

**BUILDING STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479**

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Robert Pick  
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall  
ORGANIZATION (if any): Preservation Planning Workshop at Cornell University  
DATE: Fall 1993  
TELEPHONE: (607) 255-4331

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**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 238 Wall Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [x]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Thomas J. Watson ADDRESS: 238 Wall Street, Corning, NY
- 6. USE: Original: single-family residence Present: single-family 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 [ ] explain:
- 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: See Continuation Sheet  
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:

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. 1901

*See  
inside*

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. INTEGRITY: Major alterations and dates.

Until ca. 1911, a two-story outbuilding labeled "238½" on the 1908 Sanborn Map existed in the northeast corner of the lot. Just to the south of this structure a smaller, one-story building had also been constructed. By 1913, 238½ had been converted into a one-story auto garage and the adjacent structure to the south had been demolished. Between 1921 and 1930, a two-story addition was made to the eastern two-thirds of the north facade. The lower story contains a two car garage; the upper story contains an enclosed area with six-light casement windows. After 1948, an addition was made to the second story of the house on its southeast corner, extending to the east over the rear porch. Recently, a metal wood stove flue has been installed, projecting up from the porch on the east.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS AND SURROUNDINGS:

Located on the east side of Wall Street, facing west, this residence is one in a group of late nineteenth and early twentieth century homes which are similar in scale. The setback from the road is similar to that of its neighbors to the north and south. This residence is set next to the alleyway for Block 39, which is to its north. Also, as this lot is comprised of the northern halves of Lots 9 and 10, as well as a small portion of Lot 11, there is a significantly larger space between 238 Wall and 248 Wall, its neighbor to the south, than among other houses on the block.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This ca. 1890 Italianate-style cottage has been stripped of most of its ornamentation, including brackets under the eaves, but still exemplifies many of the characteristics of the style. The exterior walls are clad in wood clapboards and there is a wide wood fascia on the walls under the eaves. The windows on the front (west) facade, which appear to be original, are two-over-two, on the first floor, and two-over-one, on the second floor, double-hung sashes. The building is topped by a low-pitched hipped roof.

The front (west) facade reveals a four-bay configuration. The southern two bays are larger than the northern two. Also, the southern two bays project from the main structure and are covered by a pyramidal roof, inset on the main hipped roof. The projection of these bays creates an inside corner roughly at center on this facade. In this corner is the main entrance. The main entrance is sheltered by a hipped roof form supported by a wood post at its northwest corner. Also visible from the front (west) facade is the two-story projecting bay, facing north, that is centered on the north facade. On the north facade, beginning in the center and wrapping around the northeast corner is a two-story projecting bay with a very low pitched hipped roof form. The basement level of the bay contains a two-car garage with a wood garage door covering the opening. The first story level of the bay contains an enclosed porch/sunroom, part of which is formed by an enclosed portion of the rear (east) porch.

On the rear (east) facade is a porch with a shed roof and enclosed railing supported by classically-inspired square columns. On the second story of the east facade, at its south end, is a small projecting bay with a shed roof. The south facade has a large brick masonry chimney slightly to the west of center. There is also large shed at the northeast corner of the lot. It is clad in wood clapboard and has a pyramidal roof.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURE OF BUILDING AND SITE: (Continued)

The foundation of the main house is limestone. The foundation of the garage addition is concrete.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The property containing 238 Wall Street is comprised of the southerly halves of Lots 9 and 10 of Block 39, as well as a small portion of Lot 11. Portions of the property were purchased from Mary A. Todd, and others, by Harry L. Doersch. Though it is unclear who actually built 238 Wall Street, Harry L. Doersch, a job printer who worked in the Concert Hall Building at 6-8 E. Market Street in Corning, is the first occupant known. Doersch appears in the Corning Directory at this address as early as 1903. Doersch and his brother, Henry, lived there until the property was sold to Samuel E. Quackenbush of 119 East fifth Street in 1920. Quackenbush was a past Postmaster of Corning, president of the local poultry association, a state representative and Mayor of Corning from 1922-26. Quackenbush never lived in the house, but conveyed it to Alonzo and Edith Putnam as "fulfillment of a land contract" in 1925.

The property passed to Wilson Messer in 1926 and, upon his death, to his relation, Elizabeth S. Messer. Ms. Messer sold the property in 1959 to Marjorie Freeman. The current owners, Thomas J. and Joy L. Watson purchased the house in 1984.

21. SOURCES:

Auwaerter, John. *Reconnaissance Level Survey - Southside Neighborhood Proposed Historic District - Corning, NY*. Ithaca: Cornell University, 1991.

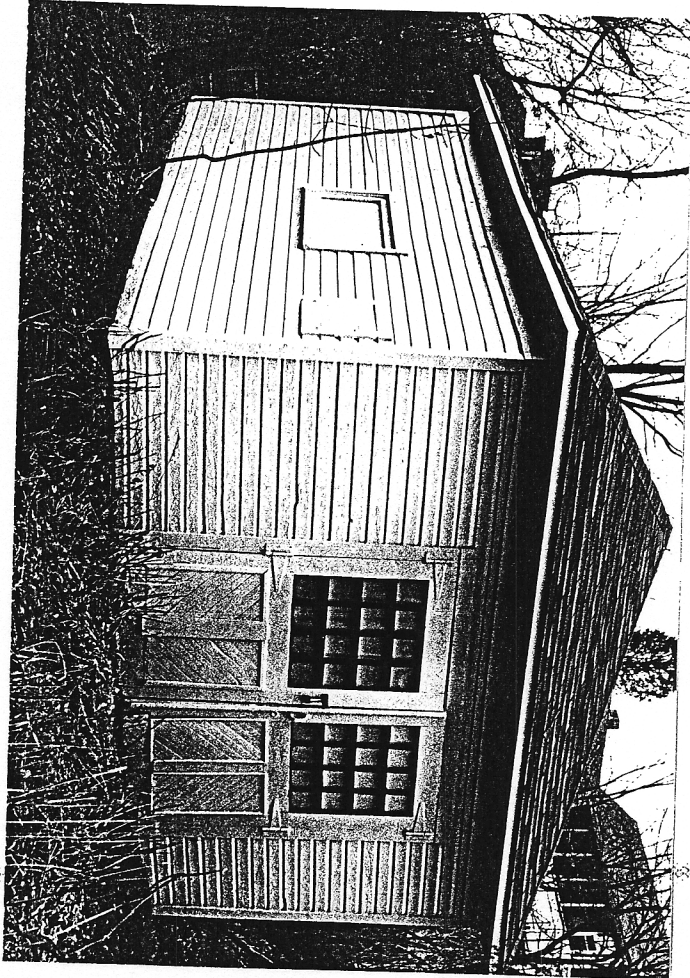
McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992.

Corning City Directories, Hanford 1893-1959.

Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, (1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930 and 1930R)

Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, New York.





↑  
outbuilding

all of 238 Wall Street

