



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Derby-King House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1844

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: Circa 1950-1998

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Upright and Wing

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1.5

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Not Visible

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Synthetic Siding

FRONT PORCH: Full Facade

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Non-historic

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

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

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

n/a

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

318 North First Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-279-006



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 probably built for/by James C. and Emeline (Durkee) Derby who came from New York to Illinois between 1840 and 1844. James C. Derby was a shoemaker who moved his family to Batavia, Illinois by 1849. Derby sold Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Block 17 to Nathaniel King of Chicago in 1853. The property was likely a rental property for the extended King family through the 1880s or later. Nathaniel King was committed to a hospital for insanity in 1891.

The house was not depicted in the 1869 Bird's Eye View of Geneva but is characteristic of homes built prior to 1865. Therefore, the house may have been moved to this property at some point after 1869. Its footprint on the 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, where it's first visible, is similar to its footprint today. A 1 1/2 story square extends from the northeast corner of a 1 story rectangle, with a porch extending the line of the 1 1/2 story's front facade across the 1 story section. By 1930, that porch was further in front of the 1 1/2 story section's section, as it appears today. The house has been heavily altered and retains little of its authentic architectural character.

Leonard D and Sarah E Smith sold the property to Joe and Anna Theresa Petrosa nee Long in 1934. Joe Petrosa was a railroad laborer who was born in Italy in 1877, and passed away in 1945. The couple had four daughters, named Concetta Palumbo, Anna Montgomery, Margaretta DeFano, and Vita Lindquist, as well as a son named Michael Jonathon Petrosa. Michael was married to Betty Uberle. Local phonebooks list Mrs Petrosa and Leroy W Linquist at the address in 1956. It's likely that she took Linquist on as a boarder after being widowed. Mrs Petrosa continues to be listed through 1962. Micheal Petrosa is listed in 1970. He was a WWII Army veteran and worked at the Geneva Bottling Works.

This property 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 may be notable within a context of relocated buildings and Italian properties in Geneva.

SOURCES:

2016 North Geneva NRHP Update; 1869 Bird's Eye View of Geneva; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land Records; Geneva Republican; Polk's St Charles, Batavia, and Geneva City Directories



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CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Existing garage is not historic.

AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

11.20.23 Shingles





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