

St. Emerich's Roman Catholic Church  
Cambria City Neighborhood  
600 Chestnut Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5747

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

St. Emerich's Roman Catholic Church

HABS No. Pa-5747

Location: 600 Chestnut Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: St. Emerich's faces southwest on a corner lot, with a church parking lot and the rectory to the east and northwest, respectively. The structure is rectangular, 46' x 108', three bays wide by five bays deep. It has brick load-bearing walls, with a front-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation is constructed of cut stone and concrete. Two three-story bell towers flank the front entrance, which displays a round-arched doorway, and a large round-arched stained glass window. Each side bay displays a large, round-arched stained glass window.

On the interior, the space is open, without side aisles or transepts. The apse is polygonal. A small gallery is to the rear of the church.

History: The parish at St. Emerich's was established by Hungarians in 1905 and was originally called St. Ladislaus, with Father Stephen Chernitsky as head. A small frame church building on Power Street initially served the congregation, which acquired land for the present church sometime before 1911. The present church was built in 1913, according to a datestone, and the name was changed at that time. The present rectory was completed shortly thereafter. The church has supported numerous parish social groups since then: the Altar Rosary Society, Hungarian Dance Group, Tzuz Society, St. Laszlo's Society, and the Men's Organization of St. Emerich.

Sources:

"Cambria County Historic Site Survey, Johnstown Inventory," Redevelopment Authority of Cambria County, 1981.

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

Kory, William, "The Churches of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Population Survey," (University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Summer, 1972).

"St. Emerich's Church, 1905-1980" (St. Emerich's Church, 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.