

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: Jeffrey A. Harris

DATE: October 26, 1992

YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall

TELEPHONE: _____

ORGANIZATION (if any): Preservation Planning Workshop, Cornell University

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Coming VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 115 East Fourth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: James D. Chambers ADDRESS: 115 E. Fourth
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes [x] No []
Interior accessible: Yes [] No [x] Explain: private residence

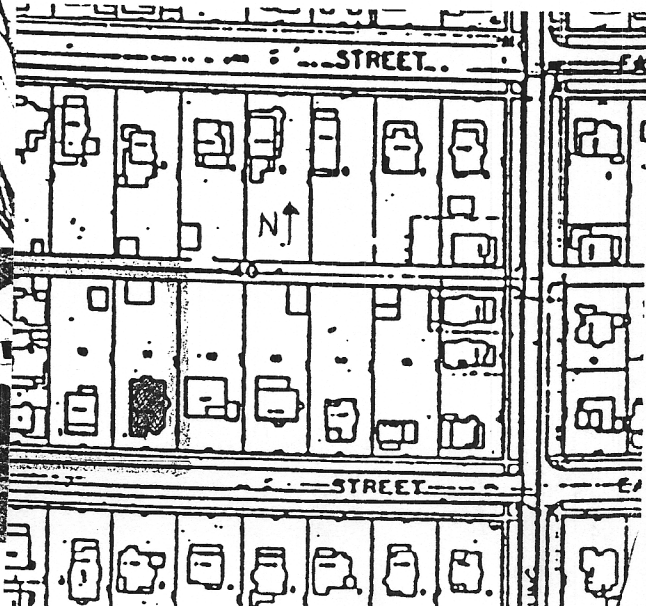
DESCRIPTION

- 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

ed []

n?

See Continuation Sheet



↑ 115 East 4th

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers e. deterioration
f. other:

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS 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 BUILDING 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. 1882

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

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115 East Fourth Street
Corning, New York

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

Addition of three-tier wood deck in rear: 1992

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The residence is located on the north side of Fourth Street in an area characterized by late nineteenth-century and mid-twentieth-century single family houses. Most of the earlier homes rise to a height of two- or two-and-a-half-stories, while those from the 1950s and 1960s are predominantly one- to one-and-a-half-stories high. Along East Fourth Street, the surrounding houses are spaced on a somewhat irregular pattern, but feature a relatively consistent setback from the street edge.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

115 East Fourth Street is an excellent example of the Second Empire Style of architecture, which was prevalent in New York from 1865 to 1880. Its date of construction places it outside of this period, but it is not uncommon to find scattered examples of this style in the Corning area also dating from the 1880s. The structure displays the asymmetrical subtype of the Second Empire Style, with a two-story bay window on the front (south) facade and a one-story porch wrapping around from the entrance bay to the west side of the house. The two-and-a-half-story structure is crowned by a mansard roof with dormer windows, the dominant feature of Second Empire-style houses.

The main block of the house is L-shaped, with a one-story bay window projecting from the rear of the east side, in addition to the porch and two-story bay on the south facade. Extending from this block to the north is a one-and-a-half-story block with two projecting bays. The entire structure is clad with wood clapboards and rests upon a fieldstone foundation. The mansard roofs are trimmed with wide cornice boards, featuring applied sawn ornament and elaborate, carved brackets. The roofs are of a convex-curve shape, an uncommon mansard type, with round-arched dormer windows on all sides of both blocks. Window openings are trimmed with casings of sawn ornamentation featuring pediment-like hoods on the first floor and Palladian-style hoods on the second floor. The openings contain replacement one-over-one sash windows, except on the bay on the east side of the main block, which features two-over-two windows. The projecting three-sided, semi-octagonal bays of the main block also feature cornice trim and brackets above the first floor level, in addition to panels inset with turned balusters below the window surrounds of the first floor. On the front (south) facade, the two-story window bay projects from the east bay. In addition, an L-shaped porch wraps around the southwest corner of the house. The main entrance is recessed under this porch. The door surrounds of this entrance are similar in design to the trim used on the windows. The paired entry doors are made of stained oak with rectangular panes of glass. The porch is supported by wood piers set upon pedestals, both with the applied sawn ornamentation. It is decorated further with balustrades between the pedestals, turned brackets, and ornamental stickwork.

Due to the slope of the land, which drops off to the north, the rear (north) facade of the house features a walk-in basement which adds to the building's one-and-a-half-story height. A rectangular bay projects from the eastern edge of the north facade, supported by two piers below, while a single entry door is located near the western end. A bracketed hood covers the door opening. A three-tier deck extends north from this facade, stepping down to a door opening on the basement level in the center of the facade.

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115 East Fourth Street
Corning, New York

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Part of the growth of the Southside Neighborhood in Corning during the latter decades of the nineteenth century, 115 East Fourth Street was one of many large homes being constructed as development slowly worked its way up the hill from the town center. Several elements differentiate this residence from other homes being constructed in the 1880s. A bird's-eye view of Corning from 1882 reveals the house to be one of the few homes built on the east side of Fourth Street, sitting on the fringe of development. Facing up the hill, the house was a sign of the growing prosperity of the town and a precursor to the large estates that would soon appear further up the hill. It is significant as a one of the few examples of the Second Empire Style in residential architecture in Corning, a style which was employed only sporadically in the Southside Neighborhood. Its intricate detailing and fine craftsmanship is remarkable, its form has remained intact, and it appears to have retained most of its original trim and decoration. Though no attribution to an architect has been found, some aspects of its ornamentation appear to connect it to the pattern books published by A. J. Bicknell during this time period. For these reasons it would appear that its architectural significance may reach further than Corning; in fact, it was selected as an illustrative example of the Second Empire Style in Virginia and Lee McAlester's A Field Guide to American Houses. Minor additions to the rear of the house have detracted little from its integrity, and relatively recent window replacements seem to closely match the originals. A certain kind of subtlety underlies the ornamental quality of the house, however, and allows it to nestle into the eclectic continuance of the surrounding neighborhood. It remains a showpiece, but within the confines of the narrow lot subdivisions which have characterized the blocks of the Southside neighborhood since its layout in 1873.

21. SOURCES:

Corning City Directories; Steuben County Deeds; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, 1906, 1913, 1918, 1923, 1930, 1946; Assessment Records; Bird's-Eye View of Corning, 1882; Building Permit Records.

MAP INFORMATION:

1882 - House exists on site, according to Bird's-Eye View

1908 - Wood-framed house exists at 115 East Fourth Street

CITY DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

1893 - Charles H. Voorhees, bookkeeper for T. G. Hawkes & Co.; house at 115 East Fourth Street

DEED INFORMATION:

February 24, 1881 - John Heermans to William H. and Sarah W. Jessup, Lot 11, Block 40. Book 173, page 293.

September 2, 1882 - William H. Jessup to Emily J. Voorhees, Lot 11, Block 40, for \$300. Book 184, page 178.