

A Look Back in Time

The Eagles Club, located at 302 58th Street, is a fraternal clubhouse and restaurant that sits on a large lot near Kenosha's Lake Michigan park and marina just east of the downtown commercial 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 Masonic Temple is architecturally significant under Standards 1: "exemplifies or reflects the City's cultural... history." And Standard 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."

The Eagles Club is architecturally significant because it is a fine and well-preserved example of the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture, a popular "period revival" style of the early twentieth century. The building is also historically significant because it represents the important social, economic, political and cultural role fraternal groups played in nineteenth and twentieth century communities. Although this importance has diminished in the past few decades, these clubs still play important charitable roles in communities today.

The Kenosha Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, was organized in 1905 with 88 members, and in 1915, they completed a new clubhouse on this site. The Classical Revival Eagles Club was built at the height of the popularity of fraternal organizations in Wisconsin, and by the late 1920's, the Eagles Club members desired a larger facility. The club retained its prime lakefront location when, in 1926, they had local architect Joseph Lindl, then practicing under the name Lindl & Schuette, draw up plans for the remodeling and expansion of the existing clubhouse. Lindl designed a Mediterranean Revival building, and by the fall of 1928, the old clubhouse was being absorbed by the new additions to the building. The bulk of the new construction took place on the front of the old building, toward the lakefront. In October 1929, the new clubhouse was completed and dedicated and was home to the Eagles for their club activities for years to come.

