



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Fargo Residence

COMMON NAME: Elizabeth Place

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1898-1900

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 2006 (porch roof)

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: Yes

WILSON BROTHERS: ☒ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Mission

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Irregular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 (3rd floor "ballroom")

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: n/a

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Limestone

FRONT PORCH: Yes

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: Yes

ENTRY DOOR(S): n/a

WINDOW MATERIAL: n/a

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung; Circle Top

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Red Clay Tile

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Limestone

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Three baroque parapets capped with painted sheet metal copings. Palladian window configurations at south, west, and east parapets.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

316 Elizabeth Place

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-10-211-007



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:

Elizabeth Place was constructed between 1898 and 1900 on a parcel of land acquired in 1894 by Henry Bond Fargo and his spouse, Anna Elizabeth Schoolcraft Fargo. Henry Fargo played a significant role in shaping Geneva's development from 1890 until his demise in 1932.

Henry Fargo was born in 1843 in Warsaw, New York, and spent his formative years in Delavan, Wisconsin, before relocating to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, by 1860. Historical records indicate he initiated several entrepreneurial ventures in Fond du Lac, including real estate investments. Following his success in the real estate sector, Fargo secured a position as the principal salesman at E.A. Cummings and Company, Chicago's preeminent real estate firm. In 1887, Henry, Elizabeth, and their two children established residence in Geneva.

Fargo's civic engagement was notable. He served two non-consecutive terms as Mayor of Geneva (1903-1904 and 1907-1910) and was elected to a single term as a State Representative (1912-1914). Additionally, he was the inaugural president of the First National Bank of Geneva. This account of Henry Bond Fargo's life and accomplishments provides insight into the socio-economic dynamics of late 19th and early 20th-century Geneva and the interconnected nature of business, politics, and community development in this period of Illinois history.

Fargo was instrumental in the movement to attract industry to Geneva in the 1890's. He brought the Appleton manufacturing Company to Geneva and worked with his son, Charles, to organize the Fargo Foundry at the southeast corner of Richards and Peyton Streets. Fargo also built the Fargo Block on West State Street in 1915, the Fargo Theatre Building in 1924, and developed Fargo's Track (a half-mile harness racing track) in the 1890's.

The home's red clay tile roof is a French design introduced in the 1890s by Ludowici Roof Tile, Inc. Also on the property is a matching, two-story, stone coach house built circa 1898-1900. A matching stone veneer, two-story garage was built in the early 1990s.

Elizabeth Place is a notable landmark in Geneva and a rare example of Mission-style architecture. The scarcity of Mission-style structures in Geneva makes Elizabeth Place a notable landmark, offering a unique glimpse into this distinctive architectural form within the local context. Its presence enriches the architectural diversity of Geneva, providing a contrast to the more prevalent styles found in the region.

SOURCES:

2016 Central Geneva NRHP Update



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CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Detached, two-story, stone coach house with asphalt shingled gable roof built circa 1898-1900. Stone walled courtyard to the east developed circa 1940.

AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a



CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a



HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

n/a

