

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 15 1982

HISTORIC NAME: Mortimer Webster House

COUNTY: Washington

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Stillwater

LEGAL DESC.: Lot 29, Block 42

ADDRESS:

Original Town

435 South Broadway

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No X Restricted ___
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No ___

PRESENT USE: residence

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1865-1866

ORIGINAL USE: residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Unknown

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Eugene D. Lammers
 435 South Broadway
 Stillwater, MN 55082

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: N/A

UTM REFERENCE:
 Stillwater, Minn-Wis. 7.5
 15 / 515420 / 4988660

FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey

DATE: 3/81

DESCRIPTION: The Mortimer Webster House sits on a high bluff above the south end of Stillwater's commercial district. The side hall plan Italianate house was built as a two-story cube with a low hip roof and dominant central belvedere. The belvedere has multi-paned arched windows surmounted by an arched roofline. Small, simple paired brackets support the roof of the belvedere, and m-dillion blocks highlight the feature. Along the main roof line the heavy cornice has block brackets set into a geometrical frieze. The front facade is a decorative focus; side walls have only simple windows asymmetrically placed. Along the second level of the front three rectangular windows have projecting label surrounds, with a pattern both above and below the window openings. On the first level, two windows and the side-hall door show the same treatment. The doorway has mullioned side panels and transom. Exterior walls have pine lap siding scored vertically to imitate stone blocks. The cubical house originally had porches extending across both the front and rear facades. The front porch has been replaced by a portico over the door. At the rear, a one-story wing was added just after 1900.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Mortimer Webster House, significant as one of the best expressions of Italianate architecture in Stillwater, was built in 1865-66 by a settler originally from Owego, New York. The Italianate style, popular into the 1880s, was in common use in New York when Webster left there in 1856. With his brother, Mortimer established a painting business that operated until 1860. Webster then entered the livery and real estate businesses. Just as he was building his house in 1866, he shifted his entire attention to real estate. In 1869 he laid out Webster's First Addition to the City of Stillwater, and the next year platted five acres as Webster's Second Addition. In 1881 Webster owned a half-interest in five hundred lots adjoining south Stillwater, as well as land and buildings in Fargo, Dakota Territory. His success in the shift from painting to real estate was reflected in his substantial dwelling.