

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 QUAD _____
SITE NO. _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

DATE: May 31, 1992
TELEPHONE: (607)255-6851

YOUR NAME: Susan E. Lassell
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

DRAFT *****

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): _____
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 27-29 W. First St.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Robert K. Gerber c/o Joseph J. Sweet
- 6. USE: Original: Residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
 - Interior accessible: Yes [] No [X]
 - Exterior visible from public road: Yes [X] No []
 - Explain: Private Residence

ADDRESS: 265 Washington St. Corning NY 14830
Present: Two Family 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 (explain) _____
 - e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION:
 - a. excellent [] b. good [] c. fair [] d. deteriorated [X]
- 11. INTEGRITY:
 - a. original site [X] b. moved [] if so, when? _____
 - c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____
- 12. PHOTO: _____
- 13. MAP: _____

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known [] b. zoning [] c. roads []
d. developers [X] e. deterioration []
f. other:
15. RELATED OUT BUILDINGS 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 [X]
f. industrial [] g. residential [X]
h. other: Public park

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

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. 1910

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The building sits on the north side of West First Street, between Pine Street and Walnut Street. The shallow setback is consistent with the neighboring structures. The eastward spacing is narrow, which is consistent with the other houses, while to the west is a large parking lot. The rear of the lot is unimproved.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

The house represents the late Queen Anne Style, characterized by classical details. The Queen Anne Style was popular nationwide from 1880 to 1910, and from 1880 to 1905 in New York. Classical elements were integrated into the Queen Anne Style as it gave way to the Colonial Revival Style. The playful cross-gabled form, classical porch columns and use of multiple siding textures are all typical elements of the late period of the Queen Anne.

The house plan is symmetrical, with a core form following the steeply pitched hipped roof and cross gables on the south, east and west forming projecting bays. There is also a hipped dormer centered between the cross gables. All of the roof forms are covered with wood shingles. The two projecting bays on the street facade (south) create a centered reentrant bay which is used for two entry doors. An entry porch, supported by hollow wood Doric columns, fills this reentrant angle. The bays are chamfered on the first story, with decorative brackets "supporting" the second story. The fenestration is typically symmetrical, with one-over-one double hung sash windows. At the rear of the house, the ground level drops, creating an exposed basement level. At the first story level there is a wood balcony with a door to each half of the house. The entire house is covered with narrow wood clapboard.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

In 1905 the lot and improvements were sold to Albin Gerber by Mrs Delphine Cahoon Hurlbert. From 1905 until 1910 the property appears to have been run as a boarding house. The city directories of that period list up to four unrelated tenants of the house. Then in 1909-1910 the address is listed as vacant. By 1911, Frederick Gerber, Albin's son, begins listing 29 West First Street as his residence, with Tobias Gottlieb as the resident of 27 West First Street. It appears that the Gerber family undertook to demolish the previous structures and erect a duplex; one half for family residence, the other as a

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE, cont'd

rental. When Albin Gerber died in 1917, the house was sold at public auction for \$1,805.00 in order to settle Mr. Gerber's debts. Albin Gerber's son Fred bought the house, and later sold it to his wife, Bula Gerber, in 1924.

21. SOURCES:

Corning City and Painted Post directories: Hanford: 1893-1920 Manning: 1921-1986

Map of Corning. Brewer & Canfield, 1855.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.

Sanborn Map Company, Maps of Corning, New York. (1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, 1948)

Steuben County Record of Deeds