

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 19 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Olaf Lee House
and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 955 N. Jessie Street N/A not for publication
city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of
state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gary Sipes
street & number 955 North Jessie Street
city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state MN 55101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse
street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard
city, town St. Paul state MN 55102

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1980-1982 federal state county local
depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society 75 W. 5th St., #323
city, town St. Paul state MN 55102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Olaf Lee House is located at 955 N. Jessie Street in a residential neighborhood a few blocks west of Payne Avenue, a major commercial street in St. Paul's Payne-Phalen neighborhood. The two-and-one-half story woodframe house is 32' wide by 44' long by 34' tall. It sits on a limestone block foundation. The first two floors of the exterior are clad in narrow clapboard siding while the attic level is faced in stucco with inlaid wood boards creating a half-timbered, zigzag effect. The house has a jerkinhead roof with intersecting gables. It has wide, overhanging eaves supported by huge, ornately carved drooping wood brackets. On the three bay main facade, the jerkinhead roof shelters a recessed, attic level balcony which has a balustrade of vertical wood slats with cut out patterning. On the main facade the attic story juts out over the second and is supported by huge, ornately carved brackets. A one story porch spans the main facade. It has a limestone base, and square piers with carved brackets. On the north side of the main facade there is a two story, three-sided bay window--the only feature of the main facade which is not a symmetrical element. The north side wall also has a three-sided bay window--it extends up to the gable end. A large band of wood molding divides the first and second stories on the side and rear walls. At the back of the house there is a one story, flat roofed wing. The house retains almost all of its original window sash, and has several very ornate stained glass windows with detailing reminiscent of the Art Nouveau style. The house has undergone few exterior alterations, though its front porch has been screened in, and the house was converted to a duplex in the 1930's. Though the foundation of the house appears to be in need of repair, the house is in otherwise good exterior condition. It features a dark red, evergreen and cream paint color scheme which seems quite sympathetic to the original design and may well be original.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905 **Builder/Architect** architect: Clarence H. Johnston, Sr.
builder: Fred C. Norlander

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Olaf Lee House, built in 1905, is architecturally significant for its unusual, eclectic design which combines Swiss Chalet, Craftsman and other elements into a convincing composition, making it the most sophisticated turn of the century house in the Payne Phalen neighborhood. The house is also one of few designs in this part of St. Paul by one of the city's most prominent and prolific architects, Clarence H. Johnston, Sr. (1859-1936) who designed dozens of houses in St. Paul's Ramsey and Summit Hill neighborhood, numerous commercial buildings in St. Paul and many school and public buildings throughout the state. The house was built at an estimated cost of \$5,000, according to the building permit, and its original owner and occupant was Olaf Lee, a druggist who owned two pharmacies near his house--one at 908 N. Payne Avenue; the other at 966 N. Arcade Street. The Lee family lived in the house until Olaf Lee's death (4/9/1937). Lee's widow then moved to 988 Fairmount Avenue and sold the house to Fred Schwartz, a salesman for the East Side Motors Company. Members of the Schwartz family owned the house until 1982.

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of St. Paul Building Permits Division, Permit #44850.
 Polk's St. Paul City Directories, 1905-1939.
 Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County Architect & Contractor File, survey form on 955 N. Jessie Street.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1 acre
 Quadrangle name St. Paul East Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
C				D				
E				F				
G				H				

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 11 and 12, Block 13, Edmund Rice's First Addition.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Murphy, Director, Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul & Ramsey County
 organization Ramsey County Historical Society date 6/1983
 street & number 75 W. 5th Street, Room 323 telephone (612) 222-0701
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title Russell W. Fridley date 1/11/84
State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register date 2/6/84
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration