

203-05 Iron Street (House)
(Cambria Iron Company House I)
Minersville Neighborhood
203-05 Iron Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5772

HABS
PA
11-10-66

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

203-05 IRON STREET (HOUSE)
(Cambria Iron Company House I)

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Location: 203-05 Iron Street, Minersville, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Two stories, two-family dwelling. Wood-frame structure on a stone basement. Horizontal wood siding. Front-gable roof. Rectangular plan, 25' x 30'. Four-bay first-floor facade, two bays on the second story, single window in the attic story. Flat-arched windows throughout except for the small round-arched attic window. Shed-roofed front porch.

History: This is one of the houses built by the Cambria Iron Company in Minersville in 1889. By 1911 the Company had erected thirty-seven double houses in Minersville, identical to this one. Each half had five rooms, water closet and running water, and rented for \$5.40.

In 1900, no. 203 was rented to Jacob Smith, who was 24, from Pennsylvania and of German parentage. He was married and had one daughter. His father-in-law and brother-in-law lived in the same house. Smith was a laborer in the axle plant in 1900. The earliest he was recorded in this house was in the city directory of 1896.

In 1900, Edward Cauffield rented no. 205. Cauffield, an invalid and unemployed, was 82 years old, from Pennsylvania of Irish parentage. He was married with three children. The earliest he is recorded in this house is in the 1889 city directory, where it is noted that he and his family survived the flood. The house was numbered 263-1/2 until 1895, when it changed to its present number.

Robert E. Miller bought this property in 1946 from Bethlehem Steel. In 1973 the executors of the last will of Robert Miller sold the house to David and Paulette Nelson for \$5,000.

Sources:

Deed Records (579:487, 962:283), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

"Helping the Workingmen to Help Themselves: How the Cambria Steel Co. Aids in the Development and Maintenance of Institutions for the Benefit of Its Employees," Iron Trade Review (June 6, 1912), 1214, 1216.

Johnstown City Directories, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1899.

Moore, M.G. and A.G. Prosser, Map of the Portion of the Borough of Millville (Minersville) West of Hinckston Run, October 8, 1886, copy, June 29, 1889, John Fulton.

Tax assessment records, 14th Ward (Millville Borough), 1888, 1889, 1890. Tax assessment card, assessment no. 84.001-206-000; Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 14th 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

203-05 IRON STREET (HOUSE)
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HABS No. PA-5772 (Page 2)

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.