

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 Marvin Olcott House
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 48 East Fifth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Calvin T. & Margaret I. Coffey ADDRESS: 48 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: 1892

ARCHITECT: Henry C. Tuthill, Corning, NY

BUILDER: Mr. English

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 1

48 E. Fifth Street

Corning, NY

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

Between 1903 and 1908, the southeast corner of the house was extended from one story to two stories. It may have been at this time that the northwest corner of the house was changed from an open porch into an enclosure. The shingles of this addition match those of the original. In addition, the east side porch and the front porch were connected to form a wrap-around porch. Some time after 1948, the wrap-around porch was altered in shape and enclosed. This enclosed porch has multi-light casement windows with transom windows above. Inside this porch, there is finished wood flooring. The porch is on a parged foundation with a basement below.

A large plate glass window replaced several smaller windows in the turret at the northwest corner of the house. At the western facade, a small attached tool shed was added. It has clapboard siding and is on concrete piers.

#### 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, but 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-a-half story Queen Anne Style house is side gabled with two crossing gables at the rear. The first-story exterior wall surface is clapboard siding, while the second story is wood shingles. These shingles flair at the base. There are also wood shingles in the gable ends. The overall plan of the house is rectangular in shape. There are Queen Anne windows in the gable ends and the shingles round back towards these windows. There are scrolled brackets which support the projecting bay at the south or rear of the house. There are numerous cantilevers and bay windows in this Queen Anne Style house. At the east facade, there is a two-story half-round bay window. Additionally, there is an engaged turret at the northwest corner of the house.

There is an eyebrow window in the attic story at the north facade. The window in the house are, for the most part, one-over-one sash with unequal top and bottom sash. The top sash is smaller than that at the bottom.

There are many chimneys that are intricately corbelled. Some of the chimneys mix smooth brick, textured brick, and custom shaped brick with the corbelling. Some of the chimneys are very simple.

There are two entries to the house. The northern, or front entry, is partially enclosed within the glassed-in porch. The side, or east, entry is recessed within the porch, as well. The second story of the house cantilevers over this side entry. Within the porch, the door is recessed approximately ten feet.

The rear yard is terraced up with railroad tie retaining walls and there is a sandstone patio within the rear yard.

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 2

48 East Fifth Street  
Corning, NY

#### 20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed in Block 54, occupying the northern half of lot 8 and part of lot 7, as laid out in the 1855 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. Marvin Olcott had this house designed by the local architect, Henry C. Tuthill. It was then built by Mr. English. Marvin Olcott operated a prominent real estate business that was located at 13 East Market Street. Mr. Olcott had many real estate holdings in Corning. Additionally, he was a silent partner in H.P. Sinclair, Jr.'s glass cutting business from 1904 until 1921.

21. SOURCES:

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

Corning Daily Sun. February 24, 1890; March 7, 1890; March 10, 1890; April 22, 1890; July 17, 1890; April 30, 1891.

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.

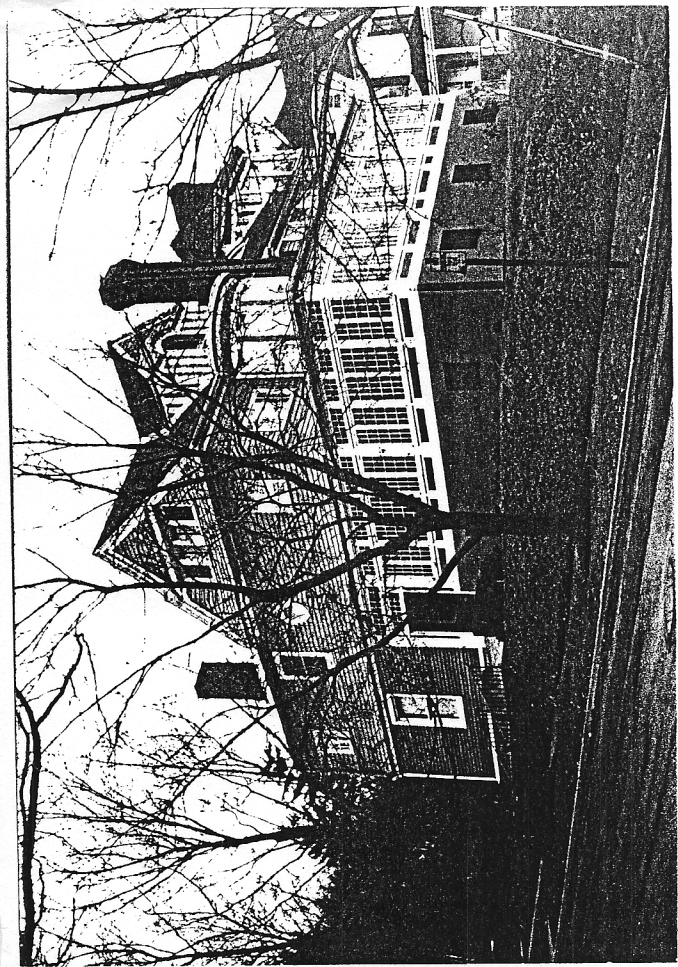
Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, and 1930).

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

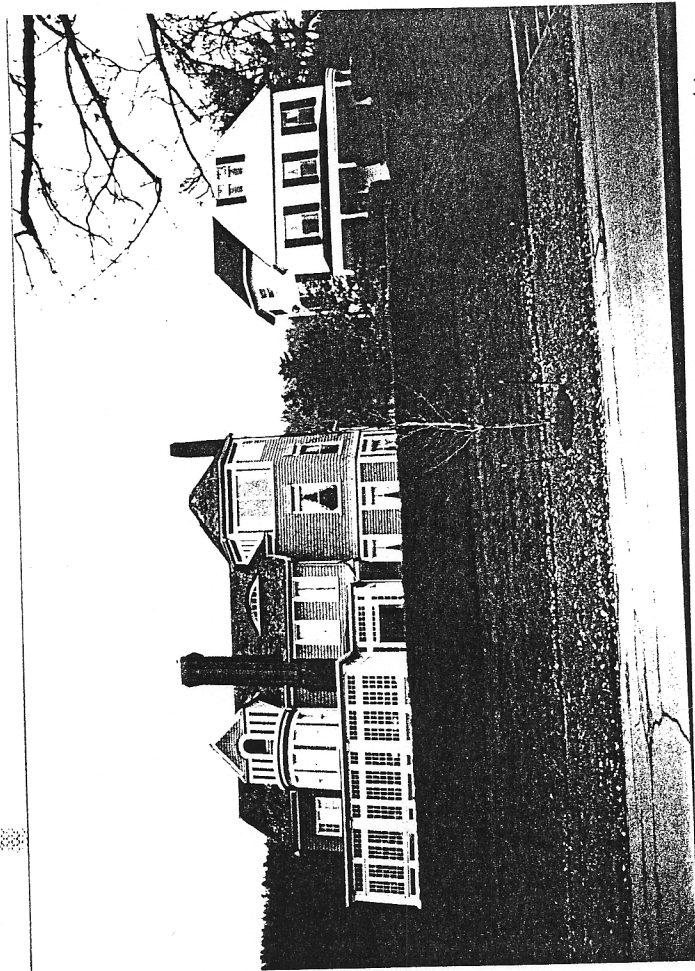
Steuben County Tax Rolls 1850-1909, County Records Office at Steuben County Infirmiry, Bath, NY.

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

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

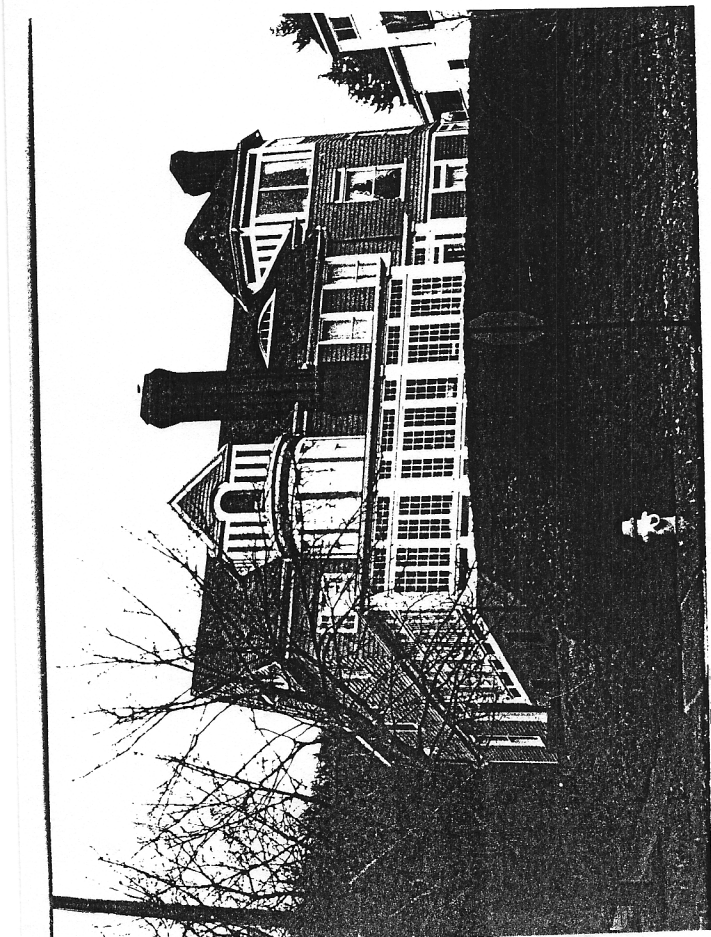


(east/north)



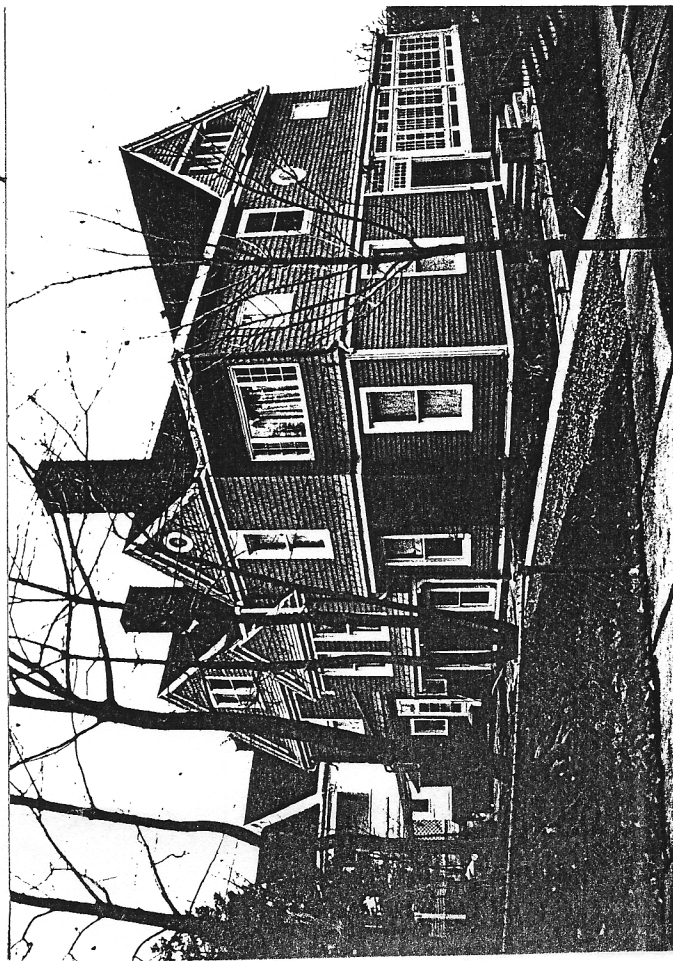
East 5th  
38

East 5th  
48



(east/south)

48 East 5th



(east/south)