

1 City, Village or Town: <u>BELOIT</u> ✓	County: <u>ROCK</u> ✓	Surveyor: <u>Richard P. Hartung</u>	Date: <u>July, 1981</u>	Street Bushnell	
Street Address: <u>1302 Bushnell Street</u> ✓		Legal Description: <u>Lot 1, Certified Survey Map, V. 2, P. 60.</u>	Acreage: <u>3.305</u>		
Current Name & Use: <u>Residence</u>		Current Owner: <u>Betty J. Morgan</u>			
Film Roll No. <u>RO-87</u> <u>*RO-113</u>	Affix Contact Prints	Current Owner's Address: <u>Same</u>			Number 1302
Negative No. <u>24, 25</u> <u>*11</u>		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: Zone <u>16</u> Easting: <u>333940</u> Northing: <u>4707180</u> USGS Beloit Quadrangle/Scale: <u>1:24,000</u>			
Facade Orient. <u>W</u>		Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			

2 Original Name & Use: (preferred) <u>Elbert Neese House (Beloit man)</u> ✓	Source	Previous Owners <u>L.B. Merrill</u>	Dates <u>c. 1890-1917</u>	Uses <u>residence</u>	Source <u>A</u>	Town Range
Dates of Construction/Alteration <u>Built c. 1895</u> <u>Remodeled c. 1920-1931</u>	Source <u>A</u>					
Architect and/or Builder: <u>Unknown</u>	Source <u>E</u>					

3 Architectural Significance <input type="radio"/> Represents work of a master <input type="radio"/> Possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="radio"/> Represents a type, period, or method of construction <input type="radio"/> Is a visual landmark in the area <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ <input type="radio"/> None	4 Historical Significance <input checked="" type="radio"/> Assoc. with lives of significant persons <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with significant historical events <input type="radio"/> Assoc. with development of a locality <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ <input type="radio"/> None	Section
Architectural Statement: <u>See Continuation Sheet</u>	Historical Statement: <u>(period of historical significance: 1917-61) See Continuation Sheet</u>	

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above) A <u>Beloit Tax Rolls, RCHS Archives</u> B <u>Telephone interview with Mrs. Josephine Reed Warner, July 17, 1981</u> C <u>Book of Beloit, 1936, P. 212</u> D <u>Telephone interview with T. Morgan Jones, Director of Advertising and Public Affairs, Beloit Corporation, August 3, 1981</u> E <u>Telephone interview with owner, September 16, 1981</u> F	6 Representation in Previous Surveys <input type="radio"/> HABS <input type="radio"/> NAER <input checked="" type="radio"/> WIHP <input type="radio"/> NRHP <input type="radio"/> landmark <input type="radio"/> other: 7 Condition <input checked="" type="radio"/> excellent <input type="radio"/> good <input type="radio"/> fair <input type="radio"/> poor <input type="radio"/> ruins 8 District: _____ <input type="radio"/> pivotal <input type="radio"/> contributing <input type="radio"/> non-contributing initials: _____ date: _____ 9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility <input checked="" type="radio"/> eligible <input type="radio"/> not eligible <input type="radio"/> unknown <input type="radio"/> national <input type="radio"/> state <input checked="" type="radio"/> local initials: _____	Map Code CE 87/24
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ELBERT NEESE HOUSE

Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: Dominated by two intersecting gabled units which rise two stories plus attic, the Elbert Neese house is characterized by Tudor Revival detail and rich variety in materials and massing. Although several minor projections extend from the main units (and several alcoves punctuate them) the composition is united by the broad east-west gable which slopes to the first story, creating a continuous skirt roof which wraps around the house. The walls of this gable are half-timbered with the upper portions projecting beyond the lower walls. In the west attic, there is a deeply recessed window. Second story oriels, with leaded casement windows, are supported by large wooden brackets. Intersecting with this gabled section (and dominating the front facade) is a north-south cross-gable which rests atop a cavernous entry porch. The half-timbered gable wall is broken by a projecting leaded casement window (with ornamental lead comes). Vergeboards, pierced by wooden rafters, ornament the eaves. Below the gable, a broad brick arcade of Tudor arches shelters the enclosed entry. On the north facade, a limestone wall is slightly battered; a brick chimney rises above the gable ridge. The combination of materials adds a rich textural quality to the house (as well as a polychromatic effect): the half-timbered stucco walls contrasts with the red brick, the buff colored limestone, and the slate roof.

Architecturally interesting as an example of the Tudor Revival style in Beloit, 1302 Bushnell achieved its present form when it was dramatically remodelled in the 1920s. The result, however, was far from haphazard, and no visible trace of the original exterior remains. Instead the house--now distinguished by the complexity of its plan and profile, the variety of materials, and the thoroughness of its "Tudor" detail--was transformed wholesale into a showplace of its style and an excellent example of the historic eclecticism which shaped Beloit residential architecture in the 1920s and 30s.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

The Elbert Neese house is historically significant for its association with one of Beloit's most important 20th century industrialists, a leader of the Beloit Corporation, and the man most responsible for its world-wide role. Built in the 1890's, increases in the assessed value of the building were recorded in 1920, 1925, and 1931 (even though the land itself, and neighboring properties, showed no such increase). (A) According to Beloit historians, those improvements reflected the transformation of a grey clapboard house into the current Tudor Revival home. Mrs. Josephine Reed Warner, who left Beloit in 1919 before the first recorded improvements, recalls returning to her family home across the street in the early 1930's and finding the house completely remodelled. (B)

ELBERT NEESE HOUSE (1302 Bushnell)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (2)

HISTORICAL STATEMENT (Continued):

Originally built in the 1890s by L. B. Merrill, an official of the Beloit Iron Works (and son of its founder), the house achieved its present form under the ownership of Elbert Neese. After extensive experience with the paper industry, Neese came to Beloit in 1916 to join the leadership of the Iron Works and the following year he purchased this home from his associate. During the following decade (during which time Neese and his wife Laura Aldrich Neese, daughter of Iron Works co-founder Alonzo Aldrich, completely remodelled the home to reflect their preference for the Tudor style) Neese played a significant role in the transformation of the Iron Works into a major industrial concern of regional and eventually national importance. By 1931, the year that Neese succeeded to the presidency of his firm upon the death of his father-in-law, the house was largely in its present state. In the years leading to his presidency and during his tenure as President of the Beloit Corporation (as the Iron Works was to be known under Neese's administration) the world-wide company expanded to become the largest employer in the city and the world's preeminent manufacturer of paper-making machinery, (D) (C). Because the industrial buildings of the Beloit Corporation have been altered to meet the changing requirements of their business, the Neese house remains the most significant structure associated with the life and career of one of Beloit's most important twentieth century industrialists. Elbert Neese died in 1961.