Honors 170: Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community

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Buch Residence: 336 South Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



Abstract:

This Queen Anne style house was built between 1868 - 1893 by Addison Buch, proprietor of the Buch Manufacturing Company established in 1870. In 1890 Buch Manufacturing was changed to A. Buch & Sons Agricultural Implements Works and Novelties. Buch was a member of the board of trustees when the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren was established in 1902. Buch deeded land for the establishment of the Elizabethtown Mennonite Church in 1905. Buch and his sons Royer S. and J. Harvey purchased the Benjamin Groff farm to establish Elizabethtown College in 1899. J. Harvey Buch established the College Heights Real Estate Development Company and persuaded the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to the build the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown in 1910.

Property Details:

The Buch family residence is a residential building located on South Market Street in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The address for this property is 336 South Market Street, Elizabethtown. Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds reports the dimensions of the lot as being 50 ft. X 200 ft.; total area of approximately 10,000 square ft.²

Deed Search:

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.³ As early as 1615 Étienne Brûlé (1592-1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County.⁴ Pennsylvania was claimed by

¹ Preliminary research conducted by Megan E. Kuczma.

² Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Instrument Number: 4108067, accessed February 8, 2018, https://searchdocs.lancasterdeeds.com/countyweb/disclaimer.do.

³ Robert Jean Knecht, Francis I (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935), 333-343.

⁴ Consul Willshire Butterfield, <u>History of Brulé's Discoveries and Explorations</u>, 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 <u>Province of Ontario</u> (Cleveland, OH: Herman-Taylor, 1898), 49-51.

Sweden in 1638 and then by the Dutch in 1655. The British claimed the former Dutch holdings in 1674.⁵ British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted William Penn (1644-1718) the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681.⁶ The French and British disputed control of Pennsylvania between 1688-1763.⁷ During this time in 1707 French fur trader Peter Bezaillion (1662-1742) established a settlement between the Conoy and Conwego Creeks along the Susquehanna River.⁸ In 1719 Peter Bezaillion invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River.⁹ Captain Thomas Harris (1695- 1801) settled in Pennsylvania in 1726. In 1730, he built a log cabin along the Conoy Creek and in 1741 he legally received the warrant to the land.¹⁰ Then, in 1745 he built the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which was the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.¹¹

The William Penn family originally owned this land in 1774. ¹² Ownership then transferred to John Sample (10 January 1774 – 1809), ¹³ Leonard Negley (1809 - ?), ¹⁴ - GAP -, John Kuhns Heirs (? – 24 March 1857), ¹⁵ Catharine Kuhns (24 March 1857 – 3 April 1857), ¹⁶ Barbara Kuhns (3 April 1857 – 28 March 1866), ¹⁷ Samuel Eby (28 March 1866 – 2 September 1868), ¹⁸ Addison Buch (2 September 1868 – 3 April 1893), ¹⁹ Emma Elizabeth Buch (3 April 1893 – 22 November 1942), ²⁰ J. Harvey Buch and Grace N. Buch (22 November 1942 – 18 October 1962), ²¹ John Nissley Buch and Mary Buch Hoffman (18 October 1962 – 8 May 1974), ²² Mary B. Hoffman (8 May 1974 – 29 October 1993), ²³ Martha P. Hess and Todd R. Hess (29 October 1993 – 15 June 2013), ²⁴ Charles E. Augello (15 June 2013 – 27 August 2015), ²⁵ and Steven C. Smith and Elizabeth N. Smith. ²⁶

Architectural Style

This homestead is known as a Queen Anne and main principle for this style was to establish a structure which held certain elements from styles of yesteryear, such as details from the earlier parts of the Victorian and Romantic eras. Queen Anne architecture depict the combination of picturesque also known as the romantic movement of the nineteenth century. The premise of this architecture is the decorative nature and variety that is

⁵ Randall M. Miller, ed., <u>Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth</u> (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2002), 50-60.

⁶ Jean R. Soderlund, <u>William Penn and the Founding of Pennsylvania</u>, 1680-1684: <u>A Documentary History</u> (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1983), 39-50.

⁷ Henry Meclchior Muhlenberg Richards, <u>The Pennsylvania-Germans in the French and Indian War: A Historical Sketch Prepared at the Request of the Pennsylvania-German Society</u> (Lancaster: The Pennsylvania German Society, 1905), 16-22.

⁸ David L. Martin, <u>A Clash of Cultures: Native Americans and Colonialism in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania</u> (Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2010), 21-23.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Richard K. MacMaster, <u>Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries</u> (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1999), 5. ¹¹ Ibid., 8.

¹² Cygnet House Deed History, Winters Heritage House Museum and the Seibert Genealogical Library and Research Center papers.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: Q, Volume 12, Page Number: 47, accessed February 8, 2018, https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx.

²⁰ Book: K, Volume 14, Page Number: 591.

²¹ Book: Y, Volume 35, Page Number: 26.

²² Book: F, Volume 52, Page Number: 71.

²³ Book: G, Volume 65, Page Number: 156.

²⁴ Instrument Number: 4108067.

²⁵ Instrument Number: 6086100.

²⁶ Instrument Number: 6244461.

embedded in the style and with that there was little attempt to stay true to any one particular style or historical detailing.²⁷

This two-story Queen Anne style house was built between 1893 and 1942. ²⁸²⁹ The house features a large, wraparound porch and double-sashed windows. ³⁰ A bay window covers the front left corner of the house, and a round French turret and dormer sit atop the steep, gabled roof. Some ornamentation is noticeable in the gable above the porch, and transom lights are fixed above the front door. ³¹ In classic Queen Anne style, the front of the house is asymmetrical. ³² Patterned shingles adorn the roof and half timbering decorates the windows. ³³ The other feature that is typical in American architecture is the dormer window which is located in the top middle of the structure. ³⁴

Historical Context and Purpose

On the upper reaches of Conoy creek, which is located in the western part of Elizabethtown, several German families soon became the first early settlers of Elizabethtown. On the eastern and southern parts of Elizabethtown, other German families settled in these lands as well. Leonard Negely was one of those families who located in the eastern and southern part of Elizabethtown. He and a group of other families launched an expansion for German settlement in lands which were once Scotch-Irish territory. Prior to the German expansion, the Scotch-Irish discovered expansion was a profitable source so many of them sold their property and purchased land located in Cumberland County, which is just across the Susquehanna River.³⁵ Many of the farms located within two or three miles of the Bear Tavern were owned by Swiss or German born families. In May 1751, a Scotch-Irish property owner named John Wilson sold 307 acres, which conjoined with the land where the Bear Tavern was located, to Leonard and Jacob Negely. These kinds of land transfers between Scotch-Irish landowners to German Families was ongoing for over the twenty years. In February 1759, the Lancaster County court acquired a petition from the "Inhabitants of the Township of Donigal" who requested the township they live in be divided. This led to a proposal which supported the creation of a certain road which would run from Lancaster to Harris' Ferry and this would serve as a line divider. The proposed road would split the township into two parts, north and south, where the north side starting at Chickies Creek, which is in Donegal, and stop to a certain run of water which crosses at the property of Leonard Negely. The south side of the proposed road would run from the property of Leonard Negely, which was in Mount Joy, to the Conewaga Creek.³⁶ Leonard Negely was just one of several members of the Blaser's Reformed Church.³⁷ Leonard Negely was a lay leader of the Blaser's Reformed Church congregation, who earned the position of treasurer, and served from 1779 to 1782.³⁸ In October 1790, Samuel Hughes sold 139 acres to Leonard Negely which was adjacent to land owned by John Black and David Chambers. Samuel Hughes sold all of his land by selling various tracts of land to other individuals in Donegal and Mount Joy Townships which neighbors Elizabethtown on the west, northeast, and east sides.³⁹ The sons of the farmers who lived in the bordering areas began to move into Elizabethtown. The farm of Leonard Negely was encompassed along the length of Negely's Run and was located on the opposite side of Elizabethtown. Where the

http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/queen-anne.html (accessed April 30, 2018).

²⁷ Carol Cragoe, <u>How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles</u>. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008),

²⁸ Book: Q, Volume 12, Page Number: 47.

²⁹ Book: K, Volume 14, Page Number: 591.

³⁰ Will Jones, <u>How to Read Houses: A crash course in domestic architecture</u> (Brighton, U.K.: The Ivy Press Limited, 2013), 163.

³¹ Ibid., 159, 163.

³² Ibid. 158.

³³ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. "Queen Anne Style 1880-1910." Phmc.state.pa.us.

³⁴ Will Jones, How to Read Houses: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008), 111.

³⁵ MacMaster, 9.

³⁶ Ibid., 19.

³⁷ Ibid., 32.

³⁸ Ibid., 47.

³⁹ Ibid., 49.

Christ United Church of Christ is now located is land which was a part of Negely's Farm and he donated the plot of land to the present congregation in which is still currently on.⁴⁰ The Reformed Church in Elizabethtown was built by Leonard Negely and George Redsecker.⁴¹ Leonard Negely was a Shoemaker.⁴²

Samuel Eby relocated to Elizabethtown in 1853 and he originally lived in Leacock Township. His primary occupation was to teach school but later created his own business as a surveyor and conveyancer who drafted deeds and other legal papers. The office that he worked at is still-standing in the building at the northwest corner of Poplar and West High Streets. In 1858, he joined the board of directors of the Middletown bank. ⁴³ In 1861 and 1862, Samuel Eby served as president for the Friendship Fire Company. However, this is known as the time when the company "evidently went out of existence." On September 1862, Eby served as a unit for the 16th Pennsylvania militia which was quickly established to a force against an emergency at the time. Eby still chose to fight even though he was raised as a Mennonite. Afterwards, in 1865, Samuel Eby married Elizabeth who was the daughter of Abram Collins. When the Farmers' Bank of Elizabethtown was first opened in 1869, Eby served as a Cashier. ⁴⁵ In 1869, Samuel Eby established and organized the Farmers' Bank. A bank was not introduced prior to the establishment of the Farmers' Bank thus making Eby's bank the first in Elizabethtown. ⁴⁶ The Farmer's bank of Elizabethtown had to close their doors on January 10, 1885 due to a high amount of debt, a total of \$26,399.01, which led to a lack of confidence on the bank thus leading to the collapse of the bank. ⁴⁷ Samuel Eby served as Justice of the Peace in 1864 and in 1875. ⁴⁸

In 1868, Addison Buch moved to Elizabethtown and began his company which was called "A. Buch and Sons" at the time. The location of Elizabethtown was a quality spot for Addison Buch since the town was a stop on the mainline of the railroad and that Harrisburg and Lancaster were close by, only 18 miles away. This allowed his products to be transported on the railroad and shipped to any city in America.⁴⁹ In 1870, Addison Buch and Benjamin G. Groff became the original partners for the Buch, Groff, and Nissley machine shop that was located on the west side of South Market Street. Addison Buch and Benjamin G. Groff traveled to Elizabethtown in seeking the creation of equipment that would be used in Agriculture production. One year after their arrival, they would soon fabricate machines that were used for threshing, rakes that would be used for horses, and other tools such as fodder cutters in that would be sold for \$4,500. Their provided jobs for thirteen individuals and completed their work by the application of a steam engine that served as a source of power and was the only one located in Elizabethtown.⁵⁰ The Buch families were members in the Church of the Brethren, which were called the German Baptist Brethren or the Dunkers at the time, and served for the White Oak congregation, that can be linked back to the eighteenth century who were the first settlers in Weiseichenland, in an area that was close to Manheim. 51 Before Elizabethtown's Church of the Brethren on Washington Street was constructed in 1888, members from the White Oak, such as Addison Buch, and Chiques Brethren congregations in Manheim bought Mechanic Street School in 1874 and used the building as a Brethren church.⁵² Addison Buch and Joseph G. Heisey owned an agricultural implement factory and in 1876, a fire broke out and destroyed the foundry and machine shop which was located on South Market Street and Union Street, which is currently College Avenue. After the incident, the company was able to reorganize itself and rebuilt their factory. Buch and Heisey put forth \$20,000 for the

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⁴⁰ Ibid., 70.

⁴¹ Ibid., 80.

⁴² Ibid., 89.

⁴³ Ibid., 121.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 113.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 121.

⁴⁶ Jean-Paul Benowitz, <u>Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour</u> (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown College, 2015), 28.

⁴⁷ MacMaster, 138.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 301.

⁴⁹ Michelle Strunge, "Focus on Elizabethtown," *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, October 30, 1997.

⁵⁰ MacMaster, 122.

⁵¹ Ibid., 124.

⁵² Jean-Paul Benowitz, <u>Images of America: Elizabethtown</u>, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing), 2015, 28.

rebuilding of the business as well as employed 10 men in 1880. The factory was created to give thought to an older tradition of making goods to fill orders. 10 years later, A. Buch and Sons was established with the unification of J. Harvey Buch and Royer S. Buch who decided to join their father in the business. In 1885, Addison Buch bought 38 acres that was located on the Northside of College Avenue, which was then called Union Street at the time, from South Market Street to Chestnut Street. This tract of land was once a piece of the Joseph Boyer farm. Over the next several years. Addison Buch began to divide pieces of his land in building lots and sell them.⁵³ In 1900, the company erected a new factory on South Market Street and Cherry Street. 54 A. Buch and Sons modified their business to newer, American, methods of Business. Their company created a variety of agricultural appliances such as lawn and farm tools but discovered a vocation in the market for wheelbarrows. This became the primary production at the Buch factory and they created them in all shapes and sizes ranging from a small model for boys to a heavy-duty model for farm work.⁵⁵ When the founders of Elizabethtown College were deciding where they wanted to begin the construction of their college, there were two sites located on either side of Elizabethtown that interested them. Their decision resulted on ten acres that was owned by Benjamin G. Groff and sold for \$150 an acre. Addison Buch accepted to purchase one-third of the land, with his sons, Royer S. Buch and J. Harvey Buch, agreeing to pay for another one-third of the land, and with the last one-third of the land being gifted from Benjamin G. Groff. The groundbreaking for the first building of the College was on July 10, 1900.⁵⁶ In 1902, Addison Buch become a trustee for the newly discovered Elizabethtown congregation in the Church of the Brethren that was established the same year.⁵⁷ He was also one of the founders of the Elizabethtown Exchange Bank. 58 The Buch's Eagle lawn swing won bronze awards in 1904 at the St. Louis World's Fair and in 1907 at Tercentennial Exposition in Jamestown, Virginia. ⁵⁹ The agricultural machinery produced by the Buch family was distributed nationwide. 60

J. Harvey Buch served as a board member for the Elizabethtown Exchange Bank which was newly built and first opened on March 8th, 1887 and was located on 244 South Market Street. Before the bank was erected, 244 South Market Street was once the office of the Farmer's Bank. 61 J. Harvey Buch purchased the Alwine Farm at an auction sale on December 19, 1908, for \$18,400. Buch wasted no time in developing the Alwine Farm. 62 Isaac W. Hoffman and J. Harvey Buch initiated the Buch-Hoffman Reality Company for this purpose. 63 Buch received the title to the farm on March 1909 and instantly spoke with borough council about his plan to annex the ninety-four acres of the Alwine farm and create a subdivision with 440 building lots, streets, and alleys. Buch lived long enough to witness the last lot in his development be sold. When the land was surveyed in 1909, 220 houses, an apartment house, and the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches had been constructed on these lots. In May 1926, J. Harvey Buch introduced another subdivision within Elizabethtown that would be sixty building lots along East Bainbridge Street between South Spruce and South Chestnut Streets. 64 Another subdivision in Elizabethtown would not be established until 1946. This was due to a national decline of building trades and their suppliers that began in 1926. When the Great Depression hit in 1929, the collapsing of the national economy almost completely froze real estate and home building until the economy was in better condition. 65 In 1906, citizens of Elizabethtown attempted to introduce a sewer system and J. Harvey Buch served as a passionate advocate for the adoption of this new system. However, the plan was turned down and failed in both 1906 and in

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⁵³ MacMaster, 153.

⁵⁴ Benowitz, <u>Images of America: Elizabethtown</u>, 53.

⁵⁵ MacMaster, 126.

⁵⁶ Benowitz, <u>Images of America: Elizabethtown</u>, 80.

⁵⁷ MacMaster, 200.

⁵⁸ Benowitz, A Walking Tour, 47.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 40.

⁶⁰ Jean-Paul Benowitz, Images of America: Elizabethtown (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 47.

⁶¹ MacMaster, 139-140.

⁶² Ibid., 177-179.

⁶³ Benowitz, Images of America: Elizabethtown, 41.

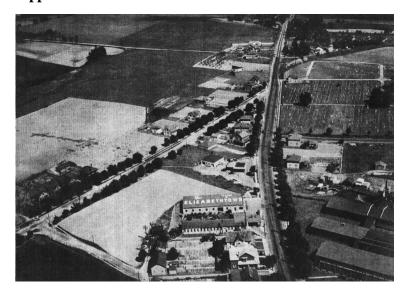
⁶⁴ MacMaster, 177-179.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 207.

1916. The reform was not adopted until December of 1925 which the entire project costed a half of a million dollars. 66 Serving as a Councilman in Elizabethtown, J. Harvey Buch convinced the founders of both Elizabethtown College and the Masonic Village to locate their businesses in Elizabethtown. He argued that the location of the town was ideal since "eighteen miles from Harrisburg, eighteen miles from Lancaster, eighteen miles from Lebanon, eighteen miles from York, six miles from the Susquehanna River and on the Pennsylvania Railroad."⁶⁷ Once J. Harvey Buch received the sale of the Alwine Farm, he established a reality company which became known as the Buch-Hoffman Company. Surveyor H. K. Ober was approached to survey and plot a section of land that began from College Avenue and south to Plum Street. He then estimated that this first plot of land could be divided up into 265 lots with the dimension of 30 feet front and 150 feet deep. The 94-acre farm was purchased by the late J. Harvey Buch at the sale Saturday, December 19, 1908 for \$18,400- almost \$200 per acre with was considered to be a fair price for farmland.⁶⁸ He and several citizens provided "free gratis" the necessary land that the officials of the proposed institution needed. The section where the college is built now was once farmland. College officials started developing on the tract of land donated by J. Harvey Buch and alpha hall was completed. This launched the development of a survey by the "College Heights Development Company." This led to the creation of six streets and the planning of 265 lots which was completed under the control of H. K. Ober who, at the time, was conducting substantial engineering projects within the borough. In 1909, a survey was made, as lots began to sell immediately with lot number one which was located the south corner of Cherry Alley and College Avenue. 32 lots were established which fronted on College Avenue, between Cherry Alley and Mount Joy street. J. Harvey. Buch was one of the supported the progress of this work and continued supporting the cause by approaching the borough council to accept this territory between College Avenue and Ridge Road. The accepted area was then plotted between Mount Joy and Market Streets to the Ridge Road thus creating a total of 460 lots. The majority of what was once the Boyer and Groff farms now served as a residential section.⁶⁹

John Nissley Buch was the grandson of J. Harvey and Royer S. Buch. 70 Furthermore, Buch served as a member of the Elizabethtown Borough Council in 1999. 71

Appendix: Historical Photos:





⁶⁶ MacMaster, 213-214.

⁶⁷ Benowitz, <u>Images of America: Elizabethtown</u>, 71

⁶⁸ H. E. Reem, Sr. *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, January 14, 1960.

⁶⁹ H. E. Reem, Sr. "Elizabethtown 125 Years Old Sunday," Elizabethtown Chronicle, April 11th, 1952.

⁷⁰ MacMaster, 127.

⁷¹ Ibid., 296.













Appendix: Current Photos:













