NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in*How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Draize, August, Farmstead other names/site number N/A

#### 2. Location

street	& number	814 Tru-Way	Road				N/A	not for p	ublication	
city or	town	Town of Unic	n				N/A	vicinity		
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Door	code	029	zip code	54204	

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  $\underline{X}$  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  $\underline{X}$  meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_ nationally statewide  $\underline{X}$  locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

3 Signature of certifying official/Title

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

OMB No. 10024-0018

Draize, August, Farmstead		Door County	Wisconsin
Name of Property		County and St	ate
4. National Park Servi			
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.		h Boland	5/6/04
National Register. See continuation sheet. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)			······································
<u></u>	Signature of the	Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply) X private	Category of Property (Check only one box) X building(s)		ces within Property viously listed resources noncontributing
public-local public-State	district structure	6 2	2 buildings sites structures
public-Federal	site object	1 9	objects 2 total
public-Federal Name of related multiple pr Enter "N/A" if property not p listing. N/A	object	9 Number of contrib	objects 2 total
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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e

Draize, August, Farmstead Name of Property Door County

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

#### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- $\underline{X}$  A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- \_ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- $\underline{x} C$  Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- \_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### **Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- $\underline{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{B}$  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)

ARCHTIECTURE ETHNIC HERITAGE/ EUROPEAN

**Period of Significance** 

c. 1880-1936

#### **Significant Dates**

c. 1880

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** 

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

## Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Wisconsin

Drai	ize, August	, Farmstead		Door County	Wisconsin
lam	e of Prop	berty		County and State	
. N	Iajor B	Sibliographic (	References		·····
Cite	the book	cs, articles, and o	ther sources used in preparing this	form on one or more continuation sh	eets.)
	prelimina listing (3 previousl Register previousl the Natio designate landmark recorded	ary determination 6 CFR 67) has be ly listed in the Na ly determined elig onal Register ed a National Hist by Historic Amer	en requested tional gible by	Primary location of addit X State Historic Preservation Other State Agency Federal Agency Local government University Other Name of repository	on Office
0. (	Geogra	phical Data			
crea	age of Pr	roperty <u>2.2 acres</u>	B		
TM	l Referen	ices (Place additi	onal UTM references on a continua	tion sheet.)	
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	Zone	Easting	Northing	_		Easting ntinuation Sh	Northing eet	· ·

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)

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11. Form Prepar	red By					
name/title	Erin Pogany, Matt Becker, and J	eremy Happel		4-4-	A	
organization	Mead & Hunt, Inc.			date	April 2003	
street & number	6501 Watts Road			telephone	608-273-6380	
city or town	Madison	state	WI	zip code	53719-2700	

Draize, August, Farmstead	Door County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

MapsA 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	Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)						
name/title	Ivan Draize						
organization				date	1/2004		
street&number	10210 County Trunk Highway D			telephone	920 825-7080		
city or town	Luxemburg	state	WI	zip code	54217		

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

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Draize, August, Farmstead
Section <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>	Town of Union, Door County, Wisconsin

#### Description

The August Draize Farmstead is located at 814 Tru-Way Road, south of State Trunk Highway (STH) 57 in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 24, Township 26 North, Range 23 East, Union Township, Door County, Wisconsin. The northwest corner of the property is at the intersection of Tru-Way Road and County Trunk Highway (CTH) D. The property historically consisted of 160 acres. A pigpen, which originally stood on the farmstead, was sold to the Green Bay Historical Society in the early 1980s. There now exists a house, seven agricultural outbuildings, and two collapsed barns. One of the outbuildings was created from two earlier buildings later joined by common roof at a new location. Agricultural fields and other farmsteads surround the grounds.

## August Draize House c. 1880<sup>1</sup> Contributing

The August Draize House exemplifies the typical two-story, front-gable, Belgian form. The floor plan also reflects the four and two combination that typifies Belgian houses. The red brick house, which is currently used for storage, has a stone foundation and a standing seam-metal roof with an interior brick chimney located on the ridge. All of the windows of the house are in the original openings, although a number of the windows have been replaced with one-over-one, wood, double-hung windows. The main facade faces west and features a symmetrical fenestration pattern. The centrally placed entrance features a wood door with four panes, although it is presently covered with sheet metal for protection. On either side of the door are two wooden brackets used to support an arched overhang that has been removed. The entrance is flanked by two, one-over-one, double-hung windows; the second level has three, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The windows and entrance display raised-brick arched lintels. The gable end of the main facade displays the characteristic Belgian bull's-eye window with a raised-brick surround.

The south facade of the Draize House has two symmetrically placed, one-over-one, double-hung windows on the first level. Both of these windows feature the characteristic triple row of raised brick forming the arched lintel. A cellar entrance is located on the east of the facade and is covered over with standing-seam metal.

The rear (east) facade displays a hipped-roof porch with a stone foundation, concrete floor, and a standing-seam metal roof. The porch features turned posts with decorative brackets, all of which are hand-sawn. The symmetrical facade features a central entrance, containing a wood door with eight lights and a transom. The entrance is flanked by one-over-one, double-hung windows. The second level has three, one-over-one, double-hung windows. All windows on the facade feature raised- brick arched lintels.

The north facade, similar to the south facade, has two first-story windows that feature raised-brick arched lintels. To the east is a one-over-one, double-hung window; while to the west is an original two-over-two,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The construction dates assigned to buildings are based on the recollections of Ivan Draize; Ivan Draize, interview by Mead & Hunt, Inc., 9 August 1995.

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## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Draize, August, Farmstead	
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double-hung window. Two basement windows are located on the north facade, though they have been boarded over. Both windows display arched brick lintels, though they are only of two courses, and are not raised.

The interior of the Draize House features the typical Belgian "Four-and-Two Floor Plan" that is characterized by four small rooms on one wall and two large rooms on the other. The first floor demonstrates this plan with a washroom, stairway, bedroom, and closet/storage room along the north wall, and a kitchen and living room on the south wall. The second floor of the Draize House includes three small bedrooms, one of which was used for clothing storage, on half of the floor, and a large open room on the other half. An open attic displaying sawn, wood rafters is accessed from the second level by a ladder. A plastered chimney stands to the south of the attic opening in the center of the large room. The entire interior of the house features plaster walls and ceilings with simple painted woodwork detailing. A majority of the rooms display linoleum flooring. Although the house was occupied until 1975, interior plumbing was never installed and two wood stoves heated the house. The Draize House remains in good condition and is a contributing resource of the farmstead because it has remained largely unaltered from its historic appearance.

## Silo c. 1930 Contributing

This non-traditional silo was constructed by Louis Draize and his son, Ivan. The silo consists of a semi-circular section 28 feet in height, which is connected to an additional rectangular section. The silo extends 7 feet below grade. A gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles spans the entire structure. The gabled ends of the roof are covered in vertical wood siding, with a boarded window located on the east gable. The semi-circular section was constructed of both poured concrete in forms and concrete block. The rectangular section features a raised foundation of both concrete block and poured concrete. A second level of vertical wood siding sits upon the concrete foundation. A wooden door is located on the north facade of the rectangular section. To the right of the entrance is a rectangular, three-pane, fixed-sash window. The silo was originally connected to a barn that is no longer standing. This structure is in good condition and is a contributing resource of the farmstead.

## Chicken Coop c. 1935 Contributing The chicken coop features a side-gable form and a rectangular plan. The large coop stands on a concrete foundation, with walls clad in vertical wood siding, and a standing-seam metal roof. The interior of the structure retains the chicken roosts and a dirt floor. The building has an entrance on the west end of the south facade and a large window on the west facade that is partially boarded up. To the right of the door on the south facade, are three bays comprised of horizontal wooden boards. There are apertures within these bays that have been covered with replacement glass.

# Outhousec. 1920ContributingLocated behind the house and to the north of the chicken coop is a gabled-roof outhouse. The building has a<br/>concrete foundation, walls of horizontal wood siding, and an asphalt-shingled roof. The building is in good<br/>condition and is a contributing resource of the property.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Garage/Chicken Coop c. 1910/1900, Moved c. 1936

This building was constructed from an early agricultural building later used as a chicken coop and from a garage that were moved to their present location. They were attached with a common gable roof, creating a dog trot between them. The chicken coop section is located on the eastern end of the structure. It rests on a stone foundation and is constructed of hewn logs with square notching. The garage section has no foundation and its walls are constructed of vertical wood boards, with the gable portion consisting of board- and-batten siding. Both the chicken coop and garage are covered with a gable roof of standing-seam metal. The garage area and chicken coop are currently being used for wood storage. Although the buildings have been moved, they remain in good condition and are a contributing resource of the farmstead. While depicted as a single building on the attached site map, the resource count reflects two distinct buildings.

Contributing

## Badger Oil Building c. 1925 Contributing

This large, front-gabled form building with a shed lean-to addition on the north facade was used as the building for the Badger Oil Company operated by August Draize and his two brothers from 1924-1928. The main building has a concrete foundation, timber frame construction, and vertical board walls covered with metal siding, all of which is original to the building. The lean-to displays vertical wood siding and a standing seammetal roof. The main facade, which faces west, features an entrance on the lean-to and a double-door on the main section flanked by two small boarded-up, first-story windows. Above the first-story windows are a pair of two-over-two, double-hung windows in which the panes have been painted. The south facade displays three upper-level windows – one is an original two-over-two, double-hung window; while the other two are replacement windows. The east (rear) facade features two small, boarded-up windows on the first level and two tall, narrow windows on the second level. Of the two second-level windows, one is the original two-over-two, double-hung; while the other is a replacement window. The north facade of the lean-to features an entrance and two small, boarded-up windows. The shed roof extends beyond the north facade to create a large overhang under which a sawmill was once located.

The interior of the building has a dirt floor and two open rooms. The smaller room in the lean-to shed section was later used as a blacksmith shop and includes an interior concrete chimney and the forge. The main section includes an oil tank and a loft, where the oil was stored. Timber framing supports the loft.

## Collapsed Barn c. 1936 Contributing

The remnants of a large hay barn with a gambrel roof are located to the southeast of the house. It was originally attached to another barn, which is also collapsed. What remains now is a contorted metal roof and a portion of the foundation. The ruins of this barn still convey a sense of the farm's original layout, and are therefore considered a contributing resource of the farmstead.

## Collapsed Barn and Foundation c. 1910 Contributing

Located near the road are the remains of a cow and horse barn that was originally attached to the large gambrelroof barn. The barn, which stood on a stone foundation, retains only the first-story walls, which are leaning and falling to the ground. The four facades display vertical-board walls covered with wood-shingled siding and Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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numerous void windows and entrances. A poured-concrete foundation is located between the collapsed barn and the gambrel barn. The foundation shows small window openings on the east and west facades. Since the ruins of this barn and foundation still convey a sense of the farm's original layout, they are a contributing resource of the farmstead.

#### Pole Building c. 1979 Non-Contributing

Located to the rear of the property, this modern pole building features a gable form with corrugated metal walls and roof sheathing. The large, rectangular, open-plan building has a garage door and window on the north facade, with another garage door on the south facade. Small, fixed-sash windows are located on the north, east, and west facades. The building is used for storage. Due to its modern construction date, this building is a noncontributing resource of the property.

## Pole Garage c. 1975 Non-Contributing

This modern metal pole garage is located between the south facade of the house and the collapsed barn. The front-gabled building has a garage door on the main (west) facade, an entrance on the north facade, and a small fixed-sash window on each facade. Due to its modern construction date, this building is a non-contributing resource.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Draize, August, Farmstead Town of Union, Door County, Wisconsin

#### **Statement of Significance**

The August Draize Farmstead is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture as a fine local example of a late nineteenth century Belgian farmhouse, with a complement of six contributing outbuildings and two contributing sites. Together these components display the elements defining a functioning farmstead in the early twentieth century. This farmstead is unique because it also contains a building associated with a farm related business. The house, built c.1880, has few alterations and displays many of the traditional elements of Belgian construction, including a two-story, front-gable form, brick construction on a stone foundation, a bull's-eye window under the front gable, and arched lintels with decorative brickwork. Six agricultural outbuildings contribute to the significance of the farmstead. They remain in good condition, and include a silo, chicken coop, outhouse, garage/chicken coop (historically separate buildings), and an oil company building. In addition to the outbuildings, two collapsed barns are located on the farmstead. These barns are considered contributing sites, as their ruins still convey a sense of the original farm layout. The Draize Farmstead is also eligible under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage, for its strong association with Belgian settlement and the perpetuation of these immigrants' native building practices and culture. The period of significance for the Draize Farmstead is c.1880 through 1936, encompassing the construction dates of the house and the contributing outbuildings and sites.

## Historic Context

## History of Belgian Settlement<sup>2</sup>

The difficult economic situation in Belgium that followed the country's independence in 1830, combined with promotional activities by immigrant recruiting agents, resulted in an exodus of rural Walloon peasants seeking a better life in America. Wisconsin was advocated as a place to settle by recruiters who worked for Antwerp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Belgian settlement in northeast Wisconsin has been well studied, most recently by Professors William Laatsch of the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, and William H. Tishler of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. This section was compiled from a number of secondary sources, including William G. Laatsch and Charles F. Calkins, "Belgians in Wisconsin," in *To Build in a New Land: Ethnic Landscapes in North America*, ed. by Allen G. Noble (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992); William H. Tishler, "Namur Belgian-American District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 6 November 1989; Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape*, Vol. 2, *Barns and Farm Structures* (Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984); Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, 3 Vols. (Madison, Wisc.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986); Deborah B. Martin, *History of Brown County, Wisconsin: Past and Present*, Vol. 1 (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1913); Xavier Martin, *Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, Vol. 13, *The Belgians of Northeast Wisconsin*, ed. by Reuben Gold Thwaites (Madison, Wisc.: Democrat Printing Co., 1895); William H. Tishler and Erik Brynildson, "The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin" (Madison, Wisc., July 1986); and Virginia C. Dell, "Bay Settlement: A Hamlet in Northeastern Wisconsin," 1974, Belgian-American Research Collection, Special Collections, Cofrin Library, the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, Green Bay, Wisc.

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Draize, August, Farmstead Town of Union, Door County, Wisconsin

shipowners and were equipped with promotional guidebooks. The Belgians who emigrated to Wisconsin's Door Peninsula between 1853 and 1857 came primarily from the south-central provinces of Brabant, Hanaut, and Namur. Belgians from these southern provinces were Catholics and spoke Walloon, a French-Patois dialect. In 1857, however, emigration slowed due to restrictions by the Belgian government and discouraging letters from previous emigrants.

Most of the Belgian settlements in the Door Peninsula were concentrated in the towns of Gardner, Union, and Brussels in Door County; the communities of Red River and Lincoln in northern Kewaunee County; and the towns of Humboldt, Scott, and Green Bay in Brown County. The majority of the settlers were farmers, but a few were skilled laborers or factory workers who left these professions in their native country to farm their own land in America. The number of Belgians in the peninsula by 1860 was estimated to be 4,647.

Dense forests and scattered swamps physically isolated the Belgian enclave from other nearby settlements. Language and cultural misunderstandings also kept the Belgians apart from their German, Irish, and Scandinavian neighbors who lived in communities 10 to 15 miles away. This isolation, coupled with economic troubles, denied these Belgian settlers benefits that were enjoyed by other tax-supported populations in the area, including expanded county roads and schools. However, in 1858, the Belgians, as a group, finally decided to exercise their right to vote and run for office. The result was a Belgian coup of local government through which they assumed the upper hand in the affairs of Bay Settlement – the nearest large community. The community of Belgians was thereafter recognized as an important faction in the county. Newly elected Belgians were instrumental in establishing school districts, obtaining teachers, and improving roads in their settlement. Upon application to the federal government, post offices were soon established at Bay Settlement and Robinsonville, also located in Brown County. By the 1860s large tracts of previously forested land were under cultivation and larger, more commodious houses and barns were being built.

The Walloon Belgian immigrants were largely of the Catholic faith and carried cultural affiliations of the Roman-Catholic Church with them from their homeland. Originally, 10 Belgian-American families had claims to settle land located to the south of Green Bay near Kaukauna. However, Father Edouard Daems, a Belgian immigrant who came to Wisconsin in 1852 and became the first priest of Bay Settlement, convinced the families to settle near his parish north of Green Bay in Door County.<sup>3</sup> Father Daems' presence would attract many other Belgian immigrants to this part of northeast Wisconsin.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Hjalmar R. Holand, *History of Door County, Wisconsin: The County Beautiful* (Chicago, Ill.: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1917), 1:412.

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Draize, August, Farmstead Town of Union, Door County, Wisconsin

Congregations and shrines were quickly established following settlement. Constructed in 1858, the Chapel of the Holy Virgin in Robinsonville (Brown County) was the first church to be built in the area. In 1860 St. Mary's was built in the township of Union.<sup>4</sup> By 1880 Bay Settlement was home to three institutions founded by Father Daems – the Holy Cross Church, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross convent, and the Holy Cross School.<sup>5</sup>

The Belgian Americans often constructed roadside chapels to participate in daily worship without traveling to the local church. These numerous chapels attest to the deep religious conviction of the Belgian Americans. Usually located on public roads, chapels were easily found, placed to facilitate use in religious processionals, and by travelers. Traditionally, the function of wayside chapels is tied to the road and typically they were moved to keep their use viable. Owners of chapels encouraged their use by visitors. Chapels were often built for such reasons as to remember a loved one, or to honor a particular patron saint.<sup>6</sup>

Many Germans, Irish, Scandinavians, and Hollanders were also Roman Catholic and contributed to the development of the strong religious community in the Door Peninsula. Members of the Norbertine Order, for example, came from Holland in 1893 and became influential among Catholics in the area. The Norbertines advocated adherence to church rules by settlers who had fallen astray of their religion. They also established facilities for higher learning, including St. Norbert's College in De Pere.<sup>7</sup> By 1898 Roman Catholics, the majority of whom were immigrants, numbered 125,000 in the Green Bay Diocese, which had jurisdiction over northeastern Wisconsin, and 121 churches had been established.

## History of Door County

Menominee, Winnebago, and Fox Indian tribes inhabited the shores of Green Bay when Jean Nicolet landed there in 1634. In the 1650s and 1660s, French traders began fur trading and missionary activities and soon established Wisconsin's first community of European settlers. In 1835 Increase Chaflin, a trapper and trader, settled at Little Sturgeon in Door County. Besides trapping and trading, other early settlers to the area fished the waters of Green Bay. The timber industry, namely the harvest of pine and cedar, began around 1850 with

<sup>4</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 60.

<sup>5</sup> Wyatt, ed., "Religion," 3:3.4-3.7; Wyatt, ed., "Settlement," 1:4.5; and Sylvia Hall Holubetz, ed., *Farewell to the Homeland: European Immigration to N.E. Wisconsin 1840 to 1900* (Green Bay, Wisc.: Brown County Historical Society, 1984), 21.

<sup>6</sup> Holubetz, ed., 25.

<sup>7</sup> For information about the Norbertines and their influence, see *The Haven of My Salvation*...*Dedication of St. Norbert Abbey* (West De Pere, WI., 1959); and *With the Grace of God*...*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* (Green Bay, WI.: Alt Publishing Co., 1993).

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Draize, August, Farmstead Town of Union, Door County, Wisconsin

mills being built in Sturgeon Bay and other communities. The population of Door County reached 2,948 in 1860, rising to 4,919 by 1870.<sup>8</sup>

Beginning in the 1850s, a large number of Belgian immigrants settled in southern Door County, forming ethnic enclaves in Brussels and Union Townships. The town of Brussels was first settled in 1856 by Belgian Ferdinand Debraux and his family and three other Belgian immigrant men. Within 2 years, 55 families had settled in Brussels, and by 1861, the first business – a tavern – was opened by Francois Pierre. The first Brussels post office was established in 1862. In 1870, 216 of the 406 residents were Belgian natives.<sup>9</sup> A new township was established from a portion of Brussels Township by the County Board in November of 1865. A town meeting was held shortly thereafter at the home of X. Braus, where the name "Union" was decided upon because its townspeople were thought to be unified in areas of public interest.<sup>10</sup>

Early settlement of townships typically involved the development of villages at major road intersections or near mills and general stores, as these areas were better able to support commercial activities. Rosiere and Brussels in Brussels Township, and Namur in Union Township, are communities that developed in the early history of southern Door County. Typically, these communities included a commercial center with a general store, mill, and other services, and they were surrounded by houses.

In the 1890s the village of Rosiere had the largest population in Brussels Township with 300 residents and supported three general stores. The Charles Rubens General Store in Rosiere was also a hotel and cheese factory, and it commanded a prominent location in the village on the main thoroughfare. Rosiere also sustained three blacksmiths, a carpenter, a mason, a shoemaker, and a notary public. At the same time, the village of Namur in Union Township supported three general stores, including Frank Everard's General Store. With a population of 100, Namur also boasted two physicians and a blacksmith. In contrast, by 1895, the smaller village of Brussels had only one business – the Pierre Virlee & Company General Store.<sup>11</sup>

By 1903 business in Rosiere and Namur had decreased. The population in Rosiere had dropped from 300 to 50. Rosiere possessed the Charles Rubens General Store, three blacksmiths, a carpenter, a shoemaker, a creamery, a cooper, a mason, a hay presser, and a sculptor; while just one general store continued to operate in Namur. At

<sup>8</sup> Holand, 1:83.

<sup>9</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 25.

<sup>10</sup> Chas I. Martin, *History of Door County, Wisconsin* (Sturgeon Bay, Wis.: Expositor Job Print, 1881), 90.

<sup>11</sup> Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1895-96). The Pierre Virlee & Company General Store is still extant and was determined to be eligible for the National Register in a report by Mead & Hunt, Inc., "State Trunk Highway 57 Reconstruction, Door County, Reconnaissance Survey of Potentially Significant Historic Properties," April 1995, Madison, WI.

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the same time, Brussels' population grew to 160 as the village gained many new businesses, including two saloons, two masons, a hotel, a tailor, a shoemaker, a carpenter, and a blacksmith. According to the *Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, the Pierre Virlee & Company General Store added a flour mill onsite.<sup>12</sup>

Brussels continued to grow through 1912 to a population of 200, while the population of Rosiere and Namur remained static. Namur still supported one general store as did Rosiere, with only a few other surrounding businesses. Brussels, on the other hand, added three new stores, including the Gabe Pierre General Store and Agricultural Implements.<sup>13</sup>

By 1918 Brussels had doubled in population to 400, and besides having six general stores, added businesses such as the Rex Theater, a restaurant, newspaper, pharmacist, cement contractor, and two horse breeders. The Pierre Virlee & Company had disbanded, but Gabe Pierre and Jules Pierre, who may have been proprietors of this enterprise, operated separate businesses in Brussels.

## Agriculture

In the second half of the nineteenth century, agricultural activities on the Door Peninsula experienced a series of changes. During the early settlement period of the area, around the mid-nineteenth century, agricultural activity consisted mainly of grain production. Prior to the twentieth century, agriculture shifted to the production of vegetables and then to fruit. During this transitional period, the dairy business also became an important means of making a living. Throughout the twentieth century, a diversified agricultural system evolved, which included dairying and cherry production, as well as growing abundant crops of rye, oats, barley, corn, peas, and potatoes.

Wheat became the first major cash crop in the area, as it was throughout much of the frontier. Wheat was an ideal crop for pioneers because soil that was not previously cultivated yielded the best results. In 1850 approximately 430 acres of wheat was grown on the peninsula. By 1890 that number had swelled to nearly 55,000 acres of wheat. However, the continuous wheat production drained essential nitrogen from the soil. As fields became useless, farmers cleared new land to grow their wheat. Eventually, these fields also became useless for wheat production.<sup>14</sup> As pioneers moved on, wheat as a major cash crop followed the frontier westward.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1903-04).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory (Chicago, Ill.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1911-12).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, *A Century of Wisconsin Agriculture: 1848-1948* (Madison, Wisc.: Wisconsin State Department of Agriculture, 1948), 90.

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Similar to other farms throughout Wisconsin, as wheat crops failed, peninsula farmers turned to dairy farming as a new means of making a living. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* provides a summary of the three stages of development of the dairy industry in Wisconsin. Early dairy production began in the 1840s and 1850s as New Yorkers who had been raised on dairy farms brought their skills west. Following the decline of the wheat market, dairying competed with a variety of other cash crops and animal husbandry for the former wheat farmers' interest. The dairy industry experienced a revolution between 1860 and 1890 as farmers became more specialized. By the 1890s the foundation of the Wisconsin dairy industry was firmly in place.

During the first three decades of the twentieth century, the dairy industry was characterized by expansion, both in number of dairy farms and regions of the state where this activity was prominent, and by prosperity. By 1915 Wisconsin had become the leading dairy state in the nation with six southeastern counties comprising the heartland for milk production. Butter and cheese-making became important industries in the southwestern part of the state. Historically, the northeastern counties surrounding Green Bay have also played a role in the dairy industry.<sup>15</sup> In 1915 Door, Kewaunee, and Brown Counties produced nearly 21 million pounds of cheese combined.<sup>16</sup>

Coinciding with the transition to dairy farming in the late nineteenth century, farmers turned to the production of crops that supported livestock production and were better suited to the soil and climate than wheat. Potatoes became more important to the economy and grew well in the peninsula soil. In 1870, 2,197 acres of potatoes were planted on the Door Peninsula. A farmer could harvest as many as 700 bushels of potatoes from 1 acre. As wheat was declining, three times as many acres of potatoes were planted, with 6,394 acres in 1890.<sup>17</sup> By the end of the nineteenth century, other crops, such as peas and sugar beets, also became popular on the peninsula.

Farmers also experimented with growing and manufacturing other crops and products. In the late 1890s, 25,000 pounds of wool was produced in Door County alone. For a short period, farmers also produced bundles of birch brush for the use in manufacturing brooms. Cranberries were also introduced, but lasted only a short time. Cranberry plants required a wet and marsh environment and therefore only flourished when there was a lot of water. The production suffered during droughts.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Lotz, 1:130-131.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Wyatt, ed., "Agriculture," 2:9-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, 111.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, 90; and Marvin M. Lotz, *Discovering Door County's Past: A* Comprehensive History of the Door Peninsula in two volumes, Vol. 1, From the Beginning to 1930 (Fish Creek, Wisc.: Holy House Press, 1994), 128.

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The large-scale, commercial production of cherries on the peninsula that exists today started in the 1890s. Prior to this time, a limited number of fruit trees were found in the area with only a small number of true orchards. Farmers primarily grew fruit trees for their personal use. The first commercial orchards were planted in the northern part of the peninsula in the 1890s. In the following years, farmers throughout the Door Peninsula grew fruit trees for large-scale production and distribution. Cherries and apples became the most successful of the various fruit crops.<sup>19</sup>

Throughout the twentieth century, the diversified agricultural system of the peninsula continued to evolve and modernize. Although farmers in the area depend on many industries such as raising various livestock, processing cherries, and producing wine, the major agricultural economic force in both Door and Brown Counties continues to be dairy production.

The primary function of the 40-acre Draize Farmstead was dairy production, with a small number of chickens, pigs, and sheep also raised. The Draize family also operated the Badger Oil Company from the farmstead, blending different grades of oil for sale to local farmers.

## Architecture

#### **Building Materials**

Belgian immigrants in the Door Peninsula built their first domestic structures, including homes and agricultural outbuildings, of log. Wood was the most logical construction material to these early settlers, in that it was both abundant and inexpensive. The most predominant wood source in the area was white cedar. In addition to being available, white cedar was soft, grew relatively straight, and was easy to work with.<sup>20</sup> Construction techniques included the use of rough hewn cedar and pine logs, with square, half, or dovetail notching, and clay chinking.<sup>21</sup> Although many immigrants to Wisconsin brought traditional timber construction with them from their homelands, log construction was not common in Belgium.<sup>22</sup> As a result, initial log structures built by Belgian immigrants often lacked the refinement and craftsmanship found with those of other ethnic groups in Wisconsin, such as the Finns, Swedes, and Norwegians.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Lotz, 1:132-133.

<sup>20</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 68.

<sup>21</sup> Noble, 2:139-141.

<sup>22</sup> Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:4.2.

<sup>23</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 68.

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Once the Belgian settlers became established on the land, initial log dwellings were often converted to a farm structure, and a second house was constructed. This house usually exhibited a higher degree of craftsmanship than that of the first house. These second dwellings were sometimes covered with a wood or brick veneer and enlarged with frame additions over time.<sup>24</sup>

Other early wooden buildings and structures not entirely built of logs utilized timber and balloon-frame construction. Timber-frame construction, which involves a system of heavy posts and timbers held in place by wooden pegs, was brought to Wisconsin by European settlers and was used well into the nineteenth century. Balloon-frame construction originated in Chicago in the 1830s. It substituted lighter boards and nails for the massive timbers and pegs used in timber framing. Balloon framing became very popular in Wisconsin in the late nineteenth century because it was inexpensive and expedient. However, as with all wood construction, buildings with balloon frames were vulnerable to catching fire.<sup>25</sup>

On October 8, 1871, the great Peshtigo fire took a number of lives and destroyed many of the buildings and structures made of log and wood in the Door Peninsula. In Brussels, for example, approximately 130 people were killed. The city of Green Bay was largely untouched by the fire and served as a relief center for other communities.<sup>26</sup> Since historic and contemporary accounts of the Peshtigo fire are unclear as to the extent of the damage in the area, it is unknown if all buildings were destroyed. Yet, it is likely that some log and wood buildings did survive the fire and date before 1871.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 69.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:4.4 - 4.5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> "Brown County History – 1700 to 1800," n.d., <a href="http://www.rootsweb.com/~wibrown/1700s.htm">http://www.rootsweb.com/~wibrown/1700s.htm</a> (7 September 2001).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Joe Knappen, "A Terrible Visitation," Door County Advocate, 23 June 1995.

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Shortly after the Peshtigo fire, Belgians in the Door Peninsula began to expand their farms onto former timberland cleared by the fire and to rebuild their farmsteads with fireproof materials, such as stone, brick, and metal.<sup>28</sup> Brick and stone were common building materials in Belgium and were readily accepted by Belgian immigrants in the Door Peninsula. Typical Belgian houses are one-and-one-half- to two-and-one-half-story structures with stone foundations, shingle or metal roofs, and brick exteriors. A bull's-eye window in the gable end facing the road appears on many examples of brick Belgian houses. The floor plan for these houses is often four-and-two, which consists of two large rooms on one end and four small rooms on the opposite end of the first floor. Similar four-and-two floor plans can also be found in some log, stone, and bricked-over log houses in the area of Belgian settlement.<sup>29</sup> Over time, these unique brick buildings have become icons of Belgian settlement in northeastern Wisconsin.

The entire region in which the Belgians settled lies within what is known as the "Red Clay District of Wisconsin." This proximity to soil types suitable for making bricks allowed for bricks to be easily and inexpensively manufactured.<sup>30</sup> Small, local brickyards were established in the 1880s and supplied the deep red bricks used for construction in the area. These locally produced red bricks were used for the main building, and light tan or cream-colored bricks from the Milwaukee area were sometimes used to accent window and door openings. The use of different colors in brick construction is a distinctive feature of this rural landscape.<sup>31</sup> According to the *Milwaukee Journal*, Joseph Vandermissen had the largest brick-making kiln in the area, employing several people, and George Peters operated a kiln south of Brussels.<sup>32</sup> A 1986 survey conducted by William H. Tishler and Erik Brynildson, *The Architectural and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin*, documented 18 brickyards in the area, including those owned by Vandermissen and Peters.<sup>33</sup> Local brick production diminished by the early twentieth century when larger brick-making operations and newer technologies took over. By 1913, there were only seven brick manufacturers in the area around Green Bay.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Noble, 2:139-140.

<sup>29</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 68, 70-71, 75, 77.

<sup>30</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 75.

<sup>31</sup> Noble, 2:140; Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:4.11.

<sup>32</sup> "Red brick homes mark of Belgian Settlement," *Milwaukee Journal*, 9 May 1926 <a href="http://www.shsw.wisc.edu/wlhba/articleView.asp?pageno=1&id=12467">http://www.shsw.wisc.edu/wlhba/articleView.asp?pageno=1&id=12467</a>> (31 July 2002).

<sup>33</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 41-49.

<sup>34</sup> Deborah B. Martin, 330.

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Higher-quality bricks were used on the exterior of the building, while lesser-quality bricks were used for the interior walls, which were often plastered over. The mortar was made from local lime and sand from the shores of Lake Michigan.<sup>35</sup> Brick architecture was used not only for domestic structures, but also for educational, commercial, and some agricultural facilities. Brick agricultural outbuildings are rare in the region, though a few barns, sheds, granaries, and pigsties have been identified in the area. Tishler and Brynildson noted two examples of brick barns, a smokehouse and pumphouse of brick, and a number of brick granaries in their survey of Belgian architecture.<sup>36</sup> Brick veneer over hewn cedar or pine logs can also be found in the Belgian architecture of the Door Peninsula. They also recorded that at least one barn in the area had a brick veneer; this example was reported in the *Door County Advocate* in 1884 but is apparently no longer extant.<sup>37</sup> This construction technique is unusual, however, and likely represents a transition from log to all-brick construction.<sup>38</sup>

In "The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin," Tishler and Brynildson documented 233 pioneer brick farmsteads in the area of Belgian settlement – constituting 62 percent of all houses inventoried, and 16 brick schools – constituting 70 percent of all schools inventoried.<sup>39</sup> In these buildings, Tishler and Brynildson found a transfer of architectural themes and building methods from the Old World. The greatest concentration of Belgian brick dwellings in northeastern Wisconsin is in the Namur Belgian-American National Historic Landmark District (NRHP, 1989) in Door County. The c. 1880 Draize House is an example of a brick dwelling displaying a transfer of Old World Belgian architectural themes. Brick outbuildings are rare in the region, and the contributing outbuildings of the Draize Farmstead are constructed of wood.

#### Front Gable Houses

According to *Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in Wisconsin*, front-gabled houses were generally built in Wisconsin from c.1840 to 1925. *CRM* identifies the front-gabled houses built by Belgian immigrants in Door, Kewaunee, and Brown Counties as a well-known variant of this form. Front-gabled houses are characterized by

<sup>35</sup> Lawrence LeRoy, interview by William H. Tishler and Erik Brynildson, in "The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin" (Madison, Wisc., July 1986), 76.

<sup>36</sup> Laatsch and Calkins, 200; and Tishler and Brynildson, 87-89. According to Allen G. Noble, "The Belgians did not use brick for either barns or outbuildings," see Noble, 2:141. He was apparently not aware of the few examples that have been identified.

<sup>37</sup> Laatsch and Calkins, 200; Noble, 2:140; and Tishler and Brynildson, 74. Tishler notes having located mention of such a barn in the newspaper.

<sup>38</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 73.

<sup>39</sup> Tishler and Brynildson, 35, 69.

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a rectangular plan, gabled roof, and the placement of the major facade in the gable end of the building.<sup>40</sup> Decorative brickwork and bull's-eye windows are characteristics of front-gabled houses built by Belgian immigrants.

The August Draize House, c.1880, displays many of the distinctive stylistic elements of Belgian construction in northeastern Wisconsin, including a one-and-one-half-story, front-gabled form, stone foundation, brick construction, and decorative brickwork around the window openings. Mead & Hunt's reconnaissance survey noted that many houses in the area have been altered or modernized, leaving very few pristine examples.<sup>41</sup> Alterations range from simple window replacements and porch additions, to completely modified window openings and large modern sections being added. The integrity of the August Draize House compares favorably to other Belgian front-gabled houses in the area. It retains many of its original architectural features, including a rear porch with turned posts and decorative brackets. Alterations to the house are minimal and include the replacement of some windows, sheet metal covering the main door, and the conversion of the house into a storage facility.

## History of the Property<sup>42</sup>

The August Draize Farmstead was established on 40 acres in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 24, Township 26 North, Range 23 East in Union Township, Door County. August Draize is the first recorded owner of the property, as indicated by the 1899 atlas of Door County. According to his grandson, Ivan Draize, August came from Belgium in 1871, shortly after the Peshtigo fire. August was recorded in the Wisconsin State Census of 1875. The house was constructed between 1880 and 1890. In the 1905 census he was recorded as a Belgian-born farmer with a wife, four sons, and two daughters, all born in Wisconsin. His four oldest children were listed as farm laborers in this census.

The Draize farm was primarily a dairy farm, although some chickens, pigs, and sheep were also raised. In addition to farming, an early commercial venture was also included in the activities of the farm. The Badger Oil Company, established by August Draize and two of his brothers, was located in a building northeast of the

<sup>40</sup> Wyatt, ed., "Architecture," 2:3-2.

<sup>41</sup> The corridor studied by Mead & Hunt focused on properties near STH 57, from STH 54 on the southwestend to STH 42 on the northeast. The corridor spanned the STH 57 centerline by 1 mile to the north and 2.5 miles to the south and included much of the Belgian-American settlement region of northeastern Wisconsin.

<sup>42</sup> Family history and property information were obtained from the *Illustrated Atlas of Door County, Wisconsin* (Oshkosh, Wisc.: Randall & Williams, 1899); *Wisconsin State Census, 1875*, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Library Microforms Room, Madison, Wisc. (Salt Lake City: The Geneological Society, 1979); *Wisconsin State Census, 1905* (Madison, Wisc.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives Division, 1952); and from Ivan Draize, interview by Mead & Hunt, Inc., 9 August 1995.

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house, and operated from about 1924 through 1928. The company blended different grades of oil for cars, tractors, steam engines, and agricultural machinery and provided it to local farmers.

The farmstead has continually remained in the ownership of the Draize family. Between 1914 and 1920, the property was transferred to Louis Draize, the son of August, who retained ownership until he passed away around 1975. At this time, his son Ivan received ownership of the property. Currently, the house is not occupied and is used for storage. In addition, a number of the agricultural outbuildings are used as workshops and storage spaces.

#### Criteria Consideration

The joined garage and chicken coop were moved within the period of significance and contribute to our understanding of the use and re-use of farmstead buildings.

#### Conclusion

The August Draize Farmstead is significant under *Criterion C: Architecture* as a fine example of a latenineteenth century Belgian house, with eight contributing resources. The Draize Farmstead is also eligible under *Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage* for its strong association with Belgian settlement and the perpetuation of these immigrants' native building practices. The house reflects the continuation of a Belgian cultural preference for masonry construction. Many European immigrants who settled in Wisconsin came from areas with scarce timber resources and were culturally disposed to construct masonry buildings. Typically, the first generation settlers were strongly influenced to build masonry dwellings, whereas their children followed the prevailing upper Midwestern preference for frame construction due to the low cost and easy availability of lumber. The Belgians were atypical of this pattern of cultural adaptation. Their perpetuation of masonry traditions may be a result of the devastating consequences of the Pestigo Fire. Shortly after the fire, many surviving log buildings were clad in brick for fire resistance, and the continued local masonry building tradition may be the result of a circumstance where a terrifying natural disaster reinforced a cultural behavior that might otherwise have been lost as later generations became increasingly Americanized.

In addition to the brick construction characteristic in this region of Belgian settlement, the house has a distinctive four-two floorplan. Together these elements perpetuate the traditional Belgian floorplan and house form and display the preference for masonry construction. The remaining outbuildings contribute to our understanding of the types of agricultural buildings associated with early twentieth farmsteads in this region. Because the two collapsed barns still convey a sense of the farm's original layout they are considered contributing sites. As a whole, the Draize farmstead is a representative example of the historic farmsteads still found in the Belgian areas of Door County.

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#### Verbal Boundary Description

The historic boundary is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east edge of Tru-Way Road approximately 125 feet from the northwest corner of the house, proceed east for 296 feet, turn south for 320 feet, turn west for 296 feet, and turn north for 320 feet to the beginning point. The west boundary is concurrent with the eastern edge of Tru-Way Road. The map is to scale.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the buildings that were historically associated with the August Draize Farmstead and excludes additional acreage not associated with the significance of the property.

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The following information pertains to all photographs:

Draize, August, Farmstead Town of Union, Door County, Wisconsin Date: November 2002 Photographer: Matt Becker, Mead & Hunt, Inc. Negatives located at the Wisconsin Historical Society

Photograph 1 of 12 General view of farmstead View facing southeast

Photograph 2 of 12 House, south and west facades View facing northeast

Photograph 3 of 12 House, north and west facades View facing southeast

Photograph 4 of 12 House, south and east facades View facing northwest

Photograph 5 of 12 House, detail of bull's-eye window View facing east

Photograph 6 of 12 Chicken coop and garage/chicken coop View facing east

Photograph 7 of 12 Garage/chicken coop, east and north facades View facing southwest

Photograph 8 of 12 Chicken coop, east and south facades View facing northwest

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

## Section <u>photos</u> Page <u>2</u>

Draize, August, Famrstead Town of Union, Door County, Wisconsin

Photograph 9 of 12 Badger Oil building, north and west facades View facing southeast

Photograph 10 of 12 Silo View facing southwest

Photograph 11 of 12 Collapsed barns and foundation View facing northwest

Photograph 12 of 12 Outhouse View facing east



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