

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



**1. Name**

historic Roscoe Hersey House  
and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 416 South <sup>4th</sup> Fourth Street not for publication  
city, town Stillwater vicinity of congressional district First  
state Minnesota code 22 county Washington code 163

**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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. James Huntsman  
street & number 416 South Fourth Street  
city, town Stillwater vicinity of state Minnesota 55082

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse  
street & number 14900 West 61st Street  
city, town Stillwater state Minnesota 55082

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1981  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House  
city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

## 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 Eastlake/early Queen Anne style Roscoe Hersey House is an irregular plan 18 room structure with multiple projecting bays and a richly detailed surface treatment. The house is an excellent example of a style made possible by machine-produced decorative woodwork - in this case a St. Croix Valley lumberman's dream in local white pine.

A dominant feature of the house are its gable-roofed two-story bays. There are rectangular bays on the front (east) facade, on the north and south sides, and off the southeast corner. Most have tall, narrow windows, often grouped in threes. Decorative friezes run below the windows. A north-side bay encloses the stairwell and houses an 8' x 12' stained glass window showing a natural scene. Sawn scroll brackets, fluted porch columns, diagonal and vertical side panels, and cutout porch friezes virtually dominated the clapboard siding of the house. The interior is finished in cherry and butternut. The floral and faunal motifs of the stained glass window are carried over in carved woodwork. Built-in buffet, cabinets, and six tiled fireplaces add to the design. A 1926 fire destroyed the attic story of the dwelling. Originally the bays extended another ½-story; several had hip roofs with matching hip dormers. The southeast corner bay was gabled. Its woodwork matched the front porch gable. The south side bay retains a one level bay window, originally topped by a railed porch. The front bay, recessed in the central front porch, originally was a 3½-story tower and belvedere. While reconstruction altered the roof line, from the eaves down the house is virtually unchanged. It remains one of the city's outstanding houses.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1879–1880

**Builder/Architect** George Orff/George Low

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Roscoe Hersey played an important role in the early development of Stillwater's lumber and mercantile development. His house reflects the commercial success of the Hersey-Staples partnership, the strong link between the St. Croix Valley and Maine capital and personalities, and the boom years of Stillwater's lumber years. Roscoe Hersey was the eldest son of Samuel F. Hersey, Isaac Staples financial partner. Samuel Hersey stayed in Bangor, Maine, while Staples set up the firm of Hersey, Staples and Company in Stillwater in 1851. Roscoe Hersey moved to Minnesota in 1867, after serving in the Civil War at the age of 26 to look after his family's interest in Minnesota business. He took charge of the Lake City branch of the Hersey, Staples and Co. In 1872 he moved to Stillwater and entered the firm of Hersey, Bean and Brown, a land, lumber, merchandise firm. In 1878 he was elected and served one term as a state senator. Hersey built the house in 1879–1880 and occupied it for seven years. It was then sold to John G. Nelson in 1887, another lumberman, who sold it in 1900 to James E. McGrath, also a pioneer St. Croix Valley lumberman.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Easton, Augustus B., ed. History of the Saint Croix Valley. 2 vols. Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1909. Washington County, vol. 1, pp. 207-484.  
 Neill, Edward D. History of Washington County and the St. Croix Valley. Minneapolis. North Star Publishing Co., 1881.  
 Stillwater, Minnesota: The Metropolis of the St. Croix Valley. St. Paul. Railway Pub. Co., 1903.  
 Stillwater Trades Review. Stillwater. Easton and Masterman, Publishers. January. 1898.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1 acre  
 Quadrangle name Stillwater, Minn-Wis. Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 2, 3, 4, and N. 40' of Lot 5,  
 Block 37, Original town

### 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 Thomas Harvey, Research Historian  
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date March 1981  
 street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-9072  
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/5/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Alma Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>2/19/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	