

A Look Back in Time

The Whitney House, located at 6104 Third Avenue, on Kenosha's East side, near the Lake, was built around 1850.

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 Whitney House is architecturally significant under Standards 1: "exemplifies or reflects the City's cultural... history." 2., "Is identified with historic personages or with important events in the City's history." And 6., "Historic structure or site which is on the National or State Register of Historic Places."

The Whitney House is a painted brick two-story block with a south ell. The original one-story ell has a second story frame gambrel-roofed addition, which was probably added in the early twentieth century. The only decoration on the hipped-roof building is a plain frieze, a simple cornice, and an entrance with narrow sidelights. The entrance is covered with a porch supported by simple Tuscan columns. Above the porch is a balustrade. Windows are simple sashes with stone lintels and sills.

This Greek Revival house is the only residence in the district that survived the redevelopment of the neighborhood in the early twentieth century. It's mid 19th century Greek Revival architecture in a neighborhood of early 20th century period revivals reflects the change. Occupant of the house, Luther Whitney, was an early resident of Kenosha. He and his family arrived in 1837. He was a treasurer of Southport (the original name of Kenosha) from 1848-1850 and helped to organize the First Congregational Church in 1858. Hollis Whitney, a relative, operated Kenosha's first hotel, the City Hotel, constructed in 1837. In 1875, the house became the property of Henry Greetham, a real estate broker, and during much of the early twentieth century, it was home to the Dr. Gustav Windesheim family.

