

510 BULLITT AVENUE (Apartments)
Jeannette
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6098

HABS
PA
65-JEAN,
35-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO:
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

510 BULLITT AVENUE (APARTMENTS)

HABS No. PA-6098

LOCATION: 510 Bullitt Avenue, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as “The Glass City” early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The lot for this building was taken from the rear yards of two brick double houses along South Sixth Street. Louis and Rebecca Bauer owned the double houses. They operated a butcher shop in one of them at the corner of Sixth Street and Bullitt Avenue. George and Peter Drossinos of Jeannette purchased the apartments from the Bauers in 1932, and the building remained in the Drossinos family until the late 1970s.

Early residents of the apartments listed in the 1928 city directory included A. Lucas Keltz, a cashier at the First National Bank, his wife Blanche, and Union Hardware Store partner David D. Schneider (see 618 Clay Avenue, HABS No. PA-6105). The other two apartments were rented to households headed by glass company employees: Charles Cline and mould maker Samuel Becker.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This four unit building, built in 1926, is the only purpose-built completely residential apartment building in the survey area. The rectangular plan has an entry porch with two doors directly into the downstairs units and a central door leading to the stairway for the upper units. Brick-veneer facades toward the alley and Bullitt Avenue have continuous soldier courses at the foundation and just above the windows at each floor. The front façade also has decorative rectangular panels and corbelled brick bands below the stepped parapet. The windows have stone sills, and diamond-shaped stone pieces accent the front façade. To the rear are porches at each level with wood decking, brick columns and a wood-frame shed roof. The only alterations appear to be the wood railings at the porches. Each unit has two bedrooms and an enclosed sun porch toward Bullitt Avenue.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 238/197, 238/352, 358/334, 413/362, 542/179, 695/276, 923/217, 1974/200, 2383/1010, 2484/547, 2507/635, 2588/81, 2800/207.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.