

A Look Back in Time

The Allen House located at 6012 8th Avenue is a residential property that sits in a mixed residential/public use neighborhood near downtown Kenosha. The house sits on a small lot with few landscape features.

*Section 15.04 of the City's Zoning Ordinance establishes standards for designating structures and sites as historic and the site or structure must meet at least one of these standards. It was determined that **The Allen House** is architecturally significant under Standard 3, “embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen....” and under Standard 6, “Historic structure or site which is on the National or State Register of Historic Places.” The Allen House is a good example of the Colonial Revival architectural style. It has the irregular plan, projecting gables, variety of wood detail, and large porch that reflects the style. It was also listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Library Park Historic District. The Allen House was designated a Kenosha Historic site on April 17, 2000.*

The Allen House is a two and one-half story Colonial Revival style house with a gable roof accented with brick parapets on the end walls. Gable-roofed dormers project from the main elevation. They feature arched multi-light windows and returned eaves. The brick walls of the house are punctuated with sash openings symmetrically placed in the walls. The exception is a large single pane opening with a fan light that sits just to the north of the main entrance. The main entrance is covered with an arched overhang supported by columns. An enclosed porch sits to the south of the main entrance. It is enclosed with sashes.

This house was built in 1906 for a member of the Allen family, but was later owned by James Pennefeather, a Kenosha County Register of Deeds, Superintendent of City Schools, Justice of the Peace, and clerk of the Wisconsin State Legislature. He was a local realtor and abstract firm owner. It has the classical details, symmetrical form and massing, and brick construction often used for Colonial Revival houses. It represents the broad range of Colonial Revival architecture in Kenosha.

