

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

| | |
|------------------|--|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | |
| DATE ENTERED | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Silas Williams House

AND/OR COMMON

Edward Baker House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

702 East Broadway

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Streator

VICINITY OF

15th

CODE

61364 17

COUNTY

LaSalle

CODE

99

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER, Vacant |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Earl Crozier

STREET & NUMBER

Camelot Manor Shelter Care Home, 516 W. French Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Streator

VICINITY OF

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

LaSalle County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Ottawa

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION:

The Silas Williams House is a two story frame building with attic and basement designed in the Queen Anne style. The house and its carriage house to the North are located on a large corner lot. The surface of the eleven room house is covered in clapboards and shingles. Elaborate turned wood railings and posts on its many porches, sawn wood screens, and freizes and decorative panels of pressed metal embellish the exterior. The silhouette of the building is complicated by many gables, round and polygonal towers, porches, and the projecting and receding forms typical of the Queen Anne style.

On the interior a wainscoted foyer opens into a generous living hall. It includes not only a large hall and elaborate staircase with intricately designed newels and balusters, but also a circular sitting area and a fireplace with overmantle. Fine art tiles surround the fireplace opening and the firebox has a yet unidentified scene in relief on its cast iron sides. The stair hall opens into parlors to the North and East. The east parlor has an equally impressive fireplace and overmantle. The east parlor has an interesting irregular shape given it by the exterior tower. The north parlor has several stained glass windows. Both parlors open into the dining room through wide openings closed by sliding doors. The dining room has a fireplace similar in design to those previously described. On the north wall is an elaborate built in buffet of oak which has a pass through from the pantry. The kitchen and pantries are located at the back of the house on the east. To the rear on the west is another large room with a handsome fireplace. A bathroom separates this room from the kitchen. The ceilings on the first floor are of pressed tin. The floors are parquet in some rooms and oak in others. The doors and door frames in most rooms appear to be maple with a handsome grain pattern.

The second floor is laid out with bedrooms opening off a large hall that runs north-south. The front bedrooms have interesting irregular shapes due to the towers on the facade. Those on the east side have fireplaces.

The house is in fair condition on the exterior. It is in dire need of a coat of paint and some repair is needed on porches. The roof appears to be in good shape and the foundation is solid. The interiors are generally in excellent condition.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE:

This is the last great 19th century house remaining in Streator. As such it is a symbol of the enterprise of the Williams family whose efforts in the last century assisted in making this prairie town the agricultural and industrial center it is today. For Streator it is a monument to the aspirations of the town's 19th century individualists who strove to find a better life for themselves and for all the citizens of Streator.

The building is also of interest architecturally and socially. Its four large rooms on the ground floor, which form what amounts to a single interior space approximately 40 feet square when the four sets of sliding doors are open, carries the Queen Anne ideal of flowing space further than any other similar building in Illinois according to architectural historians. The metal ceilings are also unusual for such an elaborate residence. Most interior details are in a near perfect state of preservation: woodwork, doors, sliding doors, fireplaces with mirrored overmantles, hardware, wainscot in vestibule and kitchen, floors, built-in dining room buffet, and so on. Because of this excellent state of the interiors, it is easy for visitors to recapture the way of life in the late nineteenth century of one of Streator's foremost families.

HISTORY:

The house was built by Silas Williams, a Northern Illinois industrialist and realtor. Williams, originally from Ottawa, owned and operated a paper mill in Streator. He owned extensive properties and built many homes in Streator.

The second owner, Edward Baker, was a prominent Streator citizen. Baker was in the wholesale grocery and import coffee businesses. He also owned considerable property in the town.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .3

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 45525 125
 34610,0,0 4,5 5,4 10,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Shannon E. Hengen

ORGANIZATION

DATE

815/672-7372

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

701 Dorth Street

Illinois

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Streator

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Anthony J. Deen

TITLE

Director

DATE

1-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JUN 26 1973

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lakeside Press Building | Chicago Cook County |
| Williams, Silas, House | Streator LaSalle County |

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. Cardiss Collins
Hon. Tim L. Hall

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION