

A Look Back in Time

The George and Harriet Yule House, 6300 Third Avenue, is a contributing structure in the Third Avenue Historic District, a National Register District. This property reflects the City's social and architectural history through its contribution to the City's prestigious "mansion" district. The Yule House also is identified with historic personages in the City's history since George Yule was important in the Kenosha's industrial history.

The two-story red brick house is primarily a Colonial Revival design, but the two story projecting bays on each end of the front facade show a Queen Anne influence. The building has few other details except for a steeply pitched side-gabled roof with returned eaves and an elliptical light over the front door. The house has been altered in recent years with an addition to the north end of the building and the removal of top portions of the front bays. However, these alterations do not radically detract from the integrity of the house. Windows are simple single-light sashes. There is a brick and concrete porch leading to the main entrance.

Documentary research indicates conflicting dates of construction. Louis Thiers photographed the exterior in 1897 with minimal landscaping suggesting that the photographs were taken shortly after the house was built. The Kenosha County Assessor's records indicate that the house was constructed for George A. Yule in 1899. Kenosha County in the 20th Century indicates that the architectural firm of Pond and Pond designed a Colonial Revival house for George A. Yule in 1905-06.

George A. Yule, his wife, Harriet (Head), and their son, William lived in the house until the mid-1920s. George was secretary and treasurer of the Bain Wagon Works, the largest wagon manufacturer in the world. He was also president of the Badger Brass Company. The home was built with all of the modern conveniences of the day, including running water, heat, gas, and telephone. George Yule died in 1923 and Harriet moved to California to live with her son in 1925 or 1926.

From 1927 to 1932, the house was the home of Milton H. Pettit, vice president of Nash Motors, and his wife, Mary, and sons, Milton and John. After that, the occupants of the house changed regularly until 1947 when Mrs. Gertrude M. Alford purchased the house and lived in it during the summertime until her death in 1965. Gertrude was the widow of Walter H. Alford who built Harmony Hall. In 1965, Kenosha County purchased the home to house the Kenosha County Historical Society and Museum. Free tours were available until the museum moved to its present location in May of 2001.

The George and Harriet Yule House is one of many distinguished mansions in the Third Avenue Historic District. We invite you to take a stroll down Third Avenue one warm June evening and behold the beauty Kenosha's past has to offer.

