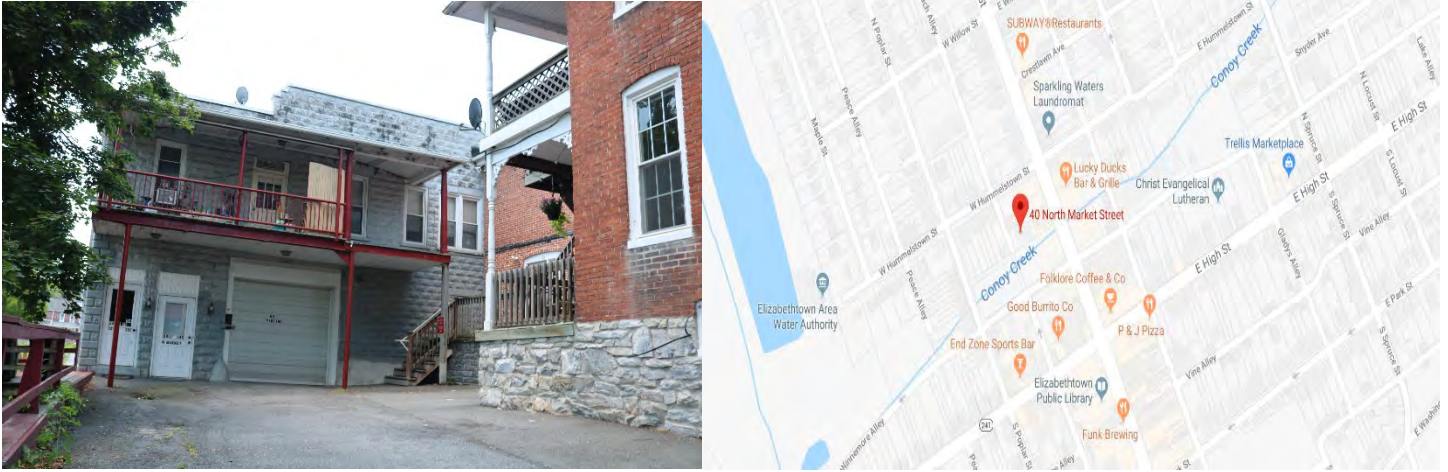


Forney Garage: 40 North Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania**Abstract:**

This Commercial building, an auto mechanic garage, was built in circa 1900. It served for nearly 50 years as the Robert H. Forney Chrysler-Plymouth auto dealership. One of the earliest national retail dealers for Chrysler-Plymouth. Forney's garage was started nearby in a horse shed on Peach Alley. Since he was 16 years old, Forney designed, built, and raced sports cars. He also chauffeured people on road trips in the years prior to auto ownership being commonplace. The showroom for Forney's dealership was south of Conoy Creek attached to the gas station owned by the Keller and later the Lutz families.

Property Details:

The former Forney Chrysler Garage and current Ray Bowers Auto Furniture Upholstery building sits on the lot with the address of 40 North Market Street, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The lot has dimensions of 16' along North Market Street, 198' along the Conoy Creek, 100' along Peach Alley, 78' bordering the lot of 56 North Market Street, 40' bordering the back side of the lot of 50 North Market Street, 24' bordering the side of the lot of 50 North Market Street, 40' bordering the back side of the lot of 42-46-48 North Market Street, and 96.5' along the side of the lot of 42-46-48 North Market Street, containing a total area of 10765 square feet.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 Jaques 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 Timothy J. Witmer.

² Lancaster County GIS Division, Search Parcels, Address, 40 N Market Street, accessed 20 February 2018, https://gis.co.lancaster.pa.us/mox6/public.cfm?action=mox6_view_interface&CFID=145875&CFTOKEN=cb3a63639ef3ff93-BAECD400-900C-1FA3-D943C35276ED8DB4.

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

⁴ 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.

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 amidst 1688-1763.⁷ 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.⁸ In 1719, Peter Bezaillon 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. In 1741, he legally owned the land and built a stone house in 1745.¹⁰ Then, in 1745, he built the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which was the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.¹¹

Deeds to the property date all the way back to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who possessed the lot prior to 1 July 1791. The chain of ownership since includes Leonard Negely (1 July 1791),¹² Samuel Balmer (1 July 1791 – 9 November 1844),¹³ Henry Gingrich (9 November 1844 – 11 April 1855),¹⁴ Andrew Wade (11 April 1855 – 14 November 1857),¹⁵ Henry A. Wade (14 November 1857 – 2 April 1884),¹⁶ Martin G. Keller (2 April 1884 – 26 August 1905),¹⁷ Frank Dissinger (26 August 1905 – 1 April 1915),¹⁸ Simon G. Bishop (1 April 1915 – 7 January 1935),¹⁹ Vere Bishop (7 January 1935),²⁰ Simon G. Bishop (7 January 1935 – 27 February 1935),²¹ Vere Bishop (27 February 1935 – 2 March 1935),²² Simon B. Bishop (2 March 1935 – 10 December 1955),²³ Sara E. Bishop (10 December 1955 – July 1963),²⁴ Samuel R. Jones (July 1963 – 10 October 1963),²⁵ Charles E. Roland and Harry G. Reese (10 October 1963 – 31 July 1964, 28 August 1968 – 26 May 1962),^{26,27} Allentown Apartments (31 July 1964 – 1 July 1966),²⁸ Ben G. Helsel & Sons, Inc. (1 July 1966 – 28 August 1968),²⁹ J.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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, 1982), 39-50.

⁷ 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.

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

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1999), 5.

¹¹ Ibid., 8.

¹² Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: A, Volume: 9, Page Number: 34, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Book: D, Volume: 12, Page Number: 108.

¹⁷ Book: K, Volume: 18, Page Number: 3.

¹⁸ Book: C, Volume: 23, Page Number: 148.

¹⁹ Book: W, Volume: 31, Page Number: 557.

²⁰ Book: W, Volume: 31, Page Number: 558.

²¹ Book: A, Volume 32, Page Number: 186.

²² Book: A, Volume: 32, Page Number: 187.

²³ Book B, Volume 53, page Number 270.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Book: C, Volume: 53, Page Number: 1118.

²⁷ Book: D, Volume: 58, Page Number: 758.

²⁸ Book: U, Volume: 53, Page Number: 698.

²⁹ Book: Y, Volume: 55, Page Number: 149.

Stanley and Alberta M. Kaylor (26 May 1972 – 23 September 1993),³⁰ Raymond M. Bowers (23 September 1993 – 15 July 2013),³¹ and Shirley A. Bowers (15 July 2013 – present)³².

Architectural Style:

Commercial style architecture demonstrates the promotion within the construction development, which allowed the creation of extremely tall buildings in massive populated cities thus creating the first skyscrapers. Another name for this style can be called Chicago style, to give credit to the city of Chicago who was the first city to erect many of the first steel-framed tall commercial buildings during the industrial revolution. Although, these advances in early commercial architecture in Chicago were influenced by architectural styles in Philadelphia and New York City who were the soul contributors who founded the groundwork for the rise of Commercial style architecture in Chicago. This style may have been founded in Chicago at the beginning of the 20th century but soon spread too many other cities where Commercial architecture was adopted.³³

While Commercial style buildings heavily relates to introduction of early skyscrapers, shorter structures have been established and they are still considered and described to be Commercial style buildings. These kinds of buildings are often one to four story tall brick buildings, which can dated back to the turn of the century. In addition, these types of buildings are installed with large pane windows located at the ground level as well as having flat roofs.³⁴ Many of these buildings were early car dealerships or repair shops and they would form the development of these buildings with large windows or garage door bays on the ground floor.³⁵

The Robert Forney Chrysler Garage was built in the Commercial style of architecture. This is supported by the date of the building's construction, which is around 1900. Commercial architecture was popular in the United States from roughly 1890 – 1920.³⁶ Some features of Commercial, or Chicago, style architecture, which can be seen on the Robert Forney Chrysler Garage, include masonry wall surfaces, a flat roof, and an emphasis on verticality.³⁷

Historical Context and Purpose:

A Scotch-Irishman, Thomas Harris immigrated to America in 1726. Thomas and his wife Mary were the first known settlers of Elizabethtown.³⁸ They lived on a 230-acre tract, possibly as early as 1730 or 1732.³⁹ The area was known by the Indian name "Peshtauk," meaning "beautiful spot or ideal location." In 1745, Harris built the Black Bear Tavern.⁴⁰ In 1751, he sold the tavern and his 252-acre tract to Lazarus Lowry.⁴¹

Lazarus Lowry and his sons traveled to America in 1729. He later served as a county court Indian trader, who was recommended by the governor, to conduct business with Indians as far away as Ohio.⁴² In 1751, Lowry acquired the Black Bear Tavern from the original builder and founder, Thomas Harris.⁴³ On June 13, 1753, Lowry

³⁰ Book: L, Volume: 62, Page Number: 653.

³¹ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Records Search, Reference Number: 3760233, accessed 20 February 2018, <https://searchdocs.lancasterdeeds.com/countyweb/disclaimer.do>.

³² Reference Number: 6092891.

³³ "PHMC Commercial Style 1890 - 1920." PHMC Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide. Accessed July 09, 2018. <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/commercial.html>.

³⁴ Carol Cragoe, How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008), 119.

³⁵ Will Jones, How to Read Houses: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008), 20.

³⁶ "PHMC Commercial Style 1890 - 1920."

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ "img160.jpg," July 8, 1976, Winters Heritage House.

³⁹ MacMaster, 5.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 6.

⁴¹ Ibid., 17.

⁴² Ibid., 5.

⁴³ Ibid., 17.

sold the establishment to Barnabas Hughes due to poor health and later relocated to Philadelphia where he shortly died in 1755.⁴⁴

In 1748, Barnabas Hughes married Elizabeth Waters Hughes which, afterward, they moved to Donegal County within the same year. On July 13th 1753, Lazarus Lowry sold the Black Bear Tavern to Hughes and on October 2, 1763, Barnabas Hughes and his wife, Elizabeth began dividing their land into lots and creating deeds for those who wanted to buy a piece of land in the newly established settlement of Elizabethtown. This town was named after his wife.⁴⁵⁴⁶ Barnabas Hughes worked as a trader and like Lazarus Lowry, he too traveled to Ohio to conduct trading with the Indians and made the Black Bear Tavern the starting point for pack house trains and the collection point for trade goods brought from Philadelphia.⁴⁷ In 1761, Barnabas Hughes left Elizabethtown to pursue in becoming a prominent merchant and on January 2, 1765, he died in Baltimore County. He left all of his estate to his four sons.⁴⁸

Samuel Hughes was the second son of Barney Hughes. At age twenty, Samuel acquired half of his late father's iron furnace in Washington County, Maryland. Under his management, the iron works made a small profit. Hughes was also a delegate to the Maryland Convention in 1776, a member of the House of Delegates in 1777-1779, and a state senator in 1781-1790. Hughes used his iron works to cast cannons for Congress. The profits he received from the cannon works allowed him to pay off his company's British investors with interest. The money also enabled him buy out his brothers' share of their father's Pennsylvania real estate.⁴⁹ In July 1786 Daniel, John, and Barnabas Hughes sold two tracts of land in Donegal and Mount Joy Township to Samuel for 1,500 pounds. The land included the 252- acre tract on which the Bear Tavern and the town of Elizabethtown stood, and an adjacent 145 acres.⁵⁰ On March 29, 1787, Hughes deeded Elizabethtown Lot 16 to Jacob Townenberger, William Hog (Haag), Jacob Shaver (Sheaffer), and Peter Shaver (Sheaffer), Elders of the Lutheran Church of Mount Joy Township. The lot of land is claimed to be located where the Church now stands.⁵¹ In 1790, Hughes began to sell Elizabethtown lots as freeholds. This gave purchasers of the lots a clear title to the properties. Peter Shaeffer, Conrad Mayer, Christopher Gamelin, Frederick Byroad, Andrew Gross, John Roetting, Rosanna Jamison, and Philip Albert were all executed deeds by Hughes in April 1790. Fifteen pounds was the standard down payment for lots in Elizabethtown, but these deeds said nothing about an annual ground rent.⁵² Hughes made additional sales of Elizabethtown lots in October 1790. Conrad Gross, Peter Bishop, Conrad Meyer, Andrew Gross, and Peter Shaeffer purchased these lots. Hughes also sold the Bear Tavern and the remaining tract bordering Elizabethtown on the northwest as far as High Street to Alexander Boggs of Donegal Township. On October 28, 1790. Hughes sold 230 acres to Boggs for 1,500 pounds. Within the same month, Hughes sold a 145 acres' tract to John Black, Jr. and a 209 acres' tract patented in his own name in four unequal lots. The last of Hughes' land that he was selling was a 139 acres' tract in Mount Joy Township. Leonard Negely bought the plot of land. This tract bordered on land belonging to John Black and David Chambers, and therefore, Hughes disposed of all his land in Donegal and Mount Joy Townships surrounding Elizabethtown on the west, northeast, and east.⁵³ In June 1791, Hughes signed another series of deeds for lots. These deeds included the one for Lot 1, sold to John Coffman, Andrew Gross, and Henry Eakinroad, and the one for Lot 5, sold to Peter Sheaffer. In April 1792, Hughes and his wife executed a final set of deeds for town lots. Pennsylvania law made the recordings of signed

⁴⁴ Ibid., 19.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 26.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 21.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 28-30.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 47.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 48.

⁵¹ Ibid., 45.

⁵² Ibid., 48.

⁵³ Ibid., 49.

deeds optional. Therefore, many other deeds signed over by Hughes were never recorded in Lancaster County Court House.⁵⁴

Alexander Boggs bought the Bear Tavern as well as all of the land, which bordered Elizabethtown on the northwest as far as High Street. On October 28, 1790, Samuel Hughes sold 230 acres, which was a part of the Thomas Harris 'original patent of 252 acres. Alexander Boggs was the brother of Captain Andrew Boggs who served as a commander for one of the Donegal militia companies during the American Revolution.⁵⁵ Alexandra Boggs lived in a two-story log building located nearby the Black Bear Tavern and it measured to be thirty by twenty-five feet with a log kitchen.⁵⁶ In 1801, Alexander Boggs advertised the Black Bear Tavern was for sale. Nevertheless, he was able to find a buyer for several years.⁵⁷ The land was not sold until February 21, 1809 when Boggs was able to sell the tavern and 238 acres of land to George Wealand who worked as an innkeeper. In 1811, records claim that Alexander Boggs worked as a butcher but by 1813, he had moved away.⁵⁸

George Wealand bought the Bear Tavern, and the 238 acres surrounding the tavern, from Alexander Boggs on February 21, 1809. Prior to purchasing the Bear Tavern, Wealand was an innkeeper. Yet, Wealand kept the Bear himself until 1816 when he died.⁵⁹ As soon as he had control of the property, he immediately established building lots along the east side of North Market Street. He extended Elizabethtown from Conoy Creek along North Market and North Hanover Streets for seven blocks. On April 10, 1809, Wealand sold Lot No. 1 to John George who was a wheelwright in Elizabethtown and his future son-in-law.⁶⁰ In 1828, the heirs of George Wealand sold the Bear Tavern and the 132 acres remaining of the property, which was located on the west side of North Market Street to John Bender, John Fisher and James Mackey. These three men served as administrators of George Wealand's estate and then in 1834, they sold the property to Thomas Winnemore. In 1844, Isaac G. Winnemore sold the property to Henry Gingrich. In 1855, Henry Gingrich, sold the entire tract to Andrew Wade. The Wade family lived in a newer house on the farm, the house is 130 North Market Street, which is still standing, and the Wade family utilized the Bear Tavern as a tenant house.⁶¹

In 1812, John George and Michael Axer were elected as deacons for the German Reformed congregation at the Christ German Reformed Church.⁶² In the 1830's, Elizabethtown only had four hatters and Thomas Winnemore was one of them.⁶³

Andrew Wade was born in Elizabethtown in 1796 and he is the son to Charles and Mary Catherine Gross Wade. In his early years, Andrew Wade followed his father's trade as a shoemaker. In 1829, he was chosen as Justice of the Peace. In 1830, Andrew Wade was elected burgess.⁶⁴ In 1834, railroad construction work began in Elizabethtown and Andrew Wade was one of the main principal contractors.⁶⁵ Wade served as Treasurer for the St. Peter's Catholic Church from 1832 to 1835.⁶⁶ In the 1840s, Andrew Wade was elected president of the Union Fire Company and continued to serve as president after the first reorganization of the company in November of 1843. Although, in 1858, Andrew Wade resigned from this position as president of the Union Fire Company to able a second reorganization of the firm to take place as well as the renaming of the company to the Friendship

⁵⁴ Ibid., 50.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 49.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 54.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 59.

⁵⁸ Ibid., 73.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 60.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 68.

⁶¹ Ibid., 90.

⁶² Ibid., 80.

⁶³ Ibid., 89.

⁶⁴ Ibid., 83.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 86.

⁶⁶ Ibid., 104.

Fire Company. Colonel Abraham Greenawalt replaced him as president.⁶⁷ Andrew Wade was a marshal.⁶⁸ Julia Wade donated one of the stained glass windows in St. Peter's Catholic Church in memory of her husband Andrew Wade who died in 1864.⁶⁹

Henry A. Wade was born in Elizabethtown in 1827 and he was the son of Andrew and Christiana Wealand Wade. He graduated from Georgetown College and Harvard Law School and later he was admitted to the bar in Lancaster in 1850 and lived there several years. In 1857, Andrew Wade, his father, sold the Bear Tavern to him as well as the house and farm located on the west side of North Market Street. Henry and his wife Maria Flynn Wade lived in the farmhouse at 130 North Market Street. In his later years, Henry Wade took a vital role in politics among Lancaster County.⁷⁰ Furthermore, Henry Wade was a part of a new committee in July of 1858, which comprised of Henry A. Wade and several others who reported in successfully obtaining the first fire engine in Elizabethtown.⁷¹ Another, Henry Wade served as a Captain during the civil war.⁷² After the civil war, reports state Henry Wade and Kirk Few won in a close election at the Elizabethtown school board as school directors.⁷³

Prior to owning the historic Black Bear tavern, Martin G. Keller operated and managed a stockyard as well as bought and sold cattle, horses, and mules. In 1884, Keller bought the Black Bear Tavern, which was in poor condition at the time, as well as the multiple acres along the west side of North Market Street and the two-story dwelling at 130 North Market Street from Henry A. Wade.⁷⁴ Martin Keller, eventually, sold a few building lots along North Market Street.⁷⁵ Afterwards, on February 25, 1885, Keller served as a director for the Elizabethtown National Bank.⁷⁶

Frank Dissinger served as an employee for the Jacob Miller Fifth Wheel Manufacturing Company sometime between the years of 1888 and 1896.⁷⁷ Frank Dissinger owned a blacksmith shop located on North Market Street, relatively close to Keller and Alwine's stockyards.⁷⁸ Vere N. Bishop was a College and community representative for the development of the five-year plan for Elizabethtown College.⁷⁹

Robert H. Forney, Sr. never owned the garage from which he operated the very first Chrysler dealership in Elizabethtown. Forney rented the property from Simon G. Bishop, who owned both the lot of 40 North Market Street and 42 (now 42-46-48) North Market Street. Forney began renting the garage in 1924, and he opened the dealership the same year.⁸⁰ Forney owned the garage for thirty-two years until he suffered a stroke in 1954 and retired in 1956.⁸¹ During his time owning the garage, Forney sold many cars. None were more impressive, however, than the custom Imperial Airflow Limousine which he sold to Milton S. Hershey on 22 April 1937. Hershey bought the limousine for \$4,250.⁸² Forney's tenure at the dealership was not without turmoil, though, as Chrysler gave him the ultimatum of either finding a way to get a showroom for the dealership or having it be taken away and moved somewhere else. Because of this, Forney was able to make a deal with Keller and Heisey

⁶⁷ Ibid., 88-89.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 106.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 161.

⁷⁰ Ibid., 110.

⁷¹ Ibid., 113.

⁷² Ibid., 114.

⁷³ Ibid., 117.

⁷⁴ Ibid., 136.

⁷⁵ Ibid., 149.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 139.

⁷⁷ Ibid., 128.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 187.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 248.

⁸⁰ Robert H. Forney Interview, 23 February 2018.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

Stockyards, who gave him a space, which became the dealership's one-car showroom, allowing Forney to continue to run the business.⁸³ Robert H. Forney died in 1958.⁸⁴

In 1954, Harry Reese and Charles Roland began R&R electronics in the once former Forney Garage on North Market Street. In 1968, they relocated to the Buch plant, which was vacant at the time, on South Market Street. The majority of their work was to serve as subcontractors for Aircraft Marine Products, also known as AMP. This included parts for bombs and underwater mines used in Vietnam. The firm was incorporated in 1971 as R&R Metal Finishing Corporation.⁸⁵

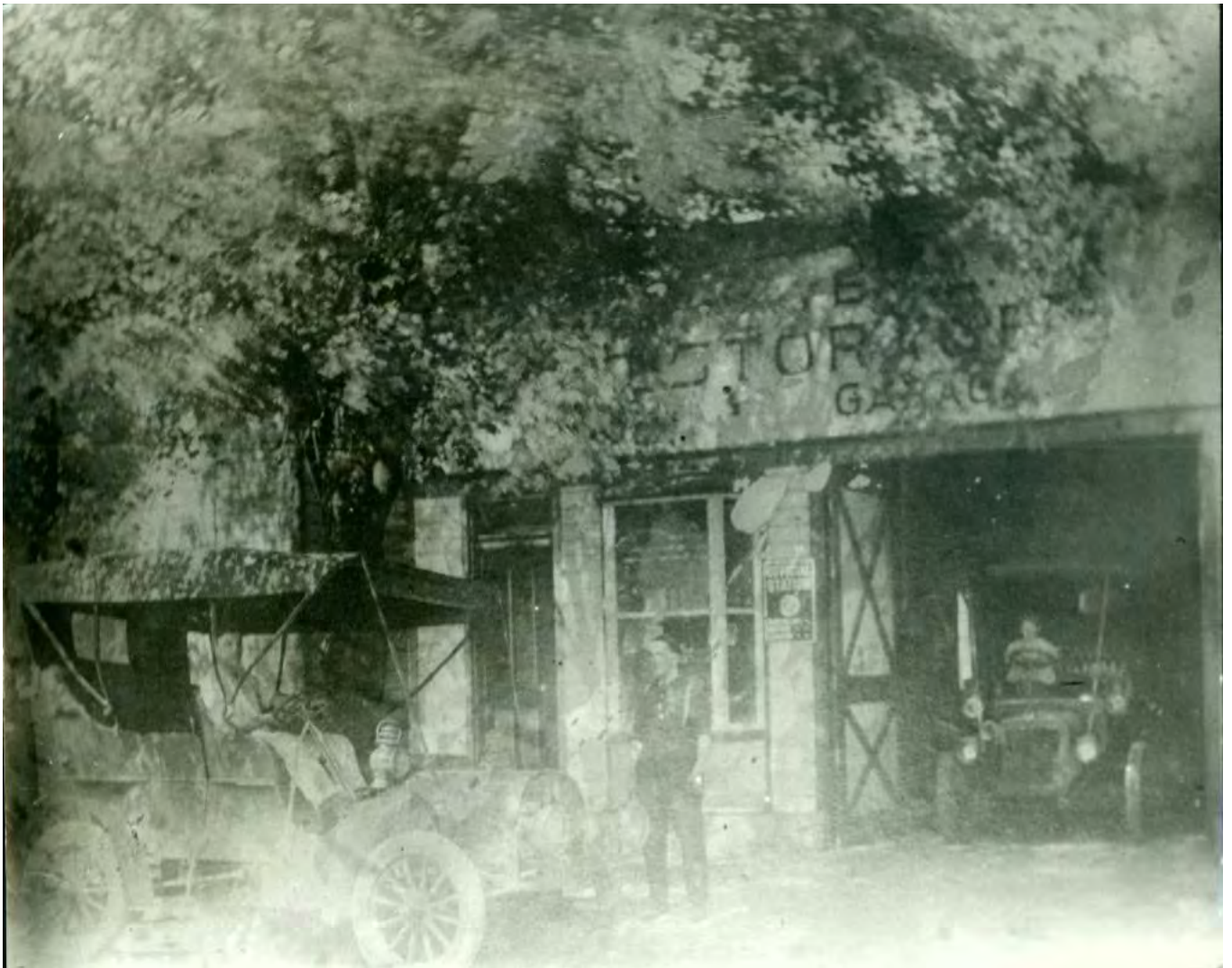
Appendix Historical Photos:



⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ MacMaster, 257.





Appendix: Current Photos:

