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USE ONLY

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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: Kerri King  
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY  
ORGANIZATION (if any): 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: 261 Wall Street
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [X]
5. PRESENT OWNER: Robert and Sylvania Duncan ADDRESS: 261 Wall Street
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 [ ] b. stone [ ] c. brick [ ] 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[X] 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[X] f. greenhouse[ ]  
g. shop[ ] h. gardens[ ]  
i. landscape features: See Continuation Sheet  
j. other: carport

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[X]  
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, 1920

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:  
  
See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:  
  
See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

#### 11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

The present structure was erected on this lot ca. 1918; an older building was demolished prior to this construction. A carport was added to the south of the present structure and a shed was built at the northwest corner of the property, both at an unknown date.

#### 17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

This home is a one and one-half story Bungalow-style residence, conforming to the angle of Wall Street rather than the grid of East Fifth Street. It appears to have been built more recently than its northern neighbors. The setback of this house is the same as that of its neighbors. The setbacks of the buildings on this western side of Wall Street are more uniform than those of the houses on the other side. The scale of this house is similar to that of its southern neighbors while the house directly to its north, 94 East Fifth Street, is slightly larger.

#### 18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

According to A Field Guide to American Houses, this residence has many of the identifying characteristics of the Craftsman style, including a low-pitched, front-gabled roof with full-width porch, porch roof supported by square columns with battered sides, exposed roof rafters, and decorative braces under the gables.

This one-and-a-half-story home has an raised foundation of concrete block supporting walls covered with wood shingles. The main entrance to the house is located on the east facade. The closed porch has three battered piers to support the low-pitched roof, and access to the house is up a small flight of stairs and through the southernmost bay of the porch. Centered under the porch in the northernmost bay is a large double-hung sash with two-over-two lights. Above the roof of the porch on the principal east facade are three windows. Centered under the gable is a pair of double-hung sashes with four-over-one-lights. Flanking this pair are small windows, approximately the size of one light of the central window, which are divided into four lights. The remaining three facades of the house are similar in scale and materials. The north facade has three bays, with paired windows in the central bay with single windows to either side. The easternmost bay on the north facade is an oriel window. The attached carport, made of sheet metal, projects from the south facade.

The roof of the house is covered with asphalt shingles. There are two dormers found within the roof, one on the south facade and one on the north facade. Each dormer has a pyramidal roof and a set of three windows. There is also a chimney located on center within the roofline of the house. A shed is located northwest of the house on the property; the outbuilding has the same materials as the house and is built with a simple gable form.

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 2

261 Wall Street  
Corning, New York

#### 20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The house that is now located at 261 Wall Street is not the first house to be built on that lot. Another building, dating from around 1900 was demolished some time between 1914 and 1921 according to Sanborn Insurance maps. The original building, which was built parallel to the established grid of the city streets, was demolished and the present structure, which is parallel to the angle of Wall Street past East Fifth Street, was built. In the older house, a glassblower named Adelbert

Armstrong and Mrs. Katherine Decker, his widowed sister, lived from the time that the house was first built until about 1915.

At an unspecified time in the 1910s, Warren and Adelaide Cheney, the neighbors at 88 East Fifth Street, bought the property. In August 1920, the Cheney's sold the home to George and Muriel Pratt. The current house was probably built by either the Cheney's or the Pratts. George Pratt, a lawyer and later a judge, lived in the house with his wife until 1938. At that time, the house was purchased by Robert and Sylvania Duncan, who still own the house. Mr. Duncan worked in many capacities for the local schools, including as a teacher at the Corning Free Academy, as a consultant for Corning City Schools, and as director of transportation and purchasing for Corning City Schools.

21. SOURCES:

Auwaerter, John. Reconnaissance Level Survey: Southside Neighborhood Proposed Historic District, Corning, New York. Ithaca: Cornell University, September, 1991.

Corning City Directories, Hanford 1893-1920, Manning 1921-1968.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

Map of Corning. Buffalo: H. Brewer and C. A. Canfield, 1855.

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

Sanborn Map Company. Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York, (1903, 1908, 1914, 1921, and 1930).

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

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