

A Look Back in Time

*P*ond and Pond, a Chicago-based architectural firm, built both the **Jeffery-Nash House** located at **6221 Third Avenue** and the **Jeffery House** at **6331 Third Avenue**. The homes were built for executives of the Jeffery Company, an automobile and truck manufacturer. Both homes received historic designation because they reflect the City's social and architectural history; identify with historic personages in the City's history; and are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Jeffery House also embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen valuable for a study of a style.

*F*ormal, classical details highlight the fine Georgian Revival architecture of the Jeffery House. The red brick, two-story building has a truncated hip roof and a rectangular plan. Extending from the main block of the house is a south wing, and to the north projects a porte cochere topped with a sun room. Brick pilasters are placed at the corners of the house and are also used to define the very shallow entry pavilion. The entry pavilion is topped by a pediment decorated with modillions and a lunette. The main entrance is flanked with sidelights and decorated by a segmentally arched fanlight. A stone segmental arch with modillions and flanking stone pilasters decorate the entrance. Above it is a six-over-six sash with a stone jack arch and prominent keystone. Identical windows are symmetrically placed throughout the entire front facade. On the first floor these windows appear in a semi-circular reveal with stone keystones and stops. A classically appointed piazza graces the front entrance as well.

*T*he Jeffery-Nash House is a two and one-half story red brick house that is vaguely a Colonial Revival house that expresses no particular architectural style, but does have some classical details. A major addition from 1925 may account for the eclectic nature of the house. The building has a main block with a projecting end pavilion on the south side of the house. Symmetrically placed dormers project from the steeply-pitched gable roof. Modillions decorate the eaves of the roof. The large expanses of brick walls are punctuated by double-hung sash windows of varying sizes and multiple lights. Three first floor front facade windows have segmental reveals and keystones. An oriel window clad with pressed metal projects from the front facade. The front entrance has a simple wooden gable roofed overhang sheltering it, supported by tapered posts on a brick balustrade. Four brick pillars form an entrance pergola and sidewalk.

*C*harles T. Jeffery, the first owner of the Jeffery-Nash House, was the son of Thomas B. Jeffery who founded the Jeffery Company, an automobile and truck manufacturer. The Jeffery House was built for Harold W. Jeffery, vice-president of the Jeffery Company. Their first car, the Rambler, came on the market in 1902 and the company was particularly successful manufacturing the Jeffery "Quad", a truck design. By

1914, the company was building 13,513 vehicles per year, but in 1915, Charles T. Jeffery, who had taken over the Jeffery Company upon the death of his father in 1910, wished to sell the company. Charles Nash, president of the General Motors Automobile Company, purchased the Jeffery Company and renamed it the Nash Motor Company. Nash built the Nash Motor Company into a major automobile producer in the twentieth century. By 1928, Nash was producing 138,169 cars per year and it became the most significant employer in the area. The company eventually became known as American Motors Corporation, and at one time, it employed as many as 15,000 workers. While no longer a major industrial force in the community, for over 80 years, the Jeffery-Nash Company was the leading industry in town. It is significant that Charles Nash purchased the Jeffery house along with the company. Nash lived here until around 1935.

Charles Nash lived in the Jeffery-Nash House until 1935. It became a faculty house for the Kemper Hall girls' school and later housed a Catholic religious organization. Roger N. Kimball, an executive and plant manager at the Allen A. Company, purchased the Jeffery House around 1918. He and his wife, Frances, lived there until the early 1940s. In the 1940s and 1950s, Roger Vincent, President of the Vincent-McCall Company, a furniture spring manufacturing company, lived in this house.

The history behind these two homes surely should peak your interest to take a drive by and see what type of homes were built for the executives of the Jeffery Company (Nash Motor Company)/American Motors Corporation), the Allen A. Company, and the Vincent-McCall Company. They are remarkable.



Jeffery House, 6331 Third Avenue



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