

**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: December 18, 1992

YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

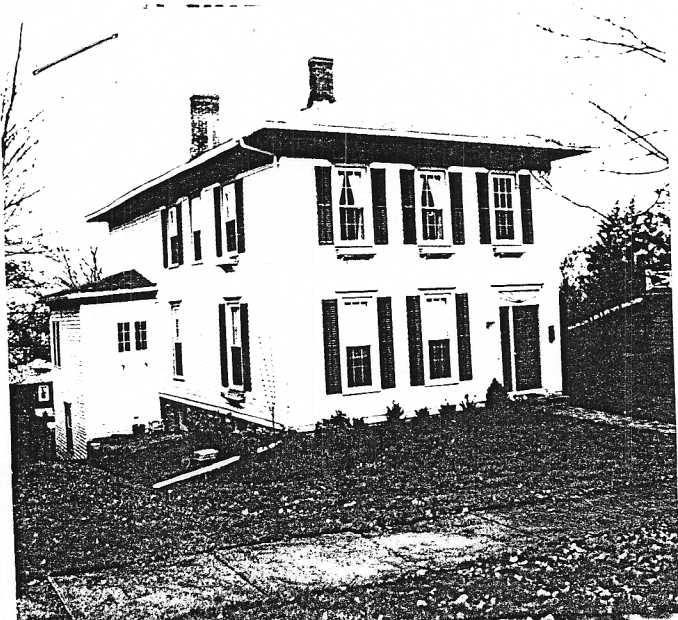
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**IDENTIFICATION**

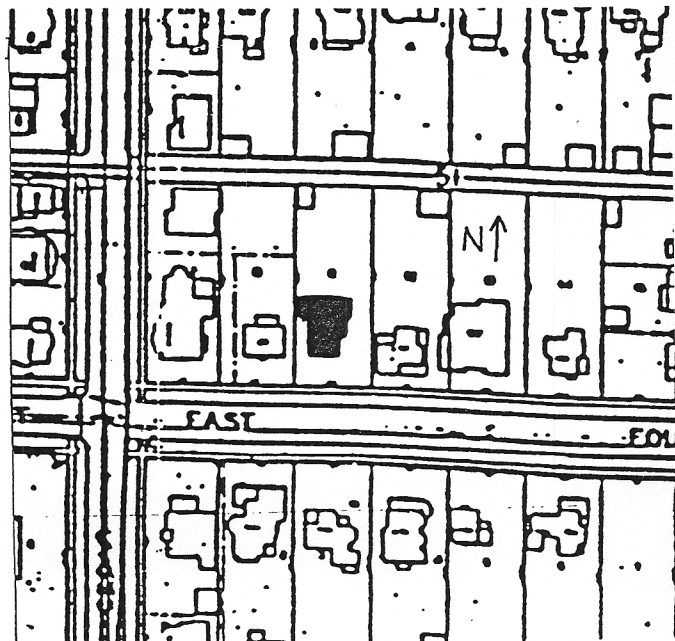
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben                      TOWN/CITY: Corning                      VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 65 East Fourth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ]    b. private [ x ]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Wendell P. and Kim F. Weeks                      ADDRESS: 65 East Fourth Street
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. CONDITION:    a. excellent [ x ] b. good [ ] 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



← 65 East 3.  
Fourth



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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65 East Fourth Street  
Corning, New York

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

North half of residence added: 1882-1893  
Front wraparound porch removed, second story sleeping porch added on northeast corner: Since 1948

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

This residence, located on the north side of East Fourth Street, is situated amongst an eclectic mix of houses of a variety of architectural styles, including the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Colonial Revival Styles. There is a wide variety of sizes to these homes, which are situated along both sides of the street with irregular spacing and setback widths. The houses on this block are all located at the southern end of their narrow lots, and have expansive rear yards sloping down to the north towards the alley, which bisects the block. This residence is situated quite close to the neighboring residence to the west, and the land drops off sharply to the north from the front yard.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

The basic form of 65 East Fourth Street is an extended rectangular block, with protruding wings on the east and west facades. The residence is a typical example of the "box-like" Italianate-style homes found throughout the surrounding neighborhood. In Corning, most of these were built during the post-Civil War era up until the early 1880s, and this particular structure is a later example of the style. Its two-story height, three-bay width, and side-hall entrance are common characteristics of this subtype of the Italianate Style. Other identifying features are the hipped roof with a wide overhang and the vertical emphasis to the window openings.

The front (south) facade is three bays wide, featuring narrow six-over-six sash replacement windows with simply decorated casings and louvered wood shutters. The windows on the first-floor level are somewhat taller than those on the second. The entrance on the eastern side of the facade has a thermo-efficient (?) door with one set of sidelights to the west, with a solid transom featuring a sunburst pattern. This entrance replaced an earlier one with a paneled wood door, two sets of sidelights, and the same transom. On the west facade, a one-story extension protrudes from the northern half of the facade, containing casement windows and a basement entrance below. The other half of the facade is three bays wide, demarking the original square block of the house. These openings contain sash windows identical to those on the front (south) facade. Extensions to the east protrude from the east facade in a staggered pattern, also containing sash windows. The northernmost extension, a two-story sleeping porch, features screened openings all around the first-floor level and casement windows on the second. It is supported by square piers below the first floor. The rear (north) facade features an irregular arrangement of sash windows of various sizes on three levels, with a basement entrance near the western edge. The entire house rests upon a fieldstone foundation and is sheathed with clapboards.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

65 East Fourth Street is a classic example of the small-scale Italianate-style homes that were so popular in the area during this time period, but numerous alterations and additions have destroyed much of its

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original integrity. The original "box" of the house is clearly visible, however, despite the northern extensions and replacement of the window and door elements. One of the first owners of this house was William Nicholson, an auditor for the Fall Brook Railway, who lived there from 1888 until the late 1890s. During this time he also served as secretary of the New York Central Railroad Board of Auditors, alderman of the city of Corning, and chairman of several other committees. In 1903, the house was rented to Lewis P. VanWoert, a trainmaster for the NYCRR. In 1899, when the NYCRR leased the lines and equipment of the Fall Brook Railway, it incorporated them as its Pennsylvania division. The railroad threatened to leave Corning at various points in the early twentieth century, and did remove some of its operations from the city in late 1903. This may account for the dearth of references to employees of the NYCRR after this point in time. In 1911, May E. Nicholson, William's widow, sold the house to Arthur A. Houghton, then president of the Corning Glass Works. He did not occupy the house, renting it instead to George B. Hollister, an employee of the company, during his seven years of ownership. Other employees of the glass works have owned and occupied the house from 1944 to 1977.

#### 21. SOURCES:

Corning City Directories; Steuben County Deeds; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1918, 1923, 1930, 1948; Assessment Records; Bird's-Eye View of Corning, 1882; City of Corning. Corning; Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer, 1893; Building Permit Records; Hakes, Harlo. Landmarks of Steuben County. Syracuse: D. Mason & Company, 1896.

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MAP INFORMATION:

- 1882 - House exists, according to Bird's-Eye View.
- 1893 - House exists at 65 East Fourth Street, with name, "W. Nicholson."
- 1903 - Wood-framed house exists at 65 East Fourth Street.

CITY DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

- 1893 - William Nicholson, auditor Fall Brook Railway, home at 65 East Fourth Street.
- 1895 - Same
- 1899 - No listing
- 1903 - Lewis P. VanWoert, trainmaster, New York Central Railroad, home at 65 East Fourth Street.
- 1905 - George Buel Hollister, employee Corning Glass Works, home at 65 East Fourth Street.

DEED INFORMATION:

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August 12, 1879 - John Heermans, trustee of Joseph Fellows, to Lamira E. and Duncan H. Baxter, Lot 11, Block 51, for \$400. Book 169, page 188

February 8, 1884 - Lamira E. Baxter to Fred E. Fletcher, Lot 11, Block 51, for \$2,200. Book 190, page 447.

April 14, 1888 - Fred E. Fletcher to William Nicholson, Lot 11, Block 51, for \$2,400. Book 211, page 421.