

Joseph Komara House II
Cambria City Neighborhood
403 Brallier Place (rear of 403-403 1/2 Chestnut Street)
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5754

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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JOSEPH KOMARA HOUSE II

HABS No. PA-5754

Location: 403 Brallier Place (rear 403 Chestnut Street), Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Two-family house set directly on Brallier Alley. Two stories, four-bay front, asbestos shingles over wood frame, 22' x 36'. Side-gable roof. Now vacant.

History: In the 1895 tax assessment record there is one two-unit house recorded on this lot -- 403-403 1/2 Chestnut St. This house, valued at \$1,000, had been built by Joseph Komara circa 1890 and was rented out by him when he moved to Broad Street. In 1902 he had accumulated enough money to build this second house on his lot, thereby increasing its value from \$1,000 to \$1,650.

This house was also rented. In 403 Brallier in 1910 there was a Polish family of three. The husband was a laborer in the steel works.

The property passed through various members of the Komara family until it was sold in 1972 by Helene Komara McGovern to a Armand Cimorelli for \$4,500. In 1986 it was bought by Stephen Pisarchik and Frank Zack for \$5,500.

Sources:

Deed Records (see records for 403 Chestnut St.), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Co., 1895, 1911).

Tax assessment records, Johnstown, Pa., 1902, 1903. Tax assessment card, assessment no. 86-001.-302.000, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 16th Ward, 1910.

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 Bernadette Goslin in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Goslin'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.