

A Look Back in Time

The John and Ann Dale House, 6349 Seventh Avenue, is a fine example of a pre-Civil War house located south of Library Park. This home embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the transition between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, inherently valuable for a study of a period or style. The Landmark Commission originally designated the home a Kenosha Historic Site in 1987. Re-designation as a local historic landmark was granted by the Common Council on December 16, 1996.

The John and Ann Dale House is a two and one-half story house with a rectangular plan and details from both the Greek Revival and Italianate styles of architecture. The house has a steeply-pitched gable roof that was probably added to the original low-pitched hip or gable roof in the early twentieth century. The original wide, overhanging roof eaves are extant and are decorated with paired scroll brackets and a denticulated frieze. The walls of the house are covered with clapboards and punctuated with regular fenestration of four-light or single-light double-hung sashes. The windows of the west elevation, and a few other windows of the side elevations are elaborately decorated with cornice lintels supported by scroll brackets. Under the cornices, the header is decorated with a scroll design. All of the window openings are decorated with shutters. The main entrance to the house is at the southwest corner of the main elevation. It is decorated with a transom, sidelights, and a later-added gable-roofed enclosed porch that features multi-light openings. A one-story ell projects from the east or rear elevation of the house, as well. A decorative picket fence spans the front and south lawns of the property, adding to the historic character of the building.

In January of 1851, Ruben Deming sold the parcel of land the house sits on to John and Ann Dale, who probably erected this house shortly thereafter. John Dale worked as an engineer. By 1899, Ann Dale was a widow and lived in this house with her adult daughters, Lydia and Mary, who later had title to the property. Around this time, the Dales converted the house into a duplex. Charles and Almeda Goodman were the second occupants, and together the Dales and the Goodmans lived in the property until World War II. Charles Goodman was the owner of a plumbing and heating business. After Charles Goodman died in the early 1930s, Mary and Lydia Dale sold the house to Almeda Goodman. The Dale sisters ceased living in the house during the mid and late 1930s, and Almeda Goodman lived there until 1943. In that year, William Over acquired the house and lived there until the 1980s.

The John and Ann Dale house is architecturally significant as a fine and well-preserved example of a pre-Civil War house with details from both the Greek Revival and Italianate styles of architecture. The Greek Revival style was the first national style commonly seen in Wisconsin and it was popular between 1830 and 1870. Greek Revival buildings are formal, orderly, and symmetrical. The style is seen in the state more commonly on vernacular houses in the form of symmetrical massing, regular fenestration, simple cornices and returned eaves, and entrances decorated with a transom and/or sidelights. The Italianate style was popular in Wisconsin during the mid-nineteenth

century. Italianate houses are generally square, two-story buildings with hip roofs; wide, overhanging eaves with brackets; arched openings; and picturesque porches with thin posts and decorative brackets.

The Dale house is a good example of both of these styles because it has the form and massing, regular fenestration, and main entry decoration of the Greek Revival style, along with the wide eaves with brackets of the Italianate style. Because the two styles overlapped during the 1850s, many houses in Wisconsin were built with details from both styles, and this house is a good example of this transition between the two styles. The house is also a fine example of historic preservation. Few houses of this era have survived with this high degree of architectural integrity.

Take a walk through this historic residential neighborhood on the south side of Kenosha. The John and Ann Dale House is one of the most picturesque homes in the neighborhood. You will surely enjoy the "Look Back in Time."

