

Hello, my name is Claire Morkin.

I am formerly from Milwaukee and, five years ago, moved my family to the west side of Sturgeon Bay.

Throughout this process, one thing that has been of great interest to me, are the plat maps of the shoreline in the earliest days of the west side's development.

Before I present map evidence, I'd like to mention that the person responsible for the early subdivision plats is Sturgeon Bay founder, Joseph Harris, Sr. This photograph is from the 1917 book, The History of Door County. Mr. Harris arrived in Sturgeon Bay in 1855 and "*turned his attention to the real estate business... promoting the upbuilding and development*" of the area. One of his major accomplishments was the twenty year effort to obtain approval, fund, and construct the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal. He was also the founder of the Door County Advocate newspaper.



JOSEPH HARRIS, SR.



The 1873 Plat is shown with today's Parcel 92, outlined in red.

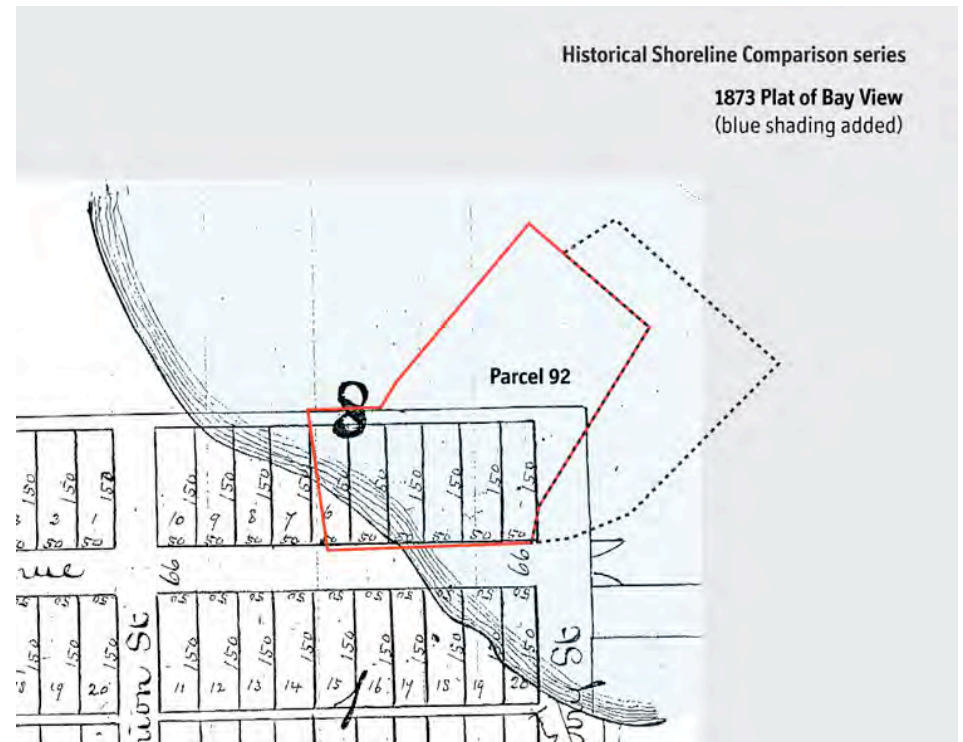
Heidi Kennedy, former DNR Waterway and Wetland Policy Coordinator, who performed the work to establish an Ordinary High Water Mark Concurrence on the adjacent Parcel 100, agreed that, for filled or disturbed sites, the location of a mapped shoreline is a good approximation for the Ordinary High Water Mark.

Ms. Kennedy used a mapped shoreline as a stand-in for the Ordinary High Water Mark on the Parcel 100 Concurrence.

She noted, however, at the same time, that the adjacent Parcel 92 was "all fill".

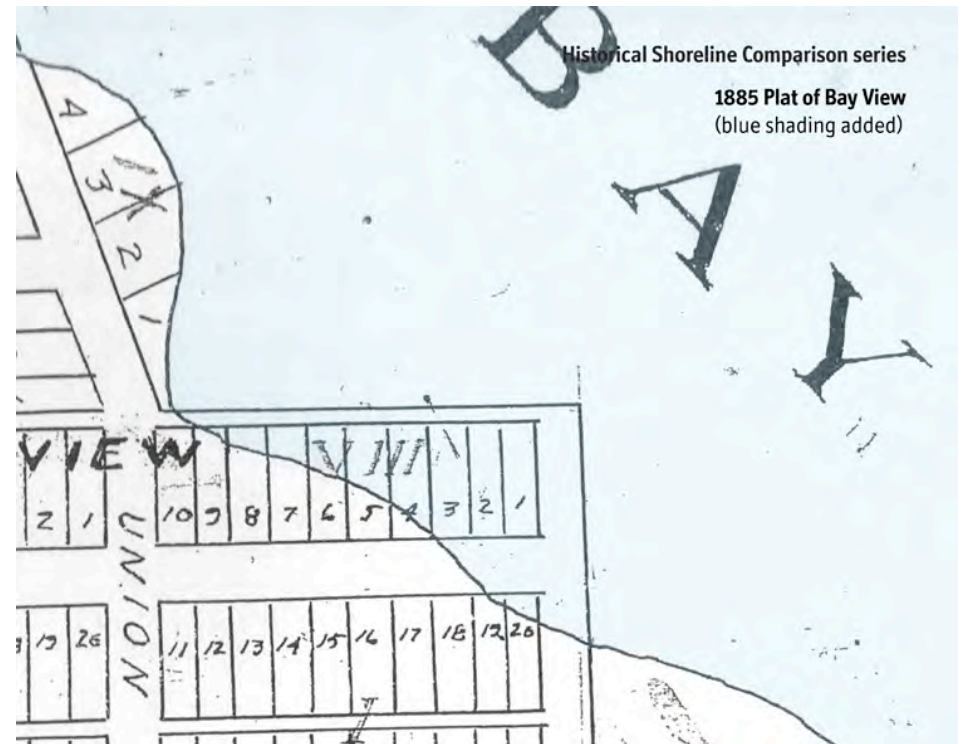
Thus, an earlier historical shoreline, like this one, is appropriate. A mapped shoreline that pre-dates dock construction.

Parcel 92 was a historical dock.

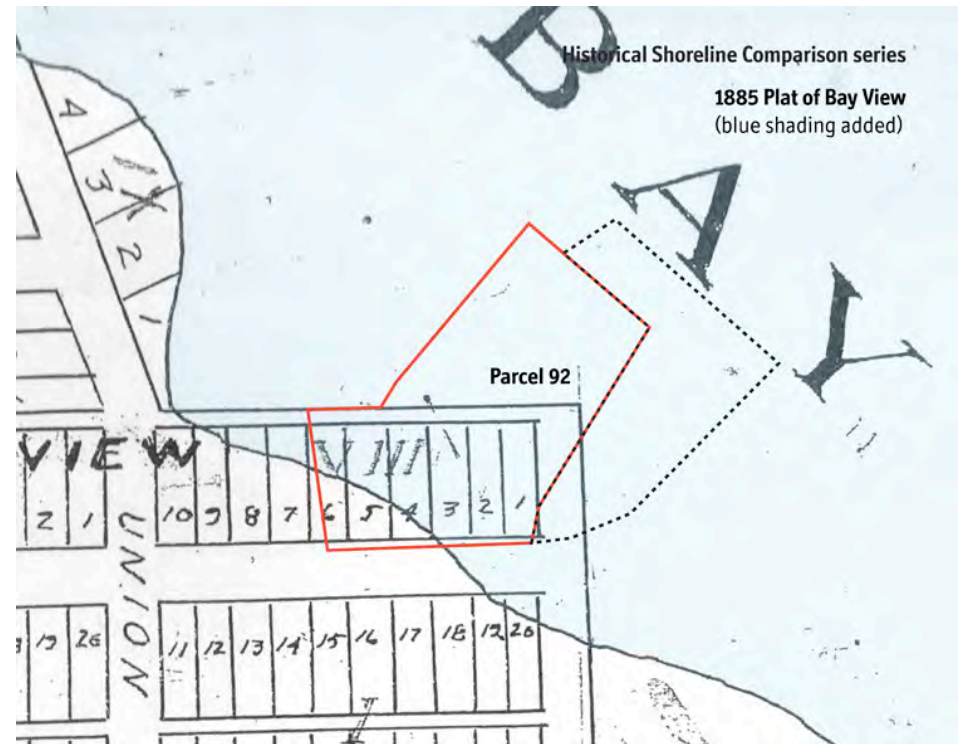


In 1885, an Assessor's Map was surveyed for the entire City. This is found in large books in the archives room of the County offices, on three large sheets, including the title block and date of 1885. A certified copy of this particular whole sheet is shown poster-size here (*point*).

The shoreline is clearly mapped here as well. By 1885, the time of this map, Joseph Harris had also already begun building and filling his dock extending into the bay on top of those imaginary lots in the water. In fact, in March 1878, by State Legislative Act, "Joseph Harris... [is] authorized to build and maintain a dock and pier extending into Sturgeon Bay, on the western shore, ... running in a northerly direction 300 feet or more".



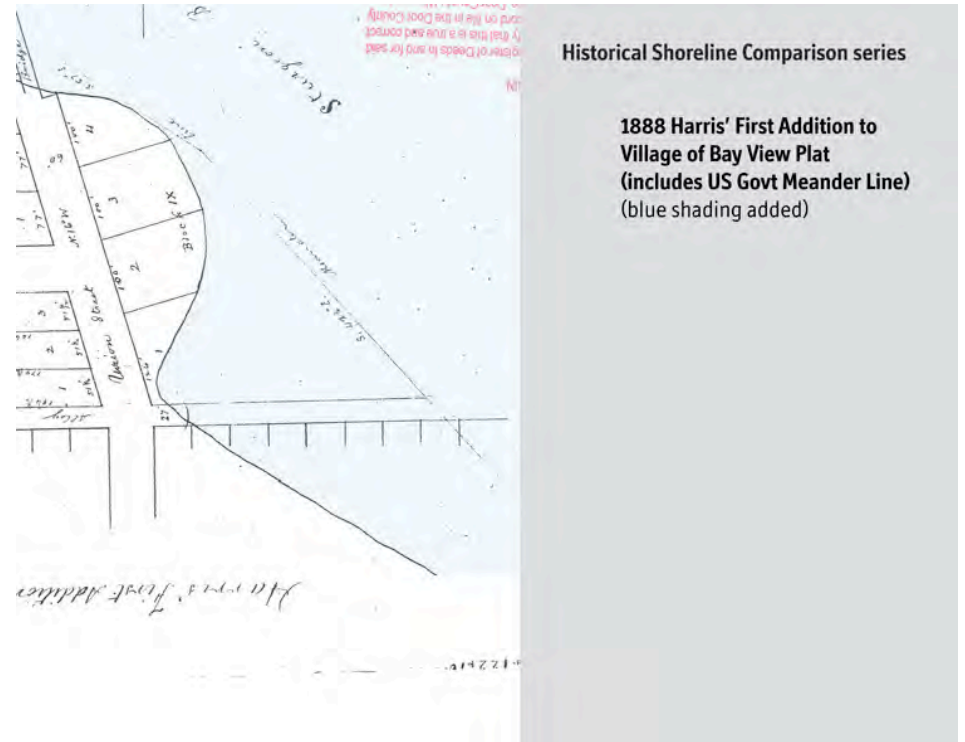
The perpetuation over time of the Block 8 subdivision plat makes the overlay of today's Parcel 92 straightforward, and the location of the historical shoreline as mapped in 1885, is clear.



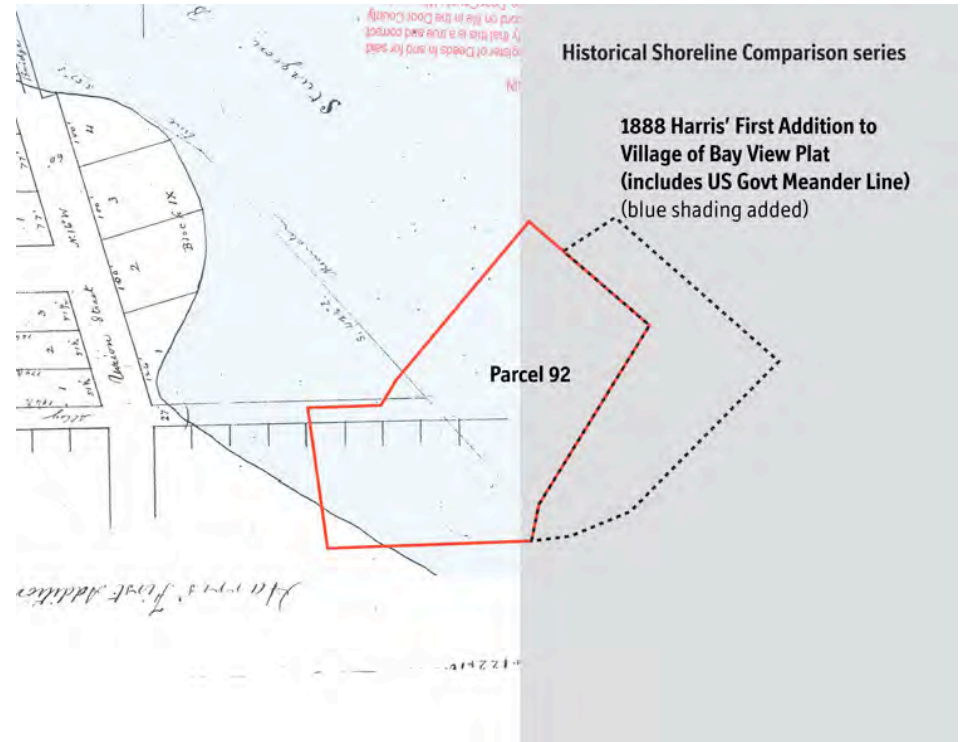
In 1888 Mr. Harris's First Addition to the Village of Bay View Plat was drafted.

An interesting note here is that the 1835 U.S. Government Land Survey Shore Meander Line, with its metes and bounds description, is also included on this plat.

I'd also like to point out that these plat maps are three independent delineations of the shoreline. The shorelines are similar over these 15 years but not identical. These are not three versions of one map, but three independently mapped shorelines that are consistent, and that all were made referencing the lots in Block 8 that have been perpetuated through time.

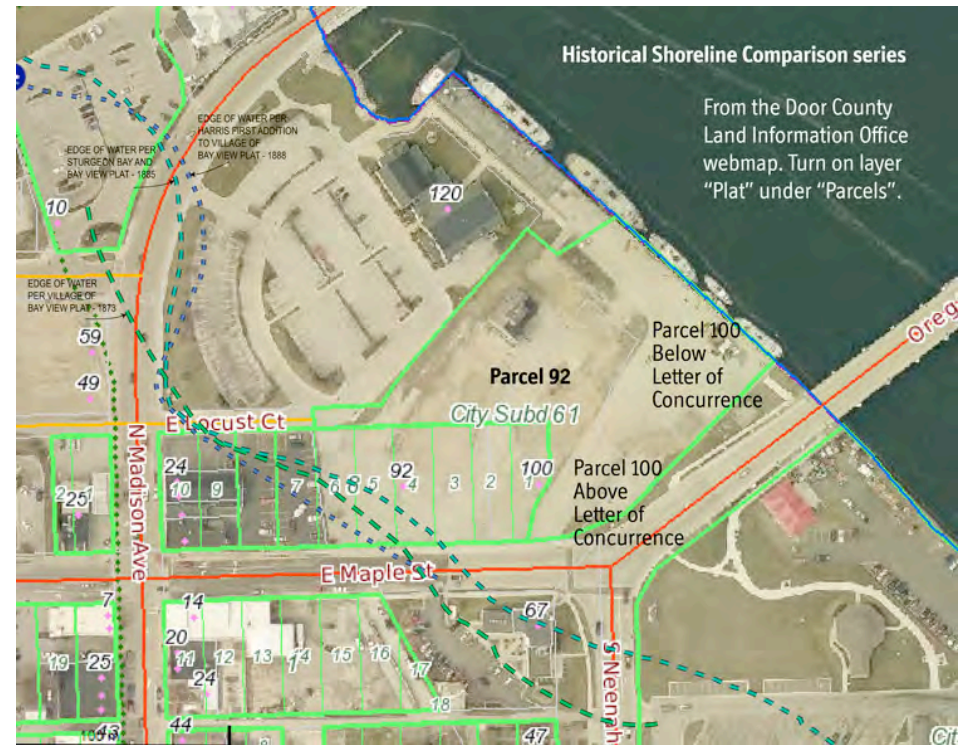


Here is the same 1888 Plat with today's Parcel 92 shown.



Surveyor Don Chaput mapped these historical plats onto modern aerials and modern parcels.

Here, Don Chaput's parcel map is replaced with the Door County Land Information Office GIS parcel map of today, showing the perpetuation of the Block 8 lots through time.





Finally, the historical shorelines are shown simply with the red outline of Parcel 92 being considered today.

To me it is clear where the shoreline approximately was, prior to dock development in this area.

I ask you to consider these three historical shorelines, and in particular the 1873 shoreline prior to the first dock construction, and find that this shoreline is the best representation of the Ordinary High Water Mark, protecting the waters of Sturgeon Bay for the people of the State of Wisconsin in perpetuity.

We look forward to a vibrant public waterfront for all of the people who live in and visit this wonderful community, and its maritime future.

Thank you.

