

**WALTER WILLIAMSON HOUSE (circa 1890)
1807 JERSEY**

This Shingle Style home was designed by the architect Frederick W. Clarke. The Shingle Style contemporaneous, but less popular than Queen Anne, was publicized in architectural magazines and was part of the whole picturesque movement that swept the country during this period. It did not gain the vernacular in the Midwest, but remained almost exclusively a high fashion architect's style. As such, it is highly under-represented in the Midwest. Characteristics of the style are wall cladding and roofing of continuous wood shingles, shingled walls without interruption at corners (no cornerboards) asymmetrical façade, cross gable and multi-level eaves and strips of three or more windows. The Williamson House is significant as an example of the Shingle Style.

The entire Williamson House is covered in a continuous skin of shingles that wraps around the corners uninterrupted and is broken only by the cut away porch, bands of windows and bays embraced by the uniform veneer. It is a two and a half story cross gable with a dominant broad gable with projection under eave and a recess below cut into the hipped portion of the roof. The cornice extends into gables and is carried by small brackets. The front porch has shingles supports, a blind arch over the entrance and an eave line that is carried across the front façade, strengthening horizontal continuity.

The interior of the home features a variety of woods, each lending its own texture and definition to rooms. Maple, butternut and oak are used extensively. The entry hall features lovely displays of wood ornamentation in the newel post and the arch above the fireplace. Living room and dining room doors and mantels feature distinctive wood beading. Pine was used only in the kitchen and back bedrooms. The home's solid brass hardware, found throughout the house, carries a continuity from room to room, as do a series of matching chandeliers.