



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Pearson-Bowgren House

**COMMON NAME:** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** Circa 1907-1909

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** 2002, 2010

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** Wilson Brothers

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☒ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Queen Anne, Free Classic

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** Rectangular

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1.5

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Parged

**PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S):** Clapboard (replacement)

**FRONT PORCH:** Yes

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

**ENTRY DOOR(S):** Unknown

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Wood

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

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Brick

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Sweeping roof to a one-story, front porch. Prominent second-floor gable with shingle siding and Palladian-style window with elongated voussoir.

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

**115 Ford Street**

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-279-012



## 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 built between 1906 and 1909 (see the identical house at 211 N. Second Street) for Peter Pearson (1873-1944), who—as a bachelor—acquired Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 17 in 1900. Peter Pearson married Ellen Olsen in 1903; they lived in the house at the northwest corner of First and Ford streets. The family moved to 115 Ford Street in June 1909, when their infant son died. While living in the house, Peter Pearson worked for the Crown Electric Co. of St. Charles, Illinois.

After the death of her husband, August W. Bowgren (1868-1914), the widowed Amanda (Skoglund) Bowgren (1869-1936), and her daughters rented the former Pearson home at the northwest corner of First and Ford streets, beginning in 1915 or 1916.

Like the Pearsons, Mr. and Mrs. Bowgren was born in Sweden.

In 1921, the Pearson's only daughter died. Peter Pearson, his wife, and their only surviving child, Vernon (1905-2003), moved to Chicago in 1922.

Amanda Bowgren acquired the 115 Ford Street property in 1923 and lived there until her death. The house was then passed on to her daughter, Ruth N. Bowgren, who lived in the home until her death in 1990. Members of the Bowgren family lived at the property for 67 years.

In 1991, the house was remodeled (likely some interior improvements) and sold. In 2002, the front porch was reconstructed, an addition erected at the east side, and the interior remodeled. In 2010, the original clapboard siding was replaced with cedar siding.

At the time of its construction, the house was identified as a Colonial Revival design; however, it is defined as a Free Classic Queen Anne design in 2020.

The property is notable within a context of Swedish properties in Geneva and for its association with architecture—specifically the late Queen Anne style.

### SOURCES:

GHPC Case Studies; GHM Archives; 2016 North Geneva NRHP Update; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Recorder's Office Land Records; Wilson Brothers - Contractors & Builders, 1905-1931 by Donald Wilson (2002)



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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:

2002: Porch Remodel/Addition

10.07.10: Siding Replacement in-kind





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