

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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  
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IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 134 East Fourth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Robert J. & Julia H. Jones 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[X] g. stucco[ ] other: vinyl siding
- 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[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: 1887

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

By inspection of the site, it has been speculated that the house has undergone a major renovation campaign in its history. The original house, built in 1887, consists of the western two bays as viewed from the main (north) facade. This was probably a hipped-roof vernacular cottage. The eastern portion of the current house, including a new side-gable roof with its front facing gable and gabled dormer, was added about the turn of the twentieth century. The entrance portico was also added at this time. A garage was added at the southern edge of the site, adjacent to the alley sometime between 1913 and 1921. The current vinyl siding was installed in the past 15 years.

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 is essentially a rectangular block with a side-gable roof, designed in the Colonial Revival Style of architecture. There are also decorative details taken from the Queen Anne Style. This is explained by the fact that the original house was enlarged and remodelled in the Queen Anne Style. This house exhibits many of the identifying characteristics of both these styles as presented in the McAlesters' book *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

The main (north) facade is dominated by a large front facing gable end on the east end of the facade. The gable end with pent roof is clad with stripes of octagonal and segmental patterns of wood shingles. Centered in the gable end is a rectangular Queen Anne sash. Centered beneath the front facing gable, on the first story, is a one-story three-sided projecting bay. The main entrance to the house is located just west of center of the north facade. There is a Colonial Revival gabled portico sheltering the door and sidelights. The tympanium is clad with segmental wood shingles. There is a gabled dormer on the west end of the north roof slope. The pent gable end is shingle clad, and the dormer contains a pair of twelve-over-one double-hung sash windows. The majority of the windows used in the house are one-over-one double hung sash. The eastern facade is dominated by the gable end, identical in appearance to the north facing example. A pair of one-over-one windows is found at the north end of the second story. The southeastern corner of the house incorporates a two-story square porch. The projecting roof of the lower story is supported with two newly installed fluted Tuscan columns. The support posts of the upper story are clearly Free Style Queen Anne. Also of note is the flared south side wall of the upper story railing. The rear facade exhibits a different roof form than would be expected: The south portion of the house has a pyramidal hipped roof with a ridge running east-west. There is a gabled dormer centered on the southern slope. The pent gable end is clad with segmental wood shingles and the dormer contains a pair of one-over-one double-hung sash. There is a triplet of single-pane rectangular windows on the east end of the first story level. The west facade is dominated by a gable end identical in form and material to the east facade example.

The house sits on an irregularly-coursed, sandstone foundation. The hipped-roof garage at the rear of the site is covered in stucco, and rests on a parged brick foundation. The garage retains its original six-light casement windows.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed on Lot #6 of Block 39, as laid out in the 1855 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. The lot was sold from Quincy W. Wellington to Morris L. Sage in 1887. Later that year, the western portion of the current house was constructed. Morris L. Sage (b. June, 1850) was employed as a bookkeeper for the Q.W. Wellington & Company Bank. Morris, his wife Harriet, son Herbert, and daughter Margory all lived in the house according to the 1900 Census records. It is assumed that just prior to 1900, the house was enlarged, and a new roof was installed giving the house its present form. Morris Sage sold the house in 1919 to John F. Rolfe, another employee of the Bank. The Rolfe family retained the house until 1928, when it was sold to Corning Glass Works. The company used the house for the next twelve years as rental housing for its employees.

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).

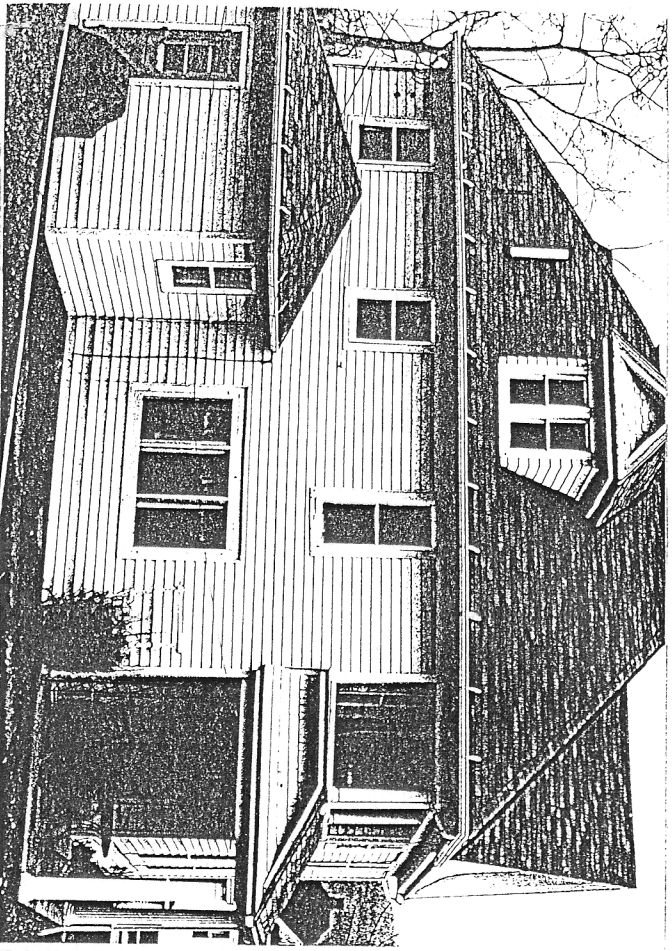
Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, New York.

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

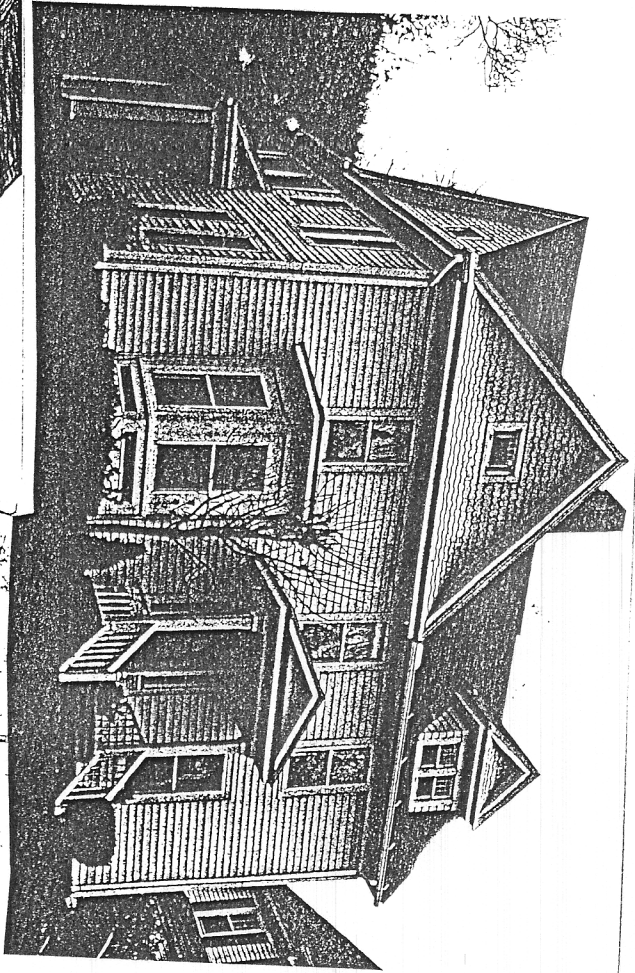
United States Bureau of the Census. 1910 Census Data for Corning City, New York.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: (To be attached later)

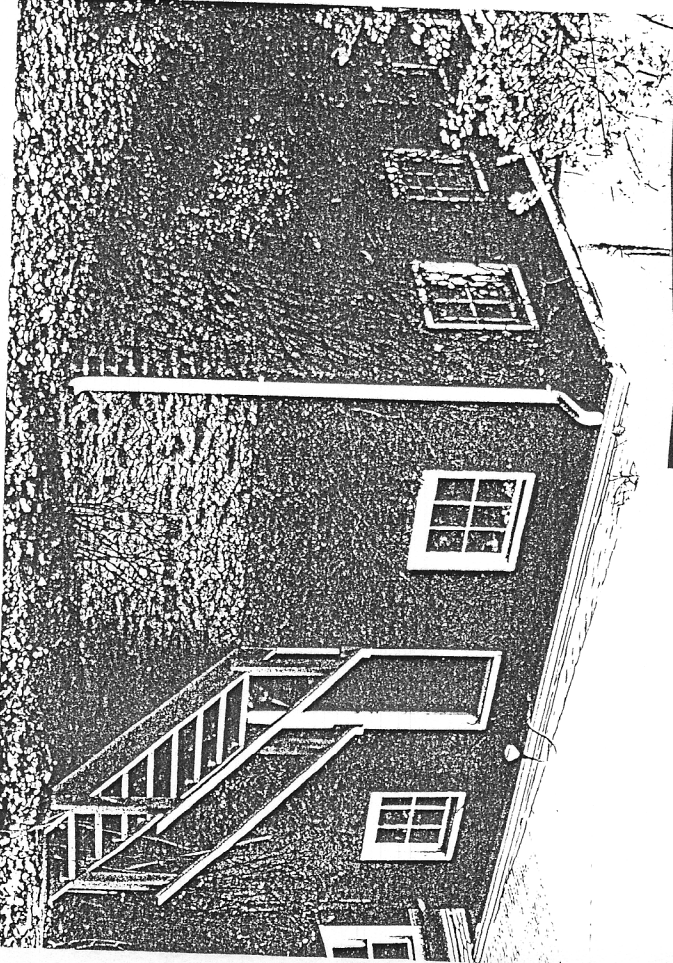




134 East 4th



see also



134 East 4th - outbuilding