

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Shaw Farm

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Sand Island SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 25, T52N, NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

R5W

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

~~Town of Bayfield~~

VICINITY OF

7

STATE

Wisconsin 54814

CODE

55

COUNTY

Bayfield

CODE

007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☒ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

see continuation sheet

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Bayfield County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

117 East 5th Street

CITY, TOWN

Washburn

STATE

Wisconsin 54891

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Building Survey

DATE

1975

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT  
☒GOOD  
\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED  
\_\_RUINS  
\_\_UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

\_\_UNALTERED  
☒ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE  
\_\_MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shaw Farm is located at the southeast corner of Sand Island. The property includes five buildings, three clustered at the dock, one about one-hundred feet west of these, and one about sixty feet up hill to the north.

Hill House. This building is a simple hand-hewn log structure, one-and-one-half stories high with a single gable tarpapered roof. The log joints are locked at the corners. There is a large, one-story, single-gable frame addition at the front of the building. This addition is largely glazed, serving as a dining room, while the older section serves as a kitchen. Another apparent alteration is a large window cut into the south side of the log structure. Originally the cabin contained a second floor bedroom and had a large lean-to addition to its west side for a dining room, kitchen and entry. The main room was used as a living room. These additions no longer exist. The cabin recently has been shored up with new concrete foundations.

Log Cabin. This was the original residence for the farm and is a small, single-gable log building. It rests on later concrete foundations; its roof is covered with tar paper, and it has a small lean-to addition on the west side which was built to house the island community's co-op store. This building was used for many years as a shelter for herring fishermen and a hired man. Now it serves as an occasional sitting room. By 1946, the building had rotted from the bottom until the entrance was only four feet high. At that time, a new floor was built, the second floor taken out, and windows and doors were replaced.

Workshop. Along the shore and to the west of the log cabin is a weathered frame structure with a pronounced lean. This building served as a workshop, forge, and sail loft. Its upright framing members are trimmed logs, and its exterior walls are vertical boards. The building is one-and-one-half stories high and has a single-gable tarpapered roof. The east and south walls are buttressed on the exterior by log poles set at an angle. Though it appears to be in danger of sudden collapse, the building has been propped up in this manner since the turn of the century.

Grain Building. Immediately to the north of the log cabin is a two-story building. Its exterior walls are tarpapered and its interior construction is frame. The roof is a tarpapered single gable and the building rests on stone foundations. The second floor is entered across a recently-built bridge from the hill to the north. The first floor is entered from the south. Behind this building is a root cellar constructed of the same pine logs used in the cabin and the Hill house. The roof of the cellar has caved in.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the first permanent settlement on Sand Island, the Shaw Farm set the precedent which allowed the establishment of a small year-round community of fishermen-farmers. Over the years, the buildings of the farm served the islanders with a post office, a general store, a community ice and smoke house, and a social center.

Francis Shaw received land on Sand Island as a Civil War veteran's bonus. The deed is dated 1870 and by the following year he had built two log buildings, one close to the shore and the other on a small hill to the north. Both of these buildings are standing and in use. Though Shaw was primarily a fisherman, the isolation of his island home required virtual self-sufficiency. Gradually the land was cleared to make room for fruit and vegetable gardens and an orchard of apple and cherry trees.

Between 1870 and 1900, a number of other structures were built on the property, including a log root cellar, a barn, and a workshop. The barn is gone and the cellar has caved in, but the workshop remains, propped up since 1900 by two log poles set at angles.

In 1911, Burton Hill, the son-in-law of Francis Shaw, moved to Sand Island. Though he arrived in poor health, he soon recovered and took over the fishing and farming operation and concerned himself with other occupations as well. In the workshop, he fashioned farm tools and boat fittings, using a forge he had set up there. Above the shop was a sail loft where he made and mended sails for both himself and other island fisherman. Between 1911 and 1915, Hill was the postmaster for the island, using the log cabin on the shore as both his post office and his home. During this period, Sand Island had a year-round population of over one hundred people. An elementary school was operating at East Bay and the Booth Fisheries boat was picking up fish three days a week.

Shortly after Francis Shaw's death in 1914, the Hills moved to the log building on the hill. During the next few years they built a number of additions, including a kitchen and dining area. Until 1918, the former post office was used to lodge fishermen who used the Shaw-Hill dock as a base of operations. In 1918, a small lean-to was added to that building and the Sand Island Co-operative Association opened a small store there with Hill as its manager. It closed a few months later. In 1919, Hill quit fishing, but continued to rent his facilities to local fishermen. By the 1920's, a smokehouse, henhouse, a large barn, and a

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chapple, John, editor, Apostle Islands Source Book, "The Diary of Burt Hill of Bayfield and Sand Island," Ashland, 197  
Letter, August 1, 1975, Mary Andersen Hulings to Herschel Parnes

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 657160 5202910  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Herschel L. D. Parnes, Field Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

August 5, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608-262-9504

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

S.H.P.O. Signature

*James Morton Smith*

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

Attest: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/18/76

ATTEST:

*Charles A. Hulings*

DATE

2/18/77

Attest: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

Owner of Property - continued

Mary Elizabeth Rice  
Bayport, Minnesota 55003

Martha Meade Hulings  
Bayport, Minnesota 55003

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Description - continued

Ice House. Adjacent to the grain building is another two-story building with tarpaper exterior walls; in this case with vertical battens. The roof of the main section is a single gable. It has a very large south-facing second-story window. In 1947 and 1948, the present owners repaired the lower walls and added an interior floor in order to create two bedrooms. A small, one-story gabled wing to the east was used for sawdust storage. In 1974 a lean-to was added to the west.

Dock. The present dock was built on to old cribbing of the previous dock. Until 1953 or 1954, a large fish-house stood about midway out on the dock.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

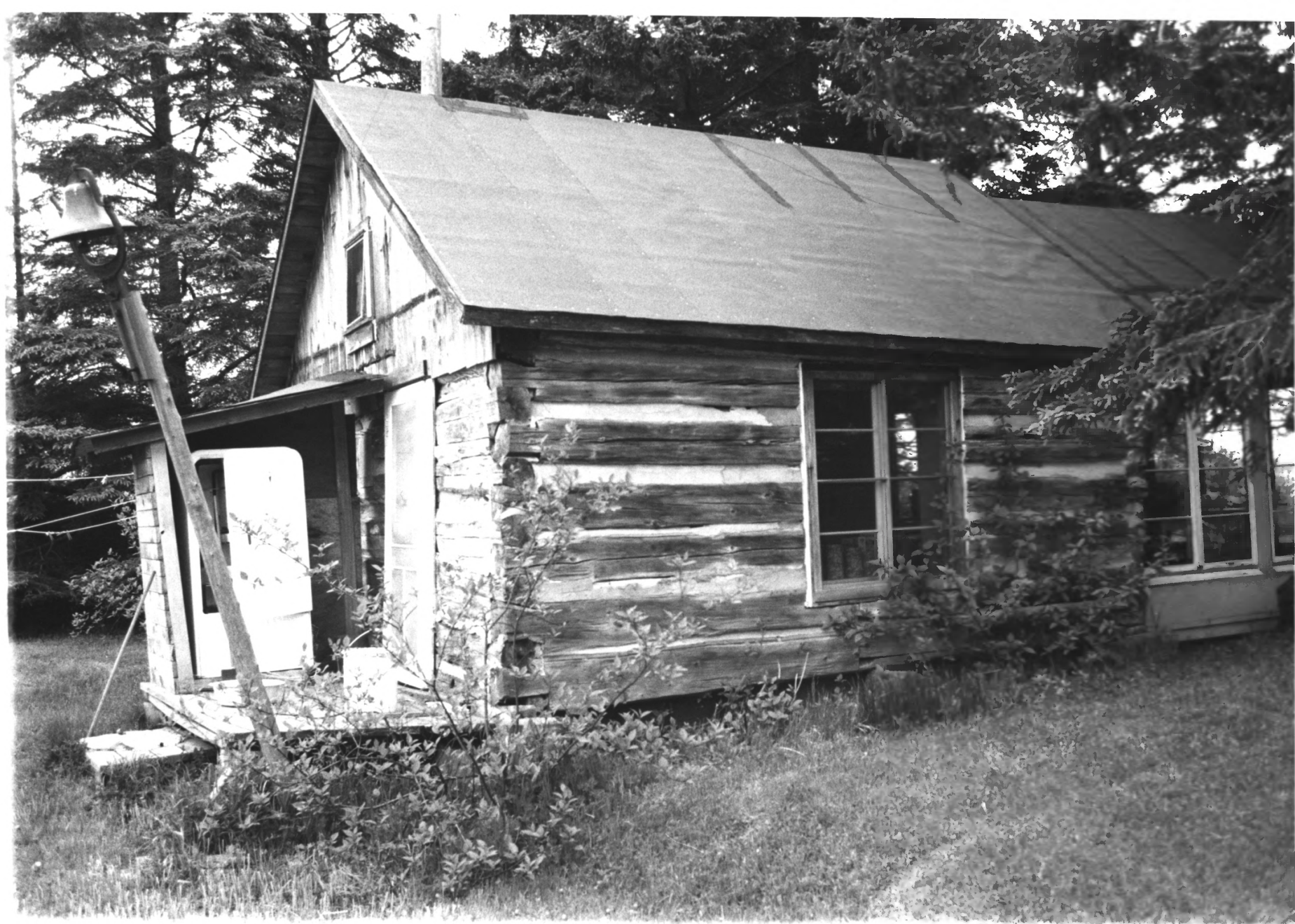
Statement of Significance - continued

number of outbuildings were to be seen in the vicinity of the garden. An ice house was built near the dock, and Hill supplied both ice and smoked meat to the islanders. Only the ice house is still intact.

For many years the islanders' social life revolved around the Shaw Farm. The outgoing Hills traditionally held a large bonfire and celebration on the Fourth of July for islanders and visitors alike. In their workshop were cooking facilities for large gatherings, and many square dances and picnics took place under their sponsorship.

The Hills remained on the farm through the early 1940's when their advancing age made it too difficult to keep up the farm. In 1944, they sold the property to Fred Andersen, a summer neighbor, and since that time it has remained in the Andersen family. The buildings now are occupied only during the summer months.







SHAW FARM, SAND ISLAND, APOSTLE ISLANDS, 1975. View of log kitchen <sup>Photo #173</sup> from South.

Photo by Herschel L.D. PARNES.



SHAW FARM, SAND ISLAND, APOSTLE ISLANDS, WIS., 1975. View from  
south of Log Cabin, Ice House, and Smoke House. Photo # 2 of 3

Photo by Werschel L.D. PARNES





SHAW FARM, SAND ISLAND, APOSTLE ISLANDS, WIS., 1975. View of workshop  
from southeast. Photo # 3 of 3.

Photo by HERSCHEL L. D. PARNES