

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

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 9 1987
date entered MAR 13 1987

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

1. Name

historic Gaute Ingebretson Loft House

and/or common Ingebretson-Nielsen Loft House

2. Location

street & number 1212 Pleasant Hill Road ___ not for publication

city, town Stoughton vicinity of Dunkirk Township

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Craig and Patricia Nielsen

street & number 1212 Pleasant Hill Road

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 Ave.

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

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 Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

LOFT

DESCRIPTION:

The Gaute Ingebretson Loft House is a one-story-plus-attic, log structure located in an early Norwegian settlement near Stoughton. Built of rough-hewn, red oak timbers, (1) it has dovetailed corners and the interstices between the logs have been closed with wood chinking strips and mortar. As is common in many Nordic log structures, the gable end walls have horizontal logs running to the 15'-2" high roof peak which support the ridge pole plus two log purlins. The 20'0" x 16'-4" building has a medium gable roof and is aligned to the cardinal directions with the front gable end facing east. The sill logs are placed on a stone foundation which has settled to the soil grade.

The most distinctive feature of this building is its second story over-hang, or loft, projecting out 5'6" from the first floor east gable wall. Supported by a single post at each corner, this extension is formed by the top six axial wall logs which cantilever beyond the first story. The building was later covered with a sheathing of clapboards to provide an additional first floor room in the space below this overhang.

With the clapboards now removed, there is one 7'-1" high room on the first level with two double hung wood windows with six over six lights single window in the south and west walls and a slightly off-center door in the east gable wall. The first floor interior surface is smooth finish white lime mortar with approximately 40% intact. The second floor room is entered via a board stairway under the overhang, located adjacent to the front door. It has one light fixed wooden window in each of the gable walls.

A fireplace and chimney were added to the building in the late 1800's. Two fires in the early part of this century caused little damage to the log walls, but burned the roof, especially on the north side, where repairs were made with metal roofing. Around 1920, a lean-to garage was built on the north side of the building and a door connecting it to the house was added. This addition was removed in the early 1970's. The current owners plan to restore the building and are eager to initiate a project to restore the loft house to its 1840's appearance.

1. Forest Products Laboratory Report, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March, 1984

The nomination includes:

ONE Contributing Building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		___ invention		ethnic affiliation (Norweg.)

Specific dates c. 1844¹ **Builder/Architect** Gaute Ingebretson (Builder)¹

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Period of significance: 1844-1909*

SIGNIFICANCE:

Introduction: The Gaute Ingebretson Loft House is being nominated to the National Register as a significant example of a period and method of construction, closely associated with early Norwegian immigration to the state of Wisconsin.

The Gaute Ingebretson Loft House, built circa 1844 (1), is a rare example of a traditional Norwegian folk building tradition brought to Wisconsin frontier by pioneer builders. This medieval nordic building type dates to at least the late 1500's (2), and was used for the storage of food, clothing and valuables, as well as a shelter for humans. Several examples survive in Norwegian outdoor museums including the National Folk Museum in Bygdoy-Oslo.

What stands out as the most distinctive characteristic of this building is its projecting second story loft. This feature, combined with its exterior stairs leading to the second floor, full gable end walls of log construction and dovetailed corner notches reflect important aspects of early Norwegian construction. Loft-type structures are rare and were not commonly built in America (3). The only other example known to exist in Wisconsin is the Lisbakken Stabbar built in Hamburg township of Vernon County and now part of the Norwegian exhibit at Old World Wisconsin.++

"The paragraphs below give a brief summary of Gaute Ingebrigtsen's account. I will add only that he is looked upon as one of the most thoughtful and respectable men in the township.

'Two of my uncles and a brother emigrated in 1839 while I remained at home with my father who was a farmer in the parish of Tinn. But then came letters with good reports from America and my relatives as well as other acquaintances were encouraged to leave. The result was that I and many others from my home community prepared for departure in the spring of 1843. The group numbered about 120. We secured ship accommodations from Skien to LeHavre (France) and from there to New York. The journey continued on to Milwaukee and thence to Muskego where people from Telemark—mostly from Tinn—had founded a settlement four years earlier. I did not like Muskego. The land was low, marshy, and infertile. The newcomers lived in straitened circumstances and much sickness afflicted the settlement. Many of my group died shortly after our arrival. I could by no means feel satisfied with what I saw and heard there.

'But rumors about the fertile soil of Koshkonong had reached even this out-of-the-way place and in August 1843 I came to Dunkirk where I met John Nelson Luraas, Helge Grimsrud and Hans Pedersen Tverberg - all three from Tinn who has settled in this township five or six weeks before my arrival. I had brought along 600 speciedaler from Norway and for \$200 I bought 160 acres of government land near the homesteads of the other men from my native valley. I have lived here ever since.

'Thus by the fall of 1843, four Norwegian families lived within the borders of the township. No serious misfortune struck any of us, everything went its quiet way; and before long we got several other countrymen of ours as neighbors. Pioneer life in those days was difficult and gave rise to many disappointments and privations which are now unknown. But most of us were in our best year so work came easy; and if at first it might

9. Major Bibliographical References

A Chronicler of Immigrant Life: Svein Nilsson's Articles in Billed-Magazin, 1868-1970. Translated and introduced by C.A. Clausen. Northfield, MN: The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1982.
Flom, George T. Norwegian Immigration to the US. Iowa City, IA: Privately Printed, 1909

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Stoughton, WI

Quadrangle scale 1 : 62,500

UTM References

A

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

The site nominated is a rectangular lot 36 feet by 40 feet. It is approximately 130 feet east of Pleasant Hill Road and 3,170 feet south of Highway 51. (see sketch map attached)

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 Sheila Getto, William Tishler, Craig B. Nielsen

organization

date Nov. 1, 1986

street & number 25 Agriculture Hall

telephone 608/263-8973

city or town Madison,

state Wisconsin

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

date 1/27/87

For NPS use only

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

for Shelley Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3-13-87

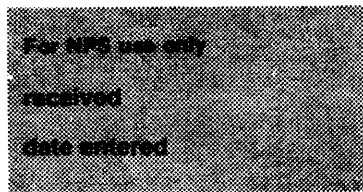
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



Dane County, WI

Continuation sheet Gaute Ingebretson House Item number 8 Page 1

SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.):

happen that our spirits were saddened with longing for our childhood home, our hopes for a better future soon gave us courage and vigor for renewed efforts. Some of the earliest settlers have already laid down their staffs and are now at rest in their graves, while others have left us to seek new homesteads farther west. At present there are 25 Scandinavian farmers in the township, all but two of them Norwegian. Besides the farmers there are a few families who earn their living as laborers. There has always been good friendship and understanding in our neighborhood; no quarrels nor disputes have disturbed us, nor have lawsuits or other legal difficulties ever been heard of among the Norwegians.'

"Gaute Ingebrigtson has also been able to preserve in this country the dependability and sincerity which, at least in earlier ages, are said to have been fundamental characteristics of the Norwegian mountaineers. His face bears the impress of genuine courtesy and helpfulness. Gaute is undoubtedly one of those fortunate human beings who has few if any enemies, but many friends." (4)

Thus, this building is significant because it represents a rare American example of an early Nordic peasant shelter used on rural Norwegian farms for over four hundred years.

1. A Chronicler of Immigrant Life, p. 126
2. Gunnar Bugge, Stav Og Loft I Norge, Oslo: Byggekunst 1969
3. Interview with Professor William H. Tishler, September 5, 1986
4. A Chronicler of Immigrant Life, p. 127

⁺⁺A second example, the c.1860 Anderstuen/Larson loft house in Coon Valley, has been recently identified in Vernon County, WI.

* Period of significance

The property abstract shows that the log, loft-house remained in the Ingebretson family until 1909, passing from Gaute to his daughter, Ingebrit in 1894.

Name CRAIG B. & PATRICIA K. NIELSON

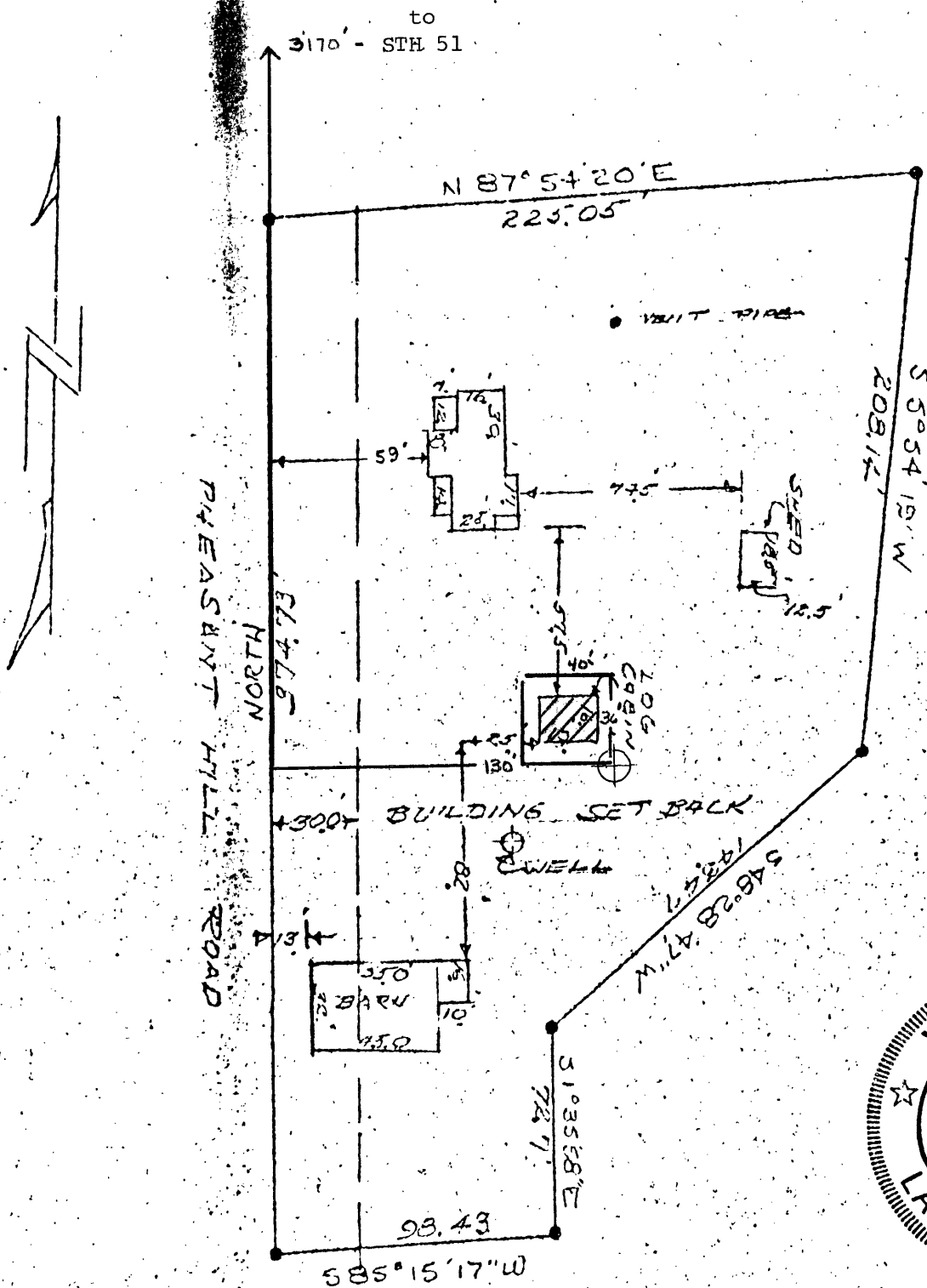
Address 1212 PLEASANT HILL ROAD, STOUGHTON

Description LOT 1, CSM 1755 RECORDED IN VOLUME 7, OF CERTIFIED SURVEYS,

PAGE 143, #1437475.

Map No. 8547
C-13926

1983



SCALE OF MAP - 1 INCH = 600 FEET

This document is a map for the purpose of boundary inspection and

IRON STAKES FOUND •