

## ELIZABETHTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA CITY AS TEXT™: LEARN ABOUT ELIZABETHTOWN

“The world is a book that demands to be read like a book.” -Umberto Eco (1932-2016)

*This is an option for new students at Elizabethtown College as part of the First Year Walk component of fall orientation: Blue Jays Always! Opening Days.*

### **The Six Neighborhoods of Elizabethtown**

#### **NEGLEY NEIGHBORHOOD**

Named for Leonard Negley who settled in Elizabethtown in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. This neighborhood runs north of Groff Avenue to Apple Alley and east of Market Street. A large part of this neighborhood includes the campus of Elizabethtown College, known as College Hill, a residential community known as College Heights, Anabaptist churches such as Church of the Brethren and Mennonite, Elizabethtown Community Park, Negley’s Run is a tributary to the Susquehanna River running through the campus and park. Negley’s Run flows into Lake Placida in front of Leffler Chapel and Performance Center at Elizabethtown College. East of College Hill and the Elizabethtown Park are the Elizabethtown Fairgrounds. South of Negley neighborhood is a stretch of retail establishments leading the way to neighboring Mount Joy, Pennsylvania.

#### **Assignment:**

*Observe private use of public space.*

- *Who is in the Elizabethtown Community Park? What brings them to the park? Observe activity in the park, what are people doing/saying? How is this public space organized? How is this space accessed? What connections does it have to the streets and buildings around it? How do people navigate the space? Consider how the space represents the past and/or present.*

*Observe public use of private space.*

- *Who is on the campus of Elizabethtown College? What brings them to the campus? Observe activity on campus, what are people doing/saying? How is this private space organized? How is this space accessed? What connections does it have to the streets and buildings around it? How do people navigate the space?*

*Consider how the space represents the past and/or present.*

- *What is the architectural style of the homes around the campus and park? Who lives around the campus and park? What have you learned from the story map about this neighborhood?*

#### **BRUBAKER & ROBERTS NEIGHBORHOOD**

Established in 1814 by Henry Brubaker and Mahlon Roberts this neighborhood runs north of Vine Alley to East Willow Street and east of Market Street. Brubaker and Roberts were businessmen from neighboring Manheim, Pennsylvania. East High Street connects Elizabethtown to Manheim. Brubaker and Roberts designed the intersection of East High Street and South Mount Joy Street to be a new “City Square” in addition to the original “City Square” at the intersection of East High Street and North Market Street in Elizabethtown. The cemetery in the Lutheran Church has graves of soldiers who fought in the French and Indian War and American Revolution. Northeast of the Brubaker and Roberts neighborhood is Keener Heights and the historic Aberdeen Mill (1774) on the way to Hershey, Pennsylvania.

**Assignment:**

*What is the architectural style of the homes in this neighborhood? Who lives in this neighborhood? What have you learned from the story map about this neighborhood?*

- *What is the historical significance of the Winters Heritage House Museum? Could you get in to visit the museum? What did you learn?*
- *Observe private use of public space. Who is in the museum? What brings them to the museum? Observe activity in the museum, what are people doing/saying? How is this public space organized? How is this space accessed? What connections does it have to the streets and buildings around it? How do people navigate the space?*
- *Consider how the space represents the past and/or present. Did you explore the campus of Christ Lutheran Church? Who is buried in the historic cemetery?*
- *Observe public use of private space. Who is on the church's campus? What brings them to the campus? Observe activity on campus, what are people doing/saying? How is this private space organized? How is this space accessed? What connections does it have to the streets and buildings around it? Consider how the space represents the past and/or present.*

**INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOOD**

The M&M Mars Chocolate Factory, formerly Klein's Chocolate Factory and White Oak Mills, formerly Grubb Mills, are located in this neighborhood. Many former garment and shoe factories in this neighborhood have been converted into residential housing. The neighborhood runs North of West Bainbridge Street to Winnemore Alley and west of Market Street. West of the Industrial Neighborhood is the Masonic Village. A community walking/bike path takes residents and visitors through this neighborhood.

**Assignment:**

*What is the architectural style of the homes in this neighborhood? Who lives in this neighborhood? What have you learned from the story map about this neighborhood?*

- *What is the historical significance of the Kreider Shoe Factory? Why is this property on the National Historic Register? What is the historic and present significance of the chocolate factory?*
- *The baseball fields were designed by the Klein family, who owned the chocolate factory and sponsored a semi-professional baseball team? Who uses these baseball fields now?*
- *Observe private use of public space. The recreational programming for Elizabethtown is located in the old local high school. Who is in the recreation center? What brings them to the recreation center?*
- *Observe activity in the recreation center and baseball park, what are people doing/saying? How is this public space organized? How is this space accessed? What connections does it have to the streets and buildings around it? How do people navigate the space?*
- *Consider how the space represents the past and/or present. Did you walk on the recreational path? Who did you encounter on the path? How does the path intersect with current and former industrial sites and with local residences?*

## **MASONIC VILLAGE**

Built in 1910 this campus featuring stone Perpendicular Architecture is a retirement and assisted living community with nursing care, a children's home, orchards, farms, and conference center for the Fee and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Enter this campus through the Amtrak Railroad Station at 50 South Wilson Avenue and west of Market Street.

### **Assignment:**

*What is the architectural style of the buildings on this campus? Who lives on this campus? What have you learned from the story map about this campus?*

- *What is the historical significance of the Masonic Village?*
- *Observe private use of public space. There is a recreational walking path through the campus. Who did you encounter on the path?*
- *Who is in the Freemason Cultural Center? What brings them to the Freemason Cultural Center?*
- *Observe activity in the formal gardens and Freemason Cultural Center, what are people doing/saying? How is this private space organized? How is this space accessed? How do people navigate the space?*
- *Consider how the space represents the past and/or present. Did you walk on the recreational path? What is the relationship between the Amtrak Railroad Station and the Masonic Village?*

## **WHAMPOOL NEIGHBORHOOD**

Established in the 1790s this neighborhood was named by settler George Wealand taking the name from the River Wampool flowing through north western Cumbria in England. This neighborhood runs north of East Willow Street to Linden Avenue. North of the Whampool Neighborhood is the former Hollinger Farm and estate of the Klein family, Klein Chocolate Factory, Stone Gables; both properties are today the Ironstone Ranch, home of the national historic landmark the Star Barn. Across the street is the former Pennsylvania Children's Hospital. North of this is the Conewago Recreational Trail the former Cornwall-Lebanon Railroad Corridor leading to Lebanon, Pennsylvania through Mt. Gretna and Cornwall.

### **Assignment:**

*What is the architectural style of the buildings in this neighborhood? Who lives in this neighborhood? What have you learned from the story map about this neighborhood?*

- *Who did you encounter in this neighborhood? What are people doing/saying?*
- *Consider how the neighborhood represents the past and/or present. Could you see the Ironstone Ranch from this neighborhood?*
- *Could you see the spires on the roofs of the Star Barn Complex?*
- *What is the traffic pattern in this neighborhood?*
- *Did you notice the prevalence of tractor trailer vehicles? Where are all these tractor trailers going?*

## **ELIZABETHTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

The oldest part of Elizabethtown, settled in 1730 by Captain Thomas Harris. The neighborhood runs north of College Avenue to Crestlawn Avenue. Arguably the oldest building in Elizabethtown, the Captain Thomas Harris Sign of the Bear Tavern (1745) is located on the corner

of North Market Street and East Hummelstown Street. The historic St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church (1752) is located in this neighborhood as well as several taverns and inns which served travelers on their way from the Port of Philadelphia to cross the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg via Market Street. The town was named for Elizabeth Hughes, wife of Captain Barnabus Hughes, former proprietor of the Captain Thomas Harris Sign of the Bear Tavern. In 1763 while Captains Thomas and Hughes were living in Baltimore, Captain Hughes designed the Borough of Elizabethtown around a "City Square" at the intersection of High and Market Streets with Cherry, Peach, and Rose Alleys.

**Assignment:**

*What is the architectural style of the homes in this neighborhood? Who lives in this neighborhood?*

*What have you learned from the story map about this neighborhood?*

- *What gift was given to the Christ United Church of Christ by Paul Revere and is still being used today?*
- *Were you able to go into the historic Peach Alley Schoolhouse?*
- *What is the historical significance of the buildings on the City Square especially the Moose Lodge?*
- *What is the historical significance of the Sign of the Bear Tavern, the Henry Boll Brewhouse, the Phoenix Hotel, Black Horse Inn, and Washington House? Did you notice all the buildings and homes associated with the stockyards and butchering industry in Elizabethtown?*
- *How was the Rita's Italian Ice building used in the cattle industry of Elizabethtown? Did you visit the historic Groff's Meats? Did you see the former site of the Benjamin Groff Mill? What role did the Groff family play in establishing Elizabethtown College?*
- *Did you see the Buch family residence? What role did the Buch family play in creating Elizabethtown College?*
- *Did you see the home of the founder of Elizabethtown College, the Reverend George N. Falkenstein 39 South Market Street? Folklore Coffee Shop used to be the Hertzler Brothers Department Store. What role did the Hertzler brothers play in the creation of Elizabethtown College?*
- *The stores on the south east corner of the Square used to be Martin's Department store where members of the Historic Peace Churches bought plain clothes? What is the significance of plain clothes and the Anabaptists regarding the founding of Elizabethtown College?*
- *How was Heisey Hall used in the early days of Elizabethtown College? What is the significance of the juxtaposition of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church and the former Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren? What role did the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren play in the founding of Elizabethtown College?*