

**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: Page J. Swartzky

DATE: December 7, 1992

YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall

TELEPHONE: (607) 255-6541

ORGANIZATION (if any): Preservation Planning Workshop, Cornell University

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**IDENTIFICATION**

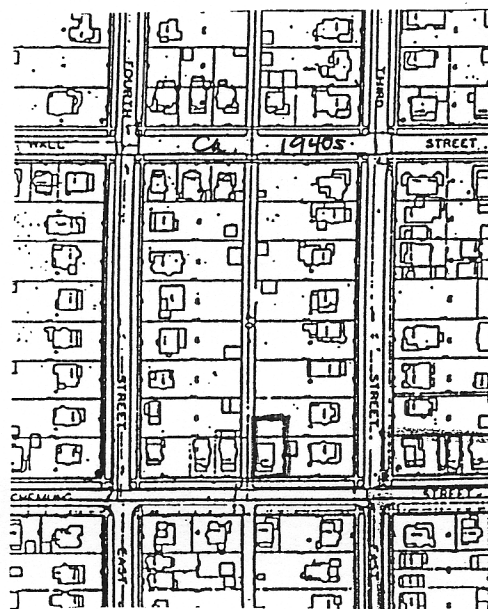
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben                      TOWN/CITY: Coming                      VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 211 Chemung Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ]    b. private [ X ]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Peter J. Drobny                      ADDRESS: 211 Chemung Street
- 6. USE: Original: Residence                      Present: Residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:                      Exterior visible from public road: Yes [ X ] No [ ]  
Interior accessible: Yes [ ] No [ X ] Explain: No, private residence.

**DESCRIPTION**

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL:                      a. clapboard [ X ] b. stone [ ] c. brick [ ] d. board & batten [ ]  
e. cobblestone [ ] f. shingles [ X ] g. stucco [ ] 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 [ ] b. good [ X ] 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



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: Hill at east boundary.  
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 BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

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: 1904

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER: Coming Building Company

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

**11. INTEGRITY:**

**22 March 1904:** Frank E. Hewitt paid \$2380.22 to the Corning Building Company to construct a house on this property.

**1908 Sanborn Map:** The basic form of the two-and-a-half story house is rectangular; the north and south facades are the long facades. The main (east) facade faces Chemung Street. A full-width one-story porch is located on that facade. The south portion of this facade is recessed. A one-story polygonal bay window is located near the northwest corner of the north facade.

**1913 Sanborn Map:** The bay window is now located roughly in the middle of the north facade.

**1921-39 Sanborn Maps:** No change.

**ca. 1940s map:** No change.

**23 April 1986:** A building permit was acquired to remove the old roof and replace it with a new one. The cost of the work was \$1765.00.

**17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:**

The lot occupied by 211 Chemung Street is 50' x 63'. The long sides face the alley south of the lot and the property known as 144-146 East Third Street, north of the subject property. The house is located in the southern third of the larger rectangular lot on which it is located (63' x 165'). The house abuts the south boundary line, along the alley. The main facade is oriented to the east, facing Chemung Street. The setbacks of the houses along Chemung are similar, and vary generally because of the degree of incline of the hill between the homes and the road. Because the lot sizes of these houses are smaller than those on East Third and East Fourth streets of this block, the spacing between the homes on Chemung is tighter.

Although the land upon which the house is situate is fairly level, Chemung Street rises steadily as one travels from north to south, and the land is "stepped" (hilly) between each house. There is also a steep drop from the sidewalk down to the street level (west to east).

Situated on the west side of Chemung Street, this home and its neighbors are late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century homes. The building directly to the north of the subject property, 144-146 East Third Street, is a Queen Anne-style residence. South of

**17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS (continued):**

the subject property, 215 Chemung Street is also a Queen Anne-style dwelling.

**18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:**

211 Chemung Street is a two-and-a-half story front-gabled free classic Queen Anne-style residence. The front-gabled subtype accounts for approximately twenty percent of Queen Anne-style residences; the free classic makes up thirty-five percent. The Queen Anne style was popular in the United States between 1880 and 1910, and in New York State between 1885 and 1910. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, principal characteristics of Queen Anne-style residences include windows of various shapes and sizes, brackets, spindlework (i.e., turned porch supports, spandrels, beads) located in porch balustrades, in friezes suspended from porches, and in gables, classical columns, clipped corners ("cutaway bays"), half-timbering, and patterned masonry. The Queen Anne-style is often asymmetrical in plan, to avoid plain flat walls. Towers, overhangs, bays, wraparound porches and wall projections are common.

The front (east) facade of 211 Chemung Street is asymmetrical. There is a large front gable and a smaller projecting front gable over a second-story sleeping porch. The northeast corner of the house has a cutaway bay. A squared Palladian-style double-hung sash is located in the smaller gable. The middle portion of the window has diamond panes in the top light, and a single lower light. There is a diamond-shaped window at the top of the large front (east) gable. The other windows on this facade are one-over-one light double-hung sash. The first floor siding is clapboards; the rest of the house is clad in wood shingles. The roof cladding is asphalt shingles; the foundation is stone.

The full-width porch on the east facade is supported by four sets of paired Doric columns, set on pedestals that are clad in wood shingles. The original spindlework railing between the pedestals has been removed. At present, a single vertical two-by-four is placed between each pedestal; a single horizontal two-by-four rests upon the vertical stud and bridges the space between each pedestal. A shingled pediment marks the center of the porch.

There is a one-story bay window and a roof-level cross-gable on the north facade, and a gabled dormer centered on the south facade. The south facade of the dormer projects slightly beyond the roof line and extends downward to the first story. It terminates almost halfway down the first story wall below which

**18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (continued):**

is located the side door. There are two double-hung sash on the projecting dormer facade - one in the actual dormer (not original) and one just above the door.

The closed gable on the west facade has a flared wall. There are paired six-light windows on the first story of this facade, as well as a porch in the northwest corner. The porch has latticework skirting, three support columns and a wooden railing.

**20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:**

One aspect of the importance of 211 Chemung Street is its location in the Southside neighborhood of Corning, New York. This area documents the growth of the city from its beginning through the twentieth century. Its initial existence is due to speculation and the transportation industry. The city grew under the auspices of Corning Inc., a large glass manufacturer which employed many Corning residents. Many styles of nineteenth and early twentieth century homes are in evidence in the Southside neighborhood. These include Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Neo-Classical, Tudor, Craftsman, Stick, Spanish Mission, and Shingle. Also, notable architects such as Pierce and Dockstader, Pierce and Bickford, and Henry G. Tuthill designed homes in the area. Local builders such as the Corning Building Company and H.O. Dorman also constructed homes in the Southside neighborhood.

The 50' x 63' parcel of land on which 211 Chemung Street is located was originally part of a larger 63' x 165' corner lot, owned by William McGeorge. McGeorge bought the large lot from Oscar M. Rothfuss in April 1899. The house in which McGeorge lived is located in the north portion of the lot, now known as 144-146 East Third Street. He subsequently decided to sell an unimproved 50' x 63' area of the rear (south) of his lot. Frank E. and Carrie A. Hewitt purchased the empty lot in February 1904 for \$675.00. On March 22, 1904, the Hewitts opened an account with the Corning Building Company. The total price for the house built for them was \$2380.22.

As a commercial photographer, Frank E. Hewitt was important to the Corning community. He documented much of Corning and its inhabitants in the first half of the twentieth century, and some of his photographs are collected in the book *Camera on Corning*, written by Mary Ann Sprague (1990). Hewitt lived in Corning from 1902 to 1944. The three photographic studios used by Mr. Hewitt were the J.L. Crocker Studio at 22 East Market Street, The White Building on West Market Street, and 136 Pine Street, a studio-



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**20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE (continued):**

residence to which the Hewitts moved in 1920. Hewitt was born in Dalton, New York in 1865. Hewitt went to Buffalo for six months to get photography lessons, and later moved to Nunda, New York, where he worked as a photographer for twelve years. Looking for better opportunities, Hewitt arrived in Corning in 1902. Always improving his techniques and experimenting with his craft (he tinted photographs before color film became common), Hewitt was a highly respected professional. Among the offices he held were President of the Finger Lakes section of the Professional Photography Society of New York State and Secretary of the New York State Professional Photographers Association. Hewitt was also an avid musician, making violins and cellos in his spare time, and playing double-bass in the Corning Philharmonic. Commissioned by the Corning Rotarians to photograph an eclipse visible in Corning on January 25, 1925, Hewitt's photographs of the event were later used in several astronomy text books. Hewitt retired in 1945 and died in 1946.

In June 1920, the Hewitts sold their home to Henry P. and Luella C. Gage and moved to 136 Pine Street. At this time 211 Chemung Street became a rental property. Paul Cain, president of Cain-Bernkopf Company, a dry goods firm, was the first tenant. Paul Cain died in approximately 1940, but his wife and children continued to live in the house. The Cains were the proprietors of Cain's Fashion Corner. The Gages sold the property to Philip and Margarette M. Grannan in May 1953. Philip was a superintendent of the Department of Public Works; Margarette was an employee of Corning Glass Works.

**21. SOURCES:**

Corning City Directories; Steuben County Deeds; 1893 Map of the City of Corning, New York, by Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, 1939; map of Southside neighborhood, ca. 1940s; Corning building permits 1970s-present; tax assessment records.

Auwaerter, John. *Reconnaissance Level Survey: Southside Neighborhood Proposed Historic District, Corning, New York*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University, Graduate Program in Historic Preservation Planning, September 1991.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 5  
211 Chemung Street  
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**21. SOURCES (continued):**

Sprague, Mary Ann. *Camera on Corning: The Photographs of Frank E. Hewitt, Corning, New York 1902-1917*. Corning: Corning Painted Post Historical Society, 1990.