



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Joseph Cockroft House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1850-1851

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1998

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gable Front, Gable Ell

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: L-plan

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Limestone

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Limestone

FRONT PORCH: Yes

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Non-historic

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood (Non-Historic)

WINDOW STYLE: Casement, 15 & 12 lite

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Limestone

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Windows are period reproductions.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

207 South Fifth Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-454-001



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 house was built in 1850 (per a newspaper fragment discovered during the remodel) for Benjamin Wilson (printer, publisher, and Biblical scholar; see 227 S. Fifth St.). Joseph Cockroft resided at 207 S. Fifth when the house was completed. The house was attributed to the early construction of George Westgarth, an English stonemason, who arrived in Geneva in 1849 (compare to limestone construction to 1849 Westgarth [Crary] House 416 Hamilton St.).

In 1859, Wilson transferred 207 S. Fifth Street to Cockroft. In 1874 Jefferson F. and Josephine E. Whaley conveyed the property to Minnie A. Whaley. When Minnie died, her sister and husband deeded the property to Charles V. Whaley (1882).

The first frame addition to the south was built in the 1880s by the Whaley family. In 1899, the Whaley property was purchased by John Crighton (also identified as Creighton and Crichton), the neighbor to the south (05 Oct 1899 Patrol). The former Whaley house was to be rented (Geneva Republican).

Crighton sold the house to Frank A. Shufeldtrae (1921-22). It was then sold to "Theo" Turner (1922-1925). In the 1920s the Whaley frame addition was enlarged by the "Theo" N. Turner family, who likely installed stucco over the limestone (later removed). Turner sold the house to Dorothy D. Zinke (1925-1934). In 1958, the property was owned by R. E. Haythorne. In 1998, it was purchased by David and Liz Haythorne, who completed the extensive renovation with architect Mark VanKerkhoff which included the removal of stucco, replacement of windows, reconstruction of the west-facing porch, and reconstruction of chimneys at original locations (based on 1869 Birdseye Map). The 1998 renovations also included the construction of an attached, two-car garage at the rear of the house.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons, architecture—specifically locally-quarried, limestone construction—and community development—specifically the Early Settlement Period of Geneva (1837-1857).

SOURCES:

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



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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:

4/27/1999 - Renovation - Window, Door, Chimney; 3/19/2002 - Addition





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1999