

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: Eric P. Avner
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

DATE: Fall, 1993
TELEPHONE: (607)255-4331

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 121 East Fourth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Mason A. & Barbara J. Coger ADDRESS: Same as above
- 6. USE: Original: Single-family residence Present: Single-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[] b. stone[] c. brick[] d. board & batten[]
e. cobblestone[] f. shingles[] g. stucco[] other: fibreboard
- 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[] if so, when?
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
See Continuation Sheet
- 12. PHOTO: 13. MAP:

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: See Continuation Sheet
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:

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: 1953

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

There have been no significant alterations to the house form since its construction. There is an unused door on the west facade approximately three feet above grade indicating that there once was a functioning side entrance. However, the stairs necessary to use this entrance were removed between 1970 and 1975.

15i. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

The garage is attached directly to the house. The site slopes steeply downhill to the north, with a concrete patio created to the north of the structure.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The houses on the south side of East Fourth Street are elevated upon a ten foot bluff overlooking the street. This structure is situated on the opposite side of the street, and thus is visually overshadowed by the homes to its south. This structure is **not** consistent with its neighbors in age, size, or spacing. This post-World War II home is one-story and covers only a small portion of its lot. It is positioned in close proximity to adjacent houses. However, the varied setback of the block is maintained.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This one-story structure was constructed in the Modern Ranch Style of architecture. It exhibits many of the identifying characteristics described in the McAlester book, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Among these characteristics are asymmetrical, one-story shapes with low pitched cross-gabled roofs, wooden porch supports, moderate or wide eave overhangs, and partially enclosed patios or private outdoor living areas to the rear of the house.

The south (main) facade of the house is dominated by the horizontal band of awning windows on the cross-gable end. The south facade of the garage the wall plane formed by the cross-gable end. Interrupting this plane is a recessed, poured-concrete entrance patio. The two-story north facade is notable for its repeated use of window groupings, each consisting of four awning windows, arranged in a square pattern. Due to the sloping site, one has direct access to the basement level from grade. The aforementioned unused side entrance is located on the east facade. The east exterior wall of the garage uses the same window vocabulary as does the south facade.

The foundation of this structure is poured concrete. The wood forms used in this process have left visible imprints in the hardened concrete. Each of the basement well windows on the east and west facades have a center clear light flanked by two columns of glass blocks.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed on Lot #12 of Block 40, as laid out in the 1855 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. A of 1893, the land was held by Charles H. Voorhees, a prominent lawyer of the time and the owner of the Queen Anne structure immediately adjacent to the west. The present structure was constructed by Walter F. Claussen, an employee of Corning Glass Works, in 1953. It has been suggested that his wife, Genevieve M.D. Claussen, desired a view of the East Fourth streetscape from the kitchen windows. As a result, there are intentional sightlines established from the kitchen windows, *through* the garagewindows, and eastward to East Fourth Street. Mr. and Mrs. Claussen owned and occupied the house from its construction until 1957, at which time it was sold to Prestor R. Reynolds. In 1971, the present family of owners purchased the property.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE (continued):

With the construction of this house, the last to be built in this area, all of the lots on this block were filled. This lot had remained vacant throughout the period of development of this area, particularly during the building campaigns of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

21. SOURCES:

McAlester, V. and L. 1991. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

City of Corning Building Permits, City Engineer's Office, Corning, New York.

Corning City Directories: Hanford 1893-1955.

Map of Corning. 1855. Buffalo: H. Brewer and C.A. Canfield.

View of Corning, New York, Looking Toward the South. 1882. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Publishing House, C.J. Corbin, Field Manager.

City of Corning. 1893. Corning: Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer.

Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York*, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, and 1948).

Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, New York.

Steuben County Tax Records, Steuben County Records Center, Bath, New York. (1860-1909)

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: (To be attached later)

121 E. 4th

