

Michael G. Ohlson Sr.

I relocated to Kansas City in 1992 from San Jose, California. Kent Dicus and I were looking for an older home to buy. We settled on a Kansas City shirtwaist (circa 1899) near Westport and lived there for 10+ years. We were both active in the Southmoreland Neighborhood Association. Hard to believe but we rapidly outgrew that house and began the long process to find a larger and even older home. There isn't a lot of inventory of the type of house we were looking for in Kansas City so we were drawn to the Northeast because of the homes there. Fortunately we were able to buy our current home at 308 Garfield Avenue (1887). I have always been interested in different architectural styles of commercial and residential buildings.

I appreciate bungalows to mansions and minimalist to ornate but I choose to live in a Queen Anne Victorian home. Our house is in the Pendleton Heights neighborhood and for many years I was on the Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association board as the Treasurer. We accomplished many things for PHNA including initiating the annual Holiday Homes Tour, expanding the Historic District to include most of Pendleton Heights, publishing a book on the neighborhood, directing PIAC money to make improvements in the neighborhood and many other things which improved the area. A few of us like-minded individuals talked about preservation and the history of an even larger area. We decided to embrace what we consider the six historic Northeast neighborhoods and form a larger group dedicated to preserving our common history and architecture. In 2012 we formed the Northeast Kansas City Historical Society. In a short period of time we have formed an annual fall homes tour, published an architectural poster and published our first book on the northeast. We give support and money to projects in the six neighborhoods as well as our own endeavors. NEKCHS keeps me very busy but I thoroughly enjoy what we are doing and our accomplishments and the people I meet.