



# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: S. Elspeth Stanfield DATE: 7/13/92  
YOUR ADDRESS: 201 Maple Ave., Ithaca TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

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## IDENTIFICATION

- BUILDING NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_
- COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
- STREET LOCATION: 121 East First Street
- OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- PRESENT OWNER: Douglas Bailey ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_
- USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain: no private residence

## DESCRIPTION

- BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
b. wood frame with light members   
c. masonry load bearing walls   
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
- CONDITION: a. excellent  b. good  c. fair  d. deteriorated
- INTEGRITY: a. original site  b. moved  if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): see continuation sheet

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

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11. INTEGRITY (major alterations)

There have been very few changes made to the exterior of structure. A fire escape was added to the northwest corner of the structure when the building was converted into four apartments after 1947.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

This building is located on the north side of East First Street, which features a variety of architectural styles. This block is predominately late nineteenth century structures. While this structure is not the largest, its location next to a Greek Revival Style house with a larger setback, which makes it seem larger than it is. The structure is situated off center on its site, being closer to the eastern property line.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

121 East First Street was constructed in the Italianate Style popular from 1850-1880. According to *A Field Guide to American Houses* (McAlester), the style was begun in England during the Picturesque movement. The Italianate Style was derived from two Italian models; the rural folk house and the formal Renaissance town house. In the United States, the rural model was far more common. These structures featured a low-pitched roof with widely overhung eaves with decorative brackets, tall narrow windows with decorative hood moldings, there was commonly a square cupola or tower.

The structure has a main square mass with rectangular two-story extensions on the east and west facades. The eastern extension features a bow window on the first floor. Also on the east facade are two entrances. The southern one is on a porch, while the northern one is a simple portico. Both of these elements feature columns with incised decorative motifs, brackets, and dentils. The bow window also features an incised decorative motif and brackets. The rear of the house has a shorter two-story extension, which seems to be original, as the decorative motif is echoed.

The roof is a low pitch hip roof with a small gable accent dormer on the south facade. This dormer features a rounded arch, fixed pane, single light window, as well as a decorative end molding. The overhang is fairly large, as is typical in Italianate Style structures. The brackets at the cornice are treated in a particularly decorative fashion. The front facade has larger brackets near the corners and under the dormer. Under each of

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18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (continued):

these brackets is a small carved "support". These do not seem to have a true function, but are purely decorative. Between these four larger brackets are two smaller brackets that extend only a small distance past the dentils.

All the windows are one-over-one sash. The windows on the front facade and the southern portions of the east and west facades are capped with incised hoods. The front (south) entrance features a pedimented portico and one light double doors. The columns on this portico are the same as those on the east facade.

There are three chimneys, two at the rear and one on the west side of the front portion. They are rectangular, each side featuring a decorative stepped pattern in the brick. The two rear chimneys' wide sides are oriented north-south, the other is oriented east-west.

The foundation is stone, but the south facing portion has been faced, probably with concrete. The entire structure is clad in narrow wood clapboards.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The current structure is located on Lot #12. The current structure was purchased from Charles and Caroline Land in April 1882 by Holland B. Williams. The current property though includes "1/2 of the eastern 1/2 of Lot #11" (from Deed found in Book #267, page #87), which is why it is not centered on the property. This extra land was purchased in 1900 from Marilla C. Brown by F. Amanda Williams. In 1913 Amanda and Aaron F. Williams are listed as separate residents. As Amanda is not listed after 1925, and Aaron appears until much later, it is possible that she was his mother.

The property was given to Corning Hospital in 1946 by Aaron F., the late Holland B. and Charles Williams. This seems to have been the request of Holland's Will.

The Hospital subsequently sold the property to Marion J. Chimera, and his wife Rose in 1947. The Chimeras lived at 131 East First Street, and the structure was converted into apartments. Although the building was converted into 4 apartments, there was little external change. A fire escape was added on the northwest corner of the building.

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21. SOURCES:

Steuben County Deeds; Corning City Directories; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930; Maps of Corning, 1857, 1893.

MAP INFORMATION:

1888 - Structure stands as it currently appears.

CITY DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

1913 - Aaron F. Williams and Amanda Williams

1929 - Aaron Williams appears only.

1938 - Same as 1929.

1947 - Listed as vacant

1958 & 1965 - 4 residents listed.



121 East First