

John and Anna Maria Stenger House
Cambria City Neighborhood
313-15 Chestnut Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5758

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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

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Location: 313-15 Chestnut Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: No. 313-15 Chestnut Street is a two-family building facing northwest, between a vacant lot and a multi-family building. The structure is rectangular, 32' x 47', wood-framed, covered with asphalt siding. The side-gable roof is also covered with asphalt shingles. It is two-and-a-half stories tall. The two entryways on Chestnut Street are flanked by double-hung-sash windows. Four double-hung-sash windows are on the second floor. Three wooden steps lead from the entryways to the street. A one-story addition has been built on the west end of the structure.

History: No. 313-15 Chestnut Street was constructed in 1868, according to tax assessment records. John Stenger (spelled "Stinger" in early tax assessment records) worked as a heater in the steel mills. He and his wife Anna Maria owned a house in Cambria Borough in 1863. They purchased this property in 1867 and erected the building.

According to an 1887 city directory, a John Stenger operated a dry goods store at 227 Main Street. John Brindza (or Brinza) purchased 313-15 Chestnut for \$2,500 in 1900. Brindza rented 315 Chestnut to Willam Dorian, an engineer and his family of three and 313 Chestnut to Edward O'Neill, an Irish mill laborer, in 1900.

The estate of John Brindza conveyed the property to Mary Medvecky for \$12,275 in 1930. Paul and Anna Ondrula (1930-1965) and the Gabor family (1965-1984) have also owned this property.

Sources:

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

Johnstown City Directory, 1887.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, (New York, The Sanborn Map Company, 1886, 1891).

United States Census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, City of Johnstown, Sixteenth Ward (1900).

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.