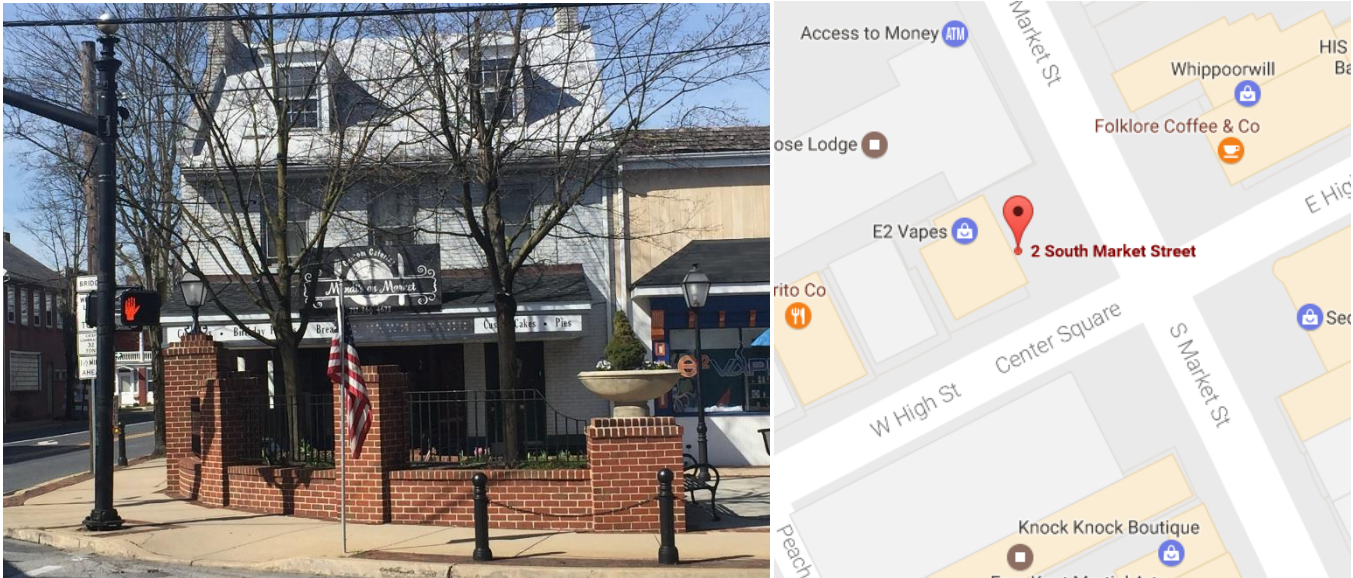


## The Jamison-Grimes Building: 2 North Market Street, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



### Abstract:

The Jamison-Grimes building was constructed circa 1790 by Samuel Grimes. It is a Georgian style semi-detached house. The lot on which the property was built had been used since 1719 by John Jamison, when it housed several log cabins, a tavern, and a stockyard. When Jamison died, his widow married Samuel Grimes, who then built the current building on the lot. Since then, the use of the property has changed dramatically. In 1838, it was converted into a silk factory, before being purchased and used as a stockyard. It was later used as a grocery store, which was expanded to also deal in clothing, and was then used as a newsstand. In 1988, it was sold to the Hitesh corporation, which converted it into a restaurant. Since then, it has housed various restaurants. Currently the building is vacant, but its last use was a small bakery.

### Property Details:

The Jamison-Grimes property has been the site of various dwelling arrangements and places of business. The building was constructed sometime between 1783 and 1798 by Samuel Grimes on a lot formerly owned by the late John Jamison (d. 1783).<sup>1</sup> The property is split into two parcels, with the first being 26.5' x 51.6' x 4.5' x 30.5' x 24.7' x 33.5' x 31', and the second being 33.3' x 31.3'. The lot during the early 1700s housed converted log-cabins and stockyards.<sup>2</sup>

### Deed Search Report:

Deeds and research on the property date ownership back to the aforementioned John Jamison, who settled in Elizabethtown in 1719.<sup>3</sup> Upon his death, ownership was transferred to his widow, Rosanna McQueen, who gave it to her second husband, Samuel Grimes, the man responsible for the current construction on the lot.<sup>4</sup> Upon his death in 1806, McQueen sold the property to her son-in-law, James Graham,<sup>5</sup> who then sold it to Thomas Masterson. By 1809, the property had been sold to Peter Merow.<sup>6</sup> In 1811, David Vance owned the building, and

<sup>1</sup> Jean-Paul Benowitz. "Elizabethtown Store Was Longtime Regional Leader in Clothing for Plain-Dress Religions," *Elizabethtown Advocate* (Elizabethtown, PA), Jan. 12, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Benowitz. "Elizabethtown Store Was Longtime Regional Leader in Clothing for Plain-Dress Religions".

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

leased it to Andrew McLearn from 1820 to 1822,<sup>7</sup> when Elizabeth Kleiss purchased the property before quickly selling it to Susanna Kauffman, who's husband Jacob operated the property from 1827 to 1838.<sup>8</sup> In 1849, Susanna Kauffman sold the property to Joseph Strouse.<sup>9</sup> It is not known exactly when the property was sold to John Clinton, but at some point he assumed ownership and sold the property in 1888 to Samuel D. Ebersole.<sup>10</sup> From 1888 to 1947, full ownership is not entirely clear, but deeds link William B. Fletcher to the property for that entire period.<sup>11</sup> Since then, the owners have been Harry K. Dorsheimer (1947-1972),<sup>12</sup> Claude Lehman (1972-1986),<sup>13</sup> Charles and Helen Taylor (1973-1988, temporary sublet),<sup>14</sup> Charles and Nancy Maxwell (1986-1988),<sup>15</sup> the Hitesh Corporation (1988-2005),<sup>16</sup> Shriti, Inc. (2005-2011),<sup>17</sup> and Vasantlal and Hira Patel (2011-).<sup>18</sup>

### **Architectural Style Report:**

The property is constructed in a Georgian style, reminiscent of classical Greco-Roman architecture. These sorts of houses were built during this period as a compromise between city and rural housing, providing a sense of uniformity and frugality.<sup>19</sup> These were groups of semi-detached houses, which fit well into Elizabethtown, and gave a serious, yet relaxed impression.<sup>20</sup>

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

The building was used as a residence, a tavern and inn from 1806-1838, a silk factory starting in 1838, a newsstand, most notably Lehman's Newsstand from 1972 to 1986, and various restaurants since then.<sup>21</sup> This property's lot, in 1719, contained an expanded log cabins. By 1770, John Jamison had been licensed to operate a tavern on the site, but died in 1783. His widow, Rosanna McQueen, then married Samuel Grimes, who built a Georgian style house on the lot, operating a tavern and inn out of it until 1806. Thomas Masterson, the next owner, operated a general store there, and later transferred ownership to Peter Merow, who operated the General Washington Tavern there in 1809. Later on, Thomas Masterson's brother, Edward, took control of the property and operated the Sign of the Plough Tavern at this location, before selling it to David Vance, and finally leasing it to Andrew McLearn in 1820. By 1822, Elizabeth Kleiss had purchased the property and maintained the tavern. From 1838 to 1849, the building operated as a silk factory. In 1849, it was sold to a cattle buyer who operated stockyards throughout Elizabethtown. In 1895, it was converted into a grocery store and expanded into a small clothing outlet by 1905.<sup>22</sup> Since 1905, the property has operated as a grocery store, followed by a newsstand, and finally becoming a restaurant.

Located centrally to Elizabethtown, the Jamison-Grimes Building is positioned on the northwest corner of the central square, providing easy access for consumers to do business. The residential portion of the building allowed for easy self-employment for its owners during that period, and was in line with the contemporary urban planning tradition. It is located directly between Lancaster and Harrisburg at the road between Philadelphia and Carlisle, providing an extremely convenient stopping point for travelers intending to take their goods to market in any of those locations.

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<sup>7</sup> Benowitz. "Elizabethtown Store Was Longtime Regional Leader in Clothing for Plain-Dress Religions".

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: B13, Page Number: 288, accessed April 19, 2017, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., Book: D39, Page: 317

<sup>12</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Book: Z62, Page: 357, accessed April 19, 2017, <https://searchdocs.lancasterdeeds.com/countyweb/disclaimer.do>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., Book: P95, Page: 146

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., Book: 2541, Page: 103

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., Book: 2332, Page: 209

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., Instrument Number: 5424111

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., Instrument Number: 5962040

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Will Jones, *How to Read Houses: a Crash Course in Domestic Architecture* (New York: Rizzoli, 2014).

<sup>20</sup> "Yesteryear: When, where, and by whom were semi-detached houses first built?", *The Guardian* (London, UK).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Benowitz, "Elizabethtown Store Was Longtime Regional Leader in Clothing for Plain-Dress Religions".

The aforementioned route was realistically the only way to get from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River for much of the building's history. This meant that the building was exposed to substantial traffic from a wide array of locations and locales.<sup>23</sup> Being placed at the intersection of two major highways provided massive economic opportunity for the businesses that set up shop in the Jamison-Grimes building.<sup>24</sup>

Most properties on the square in its early history were taverns with stockyards, which provided a convenient and central location for drovers. When the property was no longer a tavern, cattle were brought to the building before being butchered the nearby butcher shop and sent to market, usually in one of the aforementioned major cities.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: the First Three Centuries.

<sup>24</sup> Jean-Paul Benowitz, "Elizabethtown Store Was Longtime Regional Leader in Clothing for Plain-Dress Religions".

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

**Appendix Current Photos:**

