

William Oakley House
Westmont Neighborhood
27 Clarion Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5691

HABS
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107-

PHOTOGRAPHS
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: 27 Clarion Street, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: The house has a front-gable roof with a recessed, lancet arch in the middle containing two one-over-one-light sash windows. The wood-framed house is a small, two-story, two-bay single-family house that sits at the top of a mound. Two sets of stairs lead to a hipped-roof front porch. Doric columns support the porch roof and are connected by a short balustrade of turned balusters. Wooden lattice-work covers the basement below the front porch. The house has horizontal wood on the first story with wood shingles in the gable.

History: This house was built in 1904-05. Arthur McKeever acquired this property from the Cambria Iron Company for \$700 on June 16, 1904. McKeever sold the lot later that year to William Oakley, who sold the property with a house constructed on it to Richard Blair McGahan for \$2,400 on February 24, 1905. Between 1904 and 1917 Thomas D. James rented the house. According to tax records for Westmont, James was a laborer and a mill hand until 1906 when he apparently was unemployed. In 1917 the house was rented to a clerk, R. E. Dudley.

Sources:

Deed vol. 161, p. 491; Vol 166, p. 216; Vol. 177, p. 193; Vol. 535, p. 396; Vol. 1154, p. 926; and Vol. 1196, p. 442. Cambria County Registry of Deeds, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Westmont Borough Tax assessment records for 1903-1917. Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

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 neighborhood of Westmont (HABS No. PA-5671) 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 Cheryl Powell in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Powell'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.