



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Gould-Lennartz-Johnson House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1887-1890

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1912, Ca. 1946, Ca. 1975

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: n/a

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gable Front, Queen Anne

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Irregular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1.5

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Limestone

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Clapboard

FRONT PORCH:

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Unknown

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (1/1, 6/1)

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Original continuous lintel at second-floor windows / gable; rear addition (visible st south facade from street) is more than 100 years old.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

218 South First Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-457-010



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 at 218 S. First Street was built before 1891, likely between 1880 and 1890. Except for the location of the side gable, it is nearly identical to its neighbor at 212 S. First Street, erected in 1887. It is unclear who built the "twin houses"; however, the historic form and original fenestration pattern have survived.

The modest, gable front home incorporates narrow-exposure, clapboard siding at the exterior walls, including at the street-facing attic gable. A rear service wing was enlarged to the south before 1912.

The house is possibly Harriet "Hattie" Gould's house identified in 1893 as nearly across from Edward Masterson's new house.

Around 1900, the property was the home of Frank & Grace Lennartz, who rented the home before building their own home at the southeast corner of Campbell and Second streets (122 Campbell Street). With his father, Frank Lennartz operated Lennartz & Lennartz Grocery at the southwest corner of State and Second streets for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson purchased the property in 1920. In 1934, the Johnson house was featured in sales brochures of the Western United Gas & Electric Co. and, also, in the Downers Grove Reporter as an efficient, natural gas-heated residence. The original, front porch was enclosed in the middle of the twentieth century, probably between 1945 and 1955.

The exposed, projected firebox and chimney breast are not original to the building but were constructed after 1956 and before 1985 (potentially within the Period of Significance for the Central Geneva Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places).

Although more than 130 years old, the house (in 2000) was denied a GHM plaque because the enclosed, front porch altered the original appearance of the street facade.

The property is notable as a "twin house" in Geneva and for its association with architecture—specifically the Queen Anne style.

SOURCES:

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



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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:

5.15.18 Chimney Renovation; 9.11.18 Shingles





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1999