

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

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

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
Q U A D \_\_\_\_\_  
S E R I E S \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Susan E. Lassell  
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY  
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

DATE: May 31, 1992  
TELEPHONE: (607)255-6851

**DRAFT**

## IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 165 Walnut St.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [ X ]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: James & Alice Marie Semple ADDRESS: 184 E. Second St., Corning, NY 148  
Present: Single Family Residence
- 6. USE: Original: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 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): \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. PHOTO: \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. MAP: \_\_\_\_\_

14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

- a. none known [ ] b. zoning [ ] c. roads [ ]
- d. developers [ ] e. deterioration [ ]
- f. other:

15. RELATED OUT BUILDINGS 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 [ X ]
- h. other: Public park

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS 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. 1921-1930

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

This building sits on the west side of Walnut Street, between West First Street and West Second Street. The shallow setback compliments the spacing of its neighbors, and the regular spacing between houses is typical of this block. Because this is one of three houses on a single lot, maximizing the orientation to the park, there is very little property to the rear.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

The house is typical of the Colonial Revival Style. The style enjoyed a long term of popularity, beginning in the 1880s and lasting through the 1950s. The style reflects a renewed interest in the English and Dutch influences on the early architecture of the American Atlantic seaboard. Early versions of the style freely combined details from a variety of Colonial influences, while later versions refined the style by closely following Georgian or Adam precedents. Elements which distinguish this house as Colonial Revival include the side-gable orientation, simple plan and rectangular sash windows.

The house is a simple two bay rectangular plan. The medium slope side-gabled roof is covered with composite shingle. The entire facade is covered in wood clapboard. In a manner atypical to the Colonial Revival style, the fenestration pattern is not symmetrical; on the second story there are two sets of paired windows, each three-over-one double-hung sash windows and on the first story there is a triple window in the south bay and an entry door with no decorative surround. On the entry facade (east) there is a full-width porch which shows influences of the Bungalow style with the hipped roof and half-height battered pier porch supports.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The importance of the house relates to the continual growth of the Southside neighborhood, and to the importance of the Courthouse Park. Though Thomas McGovern had purchase the land in 1901, he waited until the 1920s to construct the house. By this time, the new Courthouse had been built, and the recently landscaped park had become a major social and recreational hub. The house also contributes to the cohesiveness of the neighborhood. In 1950 Frank Swain, who already owned and lived at 54 West First Street, purchased the house. This illustrates the strong social ties within the community.