

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.

YOUR NAME: Kara C. Hamley
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

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

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): The Alanson B. Houghton House
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 4 East Fifth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Robert and Doris McKenzie ADDRESS: 4 East Fifth Street
- 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:
- 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: 1891

ARCHITECT: Pierce & Dockstader; Elmira, New York

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 1

4 East Fifth Street

Corning, NY

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

No major changes have been made to the original structure of the sight. Between 1948 and 1972, a two-story addition was added at the south side of the house. The addition matches the detailing of the main house and the second story of this addition is an enclosed sun room. The foundation has been parged.

In fall 1983, the original slate roof was replaced with asphalt shingles.

There is a two-car garage at the southwest corner of the property. It has a concrete block foundation and a gabled roof. The exterior wall surface is clapboard siding.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The houses on the south side of East Fifth Street between Pine and Cedar Street have an even set back, with the exception of this house, which has a lesser setback. The houses are inconsistent in their east-to-west spacing. The lots of this block are quite large, as are the houses. The styles on this block range from Queen Anne to Dutch Colonial Revival to Italianate.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This two and one-half story house was constructed by the architecture firm of Pierce & Dockstader, who in 1900 became Pierce & Bickford. This architecture firm was based in Elmira, New York, and the Houghton House seems to be primarily the work of Otis Dockstader. The overall style and massing of the house is Queen Anne Shingle style, but several Colonial Revival elements are used. These Colonial elements include ornamental dentils, Tuscan columns at the many porches, a diamond light sash at the east, and a stylized Palladian window at the west side.

The first story of the house is covered, on the exterior, with clapboard, while the second story is covered with wood shingles. There is a low-pitched front-gable roof on the south side of the house which is interrupted by a horizontal windowed band at the third story. The roof at the rear of the house is hipped. The engaged light-house motif tower at the northwest corner of the house is representative of what New England architects were designing at that time. It has a continuous coffered band of windows at its third story and is covered with decorative shingles at the second and third story. The tower opens out onto a balcony at the north facade.

There are colonial style porches at the north and wrap to the east side of the house. Each porch roof is supported by an entablature which is decorated with dentils. The Tuscan columns are in triplicates at the corners and sit on top of a rail. At the north and part of the south, there is a rail supported by turned posts. A portion of the rail, at the first story has been enclosed with decorative wood shingles. At the eastern facade, there is a porch which has a second-story balcony with a gabled roof. This balcony is similar in detailing to the rest of the porches.

There are three chimneys, all of which are corbelled and alternate smooth and rock face brick. The windows are one-over-one sash in most cases. However, in the Colonial Revival Style, some of the windows have a multi-light upper sash with a single light sash below.

The front door (at the north) consists of a single wood door with a fan light above. There are leaded glass sidelights separated from the door by fluted pilasters.

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 2

4 East Fifth Street
Corning, NY

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE, cont'd:

The house is set on a coursed ashlar pink stone foundation. The mortar between the foundation stones is pink.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed on the northern half of Lot #1 of Block 54, as laid out in the 1855 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. At that time the parcel and house on it was owned by Alanson B. Houghton, the grandson of the founder of Corning Glass Works, Amory Houghton. An 1888 graduate of Harvard, Alanson B. Houghton worked his way up from a glass maker at Corning Glass to become the second Vice President of Corning Glass Works in the late 1890s. Later in his career, Alanson would become the first Ambassador to Germany after World War I, an Ambassador to England, and a member of the U.S. Congress.

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Corning, NY

21. SOURCES:

Corning City Directories. Boyd's 1872-73, 1874-75; Hanford 1893-1920.

Corning Daily Democrat. April 8, 1991. May 11, 1981.

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

Map of Corning. Corning: 100 Years of Corning Building Company, Birds Eye map, 1882.

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

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

Reed, Roger G. Architects of standing, Pierce & Bickford, Elmira, New York, 1890-1930. pp. 7-9. New York. Roger G. Reed, 1981.

Reed, Roger G. Pierce & Bickford, Elmira, N.Y., 1890-1932. pp. 22-25. New York. Roger G. Reed and the Chemung County Historical Society, 1983.

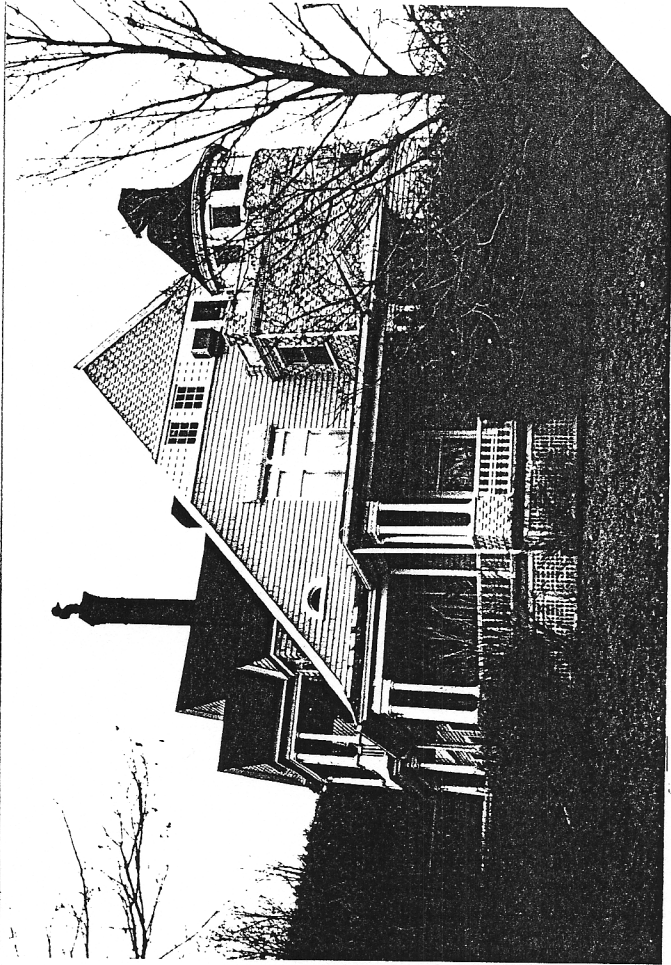
Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, and 1930).

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

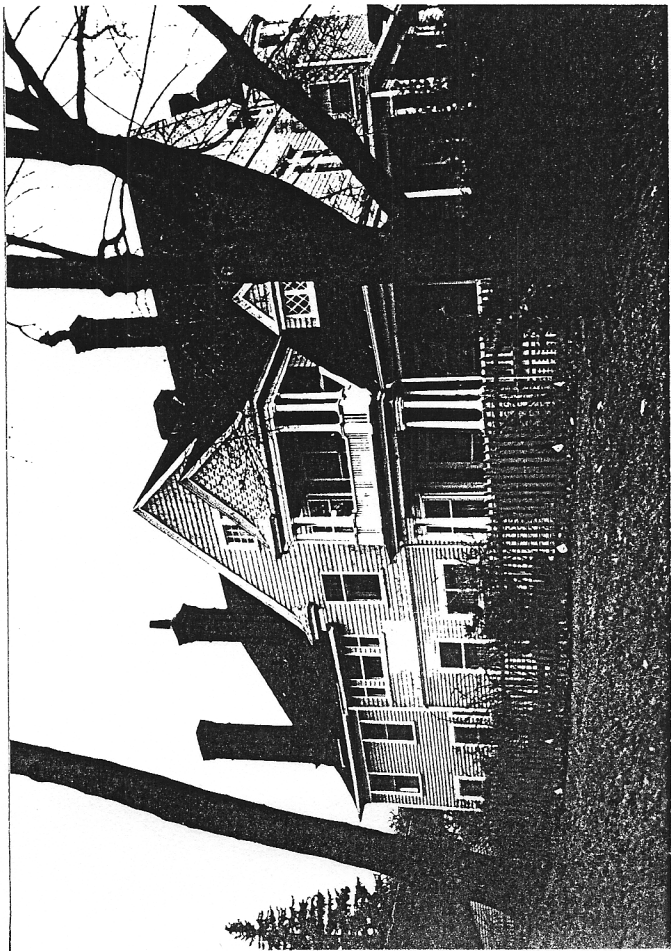
Steuben County Tax Rolls 1850-1909, County Records Office at Steuben County Infirmary, Bath, NY.

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

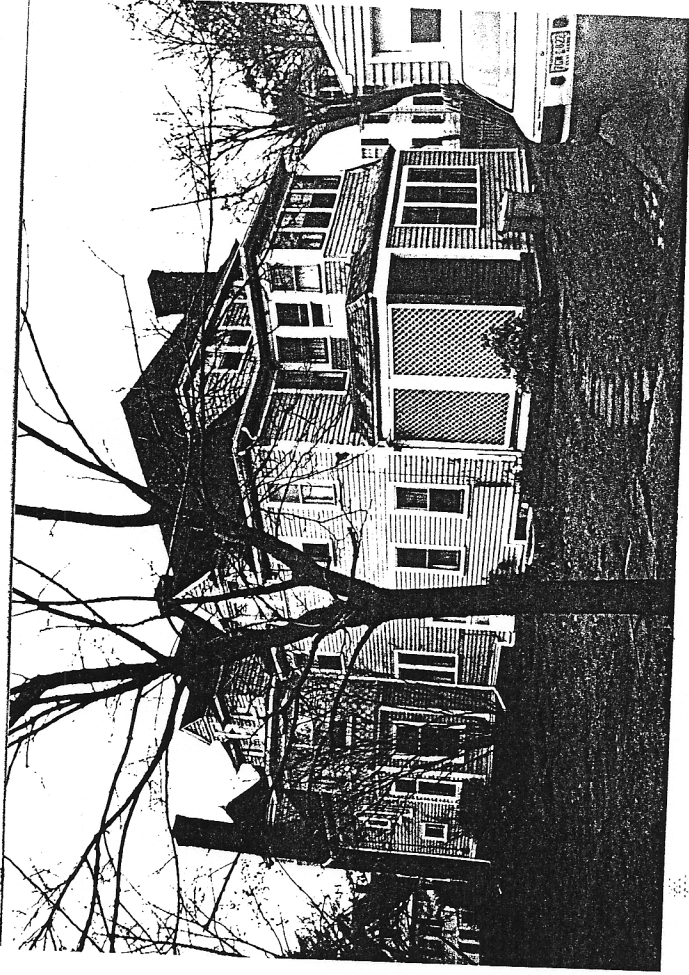
ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



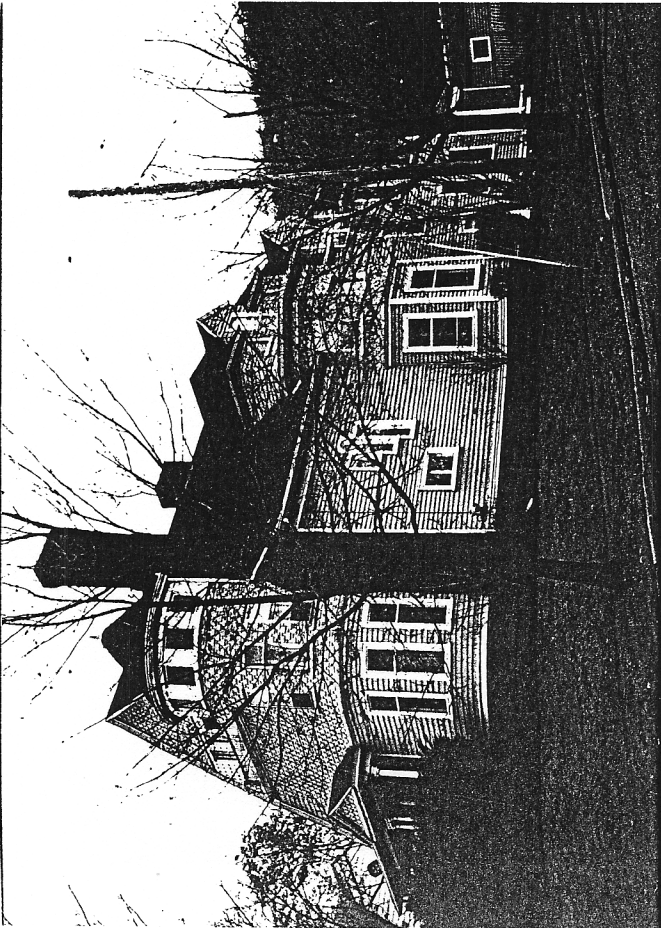
4 East 5th (north)



4 East 5th (east)



4 East 5th (west/south)



4 East 5th (west/north)