



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Warber Garage / Geneva Garage

COMMON NAME: Geneva Republican Office / Shodeen Group

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1993 (conversion), 2002

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Two-Part Commercial Block

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Poured Concrete

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Brick

FRONT PORCH: No

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Non-historic

WINDOW MATERIAL: Aluminum

WINDOW STYLE: Fixed, Double-hung (8/8)

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Shed

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Membrane

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: No

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: n/a

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Historic masonry facade with expressed vertical piers, corbelled parapet, and original masonry openings at First Street facade. Also, limestone "Warber" nameplate, pier medallions, and sills.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

17 North First Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-431-020



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 property is the former site of the Louis Klink Livery. Later, Fritz Miller and his brothers operated a service station and garage at this location (circa 1920- 1926).

Lloyd Warber, the proprietor of the Geneva Garage, demolished the existing frame garage on First Street (March 1928) to prepare for the new brick garage (60X65) with a repair garage in the basement. The main garage and sales office were located on the ground floor, and a 7-room apartment was located on the second floor for the garage proprietor and/or manager. Warber Garage was completed in September 1928 and served as a sales office/showroom for Nash automobiles.

In the 1960s, the building housed the Geneva Republican Printing company that published the local newspaper.

The vacant building was purchased in 1986, and in 1993, it was remodeled as a commercial office for the Shodeen Group. At that time, the parapet was remodeled with the removal of the original Mansard roof with barrel tiles (likely metal tiles). (25 February 1993 Geneva Republican).

The building is representative of the early automobile service industry that developed along the route of the Lincoln Highway. Established in 1913 and completed in the mid-1920s, the Lincoln Highway was the nation's first transcontinental, paved highway, stretching from New York to San Francisco. In Geneva, the Lincoln Highway followed present-day Route 31 from Aurora and turned westward at Geneva's State Street. Consequently, many automobile-related businesses populated the corner of First and State streets in downtown Geneva; few of those automobile-related buildings remain today.

The property is notable for its association with architecture (transportation-related structures) and community development—specifically with auto-oriented businesses adjacent to or in close proximity to Lincoln Highway and Roosevelt Road.

SOURCES:

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



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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:

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Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

1.15.02 Add'n Office Space; 8.20.19 Windows





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1999