

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

UNIQUE SITE NO.
QUAD
SERIES
NEG. NO.

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

YOUR NAME: Eric P. Avner
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 234 Chemung Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Vincent Sementilli ADDRESS: Same as above
Present: single-family residence
- 6. USE: Original: 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 [] g. stucco [] other: vinyl siding
- 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
- 12. PHOTO: 13. MAP:

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known[X] 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:
j. other:

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING: (Check more than one if necessary)
a. open land[] b. woodland[]
c. scattered buildings[X]
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: 1904

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

This structure was built on the southern half of Lot #1, Block 38. There was a garage added to the side on the north side of the site between 1921 and 1930, but this has since been removed. A chimney was added to the south side of the house between 1960 and 1970. Vinyl siding was installed on the house in 1979.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

Chemung Street is one of the north-south streets in the area. The street slopes steeply downhill to the north. The structure is positioned on this slope and as a result, five feet of the foundation is visible on the north side of the house. The structure is consistent with its neighbors in size, but has a very shallow setback from the street. A larger setback more is common in the area.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This two-and-a-half-story structure is essentially a rectangular block with a front-gable roof, designed in the Queen Anne Style of architecture. It can be called a gabled cottage. While being a vernacular low-style interpretation of the style, it still reflects some of the characteristics of Queen-Anne design, as presented in McAlesters' book, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. These include a steeply-pitched roof, dominant front-facing gable, use of decorative shingles and other devices to avoid a smooth-walled appearance; and a full-width porch. About 20 percent of Queen Anne houses have a full-width front gable.

Most of the ornamentation of this house has been removed through successive renovation campaigns. However, the front (east) facade retains some detail elements. The gable end features a pent roof as well as shingle siding. The full-width front porch's support posts are decorated by Queen Anne Style brackets. The closed rail of the porch uses the same vinyl siding as the rest of the house. There is a cantilevered two-story gabled wall dormer projecting from the north facade. The gable end of this dormer is also sided with shingles. A small three-sided, hipped roof bay projects from the south facade.

The house sits on a poured concrete foundation. The foundation was simultaneously incised in order to give the appearance of coursed stone blocks. The gabled roof, as well as the roof of the porch and bays, is covered by asphalt shingles.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed on the southern 62 feet of Lot #1, Block 38, as laid out in the 1855 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. The land was originally owned by Albert H. Agett, who lived in the house constructed on the north half of Lot #1, at 230 Chemung. It is speculated that this man also built the house located at 234 Chemung. This house has a history of residents associated with the railroad. The first occupant was James H. May, an engineer with the New York Central Railroad. His son James L. May, was a claim agent for the same railroad company. The May family owned the house from 1904 to 1917. The house was rented to other railroad workers after 1913. Edward J. Snell, a master mechanic for the New York Central Railroad shops, occupied the house from 1913 to 1914. William D. Chaffee, another master mechanic lived at 234 Chemung from 1915 to 1917. James H. May sold the house back to Albert H. Agett in 1917. Agett bought the house for his son Albert T. Agett to live in. Albert T. Agett was employed as a commercial traveller for J.B. Maltby, the Corning wholesale grocer.

21. SOURCES:

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

City of Corning Building Permits, City Engineer's Office, Corning, New York.

Corning City Directories, Boyd's 1874-75; Hanford 1893-1950.

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

View of Corning, New York, Looking Toward the South. 1882. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Publishing House, C.J. Corbin, Field Manager.

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

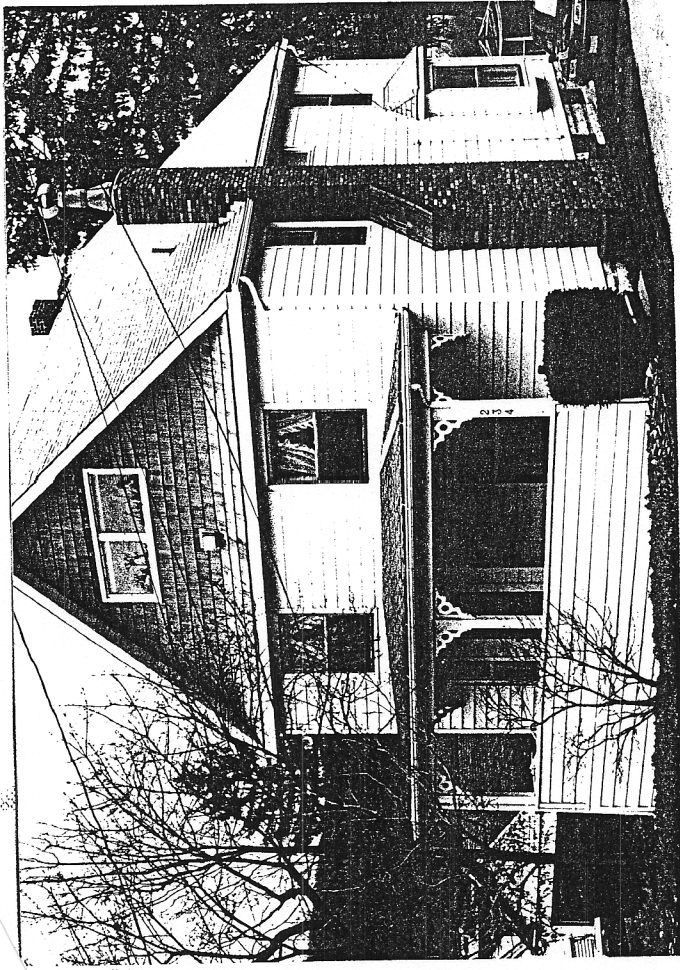
Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York*, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, and 1948).

Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, New York.

Steuben County Tax Records, Steuben County Records Center, Bath, New York. (1860-1909)

United States Bureau of the Census. 1910 Census Data for Corning City, New York.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: (To be attached later)



↖ 234 Chemung ↗

