

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0677515

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 20 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 8 1979

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pilgrim Family Farmstead

AND/OR COMMON

Rasmussen Farm

2 LOCATION SW of Kewaunee on

STREET & NUMBER

Church Road, 1/4-mile S of Krok Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kewaunee

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

eighth

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Kewaunee

CODE

061

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ralph Rasmussen ✓

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Kewaunee

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54216

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Kewaunee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Kewaunee

STATE

Wisconsin 54216

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1976

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The layout of the Pilgrim farmstead and the dates of its individual buildings are shown on the hand-drawn map.

The farmhouse is a two-story brick veneered frame building with an attached single-story kitchen wing. The house rests on a massive three-foot-thick fieldstone foundation. The durability of the house is also revealed in its six-by-ten inch hewn floor joists and in the stoutness of its exterior walls, which are ten inches thick with an added layer of cream brick. The exterior walls of the kitchen wing, and perhaps of the entire first floor, are nogged with cedar and daub. The main (east) facade is five openings wide, is symmetrically arranged, and has a central doorway. All windows and doorways in the main block of the house have stilted segmental arches; windows are two-over-two double-hung sash. The house also features a heavy cornice, returns, and fan lights in the gables. Evidently a stoop or small porch once led to the front door. The door is no longer used, and beneath it a doorway now leads into the basement. A single-story shed-roofed addition was attached to the south side of the house at one time. A shed-roofed porch runs the length of the north side of the kitchen wing. Similarly, a shed-roofed addition, partly of cream brick and partly clapboarded, runs the length of the south side of the kitchen wing.

The original portion of the barn is a story-and-a-half bent-frame structure resting atop a full-story fieldstone foundation. The ridge of the barn is oriented north and south. Some framing members are hewn and others are sawn; all are numbered with roman numerals. The barn is sided with rough-sawn boards laid vertically. The first addition to the barn is perpendicular to the southern part of the west facade. It rests on a foundation similar to that of the original barn, is slightly taller, and is more crudely framed than the older portion. The windmill addition is the tallest of the three portions of the barn and is perpendicular to the northern part of the east facade. It, too, rests on a story-high fieldstone foundation. The framework of the windmill structure is integrated into the sophisticated framing of the addition. All framing is of sawn wooden posts and beams. The windmill tower extends more than a full story above the peak of the addition. Originally the tower was covered with wood shingles and contained windows with triangular heads in all four sides. It has recently been covered with asphalt shingles, and the window openings have been inset with plywood panels. A Monitor twelve-foot vane type open-gear wind engine is fixed atop the tower. Its movable blades have been removed, and many of them are stored in the barn; its vane has been lost. The windmill addition contains a round stone silo located between the foot of the windmill frame and the front (east) wall of the addition. Adjoining the east side of the windmill addition is a small concrete-block milkhouse. In the crotch of the ell formed by the windmill addition and the original portion of the barn stands a square fieldstone silo with a gable roof.

To the rear of the house stands a roofless single-story fieldstone building consisting of three bays. It appears to have lost a frame second story. The southernmost bay was originally a smithy; the central bay was a smokehouse; and the northernmost bay was a combination woodshed/garage. To the east of the barn stands a simple single-story frame granary. It is sided with wood shingles.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pilgrim farmstead is historically significant among the farms of the Kewaunee area. It is the culmination of the efforts of a Pomeranian immigrant family to establish a home on the American frontier. The family was among the first pioneers of inland Kewaunee County. The buildings of the farmstead reflect the modest prosperity and the self-sufficiency that the family achieved. They are substantial, sturdily built, and utilitarian. Of particular significance is the large, machinery-driving windmill atop an addition to the barn. The rooftop windmill was a late nineteenth-early twentieth century contrivance that for practical reasons remained relatively a rarity. The Pilgrim barn-top windmill is the only one of its kind thus far identified in Wisconsin, and is probably one of few extant nationally.¹

In the winter of 1854-55, Friedrich Pehlgrim, his wife, and their son left their home in Gehmke in Pomerania, bound for the New World. In April they disembarked in New York City and headed west. By November Friedrich had purchased title from the government to the eighty acres that would form the core of the Pilgrim farm and had constructed a small log cabin. Shortly thereafter it was discovered that the cabin stood slightly to the north of the Pehlgrim parcel, and a second cabin, perhaps of fieldstone, was constructed just south of the present house. The Pehlgrims were among the first settlers of a small German agricultural community that developed in the area in the second half of the 1850s.²

The 1860s and 1870s were years of growth for the Pehlgrim farm. In 1867 an adjacent forty-acre parcel was added, and a second forty was added in the mid-1870s. Friedrich deeded the farm over to his son John in 1872, about the time of John's marriage. Nevertheless, Friedrich and his wife continued to reside on the farm until their deaths. Neither of the elder Pehlgrims became American citizens, and John did not apply for citizenship until 1890. By the 1870s, however, the family had Americanized the spelling of its name to Pilgrim.³

Through the 1870s the Pilgrims engaged in mixed farming, raising substantial crops of wheat and oats as well as a variety of kitchen crops and keeping an assortment of domestic animals. Around mid-decade the family built a large barn. The barn was expertly framed, and rests on a full-story foundation made of fieldstone. After one hundred years it shows few signs of structural deterioration. The family's philosophy of building solidly for posterity is also suggested by the farmhouse, which was built around 1885.⁴ Structurally, it is as permanent as the barn. Stylistic elements of the house reveal a conservative vernacular taste in architecture that might have been considered passe in a more cosmopolitan environment in 1885.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.7

QUADRANGLE NAME Kewaunee, Wis.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 449550 4918550

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

a square parcel 500 feet on each side, bounded on the east by Church Road, with the farmstead driveway being equidistant from the north and south boundaries

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Donath, Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-3390

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 x

LOCAL

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 Remy

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

3/13/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5.8.78

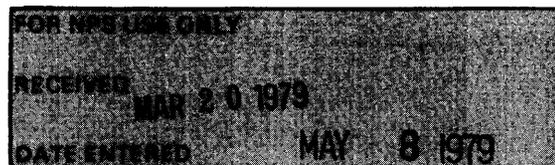
ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5.3.79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Significance (continued)

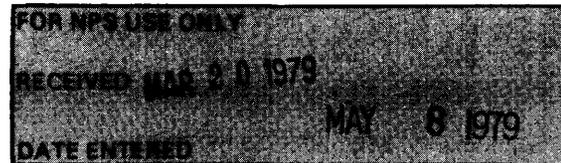
Around the turn of the century the Pilgrim farm became primarily a dairying operation, and in the first decade of the century a number of major improvements were made to the farmstead. The most striking of these is the windmill addition to the barn. Raised about 1904, the addition was nearly as large as the original barn. It included an interior silo, and was surmounted by a twelve-foot Monitor windmill on a story-and-a-half high tower. The windmill drove a silage cutter, a feed mill, a waterpump, and probably a number of other farm machines. Located adjacent to the silo and near the main part of the barn, it facilitated the making and storage of silage and supplied mechanical power for a number of other tasks. The Pilgrims were proud of their windmill. A photograph of their farm taken about 1905, with the mill centered prominently and the vane of wind engine retouched to display its Monitor inscription, is framed and still hangs in the farmhouse. The Monitor was made by the Baker Manufacturing Company of Evansville, Wisconsin. Baker, along with its competitor the Eclipse Wind Engine Company of Beloit, commanded a lion's share of the American windmill market.

Despite the obvious desirability of having a ready supply of mechanical power available in the barn and the efforts of wind engine manufacturers to promote such contrivances, only a limited number of midwestern farmers seem to have erected rooftop windmills. The stresses involved required that the frame of the mill be integrated with the frame of a barn or other substantial building, and the driveshaft and mill framework took up valuable space in such a building. Therefore, when such windmills were placed on barns, they usually were erected at a gable end. More often they were built on additions to barns, as is the case with the Pilgrim mill, or on a separate structure altogether. Because of these structural considerations, the cost of erecting such a mill might well exceed the cost of the wind engine itself. The utility of the steam engine and more importantly of the gasoline engine, once it became available, further compromised the attractiveness of the windmill as a source of power for driving machines. Rural electrification in the 1930s rendered the windmill impractical. Moreover, the top of a barn or a large building was a poor place to locate a windmill. In a moderate to strong wind the roof of a barn creates a much stronger updraft that could destroy any windmill. Although it is unknown how many turn-of-the-century farmers were aware of the problems involved, it is likely that many rooftop windmills did not last long.⁵

About the same time that the windmill addition was erected, a fieldstone smithy, smokehouse, wood shed, and garage building was constructed to the rear of the farmhouse. These, along with the windmill, reflect the scope of activities that took place on the farm and are suggestive of the self-sufficiency of the Pilgrims' style of life. The continued use of indigenous fieldstone as a building material also reflects this self-sufficiency. The Pilgrims were building with fieldstone as late as 1938 when they erected the stone silo adjacent to the barn.

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Significance (continued)

In 1909 John Pilgrim passed on ownership of the farm to his son, John, jr. The hard times that faced American farmers during the 1920s and the Depression did not spare the Pilgrim farm. During this period the first long-term large-sum mortgages were taken on the property, although the family undertook no major building projects or expansion. Members of the Pilgrim family operated the farm until 1942. The present owner leases acreage to neighboring farms and cuts fodder for sale but does not operate it as a working farm. Nevertheless, he maintains the buildings with some diligence and is preparing to restore the windmill.

- 1 Statement based on the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places and an interview with Neil Lien, Vice-President for Research, Development and Engineering of the Baker Manufacturing Company, Manufacturers of the Windmill, 29 December 1978.
- 2 Certificate of Death, Friedrich Pilgrim, Kewaunee County Register of Deeds; United States Federal Census, Population Schedule, Kewaunee County, 1860; Certificate of Intent and Certificate of Naturalization, John Pilgrim, Kewaunee County Clerk of Courts; United States to Friedrich Pehlgrim, E-1/2 SW-1/4 sec. 31 T23N R24E, Kewaunee County Register of Deeds; interview with Edward Pilgrim, great-grandson of Friedrich Pehlgrim, 14 December 1978; George W. Wing, History of Kewaunee County (n.p., 1922), p.11.
- 3 Edward Decker to Friedrich Pilgrim, warranty deed, NW-1/4 SW-1/4 sec. 31 T23N R24E, John Pawlik to John Pilgrim, warranty deed, SE-1/4 SE-1/4 sec. 36 T23N R23E, Friedrich Pilgrim to John Pilgrim, warranty deed, E-1/2 SW-1/4 and NW-1/4 SW-1/4 sec. 31 T23N R24E, Kewaunee County Register of Deeds. John Pilgrim's marriage certificate is not available, but a succession of births to him and his wife beginning in 1873 suggests that the marriage was in the previous year. It is unknown whether Friedrich waited until John was married before deeding the farm to him or whether John waited until he had received the farm before marrying. John was twenty-six in 1872.
- 4 Building dates are based on the recollections of Edward Pilgrim. John Pilgrim to J.W. Toombs, mortgage \$1050, N 15 acres of SE-1/4 SW-1/4 and N-1/2 SW-1/4 sec. 31 T23N R24E, 29 January 1887, Kewaunee County Register of Deeds, tends to confirm Edward Pilgrim's 1885 estimated date of construction for the house.
- 5 Illustrated Catalogue of Eclipse Pumping and Geared Windmills (Racine, n.p./c.1890?); interview with Neil Lien, 29 December 1978.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abstract of title, in possession of Union State Bank, Kewaunee, Wisconsin.

Birth, Death, Marriage, and Property Records. Register of Deeds, Kewaunee County Courthouse.

Certificates of Intent and Naturalization, Clerk of Courts, Kewaunee County Courthouse.

Lien, Neil, interview, 29 December 1978.

Pilgrim, Edward, interview, 14 December 1978.

Rasmussen, Ralph, interview, 29 October 1978.

Wing, George W., History of Kewaunee County, n.p., 1922.