

Pankratz Bratz House
Cambria City Neighborhood
207 Chestnut Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5756

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PAUKRATZ BRATZ HOUSE

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Location: 207 Chestnut Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Two-story, three-bay single-family house with side-gable roof. Rectangular plan, 18' x 30'. Wood-frame structure with asphalt covering on the first floor and asbestos shingles on the upper story.

History: On the tax assessment card this house is dated as 1885. On the 1886 Sanborn it is noted as a tenement house and is numbered 263 Chestnut Street. On the 1891 Sanborn it is noted as no. 207 Chestnut Street and it is still noted as a tenement.

The house appears to have been built by Paukratz Bratz, who was the owner prior to 1892 when his heirs sold the lot to Martin Fish for \$840. Martin Fish is recorded as living there in the 1892 city directory. In 1900 he is recorded as living at no. 205, and no. 207 was rented to Charles Ramesdorfer. Martin Fish was Hungarian, 36, a laborer, married 12 years and had three children. He had been in America for eight years by this period; his wife had joined him four years after his arrival. Their first son had been born in Hungary and their other two children were born in Pennsylvania. In the census Martin Fish is noted as a landlord, aged 61, and of Dutch origin.

Catherine, Martin Fish's widow, bequeathed the property to St. Mary Immaculate Conception Church. The church sold it to Victor Faith in 1906 for \$8,039. He sold part of the property the St. Demetrius Syrian Orthodox Church in 1917 for \$4,100. They sold it to Joe Tolandas in 1921 for \$4,150. In 1924 he sold it to Tadeusz Salecki for \$5,150. His widow, Helen, conveyed it to her daughter and son-in-law in 1960.

Sources:

Deed Records (85:174, 186:247, 383:150, 344:28, 749:363), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1892.

Tax assessment card, assessment no. 85-004-303, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 1900 and 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.