

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 14 1985

date entered MAR 14 1985

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

1. Name

historic Jens Naeset House

and/or common Naeset - Roe House

2. Location

street & number 126 East Washington not for publication

city, town Stoughton vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

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

4. Owner of Property

name Lois Roe Kvamme

street & number 1934 Quam Point Drive

city, town Stoughton vicinity of state Wisconsin 53589

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Courthouse

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53703

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town 816 State Street, Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jens Naeset House is a large two-story cream brick Italianate residence on a corner lot surrounded by other houses of the era, most of which are a little smaller, of frame construction and were built in later years. The residence is square with front and rear porches. It has tall windows, cornice and paired brackets typical of Italianate dwellings. The center of the front of the house is punctuated by a projecting tower with Second Empire detail which is the same height as the main roof. The tower has a curved roof, pointed gable dormers on three sides with horizontal ventilation slats rather than windows, and wrought iron cresting which matches iron cresting on top of the main roof. The roof of the house and connected tower is covered with composition asphalt shingles which replace earlier roofing. The foundation is partially exposed and faced with cut stone. A projecting one story bay is on the side adjacent to the street and has three tall windows, bracketed cornice, and small balustrade above at the second floor window. A small porch at the front entry was expanded circa 1912-1926 to include two thirds of the front of the house. It is a simple porch with corner square brick support columns, simple white wooden columns between and balustrade with simple diagonal, vertical and horizontal pieces. A small porch railing at the second floor level of the front porch was removed sometime in the 1940s or 1950s. A rear one story brick and frame porch was expanded circa 1920-1926 with a second story frame sleeping porch addition. The site originally had a stable in the rear northeast corner adjacent to the street which was removed many years ago. A modern two car garage sits in that location now and is not significant to the nomination. A decorative wrought iron fence in need of slight repairs surrounds the two street sides of the property at the sidewalk and is considered significant to the nomination.

Exterior trim consists of simple wooden brackets and cornice and wrought iron cresting on the tower and roof. The tall rectangular windows on the front and east street sides have brick full arched hood moldings with keystone. The west side of the house has a cut glass window dating from the 1910s in the sitting room. It is divided into three equal vertical panels, with a small window at the top of each panel. All other windows were replaced many years ago with aluminum windows to fit the original window openings. A small deck with wrought iron railing is located at the rear and is old but not original.

The interior floor plan consists of a front main parlor and sitting room, dining room, small side bedroom, small toilet room, pantry, and kitchen on the first floor, and four bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor. The current owner redecorated the whole house in 1972, which included wallpapering, repainting all the white woodwork in the same white color, installing carpet in some rooms, and modernizing the kitchen, but no changes were made to original room plans or woodwork. Inside the front entry way, the main door opens to the main parlor with bay in the southeast quarter of the house. Another door used to open from the entry to smaller sitting room but it is no longer used. A large curved top arch separates the parlor and sitting room. It has a simple molding with keystone and sliding doors which no longer work. The parlor and sitting room both have carved, intricate molding around the ceiling, hanging cut glass lights set in a decorated round molded plaster ceiling design, and hardwood floors underneath modern carpet. The parlor

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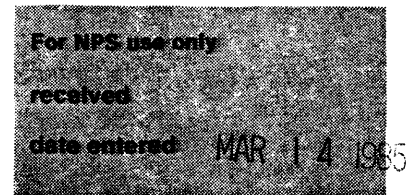
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has the bay window. The sitting room has the cut glass window and has a carved wood panel under the smaller front window. The doors leading from the parlor to the entryway, dining room and small bedroom have operating clear transom windows. The parlor leads back to the dining room, which has a built in hutch with shelves inside glass doors with simple cut glass design and four drawers below. The dining room has a hardwood floor of light and dark stripes. A small bedroom is accessed from the dining room and parlor. This room may have been the original kitchen but by around 1910-1915 had been converted into a bedroom for Jens Naeset's widow, Gjertrud. The kitchen is in the wing off the northeast corner of the house and is reached from the dining room by walking through a small pantry. The kitchen has white wooden cabinets dating from the 1920s or 1930s and modern appliances. It has two doors leading to the exterior, one opening to the east side of the house and one to the rear yard. A door off the dining room also opens to the rear yard. A hallway off the dining room leads to the basement door and stairway to the second floor. The stairway has a low hardwood railing.

The second floor bedrooms have white woodwork but the trim and ceiling moldings are simpler than the first floor. Windows reach almost to the floor. The front two bedrooms and rear bedroom in the middle of the house have inside shutters on the lower half of the windows. Window and door frames are simple but well crafted. The main bedroom at the southeast corner of the second floor has two front windows opening to the roof of the porch and a side window opening to the balustrade above the bay window. The side rear bedroom has the simplest details and has a door leading to the second floor porch above the kitchen.

The attic is unfinished space and is used for storage. The basement has plastered white walls and steps leading up to cellar doors opening outside the west side of the house. The basement is just used for storage and laundry now but the family remembers the Naesets allowed at least one new immigrant family from Norway to live there until they got settled.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Ethnic History

Specific dates 1878-1909 **Builder/Architect** Jens J. Naeset (Norwegian-American)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jens Naeset House is significant as being one of the finest existing Italianate houses in Stoughton and one of the earliest houses built which remains in excellent condition in the community. Built in 1878, it is a large cream brick house with typical Italianate details and a front tower showing Second-Empire influence added to Italianate. The exterior and interior have not been altered except for modifications to the front and rear porches in the 1920s, interior modernization of utilities, and interior repainting and wallpapering. The minimally altered appearance of the house contributes to its overall significance as one of the finest remaining early houses built by a prominent local architect in the popular styles of the day. Also significant is the fact that Jens Naeset, one of the earliest Norwegian immigrants to this Norwegian-American community, used popular styles to build for the community, as evidenced by the combination of Italianate and Second-Empire influences. There are three frame Italianate houses in Stoughton with similar Second-Empire towers but they are smaller, less imposing, and are generally not in as fine a condition as this brick house. (See the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places for Stoughton - 401 West South Street, 133 North Page Street, and 1001 East Main Street). It is unknown whether Jens Naeset had anything to do with the construction of these three houses.

Historical Significance - Ethnic History(Norwegian-American)

Jens J. Naeset (sometimes spelled Naset) (1828-1909) was a prominent Norwegian-American architect and builder in the Stoughton and Koshkonong area from the 1850s or 1860s until the early 1900s and was one of the founders of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He was born in Norway and emigrated from Vik Parish near Arnefjord with several family members in 1845. He farmed on the family farm in Christiana township until 1857, when he began to work as a contractor and builder. In 1868 he began to work in the hardware trade in Cambridge, and moved his business to Stoughton in 1872 for four years. In 1876 he moved to Stoughton and began working as an architect, contractor, and builder again.¹ According to family records in the possession of the current owner, he built this house in 1878, and he and his wife, Gjertrud, lived in the house until their deaths in 1909 and 1919 respectively. The Stoughton City Directory issued in 1882, the year Stoughton incorporated as a city, listed Naeset at this address as the only architect in the city, distinguishing him from five people listed as builders.²

Jens J. Naeset was remembered as "a well-known Koshkonong architect."³ He built a stone church in East Koshkonong in 1858,⁴ built the tower of the old Liberty Prairie church and "a number of the oldest houses on Albion Prairie."⁵ He was involved, in his role as one of the original trustees, in the erection of Christ Lutheran Church on East Main Street

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.3 acres

Quadrangle name Stoughton, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	1	8	8	8	0	4	7	5	3	8	6	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing						

C

Zone		Easting					Northing						

D

Zone		Easting					Northing						

E

Zone		Easting					Northing						

F

Zone		Easting					Northing						

G

Zone		Easting					Northing						

H

Zone		Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 8, Block 29, original plat of the City of Stoughton

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kendra L. Bonderud for the owner

organization N.A.

date November 10, 1984

street & number 2426 High Ridge Trail

telephone (608) 273-1527

city or town Madison

state Wisconsin 53713

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 *[Signature]*

title Director, Historic Preservation Division

date JAN. 29, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3-14-85

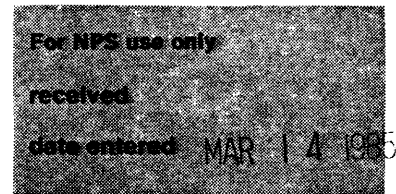
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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from 1874-1878, which seated 600 and was "the finest building of its kind in the city" at the time.⁶

Jens J. Naeset was not only an architect and builder in the Stoughton area, but was probably best remembered for his involvement in the founding and building of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. In 1861, the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (also known as the Norwegian Synod) voted to establish a college in Decorah. At that time, Naeset and four others were selected to serve on a building committee which formulated a statement of the goals of the college and engaged an architect from Cleveland to design a Main Building. The Main Building was dedicated by the college in October, 1865 as the "Norwegian Luther College" in a ceremony later called "the most memorable church event that the Norwegian settlers had yet attended in America," with 6,000 in attendance.⁸ Naeset supervised construction of the south wing of the Main Building in 1874, which had been designed in 1865 but not included in the original construction. His only design contribution to the 1874 wing appears to have been the addition of dormer windows to the attic,⁹ but he was remembered in Luther College histories as one "who served the college well in many capacities."¹⁰

When the college was incorporated as the Norwegian Luther College in 1865, Naeset was chosen as one of six members of the Board of Trustees and served on the Board for 21 of the following 25 years.¹¹ He served as a member of the Church Council of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America for 16 years over a 30 year span of time from 1863-1893,¹² and was thus involved in maintaining links between the Norwegian Lutheran Church and the college governing body.

Although Naeset was remembered in several accounts as a prominent architect, contractor and builder,¹³ who probably built many of the earliest buildings in the Stoughton area, there is no documentation of any existing buildings built by him besides his house. The Main Building at Luther College burned down in 1889, and the Stoughton-area churches mentioned earlier were replaced by later buildings around the turn of the century. His former house remains intact as the work of a Norwegian immigrant who built many buildings in the earliest years of Norwegian settlement in the Stoughton area.

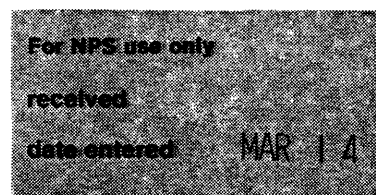
Historical Background - Later Inhabitants

After Jens Naeset died in 1909, his wife Gjertrud continued to live in the house until her death in 1919. In about 1914, a few years after their marriage, Gustave Roe (1881-1970) and his wife Gaea Melaas Roe moved into the house with Gaea's grandmother Gjertrud Naeset. Gustave and Gaea Roe lived in the house until their deaths. Their son Ingolf, lived in the house his whole life, and his widow Lois Roe Kvamme, still owns the house. The house has been in the ownership of the Naesets of Roes during its whole existence and its later association with the Roes has been well known to the Stoughton community.

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In the early 1900s, Gustave Roe worked for his father, Ole Roe in the tobacco business (see the National Register nomination for the Ole K. Roe House at 404 South Fifth Street in Stoughton). In 1910, Gustave, his brother Carl, and another partner opened the first automobile dealership in Stoughton, the Roe Auto Company. In 1913, the Roe Auto Company moved into their newly constructed garage and sales room at the corner of Main and Fourth, which stands today as the Keegan Hardware store. The third partner sold out to the Roe brothers in 1911, and after Carl Roe died in 1926, Gustave continued to operate the auto dealership for many years afterwards, selling Overland and Willys-Knight cars. Gustave Roe was co-owner of the Badger Theater in Stoughton, which made front page newspaper headlines in Stoughton when it became the first theater in town to show talking motion pictures in 1929. In addition to his involvement in his automobile dealership and movie theater, Gustave Roe was involved in civic affairs in Stoughton throughout his life.

Notes for Item #8

- 1) C.W. Butterfield, ed. History of Dane County, Wisconsin. Western Historical Association, Chicago, Illinois, 1880. p. 1163.
- 2) Sneath & Wilson. Stoughton City Directory. 1882.
- 3) George T. Flom. A History of Norwegian Immigration to the United States. Iowa City, Iowa, 1909. p. 309.
- 4) Flom, p. 309. He states that the church was replaced with a new brick church circa 1905-1907.
- 5) Flom, p. 309.
- 6) Ferd Homme. Oak Opening: The Story of Stoughton. The Stoughton Centennial History Committee, Stoughton, Wisconsin, 1947. p. 81. He states that it was replaced with a new church built in 1914-1915.
- 7) David T. Nelson. Luther College 1861-1961. Luther College Press, Decorah, Iowa, 1961. p. 56.
- 8) Luther College Faculty, Editorial Committee: Olaf M. Norlie, Oscar A. Tingelstad, Karl T. Jacobsen. Luther College Through Sixty Years, 1861-1921. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1922. p. 388.
- 9) Karen Larsen. Laur. Larsen, Pioneer College President. Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minnesota, 1936. p. 160.

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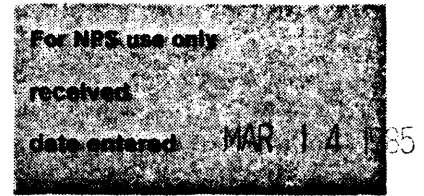
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Notes for Item #8, continued

- 10) Nelson, p. 93.
- 11) Luther College Faculty, p. 60. Naeset was on the Board of Trustees of Luther College during the years 1865-1871, 1875-1884, 1887-1890.
- 12) Luther College Faculty, p. 60. Naeset was on the Church Council during the years 1863-1869, 1876-1877, 1887-1893.
- 13) Stoughton Courier, May 21, 1909. Also, Butterfield, p. 1163.
- 14) The Stoughton Courier-Hub, March 18, 1928.
- 15) The Stoughton Courier-Hub, November 5, 1929.

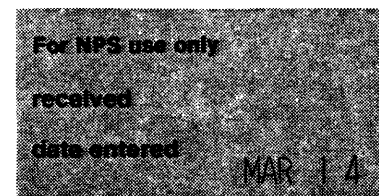
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References

- Butterfield, C.W. ed., History of Dane County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Association, 1880.
- Flom, George T. A History of Norwegian Immigration to the United States. Iowa City, Iowa, 1909.
- Homme, Ferd. Oak Opening: The Story of Stoughton. The Stoughton Centennial History Committee. Stoughton, Wisconsin, 1947.
- Keyes, Elisha, ed. History of Dane County. Chicago: Western Historical Association, 1906.
- Larsen, Karen. Laur. Larsen, Pioneer College President. Northfield, Minnesota: Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1936.
- Lien, Abel E. A Brief History of the Lien Family, Norwegian Pioneers of East Koshkonong, Dane County, Wisconsin. Portland, North Dakota, 1930.
- Luther College Faculty, Editorial Committee: Olaf M. Norlie, Oscar A. Tingelstad, Karl T. Jacobsen. Luther College Through Sixty Years, 1861-1921. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1922.
- Nelson, David T. Luther College 1861-1961. Decorah, Iowa: Luther College Press, 1961.
- Sanborn-Perris Maps, "Stoughton," Wisconsin, 1884, 1887, 1892, 1898, 1904, 1912, 1926.
- Sneath and Wilson. Stoughton City Directory, 1882.
- Stoughton Courier, May 21, 1909, various issues 1874-1878.
- The Stoughton Courier-Hub, November 5, 1929, March 18, 1928, January 30, 1931.
- Personal interview of Clara Hale by Kendra Bonderud, August 24, 1984.
- Various conversations between Kendra Bonderud and Lois Roe Kvamme, summer, 1984.