

Henry and Julia Konantz House
1435 Hampshire
architect unknown, 1904
Georgian Revival Style

Henry Konantz drifted through a variety of clerking and sales jobs between the time of his marriage to Julia in 1887 and his death in 1921. At the time the couple built their house on Hampshire he was a clerk for the CB & Q Railroad.

The design of the Konantz house typifies the dilemma of many American architects and builders at the turn of the century. Public taste no longer tolerated the excesses of late Victorian buildings, but only the most highly trained architects had the skills to move directly into other styles. So houses tended toward an astylistic simplicity invigorated by bits and pieces of some style or another. The Konantz house is a perfect example, with its many vague recollections of English Georgian. Foremost among these are decorative limestone keystones above each of the windows and a central semi-circular portico. Both recall the work of the young Ernest Wood, when he was struggling to find modern ways to express historic themes.

Georgian motifs carry into the interior as well, where false keystones ornament the broad arches between the rooms, and finely turned neoclassical spindles line the staircase. The simple glazed tile fireplace front, on the other hand, is typical of the period without reflecting any particular style. Beneath the plate rail runs a stenciled floral design that is also perfectly in period character, though it was recently applied.

current owners: Tobi and Vicki Long