

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
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ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

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

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): The Littleton House
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 31 East Fifth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Francis P. and Doris C. Pittman 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 [] 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: See Continuation Sheet
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: 1890

ARCHITECT: Possibly architect designed or built from a pattern book in the Queen Anne-style and then modified to Colonial Revival. No details exist about such a supposition, however.

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

No obvious structural alterations have been made to this house since it first appeared on the Sanborn Map of 1903. A small outbuilding which existed on the Northwest corner of Lot 14 was demolished between 1903 and 1913. Because the basic style of the house is in the Queen Anne-mode, it is thought that a remodeling campaign in the 1920's adapted the residence to its current Colonial Revival-motif. After 1921, an extant one-story, board-and-batten carriage house at the rear of the lot was moved several feet east. Its adjoining two-story barn was demolished at the time. The carriage house has since been converted into a three-car garage. In 1980, Permit #11780 was granted to Howard Liebowitz. He was allowed to convert the attic into a bedroom and remodel another bedroom and bathroom. The estimated cost was \$12,000.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

Situated on the northern side of East Fifth Street, this wood shingle-sided hom is somewhat larger than its eastern neighbor and taller than the Dutch Colonial Revival-style home to the west. All of the buildings were constructed in the late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century, however, and share and average setback. The lot immediately to the east of this house is vacant and slopes gently to the east. A few, large, deciduous trees are planted at that border. To the west, the house maintains average spacing with it's neighbor. The house faces the road, and Lot 14 declines to the access alley in the north. As a result, the accompanying garage is set at a different level from the house and opens to the north.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This modified, two-and-a-half story, Queen Anne-style house is situated on the southern half of Lot 14, Block 55 as defined in Brewer and Canfield's 1855 map of Corning. Covered in painted cedar shingles, the entire house is set on a parged, fieldstone basement, and is roofed with asphalt shingles. Both of the front facing gables have pent roofs and gable-peak windows. The foremost gable, which is on the eastern half of the southern facade, features a multi-paned octagonal window which surmounts two adjoining six-over-six double hung sash above the second-story overhang. The rest of the house's windows on the house are similar double hung sash. Two wooden pendants flank the projecting bay window beneath. It also features six-over-six double hung sash. The western bay of the southern facade contains a six-paneled wood door. The fieldstone stoop is decorated with a wrought-iron railing. To the rear of the property, a three-bay, one-story garage features mullion windows, board-and-batten siding, and a hipped roof. Set on a parged fieldstone base, this outbuilding is a converted carriage house. A set of simple wood steps lead from the house down to the garage. The garage doors open onto the access alley to the north. The interior of the house features hardwood floors and original molding. Its highlight, however, is a collection of original Carder Steuben glass globes and chandeliers.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

In 1890, the Corning Democrat ran two items related to the construction of this property: "It is understood that George L. Abbott had purchased W.H. Clark's residence on Fourth Street. Mr. Clark will erect a dwelling upon Fifth Street, directly south, for himself" (August 21), and "Masons commenced work on the foundation for W.H.Clark's new residence, this morning" (September 1). William H. Clark was the secretary and treasurer for the Corning Lumber Company. He lived in this house until 1923. At that point, he sold the house and Lots 14 and 13 immediately west to Jessie T. and Bessie C. Littleton. Dr. Jessie Littleton was a chemist with Corning Glass Works. Intrigued by the notion of heat resistant glass, he sliced the top of a battery jar in the laboratory one day. He brought the bottom half home to his wife, who proceeded to bake a cake in the modified container. Within two years, Corning was marketing both Nonex and Pyrex. The Littletons remained in their house until 1962.

Corning, NY

21. SOURCES:

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

Corning Democrat. Papers from August 21 and September 1, 1890. Corning, New York.

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

Dimitroff, Thomas and Janes, Lois. History of the Conring-Painted Post Area: 200 Years in Painted Post Country. New York: 1991.

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.

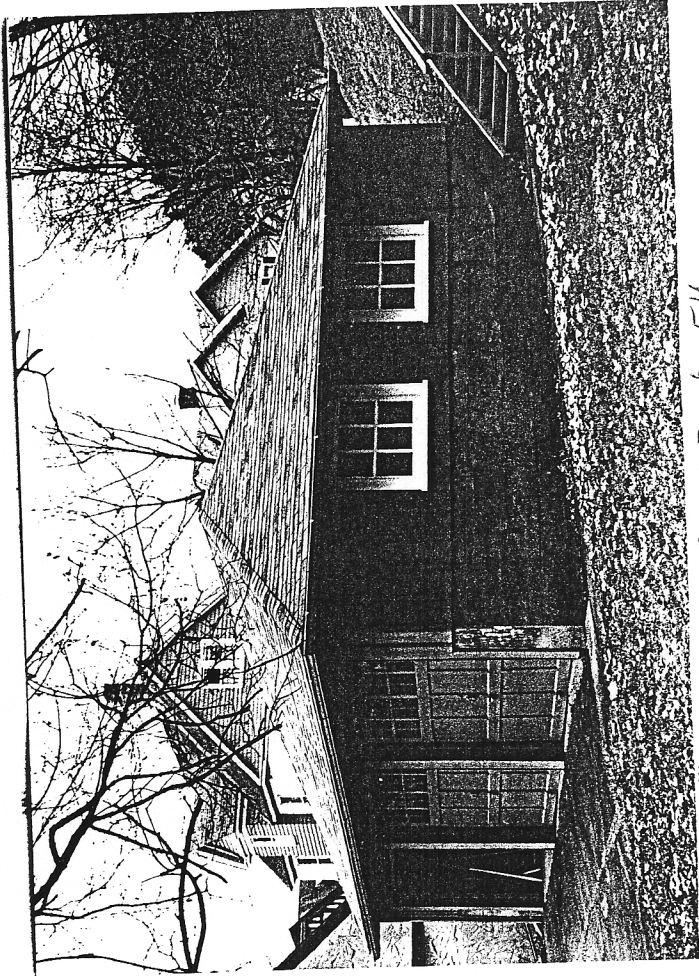
Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, and 1930).

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

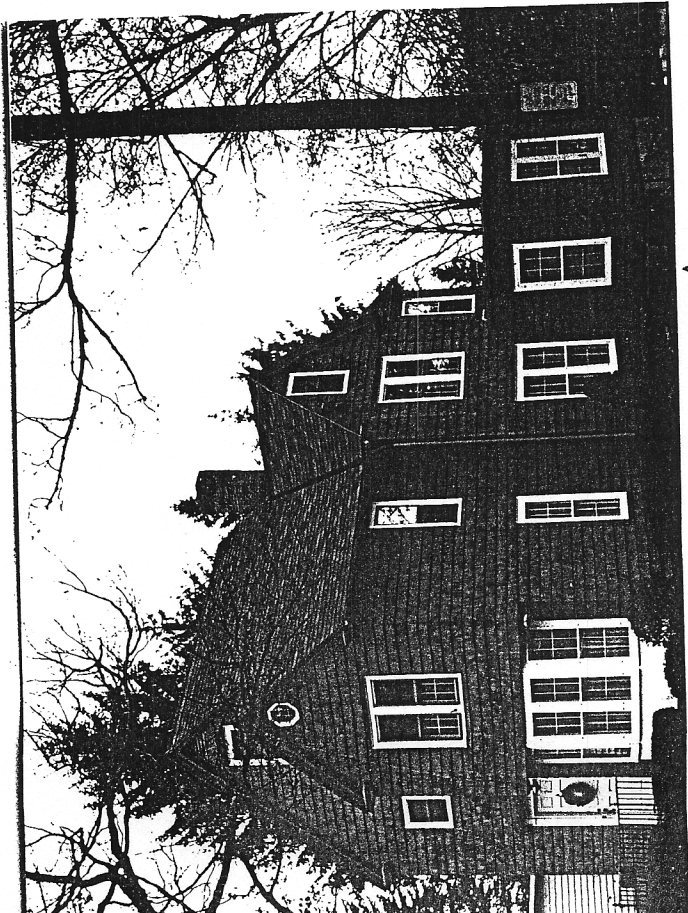
Steuben County Tax Rolls 1850-1909, County Records Office at Steuben County Infirmiry, Bath, NY.

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

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



↖ Garage @ 31 East 5th



↖ 31 East 5th Street

