



Elizabethtown College Honors senior student Jennifer Lloyd, social studies secondary education major with a political science minor and Jean-Paul Benowitz, who teaches local history courses for the Honors program, documenting the architectural details of the campus for the Arc GIS story map.



Elizabethtown College students who worked on documenting the area's history are, top row: Joseph Rue, Kory Trout, Ken Wallace, Ramon R. Rios III and Joseph Santos. Bottom row: Zach Gibbons, Robert Yahara, Olivia LoGiurato, Aubrey Mitchell, Lizzie Miller, Jennifer Lloyd. Not pictured: Robert Pavlik, Emil Brandau, Riley McGinley.

## College Students Document Architectural History

By JEAN-PAUL BENOWITZ  
and RAMON RIOS III

Students from Elizabethtown College, enrolled in the course Honors 170: Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community, taught by Jean-Paul Benowitz, have created an electronic story map, available to the general public which features the architecture and history of Elizabethtown Borough. Students in this class conducted research which contributed to the creation of a comprehensive architectural index of building types, engineering technologies, and landscape designs within Elizabethtown.

The information about Elizabethtown's "built environment" is being shared with scholars and the general public. The students' research findings have been integrated into an online, interactive Geographical Information Systems Story Map. This electronic story map is accessible through the internet.

Also on the Elizabethtown College on the Honors Webpage is an electronic historic story map, designed by students in the course History 379 Tutorial: Architectural History of Elizabethtown College, taught by Jean-Paul Benowitz, exclusively about the architecture and history of Elizabethtown College.

This project has been done in collaboration with the Architectural Historian for Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Engineering District 8. Transportation projects in Pennsylvania, under the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, are developed in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration. Both agencies work with consulting parties, including local governments and other individuals and organizations who display demonstrated interest in projects.

Elizabethtown College has been partnering with PennDOT. Students have been acquiring information through archival research, architectural observations, and biographical information. This information is being presented as a historic walking tour which can be used regarding PennDOT projects to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on properties considered historically

significant.

The research findings of the students will be helpful for public works projects in Elizabethtown. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1968 Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq. requires federal agencies to evaluate the impact of all federally funded or permitted projects on historic properties (buildings, archaeological sites, etc.) through a process known as Section 106 Review. Related to the NHPA students' research findings can be helpful for historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, and/or other recognition through the State Historic Preservation Offices.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 15, 1966, mandates federal agencies undergo a review process for all federally funded and permitted projects which could cause potential harm or damage to historic properties. Historic properties include any district, site, building, structure, or object included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register, serves as the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation. This electronic story map is serving as a walking tour featuring historic sites in Elizabethtown, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

This project is loosely based on Charles E. Peterson (1906-2004) creator of the academic discipline and practice of historic preservation. In 1933, through the National Park Service, under Peterson's supervision, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration employed architects to document "America's antique buildings." In 1934 the Historic American Building Survey was created as a permanent program of the National Parks Service and was formally authorized by Congress as part of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. The Historic American Engineering Record was created in 1969 to parallel HABS. The Historic American Landscape Survey was established in 2000 to document historic landscapes.

This course is based, in part, on

the National Collegiate Honors Council's Signature Program "The City As Text" where students immerse themselves in the local community exploring the culture and geography of the local neighborhood. Students are challenged to be sensitive and reflect about the human experience in the local built environment. Through City As Text Honors students explore the architectural landscape of the neighborhood, conduct research in repositories of the public record i.e. libraries or archives, and then interface with local residents. Books read, images acquired, sounds heard, tastes and smells ingested, and conversations with local residents all become materials contributing to the students experience about not only how much is normally missed in an ordinary day of one's life but also how much might be seen and heard.

City As Text is an active learning approach helping students regard the world as a book to be read and to see their journey through it as a cartographer's task of charting the personal paths they take to uncover and discover the local environment around them. Students have documented historic structures and landscapes in Elizabethtown according to Peterson's list: public buildings, churches, residences, bridges, barns, rural outbuildings, mills, shops, and "any other kind of structure of which there are good specimens extant...other structures which would not engage the especial interest of an architectural connoisseur are the great number of plain structures which by fate or accident are identified with historic events."

The research and writing component of this project was based largely on the use of primary sources. The student engaged in historic research field work. They visited the Archives of Lancaster County, Lancaster County Court House, Lancaster Historical Society (now known as LancasterHistory.org); Lancaster County Preservation Trust, the Elizabethtown Historical Society; Winters Heritage House Museum, Seibert Library and Research Center, Elizabethtown Preservationist Associates, Inc.; the Elizabethtown College High Library, Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives and Special Collections, and local

courthouses in Lancaster and surrounding counties. Students presented their research findings at a symposium sponsored by the college called Scholarship and Creative Arts Days held on April 25, 2017 and Scholarship Creative Arts and Research Projects on July 28, 2017.

This comprehensive architectural index of building types, engineering technologies, and landscape designs within Elizabethtown provides important documentation. Buildings and engineering structures are large objects not easily maintained or preserved once they have outlived their functional or economic usefulness. Documentation becomes an alternative means of preservation when demolition is inevitable. Documentation is also a primary tool for the stewardship of historic structures, whether for day-to-day care or as a protection from catastrophic loss.

Writing in 1933, Peterson argued, "Our architectural heritage of buildings diminishes daily at an alarming rate. The ravages of fire and the natural elements together with the demolition and alterations by real-estate 'improvements' form an inexorable tide of destruction destined to wipe out the great majority of the buildings which knew the beginning and first flourish of the nation. It is the responsibility of the American people that if the great number of our antique buildings must disappear through economic causes, they should not pass into unrecorded oblivion." This research project is consistent with the motto of Elizabethtown College: "Educate for Service."

Jean-Paul Benowitz is a historian and Elizabethtown College's director of student transition programs and prestigious scholarships and fellowships. Ramon Rios III is a 2017 graduate of Elizabethtown College who was a social studies secondary education major and political science minor.

Interactive story map online:  
<http://tinyurl.com/etownmap1>

Map on college honors website:  
<http://tinyurl.com/etownmap2>

Architectural history of college:  
<http://tinyurl.com/etownmap3>