

A Look Back in Time

The United States Post Office, located at 5605 Sheridan Road, was constructed in 1933 by George Daidy, a Federal Architect.

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." 3., "Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period, style, method of construction, or of indigenous materials or craftsmanship." And 6., "Historic structure or site which is on the National or State Register of Historic Places."

The U.S. Post Office is a one-story Neo-Classical Revival style building. A prominent cornice decorated with modillions runs across the entire facade, defining a decorated parapet. These decorations include very shallow paired pilasters and panels that feature eagle shield, ribbons, and swags. Under the cornice is an entablature that is decorated with medallions and is engraved "United States of America" and "United States Post Office." There are slightly projecting corner pavilions decorated by round-arched entrances flanked by shallow pilasters. The slightly recessed central section of the front facade is accented by six groups of paired colossal Doric columns, with single Doric columns at the corners. These columns separate the multi-paned tall windows of the front facade. Decoration on the building wraps around slightly to the side facades, but the remaining side walls are undecorated. Windows on these facades are multi-paned, three-part sashes and are unadorned. An addition at the south and rear facades of the building does not greatly detract from the original building because of its placement on the building and use of compatible materials.

The new post office was a result of agitation for a new facility in Kenosha during the 1920's and early 1930's. When the federal government agreed to build a new post office, the City convinced them to build it on the east end of the Civic Center. Although late for a Neo-Classical building, federal architect George Daidy designed the new post office in the style that complimented the courthouse and high school. The old post office, sitting behind the new building, was then moved across the park to complete the fourth (west) side of the center.

