

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY _____

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 237-8643

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

YOUR NAME: Lisa Adkins

DATE: December 1992

YOUR ADDRESS: 106 West Sibley Hall

TELEPHONE: (607) 255-4331

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

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): William Tully House
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 33 East 3rd St
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Amory Houghton Jr. ADDRESS: 33 East 3rd St
- 6. USE: Original: Residential Present: Residential
- 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 [x] c. brick [x] d. board & batten []
e. cobblestone [] f. shingles [x] 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 [] 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
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: 1898

ARCHITECT: H. H. Bickford of the Elmira, NY firm of Pierce & Bickford

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

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Corning, New York

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

This ca. 1898 house has experienced several changes. On the interior, the original architects were commissioned to remodel the den of the house in 1908. It is not known exactly how the room was altered. The exterior of the house has been changed more significantly. The original red clay tile roof was removed after the 1920s. A slate roof replaced the original roof covering, considerably altering the house's appearance. At the rear of the house, the open third story porch has been enclosed by the insertion of glass blocks. A modern patio door which opens onto the first-floor porch has been installed on the rear facade. A full-size window opening next to these doors has been refitted with a small modern one-over-one sash.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The property at 33 East Third Street was created from lots which already had houses built on them. The large yard and garden to the east of the house had another house on the site as late as the 1910s. As a consequence, the orientation of the grounds has changed since the house was constructed. The original octagonal gazebo at the rear of the house was removed and replaced with a large three-car garage during the 1930s, by which time the eastern yard must have been well established as the primary exterior leisure area. This orientation to the east was reinforced when a ranch-style neighboring house, 15 East East Third Street, was built in the early 1950s.

The 33 East Second Street house is one of the more eclectic homes in the neighborhood, although its large size is not quite so apparent from the street as it is from the alley at the rear. Two-and-a-half stories at street level, the slope of the property reveals a full three-and-a-half stories at the rear of the house. The three-car garage is accessed by the alley at the rear which divides the city block. A wood paling fence runs along the rear of the house lot for privacy; another chain link fence encloses the rear yard.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This house was designed primarily by H. H. Bickford, of the Elmira architectural firm Pierce & Bickford. He referred to the house as being of the "Spanish Renaissance", probably because of the original red tile roof and the extensive porches. Realistically, the house seems to have more in common with

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20. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES...(continued):

what is now called the Italian Renaissance Revival. Early examples of this style share many of the features found on this house, including the large porches, symmetrical hipped roof form, and extensive use of brick and stone wall cladding. There are, however, some aspects of the house which are not compatible with this style. In particular, the use of wood shingles and gables at the rear of the house are unexpected, as well as the wooden elements integrated into the rear sections of the wraparound porch. The form of the house is such that it can be thought of as a synthesis of the design tenets of the Italian Renaissance Revival and Queen Anne styles. The architect's long familiarity with the earlier style influenced his execution of a more eclectic design scheme.

The house has a flat-topped hipped roof, with hipped dormers on the front facade and side facades, and a small gable dormer at the rear. There is also a wood-shingled cross-gable bay at the rear of the house. All of the the eaves generally extend over the walls. The roof covering is square-cut gray slate shingles. The wood shingles in the hipped dormers and gable end have an unusual shape (+). This wood-framed house is clad in brick and has a rock-faced sandstone foundation, with a similarly cut second-story beltcourse. All of the cornice lines, dormers, and porch roofs are visually unified by the use of simple wood brackets.

There is a through-cornice bay on the front facade with small one-over-one sash at the second-story level. Three panels with a decorative coquillage motif are set into the bay at the cornice line. Three round-topped windows with lancet arched patterns in the upper sash light the attic story, just above the level of similar round-topped windows on the flanking hipped dormers. There are also less ornate bays on both the eastern and western facades.

At the front of the house, the porch is constructed with rock-faced stone balustrades capped with a smooth-faced stone railing. The area around the front entry is designed in the round, with a curved balustrade terminating the porch just west of the main entry. Fluted cast-iron colonettes support the conical roof. The curve of the balustrades extends outwards and down the front steps to create a wide visual enframing for the double-door entrance. An extremely ornate decorative fanlight window is the most distinctive feature of the front entry. There is also an elaborate foliate light fixture suspended from the ceiling directly in front of the doors. An arcade formed by stone piers supports the porch on the eastern facade of the house. Square brick piers support the porch along the

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20. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES...(continued):

northern facade. This part of the porch has slim grouped wooden pier supports with paneled balustrades.

The fenestration of this house is generally very simple, consisting of one-over-one double-hung sash with a few exceptions. A three-part window in the gable end on the rear facade appears to have been altered from another configuration. A glass block unit was created in what was an upper-story porch on that same facade. Most of the windows at the first-story level rest on the raised foundation of the house, but they do have shaped stone lintels. Second-story windows rest on the stone beltcourse, and have plain lintels.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

An early design for the shape of this house is found on the Sanborn Fire Insurance map of the site from 1893. The three-sided wraparound porch is absent, with a more simple full-width porch indicated instead. The massing of the early design is similar to what was actually built, with some notable differences in the massing along the eastern facade of the house, especially in the area around the northeast corner of the structure. The introduction of the rounded front-porch entry area, carried around the eastern side of the house to the rear, obviously demanded some changes to the original design of H. H. Bickford. His final plan for the house, with the symmetrical front facade and restrained ornamentation, is an exceptional early example of the Italian Renaissance Revival in a small-town setting.

The house was built for and occupied by local lawyer William Tully and his wife Clara H. Tully. Curiously, the property was owned by Amory Houghton Jr., an ancestor of the current owner, from 1898 until Mrs. Tully purchased the house from Houghton's estate for \$12,250 in 1911. It is possible that Tully was employed by Houghton or Corning Glass at the time and that the right to build on the property was a perquisite of the job. The Tully family occupied the house from the time it was completed in 1899 until Mrs. Tully sold the property in 1923. The buyer of the property was Glen W. Cole, another employee of the company who eventually became the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Corning Glass Works. His widow, Mrs. Eleanor Cole, sold the property in 1956 to Amory Houghton Jr. Mr. Houghton was the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Corning Glass Works, and is currently serving as a U. S. Congressman.

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21. SOURCES:

Map of the City of Corning, New York, Corning: Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer, 1893.

Elmira-Corning City Directories, Boyd Cousins: 1872-73, 1874-75; Hanford's 1893-1920, inclusive.

City of Corning Tax Assessment Rolls, Corning City Hall Tax Assessor's Office, Corning, NY.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990.

Reed, Roger, Architects of Standing- Pierce & Bickford, Elmira, New York, 1890-1930, MA Thesis, Ithaca, NY, Cornell University: 1981.

Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, UMI microfilm of original maps from 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, and 1930.

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

