

Joseph and Catherine Kelly House  
Cambria City Neighborhood  
816 1/2 Chestnut Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5740

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOSEPH AND CATHERINE KELLY HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5740

Location: 816 1/2 Chestnut Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Free-standing, two-stories, two bays, single-family house with gable front. A narrow deep structure, 15' x 54'. Wood-frame construction with horizontal wood in the upper story and wood shingle in the gable. Front porch supported by wooden Tuscan columns.

History: In 1981, lot no. 81 including "a double dwelling known as 814-16 and 816 1/2 Chestnut St." was conveyed by Donald Lee Kelly to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Johnstown. The two-unit house (814-16) was demolished.

This lot had been in the Kelly family since it was bought by Joseph Kelly for \$500 in 1885. He built a two-unit house on his property which appears on the 1895 Sanborn map. The family lived in 816, and 814 was rented for extra income.

The 1900 census lists Joseph Kelly, born in Pennsylvania of Irish parents, his wife Catherine and their six children living at no. 816. He was a "Machinest" with the Cambria Iron Company. In that year, no. 814 was rented to an Hungarian family of six; the husband was a laborer at the Iron Works. The Kelly family also took in boarders, as in the 1905 tax assessment records Bernard Gallagher and Jno. Heidas, laborers, also were at 816 Chestnut Street.

It appears that no. 816-1/2 was built to increase the family income by accommodating more lodgers. It was built between 1895 and 1901. It does not appear on the 1895 Sanborn map and the first tenant located in the city directory was John Kelley, a laborer, in 1901. He is recorded at 816-1/2 up to 1908; in 1907, a Mich Kopp, laborer, was also a tenant. In 1908 a Wm. Lorditch, policeman, was recorded as tenant. In 1910 a Pennsylvania family of five were renting the house. The husband was a laborer in the Cambria Iron Co. machine shop.

The porch was added between 1911 and 1913. Joseph Kelly died in 1929 and was survived by six children. No. 816-1/2 is still the property of the Kelly family.

Sources:

Deed Records (158:220, 575:398, 1032:69, 1055:679, 1081:392), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1887, 1889, 1895, 1901, 1905, 1907-8.

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

Tax assessment records, 1895 to 1908. Tax assessment card, assessment no. 86-05-104, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., 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

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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.