

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(516) 237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY _____

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____

QUAD _____

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):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 79 East Third Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Kenneth Thomas ADDRESS: 81 East Third 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 [] c. brick [] d. board & batten []
e. cobblestone [] f. shingles [] g. stucco [] other: asbestos 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 [] c. fair [x] 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: ca. 1870

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

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11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

The construction date of this house is not immediately apparent. The lot was registered as sold for a nominal amount in 1870, but the deed may represent an earlier unrecorded transaction. The Greek Revival style of the house suggests that the structure may be considerably older than the implied 1870s construction period. The house may have been moved onto the site, but there is no conclusive evidence to support this hypothesis.

This house was originally much smaller, with a single two-story block and a lateral one-story rear addition. The width of the early two-story block can be identified from the Sanborn Fire Insurance map of 1866 as corresponding to the second gable of the front facade. The first two-story gable section on the front facade was added ca. 1892, along with a wraparound porch at the southwestern corner of the building. The third stepped gable and corresponding second-story section over the rear addition was added after 1950. The wraparound porch was also enclosed.

12. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The house at 79 East Third Street is markedly smaller in proportions in relation to its remaining neighbors. The low height and shallow pitch of the gable roof identifies the structure as a relic of a formerly crowded historic streetscape. Currently, the house has a large, well-landscaped lot adjoining its narrow site on the west and a larger historic home immediately to the east. The house has a shallow setback and is set on a site sloped so that part of the basement story is exposed at the rear.

13. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This house was formerly a fairly unsophisticated Greek Revival Style cottage. The addition of a front two-story gable section and the expansion of the rear addition gives the house an aspect of more irregularly massed late nineteenth century styles. The exterior has been entirely re clad in asbestos siding, but the foundation is still exposed. The older sections of the building show a fieldstone

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18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES. (continued):

perging, while the front two-story gable addition has a cast stone foundation. There is a brick chimney at the peak of the second gable section. The porch has been enclosed, and has a simple gable-roofed brick stoop at the front entrance. At the rear of the house a first-story level porch is supported by metal posts over the exposed basement. A modern patio-style door provides access onto the porch from the house, and another (three-panel) door opens into the basement. Windows on the house are one-over-one double-hung sash of varying widths.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The lot on which this building stands was reported as sold in 1870 by William M. and Anna Malloy to Emily H. Smith for \$497. The deed may represent the registration of an earlier unrecorded sale of the building, but it is more likely that this Greek Revival Style house was moved onto this site sometime in the 1870s. As early as 1888 another house on the western half of the lot was known as 75 East Third Street, and there was another outbuilding with a house number at the rear of the lot. All three were small structures that may have been used as rental properties by Mrs. Smith. Another house numbered 77 East Third was placed at the corner of the western portion of the lot ca. 1892.

Mrs. Smith transferred ownership of the eastern half of the lot to her family, the Davises, in 1884, but retained a life lease of the 75 East Third Street house and granted his rental income from the other structures to her granddaughter Emily Davis Stewart. Emily Davis also purchased the western part of the lot at the same time. The Davis family retained ownership of the 79 East Third Street portion of the lot until 1924, but directory information suggests that the house was used as an income property. Successive owners of the property generally lived in the house for at least part of their period of ownership, but there was also at least one additional rental unit in the building as well.

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