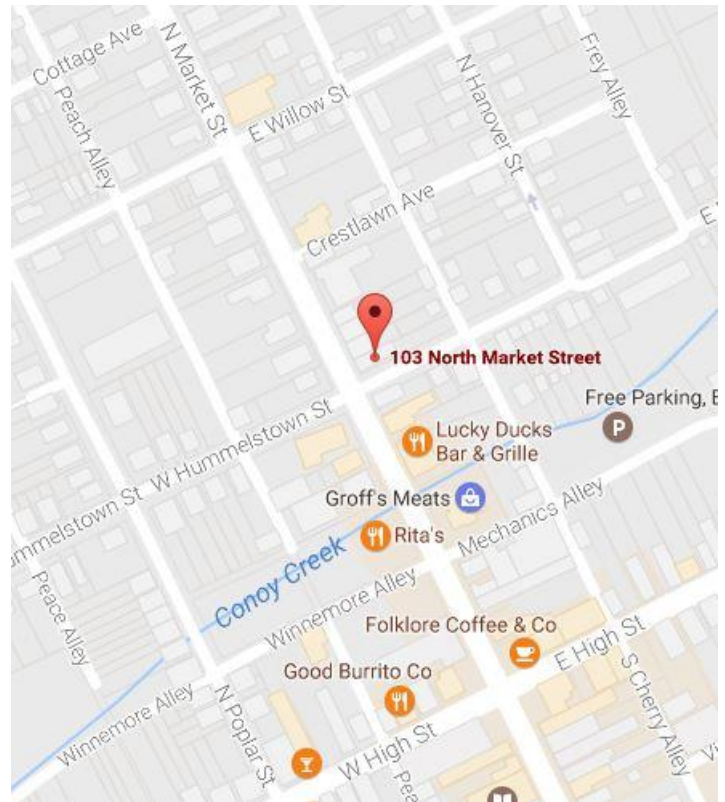


Walker Residence, Independent Order of Odd Fellows Elizabethtown Lodge No. 128: 103 North Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



Abstract:

The Walker Residence, built circa 1745 under the ownership of James Walker, is a two and a half story Georgian architectural style commercial property. George Wealand eventually owned the property on the east side of Market Street surveyed and each lot was valued at about \$30. John George was Wealand's son-in-law. He was also a wheelwright and operated his business out of the building. In the 1830s, Thomas Winnemore ran his hatting business here. Jacob Baxtresser used the building as a general store between 1834 and 1845. After his death, his son and daughter-in-law took over the business for another five years. Until the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows had their own building in 1862, they met on the second floor of the Walker Residence. After functioning for a time as the Philips Laundromat, the building now houses Sparkling Waters Laundromat.

Property details:

The Walker residence, built around 1745, is situated at 103 North Market Street of Elizabethtown and is bordered on the south by East Hummelstown Street and the east by North Cherry Alley. According to the Lancaster Recorder of deeds, the measurements of the lot are 26 ft. x 198 ft.

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.¹ As early as 1615 Étienne

¹ Robert Jean Knecht, Francis I (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935), 333-343.

Brûlé (1592-1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County.² Pennsylvania was claimed by Sweden in 1638 and then by the Dutch in 1655. The British claimed the former Dutch holdings in 1674.³ British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted William Penn (1644-1718) the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681.⁴ The French and British disputed control of Pennsylvania between 1688-1763.⁵ During this time in 1707 French fur trader Peter Bezaillon (1662-1742) established a settlement between the Conoy and Conwego Creeks along the Susquehanna River.⁶ In 1719 Peter Bezaillon invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River.⁷ 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.⁸ Then, in 1745 he builds the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which is the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.⁹

The chain of command for this property includes James Walker and his wife, Katrine, who possessed the lot from 14 December 1745 until 12 November 1746,¹⁰ Thomas Harris (12 November 1746 – 13 June 1753),¹¹ Barnabas Hughes (13 June 1753 – 28 July 1754),¹² James Walker again (28 July 1754 – 2 January 1765),¹³ Barnabas Hughes again (2 January 1765 – 17 August 1785),¹⁴ Samuel Hughes (17 August 1785 – 28 October 1790),¹⁵ Alexander Boggs (28 October 1790 – 21 February 1809),¹⁶ George Wealand (21 February 1809 – 10 April 1809),¹⁷ John George (10 April 1809 – 31 March 1830),¹⁸ John Bender (31 March 1830 – 19 March 1834),¹⁹ Thomas Winnemore (19 March 1834 – 4 November 1845),²⁰ Isaac and Maragaret Winnemore (4 November 1845 – 22 January 1850),²¹ George Brady (22 January 1850 – 14 April 1851),²² Jacob Rhan (14 April 1851 – 5 May 18 1852),²³ Jacob Baxtresser (8 April 1852 – 18 October 1884)²⁴ John B. and Adaline Gish (18 October 1884– 18 March 1899),²⁵ Julia Wade (18 March 1899 – 18 March 1899),²⁶ Mary Kalbach (18 March 1899 – 29 May 1933),²⁷ John Walmer (24 February 1949 –16 July 1958),²⁸ Charles Heller (16 July 1958 – 26 February 1969),²⁹ John Troutman (26 February 1969 – 2 May 1977),³⁰ Richard Mummau (2 May 1977 –

²Consul 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Henry Meclchior 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.

⁶ David L. Martin, A Clash of Cultures: Native Americans and Colonialism in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2010), 21-23.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Socieity, 1999), 5.

⁹ Ibid., 8.

¹⁰ Ibid., 16.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Book: A, Volume: 12, Page Number: 484, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹³ Book: FF, Page Number: 179, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Book: LL, Page Number: 545, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹⁶ Book: Q, Volume: 5, Page Number: 53, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹⁷ Ibid., 54

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid., 55

²⁰ Book: D, Volume: 6, Page Number: 45, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²¹ Book: A, Volume: 7, Page Number: 645, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²² Book: X, Volume: 7, Page Number: 497, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²³ Book: Y, Volume: 7, Page Number: 533, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁴ Book: G, Volume:12, Page Number: 277, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Book: X, Volume: 7, Page Number: 498, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁷ Book: A, Volume: 16, Page Number: 474, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁸ Book: K, Volume: 31, Page Number: 431, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁹ Book: H, Volume: 46, Page Number: 289, Accessed April 25, 2017.

30 June 1983),³¹ Emory Waters (30 June 1983 – 23 June 1986),³² Robert Eby (23 June 1986 – 8 November 1993),³³ Michael Magaro (8 November 1993 – 17 March 2005),³⁴ and most recently Edward Berkoski.³⁵

Architectural Style Report:

Around 1753, a two-story structure was built stone and brick structure was built. This Georgian style building has two chimneys, one at the north end of the house and one at the south. The second was added for the symmetry called for in this style. The front door of the dwelling was originally at the center until it was renovated to accommodate the first floor for business use.³⁶ There are two dormers which project from the roof, three windows in the front on the second floor, and there are now two doors on the bottom floor, one for the dwelling and the other leading to the business. On the side of the building is a large Palladian window, a semicircle design reminiscent of Roman style.³⁷

Historical Context and Purpose:

Hailing from County Donegal, Ireland, Thomas Harris settled in Lancaster County in 1726 and married Mary McKinney.³⁸ Harris settled near the Conoy Creek and traded with several Indian tribes including the Conoy and Paxton. In 1730, he built a log cabin to use as a trading post.³⁹ In 1745, the foundation for what would become the Sign of the Bear Tavern was laid by Harris.⁴⁰ In 1736, Harris applied to the Lancaster County Court to sell beer and hard cider. Two years later he was granted the right to keep a public house.⁴¹ In the same year, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania built a road through Elizabethtown which connected Harrisburg and Lancaster over Market Street. The new road, the Harrisburg Pike or the PA Route 230, insured all who travelled on the road would pass Harris's public house, the oldest structure in the Borough of Elizabethtown.⁴²

Also hailing from Ireland, Lazarus Lowry come to America in 1729. Lowry was licensed as an Indian trader after being recommended by the Governor of Pennsylvania at the time, John Penn.⁴³ Lowry work in Ohio to help protect Indians from French influence. A French commanding officer offered a reward for Lowry's scalp.⁴⁴ Lowry bought the Sign of the Bear Tavern in 1751 and almost immediately began leasing it to Barnabas Hughes and his wife Elizabeth. Lowry sold the tavern and land to the couple in 1753.

Barnabas Hughes was also from County Donegal, Ireland, emigrating in 1748 and taking property in Lancaster the following year.⁴⁵ The Sign of the Bear Tavern became the location where goods from Philadelphia were brought for distribution.⁴⁶ Hughes, being Commissary Captain, also readied soldiers and supplies for Fort Hunter and Fort Swatara when the French and Indian War began. Before moving to Baltimore in 1761, Hughes split the original plot around the Sign of the Bear Tavern into smaller lots measuring at 60 feet wide and 165 feet long. Hughes then named the new village "Elizabeth Towne" more than likely in honor of his wife. Hughes dubbed the streets "Market" and "High" and the side alleys "Cherry", "Peach", and "Rose."⁴⁷

³⁰ Book: U, Volume: 58, Page Number: 17, Accessed April 25, 2017.

³¹ Book: U, Volume: 70, Page Number: 546, Accessed April 25, 2017.

³² Book: B, Volume: 87, Page Number: 497, Accessed April 25, 2017.

³³ Book: E, Volume: 95, Page Number: 182, Accessed April 25, 2017.

³⁴ Instrument Number: 3772329, Accessed April 25, 2017.

³⁵ Instrument Number: 5406179, Accessed April 25, 2017.

³⁶ Jones, Will. How to Read Houses: A Crash Course in Domestic Architecture. (New York; Rizzoli, 2014), 123.

³⁷ Ibid., 131.

³⁸ MacMaster, 5.

³⁹ Ibid., 5.

⁴⁰ Westafer, Ray. "Reflections On How It Was In E-Town The Past 60 Years," *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, February 10, 1977, accessed April 25, 2017

⁴¹ MacMaster, 5.

⁴² Benowitz, Jean-Paul, Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour. (Elizabethtoen, PA: Elizabethtown College, 2015), 5.

⁴³ MacMaster, 5.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 19.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Benowitz, 5.

Barnabas's second son, Samuel Hughes, became a successful businessman early on in his life. In 1776, Hughes served as a delegate to the Maryland state convention. He later served as a state senator from 1781-1790. He also acquired half of his father's iron furnace business in Washington County, Maryland. After his time with politics, Hughes opened up his iron works for Congress, making heavy artillery for the new army. Making cannons for the government proved to be profitable as Hughes paid off British investors and was able to buy his bothers' shares of their father's real estate in 1786. The tracts of land he purchased included, the Sign of the Bear Tavern, a 252-acre tract, and 145 adjacent acres.⁴⁸

In 1790, Alexander Boggs purchased the Sign of the Bear Tavern and the land of the northeast border of Elizabethtown as far as High street. He renamed the Sign of the Bear to the Black Bear Tavern.⁴⁹ Boggs continued to live in a two-story log building nearby. Caleb Thornberry lived in the Black Bear Tavern as a tenant in 1798.⁵⁰ By 1801, the Black Bear Tavern had five structures including a two-story stones house, a log barn, a stone shed, a stone stable, and a smith's shop.⁵¹ Boggs also leased the tavern plus the farm to John Wolfley.

In 1809, George Wealand bought the Black Bear Tavern and 138 acres of land from Boggs. Wealand had the land on the east side of Market Street surveyed when he purchased the property. Each lot was valued at \$30 an acre in 1815.⁵² Wealand built a home that same year and went on to serve on the first public school board. George Wealand died in 1816 and was buried at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown.⁵³ In 1817, Wealand's representatives sold the tavern and 132 acres of land to John Redsecker.⁵⁴

John George was a wheelwright and Wealand's son-in-law.⁵⁵ In 1812, he and Michael Axer were elected as deacons for the Christ German Reformed church which had just recently moved to a new location within Elizabethtown.⁵⁶

After the Bear Tavern went out of business, John Bender bought the tavern and 132 acres of land.⁵⁷

Thomas Winnemore was one of four hatters in Elizabethtown in the 1830s. Artisans at this time in Elizabethtown made their products to order. The hatters of the time made felt out of rabbit fur in order to make the fashionable tall hats for men.⁵⁸

Jacob Baxtresser operated a general store out of the currently standing building. Both of his sons, Jacob and George, and a man named Harrison Balmer clerked for him.⁵⁹ In the 1870s, Jacob Baxtresser also operated a store on center square while still operating the first.⁶⁰

Julia Wade, wife of Andrew Wade, donated a stained-glass window in honor of her deceased husband who had died in 1864 to St. Peter's Catholic Church. She also helped to pay for the construction of the belfry.⁶¹

Mary Kalbach, daughter of Andrew and Julia Wade, also donated a window with her husband Dr. Adam Kalbach.⁶² Dr. Kalbach practiced medicine in Elizabethtown and was also the president of the Fifth Wheel Manufacturing Company.⁶³ Dr. Kalbach was also one of the early members of the board of directors for the Elizabethtown Exchange Bank.⁶⁴

John Walmer was a co-chair of the 1952 Kiwanis Farm Fair which boasts the biggest parade for Wednesday night of the fair. The parade included thirty-five marching bands and naval units.⁶⁵

⁴⁸ MacMaster, 47-48.

⁴⁹ Benowitz, 5.

⁵⁰ MacMaster, 54.

⁵¹ Ibid., 60.

⁵² Ibid., 68.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid., 60.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 68.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 80.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 90.

⁵⁸ Ibid., 89.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 108.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 122.

⁶¹ Ibid., 161.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid., 129.

⁶⁴ Ibid., 140.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 244.

Appendix Current Photos:

