

# *A Look Back in Time*

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*The Charles and Hilda Greening House located at 2005 73rd Street was designated a local historic landmark by the Common Council on October 20, 2003. According to Standard 3 of Section 15.16 of the City's Zoning Ordinance this property embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period, style, method of construction, or of indigenous materials or craftsmanship. The Greening House is architecturally significant as a good and distinctive example of the Mediterranean Revival style.*

*The Charles and Hilda Greening House is a two-story Mediterranean Revival style house that sits on a narrow and long corner lot. Because of its size, the house takes up almost all of its lot, leaving only enough room for small lawns along the north elevation and the east elevation of the house.*

*There are numerous flowers and shrubs near the foundation of the house and a mature tree in the north terrace. There is a terrace that runs between the concrete curbs and sidewalk on both sides of the house. Other homes in the neighborhood are not quite as large, but sit on similar-sized lots with mature trees, shrubs, and lawn spaces.*

*The form of the house is generally rectangular, with a main block with two rectangular sections. The west section slightly projects beyond the east section.*

*There is a one-story sun room attached to the east elevation of the east section and a one-story garage attached to the west wall of the west section. Both*

*sections of the main block are topped by moderately-pitched hip roofs covered with red clay tile. The roofs of the sun room and garage are flat with metal coping. Two large chimneys project from the east and west walls of the main block.*



*The walls of the building, including the sun room and garage, are constructed of light brown bricks. The second story north, east, and west elevations of the main block are punctuated by both single and paired round-arched openings filled with six-over-one light, double-hung sashes. The openings are decorated with round brick arches with keystones and stone sills. On the main elevation, there are two sets of three rectangular sashes flanking the main entrance. A rectangular opening also sits in the first story of the west elevation and most of the openings of the south elevation are rectangular sashes. On the second story of the south elevation, there are two round-arched sashes sitting at the wall ends.*

*The main entrance has a round-arched opening filled with a heavy entry door constructed with vertical wood boards and a 12-light opening. The door is topped with a round-arched transom. The entrance has a smooth limestone frontispiece with few details other than an arch carved into the stone around the entrance and a keystone decoration over the entry door.*

*The sun room is heavily decorated with large smooth limestone pilasters topped with urn capitals. The large round-arched openings of the three walls of the sun room are filled with large single-light sashes topped with arched transoms. The openings are also decorated with round brick arches and stone keystones. The two-car garage is plain and the openings are covered with period garage doors.*

*The Charles and Hilda Greening House is architecturally significant because it has well-crafted details from the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture. In particular, the clay tile roof, entrance frontispiece, and round-arched openings are distinctive characteristics of the style, making this house stand out for its high quality of architectural design and materials.*

*This house was one of the early homes built in Greenwood's Second Subdivision, a subdivision developed by the Larson Brothers, noted builders in Kenosha in the 1920s. Charles Greening was the owner of a men's clothing store. Because the Larsen Brothers developed this subdivision, it is possible that they built this house. It is typical of their known work in the large period revival neighborhoods in the southeast part of historic Kenosha.*

*The Mediterranean Revival style is one of several period revival styles popular between 1900 and 1940. It revived the historic architecture of Italian villas. The hallmark of the style include brick construction, clay tile roofs, and large, round-arched openings. Large versions of this style often resemble Italian villas, while smaller versions of the style used as many of the details as possible to create a distinctive, classical home.*

*The Greening House is a good example of this style because it has the clay tile roof, brick walls, and round-arched openings of the style. The smooth limestone frontispiece is also typical of the style and adds an elegance to the front entrance. In fact, the Mediterranean Revival style is an elegant style that rivals the beauty of the other period revival style. However, the Mediterranean Revival style was not as fully developed in Wisconsin as other period revival styles, such as the Colonial, Georgian, and Tudor Revival styles. The Mediterranean Revival style is related to the Spanish Colonial Revival style and, perhaps, was seen as being more appropriate for a warmer climate, such as the southwest or Florida. In any event, good examples of the style are seen in less numbers in Wisconsin than other period revival styles, and Kenosha is no exception, making the Greening House stand out.*

*The Greening House has a distinctive architectural style, high quality construction materials and methods, and a high level of preservation. Its historic details are almost all intact and in good condition. These qualities combine to make this house architecturally significant. It makes an architectural statement because of its less common style and unusual details, such as the clay tile roof. All of these features make the building stand out as a landmark in the City.*

*One will enjoy gazing at the many unique features of this well-preserved Mediterranean Revival style home located on the City's southwest side.*