

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: William J. Tomaszewski
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

DATE: May 1, 1992
TELEPHONE: (607) 255-6851

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Christ Episcopal Church
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Coming VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 41 East First Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Christ Episcopal Church ADDRESS: 33 East First Street, Coming, NY 14830
- 6. USE: Original: Ecclesiastical Present: Ecclesiastical
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes [X] No []
Interior accessible: Yes [] No [X] Explain: Private

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard [] b. stone [X] 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 []
c. masonry load bearing walls [X]
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):
- 12. PHOTO:
- 13. MAP:

14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers 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
f. industrial g. residential
h. other:

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: 1893

ARCHITECT: R. W. Gibson

BUILDER: Thomas Bradley

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

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41 East First Street - Christ Episcopal Church
Corning, New York

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

This massive stone church is situated at the corner of Cedar and East First streets. The surrounding buildings have commercial, religious, and residential uses. The church is linked to its Parish House to the west by a mid-twentieth century addition along the alley. The nave of the church runs parallel to Cedar Street with the apse located at the northern edge of the property. The structure consumes almost the entire site. Christ Episcopal Church is located directly across from the First Methodist Church on Cedar Street.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

Designed in the ecclesiastical Gothic Style, Christ Episcopal Church was patterned after English country churches with steeply pitched roof, entrance porches, buttressed walls and a large tower. The style has also been described as Norman Gothic.

The nave of the church runs in a north - south direction along Cedar Street with a lower east - west transept completing the cruciform plan. The apse is located to the north and the main entrance is located on the First Street elevation, both containing elaborate stained glass windows.

A massive three-story tower is attached to the nave at the southeast corner structure creates the focal point of the church. Lancet windows with stone tracery are featured in the upper portion of the tower as well as crenelated parapet and a tiled hipped roof which supports a cross finial at the peak.

The structure features many stained glass windows depicting various biblical scenes designed by the Tiffany and Lamb studios.

The roof is covered in terra cotta tiles with crest tiles along the gable ridge. Louvered vent dormers are also visible along the east and west slopes of the nave roof. The building is constructed entirely of random ashlar Antrim stone which has a grayish cast. Other notable features of the building include steeply pitched entrance porches, drip moldings, buttressed

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41 East First Street - Christ Episcopal Church
Corning, New York

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (CONTINUED):
walls, a chimney stack on the west side of the apse, and clearstory windows that project through the through the eaves along the nave.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Built in 1893, Christ Episcopal Church was designed by the New York City architect R. W. Gibson and the contractor was Thomas Bradley of Corning. The Parish was founded on April 12, 1841 and originally met at Corning's schoolhouse which was in what is now Court House Park. Their first church was a modest wooden structure located at the corner of Chestnut and Market streets.

The second church constructed in 1853-54 and was located on the corner of Walnut Street and what is now Denison Parkway. This structure was constructed of local stone in the Gothic Style and had a steeply pitched roof and a bell tower at the Walnut Street end. A fire on March 30, 1889, destroyed this church. The building was repaired but the parishioners wanted a new church. After much debate about the location of the new church, including Court House Park and West Third & Walnut, site of the rectory, the parish decided on the property at the corner of East First and Cedar streets.

The cornerstone of the present church, filled with a tin box full of gifts, was laid on November 16, 1893. Construction continued until the end on November 1894. The funds to build the new church were raise through contributions of the parishioners on Easter Sunday 1893. An astonishing \$30,015 was pledged that day in order to start the construction. The First service in the new church was held on February 3, 1895.

In 1896, the Walnut Street Church was sold to the Lutherans. Stones from this church were used in the construction of the Lutheran Church at 17 West First Street.

The stained glass windows of Christ Episcopal Church are by far this structures most outstanding feature. The windows were designed by the Tiffany and Lamb Studios. Most notable is the Resurrection by Tiffany

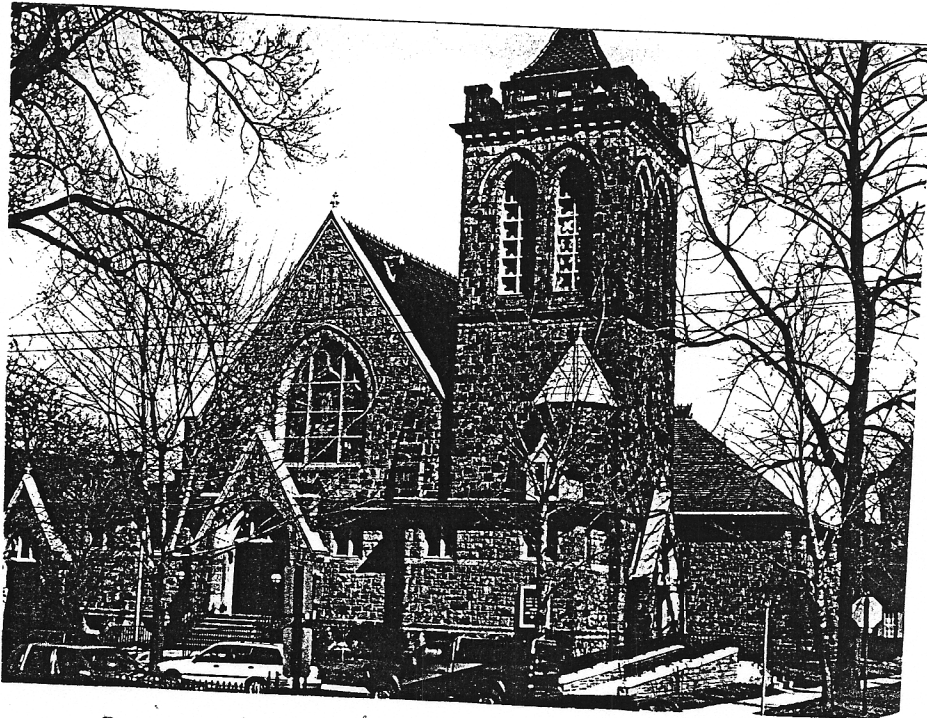
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41 East First Street - Christ Episcopal Church
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20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED):

Studios (1895). The window was a gift of Mrs. Armory Houghton, Jr., in honor of her mother and father. Attached is a complete description and history of the stained glass windows provided by Christ Episcopal Church. Another notable interior feature of the church is the Hooks and Hastings organ installed in 1895.

21. SOURCES:

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1945; Interview with Sturges Cary - Christ Episcopal Church Archivist; Christ Episcopal Church Centennial Program; Christ Church, Corning, New York, by William Walker (1894); Christ Church Story, Christ Episcopal Church Archives.



Episcopal Church 41 East First