

WT07-16, Continued

"On winter nights, the lights in the Harlings' windows drew me like the painted glass. Inside that warm, roomy house there was colour, too. After supper I used to catch up my cap, stick my hands in my pockets, and dive through the willow hedge as if witches were after me. Of course, if Mr. Harling was at home, if his shadow stood out on the blind of the west room, I did not go in, but turned and walked home by the long way, through the street, wondering what book I should read as I sat down with the two old people." (My Ántonia, pp. 174-175).

Architecturally the Miner house is one of the finest, large historic houses in Red Cloud . Although a more simplified, vernacular interpretation of the Italianate style, the house is the most salient example of the style in Red Cloud. It may have been the first square-type dwelling constructed in town (see Koch: 1881), a type which became increasingly popular in Red Cloud during the latter years of the nineteenth century.

10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

ACREAGE: Less than one acre
UTM COORDINATE: 14/E540750/N4437380

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-2 and north 20 feet of lot 3, block 21, Original Town of Red Cloud, Webster County, Nebraska.

WT07-18

- 1. NAME: Perkins-Wiener house
 - 2. LOCATION: 238 No. Seward
 - 4. OWNER: Rosaline Spiegle
- ADDRESS: 238 No. Seward, Red Cloud, Nebraska 68970

82-4923

7. DESCRIPTION: The Perkins-Wiener house, a one-and-one-half story gable-fronted house, was moved from its original site about fifty feet north of the present site, sometime after 1900. The house was built by Edward Perkins in 1882-83 and is a vernacular product, utilizing an early Greek Revival form with some Gothic Revival details, most notably in the kingpost motif of the front gable. A later, Neo-Classically derived porch spans the front facade.

The house was never owned by the Wiener family but they did occupy the house for a year and a half while the Cather's lived in their first house, just across the alley to the east. The Wiener's occupied apartment space above commercial stores for most of their Red Cloud stay. They did, however, move into the Ed Perkins house in May of 1884 while their new apartment was being prepared. They vacated the Perkins house in October of 1885.

8. SIGNIFICANCE: The house occupied by the Wiener's is significant to the major theme of this nomination. Cather's introduction to French literature came about as a result of her friendship with her neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wiener, a Jewish couple who spoke both German and French.

WT07-18, Continued

In her short story, "Old Mrs. Harris", Cather describes the Wiener house as the home of the Rosen's.

"Mrs. David Rosen, cross-stitch in hand, sat looking out of the window across her own green lawn to the ragged, sunburned back yard of her neighbours on the right. Occasionally she glanced anxiously over her shoulder toward her shining kitchen, with a black and white linoleum floor in big squares, like a marble pavement." ("Old Mrs. Harris", Obscure Destinies, p. 75).

"Of course no other house in Skyline was in the least like Mrs. Rosen's; it was the nearest thing to an art gallery and a museum that the Templetons had ever seen. All the rooms were carpeted alike (that was very unusual), with a soft velvet carpet, little blue and rose flowers scattered on a rose-grey ground. The deep chairs were upholstered in dark blue velvet. The walls were hung with engravings in pale gold frames: some of Raphael's "Hours," a large soft engraving of a castle on the Rhine, and another of cypress trees about a Roman ruin, under a full moon. There were a number of water-colour sketches, made in Italy by Mr. Rosen himself when he was a boy." ("Old Mrs. Harris", Obscure Destinies, p. 103).

10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Acreage: Less than one acre
UTM Coordinate: 14/E540795/N4437355

Verbal Boundary Description: This property is located on lots 20-21, block 24, Original Town.

WT07-26

NHL not FR

1. NAME: Magee-Cather house
"Willa Cather Childhood home"
2. LOCATION: 245 Cedar Street, Red Cloud
4. OWNER: State of Nebraska—Historical Society
ADDRESS: 1500 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
7. DESCRIPTION: The Willa Cather childhood home, a National Historic Landmark,¹⁸ is a modest frame structure, one-and-one-half stories in height with a gabled roof. As built ca. 1879, the dwelling is of vernacular Greek Revival upright form with an asymmetrical three-bay facade. The frontal, Victorian porch probably dates from the 1880's. The site is surrounded by a white picket fence (photo #22).
8. SIGNIFICANCE: The house has been listed as a National Historic Landmark in the thematic area of Literature, Drama and Music. The site is significant to the major theme of this nomination, that is as a setting significant to Cather's writings and because of significant associations with her personal life. Cather lived in this house from c. 1884 to 1890.