

Namur Historic District

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Namur Historic District

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: _____ Not for publication: _____

City/Town: Namur Vicinity: X

State: WI County: Door Code: 029 Zip Code: 54204

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-local: _____
Public-State: _____
Public-Federal: _____

Category of Property
Building(s): _____
District: X
Site: _____
Structure: _____
Object: _____

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing
184
2

186

Noncontributing
77 buildings

77 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 186

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
Determined eligible for the National Register
Determined not eligible for the National Register
Removed from the National Register
Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Agriculture	Sub: Subsistence Storage Agricultural Field Animal Facility Agricultural Outbuilding
Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling
Current: Agriculture	Sub: Subsistence Storage Agricultural Field Animal Facility Agricultural Outbuilding
Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Other: Belgian Vernacular	Foundation:
	Walls: Brick, Stone
	Roof:
	Other Description:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

SUMMARY

The Namur Belgian-American rural historic district is situated near the southwestern corner of Door County. Encompassing the hamlet of Namur in Union Township, at its southern extremity, it is a rectangular area of 3500 acres that extends 3 miles north to the shoreline of Green Bay in Gardner Township. It includes agricultural land, expanses of natural landscape, farmhouses and other agrarian structures, the residential dwellings of Namur, a local parish church and its cemetery, and two commercial establishments.

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The district is situated on a gently rolling plateau atop the Niagara Escarpment that runs through the Door Peninsula. Higher elevations provide a visual limit along portions of the eastern boundary, while vegetation helps define much of the district's western edge. At the area's northwest corner, high ground commands breathtaking panoramic views of the adjacent water before sloping abruptly to the Green Bay shoreline. State Highway 57 runs near the district's southern edge. Sugar Creek flows in a northerly direction through most of the area. With its adjacent corridor of undeveloped forests and wetlands, this small meandering waterway provides a visual contrast to the surrounding cultivated farmland.

The pastoral landscape is evident throughout the district, which retains an unspoiled rural character and a visual interplay of topography, natural vegetation, fencerows, and a rich mosaic of field patterns interspersed with clusters of vernacular farmstead buildings. While the district does not have distinctive human-made landscape features, it retains a distinct overall character because of its relative lack of unsympathetic modern-day intrusions.

BUILDING TYPES

The product of indigenous carpenters and masons, the well-proportioned vernacular buildings in the district were constructed of locally produced wood, brick, and stone. They exhibit a consistency of scale and detail and add a cohesive visual quality to their rural setting. Masonry houses and outbuildings reflect a preference for the traditional stone and brick buildings common in Belgium.

In addition, other structures, such as rural chapels, outdoor bake ovens, and churches--the latter being the traditional nuclei of Belgian settlements--also show the retention of important cultural ties from this ethnic group's European homeland. While outdoor bake ovens were also built in Wisconsin by northern Germans, Poles, and Bohemians, a surviving concentration can be found only in the Belgian settlement area. Wayside, or votive, chapels, still used in parts of central and eastern Europe, were built in Wisconsin only by Belgian-Americans. While not representative of a widely used method of construction in Belgium, the large number of log barns and other farm buildings found in the district indicate an acceptance of new American building influences where economy and practicality dictated.

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Collectively, these vernacular buildings form a regional architectural expression that is perhaps the largest and most intact concentration of ethnic-related buildings surviving from any of the more than 30 nationalities who have settled in Wisconsin.

Within the district, a total of 261 buildings and 2 sites are found on some 77 individual properties, of which 40 are farmsteads. The buildings are readily classified into three categories: farmsteads, distinctive individual properties, and non-contributing properties. The inventory of these properties is numbered to correspond to numbered locations on the map of the district. Separate buildings and sites were considered non-contributing if they did not fall into the period of significance (1871-1930), or if they had suffered substantial loss of historic integrity, through renovation, deterioration, or otherwise.

FARMSTEADS

In this category are 40 individually owned properties, which contain 220 individual buildings, or an average of about 5 per complex. Of the buildings, 172 contribute. All but 5 of the complexes retain houses. The typical farmstead consists of a red brick farmhouse, a frame or log cattle barn, and a variety of outbuildings. The latter may include any of the following: domestic buildings, such as summer kitchens and bake ovens, woodsheds, and privies; stock shelters, including additional barns, chicken coops, and piggeries; crop storage facilities, such as granaries, corncribs, and silos; and equipment storage structures, including garages and machine sheds.

Generally, these buildings are sited in a loose configuration around a central farmyard, or outdoor work area. Typically, the house is located nearest the adjacent road, and a single-lane, unpaved drive provides access to the farmstead complex. This assemblage of buildings is normally surrounded on three sides by outlying fields enclosed by fences and used for crop cultivation or pasture land. Today, most of the farmstead buildings contribute to the integrity of the district. Those that do not are recently built metal sheds and other structures with forms, colors, or materials out of character with traditional buildings. (Smaller elements of insubstantial size, scale, or design, such as woodsheds and outhouses were not generally noted in the inventory.)

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Six selected farmsteads, listed by their inventory numbers, are described below. They present a representative sampling of the visual appearance of the majority of the farms in the district.

17. Roger Bacon Farmstead (c. 1880-1925)

The significant buildings on this farmstead include an early red brick house and a wayside chapel. The former, now used as a barn, is a brick version of a typical axial-wall entrance rectangular house. One of the earliest masonry dwellings in the area, it is similar to the James Baudhuin Farmhouse (57), described below. The frame wayside chapel, one of three in the district, is in excellent condition. Other buildings found on the farmstead include a frame bungalow house, a log barn, and two frame barn extensions to the east gable end wall of the early brick house. Two other outbuildings, both more recent in construction and non-contributing, complete the farmstead ensemble. The buildings are sited in an almost-linear arrangement paralleling the road, with the present house at the east end of the complex.

24. Louis Wery Farmstead (c. 1880-1930)

One of the more intact early farmsteads in the district, this property retains most types of traditional Belgian-American buildings. The farmstead consists of 10 buildings arranged around an outdoor work space. The front gable, red brick, 2-story dwelling, probably from the 1880s, has few alterations and retains its south-facing porch. In plan, it is typical of the layout of many Belgian houses, with two large rooms adjoining one lateral wall, and four smaller rooms along the opposite lateral wall. The cow barn with an attached threshing barn, east of the house, and the piggery are built of logs. The latter is the only building on the farm located across adjoining Hedge Road. A frame garage, woodshed, summer kitchen, outhouse, chicken coop, machine shed, and granary with attached sheds comprise the remaining structures of this farmstead.

25. Carol Parins Farmstead (c. 1880-1910)

This well-preserved agricultural complex is one of the few in the district bisected by a road. Distinguished by its handsome red brick dwelling and many log outbuildings, it is perhaps the most intact traditional farm in the district. The east-facing, front gable ell, 2-story house is close to the road. It has slightly arched window and door openings and half-moon windows at the

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gable peaks. A log shed and a frame garage are at the rear of the house. Immediately across the road, three log barns and a log shed are grouped in a U-shaped configuration around a small farmyard.

27. Alex Parins, Jr., Farmstead (c. 1895-1920)

Set back some distance from the adjoining road and surrounded by cultivated fields, this agrarian complex is highlighted by a red brick, front gable 1-1/2-story farmhouse. A west facade porch has been removed, but, except for the placement of the rear entrance in the lateral wall, the dwelling resembles many brick farmhouses in the area. A long entry drive terminates in the farmyard near the two surviving outbuildings, a long log and frame barn and a frame shed with an attached wing.

55. Ralph Baudhuin Farmstead (c. 1895-1930)

On the north side of Highway 57 just east of Namur, this farmstead has as its nucleus a handsome front gable 1-1/2-story red brick house. Built c. 1895 by Marcelin Baudhuin [1], the dwelling has a front porch, central door, and five windows arranged symmetrically in the front gable wall. At the gable peak can be found a distinctive "bull's-eye" window. To the rear, an unobtrusive summer kitchen has been built. The house has not been altered and is a good example of the size and form of early Belgian-American brick houses found in the area. The house and five outbuildings behind it are arranged around a loosely enclosed farmyard. The associated buildings consist of a log garage, two attached frame barns, a small frame shed, and a non-contributing concrete block garage.

57. James Baudhuin Farmstead (c. 1880-1930)

This agricultural complex incorporates all of the major building types typical of early Belgian-American farmsteads in the area. These include a side gable, 2-story, rectangular stone house sited parallel to Highway 57 and facing south. On the dwelling's facade, two rows of windows are arranged symmetrically around the central entrance and a chimney is built within each of the gable end walls. Built in 1880 by Jean Joseph Baudhuin [2], it is constructed of limestone quarried from the farm and measures 28' by 42'. To the front and slightly east of the house is a stone summer kitchen with an attached outdoor bake oven. The best surviving example of a combined summer kitchen/bake oven in the

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area, it incorporates the same type of limestone and masonry construction techniques as the house.

To the rear of the house, four buildings are sited to form an open farmyard. They are a large frame dairy barn with an attached milk house and non-contributing metal shed, a large double-crib log barn with a central threshing bay, another non-contributing metal barn, and a log shed with an attached frame chicken coop. Across Highway 57 from the house, and slightly to the west, is a small frame wayside chapel--one of the three found in the district.

DISTINCTIVE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

This category includes 9 parcels containing 12 buildings (1 non-contributing) and a cemetery (contributing site). Among them are such non-farm buildings as the local church, parsonage, former school, the headquarters building of the Peninsula Belgian-American Club, a former general store, and several non-farm rural dwellings. The parish cemetery separate from the Namur church-parsonage complex is also included. Brief descriptions of the nine properties, by inventory list number, follow.

(The cemeteries and church are identified as contributing elements because they are strongly associated with the broad historical events which have given a distinctive ethnic significance to the district. The religious sentiments of Belgian-Americans formed the traditional nucleus of their settlements and the accompanying cemeteries are an identifiable and significant element which helps to evoke these strong historical and cultural ties. The cemeteries are a visual record of the lives of the Belgian-Americans who participated in the historical development of the district and, as such, are intimately tied to its history.)

37. St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church (1891)

This red brick church with a rectangular plan features a gable roof. Its entry is centered on the front gable wall, and is sheltered by a stone front porch that was added at a later date. The windows have pointed arch openings. The original steeple has been removed. A small adjacent cemetery includes some early Namur-area burials.

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38. St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church Parsonage (c. 1910)

Just west of the church on Highway 57, this red brick front gable ell dwelling has attached front and side porches. Its window and door locations are asymmetrical. A frame garage and a yard shrine are also on the property.

39. Peninsula Belgian-American Club Headquarters

The club building, an early frame dwelling now used as the club's social center, meeting hall, and museum, is just northeast of St. Mary of the Snows Church. This 2-story rectangular frame building has a 1-story extension built on its north-facing gable wall. A small entry porch has also been added. The original door was centered on the axial wall with a symmetrical arrangement of windows and two inside chimneys on the gable end walls. A frame wayside chapel built in 1915 and moved from its original location by the club now stands slightly northeast of the club building; it is meticulously maintained for public visitation.

70. St. Mary of the Snows Cemetery

This unassuming burial ground is situated in a pastoral setting on Pit Road south of Route 57 in an area detached from the church-clubhouse complex. It forms the southernmost element in the district. The cemetery contains several score of tombstones, of varying shapes and materials, marking the graves of Belgian-American members of St. Mary's Parish.

46. Former Fairview Elementary School (c. 1915)

This 1-story frame school structure has a square plan, a hip roof, elongated windows adjoining the classrooms, and a small bell tower.

53. Mamie Virlee House (c. 1900)

This 1-1/2-story red brick dwelling is rectangular in plan, except for a small frame addition on the rear gable end wall. The front gable has a central entry. Its window arrangement is symmetrical. The foundation is of limestone. (The sizable outbuilding to the rear is a contributing element.)

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64. Norbert LeGrave House (c. 1900)

A 1/1-2-story red brick front gable dwelling, the LeGrave House is also rectangular in plan. It has a central entry protected by a front porch and a half-moon window at the front gable peak; the window arrangement is symmetrical. (The outbuilding to the north is non-contributing.)

65. Harold Euclide General Store (1916)

The Harold Euclide General Store is a 2-story concrete block store building with a flat roof. It has large display windows on one end of the first-floor facade and a raised full front porch. The store was built by William Struck in 1916.

66. Mrs. Adam Dier House (c. 1900)

Mrs. Dier's house is a 1/1-2-story red brick front gable end dwelling. The front gable has a full porch and a bull's-eye window at the gable peak. (The property also features a contributing red brick shed/summer kitchen and a garage.)

C. LANDSCAPE

The Belgian farmsteads tend to be positioned and arranged on flat, level sites where available within the rolling landscape of the district. Depressions and topographical configurations were avoided in positioning agrarian buildings. Areas permanently ponded or occasionally inundated with high ground water levels were too wet for crops and impossible to cultivate, thus forcing the Belgian immigrant farmers to till higher and drier sites. Fields are flat, wide and generally unbroken by wind rows or fencelines. Fences are generally simple wood posts with barbed wire strands.

The farmsteads are characterized by mixed clusters of mature conifers and deciduous trees around the houses and outbuildings. Yard shrine gardens were fairly common and one old-fashioned "bluebird garden" exists as well. Most pioneer Belgian farms also had family "kitchen gardens." The untillable lands, such as along Sugar Creek, have reverted to second-generation woodlands.

Other man-made landscape features of the Namur Belgian-American District are not particularly distinctive. The narrow roads are

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generally laid out on a grid following the section lines with the most notable exception being the gently curving state highway 57, which bisects the southeast corner of the district. The roads have broad, gently sloping shoulders and are paralleled at some points by mature tree lines.

D. NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Non-contributing features, including those scattered on otherwise intact farmsteads, number 77. Taken collectively, they do not seriously compromise the overall high historic integrity of the district. Among them are 19 recently built ranch-style houses that are not in character with the district's traditional residential building styles; 7 mobile homes; a tavern that, because of extensive remodeling, does not reflect traditional building patterns, and certain outbuildings.

ENDNOTES

1. John Kahlert and Albert Quinlin, Early Door County Buildings and The People Who Built Them, 1849-1910 (Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin: Meadow Lane Publishers, 1976), p. 58.
2. Ibid., p. 53.

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INVENTORY

<u>Name, Address, and Map No.</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Class</u>
GARDNER TOWNSHIP		
1. Harold Euclide Farmstead 2057 Co. Hwy. N. Lot 2, Sec. 35	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	NC
	E	C
2. Bradford Guilette Farmstead Barns 10447 Woods Road SW, SE, Sec. 35	A (barn)	C
	B (barn)	C
	C (barn)	C
3. Lester Hempel, Jr., Farmstead 10286 Gardner Road SW, SW, Sec. 36; NW, NW, Sec. 1	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	NC
4. Robert LeCloux New House NW, SW, Sec. 36	A	NC
5. Donald Springaire Farmstead Barns SE, NW, Sec. 36	A (log barn)	C
	B (log barn)	C
	C (log barn)	C
6. Lyle DeCremer Farmstead 10150 Co. Hwy. K SW, NE, Sec. 36	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
	D	NC
	E	C
	F	C
7. Henry Springaire, Jr., Mobile Home Co. Hwy. K SW, NE, Sec. 36	A	NC

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<u>Name, Address, and Map No.</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Class</u>
8. Donald Springaire Farmstead 10075 Co. Hwy. K NW, SE, Sec. 36	A (house)	C
	B	NC
	C	C
	D	C
	E	NC
	F	C
9. George Delveaux Farmstead 10144 Gardner Road SW, SE, Sec. 36	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
UNION TOWNSHIP		
10. Lester Hempel, Jr., Mobile Home 10281 Gardner Rd. NW, NW, Sec. 1	A	NC
11. David Brunette Farmstead 10202 End Rd. SE, NW, Sec. 1	A (mobile home)	NC
	B	C
12. Ervin Jadin New House 1752 Pit Rd. NW, SW, Sec. 1	A	NC
13. Dwayne Tebon New House 10226 Ledge Rd. SW, SW, Sec. 1	A	NC
14. Ray Baudhuin New House 1695 Tru Rd. NE, SW, Sec. 1	A	NC
15. Ray Baudhuin Farmstead NE, SW, Sec. 1	A	C
	B	NC
16. Mark Erner Farmstead 10146 Tru Rd. SW, SE, Sec. 1	A	C
	B	C
	C	C

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<u>Name, Address, and Map No.</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Class</u>
17. Roger Bacon Farmstead 10216 Ledge Rd. SE, SW, Sec. 1	A (house)	C
	B	NC
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	NC
18. Myron LaLuzerne New House 1621 Tru Rd. SE, SW, Sec. 1	A	NC
19. Louis Jadin Mobile Home Ledge Road SE, SW, Sec. 1	A	NC
20. Marvin DeGrave Farmstead 1754 Tru Rd. SW, NE, Sec. 1	A (house)	NC
	B	NC
	C	NC
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
21. Ray Baudhuin Farmstead 1694 Tru Rd. NW, SE, Sec. 1	A (house)	NC
	B	NC
	C	NC
	D	NC
	E	NC
22. Ray Baudhuin New House 1661 Tru Rd. SW, SE, Sec. 1	A	NC
23. William Faller Mobile Home 1751 Pit Rd. N 1/2, NE, SE, Sec. 2	A	NC

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<u>Name, Address, and Map No.</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Class</u>
24. Louis Wery Farmstead 10440 Ledge Rd. SW, SE, Sec. 2	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
	H	C
	I	C
	J	C
25. Carol Parins Farmstead 1749 Co. Hwy. N NE, SW, Sec. 2	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
26. Douglas Pierre Farmstead 1853 Co. Hwy. N NE, NW, Sec. 2	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
	H	NC
27. Alex Parins, Jr., Farmstead 1872 Co. Hwy. N NW, NE, Sec. 2	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
28. Yau Chun Wong Farmstead 10525 Gardner Rd. SW, NW, Sec. 2	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	NC
	D	C
29. James J. Parins, Jr., Farmstead 1603 Ledge Rd. SE, SE, Sec. 3	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C

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30. Joseph Lamperer Farmstead 1579 Ledge Rd. NE, NE, Sec. 10; NW, NW, Sec. 11	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
31. Wayne Gigot Farmstead SE, NE, Sec. 10	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
	H	C
	I	C
32. Thad Chaudoir Farmstead 1441 Co. Hwy. N NW, SE, Sec. 10	A (house)	NC
	B	NC
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
33. Clarence Rass New Home 1350 Co. Hwy N SE, SE, Sec. 10	A	NC
34. George Jaquet New House 1320 Co. Hwy. N SE, SE, Sec. 10	A	NC
35. Myron Challe Mobile Home 1593 Pit Rd. N 1/2, NE, NE, Sec. 11	A	NC
36. Sanford Dekayser Mobile Home 1547 Pit Rd. S 1/2, NE, NE, Sec. 11	A	NC
37. St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church (A) and Cemetery (B) Hwy. 57 SW, SE, Sec. 11	A	C
	B	C

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38. St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church Parsonage 10390 Hwy. 57 SW, SE, Sec. 11	A	C
39. Peninsula Belgian-American Club and Chapel Hwy. 57 SE, SE, Sec. 11	A (club B (chapel)	C NC
40. Doug Massonette Mobile Home Hwy. 57 SE, SE, Sec. 11	A B	NC NC
41. Wes Boyd Belgian Inn Tavern Hwy. 57 SE, SE, Sec. 11	A	NC
42. John Chaudoir Tavern and Farmstead Hwy. 57 SW, SE, Sec. 11	A (house/tavern) B C D E F	NC NC C NC C C
43. Irene Conard Farmstead 10548 Bay Shore Rd. SW, SW, Sec. 11	A (house) B C D	C C NC C
44. David Chaudoir, Sr., New House SE, SW, Sec. 11	A	NC
45. Harry Chaudoir Farmstead 10526 Bay Shore Rd. SW, SW, Sec. 11	A (house) B C D E	NC C C C C
46. Former Fairview School Hwy. 57 SE, SW, Sec. 11	A	C

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47. Kermit Conard Farmstead 1375 Pleasant Ridge Rd. NW, SW, Sec. 11	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	NC
48. Gerard Monfils New House 10519 Ledge Rd. NE, NW, Sec. 11	A	NC
49. Randall Monfils New House 10529 Ledge Road NE, NW, Sec. 11	A	NC
50. Michael Lampereur New House 10543 Ledge Rd. NW, NW, Sec. 11	A	NC
51. Eugene Garbowksi Farmstead 1375 Pit Rd. NE, SE, Sec. 11	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
52. Joseph Virlee Farmstead 10261 Ledge Rd. NW, NW, Sec. 12	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	NC
	F	C
53. Mamie Virlee House 1542 Pit Rd. SW corner, NW, NW, Sec. 12	A (house)	C
	B	C

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54. John Rass, Jr., Farmstead 1492 Pit Rd. SW, NW, Sec. 12	A (house)	C
	B	NC
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
	H	C
	I	C
55. Ralph Baudhuin Farmstead 1020 Hwy. 57 SW, SE, Sec. 12	A (house)	C
	B (garage)	NC
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
56. David Jeanquart Farmstead 10153 Hwy. 57 SE, SW, Sec. 12	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
57. James Baudhuin Farmstead 10240 Hwy. 57 SW, SW, Sec. 12	A (house)	C
	B	NC
	C	C
	D	NC
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
	H	C
58. Ray Delcorps Farmstead 1457 Tru Rd. SE, NW, Sec. 12	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
59. Fred Jadin New House 10109 Ledge Rd. NW, NE, Sec. 12	A	NC

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60. Harry Brunnette Farmstead 10099 Ledge Rd. NW, NE, Sec. 12	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	C
	G	C
	H	C
61. Eugene Collins Farmstead NW, NW, Sec. 13	A (house)	C
	B	NC
	C	C
62. Alvin Martin Farmstead Hwy. 57 NW, NE, Sec. 13	A	C
	B	C
	C	C
63. Gable Dekayser Farmstead 10207 Hwy. 57 NE, NW, Sec. 13	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	C
	F	NC
64. Norbert LeGrave Brick House 1289 Hwy. 57 NE, NW, Sec. 14	A (house)	C
	B	NC
65. Harold Euclide Old General Store Hwy. 57 NE, NW, Sec. 14	A	C
66. Mrs. Adam Dier Brick House 10383 Hwy. 57 NW, NE, Sec. 14	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
67. Allen Moore, Jr., New House NW, NE, Sec. 14	A	NC
68. Edward Price New House 10375 Hwy. 57 N 1/2, NE, Sec. 14	A	NC

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<u>Name, Address, and Map No.</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Class</u>
69. Desire Gerondale Farmstead 10369 Hwy. 57 NE, NE, Sec. 14	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	NC
70. St. Mary of the Snows Cemetery Pit Rd., south of Hwy. 57 SE, NE, Sec. 14	A	C
71. Joseph Boulanger New House Bay Shore Rd. NW, NW, Sec. 14	A	NC
72. Meadow Brook Farms, Inc., Farmstead Bay Shore Road NW, NW, Sec. 14	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C
	E	NC
	F	NC
	G	C
73. Ricky LaCrosse New House 1259 Hwy. 57 NE, NW, Sec. 14	A	NC
74. Ron Engelbert Farmstead 10659 Hwy. 57 NE, NE, Sec. 15	A (house)	NC
	B	C
	C	NC
75. Peter Jauquet, Jr., New House 10667 Hwy. 57 NW, NE, Sec. 15	A	NC
76. Wayne Jauquet New House 10665 Hwy. 57 NW, NE, Sec. 15	A	NC
77. Peter Jauquet Farmstead Bay Shore Rd. NW, NE, Sec. 15	A (house)	C
	B	C
	C	C
	D	C

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B C X D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A X B C D X E F G

NHL Criteria: 1, 5

Areas of Significance: Period(s) of Significance Significant Dates
Ethnic Heritage/European 1871-1930

NHL Theme(s): XXX. American Ways of Life
E. Ethnic Communities: Belgian-Americans

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary [1]

The Namur Historic District epitomizes the Belgian-American agricultural settlement area of northeastern Wisconsin, which is the Nation's largest rural settlement of that nationality. Here, "New Belgium took on the foreign look of Old Belgium." [2] It is a distinctive ethnic enclave where French is still spoken with a Walloon accent, where churches and ethnic organizations retain their roles as social and religious centers, and where the Belgian heritage of the area is evident in food and ethnic festivals. The most immediately manifest evidence of the Belgian presence, however, is the area's vernacular architecture.

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In this area Belgian immigrants employed traditional and adapted architectural and construction forms which were distinctive and defined. Traditional Walloon village and agricultural settlement patterns, with a church and related religious features as their nuclei, were transplanted to Wisconsin. The distinctive masonry building traditions of Belgium were retained and adapted, while a large concentration of log buildings reflects the adaptation of American pioneer building materials and methods. Today this enclave reflects an architectural expression that is exceptional in the rural American landscape.

While Belgians settled in other parts of America, this region retains the nation's largest known concentration of farmsteads, other rural buildings, and landscape features pertaining to this ethnic group, and has perhaps the purest retention of other distinctive cultural features from the Walloon region of that country.

History

In 1853, the initial contingent of Belgian immigrants came to Wisconsin. This group of eight French-speaking Walloon families from Brabant Province settled in what was then virtually a wilderness in Brown County. Subsequently, thousands of Belgian immigrants, primarily from Brabant and Namur Provinces, came to the area and the Walloon colony spread into neighboring Kewaunee and Door Counties. By 1860, the State's Belgian immigrants numbered nearly 5,000. [3]

Most Belgian immigrants had farmed in their homeland, and they brought their proven agrarian skills with them. In time, clusters of commercial, religious, and educational activities evolved into communities that served the surrounding agricultural economy. By the turn of the century, the Door County hamlet of Namur, near the northern edge of the main Belgian-American settlement zone, typical of these communities, contained an enclave of residences, a public school, a general store and saloon, a post office, and a church and parochial school. Agriculture, as the established enterprise for the area, emphasized grain production, with some fruits and vegetables grown for home consumption. Over time, a more diversified system of farming evolved that specialized in dairying. The farms averaged about 100 acres in size. [4]

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Today, this activity remains the primary livelihood for the district's Belgian-American population. Following a trend throughout rural America, farming has declined somewhat in recent years, but the district has experienced relatively little intrusive subdivision or roadside strip commercial development and remains a remarkably attractive and unspoiled agricultural landscape.

With timber abundant in the area, the ubiquitous log cabin was the first shelter built by many Belgian immigrants. [5] Since brick and stone were the common building materials in their native Belgium, log construction was a new skill for most Belgian settlers. Thus, their log structures typically lacked the skilled refinements and tight joinery found among ethnic groups who came to America from a woodbuilding tradition.

Late in 1871, the great Peshtigo fire swept through much of the settlement. This conflagration destroyed many wood buildings and devastated the local timber supply. Many residents had to rebuild. Also, in time, even those whose dwellings survived the fire outgrew their small initial shelters and erected more spacious homes. While these new buildings sometimes incorporated log or frame construction, many of the new dwellings were built of red brick produced at area brickyards and on some local farms. These structures, like the stone houses also built by Belgian settlers in the region, reflected a preference for the masonry building tradition of their European homeland. Such log structures as survived were often covered with clapboard sheathing or a veneer of brick when their owners achieved some measure of prosperity.

The Namur Belgian-American Historic District has an architectural character with distinct and significant associations with the predominant Walloon-Belgian culture of the area. Composed of rural building types and methods of construction that are explicit in their Old World associations, along with culturally derived "American" influences, the district possesses an Old World rural character.

With both indigenous limestone and brick-making clays available in abundance, Belgian settlers turned readily to traditional masonry construction. Irregular blocks of stone, quarried from stratified limestone surface deposits, were typically laid up in a generous bed of lime mortar to built handsome, enduring houses. Generally square, or nearly square in plan, their moderately

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pitched gable roofs were frame with unhewn cedar rafters nailed to square-hewn timber plates. Floor plans and room arrangements varied and can be classified into three types: the square house plan, the gable wall entrance rectangular house plan, and the axial wall entrance rectangular house plan. The gray to light-tan-colored thick rubble walls frequently incorporated irregular stone quoins at the corners. While little ornamentation was used, there is evidence that some houses had exterior walls that were given a thin surface coating of calcimine that has nearly disappeared over time.

Red brick remains the most distinctive and characteristic building material of Wisconsin's Belgian-Americans and is found throughout the district. Most of the large brick manufacturers in or near the area began operating in the 1880s, [6] although some limited production of brick occurred earlier on local farms. This date nearly coincides with the start of the region's brick house construction period. The simple, well-proportioned traditional brick houses of the area generally conform to a rectangular, 1-1/2-story gable roof form. Their 8"-thick walls are fashioned of stretchers with many dwellings having headers about every sixth course. Some structures incorporate an underlying structure of logs covered with a single layer of stretcher course bricks--an unusual form of construction rarely found elsewhere in America. [7]

While floor plans vary, many conform to a "4 and 2" floor plan, consisting of four small rooms along one axial wall and two large rooms along the other, with one of the latter used as the living room and the other as a kitchen/dining area. Many incorporate a "bull's-eye" window just under the roof peak on the gable facing the road. Some houses were also adorned with cream-colored decorative bricks at the corners and/or around door and window openings. Wood front porches were a common feature, but many have been removed over time. The preference for building with brick has continued to the present day with the more recently built brick dwellings incorporating gambrel roofs and bungalow or even "ranch house" stylistic features.

Throughout the district, the massive limestone houses and well-proportioned red brick dwellings form the nucleus of farmsteads that include a variety of other structures. The most common of these agrarian buildings are the large wooden barns. They consist of three types: double-crib log threshing barns, smaller single-crib log cattle barns, and timber-framed dairy barns.

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The first of these were built during the 19th century for a grain-related economy and consist of two equal-size cribs of cedar logs separated by a central drive-through passage. Rectangular in size and built close to the ground, they typically have gable roofs and usually measure about 28' x 60'.

The second barn type, smaller in size, was built as a shelter for large livestock and consists of a single crib of chinked cedar logs. Later, many of the early grain barns were converted into cattle barns.

As barn-building technology changed, larger frame barns were constructed, and they constitute the third barn type in the area. Built on low stone foundations, they are larger and framed with heavy squared timbers covered with a sheathing of vertical boards. Early versions of this barn type incorporated a gable roof, but, at the end of the first decade of the 20th century, the new and more spacious gambrel roof became popular. Throughout the area, it was common for new buildings to be attached to existing structures, creating ells, or long, somewhat rambling, rectangular units.

A variety of additional smaller outbuildings can also be found on farmsteads in the district. The most distinctive of these include summer kitchens with attached outdoor bake ovens and wayside or votive chapels. Both reflect their counterparts in Belgium. The former are virtually identical in form and consist of two attached gable-roofed stone structures of unequal size, the smaller unit being the actual bake oven. The diminutive rectangular chapels, typically of frame construction, were sited close to the roads and used as places of prayer. Other farmstead structures include granaries, woodsheds, small cattle and poultry sheds, garages, privies, corncribs, and silos. Almost all of these, except for some concrete silos, are built of wood. Frame construction was typically used after the turn of the century, but many early granaries, woodsheds, and small cattle barns of logs can still be found on the farmsteads in the district.

To date, the most important preservation activity in the area has been the nine-township reconnaissance survey through which the Namur Historic District was identified. This nomination is based on the results of that survey. No other comprehensive historic preservation activity has been initiated in the district and the surrounding rural area.

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Some independent preservation efforts, however, are noteworthy. The Peninsula Belgian-American Club (39) has preserved two buildings in the district, including their headquarters building and a wayside chapel on their property at Namur. The former was an early frame dwelling that is now used as a social center, meeting hall, and small museum. The chapel, built in 1915, was moved to its present location from another site and has been meticulously maintained for public visitation. One other local preservation effort, where the owner of the Ralph Baudhuin Farmhouse (55) has kept the dwelling in its pre-1900 condition, should be mentioned.

ENDNOTES

1. This nomination is based on the results of a 9-township reconnaissance survey, undertaken by Dr. William Tishler and Erik Brynildson of the University of Wisconsin in cooperation with the Door County Planning Department, and the National Register nomination prepared by Dr. Tishler after completion of the reconnaissance survey. The results of the reconnaissance survey appear in William H. Tishler and Erik Brynildson, The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin (Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1986). Dr. Tishler and Paul Lusignan of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin also accompanied National Historic Landmarks staff in on-site inspection of the area; both shared valuable observations during the visit.
2. Fred L. Holmes, Old World Wisconsin (Eau Claire: E.M. Hale and Co., 1944), p. 163.
3. Francoise Lempereur, Les Walloons d'Amerique du Nord (Gemblous, Belgium: Editions J. Duculot, 1976), p. 12.
4. Tishler and Brynildson, op. cit., p. 33.
5. See, for example, Francoise Lempereur, "The Walloon Settlement of North-East Wisconsin," Belgians in the United States (Brussels, Belgium: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1976), p. 75.

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6. Consult Ernest Robertson Buckley, The Clays and Clay Industries of Wisconsin (Madison: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 1989), for a discussion of brickyards in the region.

7. Charles F. Calkins and William G. Laatsch, "Belgians," America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups That Built America, Del Upton, ed. (Washington: The Preservation Press, 1986), pp. 9, 100.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Holand, Hjalmar R. Wisconsin's Belgian Community. Sturgeon Bay: Door County Historical Society, 1933.

Holmes, Fred L. Old World Wisconsin. Eau Claire: E.M. Hale and Co., 1944.

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_____. "The Walloon Settlement of North-East Wisconsin," Belgians in the United States. Brussels, Belgium: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1976.

Martin, Xavier. "The Belgians of Northeast Wisconsin," Wisconsin Historical Collections, XIII (1895).

Tishler, William H., and Erik Brynildson. The Architecture and Landscape Characteristics of Rural Belgian Settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Specify Repository: _____

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of Property: Approximately 3500 acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	16	446730	4957700	B	16	446080	4956960
C	16	445280	4954270	D	16	445280	4953050
E	16	448840	4952970	F	16	448900	4957850

Verbal Boundary Description:

Starting from the northeast corner of the district located in Gardner Township at a point 1320' north of County Highway K and 1320' west of Brussels Road, the eastern boundary runs due south into Union Township to a point 1320' south of Highway 57.

From this point, the southern boundary runs due west to St. Mary of the Snows parish cemetery, meanders around the south side of the cemetery to include it in the district, and then continues running due west to the district's southwest corner at the edge of Belgian Drive, at a point 1320' south of Bay Shore Road.

The western boundary then runs north to County Highway N, then east 1320' to the intersection with Ledge Road, then north 2640', then east 1320' to Ledge Road, then north to the waters of Green Bay, then northeast along the water's edge to the northeast edge of the Harold Euclide property.

The north boundary then runs southeast to County Highway N, then northeast along Highway N to a point 1320' due north of County Highway K, then due east to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the district were selected after careful analysis of the integrity and location of nearly 500 sites documented during the 9-township Belgian-American settlement area reconnaissance survey. Specific boundary locations were then demarcated after intensive on-site inspection of the area to determine the most suitable district edges.

The northern boundary was located at the most northerly extension of the best concentration of contributing architectural features.

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Immediately beyond the northern edge there is considerable open farm land, and the number of contributing buildings diminishes substantially.

Much of the eastern boundary runs along high ground that provides a natural and visual feature for defining this side of the district. There is considerable non-contributing new development to the east of this edge.

The south edge was selected to define the limits of the best concentration of contributing buildings in this vicinity and, in general, to parallel Highway 57.

The western boundary was established to include the westernmost extension of the area's rural character and architectural integrity. It also adjoins several woodlots that act as a natural limit for the district. Extending this edge further west would have included a zone of recently built, noncontributing seasonal home development on property near or adjacent to the Green Bay shoreline. While the northernmost portion of the western boundary does include a short stretch of Green Bay shoreline in Gardner Township, the land here is wooded and relatively undeveloped.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: William H. Tishler, University of Wisconsin;
edited by James H. Charleton, Historian

Organization: History Division, WASO, NPS Date: July 3, 1990

Street & Number: P.O. Box 37127 Telephone: (202) 343-8165

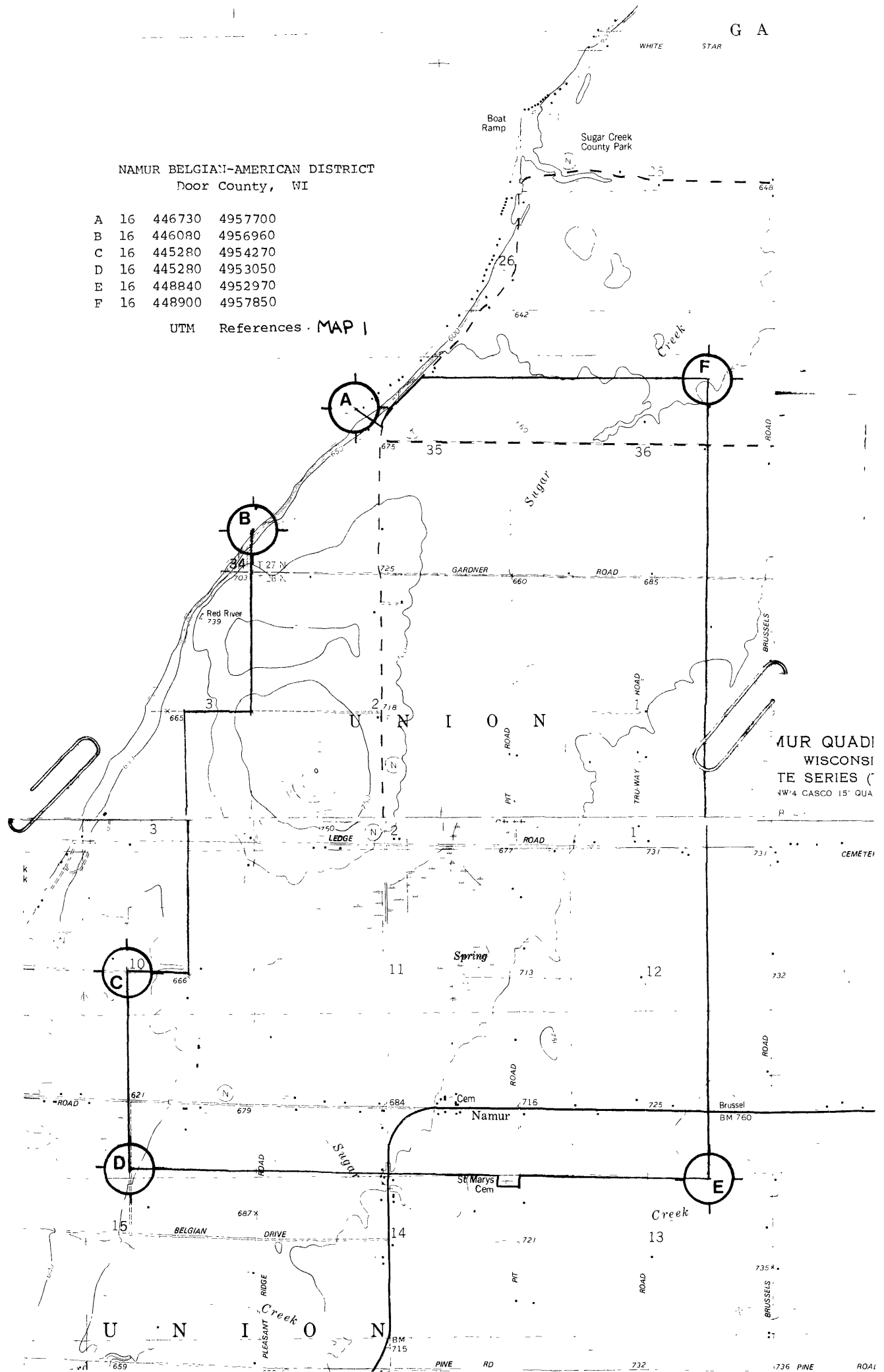
City or Town: Washington State: DC ZIP: 20013-7127

WHITE STAR

NAMUR BELGIAN-AMERICAN DISTRICT
Door County, WI

A	16	446730	4957700
B	16	446080	4956960
C	16	445280	4954270
D	16	445280	4953050
E	16	448840	4952970
F	16	448900	4957850

UTM References - MAP 1



MUR QUADI
WISCONSIN
TE SERIES (C)
NW 4 CASCO 15' QUAD

CEMETERY

Brussel
BM 760

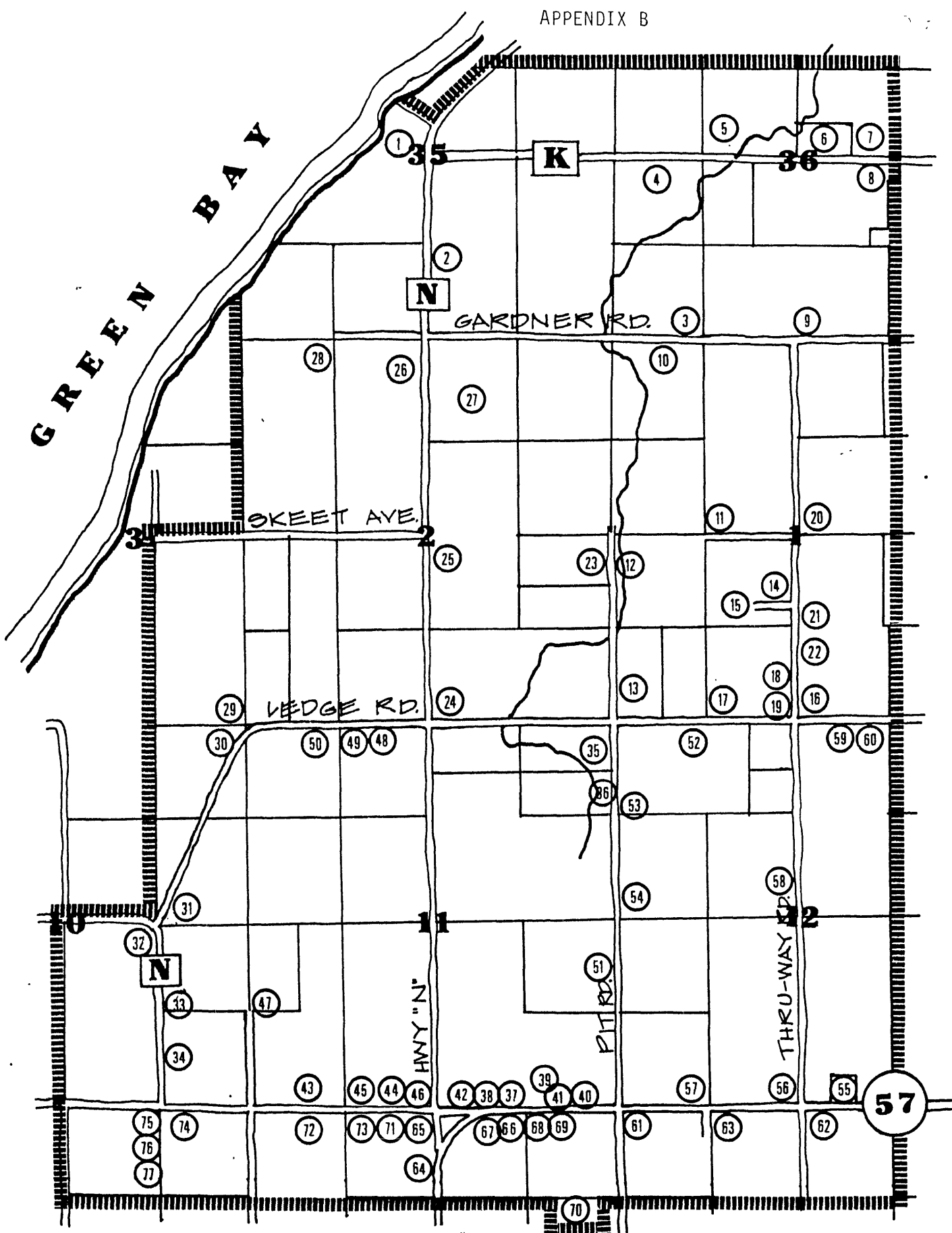
St Marys
Cem

BM
715

735

736 PINE

ROAD

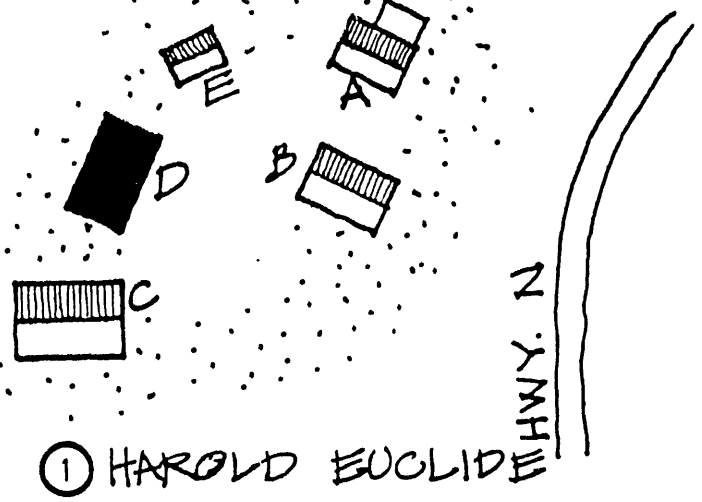


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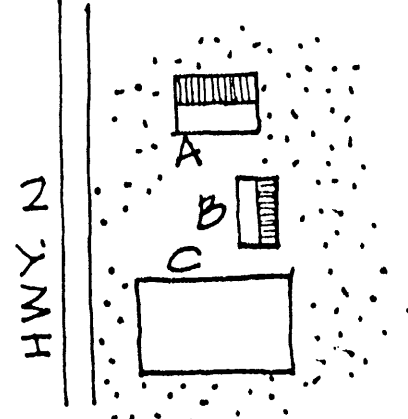
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Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

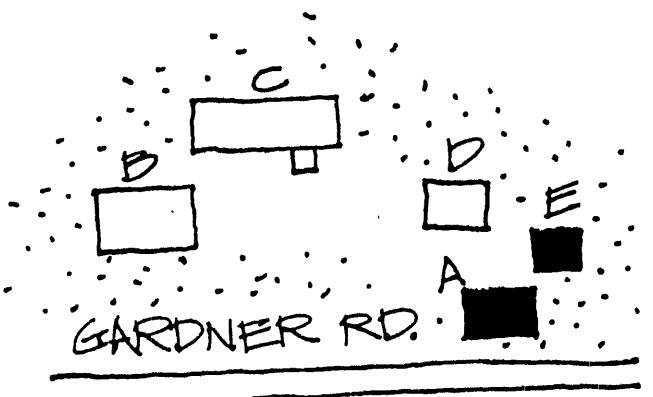




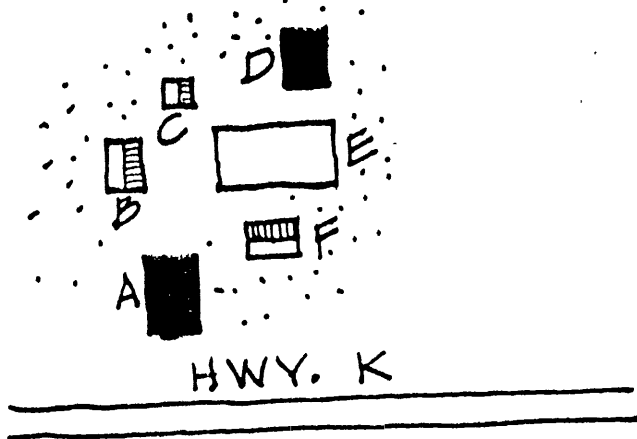
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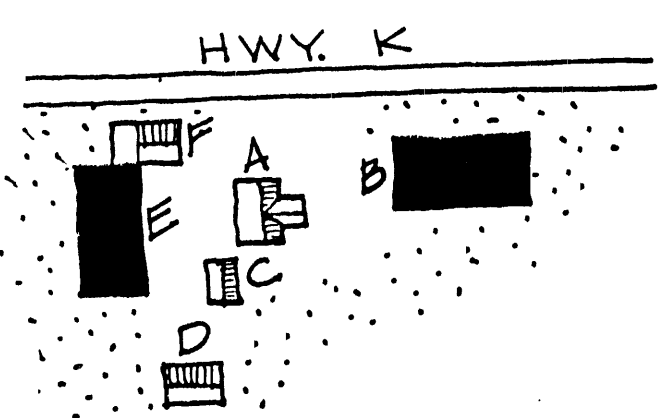
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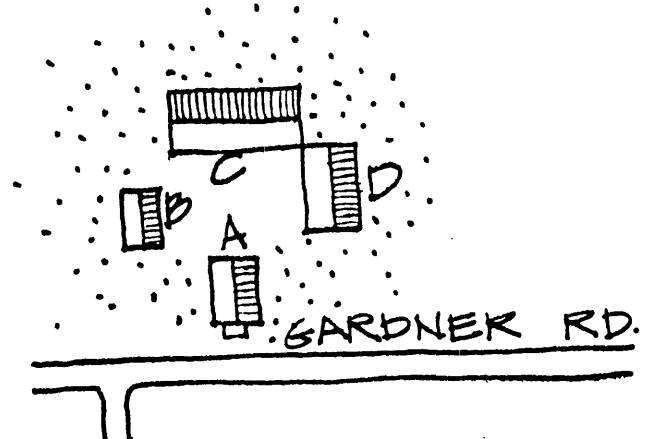
③ LESTER HEMPEL, JR.



④ LYLE DECREMER



⑤ DONALD SPUNGAIRE



⑥ GEORGE DELVEAUX

NAMUR

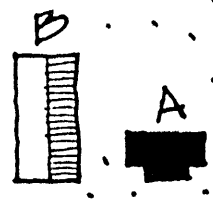
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Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

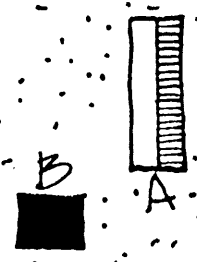
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APPENDIX C

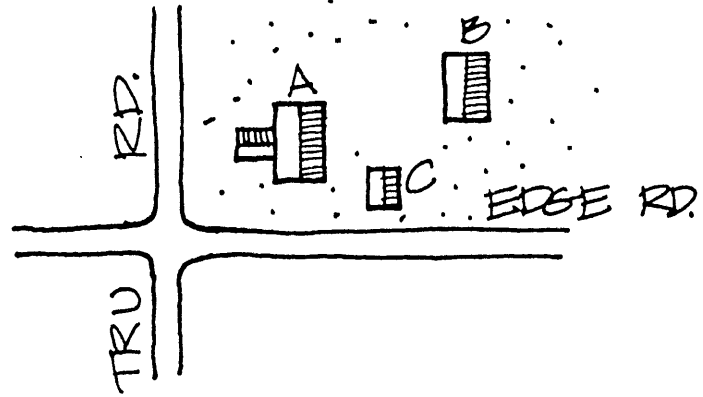
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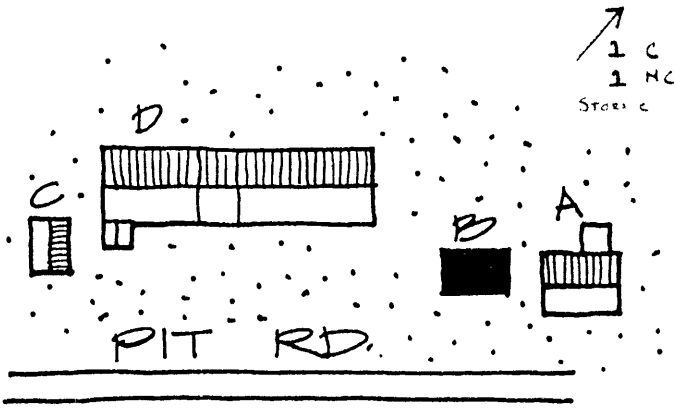
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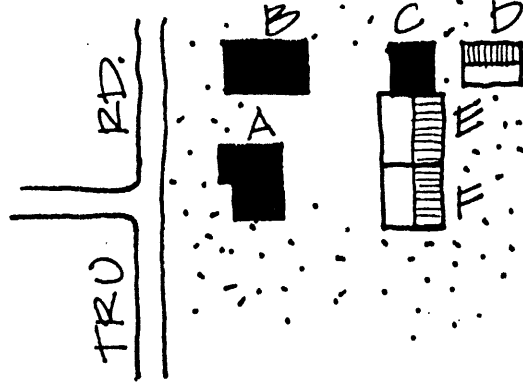
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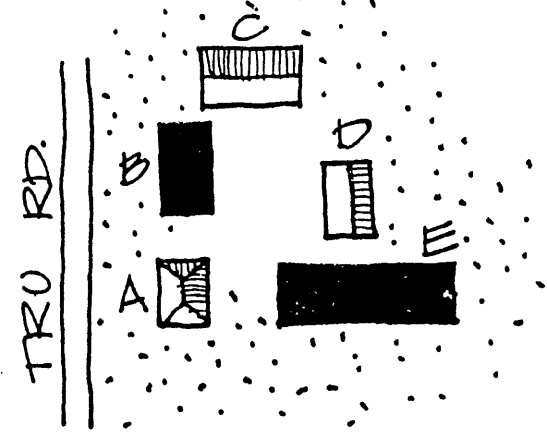
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17 ROGER BACON



20 MARVIN DE GRAVE



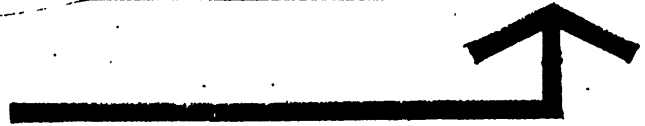
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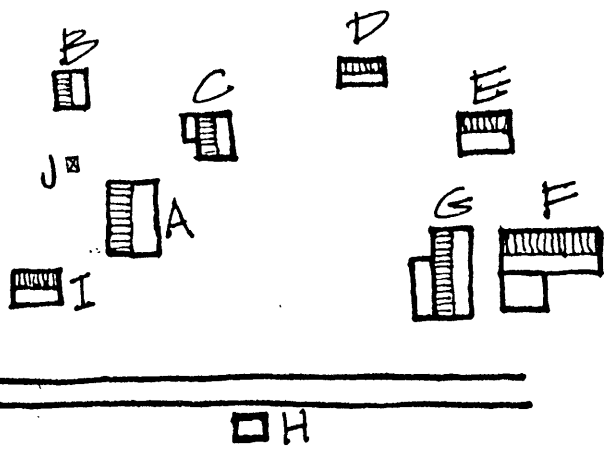
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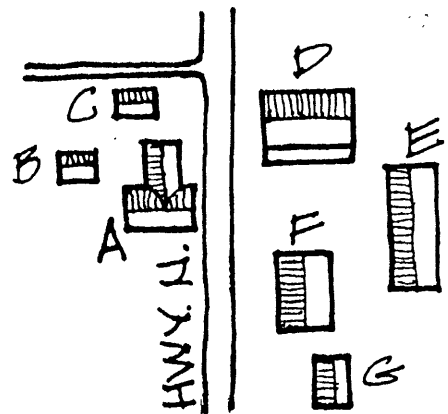
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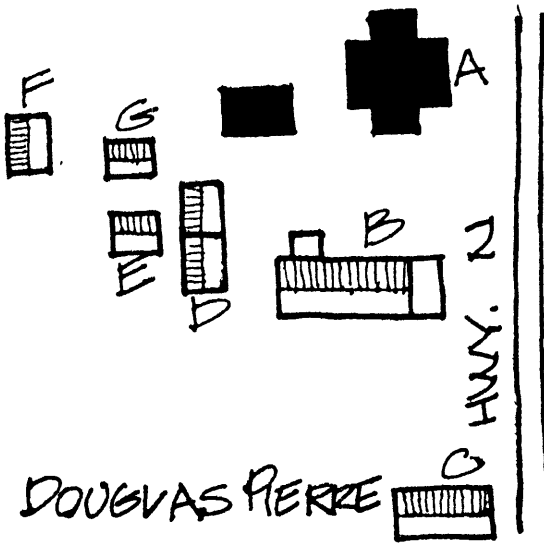




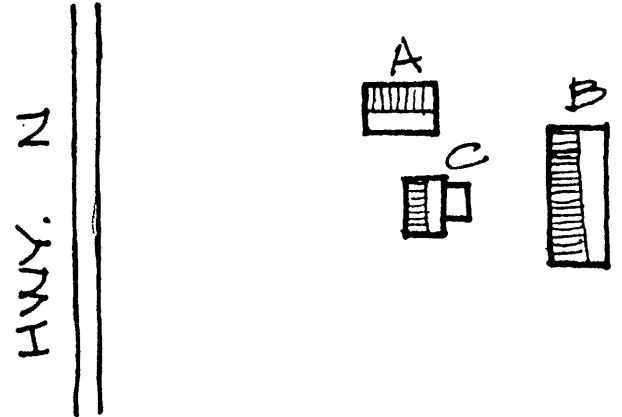
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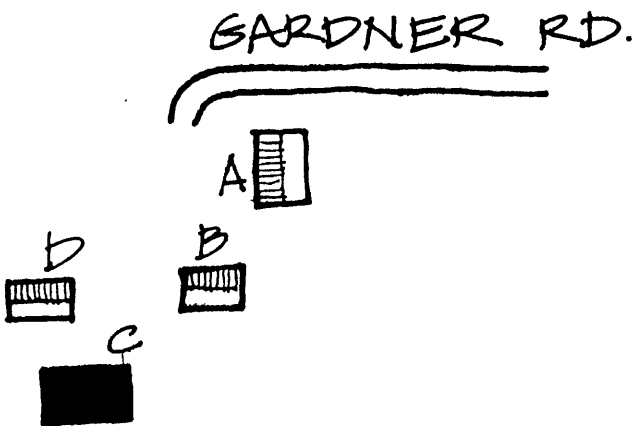
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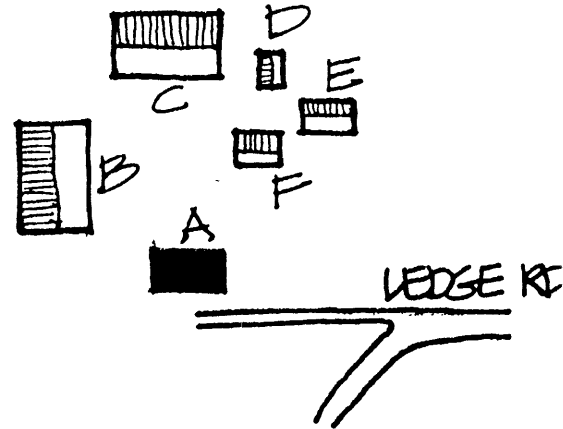
26 DOUGLAS PERRE



27 ALEX FARINS, JR.



28 YAU CHUN WONG



29 JAMES FARINS, JR.

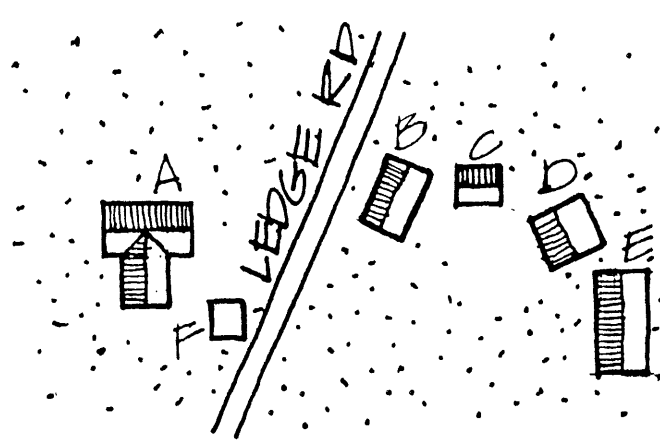
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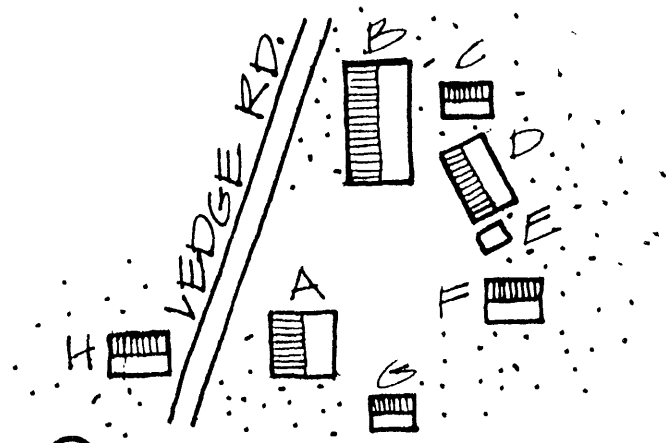
Union & Gardner Townships, Door County, WI

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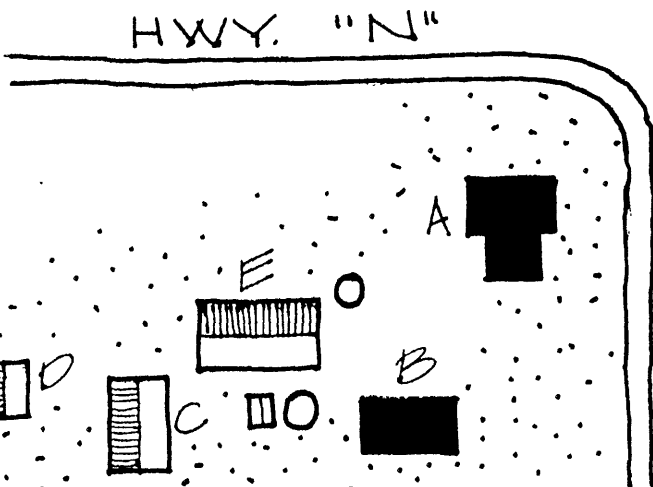




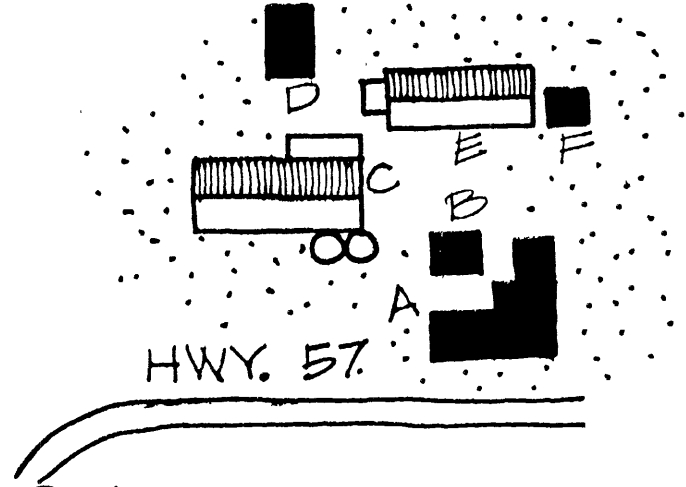
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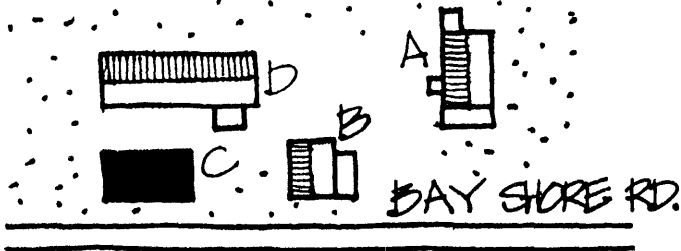
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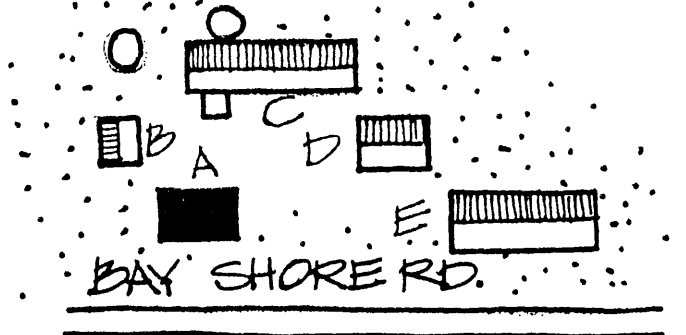
32 THAD CHADOIR



42 JOHN CHADOIR



43 IRENE CONARD



45 HARRY CHADOIR

NAMUR

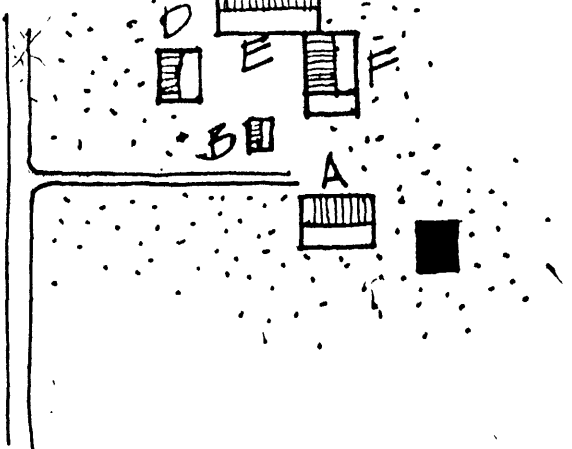
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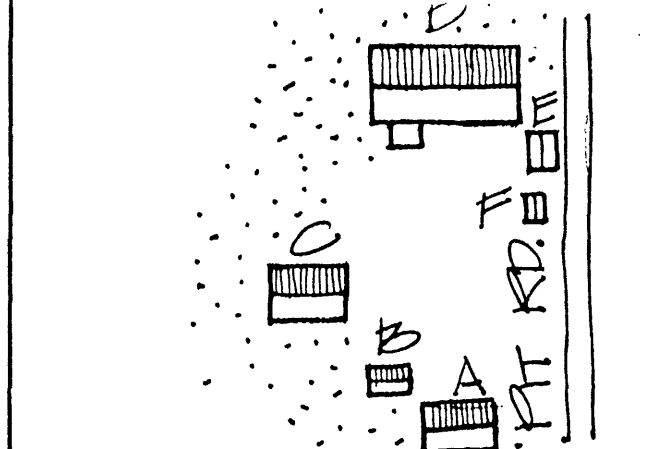


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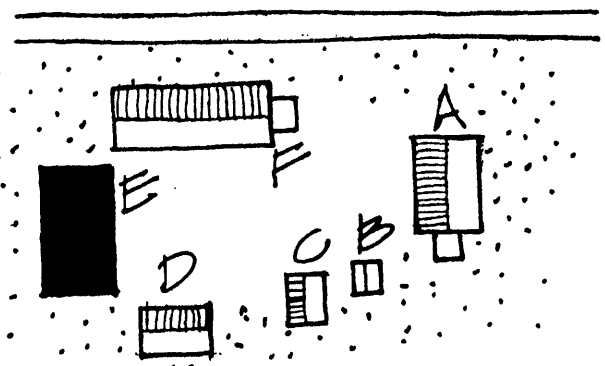
47 KERMIT CONARD

C



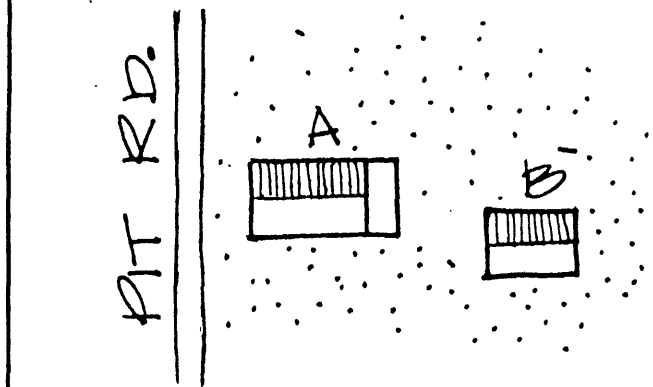
51 EUGENE GARBOWSKI

LEDGE RD.



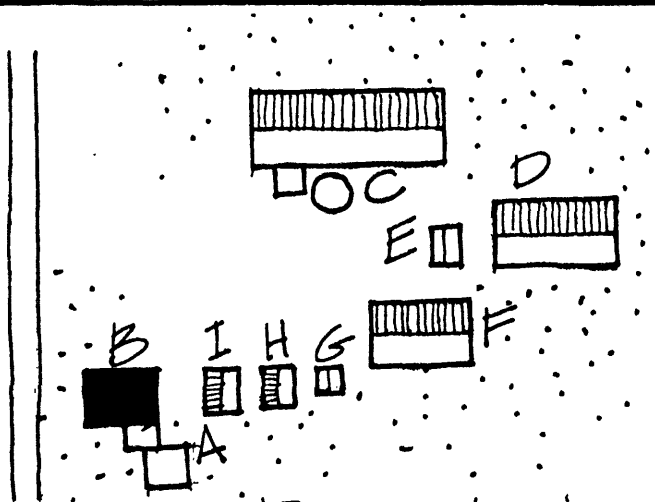
52 JOSEPH VIRLEE

PIT RD.



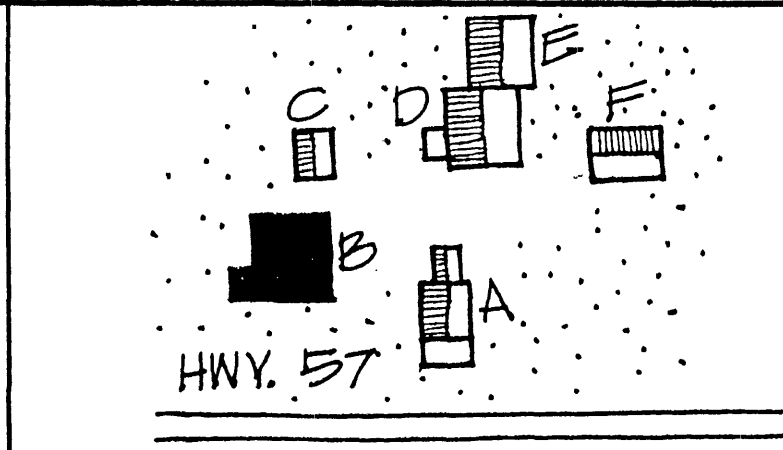
53 MAMIE VIRLEE

PIT RD.



54 JOHN RASS, JR.

HWY. 57



55 RALPH BAUDHUIN

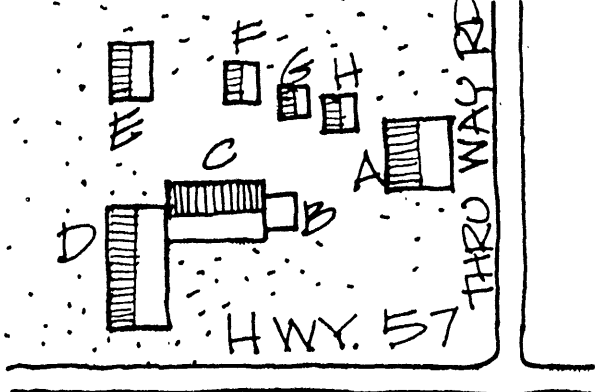
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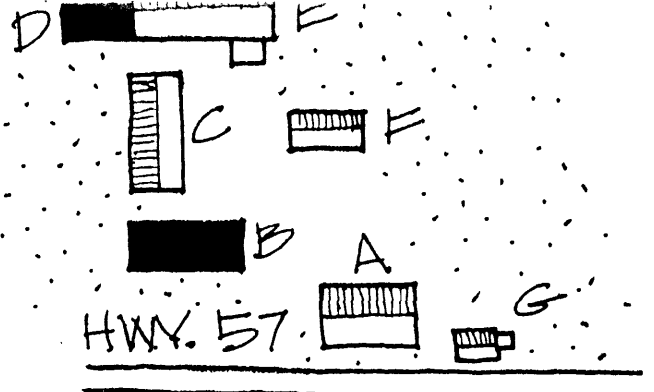
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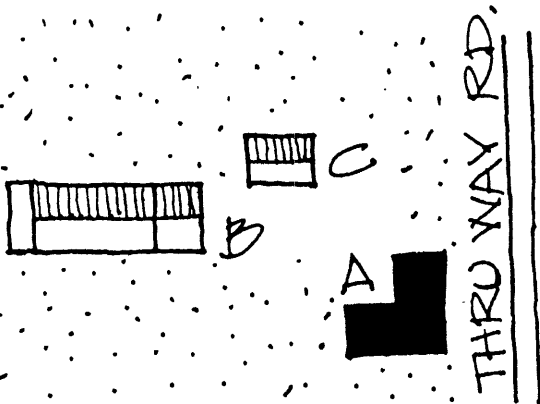




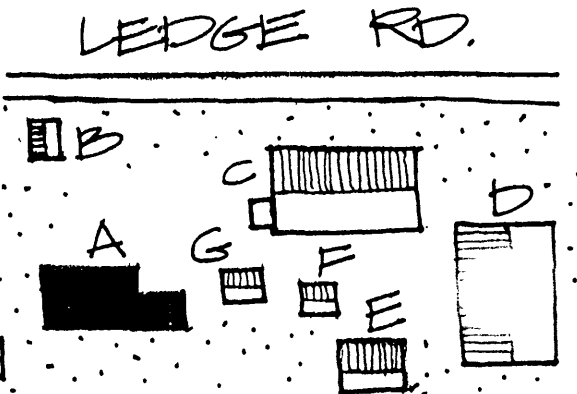
56 DAVID JEANQUART



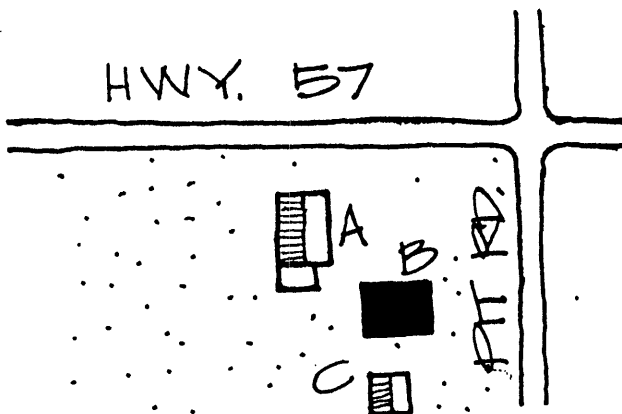
57 JAMES BAUDHOIN



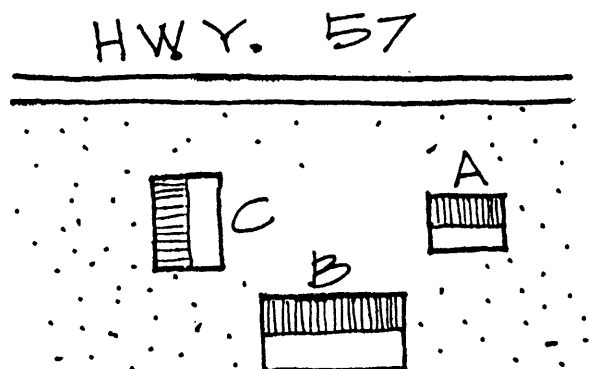
58 RAY DELCORPS



60 HARRY BRUNETTE



61 EUGENE COLLINS



62 ALVIN MARTIN

NAMUR

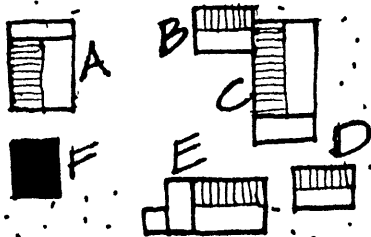
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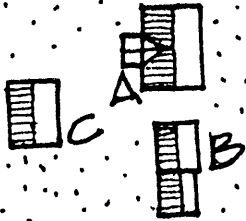
63 GABLE DEKAYSER

HWY. 57



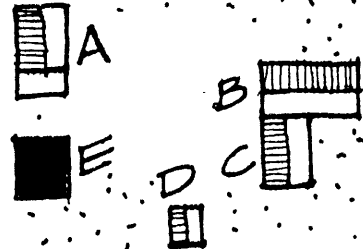
64 NORBERT LE GRAVE

HWY. 57



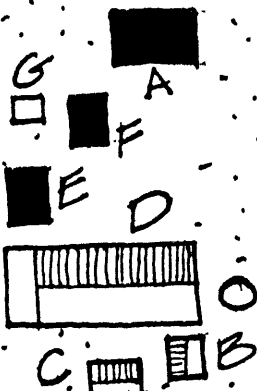
66 MRS. ADAM DIER

HWY. 57



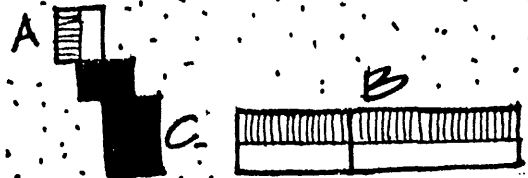
69 DESIRE GERONDALE

BAY SHORE RD.



72 MEADOW BROOK FARMS

BAY SHORE RD.



74 RON ENGLEBERT

NAMUR

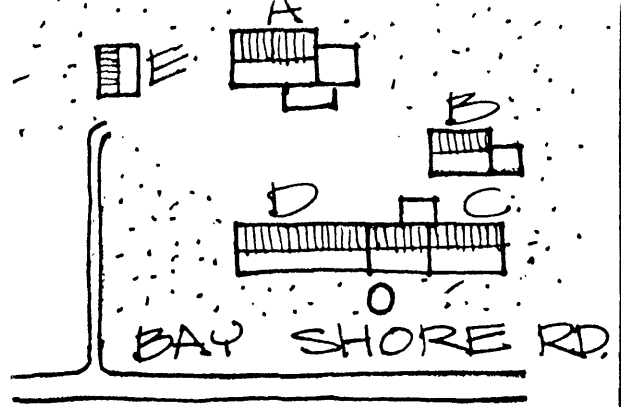
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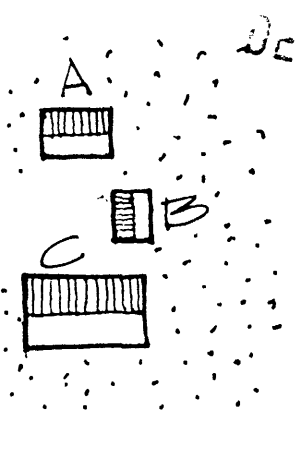


NORTH
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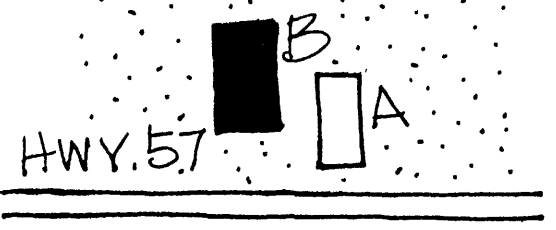


77 PETER JAUQUET

CO. HWY. "N"
↑



5 DONALD SPINGAIRE



40 DOUG MASSONETTE

NAMUR

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