



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Nelson "Nels" P. and Anna Eck House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1923

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: n/a

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: Wilson Brothers

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☒ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Craftsman

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1.5

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Poured Concrete

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Brick

FRONT PORCH: Yes

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Historic

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (3/1), Casement/Awning, Fixed

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Integral masonry cheek walls at porch entry stairs; stucco upper gables; brackets at broad gable eaves.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

218 North First Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-426-008



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:

This property was the second (and last) home of Nelson "Nels" P. and Anna Eck on North First Street; they previously lived at 213 North First Street (east across the street).

Eck, a local painting contractor, bought the property from Fred Johnson in 1914 with the intention of building a garage for a new motor car (26 September 1914 Geneva Republican). Eck sold two lots, including the home on the east side of First Street, in 1923. The Ecks moved into the second floor of the garage while a new cottage was built on the lot (04 May 1923 Geneva Republican). The new residence was built by the Wilson Brothers, breaking ground on June 12, 1923; the foundation was completed by July 1923. Charles Caustin laid brick in September 1923, when lathers were completing work. Plastering was in progress in early October 1923. The Ecks were expected to occupy the house by the Christmas holidays. Nels and Anna sold the house in 1950.

The Filbert family lived in the home from 1951 until at least 1958. Arlo J Chapman from at least 1962 to 1972, when Robert Kessler took up residence. Chapman ran the management office for Fairview Apartments in St Charles out of his house when he lived there.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons and architecture—specifically the Craftsman Bungalow style.

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:

The original garage, of a "Four Square" design (according to HPC Minutes was significant to the development of the property), served as a temporary residence for the original owners as the home was built. Although the Applicant for the 2005 remodeling shared the history of the garage, the meeting Minutes do not indicate if the history identified the one-time residential use of the garage. The applicant and architect proposed changing the original architectural style to "be more consistent with" the architecture of the residence; the HPC accepted the design alteration. Based on file photographs, the garage could be restored to its original appearance with the removal of the second floor and restoration of the original hip roof.



CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Wilson Brothers - Contractors & Builders, 1905-1931 by Donald Wilson (1999)



HPC ACTION:



Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

2.15.05 Fence; 11.15.05 Garage Add'n; 9.19.06 Add'n; 8.22.14 Shingles





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1999