

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Williams, Spafford, Hotel (Barnes House) COUNTY: Houston  
 CURRENT NAME: Waters Hotel CITY/TWP.: Caledonia City  
 LEGAL DESC.: Lot 1, block 6, ADDRESS: East Main at North  
 Original Plat, Caledonia City Marshall northwest corner

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>  X  </u>	Excellent <u>      </u>	Local <u>  X  </u>	Primary <u>  Commerce  </u>
Structure <u>      </u>	Good <u>      X  </u>	State <u>      </u>	Secondary <u>  Architecture  </u>
Object <u>      </u>	Fair <u>      X  </u>	National <u>      </u>	Others <u>      </u>
District <u>      </u>	Deteriorated <u>      </u>		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes   X   No        Restricted   X   PRESENT USE:  
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes   X   No        Hotel, restaurant,  
 OCCUPIED: Yes   X   No        and bar

DATE CONSTRUCTED: c1870s ORIGINAL USE: Hotel  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Unknown ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: James J. & Anna Mae Waters 137 East Main Caledonia, MN	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>  X  </u>
	UTM REFERENCE:

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: N/A	Caledonia, Minn. Quad.
FORM PREPARED BY: Robert M. Frame III, Ph.D.	15 / 621320 / 4832210
DATE: June 2, 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

The Williams Hotel is located in the downtown business district of Caledonia and occupies the full width of one corner lot. It consists of a rectangular two-story brick hotel building, approximately 60 x 30 feet, with cross gable roof. An awning roof with large decorative brackets extends across the first story level of the front facade. Small brackets are located along all of the eaves, with decorative fretwork in the gables. Fenestration consists of one-over-one double-hung sash in symmetrically located rectangular openings with stone sills and lintels. Some first story openings have been altered with infill. Window openings in the north (rear) facade have segmental arches. The interior of this structure once included an office, parlor, and salesmen's sample room, with hotel rooms on the floor above. Extending about 60 feet to the rear along North Marshall is a two-story, gable-roofed, wood frame addition which originally housed a dining room and kitchen. There are smaller wood frame additions to this larger unit.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Williams Hotel is significant as a representative of the important early commercial activity of Caledonia and as a well-preserved local example of commercial architecture with Victorian details. The hotel was built in the early 1870s prior to the 1879 arrival of the railroad in Caledonia, one of the earliest of at least four hotels built in Caledonia before 1880. It was known as the Barnes House when it was purchased by Spafford Williams in 1874, and soon became known as the Williams Hotel, a name which continued until at least the 1920s. The large room which originally provided for the display of salesmen's samples is indicative of the clientele served by the Williams Hotel. It remains in use today as a restaurant and bar.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

History of Houston County. 1882. Pp. 364, 375.