



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Acers-Muck-Peterson House

**COMMON NAME:** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1869

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** Circa 1880-1885, 1903, 2007

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** John Chambers (attributed)

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Gable Front, Craftsman

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** Rectangular

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1.5

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Parged

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

**FRONT PORCH:** No

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** Yes

**ENTRY DOOR(S):** Unknown

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Wood

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

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** No

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** n/a

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

**121 Ford Street**

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-279-011



## 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

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Early residential form; front facade bay window and west additions were completed before 1897; dormer-like windows that protrude through eave and Eastlake-style pediments installed at window heads date to circa 1875-1885. Eastlake pediments likely featured decorative scrollwork appliques when constructed. The east porch is a replacement of an earlier, full-length porch that was built by 1897; the existing porch is approximately twice as deep as the historic porch.



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## ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

### BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

This property was part of Roswell W. Acers' 1855 purchase in Block 17 of the Original Town of Geneva. During his ownership of the property, no house was built at 121 Ford Street. When Acers sold out and moved to Kansas in 1867, the property was acquired by Melvina (Chambers) Brown, who was the sister of prolific Geneva carpenter, John Chambers.

Based on the 1870 Federal Census, this house was likely constructed in 1869 (most certainly by John Chambers), serving as a rental property.

Two months after their February 1878 marriage, Allan and Agnes (see Haydank, Hadank, or Hadueck) Muck moved from Milton (DuPage County), Illinois to Geneva and rented the Ford Street property.

In Geneva, Allan Muck (1855-1896) immediately opened a barbershop that he operated until 1894. Mr. Muck was reported to suffer from perpetual misfortune (typically of his own doing, according to his obituary). However, he was also a member of the original Geneva Fire Department, the first Geneva Coronet Band, the Modern Woodman of America (Rock Springs Camp), and—from 1894 to his death in 1896—a Justice of the Peace.

In this Ford Street house, nine children were born: May Agnes (1879-1963), Francis (1882-1885), Nellie Matilda (1883-1884), June (1884-1885), Joseph "Josie" L. (1889-1892), Frances (1892-After 1910), Katherine Ruth (1891-1965), Paul Raymond (1886-1946), and Harold Allan (1896-1963).

The Muck family occupied the home for more than 22 years. It is unclear when the house was remodeled with the front-facing bay window, the west addition, the dormers, and the east-side, full-length porch. However, all of the modifications were made prior to 1897.

In 1889, Agnes Muck's parents, Lawrence and Mary Feurst, purchased the Ford Street property. At age 81, Lawrence was a retired cooper and may have made the purchase to secure a home for his daughter and grandchildren. When Lawrence and Mary Feurst died in April and July of 1891, respectively, the property was left to their daughter, excluding their son-in-law.

In 1896, Allan Muck died suddenly at age 40; their youngest child was born a few months after Mr. Muck's death. In 1900, Agnes Muck and her surviving children moved to San Antonio, Texas after selling the Ford Street property to Axel M. Peterson.

Married in 1898, Axel M. Peterson and his wife, Nettie, lived in the Ford Street property until their deaths in 1957 and 1967, respectively. In 1903, the Geneva Republican reported that Axel (sic) Peterson was making improvements to his house and had recently completed an addition.



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## ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

Mr. Peterson was a butcher in Geneva his entire life: in 1917, an employee of Johnson's Meat Market; in the 1920s, proprietor of Johnson & Peterson Meat Market which became Central Meat Market. Peterson retired in 1935 and took up several hobbies for which he was well-known throughout the community: pencil sketches, paintings, wood carvings, and taxidermy. The Peterson couple had two children, Marvin G. and Viola E. Their son, Marvin, and his wife, Martha, were married in 1926 and moved to Wisconsin, where Marvin had a long career as a physician. The Ford Street property was sold to their daughter, Viola, who was a high school teacher and lived in the house until her death in 1985. In total, the Peterson family occupied the Ford Street property for 85 years.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons, community development—specifically as the home of a longtime business owner—and architecture—namely its well-preserved, detached garage.

## SOURCES:

GHPC Case Studies; GHM Archives; 2016 North 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



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### CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

#### AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Well-preserved, early 20th-century, wood frame garage with clapboard siding and original, bi-fold, out-swinging doors with 6-lite window above pairs of vertical recessed panels at each door leaf. Garage was built between 1923 and 1930 and replaced an earlier garage at the extreme northeast corner of the property.



### CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a



### HPC ACTION:

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Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

1.16.07 Add'n Kitchen, Porch







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1999

