

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Wisconsin



Hansen Fishery/Farm

Cultural Landscapes Inventory

July 2014

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The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape’s location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics as character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2001), and Director’s Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that responds to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B) servicewide; and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI is maintained by the Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, and is the official source of cultural landscape information servicewide.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included in the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history, significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent, and resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist, or when an existing nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park’s CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work for the CLR effort.

The CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It therefore requires a more in depth level of research and documentation, both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape and to recommend a preservation treatment strategy that meets the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR’s are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

Chapter 1: Inventory Unit Summary

Inventory Unit Description

The Hansen Fishery/Farm cultural landscape is located on Sand Island which lies at the northern tip of the Bayfield Peninsula in Bayfield County, Wisconsin. The landscape occupies approximately nine acres on the eastern edge of Sand Island which is 2,949 acres in size and is situated at the western edge of the lakeshore. The cultural landscape is a collection of features that remain from its development as a Norwegian farm-ing and fishing complex. The complex consists of the main house, guest house (hired man’s house), Boar’s Nest, ice house (root cellar), twine storage shed, wood shed, privy, machine shed (chicken coop) and a barn. Sand Island had the largest and longest lasting Norwegian farming and fishing community in the Archipelago.

The Hansen Fishery/Farm is one out of three properties that still remain from the original community of farmers, fishermen, and loggers that lived on Sand Island. The Frederick Hansen Farm was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on May 12, 2009. The period of significance begins in 1932 when the majority of the nine contributing buildings were mostly complete and ends in 1952. The complex is significant for its role as part of the original community of farmers, fishermen, and loggers that lived on Sand Island. Existing structures date to the period of development of the site and illustrate the architecture and success of Norwegian Fishermen in the Lake Superior Region.

Overall, the Hansen Fishery/Farm cultural landscape retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Despite minor losses, the buildings and structures at the farm retain a high degree of integrity and are integral components of the cultural landscape. Today, the island’s land use is as a site within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, operated by the National Park Service.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Hansen Fishery/Farm
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	500359
Parent Landscape:	Hansen Fishery/Farm

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Apostle Islands National Lakeshore-APIS
Park Organization Code:	6140
Park Administrative Unit:	Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

CLI Hierarchy Description

As of September 2006, twenty-three cultural landscapes at Apostles Islands National Lakeshore had been identified as currently eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Hansen Fishery/Farm is one of those landscapes.

Chapter 2: Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

Initial research was conducted by seasonals Kathleen Fitzgerald and Richard Radford in FY99 to determine the number of potential landscapes for the park. Former Cultural Landscapes Program Leader Sherda Williams and Historical Landscape Architect Marla McEnaney reviewed the landscape hierarchy presented in the CLI. Landscape Historian Alesha Hauser visited Sand Island in FY10. Data entry was completed by Hauser in 2011

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	7/7/2011
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible-SHPO Consensus Determination 5/12/2009
Site Visit Conducted:	7/7/2011

Chapter 3: Geographic Information & Location Map

State & County:

State:	Wisconsin
County:	Bayfield

Size (Acres): 9.00

Boundary Description:

A tract of land situated in Government Lot 2, in Section 18, Township 52 North, Range 4 West, Fourth Principal Meridian, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, being part of Sand Island and described as follows:

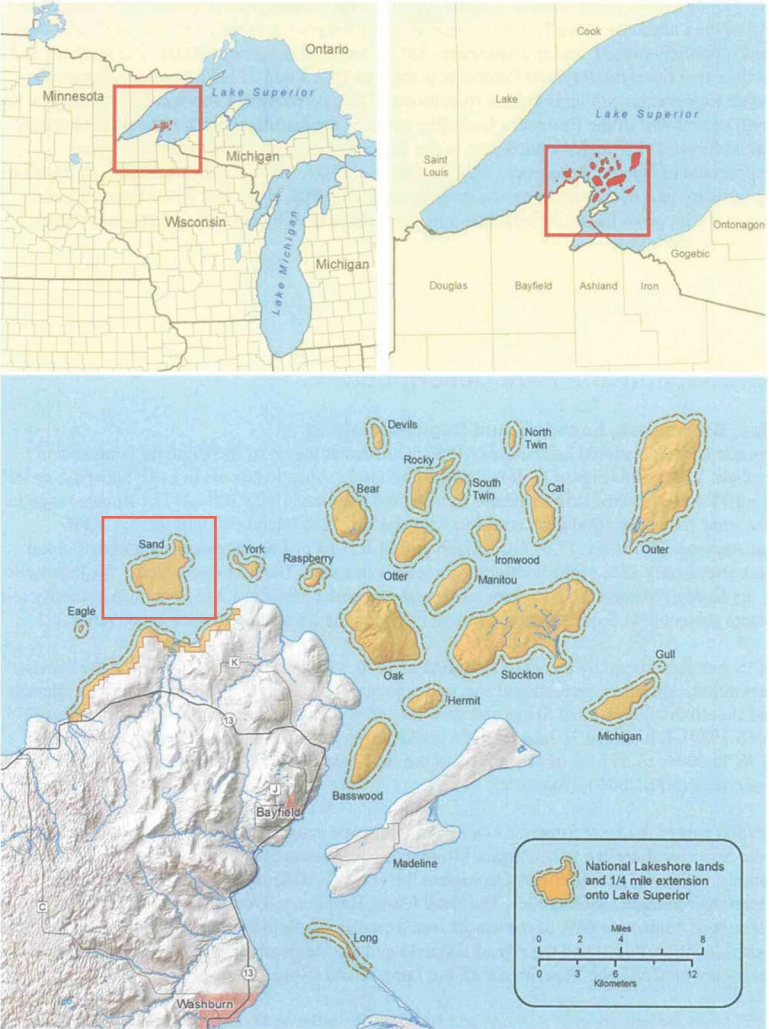
Beginning at the intersection of the west line of Government Lot 2 with the shoreline of Lake Superior; thence north along said west line 930 feet, more or less, but to the south line of an old East-West road; thence east along said East-West road south line 240 feet; thence north 200 feet; thence east 240 feet; thence south parallel to the west line of Government Lot 2 a distance of 460 feet; thence deflecting 32° left and running southeasterly to the shoreline of Lake Superior; thence southwesterly along said shoreline to the point of beginning. Said trace containing 9.0 acres, more or less.

The above description is the legal description provided in the use and occupancy agreement in the Tract file at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and incorporates all of the historic features associated with the Hansen Complex.

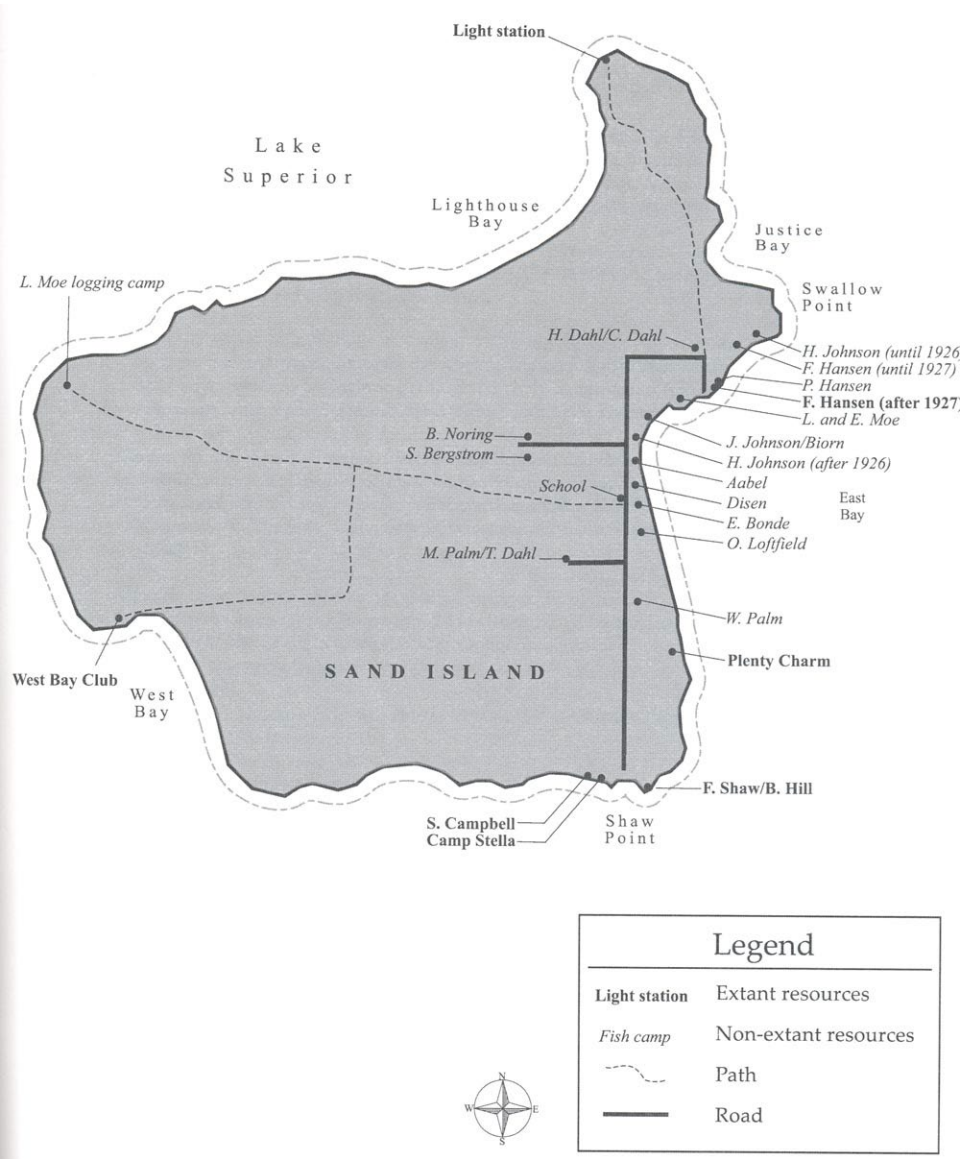
Boundary UTMs

Source:	GPS- Uncorrected
Point Type:	Area
Datum:	WSG84

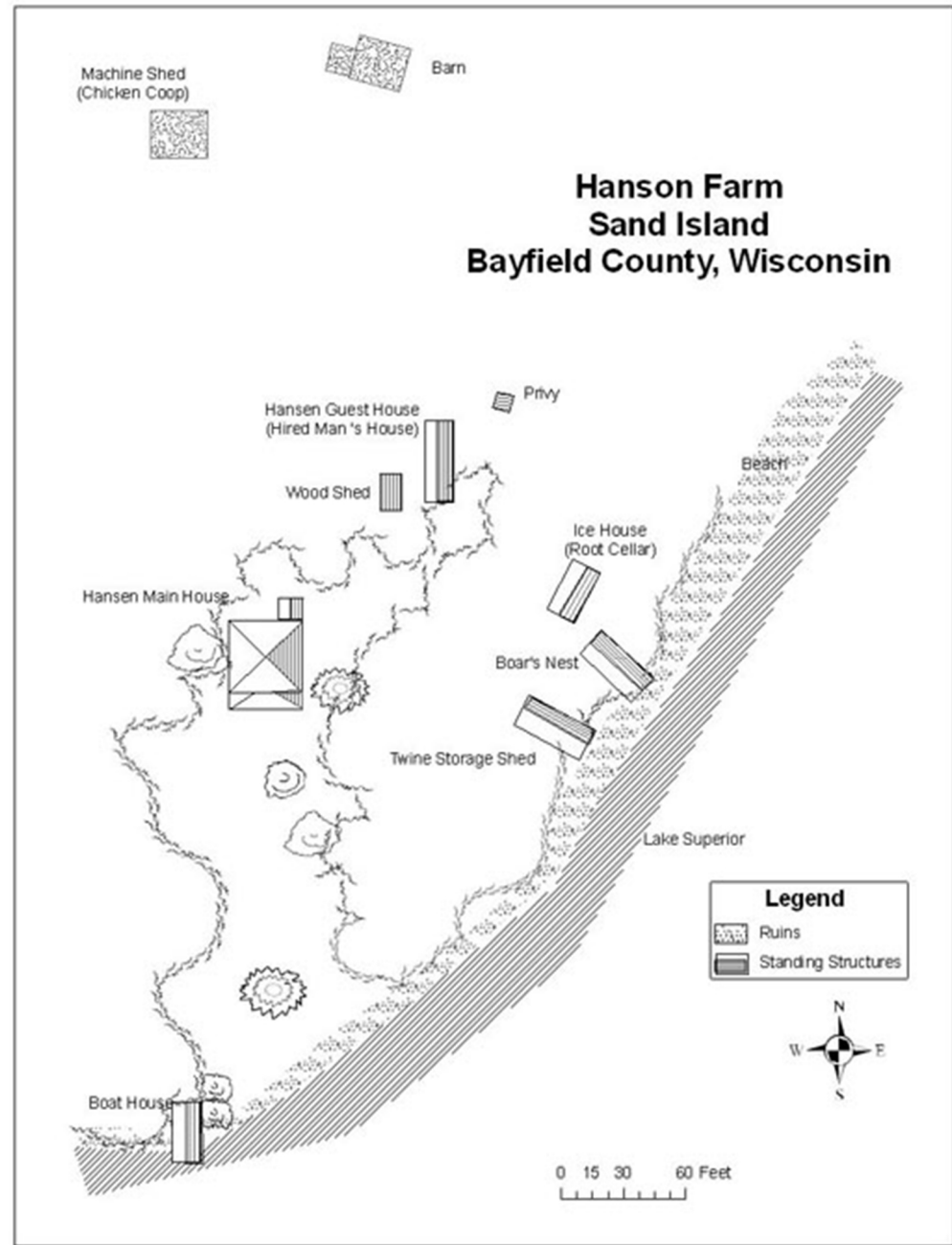
Map Point	UTM	Easting	Northing	Long/Lat
1	15	657435	5205747	-90.929665, 46.986531
2	15	657508	5204752	-90.928710, 46.986554
3	15	657504	5205812	-90.928735, 46.987101
4	15	657577	5205816	-90.927776, 46.987121
5	15	657584	5205638	-90.927753, 46.985514
6	15	657449	5205507	-90.939564, 46.984372



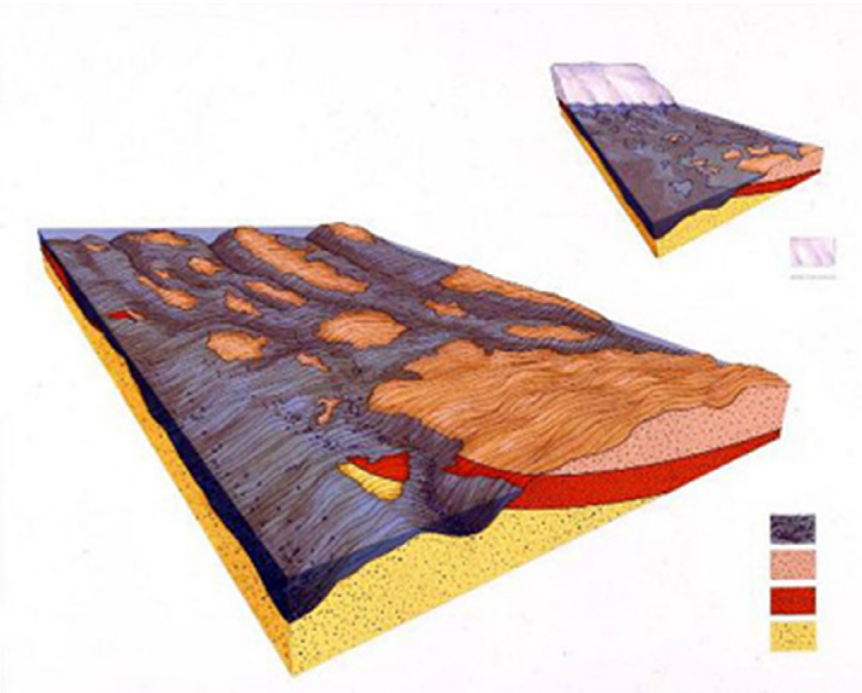
Location of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the upper Great Lakes region of the United States, indicating the location of Sand Island on the lower image. (Kraft et al. 2007, 2).



Sand Island Cultural Resources Base Map. The Hansen Fishery/Farm is on the eastern (right) shore. (Busch, 2008)



Site plan showing 9 contributing buildings and 1 non-contributing building (Derix for NPS, 2008).



Glacier in retreat 9,000 years ago, right, and present day strata, left. Yellow is Orienta Sandstone; rust is Devils Island Sandstone; gray is Glacial Drift; and beige is Chequamegon Sandstone (NPS commissioned art, Mobium Corp., Leon Bishop, 1985).

Physiographic Context: Regional Context

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is located in extreme northern Wisconsin at the western end of Lake Superior. The lakeshore covers 42,160 acres of land in Ashland and Bayfield Counties, including twenty-one of the twenty-two Apostle Islands. The islands range in size from only a few acres, in the case of Gull Island, to over 10,000 acres on Stockton. Heights of the island above lake level range from as low as 10 feet on Long Island to a high of 480 feet on Oak.

Repeated periods of glaciations during the last Ice Age resulted in deposits of glacial till with a high clay content covering most of the islands. The majority of the islands are comparatively flat with sandstone bedrock lying close to the surface. As a result, the islands in general have poor drainage and swampy areas are common. The shorelines for the majority of the islands are characterized by either sandstone cliffs or high clay bluffs. Natural harbors are uncommon, and man-made docks are frequently swept away by wave action or the movement of ice during the winter.

In addition to twenty-one islands, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore includes a 12-mile long strip of land varying in width from one-quarter to one-half mile along the Lake Superior shoreline from just south of Saxine Creek near Cornucopia to northeast of Little Sand Bay at the tip of the Bayfield Peninsula. Shoreline conditions are similar to the islands with much of the coast being inaccessible due to high sandstone cliffs and imposing clay bluffs.

Forest types on the islands include both boreal forest and northern hardwood hemlock. White pine and red pine, both highly desirable species for nineteenth century lumbering activities, are found throughout the islands. Pockets of old growth trees remain, including several hundred acres of hemlock forest on Outer Island, although most existing forest cover consists of second, third, or even fourth growth timber. With the possible exceptions of North Twin, Gull, and Eagle Islands, extensive and repeated forest harvesting has occurred on all the islands within the national lakeshore.

Cultural Context: Regional Context

The Hansen Fishery/Farm landscape reflects the culture and lifestyle of Norwegian farming and fishing. Norwegian fishermen-farmers began settling Sand Island in 1870. Several farms with a total cleared area of 100-150 ha (approx. 247-370 ac) were developed by World War I, at which time a community of several dozen people lived permanently on the island. Amenities during this period included a school, post office, and telephone service. However, farming declined after the war and ended by about 1930. Vacation resorts were built in 1886 at Shaw Farm and in 1910 at the West Bay. Sand Island has been repeatedly logged, with seven major operations conducted from the late 19th century until 1975. Three major agricultural clearings remain on the east side of the island (Judziewicz 1993, 109).

In 1970, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was established. This is the beginning of the NPS Period that continues until present day. This period opened the island to additional visitors and brought about changes in the landscape that primarily related to island access, recreation and visitor use.

Political Context: Regional Context

The Hansen Fishery/Farm is located within the boundaries of the Town of Russell, Bayfield County, Wisconsin. The Town of Russell is part of the 25th District for the Wisconsin State Senate, the 74th District for the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the Wisconsin 7th District for the United States Congress.

Chapter 4: Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved or Maintained

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Hansen Fishery/Farm contributes to the significance of the cultural landscape of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The fishery/farm was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The landscape contains structures which reflect the cultural and economic history of the Apostle Islands.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Access is open to park visitors who can reach the site via personal or concessioner boat. Apostle Islands Cruise Service, the park’s official concessionaire, conducts five trips to the islands each day from its docks at Bayfield, using two vessels, the Island Princess which can carry 149 passengers and the Ashland Bay Express which can carry 80 passengers. They also offer a water taxi service on an 8.5 m Sportcraft, which goes out about twice a week on average during the summer months.

The waters of Lake Superior are also a much-used resource for private recreational boats like motorboats, kayaks or sailboats.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The fishing and farm complex is one of several on Sand Island. It is possible that adjacent lands and even islands contribute to the significance of the property--such relationships have not yet been researched.

FMSS Location Numbers

108927	Sand Island: Hansen Boar’s Nest
108924	Sand Island: Hansen Guest House
108926	Sand Island: Hansen Ice House
108934	Sand Island: Hansen Machine Shed
108897	Sand Island: Hansen Main House
108928	Sand Island: Hansen Twine Storage Shed
108937	Sand Island: Hansen Wood Shed

Chapter 5: National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Not Listed

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible--SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	Site
Significance Level:	Local
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Period of Significance:	1932-1952
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Ways of Life
Facet:	Ethnic Communities (including the Immigration Phenomenon) Farming Communities
Area of Significance:	Ethnic Heritage Architecture Exploration/Settlement Social History

Statement of Significance:

This farm and fishing complex was assessed using criteria set forth in National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. Using those criteria, this farm appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, cultural traditions of a fishing and farming lifestyle of rural life on an inhabited Island. The period of significance begins in 1932, when the majority of the nine contributing buildings were mostly complete, and ends in 1952.

Sand Island, located in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, had the largest and longest lasting Norwegian farming and fishing community in the archipelago. The Fred Hansen property is one out of three proper-ties that still remain from the original community of farmers, fisherman, and loggers that lived on Sand Island. Farming and fishing went hand and hand to those families living on Sand Island. The Hansens were able to make a good living by fishing and farming. The family’s main home, built in 1936, was larger and more comfortable than other houses on the island, reflecting Fred Hansen’s success at fishing. Although the Hansen’s did not live in their home until 1936, they did use the outbuildings for farming, livestock, and fishing while living nearby in Fred’s childhood home. Three generations of Hansen’s made their living on Sand Island.

It was not until October 1936 that Fred and Nettie Hansen moved into the two-story log and beveled siding home built by carpenters Clyde Nyland and Nels Anderson. Mr. Nylen built numerous cottages, camps, houses, barns, and other structures on Sand Island including the Wellisch cabin and the non-extant barn at the Noring farm, and in northern Bayfield County. For example, informants describe Mr. Nylen as having built the twine shed and other structures at the Hokenson Fishery at Little Sand Bay. The Hokenson Fishery is on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Nylen is mentioned in oral history transcripts as being a highly skilled craftsmen and carpenter with a rare talent for building without referring to formal architectural drawings.

Only a few of the original homesteads are still standing, including West Bay Club and Shaw farm, from the habitants of Sand Island. Arnold R Alanen, Professor of Landscape Architecture for UW-Madison, said it best, claiming the Hansen Property is “the best preserved Scandinavian farm in the Lake Superior Region.”

(The statement of significance is modified from the DOE.)

Chapter 6: Chronology and Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape type:	Historic Vernacular Landscape
Current and Historic Use/Function:	
Primary Historic Function:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Primary Current Use:	Vacant (Not In Use)
Other Use/Function:	Type:
Domestic (Residential)	Historic
Farm (Plantation)	Historic

Current and Historic Names:	
Name:	Type of Name:
Frederick Hansen Farm	Both Current and Historic

Chronology

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1893	Settled	Peter and Dorothy Hansen emigrated from Norway along with their children Frederick and Christine.
CE 1927-1936	Inhabited	Fred Hansen and his family resided in the home of Peter Hansen until the main house was com-pleted in 1936.
CE 1932	Built	Third and last barn completed.
CE 1933	Built	Chicken coop completed.
	Built	Cellar was plastered and possibly completed.
CE 1936	Built	Main house constructed.
	Built	Boars Nest constructed.

Chronology

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1944	Abandoned	By the fall, all families had moved off the island.
CE 1970	Established	Apostle Islands National Lakeshore established.
CE 1978-1983	Destroyed	Barn collapsed during this time due to heavy snowfall.

Cultural Landscape Physical History Narrative

Sand Island, located in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, had the largest and longest lasting Norwegian farming and fishing community in the archipelago. In order to succeed and carry out their fishing operations fisherman built docks, fish houses, twine sheds, and ice houses. Typically, as nets were put away for the winter months, they were stored in twine sheds, and every fisherman had a twine shed. Fishing and farming sustained a nearly self-sufficient life-style. Families often had large gardens of potatoes and rutabagas. Large hay fields were common as was raising cattle, chickens, pigs, and horses. Although the farming and fishing culture is long gone, some farmsteads still remain as do cultural objects laying in the tall grasses and thick balsams that were once cleared fields. The Fred Hansen property is one out of three properties that still remain from the original community of farmers, fisherman, and loggers that lived on Sand Island.

The communities of East Bay and Shaw Point on Sand Island were settled in the late 1800s. Francis W. Shaw settled at Shaw Point, where he farmed and started a fishing camp in the 1860s. Families started to move to the East Bay area of Sand Island; the Burt Hill, Carl Dahl, Bill Noring, and Peter Hansen families eked out a living on Sand Island. Most of the families fished and farmed the island in order to make ends meet while living year-round. The Charles Shaw, a fishing boat out of the nearby town of Bayfield, would come and pick up fish to be sold on the mainland, dropping off mail order groceries or other goods to the families.

By the 1910s, 70 year-round residents lived on the island. A one room school house was built, enabling families to stay on the island full-time. In the following years, the community acquired a post office, a co-operative store, and, for a short time, a telephone service to the mainland. Farming and fishing went hand in hand for those families living on Sand. Though not all were successful at farming, many used it as a way to supplement their food supply. One family in particular, the Hansens, were able to make a good living by fishing and farming. The family’s main home, built in 1936, was larger and more comfortable than other houses on the island, reflecting Fred Hansen’s success at fishing.

Three generations of Hansens made their living on Sand Island. Peter and Dorothy Hansen emigrated from Norway along with their children Frederick and Christine in 1893 under the sponsorship of Louis Moe, owner of a farm near East Bay. Peter Hansen fished with Louis Moe until he could afford to buy a boat and land on the island. Peter’s home was not far from the Fred Hansen farm and was used by Fred and his family from 1927 until Fred’s home was built in 1936.



Peter and Fred Hansen, Lenus Jacobson and Herman Johnson Sr., circa 1914. (Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Archives)

Cultural Landscape Physical History Narrative, continued

Fred had a reputation of being an excellent fisherman. In 1927, Frederick Hansen caught 23,478 pounds of lake trout and whitefish; the Bayfield area’s 142 other fishermen totaled 608,276 pounds, meaning Hansen caught, on average, close to five times more fish that year. Other aspects of community life on Sand Island were far more informal. Sharing labor helped families cope with the demands of fishing and farming. In his diary, Frederick Hansen recorded that Bert and Bill Noring, Sven Bergstrom, and Burt Hill all accompanied him in his boat at one time or another. Even lighthouse keeper Immanuel Luick worked the occasional day on the fishing boats: “Keeper went out to help set nets [with Louis Moe]. Had to row every stroke of the way,” noted Luick in his logbook in 1899. Hansen’s diary also records examples of his work with the Moes, Norings, and other island families, cutting wood, putting up fences, clearing brush, and haying. Sometimes this work took place within the framework of neighborly cooperation; other times there was a more structured exchange. In 1938, Burt Hill records that Elvis Moe bought 20 dozen eggs. He did not pay by cash, but rather with 5 hours of cutting hay, 5 pounds of beef, 5 gallons of gasoline, and 6.5 pounds of fish. Island fishermen frequently borrowed Hill’s horse team to plow their fields or haul loads of firewood, occasionally paying in cash, but more often by exchange. In June 1914, Hansen “[w]ent over to Hills to get farm tools in eve.” The next day he wrote, “Had team—plowed and disced—brought tools back.”

It was not until October 1936 that Fred and Nettie Hansen move into the two-story log and beveled siding home built by carpenters Clyde Nyland and Nels Anderson. Mr. Nyland built numerous cottages, camps, houses, barns, and other structures on Sand Island, including the Wellisch cabin and the non-extant barn at the Noring farm, and in northern Bayfield County. Local residents describe Mr. Nyland as having built the twine shed and other structures at the Hokenson Fishery at Little Sand Bay. The Hokenson Fishery is on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Nyland is mentioned in oral history transcripts as being a highly skilled craftsmen and carpenter with a rare talent for building without referring to formal architectural drawings.

Although Fred and Nettie Hansen did not live in their home until 1936, they did use the outbuildings for farming, livestock, and fishing while living nearby in Fred’s childhood home. In a published diary written by Fred and titled, “Diary of a Norwegian Fisherman,” Fred mentions on many occasions building and tearing down specific buildings on the farm. Between 1916 and 1933, he tore down two barns, and finished his third and last barn on July 18, 1932. He wrote that he used the barn for calving and storing hay from his fields in the hayloft on the second floor. The chicken coop was completed on September 27, 1933. A specific date for completion of the cellar was never written down, although he does write on September 28, 1933, “plastered the cellar.” From May 9, 1936 until the new house was finished on October 2, 1936, Fred, Nettie, carpenters Nyland and Anderson, the Hansen children, and their neighbors worked on the house. Although the house was not built using traditional Norwegian architecture, it was completely built by hand including cutting and hewing the logs. Fred also writes about the Boar’s Nest and twine shed but does not elaborate on specific building dates. According to Robert J. Dahl, grandson of Fred and Nettie Hansen, the Boar’s Nest was built the same year the



Fred Hansen in front of the Boar’s Nest, circa 1925.
(Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Archives)

Cultural Landscape Physical History Narrative, continued

main house was built. On December 22, 1937, Jacob (Fred’s son) “cleaned up boars nest,” and on October 1, 1938, “Put window in boars nest.” The Boar’s Nest was used by Fred and his son Jacob for mending and seaming fishing nets, and as a gathering place for the men who would visit from nearby farms. After Jacob was married, he converted the building into a cottage. East of the house, facing the lake, is the twine shed used for storing nets and, to the north of the main house, the guest house was used as a hired man’s quarters, with a privy is located immediately northeast.

Fred Hansen assisted in building much of his home: digging the foundation trenches, hewing logs, staining, and painting. Nettie and Fred also gathered stones for the living room fireplace. The home was the third for the Hansens, one much bigger and more comfortable than previous, representative of Fred’s success as a fisherman. In 1939 Fred Hansen passed away from cancer at the age of 55, only three years after the house was built.

Life was hard for the families of Sand Island and by the fall of 1944, all of the families had moved off of the island to the mainland; closer contact with the necessities of life made economic survival easier. The Sand Island School closed in 1928; this seemed to mark the beginning of the end for full-time Sand residents. The children grew up and moved off the Island seeking better job opportunities. Many original islanders of Sand Island started to age and became ill; they needed to be closer to medical facilities on the mainland. Many of the farmsteads have since given up to the harsh Lake Superior weather. Only a few of the original developments, West Bay Club and Shaw Farm, are still standing from the original habitants of Sand Island. As Arnold R Alanen, Professor of Landscape Architecture for UW-Madison, stated the Hansen Property is “the best preserved Scandinavian farm in the Lake Superior Region.”

(The history is modified from the DOE.)

Chapter 7: Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

Summary:

The Hansen Farm/Fishery landscape retains integrity due to the presence of essential landscape characteristics and features associated with the period of significance (1932-1952). Extant buildings include the main house, guest house (hired man’s house), Boar’s Nest, ice house (root cellar), twine storage shed, wood shed, privy, machine shed (chicken coop), and a barn. The site retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association through all the extant landscape characteristics and features that, in total, help to convey the property’s significance and historic character.

The property is situated in its historic location on the shore of Lake Superior in East Bay on Sand Island. A majority of the extant structures remain in their historic location, but the twine shed and Boar’s Nest will need be moved away from the shore, far enough to be out of harm’s way from erosion and to ensure their preservation for the future. The property retains its overall sense of design which is reflected in the spatial organization, proportion, scale, and massing. Although portions of the property have evolved from agricultural use to woodland, the property generally retains the aspect of setting.

The aspects of materials and workmanship are retained due to the presence and exteriors of the contributing buildings. The property embodies feeling due to the existence of the historic structures, lack of adjacent modern intrusions, and its position near the water. Finally, the landscape has retained its association as the property is one out of three properties that still remain from the original community of farmers, fishermen, and loggers that lived on Sand Island and is said to be the best preserved Scandinavian farm in the Lake Superior Region.

Aspects of Integrity:

- Location
- Design
- Setting
- Matierals
- Workmanship
- Feeling
- Association

Landscape Characteristics:

- Buildings and Structures
- Land Use
- Natural Systems
- Topography
- Views and Vistas
- Vegetation
- Wildlife

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics

Fred Hansen’s farm originally consisted of nine contributing buildings: the main house, guest house (hired man’s house), Boar’s Nest, ice house (root cellar), twine storage shed, wood shed, privy, machine shed (chicken coop), and a barn, which collapsed between 1978 and 1983 due to heavy snowfall. A rounded metal boat house was built north of the main house by Eric Westhagen between 1956 and 1978. It is a small wood frame quonset style structure with metal sheathing set on wooden posts. There are double wooden doors facing the lake and it holds one boat. This structure is considered non-contributing.

The main house, built in 1936, is two stories and has a pyramidal asphalt roof with beveled siding. The eastside main floor is log dovetail siding and the north side main floor consists of T-111 siding. The lower level is constructed of logs with dovetail notching and the upper level has clapboards with cornerboards. The house features 3/1 double hung windows and a central brick chimney. There is a screened porch with a hipped roof along the south side and a small hipped addition at the northeast corner.

Hansen employed carpenters Clyde Nyland and Nels Anderson from the mainland to assist in building the main house. Although the house was not built using traditional Norwegian architecture, it was completely built by hand, including cutting and hewing the logs. Fred assisted in building much of his home: digging the foundation trenches, hewing logs, staining, and painting. Fred and his wife, Nettie, also gathered stones for the living room fireplace. The home was the third for the Hansen’s, much bigger and more comfortable than prior homes in their fishing camp.

Hansen built all outbuildings with the help of family and friends living on Sand Island. The guest house, ice house/root cellar, Boars Nest, and twine shed all have asphalt rolled gable roofs with walls consisting of lap siding and cornerboards. The single story guest house features 2/2 double hung windows, vertical board shutters, a panel door, and exposed rafter tails. The north section has corrugated metal roofing and horizontal board siding.

The one story Boar’s Nest also has exposed rafter tails, 2/2 double hung windows, and panel doors. It is currently sited “cliffside,” with part of the building extending over the lake, and is supported by a concrete pier foundation. However, it should be noted this is not the original configuration, but the result of the lakeshore eroding beneath the building since the period of construction. The building was used by Fred and his son Jacob for mending and seaming fishing nets and as a gathering place for the men who would visit from nearby farms. After Jacob was married, he converted the building into a cottage.

The single story root cellar has exposed rafter tails, log walls, gable end lap siding, & horizontal board doors. The southeast and northeast sides have hewn log dovetailed corners with chinking. An addition at the southwest corner has a gable roof, horizontal boards with cornerboards, and a saltbox extension. The original log chinking is inscribed with “FH JH 1933”-probably Fred and Jacob Hansen. A second “floor” for this structure was created by building a wooden platform supported by wooden posts inside the build-ing. Soil was piled atop this second floor, presumably for insulation, over the ice storage below. The weight of this soil is now threatening to collapse the platform structure.

Used for storing nets, the one story twin storage shed is small and rectangular with a gable roof, exposed rafter tails, lap siding with cornerboards, and a panel door. It is located east of the house and faces the lake.

The wood shed is one story with an asphalt rolled shed roof and horizontal board siding. It has a dirt floor and no foundation, with vertical poles and log rafters.

The privy has an asphalt shed style roof, horizontal boards/cornerboards, exposed rafter tails, and a pan-eled door. It is located to the northeast of the guest house.

The single story machine shed has a tar paper roof, a base wall of vertical boards, lap siding with corner-boards on the upper part of the wall, a vertical board swinging door, and a dirt floor. The roof has fallen in.

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Main House	
Contributing?	Yes	
LCS Structure Name:	Sand Island: Hansen Main House	
LCS ID Number	101577	
LCS Historic Structure Number:	06146A	
Locational Data:		
Source:	GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type:	Point	
Datum:	WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657478	Northing: 5205578
Longitude: -90.929165	Latitude: 46.984999	

Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI: Page



Main House. (NPS 2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Guest House
Contributing?	Yes
LCS Structure Name:	Sand Island: Hansen Guest House
LCS ID Number	101578
LCS Historic Structure Number:	06146B
Locational Data:	
Source: GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type: Point	
Datum: WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657502 Northing: 5205608
Longitude: -90.928837	Latitude: 46.985266
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI:	Page



Guest House. (NPS 2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Machine Shed
Contributing?	Yes
LCS Structure Name:	Sand Island: Hansen Machine Shed
LCS ID Number	101579
LCS Historic Structure Number:	06146C
Locational Data:	
Source: GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type: Point	
Datum: WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657468 Northing: 5205655
Longitude: -90.929266	Latitude: 46.985695
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI:	Page



Machine Shed/Chicken Coop. (NPS 2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Wood Shed
Contributing?	Yes
LCS Structure Name:	Sand Island: Hansen Wood Shed
LCS ID Number	101580
LCS Historic Structure Number:	06146D
Locational Data:	
Source: GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type: Point	
Datum: WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657492 Northing: 5205605
Longitude: -90.928973	Latitude: 46.985237
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI:	Page



Wood Shed. (NPS 2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Ice House
Contributing?	Yes
LCS Structure Name:	Sand Island: Hansen Ice House
LCS ID Number	101581
LCS Historic Structure Number:	06146E
Locational Data:	
Source: GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type: Point	
Datum: WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657519 Northing: 5205590
Longitude: -90.928612	Latitude: 46.985099
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI:	Page



Ice House. (NPS 2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Boar’s Nest	
Contributing?	Yes	
LCS Structure Name:	Sand Island: Hansen Boar’s Nest	
LCS ID Number	101582	
LCS Historic Structure Number:	06146F	
Locational Data:		
Source:	GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type:	Point	
Datum:	WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657527	Northing: 5205578
Longitude: -90.928516	Latitude: 46.984987	
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI: Page		



Boar’s Nest, facing northwest. (NPS 2008)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Twine Stoage Shed		
Contributing?	Yes		
LCS Structure Name:	Sand Island: Hansen Twine Storage Shed		
LCS ID Number	101583		
LCS Historic Structure Number:	06146G		
Locational Data:			
Source:	GPS- Uncorrected		
Point Type:	Point		
Datum:	WSG84		
Zone: 15	Easting: 657518	Northing: 5205569	
Longitude: -90.928638	Latitude: 46.984907		
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI: Page			



Twine SHed. (NPS 2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Privy
Contributing?	Yes
LCS Structure Name:	Not Currently Listed
LCS ID Number	
LCS Historic Structure Number:	
Locational Data:	
Source: GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type: Point	
Datum: WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657515 Northing: 5205618
Longitude: -90.928663	Latitude: 46.985349
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI:	Page



Hansen Privy. (2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Barn
Contributing?	Yes
LCS Structure Name:	Not Currently Listed
LCS ID Number	
LCS Historic Structure Number:	
Locational Data:	
Source: GPS- Uncorrected	
Point Type: Point	
Datum: WSG84	
Zone: 15	Easting: 657497 Northing: 5205666
Longitude: -90.958876	Latitude: 46.985789
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI:	Page



Barn Ruin. (NPS 2010)

Buildings and Structures: Landscape Characteristics, continued

Feature:	Hansen Boat House		
Contributing?	No		
LCS Structure Name:			
LCS ID Number			
LCS Historic Structure Number:			
Locational Data:			
Source:	GPS- Uncorrected		
Point Type:	Point		
Datum:	WSG84		
Zone: 15	Easting: 657463	Northing: 5205508	
Longitude: -90.929376	Latitude: 46.984372		
Associated Image Page Numbers in CLI: Page			



Boat House. (NPS 2010)



East Bay (Sand Island) aerial showing roadways and historic cleared agricultural areas (1938).

Land Use: Landscape Characteristics

Norwegian fishermen-farmers began settling Sand Island in 1870. Several farms with a total cleared area of 100-150 ha (approx. 247-370 ac) were developed by World War I. Agricultural clearings remain on the east side of Sand Island, as part of the former Hansen site. Here, many exotic and uncommon native species such as turf grasses, hay, and fruit trees, were planted. Since clearings have not been maintained, the site is difficult to identify. Further research is needed to accurately document the agricultural use of the Hansen landscape.

In general, Sand Island’s fisherman-farmers each had farms of about ten to fifteen acres where they planted potatoes and other vegetables, fruit trees, berries, and hay and oats for their animals. Each family kept at least one milk cow, one or two steers, some pigs and chickens, and sometimes sheep. The farms were primarily for subsistence.

Farming required cooperation between and within families in order to succeed. The fishermen were out in their boats most days during the growing season, often leaving farm work for the evenings and bad weather. In his diary, Fred Hansen describes plowing, discing, hauling manure, planting, hoeing, digging potatoes, and pulling carrots, cabbage, and rutabagas. East Bay farmers maintained a communal pasture for their cattle at Swallow Point (Busch 2008, 288-290).

Natural Systems and Features: Landscape Characteristics

Sand Island is located in Lake Superior which has the greatest surface area of any freshwater lake in the world measuring 563 km (350 mi) long and 257 km (158 mi) wide at its longest and widest points, respectively. The Apostle Islands ecoregion is characterized by relatively shallow water, sandy substrates, considerable habitat complexity due to the numerous islands, reefs, and sandbars, and relatively diffuse anthropogenic influences. The islands are separated by pre-glacial valleys that are now submerged (Kraft et al. 2007, 23).

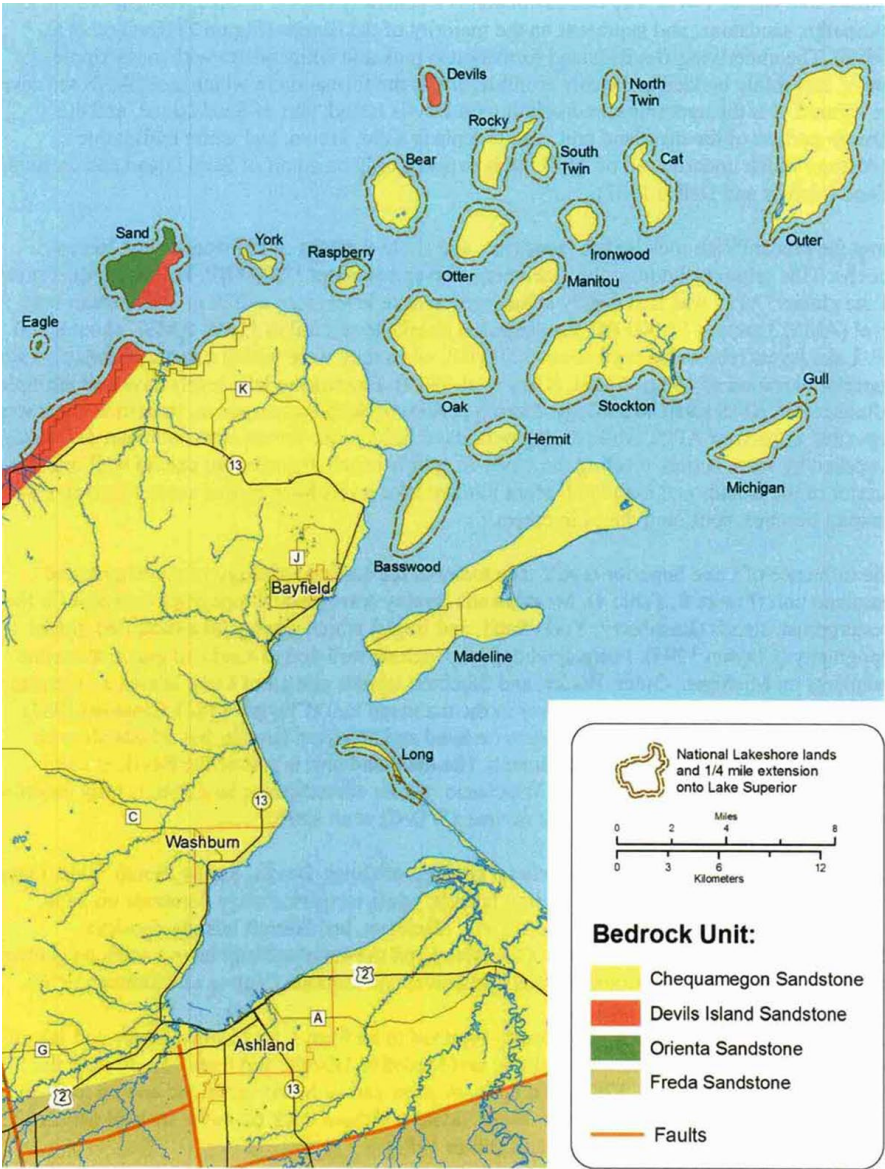
The climate of the region is characterized by long, cold winters and rather short, moderately warm summers. Bayfield County has an average temperature of 5°C/41°F, and on average receives 71 cm (28 in) of precipitation, which includes 127-191 cm (50-75 in) of snow. However, the climate of the islands, and to some extent the mainland unit of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, is moderated by Lake Superior and is therefore more maritime. In comparison to the mainland, the islands experience warmer winters, a later spring arrival, cooler summers, and a longer fall.

In Bayfield County, prevailing winds are westerly from early fall through early spring and easterly the remainder of the year. When storms occur in the lakeshore, the prevailing winds blow from the northwest, north, and northeast.

Even in a severe winter, the ice coverage on Lake Superior is normally limited to 40-50%, although it may briefly reach 80-90%. In the west end of the lake, 10-15 cm (4-6in) of fast ice builds northeast from Duluth as far as the lakeshore. Rafting and ridging may make ice as thick as 1.2m (4ft) in navigation areas (Kraft et al. 2007, 6).

The geology and soils of Sand Island consist of Precambrian sandstone of the Bayfield Group of the Keeweenaw Supergroup. At approximately 600 million years old, it is the youngest Precambrian sedimentary rock in the Lake Superior region. The Bayfield Group includes the Chequamegon, Devils Island, and Orienta Formations which have thicknesses of up to 150m (492 ft), 90m (295 ft), and 550m (1,804 ft), respectively. The Devils Island formation is pink and white quartz with many ripple marks. It is thinly bedded and easily erodible and is the formation in which most Apostle Islands sea caves are formed. It is the uppermost bedrock unit on part of Sand Island. The Orienta is a red, brown, and white feldspathic sandstone which underlies all of the lakeshore, but is exposed only on a part of Sand Island and on Eagle Island.

Atop the Precambrian rock lie till, lacustrine, and shore deposits of Pleistocene and recent epochs. Tills originated during the glaciations that ended about 12,000 BP. Following glacial retreat, the Apostle Islands were first deeply submerged as lake levels rose and then exposed as lake levels fell. Fluctuating lake levels have had multiple influences on the surficial geology. During periods of submergence, lacustrine clays were deposited in parts of the lakeshore, while during periods of falling lake levels, surficial materials were re-worked. Lacustrine clay deposits dominate on Sand Island from thicknesses between 1.5 –30m (4.5-98 ft). The influence of Lake Superior can still be seen today in the surficial geology (Kraft et al. 2007, 12-13).



Bedrock geology of the Apostle Islands area (Kraft et al. 2007, 14).



At right:
Meandering Drainage Ditch
(NPS 2010)

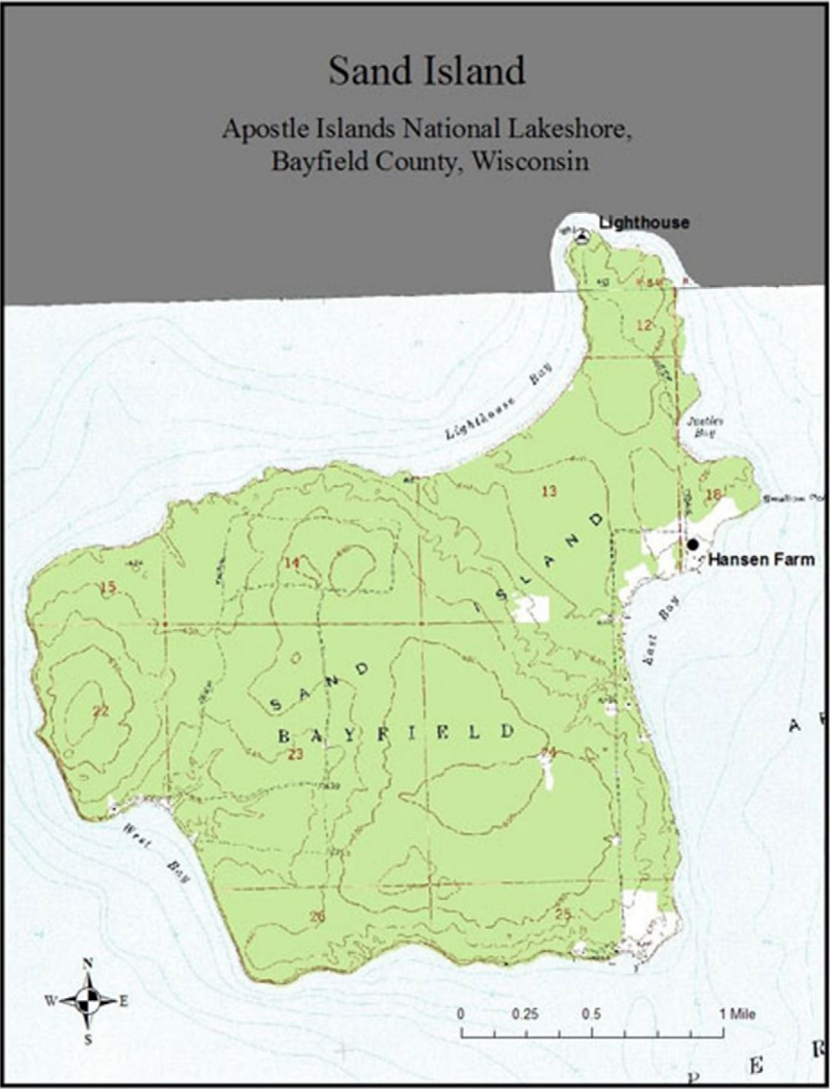
Below:
Shoreline erosion underneath the
Twine Shed and the Boar's Nest.
(NPS 2010)



Topography: Landscape Characteristics

The topography of Sand Island is generally low and swampy with gently rolling, forested hills and steep rocky cliffs at the water's edge. The highest point of the island sits approximately 58ft above Lake Superior. Located between East Bay and Lighthouse Bay is the island's largest wetland. Originating near this wetland is the island's northernmost eastern stream. The grounds of the Hansen Fishery/Farm are mostly level. There is a small, meandering drainage ditch on the property.

The dynamic process of sand accumulation and erosion is quite evident throughout the lakeshore. The drift of littoral material, primarily sand, is east to west in the Sand Bay area. Some beaches continue to grow while others erode. Erosion is clearly noticeable at the Hansen Fishery/Farm. Historically, the Boar's Nest and Twine Shed were not located hanging off of a cliff or even cliffside. These buildings are currently at serious risk of falling into Lake Superior. There are plans are to move the buildings back and away from the shore, imitating their relationship to the lake before the shoreline eroded. This will change the spacing between buildings while saving historic fabric. Despite erosion, the topography of the site contributes to the cultural landscape.



Topographic Map of Sand Island.

Views and Vistas: Landscape Characteristics

Notable views to the Hansen Farm/Fishery include those of the Boar’s Nest and Twine Shed from passing watercraft on Lake Superior as the buildings are almost hanging cliffside. The buildings were not originally sited this way, but erosion has led to this effect. Views from the property include those of Lake Superior as seen partially obscured by vegetation.



View from Hansen Site towards Lake Superior. (NPS 2010)

The extent of views and vistas to the site and away from the site has been reduced from the period of significance due to the encroachment of forest vegetation across East Bay. The agricultural clearings in this area are no longer maintained. Much clearing has recently been done on the Hansen site by the NPS. Although modified, the available views and vistas contribute to the landscape.



View from Lake Superior of the Boathouse (with rounded roof), the Main House (obscured), the Twine Shed (painted white), and the Boar's Nest (far right). (NPS 2010)

Vegetation: Landscape Characteristics

Sand Island is large, low, and generally swampy. It has a moderately rich flora of 311 species. The pre-settlement forest is recorded as balsam-fir, birch, sugar maple, and white pine, with white cedar, spruce, and hemlock also noted in the township description. On the basis of stump counts and extant large trees, it is suggested that a mix of hardwoods and conifers dominated by yellow birch, white pine, white cedar, and hemlock originally covered about 90% of the island. The other communities, which still exist in a modified form, were a 40ha (98.8ac) white pine-hemlock stand on Lighthouse and Swallow Points, and a pair of black spruce-tamarack swamps totaling about 80ha (197.7ac).

Norwegian fishermen-farmers began settling Sand Island in 1870. Several farms with a total cleared area of 100-150 ha (approx. 247-370 ac) were developed by World War I. However, farming declined after the war and ended by about 1930.

Sand Island had been repeatedly logged, with seven major operations conducted from the late 19th century until 1975. Every kind of tree was cut, beginning with high-grading for white pine, followed by yellow birch, and then white cedar and hardwoods including red oak. Presently, the most important upland trees are yellow birch, balsam-fir, white birch, white cedar, and red maple. Small quantities of sugar maple and hemlock are also present, and basswood and hop-hornbeam have been reported.

Canada yew and mountain maple are dominant shrubs. Beaked hazelnut, speckled alder, pin cherry, and red-osier dogwood are also important in the shrub layer. The most common herbs in the groundlayer are corn-lily, wood ferns, Canada mayflower, wild sarsaparilla, starflower, and march blue violet.

Agricultural clearings remain on the east side of Sand Island. These have many exotic and uncommon native species such as turf grasses, hay, and fruit trees which are not native to the islands.

The preceding was excerpted from Flora of the Apostle Islands, pages 108-110.

Wildlife: Landscape Characteristics

As with other islands, wildlife on Sand Island is not as diverse or abundant as that on the mainland. Common mammal species include red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus vulgaris*), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), masked shrew (*Sorex cinereus*), and boreal redback vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*). Common on several other islands, white-tail deer have recently become established on Sand Island. River otter is a less common species found on Sand Island and beaver was known to be present in the past. Sand Island is also one of three islands with reproducing populations of black bear. A variety of migratory birds use the island for foraging, nesting, and as a stop-over during migration.

Chapter 8: Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 7/7/2011

Although the Hansen Farm/Fishery does exhibit some problems with encroaching vegetation on historically cleared ares, the site retains integrity due to the extant buildings and structures and rural setting on the water.

Impacts

Impact Type: Erosion

Internal/External: Internal

Although the Hansen Fishery/Farm does exhibit some problems with encroaching vegetation on historically cleared ares, the site retains integrity due to the extant buildings and structures and rural setting on the water.

Impact Type: Vetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Native vegetation continues to encroach on the agricultural clearing and obscures the historical views and vistas and landscape design.

Chapter 9: Treatment

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

A General Management Plan, approved in 1989, recommends preservation as the ultimate treatment for all historic structures and landscapes, but does not provide specific guidance for individual sites.

Approved Treatment:	Preservation
Approved Treatment Document:	General Management Plan
Document Date:	6/1/1989
Approved Treatment Completed:	No

Stabilization Measures:

Painting (main house, ice house, twine shed, guest house partial, Boar’s Nest partial) and reroofing (main house, ice house, twine shed, guest house partial) were conducted in 2009-2010.

Hazardous material removal was conducted in 2011.

The relocation of Boar’s Nest and Twine Shed away from the eroding shoreline was completed in 2012.

Stabilization Completed:	Yes
Stabilization Costs:	\$95,280
Cost Date:	1/21/2011
Cost Narrative:	The stabilization cost is the total for four PMIS projects spanning FY2010-FY2013.

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GPS Data provided by the CR-GIS Program, 2014.