



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Rickel House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1893

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: 1955, 2007

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: George Rickel (also Rickle)

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gabled Ell, Stick

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: L-plan

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1.5

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Parged

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Clapboard

FRONT PORCH: Yes

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: No

ENTRY DOOR(S): Non-historic

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (2/2)

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

516 Ford Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-257-003



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:

Primary facade is essentially the appearance of the house when first constructed; original clapboard and Stick style details have been preserved. Stylistically similar to 515 and 527 Ford Street.



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ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

It was reported that George Rickel (eldest son of David and Mary Ann Rickel) began construction on a new house on Ford Street (08 July 1893 Geneva Republican). One week later, it was reported that the "new house well underway" (15 July 1893 Geneva Republican). Three months later it was announced that the "David Rickel family are nicely situated in their new home" (21 October 1893 Geneva Republican). Although their son, George, built the house, the property was the home of David and Mary Ann Rickel, who moved to Geneva from England in about 1883.

One of the Rickel children, Alice, married A. O. Kastner in 1888 (see "Kastnerville" properties at 609 Fulton, 316 S. Sixth Street, 320 S. Sixth Street, and 328 S. Sixth Street).

The Rickel House was built simultaneously with the three houses built on the north side of Ford Street between 1892 and 1894; all four houses (see 515, 521, and 527 Ford Street) bear stylistic similarities. However, the Rickel House is a near duplication of the house at 515 Ford Street, leading to speculation that George Rickel may have built the home at 515 Ford Street the year after building his parents' home. It is possible that George Rickel built the houses at 521 and 527 Ford Street in the years ahead of his parents' house.

After A. O. Kastner died in 1926, Alice (Rickel) Kastner moved to the Ford Street home with her widowed father, her son, Hugh, and her widowed daughter, Bessie. David Rickel died in 1932; Alice died in 1954, and Hugh died the following January (03 February 1955 Geneva Republican).

In June 1955, William B. Wood applied for building permits to remodel the house (14 July 1955 Geneva Republican), which may have included the construction of a new garage.

In 2007, a significant addition was constructed at the south and east sides of the historic Rickel House, connecting it to the circa 1956-1958 garage. In 2017, the front porch floor was replaced. Although the Historic Preservation Commission advocated for the porch floor to be contained beneath the historic roof line, the owner insisted that the porch deck extend beyond the limits of the historic porch.

The property is notable for its association with one or more significant persons and architecture—specifically the Queen Anne style for working-class families.

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 Republican; Geneva City Council Minutes



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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:

10.19.04 Porch Renovation; 3.20.07 Partial Demo, 2-Story Addition;
8.15.17 Porch Renovation; 6.7.23 Chimney; 4.26.24 Replace Walks





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