

59 Lehigh Street (House)
(Cambria Iron Company House V)
Westmont Neighborhood
59 Lehigh Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5714

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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

59 Lehigh Street (House)
(Cambria Iron Company House V)

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Location: 59 Lehigh Street, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Free-standing, very tall and narrow, two-story, two-bay, single-family dwelling with a front gable roof. The wood-framed building measures 41' x 16' with a shed-roofed ell addition. First and second story covered with asphalt siding. The shed-roofed front porch is supported by wood box columns connected by a short balustrade. Front room addition at the basement level is covered in wood shingles. Original stone foundation.

History: Built ca. 1889-91 by the Cambria Iron Company as one of the ten six-room tenements for \$955.62. An outline of the house is shown on an 1892 map of Westmont. The 1900 U.S. Census lists John Boyle, the occupant, as a day laborer who was born in Pennsylvania in 1870. Both of his parents were Irish. He is also listed in the 1900 tax assessment record as a laborer. Laborers and mill hands rented these houses. Tenants were charged \$8 a month for rent by 1911.

R. S. Jordan acquired the house from Cambria Iron Company on April 1, 1921, for \$2000. According to the 1918 city directory, Robert S. Jordan was a laborer living with his wife, Cecelia; William H. Jordan, a molder; and Thomas J. Jordan.

Sources:

Deed Vol. 338, p. 68; Vol. 407, p. 287; Vol. 461, p. 309; Vol. 635, p. 163; vol. 948, p. 268, Vol. 981, p. 151; vol. 1053, p. 575; and Vol. 1134, p. 953. Cambria County Registry of Deeds, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Fulton, John. Map Showing Westmont Borough, Cambria County, Pa., May 27, 1892. Egin Corporation, Civil Engineering, Johnstown, Pa.

Johnstown City Directory. 1918.

"Tenements," typed manuscript folder: Welfare Work 1911, Box: Cambria Steel, Acc 1699, BSC, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, De.

United State Census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, 1900. Microfilm on file at David A. Glosser Memorial Library, Johnstown, Pa.

"Westmont Borough (General 1911-12)," box: Westmont Borough, Cambria Steel, Acc 1699, BSC, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, De.

Westmont Borough Tax assessment records for 1900 and 1922. 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.

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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.