

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

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): _____

2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Coming

VILLAGE: _____

3. STREET LOCATION: 217 Wall Street

4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [x]

5. PRESENT OWNER: Irene R. Hanley

ADDRESS: 217 Wall St.

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. 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 [x] b. good [] c. fair [] d. deteriorated []

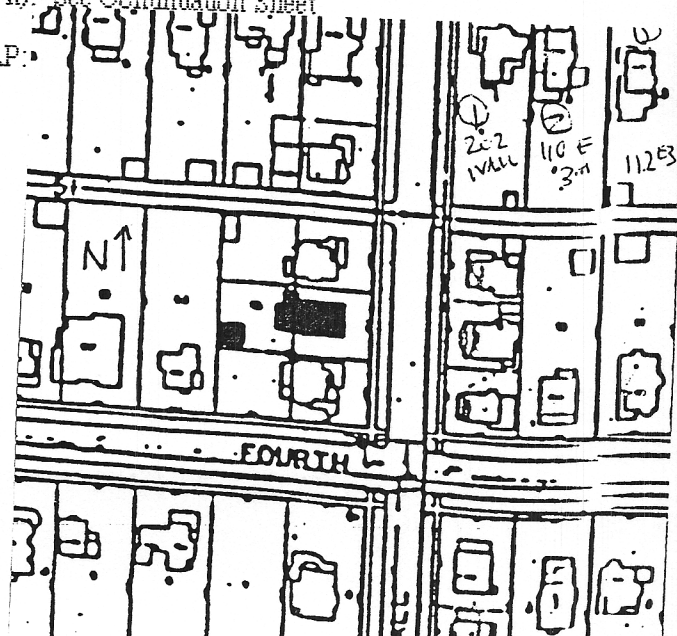
11. INTEGRITY:

a. original site [x] b. moved [] if so, when?

c. list major alterations and dates (if known): See Continuation Sheet

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. 1893

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

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217 Wall Street
Corning, New York

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

Entry vestibule and portion of rear wing raised to two stories, rear porch shortened: 1908-13
Garage added in southwest corner of lot, alterations to porches and gables?: 1917
Front wraparound porch removed, entry porch added: Since 1948
Vinyl siding added: 1979
New asphalt shingle roofing: 1980
Soffits rebuilt with plywood: 1983

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

Located on the west side of Wall Street, this residence is surrounded by single family homes dating from the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries. It sits upon one of three parcels of land evenly subdivided from two of the rectangular lots at the southeast corner of Block No. 51. This arrangement is less common in the Southside Neighborhood than the subdivision of single lots along the streets running from north to south. It produces an even spacing of buildings and consistent setbacks, and also allows for ample room for yards and garages in the lots behind the houses. The residence is hemmed in by the houses on either side, which are situated on the edges of their lots next to 217 Wall. A driveway to its garage in the rear yard defines the edge of the property on the south. On this part of Wall Street, the land slopes down fairly steeply to the north.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

217 Wall Street is an example of a vernacular interpretation of the Queen Anne Style of architecture that is quite prevalent in the surrounding Southside Neighborhood. Built primarily during the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries in this part of Corning, many of these homes, such as this one, used decoration sparingly on their exterior. They lack the delicately carved ornament and intricate craftsmanship that is characteristic of high-style Queen Anne residences, of which the neighboring house to the south is an excellent example. This particular house has lost some of its original ornamentation, in addition to other elements such as its wraparound porch.

The two-and-a-half-story residence features a pair of two-story gabled wings and a shed-roofed rear wing protruding from a gabled central block, creating an asymmetrical arrangement of forms. A gable end of the core faces east to Wall Street, and one of the two-story wings extends from its northern half, forming a continuous gable. Centered on the gable end of this wing are two pairs of narrow one-over-one sash windows, one pair on each floor, fronted by wood storm windows. The upper gable end is sheathed in wood fish-scale shingles, a feature repeated in the other protruding gables on the house. The residence is otherwise sheathed in vinyl siding. The gable end of the central block has a pent-like roof extension below the tip of the gable peak, under which is a single sash window on the second floor and a gabled entry porch before the entrance on the first floor. The porch, which replaced a wraparound porch extending around the southeastern corner of the house, features two wood support piers and a small concrete-and-brick porch with stairs of identical material. A wrought-iron railing extends between the piers and down the stairs. The other gabled wing, slightly narrower than its counterpart, extends from the western end of the central block on the southern facade. It contains single one-over-one sash windows on its south and east sides, and forms a continuous roof with that of the single-sloped rear

wing. A side entrance is located on this end of the rear wing, sheltered by a small bracketed hood. On the north facade the roof is broken by a cross gable with single windows below, and a relatively new stove chimney rises along the exterior wall. The rear wing, extending the full width of the central block, features two one-story wings flanking a two-story gabled wing similar to the one on the east facade. The roof of the house has unusually wide, overhanging eaves, an element probably not original to it. The house rests upon a foundation perged with concrete and scored to imitate cut stone. A 9'-0"-square, one-car garage in the southwest corner of the lot features a gabled roof and weatherboard siding.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

217 Wall street is one of three homes built on this two-lot subdivison during this time period, and they exhibit a wide range of Queen Anne Style translations. This house appears to have been built not long before the one to the north, and they exhibit many similar features. This indicates that the two may have been built by the same person or company. William H. Doolittle, a conductor for the Fall Brook Railway, purchased the combined lots of 15 and 16 on the end of this block in 1889, and subsequently divided the lots into three properties. By 1893 he had built a home on this center lot, and a year later he sold it to Albert C. Frost, a manager in a Market Street hardware store, Frost and Williams. Mr. Frost only held the property for two years, selling it in 1896 to Daniel C. Rogers, a locomotive engineer, originally for the Fall Brook Railway, and possibly later for the New York Central Railroad (NYCRR).

The Fall Brook Railway grew out of the demand for transporting coal from mines in Pennsylvania, and by the 1860s the Fall Brook Coal Company had established its headquarters in Corning. Its railroad lines continued to expand into the 1880s, and its success had much importance to the city, generating commercial activity and employing local residents. It is likely that this house was built as a response to the demand for housing the employees of this company. In 1899, the NYCRR leased the lines and equipment of the Fall Brook Railway, and incorporated them into 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. The house continued to serve as a residence for the railroad's employees, owned in 1903 by Thomas B. Beard, a yardmaster, while his new home was being built across the street. Lewis P. VanWoert, a trainmaster for the NYCRR, then resided at 217 Wall from 1905 until 1926, when it was sold to Corning Glass Works. It subsequently was rented and later owned by an employee of CGW.

21. SOURCES:

Corning City Directories; Steuben County Deeds; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1918, 1923, 1930, 1946; Assessment Records; Bird's-Eye View of Corning, 1882; City of Corning. Corning: Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer, 1893; Building Permit Records; Dimitroff, Thomas P., and Lois S. Janes. History of the Corning-Painted Post Area: 200 Years in Painted Post Country. Corning: Corning Area Bicentennial Commission, 1977; 1917 Year Book, F. W. Dodge Company, NYC.

MAP INFORMATION:

Continuation Sheet, Page 3
217 Wall Street
Corning, New York

1882 - House does not exist on site, according to Bird's-Eye View

1893 - House exists on site, with name, "W. Doolittle"

1903 - Wood-framed house exists at 213 Wall Street

CITY DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

1893 - William Doolittle, conductor, Fall Brook Railway, home at 274 [217] Wall

1895 - Albert C. Frost (Frost & Williams, 27 E. Market, Agricultural Implements, hardware, etc.),
home at 274 [217] Wall

1899 - Daniel C. Rogers, locomotive engineer, home at 274 [217] Wall

1903 - Thomas B. Beard, yardmaster, New York Central Railroad, home at 217 Wall

DEED INFORMATION:

August 9, 1889 - Helen Purdy to William H. and Eliza Doolittle, Lot 15 and 16 total, Block 51, for
\$4000. Book 215, page 391.

July 27, 1894 - William H. and Eliza Doolittle to Albert C. and Hattie E. Frost, middle 55 feet of Lot 15
and 16, for \$2,500. Book 241, page 143.

↙ 217 Wall St.

