

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Williams, C.E., House

COUNTY: Kanabec

80002083

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Mora

LEGAL DESC.: Original Townsite of Mora
Block 2
South half of lots 5 and 6

ADDRESS: 206 E. Maple Avenue

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

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

PRESENT USE:
Residence

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1902

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

ORIGINAL OWNER: Charles Serline

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Dr. and Mrs. Ronald K. Menk
206 E. Maple Avenue
Mora, MN 55051

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Kanabec County Historical Society
Mora, Minnesota 55051

UTM REFERENCE:
Mora North Quad. 7.5
15 / 477090 / 5080320

FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet
DATE: February 1980

DESCRIPTION:

The C.E. Williams House occupies a spacious double corner lot on Maple Avenue immediately northeast of Mora's central business district. Maple Avenue, on the south shore of Lake Mora, was an early "status address" in Mora. The Williams House is the most distinctive of the residences on the avenue; most have been substantially altered.

The two and one-half story frame Queen Anne residence rests on a brick foundation. It is irregular in plan; its roof is broken by intersecting gable roofs on the southeast corner, a shed dormer on the north side, and a two story protruding bay and polygonal turret capped by a six sided conical roof on the west side. Two brick chimneys pierce the roof line. A one and one-half story gable-roofed section adjoins the rear of the house. Barge-boards adorn the two main gables, while the principle facade gable is accented with fish-scale shingles. A wrap-around porch added in 1909 features Doric columns; the original turned balustrade has been removed and the porch is enclosed with screening. The narrow clapboard siding is painted yellow with white trim.

Windows are predominantly double hung with one over one lights. Five six-light pivoted windows are located in the turret and a fanlight is situated in the front gable.

The interior remains virtually unaltered with the exception of the kitchen. The most outstanding features are the original woodwork, including a formal staircase, and a fireplace with tile facing and outer hearth and a decorative wood mantel.

A two story gable-roofed frame carriage house with a single story addition is located on the property to the rear of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The C.E. Williams House is significant for its association with one of Mora's long time civic leaders and as one of the county's most distinctive residences. Charles Serline, a prominent local figure and politician, built the house in Mora's fashionable residential district on the south shore of Lake Mora in 1902. The house, however, is primarily associated with C.E. Williams, who purchased the property in 1909 and resided in the house until his death in 1951 at the age of 92. Williams, a native of Kentucky, arrived in the community in April 1883, a mere four months after its platting. He labored as a lumberjack and school teacher before establishing himself as a successful merchant and businessman and a prominent banker. Williams also served his community and county in several public capacities -- county commissioner, village mayor, county sheriff, and secretary of the board of education for thirty years. The house's Queen Anne design features distinguish it among the housing stock of Kanabec County. It has been well preserved and retains significant design integrity.

JUL 9 1980

Williams, C.E., House

Mora, Minnesota
Kanabec County

Bibliography:

Kanabec County Times. June 28, 1934; November 4, 1937; April 12, 1951.

Williams, Maude. Letter to Frank Ziegler of May 8, 1975. (In Minnesota SHPO files.)

Ziegler, Frank. "KEN-Ā-BIG": The Story of Kanabec County. Mora: B & W Printers, 1977.