

 Search

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- HOME
- ABOUT THE MUSEUM
- FOR GROUPS
- TOUR OPERATORS
- FOR MEDIA

## SEE ALSO

- [Bogstad Manor](#)
- [Bygdø Royal Manor](#)
- [Eidsvoll 1814](#)
- [The Ibsen Museum](#)
- [Gjestestuen](#)

[Start](#) / [Exhibits](#) / [Permanent exhibits](#) / [Living in the City](#)

## LIVING IN THE CITY

### - the Brick Building and it's People

Wessels gate runs in an east-west direction through Meyerløkka, from Ullevålsveien to the corner of Langes gate. In 1900, there were 18 occupied properties there, 16 of them built between 1865 and 1875. Ten of the properties were three storeys high and six were four storeys. On average, there were six apartments per building.



The application to build Wessels gate 15 was made in 1865. With three floors and nine apartments, it was one of the largest properties on the street. The builder, the merchant Olaus Johnsen, had bought the site from Thorvald Meyer and Thomas Heftye in 1865 for 1,055 spesidaler and 72 shillings. Master builder Johnsen must have had various groups of residents in mind when he erected the property. The main stairway was intended for tenants with middle class pretensions, the courtyard stairway for more socially modest persons. Johnsen may have shared this view with the Palace architect Linstow who, in 1838, had advocated the phasing out of the suburban districts and providing workers with homes among "People in more fortunate circumstances" so that they could get a sense of "cleanliness, order and household pride".

### A House

A house is petrified time  
Amalgamating and transcending  
The past and the future  
In the inhabited space  
Built in the past  
And remade by generations  
Following each other

An old townhouse  
is a time machine  
Opening doors  
To different rooms  
in the past



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