

Frank M. and Mary E. Buchanan House
Westmont Neighborhood
434 Bucknell Avenue
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5700

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FRANK M. AND MARY E. BUCHANAN HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5700

Location: 434 Bucknell Avenue, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Large single-family house on a corner lot. Two-and-a-half stories, side gable roof, large gable dormers. Brick construction and exterior. Gray rusticated stone lintels and sills. Large wrap-around front porch, shed roof with gabled pediments. Horseshoe arches with lattice infill at porch entries. Fish-scale shingles in gable underlined by decorative terra cotta inserts.

History: This house was built in about 1893. The property is rendered as a vacant lot belonging to F. M. Buchanan on Fulton's 1892 map of Westmont; the house is clearly visible in an 1894 photograph of Second Avenue (Bucknell). Frank M. Buchanan was the sales agent for Cambria Iron Company's Westmont development, with offices in the Penn Traffic Building, the company store. Frank and his wife Mary E. Buchanan bought the property from Cambria Iron Co. on January 1, 1893. He sold the property to Harold Kaylor on April 13, 1903. The house remained with the Kaylor family until Margaret Kaylor, acting as executor for Harold G. Kaylor's estate, sold the property in 1913. It was purchased by Johnstown attorney R. Edgar Leahey who had offices downtown. Five years later the house was sold at Sherriff's sale.

Sources:

Burkert, Richard A. & Eileen Mountjoy Cooper, Uphill All the Way: Johnstown and Its Inclined Plane (Johnstown, 1985), 3.

Deed Records (90:81, 158:12, 308:231, 424:180, 441:508), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

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

Johnstown City Directories, 1915-16.

1894 Photograph of Westmont showing Second Ave.(Bucknell) towards the Mound and Inclined Plane, Johnstown Flood Museum.

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.

This report was prepared by Natalie Gillespie in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Gillespie'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.