

THE WILLIAMSON-REED HOUSE

1807 Jersey Street 1890

This seventeen-room home, built circa 1890, is an excellent example of the Shingle Style, first introduced in Maine in 1879 by William Ralph Emerson. The style in the early 1880's succeeded the Queen Anne Style as the most up-to-date of the period.

In many ways the Shingle Style was the Americanization of the Queen Anne Style. The home is totally enveloped in shingles, and walls and roof act as a thin covering to define the enclosed space. The Williamson House exemplifies the concept, with shingles extending even to its porch posts and verandas. Shingle Style brought a new feeling of freedom and openness in home planning and construction.

As the Williamson Home reflects, interiors of Shingle-Styled homes continued the distinctive genre of Queen Anne. A variety of woods, each lending its own texture and definition to rooms, can be seen. Maple, butternut and oak are used extensively in the home. The entry hall, in particular, features lovely displays of wood ornamentation in the newel post and the arch above the fireplace. Living 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.

The use of glass in this home is especially appealing and eye-catching. The appearance of the windows at the stairway landing and music room are noteworthy.

Other interesting features include a mounted, built-in mirror, three distinctive fireplaces downstairs. There is an unusual small stairway, situated just beyond the home's main staircase; this stairway leads to a side door.

On the second floor are baths with elegant marble baseboard, floors, sinks and showers. Each is well preserved.

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