

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

UNIQUE SITE NO.  
QUAD  
SERIES  
NEG. NO.

YOUR NAME: Siobhán K. Kelly  
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY  
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

DATE: Fall 1993  
TELEPHONE: (607) 255-4331

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IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 239 Cedar Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Catherine A. Cain ADDRESS: Same
- 6. USE: Original: single-family residence Present: single-family residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road Yes[x] No [ ]  
Interior accessible: Yes [ ] No [x] Explain: private residence

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard [ ] b. stone [ ] c. brick [ ] d. board & batten  
e. cobblestone [ ] f. shingles [x] g. stucco [x] other:
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints [ ]  
b. wood frame with light members [x]  
c. masonry load bearing walls [ ]  
d. metal (explain)  
e. other
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent [x] b. good [ ] c. fair [ ] d. deteriorated [ ]
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site [x] b. moved [ ] if so, when?  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): See Continuation Sheet
- 12. PHOTO:
- 13. MAP:

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known  b. zoning  c. roads   
d. developers  e. deterioration   
f. other:
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY: a. barn  b. carriage house  c. garage   
d. privy  e. shed  f. greenhouse   
g. shop  h. gardens   
i. landscape features: See Continuation Sheet #17-18  
j. other:
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING: (Check more than one if necessary)  
a. open land  b. woodland   
c. scattered buildings   
d. densely built-up  e. commercial   
f. industrial  g. residential   
h. other:

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS AND SURROUNDINGS:

See Continuation Sheet

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:  
(Including interior features if known):

See Continuation Sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1891

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

According to the Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Maps, there have been many alterations to this house and property between the time the first map was issued in 1903 and the publication of the 1938 revised edition. Between December 1903 and 1913, a one-story porch centered on the western facade was enlarged to two stories. Around 1917, a one-story porch was added at the northwest corner of the house. In 1923, the Hostetters, who owned the home at that time, bought the northernmost 75'x 48' section of the neighboring lot 15 from the Littletons. Subsequently, a one-and-one-half story, tile-roofed garage was built on this plot of land to the west of the house between 1923 and 1930. Around the same time, a two-story covered porch was added at the southwest corner of the house while a one-story enclosed porch was built on the southeast corner. It is likely that the Tudor half-timber and stucco detailing which distinguish the southeast porch and garage date to the time of this remodeling effort. Permit #11627 was issued to Ralph Carl on May 19, 1983 to repair the front steps and shore up the retaining wall of the property. The estimated cost of this work was \$300.00.

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The house at 239 Cedar Street is located on the northern third of Lot 16 in Block 55 (according to the Brewer and Canfield Map of Corning, 1855). Its related studio/garage is situated directly west of the house on a section of Lot 15. Immediately to the north of these two buildings is the access alley which bisects the block and serves as a driveway leading to the garage. Although the formal front entrance to the house is on the eastern facade, which opens onto Cedar Street, a secondary entry porch is located on the northwest corner, near the garage. The residence maintains regular spacing, size, and setback of its neighboring houses on the portion of Lot 16 which is bordered by East Fifth Street on the south and the access alley on the north. As the lot has a slight decline from south to north, creative landscaping and a retaining wall constructed of railroad ties serve to shore up the northeastern corner of the lot, thus providing a level grade for the structures.

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

Virginia and Lee McAlester give an apt description of the prototype of the house at 239 Cedar Street in their book, A Field Guide to American Houses ( p. 358): "...less pretentious Tudor houses ... [have] superimposed steep gables, half-timbering, or other typical detailing upon otherwise symmetrical facades (most commonly with full front gables). These modest early examples, unlike most Tudor houses, tend to have walls clad with weatherboard, shingles, or stucco (applied over wooden lath), thus avoiding the expense of solid masonry construction." This detached two-story residence has a poured concrete foundation, wooden shingles for siding, and a slate roof. It also has a steeply pitched roof, a side gable, and decorative stucco wall cladding with half-timbered details on the northeastern addition. The full front gable on the eastern facade is distinguished by a large fieldstone chimney completely obscured by ivy growth. Each of the four corners of the house features a one- or two-story porch, either roofed or enclosed as described above (cf. #11). Fenestration is varied but composed of windows indicative of the Tudor style, including: six-over-six double-hung sash, three-over-three casement windows, four-over-four double-hung sash, and diamond-paned casement windows reminiscent of the 17th century. The one-story, half-timbered, entrance vestibule on the northeast corner features a heavy wood batten door decorated with beaten iron studs and hardware. This main entrance opens to the east, and is bordered on the north by a diamond-paned window. The roof of the entrance porch extends the line of the front gable and features a north-facing, hipped dormer with two casement windows. There is a one-story, hexagonal bay window on the ground

level of the north facade, centered beneath the gable end. Its roof is a flared, copper hood. To the west, the one-story, covered porch features a corrugated, fiber-glass roof and a verandah clad in fieldstone. The two-story enclosed porch on the southwestern corner has a second-story overhang and ribbon windows in the upper story. The north-south cross-gable is two bays in width.

The studio/garage at 239 Cedar Street is a one-and-one-half-story, double-wide structure. It features simple rectangular massing, a steeply pitched slate roof, stucco cladding, and half-timbered ornamentation. A large garage door opens on the north side, while a narrow batten access door on the east side of the first story features iron hardware similar to that on the front door of the house. A simple flight of stairs leads to the upper story studio and the eastern side. The railing for these stairs employs a flat cut-out wood balustrade. A small, two-over-two, fixed casement window is positioned directly to the north of the door which is centered in the gable.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

An early, annotated property map of Corning indicates that a building of the same size and shape as the current residence was present on this site in 1893. However, the first mention of an occupant at this address occurs in the *Corning Directory* of 1903. At that time, Egbert Shoemaker, prominent local lawyer lived there. He had been granted the property by a Vincent M. Shoemaker in 1899. In 1919 John Clyde and Ida May Hostetter bought the house. They expanded the property in 1923 when they bought the northern 75'x48' portion of Lot 15 from Jessie Littleton.

21. SOURCES:

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

Corning City Directories. Boyd's 1872-73, 1874-75; Hanford 19-893-1920.

Map of Corning. Buffalo: H. Brewer and C.A. Canfield, 1855.

Map of Corning. Corning: Bird's Eye View, 1882.

Map of Corning. Corning: Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer, 1893.

Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, and 1930).

Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, NY.

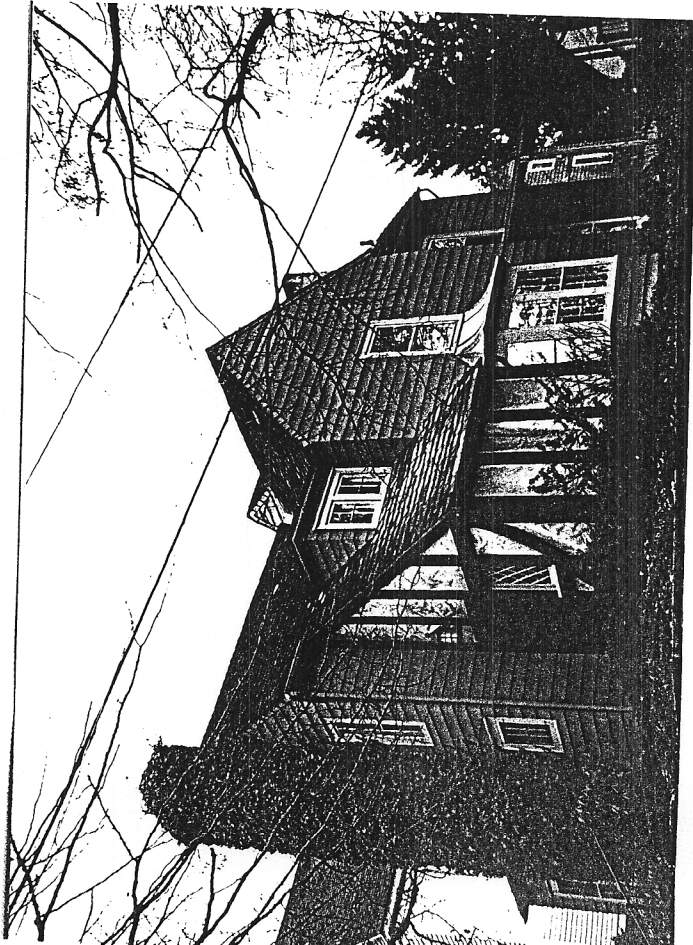
Steuben County Tax Rolls 1850-1909, County Records Office at Steuben County Infirmary, Bath, NY.

Steuben County Tax Rolls 1910-present, County Treasurer's Office, Bath, NY.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



239 Cedar



239 Cedar



garage / outbuilding @  
239 Cedar