

ALEXANDER COOK House (600 E. North Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: Erected in 1865, the Cook house is unusual in that its design draws from Gothic Revival sources rather than the Greek Revival style which was still employed for residential designs into the late 1860's in Waukesha. The massive random ashlar walls of the Cook house are pierced by narrow windows, which are capped by pointed arches of smooth stone. The facade includes a variety of window and lintel shapes (many of the original windows have been replaced with aluminum sash) which also differentiate the interior floor levels. The house rests on a raised basement which features simple rectangular openings with heavy stone lintels. The entrance, approached by a flight of stairs and covered by a frame porch, is balanced by two pointed arch windows. Aligned with this arrangement at the attic level is a central pointed arch window and two bullseye windows. Above this a wide stone frieze follows the rake of the gable roof which flares at the eave line. A number of additions, stone and frame are appended to the structure on the east. The Alexander Cook house is a rare example of Gothic Revival residential design in Waukesha. Unfortunately, additions and remodelings have resulted in a serious loss of architectural integrity which precludes its nomination as architecturally significant.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

Alexander Cook came to Waukesha in 1845 and remained to his death as a practicing attorney. He was appointed first District Attorney of Waukesha County in 1846 and Cook died in 1897. The home remains as a reminder of the life and career of this early community leader. He was also elected District Attorney for two year terms in 1850, 1864, 1866, 1871, 1877, and 1890. He also served eight terms as Justice of the Peace. (D) The Alexander Cook house is significant for its association with the life of one of the early members of the legal profession in Waukesha County and its first District Attorney. It is the only building remaining in the City which can be associated with Cook. The period of significance encompasses the years he lived in the house from its construction in 1865 to his death in 1897.

ADDENDUM

Legal Description: Pt Lot 2 Blk W North West Add Pt NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 3 T6N R19E
Com NW line North St 4' SW of E cor; N 55° S 150';
S 40° 30'; S 55° E 150' to NW li North; N 44° 30' E on North 103' to beg.