

bracket-like attic story and roof peak, built out on large, shaped beams ends. The brackets and protrusions cantilever over first and second floors and are a fine example of the engineering employed at the time.

A porch, featuring Tuscan columns and solid railings, wraps around the right corner of the house to the main entry, under a cross-gabled ell. A bay window on the left side, below a cross-gabled dormer, rests on large, curved

brackets. This structure demonstrates the Queen Anne style of highlighting architectural details for their esthetic and textural value.

The building's footprint is approximately 32'x48', and contains approximately 4200 gross square feet in its 2 1/2 stories (not including cellar), and remains on its original site. It has not been moved from its original location and it remains an integral part of the continuity of buildings fronting Main Street.

Comparing the circa 1900 photo to the July 1994 photo, it is clear that the original house remains virtually intact and unchanged. The cut granite foundation intended to last forever, the cedar shingles intended to withstand New England weather, the original exposed brick chimney, the porch columns, the porch and its foundation, the size, shape and placement of windows has not been changed, the roof, the front lawn, the exposed brackets and cornice trim, and all other architectural material and detail remain intact. This house survived the flood of 1955.

The house was built by Samuel A. Herman in the early 1890's. Samuel A. Herman was an attorney and prominent citizen in the 1890's and 1900's. In 1896, along with Henry Gay and William Gilbert, Samuel Herman was appointed to a committee by Connecticut General Assembly to look into bringing an electric railroad to Winsted. The Legislature approved the venture in 1897 and Samuel Herman was elected secretary of the Winsted Railroad Company. Samuel Herman was also elected to the state senate in 1897.

It is important to the integrity of the structure and of interest in modern times to note that the house at 486 Main Street only changed hands three times. The original owner and builder was Samuel A. Herman. It was later owned by H.L. Otis, who both lived and worked in the house where he had his optometry practice. After the flood of 1955, the house was purchased by Dean and Freda Stevens who sold it to the YMCA in the 1970's.

The Stevens House was built directly adjacent to the Winsted YMCA. The first YMCA was built in 1880 and set back slightly from Main Street. After standing for approximately 25 years, the Y was replaced with the current structure to front on Main Street. This structure, built in 1915, is a well preserved example of Neo-Classical architecture. It is culturally and historically significant in its own right because it has been a center of activity in Winsted and a part of the flavor of the Town for over 100 years.

The Stevens House should be listed on the National Register and it should be designated the Samuel A. Herman House, after its original builder and owner. It is referred to as the Stevens House after the last people to own it before the YMCA. The present name has no logical application to the house itself, and was attached to the house as a colloquialism.

The Stevens House is virtually intact, the architecture has not changed from the original to the present in detailing, materials or design. Culturally and historically the property has always fronted on Main Street, was built by a prominent Connecticut citizen and has only changed ownership three times. The house is one of the few remaining examples of the popular Queen Anne style, on its original foundation, in its original location, with its original craftsmanship, workmanship and materials.