UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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

AND/OR COMMON
Hokenson Fishing Dock

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Little Sand Bay

CITY, TOWN
Town of Russell

VICINITY OF
Bayfield

STATE
Wisconsin

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Eskel Hokenson, et al.

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1

CITY, TOWN
Bayfield

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Eskel Hokenson, et al.

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1

CITY, TOWN
Bayfield

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Register of Deeds, Bayfield County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Washburn

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Building Survey

DATE
1975

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

X STATE LOCAL

X STATE LOCAL
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DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This property consists of three buildings and a dock on the southeast shore of Little Sand Bay, at the northern tip of Bayfield County.

The L-shaped dock is built of wooden piles driven into the lake bed and a superstructure or crib of logs. The deck is made of wide wooden planking. Large rocks have been placed within the crib, causing the dock to act somewhat as a breakwater, enabling boats to tie up within the "L" and be protected from wind and waves. The builders consciously left relatively unobstructed gaps in the rock fill in order to relieve the pressure built up against the dock during a storm. The dock is left in place during the winter months and has withstood the ice fairly well. During the summer of 1975, some repairs were made including the replacement of several boards and piles which had deteriorated over the years.

Toward the landward end of the dock is the herring-storage shed. This building rests on the same pile foundation as the dock itself. It is a frame building with unpainted wood tongue-and-groove siding. Its single-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is cantilevered four-to-five feet over the dock, providing a sheltered walkway and an outdoor storage area close to the boats.

On shore, at the end of the dock, is a one-and-one-half story wood frame structure that was used as the ice house. The single-gable roof is shingled. The siding is whitewashed tongue and groove. Facing the dock is a double-width barn door which slides horizontally on an exterior track.

At the southwest corner of the ice house is a short stairway up an embankment. Approximately forty feet from the top of the stairs is a two story, barn-like building. Its first floor is used as a workshop and boat storage. The second floor is used to store fishing nets. The building rests on concrete block foundations, is of frame construction and its walls have whitewashed tongue-and-groove siding. The builders chose a gambrel roof because it allowed increased first-floor ceiling height without the corresponding decrease in usable second floor storage space common in gabled structures. As in the ice house, a wide barn door hung on an exterior track was placed on the north side facing the dock. The track is cantilevered past the side of the building to allow complete clearance of the opening.
**SIGNIFICANCE**

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<th>PERIOD</th>
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**SPECIFIC DATES** 1927-1931  
**BUDDER/ARCHITECT**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

These buildings are of exceptional importance because they are part of the only intact fishing and packing operation within the boundaries of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. This type of local enterprise played a significant role in the commercial fishing industry of the region.

When the three Hokenson brothers, Eskel, Roy, and Leo, decided to start their own fishing operation at Little Sand Bay, a few miles from the farm where their father had homesteaded many years before, small scale fish packers were facing stiff competition from national corporations which offered a constant market and stable prices. In the Apostle Islands area, the Booth Fisheries dominated the market. The isolation of the brothers' chosen location both guaranteed and necessitated independence from the larger operators. They could ill afford to spend the entire day required to transport their catch into Bayfield, the roads to Little Sand Bay were difficult to travel, and the brothers were quite certain that they would make out better on their own.

The first structures built were, in 1927, the dock and ice house, though the dock was not completed until 1930. The net storage building was constructed in 1930-31 and the herring-equipment shed on the dock was finished at about the same time. All of the buildings were designed and built by the brothers themselves.

During the fishing season, usually April through November, the brothers were able to retain control over all aspects of their trade except the final distribution of the fish to markets. This entailed setting the nets, collecting the fish daily, and packing them in ice at the dock. Then they would take the fish to a broker in Cornucopia, Bayfield or wherever the price was best.

The inconvenience of having to take their boat into town for mechanical repair during the frantic twenty-hour days of the herring run led the Hokensons to set up a workshop on the ground floor of their net storage building. With the installation of a forge, they became capable of manufacturing their own spare parts. During the winter months, they would spend much of their time in the net storage building repairing nets and preparing their equipment for the next fishing season.
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  less than one

UTM REFERENCES

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<tr>
<td>ZONE</td>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Herschel L. D. Parnes, Field Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET & NUMBER
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin

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.

S. H. P. O. Signature

TITLE
Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 6/18/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/18/76
Significance (continued).

The operation at Little Sand Bay was non-mechanized. There are some tools and metal working implements still located in the shop on the ground floor of the net storage building. Assorted nets and buoys and other non-permanent objects directly associated with the gathering of fish can be found in the other buildings on the site.

Although this property is slightly less than fifty years old, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin feels that its placement on the National Register at this time will ensure that the National Park Service planners will consider the historic value and integrity of the Hokenson property in preparing their master plan for the Little Sand Bay headquarters of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

The National Park Service is authorized to acquire this property in fee. Pending acquisition, the listing of this property will enable the Hokensons to apply for grants through our Grants-in-Aid Program to undertake periodic restoration of parts of the property vulnerable to the severe weather of Lake Superior. After acquisition, the listing would encourage the National Park Service to maintain the property and perhaps use the property for interpretive purposes.
State of Significance Continued

Over the years, their isolation has decreased. One or two other fisherman moved to the area, a hard-surfaced road was built, a small town park with a boat launching facility was created nearby, and even a restaurant and bar was established. The National Park Service has chosen Little Sand Bay as the headquarters for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and the area adjacent to the Hokenson property is slated for development in accordance with the National Park Service's master plan. Possibilities include an interpretive center, picnic areas, campground, and a marina.

Meanwhile, the Hokenson dock is still being used by fisherman Jack Erickson. One of the Hokenson brothers is deceased. The other two, though they still own the property, have retired.
Bibliographical References:

Interviews with Roy and Irene Hokenson, Summer, 1975.
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number  JUN 1 8 1976

Title: Hokenson Fishing Dock
Bayfield Co., Wis.

Loc. from N end of dock toward Herring Shed
Ice House 1883
HOKENSON FISHING DOCK, LITTLE SAND BAR, WIS., 1975.
View from southeast of Herring Shed and Dock.

Photo by HERSCHEL L. D. PARNES
1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Hokenson Fishing Dock

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Town of Russell

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Bayfield

STATE

Wisconsin

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Herschel L. D. Parnes

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View from N.E. of Net Storage Building

PHOTO NO 3 of 3