



City of Geneva, Illinois

Local Historic District & Landmarks
Property Inventory Survey

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:

HISTORIC NAME: Jarl-Bowgren House

COMMON NAME: n/a

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1891-1894

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION DATES: n/a

ARCHITECT: n/a

BUILDER: George Rickel

WILSON BROTHERS: ☐ AUGUST ☐ OSCAR ☐ BOTH

ARCHITECTURAL DATA:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Gable Front

OVERALL PLAN SHAPE: L-plan

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Parged

PRIMARY WALL MATERIAL(S): Fiber Cement (over clapboard)

FRONT PORCH: Entry

VISIBLE SIDE PORCH: N/A

ENTRY DOOR(S): Non-Original

WINDOW MATERIAL: Wood, Clad

WINDOW STYLE: Double-hung (1/1), Sliding

PRIMARY ROOF FORM: Gable

PRIMARY ROOF MATERIAL: Asphalt

VISIBLE CHIMNEY: Yes

CHIMNEY MATERIAL: Brick

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

527 Ford Street

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN):

12-03-254-002



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 one of three houses built on the north side of Ford Street between 1892 and 1894; all three houses (see 515 and 521 Ford Street) bear stylistic similarities. All three properties were owned by Swedish-born laborers who worked in local factories.

The house may have been constructed for either Carl/Charles Isak and Eva Jarl in 1892 or Albert and Louisa Bowgren in 1894. Carl/Charles Jarl (1835-1903) was a Swedish immigrant who came to Geneva in 1889. Jarl purchased the lot for \$200 in 1891 and sold the property for \$1100 to Albert and Louisa Bowgren in 1894. However, it is unclear whether the house was built for Mr. and Mrs. Jarl or if the house was built as part of the sale to Mr. and Mrs. Bowgren, Swedish immigrants themselves. Albert Bowgren (1867-1925) arrived in Geneva in 1890 and married Louisa C. Anderson on March 30, 1894, in Kane County. Mr. Bowgren worked at the Howell Foundry most of his adult life.

As depicted in 1897, the front porch was contained within the re-entrant recess at the left side of the Ford Street facade with a full, two-story, box-bay window at the center of the street-facing gable bay at the right side of the Ford Street facade.

After her father died and her mother moved to Rockford, the Ford Street property was passed on to Ellen (Bowgren) Sanderson, who sold the property to John and Dina Fillipini in 1943. In April 1947, John Fillipini built the existing, two-bay, private garage that replaced an earlier, one-car garage erected by 1923. The single-family house was converted to a two-flat apartment in the mid-20th century, possibly around World War II and before 1956, when an addition was constructed at the rear of the house along the Sixth Street frontage (Kane County Recorder's Office aerial view). The new addition apparently housed the kitchen and a bathroom while the former kitchen was converted into a bedroom.

Exterior window openings at all sides were heavily altered and vinyl windows were installed in 2007, without a permit, by then-owner John Abraham. In 2009, the HPC pursuit of window restoration (restored openings with wood windows) was dismissed as a result of the Stackman vs. City of Geneva lawsuit.

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

SOURCES:

GHPC Case Studies; 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:

AS2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

CONTRIBUTING LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

n/a

HPC ACTION:

☐

Demolition Approved: n/a

Other HPC Action:

6.19.07 Windows; 8.4.17 Shingles; 10.19.23 Window





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