



### **810 Spring Street**

The house at 810 Spring Street was built in the fall of 1897 at the very southern edge of the village, probably by Simon and Katherine Stevens. At that time, it was a classic four-square (28' X 28") with Queen Anne details and had a long staircase descending to Main Street. A kitchen/bath addition was built in the 1920's.

Simon Stevens died in 1904. Simon's wife, Katherine sold or gave the house to her niece, Ormesinda Stevens in 1907. Katherine continued to live in the house until her death in 1916, along with Ormesinda (or Orma), her husband William L. Peck, and their three children.

The Pecks moved to Minneapolis in 1915 and sold the house to Effie (Ellie) and Ella Kirk, twin sisters. The spinster twins were about 50 years old when they bought the house and lived there for thirteen years.

Alice Nicols' family of St Paul bought the house from the Kirk sisters in 1928. Alice was the granddaughter of John H. Nicols of the Nicols, Dean and Gregg Firm of St Paul, a company that supplied steel to the railroads and bridges. In the 1920's John was one of the wealthiest men in St. Paul. For thirty years, Alice lived alone in the big house, and died in July of 1958.

Alice was known as a philanthropist and gave away a lot of money. Nicols was also a temperance worker and went door to door handing out pamphlets on the evils of alcohol. She held temperance meetings at her home, encouraged local teens to attend and learn the evils of alcohol.

Wally Houle purchased the home in 2007 and his son, Steve, a historic preservation carpenter, completely remodeled the house in 2008 and restored it to what it might have looked 100 years ago.

In November 2014, the house was demolished in preparation for the new Hwy 24 bridge project.