

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: William Stolte, Sr. House (Reedsburg 11111) Owner: John Vinson
Address: 444 South Walnut Street Owner's address: 444 South Walnut Street
City: Reedsburg County: Sauk Reedsburg, Wisconsin 53959

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- 160 NRHP Certification (date)
 Listed in NRHP (LI)
 Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
 Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
 Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
 Boundary increased (BI)
 Boundary Decreased (BD)
 Delisted (DL)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)
Multiple Resources of Reedsburg

180 NRHP List Name William Stolte, Sr. House

- 190 Level of Significance
 national (NA)
 state (ST)
 local (LO)

- 200 District Classification
 pivotal (P)
 contributing (C)
 non-contributing (NC)

- 210 Applicable Criteria
 event (A)
 person (B)
 architectue/engineering (C)
 information potential (D)

- 215 Criteria Considerations
 religious property (A)
 moved property (B)
 birthplace or grave (C)
 cemetery (D)
 reconstructed property (E)
 commemorative property (F)
 less than 50 years old (G)

220 Area of Significance (code)
Architecture

230 Period of Significance
C.1886- 1890 (Date of construction: source A,B,C, D, F, G)

340 Review Board Date 10/19/84

70 USGS Quad Map
Reedsburg West Quadrangle

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-999999)
15-741760-4823660

85 Listed Acreage Less than one

60 Verbal Boundary Description City of Reedsburg, Assessor's Plat, AL 167. (AL= Assessor's Lot. This is the official legal description of the nominated property on file with the city and county.)

Description

The William Stolte, Sr. house is a two story frame house designed in a Victorian Gothic/Queen Anne style with a hip and gable roof and scroll-like modillions ornamenting the cornice. Sided with clapboards, the exterior features simple stick style woodwork that is especially noticeable on the bay window and around other windows. Above the watertable is an area of approximately one foot in height that has wood board applied in a vertical pattern. Pilaster-like cornerboards frame the house.

Two front entries, with porches, bracket the central gable roofed ell on the east facade. The northern porch has a gable roof and heavy sawn ornamental bargeboards with a circular motif and a heavy turned wood rail. A short turned wood balustrade ornaments the porch. The southern front porch has a flat roof with turned wood balustrades on both the roof and the first story porch. A narrow railing on the porch roof forms a second story porch balustrade. It has a thick circular sawn wood pattern interspaced with turned wood posts with heavy knobs. Cornice balusters on the porch are made up of turned wood spindles. Brackets at the porch columns are solid quarter circles of wood with holes cut in the center. Above the porch, a gable with cross-hatched woodwork is lit by paired windows. Both porches have short turned wood stair railings leading to them.

The central ell on the east facade has a paired second story window surmounted by triangular shaped exaggerated hood mold. A first story box bay window below is sheltered by a shed roof and ornamented with decorative beam ends with panels between them. A corner window with red and blue colored glass panes is on the second story of the truncated northeast corner of the house. Imbricated and cross-hatched woodwork surrounds the triangular head windows and a small gable is on the corner of the roof.

The north side has a narrow gable roof ell with paired windows under a triangular shaped exaggerated hood mold (like the front window). There is a narrow box bay window with decorative beam ends and bullseye woodwork over the red and blue colored glass panes. The

See other side of sheet

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance

The William Stolte, Sr. house is an architecturally significant and locally unique example of Victorian Gothic/Queen Anne architecture in Reedsburg. Situated in a picturesque wooded location, the house is accented by gables, windows with exaggerated gable hood molds, and stick style woodwork. The finely delineated porch ornament and high degree of integrity add to its aesthetic appeal. The house makes a significant contribution to Reedsburg's architectural heritage.

No other building in Reedsburg displays this distinctive combination of Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne style; especially rare is the heavy wooden porch ornamentation. The Gothic Revival Edward M. Hackett house at 612 East Main Street, an individually nominated property, is perhaps the most closely related building but is characterized by very vertical design lines, whereas the William Stolte, Sr. house has a rectangular and horizontal profile. Other more purely Queen Anne

See other side of sheet

690 Bibliographic References (Sources)

- A - Jack Vinson, current owner, winter, 1984.
- B - "Reedsburg Free Press", March 28, 1889.
- C - "Reedsburg Free Press", November 5, 1925.
- D - Tax receipts for Reedsburg, 1872-1873 and 1889-1890 at State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.
- E - Bensel, A. A., Bensel's Sauk County Directory (Fond du Lac, P. B. Haber Printing House, 1890).
- F - Belknap, T. Harry, Sauk County Directory (Baraboo, Republic Print, 1898-1899).
- G - Schuette, W. J. and Freer, Theo., Reedsburg Directory (Reedsburg, Free Press Printing House, 1902-1903); and Freer, Theo., Sauk County Directory (Baraboo, Theo. Freer, 1905).

700 Study Units (code)

<u>Commerce; Retail Trade</u>	
350 Demolished	360 Date Demolished
_____ yes _____ no	_____

Historical Background

William Stolte, Sr. was born in 1833 near Hohenbunstorf, Germany and came to New York in 1860 before settling in Westfield in Sauk County. Although trained as a tailor in Germany, he did an assortment of jobs until 1862 when he moved to Kilbourn (Wisconsin Dells) and began working at his trade. Prior to the move he had married Dorothea Meyer of Hanover, Germany in 1862. They lived in Kilbourn until 1865 when the Stoltes moved to Reedsburg and William Sr. opened a dry goods and grocery store which he ran either alone or with a partner until the 1880's, when he opened a saloon (H,I,K).

William Stolte, Sr. had bought the Alba House (Central House) c. 1865 and had his store in part of it with rooms above. For most of the time he owned the hotel, he was not the active proprietor. In 1896 the hotel burned down and Stolte, Sr. rebuilt it as the Hotel Stolte at 204 Main Street. His son, Edward, managed the hotel and two of his daughters worked there.

Stolte, Sr. had farm lands within the city that he farmed until c. 1911. He held stock in the woolen mills and owned numerous houses in the city (J). He died in 1912 (L).

Bibliographic References (sources) con't:

- H - Memorial and Biographical Records and Illustrated Compendium of Biography (Chicago, George A. Ogle and Company, 1901).
- I - French, Mrs. Bella (ed.), History of Reedsburg, Wisconsin 1875, an issue of The American Sketchbook (LaCrosse Sketchbook Company, 1875).
- J - Cole, Harry Ellsworth, A Standard History of Sauk County, Vol. I & II (Chicago and New York, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1918).
- K - Butterfield, C. W., The History of Sauk County (Chicago, Western Historical Society, 1880).
- L - Krug, Merton Edwin, History of Reedsburg and the Upper Baraboo Valley (Madison, Democrat Printing Company, 1929).
- M - Plat Book, City of Reedsburg, 1948.

Historical Statement of Significance

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance con't

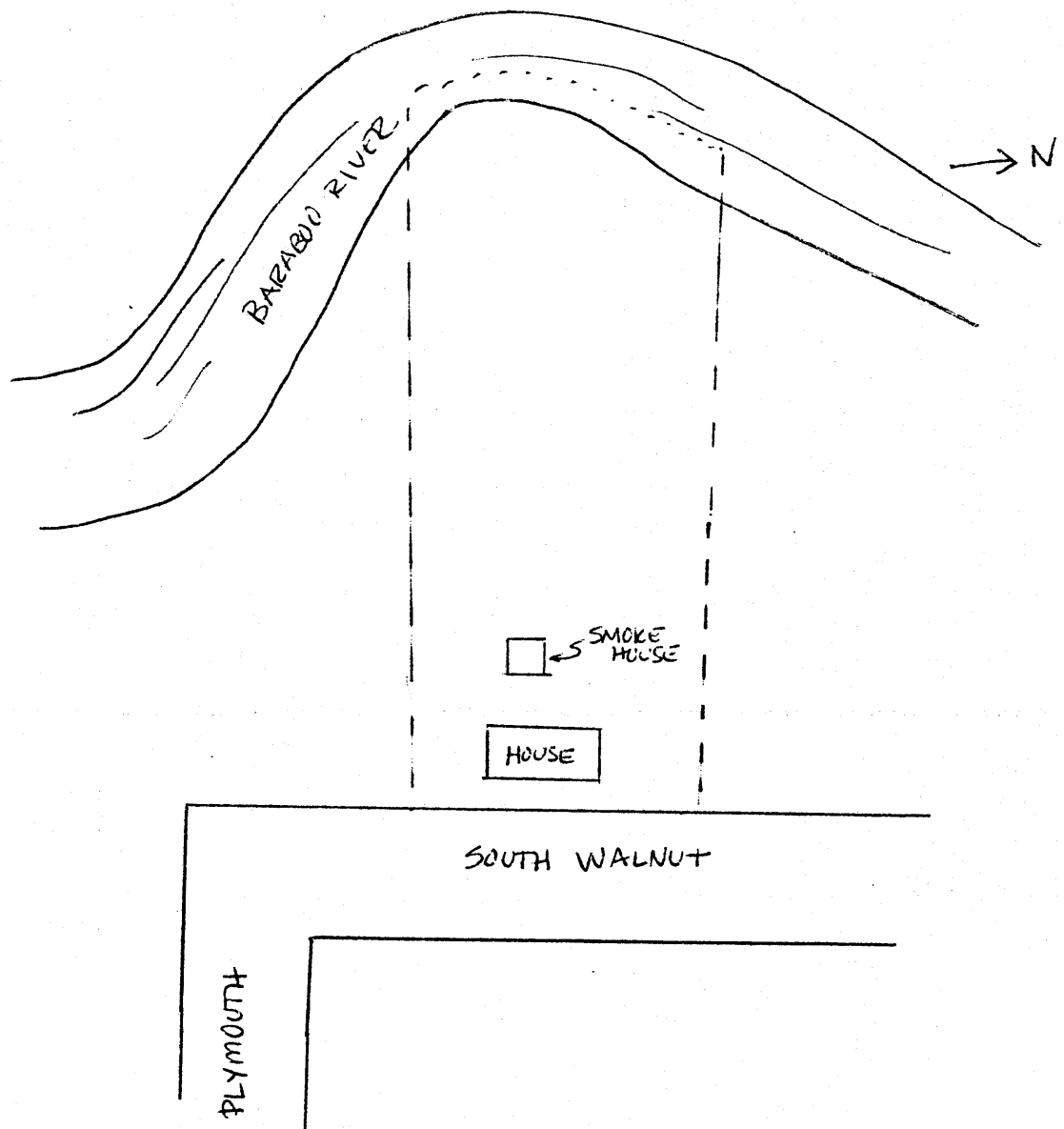
residences in Reedsburg also differ from the Stolte, Sr. house in their detail, usually featuring towers, wrap around porches and a different proportion woodwork, such as the William Stolte, Jr. house at 432 South Walnut Street, another individually nominated property.

Additional Description con't:

south side of the house has a gable on the attic and a second story gable below. Below this is a one story pantry extension from the main house hidden from view by a large evergreen.

The interior of the home has had few alterations. The already mentioned pantry extension and kitchen modernization are the major changes. The vestibule contains the original ceiling light fixture with red and blue glass decorated with scenes of people. This light and some others, although not original to the house, are not electrified. A steep staircase to the second story is in the northeast section of the house lit by the corner window. Interior woodwork around doors and windows is a fluted trim with corner blocks. Narrow double doors with glass panes separate some of the rooms and are not original to the house. Overall, this house has maintained a degree of integrity, although the original iron cresting on the roof ridge has been removed (A).

A frame smoke house and hitching post with "Stolte" inscribed on it remain in the backyard of this former farm house. The house is located on the north edge of about 30 acres of privately owned wooded land bordered by the Baraboo River. Many of the trees were planted in the early twentieth century, as this was the original farmland when the house was built in the 1880's. An iron fence with an arched entry surrounded the house at one time (A).



WILLIAM STOLTE, SR. HOUSE

444 SOUTH WALNUT STREET

--- BOUNDARY OF NOMINATED
PROPERTY