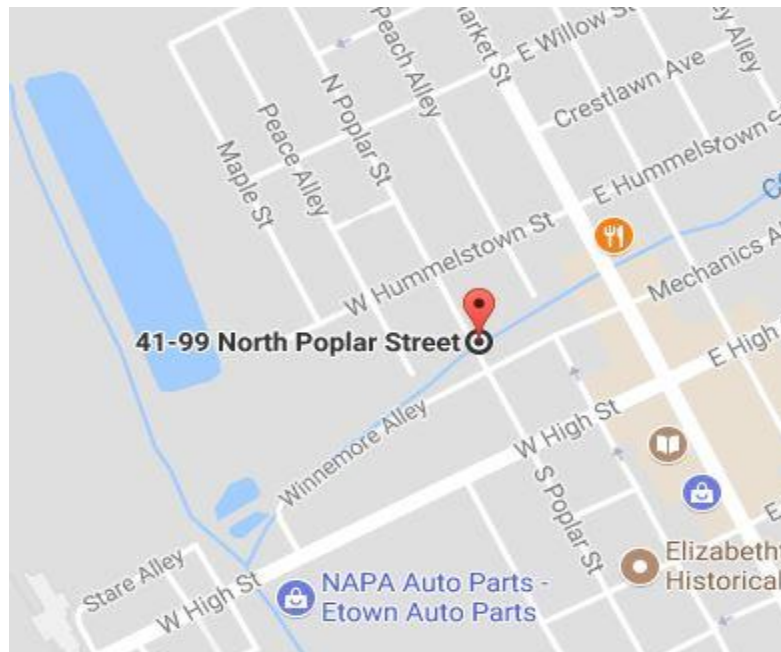


## North Poplar Street Bridge Over Conoy Creek Tributary



### Abstract:

In 1909 plans were developed for the construction of a housing development on 394 acres north of West High Street. Part of the proposal was to extend Poplar Street North and run parallel to North Market Street. In 1920 ten two-story brick duplex houses in the Colonial Revival architectural style were constructed on the west side of North Poplar Street. This simple T-beam bridge was built with lots number 40 and 401/2 spanning the Conoy Creek with the home of Harry N. Good serving in place of a wall on the west side of the bridge while the east side is finished with a paneled concrete parapet. These residences connected workers to various shoe and garment factories on South Poplar Street as well as the Klein Chocolate Company, now the M&M Mars Inc, and Grubb Mill, now White Oak Mills.

### Deed Search Report:

The current community of Elizabethtown is situated between the Conoy Creek and the Conwego Creek along the Susquehanna River. In 1534 French King Francis, I (1494-1547) colonized North America establishing New France with Jacques Cartier (1491-1557) as Viceroy in Quebec.<sup>2</sup> As early as 1615 Étienne Brûlé (1592-1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County.<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania was claimed by Sweden in 1638 and then by the Dutch in 1655. The British claimed the former Dutch holdings in 1674.<sup>4</sup> British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted William Penn (1644-1718) the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681.<sup>5</sup> The French and British disputed control of Pennsylvania between 1688-1763.<sup>6</sup> During this time in 1707

<sup>1</sup> Robert Yahara audited this class and Robert Pavlik is a student at Elizabethtown College. Ramon R. Rios III edited the report.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Jean Knecht, *Francis I* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935), 333-343.

<sup>3</sup> Consul Willshire Butterfield, *History of Brulé's Discoveries and Explorations, 1610-1626 Being a Narrative of the Discovery by Stephen Brulé of Lakes Huron, Ontario and Superior, and of his Explorations of Pennsylvania and western New York: Also of the Province of Ontario* (Cleveland, OH: Herman-Taylor, 1898), 49-51.

<sup>4</sup> Randall M. Miller, ed., *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2002), 50-60.

<sup>5</sup> Jean R. Soderlund, *William Penn and the Founding of Pennsylvania, 1680-1684: A Documentary History* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1983), 39-50.

<sup>6</sup> Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Richards, *The Pennsylvania-Germans in the French and Indian War: A Historical Sketch Prepared at the Request of the Pennsylvania-German Society* (Lancaster: The Pennsylvania German Society, 1905), 16-22.

French fur trader Peter Bezaillion (1662-1742) established a settlement between the Conoy and Conwego Creeks along the Susquehanna River.<sup>7</sup> In 1719 Peter Bezaillion invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River.<sup>8</sup> Captain Thomas Harris (1695-1801) settled in Pennsylvania in 1726. In 1730, he builds a log cabin along the Conoy Creek and in 1741 he legally receives the warrant to the land.<sup>9</sup> Then, in 1745 he builds the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which is the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.<sup>10</sup>

Thomas Harris owned the land until it was sold to Lazarus Lowery in 1751. The ownership of the land passed in succession from after Lazarus Lowery to Barnabas Hughes (July 1753-2 January 1765), Samuel Hughes (2 January 1765-28 October 1790), Alexander Boggs (28 October 1790-21 February 1809)<sup>11</sup>, George Wealand (21 February 1809-unknown),<sup>12</sup> John Bender (unknown-1843),<sup>13</sup> Thomas Winnemore (1834-1844),<sup>14</sup> Henry Gingrich (1844-1855),<sup>15</sup> Andrew Wade (1855-14 April 1857),<sup>16</sup> Henry A Wade (14 April 1857-2 April 1884),<sup>17</sup> Martin G. Keller (2 April 1884-1 April 1905),<sup>18</sup> Peter L. Lehman (1 April 1905-2 September 1905),<sup>19</sup> Benjamin L. Geyer (2 September 1905-1 September 1911),<sup>20</sup> Harry N. Good (1 September 1911-1 December 1943),<sup>21</sup> Marvin M. Messick (1 December 1943-2 July 1947), Harry A. Saylor and Murial Saylor (2 July 1947-1 July 1965),<sup>22</sup> Earnest A. Rojahn, Jr. and Sandra P. Rojahn (1 July 1965-31 October 2000),<sup>23</sup> Mary E. Fritz and Philip K. Moss (31 October 2000-14 May 2008),<sup>24</sup> Mary E. Fritz (14 May 2008-23 November 2015),<sup>25</sup> and John S. Beiler, Isaac L. Beiler and Malinda E. Beiler (23 November 2015-Current).

Thomas Harris was a Scotch-Irishman who came from Raphoe, County Donegal. He sailed to America in 1726. Thomas Harris and Mary McKinney married shortly after settling in Lancaster County. They moved to a 230-acre site along the Conoy Creek. They built a log house along the Conoy Creek as early as 1730 or 1732. He received a license to sell hard cider and beer in August 1736. Two years later they authorized Harris to keep a Public House. The name of the public house was "The Sign of the Bear Tavern" located along what became the Great Road (also known as the Harrisburg Pike) from Lancaster to Harris's Ferry. Thomas Harris was an Indian trader and did well enough to build a stone house in 1745 for the Sign of the Bear Tavern and his family residence.<sup>26</sup>

Lazarus Lowery and his sons came from Ireland in 1729. Lowery was granted a license to trade with the Indians. Along with his five sons he traded in Ohio with the Indians. In ca 1751 Thomas Harris moved with his wife and family to a 305 acre tract of land he bought from Samuel Smith on the East side of the Conego Creek. Lazarus Lowery bought the land and tavern from Harris in 1751. It is doubtful he ever lived there. It is likely he leased the tavern to Barnabas Hughes as soon as he bought it. Lowery owned the Bear Tavern and farm for two years and sold it to Hughes in July 1753. Lowery in poor health moved to Philadelphia where he died in 1755.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> David L. Martin, *A Clash of Cultures: Native Americans and Colonialism in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* (Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2010), 21-23.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Richard K. MacMaster, *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries* (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1999), 5.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 8.

<sup>11</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: LL, Page Number: 545, accessed 25 April 2017, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

<sup>12</sup> Book: 1, Page: 120.

<sup>13</sup> Book: Q, Volume: 5, Page: 53, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>14</sup> Book: Q, Volume: 5, Page: 55, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>15</sup> Book: D, Volume: 6, Page: 45, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Book: Y, Volume: 6, Page: 386, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>17</sup> Book: I, Volume: 8, Page: 262, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>18</sup> Book: A, Volume: 9, Page: 34, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>19</sup> Book: D, Volume: 12, Page: 108, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>20</sup> Book: R, Volume: 20, Page: 388, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>21</sup> Book: M, Volume: 36, Page: 88, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Book: T, Volume: 52, Page: 554, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>23</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Instrument Number: 4365202, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>24</sup> Instrument Number: 5706023, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>25</sup> Instrument Number: 6240313, Accessed April 25, 2017.

<sup>26</sup> MacMaster, 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 17, 19, 22, 24, 28, 29.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 5, 17, 19

Barnabas and Elizabeth Hughes, husband and wife, bought The Bear and farm from Lazarus Lowery in July of 1753. They emigrated from County Donegal in Ireland in 1747. The Hughes family lived in Lancaster in 1749, taking title to a house and lot on Lime Street. Hughes has business associations with Isaac Whitlock, a Quaker merchant and brewer. Hughes used The Bear as a trading post with the Indians and later with the settlers moving West into Ohio. Barnabas was involved with the French and Indian War and supported the military with supplies during that period in history. After the war when things settled down the Hughes gave deeds to buyers of lots he laid out naming the town Elizabethtown after his wife, on October 2, 1763. He laid out the town around a central square or “diamond.” He laid out the lots along streets and alleys He named them Market St., High St., Rose Alley, Cherry Alley, and Peach Alley. The lots were 65 ft. wide by 165 ft. deep. As the land was divided he leased it to the purchasers; John Black, Henry Eckenroth, Abraham Scott, Frederick Zetty, and William Bishop. Hughes benefited from the road that ran from Lancaster to Harris’ Ferry across the length of his property. In his period of ownership of The Bear and farm he amassed enough capital to move to Baltimore in 1761. He died on January 2, 1765 leaving his estate to his wife and four sons, the oldest being eighteen.<sup>28</sup>

Samuel Hughes is the big player in the real-estate development of Elizabethtown named after his mother. He was the second son of Barnabas and Elizabeth Hughes. He was very successful in business and with this profits he was able to buy out his brother’s share of their fathers Pennsylvania real-estate. Samuel bought the land from Daniel, John, and Barnabas Hughes Jr. The purchase included a 252 acre tract containing The Bear Tavern and the Town of Elizabethtown. It also included a 145 acre tract of land. In 1790 he began to sell the lots as freeholds with clear title to the purchasers.<sup>29</sup>

Alexander Boggs bought a 230 acre tract of land from the Hughes’s on October 28, 1790. It contained The Bear Tavern and bordered Elizabethtown on the Northwest as far as High St. The bridges over the Conoy Creek at North Market St., North Poplar St., and West High St. were located on this tract of land. Alexander Boggs and others signed a petition for a road to run from Fredrick’s Mill connecting to the middle of High St. to the ferry on the Susquehanna River below Conewego falls. This road today is Turnpike Road.<sup>30</sup>

Wealand bought The Bear Tavern and 238 acres from Alexander Boggs. The heirs of George Wealand sold The Bear Tavern and 132 acres on the west side of North Market to John Bender. From Bender the ownership went to Thomas Winnemore in 1834, then it was sold to Henry Gingrich in 1844. In 1855 Henry Gingrich and his wife sold it to Andrew Wade.<sup>31</sup>

Andrew Wade and his wife purchase The Bear Tavern and 132 acres from Henry Gingrich. His family lived at 130 North Market Street and The Bear Tavern became a tenant house. The 130 North Market St. property is a funeral home today, 29 March, 2017.<sup>32</sup>

Henry A. Wade was born in Elizabethtown in 1827, the son of Andrew and Christina Wealand Wade. He went to Georgetown College and Harvard Law School, from which he graduated. He was admitted to the bar in Lancaster in 1850. In 1857 Andrew Wade sold The Bear, the house at 130 North Market St., and the farm on the West side of North Market to his son Henry A. Wade. He was a practicing attorney in Elizabethtown in 1859. In 1861 he laid out seven building lots on West High St. at the rail road and five new buildings were built almost immediately. One of the buildings was Breneman Brother’s warehouse. In 1862 the paving district on High St. ran from the railroad to the Mount Joy St. See map on page 120, Elizabethtown at Mid-Century, 1851-1875 showing H. A. Wade as owner of the property. He was a Captain during the civil War. In 1884 H. A. Wade sold the farm to Martin G. Keller.<sup>33</sup>

Martin G. Keller, prominent livestock dealer, bought the old Bear Tavern and the rest of Henry A. Wade’s farm on the west side of North Market Street in 1844. Keller subsequently sold a few building lots alone North Market St.<sup>34</sup>

## Architectural Style:

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<sup>28</sup> MacMaster, 19, 21, 26, 28-30, 36, 37, 47-49, 90, 210, 253.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 37, 45, 47-50, 52.

<sup>30</sup> MacMaster, 49, 51, 54, 55, 59, 60, 68, 71, 73.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 60, 62, 68, 70, 90, 301, 302

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 62, 81, 83, 84, 86-89, 91, 96, 99, 104, 106, 107, 110, 113, 129, 158, 161, 301

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., 110, 113, 114, 116, 117, 125, 153, 301, 303

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 136, 139, 149, 153, 155, 177

The bridge passing over the Conoy creek on north Poplar Street has a length of 27 ft. and width 40.1 ft. The simple T-beam bridge was built in ca. 1925 and altered in ca. 1970. The bridge is a 2-lane bridge with a house build alongside of it over the creek. On the side of the house there is no railing but the other side does. The alteration to the bridge is an extension of the U-shaped wingwalls on the downstream side. The architectural style of the house on the side of the bridge appears to be a German Colonial Revival architecture.

### **Historical Context and Purpose of the Bridge:**

During the beginning of the twentieth century, the population of Elizabethtown was rising rapidly. Industrial plants such as the Kreider Shoe Factory, Grubb Mill, and the Klein Chocolate Company were providing job opportunities making Elizabethtown a prime location to live and work. In 1909 plans were developed for the construction of a housing development on 394 acres north of West High Street.<sup>35</sup> Part of the proposal was to extend Poplar Street North and run parallel to North Market Street.<sup>36</sup> In 1920 ten two-story brick duplex houses in the Colonial Revival architectural style were constructed on the west side of North Poplar Street. As Poplar Street was expanded for residential housing, the bridge was built to pass over the Conoy Creek. To increase the amount of available houses there was a house built over the creek itself as a side of the bridge. The simple T-beam bridge was built with lots number 40 and 401/2 spanning the Conoy Creek with the home of Harry N. Good serving in place of a wall on the west side of the bridge while the east side is finished with a paneled concrete parapet.<sup>37</sup> These residences connected workers to various shoe and garment factories on South Poplar Street as well as the Klein Chocolate Company, now the M&M Mars Inc, and Grubb Mill, now White Oak Mills.

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<sup>35</sup> Jean-Paul Benowitz, Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour, (Elizabethtown, PA; Elizabethtown College, 2015), 57.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.



**Appendix Historical and Current Photos:**



