

BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY,
11" MILL AND SHIPPING BUILDING
Cambria Iron Works
Lower Works
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-313-A

HAER
PA
11-JOTO,
134A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HAER
PA
11-JOTC
134A-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY, 11" MILL AND SHIPPING BUILDING
Cambria Iron Works

HAER No. PA-313-A

Location: Lower Works, Johnstown, Cambria
County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Johnstown, Pennsylvania

UTM: 17 E.676360 N.4466620

Date of Construction: ca. 1961

Fabricator: unknown

Present Owner: Bethlehem Steel Corporation

Present Use: Rolling Mill

Significance: Containing a series of automated
rolls and shears, the 11" Mill is
the only active mill of the Lower
Works. Steel bars from the 11"
Mill, processed by a variety of
techniques including forging,
machining, and cold drawing, were
used in the production of gears,
automobile parts, hand tools,
agricultural implements, and many
other metal goods.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons

Project Information:

The results of the study of Cambria County were published in
1990: Fitzsimons, Gray, editor, Blair County and Cambria County,
Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial
Sites (Washington, D.C.: America's Industrial Heritage Project
(AIHP) and HABS/HAER, National Park Service). The contents of the
publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as
individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of
historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to
the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library,
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

HISTORY

11" Mill: Measuring 920' x 120', this three-and-one-half-story building is the the most recently constructed mill at the Lower Works. It contains a steel frame and a large gable roof which is composed of riveted steel Fink roof trusses. A full-length monitor extends along the gable ridge. Resting on a concrete foundation, the building is clad with corrugated metal. Containing a series of automated rolls and shears, the 11" Mill is the only active mill of the Lower Works.

Shipping Building: Adjoining the 11" Mill, this building measures 720' x 110' and contains a steel frame, a gable roof--also composed of riveted steel roof trusses and steel purlins--and rests on a concrete foundation. It is clad with corrugated metal. Two tracks extend into the northern two-bay entrance of the Shipping Building.

With the demolition of Cambria Iron Company's original Bessemer steel plant and open hearth building in 1952, an important era in Johnstown's steel-making history came to an end. The site of these two plants in Bethlehem Steel's Lower Works remained unoccupied until about 1959, when construction work began on the area's largest and most modern mill and shipping buildings. Opened for production in 1961, the 11" Mill produced steel and alloy bars, which were then shipped to other plants for the manufacture of a wide range of metal products. Steel bars from the 11" Mill, processed by a variety of techniques including forging, machining, and cold drawing, were used in the production of gears, automobile parts, hand tools, agricultural implements, and many other metal goods. The Shipping Facility for the mill extends to the north, along the west side of the 11" Mill. Improvements over the years included computerized control in the milling process and in scheduling the flow of materials as well as the shipping of finished steel products.

The 11" Mill continues in operation with a crew of about twenty to thirty men working three eight-hour shifts. It is the center of activity in the Lower Works; the other facilities such as the Blacksmith Shop, Carpenter Shop, Tin Shop, and Roll Shop, are used to service the 11" Mill and the other Bethlehem plants in Johnstown.

SOURCES

Bethlehem Steel Corporation. "Bethlehem's Bar, Rod & Wire Division," company brochure published by Bethlehem Steel Corp., ca. 1984.

Bethlehem Steel Engineering Department, "History of the Evolution of the Johnstown Plant: Bethlehem Steel Company, 1852-1935; (revised 1958)," unpublished paper in the possession of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Engineering Division, Johnstown, p. 52.

Oldham, Bill. Engineer, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Johnstown, Interviewed, December 1987.