



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Nelson P. and Anna Eck House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1896

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1923-1930

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: Robert Long

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Queen Anne

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Limestone

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Synthetic Siding

FRONT PORCH: Yes

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Historic (1923-1930)

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (1/1), Fixed (two w/ decor. transom)

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Limestone foundation; front porch with brick piers and hip roof; decorative glass transoms (2); corner bay with truncated hip roof; full height south bay window; decorative gable spandrel (west facade).

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

213 North First Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-427-012



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:

In late January 1896, Nelson P. Eck, a Swedish immigrant who settled in Geneva, purchased this lot and broke ground for a new two-story residence measuring 24X40 (01 February 1896 Twice-a-Week Republican). The foundation footings were laid by February 18, 1896, and the foundation was completed by March 7, 1896 (Geneva Republican). The house was reported to be "nearly enclosed" by mid-March (21 March 1896 Geneva Republican) and nearly ready for plasterers (08 April 1896 Gen Rep). A front porch was located in the location of the present porch; its roof was first metal (possibly decorative metal shingles) but later replaced with wood shingles. The interior was likely painted and decorated by Eck, who was a highly-regarded painter and decorator in Geneva. Although the corner bay window is not depicted in several Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (1923, 1930, 1945), physical evidence does not suggest that the bay window is a reconstruction and that the fire insurance map omission was a graphic oversight.

A second dwelling stood at the rear (east) portion of the property when owned (1896-1923) by Nelson "Nels" P. Eck and his wife, Anna. Between 1896 and 1923, the Eck property was one of the enclaves of Swedish families that settled in Geneva between 1850 and 1920. The rear house on the Eck property was enlarged and remodeled by the Wilson Brothers in 1909 (compare Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1905 and 1912). The rear house was demolished before the construction of the North River Lane Condominiums.

Nels and Anna Eck sold this property to Harold Oscar in July 1923 and moved into their new home at 218 North First Street. Harold Oscar removed the original front porch and divided the home into a two-flat, utilizing the double door entry that survives. The present, brick front porch was built between 1923 and 1930.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons—specifically Nelson P. Eck and Robert Long. The property may also be significant within a context of Swedish properties in Geneva.

SOURCES:

GHM Archives; 2016 North Geneva NRHP Update; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land Records; Geneva, Illinois: A History of Its Times and Places



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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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