



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Augustus & Betsey Conant House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1843

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: Circa 1928 (relocation / addition)

ARCHITECT: Howard Raftery (1928 alterations, attributed)

BUILDER: Eben Conant (1843)

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☒ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Greek Revival, Three Bay

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular with additions

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1.5

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Parged

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Clapboard

FRONT PORCH: Yes (likely dates to 1928, enclosed circa 1945)

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Replacement (circa 1945) w/ sidelites

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (6/6) / Awning (1 lite)

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Side Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes (c. 1925-1945)

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Roof cupola probably not original (if original, historic crockets probably removed); front entry added after 1945; frieze windows enlarged/replaced; gabled, east addition by Wilson Bros. (unknown date); flat-roofed east addition later; chimney not original.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

18 Campbell Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-480-003



LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE RATING:

- ☒ Significant
- ☐ Contributing
- ☐ Non-Contributing – Built After 1987
- ☐ Non-Contributing – Reversible Alterations
- ☐ Non-Contributing – Irreversible Alterations

HISTORIC DISTRICT LOCATION:

- ☒ Central Geneva NRHD
- ☐ North Geneva NRHD
- ☒ Local Geneva HD
- ☐ Not in HD / Individual Historic Landmark

NR DISTRICT SIGNIFICANCE RATING:

- ☒ Contributing
- ☐ Non-Contributing
- ☐ Not Applicable / Not in NR District



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ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

This is not the original site of the home acquired by Augustus & Betsey Conant on February 8, 1843. Eben Conant, the father of Augustus, originally built the house. Following his studies at Harvard College, Augustus returned to Geneva and served as the local Unitarian minister. The house was later connected to a stone cottage to the south and transferred to Eben Conant on July 27, 1858.

Augustus Conant left Geneva in 1858, where he served as a Chaplain in the Civil War before dying of exposure on the battlefield in 1863.

Later, it was the home of John (1827-1905) and Sarah Hight (d. 1888). John Hight came to Geneva in 1854 and was a wagonmaker on the east side of the Fox River until the Civil War. He was also a patternmaker and mechanic at W. H. Howell before becoming a custodian at the Kane County Courthouse after it was built in 1891.

The house was later sold to Amanda Hight, the invalid sister of John Hight who cared for her. Upon her death, the First Street houses (wood and stone) were transferred to John Hight in 1888.

Edward and Kate Raftery moved the house to the Campbell Street site in 1928 (lots 11 and 12) as a part of Kate Raftery's River Lane Beautification Project (1926-1950); a permit was issued in April 1928. Oliver C. and Grace (Hight) Kenyon sold the house at the southwest corner of First and Campbell (f/k/a Washington) streets to the Rafterys: house to be moved to "a lot near River Street" (23 Apr 1928 Geneva Republican). The full-width, front porch of the house was removed when relocated. A new house was built on the original site (see 202 S. First).

The property has a 1964 Geneva History Museum Plaque.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons, within the context of relocated buildings in Geneva, and as a part of Kate Raftery's River Lane Beautification Project (which began in 1926). The property is also notable for its association with architecture—specifically the Greek Revival style—and community development—specifically the Early Settlement Period of Geneva (1837-1857).

SOURCES:

GHPC Case History; GHM Archives; 2016 Central Geneva NRHP Update;
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land Records; Geneva, Illinois: 150 Reminders of 150 Years; Geneva City Council Minutes



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CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Garage with wood-paneled, overhead door added in 1928; post-1945 carport is not significant.

AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

3.4.15 Deck Renovation; 5.27.16 Roof



1999