

Matilda Pesch House
Cambria City Neighborhood
317 Second Avenue
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5769

HABS

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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

MATILDA PESCH HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5769

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Location: 317 Second Avenue, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Two-story, four-bay single-family house. Stone basement, wood-frame structure with horizontal wood siding. Rectangular plan, 26' x 14'. Architraved flat-headed windows throughout. Side-gable roof.

History: Matilda Pesch acquired this property in 1895 and built the house before 1900. In the 1900 census Michael Dupin, a laborer from Hungary, was recorded as renting this house. He had come to America in 1892 and two years later married a woman who was also Hungarian and had come to America in 1893. They had two sons. Most of the nine boarders refused to give their names to the census; however, two did, and they are noted as being in their laborers from Hungary in their twenties.

In 1910 the house was rented to a Hungarian family of four. The husband, aged 28, who had been in America for eight years, was a laborer in the steel mill. The family had six boarders, all Hungarian and working in the steel mill.

In the early twentieth century the property was conveyed to Samuel C. Pollak who sold it to Julius Pieger in 1919 for \$6,000. The house stayed in the Pieger family until 1974.

Sources:

Deed Records (104:275, 85:245, 219:35, 305:258, 719:597, 978:628). Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Co., 1891, 1895).

Tax assessment card, no. 85-004-300.001, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 1900 and 1910.

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.