

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 23 1978

JUL 16 1978

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cupola House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7836 Egg Harbor Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Egg Harbor

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Door

CODE

029

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

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

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
— BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
— IN PROCESS
— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
— UNOCCUPIED
— WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
— YES: RESTRICTED
— YES: UNRESTRICTED
— NO

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Everett E. Fairchild ✓

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Nut Tree

— VICINITY OF

STATE

California 95688

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Door County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

138 South 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Sturgeon Bay

STATE

Wisconsin 54235

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1975

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cupola House is a two-story Victorian Italianate house. It is a large house with an ordered and majestic appearance. The main part of the house is a central block constructed completely in wood. A slightly lower addition extends from a portion of the back wall. Both parts of the house have hipped roofs with decorative brackets. The roof of the back wing has a ridge, while the main house has a deck with the prominent feature of the house, a cupola. The striking cupola has two long, narrow windows on each side and a surrounding balustrade. The overall design of the cupola echoes the proportions and details of the house, with matching brackets, wide eaves, and a tall finial.

The front of the house has four sets of paired windows, symmetrically arranged and trimmed with shutters and cornices. Six of these four-over-four sash windows appear singly on each of the side walls of the house. A small gable with a small window and a decorative barge board breaks the facade. It resembles a broken pediment; the barge board is richly embellished with decorative scroll and is crowned with a finial.

A front entry porch with a balcony is supported by two square columns and is trimmed with brackets and railing. The double front door is flanked by pilasters that support a decorative cornice. A small porch shelters the back door on the south side (rear) at the ell of the back wing. The porch features square columns and brackets that match the front entry porch.

On the interior of the house there is still the wall paper that was "imported from Milwaukee" by the original owner.¹ The wide stairway leads to the second floor ballroom with wainscoting on the walls. The first floor kitchen has wainscoting like that in the ballroom. Servants quarters are located on the second floor. The house has 14 rooms and much of the original hardware in the house still remains, including window locks and coat hooks.

The only alteration to the exterior of the house is the addition of a stairway at the rear. Inside, bathrooms have been installed and the servants' stairway from the kitchen has been closed off to allow the space to be used for pipes for the plumbing.

At the south side of the house is an old milk cooling and storage house. It has thick stone walls and a steeply gabled roof. There is a rectangular vent protruding from the ridge of the roof. The walls are broken by one window and a door.

To the southeast of the house there is a barn that was probably built within five years after the house was completed. The barn is composed of two wings, with the ridge of the lower structure hitting the other just above the eaves. Board and batten sheathes the larger wing, while the wide, vertical boards on the smaller wing are accompanied by wood shingles at the gable. The barn is used for storage.

Northeast of the house there is a small frame cottage built in 1930 as a caretaker's residence. Now it is leased in the summer as a residence. The cottage is not significant to the nomination.

1. Superior Telegram,
26 Nov. 1917.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1871¹ BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cupola House is locally significant as the home of Levi Thorp, a prominent mercantile pioneer in both Door County and Egg Harbor. His majestic house reflects his importance and is significant as the best domestic example of the Italianate style in Door County and is one of that county's finest examples of Victorian architecture. It remains virtually unchanged since its construction.

Levi Thorp migrated to Egg Harbor from New York in 1855. Prior to his settlement there, Levi spent five years in California making his (first) fortune in the Gold Rush of 1849. Settling in Egg Harbor with his brother, Jacob, Thorp teamed with his brother to buy 1600 acres of land and to build a pier and crib. The crib was an enclosed storage space that was used to store commercial wood. In 1857 Levi bought out his brother's interests.²

The Thorp pier was the second one in Door County and provided economic livelihood and prosperity to the peninsula. Abundant forests of pine and cedar supplied the materials for the lumbering operations, which rapidly grew to dominate the Door County economy. Thorp's dock handled a great deal of cordwood that was sold to wood burning sidewheeler ships which stopped to refuel at his pier.³ He employed many people and attracted a wealth of commerce to Egg Harbor. Mr. Thorp, furthermore, operated a general farm. In 1880 he had the largest farm in the county.⁴ He made the first commercial planting of apple orchards in the northern part of the county in 1894, and operated a general mercantile store in Egg Harbor.⁵

For sixteen years Levi Thorp lived in a log cabin at the foot of the future site of the Cupola House, collecting the perfect materials for his dream house. Thorp accepted only the best white pine lumber shipped from Menominee, Michigan. "He would not accept a single board or plank that had a knot in it..." The interior was decorated by interior decorators from Milwaukee.⁶ The Cupola House reflects Thorp's importance and his ambitious undertaking in the construction of his home. Sitting upon a hill, the house draws attention from all who see it, befitting Thorp's position in the community. It has a quiet, nearly classical dignity evoked through a balanced and simple design. The exterior ornamentation enhances its integrity rather than creating a frivolous effect. When it was built, it was (and still is) the most elegant and extravagant house in Egg Harbor. Moreover, it remains the best example of vernacular Italianate in the county.

Throughout his life, Levi Thorp took great advantage of opportunities for economic increase. This pioneer and expansionist spirit characterizes those ambitious people who essentially formed newborn communities. Thorp's significance lies in his importance to the community; Egg Harbor, like other embryonic communities, burgeoned through the interests of instrumental people. Levi Thorp was one such person.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached Sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Chambers Island, Wis.-Mich.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES 9 50

A 1,6 47,7 9,0,0 4,9 8,8 5,0,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot One (1) in section 25, Township 30N, Range 26E, Village of Egg Harbor

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia A. Marks, Preservation Assistant and Barbara Wyatt, Nominations Specialist

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

22 March 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-8904

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard Murray

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/4/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John Charles Adams
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-16-79

ATTEST: *Emma Jane Sage*

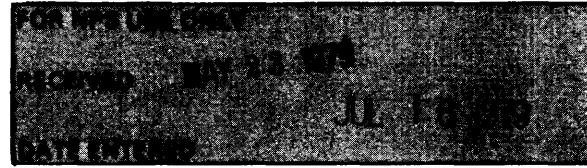
DATE

7-10-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Regional Review Coordinator

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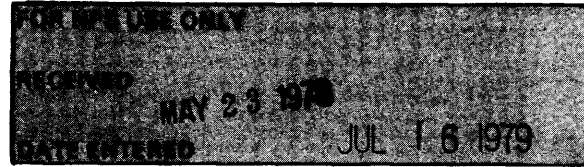
8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Since 1906 the Thorp House has served exclusively as a summer residence for three different owners. The Charles Cady family owned it from 1907 to 1975. They took good care of the house, preserving its original integrity. The Thorp House continues to serve as a summer residence, although the owner is considering selling the house to the Door County Historical Society.

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1. Superior Telegram, 26 November 1917.
 2. Ibid.
 3. Hjalmar R. Holand, History of Door County, pp. 396-397.
 4. United States Census Schedules for Wisconsin, 1880. Agricultural records of Door County.
 5. Holand, op. cit., p. 85.
 6. Superior Telegram, 26 November 1917.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Door County by Hjalmar R. Holand. Chicago:S. J. Clarke Pub.
Co., 1917. pp. 83-90, 155-176, 351, 396-397.

Early Door County Buildings and the people who built them, 1849-1890. By John
Kahlert, Meadow Lane Press, Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin. c. 1976.

History of Door County, Wis. Chas. I. Martin. Sturgeon Bay, Wis.:Expositor
Job Print, 1881. pp. 78-79, 94-97, 136.

Superior Telegram, November 26, 1917, Superior, Wisconsin.

Sturgeon Bay Democrat, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. April 12, 1918.

United States Census Schedules for Wisconsin, 1880. Agricultural records of
Door County.