

A Look Back in Time

The Charles Stuart House, located at 6201 8th Avenue, was built around 1907. This building was originally designated Kenosha Historic Site 88-110B. It is located in the Library Park district.

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 Stuart House is architecturally significant under Standard 6, "Historic structure or site which is on the National or State Register of Historic Places"

The Charles Stuart House is a two-story building constructed with Gabled Ell vernacular form. The building has a steeply-pitched intersecting gable roof.

The ell roof slopes down to form the ell porch roof. The walls of the building are covered with narrow clapboards and are punctuated with mostly single-light, double-hung sashes. A modern "bow" window sits in the west wall of the main block and a large, single pane opening sits on the south wall of the ell. The ell porch of the building covers the main entrance and is decorated with a balustrade of cross timbers. Lattice panels cover the porch base.

The Charles Stuart House was built around 1907, but Stuart lived there for only a short time. The most long time residents of the house were the Blair Family, who lived in the house between 1920 and the 1960's.

The Library Park Historic District in Kenosha, WI was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. Kenosha was first settled in 1835. Charles Durkee and George Kimball were two of the earliest settlers and laid claim to neighboring tracts of land. Durkee and Kimball agreed to donate a portion of their lands to Kenosha as a city park. During the Civil War, the neighborhood became active as a stop on the Underground Railroad, at the behest of Ruben H. Deming. The Hale-Farr House survives as an example of a house used for the slave escape network. Slaves would stay at the houses until they could board ships at the Kenosha harbor.

Kenosha grew steadily in the 1900s, forcing new developments in the neighborhood to be built on smaller lots, including Charles Stuart House and C. Ernest Dewey House (1910).

