

First Catholic Slovak Band Hall
Cambria City Neighborhood
716 Chestnut Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5745

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

First Catholic Slovak Band Hall

HABS No. PA-5745

Location: 716 Chestnut Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: No. 716 Chestnut Street is a band hall facing southeast between a vacant lot and a single-family house. It is roughly rectangular, approximately 35' x 127', wood-framed with a brick facade. The front-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Five windows with multiple lights distinguish the front facade. A one-story addition to the east was constructed after 1949, possibly in 1950.

History: No. 716 Chestnut Street was constructed in ca. 1943. The First Catholic Slovak Band was formed in 1891 and claims to be the first such band in the United States. The band purchased this property and two frame dwelling houses in 1943. (It is not known if the dwellings were incorporated into the present building or if they were torn down). By the 1950s, the band had grown to 951 members.

Sources:

Deed and Tax Assessment Records, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, (New York, The Sanborn Map Company, 1913, 1949).

"Slovak Band History Goes Back to 1891," Johnstown Tribune-Democrat, July 25, 1953.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Jeffrey Hickey in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Hickey's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.