

1024-0018

(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number roughly bounded by Railroad, Adams, and Steel Streets and Church Avenue. not for publication ___
city or town Johnstown vicinity ___
state Pennsylvania code PA county Cambria code 021
zip code 15901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my

opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brent Glass

Dr. Brent Glass

9/14/95

Signature of certifying official

Date

Executive Director
PA Historical and Mueum Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register _____
(See continuation sheet).

determined eligible for the _____
National Register
(See continuation sheet).

determined not eligible for the _____
National Register

removed from the National Register _____

other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>313</u>	<u>22</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>313</u>	<u>22</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing: N/A)

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6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>Commercial</u>	<u>restaurant, department store</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>school</u>
<u>Religion</u>	<u>religious structure, church/ school, church related residence</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>Commercial</u>	<u>restaurant, department store</u>
<u>Religion</u>	<u>religious structure, church/ school, church related residence</u>

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne
Second Empire

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof asphalt
walls weatherboard
vinyl
other wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Industry
Architecture

Period of Significance ca. 1832-1934

Significant Dates 1878, 1889

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Myton, Walter, architect
Smith, W. H., builder
Hornick, Otto M. and C. C., builders

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Gable, John E. History of Cambria County, PA. 2 volumes.
Topeka: Historical Publishing Co., 1926.

Shappee, Nathan D. A History of Johnstown and the Great Flood of 1889: A Study of Disasters and Rehabilitation. University of Pittsburgh, doctoral dissertation, 1940.

Storey, Henry Wilson. History of Cambria County, PA. 3 volumes.
New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property 33 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	<u>17</u>	<u>677700</u>	<u>4466340</u>	C	<u>17</u>	<u>677240</u>	<u>4465540</u>
B	<u>17</u>	<u>677930</u>	<u>4466100</u>	D	<u>17</u>	<u>677030</u>	<u>4465780</u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Jonathan E. Daily, Historic Preservation Manager

organization Johnstown Area Heritage Association date October 7, 1994

street & number PO Box 1889 telephone 814-539-1889

city or town Johnstown state PA zip code 15907-0889

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

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Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District is a well preserved working class neighborhood of several hundred vernacular working class houses with several Victorian era mansions, a neighborhood business district, and several institutional landmarks. The major thoroughfare is crescent shaped Railroad Street, which intersects and borders the northerly end of the district along which neighborhood businesses are concentrated. Residential streets project from Railroad Street at roughly right angles, up a gradually sloping hillside interlaced with narrow alleys. The district is located one block east of Johnstown's historic warehouse district, which separates Old Conemaugh from downtown Johnstown. Located one quarter mile north of the district is the former Gautier Division (later J. T. Pitt Steel) on the Little Conemaugh River. Heavily altered residential properties are located to the east, and to the south there are open lots interspersed with deteriorating housing. Within the district, vacant Hudson Street School, St. Joseph's Parish and the German-Austrian Hall are all centrally located. Former company houses are concentrated on two residential streets in the eastern part of the district. The district includes 335 buildings: 313 residential, 15 commercial, and seven institutional buildings. It is characterized by architecture from the mid-to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Over 90% of buildings were built before 1920. There are 313 contributing buildings, most with a high degree of integrity, and only 22 noncontributing ones.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
The district's principal resource, comprising more than 85% of the building stock, is its privately built vernacular housing (Photos 1,2, and 3). Most houses are two to two and one half story plank or balloon frame buildings with side or front gable roofs and front porches. With the exception of larger homes built for several entrepreneurs, vernacular owner occupied and rental homes dominate the residential streets of the district. The ca. 1850 Young House (Photo 4), 146 Coal Street, is a plank building enclosed within a larger balloon frame house expanded in later years. It retains end chimneys, door latch hardware, two ornamental fireplace mantels with carved Indian heads, peaked doorway lintels, and a large basement cook stove in an end wall. The ca. 1870 side gable house at 136 Hudson Street has decorative sawn window and door trim, transom windows, roof returns and original clapboard siding. Another example is the 1888 Christian Kakuck House, 117 Adams Street, a large balloon frame dwelling with a full length porch, shiplap wood siding, a rear L wing and dormers. The ca. 1890 Spenger House (Photo 5), 795 Railroad Street, is a two story residence constructed with a storefront. The residence's door and window moldings are intact as are the storefront's boarded-up plate glass windows.

Comprising 50% of the vernacular housing stock are rental units in doubles, flats and units in apartment buildings and two row house buildings. The ca. 1900 two unit brick apartment house at 116 Kingston Alley is a three story building with a large intact three story porch and a hip roof. The four unit row house building at 106-112 Coal Street (Photo 6), constructed ca. 1880,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====

has a side gable roof and dormers. The ca. 1900 home of Josephine Cable, a side by side double at 138 Hudson Street (Photo 3) has a center crossgable with fishscale shingles and decorative peaked window caps.

A visually distinct residential subgroup is the cluster of company-built homes built for mill workers, all two to two and one half story side by side doubles. Chapin Street's 10 houses (ca. 1900) are four by two bay; Gautier Street's nine houses (ca. 1883) are larger with four by three bays and a pair of dormers facing the street. The former company house at 114-116 Chapin Street retains two inside end chimneys, clapboard siding and window trim. The example of the former company house at 126-130 Gautier Street (Photo 7) has round headed dormers and a front porch with turned posts and balusters. The Gautier Street houses have large attics and kitchens located in rear two story wings.

There are a few high style homes in Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District, namely two Greek Revival, four Second Empire, and three Queen Anne examples. Attributes of this group include machine sawn details, stonework and complex rooflines. Larger houses are interspersed throughout the district's closely packed rows of vernacular houses rather than clustered together. The oldest style represented is Greek Revival, in two identical ca. 1850 homes at 116 and 122 Singer Street. Unlike neighbors, they were sited on large lots, set back from the street and built with the broad dimensions of a temple front design. Although extensively remodeled, 116 Singer Street (Photo 8) is classified

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 4

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====

as contributing, containing two original fireplaces with pilastered mantels and original wainscot.

The most prominent Victorian era mansion built in Old Conemaugh is the ca. 1870 brick Second Empire style W. H. Smith residence (Photo 9) at 125 Singer Street. This richly textured work, the building itself, is highlighted by a complex stickwork porch including sunburst and turned moldings, stone watercourses and window sills with carved floral motifs, and three tall chimneys. A second prominent home is the Queen Anne style E. Zang House (Photo 10), 784 Railroad Street, built ca. 1890. Its distinctive horseshoe theme ornamentation is reflected in a stone arched window and decorative crossgable over a front balcony. There are intact paneled double doors, fishscale shingles and intact interior hardwood trim. A more modest Queen Anne style house is the 1904 Otto M. Hornick House (Photo 11) at 115 Peter Street. This two and one half story multi-gable residence features fishscale shingles, original clapboard siding, and a projecting two story bay window.

The commercial district lining Railroad Street is also comprised of mainly vernacular buildings interspersed with one Federal, two Second Empire, and one Romanesque style buildings. The 1832 Federal style American House (Photo 12), 1002 Church Avenue, is one of two surviving canal-era hotels. Although the front roofline was altered, this brick landmark retains characteristic double end chimneys and stone window sills with carved bullseyes. Carpenter's Food Store is housed in the ca. 1890 brick Second NPS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
Empire building at 912-916 Railroad Street. The ca. 1890 wood frame Second Empire style commercial building at 799 Railroad Street, is occupied by the Brass Rail Bar (Photo 5). It is distinguished by a mansard roof and a rich display of decorative woodwork in brackets, corbels, inset wood panels, and applied sawn ornament. The two and one half story brick Romanesque Revival block at 764-768 Railroad Street, built ca. 1900, displays a corbelled cornice and arched windows. Dutch Colonial Revival stepped gables, a carved floral modillion and cast iron storefront adorn the ca. 1890 brick building located at 758 Railroad Street.

Although classified vernacular, the majority of commercial buildings on Railroad Street have notable features. The former Kingston Hotel (Photo 13), built ca. 1850, is located at 734 Railroad Street. It is built in brick covered with a thin coat of plaster, has original curvilinear tie rods, entryway with segmental arch, and a two story porch on the rear wing. Nearby 740 Railroad Street, a former tailor shop and hotel built ca. 1870, is the oldest intact storefront in the City of Johnstown. Paneled shutters over store windows, etched glass and ornate applied woodwork survive. The ca. 1885 commercial building at 770 Railroad Street, constructed in a popular vernacular residential style featuring a five bay front, side gable roof and a center cross gable, is adorned with ornate millwork in brackets and corbels.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
Institutions built the largest buildings in Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District. St. Joseph's German Catholic Church (Photo 14), 739 Railroad Street, is the centerpiece of a large parish complex. This 1868 Gothic Revival landmark, severely damaged by the 1889 Johnstown Flood, has a bell tower with octagonal spire, pointed arch windows, stucco covered brick walls, and small corner spires with crockets. The next oldest parish building is 1890 Bishop Pelczar Manor, 749 Railroad Street, a former convent. This three story brick building, built by C. C. Hornick, features Gothic arch windows with keystones and a steeply pitched roof added by Otto M. Hornick in 1928. The 1906 school, Central Catholic, is an ecclesiastical Gothic Revival building designed by the prolific Johnstown architect Walter R. Myton. It displays corbelled brickwork, large crenelated towers, and a rock faced stone foundation. The 1925 Parsonage, another Myton design, and 1934 St. Joseph's Hall are additional vernacular brick buildings in the parish complex. The neighborhood's public school is Hudson Street School, 115 Hudson Street, built in 1895 and expanded in 1924. This 2 story brick building is highlighted by a projecting three story hip roof bell tower with a rock faced round arch stone entry portal.

Noncontributing buildings number 24, and have little effect on the overall integrity of the district. They make up less than eight percent of the total building stock and are widely distributed. Some, such as the building at 810-812 Railroad Street (Photo 15), fall within the period of significance but have been severely altered. In this case, the dimensions of both

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
window and door openings have been altered, and newer doors and windows installed. The house at 724 Duke Alley is sheathed in vinyl siding and has had many of its original windows replaced with new vinyl windows. In several cases, buildings are newer than the end of the period of significance. The large cement block garage at 1129 Steel Street was constructed ca. 1950. The former firehall, 900 Railroad Street, also dates from around 1950.

Alterations to contributing buildings are reversible or alone do not completely degrade a building's architectural integrity. The most common alterations include asbestos shingles, vinyl and aluminum siding, removal of architectural ornamentation, replacement of original windows and doors, altering openings, and enclosing porches. Other homes, such as 148 Gautier Street, have been converted from a double into a single and have one of the two front doors blocked off. Despite these typical alterations, homes retain their historic character and contribute to the district.

The Old Conemaugh Historic District maintains high overall integrity despite wide acceptance of vinyl siding and other minor alterations. Buildings retain overall building dimensions, original placement of door and window openings, and basic window and door trim. The district's essential character, of tightly packed rows of working class houses in a residential neighborhood and a concentration of businesses serving residents along the major thoroughfare, is still preserved today.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
The Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the industrial development of Johnstown, specifically for the Gautier Division (later J. T. Pitt Steel) of the Cambria Iron Company, which provided employment for many residents of the neighborhood. The Gautier Division (1878), Cambria's wire mill, later became the company's center for specialty steel production and provided relatively steady employment for this millgate neighborhood up until the 1970's. A number of company houses were built here for the mill workers, many surviving today. Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District is also significant in containing Johnstown's oldest neighborhood commercial area, which dates from the early nineteenth century when it grew along the edge of the Pennsylvania Canal basin. A third area of significance is under Criterion C, the district's well preserved vernacular architecture dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Several examples of high style architecture, in residential and institutional buildings, are also presented in the district. The period of significance starts in 1832, the year the American House was built, and ends in 1934 after which very little new construction took place.

The area now known as "Old Conemaugh Borough" initially developed as a canal settlement on the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal and Allegheny Portage Railroad, opened in 1831. John Levergood donated land to the state for a canal basin, located at the juncture of the canal and railroad where boats and railroad cars were loaded and unloaded. Levergood also sold lots to developers

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====

who built warehouses along the docks and a variety of other enterprises. By 1849, a separate Borough of Old Conemaugh was formed from Conemaugh Township. With over 800 residents by 1853, the Borough was already the site of industry with the Johnstown Mechanical Works and commercial activity with several hotels, docks and warehouses, the state weighlock and repair yards and a steam grist mill. Institutional growth included two Catholic churches and four public schools.

A neighborhood commercial district emerged on crescent shaped Railroad Street running along the south side of the canal basin, with hotels and eateries serving both canal traffic and the local population. Captain Thomas Young, owner of a large boatyard on the basin, erected the Federal Style ca. 1832 American House. The former ca. 1850 Kingston Hotel, 734 Railroad Street, is a vernacular canal-era hostelry, later used as a rooming house. The ca. 1870 building at 740 Railroad Street, which housed a tailor shop in the storefront and a hotel in a two story rear wing, boasts Johnstown's most intact canal-era storefront, now vacated and threatened with demolition.

Residential streets radiated south from Railroad Street like spokes from a hub, lined with small working class homes. Privately constructed, they were generally modest vernacular two story plank and balloon frame houses. The ca. 1850 Young House, 146 Coal Street, is typical. The ca. 1870 house at 136 Hudson Street has decorative sawn ornament applied to an otherwise vernacular house. Another modest vernacular home built at the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
end of the canal era is the ca. 1870 C. C. Hornick House at 117 Peter Street, owned by the first of several generations of Hornick family carpenter/builders. In addition to his own house, Hornick built the ca. 1890 Bishop Pelczar Manor (formerly St. Joseph's Convent) and several other landmarks in the City of Johnstown. High style residential construction in Old Conemaugh Borough was less common. Two nearly identical ca. 1850 Greek Revival style houses were built at 116 and 122 Singer Street. The first was the home of Isaac Singer, a blacksmith. Although altered, both homes display characteristic broad temple fronts, are setback further from the street than neighboring houses and are sited on larger lots.

Germans were the dominant immigrant group settling near the canal basin in the mid-nineteenth century. They split from the predominantly Irish St. John's Catholic Church, forming St. Joseph's in 1851. The first church, built on Singer Street ca. 1850, no longer stands. The present day church, constructed at 739 Railroad Street in 1868, is one of Johnstown's oldest Gothic Revival landmarks.

Rapid expansion of the Cambria Iron Company after 1854 and simultaneous growth of the Pennsylvania Railroad revived Old Conemaugh following the canal's demise in 1863. In 1878 Cambria purchased the Johnstown Mechanical Works, establishing the Gautier Division which manufactured wire and agricultural implements. The company brought 1,000 new employees to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
neighborhood in just four months during 1878, increasing the Borough's population by one-third and causing a major housing shortage. Cambria responded by laying out Gautier and Chapin Streets and building 24 tenements. Additional lots surveyed on Chapin and Catherine Streets at the time were built up after 1890. There are nine of these former company houses surviving on Gautier and 10 on Chapin, spacious two to two and one half story doubles, some converted into single family homes.

Private home builders also met the need for additional housing. Larger vernacular style homes like the 1888 Christian Kakuck House, a two and one half story balloon frame house at 117 Adams Street, demonstrate the wider availability of milling machinery. W. H. Smith, a prominent building contractor who had worked as a construction supervisor for Cambria, lived in the two and one half story Second Empire mansion at 125 Singer Street built ca. 1870. He built the second German-Austrian Hall on Hudson Street in 1895.

By 1886, just three years before the Great Johnstown Flood, the neighborhood commercial district on Railroad Street was well established with five groceries, an equal number of saloons, a confection shop and cobbler, two hotels and the local fire company. A building added during this period is the ca. 1885 building at 770 Railroad Street, which housed a cobbler shop.

The 1889 Johnstown Flood did not effect the historic district except for a small area on the north side of Railroad Street,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 5

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====

because of higher terrain and deflection of the flood waters. Because of the high costs of rebuilding infrastructure, Old Conemaugh Borough relinquished independent borough status and joined several other municipalities in forming the City of Johnstown in 1889. The flood washed away everything in the Borough north of Railroad Street, opening new opportunities for industrial and commercial growth. Cambria rebuilt and expanded the Gautier Mill, the Pennsylvania Railroad (P.R.R.) purchased abandoned Public Works (canal) rights of way for expanded rail service, and the B & O Railroad rebuilt its line crossing Railroad Street. By ca. 1900, the P.R.R. had built a new freight station on the former canal basin site.

Economic growth after the flood spurred new residential construction. The elegant ca. 1890 E. Zang House, 784 Railroad Street, was built for a successful shoe merchant with a store in Johnstown's central business district. A half dozen modest Second Empire style buildings were erected, including the ca. 1890 example at 111 Chapin Street. The ca. 1890 house at 137 Singer Street has a Queen Anne touch in its attached two story octagonal tower. Builder O. M. Hornick designed and built his own modest Victorian home at 115 Peter Street in 1904. He also built St. Joseph's parsonage, designed by architect Walter Myton; added the third floor and entry to the convent; and built a rental property at 111-113 Peter Street. Hornick worked on a number of homes in the City, including several in the exclusive Westmont neighborhood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6 Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====

Many Old Conemaugh merchants rebuilt on the north side of Railroad Street and several on the south side where space permitted. On the street's north side is #799, the ca. 1890 Brass Rail Bar and Hotel, an exuberant ca. 1890 high style Second Empire style commercial block replacing the flood demolished Cambria Borough House. A neighboring combination residence and shop at 795 Railroad Street, built ca. 1890, has the original storefront still intact. The ca. 1890 brick store at 758 Railroad Street, with cast iron storefront pillars, was constructed by W. M. Smith, owner of a local machine shop.

St. Joseph's Church, the 1868 institutional landmark, is one of a handful of buildings on the north side of Railroad Street which withstood the 1889 Flood and the only survivor today. Following repairs to the church, rebuilding continued with the Convent (1890), School (1906), Parsonage (1925) and Dining Hall (1934). German residents, organizing the German-Austrian Music and Benefit Society in 1885, built a hall at 139 Hudson Street in 1890. Fire destroyed the first and second buildings (1895); the present hall was erected in 1925. An influx of new ethnic groups after the turn of the century, Slovaks, Italians and blacks, further increased the population. Construction of the massive Hudson Street Public School (1895/1924) followed shortly after by St. Joseph's School (1906) reflects the fact that Old Conemaugh Borough had reached 4,500 residents by 1903.

The 1920's brought Bethlehem Steel's purchase of the Midvale Steel Company (formerly Cambria Steel) ca. 1920 and Gautier's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 7

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
transition to a specialty steel mill. The Great Depression, an aging and crowded neighborhood housing stock, and citywide streetcar service providing workers transportation to more desirable neighborhoods, retarded further growth in Old Conemaugh. By the 1930's, Old Conemaugh's reputation was that of a lower class section with deteriorating housing stock. Many private homes were sold as rental units, resulting in poorer maintenance and some residential demolitions. These trends, together with an aging population and lower household size, have contributed to a decreased population figure of 1,248 today.

Despite stagnation in the neighborhood, the district's neighborhood commercial district, defined as Railroad Street between Adams and Hudson Streets, proved more resilient averaging 36 businesses between 1910 and 1950. This strength may be attributed to Old Conemaugh's diversity of industrial, wholesale and transportation employment and loyalty of neighborhood residents. Business numbers fell in the 1960s, shortly before the dramatic decline of Johnstown's steel making facilities. Core business types persisting from the mid-nineteenth century to the present are hotels, groceries, and taverns/bars. Restaurants, first recorded ca. 1900 have also maintained a strong presence. Up until ca. 1960, there was at least one tailor, shoe store and meat market. The diversity and overall number of businesses peaked around 1929, when there were six groceries, five confectionery stores, five restaurants, four barbers, two tailors, two shoe stores, three meat markets and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8 Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====

many additional stores. Today the total number of businesses is 14, with only office use showing growth in recent years. Old Conemaugh Borough's context is of millgate neighborhoods which grew up around other Cambria mills. Old Conemaugh Borough's dominant German born population and substantial numbers of residents with Irish and English roots, remained the majority even after the turn of the century. Old Conemaugh did not obtain the "foreign colony" label of Cambria City and Minersville neighborhoods, where northern European groups were replaced by southern and eastern European immigrants after the turn of the century. This difference may be traced in part to Cambria's designation of Gautier as a specialty steel mill retaining more highly skilled workers of mostly northern European heritage, while other mills utilized greater numbers of lower skilled workers who emigrated from southern and eastern Europe after the turn of the century.

Old Conemaugh retains a predominantly vernacular architectural legacy which, unlike other millgate neighborhoods, begins in the mid-nineteenth century. The Old Conemaugh Historic District was largely spared Cambria City's losses from the 1889, 1936 and 1977 floods and Minersville's losses during 1960's urban renewal. As a result, Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District retains examples of both commercial and residential buildings dating from the mid and late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are also a few examples of high style architecture from each period, including Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, and Queen Anne, lacking in Cambria City and Minersville.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9 Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

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Cambria built company houses in all three neighborhoods as well as Westmont, a mixed working class and white collar neighborhood built by Cambria out of the flood prone valley after the 1889 Flood. Former company houses, with the exception of Cambria City, survive in Minersville, (28), Westmont (28) and Old Conemaugh (19). Minersville's doubles are smaller than Old Conemaugh's, one and one half rather than two stories tall. In contrast, Westmont's company houses include seven small singles and 10 doubles built for working class employees, and 11 spacious single family homes built for management. Old Conemaugh's company houses, all doubles, were built for mill workers and like Minersville's were in easy walking distance of the neighborhood mill.

Old Conemaugh's neighborhood commercial district is smaller but more concentrated than Cambria City's. Minersville's no longer exists and Westmont never had more than a few scattered commercial buildings. Cambria City retains a wider variety of services on its principal commercial street. Old Conemaugh's main commercial area, although never as extensive as Cambria City's, is more compact. Its beginnings, in the canal area, predate any other of the city's other neighborhoods commercial districts by several decades.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page Boundary Justification

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

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The north boundary of the historic district is the southern edge of Railroad and Adams Streets, with the exception of St. Joseph's Church complex and several historic neighborhood commercial buildings on the north side of Railroad Street which are included in the district. To the north and west of the district is a wholesale warehouse area, which includes large multi-story commercial buildings and the Pennsylvania Railroad freight station which are not considered part of the neighborhood commercial area. Locust Street, the west boundary, is the last residential street before Frankstown Road which is a major traffic artery with few houses on it. The district's south boundary is irregular, following property lines of buildings and open lots located on Steel Street. Over 40 buildings have been demolished in this area since 1950, with resulting low building density and a lack of building integrity south of this boundary. The district's east boundary follows Horrocks Street and Church Avenue, excluding many substantially altered, noncontributing houses which are located east of this boundary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10

Page 1 Boundary Description

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

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This boundary reading of the Old Conemaugh Borough Historic District commences at the northwest corner of Church Avenue and Gautier Street (location of the American House). From there it proceeds west along the south side of Railroad Street to the southeast corner of Railroad and Hudson Streets, where the boundary crosses Railroad Street diagonally and continues around the property at 799 Railroad Street, proceeds west along rear property lines up to and including 789 Railroad Street, where the line proceeds along the west boundary of that property, then runs west on the north side of Railroad Street to the property at 761 Railroad Street, following the property line around that property and then west following the property line around the St. Joseph's Church complex including the school, St. Joseph's Hall and the church itself, where the line proceeds around the church then south crossing Railroad Street to the east corner of Railroad and Adams Streets. There it proceeds southwest along the south side of Adams Street up to the west property line of 149-149 1/2 Locust Street, around that property and southeast along rear property lines of homes on the west side of Locust Street, to the southeast corner of the property at 734 Locust Street. There the line proceeds northeast crossing Locust Street, then east along the south property line of 142 Peter Street. It continues east, crossing Peter Street, and goes along the south property line of 143 Peter Street, to the southwest corner of 735 Kingston Alley, then south along the east side of said alley, to the rear property line of 738 Steel Street. There the boundary runs east,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10

Page 2 Boundary Description

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

=====
up to the property at 750 Steel Street, following that property line, north along the west side of Singer Street up to the northeast corner of 150 Singer Street, there proceeding east across Singer Street along the south property line of 145-47 Singer Street, continuing east along rear property liens of 776, 778-778 1/2, and 780-82 Fenn Alley to Hudson Street. There the line proceeds south along the west side of Hudson Street, to the corner with Steel Street, where it moves east along the north side of Steel Street, past Fogle and Devlin Alleys, Coal Street, Furlong Alley, Gautier Street, and Meadow Alley, crossing Chapin Street to a point directly across from the west property line of 1030 Steel Street. There the line crosses Steel Street to the rear property line of 1030 Street Street, continuing east along the rear lines of properties on Steel Street, up to 1130-32 Steel Street at the corner with Horrocks Street. There the line proceeds northwest on the west side of Horrocks Street to the corner with Ridge Avenue where it crosses to the east side of Horrocks Street, continuing northwest to the southwest corner of 1085 Horrocks Street, here following the rear property line of said property and 1083 Horrocks Street. There the boundary crosses north over Church Avenue and proceeds along the east property lines of parcels on Church Avenue, continuing to the northwest corner of the property at 1071 Horrocks Street, then southwest across to the south side of Church Avenue, proceeding northwest along that street then north following the east property lines of properties on the north side of Church Avenue,

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

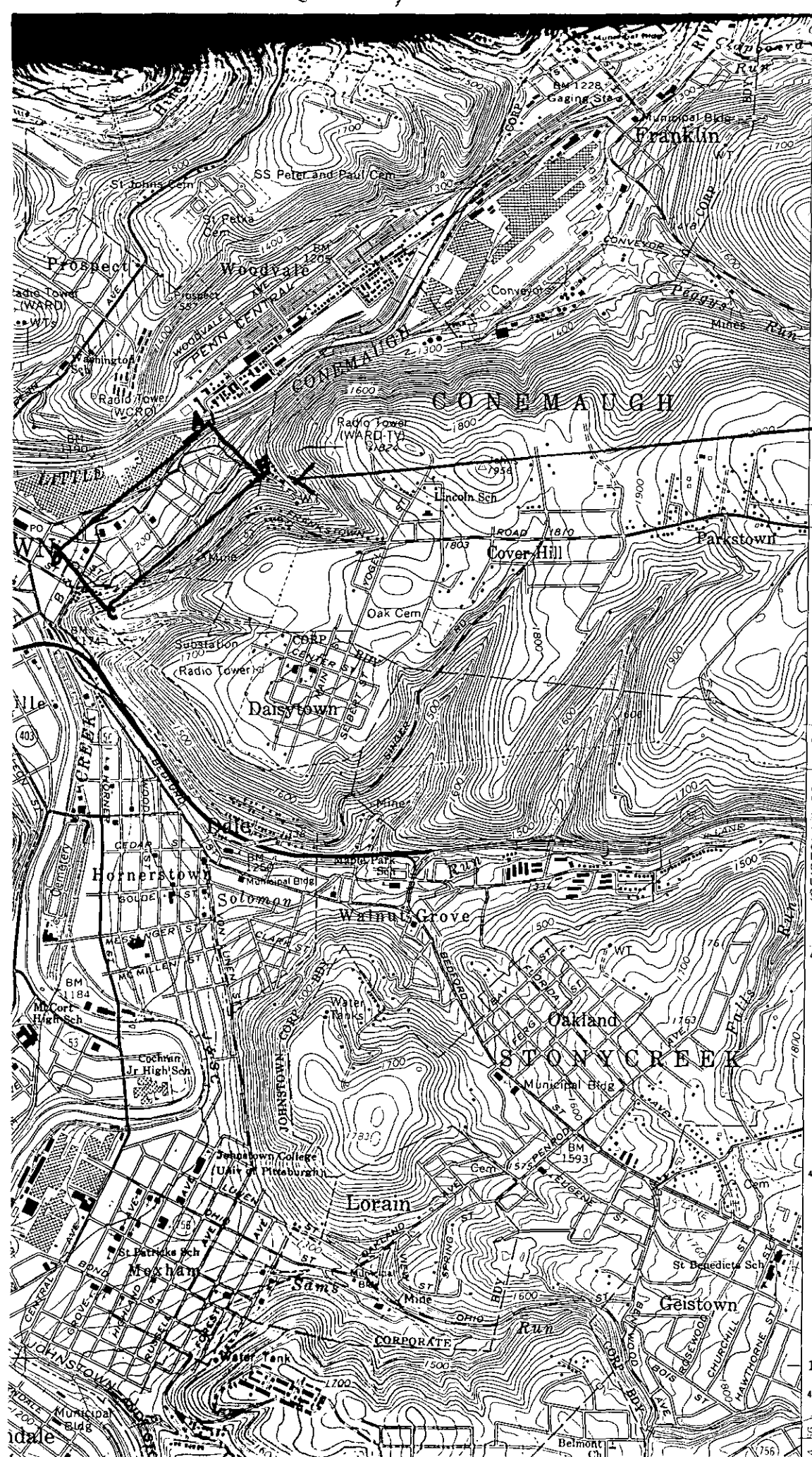
Section 10

Page 3 Boundary Description

Old Conemaugh Borough
Historic District
Name of Property

Cambria County, PA
County and State

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up to 1021 Church Avenue, where the line crosses Church Avenue to
the south side of that street, moving northwest to the corner
with Gautier Street, the location of the American House.



4468
370 000
FEET

4467
20'

17'30"

4462

SOUTH FORK
CRESSON 23 1/2 MI

(53)

(GEISTOWN) SCALP LEVEL 6 MI.
5264 IV SE WINDER 8 MI.

OLD CONEMAUGH
BOROUGH HISTORIC
DISTRICT
CAMBRIA COUNTY
JOHNSTOWN QUADRANGLE

ZONE 17

	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17 677 700	17 446 340
B	17 677 730	17 446 300
C	17 677 750	17 446 550
D	17 677 030	17 446 570

