

CITY OF STILLWATER ARCHITECTURE- HISTORY INVENTORY FORM

Historic Name: Adolphus C. and Aurora Hospes House Address: 303 North 4th Street

Current Owner: Inventory No. WA-SWC-408

County: Washington PIN: 10690-6100

City/Township: Stillwater Review/Compliance No:

Township: T30N Range: R20W, Section 28 (SW 1/4 NE 1/4)
U.S.G.S. Quad Map: Stillwater, Minn-Wisc., 1967, photorevised 1980
U.T.M.: 15 514910 4989180

Architect/Contractor: Style: Queen Anne

Date Built: County Assessor: 1883

Photo Number(s): Roll 012534 Frame(s) 14, 15

Survey Name: Stillwater North Hill (Original Town) Survey: HRI File #1369
Form prepared by: Norene Roberts, Historical Research Inc.
Date Surveyed: February-May, 1995

Physical Description: This elaborately-detained and varied Queen Anne-style residence with a multi-gabled roof (with some large brackets) and zones of weatherboard on the walls separated by horizontal wood banding. The front porch is oriented to the southwest at the corner of the front facade. Windows are 1-over-1 and gable ends are highly decorated. The front porch as Eastlake turned-porch supports and gently arched transoms under the porch roof.

It has a separate carriage house at the northeast edge of the property.

Significance: This house is ____ is not X preliminarily eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. This study is a preliminary determination because it is the first of the Stillwater neighborhoods to be surveyed.

Statewide Historic Contexts: St. Croix Triangle Lumbering, 1843 -1914; Early Agriculture and River Settlement, 1840-1870.

Local Historic Context: Development of Residential Neighborhoods in Stillwater, 1850s-1940s.

National Register Eligible (prelim.): ____ Yes X No ____ Insufficient Information

Date listed on the National Register:

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Address: 303 North 4th Street

Inventory No. WA-SWC-408

Present Use: Residential, single family

Zoning District: RB-2 family residential

Integrity:

☒ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

Condition:

☒ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

Stories: 2 1/2

Roof style or shape: Gabled

Structural System: Wood-framed

Windows: 1-over-1

Foundation: Limestone block

Wall Treatment: Weatherboard and decorative wood shingles.

Alterations: The building has been rehabilitated.

Legal Description: Original Town, Block Lot

Historic Information: RTR information on the owner is very confused. The house is referred to as the Louis Hopes House by RTR. Isaac Staples had a daughter Aurora who married Adolphus Hopes on June 27, 1870, according to the Stillwater Public Library. The County Assessor has the date of the house as 1883 and the style does not suggest an 1872 date which is when the Louis Hopes House was built (1872 would put it earlier than the Queen Anne style Watts-Sherman House in Newport R.I.). In 1912, Aurora Hopes was living at the house when her automobile caught fire on May 9 with a loss of \$2,000. If Aurora lived here, then the house was the Adolphus and Aurora Staples House and was not built as a wedding present from Isaac Staples (who would not have waited 12-13 years after their marriage to give the gift of a house.) A Louis Hopes house was built outside the project area and in 1872 so the earlier house seems like a better candidate for the wedding present. Louis Hopes, who died in 1888, was the father of A. C. Hopes. See Folsom, Fifty Years in the Northwest, (1888), p. 418. Stillwater Gazette (Sept. 9, 1987) quotes RTR that Isaac Staples built in the house in 1882 for his daughter, wife of Louis Hopes. But the St. Croix Valley Press (Sept. 30, 1987) notes Adolphus C. Staples at 303 N. Third. A. C. Hopes was living near the corner of Third and Mulberry in the 1876-77 city directory, so the present house would not seem to have been built until after that date.

Sources: John Runk photo #691 at the Minnesota Historical Society; House Vertical File, Stillwater Public Library; City Fire Records for May 9, 1912.

Open to the public: ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Limited