



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: N/A

COMMON NAME: N/A

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1855-1860

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1942, circa 1950-1965

ARCHITECT: N/A

BUILDER: N/A

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Italianate

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: N/A

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: N/A

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Clapboard

FRONT PORCH: N/A

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: N/A

ENTRY DOOR(S): N/A

WINDOW MATERIAL: N/A

WINDOW STYLE: 1/1

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Cross Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: N/A

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

512 Fargo Blvd.

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-10-329-006



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

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

The residence retains several notable original architectural features. The stairwell showcases its original walnut newel post, a testament to the era's craftsmanship. The arched entry between the living and dining rooms exhibits intact compound molding, which extends to the floor-to-ceiling windows and doorways throughout the home.



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ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

James Wilson acquired the 30-acre parcel from his sibling, Benjamin, in 1855. Based on the 1860 and 1872 Township Maps, it is most probable that James constructed the farmhouse. Born in 1806 in Halifax, England, James immigrated to America in 1844. He initially settled in Virgil, Illinois, before relocating to Geneva to provide educational opportunities for his five children.

In 1878, Thomas Benton Evans purchased the now 70-acre farm. The 1892 Rural Kane County Directory lists Evans as a breeder of choice for Oxford down sheep and Chester white hogs.

From 1919 to 1937, the farmstead was under the ownership of Michael Schrauth, his wife Barbara, and their three children. The property was a part of their family life, and in 1936, Barbara made the decision to transfer the property deed to her eldest son, Cornelius, and his wife, Edith.

The following year, Cornelius sold the property to Amelia and Ednah Baker, marking a new chapter in the property's history. In 1942, the house was relocated from its original site on Western Avenue to its current location at 512 Fargo Boulevard.

The residence has undergone significant alterations over time. The historic front porch was removed and replaced with an exposed chimney on the front elevation, occupying space previously allocated to window openings. In the 1950s, the kitchen area was substantially modified, with the original galley kitchen removed and the new kitchen configuration more closely aligning with the home's original footprint. Bathrooms, not part of the original structure, were added later, with the first-floor bathroom occupying what was once a separate back porch entrance and the second-floor bathroom directly above it.

A walk-out basement leading to the below-grade east patio appears to have been constructed between the mid-1950s and mid-1960s. Despite these changes, the house retains architectural significance for two primary reasons: it exemplifies the Italianate style of architecture. It serves as a notable instance of a relocated residence.

These modifications and the home's relocation history provide valuable insights into evolving architectural trends, changing domestic needs, and urban development patterns in the area over time.

SOURCES:

2016 Central Geneva NRHP Update



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CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

N/A

AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

N/A

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

N/A



HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: N/A

Other HPC Action:

Landmarked 2008; 12.18.23 Shingles