

1467

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jens T. Larsen House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 103 Main Street N/A not for publication
city, towns/site number Kimballton N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Audubon code 009 zip code 51543

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David C. [Signature] 8/13/91
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed for the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Beck Boland 10/3/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Gabled Ell House Type

Materials

foundation brickwalls wood/weatherboardwood/shinglesroof asphaltother glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Jens T. Larsen House is situated on an open lot on the west side of Main Street in the town of Kimballton. The house faces east and is set back approximately 120 feet from the street. The building is defined as a gabled ell house type by the present ethnic survey. It rises 1.5 stories from a brick foundation which has been shored in places and faced with cement. The ground plan is a T-shape. The walls are clad with lapped board, with the original cornerboards and friezeboards intact. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has centrally-placed triangular gabled wall dormers on the east and south sides. The dormers and the gable peaks have intricate gable screens, portions of which have deteriorated. The fenestration of both the south and east facades is symmetrical and consisting of central doors flanked by windows. A one-story rounded bay window is present on the east front gabled ell and has a denticulated frieze under the eaves. This frieze is repeated on the east and south porches as well as serving as the round-arched lintel for the small tower window. This "tower" is actually a square dormer with a four-sided flared hipped roof. The window in this dormer has a red colored glass lunette above the 2/2 double-hung window. Surrounding the window is a tight pattern of diamond-shaped shingle siding.

The east porch is open and has chamfered posts, punch-and-gouge brackets, and a denticulated frieze. Originally, this porch had elaborate cresting along the roof edge. A door in the second floor dormer opens onto the flat roof of this porch. The south porch is a small, portico which covers the south side entry. This porch has the same detailing as the east porch. Except for the kitchen window on the east side of the facade and the window at the right side of the south facade, the original 2/2 double-hung windows are intact. The entry doors are also original and have intricate wood detailing and Queen Anne windows with colored glass panes. The door in the second floor east dormer has paired round-arched clear glass panes.

The only modifications to the exterior have included the above-noted kitchen window and window on the south facade; the replacement of a portion of the cladding material around the modified window on the south facade with wide boards; and a one-story addition to the north side which enlarged the interior kitchen space and added a bathroom. The house has deteriorated to some degree primarily because this is a rental property and the owner is elderly; however, there is interest in the preservation of this building and the rehabilitation of the exterior to its original condition. Overall, the building retains nearly all of its original exterior components and still conveys a sense of historical time and place.

The interior has undergone a few modifications including the removal of the double door partition between the front parlor and the living room and the

XSee continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

	<u> </u> nationally	<u> </u> statewide	<u>X</u> locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u>X</u> C	<u> </u> D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u> </u> C	<u> </u> D <u> </u> E <u> </u> F <u> </u> G
Areas of Significance			Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u> </u> ETHNIC HERITAGE/European			<u> </u> 1894	<u> </u> 1894
<u> </u> ARCHITECTURE				
			Cultural Affiliation	
			<u> </u> N/A	
Significant Person			Architect/Builder	
<u> </u> N/A			<u> </u> Jensen, Anders	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Jens T. Larsen House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C within the multiple property historic context of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Construction Trades and Industries, specifically carpentry, because it exemplifies the work of skilled Danish immigrant craftsmen, Anders and Thorvald Jensen. This work is evidenced not only in the unique features of its design, including the oddly angled wall and small tower, but also in the handcrafted detailing of its exterior decorative elements. The property is further significant under Criterion C within the historic context of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Building Trends because it embodies the characteristics of a building type associated with Danish immigrant settlement in the 1870s-early 1900s, specifically the gabled ell with central gabled wall dormers. This is a house type which appears to have been common to the Danish settlement area of Shelby and Audubon counties and may be indicative of a cultural selection process. The period of significance for this property is its year of construction, 1894.

It is believed that the house was built by Danish immigrant carpenter, Anders Jensen likely with the aid of his brother, Thorvald G. Jensen. Anders was born in Fyn, Denmark, and immigrated to Wisconsin in the 1870s with his parents and siblings. In 1884 the family migrated to Audubon County settling near Kimballton. Anders and Thorvald worked as carpenters in this area until Anders retired to farm in the early 1900s. While Anders likely constructed the house itself, it is not known who executed the enameled wood graining which is still evident on one of the interior doors. It is possible that it was done by Peter Claude Hansen, who was known for his skills in wood graining in the Kimballton area.

The house was built for Danish immigrant Jens T. Larsen when he retired from farming. Larsen had owned much of the land that was later incorporated into the south half of the town of Kimballton. His earlier farm house still stands at the southwest corner of the town. According to the 1900 U. S. Population Census, Larsen was born in Denmark in 1835 and immigrated in 1874 at the age of 39. His household in 1900 included his wife, Ellen Marie, who was in Denmark and immigrated in 1879, and her nephew, who was listed a German immigrant blacksmith and was boarding in this household. According to the Audubon County Assessor's records, the house was built in 1894 which corresponds closely to oral history information.

XSee continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

History Book Committee. Kimballton 1883-1983. Kimballton: History Book Committee, pp. I24, 84, 1983.

1900 and 1910 U. S. Population Censuses.

Assessor's Records. Audubon: County Courthouse.

Land Transfer Records. Audubon: County Courthouse.

Pieper, Alice. Personal communication, March 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_ previously listed in the National Register
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

_ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
X State historic preservation office
_ Other State agency
_ Federal agency

_ Local government
_ University
_ Other
Specify repository:
_ Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>327325</u>	<u>4610260</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the Recorder's Office, Audubon County Courthouse, Audubon, Iowa: Lot 3 of Lot 2 of the SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 30, T79N, R36W, of Sharon Township, Audubon County, Iowa.

_ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the property.

_ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Leah Rogers, Project Director</u>	date	<u>June 30, 1991</u>
organization	<u>Preservation Partnership Phase III</u>	telephone	<u>319-849-1271</u>
street & number	<u>520 Franklin</u>	state	<u>Iowa</u>
city or town	<u>Center Point</u>	zip code	<u>52213</u>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 3 Page 1

Name of related multiple property listing:

The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

remodeling of the kitchen area. Original painted enamel wood graining is still evident on one face of the door to the second floor, with later wood graining present on the window surrounds of the dining room. Original woodwork includes bullseye molding. The floorplan design of the second floor is unusual in order to accommodate the placement of the tower dormer. In order to do so, a wall had to be oddly angled, and to look out the dormer one has to duck under the sloping roof to enter this nook. The tower serves no real practical purpose, although it does let some additional light into the hallway. The angled wall and decorative tower are reminiscent of similar features found on other houses designed and constructed by Danish immigrant carpenters in the Danish settlement area.

The dwelling sits upon a large, open lot as it did historically. Large pine trees line the graveled driveway which enters the lot along its south boundary and terminates at the south side of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

Jens T. Larsen lived in this house until his death, and his widow continued to live here until she died in 1928. Thomas Christensen, the nephew of Elena and Jens, was the subsequent owner/occupant until his death in 1962. The house was subsequently sold out of the family, although Alice Pieper, the present tenant, is the great-great niece of Jens T. Larsen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1

Jens T. Larsen House
Kimballton, Iowa
Leah Rogers, Photographer
Original negatives at the Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

Photo #	Description	Photo #	Description
#1	House 2/19/91 view to WSW		
2	House 3/7/91 view to NE		
3	House 2/19/91 view to NE		
4	Detail of dormer 3/7/91 view to SW (up)		
5	Historic photo of house early 1900s unknown photographer original photo in possession of Alice Pieper, Kimballton, Iowa view to W		
6	same as #5		