



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Ira Johnson House

**COMMON NAME:** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1895

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** 1910, Ca. 1919, 2000

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** O. P. Johnson (1910); I. Allen (1919); F. Carpenter (2000)

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Gable Front, Queen Anne

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** Rectangular, L-Plan

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1.5

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Parged

**PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S):** Synthetic Siding

**FRONT PORCH:** Yes

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

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

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Wood; Aluminum Clad

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

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Brick

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

n/a

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

320 North Fifth Street

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-254-007



## 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



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

320 North Fifth Street

## ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

### BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

Kate and James Marshall sold the entire block to Nelson "Nels" P. Swanson; the Marshalls moved to Aurora, Illinois in 1898.

In September 1891, Alfred Nelson (born 1863 in Sweden; arrived in Chicago 1882; arrived in Geneva March 1883) purchased the S 50' of E1/2 Lot 8 and S 50' of Lots 9 & 10 in Block 13. Alfred Nelson "bought Nels Swanson's barn and made it into a house," and later acquired an additional 50' north. Nelson moved to Aurora in 1895.

In 1895, Nelson sold to O.P. Johnson (S 100' of Lots 9 & 10 and S 100' of E ½ L 8). O. P. Johnson most likely built the house in 1895 or 1896; it was known as the Ira Johnson home from 1895-1908.

The next owner was Irwin Allen, who likely constructed the west addition that projected southward, circa 1919-1920. In 1923, the south projection was a two-story open-air porch.

Allen sold the property in 1924 to Victor L. Bowman (1878-1943) and his wife, Hattie (1890-1962). She was the daughter of the former owner of the property, Nelson "Nels" P. Swanson. The Bowmans lived in Aurora (later, Yorkville) and used the property for rental income. After her husband's death, Hattie Bowman retained ownership until 1959.

In June 2000, Floyd Carpenter sought HPC approval to remodel the house. The front porch (not based on historic documentation) was built in 2000-2001 when the picture windows were replaced with paired, double-hung, aluminum-clad windows; the rear addition was also constructed, and vinyl siding was installed (contrary to Staff recommendation).

The property may be notable within the context of Swedish properties in Geneva.

### SOURCES:

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



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

320 North Fifth Street

## 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:

6/20/2000 - Addition - Front Porch, Windows

