

A Look Back in Time

The French House, located at 6044 Eighth Avenue is a small residential historic house in the Library Park Historic District. The house sits on a narrow lot that features landscaping in both the front and back yard. In the area surrounding the house are commercial buildings.

*Section 15.04 of the City's Zoning Ordinance establishes standards for designating structures and sites as historic and the site or structure must meet at least one of these standards. It was determined that **The French House** is architecturally and historically significant under Standards 1 and 6; "Exemplifies or reflects the City's cultural, social...history; or "Historic structures and sites which are on the National or State Register of Historic Places." The French House is architecturally significant because the Greek Revival with Italianate detailing which contributes to the varied architectural history that makes the Library Park Historic District distinctive. Greek Revival and Italianate architecture reflects the taste of mid-nineteenth century Kenosha. The French House was originally designated in 1979 and re-designated on November 21, 1994.*



The French House is a two-story small house with Greek Revival massing and Italianate detailing, representing two popular styles of the mid-nineteenth century. The main two-story is brick and features a low-pitched hipped roof. Under the overhanging eaves is a wide frieze with simple brackets. The ell has a very low-pitched roof with wide eaves, under which is a denticulated frieze and brackets. The ell is dominated by a projecting bay on the main facade that features very tall, narrow windows. Windows are single pane double-hung sashes that are topped with flat stone lintels, and the main entrance is covered with an entrance porch with hipped roof, denticulated frieze, corner brackets, and slender posts. There is some evidence to suggest that this house may have began as a simple Greek Revival structure and was remodeled around the Civil War era, giving it the Italianate details.

The French House was built in 1846 for Volney French. Volney French was one of the early Yankee settlers (mid 1830s) in Kenosha and was reportedly one of only three attorneys in the city before 1841. He also served as county judge until his death in 1881. The house was later long-time owned by Theodore J. Meyers, owner of a livery and his wife and widow, Anna. The house has been converted into office spaces.