

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 9 1984**  
date entered **SEP 7 1984**

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

**1. Name**

historic Ole K. Roe House

and/or common O. K. Roe House

**2. Location**

street & number 404 <sup>5<sup>th</sup></sup> South Fifth Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Stoughton \_\_\_ vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Joseph & Ruby Cabibbo

street & number 404 South Fifth Street

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 Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Ole K. Roe house is a large two-story cream brick Queen Anne residence located in a residential area of smaller houses of the era, and sited on an elevated corner which exaggerates its size. The residence has a partially exposed basement, a full walk-in attic, and a square corner tower. The tower has reticulated red brick decoration in rounded arches in the third stage. The tower has a bell cast roof and tin-shingled dome. The four side slopes of the tower are of cut cedar shingles and each slope has a double hung pedimented window. The main roof is pyramidal with intersecting gables. The roof is covered with composition asphalt T-lock shingles which replaced the original decorative cut cedar shingles. The windows in the intersecting gables are either single oversized segmental arched units or triplets of double-hung sash. The foundation is of cut and fitted limestone and the exposed foundation walls are faced with cut red sandstone. The two main floors have a total of thirtyseven windows, the most prominent of which are seven segmentally-arched fixed casement windows and six windows of Queen Anne, Diocletian and round head character decorated with colored glass lights. The small one-story porch on the east side, the former main entrance, is original and retains much of its intricate pierced woodwork, part of which was covered by stucco many years ago. A large two-story stucco porch (added circa 1912-1926) on the north side replaced a smaller two-story porch of decorative pierced woodwork similar to the east porch. This north entrance serves as the main entrance. A smaller one-story porch next to the stucco porch retains much of its original decorative pierced woodwork. The site originally had a stable in the southwest corner of the lot, which was removed sometime after the 1920s. There are currently no outbuildings on the site.

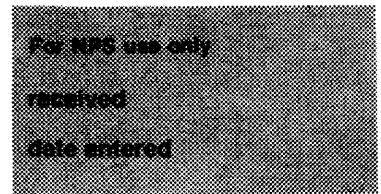
The cream brick exterior is accentuated by decorative courses of red brick between the first and second floor and between part of the second floor and attic. The cut red sandstone which faces the exposed foundation walls extends to the top of the first floor of the tower. Cream brick voussoirs with corner blocks containing incised rosettes top the first floor east bay window. Contrasting red brick voussoirs top several of the large second story windows. Red brick quoins decorate some corners. Trim on the east porch is wood with some original sunburst details, turned columns, and later straight handrails. The main windows of the first floor and second floor east bay windows are the most intricate of the windows, with five panes of intricately-patterned colored glass on either side and above a large fixed picture window on each floor, separated by mullions and transom. The two sets of geometric patterned windows match with different pastel color schemes, each being dominated by Queen Anne shell motifs and punctuated by glass jewels.

The interior has fourteen rooms with 2800 square feet. The first floor is divided into a parlor (northeast in the tower), sitting room (east with bay window), dining room (north off of the two story porch), kitchen (northwest), library (off of the sitting room and dining room), bath, and small east room where the main entry was located (early twentieth century remodelling removed the main stairs to the second floor). Woodwork throughout the house is original oak, decorated with intricate pattern in close to original condition. A stylized "tobacco leaf" motif decorates almost all first floor door and window head moldings, a reminder of the original owner's career in the tobacco industry. The parlor and sitting room are separated by an opening

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framed by an ornately carved wood screen, which includes Eastlake details incised in the columns, spoolwork in the upper corners and above the opening, and fan framed scrollwork on either side. Slightly simpler fan-like spoolwork and vertical upper spools frame the inglenook with colored glass bay window in the sitting room. The sitting room has a marble fireplace and double pocket oak doors separating it from the library. Floors of the parlor, sitting room, and library are quarter sawn oak and are covered by large area rugs. The dining room has a second marble fireplace in one corner; an ornately carved built-in china closet along most of one wall with incised fan and curved patterns in the lower oak storage drawers, and etched glass doors on either side of a mirrored curved top door; and walnut and yellow pine hand-sawn parquet floor of the alternating chevron design. The kitchen, off of the dining room, remodelled circa 1920 in the "sanitary" standards of the time, has a hexagonal white tile wainscoting below modern oak cabinets hand made to incorporate beveled glass panels and the Eastlake pattern of the original kitchen door and window trim, and modern center island with similar oak cabinets.

The second floor originally had a sitting room, parlor, and three bedrooms. The master bedroom suite now occupies the sitting room and parlor, the two areas being separated by a carved screen with two Ionic columns (simpler than the first floor screens). The sitting room has an inglenook with large colored glass windows which match the first floor colored glass windows. All floors on the second floor are oak. The three smaller bedrooms are simple in detail with Eastlake or "bulls-eye" pattern trim. One west bedroom has a large picture window surrounded by colored glass square lights.

The attic was never finished for use as living space and is used for storage today. The house originally had an operating cistern in the basement to collect rainwater, water storage tank in the attic, and a pipe system down through the chimney for supplying warm water. The cistern, tank, and pipe system are still there but are not used at all. The roof ridges and tower have lost the cresting which was evident in a historical photograph.

## 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)
	1891-1892 <sup>1</sup> (construction)			Association with
<b>Specific dates</b>	1891-1905 (period of <b>Builder/Architect</b> unknown)			significant person
	association with significant person)			
<b>Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)</b>				

The former Ole K. Roe house is both architecturally and historically significant as one of the finest Queen Anne houses built in Stoughton in the 1890s, and as associated with one of Stoughton's most prominent citizens in the 1890s to 1900s. Ole K. Roe, the son of the first white inhabitants of Pleasant Springs township (surrounding Stoughton),<sup>2</sup> was prominent in Stoughton politics and the tobacco industry in the 1890s and early 1900s, was a city alderman, mayor, and state legislator, and was a tobacco dealer and buyer agent for a prominent New York tobacco firm.

### Architecture

At the time of its construction,<sup>3</sup> the O. K. Roe house was described as "one of the finest residences in the city." It is the only existing example in Stoughton of the Queen Anne style in buick, with typical massing and tower, and is one of only a few existing large houses built in Stoughton in the last years of the 1800s. Although the original side porch on the north side was replaced by a larger stucco porch between 1912 and 1926,<sup>4</sup> the house retains all other major exterior features. The interior is in excellent condition and retains significant architectural details including woodwork in the dining room, parlor, and master bedroom suite, two marble fireplaces, and ornate colored glass windows in the parlor and master bedroom suite. These interior details contribute to the overall significance of the house as illustrative of popular architectural styles of the day. Ole K. Roe acquired title to this site in 1889, and in 1891 moved the existing house to another location in order to build his residence which exists there today.

### Association with Significant Person

Ole K. Roe (1851-1912) was born in Pleasant Springs township, the seventh of eleven children of Knut and Anna Roe, the first white settlers of Pleasant Springs township in 1843. Knut and Anna Roe emigrated from Norway in 1839.<sup>5</sup> O. K. Roe farmed in Pleasant Springs and as a side line dealt in tobacco until he moved to Stoughton in 1888 to work full-time in tobacco dealing. Throughout the 1890s until illness disabled him in 1905, he earned his living in tobacco dealing. In 1890, he became active in Stoughton politics, serving as alderman, mayor, and state legislator, serving as one of the most prominent politicians and citizens during Stoughton's growth in the 1890s.

O. K. Roe was elected alderman in 1890 and served on the City Council until he was elected mayor in 1896. He served as mayor until he was elected to the State Legislature in 1900, where he served a two-year term. He was most remembered for his leadership in building a new city hall in 1901 in the city, which provided a focus and facilities for city government services for the first time since the city was incorporated in 1882. The city hall included not only city governmental services

(continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.42 acres

Quadrangle name Stoughton, WI

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	1	8	0	8	0	4	7	5	3	6	2	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

Lots 1 and 2, Block 36, original plat of the City of Stoughton.  
Approximately 140' x 130'

### 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. (see also continuation sheet)

organization N.A. date March 30, 1984

street & number 2308 High Ridge Trail #306 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

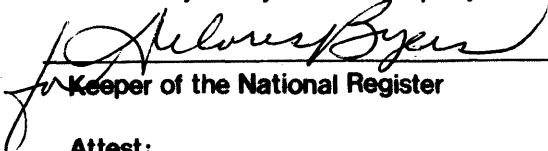
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Historic Preservation Division date Nov. 1, 1984

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9-7-84

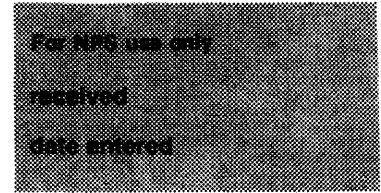
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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but also a second story auditorium and theater, then considered one of the finest auditoriums in that part of the state.<sup>6</sup> When the grand opening of the Romanesque-style city hall was celebrated in 1901, O. K. Roe was hailed in the local newspaper as the "Father of the City Hall" and he was praised for the great deal of time he spent in planning and personally supervising construction. He donated \$ 1,000 for the purchase of the four-faced clock which originally topped the tower of the city hall and was visible from most parts of the city.

O. K. Roe was a prominent tobacco dealer in Stoughton from 1888-1905 during a time when the Stoughton area served as a center of Wisconsin's tobacco production. During the late 1890s there were as many as 17 tobacco warehouses in the city. O. K. Roe owned three different tobacco warehouses in Stoughton at various times during his career.<sup>8</sup> One warehouse on Main Street was replaced by the passenger train depot by 1926, another brick warehouse on Main Street was later doubled in size by another owner, and a small frame warehouse owned briefly by O. K. Roe in the late 1890s still stands at the corner of Fifth Street and South, one block from his residence. The two existing tobacco warehouses once owned by O. K. Roe do not adequately represent Roe's importance in Stoughton's history as his residence does. For several years, until 1906, O. K. Roe worked for the tobacco firm of E. Rosenwald & Bro. of New York, first as a buyer agent and later as the firm's buyer representative in the state of Wisconsin.<sup>9</sup> The firm's owners, Edward and Isaac Rosenwald, were known to be individually "worth a million dollars."<sup>10</sup> In his work for E. Rosenwald & Bro., Roe traveled throughout the state. His obituary said that in 1905, "on his way back from a business trip to Rice Lake, he was stricken with apoplexy on the train,"<sup>11</sup> and although he recovered his speech after being brought home, he was practically an invalid for the rest of his life, until his death in 1912.

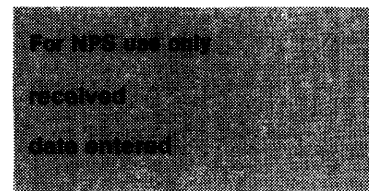
After O. K. Roe was forced to discontinue his tobacco dealings due to ill health, his sons, Carl and Gustav, managed his tobacco warehouses for a short while, but ownership of the tobacco warehouses soon passed into other hands as his sons went into the automobile business after Roe's death. Roe's wife, son Carl and his family lived in the house for several years after Roe's death. Carl removed the original north porch,<sup>12</sup> and replaced it with the existing two-story stucco porch sometime between 1912-1926. He also remodelled the interior to accommodate his family on the second floor and his mother on the first floor,<sup>13</sup> work which included removal of the main staircase at the east entrance, construction of a kitchen where the second floor landing had been, and modernization of the first floor kitchen.

Sometime after the late 1930s, ownership of the residence passed out of the Roe family. The house remained a multiple family dwelling until 1974, with several owners during that time. Since 1974, the residence has again become an owner-occupied single family residence. The current owners remodelled the kitchen and bathrooms in sympathy with the original features, and have redecorated several first floor rooms with period furnishings.

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NOTES - Item #8

- 1) Sanborn maps for Stoughton - 1889, 1892. The Stoughton Hub, April 17, 1891.  
Stoughton Weekly Courier-Hub, April 24, 1891.
- 2) Ferd Homme. Oak Opening: The Story of Stoughton. The Stoughton Centennial History Committee, Stoughton, Wisconsin, 1947. p. 16.
- 3) The Stoughton Hub, February 15, 1901.
- 4) Sanborn maps for Stoughton - 1912, 1926.
- 5) Ferd Homme, p. 16.
- 6) The Stoughton Courier Hub, May 12, 1983.
- 7) The Stoughton Hub, February 15, 1901.
- 8) Sanborn maps for Stoughton - 1884, 1889, 1892, 1898, 1912, 1926.
- 9) Stoughton Weekly Courier-Hub, October 11, 1912.
- 10) The Stoughton Hub, January 2, 1891.
- 11) Stoughton Weekly Courier-Hub, October 11, 1912.
- 12) Sanborn maps for Stoughton - 1912, 1926.
- 13) Conversation between Joseph Cabibbo and Karen Streeter (Carl Roe's daughter), in Stoughton, approximately July, 1978.

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References

- 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.
- Sanborn-Perris Maps, "Stoughton," Wisconsin, 1884, 1889, 1892, 1898, 1912, 1926.
- The Stoughton Hub, February 15, 1901, various issues between 1890-1892, 1901, 1912.
- Stoughton Weekly Courier-Hub, October 11, 1912, various issues between 1890-1892, 1901, 1912.

Item # 10 - Research Assistance by

Joseph and Ruby Cabibbo  
404 South Fifth Street  
Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589