

42 Lehigh Street (House)
(Cambria Iron Company House IV)
Westmont Neighborhood
42 Lehigh Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5679

HABS
PA
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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

42 Lehigh Street (House)
(Cambria Iron Company House IV)

HABS No. PA-5679

Location: 42 Lehigh Street, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: A tall and narrow two-story, two-bay, single-family house with a front gable roof and a one-story, shed-roofed ell addition on the back. The wood-framed house measures 41' x 16' with a 10' x 13' back porch which has been enclosed. Resting on a sloping lot, the house has a wedged-shaped foundation to compensate for the uneven ground. Asphalt siding covers the exterior with exposed wooden trim. A shed-roofed porch has bracketed, turned wooden columns. An ornamental bracket is on either side of the front eaves. Wood-paneled lattice-work conceals the foundation in front.

According to a Westmont Borough building permit, the 1937 owner, William E. Robson, hired J. W. Walters & Sons, contractors, to replace the exterior stucco with stained shingles for \$500.

History: One of the ten six-room tenements built by Cambria Iron Company ca. 1889-91 at the cost of \$955.62 each. The house appears on an 1892 map of Westmont. The 1900 Census lists Joseph Locker as the tenant. Locker was a coal miner born in Pennsylvania in 1865. Both of his parents were German.

Louis O. and Minnie Wise purchased the house from Cambria Iron Company and Cambria Steel Company for \$2,000 on January 22, 1932. According to the 1905 city directory, Wise was a teamster. By 1918, he was listed as a machinist, living at this address. The 1922 tax assessment records also list him as a machinist and his wife as a housekeeper.

Sources:

Application for Building Permit, no. 227, October 26, 1937. Westmont Borough, Bureau of Zoning, Borough Building, Westmont, Pa.

Deed Vol. 440, p. 453 and Vol. 556, p. 95. Cambria County Registry of Deeds, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

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

Johnstown City Directories. 1905, 1911-12, 1918.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, 1900.

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

Westmont Borough Tax assessment records for 1921 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

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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 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.