

Elmer Butler House
Westmont Neighborhood
152 Fayette Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5708

HABS
PA
11- Joto.
78-

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

ELMER BUTLER HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5708

HABS,
PA,
11-JOTO,
78-

Location: 152 Fayette Street, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Large one-family house on corner lot. Two-and-a-half stories, large front gable, wood frame with horizontal siding. Central projecting oriel in gable, decorative wooden finial and bargeboards. Paired multicolor-pane windows, Eastlake incised decorative carving. On Bucknell Avenue side, three-story tower with wood shingles on the third story and roof; sunburst pedimented dormer. Decorative brackets support cornice. Shingles in gable. Wrap-around porch was removed in 1971.

History: The house is an early example of the suburban development of Westmont, built between 1892 and 1894. The property was purchased from the Cambria Iron Co. by Elmer Butler on September 13, 1892, for the price of \$800. A map of that same year shows Elmer Butler's name on the lot, which is vacant. A photograph dated 1894 shows the house much as it appears today.

The Johnstown city directory of 1893 lists Elmer Butler, mill hand, living one block away from this property. The 1895 directory lists him at this address. Butler's home is at the far end of the block from the Edgehill Drive home of Charles S. Price, General Manager of Cambria Iron Co., 1892-1909.

The house was transferred from one Butler family generation to the next until 1971. The house was acquired by the current owner in 1971 for \$12,000.

Sources:

Deed Records (81:405, Cambria Iron Co. to Elmer Butler; 392:181; 487:317-18; 922:259), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1893, 1895.

Sanborn Map Co., Westmont, Pennsylvania, (New York: The Sanborn Map Co., 1913).

1894 Photograph of Westmont showing the Butler house at 152 Fayette St., 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.