

## Clinton and Falkenstein Shop and Residence: 39 South Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



### Abstract:

This Federal style house and store was purchased by Joseph Clinton in 1842. Later, Jacob M. Galebach bought the property and sold it to Reverend George Ness Falkenstein. Falkenstein moved to Elizabethtown from Germantown, PA to aid in the establishment of Elizabethtown College. Falkenstein taught classes and was the president of the college for about a year. Falkenstein bought 39 South Market in 1904, which functioned as the college bookstore. He rented out books, sold stationery and school supplies out of the shop and resided with his wife Eva who taught stenography at the college. Irvin A. and Hester G. Shiffer bought the property from Falkenstein in 1915 and used the shop to publish the Elizabethtown Herald newspaper. Currently the property hosts the Chinese restaurant, E-Yuan, owned by Lance Zou.

### Property Details:

The structure at 39 South Market Street, built in 1812, measures to 1,776 ft<sup>2</sup> and the whole property measures to 3,920 ft<sup>2</sup>.

### Deed Search:

The current community of Elizabethtown is situated between the Conoy Creek and the Conewago 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. As early as 1615 Étienne Brûlé (1592-1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County. Pennsylvania was claimed by Sweden in 1638 and then by the Dutch in 1655. The British claimed the former Dutch holdings in 1674. British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted William Penn (1644-1718) the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681. The French and British disputed control of Pennsylvania between 1688-1763. During this time in 1707 French fur trader Peter Bezaillion (1662-1742) established a settlement between the Conoy and Conewago Creeks along the Susquehanna River. In 1719 Peter Bezaillion invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River.

George Wealand owned 238 acres of land that he purchased from Alexander and Ann Boggs February 1809.<sup>1</sup> George Wealand sold the land to Samuel Bailie and his wife later that year.<sup>2</sup> Conrad Smith bought the land March 1812.<sup>3</sup> John Lynch bought the property from Smith.<sup>4</sup> Joseph Clinton bought the property in April 1842.<sup>5</sup> John D. Clinton and wife Sara W. acquired the property from Joseph Clinton and left it to<sup>6</sup> Permelia Youtz in August 1888.<sup>7</sup> Samuel Ebersole bought the property from Youtz in February of 1896.<sup>8</sup> Annie E. Ebersole inherited the property in September of 1900.<sup>9</sup> Jacob M. Galebach bought the property<sup>10</sup> Galebach sold the property to Reverend George Ness Falkenstein April of 1904.<sup>11</sup> Irvin A. and Hester G. Shiffer bought the property from Falkenstein in October of 1915.<sup>12</sup> James J. Doyle bought the property in April 1926.<sup>13</sup> Doyle sold it to W. Mumma,<sup>14</sup> and Mumma granted the property to Shearers Furniture Store Inc. in November of 1975.<sup>15</sup> Robert R. and Virginia Melhorn bought the property from the Shearers in September of 1982.<sup>16</sup> David L. Hawthorne and Paul E. Fick bought from the Melhorns and sold to Robert L. Gruber, Louis J. Ulrich III, Robert English, Leslie and Leslie E. Brosius in February 2005.<sup>17</sup> Lance Zou bought the shop from Gruber, Ulrich, English and Brosius in March 2010.<sup>18</sup> Zou is the current owner.<sup>19</sup>

### **Architectural Style Report:**

The building on 39 South Market Street was built in the Federal style. Neoclassical style, also known as Federal in the United States, was a result of the 19th century revival of classic styles with a strong influence of Greek and Roman aesthetics.<sup>20</sup> It was appreciated for its functionalism and simplification of the elaborate Mediterranean design, while remaining aesthetically pleasing. Neoclassical designs are distinctly associated with pillars, porticos, and pitched roofs.<sup>21</sup> The shop at 33 South Market, represents the Federal style with its pitched roof,<sup>22</sup> rectangular windows, the divided display windows, the portico over the entrance, as well as the shuttered windows, an attribute that is commonly associated with Georgian style which commonly overlaps into the Federalist style.<sup>23</sup>

### **Historical Context and Purpose:**

George Wealand owned 238 acres of land that he purchased from Alexander and Ann Boggs February 1809.<sup>24</sup> He also owned the old Bear Tavern. Wealand died in 1816 and left 132 acres and the tavern to his oldest son of ten children.<sup>25</sup> Samuel Bailee who worked as a shoemaker purchased Lot No. 2 from George Wealand in

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<sup>1</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: 1, Page Number 120, <http://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries. (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 2000), 68.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Book: 2, Page Number: 168

<sup>7</sup> Book: B, Volume 13, Page Number: 288.

<sup>8</sup> Book: B, Volume 13, Page Number: 288.

<sup>9</sup> Book: K, Volume 16, Page Number: 320.

<sup>10</sup> Book: T, Volume 17, Page Number: 10.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Book: Z, Volume 27, Page Number: 246.

<sup>13</sup> Book: X, Volume 28, Page Number: 408.

<sup>14</sup> Book: B, Volume 67, Page Number: 493.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Book: B, Volume 72, Page Number 326

<sup>17</sup> Book: N, Volume 85, Page Number: 36823

<sup>18</sup> Instrument Number: 05397868

<sup>19</sup> Instrument Number: 58475773

<sup>20</sup> Carol Davidson Cragoe, How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles. New York: Rizzoli, 2008.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Will Jones, How to Read Houses: A Crash Course in Domestic Architecture. New York: Rizzoli, 2013.

<sup>24</sup> Book: 1, Page Number 120.

<sup>25</sup> MacMaster, 68.

1810.<sup>26</sup> In March of 1812, Conrad Smith bought the land from Bailee in 1812.<sup>27</sup> Smith sold the property to John Lynch.

John Lynch was born in Dauphin County, and was baptized in 1810.<sup>28</sup> His father, Denis Lynch, a devout catholic was born in Ireland, was an active member of the church.<sup>29</sup> John Lynch was involved in the establishment of the first catholic church of Elizabethtown, Saint Peter's Church.<sup>30</sup> The day the first stone of the church was lain, 30 May 1799, John Lynch was one of several individuals who agreed that "no trustee or member of the congregation ever have the right to... hinder in the Lord's service in this newly-built church".<sup>31</sup> The statement was a written promise not to conflict with the bishop's decisions by interfering whatsoever with the employment processes of pastors appointed at the church. This statement was put into place as a result of issues that had occurred at other churches during the 18th century.<sup>32</sup>

He was elected as secretary of the Union Fire Company. The establishment of the fire company was prompted by a fire that burned down a barn behind the Black Horse Inn in January of 1836.<sup>33</sup> When the Union Fire company was turned into the Friendship Fire Company Lynch remained as secretary.<sup>34</sup> Lynch bought building at 18-20 Market Street from Jacob Hoffman and ran it as a general store in 1833. In 1848, Lynch was appointed as U.S. Postmaster. His store was used as the post office until 1852.<sup>35</sup> Lynch was also politically active in the community; he was a delegate to a National Harrison and Tyler Convention, in Baltimore 1840. He joined in the rally for Harrison and Tyler, supporters of the Whig Party in August 1840.<sup>36</sup> He owned a brick yard circa 1859.<sup>37</sup> Lynch established the first insurance company in Elizabethtown along with his brother-in-law, James Wilson in 1851. The business was named The Farmer's and Mechanic's Mutual Insurance Company of Elizabethtown. John was the president of the company, James was the vice president and George Byrod secretary.<sup>38</sup> He and his family donated altar furnishings to St. Peter's Catholic church for the centennial celebration in 1899. Lynch was the second highest taxpayer in Elizabethtown, along with Adam Gross, they both paid \$3,000 in taxes each year.<sup>39</sup>

The deed to the property was transferred to Joseph's relatives, John D. and Sara W. Clinton in April 1842.<sup>40</sup> John worked as a teaching assistant to Dr. Daniel Dobler. Dobler was a Baltimore native, with no formal medical training, after working in a drugstore he became a practicing physician at 28 and then in 1844 at 42 years old he decided to teach at the schoolhouse adjacent to the Lutheran Church.<sup>41</sup>

Permelia Youtz, the daughter of Matilda Youtz, and granddaughter of Joseph Clinton, acquired the property in August 1888. Samuel Ebersole bought the property from Youtz in August of 1888. As well as 39 South Market, he also owned a feed store on the center square during the 1870s.<sup>42</sup> Ebersole granted the property in his will, to his daughter Annie Ebersole in February of 1896. Jacob M. Galebach bought the shop from Annie E. Ebersole in September of 1900.<sup>43</sup> Reverend George Ness Falkenstein purchased 39 South Market from Galebach in 1904.<sup>44</sup>

Falkenstein graduated from Juniata College in 1882. Then attended Oberlin College, Mount Morris College and the University of Michigan. Falkenstein was a pastor at the Germantown Church of the Brethren

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> MacMaster, 92.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 51-52.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 87-89.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 92.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 98-99.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 108.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 109.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 107.

<sup>40</sup> Book: 2, Page Number: 168.

<sup>41</sup> MacMaster, 101

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 122.

<sup>43</sup> Book: K, Volume 16, Page Number: 320.

<sup>44</sup> Book: T, Volume 17, Page Number: 210

outside of Philadelphia. He was contacted when community members of Elizabethtown decided to establish the college, and they sought out active Brethren from around the state. After the founders settled on the location, at Benjamin Groff's farm, Falkenstein was elected as secretary of the committee to decide next steps to establish Elizabethtown College. He and his wife Eva moved from Germantown to Elizabethtown to join the college faculty. He helped to design the college's first building, Alpha Hall, with architect A. A. Richter in 1899 and by 1901 the building was erect. Falkenstein was the president and the only professor during the first year of classes.<sup>45</sup> He taught history, government, literature, Bible, psychology, and pedagogy.<sup>46</sup> His wife, Eva, taught stenography.<sup>47</sup> Bad health forced him to resign from Elizabethtown College as principal in 1902. Although he was no longer a member of the faculty he was still highly involved, he was the secretary on the Board of Trustees until 1903.<sup>48</sup> After his resignation he ran a book and stationery store out of 39 South Market street, where all of the college students would rent their books and buy supplies until 1915.<sup>49</sup> During his time in Elizabethtown he published several works, including "a History of the German Baptist Brethren Church", "History of the Brethren Church", "First History of Elizabethtown College", the Elizabethtown College Constitution, as well as the Elizabethtown Catalogue.<sup>50</sup> Due to his unrelenting contribution and support for the college he was named an honorary Doctor of Divinity on November 20, 1948.<sup>51</sup> During his leisure time Falkenstein took photographs and made post cards that show life in Elizabethtown during his life.

Falkenstein sold the property to Irvin A. Shiffer and his wife Hester G., in October of 1915.<sup>52</sup> Shiffer was the publisher of the Elizabethtown Herald and moved the publication headquarters to 39 Market shop. He continued to use the shop to sell stationery, school supplies, cameras, phonographs, records, pianos, piano rolls and sheet music. In the rear of the property, Shiffer had a printing press which he used to print the Herald.<sup>53</sup> Although in 1924 Shiffer suspended the newspaper.<sup>54</sup> Before he sold the property to James J. Doyle in April of 1926,<sup>55</sup> he rented out the rear space with the printing press to Earl Kuhn, who later bought the printing press.<sup>56</sup> Kuhn was a member of the Elizabethtown Lions Club in 1956.<sup>57</sup>

In November of 1975, the property was granted to Shearers Furniture Store Inc. by the Commonwealth National Bank, from a W. G. Mumma's estate after his death.<sup>58</sup> It was a furniture store until 1977, when Robert R. Melhorn and his wife Virginia purchased the shop.<sup>59</sup> David L. Hawthorne and Paul E Fick bought the property from the Melhorns in October 1982.<sup>60</sup> In February of 2005, Robert L. Gruber, Louis J. Ulrich III, Robert English, Leslie and Leslie E. Brosius Partnership purchased the space for \$475,000.<sup>61</sup> In 2010, the current owner, Lance Zou, bought the shop for \$395,000, and the space now functions as a Chinese food restaurant.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> MacMaster, 164-165.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 169.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Benowitz, Jean-Paul, 2015.

<sup>49</sup> MacMaster, 169.

<sup>50</sup> Benowitz, Jean-Paul, 2015.

<sup>51</sup> Benowitz, Jean-Paul, and Peter J. DePuydt, 2014.

<sup>52</sup> Book: Z, Volume: 27, Page Number: 246.

<sup>53</sup> Benowitz, 2015.

<sup>54</sup> MacMaster, 192.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., 246.

<sup>58</sup> Book: B, Volume 67, Page Number: 493.

<sup>59</sup> Book: 72, Page Number: 326.

<sup>60</sup> Book: N, Volume 85, Page Number: 36823

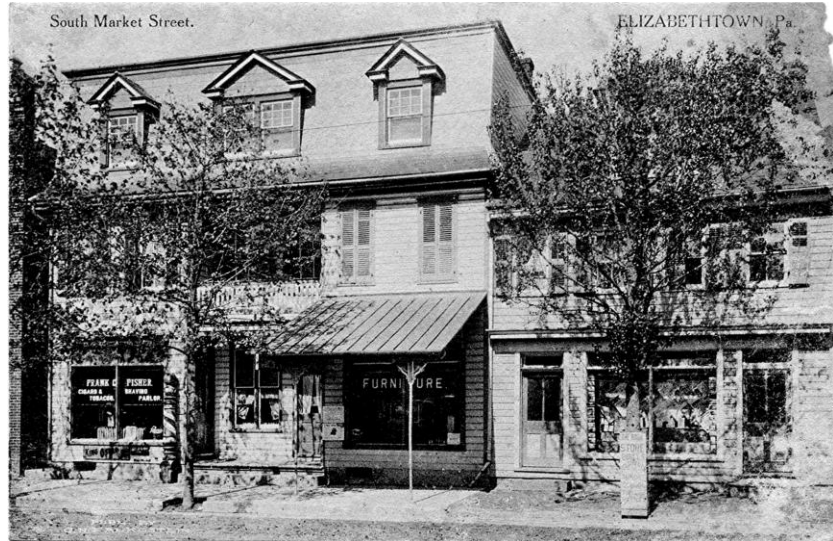
<sup>61</sup> Instrument Number: 05397868

<sup>62</sup> Instrument Number: 5847573

**Appendix Historical Photos:**



*Reverend George Ness Falkenstein and wife Eva.*



*Elizabethtown College in 1906  
On the left is Rider Memorial Hall built 1905  
and Alpha Hall built 1901.*



*Groundbreaking for Alpha Hall 1899.*

Appendix Current Photos:

