

A Look Back in Time

The Frank and Jane Isermann House, 6500 Seventh Avenue, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places on February 25, 2004. The property was designated an individual landmark by the Common Council on August 19, 1996 based on Standards 3 and 4 of Section 15.04 of the City's Zoning Ordinance stating its' architectural significance and notable work by the master builder.

The Frank and Jane Isermann House is a two-story residence designed by Russell Barr Williamson in the Prairie Style. The building has a rectangular plan with a projecting one-story sun room ell at the southwest corner of the house. The house has a low-pitched hip roof with wide, overhanging eaves. The walls of the building are faced with brown bricks and are decorated with shallow piers between the windows. A two-story shallow bay projects from the south wall of the house and is attached to the one-story sun room ell. The window openings consist of casements set into window bands. The upper story windows are smaller than those of the lower story and are set right under the roof eaves. These windows are also accented with a stone belt course and a stone lintel accents the windows of the first story main elevation. Projecting from the main elevation is a broken brick wall with a stucco ledge that holds the wall sections together.

The house was built in 1923 for Frank Isermann, an executive with the Isermann Clothing Store. The Isermann Clothing Store was established in 1892 and was a significant commercial business in downtown Kenosha for approximately 50 years. Frank Isermann served as Secretary for the firm. Frank and Jane Isermann lived in the home until the 1950s. Between the 1950s and 1980s, the house was occupied by Donald and Elsie Isermann, also associated with the Isermann Clothing Store.

The Frank and Jane Isermann House is architecturally significant because it is a fine example of the Prairie Style of architecture and because it was designed by Russell Barr Williamson, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, the leading architect of the style. The Prairie Style was developed by a group of progressive architects led by Frank Lloyd Wright, George Grant Elmslie, and George W. Maher in early twentieth century Chicago. The style emphasizes horizontal lines by using low-pitched roofs with wide, overhanging eaves, banded windows, emphatic belt courses, and natural building materials. This house is a fine example of the style because it has all the typical features. It is a classic example of the style and very reminiscent of the houses built by mid-western Prairie Style architects during the 1910s.

This Prairie Style House and the same style house next door at 6416 Seventh Avenue are worth riding by. Experience the classic lines, banded windows, and mature lawns for yourself. See first-hand why they are historically significant to the City of Kenosha.

