

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 9 1984  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Williamson/Russell/Rahilly House  
and or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 304 Oak Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Lake City N/A vicinity of  
state Minnesota code 22 county Wabasha code 157

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Gary and Dorene Fechtmeyer  
street & number 3620 E. Sunrise Drive  
city, town Minnetonka N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55343

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Wabasha County Courthouse  
street & number 100 Main Street West  
city, town Wabasha state Minnesota 55981

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes N/A no  
date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local  
depository for survey records N/A  
city, town N/A state N/A

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## 7. Description

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<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Williamson/Russell/Rahilly House at 304 Oak Street sits on the southwest corner of Marion Street and South Oak Street on a 135 x 150' corner lot. The original house, a two story frame Greek Revival style, was built by carpenter John Stout for Harvey Williamson sometime after 1868 on the foundation of a previous house which had burned down that year.

The Greek Revival Williamson House has a symmetrical facade, trabeated front door, flanked by engaged pilasters, cornice moldings over two 6 over 6 double-hung windows on each story flanking the front entry, a side gabled roof with returned eaves over a plain wooden frieze. Exterior walls are sheathed in 3' wooden lap siding with plain wooden cornerboards. A historic photograph shows a shallow square open porch partially stretching across the front topped with a low balustrade and railing. A similar smaller porch was located at the side door on the northwest (Marion St.) side of the house. During Williamson's tenure (ca. 1868-1882), servants quarters were said to have occupied the third floor attic space.

In 1901 the house was bought by Patrick Henry Rahilly. In 1910 it was remodelled to its present Classical Revival appearance. While the Greek Revival massing, proportions, and details are intact, Rahilly added a large two story wooden Beaux Arts portico on the front facade, continuing the wooden frieze under a fully pedimented wooden gable supported by four two story fluted Roman Ionic columns. Between the central columns over the front entry is a small balcony decorated with a wrought iron balustrade in Star-of-the-North pattern said to have been taken from Governor Ramsey's home in St. Paul. The portico is surrounded by a par terre which extends beyond the side of the house across the front facade. To the southeast side of the house was added a one story flat-roofed screened summer porch. The rear of this porch was subsequently enclosed to accommodate a bathroom. To the northwest side of the house, Rahilly added a porte cochere over a semi-circular drive off the Marion Street side.

The interior of the house combines the original arrangement and decorative features with those added by Rahilly in 1910. Ceilings are 10½' high with plaster relief work. Of five fireplaces in the house, four are white Italian marble, while the fifth is blue African marble decorated with gold leaf. Several different woods are used, including six mahogany French doors, walnut on the stairway banister with spindle balusters, and quarter-sawn oak floors.

(see continuation sheet)

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Williamson/Russell/Rahilly House, Lake City, MN, Winona Co.



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 1

Glass in the house includes clear English glass combined with stained French blown glass around the side and front door entries, and two stained glass water lily patterned windows in the first floor bathroom. The dining room includes leaded glass inset in the doors of the built-in buffet and beveled leaded glass in the three dining room windows in the rear bay, all dating from 1910. There are three chandeliers with four matching brass wall fixtures said to have come from the Weyerhaeuser family home in St. Paul. A Steuben light fixture is located in the main entry, and two aurine Tiffany fixtures in the upstairs hallway.

The rear of the house on the first floor was extended by Rahilly to accommodate a large bay with three windows at the rear of the dining room and one story extension of the kitchen, both in keeping with the Classical Revival remodelling done in 1910 by Rahilly. There have been no major alterations to the house in the past 70 years, and the over-all integrity and quality of the house is excellent.

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

**Specific dates** 1868 & 1910      **Builder/Architect** ~~XXXXXXXX~~ John Stout (1868)  
 Charles A. Koch (1910)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Williamson/Russell/Rahilly House is regarded as "one of the finest examples of Greek Revival Architecture in Minnesota"<sup>1</sup>. As described in Section 7 herein, the home was originally constructed in 1868 in the Greek Revival Architectural style and was extensively remodeled in 1910 to reflect the classic Neo-Classical Revival Architectural style. It has remained substantially unaltered for the past 70 years as a continuing example of elegant, turn-of-the-century architecture in Minnesota. The Home presents unique architectural enhancements including the small wrought iron balcony centered between the central columns designed in the Star-of-the-North pattern and the columned "porte cochere" over the side entrance. Its architectural significance today can be appreciated both as a visual tribute to the historic prominence of its former owners and as a reflection of the classic elegance present in early Minnesota history.

<sup>1</sup>"Daily Republic Eagle", November 30, 1968

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Lake City, Minn.-Wisc.

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UTM References

A 

1	5	5	5	8	6	0	10	4	19	2	1	5	10	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 and 2, and NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Lot 3, Block 45, Original Townsite

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorene and Gary Fechtmeyer

organization N/A

date 9/22/83

street & number 3620 East Sunrise Drive

telephone (612) 933-5384

city or town Minnetonka

state Minnesota 55343

# 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

*Russell W. Fridley*

title Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/30/84

For NPS use only

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

*for Alloues Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/8/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Williamson/Russell/Rahilly House  
Addendum to Section 8 of Nomination Form

A History of Ownership

The first actual settler to Lake City, Jacob Boody, arrived in the Fall of 1853.<sup>1</sup> Two years later, Samuel Doughty, a blacksmith and one of the three original founders of Lake City, built his home at what is now 304 South Oak Street.

In 1857, Mr. Doughty sold his home to Harvey Williamson, the first postmaster of Lake City. The home was destroyed by fire in 1868 and Mr. Williamson commissioned John Stout to rebuild the home over its original basement foundation. Mr. Stout was a man of considerable skill who built the first brick building in Lake City.<sup>2</sup> The new Williamson home was constructed as a large Greek Revival home with five fireplaces and, although renovated later by Patrick Rahilly, that basic structure stands today.

In 1882, the Williamsons sold the home to the editor of the "Graphic-Sentinel", Morris C. Russell. Mr. Russell had been the youngest man to enter and settle in the new Minnesota Territory, arriving in St. Paul in 1854 at the age of fourteen. He arrived on the Hamburg steamer, alone and without parent or guardian, escaping cholera which killed several hundred fellow passengers. His memoirs include the time he was a volunteer scout for General Sibley during the Sioux uprising of the 1860's in the Minnesota Valley. Mr. Russell came to Lake City to reside in approximately 1881 when he started the "Graph-Sentinel", the oldest newspaper in Lake City.<sup>3</sup>

In 1883, Mr. Russell sold the home to the L. H. Buck family who owned the general store in Lake City.

In 1901, Jennie Mae Buck sold the home to Minnesota pioneer and legislator, Patrick Henry Rahilly. Mr. Rahilly came to the Lake City area in 1868 when he acquired a quarter-section of land in Mount Pleasant Township. In 1874, the public prevailed upon him to accept a nomination to the state legislature and he was elected by a "flattering majority".<sup>4</sup> He was thereafter elected three times to the same position and once to the state Senate.

In 1910, Mr. Rahilly contracted with Charles A. Koch to renovate the house to its present classic-Greek Revival style. Mr. Koch, a man who served Lake City in an architect's capacity, but with no formal degree, was, since 1882, a partner in H. A. Young and Company, a Lake City dry goods and clothing store established in 1865. Mr. Koch added four 30-foot high Corinthian columns to its facade, entirely framing the iron balcony rail on the second floor which was taken from Governor Ramsey's St. Paul home.

After Mr. Rahilly's death in the home on January 12, 1931, at the age of 98 years, the mansion remained in the Rahilly family, but was used as a summer house. In 1963 it was sold to George W. Enz, a baritone singer of the big band era with the Zigfield Follies. He was one of the California Varsity Eight when Roger Pryor and his wife, Ann Southern, became involved in Hollywood films. Enz added to the "Rahilly House" seven pieces of leaded-crystal, pendant chandeliers and wall side lights which he had obtained from the Weyerhaeuser estate in St. Paul. Since 1970, ownership of the house has passed to three separate parties, each of which held it only for short periods until its latest sale in September 1983.

- 1) Lake City, Minnesota, Printing Design, Inc., Lake City, MN (a reproduction of a 1897 book sponsored by H. A. Young & Co. and Jewell Nursery), pg. 3.
- 2) History of Wabasha County, Chicago, IL: H. H. Hill and Co., 1884.
- 3) Lake City, Minnesota, pg. 56.
- 4) History of Wabasha County, pg. 1,287.

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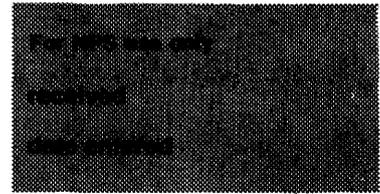
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Williamson/Russell/Rahilly House

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2



Bibliography:

"Daily Republican Eagle", November 30, 1968.

Gebhard, David and Martenson, Tom. A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota,  
University of Minnesota Press, 1977.

History of Wabasha County, Curtis-Wedge, 1920.

Professional Consultant: Roberts, Norene A., Ph.D., Historical geography and  
architectural history, University of Minnesota, 1978 (Architectural state-  
ment set forth in Part 7, Description)