

Mannechor Singing Society Hall
Cambria City Neighborhood
210 chestnut Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5757

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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

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Mannechor Singing Society Hall

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Location: 210 Chestnut Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: No. 210 Chestnut Street is a clubhouse facing south, between single- and multi-family buildings. The clubhouse is an irregularly-shaped building, roughly 41' x 64', with a 26' x 24' addition to the front of the building. The structure is wood-framed, with a brick facade and a side-gable roof of asphalt shingles. The parapeted addition at the front of the building was added between 1911 and 1913. The building was damaged by fire in 1975 and the interior was extensively renovated in 1979.

History: The Mannechor Singing Society Hall was constructed in ca. 1899. German workers of the Cambria Iron Company formed the Cambria City Mannechor (German for "male chorus") in 1868. The first Mannechor Hall was destroyed in the 1889 Johnstown Flood. In 1895, The Society, meeting next in a building at the corner of Second Avenue and Power Street, gathered every Sunday afternoon under the leadership of George Loraditch, president, and Romanus Abele, secretary, according to a city directory.

The Society used this hall until about 1923, when it was sold to private individuals. A Polish singing group, Poliskiej Miadziezy Kolko (KMP Singing Society Choir # 117, founded 1911 at St. Casimir's Polish Catholic Church), utilized the building between 1926 and 1978.

Sources:

Deed and Tax Assessment Records, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

First German Day in Johnstown: Official Souvenir (Johnstown: German-American Alliance, 1904).

Johnstown City Directories, 1895.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York, The Sanborn Map Company, 1895, 1911, 1913, 1949).

"Southwestern Pennsylvania Ethnic Records Survey," Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center, Archives of Industrial Society, University of Pittsburgh, 1980.

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 Jeffrey Hickey in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Hickey'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.