

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DEC 13 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See the instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stout, James C. and Agnes M., House
other names/site number Stout Cottage

2. Location

street & number 310 South Oak Street not for publication N/A
city, town Lake City vicinity N/A
state Minnesota code MN county Wabasha code 157 zip code 55041

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Nina M. Archabal 11/29/88
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date
Minnesota Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 1/13/89

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestonewalls wood

roof asphaltother wood porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Stout House is a one-and-a-half story center-gabled Gothic Revival cottage framed in wood and resting on a native limestone foundation. An elaborate ogee-cased window tryptich dominates the forward gable; a similar dyptich pierces a side gable to the northwest, facing the Rahilly property (NRHP). These windows and their steep gables establish the Gothic character of the design.

The walls are sheathed in narrow clapboard bounded by similarly thin corner and frieze boards. A front porch wraps the corners, enclosing the entrant angles of the plan. This porch also is composed of thin members. Its square piers are chamfered and carry flared capitals, from which the abacuses flow without break into an unadorned lintel. A low balustrade of turned spindles encloses the base. The cumulative effect of these finely-scaled wooden components is of great delicacy. This effect was once enhanced by gable finials and pendants still present in the 1970's; whether the gables also carried the viniform vergeboards common to Gothic Revival cottages in the state is unknown.

From the outset, the plan of the Stout House was a composite of several wings developing away from the street. The main building segment was built on a T with a sidehall plan and remains virtually unaltered. The primary entrance is at the northwest end of the street facade, with a secondary door leading into the southeast wing of the T. Immediately behind the T is a one-story wing remodeled in the 1920's to include a faceted bay. A third and final wing at the rear of the property appears wholly modern, though it matches the first published footprint of the building in the 1891 Sanborn Insurance Atlas. A garage was affixed to this rear wing in the 1910's, replacing a much larger shed at the rear of the property. The southwest corner of the house and its connection to the garage have undergone repeated alterations since that time. None of these alterations have significantly affected the three exposed elevations of the main building segment, which carries all of the Gothic Revival character in the design.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1872

Significant Dates

1872

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tupper and Collins/Builders

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Stout House is an outstanding Minnesota example of the Gothic Revival cottage popularized by Alexander Jackson Downing and others in the two decades before the Civil War. The steep roof pitches, broad veranda, and fanciful window treatments all recall pattern book rebellions against the severity of the Greek Revival antecedents. The ogee-cased windows centered within the two gables are among the most elaborate in the state, and mark a late development of the style. Delicately shaped porch piers and balusters also mark a departure from Downing, though they retain his generally ignored sense of simplicity.

The Stout House fits clearly into the Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction context developed by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. It was the third known Lake City residence of James Stout, a New Englander of Irish stock who came to the city during its first decade and quickly became an important developer of its first businesses and residential neighborhoods. Stout built the first brick commercial block in town and developed much of the area in which his houses were located. The building of his Gothic Revival cottage was coincident with the completion of the CMSP¹ rail line through Lake City, and dramatically illustrates the clean break Lake City builders were making from the tenacious Greek Revival tradition. The older style had hung on through the 1860's. As a result, the influence of Downing and other eastern anti-classicists arrived late, and was immediately mixed with the mid-Victorian penchant for historical detail. The Stout House thus exemplifies the quick catch-up with eastern taste that often coincided with the birth of the railroad era. Its builders, the local contractors Tupper and Collins, must have had some design source more current than Downing, for the contour and crotcheting of the ogive window surrounds derives quite specifically from the English Tudor models that Downing tended to vernacularize.

Placing the Stout House in a statewide architectural context is difficult both because of the rarity of the Cottage Gothic style in Minnesota and because of the absence of any consistent pattern in response to the larger

See continuation sheet

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Stout, James C. House, Lake City, Wabasha Co., MN

Section number 8 Page 1

movement of which the style was a part. Psychologically, the occurrence of Gothic Revival cottages in fledgling Minnesota cities was a bit of an anachronism; for first generation townspeople were justifiably more concerned with the establishment of urban character than they were with Downing's passion for pastoral settings and an architectural style with a rural flavor. Still-water alone produced a concentration of Gothic cottages, but the city enjoys an exceptionally hilly terrain whose difficulties for development dictated a retention of picturesque wooded lots.² Other Gothic cottages in the state, like the Bunnell House in Homer (1858, NRHP) and the B. O. Cutter House in Minneapolis (1856, NRHP) were more isolated stylistically from their neighbors. In Lake City itself, a number of small houses from the 1860's and 1870's display evidence of Downing or Alexander Jackson Davis' influence in the frequent use of pointed-arch drip caps over paired windows and the abundance of simple verandas placed and detailed in the fashion of Downing's 1842 "suburban cottage." The Stout House stands apart from these in the sophistication of its detailing and its conspicuous departure from earlier Cottage Gothic norms established by Downing, Davis and their many pattern book copyists and followers. The profusion of steeply pitched gables is reduced to one on each of the principal facades, and these stretch the full width of the second story. The veranda also stretches the full width of the street facade, and wraps both corners. The house thus shows a renewed interest in symmetry and simplification of form that, while it does not appreciably compromise the pictorialism of the Cottage Gothic style, indicates a more modern development.³ The Stout House is both the last important Gothic cottage in Minnesota and a signpost to the late Victorian developments that followed it.

¹ Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad

² Half a dozen of these early houses remain, the most important being the Henry Nichols House of 1857 and the Rose Spencer House of 1871. Curiously, the Spencer House is as close in plan and detail to the 1840's plan books of Downing and Davis as is its predecessor.

³ A number of Gothicizing designs for small houses were built into the turn of the century, most notably the R. M. Hunter House in Duluth of 1894. But these display porch treatments, masonry and wood detailing, and floor plans that ally them more closely with the beginnings of the Craftsman movement in America than to the earlier Picturesque tradition initiated by Downing and his peers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Wabasha County ... (Chicago: H. H. Hill and Co., 1884)

Lake City Leader, January 10, 1873.

Lake City, 1891 (New York: Sanborn Map Co.)

Lake City Leader, October 25, 1872.

Wabasha County assessor's records for Lake City, 1862-1930.

Lake City Business Directory and Almanac for 1873 (Lake City: Leader Printing Co.).

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Lake City Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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5	5	8	4	4	0
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4	9	2	1	4	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the North 30 feet of northwesterly 45 feet of lot 7 and north 30 feet of east 1/2 of lot 8 block 45; also the southeast 3/4 of lot 3 and northeast 3/4 of lot 4 block 45, Lake City

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Clifford Larson
organization N/A date July 8, 1987
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city or town St. Paul state Minnesota zip code 55108