

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY _____

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: Marisa Lopez

DATE: May 1, 1992

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

TELEPHONE: (607)255-4332

ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): White Birch Bed & Breakfast
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 69 East First Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Joseph Donahue ADDRESS: 69 East First Street
- 6. USE: Original: Residential Present: Bed & breakfast inn
- 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 (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 [X] b. zoning [] c. roads []
d. developers [] e. deterioration []
f. other:
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn [] b. carriage house [X] 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:
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. 1865

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

A one-story wraparound porch on the south and east facades was removed after 1948.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

Situated on the north side of East First Street, this residence stands out as an attractive mid-nineteenth century house with distinguishable Italianate-style features. These houses have somewhat similar setbacks, interrupted by a larger setback of the property situated in 77 East First Street. The east to west spacing is inconsistent.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

Designed in the Italianate Style, this structure displays the low-pitched, hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves supported by paired, decorative brackets, and the tall narrow windows associated with the style. It has a simple, two-story massing composed of two cube forms intersecting along one edge. The main (south) entrance, asymmetrically placed on the east end of the facade, is notable for its decorative Greek Revival-style surround with sidelights and a toplight. Other important features are three brick chimneys, one-over-one double-hung sash and decorative molded lintels over the windows. The east facade has a one-story, projecting bay window with a flat roof. The structure is covered in clapboard siding and is set on a stone foundation. There is a large carriage house on the property.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Originally a section of lot #12 on Block #48, this parcel of land was first acquired by Samuel C. Robertson, Catherine Robertson, Joseph Fellows and Nelson Davis as joint owners. The first owner of the building was probably Oscar W. Bump from Pennsylvania, who is said to have built this house as a summer house. He was the owner and treasurer of the Butler Mine Co. of Pennsylvania. He died in the early 1900s and his sister-in-law, Ethalaide, inherited the house. In 1924 Gertrude B. Bump received ownership of the house. Probably around 1925, she sold the house to Aaron F. Williams. Williams did not occupy the house but sold it to another prominent figure in Corning, Mr. Justin V. Purcell, who lived there from 1929 to 1942. Purcell was a lawyer with offices in the First National Bank and Trust Company Building, and served as Secretary of the Steuben Coal & Supply Company, and president-treasurer of Purcell Motor Co. Between 1942 and 1958 the house was owned and occupied by J. Norman Reilly, assistant to the president of Corning Glass Works. In subsequent years, until 1985, the property was used as rectory for Christ Episcopal Church (formerly known as Rector of Wordens & Vestrymen of Christ Church). Among the recent owners of the property is Francis L. Gehl. Joseph G. Donahue is the current owner.

Continuation Sheet, Page 2
69 East First Street
Corning, New York

21. SOURCES:

Corning City Directories; Tax Assessment Files City Hall of Corning; Steuben County Deeds; Historical Society of Corning; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930; Maps of Corning 1857 and 1893.



69 East First