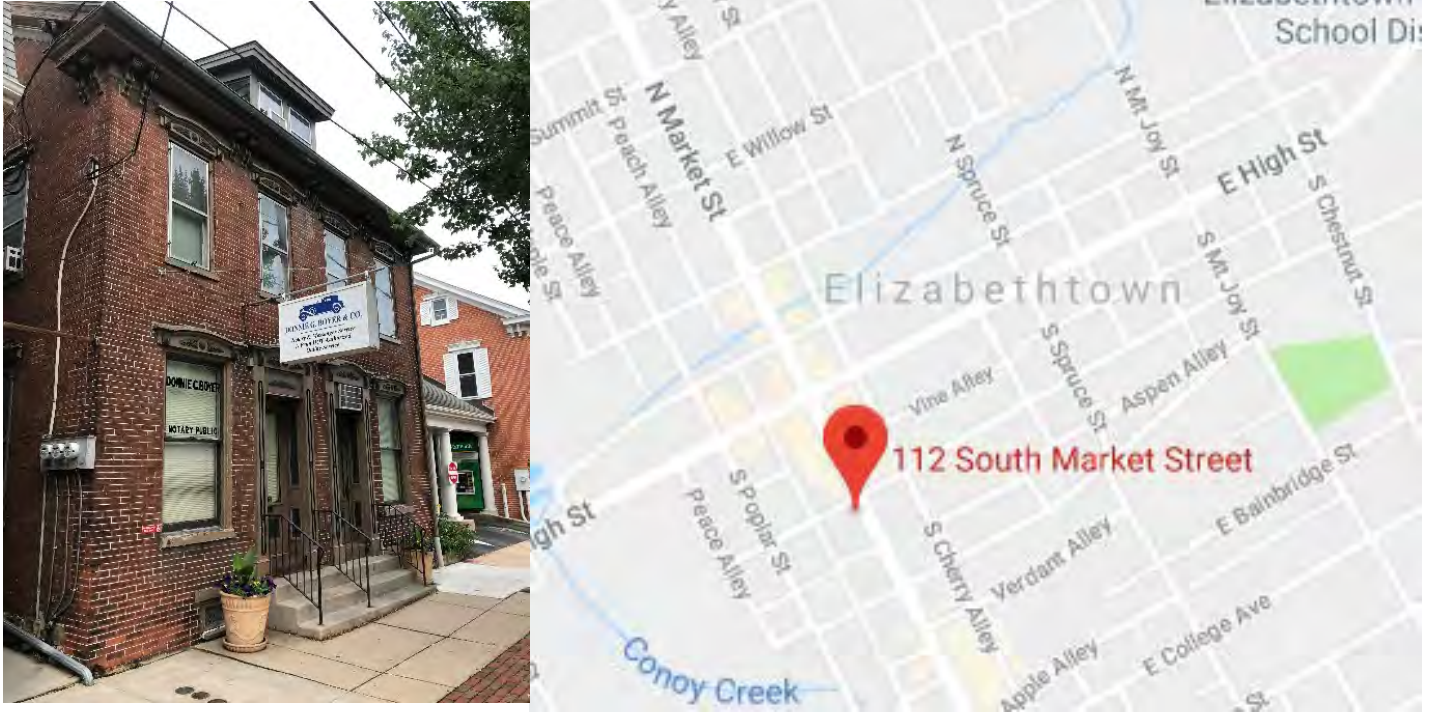


**Hershey-Boyer Residence: 110-112 South Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania****Abstract:**

This Gothic style house was built circa 1878 by Edward Sweeney. The residence is most associated with the Hershey and Boyer families. Samuel G. Hershey operated a general store at the corner of South Market Street and Park Street. The store was founded in 1906 and served as a local fixture for over sixty years. Margaret F. Hershey, also referred to as Mrs. S.G., was president of the Elizabethtown Business and Professional Women's Club. Since 1974, Donnie G. Boyer has operated an auto registration company and tax preparation service.

**Property Details:**

The property is built on the South side of Market Street about one city block from the main square in town. The land the property resides on originally went all the way back to the railroads but over time, parts of the land were sold for other building to be built on. The land holds a two story brick dwelling which is approximately on a certain plot of land measured to be 198 feet by 30 feet.<sup>2</sup> The building itself is approximately 26 feet by 38 feet.<sup>3</sup>

**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.<sup>4</sup> As early as 1615 Étienne Brûlé (1592-

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary research conducted by Shannon Clarke.

<sup>2</sup> Lancaster Property Tax Inquiry, Parcel: 2504471600000, <http://lancasterpa.devnetwedge.com/parcel/view/2504471600000/2018>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Jean Knecht, Francis I (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935), 333-343.

1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County.<sup>5</sup> Pennsylvania was claimed by Sweden in 1638 and then by the Dutch in 1655. The British claimed the former Dutch holdings in 1674.<sup>6</sup> British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted William Penn (1644-1718) the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681.<sup>7</sup> The French and British disputed control of Pennsylvania between 1688-1763.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> In 1719 Peter Bezaillon invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> Then, in 1745 he built the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which was the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.<sup>12</sup>

Deeds to the property date all the way back to Jacob Redsecker, however an accurate date for original origin of the property is undetermined but the latest date of sale is on 22 June 1837.<sup>13</sup> The chain of ownership since includes James Cameron; Esquire (22 June 1837 – 3 April 1844),<sup>14</sup> Emanuel Shober (3 April 1844 – 30 March 1849),<sup>15</sup> Solomon Mohr (30 March 1849 – 9 March 1853),<sup>16</sup> Charles Ebbecke (9 March 1853 – 1 April 1859),<sup>17</sup> Kirk Few (1 April 1859 – 17 March 1869),<sup>18</sup> Edward Sweeney (17 March 1869 – 4 April 1885),<sup>19</sup> Mary A. Sweeney (4 April 1885 – 1 April 1912),<sup>20</sup> Samuel G. Hershey (1 April 1912 – 21 November 1956),<sup>21</sup> Margaret F. Hershey (21 November 1956 – 12 November 1958),<sup>22</sup> Russel D. Hershey (12 November 1958 – 18 December 1970),<sup>23</sup> Elizabethtown Building Association (18 December 1970 – 13 May 1974),<sup>24</sup> and most recently Donnie G. Boyer.<sup>25</sup>

After completing a large amount of research little is known about the property until 1884. Prior to 1853, Solomon Mohr owned a particular piece of land which is now 112 South Market Street. In 1853 Solomon Mohr sold the property to Charles Ebbecke for \$225.<sup>26</sup> About six years later, Ebbecke sold the land to Kirk Few, who built the two story building on the land around 1878.<sup>27</sup> In 1884, Few sold the property to Edward Sweeney for an

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> David L. Martin, A Clash of Cultures: Native Americans and Colonialism in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2010), 21-23.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

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

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 8.

<sup>13</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: K, Volume: 6, Page Number: 389, accessed 6 June 2018, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

<sup>14</sup> Book: I, Volume: 7, Page Number: 536.

<sup>15</sup> Book: L, Volume: 7, Page Number: 28.

<sup>16</sup> Book: B, Volume: 8, Page Number: 417.

<sup>17</sup> Book: W, Volume: 8, Page Number: 261.

<sup>18</sup> Book: P, Volume: 12, Page Number 527.

<sup>19</sup> Book: H, Volume: 12, Page Number 551.

<sup>20</sup> Book: C, Volume: 21, Page Number 138.

<sup>21</sup> Book: L, Volume: 45, Page Number 544.

<sup>22</sup> Book: H, Volume: 47, Page Number 213.

<sup>23</sup> Book: O, Volume: 60, Page Number 597.

<sup>24</sup> Book: G, Volume: 65, Page Number 482.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Book: B, Volume: 8, Page Number: 417.

<sup>27</sup> Book: W, Volume: 8, Page Number 261.

unknown amount, and Edward Sweeney sold it to his daughter, Mary A. Sweeney, one year later in 1885.<sup>28</sup> Mary Sweeney owned the property for a little over two decades before she sold it to Samuel G. Hershey in 1911.<sup>29</sup> Hershey died in 1956 and the property was given to the Orphans Court. On November 21, 1956, Hershey's wife, Margaret F. Hershey purchased the property back from the Orphans Court for \$38,000.<sup>30</sup> Two years later Margaret passed away and the house went back to Orphans Court, until Margaret's son, Russel D. Hershey bought it back on November 12, 1958.<sup>31</sup> Later in 1970, the Elizabethtown Building Association bought the property for \$18,000 from the executor of the Russel D. Hershey.<sup>32</sup> On May 13, 1974, Donnie G. Boyer purchased the property from the Elizabethtown Building Association for \$30,000.<sup>33</sup>

### **Architectural Style:**

Gothic Revival architecture derives from the mid-nineteenth century picturesque and Romantic Movement in architecture. The point of this movement was a reflection of the public's fondness for buildings with medieval design. This style of architecture was quite different from previous architectural styles which were majorly based off of popular styles within classical forms of ancient Greece and Rome. Although, Gothic Revival and other architectural styles such as Greek Revival look toward the past for inspiration and with this, this kinds of styles were popular throughout the mid-19th century. Gothic Revival architecture was highly within rural settings for the reason its intricate appearances and sizes blend in and suitable to a natural landscape. This has led to many homes within country, small town, and rural settings to be based off the Gothic Revival style.<sup>34</sup>

The Architectural style for the building addressed 110-112 South Market Street has been established to be a Gothic based structure. The first element of Gothic architecture presented on this structure is the Decorative crowns located over the first-floor windows on the left and right sides of the front doors. Gothic Revival architecture receives its name from the ample usage of decorative wood elements which is placed on the exterior of the structure.<sup>35</sup> The cornices on the façade of the building as well as on the sides of the building could represent Greek Revival architecture but since this is determined to be a Gothic Revival structure, the cornices are another element which relates to the wooden designs which are embedded in Gothic Revival architecture.<sup>36</sup>

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

Jacob Redsecker played a significant role in the growth of Elizabethtown. He was a builder, and he is responsible for the construction of a number of the town's houses, including the building at 101-103 West High Street.<sup>37</sup> Redsecker was also Postmaster of Elizabethtown from 1836 to 1840. The post office was located at the Black Horse Tavern on South Market Street, another property owned by Redsecker. The deed to the Black Horse was signed over to him by his parents, George and Susanna Ream Redsecker in 1835.<sup>38</sup> In January 1836, a misunderstanding between railroad workers and town folk led to the workers setting fire to a barn behind the Black Horse Inn. While the barn only stood twenty feet from the hotel, winds directed the flames away from the Black Horse. Therefore, the barn was destroyed, but the hotel remained intact. The incident inspired the people of Elizabethtown to organize the town's first volunteer department. Jacob Redsecker remained the proprietor of

<sup>28</sup> Book: P, Volume: 12, Page Number 527; Book: H, Volume: 12, Page Number 551.

<sup>29</sup> Book: C, Volume: 21, Page Number 138.

<sup>30</sup> Book: L, Volume: 45, Page Number 544.

<sup>31</sup> Book: H, Volume: 47, Page Number 213.

<sup>32</sup> Book: O, Volume: 60, Page Number 597.

<sup>33</sup> Book: G, Volume: 65, Page Number 482.

<sup>34</sup> "PHMC Gothic Revival Style 1830 - 1860." PHMC Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide. Accessed July 06, 2018.

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/gothic-revival.html>.

<sup>35</sup> Carol Cragoe, *How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles*. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008), 42.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> MacMaster, 92.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, 91.

the Black Horse after the fire.<sup>39</sup> In 1842, he sold the tavern to Christian Hoffman. Although no longer the owner of the historic property, Redsecker continued to play a significant role in Elizabethtown. He was elected the town's burgess by voters in 1840 and appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1840, 1845, and 1850.<sup>40,41</sup>

In 1831, the Pennsylvania legislature considered proposals which divided Lancaster County and created a new country. Citizens of Elizabethtown supported the proposals, and Charles Ebbecke, alongside Samuel Redsecker, Colonel Abraham Greenawalt, and Samuel Hoffer, thus formed a committee to draft a particular response to persuade legislation at a meeting on February 13, 1832 at John McLaughlin's tavern to separate Elizabethtown from Lancaster County.<sup>42</sup> Charles Ebbecke is recorded to have been a wheelwright who made and repaired wagons.<sup>43</sup> He also was the director for the farmers and mechanics mutual insurance company of Elizabethtown when it was first introduced in 1851.<sup>44</sup>

In 1861, Kirk Few and Henry A. Wade were elected as school directors on the Elizabethtown School Board.<sup>45</sup> Edward Sweeney's house located on West High Street is one of many properties to have caught on fire in the late nineteenth century. It burned in 1880, but firemen of the Friendship Fire Company kept the fire contained. It did not spread to the adjacent warehouse.<sup>46</sup> Mary A. Sweeney, along with others, paid for the construction of the St. Peter's Catholic Church's belfry.<sup>47</sup>

Samuel G. Hershey operated a general store at the corner of South Market Street and Park Street. The store was founded in 1906 and served as a local fixture for over sixty years.<sup>48</sup> It sold dry goods, notions, groceries, and shoes.<sup>49</sup> Hershey also served as a trustee of the Kalbach property alongside Levi Hershey, Jacob Olweiler, J.K. Garman, and I.H. Stauffer. The title of property was obtained by the Chamber of Commerce in 1934 under the leadership of Olweiler. Olweiler intended for the 13-acre Kalbach tract on Washington Street to be developed into a public park, a common practice in Elizabethtown during the time of the depression.<sup>50</sup>

Margaret F. Hershey, also referred to as Mrs. S.G., was president of the Elizabethtown Business and Professional Women's Club. This group held monthly lectures and musical programs at the Kennewood Hotel.<sup>51</sup> On October 31, 1968, Intel reported the closing of the S.G. Hershey and Son Department Store, an Elizabethtown Borough landmark for 62 years. The closing would be accompanied by the retirement of the store's owner, Russel D. Hershey, son of S.G. Hershey who opened the store 1906.<sup>52</sup> After the passing of Margaret Hershey, Russel D. Hershey (her son) became the proprietor of 112 South Market Street and continued running the general store until he passed away. In the present time, Donnie G. Boyer is the owner of 112 South Market Street. The building is being used by his business Donnie G Boyer and Co, which is an auto registration company.<sup>53</sup> In the back of the building, Boyer runs a tax business as well. Boyer joined the Marines in 1968, following his freshman year at

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 87.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 83.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 301.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 84.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 89.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 110.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 117.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 141.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 160.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 224.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., 189.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., 226.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., 210.

<sup>52</sup> "Owner calls it a day," *Intelligencer Journal*, October 31, 1968.

<sup>53</sup> *Lancaster Online*, "E-town man promoted to Marines' highest rank," April 16, 2007, accessed March 5, 2018, [https://lancasteronline.com/news/e-town-man-promoted-to-marines-highest-rank/article\\_c12db1cb-683a-5a97-bd0c-86f27db063a7.html](https://lancasteronline.com/news/e-town-man-promoted-to-marines-highest-rank/article_c12db1cb-683a-5a97-bd0c-86f27db063a7.html).

Elizabethtown College, where he was more enthusiastic about socializing than studying.<sup>54</sup> In 2007 he was promoted from first sergeant to sergeant major as a reserve in the Marines.<sup>55</sup> This is the highest rank an enlisted member can be named in the Marines. To this day he still runs and operates both businesses in Elizabethtown with help from his wife and son.

**Appendix Historical Photos:**



**Appendix: Current Photos:**



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<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

