



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Spalding-Freeburg House

**COMMON NAME:** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1840

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** 1845, 2014-15

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** Noah B. Spalding

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Greek Revival, Gable Front

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** L-plan

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 2

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Parged

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

**FRONT PORCH:** Partial Facade

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

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

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Clad

**WINDOW STYLE:** Double-hung (9/9, 6/6)

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable / Hip

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Brick

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Brick facade material; historic window openings with limestone sills and lintels; broken pediment with gable returns. The hipped roof over the north wing is an unusual feature for this type of home.

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

127 North First Street

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-429-066



## 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:

127 North First Street

## ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

### BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

Originally a two-story house was to be built on the property when James Herrington deeded the site to Patrick McMahon between 1837 and 1839. It's doubtful that a house was ever built.

Noah Spalding was County Commissioner (1840-41) and Sheriff (1848-51). Noah married Angeline Atwater of Elgin in July 1836 (the first recorded marriage in the County) and probably built the north section of the house between 1839 and 1840. This may be one of the first brick homes in Geneva. The brick may have come from the John Penney brickworks in St. Charles (1838-1848) which was the first brickworks established in the immediate area. Penney later established brickyards in Chicago, and his son, George, established Penneyville (present-day Park Ridge).

The south two-story wing was likely built around 1845 when the property was officially deeded to Spalding. They lived here with their son, George, a tinsmith who died during the Civil War.

In 1867, this was the home of Horace Belden. The two-story portion is shown along with one-story rear addition on the 1869 Bird's Eye map from the south, so the north wing is not visible.

In 1888, the property was sold to the Arthur Freeburg family. This is identified as the first home of Oscar and Frida Wilson (Wilson Bros.).

The front porch was enclosed in the 1940s. Arthur Freeburg died in 1968 while living in the house.

Between 1985 and 1999, the brick barn to the east was razed for the construction of River Lane Condos.

In 2014, a renovation of the house began. At that time, the front porch was re-opened, and the house was renovated with a garage and deck.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons, architecture—specifically the Upright and Wing type and the Greek Revival style—and community development—specifically the Early Settlement Period of Geneva (1837-1857).

### SOURCES:

GHPC Case Studies; GHM Archives; 2016 North Geneva NRHP Update; 1869 Bird's Eye View of Geneva; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land Records; Geneva, Illinois: A History of Its Times and Places; Geneva, Illinois: 150 Reminders of 150 Years



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

127 North First 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:

9.15.98 Windows; 5.20.14 New Attached Garage; 5.19.15 Roof  
Deck







# City of Geneva, Illinois

## Local Historic District & Landmarks Property Inventory Survey

**PROPERTY ADDRESS:**

**127 North First Street**

