

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Stephanie Reinert
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall

DATE: December 18, 1992
TELEPHONE: (607) 255-6851

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

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Coming VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 136 East Second Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Kenneth J. & Paula S. Berkes ADDRESS: 136 East Second 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 [] b. stone [] c. brck [] d. board and batten []
e. cobblestone [] f. shingles [] g. stucco [] other: aluminum siding
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints []
(if known) 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 OUT BUILDINGS 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 BUILDINGS 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 1852

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 1
136 East Second Street
Corning, New York

11.c. INTEGRITY-List major alterations and dates (if known):

By 1893 this structure was an L-shape, with the main gable parallel to the street. An entry porch on the northeast corner was present by 1898, but disappeared by 1903. In 1908 there was another entry porch located at the northeast corner, and a porch had also been added to the southwest corner. The entry porch again disappears by 1913, but returns by 1921 and is present today.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

Situated on the south side of East Second Street, this residence is in an area filled with homes of similar sizes, setbacks and styles. All houses along the south side of the street are one-and-a-half or two stories, and have an approximate 15' setback, but varying amounts of side yard in the lot. The styles present along the street include the Italianate, Greek Revival, Queen Anne and Federal.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

The earliest representation of this house is on the 1857 Atlas of Steuben County. Because it was built in the Greek Revival style (McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses) and it has retained its original form, it is an excellent example of the style.

136 East Second Street is a two-story structure, with a gable that runs perpendicular to the street on the eastern half of the main body. This gable end has returns, as do the others. The house has a parged foundation and the exterior walls are covered in aluminum siding. The roofs are covered in asphalt and there is one chimney which pierces it.

A single-story entry porch is located on the northeast corner of the structure. The small gable roof is supported by two square piers. This porch rests on a stone foundation that incorporates steps into the form.

The fenestration pattern of the main, north facade includes five bays. All windows are two-light awning and have similar proportions. However, the windows on the second floor are slightly shorter than those on the first floor. A small window is present above the roof of the entry porch, and a semi-circular vent is located in the gable end. The front doorway includes a glazed, single door with sidelights that have been partially covered.

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136 East Second Street
Corning, New York

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The importance of this structure within the Southside neighborhood of Corning is concerned with the style and age of the building itself. The house was constructed ca. 1852, after Agnes Austin purchased the land from Erastus Corning and Joseph Fellows. The building is in good condition and retains all major elements of the Greek Revival style in which it was constructed, such as the gable roof forms, returns, and fenestration pattern.

Agnes Austin purchased the lot #6, on which 136 East Second Street is built, from Erastus Corning and Joseph Fellows in 1852. She lived on this property until she sold it to Emma J. Austin in 1907. The house was kept in the family, as John L. Austin became the owner from 1933 to 1937. Carl H. and Elizabeth Graf acquired the entire lot #6 in 1937 and later decided to subdivide it because there was also a house built on the south end of it. Maureen Thompson purchased the north portion of the lot, including 136 East Second Street, in 1986, but sold it again two years later. (M. Thompson later bought the south portion of the lot in 1989.)

Other owners of this property include the following:
John W. and Barbara Tussell (1988 to 1991)
Kenneth J. and Paula S. Berkes (1991 to present)

21. SOURCES:

Atlas of Steuben County, New York. M. Levy. Philadelphia: J.E. Gillette, publisher, 1857.

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

Corning City Directories, Hanford 1893-1920, Manning 1921-89, 1990-92.

Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, (1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930 and 1930 with 1943 revisions).

Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, NY.

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



136 East 2nd