

8. 5123 N. West Bay Shore Drive - Barth House and Outbuildings (Photos 17, 18) 5 contributing buildings, 4 contributing structures, 1 contributing object (black walnut tree)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 Omena Historic District Leelanau, MI

Residence: This one-and-a-half-story bungalow residence has a side-gable roof. The house has three porches: an enclosed gabled one in the center of the front, and enclosed hip-roof back porch. The foundation is of rock-face concrete block, the walls clad in white asbestos shingling, and the roof in asphalt shingles. The bungalow was built circa 1930 by Albert Solem and Carl Garthe. Lumber and beams from the demolished Leelanau Hotel were utilized in its construction. There have been no additions though the front entrance porch has been slightly modified. The windows on the first floor are double-hung, with three vertical lights above and one below. The attic displays both three-over-one and one-over-one double-hung windows. The basement windows are ground-level, fixed sash, single pane windows. The window frames are all painted black. The four wood doors each feature three elongated glass lights. Three of the storm doors have eight lights arranged in two vertical columns. The fourth storm door has a single large light. There are several outbuildings associated with this property.

Milk House: A milk house is located about ten feet directly to the west of (behind) the house. It has concrete block walls and foundation and a corrugated metal side-gable roof. The gables are faced in white asbestos shingles. The south side elevation contains side-by-side twelve light windows. The east front contains a wood plank door.

Small Barn: A small animal barn is a front-gable structure located west of the milk house. It has a concrete block foundation and walls. The front contains a plank door offset from the center and, in the front gable, a wood plank door that provides access to the hay loft. Above the plank door is an outlet ventilator. The north elevation contains one window and the south three. All windows are fixed sash with six lights. The roof is finished in corrugated metal with a metal ridge cap. The interior has a single stall and was converted into living quarters for the hired farm hand.

Chicken House: The chicken house is a small gable-front structure located to the north of the small animal barn and to the west of the milk house. The façade faces south and displays a plank door and a six-light fixed window. The east elevation has a six light fixed window and two ground level doors for chickens. The foundation and walls are of concrete block, and the gables faced in vertical planking. The roof is clad in corrugated metal with an asphalt shingle ridge cap.

Root Cellar: The root cellar is a small concrete block structure whose sides are built into the hillside to the west of the animal barn. It has a wood plank door and there is also a small single pane window. The roof is covered with earth. The site also contains intact concrete block granary, icehouse, barn, and outhouse foundations. (A mid-nineteenth-century barn from the property was moved about a mile to the east on Omena Point Road and currently functions as a residence.) A 200-year old black walnut tree south of the house (Photo 17, just to left of house) is said to be an Indian marker tree, with its bent limb pointing the trail south.

The Barth House is the second home to be built on the property, the first having been built by the Robert Dorland family, who purchased the land from Judge Daniel Bacon in the 1850s. Daughter Della Dorland married Frank Craker, and daughter Lizzie married Dr. Frank Buckworth. (The widowed Lizzie owned Cherry Basket Farm from 1885 to 1899, and later provided the land just over the hill to the west for the Omena Hillcrest Cemetery (outside of the district), where she is buried.) The original Dorland house was rolled on logs to the south side of the property, and the new Barth house built on its site. Robert (Bob) Barth (1895-1963) was the son of Paul Barth and brother to Ernest Barth, owners of the Barth Store. Robert Barth married Effie Ranger (1894-1979) in 1924. Together they had one daughter, Janet Barth (1936-2002). Bob Barth was the foreman of the Cherry Basket Farm located ¼ mile north of the Barth House on Bayshore Drive. He also farmed his own 25-30 acres, raised his own cows (which he pastured across the road) and chickens, in addition to his own cherry crop. The family sold their products such as milk, eggs, and cherries at the country store owned by Bob's brother Ernest Barth. Effie Barth was an outstanding cook and sold her creations from the front porch of their home, as did many rural wives in the area. The house remained in the Barth family until Janet Barth's death in 2002. Michael and Kathryn Bosco purchased the property to preserve its heritage, and they use the residence as a summer rental home.

Bibliographic Reference Kathy Bosco email to Marsha Buehler January 9, 2005. No Subject Supervisors Ledger for Leelanau Township Leelanau County. Michigan rural property inventory. Works progress administration project. WPA. Michigan State Tax Commission-Sponsor. 1942. Book 1 of 6. Township 31 N Range 11 W Sections 4-36. USED sec 26