

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: 122 East Fourth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: John M. & Mary A. Kelly 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[X] 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[] if so, when?
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
See Continuation Sheet
- 12. PHOTO



122 East 4th

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[] c. garage[X]
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[X]
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: 1904

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

The only known alteration to this structure and its site since its original construction was the addition of the garage at the southern edge of the site, adjacent to the alley, sometime between 1908 and 1913. The garage was moved twenty feet to the north between 1913 and 1921.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The houses on the south side of East Fourth Street are elevated on a 10 foot bluff overlooking the street. This structure is situated on that bluff. The structure is consistent with its neighbors in size, east-to-west separation, and setback.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This two-story structure can be described as having a side-gabled roof with front facing gambrel roof and cross gable at the rear. This house exhibits many of the identifying characteristics of the Colonial Revival Style, Gambrel subtype, as presented in the McAlesters' book *A Field Guide to American Houses*. These include an accentuated front door; steeply pitched roof; windows with double-hung sash, usually with multi-pane glazing in one or both sash; and the windows frequently in adjacent pairs. This particular design was a popular pattern-book design during the period from about 1905 to 1915. The full-width front porch with center broken pediment is typical of the pattern-book model.

The front (north) facade is dominated by the full-width porch, with its square ballusters and pediment over the steps. The tympanium of the pediment is decorated with a garland and swag motif. Also of significance on the north facade is the front-facing gambrel gable. The centre of the gambrel contains a pair of one-over-one windows, surrounded by decorative frame and broken pediment hood. It is interesting to note that the upper and lower story windows are not aligned, nor are their respective sizes similar. The east and west facades are the gable ends of the side gable. Each features a variety of irregularly placed one-over-one double-hung windows. The gable peaks feature recessed casement windows surrounded by a wide wood frame. The south facade of the house is dominated by a cross gable from the eastern two-thirds of the facade. The gable peak and the remainder of the gable end features a variety of one-over-one double hung windows, in an irregular arrangement.

The house sits on an irregularly-coursed, fieldstone foundation. It is speculated that the original siding of the house was clapboard, due to this style's popularity with that cladding in the period pattern-books. It is estimated that the stucco was applied in the 1920s as a renovation. It is interesting to note that this house's stucco was applied in sheets, instead of over the customary mesh. As a result of this construction method, cracks are visible around each of the said sheets of stucco. The garage at the rear of the site is a wood-framed, hipped-roof structure resting on an irregularly coursed stone foundation.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed on Lot #4 of Block 39, as laid out in the 1855 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. Frank H. Ferris sold this lot to Dr. George F. Showers, a dentist, in 1903. During the next year, the present house was built. Dr. Showers maintained an office at 36 East Market Street. It is rumored that when Dr. Showers was considering house designs for the lot, he ordered the plans from a "Better Homes and Gardens" pattern-book. The story continues that another gentleman directly up the hill on Fifth Street purchased the exact same plans, and as a result, there exist two identical homes one block apart. Dr. Showers and his wife Edith Walker Showers lived in the house until Dr. Showers' death in 1954. The present owners purchased the house in 1955.

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, Boyd's 1874-75; Hanford 1893-1950.
- 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)
- United States Bureau of the Census. 1910 Census Data for Corning City, New York.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: (To be attached later)