

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.
QUAD
SERIES
NEG. NO.

YOUR NAME: Azhar S. Tyabji
YOUR ADDRESS: 106 W. Sibley Hall, Ithaca, NY
ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

DATE: Spring, 1994
TELEPHONE: (607)255-4331

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S):
2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
3. STREET LOCATION: 304 Walnut Street
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
5. PRESENT OWNER: Walter and Juanita M. Golden ADDRESS: Same as above
6. USE: Original: Private Residence Present: Private Residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road Yes [] No [X]
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: aluminum siding
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints [X]
b. wood frame with light members []
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[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:
j. other: brick well, cement water cistern

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING: (Check more than one if necessary)
a. open land[] b. woodland[X]
c. scattered buildings[X]
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: c. 1905

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

The original entrance door to the house was under a one-story wraparound porch on the north facade. In 1949, the porch was removed, and two one-over-one double-hung sash added. On the west (rear) facade, a wood deck was constructed in 1978. The same year, sliding glass doors with full-length panes replaced two one-over-one double-hung sash on the first story of the west facade. On the east facade, a shed roof supported by wood posts was built between 1975 and 1977. At the same time, the asbestos siding covering the original woodlap shingles was removed, and the house received a new siding of aluminum. The original shingles still exist under the aluminum. A shed immediately south of the house, built sometime between 1908 and 1915, was removed in 1949, exposing a brick well which has since been put into operation. A plywood shed at the extreme west of the lot was added in 1994. A cement water cistern at the extreme south of the lot, possibly dating from the time the house was built, was filled in with rubble in the early 1950s.

15i. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

The property has a plywood shed, a water cistern, and a brick well. See 11(c) above.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The house is located on a thirty foot bluff overlooking Powderhouse Road. Hidden from public view, it is isolated from other houses in the area, and is approached by a curved driveway. It is consistent in age and size with houses south of Sixth Street along Walnut Street.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

The house at 304 Walnut Street is a hipped cottage with projecting cross gables on all four sides. It exhibits stylistic features such as intersecting gables, cottage windows, and two-story ranking consistent with this type of structure.

The east (main) facade features a projecting gabled wall at the center of the facade. Projecting from the gabled wall is a one-story family room with a shed roof, covering the northern three-quarters of the facade, including the gabled wall. The family room has a one-over-one double-hung cottage window beneath the gable end on the first-story level. A smaller one-over-one double-hung window is placed on the gabled wall on the second-story level. Near the northeast corner of the family room there are sliding glass doors, approached by wooden steps. A one-over-one double-hung window is placed above the shed roof of the family room, near the northeast corner. The entrance door is located in the reentrant angle formed by the ell of the projecting gabled wall, and is immediately adjacent to it. The entire ell is covered by an almost flat roof with wood posts, serving as an open car garage. Between the entrance and the southeast corner, there are paired awning windows beneath a one-over-one double-hung window on the second-story level.

The north facade is dominated by a projecting gabled wall. Two large one-over-one double-hung windows are centered on each story of this wall, with a single fixed window centered in the gable end. Adjacent to the gabled wall, in the reentrant angle, there is a paneled door with a wood surround. The door is approached via a wood deck with a lattice skirt and a wooden railing. Above the door, on the second-story level, there is a one-over-one double-hung window. The principal features on the south facade are a porch with a shed roof, shielding a large sliding glass

window and a door with stepped lights. Double-hung sash are placed in the gable end on the second-story level.

The distinguishing features on the west (rear) facade are large sliding glass windows with a Texture 1-11 surround centered on the first-story level, and mostly one-over-one double-hung windows on the facade.

The house is clad with aluminum siding, and rests on a coursed stone foundation. The roof is composed of asphalt shingles.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The house is constructed on a parcel of land identified as "SOC 48" on current tax maps and the 1994 Tax Roll of Corning.

Although a stone marker found by the current owners under two feet of earth on the south facade is engraved with the date '1908,' the house is listed under its current address in the 1905 Hanford Directory of Corning, under the title of Hieronimus W. Fritchie. Prior to this date, as tax rolls dating to 1898 suggest, there might have been a building on the parcel, owing to the fact that Fritchie, having bought the property in 1881 from Oscar Saunders for \$250, mortgaged the property to the Corning Cooperative Savings and Loan Association for a sum of \$900, a considerable appreciation in price at the time. Most probably, a rudimentary structure existed at the time, and took its present form closer to 1908 when Fritchie, his wife, and a servant lived on the premises. The Fritchie family occupied the house until 1921, when the property was sold to Ira C. and Maude Stilwell in 1918. The property changed hands again in 1921, when it was purchased by Frank and Marie Paciga, winemakers in Corning. Marie Paciga sold the house in 1942 to Gerald F. and Helen R. Gerhardt of Scranton, Pennsylvania, from whom the current owners purchased the property in 1946.

The work of Hieronimus Fritchie, a noted glass-blower, is discussed at length in Sinclair-Farrar and Spillman's The Complete Cut of Engraved Glass of Corning. Fritchie owned his own glass-cutting shed, located immediately south of the house. Old photographs of the Fritchie family dating from the mid-1920s show it to have been constructed probably of clapboard. Interestingly, a brick well was uncovered from under the floor of the demolished shed; the well was eventually put to use by the current owners in the early 1960s, using an electric pump.

21. SOURCES:

McAlester, V. and L. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

City of Corning Building Permits, City Engineer's Office, Corning, New York.

Corning City Directories, Boyd's 1874-75; Hanford 1893-1950.

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

View of Corning, New York, Looking Toward the South. 1882. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Publishing House, C.J. Corbin, Field Manager.

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

Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York*, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, and 1948).

Sinclair-Farrar, Estelle, and J. S. Spillman. *The Complete Cut of Engraved Glass of Corning*. New York: Crown Publishers (for The Corning Museum of Glass).

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

Steuben County Tax Records, Steuben County Records Center, Bath, New York. (1860-1909)

CONTINUATION SHEET, Page 3
304 Walnut Street
Corning, New York

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: (To be attached later)