



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Coleman House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Circa 1851-1852

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1911 (Relocation)

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: John Coleman

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gable-Front, Greek Revival, Italianate

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: Rectangular

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Rock-faced Concrete Block, Concrete

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Fiber Cement over Clapboard

FRONT PORCH: Yes

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Historic w/ transom

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (6/6)

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Windows and Entry Door/Transom; Broken Pediment with modillions, Brick Chimney (post-relocation); Porch (post-relocation); Prominent Chimney Breast (post-relocation).

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

315 Ford Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-256-007



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:

John Coleman was a carpenter, moving from Massachusetts to Illinois around 1850. He built his refined Greek Revival house on Lot 5, Block 58 of the Original Town of Geneva by 1852.

John Coleman died in 1888 and his widow, Anna, sold the house to Walter Burr in 1910, prior to her death in May 1910. The house was sold immediately to Charles Field, who sold the house to George Osborne. Field retained the land, which was sold to St. Peter's Catholic Church for the construction of a rectory.

Osborne moved the house from Block 58, Lot 5 in the Original Town of Geneva (James Street) to Ford Street in the spring of 1911. A historic account states: "George Osborne has bought the property at Fifth and James (Coleman House) and may build a modern house after moving the old house to Ford Street where it is to be remodeled" (02 November 1920 Geneva Republican).

George Osborne and his wife, Sarah, purchased the northeast corner of Third and Ford streets (Block 15, Lots 4 and 5 and the west 1/2 of Lot 3) from Grace and Etta Irene Mayborne (sisters) in 1907. In 1925, the Osbornes sold the 315 Ford Street property to Lulu E. (Hawkins) White, who sold the property to John Carr in 1927. Also in 1927, the Osbornes sold the remaining property at Ford and Fourth streets (see 321 Ford, 301 N. Fourth, and 311 N. Fourth) to "Lu" White, who immediately sold the corner lots to Emma C. and Henry S. Hogans.

The property was issued a Geneva History Museum Plaque in 2017.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons, architecture—specifically the Greek Revival style—and for community development—specifically the Early Settlement Period of Geneva (1837-1857).

SOURCES:

GHPC Case Studies; GHM Archives; 2016 Central North Geneva NRHP Update; 1869 Bird's Eye View of Geneva; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Kane County Land Records; Geneva, Illinois: A History of Its Times and Places; Geneva, Illinois



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CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Built between 1923 and 1930, the single-bay, detached garage with original out-swinging, bi-fold doors is nearly extant with the exception of the boxed eave (which was likely a later alteration to mimic the architecture of the broken pediment at the front facade of the residence).

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

9.11.23 Basement Window





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