



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: McIntosh Rental-Coryell House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1855-1860

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: ca.1914, 1952, ca.1973, 1999

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gable Front

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Rock-face Concrete Block

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Fiber Cement

FRONT PORCH: Full Facade

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Non-original

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (1/1, 3/1)

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

n/a

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

627 Campbell Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-379-004



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:

The earliest historical reference to this property is that it was operated as the Wheeler Sand Pit prior to 1904 when John Strader purchased Lots 6, 7, and 8 of Block 60.

Strader was a local druggist, who purchased the J. K. Eddowes Drug Store at State and Second streets around 1897. After the purchase of the properties at Campbell and Seventh streets in 1904, John Strader operated Strader's Pit—a non-perishables dump pit—posting and publishing notice that the “dumping of dead animals, offal, or nuisance of any kind” was forbidden henceforth (Geneva Republican 18 May 1904).

In 1908, Strader moved his pharmacy into his recently completed building at 225 W. State Street, which he sold within a short time to W. G. Trautvetter (who conducted the business until selling to A. L. Hill & Co. around 1910). John Strader first moved to Arizona in 1909 and, later, to California, where he died in 1912 (Geneva Republican 21 July 1909 and 27 April 1912). While living in California, John Strader sold the Campbell and Seventh Street property—in 1911—to Albert E. McIntosh. Presumably, the Strader Pit closed around 1909 and lay dormant until 1911 or 1912.

Albert E. McIntosh served as Geneva Township Supervisor, Geneva Township Treasurer, a Director at the First National Bank of Geneva, a Geneva City Alderman, and also operated the A. E. McIntosh Livery & Feed Stable—which evolved into the A. E. McIntosh Trucking and Hauling Co. He was involved with many land transactions including those at Block 50 (bounded by State, Third, Fourth, and James streets) and Block 60 (location of 627 Campbell Street) of the Original Town of Geneva.

It is reasonable to assume that the preparation of the lots occupied by the Strader Pit and former sand pit required some time to complete. Therefore, it is probable that the western lot was prepared for a new structure sometime during 1912.

The architectural form of the house at 627 Campbell Street appears to be a working-class residence of the mid-to-late 19th century, rather than the early 20th century. Based on form, massing, and modest size alone, this house was built between 1850 and 1880, rather than 1912-1916. A search of the Geneva Republican newspaper did not result in any mention of a home being constructed by or for Albert E. McIntosh at this site. Therefore, it is possible that McIntosh moved this home from another location between 1912 and 1916. The basis for that belief is that many homes were moved in Geneva (rather than demolished) to make way for new development—particularly as the business district spread westward on State Street. It is possible that the roof was raised from 1.5 stories to a full two stories—a practice that seems to have occurred with some frequency in the early 20th century.

In 1916, Mr. McIntosh advertised a six-room house at the corner of Seventh and Campbell Street (Lot 6 of Block 60) for sale (Geneva Republican 15 April 1916 thru 20 May 1916). Therefore, the house at 627 Campbell Street was either relocated and remodeled or built at the site between 1911 and 1916. (Investigation of the wall, floor, and attic framing would be a better indicator of the structure's age and date of construction). However, the house at 627 Campbell Street does, in fact, bear a slight resemblance to “The Finley,” a six-room house available from Aladdin Houses (Aladdin Houses 1915 Catalog). Although the exact origins of the home at 627 Campbell Street are unknown, the modest residence retains its workers' home massing when viewed from Campbell Street.



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The 627 Campbell house did not sell in 1916 because McIntosh rented the Campbell Street home to Ernest Rickert as early as 1917. Albert McIntosh sold the 627 Campbell Street home to Harry Johnson in 1925, when he also sold adjacent Lots 7 and 8 of Block 60 to his James Street neighbor George Osborne, who moved houses to the lots.

In May 1933, LeRoy Coryell purchased the property; however, the home was rented to the William Bullock family along with John Shelberg and his wife. Both men were employed in Geneva at local industrial and manufacturing plants during that time. LeRoy Coryell and his wife, Violet, rented the house to various laborers through World War II but lived at 627 Campbell Street by 1947.

The house has been enlarged and remodeled, including windows and siding. In 1952, the Coryell family obtained a permit to add an attached garage to the rear (north side) of the former workers' cottage. Later, a family room was added north of the garage, which was used as a law office before being converted to storage space.

The Coryell family sold the property to Al and Lorraine Ochsner in 1991. A new, detached garage was built—in 1998 or 1999—in the rear yard and faces Seventh Street.

The historic origins of vernacular houses are often unclear. The property may be notable for its association with architecture—specifically working-class housing—and community development—possibly the Early Settlement Period of Geneva (1837-1857). The property may also be notable within the context of relocated buildings in Geneva. Located at the western edge of the Geneva Historic District, the property may be considered a "gateway property" to the Historic District.

SOURCES:

GHPC Case History; GHM Archives; 2016 Central Geneva NRHP Update; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land Records; Aladdin Houses 1915 : North American Construction Company : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive (page 28)



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CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

New detached garage constructed 1999; old garage converted to Family Room / Storage 1999.

AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

HPC ACTION:

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Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

7.21.98 Add'n 2-Car Garage; 8.23.17 Shingles





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