

= Westinghouse Air Brake Company General Office Building =

The Westinghouse Air Brake Company General Office Building ( Known locally as The Castle or Library Hall ) in Wilmerding , Pennsylvania is a building from 1890 . It was listed on the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation in 1975 , National Register of Historic Places in 1987 . Originally built as an office building for the Westinghouse Air Brake Company , it now houses The George Westinghouse Museum .

= = Construction = =

Constructed by architect Frederick J. Osterling , the building has a four @-@ sided clock tower , which was operated by a system of chains and pulleys . Additional designs and remodeling were done by Janssen & Cocken in 1927 , which added the " Executive Wing " , containing executive offices as well as conference and dining rooms .

The architectural style is a mix of Renaissance Revival and Romanesque . It was destroyed by a fire on 8 April 1896 ; the foundation , being made of brick , stone , and cement survived , however , and the structure was rebuilt upon the same foundation . It was during this reconstruction that the clock tower was added . At the time , the entire first floor was designed for employees ' use , with accommodations such as a library , fully equipped gymnasium , restaurant , swimming pool , and bowling alleys . This brought the total area inside the building to 55 @,@ 000 square feet ( 5 @,@ 100 m2 ) .

The building also housed a boiler house and light station , that supplied both steam and power to the plant , as well as various businesses in the community , such as the Wilmerding YMCA .

= = Business history = =

This building contained the offices of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company for well over a century . The company was originally established by George Westinghouse in 1869 . Westinghouse had developed many companies during this time of industrial growth at the beginning of the twentieth century . The Air Brake plant , that made for improved performance and increased speed on the nations railways , was moved to its new location in Wilmerding , Pennsylvania in 1889 . Wilmerding is a small town about 14 miles ( 23 km ) outside of Pittsburgh which , at the time , was only inhabited by about 5 @,@ 000 people . Socialism was strong in Wilmerding and it was a peaceful non @-@ violent farming borough . It was thought to be ? The Ideal Town ? for the company because of its location right along the Pennsylvania Railroad and its mainly blue collar inhabitants . The Air Brake Company employed 3 @,@ 000 citizens from the surrounding Pittsburgh area , but its work force was composed almost entirely of individuals from Wilmerding .

The office buildings were used until the building was vacated in 1985 . It was then donated to the American Production and Inventory Control Society . The Westinghouse Air Brake Company merged with MotivePower Industries Corporation in 1999 to form the Wabtec Corporation ( NYSE : WAB ) . Wabtec still provides employment for more than 1 @,@ 000 residents of the borough .

= = Effect on the community = =

When the Westinghouse Plant was also moved to Wilmerding , housing for the employees became hard to come by . In response to this , the Westinghouse Air Brake Home Building Company was formed in 1919 with \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 USD as startup capital . The 400 houses and large amounts of vacant land that were previously owned by the Westinghouse Air Brake Company were transferred to the new company . The new homes were specifically built with different variations to avoid the lack of variety commonly seen in industrial housing at the time . The Westinghouse Air Brake Home Building Company was so successful that within ten years , there were no vacant lots left on the Southern side of Turtle Creek . The extensive town @-@ building , employment , and prosperity that George Westinghouse brought to Wilmerding is still celebrated today in the

community , with a festival called " George Westinghouse Days " , which takes place in early June each year .

= = Inside The Castle = =

The building used to house The George Westinghouse Museum , a model train display , and a Depression glass room , and is operated by Wilmerding Renewed , Inc . The Westinghouse Castle is operated by a non @-@ profit organization and volunteers . In 2007 , the artifacts that were in the Castle museum went to join the Heinz History Center . Since 2007 , the Westinghouse Castle has gathered a collection of Westinghouse products and are now on display in their Westinghouse Museum room .