

Williamson House
1807 Jersey
Linda Foreman

Style: Shingle
Date: c. 1890
Architect: Frederick Clarke (Architect Certification Project)

The Shingle Style contemporaneous, but less popular than Queen Anne, was publicized in architectural magazines of the time 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 largely 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 facade, cross gable and multi-level eaves, 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 on the upper storeys and a portion of the east wall and is broken only by the cut-away porch (4" clapboard walls), bands of windows, and bays embraced by the uniform veneer. It is a 2-1/2 story, cross gable with a dominant broad gable with projection under eave and recess below is cut into hipped portion of roof. The cornice extends into gables and is carried by small brackets. The front porch has 4" clapboard walls, shingled supports, a blind arch over the entrance, and an eave line that is carried across the front facade, strengthening horizontal continuity. Note the stairwell bay over the porte cochere on the west side. At the upper level changes in horizontal continuity of wall plane occur with octagonal bay at second level, upside down eyebrow engaging a small bay (with colored stained glass leaded windows), and the projection under gable. The east side has a small balcony accessed from the attic. These elements are held together by continuous shingle skin.