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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name Library Park Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Various, see inventory N/A not for publication

city, town Kenosha N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Kenosha code 059 zip code 53140

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>42</u>	<u>16</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>45</u>	<u>16</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

9/23/88
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet

[Signature] 11/29/88

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
SOCIAL/meeting hall
SOCIAL/clubhouse

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

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Library Park Historic District,
Kenosha, Kenosha County, WI

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/library
RELIGION/religious structure
RELIGION/church-related residence
FUNERARY/mortuary
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/marker
RECREATION AND CULTURE/work of art
LANDSCAPE/park

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/meeting hall
SOCIAL/clubhouse
EDUCATION/school
EDUCATION/library
RELIGION/religious structure
RELIGION/church-related residence
FUNERARY/mortuary
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/**Monument/ Marker**
RECREATION AND CULTURE/work of art
HEALTH CARE/clinic
HEALTH CARE/medical business/office
LANDSCAPE/park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Italianate

Classical Revival

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Clapboard

Limestone

roof Asphalt

other Terra Cotta

Sandstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

General Description

The Library Park Historic District is formed by a group of residences, public buildings, and religious structures generally sited around historic Library Park in downtown Kenosha, Wisconsin. Kenosha is a medium-sized, primarily industrial city on Lake Michigan in southeastern Wisconsin. The moderately dense district is located just south of Kenosha's commercial center on a relatively flat expanse of land located a few blocks west of the lakefront. Settled at an early date, by 1861, the area around Library Park, historically called City park, Central Park, and The Commons, was dotted with primarily small houses of middle-class and prominent individuals and families of Kenosha. But beginning in the nineteenth century, many of the district's lots were redeveloped, so that today, the district includes a mixture of small and medium-sized houses from the nineteenth and early twentieth century, large houses from that same era, large public buildings that replaced some nineteenth century houses, and religious structures, most on their original lots. Because this neighborhood underwent this type of development, the buildings that exist today have both small and large lots, have varied setbacks from the street, have many different styles of architecture and construction materials, and a variety of vegetation. Some buildings are sited quite close to the street, while others are quite liberally set back into their large lots. Most historic houses have mature lawns and trees, and there are many large, gracious trees located in Library Park. But some of the lots that were rebuilt in the twentieth century have very little vegetation. The complexity of this district is largely what sets it apart from its immediate neighbors and the rest of the city.

There are 60 buildings located in this district, along with one site and two objects. Of the 60 buildings, 44 are contributing historic buildings. Of the 44 contributing historic buildings, 38 are principal buildings and six are garages or outbuildings. Of the 16 non-contributing buildings in the district, only three are principal buildings; the remainder are non-contributing garages and outbuildings. Of the 41 principal buildings, a large number, 38 (93%) are contributing in the district. Of these 38 contributing buildings, 21 are good to outstanding examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural styles. It is this factor, most of all, that makes the Library Park Historic District special in the city. A breakdown of the historic architectural styles in the district is as follows: 4 (10%) Greek Revival, 4 (10%) Italianate, 3 (7%) Gothic Revival, 4 (10%) Queen Anne, 5 (12%) Neo-Classical Revival, 5 (12%) Period Revival, and 16 (39%) vernacular forms or other styles.

Construction materials are equally as varied in this district. Of the 41 principal buildings in the district, 22 (54%) are of brick construction, 16 (39%) are of frame

x See continuation sheet

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Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne
Shingle Style
Romanesque
Renaissance Revival
Tudor Revival
Colonial Revival
Craftsman

Materials:

Foundation: Stucco
 Concrete

Walls: Sandstone
 Aluminum/Vinyl/Asbestos

Other: Wood
 Bronze
 Concrete
 Glass

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construction, and 3 (7%) are of stone construction. Of the frame-constructed buildings, 10 (63%) are covered with their original clapboards, while the rest are stuccoed or covered with aluminum, vinyl, or asbestos siding. The size of the buildings in the district are generally compatible. Almost all of the buildings (29, 71%) are two stories in height, and two of the three (7%) one-story buildings are actually built on raised foundations, giving them a higher appearance than a standard one-story building. Eight buildings (20%) have two and one-half or three stories, and one building (2%) is over three stories high. Rooflines are also very compatible, with the common gable or hip roof dominating. There are 21 (51%) gable roofs, 14 (34%) hip roofs, and 6 (15%) flat roofs in the district.

The many types and variety of styles of the buildings in the district actually set this neighborhood apart from the areas of the city that bound it and give a definite impression that this is a distinct neighborhood. To the north of the district is Kenosha's downtown commercial district, with its commercial style buildings. At the northeast corner are a modern bank and apartment building. To the west of the district is a major north-south thoroughfare (State Highway 32, Sheridan Road) through Kenosha, along which a modern commercial "strip" has developed. The large Kenosha Hospital complex lies to the south of the district and the complex's several large parking lots bordering the district effectively divide it from the residential areas of Kenosha farther south. It is only on the east that the district abuts an existing residential neighborhood. However, there too, a definite break exists in the type, scale, and plan of the two neighborhoods. The neighborhood to the east of Library Park may have potential historical or architectural significance, but as a separate neighborhood not connected to Library Park.

One of the important features that distinguishes Library Park from other areas in Kenosha is the high level of integrity of the buildings in the district. Most of the residences, churches, and public buildings of the district have been well maintained, and many belie their mid-nineteenth century construction date. Some buildings have been, or are in the process of being rehabilitated, and it is surprising that so few of the district's buildings have had artificial siding applied to their facades. This factor, taken along with the fact that there are so many individually outstanding examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture in the district, makes Library Park a very special neighborhood. Still another factor in the cohesiveness of the district is the small number of non-contributing buildings in the district. There are only three non-contributing principal buildings in Library Park, and only three historic buildings have major non-historic additions. The individual buildings and additions to historic buildings are non-contributing because of their recent construction dates and lack of architectural distinction.

Of the garages and outbuildings (19) in this district, 13 (68%) are non-contributing, but they are generally small, unobtrusive elements in the streetscapes. In fact, almost all of the garages and outbuildings are set well back on their lots, relatively hidden from view. Of the 6 (32%) contributing garages, they, too, are small, and

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generally simple structures. The only negative aspect of this neighborhood is the fact that there are no outstanding carriage houses still extant in the district, and the two probable horsebarns that still exist are small and plain.

Finally, the focus of the district is Library Park, the site of the fine Neo-Classical Revival Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Public Library, the Soldier's Memorial Monument, and the Lincoln Statue. The park offers the residents of Library Park a valuable open space in the midst of the dense urban landscape of downtown Kenosha. In fact, while Library Park is very much a downtown neighborhood, it has an openness found in more distant older neighborhoods. The park, a contributing landscape feature in the district, is integrally related to the district, and is the one constant landscape feature of the district since its earliest development.

Description of Selected Buildings and Objects

522 61st St. Samuel B. Scott House¹ c.1855²

This large, square, two-story white-painted brick house is a transitional design between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The shallow-pitched hipped roof has moderately overhanging eaves under which is a denticulated frieze and small, flat brackets. Window openings are symmetrically placed on the facades and are of the a medium size. Originally the building featured an Italianate porch, but it was removed in favor of the existing small porch decorated with classical columns covering an entrance decorated by sidelights and a transom.

Probably built by Samuel B. Scott, an early banker, the house was later owned by a real estate developer, Hugh Spear, between 1861 and the late nineteenth century. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, the house was a fashionable boarding house known as "The Southern." Between 1918 and 1920, it also housed a school known as the "Kenosha Grand Conservatory of Music." In 1923, prominent attorney Alfred L. Drury purchased the home and the Drury family lived there into the 1950s. Drury was a Kenosha native who attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison. In 1906 he was admitted to the bar and in 1907 began practicing law in Kenosha. He was an important local attorney who also served as district attorney and circuit court judge. He was appointed to the State Supreme Court, but declined because of a family illness.³

6003 7th Ave. Lucien Scribner House⁴ 1843⁵

The Lucien Scribner house is a smaller version of the Scott house mentioned above, although probably built earlier. It has a two-story-cube form, is also of white-painted brick construction, and has a truncated hipped roof topped with metal cresting. Under the eaves is an undecorated frieze. Openings are small to medium sized with six-over-one lights. The entrance is decorated with a Colonial Revival terra cotta frontispiece, probably an alteration dating from the early twentieth century. The frontispiece features a pediment with returned eaves and pilasters flanking the entrance. There is an elliptical fanlight over the front door.

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Lucien Scribner was reportedly a local architect and contractor, but only lived in this house briefly. His widow, Sally, owned the property until 1878, when it changed hands to Sarah Royer, then to Nicholas Pirsch. Pirsch was a blacksmith who built his business into a wagon-manufacturing shop. His son, Peter Pirsch, learned his father's trade but became more successful as an inventor and manufacturer of fire-fighting equipment. The Pirsch family lived in this house well into the twentieth century.⁶

6035 7th Ave. Herman Reinhold House⁷ 1864⁸

This simple frame Greek Revival house has a two-story front-gabled plan, a low-pitched gable roof with returned eaves, and medium-sized, symmetrically-placed window openings with six-over-six lights. Window openings are decorated with simple cornice lintels. The full-facade front porch features turned posts with a spool and spindle balustrade and frieze and was probably a late nineteenth century addition.

The house was built by Herman Reinhold, who owned it until 1868. In 1891, the house was acquired by William H. Saunders, a prominent physician and surgeon. Saunders lived in the house until 1909, when it was acquired by Francis and Sarah Lyman. Francis Lyman was a businessman who authored an important early twentieth century history of Kenosha. The Lymans lived in the house until well into the twentieth century.⁹

6044 8th Ave. Volney French House¹⁰ 1846¹¹

This small house has Greek Revival massing and Italianate detailing, representing two popular styles of the mid-nineteenth century. The main two-story block is brick, painted yellow, 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 begun as a simple Greek Revival structure and was remodeled around the Civil War era, giving it the Italianate details.

Volney French was one of the early settlers in Kenosha and was reportedly one of only three attorneys in the city before 1841. He also served as county judge. Later in the nineteenth century, the house was the long-time home of livery owner, Theodore J. Meyers and his wife and widow, Anna. The house has been recently converted into office space.¹²

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6107 7th Ave. Edward Bain House¹³ 1860¹⁴

This large, two and one-half story rambling brick Italianate house features many decorative details. It has a large truncated hip roof from which project two gabled wall dormers on the main facade, and a south side projecting gabled wing. The wide eaves are supported by paired scroll brackets with pendants. The frieze is decorated with dentils and carving. The front gables have lunette windows with arches and tall keystones. Other windows are simple two-over-two double-hung sashes decorated with heavy cornice hood moldings. The front porch, probably altered at the turn of the century, has large Doric columns, a metal balustrade, and a decorated frieze. The frieze is continued along the front facade one-story bay window and the later-added south facade sun room. The bay and sun room are also decorated with pilasters.

The house was built for Edward Bain, who in 1852 purchased a wagon-making shop and built it into the Bain Wagon Works, one of the largest industries in Kenosha and one of the largest wagon-making firms in the state. Harriett Bain, Edward's widow, lived in the house until 1906. It was then owned by several persons, and between 1925 and 1931 it was a dormitory for the Kenosha Hospital Training School for Nurses.¹⁵

705 61st St. Jacob Gottfredsen House¹⁶ 1869-1871¹⁷

This two story painted brick Italianate house has the low-pitched hip roof common to the style. Several brick chimneys with elaborate corbelled caps project from the roof. Under the wide overhanging eaves are paired brackets and a frieze decorated with dentils, carved panels, and a carved architrave. The windows are all tall, narrow, two-over-two double-hung sashes with round arches. They are decorated with heavy stone keystone-arched hood moldings. According to historic photographs, the window hoods may have been added later. The windows also have footed stone sills. The entrance has an arched transom and on the east facade there is a tall, narrow window with an elaborate flat arch. The opening has been filled with decorative leaded glass.

Jacob Gottfredsen was a Danish immigrant who operated a vinegar mill, cigar store, and flour mill after coming to Kenosha in 1846. In 1856 he purchased a one-half interest in a malt house that he built into a successful brewery that operated until 1890. In the early twentieth century, this was the home of the Mathias Werve family. Werve was a superintendent at the N.R. Allen Tannery in Kenosha.¹⁸

6128 7th Ave. John T. Yule House¹⁹ 1866²⁰

This two-story frame Italianate house is typical of smaller houses of this style in Wisconsin. It features a square main block with side and rear wings and a low-pitched hipped roof with wide eaves, brackets and a denticulated frieze. The front porch has classical details and is probably an addition from the early twentieth century. It has been also partially enclosed. The front double-hung sash windows have elaborate wooden surrounds with round arches. An unusual feature of this house are the wooden "quoins" at the corners. That is, wood was placed and scored at the corners to look like the corner stone quoin construction of many stone buildings.

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John T. Yule was born in 1831 in Scotland. He came to rural Wisconsin in 1840 and to Kenosha in 1849. He worked at two wagon shops in town before he joined the Bain Wagon Works. By 1874 he was assistant foreman at Bain and an alderman. By the turn of the century, Yule was a foreman at the company.²¹

5900 7th Ave. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 1872-1879²²

A. H. Ellwood, an architect from Aurora, Illinois who specialized in designing churches, schools, and public buildings, designed this church begun in 1872 and completed in 1879. The church is built of local limestone in the Gothic Revival style. The rusticated stonework is laid in a random ashlar pattern with dressed stone trim. The nave has a steeply pitched gable roof and shed roofs cover the side aisles. The west facade wall features buttresses that project above the roof line and are decorated with stone finials and support flying buttresses attached to the clerestory walls. In the southeast corner is a square tower featuring buttresses at each corner, a clock, a louvered belfrey, and a parapet with battlements. The entrance porch has a gable roof resting on stone sidewalls and decorated with bargeboard. Completing the building plan is the polygonal apse on the north facade. A sacristy wing is on the west facade and a chapel wing projects from the east facade. Windows consist of Gothic lancets individually placed or paired. A large lancet window dominates the front facade. In 1987, large Gothic windows on the south facade were replaced with contemporary stained glass. The church was listed in the National Register in 1978.

St. Matthew's congregation was organized in 1840, the fourth Episcopal church organized in the old northwest territory. In 1841 a small frame structure was built to house the congregation, and while a new church was desired as early as 1857, it was not until this church was begun that a new church became a reality.²³

5934 8th Ave. First Congregational Church 1874²⁴

Local contractor Chris George built this cream brick Gothic Revival church beginning in 1874. The building has a rectangular plan with a steeply pitched gable roof. Towers flank the front facade and are decorated with corner buttresses and brick corbelling. The north tower ends in a gable parapet roof, while the south tower rises to a spire 150' high. The belfrey of the spire features louvered lancet openings and brick corbelling. Brick corbelling extends along the roofline of the facade between the two towers. An enclosed brick entrance leads to the church interior and features a gable roof and gothic arched entry. Stained glass windows all have stone Gothic arches and stone sills, except for round windows in the towers, a teardrop window in the front facade, and the massive rose window dominating the streetfront. The stained glass windows have biblical designs and the rose window is 14 feet in diameter with an open Bible decorating its center. In 1962 the large addition to the north was completed. It is a two-story contemporary structure veneered in the front with stone. While large, the addition is clearly separate from the older church building. It does detract somewhat from the historic integrity of the church, but not so much that it detracts one from seeing the older church as a separate, historic structure.

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The First Congregational Church was organized in 1836, with the first permanent minister appointed in 1838. In 1844 the congregation erected its first church building, and in 1849 the church moved to its current location. In 1874 this church was begun. In 1903-04 the congregation extensively remodeled the church, and in 1962, the north wing was added.²⁵

6028 8th Ave.

Hale-Farr House²⁶

c.1848,²⁷
c.1890

This house was rebuilt around 1890, possibly utilizing some of the exterior of the old house on this lot constructed for Samuel Hale, a local businessman. It has a basic square main block of brick construction with large Italianate-type window openings. There are heavily carved stone window hoods decorating these openings supported by large brackets. A turn of the century photograph of the house indicates that these hoods were more decorative than they appear today. The two-and one-half story house has a steep hipped roof with projecting gables on the side facades that are decorated in the German Renaissance Revival style. These shaped gables feature returned eaves, corbelling, and arched windows decorated with an elaborate hood. A similar gable on the front of the house has been removed. A veranda covered the front facade at one time, however, a small overhang now covers the entrance that is decorated with elaborate leaded-glass sidelights and a transom. Large leaded-glass windows are also found on the side facades. At the rear is a meeting room added in the mid twentieth century and used for the current occupants, the Women's Club. The interior of this house is entirely late nineteenth century. It features elaborate pressed metal ceilings on the first floor, classical window and door moldings, a gracious main staircase, and a third-floor ballroom that still has its built-in sitting benches along the walls.

William Farr, a surgeon for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company, and a local politician, and his family lived in the house until around 1916. Between 1916 and 1923, the Horace Johnson family lived in the house. Johnson invented the "closed crotch" of modern men's underwear and worked for Cooper's Kenosha Klosed Krotch Underwear Company, the forerunner of Jockey International, a leading Kenosha industry in the twentieth century. In 1923 the Kenosha Women's Club obtained the house, remodeled it and added the rear meeting room, and have occupied it ever since.²⁸

6019 7th Ave.

Urban J. Lewis House²⁹

1892³⁰

This large, decorative Queen Anne house is of frame construction with a rusticated stone first floor. It is two and one-half stories in height with a steeply pitched hipped roof and wide eaves decorated with modillions. At the southwest corner rises a round tower with conical roof topped by a hip knob and finial and decorated with projecting dormers. Large projecting gable sections add asymmetry to the side and front facades of the building. Windows are numerous and varied in their size and shape. They include the large first floor front facade window with its semi-elliptical arch and leaded glass transom, and the second floor front facade

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tripartite window with a leaded glass transom, and a window located under a recessed second story balcony decorated with paired columns and a balustrade. A large veranda wraps around the northwest corner of the house and is constructed of stone piers topped with sets of square posts. Clapboards and decorative woodwork and shingles complete the exterior cladding of the upper floors of this house.

Urban J. Lewis was a native of England who came to the United States as a child. He came to Kenosha in 1875 to become cashier of the Dan Head and Company private bank. Beside banking, Lewis had many other business interests. In 1920 the house was acquired for the Thomas Hansen Funeral Home, a business that still occupies the building today.³¹

711 61st St. Frederick J. Gottfredsen House³² 1888³³

While this house has a basic Queen Anne form, it features details that suggest both the Richardsonian Romanesque and the Shingle styles. The two and one-half story frame house has a rusticated stone first floor and shingled upper stories. The most distinctive feature of the house is the arched openings that form the entrance porch and the almost completed arch that forms the first floor front facade window. The front facade also features a broad gable, decorated with wood shingles in a semi-circular pattern, a shallow oriel in the attic story, and a half-timber effect. The "nogging" of the half-timbering in the gable includes pieces of beer bottles imbedded in the stucco. The bottles were reportedly from the Gottfredsen Brewery. Above the main porch of the house is a recessed balcony, and smaller recessed porches occur on the second floor of the south facade projecting gable wing. There is also a shallow projecting gable wing on the east facade with a shallow gabled oriel window.

Frederick Gottfredsen was born in 1857 in Kenosha. Educated at Lake Forest Academy and Northwestern College in Watertown, he joined his father's brewery in 1876. In 1890, when the Gottfredsen Brewery closed, Frederick took over a branch of the Pabst Brewing Company in Kenosha and operated it along with other business interests.³⁴

6027 7th Ave. Louis Thiers House³⁵ 1893³⁶

This two and one-half story Queen Anne house features clapboard siding, a hipped and gable roof, and a polygonal turret with tent roof at the northwest corner. Openings are many and varied, and the house has a veranda that wraps around the northwest corner of the house. The veranda has been altered by replacement wrought iron posts and enclosure of the north end into a second front entrance. The house also has a broad front gable and a fine stone foundation.

Louis Thiers was born in 1858 in Kenosha. He was educated in Kenosha schools, went to high school and became a photographer. He worked for six years in Chicago and in 1895 he opened a photo gallery in Kenosha under the name of Hollister and Thiers. It was operated for five years, until Thiers became semi-retired. He had other business interests, particularly successful farms elsewhere in Wisconsin. Thiers lived in this house until at least the mid-1930s.³⁷

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711 59th Place Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library 1900³⁸

One of Kenosha's prominent Neo-Classical Revival civic buildings, the Simmons Library was designed by nationally prominent architect, Daniel H. Burnham. Built for \$150,000, the library is a one-story building sitting on a raised foundation. It has a cross plan and is constructed of Bedford limestone. At the center is the building's dome, sitting on a drum and decorated with a running-swag design. The roof's corners of the pedimented gables are decorated with acanthus acroteria. Large single-light windows with transoms are grouped in bands and decorated with pilasters. A group of steps lead to the main entrance of monumental bronze doors. A pedimented portico covers the recessed entrance and is supported by two Ionic columns. The rear of the building features an enclosed portico with details like those of the main entrance. The building was listed in the National Register in 1974.

The construction of this public library building in Kenosha was the culmination of several years of work establishing a library society and raising funds for it. In 1899, Z. G. Simmons, a local industrialist, offered to build a library building and give it to the city. He stipulated that the facility be named for his late son and that the city levy a tax to support the library operations. The city agreed, and on May 30, 1900, the new library was dedicated.³⁹

711 59th Place Kenosha County Soldiers Monument 1900⁴⁰
Lincoln Statue 1909⁴¹

Library Park is the home of two contributing objects. The soldier's monument, dedicated along with the new library in 1900 was also designed by Daniel Burnham. It consists of a 60 foot granite Corinthian column capped by a Winged Victory. The bronze Winged Victory statue was executed by Italian sculptor Decco.⁴²

The bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln in the northeast corner of Library Park is about five feet in height sitting on a granite stone base of about seven feet in height. It shows Lincoln sitting, with legs crossed, and was executed by C. H. Neihaus of New York in 1909. The statue was a gift to the city from businessman Orla Calkins, an admirer of Lincoln.⁴³

807 61st St. Masonic Temple 1924-25⁴⁴

The Masonic Temple was designed by Chicago architect Richard Gustave Schmid, who specialized in designing Masonic Temples. It is done in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The front and east facades are clad in smooth ashlar limestone, while the rear and west facades are constructed of tan brick. The two-story building has symmetrical composition and features a stone cornice on the front and east facades, above which is a parapet with balustrade around a raised third story built of brick. This raised story has a standing seam metal hipped roof and is decorated with pilasters. The single pane double-hung sash windows of the front and east facades have cornice hood molds on the first floor and the central entrance is covered by a partially enclosed portico supported by two large Ionic columns.

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The Masons have been meeting in Kenosha since the mid-nineteenth century. By 1935, the numerous individual lodges of the fraternal group had 800 members.⁴⁵

6050 8th Ave. Jewish Community Center--Beth Hillel Temple c. 1927-28⁴⁶

This Neo-Classical Revival building was designed by Chicago architect Abraham Epstein. Of two stories, it is a brick building clad with limestone on the front facade and a portion of the sides. The building has a prominent cornice with plain parapet on the front facade. The first floor windows are multi-paned casements elaborately decorated with hoods supported by brackets, and prominent sills under which are carved swags. The recessed entrance features entry doors topped with a transom and an elaborately decorated surround. Two Ionic columns also decorate the entrance. The brick walls of the sides and rear are devoid of detail.

The Young Men's Hebrew Association was formed around 1922 in Kenosha. At first a social group, the members reorganized as a temple in 1923. By 1924 they had regular services conducted above a store on Main Street. This building was constructed as a temple and recreational and social facility, and originally included an assembly hall, library, auditorium, gymnasium, recreation rooms, and a kitchen. The Beth Hillel congregation has been associated with Reform Judaism in Kenosha since the 1920s.⁴⁷

6207 7th Ave. Terrace Court Apartments⁴⁸ c. 1928⁴⁹

Reportedly built by local contractors, the Larson Brothers Contracting Company, the Terrace Court Apartments is a three-story red brick building that features architectural details of the Neo-Classical Revival style. The U-shaped building has a courtyard leading to the recessed main entrance. Above the cornice line is a brick parapet roof punctuated by balustrade sections and topped with urns. There is a belt course separating the first and second floors. Windows are six-over-one sashes with simple stone molding surrounds and are placed individually, paired, or tripled on the walls.

The Terrace Court Apartments was built as an apartment complex for the middle-class and upper-class persons of Kenosha who wanted a downtown address, but not the upkeep of a downtown single-family residence. Original tenants included doctors, dentists, attorneys, business managers, and other white-collar professionals.⁵⁰

720 59th Place Old YMCA⁵¹ 1930⁵²

This four and one-half story building towers over the north end of the district. The stone ashlar building is executed in the Tudor Revival style and was designed by Chicago architect Charles H. Walcott. The building has a long, intersecting gable roof covering its main portion. At the southwest corner is a "tower" section decorated with battlements. The southeast corner has a projecting gable section, while the center of the front facade is recessed slightly. Openings are mostly multi-paned paired casement windows, some with label moldings. There are also some oriel windows and projecting bays on the building. Entrances are highlighted by projecting pavilions

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and feature stone Tudor arches. Some new additions have been made to the building on the east facade. These new additions, while modern, do not significantly detract from the historic building. In fact, they seem more like a separate building sharing a party wall with the old YMCA.

The YMCA was built in 1930 after the organization revived in the 1920s. Industrialist Charles W. Nash offered \$400,000 for a YMCA if the city could raise an equal amount by donations. The city raised even more than needed and this outstanding facility was opened on November 15, 1930. The facility still serves the youth of Kenosha today under the name of the Kenosha Youth Foundation.⁵³

521 61st St. William T. Flatley House⁵⁴ c.1930⁵⁵

Rounding out the wide range of architectural styles in this district is this Georgian Revival house. Of two stories, the red brick building features a side-gabled roof and a modillioned frieze. The entrance is decorated with sidelights and a fanlight and is covered with a semi-circular portico supported by Tuscan columns. The portico's frieze is decorated with modillions and topped with a balustrade. Above the portico is an arched, multi-paned window with a frontispiece-like surround composed of pilasters supporting an arched window molding flanked by medallions. Windows are symmetrically placed and upper windows have six-over-six lights, while lower windows are tall and narrow and have nine-over-nine lights. There is an exterior end wall chimney on the west facade and quarter circle windows decorate the attic story.

William T. Flatley was a local dentist and lived in the house until around 1935. It was then occupied by Herbert E. Sawyer, an executive with the MacWhyte Company. Residents after the period of significance include the family of Charles Nash Miller and Robert Wells, both affiliated with local industries in the community.

BUILDING INVENTORY

Address	Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status
5912-14 8th Ave.	Eastman-Hurd House ⁵⁶	Two-Story Cube	c. 1904 ⁵⁷	C*
5918 "	N. R. Allen, Jr. House ⁵⁸	Queen Anne	c.1890 ⁵⁹	C
5934 "	1st Congregational Church Addition ⁶⁰	Gothic Revival	1874	C
6004 "	The Allis	Contemporary	1962	NC*
6008 "	Arthur French House ⁶²	Neo-Classical	c.1915 ⁶¹	C
6012 "	Mary Allen House ⁶⁴	Craftsman	1908 ⁶³	C
6018 "	Apartment Building	Colonial Revival	c.1904 ⁶⁵	C
6028 "	William M. Farr House	Contemporary	c.1975 ⁶⁶	NC
6032 "	First Church of Christ, Scientist	German Renaiss.	c.1848,1890	C
6044 "	Volney French House	Colonial Revival	1927 ⁶⁷	C
6050 "	Jewish Community Center	Italianate	1846	C
		Neo-Classical	1927-28	C

* C = Contributing; NC = Non-contributing

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Address	Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status
807 61st St.	Masonic Temple	Neo-Classical	1924	C
6118 8th Ave.	Joseph Tacki House ⁶⁸	Colonial Revival	c. 1900 ⁶⁹	C
6201 "	Charles Stuart House ⁷⁰	Gabled Ell	c. 1907 ⁷¹	C
6123 "	Mary Stanbridge House ⁷²	Gabled Ell	c. 1905 ⁷³	C
6119 "	Duplex	Late Queen Anne	c. 1904 ⁷⁴	C
711 61st St.	Frederick Gottfredsen House	Queen Anne	1888	C
705 "	Jacob Gottfredsen House	Italianate	1869-71 ⁷⁵	C
6116 7th Ave.	Residence	Second Empire	c. 1880 ⁷⁵	C
6118-20 "	Charles Frantz House ⁷⁶	American Foursquare	c. 1907 ⁷⁷	C
6122-24 "	Wells House ⁷⁸	American Foursquare	c. 1913 ⁷⁹	C
6128 "	John T. Yule House	Italianate	1866	C
6207 "	Terrace Court Apartments	Neo-Classical	c. 1928	C
6121 "	Medical Office	Contemporary	c. 1980 ⁸⁰	NC
6107 "	Edward Bain House	Italianate	1860	C
521 61st St.	William T. Flatley House	Georgian Revival	c. 1930	C
519 "	C. Ernest Dewey House ⁸¹	Craftsman	c. 1910 ⁸²	C
522 "	Samuel B. Scott House	Greek Rev./Ital.	c. 1855 ⁸³	C
530 "	Residence	Greek Revival	c. 1855 ⁸³	C
536 "	Richard H. Welles House ⁸⁴	Late Queen Anne	c. 1905 ⁸⁵	C
600 "	Aart Van Westrienen House ⁸⁶	Front Gabled	c. 1904 ⁸⁷	C
6039 7th Ave.	James Gorman House ⁸⁸	Two-Story Cube	c. 1927 ⁸⁹	C
6035 "	Herman Reinhold House	Greek Revival	1864	C
6027 "	Louis Thiers House	Queen Anne	1893	C
6019 "	Urban J. Lewis House	Queen Anne	1892	C
6003 "	Lucien Scribner House	Greek Rev./Ital.	1843	C
5900 "	St. Matthew's Church	Gothic Revival	1872-79	C
5900A "	St. Matthew's Guild Hall	Neo-Gothic	1955 ⁹⁰	NC
5824 "	Old First Baptist Church	Gothic Revival	1901 ⁹¹	C
720 59th Place	Old YMCA	Tudor Revival	1930	C
711 "	Simmons Library	Neo-Classical	1900	C
711 "	Soldier's Monument	Neo-Classical	1900	C
711 "	Lincoln Statue		1909	C

Notes to Section 7

¹ Tax Rolls for the City of Kenosha. On file at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Parkside Library, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

² Tax Rolls.

³ Francis H. Lyman, The City of Kenosha and Kenosha County Wisconsin, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1916, p. 633; Tax Rolls; City Directories for the City of Kenosha, on file at the Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library, Kenosha, Wisconsin; Penny Enroth, City of Kenosha, personal communication.

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⁴Kenosha County Deed Records for 6003 7th Avenue, on file at the Register of Deeds Office, Kenosha County Courthouse, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.; City Directories; Kenosha Landmarks Commission, Kenosha Historical Sites, Kenosha: City of Kenosha, 1979, p. 29; Lyman, pp. 668-671.

⁷Tax Rolls.

⁸Tax Rolls.

⁹Tax Rolls, Kenosha County Deed Records for 6035 7th Avenue; C. W. Butterfield, The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879, pp. 694, 699.

¹⁰Kenosha County Deed Records for 6044 8th Avenue.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Lyman, pp. 57, 319; City Directories.

¹³Kenosha Historical Sites, p. 31.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Lyman, pp. 325-26; City Directories.

¹⁶Tax Rolls.

¹⁷Tax Rolls.

¹⁸Lyman, p. 390; City Directories.

¹⁹Tax Rolls.

²⁰Tax Rolls.

²¹Butterfield, p. 702; City Directories.

²²National Register of Historic Places nomination form for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, June, 1978, on file at the State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

²³Ibid.

²⁴Phil Sander, "Historical Account of the Congregational Church of Kenosha," in First Congregational Church One Hundredth Anniversary, Kenosha: First Congregational Church, 1974, pp. 2-4.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶The exterior and interior appearance of this house suggests an almost or complete rebuilding at the time the Farr family acquired it in 1890. However, the main block has some Italianate details suggesting that some of the original Hale house may have been used in the rebuilding. The dating of the Hale house come from Deed Records and the remodeling date comes from the date the Farris obtained the house and field observation.

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- ²⁷Ibid.
- ²⁸Kenosha Historical Sites, p. 35; City Directories.
- ²⁹Tax Rolls.
- ³⁰Tax Rolls
- ³¹Butterfield, p. 694, City Directories.
- ³²Kenosha Historical Sites, p. 32.
- ³³Ibid.
- ³⁴Lyman, p. 390, Butterfield, p. 690.
- ³⁵Tax Rolls.
- ³⁶Tax Rolls.
- ³⁷City Directories, Lyman, pp. 246-247.
- ³⁸National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library, July, 1974, on file at the State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- ³⁹Carrie Cropley, Kenosha From a Pioneer Village to Modern City 1835-1935, Kenosha: Kenosha County Historical Society, 1958, pp. 71-72.
- ⁴⁰National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Simmons Library.
- ⁴¹Diane M. Giles, "Orla Calkins and Mr. Lincoln," The Bulletin, 17 April 1982, p. 8.
- ⁴²Kenosha Historical Sites, p. 27.
- ⁴³Giles.
- ⁴⁴Building permit master list, Building Inspection Office, Kenosha Municipal Building.
- ⁴⁵"Masonry in Kenosha is in 83rd Year," Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June 1935, p. 22.
- ⁴⁶City Directories.
- ⁴⁷"Club is Origin of Beth Hillel," Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June 1935, p. 8.
- ⁴⁸City Directories.
- ⁴⁹City Directories; Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps for the City of Kenosha, on file at the Archives Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- ⁵⁰City Directories.
- ⁵¹"Kenosha's New \$865,000 Y.M.C.A. Building is One of Finest in Wisconsin," Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June 1935, p. 16.

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- 52 Ibid.
- 53 Ibid.
- 54 City Directories.
- 55 Ibid.
- 56 Ibid.
- 57 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 58 City Directories.
- 59 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 60 City Directories.
- 61 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 62 Tax Rolls.
- 63 Tax Rolls.
- 64 City Directories.
- 65 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 66 Field Observation.
- 67 Architect plans, in possession of current owner.
- 68 City Directories.
- 69 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 70 City Directories.
- 71 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 72 City Directories.
- 73 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 74 Ibid.
- 75 Field Observation.
- 76 City Directories.
- 77 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 78 City Directories.
- 79 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.
- 80 Field Observation.
- 81 City Directories.
- 82 City Directories; Sanborn-Ferris Maps.

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83 Tax Rolls.

84 City Directories.

85 City Directories; Sanborn-Perris Maps.

86 City Directories.

87 City Directories; Sanborn-Perris Maps.

88 City Directories.

89 City Directories; Sanborn-Perris Maps.

90 Datestone on building.

91 Cropley, p. 81.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A X B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) X A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

 Architecture
 Education
 Industry
 Social History

Period of Significance

 1843-1938¹

Significant Dates

 N/A

Cultural Affiliation

 N/A

Significant Person

 Bain, Edward
 Allen, Nathan R., Jr.

Architect/Builder

 Burnham, Daniel Hudson
 Walcott, Chester H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Library Park Historic District is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A, B, and C. It is being nominated under criterion A because several of its buildings represent important events in the development of Kenosha's history in the areas of education, industry, and social history. It is being nominated under criterion B because there are two houses in this district that were the homes of individually significant industrialists in nineteenth and early twentieth century Kenosha who were important in the development of major industry in the community. It is being nominated under criterion C because it contains many fine examples of nineteenth and twentieth century architectural styles, and because one building was the work of a nationally recognized master architect. Each of these criteria will be developed in detail under the themes of architecture, education, industry, and social history following a brief historical overview.

Historical Overview

After the first settlers arrived in Kenosha in 1835, the land around Library Park was soon taken up largely by Charles Durkee, a New Englander, and George Kimball, a Canadian. At that time, 1836, their land was considered the south side of the pioneer village. Soon after they took up residence, they both donated a portion of their land for a New England type commons--Library Park. As much of the land transfer deeds show, most of the earliest residents of Library Park purchased their lots from either Durkee or Kimball. Gradually a number of the fledgling community's prominent citizens saw the beauty of living on a commons and begin erecting homes around the park. Most of these houses were small to medium-sized structures. The Lucien Scribner house (6003 7th Ave., 1843) and the Volney French house (6044 8th Ave., 1846) are good examples of this early construction. The 1850s saw increased settlement of the park and by 1861 the lots around the park were almost entirely

 X See continuation sheet

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filled. The houses around the park in 1861 ranged from the modest residence at 530 61st St. (c. 1855) to the elaborate Italianate Edward Bain House (6107 7th Ave., 1860). Unfortunately, many of the earliest houses around the park have been lost as the district was redeveloped several times during the period of significance. Yankee names dominated the plat around Library Park, and prominent names such as Samuel Hale, Volney French, Harvey Durkee, Edward Bain, R. H. Deming, and Dan Head appear on the 1861 plat map.²

It was during the ante-bellum period in this district that this area of Kenosha was reportedly involved in the "underground railroad," the informal transportation network that helped a number of slaves escape the south for freedom in Canada. Because of its location on Lake Michigan and its anti-slavery Yankee contingent in Library Park, Kenosha was apparently a stop on this invisible railroad. One of the most active Kenoshans in the anti-slavery movement was Reuben H. Deming, whose house was located about where the Louis Thiers house (6027 7th Ave.) is now located. The original house on the site of the William Farr house (6028 8th Ave.) was also reportedly a location for secreting slaves waiting to be sent north on ships leaving the harbor at Kenosha. Today a plaque marks the site of the old Deming house as a stop on the underground railroad.³

During the last half of the nineteenth century, a number of houses were built in the district filling in the vacant lots or replacing older buildings on the same lot. Two houses built early in this era represented the still-popular Italianate style. They are the Jacob Gottfredsen House (705 61st St., 1869-71) and the John T. Yule house (6128 7th Ave., 1866). During the 1870s, two important religious structures were built. The impressive Gothic Revival stone St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (5900 7th Ave.) was begun in 1872 and finished in 1879. The First Congregational Church (5934 8th Ave.) was built in 1874 and is an impressive cream brick Gothic Revival church. That these two Yankee-dominated churches were built in the park indicates that Yankees still dominated the residents of the neighborhood even in the late nineteenth century.

The Queen Anne era in the district was ushered in with the construction of the Frederick Gottfredsen house (711 61st St.) in 1888. But the Gottfredsen house also shows how the prominent citizens of this district desired a unique interpretation of a popular architectural style for their residences. This is reflected in the Romanesque and Shingle style details that make this house unique in the district. Nathan R. Allen, Jr., a second-generation industrialist, built a large and impressive Queen Anne house (5918 8th Ave.) around 1890, and prominent surgeon William M. Farr rebuilt his house around 1890 in an interpretation of the German Renaissance Revival style peculiar to Wisconsin's German population. The Urban J. Lewis house (6019 7th Ave.) and the Louis Thiers house (6027 7th Ave.) built in 1892 and 1893, complete nineteenth century construction in the district. At this time, Library Park was at the height of its upper-class residential ambience. With graceful and large homes from the mid and late nineteenth century, the area around the park was the most fashionable address in town.

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The early twentieth century, though, ushered in changes for the neighborhood. Urban pressures and the district's closeness to the city's downtown commercial district forced a densification of the neighborhood along with new construction that was more related to the commercial district than to a residential neighborhood. Large lots were further subdivided, and any remaining vacant lots were built on. The residences of this era were much smaller than that of the late nineteenth century, and some of the homes lacked architectural style altogether. Typical of this infill construction are the streetscapes of houses along the south end of 7th and 8th Avenues. Built during the first two decades of the twentieth century, they range in appearance from the plain Colonial Joseph Tacki house (6118 8th ave., c. 1900) to the simple gabled ell Charles Stuart House (6201 8th Ave., c. 1907), to the two well-maintained American Foursquare houses at 6118-20 and 6122-24 7th Ave., c. 1907 and c. 1913, respectively. There were some stylistic houses constructed during this era, but they did not match the size and exuberance of the nineteenth century construction. Typical of these are the craftsman Arthur French house (6008 8th Ave.), built in 1908; the simple Colonial Revival Mary Allen house (6012 8th Ave.), built around 1904, the Craftsman C. Ernest Dewey house (519 61st St.), built around 1910; and the small Georgian Revival William T. Flatley house at 521 61st St., built around 1930. Residents of the neighborhood were still mostly middle-class or prominent families, although as some long-time residents died, their homes were occupied by less prominent families or put to new uses. An example of this is the Edward Bain house (6107 7th Ave.), occupied by several families and a nurse's training school after Harriett Bain died around 1906. It was also during this time that one of Kenosha's most famous native sons was born in this district. In a flat in the house at 6116 7th Ave., Orson Welles, the noted actor, writer, and director, was born in 1915 to parents whose ancestors were long-time residents of the district.

More important than the construction of infill residential housing, though, was the construction of large, public buildings in this district during the early twentieth century. The trend began with the Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library (711 59th Place), constructed in 1900. The library construction transformed City Park into Library Park. The Neo-Classical Revival design of the building was repeated in the Masonic Temple (807 61st St., 1924) and the Jewish Community Center (6050 8th Ave., 1927-28). These buildings were also responsible for the loss of several residences on Library Park. The Neo-Classical style was also used less elaborately in the two apartment buildings of the district, the Terrace Court Apartments (6207 7th Ave., c. 1928) and The Allis (6004 8th Ave., c. 1915), two buildings that also added to the density of the district. And, finally, the old YMCA, a massive Tudor Revival public building cleared away a number of smaller residences for its construction in 1930 at 720 59th Place.

Since World War II the district has stabilized, although the area bordering it has changed dramatically, physically separating the neighborhood from its residential neighbors. But overall, in the district, relatively little new construction or alterations have taken place. Today, this area has been identified by the Kenosha Landmarks Commission as a historic district that should receive historic preservation

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attention to maintain the unique mix of historic homes, important public buildings, and historic religious buildings it contains.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Library Park Historic District is significant for architecture because it contains many fine examples of nineteenth and twentieth century architectural styles, and because one of the outstanding buildings in the district was designed by nationally prominent master architect, Daniel H. Burnham. It is, in particular, the concentration of so many outstanding individual examples of architectural styles in this district that makes Library Park one of the outstanding neighborhoods in the city; a virtual showcase of mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century architectural design. The following discussion will center around these outstanding individual examples of architectural styles and how they represent the development of architecture in this district from the 1840s to the 1930s. The discussion will also discuss the important architects responsible for several of the buildings of the district and their importance to the district's significance for architecture.

According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Greek Revival style was the first national style to have wide ranging influence on Wisconsin's buildings. The style easily adapted to local variations, and in Wisconsin an important variation was brick and stone construction as opposed to the clapboard versions commonly found elsewhere. The hallmark of the style was that it was symmetrical, formal, and orderly. Even simple Greek Revival buildings have rectangular massing, symmetrically placed windows, returned cornices, and/or entries with transoms and sidelights.⁴ The Italianate style is also seen in great numbers throughout Wisconsin. Most examples were built between the 1850s and 1870s and commonly featured wide eaves, brackets, low-pitched hipped or gable roofs, and square plans. Details of the style also included window hoodmolds or round arches, and bays. Examples were built with clapboard, brick, or stone exteriors.⁵ Three outstanding, very early constructed houses in this district express elements from both the Greek Revival and the Italianate styles. Both the Samuel B. Scott house (522 61st St., c. 1855) and the Lucien Scribner house (6003 7th Ave., 1843) have the symmetrical, formal plan and massing of the Greek Revival style, yet also have details from the Italianate, particular expressed in their rooflines. Both of these houses are most outstanding because of their high level of preservation, belying their early construction dates. Together they illustrate the understated elegance of mid-nineteenth century design.

Also making the transition between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles more significantly is the Volney French house (6044 8th Ave., 1846). The house has a typical square main block with ell, and has the proportions of the Greek Revival style. But the details of the frieze and the bay of the ell are clearly Italianate. Again, what makes this house such a fine example of nineteenth century

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construction is its high level of integrity.

This district is fortunate to have one of the finest and most unusual Italianate houses in the city. The Edward Bain house (6107 7th Ave., 1860) does not have the usual Italianate form. Indeed, it is somewhat rambling and offers elaborately decorated gables as an expression of its style. The bracketed cornice and decorated frieze are the building's most important details. The Italianate Jacob Gottfredsen house (705 61st St., 1869-71) and John T. Yule house (6128 7th Ave., 1866) are more typical Italianate designs. The Gottfredsen house has a square plan, brackets, and hood molds typical of the style in Wisconsin. The Yule house is of the more vernacular type, with a simpler bracketed cornice and elaborate wooden window surrounds featuring the commonly-seen round arch. But its most unusual elements are the wooden corner quoins, scored to give the house the appearance of stone corners.

Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan indicates that the Gothic Revival style in Wisconsin spanned the years between 1850 and 1880. Typical Gothic Revival details were pointed arches, steeply-pitched gable roofs, pinnacles, battlements, and decorative bargeboards. The style was popular for churches, and in Wisconsin churches in the style were frequently built of stone. In fact, most large Wisconsin communities have at least one stone Gothic Revival church.⁶ Library Park has two fine Gothic Revival churches, both constructed in the 1870s. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (5900 7th Ave., 1872-1879) is a stone building with the typical Gothic details mentioned above. Its unusual flying buttresses add a decorative touch to this fine building. The First Congregational Church (5934 8th Ave., 1874) also have the typical gothic arched stained glass windows and wall buttresses of the style, but its outstanding details include the large and artistically attractive stained glass windows. The rose window of the front facade is especially impressive and its size balances the exceptionally high spire of the church. The cream brick exterior is commonly found in church construction, but is well maintained and attractive as it is used in this design.

Most of the outstanding buildings of the late nineteenth century in this district were interpretations of the popular Queen Anne style. One exception was the William M. Farr house (6028 8th Ave.), rebuilt c. 1890. The general rectangular block form and tall windows of the original house suggests that portions of an earlier Italianate house may have been used to rebuild the house for the Farris. What was unusual, though, was the addition of carved and decorated "Flemish" gables projecting from the facades of the building. The gable in the front of the building was subsequently removed, but the side gables are still intact. According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, these gables were commonly seen on an uncommon--except in Wisconsin--revival style of the late nineteenth century, the German Renaissance Revival. Fostered by the upper-class Germans of eastern Wisconsin and their architects, the style is unusual and distinctive.⁷ That it was used in rebuilding this house for the probably Yankee-descended Farr is especially interesting.

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According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Queen Anne style was an important architectural movement of the period 1880 to 1910 in Wisconsin. Queen Anne houses expressed complexity and irregularity in their plans and details. Other Queen Anne details include a variety of surface textures such as shingles and clapboards above brick or stone first floors; multiple roofs and wall projections; steeply-pitched roofs; round or polygonal turrets; wrap-around verandas; and classical details.⁸ The fine examples of Queen Anne architecture in Library Park reflects this attitude completely. And, since Kenosha does not have an abundance of good examples of Queen Anne architecture, those found in Library Park are even more significant. The Urban J. Lewis House (6019 7th Ave., 1892) is probably the best Queen Anne house in the city. The first floor stone construction and arched window suggests a hint of the Romanesque style, while the upper stories feature the exuberance of detail and asymmetry typical of the best in Queen Anne construction. The building's best detail is probably the round tower, dominating the front facade of the building.

The Frederick J. Gottfredsen House (711 61st St., 1888) is not as impressive as the Lewis house, but is unusual in itself. Its unusually bold rusticated stone first floor, with the outstading arches and unusual, almost circular front window, also suggest the Romanesque style. The broad front gable is typical of the Queen Anne, but the wealth of shingles and its overall size suggest a hint of the Shingle style as well. The unique half-timber effect of the gable is enhanced by the broken bottle chips embedded in the stucco, commenting to the public exactly what the owner's business was. Rounding out the fine examples of Queen Anne-era construction in this district is the Louis Thiers house (6027 7th Ave., 1893) a typical Queen Anne design featuring asymmetry and detailed with a fine polygonal turret.

The construction of the Neo-Classical Revival Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library (711 59th Place, 1900) ushered the twentieth century into Library Park. The Neo-Classical Revival style was spurred on in the United States by the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, which featured the famous "white city" of white buildings all executed in classical forms using classical details. The style became particularly popular for public and institutional buildings and commercial buildings in Wisconsin.⁹ The Simmons Library, in actuality a relatively small building, was given a much larger appearance by the use of this style by master architect Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago. The classical details, the limestone exterior, and the dome all give the building a very grand look. And, the dome creates an outstandingly detailed rotunda in the interior. Kenosha has a number of large, Neo-Classical Revival buildings located around its Civic Center, near the Simmons Library. And, while the Simmons Library does not have the scale of these buildings, it has the architectural detail and finely-executed plan that compares favorably with the buildings of the Civic Center, and is an outstanding building in the community. It is also to the credit of the city that the building, too small to meet modern library needs, has not been altered or enlarged. Rather, it has become a specialized reference library that fits the needs of downtown residents and users, while the bulk of the children's and fiction collections have been moved to neighborhood libraries where they are most used.

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Less elaborate examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style are the Masonic Temple (807 61st St., 1924), executed by Masonic architect Richard Gustave Schmid of Chicago, and the Jewish Community Center (6050 8th Ave., 1927-28), designed by architect Abraham Epstein. These buildings are simpler than the Simmons Library, yet are well-executed versions of the style. They both feature outstanding Ionic columns decorating the entrances of the buildings and the style gives both buildings a much grander appearance than their size would indicate.

While not individually outstanding as an example of the Neo-Classical Revival style, the Terrace Court Apartments (6207 7th Ave., c. 1928) contributes to the architectural significance of the district because the building represents a type of construction increasingly popular in the early twentieth century--the garden or luxury apartment building for the middle and upper class professional. These apartment buildings were part of a general movement toward the densification of the central city that occurred when more people desired close, fashionable central city addresses, but could not, nor would not maintain a large house. They were served by a new type of apartment building like the Terrace Court Apartments, that offered tenants high quality living spaces with low maintenance and additional services like built-in fixtures and laundry services. The simple architectural style of the Terrace Court Apartments is typical of the type, usually the interiors were more impressive than the exteriors. As a good example of this important type of construction in Kenosha, the Terrace Court Apartments contribute to the overall architectural significance of the district.

Finally, the last major decorative architectural movement was the Period Revival movement, popular in Wisconsin between 1900 and 1940. The Period Revival styles revived older architectural styles using modern construction materials and techniques to create interpretations of older styles. One of the Period Revival styles was the Tudor Revival. It drew primarily upon English forms from the sixteenth century for its inspiration. A common version of the style was the application of ornamental half-timbering applied over a conventional frame house. Many larger examples used brick or stone construction. Common details of the style include large chimneys, multi-gabled rooflines, and large window expanses subdivided by mullions.¹⁰ One outstanding building in this district is executed in the Tudor Revival style--the old YMCA (720 59th Place, 1930). The large stone building does not show an extraordinary amount of detail, but the parapeted gables, tower with battlements, entrances with Tudor arches, oriel windows, and large number of multi-paned casement windows are typical of the style and give the building its detail. The building's most outstanding feature is its overall size and dominance of its streetscape, making it appear like an English castle sitting at one entrance to the district.

The above examples of popular nineteenth and twentieth century architectural styles, grouped together in this district, illustrate the claim that the Library Park Historic District is significant for architecture in Kenosha. There is no other area of the city that has such a large concentration of fine examples of almost all the major architectural styles of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. While a large

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group of such diverse architectural styles might merely represent a "hodgepodge" type of district in some cases, in Library Park this is not the case. In Library Park there is a sense of the evolution of a neighborhood as it was redeveloped from a prestigious residential area to a social and community center of the city. The architectural styles in the district are excellent examples and therefore the district is a showcase of nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture.

Architects and Sculptor. A number of buildings were the work of practicing architects. And one sculpture, the Abraham Lincoln statue, was the work of a well-known sculptor. The Simmons Library is individually significant as the work of a master architect. Daniel Hudson Burnham was born in New York State in 1846. He went to Chicago with his family at the age of eight, went to city schools, and was privately tutored in Massachusetts. Unsure of his career goals, he began working for Chicago architect William LeBaron Jenney, then worked with John Val Osdel and Gustave Laudreau. In 1872 Burnham joined the office of Carter, Drake, & Wight as a draftsman. In 1873 he became a partner with John Wellborn Root, and they practiced together until 1891. The firm worked extensively in Chicago and across the country, designing upwards of 165 residences and 75 other buildings. It was during this time--1885--that he designed the old Kenosha County Courthouse and Jail (demolished). Burnham was chief of construction and director of works for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The white city of this exposition did much to fuel the Neo-Classical Revival in architecture in the early twentieth century in America. Between 1891 and 1912, Burnham operated his architectural firm of D. H. Burnham and Company. A list of the company's designs during this time indicate an almost exclusive practice in public and commercial buildings, as opposed to residential work that occupied much of his early career. During his later career, Burnham also served on commissions that planned the enlargement and extension of the original plan for the District of Columbia and he extended his expertise into the area of city planning. One of Burnham's last tasks was to serve as chair of the commission that selected the architect and sculptor for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C. Burnham died in 1912 at the age of 69. His list of architectural achievements fill pages, and he was, even during his lifetime, considered one of the outstanding architects in American history.¹¹

Burnham's Simmons Memorial Library is certainly not his most outstanding individual achievement, but it well represents the type of institutional work his firm was doing at the time of its construction. It is a finely executed example of the Neo-Classical Revival style and it illustrates the firm's skill in giving even small buildings a grand style. Because it is so well preserved, it is also a good extant example of the scope of the D. H. Burnham and Company's work in the midwest.

Another Neo-Classical Revival building, the Masonic Temple, was the work of Richard Gustave Schmid. Schmid was born and educated in Chicago, but trained at MIT and in Europe. He also worked in the office of H. H. Richardson for a time. In 1890 he began working in Chicago and was a partner with Harris Huehl until 1918. He then

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practiced under his own firm name, R. G. Schmid and Company, until 1927, when he practiced under the name of Schmid and Ryan. Schmid designed several noteworthy fraternal buildings, including the Medina Temple in Chicago. His commission in Kenosha indicates that he was a skilled interpreter of the Neo-Classical Revival style, if not an innovator.¹²

The architect responsible for the old YMCA was Chester H. Walcott. Born and educated in Chicago, Walcott obtained a degree in architecture from Princeton University and studied in Italy and in the Ateliers of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. In Chicago, Walcott practiced with Arthur Brown under the name of Brown and Walcott beginning in 1910, but after 1924, he practiced alone. His noted designs in Chicago include St. Chrysostom's Church and Parish House, the Aquarium in Lincoln Park, and YMCA in Evanston, and the Lake Forest Academy. His fine design for the old YMCA in Kenosha is one of the outstanding early twentieth century buildings in the city and illustrates the architect's skill in the Period Revival tradition.¹³

St. Matthew's Church was designed by A. H. Ellwood of Aurora, Illinois. Ellwood practiced in Chicago prior to moving to Aurora in 1870. He specialized in churches, schools and public buildings, and designed many of these buildings in Illinois and the Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska. He later located in Elkhart, Indiana. What is particularly interesting about Ellwood's design of this church is its duplication of historic Gothic architectural details far more distinctly than is usually seen during this era.¹⁴

The Lincoln statue in Library Park (711 59th Place, 1909) was designed by well-known sculptor Charles Henry Niehaus. Niehaus was born in Ohio, the son of German immigrants. At an early age he became a carver in wood and marble. He attended the McMicken School of Design in Cincinnati, and in 1877 he went to Munich for further study. In 1881, after the assassination of President James Garfield, Niehaus, a native Ohioan like Garfield, was chosen to execute two statues of the late President, one in marble and one in bronze. He traveled to Italy to complete the works and continued on there until 1885. Niehaus became known as a portrait sculptor and one authority notes that he only broke away from conservative portraiture a few times in his career. Some of his most noted sculptures include those done of Garfield; a Gibbon statue and "Moses" statue for the Library of Congress; a seated Lincoln in Buffalo, New York; "Farragut" in Muskegon, Michigan; "Admiral Perry" in Buffalo; John Paul Jones in Washington D. C.; Ulysses S. Grant in New York City; Nathan B. Forrest in Memphis; and President William McKinley at his gravesite in Canton, Ohio. He had an academic style, never experimenting with abstract concepts, yet he had a prolific career in portrait sculpture. His conservatism is, perhaps, why businessman Orla Calkins chose him to execute his donated statue of Lincoln for Library Park. And, while the Lincoln in Library Park is certainly not innovative, it is an attractive, and well-executed sculpture that befits its stated purpose; that is, to honor the President that Calkins revered.¹⁵

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Education

The Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library is significant for local history in the area of education because it is the best historic resource in the community related to the growth and development of the free public library in Kenosha, an important historical event in the history of the city. Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan discusses the history of the free public library movement in Wisconsin and indicates that the establishment of free public libraries in communities was a significant event in a community's history of education. According to the Plan, the earliest libraries in the state were generally private collections that were occasionally offered for public lending or donated to communities or community organizations. The state of Wisconsin authorized municipalities to establish libraries with tax levies as early as 1868, but few communities did. Most likely, an early public library was established when wealthy citizens donated money for that purpose. Between 1882 and 1900, 20 communities received donations for public libraries from wealthy citizens. In the 1890s the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Free Library Commission promoted free public libraries as a means to promote intellectual and moral development in young people, and as an aid in assimilating immigrants. But the movement was, overall, stymied for lack of funds until steel magnate Andrew Carnegie began issuing grants for libraries. A total of 64 Carnegie libraries were built in Wisconsin, slightly surpassing the number of libraries founded with local philanthropy.¹⁶

In Kenosha, prior to the establishment of the Simmons library, books were owned and shared by private individuals, lyceums, debating societies, cultural clubs, and the women's club. The movement for a free public library in Kenosha began in 1895 when a meeting was held to form a library corporation to establish and maintain a lyceum, library, and gymnasium. Annual dues were \$2.00, but one did not have to be a member of the corporation to use the available books. The corporation acquired the library of the Unitarian Church, but could not obtain the building. So, the first location of the public library was over a store at 171 Main St. Donations began to arrive to fund the library, and it quickly outgrew its quarters. In 1899, industrialist Z. G. Simmons offered to build a library in city park and donate it to the city if the city would name the building after his son and levy a tax to support the facility. The city agreed, and on May 30, 1900, the Simmons Library was dedicated.¹⁷

Kenosha was one of the 20 fortunate communities in Wisconsin that, prior to 1900, had a benefactor who contributed enough money to provide the city with a first-class library building. And, they were also fortunate that Simmons insisted the city levy a tax to support on-going programs. The Simmons library was the result of both public involvement and private philanthropy. The Simmons library was the foundation for the fine library system Kenosha has today. It has been the center of the community for public education, culture, and service since 1900. The current system of specialized libraries meeting the needs of the community geographically, is an innovative solution to the problem of lack of space in older library buildings, and the cost of duplication of materials, indicating that the library today is still in the forefront of service to the community. While the library building in this district is only the physical shell for the service to the community, it represents Kenosha's first step in providing a now-essential community service to the people of the city.

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The Simmons Library represents both the community's and one individual philanthropist's commitment toward providing an important educational facility for the general public in the city. It was a valuable tool in the education and acculturation of its citizens and represents the efforts of the local community to improve the quality of life. Its prominent siting and bold dramatic design is a concrete illustration of the public pride of the city of Kenosha and the community's desire to enhance its self-image. It is also symbolic of the importance of both private and civic involvement in the community-wide social, educational and cultural development.

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Industry

There are two buildings in this district that are individually significant because they are associated with significant persons in the area of industry. They are the Edward Bain house (6107 7th Ave.) and the Nathan R. Allen, Jr. house (5918 8th Ave.). Bain and Allen were largely responsible for the growth and/or development of their family companies, the Bain Wagon Works and the Allen Tannery. There are also several other less notable industrialists who lived in this district that, although not individually significant for industrial development in Kenosha, do contribute to the overall development of this neighborhood as a residence for prominent persons in business and industry in Kenosha.

Kenosha was founded and developed early as a lake port, and during much of the nineteenth century, city leaders hoped that shipping would be the major economic activity in the community. As a result, industrial growth was slow. There were some notable exceptions to this scenario, though. And two of the most important exceptions were the Bain Wagon Works and the Allen Tannery. These two firms were among five that were major manufacturing industries in Kenosha by 1890. But, between 1890 and 1920, Kenosha saw a significant industrial growth due to the community's location between two important metropolitan areas and its good transportation facilities. Between 1890 and 1920, employment in Kenosha rose from 1,000 workers to over 13,000 workers. In the early twentieth century, Kenosha cemented its place as one of Wisconsin's leading industrial centers.¹⁸

The Bain Wagon Works and the Allen Tannery were part of the early industrial growth in Kenosha that helped lay the foundation for the community becoming an industrial leader in Wisconsin. These firms were also important because they were among the largest of their type in the state. Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan indicates that the Bain Wagon Works was the largest of Wisconsin's wagon-making firms and that wagon-making played an important role in the overall development of industry in the state. The Plan also indicates that tanning and leather processing was an important industry in communities along Lake Michigan, and that the Allen Tannery was an important concern in the industry in southeastern Wisconsin.¹⁹

The Bain Wagon Works was established when Edward Bain purchased the Mitchell Wagon Works in 1852. He developed this small shop into a major factory. In 1865 the firm was building 20 wagons per week, or 1500 wagons per year. In 1879 the Bain Wagon Works was building 10,000 wagons a year and employing 300 workers. And in 1916, the Bain Wagon Works was building 18,000 wagons per year in a factory complex of 12 buildings, covering four blocks and employing 450 workers. As the automobile and its related products took hold, the Bain Wagon Works gradually declined, but in its heyday, it was one of the most important industries in Kenosha. Edward Bain operated the business between 1852 and his death in 1898 and for much of that time, he lived at 6107 7th Avenue. It can safely be said that he was largely responsible for the growth and development of this major industry of both local and state-wide importance,

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providing employment to hundreds of workers, and helping Kenosha grow into an industrial power in southeastern Wisconsin. Since the resources of the Bain Wagon Works no longer exist, Edward Bain's long-time home in Library Park is the best remaining historic resource associated with this important industry in the community.

The other individually-significant industrialist in Library park is Nathan Allen, Jr. The Allen Tannery was established by Allen's father, Nathan, Sr. and Levi Grant in 1856. Later Allen was a partner with William Smith, until Smith went to Rockford to operate a harness factory using the Allen Tannery's leather. In the 1850s the tannery was turning out 5,000 pieces per year, and by 1866 it was turning out 20,000 pieces per year. The factory burned in 1866, but was quickly rebuilt. In 1879 Nathan, Jr. joined the firm, that at that time employed 80 workers and was a successful industry in the still-industry-lacking lakeport city. When Nathan Allen, Sr. died in 1890, Nathan, Jr. and his brother, Charles, began enlarging the business. The factory went from one acre to a complex of 11 and one-half acres with 28 buildings by 1916. In that year, the Allen Tannery employed 1,000 workers. While Nathan Allen, Sr. was certainly responsible for the establishment and early growth of the Tannery, Nathan Allen, Jr., with his brother, can be credited with lifting the firm to major industry status. The Allen Tannery provided hundreds of jobs to Kenosha's workers, and because of its strong expansion at the turn of the century, the firm helped make Kenosha an industrial power in southeastern Wisconsin.²¹

The house Nathan Allen, Jr. built on Library Park was a grand Queen Anne residence, and most of its original fabric remains. What may have been an historic front porch has been enclosed with brick and glass, creating an enclosed room that is currently being used as a bookstore. The rest of the house has suffered from a lack of maintenance, but behind the new addition is most of the large and impressive house that Allen constructed. Enough historic fabric exists to be associated with the important industrialist that created his own success with his family's company.

There are several other smaller industrialists who lived in this district that, although not individually significant for their overall effect on the history of Kenosha industry, still contribute to this overall history. Jacob Gottfredsen (705 61st St.) was a native of Denmark. When he came to Kenosha in 1846 he made vinegar, then opened a cigar store, operated a brickyard and flour mill, all in an attempt to be a business success in America. He finally succeeded when in 1856 he purchased one-half interest in a malt house and brewery, which he operated until 1877. His son, Frederick (711 61st St.), took over the business at that time and operated it (the Gottfredsen Brewery) until 1890. The homes of the Gottfredsen families on 61st St. are the best extant resources related to their brewing concern in Kenosha and contribute to the district in the area of industrial history.²²

Also living in this district in the twentieth century was the inventor of fire fighting equipment, Peter Pirsch. Pirsch was a Kenosha native who learned the blacksmith and wagon-making trade from his father, Nicholas. In 1900 he invented the Pirsch Patent Trussed Fire Ladder and opened a factory to make it and other fire

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fighting equipment. He invented several other pieces of fire fighting equipment, and by 1916, his half-acre plant employed 25 workers. While Pirsch was not a major industrialist in Kenosha, his unusual manufacturing firm contributes to the overall industrial history of the city. His house at 6003 7th Avenue, where he lived during his industrial successes contributes to the overall significance of this district as the location for important persons in business and industry in the city.²³

Finally, between 1916 and 1923, the Horace Johnson family lived at 6028 8th Avenue. Johnson worked for the Cooper clothing manufacturing company and invented the "closed crotch" found in modern men's underwear. The invention of the "closed crotch" was one of many innovations in men's underware that the Cooper company, later Jockey International, spearheaded. These innovations are, in part, part of the success of the company today.²⁴

Social History

Several institutional buildings in Library Park contribute to the area of Social History in Kenosha. They are the old YMCA (720 59th Place), the Women's Club of Kenosha, located in the Hale-Farr house (6028 8th Ave.), the Masonic Temple (807 61st St.), and the Jewish Community Center (6050 8th Ave.). These buildings, and the activities that took place in them represent the development of this district into a center for social organizations, probably a result of the public's perception of this district as a prestigious location, and probably because of its central location, close to downtown.

The establishment of YMCAs and YWCAs in Wisconsin were the result of interdenominational efforts of Protestant churches to provide wholesome recreation for young people in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Introduced from England to New England before the Civil War, the YMCA was considered instrumental in bringing young men in cities to Christianity by providing services for them. The establishment of YMCAs was also part of the movement toward providing youth with specialized social services to occupy their time as more and more youth were displaced by industries and emphasis on being a young person with special needs came into vogue in the late nineteenth century. As early as 1870 there were 12 YMCA associations in Wisconsin, but the movement grew rapidly in the state after that time.²⁵

The first Kenosha YMCA was established in 1885 and operated out of a few rooms downtown. In 1897 a YMCA building was constructed, but by 1912, interest in the organization had waned and in 1913 the building was sold. In the 1920s, the community revitalized the YMCA organization. Charles W. Nash, a local industrialist, offered \$400,000 to help build a new YMCA building on the condition that the community would raise a matching sum. An additional \$465,000 was raised for the project and the new YMCA at 720 59th Place was opened on November 15, 1930. The building consisted of lobbies, lounges, game rooms, club rooms, a coffee shop, a cafeteria, dining rooms, two gymnasiums, a pool, courts, and exercise rooms. Because there were no comparable

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facilities for girls in the city, the YMCA was charged with serving both boys and girls, and shortly after its founding, changed its name to the Kenosha Youth Foundation to reflect this change. By 1935 the YMCA offered a program of physical activity for nearly 2,000 members, and meeting rooms for community groups.²⁶

The YMCA (Kenosha Youth Foundation) is the most important historic recreational facility in the city. Today, community recreation for youth is more dispersed among the school system and private recreational facilities, but when it was founded, the YMCA was a significant event in the development of community-wide support for young people's activities. Therefore, the YMCA is significant for local history because it represents the community's commitment for a first-class youth facility in the city. Also, the YMCA is significant as part of the overall movement by Christian organizations to provide recreation and socializing for young people. The recent additions to the historic building proves that the Kenosha Youth Foundation still plays an important role in social service in the community.

Another important social organization in the community has long-time ties to the district. It is the Women's Club of Kenosha. According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, women's clubs were the organizations that middle-class women used to promote social, cultural, and civic causes in their communities. The state-wide Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs organization, founded in 1896, acted as an umbrella group for the most popular women's clubs in the state.²⁷ The Women's Club of Kenosha began in 1891 when 10 women met to discuss forming a club. The original group decided to keep membership at 50 and be primarily a literary and social group. In the early years, the group met two times a month and studied topics as diverse as Greek history and literature to Russian history and literature. The format of the meetings was that scholarly papers were read, then followed by a discussion session. In the 1910s the group began having outside speakers, and by the 1930s, programs consisted entirely of speakers. The club became associated with the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Club and eventually increased their membership beyond the initial 50. The club met at a number of locations in Kenosha, including downtown halls and the Simmons library. In 1923 the group acquired the Hale-Farr house (6028 8th Ave.), remodeled it, and have occupied it as their headquarters ever since.²⁸

While not individually significant, the Women's Club of Kenosha building contributes to the overall growth and development of social organizations and women's history in the city. The location of the club headquarters in Library Park is appropriate since it has historically drawn its membership from the middle-class women who have historically lived nearby. It is particularly interesting that the club has been able to maintain its own large building since 1923, and continues to be active in the community and the district today. Because the club contributes to the overall history of social organizations in Kenosha, their building, the old Hale-Farr house at 6028 8th Ave. contributes to the social history of this district.

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Two other buildings are related to social history development in the community and contribute to the growth and development of fraternal and social life in Kenosha. The Masons have been long-time residents of Library Park and were one of the earliest fraternal groups in the city. Their earliest lodge was founded in 1853. By 1935 the Masons boasted of 800 members in their many lodges. While membership in fraternal groups has declined in the twentieth century, fraternal groups such as the Masons have had a prominent role in the social structure of communities. Providing fraternal benefits to members, many Masonic groups also contribute to the overall civic improvement of their communities. The location of the Masonic Temple in Library Park indicates their desire to meet at a prominent address in the community. While the Masons are not an individually significant organization in Kenosha, they do contribute to the overall growth and development of fraternal social organizations in the city. And, their building contributes to the overall social history of the district.²⁹

Finally, the Jewish Community Center (6050 8th Ave.) has had a strong social commitment since its organization in the 1920s. It had its origin in the Young Men's Hebrew Association organized around 1922 as a social group. Shortly thereafter, though, the group decided to organize as a regular temple and conduct regular services. However, the group continued to be interested in social and recreational activities. When they had their building constructed on Library Park, they included rooms for recreational activities and social activities. The purpose of their building, they indicated, was to serve the spiritual, social, education, and recreational needs of their group under one roof. And, they named their building the Jewish Community Center. Now known as the Beth Hillel Temple, this building and the group that occupied it, represents and contributes to the overall growth and development of social service in Kenosha and in this district.³⁰

Not only did the public buildings of Library Park create a new and unique physical appearance in the neighborhood, they added to the historical significance of the district as well. Therefore, there was and still is a strong social history component to the Library Park Historic District.

Notes to Section 8

¹The period of significance for this district was chosen to encompass historic dates of construction and the era of historical importance of the buildings up to the 50 year cut-off date.

²Carrie Cropley, Kenosha From Pioneer Village to Modern City 1835-1935, Kenosha, Kenosha County Historical Society, 1958, p. 9; H. F. Walling, Map of Kenosha County Wisconsin, Kenosha: J. Lathrop, Jr., 1861, on file in the Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

³"Many Fleeing Slaves Were Aided By Kenoshans, Early Records Show," Kenosha Evening News 3 July 1948, p. 12.

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⁴ Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. II, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-3.

⁵ Ibid., p. 2-6.

⁶ Ibid., p. 2-5.

⁷ Ibid., p. 2-13.

⁸ Ibid., p. 2-15.

⁹ Ibid., p. 2-18.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 2-28.

¹¹ Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970, pp. 96-100.

¹² Withey, p. 540.

¹³ Withey, p. 623.

¹⁴ National Register of Historic Places nomination form for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, June, 1978, on file at the State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

¹⁵ Wayne Craven, Sculpture in America, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1968, pp. 450-455.

¹⁶ Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. III, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Education, pp. 5-1--5-9.

¹⁷ Cropley, pp. 71-72.

¹⁸ Richard H. Keehn, "Kenosha's Industrial Impact is World Wide," Kenosha in the Twentieth Century, Bicentennial edition of the Kenosha News 2 July 1976, pp. 53-55.

¹⁹ Wyatt, Vol. II, Industry, pp. 12-1--12-9, 13-1--13-5.

²⁰ C. W. Butterfield, The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879, p. 547; Francis H. Lyman, The City of Kenosha and Kenosha County Wisconsin, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916, pp. 325-326.

²¹ Butterfield, p. 550; Lyman, p. 29.

²² Lyman, p. 390.

²³ Lyman, pp. 668-671.

²⁴ Kenosha Landmarks Commission, Kenosha Historical Sites, Kenosha: City of Kenosha, 1979, p. 35.

²⁵ Robert C. Nesbit, The History of Wisconsin Vol. III Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1985, pp. 355, 491, 520.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 16 Library Park Historic District
Kenosha, Kenosha County, Wisconsin

²⁶"Kenosha's New \$865,000 Y.M.C.A. Building is One of Finest in Wisconsin,"
Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June 1935, p. 16.

²⁷Wyatt, Vol. III, Social and Political Movements, pp. 4-3--4-7.

²⁸"Woman's Club History Goes Back to 1891," Kenosha News Centennial Edition,
June 1935, p. 18.

²⁹"Masonry in Kenosha is in 83rd Year," Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June
1935, p. 22.

³⁰"Club is Origin of Beth Hillel," Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June 1935, p. 8.

ARCHEOLOGICAL STATEMENT

Historical sources indicate that there were Native American campsites and activity at the site of modern-day Kenosha. Two prehistoric campsites (Kn-9 and Kn-50) have been recorded and are in or nearby the Library Park Historic District. Library Park was also an area of the earliest settlement of the community, therefore there may be historic archeological sites within the district as well. No systematic survey of archeological sites was undertaken in this district, so it is unknown if any prehistoric or historic sites exist other than those mentioned above. There is a likelihood that excavation of the area may produce additional sites, even though there has been some surface disturbance in the district since the mid-nineteenth century.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

This area of Kenosha has been identified by the Kenosha Landmarks Commission as an important historical neighborhood in the community. The identification of this neighborhood as a National Register historic district is the first step in assisting the community in preserving its current integrity and restoring areas of loss of integrity. Because of the district's proximity to downtown and the mixed uses already existing in the neighborhood, it is a priority area for preservation activity by the Landmarks Commission. A walking-tour publication, to be published this summer, and public meetings are some of the techniques the Landmarks Commission is using to heighten people's awareness of this district as a historic neighborhood.

EXPLANATION OF EXCEPTION A

Two religious properties are listed as contributing in this district under criteria consideration exception A, that they are religious properties deriving primary significance from architectural distinction. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and the First Congregational Church are being nominated to the National Register as part of this district solely because of their architectural significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 X See continuation sheet

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 X State Historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 17 Acres

UTM References

A	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 4327810 </u>	<u> 4774610 </u>	B	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 432866 </u>	<u> 477455/0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 4329010 </u>	<u> 4774410/0 </u>	D	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 43266/0 </u>	<u> 477420/0 </u>

 X See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet.

 x See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet.

 X See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u> Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant </u>	date	<u> March 7, 1988 </u>
organization	<u> City of Kenosha </u>	telephone	<u> (414) 473-6820 </u>
street & number	<u> R. 2, 5581A Hackett Rd. </u>	state	<u> WI </u>
city or town	<u> Whitewater </u>	zip code	<u> 53190 </u>

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1 Library Park Historic District
Kenosha, Kenosha County, Wisconsin

Major Bibliographical References

Primary Sources

- City Directories for the City of Kenosha. On file at the Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
- Deeds Records. On file at the Register of Deeds Office, Kenosha County Courthouse, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
- Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps. On file in the Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Tax Rolls for the City of Kenosha. On file in the Area Research Center of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Library, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
- Walling, H. F. Map of Kenosha County Wisconsin. Kenosha: J. Lathrop, Jr., 1861. On file in the Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Secondary Sources

- Butterfield, C. W. The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.
- "Club is Origin of Beth Hillel." Kenosha News Centennial Edition. June 1935, p. 8.
- Craven, Wayne. Sculpture in America. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1968.
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- "Kenosha's New \$865,000 Y.M.C.A. Building is One of Finest in Wisconsin." Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June 1935, p.16.
- Lyman, Francis H. The City of Kenosha and Kenosha County Wisconsin. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916.
- "Many Fleeing Slaves Were Aided by Kenoshans, Early Records Show." Kenosha Evening News, 3 July 1948, p. 12.
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- Nesbit, Robert C. The History of Wisconsin Vol. III Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1985.
- National Register of Historic Places nomination form for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, June, 1978. On file in the Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Gilbert M. Simmons Memorial Library, July, 1974. On file in the Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

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National Park Service

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Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

"Woman's Club History Goes Back to 1891." Kenosha News Centennial Edition, June 1935, p. 18.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. I-III. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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Kenosha, Kenosha County, WI

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Library Park Historic District are as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the curblin of 8th Ave. and the north lot line of 5912-14 8th Ave. (extended), then west along said lot line to the intersection with the rear (west) lot lines of 5912-14 through 6050 8th Ave., then generally south along these lot lines to the intersection with the south lot line of 6050 8th Ave., then east along this lot line to the intersection with the west lot lines of 807 61st St. and 6118 8th Ave., then south along these lot lines to the intersection with the curblin of 62nd St., then east along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 8th Ave., then south along this line to the intersection with the south lot lines of 6201 8th Ave. and 6128 7th Ave., then east along these lot lines to the intersection with the curblin of 7th Ave., then south along this line to the intersection with the south lot line of 6207 7th Ave., then east along this line to the intersection with the east lot lines of 6207, 6121 7th Ave. and 519 61st St., then north along these lines to the intersection with the curblin of 61st St., then east along this line to the east lot lines of 522 61st St. and 6019 7th Ave., then north along these lines to the intersection with the north lot line of 6019 7th Ave., then west along this line to the intersection with the east lot line of 6003 7th Ave., then north along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 60th St., then west along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 7th Ave., then north along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 6th Place, then northeast along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 59th St., then west along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 7th Ave., then north along this line to the north lot line of 5824 7th Ave., then west along this line to the intersection with the west lot line of 5824 7th Ave., then south along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 59th St., then west along this line to the intersection with the curblin of 8th Ave., then south along this line to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the district include all extant historic properties that are related to the Library Park neighborhood. It excludes commercial buildings to the west and north, parking lots and the hospital complex to the south, and the less distinctive residential neighborhood to the east. The boundaries include as many contributing resources as possible while eliminating non-contributing resources that detract from the historical and architectural significance of the district.

UTM Reference

E 1/6 4/3/2/6/4/0 4/7/1/4/4/8/0

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photos Page 1

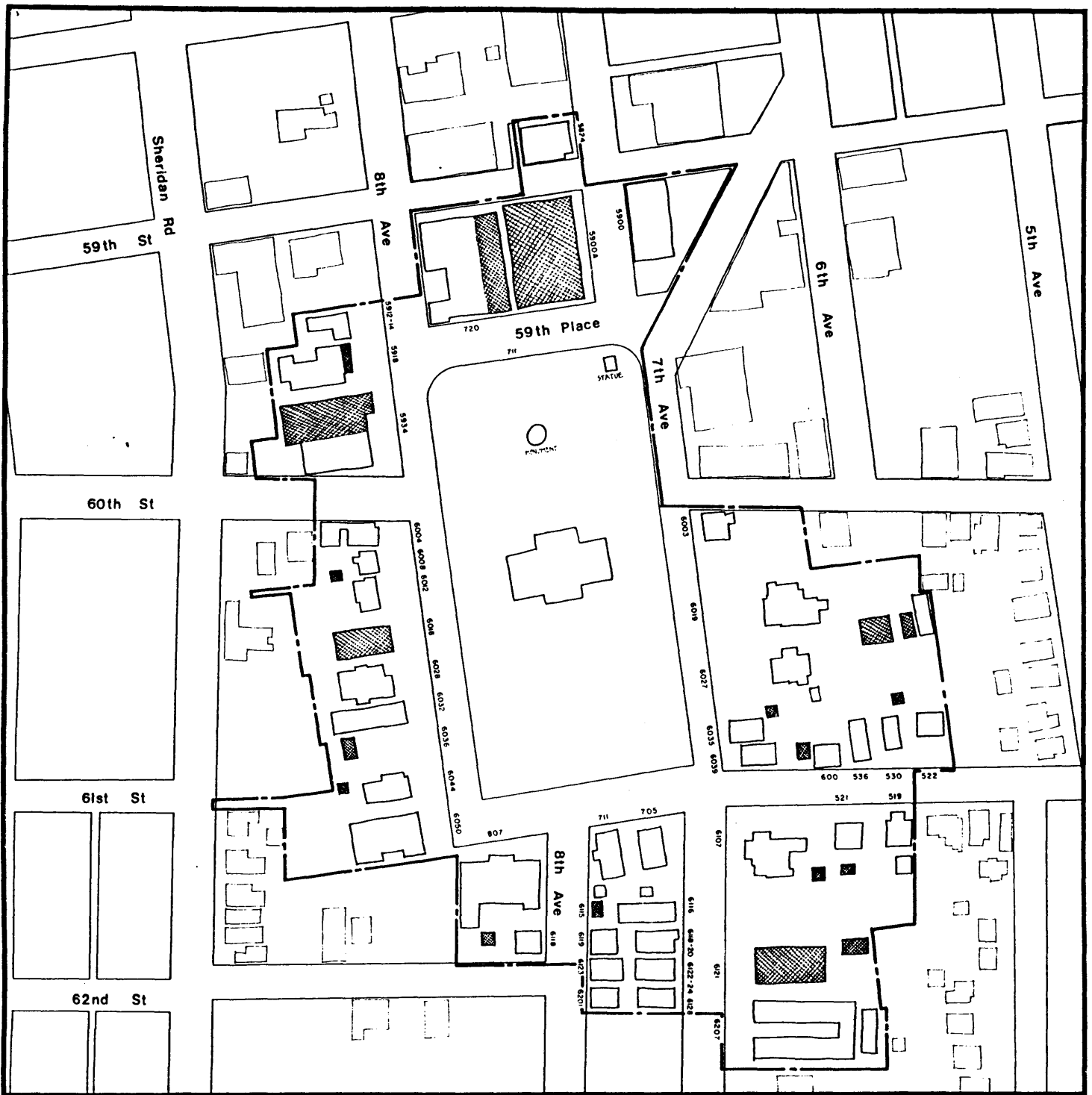
Library Park Historic District
Kenosha, Kenosha County, WI

Photographs:

LIBRARY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT, Kenosha,
Kenosha County, WI. Photo by C. Cartwright,
October, 1987. Neg. at SHSW. District
Views.

Left to Right:

- 1 of 19: 5918 and 5912-14 8th Ave. and out of the district. View from the southeast.
- 2 of 19: 6018-5934 8th Ave. View from the southeast.
- 3 of 19: 6044-6028 8th Ave. View from the southeast.
- 4 of 19: 6050 8th Ave. and out of the district. View from the northeast.
- 5 of 19: 6118 8th Ave. and out of the district. View from the northeast.
- 6 of 19: 6119-6201 8th Ave. and out of the district. View from the northwest.
- 7 of 19: 807 61st St. and 6050 8th Ave. View from the east.
- 8 of 19: 705-711 61st St. View from the northeast.
- 9 of 19: 6128-6116/^{7th Ave} and out of the district. View from the northeast.
- 10 of 19: 6207 7th Ave. and out of the district. View from the northwest.
- 11 of 19: 6107 7th Ave. View from the southwest.
- 12 of 19: 519-521 61st St. and out of the district. View from the northwest.
- 13 of 19: 600-522 61st St. and out of the district. View from the southwest.
- 14 of 19: 6019-6027 7th Ave. View from the southwest.
- 15 of 19: 6003 7th Ave. and out of the district. View from the southwest.
- 16 of 19: Center: 5900 7th Ave. To the right is out of the district. From southwest.
- 17 of 19: 5900A and 5824 7th Ave. and out of the district. View from the southeast.
- 18 of 19: 720 59th Place. Behind building is out of the district. From southwest.
- 19 of 19: 711 59th Place, Library Park. View from the northeast.

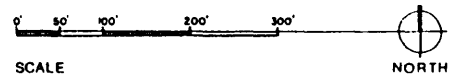


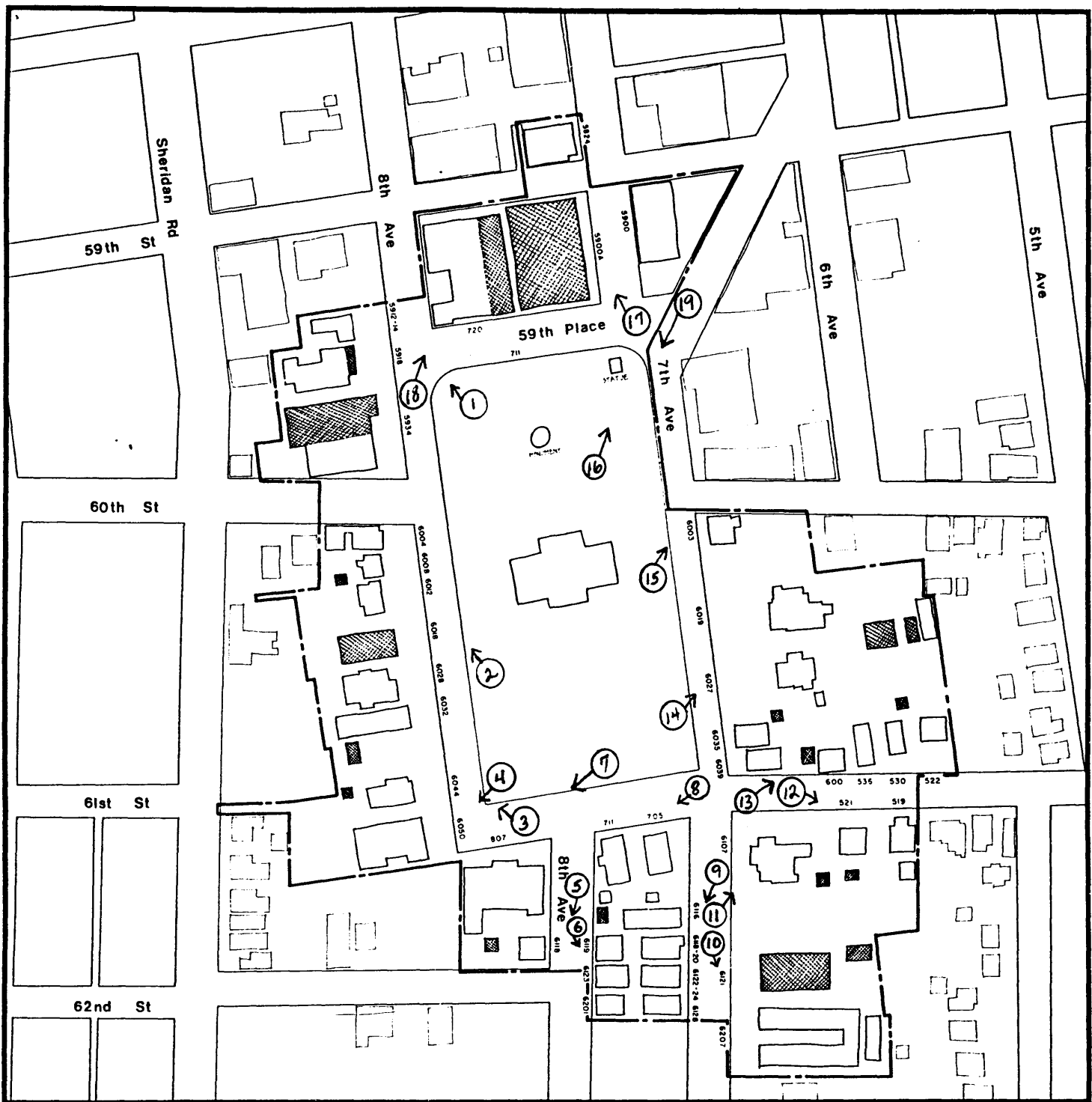
LIBRARY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

LEGEND

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 0125
129/2 PROPERTY ADDRESS
- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- Ⓢ PHOTO NUMBER AND VIEW

PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF KENOSHA, JANUARY 1988





LIBRARY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

LEGEND

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 0125
125/2 PROPERTY ADDRESS
- 125/2 SURVEY NUMBER
- ▭ CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- ▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- ①→ PHOTO NUMBER AND VIEW

PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF KENOSHA, JANUARY 1988

