

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: Gene Greger

DATE: Fall 1993

YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY

TELEPHONE: (607) 255-4331

ORGANIZATION (if any): Preservation Planning Workshop, Cornell University

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 98 West Fifth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public[] b. private[X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Mary Kathryn Brooder ADDRESS: 98 West 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[] 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
e. other (explain)
- 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 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: ca. 1885

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet
21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet
22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

This house is a heavily modified Italianate Style structure. Additions to the original building appear to include a single-story wing on the east side of the house, a bay window on the west side of the house, a rear (south) enclosed porch, and several small multi-light windows on the east and west sides of the house. The dates for these alterations are unknown. A wraparound porch covering the front (north) facade and half of the west facade was removed ca. 1960. A single-story garage was added to the property ca. 1925.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS AND SURROUNDINGS:

This structure is situated on the southeast corner of West Fifth and Walnut streets. It is one of several Italianate structures on the block, but contains unique Victorian Folk Style decorative detailing. The size, setback, spacing, and age are consistent with the majority of the houses on this section of West Fifth Street.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This structure has an overall Italianate massing with some stylistic elements from the Folk Victorian Style. The massing consists of two intersecting box-shaped structures with intersecting moderately pitched hipped roofs. There is a small one-story projecting wing on the east side of the house and a single-story bay window on the west side.

The front (north) facade has asymmetrical window placement and a pedimented single-story portico located on the west side. The rear (south) of the house has a single-story enclosed porch attached. There is a tall thin window with a rounded molding located on the second story that may be a remnant of an original Italianate-style window.

On the east, west, and north sides of the house there are triangular dormers with decorative detailing. Other decorative features include small multi-light windows located on the east and west sides of the house. The house has a brick ridge chimney,

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed on the northern half of Lot #1 of Block 73 as laid out in the 1885 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. Harry and Annie Heermans sold the property to John and Josephine Comosh in 1886 for \$300. Sometime soon after that, Mr. Comosh had the present structure built.

John Comosh was a famous acrobat who performed under the name John Worland. He was the first person to successfully complete a triple somersault and live. After this feat, he traveled each season with the circus, often performing in far-away places. He married Josephine Comosh in 1884.

Comosh retired in 1889 after traveling with circuses for 23 years; he joined his first one at the age of eight. He returned to Corning and opened a book, stationary, and tobacco store at 3 West Market Street. He eventually became a prosperous coal merchant and community leader and lived at 98 West Fifth Street until his death. His family stayed on and retained the property until the last of his daughters died in 1980. At that time the current owner inherited the property.

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 2
98 West Fifth Street
Corning, NY

21. SOURCES:

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

Dimitroff, Thomas P., and Lois S. Janes. History of the Corning Painted Post Area: 200 Years In Painted Post Country, p. 111. Corning: Corning Area Bicentennial Commission, 1977.

Gottfried & Jennings. American Vernacular Design. Iowa State Press, 1988.

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

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

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

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

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

This is a list of the sources used to do the blueform research; all except the Corning Tax Records should be available to the public.

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

Gottfried, Herbert & Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design 1870-1940. Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.

Dimitroff, Thomas P., and Lois S. Janes. History of the Corning Painted Post Area: 200 Years In Painted Post Country. Corning: Corning Area Bicentennial Commission, 1977.

Focus on Corning, the 'Crystal City' of the World: Centennial of Incorporation, 1848-1948. Corning: Junior Chamber of Commerce, 1948.

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

Corning Tax Records, Steuben County Record and Archives, Steuben County Infirmary, Bath, NY.

Corning City Directories, Boyd's 1872-73, 1874-75; Hanford 1893-1940.

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

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

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