



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: John and Mary Crighton House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1893

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 2015

ARCHITECT: Sean Gallagher (2015)

BUILDER: n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Queen Anne

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1.5

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Parged

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Clapboard

FRONT PORCH: Yes

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: Yes

ENTRY DOOR(S): Historic

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood (Aluminum clad at addition)

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (1/1), Fixed, Decorative

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: No

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: n/a

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Herringbone clapboard at second-floor turret; sunburst details at porch gables.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

213 South Fifth Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-454-004



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:

John William Crighton (often misspelled as Creighton or Crichton) was born in Dundee (Kane County), Illinois on September 15, 1853, to William Robert Crighton (1820-1900) and Grace (Todd) Crighton (1827-1913). William and Grace were born in Scotland and were part of the Crighton clan that immigrated to the Dundee, Illinois area and became quite successful in dairy farming.

John William Crighton married Mary Jane Cooper (1857-1911). They had four children: William "Willie" (1880-1884); Harry (1882-1954); Edith (1888-1933), and; John Wilbur (1897-1964). The Crighton family farmed in Geneva Township until building this home in Geneva.

In 1893, John W. Crighton purchased the property from Henry Hawkins and, "commenced work on his residence to be erected in the west part of town" (03 June 1893 Geneva Republican). The house was to be ready for occupancy around September 10, 1893 (02 September 1893 Geneva Republican). The Crighton family moved into this home on Tuesday, September 19, 1893 (23 September 1893 Geneva Republican). John Wilbur Crighton - son of John and Mary Jane - was born in this home 4 years later.

The Crighton family was associated with the Fifth Street property for 30 years, apparently the longest tenure of the property for any family.

Mary Jane Crighton died in 1911. Harry married in 1909 while living in South Dakota; Edith married in 1913 and moved to Tennessee. In 1920, John Crighton was living at the 213 S. Fifth Street property, as the owner, with his son, Wilbur, who was a truck driver for a local lumber yard. John Crighton sold the property in November 1923 and died in 1925; he and his wife are buried in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Wilbur Crighton moved to Batavia and married in 1927.

The property was sold several times between 1923 and 1950. Michael Sereika constructed a rear addition in September 1947.

The home's exterior is in near original condition with the 2015 addition (Tax Assessment Freeze project). The addition replaced a former one-story service wing and provided a second-floor connection through a former bedroom-turned-bathroom.

The property is significant for its association with architecture—specifically the Queen Anne style.

SOURCES:

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



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CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Automobile garage built by the Crighton family before May 1923 and may have been a conversion of earlier shed at the southeast corner of the property. Garage was moved forward between 1945 and 1956 and an addition to the rear was converted, later, to a guest room/office.

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

9.15.15 Add'n Two-Story; 9.22.17 Patio





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