

Fisher's Corner: 1 South Market Street, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



Abstract:

John Black first rented Lot. 21, at the price of ten-shillings a year and was required to erect a 20 ft. x 18 ft. house. The next improvements were made in 1813, when John Wolfley constructed a two-story log building. An active Mason in Elizabethtown, Wolfley took a major role in organizing Lodge No. 116. Grantees and grantors, in the 19th century. The 1892 St. Valentine's Day fire left the east side of S. Market St. in ruins, burning the previous structure to the ground. For the price of \$12,500, the Elizabethtown Exchange Bank paid for the construction of a brick, 60 x 60 lot on the corner of Center Square, in 1897. The Fishers, for three generations, operated several businesses in the enlarged, beautiful Georgian/Italianate themed downtown row. Currently, the Artisan Republic renovated Fisher's Corner into an antique boutique and art studio.

Property Details:

Fisher's Corner, a commercial retail, multi-use downtown row, lies on the SE corner of Center Square in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, formerly referred to as 'Diamond Square.' The address for the property on situated on Market and High, is 1 South Market Street, Elizabethtown. Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds reports the dimensions of the lot as 62.9 ft. x 64 ft. x 63.47 ft. x 64.43 ft.; total area of approx. 4,057 ft.¹

Deed Search:

The date for the first deed is difficult to distinguish. Online search request forms claim John Black received a large tract of land, granted by the Honorable Proprietors by their patent bearing date the 14 December 1762.² An original sheep-skin document preserved at the Ephrata Cloister states otherwise.³ In a series of 4 October 1763 deed transactions, Barnabas Hughes sold lots around Diamond Square, calling it Elizabeth Towne for his wife, Elizabeth Water Hughes.⁴ However, this document cannot be accessed online. Assuming John Black is the

¹ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Instrument Number: 6097921, accessed April 25, 2017, <https://searchdocs.lancasterdeeds.com/countyweb/disclaimer.do>.

² Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: W, Page Number: 343, accessed April 25, 2017, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

³ Richard K. MacMaster, *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries* (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1999), 40.

⁴ Jean-Paul Benowitz, *Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour* (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown College, 2015), 5.

original owner of the lot, the list of names which follow are John Black, Jr. (15 March 1785 – 9 April 1785),⁵ Mary Black 9 April 1785 - ?),⁶ - GAP -, John Wolfley (? – 15 October 1823),⁷ Thomas Eagan (15 October 1823 – 26 August 1828),⁸ Jacob Immel (26 August 1828 – 1 September 1829),⁹ John Bohn (1 September 1829 – 15 June 1839; leased to Elihu P. Scott¹⁰ and Thomas Baker¹¹),¹² Adams Campbell (15 June 1839 – 28 March 1840),¹³ Henry Shultz (28 March 1840 – 30 March 1846),¹⁴ Joseph Strausse (30 March 1846 – 24 March 1848),¹⁵ Abraham Breneman (24 March 1848 – 1 December 1855),¹⁶ Henry Breneman (1 December 1855 – 21 January 1865),¹⁷ Benjamin Breneman (21 January 1865 – 5 August 1870),¹⁸ John Cassel (5 August 1870 – 5 April 1875),¹⁹ Benjamin Breneman 2x (5 April 1875 – 20 January 1879),²⁰ Jacob Nissley & Peter Kraybill (20 January 1879 – 18 February 1879),²¹ John Cassel 2x (18 February 1879 – 21 March 1881),²² Henry G. Gebhart (21 March 1881 – 2 October 1899),²³ Mary A. Fisher (2 October 1899 – 6 April 1943),²⁴ William F. Morgan (6 April 1943 – 28 May 1953),²⁵ Erel M. Mosemann (28 May 1953 – 15 May 1964),²⁶ James E. Leber (15 May 1964 – 20 February 1968),²⁷ Michael T. Morris & Richard R. Cramer (20 February 1968 – 11 July 1977),²⁸ J. Philip & Jacob N. Olweiler (11 July 1977 – 31 August 1996),²⁹ Bryan Laird & Associates (31 August 1996 – 13 August 2013),³⁰ and BJS Enterprise, LLC.³¹

Architectural Style:

The current Georgian downtown tour house, residing on 1 S. Market Street, is composed of gorgeous red brick with a row of double-pane windows above and shop windows below. The façade itself is laid out with an emphasis on repetition and uniformity.³² Curved arches above beautifully heighten the window's frame, contributing to the verticality of the design.³³ Use of a soft-lime to contrast with the red brick accentuates the brickwork stores of the facade, while the black plaster emphasizes the joints running down in strips along the cornice. Dancing across the cornice are 'fleur de lis', quite a treat to the passerby. Hidden from the view on the ground by the decorative cornice is a concealed roof, which draws on ancient Roman precedents.³⁴ This feature of the Italian Renaissance, low-pitched roofs, is widely copied across Elizabethtown. When customers enter

⁵ Book: W, Page Number: 343

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Book: B, Volume 6, Page Number: 197.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Book: D, Volume 6, Page Number: 90.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Book: E, Volume: 7, Page Number: 344.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Book: H, Volume 10, Page Number: 58.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Book: H, Volume 10, Page Number: 58.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Book: R, Volume 10, Page Number: 280.

²¹ Book: C, Volume 16, Page Number 489.

²² Ibid.

²³ Book: Q, Volume 11, Page Number: 464.

²⁴ Book: C, Volume 16, Page Number: 489.

²⁵ Book: D, Volume 36, Page Number: 82.

²⁶ Book: W, Volume 42, Page Number: 594.

²⁷ Book: P, Volume 53, Page Number: 265.

²⁸ Book: O, Volume 57, Page Number: 1128.

²⁹ Book: K, Volume 71, Page Number: 205.

³⁰ Instrument Number: 3919008.

³¹ Instrument Number: 6097921.

³² Will Jones, How to Read Houses: A crash course in domestic architecture (Brighton, U.K.: The Ivy Press Limited, 2013), 125.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Carol Davidson Cragoe, How to Read Buildings: A crash course in architectural styles (Brighton, U.K.: The Ivy Press Limited, 2008), 103.

Fisher's Corner, they do so beneath the lovely alcove composed of a wooden exterior – painted to appear as brick. Strapping the alcove are black stone quoins, used for appearance and reinforcement.³⁵ This design put emphasis on the corner, whether on the main façade or above the alcove three corner-windows.³⁶ The alcove distinguishes the Fisher Shop's location on the corner of South Market, with an overview of the town square; arguably the most daring, distinct aspect of the Georgian style.³⁷ Entering closest to the corner of S. Market and E. High St., pilasters crowd the door. Acting as fake columns, they are adornments with capitals and bases like columns but with no structural significance. They serve their purpose, through differentiating specific parts of the building.³⁸

Historical Context and Purpose:

Thomas Harris sailed for America in 1726 from County Donegal, Ireland, marrying fellow shipmate Mary McKinney shortly after both families settled in Lancaster County.³⁹ Harris, one of the first white settlers to stake claims in the area, traded with the Conoy and Paxton Indians, among other tribes. In 1730, he assembled a log cabin close to the Conoy Creekside, to serve as a trading post.⁴⁰ Later, in 1745, he built a stone foundation for the existing Sign of the Bear Tavern; the former structure serving as a smith shop.⁴¹ So well-frequented was the trading post, Harris sent a petition to the County Court in August 1736, applying for a license to sell beer and hard cider. Two years later, the County Court authorized him to keep the public house.⁴² Thinking of his fellow tradesmen, he also called for a public road to be built over their well-worn path, which would dramatically increase the efficiency of their practice. In 1738, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania built a road from Lancaster to Harrisburg, going through Elizabethtown on Market Street.⁴³ Also, referred to as the Harrisburg Pike or PA Route 230, all travelers on their way passed the oldest-structure in the present Borough of Elizabethtown, situated on the corner of North Market and West Hummelstown St. In 1747, anticipating the French and Indian War, Harris became the captain of the Associated Regiment of the West End of Lancaster County on the Susquehanna River.⁴⁴

Lazarus Lowry, arriving from Ireland in 1729, was recommended by the Governor of Pennsylvania, John Penn, to the County Court as a licensed Indian trader.⁴⁵ Lowry had close business associations with Joseph Simmons of Lancaster and through him contact with important Philadelphia firms.⁴⁶ In Ohio, Lowry worked to counteract French influence among Indian tribes on the frontier. A French commanding officer at Detroit went as far as to request a reward for his scalp.⁴⁷ Upon purchasing the Sign of the Bear Tavern in 1751, Lowry leased the tavern to Barnabas and Elizabeth Waters Hughes until selling it to the couple in 1753.⁴⁸

Barnabas Hughes emigrated from County Donegal Ireland in 1748, taking title to a house and lot on West Lime Street at Lancaster in 1749.⁴⁹ Hughes became business partners with Quaker merchant and Brewer Isaac Whitelock of Philadelphia. Whitelock was a representative of the Philadelphia firm, Baynton, Wharton, and Morgan.⁵⁰ The Sign of the Bear Tavern marked the starting point for packhorse trains and trade goods brought from Philadelphia.⁵¹ In addition, as Commissary Captain, Hughes assembled soldiers and supplies to furnish Forts Hunter and Swatara in the French and Indian's war onset. Although he moved back to Baltimore in 1761, Hughes divided 300 acres surrounding the Sign of the Bear Tavern, on the Conoy Creek, into lots measuring 60 feet wide

³⁵ Jones, 133.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ MacMaster, 5.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Westafer (February 10, 1977), 84.

⁴² MacMaster, 5.

⁴³ Jean-Paul Benowitz, Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour, 3.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 4.

⁴⁵ MacMaster, 5.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 17.

⁴⁸ Benowitz, A Walking Tour, 5.

⁴⁹ MacMaster, 19.

⁵⁰ Benowitz, A Walking Tour, 5.

⁵¹ MacMaster, 19.

by 165 feet deep. The lots were laid out in a central diamond; Hughes named the village ‘Elizabeth Towne’, presumably after his wife, Elizabeth. Hughes inserted the names Market and High for the two streets which converged at Diamond Square, and called the side alleys Cherry, Peach, and Rose.⁵²

An interesting bit of history is contained in a lengthy, wordy indenture, providing for the rental of a tract of land numbered Lot. 21 on Diamond Square – more recently known as Fisher’s Corner. This old indenture is written on sheepskin, and copies are difficult to decipher. What has been gathered from these records, is John Black’s name and an agreement with grantor, Barnabas Hughes. Rent was “to be paid the first Day of August for Every Year for Ever a yearly rent of Ten Shillings Sterling Money of Great Britain for the said lot, or the value thereof in Coin currently in Exchange.”⁵³ In addition, Hughes required those renting his property, to erect a ‘dwelling-house of the dimensions of 20 ft. x 18 ft., with a good chimney of brick or stone – all within two years of May 1763. Little is known of Black, his wife, or son. To add more confusion, there is a gap in the deed records between Black owning the property in 1785 and John Wolfley building on the lot in 1816.

Diamond Square was properly renamed Center Square; the variety of activity which occurred truly made it the center or heart of the town. For centuries, Center Square served as a drill ground and staging area for parades, political rallies, and public celebration.⁵⁴

Two of the most unique uses of the square involved patriotic displays, both surprisingly raucous. During WWI, Center Square held a “Nail the Kaiser” event. For a quarter, townspeople could mount the few steps leading up to the truck bed, where a painted wooden effigy of Kaiser Wilhelm II was tied up. With a hammer and a nail, the whole town took their turn for only a quarter’s cost.⁵⁵ On the eve of the Fourth of July, young community men would gather wooden crates and boxes from local businesses. Carrying them by horse, wagon, wheelbarrow, or on foot, the boys put their creation smack dab in the middle of Center Square, standing 10 – 12 feet high with kindle scattered over top the pile. Then, it would be doused in a gallon of kerosene, producing flames up to 40, 50 feet high in the air. To add to the bonfire, bystanders tossed in unused fireworks and shotgun shells, adding to the midnight mayhem.⁵⁶ It was a miracle the whole town didn’t burn down like it had in the St. Valentine’s Day fire of 1892.

John Wolfley, Esquire, is remembered as an active citizen. Involved in the construction of a road on Market St. in Elizabethtown, he served on the board of members for the Falmouth/Elizabethtown Turnpike Commission in 1810.⁵⁷ Shortly abandoned, the grass grew over the roadbed, leading to the nickname of “Pumpkin Vine Turnpike.” In 1813, he applied for a tavern license at Lot. 21 where a man named Frederick Gedig currently leased the property. The tavern Wolfe constructed was a two-story log building at the SE corner of Market and High St., measuring 26 ft. x 28 ft.; with a separate kitchen building in the back.⁵⁸ An active Mason in Elizabethtown, he took a major role in organizing Lode No. 116, becoming the first Worthy Master. Grand lodge recognized the Elizabethtown Lodge No. 116 on 3 September 1810. Relocating to Marietta in 4 April 1814, the lodge was discontinued on 6 February 1837.⁵⁹ Remnants from the original buildings are in the Masonic Village today.

Thomas Eagan became the next successful bidder for Wolfley’s property, following his death in Ohio. Eagan wore several hats; serving as major in the military,⁶⁰ leading Elizabethtown’s first public school board,⁶¹ candidate for auditor of the district,⁶² and a trustee of the Roman Catholic Church.⁶³ John Bohn continued the

⁵² Benowitz, *A Walking Tour*, 5.

⁵³ Westafer (February 17, 1977), 89.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.* (June 24, 1976), 2.

⁵⁵ Westafer (June 24, 1976), 3.

⁵⁶ Westafer, (July 1, 1976), 4-5.

⁵⁷ MacMaster., 67.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 63.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 74.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 80.

⁶² *Ibid.*, 73.

⁶³ MacMaster, 76.

operation of Wolfley's tavern, naming it the "Sign of the Globe", until he transferred his ownership to Adams Campbell.⁶⁴

Campbell is well-known for having constructed the general store which remained on the NW corner of Center Square for the better part of the 19th and 20th centuries.⁶⁵ Early in life, he played a key role in local government. The January 1836 fire, at the Black Horse Tavern, was a catalyst for Elizabethtown citizens to organize volunteer fire departments. Groups of men often met at Col. Abraham Greenawalt's tavern; Campbell recording the minutes.⁶⁶ He would again serve as secretary, when Elizabethtown contemplated entry into Monroe County in 1832.⁶⁷ For the emerging Whig Party, Campbell led the town as their spokesperson.⁶⁸ According to observers of the time, Campbell drove a carriage drawn by a pair of matched horses. His appearance and the inside of his house reflected a comfortable lifestyle. His properties had hearthrugs, carpet on stairs, sofas, clocks in cases, green venetian blinds, gilt picture frames, looking glasses, rocking chairs, mantles, ornaments, dining tables, fine china, glass, queens ware, and a crib and cradle.⁶⁹ As a storekeeper, much of Campbell's business was conducted on credit. In January 1840, 109 customers from Elizabethtown owed him \$1,332. 89 "claims against individuals" resulted in \$1,034 more. Fifty-two promissory notes from individuals who borrowed +\$500 amounted to \$3,924.⁷⁰

Henry Shultz, well-established tailor in Elizabethtown, already owned the Bear Tavern when he purchased Fisher's Corner from Campbell.⁷¹ The annual income for Henry Shultz, based off a production of 50 coats and 75 coats and pants, brought in roughly \$800.⁷² Joseph Strousse, a convert from Judaism to Catholicism, became a generous benefactor of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Elizabethtown. He donated a lot of land adjoining the rectory and the cemetery to the congregation of the church in 1859, in addition paying for the construction of the belfry.⁷³ Although not a grantee of Fisher's Corner during the Civil War, Strousse petitioned the income tax and special fees on money invested at interest. Because he had withdrawn his funds from interest bearing account, he wanted his tax assessment reduced.⁷⁴ Notably, he served on the Borough Council in the periods 1855-57 and 1860-62.⁷⁵

The deed to Lot. 21 passed through Abraham, Henry, David, and Benjamin Breneman. Records do not suggest these individuals were directly related, but united in common by extended family. All were descendants of Melchoir Breneman, one of the earliest Swiss Mennonites to arrive in the area. In 1709, Breneman emigrated from the German Palatinate to Philadelphia, settling in what is today Conestoga Township. Quickly, Breneman became the biggest land owner in the region, purchasing thousands of acres. Among them, Breneman bought 950 acres along Conoy Creek in 1728. He later went on to establish the first Mennonite Congregation in Elizabethtown, still in existence today as Good's Mennonite Church.⁷⁶ Abraham was a member of the Borough Council from 1853-55;1869.⁷⁷ Of Melchior's descendants, which were many, the most can be gathered from the life of Henry. The Biographical Annals of Lancaster County, published in 1903, describes the late Henry as having "an impression for good, made by the influences radiating from his kindly and ennobled nature, wider and more lasting than can readily be perceived or measured." Reared on his parent's, Jacob and Elizabeth's, farm, Henry won the respect and high esteem of the people through his character and devotion to his life work. A staunch

⁶⁴ Ibid., 90.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 98.

⁶⁶ Ibid., 87.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 84.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 96.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 93.

⁷⁰ Ibid., 93.

⁷¹ Ibid., 90.

⁷² Ibid., 108.

⁷³ Ibid., 113.

⁷⁴ Ibid., 116.

⁷⁵ Ibid., 303.

⁷⁶ Benowitz, *Images of America: Elizabethtown*, 9.

⁷⁷ MacMaster, 301-305.

Republican and member of the Mennonite faith, Henry was nominated for Justice of the Peace of Lancaster County in 1858. Benjamin was elected Burgess in 1866.⁷⁸ Following ownership by the Benemans, the indenture reached John Cassel, turning it over to Henry G. Gebhart, who granted it to Mary A. Fisher.

Other activities, which took place on Center Square, consisted largely of livestock auction and trade, shopping, drinking in taverns, and the usual small-town gossip.⁷⁹ Elizabethtown was once a three-way, bustling center, oriented to agriculture, industry, and business. As is the case with most towns, Elizabethtown's businesses on Center Square suffered (and today continue to struggle to survive) at the hands of the big shopping centers and discount stores with their free parking areas and proximity to their customers in Harrisburg, Lebanon, York, and Lancaster.⁸⁰ Although the shops on Center Square remain closer to the town's residents, the old days of Saturday shopping or Friday night stroll seem to be slowly fading away.

One incident, threatening to push Elizabethtown's progress back, was the 1892 St. Valentine's Day fire. The big blaze started in a second-story dental office of Dr. C. Gable (overheated coal stove), quickly engulfing the Chronicle Office, at the time located on the left of the former David Martin store.⁸¹ All the buildings were destroyed from Center Square, then George Wagner's shoe store, to Vine Alley, Dr. A.C. Trichler's office, leaving the east side of S. Market St. in ruins with only naked walls remaining.⁸² Firemen pushed the little engine of the steam pumper too far, causing the cylinder head to blow off. Only a bucket brigade operating from the Conoy Creek could extinguish the flames.⁸³ Fortunately, the stretch of businesses and industries along the street and on Center Square have all been rebuilt/remodified, including the original brick Fisher's Corner. On 16 November 1897, it was recorded in the PA Department of Banking Annual Report the construction of lot 60x60 on Center Square with brick buildings erected thereon, enlarged and improvements added, intended for office location."⁸⁴ J.H. Eshleman, cashier of the Elizabethtown Exchange Bank, listed the total cost at \$12,500.

From the early 20th century on, the beautiful Georgian/Italianate themed building on the SE corner of Center Square was affectionately referred to by Elizabethtown residents as the 'Fisher Building.'

Jacob A. Fisher, alongside his wife, Mar, originally opened a jewelry store on the corner. Then, his son John made it an optometrists' office – with giant spectacles hanging from the entry. When his practice went under, he introduced the John A. Fisher Shaving Parlor to the SE corner, selling tobacco and cigars next to the old post office. Jacob A. Fisher decided he wanted to use the space for other purposes, requesting Postmaster John H. Brubaker vacate the premises of Fisher's Corner. Between Park and Washington Streets, the Works Progress Administration built a new permanent post office in 1938 with \$90k appropriations from Congress.⁸⁵ On the floor above the shaving parlor was a Young Men's Club of America.⁸⁶ The efforts of the YMCA made its presence felt on the campus of Elizabethtown College, as a Christian Association was founded to preserve the institutions Brethren heritage and spread Judeo-Christian values.⁸⁷ Jacob B. Fisher, grandson of Jacob A. Fisher, operated a music and electrical appliance store, calling it the Jacob B. Fisher Appliance Store. In the early 1930s, the second story of the building provided the Elizabethtown Rifle Club as an indoor rifle, pistol range, and meeting room. This continued for about two years, until the Fisher's requested the organization leave. In 1943, the music business was continued by the aunt of Jacob B. Fisher, Mrs. William Morgan.

From the Fishers, the property has since been owned by the Morgans, Mosemans. Lebers, Morris', Cramers, Olweilers, and other realtors. For decades, the Olweiler family have been among Elizabethtown's civically engaged and entrepreneurial class of citizens – operating and owning multiple business, serving on the

⁷⁸ MacMaster, 301-305.

⁷⁹ Westafer (August 12, 1976), 28.

⁸⁰ Ibid. (September 20, 1976), 37.

⁸¹ Ibid. (November 4, 1976), 48.

⁸² "Borough's Most Destructive Blaze Guttled Heart of Business District 73 Years Ago," *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, February 14, 1965, accessed at Elizabethtown Historical Society.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ W.M. Stanley Ray, *Third Annual Report of the Commissioner of Banking* (Harrisburg: PA Department of Banking, 1898).

⁸⁵ Benowitz, *Images of America: Elizabethtown*, 64.

⁸⁶ Ibid., 63.

⁸⁷ Ray, *Third Annual Report of the Commissioner of Banking*.

board of local organizations. Olweiler Insurance Agency in Elizabethtown, its offices contained in a beautiful Colonial Revival center, is the premier independent insurance agency in Elizabethtown for individuals and businesses. In 1929, F.L. Olweiler, the father of Jacob N. Olweiler and J. Philip Olweiler, became an agent for the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company. Working as officer for Famer's Mutual Insurance Company, he opened his own part-time agency, which his son Jacob purchased in 1969 and brother J. Philip later joined in 1972. Together, the brothers handled local real estate transactions while writing insurance policies. On the real estate side of the company, the brothers excelled, but their insurance agency began to struggle. Wisely, they hired Barton Ziegler and his wife, Kathie, to continue their operation in 1998.⁸⁸ Today, the agency still operates with the Olweiler name, a testament to the family's devotion to the community of Elizabethtown. The daughter of the former Jacob N. Olweiler (one mentioned above is still alive today) Anna Olweiler Needham, was interested in history and wanted to help preserve knowledge of Elizabethtown's unique past. In 1920, her father formerly purchased the school house on Peach Alley to house Troop I of the Boy Scouts of America. Jacob bequeathed the building, in his will, to Anna. She and her husband, Thomas Needham, contracted the Kiwanis Club to fix the leaking roof, broken window panes, splinted shutters, and structural damage of the school house. In the couple's will, they requested the school house and an additional endowment be granted to the Elizabethtown Historical Society, which met for the first time in 31 May 1971 in the new building. The historic preservation efforts made on behalf of Anna and Thomas continue to make possible the sharing of memories and stories of Elizabethtown, today.⁸⁹

For the most part, these couples have leased the property to individuals who have owned and operated businesses on the SE corner of Center Square. There has been a flurry of rapid changes in the past five years alone. The storefront on the SE corner of Center square bordering High Street has witnessed a lot of changes since March 2012. The business J's Sweet Treats and J's Sweet Treats Ice Cream Parlor opened in March, owned by sisters Jodi Stapler and Jamie Harris, who have previously made cupcakes and other baked goods from their homes.⁹⁰ A new bakery, Center Square Baker, took its place in August. In search for a more accommodating space, Center Square Bakery's owner Natalie Dixon relocated to a space on the northwest corner of the square.⁹¹ Then, Mayita's Boutique opened for business in February 2013, offering women's accessories. Owner Mayita Hoyos received Business of the Month honors from Susquehanna Bank in April 2013.⁹² In September of 2015, the next business venture, Artisan Republic, took the recently renovated boutique and turned it into a studio and gallery.⁹³

Since September of 2015, Joni Farley and her husband Mark have contributed to the growth in the downtown business district. The opening and excitement which surrounded their antique boutique, art studio, and gallery, Artisan Republic, is one sign of a recent revitalization of Center Square. On their website's home page, the 'Who We Are' description proudly reads:

"Nestled in the heart of Elizabethtown, PA, Artisan Republic offers a unique blend of creative opportunities. We are an art studio that offers paint parties, private lessons, and open pain sessions. In addition, we provide our guests with a one-of-a-kind shopping experience in our curated boutique and gallery."⁹⁴

⁸⁸ "About Us," Olweiler Insurance Agency, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://www.olweilerinsurance.com/about.asp>.

⁸⁹ Pat and Lloyd Reed, "How the E-town Historical Society found its home," *Elizabethtown Journal*, January 9, 2010, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://elizabethtownjournal.org/?p=1306>.

⁹⁰ Chad Umble, "Sweet shop opens in Elizabethtown," *LancasterOnline*, March 20, 2012, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://lancasteronline.com/business/sweet-shop-opens-in-elizabethtown/article>.

⁹¹ Chad Umble, "Center Square Bakery moves across the square in Elizabethtown," *LancasterOnline*, February 26, 2013, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://lancasteronline.com/business/center-square-bakery-moves-across-the-square-in-elizabethtown/article>.

⁹² Mike Schwartz, "Mayita Hoyos: Mayita's Boutique," *Elizabethtown Journal*, May 1, 2013, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://elizabethtownjournal.org/?p=5974>.

⁹³ Diane M. Bitting, "Elizabethtown merchants excited about a vibrant, growing downtown," *LancasterOnline*, November 10, 2015, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://lancasteronline.com/elizabethtown/news/elizabethtown-merchants-excited-about-a-vibrant-growing-downtown/article>.

⁹⁴ "Who We Are," Artisan Republic: Studio & Gallery, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://www.theartisanrepublic.com/>.

When one enters Artisan Republic, unique pieces surround them, carefully selected from estate sales, auctions, and private collections. The stunning, modern-design studio offers an opportunity of expression to all types of talent, from a beginner to an aspiring artist.

The tax incentives approved in recent years for historically significant buildings, such as Cassius Emlen Urban's Moose Lodge, have spurred investment and renovations in Elizabethtown. In addition, there is an attitude which seeks to prove downtown businesses can be sustainable.

With the Section 106 review complete, it is astonishing how the gradual development of the town can be unfolded through deed research, public records, and constant inquiry with local historians. Through centuries of changing demographics, evolving industry, and technological advancement, the most remarkable takeaway can be found in how little the character of the town has changed. Therefore, it is the duty of people – to the best of their ability – to preserve the town's uniqueness.



Appendix Current Photos:

