a second door, which is now infilled with wide lap siding. Attached to the rear (north) elevation is a shed-roofed addition built of concrete

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blocks and have two symmetrically placed windows. The addition also has windows on the east and north walls. The west wall of the entire building has no openings.

**Garage-Privy, circa 1920; Contributing  
(Photo 22)**

Near the house is a one-story rectangular garage with an attached privy at the back. The building has a rubble stone foundation, a gabled roof with asphalt shingles over wood shingles, and lap siding. The west elevation has a sliding garage door and a six-light opening in the gable peak. An opening on the north elevation is enclosed with plywood. The privy addition is attached to the east wall of the garage. It is also covered with lap siding and features a small entry door on the east wall.

**Machine Shed- Pole Building, 1980; Non-contributing  
(Photo 23)**

This is a large rectangular metal pole building, constructed in 1980. It features large sliding metal doors centered on the south and west sides, and there is a pedestrian door on the west side. There are no other openings on the building. Because it was built outside of the period of significance, it is non-contributing to the farmstead.

\_\_\_ End of Description of Physical Appearance

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Insert Statement of Significance

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Knapp-Calkins Farmstead is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, locally significant in the area of Architecture and Art, because it is a distinctive and well-preserved example of a Wisconsin farmstead whose varied agricultural outbuildings represents the growth and development of the farm during the period of significance 1860 to 1950. The individual buildings of the farmstead are good examples of their building types and the farmhouse is a distinctive example of the late-Italianate style of architecture with interior features that possess high artistic value. The extensive application of faux woodgrain treatments throughout the first and second floor of the house are of exceptional artistry, quality, and variety of wood species. The artist elevated what was a known form of relatively simple interior embellishment to a masterwork. Together, the farmhouse and outbuildings are reflective of a successful farm operation during Wisconsin's transition from wheat to dairy farming.

The Period of Significance was established to encompass the dates of construction of the buildings and structures of this farmstead. The period of significance begins in 1860 and ends in 1950 with major expansion of the dairy barn to accommodate the expansion of the dairying operations. The period of significance for the area of Art is 1881, the date the painting was executed.

**Historical Background**

Albertus Knapp was a pioneer settler in Jefferson County who became a prominent dairy and sheep farmer in the area. He was born in Monroe County, New York and came with his family to the Delavan area of Walworth County, Wisconsin in 1838 as a 16-year-old. When he was 20, he came to Jefferson County and in 1843 and 1844, he purchased the land around this farmstead. He married Polly Duncan, who was from a pioneer Palmyra area family, and the couple settled on their new 160-acre farm in 1844.<sup>3</sup> Albertus and Polly had two daughters: Emeline and Adella.

The Knapps originally built a log cabin on their farm, and a few years later, they built a four-room house on roughly the footprint of the rear ell of the existing house. This four-room house was greatly enlarged and remodeled in 1881 and has largely retained this appearance until today.

In August of 1881, the *Palmyra Enterprise* reported that prominent farmer and old settler of the town of Palmyra, Albertus Knapp, was putting up a "fine brick addition to his already commodious

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<sup>3</sup> *History of Jefferson County, Wisconsin* (Chicago: Western Historical Company), 1879, 659; "Calkins Farm Entered into the Centennial Registration at Fair," records of the E. H. Calkins family, Palmyra Historical Society, 1984, copy in the local history files of the Powers Memorial Library, Palmyra, Wisconsin.

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residence.” In January of 1882, in reporting extensively on the wedding of the Knapp’s daughter, Adella, the newspaper reported that the Knapps had recently been remodeling their house, which was now “nicely finished and furnished.” This suggests that considerable work was done on the old house along with building the new addition, resulting in the house’s current appearance.<sup>4</sup>

Outbuildings on the Knapp-Calkins farmstead were added as Albertus Knapp and later, the Calkins family, changed and expanded their farm operations during the mid- to late-nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century. Although exact dates could not be determined for outbuildings, based on the agricultural census, the style, building materials, and types of outbuildings, many can be attributed to the tenure of the Knapps. Three generations of the Calkins family added additional buildings and remodeled existing outbuildings primarily during the twentieth century.

The Calkins family took over the farmstead when Adella Knapp married Charles Calkins in 1882. Adella, or “Della” Knapp was the daughter of farming pioneers Albertus and Polly Knapp, and her wedding in January of 1882 prompted the transformation of the farmhouse in the summer and fall of 1881. Charles Calkins was already a successful operator of cheese factories in the area and he continued to operate the factories along with maintaining the successful Knapp farm. Della and Charles Calkins owned the farm during the era when dairying significantly expanded, resulting in the construction of a second basement barn, built for use as a dairy barn.

Della and Charles had one child in 1891, Edward H. Calkins, who continued to operate the farm and the Calkins’ cheese factories into the twentieth century. He and his wife, Mary Jane, had one child in 1929, Stewart E. Calkins. Stewart Calkins and his wife, Carol Pierce Calkins, began operating the farm in the mid-twentieth century and actively farmed until 1987. Their important contributions to the farmstead included modernizing and expanding the dairy barn to include an updated milking parlor and building a large modern metal pole building to store equipment; however, as the fourth generation of the Knapp-Calkins family occupying this farm, Stewart and Carol Calkins also maintained both the house and the historic outbuildings in as much of their original appearance as possible.

Carol Calkins still resides on the farmstead and maintains both the house and farm buildings while renting out the farmland to other farmers.

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<sup>4</sup> *Palmyra Enterprise*, 10 August 1881, 4; 18 January 1882, 4.

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**Statement of Significance: Architecture and Art**

The Knapp-Calkins Farmhouse is an exceptional example of the Italianate style, further distinguished by having unique, elaborately painted interior wood finishes, and has very high integrity. The Farmstead is architecturally significant as a distinctive and well-preserved example of a Wisconsin farmstead whose varied agricultural outbuildings represent the growth and development of the farm during the period of significance 1860 to 1950. The individual buildings of the farmstead are good examples of their building types and the farmhouse is a distinctive example of the late Italianate style of architecture with interior features that possess high artistic value. Together, the farmhouse and outbuildings are reflective of a successful farm operation during Wisconsin's transition from wheat to dairy farming.

*Farmhouse*

The most architecturally distinctive of the buildings on the farmstead is the Italianate style farmhouse. It acquired its historic appearance during the summer and fall of 1881.

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the Italianate style was widely popular in the state between 1850 and the early 1880s. Since many Wisconsin communities went through an economic boom during this era, Italianate houses are common in the state. Italianate houses are generally square or rectangular in form, are two-stories in height, have hipped roofs, and are decorated with wide, overhanging eaves with brackets, arched openings, and picturesque porches with thin posts and decorative brackets. Italianate houses built during the early period of the style's popularity are usually more "boxy," with a low, square plan, hip roof, and picturesque details. Later Italianate houses are generally taller and more rectangular in plan with heavier classical details. During the entire period, Italianate style elements were also very popular on vernacular gabled ell, front gable, and side gable form houses.<sup>5</sup>

The Italianate style gives the Knapp-Calkins farmhouse much of its distinctive appearance. Its rectangular plan, hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, and arched openings are hallmarks of the style. Adding to the distinctiveness of its exterior are the original round and segmentally arched windows with their heavy round and segmental brick window hoods. The heavy, paired, scrolled brackets are another character defining feature of the Italianate style.

One of the most distinctive features of this house is its large, intact cupola. Cupolas are strongly associated with Italianate houses, but are difficult to maintain in Wisconsin winters; therefore, extant

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<sup>5</sup> Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resources Management in Wisconsin* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989), Architecture, 2-3.

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cupolas are rare and cupolas of this size are unusual. The cupola has all of its original windows and decorative details and is one of the elements that makes this house a great example of the Italianate style.

Also adding to the distinctive appearance of the farmhouse is its highly intact interior. Most of the interior has its historic features, including almost all of its 1881 era plan and its elaborate and extensive wood trim. The finishing of the wood trim enhances the architectural significance of the house. Almost all of it was given a faux wood graining finish of exceptional quality and high artistic merit.

The faux wood graining was probably done in the summer and fall of 1881, when it was publicly noted that the house was greatly enlarged and remodeled. According to the current owner and Calkins' family history, the wood graining of the interior was completed by a deaf artist whose name has been lost to history. Since the Wisconsin School for the Deaf was located in nearby Delavan, the graining may have been done by a student or former student of that institution. In any event, the artist used a variety of motifs in his wood graining patterns that, in particular, give the main rooms of the house (parlors, living and dining rooms, main bedrooms), distinctive appearances.

Faux wood graining was developed as a way of painting common wood to look like more expensive woods, such as mahogany, walnut, or oak. Faux woodgraining techniques were popular for large homes during the eighteenth century, and by the early-nineteenth century, these techniques had spread to decorate rural and small town houses. Related to faux woodgraining was marbleizing, a technique that was particularly popular for decorating fireplace surrounds.<sup>6</sup>

The preservation of faux woodgrain or other faux finishes was hampered by the change in interior decoration during the early twentieth century. The Period Revival architecture and Arts and Crafts movement rejected much of the exuberant nineteenth-century architectural details, and interiors reflected that trend. Further, the upkeep of faux woodgrain was more complicated than just applying a coat of paint when wood trim and doors became damaged or when tastes changed; therefore, the preservation of faux woodgraining or marbled finishes is rare, particularly at the level seen in this house.<sup>7</sup>

In 1974, noted architect, architectural historian, and early historic preservationist from Milwaukee, H. Russell Zimmerman, commented in the *Milwaukee Journal* that the wood graining in the Knapp-Calkins farmhouse was "perhaps the finest example of the art . . . in Wisconsin." The wood graining

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<sup>6</sup> *Preservation Brief 28: Painting Historic Interiors*, National Park Service web site; <https://www.nps.gov/history/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/28-painting-interiors.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> *Preservation Brief 28*.

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noted in 1974 is extant today and features many different patterns, such as tiger eye maple, feathered maple, and spalted maple.<sup>8</sup>

While the most decorative wood graining patterns exist in the main rooms of the house, secondary rooms and hallways were not neglected. Almost all of the trim around doors and windows in these areas were given simple faux finishes in light, medium, and dark hues. In particular, in hallways in the front of the house, the faux finishes were done in a striking contrast of light and dark grained maple. In fact, the use of light and dark finishes in both the public and private areas of the house makes an artistic polychromatic statement that was either the vision of the artist or requested by the homeowner.

Of particular note in the Knapp-Calkins farmhouse interior is the circa 1881 south parlor decoration. Not only is the wood graining extant, but the wallpaper from this era is extant and provides an interesting look at "Victorian" parlor decoration. In this case, the wallpaper was chosen and laid in patterns that reflected the exuberant parlor decoration of this era as well as suggesting architectural details of more elaborate parlors. For example, the wallpaper suggests both a beveled crown molding and paneled ceiling. The result is almost a museum-like experience in this room.

This parlor also has a faux marbleized fireplace surround, again probably executed by the itinerant artist. Above the fireplace, the wallpaper is laid to suggest an elaborate over mantel, another example of exuberant parlor decoration executed by the use of wallpaper to give the illusion of architectural detail.

Also of note and contributing to the architectural interest of the interior of the farmhouse are the custom-made louvered wood interior shutters that are found in most of the rooms of the house. It is understood that these also date from the 1881 remodeling and feature high-quality materials and construction.

*Historic Farmstead*

The farmhouse alone would be sufficient for individual listing in the National Register for architectural significance, but in combination with the agricultural outbuildings and structures, the entire Knapp-Calkins farmstead meets the criteria for listing in the National Register as an historic Wisconsin farmstead. The types of outbuildings are not only good and well-preserved examples of their individual building types, but they also represent the growth and development of agriculture in this area of Wisconsin.

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<sup>8</sup> Kaia Fowler, "1870s Wood Graining Stunning to Behold," *Palmyra Enterprise*, 28 August, 2003, 9.



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According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the history of agriculture in the state is one of diversity and change over time. While Wisconsin has long been known as the "dairy state," most of its farmers did not embrace dairying until well into the later nineteenth century. The earliest settlers in southeastern Wisconsin were Yankees from New York state and New England. They brought with them a desire to be economically successful with cash crops rather than engaging in subsistence farming. In the mid-nineteenth century, dairying was becoming popular in New York state, but settlers looking for economic opportunity knew that farming virgin land for wheat was the best way to make money in agriculture at the time. Later, as more European settlers came into the state and the land was less fertile for growing wheat, Wisconsin farmers who did not move west and northwest with the wheat frontier entered into diversified farming operations like stock raising, dairying, and growing other types of grain crops until finally deciding to embrace dairying.<sup>9</sup>

It is likely that Albertus Knapp grew wheat extensively on his Jefferson County farm in the 1840s and 1850s. But, according to the Agricultural Census of 1860, he was already making an early transition from wheat growing to diversified farming and dairying. It is likely Knapp was influenced by a group of progressive farmers in the Watertown-Fort Atkinson area who were engaged in finding a cash crop replacement for wheat growing. In the mid-nineteenth century, farmers commonly produced dairy products like cheese and butter on the farm then sold them locally or regionally. This provided a cash income, but the quality of the products was variable and, in many cases, poor. In the 1870s, progressive farmers in Jefferson County began to develop small factories to produce higher quality cheese and butter and to provide a more consistent cash income to farmers who could sell raw milk to the factories, instead of making dairy products on the farm.<sup>10</sup>

Albertus Knapp was one of the Jefferson County farmers who appeared to be on the cutting edge of changing farm production during the mid-nineteenth century. This is shown in the farm production statistics from the 1860 Agricultural Census. Knapp reported that he only grew 30 bushels of wheat in 1860, a very low figure compared to what most southeastern Wisconsin farmers were growing in that era. Knapp reported growing 100 bushels of corn and oats each, a larger amount of "feed" crops than other farmers who were listed near him in the census records. The increase in feed crops is explained by the fact that Knapp reported that he owned nine milk cows and 12 other cattle. This is much higher than other farmers in his census area. Knapp also reported that he had 110 sheep, showing he was active in stock-raising, an element of diversified farming not reported by other farmers in his census area. And, even more significantly, Knapp reported that he produced 600 pounds of butter and 600 pounds of cheese on the farm, again, a very high number in comparison to other farmers in his census area.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Wyatt, Architecture, 5-1; Agriculture, 1-1.

<sup>10</sup> Wyatt, Agriculture, 9-1—9-3; 10-1—10-4.

<sup>11</sup> United States Census for Jefferson County, Town of Palmyra, Agricultural Schedule, 1860; on file in the Wisconsin

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What the 1860 Agricultural Census shows is that Albertus Knapp was moving beyond wheat production much earlier than other farmers in the area. Not only was he raising sheep, he was producing a large number of dairy products, and he was beginning to grow more feed crops that would, in the later nineteenth century, make dairying a year-round occupation. In 1860, Knapp was probably not dairying year-round as his feed crop production would not have been sufficient, but as he had 140 of his 200 acres unimproved, he was probably, for the most part, pasturing his sheep and cows, deriving his income from wool production and summer dairying.

These statistics are accurately reflected in the outbuildings of the Knapp-Calkins farmstead. The earliest extant building of the farmstead is the Animal Barn, a medium-sized building that could have housed a few animals and also been used as a threshing barn when Knapp was growing wheat. It has the details of typical early animal barns, being a single story in height with a loft, of frame construction with wood siding, and with windows on side walls.<sup>12</sup>

The 1860 Agricultural Census statistics for the Knapp farm suggest that the Basement Barn of this farmstead was probably constructed around 1860 to help house the 110 sheep, nine milk cows, and 12 other cattle that Knapp reported in that year. Basement barns are common in Wisconsin. They sit on raised masonry foundations that make up a lower story used for housing animals and feature a tall upper story for hay and grain storage. Most of these barns have artificial banking on one side for ease of access to the upper story.<sup>13</sup>

The large basement barn on this farmstead reflects the type of diversified farming that Albertus Knapp was engaged in during the mid-nineteenth century. It features a raised stone foundation and tall loft area accessed by an artificially-built ramp. The size and features of this basement barn suggest the early transition to diversified farming that Albertus Knapp engaged in during the mid-nineteenth century, when most other farmers were still involved primarily in wheat production, a type of agriculture that did not demand large barns.

The 1880 Agricultural Census for Albertus Knapp's farm is striking in how it illustrates the success that Knapp had in transitioning from diversified farming with a small dairy operation to stock raising along with a large cash dairying operation. The growth of his dairy operation is reflected in the construction of a second basement-dairy barn around 1890.

In 1880, Knapp reported that his farm consisted of 430 acres, with 100 acres in hay production and

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over 200 acres of meadow, suggesting he was still pasturing his many sheep. In fact, he reported that he had around 200 sheep that produced 180 fleeces or 900 pounds of wool. Even more significantly, Knapp reported having 25 milk cows, 23 other cattle, and that 25 calves had been born in 1880. This is a very high number compared to other farmers in his census area and again shows that Knapp was in the forefront of dairy production in southeastern Wisconsin, moving well past basic dairying into “industrial” dairying, a trend Wisconsin farmers would not embrace for at least 10 to 20 years in the future. Knapp reported that he still produced butter on the farm (1200 pounds), but made almost no cheese, and he reported that he sold 7,000 gallons of milk off the farm to the local creameries and cheese factories that had been established in the area during the 1870s.<sup>14</sup>

Knapp’s report to the 1880 census supports the transition to cash dairying and to the possibility that he was dairying almost year-round. His small amount of feed crop production in 1860 was raised significantly by 1880. Although he still grew some wheat, Knapp’s production of corn and oats (200 bushels in 1860) was raised to almost 1,000 bushels in 1880. He reported no hay production in 1860, but in 1880, he had 100 acres producing hay. To develop a regular income from dairying, farmers needed to provide better feed for their cows and to store feed to use over the winter months.<sup>15</sup>

Interestingly, Knapp’s advances into cash dairying may have resulted in his daughter’s January, 1882 marriage to Charles Calkins, an operator of cheese factories in the Palmyra area. It most surely resulted in the construction of the second basement barn, used as a dairy barn. The dairy barn is very similar in construction to a standard Wisconsin basement barn, but its late-nineteenth century date of construction is derived from its more formal quarried fieldstone foundation, a foundation often seen on later nineteenth century buildings in the area. In fact, the foundation of this barn gives it a distinctive appearance and suggests that Knapp wanted a barn with a high-quality foundation because it was one of the most important buildings on his farm, housing his ever-growing and profitable dairy operation.

The success of Knapp’s growing dairy operation, along with his continued successful sheep-raising operation was also reflected in the growth of the farmhouse in 1881 as discussed earlier. With the completion of the new barn and the farmhouse addition and remodeling, most of the current farmstead’s appearance was intact by 1900 and was largely the result of Albertus Knapp’s influence. But, the contributions of the three generations of the Calkins family who operated the farm for the next 80-90 years were also significant in both the changes made to the farmstead buildings and even more importantly, the preservation of the farmstead for over 100 years.

The concrete silos and milk house are the most important additions to the farmstead that were made by

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<sup>14</sup> United States Census for Jefferson County, Town of Palmyra, Agricultural Schedule, 1880; on file in the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI/

<sup>15</sup> 1880 Census.

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the Calkins family during the first half of the twentieth century. These additions were critical to the advancement of dairying on this farm. The fact that two large silos were added to the dairy barn in the early-twentieth century is indicative of dairy herd expansion on the Knapp-Calkins farm during the era of industrial dairying. They are good examples of their type, featuring poured concrete construction. The rusticated concrete block construction of the milk house addition dates it to the early twentieth century, as well, a time when the state of Wisconsin and large industrial dairy factories were instituting new and improved standards for milk production and storage on dairy farms. Milk houses kept the raw milk in a cool and clean environment until it was picked up by milk haulers, an important factor in the state's milk grading system.

The Calkins family made another important advancement in dairying on this farm with the construction of the concrete block addition to the dairy barn and the installation of a modern milking parlor. Mid-twentieth century farmers who continued to expand their dairy operations often added space to their dairy barns and installed the most up-to-date milking equipment. In this addition to the dairy barn, it is clear that the Calkins family was continuing the long tradition of the Knapp-Calkins family in the field of progressive dairying.

Three other buildings contribute to the overall significance of this property. The small animal barn is typical of utilitarian buildings and sheds used to house animals like pigs and poultry. The garage represents an early-twentieth century building type that was added to farmsteads when automobiles became popular. The privy is typical of its type of construction, but is unusual as an addition to a garage. Privies were common on rural properties until well into the mid-twentieth century.

Of interest on this farmstead is an old one-room schoolhouse that was moved here and converted to a granary. Dating to the mid-nineteenth century, the old portion of the building has the form of a school. Large window openings on each side of the building are also a typical detail from early schoolhouses and can still be mostly seen even though many are now enclosed. It was not unusual for older buildings to be moved and repurposed during this era as construction costs were high; this building is an example of this trend to repurpose buildings on a farm.

The newest building on the farmstead is the metal pole building from the later twentieth century. Although non-contributing due to its recent construction, it represents a type of construction from the later twentieth century. Active farmers of this era often added these buildings or used them to replace old frame buildings. Cost-effective and efficient, this type of construction can be controversial on historic farmsteads. If they replace important barns, are poorly maintained, or visually distract from the historic character of a farmstead, they are unattractive additions. But, this building is a well-constructed example of the type and has been well maintained. Its location at the far northeast corner of the farmstead corresponds to the outer edge of the property and does not detract from the historic

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character of the farmstead. Although non-contributing, it represents the continued investment in modern dairy farming that occurred on the Knapp-Calkins Farmstead until Stewart Calkins retired in 1987.

*Integrity*

The Knapp-Calkins Farmstead has excellent integrity with all of its historic components intact and well-preserved. Of most importance for the integrity of this property is its overall feeling of a historic farmstead. Looking at the farmstead as a whole, it is apparent that all of the important components of this property type are intact, including a historic farmhouse, a dairy barn, a large animal barn, and other associated outbuildings. The only non-contributing building is a later-twentieth century metal pole building, but it is not prominently featured on the farmstead and is a well-constructed example of its type.

Throughout the farmstead, it is also apparent that high quality materials and workmanship were used in constructing each building. From the stone, brick and wood elements of the farmhouse, the wood and stone elements of the outbuildings, to the concrete silos and dairy barn additions, the materials and methods of construction of the buildings and structures of the farmstead are readily seen.

In particular, the farmhouse, with its highly intact and decorative interior, has a high level of integrity. The front porch and small side porches that replaced the original veranda were added during the period of significance and do not significantly detract from the overall historic character of the exterior of the house. Likewise, the few modern alterations of the interior do not hamper the overall integrity of the farmhouse. In particular, the rear addition to the farmhouse is not a distraction from the historic portions of the building. By using recycled materials and mimicking some historic details, the modern addition blends in well with the historic elements of the house while still showing that the addition is, indeed, modern.

The outbuildings are well maintained and retain most of their historic details, including original exterior walls, foundations, openings, and interior spaces. Some of the outbuilding roofs have been replaced with modern standing seam metal, which was not necessarily used originally. Standing seam metal roofing was a material historically used for outbuildings and is a cost-effective addition that has immeasurably helped in the preservation of these buildings.

Of particular interest is the intact later-twentieth century milking parlor that appears just as it was left in 1987, when milking operations ended. An intact milking parlor in this condition is an artifact that may be studied to learn about dairy farm operations of this era right before dairying transitioned from medium-sized family farms with less than 100 cows to mega dairy operations featuring hundreds, if

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not, thousands of cows.

Overall, the few alterations to buildings of this farmstead are far overshadowed by their intact historic features. The preservation of this farmstead has been a family priority, especially for the late Stewart Calkins and the present owner, Carol Calkins, and is easily demonstrated by the level of repair and preservation of the farm.

*Comparative Analysis*

The Knapp-Calkins Farmstead is one of five Palmyra Township farmsteads recorded in the Architecture and History Inventory at the State Historic Preservation Office; none are currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Of these known farmsteads, most retain their farmhouse and collection of agricultural buildings and the Knapp-Calkins Farmstead compares favorably to these, being a complete historic farmstead retaining a large, high style Italianate farmhouse and its historic period barns, and related outbuildings.

*Conclusion*

The Knapp-Calkins Farmstead is architecturally significant because its individual buildings are good examples of types of construction that represent the development of Wisconsin agriculture during the period of significance. In particular, the farmhouse and dairy barn are outstanding examples of their type of construction with both decorative and functional features that can provide important architectural insight into nineteenth and twentieth century rural life. The farmhouse is an exceptional example of the Italianate style and the house is significant in the area of Art having elaborate, exceptional faux woodgrain finishes of a quality and artistry that is unmatched in the region.

Not only are the individual buildings architecturally interesting, the farmstead, as a whole, is a significant resource that represents an almost lost type of Wisconsin life—the family farm. It is a particularly important resource related to the growth of dairying by family farmers, a growth that came to define Wisconsin agriculture. The nominated property is an important example of a family farmstead, an important icon in Wisconsin history.

**Archeological Statement**

The Knapp-Calkins Farmstead encompasses several acres of land and historic sources indicate that there was much Native American activity in this area prior to white settlement. No prehistoric or historic archeological resources have been identified within this site and an archeological study was

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outside of the scope of this nomination. It is possible that prehistoric archeological sites may exist, but the archaeological potential remains unassessed

**Historic Preservation**

The nomination to the National Register of Historic Places was initiated by the owner of this property, Carol Calkins, who with her late husband Stewart, has worked hard for over 60 years to maintain the historic character of this farmstead. In recent years, the Village of Palmyra, whose boundary is very close to this farmstead, has developed an industrial park nearby. This industrial park has been developing land close to the Knapp-Calkins farmland and farmstead and the Village of Palmyra has engaged in serious discussions of potential annexation of the Calkins property. It is hoped that this National Register nomination will help protect at least the farmstead from the encroachment of this industrial park.

\_\_\_ End of Statement of Significance

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Section 9 Page 1

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Town of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

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\_\_\_Insert References

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES**

“Calkins Farm Entered into the Centennial Registration at Fair.” Records of the E. H. Calkins family, Palmyra Historical Society, 1984; copy in the local history files of the Powers Memorial Library, Palmyra, Wisconsin.

Fowler, Kaia, “1870s Wood Graining Stunning to Behold.” *Palmyra Enterprise*, August 28, 2003.

*History of Jefferson County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

Lehrke, Jennifer, Robert Short, and Rowan Davidson. *Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County, Wisconsin – Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey*. On file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin, 2013-2014.

*Palmyra Enterprise*, August 10, 1881, January 18, 1882.

National Park Service. *Preservation Brief 28: Painting Historic Interiors*, Accessed January 15, 2018,  
<https://www.nps.gov/history/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/28-painting-interiros.htm>.

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Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resources Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989.

\_\_\_End of References



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\_\_\_ Insert Boundary Descriptions

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Beginning at the intersection of the east parcel line and the south parcel line, then north 300 feet along the east parcel line to the intersection with an east-west line running 32 feet north of the farmstead's pole building at the northeast corner of the farmstead; then, 500 feet west along this line to the intersection with a north-south line 25 feet west of the westernmost wall of the silos projecting from the dairy barn; then, 300 feet south along this line to the intersection with the south parcel line; then, 500 feet east along the south parcel line to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:**

This boundary was drawn because the farmstead sits on a much larger parcel of farmland still retained by the farmstead owner. The boundary includes the historic setting of the farm buildings, including the south boundary along Highway 59, the east boundary along the parcel line with the next farm and the north and west boundaries along the edges of the farm fields that are still cultivated and have a different purpose from the farmstead site.

The boundary includes the large lawn space around and east of the farmhouse and the small areas of lawn or driveway spaces in front of and around the outbuildings. The boundary includes the non-contributing pole building because it was built close to the other outbuildings, sits on a site where a historic building was located, and is part of the current intact farmstead on the site.

The west boundary does encroach a bit into the tilled farm field west of the farmstead. This is due to the fact that the dairy barn and silos have not been in use since 1987 and a work zone around this building and structures is no longer necessary; therefore, land is cultivated closer to these buildings than in the past. In any event, the nominated boundary delineates the historic western boundary of the farmyard as it was differentiated from the cultivated fields during the period of significance.

The result of the boundary decisions is a compact site, with a group of buildings within their historic settings, and excluding extraneous land.

\_\_\_ End of Boundary Descriptions

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Section photos Page 1

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Town of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

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Insert Photo Descriptions

Name of Property:	Knapp-Calkins Farmstead
City or Vicinity:	Town of Palmyra
County:	Jefferson County
State:	WI
Name of Photographer:	Leah Penzkover
Date of Photographs:	August 2017
Location of Original Digital Files:	Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State St. Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Photo 1: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0001  
Site view, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo 2: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0002  
The farmhouse, west elevation (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.

Photo 3: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0003  
The farmhouse, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo 4: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0004  
The farmhouse, west elevation, camera facing northeast.

Photo 5: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0005  
The farmhouse, east elevation, camera facing northwest.

Photo 6: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0006  
The farmhouse, north elevation, camera facing south.

Photo 7: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0007  
Interior first floor south parlor from the entrance from the foyer, camera facing east.

Photo 8: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0008  
Interior first floor south parlor to the north parlor, camera facing north.

Photo 9: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0009  
Interior north first floor parlor from northeast corner of the parlor, camera facing southwest.

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Photo 10: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0010  
Interior first floor double door entrance to living room from dining room, camera facing southeast.

Photo 11: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0011  
Interior second floor staircase to foyer and main entrance, camera facing south.

Photo 12: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0012  
Interior second floor hallway to second floor bedrooms from top of staircase, camera facing southeast.

Photo 13: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0013  
Interior second floor master bedroom, camera facing southwest.

Photo 14: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0014  
Interior second floor bedroom, camera facing southwest.

Photo 15: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0015  
Dairy barn, south elevation (left), east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo 16: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0016  
Dairy barn, south elevation and silos, camera facing north.

Photo 17: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0017  
Interior of dairy barn, milking parlor, camera facing north.

Photo 18: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0018  
Basement barn, west elevation (left), south elevation (right), camera facing north.

Photo 19: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0019  
Animal barn, south elevation (left), east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo 20: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0020  
Old school building/granary, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo 21: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0021  
Small animal building, south elevation (left), east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

Photo 22: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0022  
Garage with privy, north elevation (left), west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

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Photo 23: WI\_Jefferson County\_Knapp-Calkins Farmstead\_0023  
Noncontributing pole building, west elevation (left), south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.

\_\_\_End of Photo Descriptions

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Insert Figures

Figure 1: Site Plan

Figure 2: Site Plan with Photo Key

Figure 3: Farmhouse Floor Plan, First Floor

Figure 4: Farmhouse Floor Plan, Second Floor

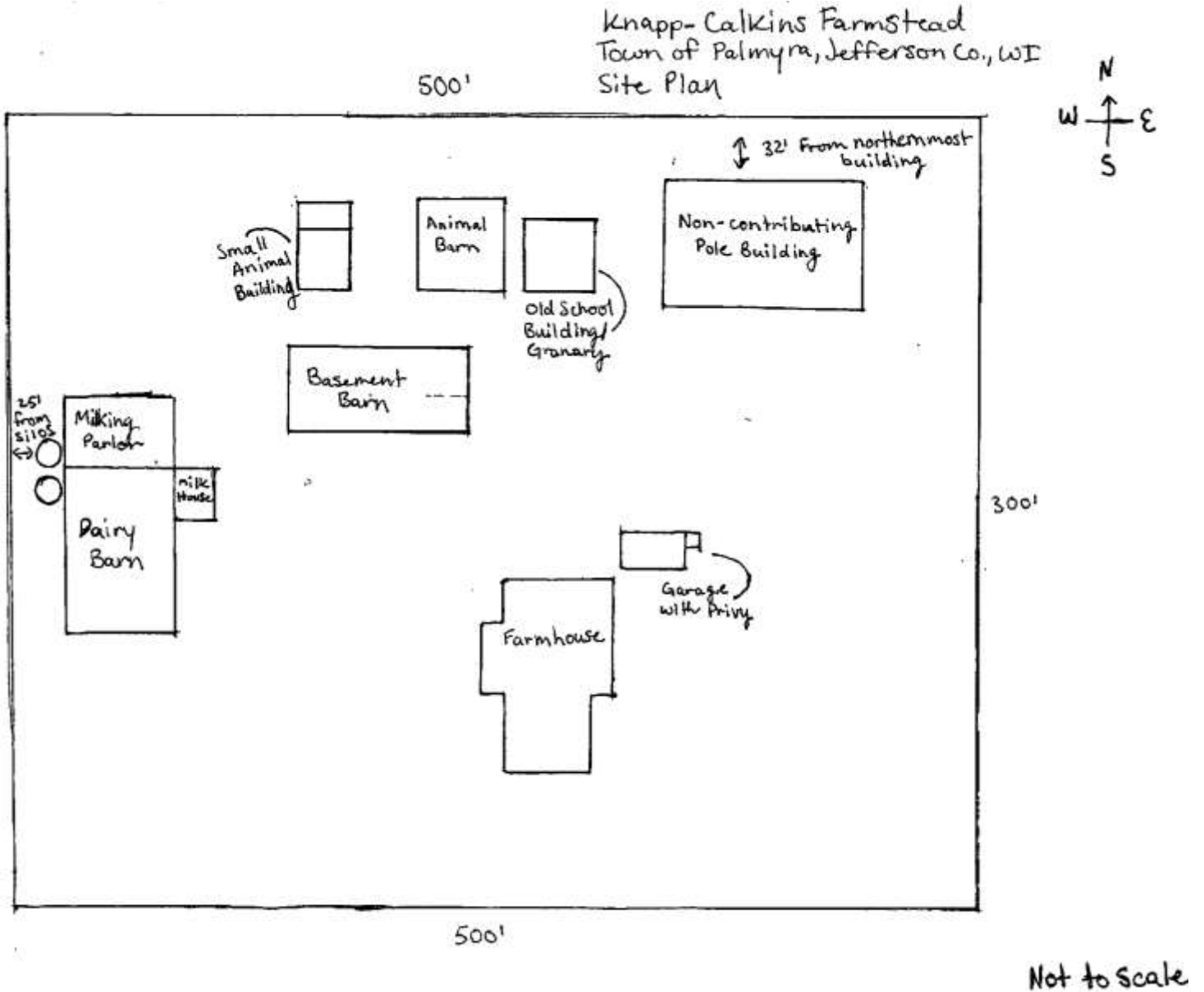
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 5

Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
Town of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: Site Plan – All buildings and structures contributing unless noted



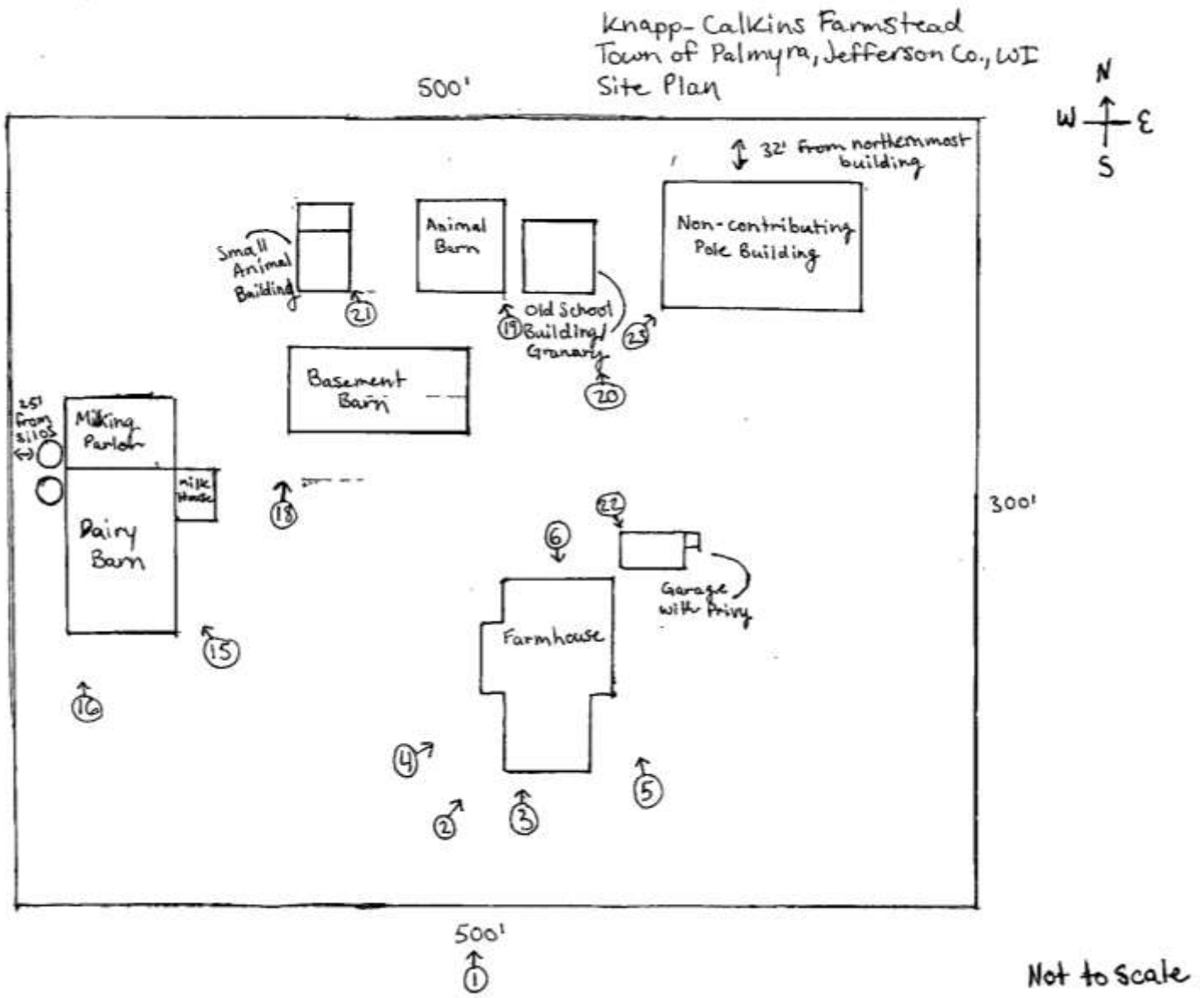
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 6

Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
Town of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Figure 2: Site Plan with Photo Key



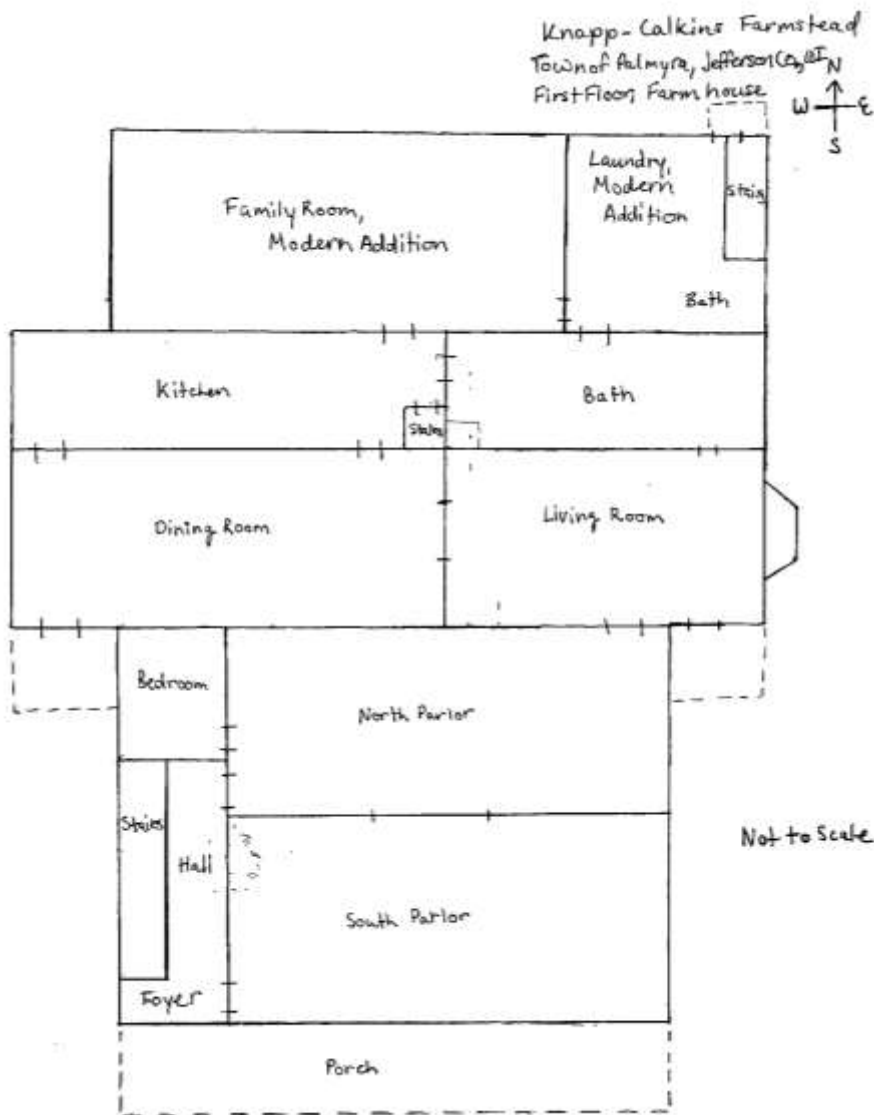
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 7

Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
Town of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Figure 3: Farmhouse Floor Plan, First Floor





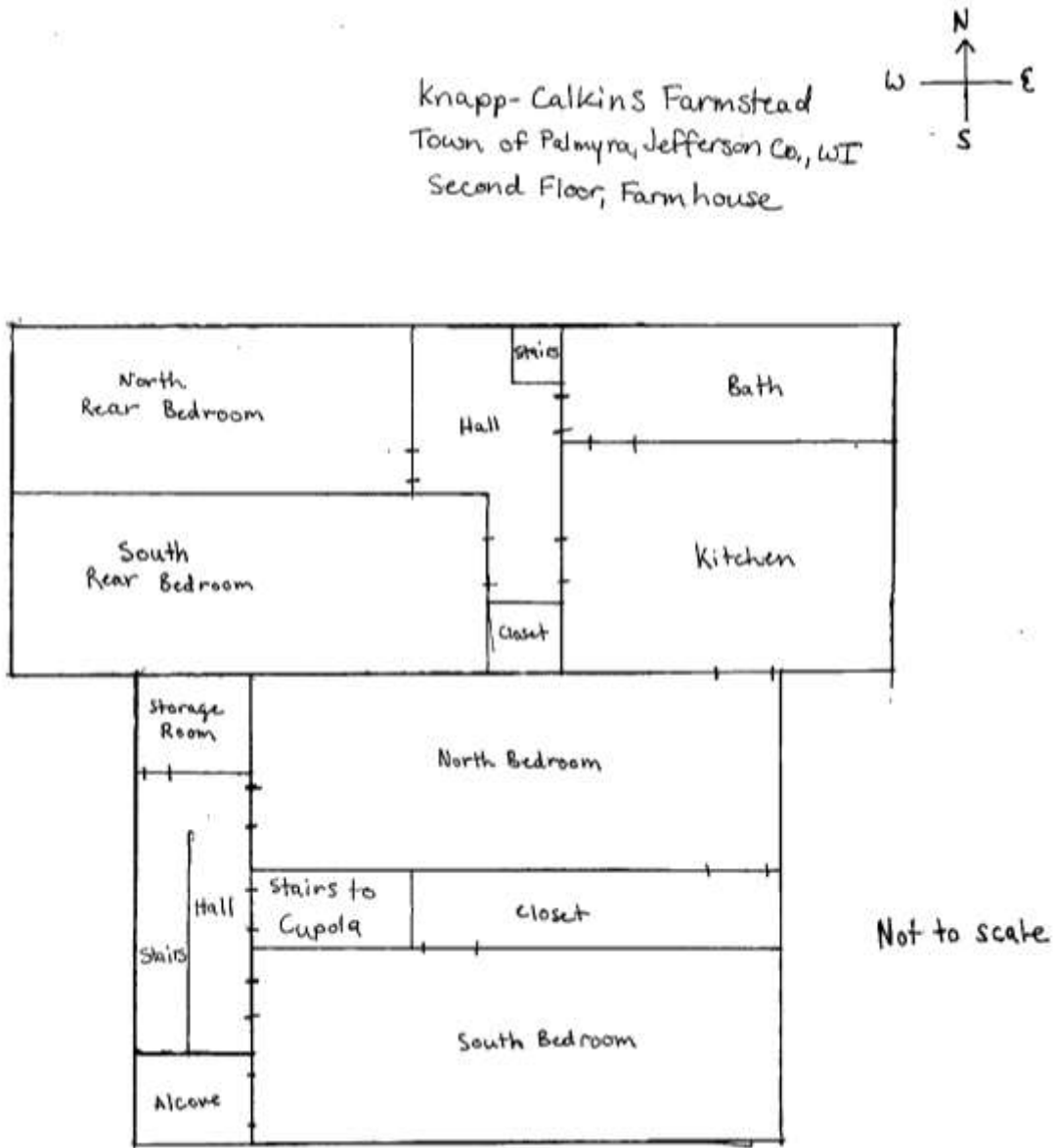
**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 8

Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
Town of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Figure 4: Farmhouse Floor Plan, Second Floor



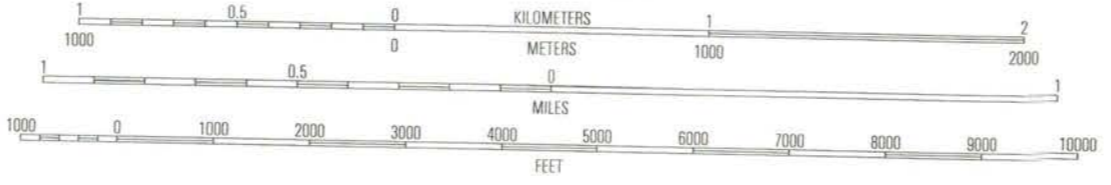
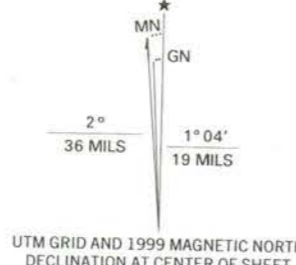
\_\_\_End Figures



Knapp-Calkins Farmstead  
Town of Palmyra, Jefferson Co.  
UTM References:

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| 1 36880  | 474850  |
| 2 36880  | 4748380 |
| 3 368720 | 4748380 |
| 4 368720 | 474850  |

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1995. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1971 and other sources. Photospotted using imagery dated 1995; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLS and survey control current as of 1960. Reservation boundaries current as of 1960, others revised 1999  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software  
Where omitted land lines have not been established  
There may be private holdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES



- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Helenville      |
| 2 | Oconomowoc West |
| 3 | Oconomowoc East |
| 4 | Rome            |
| 5 | Eagle           |
| 6 | Whitestar       |
| 7 | Little Prairie  |
| 8 | East Troy       |

PALMYRA, WI  
1995

NIMA 3269 1 NE-SERIES V961







James R. Taylor  
Real Estate  
262-642-7970

















































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: 9/14/2018      Date of Pending List: 10/5/2018      Date of 16th Day: 10/22/2018      Date of 45th Day: 10/29/2018      Date of Weekly List: 10/29/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      10/29/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit      Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      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: Peggy Veregin  
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Thirteenth day of September 2018, for the nomination of the Knapp-Calkins 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
- 23 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)
- 4 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: