



# City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks  
Property Inventory Survey

## GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

**HISTORIC NAME:** Larson House

**COMMON NAME:** n/a

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1892-1893

**SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES:** n/a

**ARCHITECT:** n/a

**BUILDER:** George Rickel

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

## ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Queen Anne

**OVERALL PLAN SHAPE:** Rectangular

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1.5

**FOUNDATION MATERIAL:** Limestone

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

**FRONT PORCH:** Yes

**VISIBLE SIDE PORCH:** No

**ENTRY DOOR(S):** Historic

**WINDOW MATERIAL:** Wood, Clad

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

**PRIMARY ROOF FORM:** Gable

**PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL:** Asphalt

**VISIBLE CHIMNEY:** Yes

**CHIMNEY MATERIAL:** Brick

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

Pristine example of late nineteenth century, working class housing. Original elements include exposed limestone foundation, clapboard and shingle siding; pedimented porch; wood windows; and single-bay garage with out-swinging doors.

## PROPERTY ADDRESS:

**521 Ford Street**

## PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-254-003



## 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



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## ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

### BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The house was built, most probably, for Peter and Annette Larson in 1892-1893. Larson was a laborer at the nearby Wheeler Screen Company by 1910. He passed away in 1914. Annette Larson was born in Skane, Sweden and arrived in Geneva about 1888. She remained in the house after her husband's death until her own death in 1941. Nellie Larson, their daughter, remained in the house after her mother's passing until her death in 1958. Martin Larson, their son, also remained until his death in 1969. Their other son, Dr. Reinhold F Larson, taught in Urbana.

Quickly after Martin's death in 1969, Lester Bratthauer received a permit for repairs on the house. It appears that at least part of the house was used as a rental property.

The house was one of three houses built on the north side of Ford Street between 1892 and 1894; all three houses (see 515 and 527 Ford Street) bear stylistic similarities. All three properties were owned by Swedish-born laborers who worked in local factories.

With the exception of the altered front window at the first floor (likely a fixed window with a decorative glass transom), the exterior appears much as it did when built nearly 130 years ago.

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

### SOURCES:

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



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### CONTRIBUTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

#### AS1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Extant garage erected between 1923 and 1930. The exterior Dutch lap siding and out-swinging doors remain intact.

#### AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

### CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

### HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

4.23.24 New Pavers @ Driveway





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