

272-74 Iron Street (House)
(Cambria Iron Company House III)
Minersville Neighborhood
272-74 Iron Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5774

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

272-74 IRON STREET (HOUSE)
Cambria Iron Company House III

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Location: 272-74 Iron Street, Minersville, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

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

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, all identical to this one. Each half had five rooms, water closet and running water, and rented for \$5.40. The 1913 Sanborn map shows that the privies were situated at the rear of the back garden. Most of the houses had front porches added over the last few decades. As late as 1949 a number of the houses had no porches. This house has had its porch removed.

The occupants of one side of this house have been traced. In 1918 John E. Kelly owned no. 274. At that time he was foreman with the Cambria Steel Company. He had been living in the house since at least 1903, which is the first year he is listed in the city directory. Kelly rented the house until 1918, when he bought it from Cambria Steel Company for \$1,500. He sold it the next year, and the house has passed through several hands since.

Sources:

Deed Records (281:641, 304:110, 401:243, 413:217, 486:114, 490:287, 801:497, 1031:511, 1072:129), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1907-8, 1918.

Tax assessment card, assessment no. 67-007-202.

Tax assessment records, Millville Borough, 1888, 1889, 1890.

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.