



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Swedish United Methodist Church

**COMMON NAME:** Nova Communications/Chazio's Hair

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1865

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** 1921

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Strip Mall

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** Rectangular

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1 (First Street),; 2 (east/rear)

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Limestone, Parged

**PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S):** Limestone, Stucco

**FRONT PORCH:** No

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

**ENTRY DOOR(S):** Non-historic

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Aluminum, Wood, Steel

**WINDOW STYLE:** Fixed, Double-hung (1/1), Pivot Multi-Lite

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Barrel with false Clipped Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Membrane

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Parged

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

n/a

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

**27-31 South First Street**

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-477-008



## 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:

Built as the Free Methodist Episcopal church in 1864, the limestone building was sold in 1873 to the Swedish Methodist church (established 1866), which occupied the building until moving, in 1906, to its new building (227 Hamilton Street). St. Peter's Catholic church occupied the building between 1906 and 1915, before erecting a new church on James Street. Afterward, the property was acquired by Peter M. Peterson, who owned land south of James Street.

It was reported that "Ernest L. Thompson of Hamilton street has purchased the old Swedish M. E. church building and land at the corner of First and James streets from Mrs. P. M. Peterson. Mr. Thompson expects to add a brick front to the building, put on concrete floors and use it as an auto storage and will fill in the grounds adjoining and use same for auto parking. ...Mr. Thompson has reason to believe that much of the public auto business will center on First street, between State and James, within the next few months" (29 July 1921 Geneva Republican). The service station and garage later served as the Ambrust Garage (Texaco Service Station) during the 1930s.

Although significantly altered, the property may be notable for its association with community development—specifically the establishment of multiple religious groups, the Lincoln Highway, and auto-related businesses—and within a context of Swedish properties in Geneva.

### SOURCES:

GHPC Case Studies; GHM Archives; 2016 Central 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; Geneva Republican; Commemorative Biographical and Historical Record of Kane County, Illinois (Beers, Leggett, 1888)



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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:

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Demolition Approved: n/a

#### Other HPC Action:

7.18.18 Roof Replacement







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1999

