



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Burman House

**COMMON NAME:** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1855

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** Circa 1915-1920, 1947

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** William Burman

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Hall and Parlor

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** Rectangular

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Parged

**PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S):** Synthetic Siding over Clapboard

**FRONT PORCH:** Yes

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

**ENTRY DOOR(S):** Unknown

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Wood

**WINDOW STYLE:** Double-hung (3/1)

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Brick

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Overall massing and form.

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

305 North First Street

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-280-002



## 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:

William Burman (c. 1805 - c. 1881), a member of the Queen's Guard in Canada, married the widowed Sarah (Dabbs) Skipwith (c. 1803 - c. 1880) in Ontario, Canada in 1839. At the time of her second marriage, Sarah (Dabbs) Skipwith had two young sons: George John Skipwith, Jr. and Frederick "Fred" Richard Skipwith. William Burman's stepson, George John Skipwith, Jr., moved to Geneva around 1846-1847 and was an early Geneva settler, working as a tailor. William and Sarah Burman and their son, Fred, moved from Ontario, Canada to Buffalo, New York in 1851 and, by 1853, to Geneva, Illinois.

In 1853, Lots 10 and 11 of Block 18 were acquired from Kane County by Luther Dearborn (then, Sheriff) for the sum of \$1.00. Dearborn sold both lots to William Burman in November 1854. Burman built the house at 305 North First Street in 1855 (see: 301 and 311 North First Street; the three properties have an intertwined history).

William Burman was a carpenter with Robert Long (a building contractor who arrived in 1854 and later established Clark & Long, building contractors). Burman built the houses at 301, 305, and 311 North First Street between 1855 and 1856. At age 55, William Burman enlisted in the Union Army with a company raised in Geneva, Illinois in 1861. Mustering in as a Lieutenant, Burman was quickly promoted to Sergeant (probably due to his prior military experience in Canada) but was discharged in 1862 with a war-related disability. As late as 1870, Burman continued working as a carpenter.

William and Sarah Burman sold the center 50 feet of Lots 10 and 11 of Block 18 in January 1856 to Charlotte Susanna and Edwin Tinsley. They likely moved to 301 North First Street.

Following an 1858 Sheriff's sale, the 305 North First Street property was owned by Joseph Hurst until 1870, when it was acquired by Joseph H. Mayborne, an early attorney who amassed a significant number of properties throughout Geneva. Upon Attorney Mayborne's death, the property (along with many others) was inherited by his spinster daughters and continued to be used as income property. As a result, few changes were made to the house over time. The property was sold in 1914 to Peter Hempstead (Trustee for the Mayborne sisters), who continued renting the property to tenants.

The house appears in the 1869 Bird's Eye View of Geneva map and is nearly original in form and massing at the street facade with early 20th-century alterations (3-over-1 windows and rear addition) made before 1923. The front porch appears to be original but may be an early 20th-century addition.

The permit for the addition (valued at \$700.00) was issued in June 1947 to the owner and contractor, Sam Difazzio. The Difazzio family remained until at least 1974.



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## ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

This property's location has been identified as the area of Geneva where many residents of Italian descent settled after 1925, particularly when Kate Raftery began her Beautification effort along River Lane, which had been known as "the Sicilian Colony."

The property is notable within a context of Italian properties and for its association with one or more significant persons, architecture, and community development—specifically the Early Settlement Period of Geneva (1837-1857).

## SOURCES:

GHPC Case Studies; 2016 North Geneva NRHP Update; 1869 Bird's Eye View of Geneva; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land Records; The Founders and Early History of Geneva, Kane County, Illinois (Gibbons, p. 601); Ancestry.com CC Minutes



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### CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

#### AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Garage is a good example of a single bay garage with a mid-20th-century, paneled wood, overhead door. Garage built between 1945 and 1956.

#### AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

### CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

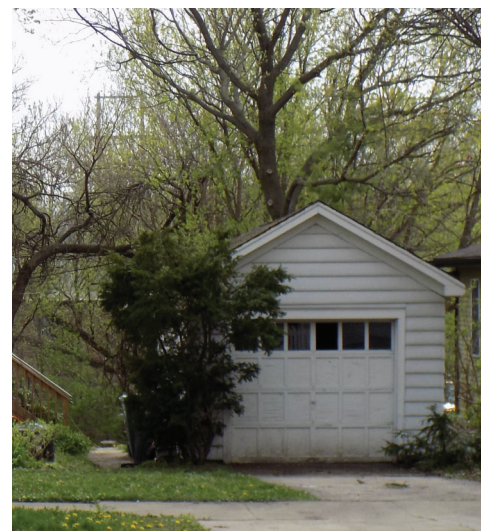
### HPC ACTION:

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Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

3.19.13 Windows







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1999



1999