



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Freeman House

**COMMON NAME:** Karen's Swedish Tea Room, Inglenook Pantry

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** ca. 1859

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** 1892, 1926, 1940, 1949, 1947, 1

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Gable Front, Italianate

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** Irregular

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 2

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Concrete Block, Poured Concrete

**PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S):** Clapboard, Brick, Concrete Block

**FRONT PORCH:** Partial Facade

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

**ENTRY DOOR(S):** Non-historic

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Wood, Clad

**WINDOW STYLE:** Double-hung (1/1), Casement

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Brick

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

n/a

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

11 North Fifth Street

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-409-006



## 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



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### ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

#### BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Oliver Coleman Family erected the original residence on the site before 1860. The gable front residence's architecture is more indicative of the late 1860s, and, therefore, Charles and Adeline Everts may have erected the house. Mrs. Everts sold the property at the northeast corner of State and Fifth streets to John Freeman in 1886. In 1892, a sizable addition was made to the Freeman home.

The Freeman house moved from its State Street location to the North Fifth Street address before June 1926 for the construction of a gas station along the State Street frontage. At that time, the Fifth Street porch was likely constructed (a series of legal issues prevented the gas station's completion and opening until September 1928).

Between 1930 and 1945, a large two-story addition was constructed at the southeast corner of the Freeman home. In 1949, a brick one-story dining room was added to the south side of the former Freeman home and the house was converted to Karen's Swedish Tea Room, a well-known Geneva restaurant for many years. The restaurant later became the Inglenook Pantry. After the home served as a restaurant, a concrete block addition was erected on the north side of the building.

Subsequently, the first floor and basement of the former Freeman House were altered extensively for food preparation and storage before 1965. The original, primary window on the first floor of the front façade was altered over time; the 1949 brick addition was not complementary to the original architectural scale, form, or materials of the Everts-Freeman home. The upper floor was remodeled to a lesser degree, but the original upper floor windows with bracketed lintel details remained; however, the window sash was removed or replaced in many, if not most, locations. Other than its gable form and some of its second-floor windows, the property at 11 North Fifth Street retained little of its pre-1926 architecture. Large sections of the north and south walls of the original home were removed to accommodate later restaurant functions, and the first floor was largely reconstructed over time.

The property is significant for its association with architecture—specifically the Italianate style—and for being a moved structure.

#### SOURCES:

GHPC Case History; GHM Archives; 2016 North Geneva NRHP Update;  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land FRecords



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## CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

### AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Circa 1945-1955 garage on poured concrete foundation; wood, paneled overhead door; wood, 8-lite windows; gable roof (asphalt).

### AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

## CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

## HPC ACTION:



Demolition Approved: November 15, 2016

Other HPC Action:

Demo 11/15/2016





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