



# City of Geneva, Illinois

## Local Historic District & Landmarks Property Inventory Survey

### GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** William Adams House

**COMMON NAME:** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** Circa 1845 (south), Circa 1855 (north)

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** Circa 1856, 1890, 1985, 2014

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

### ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Upright and Wing, Greek Revival, Workers' Cottage

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** T-Plan

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 2

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Limestone, Concrete

**PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S):** Clapboard

**FRONT PORCH:** Yes

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

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

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Wood, Clad

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

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Parged

### OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Excellent example of a "married dwelling house" (workers' cottage combined with a Gable Front Greek Revival residence). Well-preserved entablature and frieze detail at "upright." Front porch enclosure is not consistent with documented, historic porches at this property.

### PROPERTY ADDRESS:

**312 North Fifth Street**

### PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-254-011



### 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 south section appears to be a four-bay Workers' Cottage (circa 1845); the north section is a two-story Greek Revival residence (circa 1855). The 1860 map shows a rectangular house that dates to circa 1858 when the land was owned (1856-1858) by Jane Chambers (her brother was a carpenter); the 1869 map shows an L-configuration. The house was conjoined by either John Green (1858-1862), Ira Minard (1862-1864), Robert Finley (1864-1866), or A. G. Beebe (1866-1872). John Green most likely conjoined the house (the 1860 census shows him with his wife, eight children, and his father).

William Adams, Assistant U. S. Collector, lived in this home in 1869 when it was located at the northwest corner of Ford & Fifth streets. The house moved and a small service wing was added to the rear by Nels Swanson between 1897 and 1905 when the new house on the corner was built. Nels Swanson owned the property from 1890-1926 (see 401 Ford for more info on Nels Swanson).

The interior was remodeled and re-arranged circa 1920-1925. The front porch was added circa 1925-1945. Based on the age of the windows, it was enclosed in the 1960s. A two-story rear addition was built in the mid-1980s when the rear service wing was removed. Beginning in 2014, exterior and interior renovations were initiated to expose and restore earlier architectural features.

This type of conjoined house (where an existing front gable house was attached to an existing workers' cottage to form an Upright and Wing house) is an early example of adaptive use and re-purposing, found primarily in working-class neighborhoods of Geneva.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons and within a context of relocated buildings in Geneva. The property is also notable for its association with architecture—specifically working-class housing, "married" or conjoined buildings, and the Greek Revival style—and community development—specifically the Early Settlement Period of Geneva (1837-1857).

#### SOURCES:

GHPC Case History; GHM Archives; 2016 North Geneva NRHP Update;  
1869 Birds Eye Map of Geneva; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps



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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:

4.15.03 Add'n Deck; 10.21.14, 11.18.14 Windows; 7.30.14  
Door/Siding; 5.16.17 Siding; 10.26.18 Deck

