



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Clark-Beebe-Eddowes House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1848

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1872, 1922, 1925-30, 1945-56

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☒ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Greek Revival

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Parged, Roughly-coursed Limestone

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Brick

FRONT PORCH: Covered Entry

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Unknown

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

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

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes (2)

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Exposed limestone foundation with grapevine bead (mortar joint); unpainted, historic masonry including limestone watertable, sills and lintels; historic wood shutters; west addition has wood shingle siding (likely 1920s); and broad entablature and gable returns. Overhead, wood-paneled vehicle doors at garage my date to the period of the garage expansion (1950-1969).

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

128 North First Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-428-007



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



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ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The house was built between 1845 and 1855 by Wm. Patten, who transferred the property to his daughter, Polly H. Clarke, in 1855. Over the next 70 years, the property was sold numerous times. In 1868 the property was sold to Alfred and Elizabeth Wurts. It was then sold in 1872 to Capt. Edward H. Beebe, whose second wife Emma A. Eddowes inherited the house in 1881 upon Capt. Beebe's death; Emma Beebe died in 1921 and the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore N. Graser in 1922. In 1925, it was sold to William and Ellen Smith.

The Clark-Beebe-Eddowes House is one of the oldest brick houses 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 exterior of the home has remained largely intact, but notable alterations have been completed over time. Alterations attributed to the Wurts era include the construction of a one-story brick service wing to the west (circa 1870-1871). Alterations attributed to the Beebe-Eddowes era include the construction of a full-width porch at the east facade (circa 1870-1897); the construction of the north, two-story bay window (circa 1880-1897) with notably different lintels, sills, and window types; construction of a wood-framed second floor in the west addition (circa 1880-1897), and; the relocation of the existing carriage barn (or the construction of a new frame wing) on the west side of the service wing (circa 1880-1897). In 1922, the Wilson Brothers completed work during the Graser era, which included: the removal of the full-width porch; the reduction of the wood-framed west wing, and; the installation of shingle siding on the second floor of the service wing addition. Between 1925 and 1930, the westernmost, wood-framed service wing was razed and replaced with an automobile garage during the Smith era. The Smith garage was expanded to the front and rear prior to 1956, when the concrete front stoop may have been constructed.

The property was acquired by the Jack Hoelscher family in 1969; the existing front porch was constructed between 1975 and 1985.

Per written accounts, the Greek Revival interior casing remained as late as 1948 (and may still remain).

Geneva History Museum Plaque - 1948 (the first house to receive GHM plaque).

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons, architecture—specifically 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; Wilson Brothers - Contractors & Builders, 1905-1931 by Donald Wilson (2002)



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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:

n/a





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