

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  
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IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 3 East Fifth Street/248 Pine Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Johnette Wilson 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 [x] b. stone [ ] c. brick [ ] d. board & batten [ ]  
e. cobblestone [ ] f. shingles [x] g. stucco [ ] other: wood
- 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  
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: 1885

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

On the exterior, this building is essentially the same as when it was built in 1885. Some interior changes have taken place over the years, however. During the 1940's a entrance from the sitting room to a salon on the south side of the house was boarded up. The salon was then converted into a kitchen. The southwest porch was enclosed to serve as the pantry. When the lot was subdivided in 1923, one-story garage was constructed on the new northern border. In 1984, Richmond Wilson was granted a permit to repair the roof.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The house at 248 Pine Street/3 East Fifth Street is situated on the southern third of Lots 9 and 10 of Block 55 (Brewer and Canfield's Map of Corning, 1855). Although its main entrance faces west to Pine Street, the current address is listed as 3 East Fifth Street. The house is built on a corner lot. East Fifth Street lies to the south. Pine Street in on the west. As the lot was subdivided in 1923, its northern boundary is now the smaller Colonial Revival-style house at 240 Pine Street. The original owners sold a strip of land on the eastern edge of their lot to the Gregorys in 1929. As a result, a Spanish Eclectic house is now situated on that side. The house shares a regular setback with its neighbors on either side. It is the largest of the three homes. The lot slopes gently down to the north. There is a large, mature fir tree growing to the north of the house.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This two-and-one-half story, detached residence is a splendid example of Queen Anne-style architecture. It is very probable that this house was designed by an architect or copied from a period pattern book, although no evidence exists to support this. The building is generally rectangular in form with a front-facing gable. Although the current address is 3 East Fifth Street, the main facade faces west to Pine Street. This facade is three bays wide. The double, cherry entrance doors feature etched glass in their center panels. The main entrance is accessed by a set of wooden steps to the northern bay. The elaborate covered porch features paired and tripled turned, wooden spindles and flat cut-out frieze work. The lower two stories of the home are covered in narrow wood clapboards with some stick style ornamentation. Pyramidal bosses highlight the corners of the surrounds of the one-over-one double hung sash. Some of the gable windows feature Queen Anne-style sash. Some of the windows are decorated with non-functioning wood shutters. The middle bay of the western facade is actually a two-and-one-half story front facing gable. It features a two-story canted by with hooded windows. The upper story is decorated with octagonal wood shingles. The vergeboards feature a rectangular motif. The foundation is composed of fieldstone, while the steeply pitched roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The southern facade features a rectangular, panelled wood door in the second westernmost bay. This is the new front entrance. To its east, a triple ribbon of mullion double-hung sash are the only clue to the twentieth century kitchen renovation. A small one-story vestibule on the eastern facade is enclosed with wooden lattice work. This same lattice work covers the substructure of the side porch on the eastern bay of the northern side.

The interior of the house feature much of the original detail. Although the newel post for the stairwell has reputedly been shortened, like the rest of the stairway it is carved from local cherry wood and is elaborately ornamented. Likewise, the double pocket doors leading into all the reception rooms are made of local cherry. The basement still boasts a dirt floor. Meanwhile the attic ceiling is so high that the current owner's children often played basketball on the third story with the baskets set a regulation height. The attic is lit by two tiny decorative Queen Anne-style sash windows set in the northern and southern gable peaks.

The simple linear garage on the northern boundary of the lot was constructed in the 1920's. It was ornamented to look like the house and features narrow clapboards, wooden lattice window surrounds and four-over-four double hung sash. A former door on the eastern

third of the northern facade has been filled in. A four-over-four double hung sash punctuates the eastern end. The longitudinal axis is east-west so that the front-gabled garage opens to the west. Its roof is only moderately pitched.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

An excerpt from the Corning newspaper of July 16, 1885 mentions that construction had begun on Christeon G. Howell's new home at the corner of Pine and Fifth Streets. Workers had to use dynamite to excavate the foundation. C. G. Howell was a successful businessman and longtime resident of Corning. Born in New Jersey in 1822, he moved to Corning in 1855 and became a merchant tailor. After a brief sojourn to California in 1856, he returned to Corning to try his hand at various businesses such as manufacturing flour sacks and selling groceries. In 1864, he began a lucrative venture as a dealer in oil and petroleum products. Howell made his fortune and remained in the business for twenty-four years. As a result of his newly found wealth, he constructed this home in the prestigious area of the Southside district. The house remained in his family until the death of his son, Frank, in 1929. Since then, the home has only changed hands three times. It is currently owned by Johnette Wilson, who came to Corning one hundred years after Howell's arrival to undertake a successful career as a journalist. She and her husband bought the house in 1958 and raised seven children there.

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).

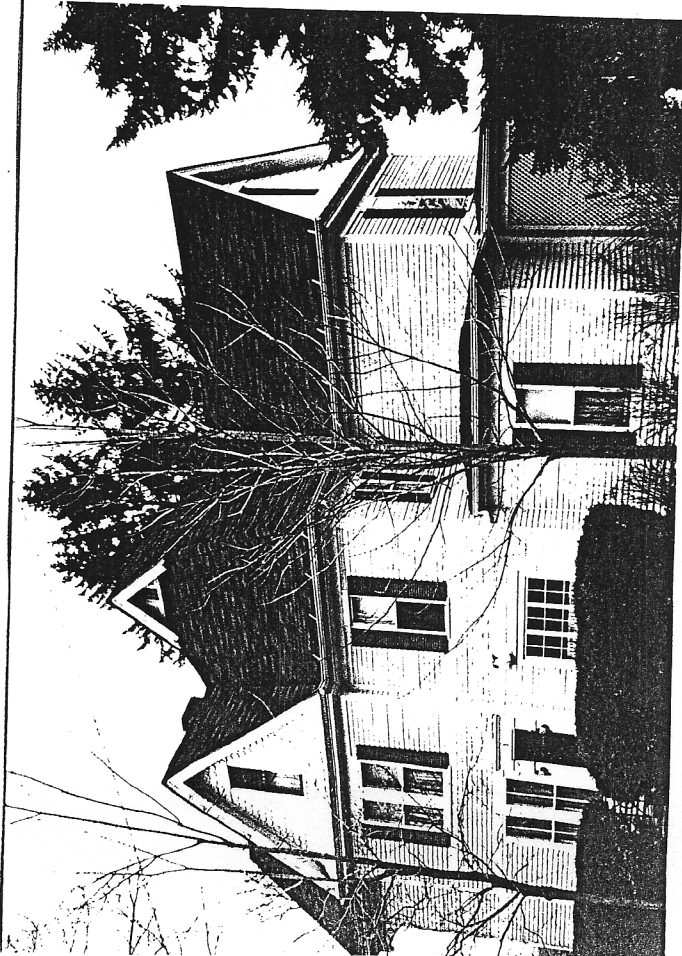
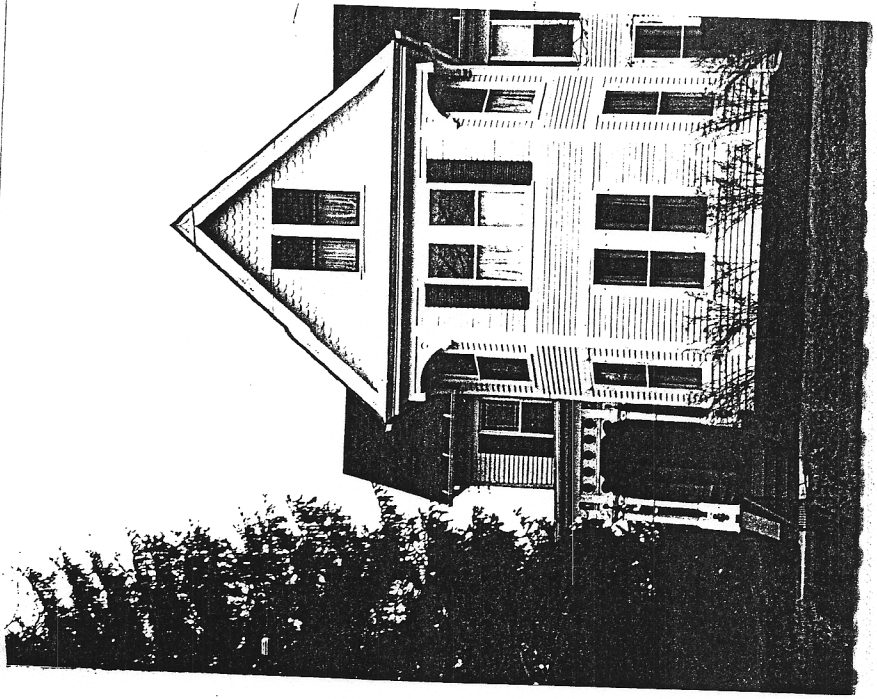
Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, NY.

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.

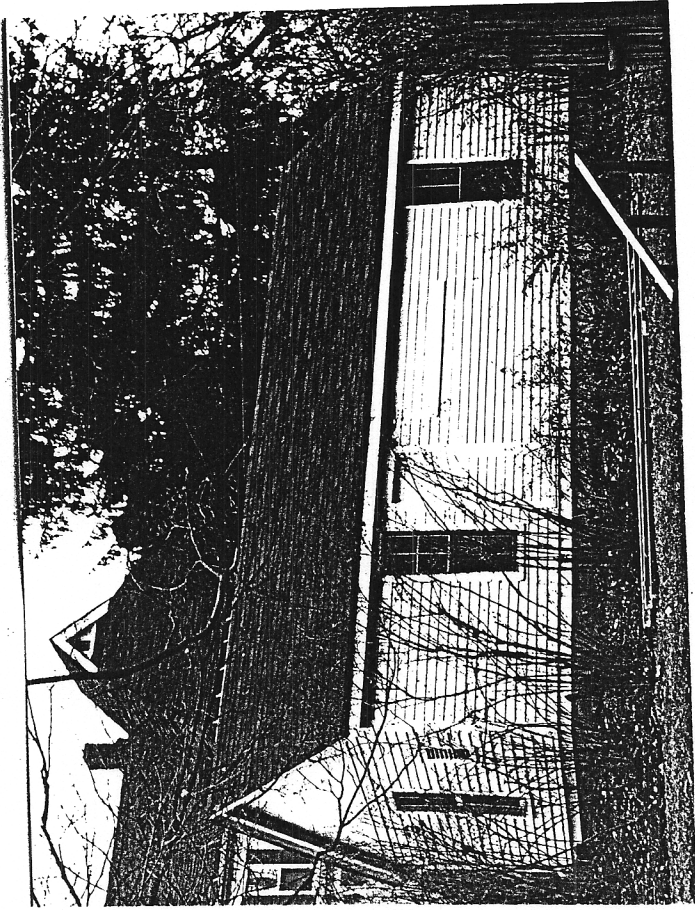
Wilson, Johnette. Interviewed by the author in her home. December 10, 1993.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



248 Pine / 3 East 5th ↗





Outbuilding @ 248 Pine / 3 East 5th