

227-29 Iron Street (House)
(Cambria Iron Company House II)
Minersville Neighborhood
227-29 Iron Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5781

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

227-29 IRON STREET HOUSE
(Cambria Iron Company House II)

HABS No. PA-5781

Location: 227-29 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. Hip-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 thirty-seven double houses in Minersville, all identical to this one. Each half had five rooms, a water closet and running water. It rented for \$5.40 a month.

The 1900 census lists James Cosgrove renting no. 227. Cosgrove was 30 years old, Irish, and a stamper in the bloom mill. He was married with five children, and he had come to America shortly after his birth. The Cosgrove family had lived in this house since at least 1893, which is the first year that James Cosgrove is listed in the city directory at this address. The number of the house in 1893 was no. 287 and this changed to no. 227 in 1895.

John Sullivan rented no. 229 in 1900. He was Welsh of Irish parents, married with four children. He had come to America in 1882. At this period he was working in the bloom mill. In the 1889 city directory he is listed as a furnace hand living at 253 Iron Street. In 1893 he is noted as dwelling in 291 Iron Street, which was the number of this house prior to 1895.

In 1946 Bethlehem Steel Co. sold these properties to Robert E. Miller for \$10. In 1973, no. 227 and no. 229 were conveyed to the present owners, Charles Leo and Esther Cosgrove, for \$1.00.

Sources:

Deed Records (12:231, 15:168, 959:118), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

"Helping the Working Men To Help Themselves: How 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, 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, Johnstown Flood Museum.

Tax assessment card, assessment no. 84.001-211-000, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Tax assessment records, Millville Borough, 1888, 1889, 1890 (from these records we noted the pre-1895 numbers of the houses).

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 14th Ward, 1900.

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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.