

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

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

For NPS use only  
received FEB 21 1986  
date entered MAR 20 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic H. A. Paine House

and/or common Hiler Residence

**2. Location**

street & number 609 W. Fountain Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Albert Lea N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Freeborn code 047

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Elsie Hiler

street & number 609 W. Fountain Street

city, town Albert Lea N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota 56007

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds - Freeborn County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Albert Lea

state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date           N/A          

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

The three-story H. A. Paine house faces north at 216 Fountain Street in Albert Lea just south of Fountain Lake itself.

As a textbook example of the Queen Anne style, the house has irregular massing, a complicated roof with projecting gables at four levels, and employs the use of a variety of materials. An eight-sided tower on the northeast front facade begins at the top of the first story and projects above the roof-line. This tower is plaster and half-timbered at the second story and wood-panelled at the third story. The tower roof is shaped to a point in a eight-sided cone. The foundation, caps on the front portico and east porch piers, and first story window sills are rusticated cream-colored sandstone. The walls up to the top of the first story are covered in a hard red face brick with a butter joint. First story window heads are segmented brick with jack arches. The second story and gable ends are wood and plaster half-timbering. Gable ends on the east side porch and upper gable are half-timbered in a herring-bone pattern.

The house displays unusual care in design and detail. Barge boards at gable ends are wide and, on the front gable, decorated with jig-saw designs. Bargeboards on the gabled front portico are decorated with a quatrefoil design. The open porch on the east side of the house has grouped heavy Eastlake-style turned porch columns sitting atop brick piers with stone caps. A broad band of open spool work decorates the transom area under the porch eaves. The porch pattern is repeated in the front gabled portico surrounding the front door. Projecting eaves at the top of the second story are bracketted and the projection of the eaves forms pent roofs on the multi-leveled gables. The front-facade gable windows on the third story are 12-over-12 double-hung. On the second story windows are 12-over-1. The shorter gabled projection on the west side of the house contains the stairway to the second floor. The large window on the stairway landing is stained glass with a fleur-de-lis pattern as are the west side dining room windows on the first floor. Front doors are golden oak and panelled.

The house is in virtually original condition. The front stoop is a replacement from years ago and has brick soldier course risers. A shallow pent-roof porch at the rear of the house, sheathed in clapboards is unnoticeable, but probably was not original to the house. The Queen Anne chimney cap was removed as well as the chimney pots when the chimney was repaired some time ago. It has lost its Queen Anne configuration in the process, but sits toward the back of the house. The interior of the house displays the same fine craftsmanship as the exterior and is in virtually original condition. The owner lives on the first floor and rents the upstairs.

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H.A. Paine House

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Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number 7

Page 1

The H.A. Paine House nomination contains  
1 contributing building.

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

**Specific dates** 1898 **Builder/Architect** Contractor probably H. A. Paine

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The H. A. Paine house is a masterpiece and a perfect example of the Queen Anne style. In the quality of its design and craftsmanship it is on a par with the Shipman-Greve house in St. Paul on Summit Avenue. These two houses are significant on a state level as outstanding examples of the pure Anglo-American Shavian origins of the style. It is a textbook example of the Queen Anne as originally conceived by Richard Norman Shaw and first executed in the United States in Newport's Watts-Sherman house of 1874 by Henry Hobson Richardson. Like the Shipman-Greve house, however, the architect of the Paine house is unknown and little is known about its owner, H. A. Paine, an Albert Lea building contractor.

The Queen Anne style originated in England with the British architect, Richard Norman Shaw, who designed rambling mansions resembling the 17th century manor houses of the aristocracy. Americans first saw the style in the British pavillion at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876, and the style took the country by storm. Richardson had designed the Watts-Sherman house in Newport, Rhode Island only 2 years before and created a stir in architectural circles, but the Exposition popularized the style. The Paine house is a direct descendant of the Watts Sherman house. In the Shavian mode, the Queen Anne had multi-level roofs, irregular projecting masses, stained glass, small-paned windows, and different kinds of materials, in stone, brick, shingle, and half-timbering.

Virtually nothing is known about Paine. He does not appear in the vital statistics of Freeborn County, suggesting that he was born and died elsewhere. The source for information that Paine died on July 19, 1916 could not be tracked through the Clerk of the Court in Albert Lea. An early photograph owned by the Freeborn County Historical Society taken of the Paine house in 1899 shows the rich use of several contrasting colors to the exterior to set off the structure's fine detail and varied woodwork. On the back of this photo is the notation that Paine built the house in 1898 for a cost of between \$6,000-\$8,000, a handsome sum for a relatively small structure and a price that suggests the quality of the craftsmanship. One clipping from the Enterprise Time of 1898 at the county museum notes that Paine was working on refurbishing the storefront of the Skinner Mercantile and D. Hurd & Co. building in Albert Lea in 1898. According to the the present owner, Mrs. Elsie Hiler, who has lived in the house since the 1940s, Paine considered Albert Lea his home and once ran for mayor unsuccessfully. He was so upset at his loss that he left Albert Lea and moved to the vicinity of Gary, Indiana, where he made a fortune and lived out his years. Mrs. Hiler was told that Paine built one of the theaters in Albert Lea, as well as the Albert Lea Hotel.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal Interview, Mrs. Elsie Hiler, owner.

H. A. Paine file and clipping from the 1898 Enterprise Time, Freeborn County Historical Society.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Albert Lea West, Minn. 1982

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 469724 4833010  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification

West 98 feet of Lct 4, West Albert Lea Addition to the City of Albert Lea

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 Dr. Norene A. Roberts, President

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date July 18, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X 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*

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/13/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 3/20/86

*Joyce M. McPherson*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration