

**BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE \_\_\_\_\_  
UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Matt O'Brien DATE: May 12, 1992  
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY TELEPHONE: (607) 255-6851  
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

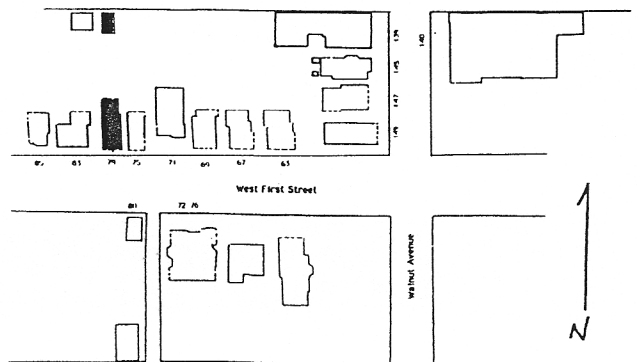
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**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 79 West First Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [ x ]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Samuel & W.F. Sutton ADDRESS: 79 West First Street, Corning
- 6. USE: Original: Private Residence Present: Two 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 (explain)  
e. other
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent [ ] b. good [ x ] c. fair [ ] d. deteriorated [ ]
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site [ x ] b. moved [ x ] 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: ecclesiastical
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. 1898-1903.  
ARCHITECT: Unknown.  
  
BUILDER: Unknown
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
  
See Continuation Sheet
21. SOURCES:  
  
See Continuation Sheet
22. THEME:

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79 West First Street  
Corning, New York

11. INTEGRITY:

This building was probably constructed between 1898 and 1903 on the site of a previous house which shows up on the Sanborn map for 1893. The present building is wider and closer to the street than the building shown on the 1893 Sanborn map. The present house was significantly altered, both in length and width, between 1913 and 1921, as is shown on the Sanborn maps. A two-story porch on the southwest corner of the West First Street facade was removed sometime after 1948.

The garage in the rear was built after 1948 on the site of what used to be a two story building (24 1/2 West First Street).

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

This side of West First Street in the block to the northwest of Courthouse Park is characterized by a scattering of houses on the parcels. The setbacks along this north side of West First Street are relatively consistent. In addition, while there is a similarity in form of many of the buildings on this block, the styling and materials are different enough so as to minimize the coherency of the block as a whole. Only one of the buildings on this side of the street dates from 1857 or earlier, unlike the other side of West First Street. Finally, there is a church in this row of residences that further adds to the feeling that this varied enclave of structures is like a small neighborhood, separate from the park to the southeast and the commercial areas to the north and east. The hilly terrain further serves to isolate this neighborhood from its surroundings.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This two-story front-gabled Folk Victorian house has clapboarding on all facades and in the gable ends. The arrangement of its three-bay front facade with its second floor doorway shows evidence of the two-story porch that was removed during the last forty years.

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18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE, continued:

Much of the spindlework detailing still exists on the front porch, including a sun ray design on the gable end of the front porch.

The house has a red composition shingle roof and is listed today as a two-family residence.

A concrete block, front-gabled single-story garage in the rear of the lot was built after 1948 where a two story house (24 1/2 West First Street) had previously existed. The previous building had pre-dated 1888 and was no longer listed as 24 1/2 West First Street by 1921, though the building itself still is present on the 1948 Sanborn map. The roof of the garage is covered with sheets of asphalt and the gable end that faces the alley has some clapboarding on it which may indicate that the entire exterior may have been covered with clapboards at one time.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Elizabeth Miller, widow of John Miller, lived at this house in 1893. There are no Millers in town in the 1870s nor is Elizabeth in Corning in 1895. When Elizabeth sold the property in 1895, George Aken, the new owner and a canal lock operator, removed the existing house and constructed the present house (see # 11 above for explanation).

21. SOURCES:

Texts and Miscellaneous:

Boyd's Corning City Directories 1872-73, 1874-75.

Clayton, W. W. History of Steuben County, New York, With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers.  
Philadelphia: Lewis, Peck and Company, 1879.

Corning Building Company. 100 Years in Corning: The Corning Building Company, 1848-1948, Corning (?): Cartwright and Sons, 1948.

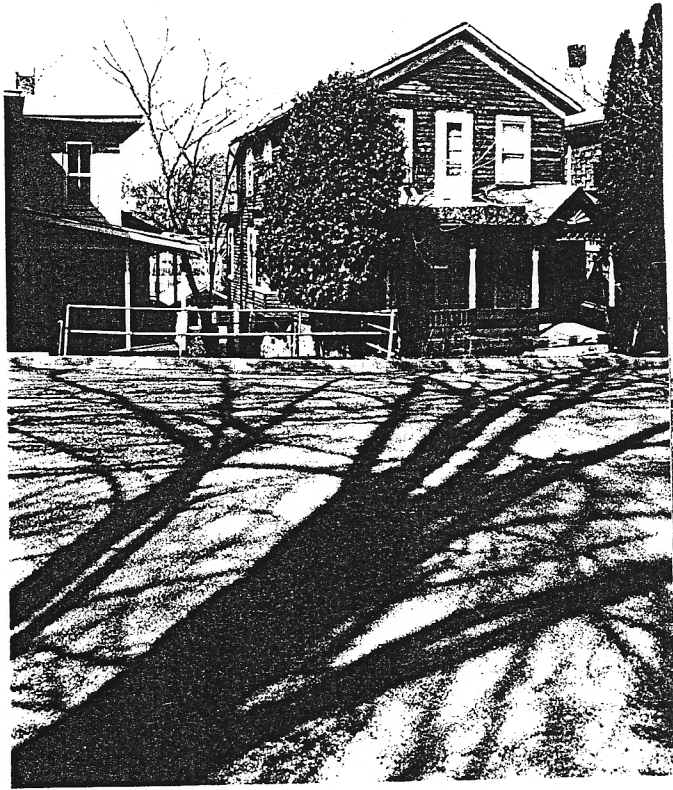
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21. SOURCES, continued:

- Corning City Hall Tax Assessment Rolls.  
Corning-Painted Post Historical Society photographic files.  
Dimitroff, Thomas P. and Lois Janes. History of the Corning Painted Post Area: 200 Years in Painted Post Country. Corning: Corning Area Bicentennial Commission, 1977.  
Hakes, Harlo. Landmarks of Steuben County, Syracuse: D. Mason and Company, 1896.  
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Adolph A. Knopf, 1990.  
McMaster, Guy H. History of the Settlement of Steuben County, New York, Including Notices of the Old Pioneer Settlers and their Adventures. Bath, New York: R. S. Underhill and Company, 1853. (Reprint: Geneva: Humphrey Press, 1975).  
Roberts, Millard F. Historical Gazetteer of Steuben County, New York with Memoirs and Illustrations, Syracuse: By the author, 1891. (Reprinted in two parts by the Steuben County Historical Society, 1979).

Maps and Directories:

- Atlas of Steuben County, New York. M. Levy. Philadelphia: J. E. Gillette, publisher, 1857.  
City of Corning. Corning: Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer, 1893.  
Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, 1948.  
Steuben County directory. Syracuse: Hamilton Child, 1868-69.  
View of Corning, New York, Looking Toward the South. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Publishing House, C. J. Corbin, Field Manager, 1882.



79 West First