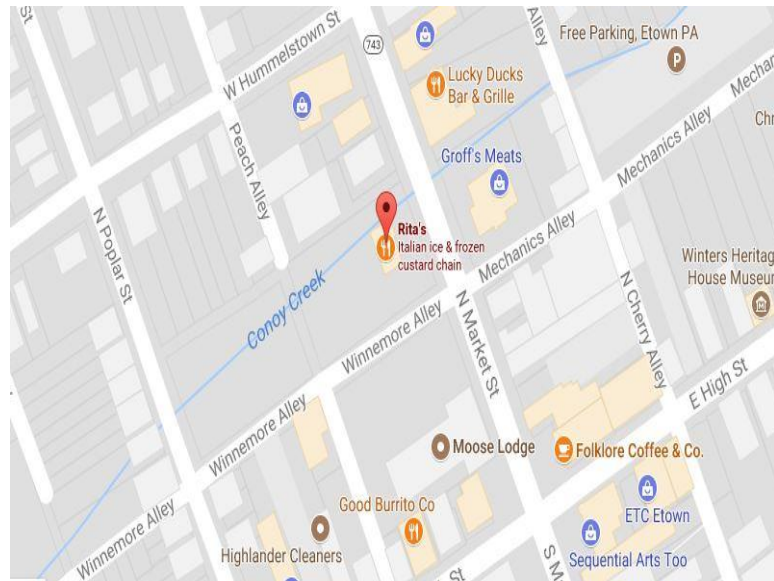


Keller, Garman, and Lutz Businesses: 30 North market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



Abstract:

In 1884 Martin G. Keller, a dealer in cattle, horses, and mules purchased this property from Henry Wade, builder of the Wade Miller residence and owner of the Sign of the Bear Tavern. Keller operated a stockyard at this location and the land stayed within the family until 1953. Frank Dissinger and Harry H. Garman operated a blacksmith shop here in 1908. By 1912 this was known as Dissinger-Scheetz, Blacksmith - Wagon repairs Shoeing Specialty. Before opening the blacksmith shop, Frank Dissinger worked at the Miller Fifth Wheel Manufacturing Company around 1888 to 1896. Leander Sheetz was a wheelwright and worked for the blacksmith shop of Albert and Lewis Leicht Carriages and Wagons before owning the West End Hotel, formerly Boll's Brewery, currently Lucky Ducks Bar and Grille. From 1953-2001 a gas station was located here established by Clarence E. Lutz.

Property Details:

According to the Lancaster Tax Assessor, the dimensions of the lot is 132.5 ft. X 198 ft. with a total area of approx. 26,235 ft. Currently, a commercial building containing two businesses is situated on the lot measuring 1380 sq. ft.¹

Deed Search Report:

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.² As early as 1615 Étienne Brûlé (1592-1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County.³ Pennsylvania was claimed by Sweden in 1638 and then by the Dutch in 1655. The British claimed the former Dutch holdings in

¹ Lancaster Property Tax Inquiry, Parcel: 250-00477-0-0000, <http://lancasterpa.devnetwedge.com/parcel/view/250004770000/2017>

² Robert Jean Knecht, *Francis I* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1935), 333-343.

³ Consul Willshire Butterfield, *History of Brûlé's Discoveries and Explorations, 1610-1626 Being a Narrative of the Discovery by Stephen Brûlé 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.

1674.⁴ British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted William Penn (1644-1718) the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681.⁵ The French and British disputed control of Pennsylvania between 1688-1763.⁶ During this time in 1707 French fur trader Peter Bezaillion (1662-1742) established a settlement between the Conoy and Conwego Creeks along the Susquehanna River.⁷ In 1719 Peter Bezaillion invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River.⁸ Captain Thomas Harris (1695-1801) settled in Pennsylvania in 1726. In 1730, he builds a log cabin along the Conoy Creek and in 1741 he legally receives the warrant to the land.⁹ Then, in 1745 he builds the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which is the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.¹⁰

Records from the Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds show that this property can be directly traced back to Thomas Harris, who owned much of what is now Elizabethtown from 17 April 1747, until 15 July 1751.¹¹ The ownership then transferred to Lazarus Lowry (1751-1753),¹² Barnubus Hughes (1753-1786),¹³ Samuel Hughes (1786-1790),¹⁴ Alexander Boggs (1790-1809),¹⁵ George Wealand (1809-1816),¹⁶ John George (1816-1830s),¹⁷ Abraham Greenawalt (1830s-1835),¹⁸ Andrew Wade (1835-1857),¹⁹ Henry A Wade (1857-1884),²⁰ Martin G. Keller and Fianna Keller (1884-1912),²¹ Harrison B. Keller and Bertha Keller (1912-1953),²² Clarence E Lutz and Ruth L. Lutz (1953-1971),²³ Mary Elizabeth Lutz executor of Clarence E. Lutz, Elizabethtown Mennonite Church trustees (1971-1974),²⁴ James C Lutz and Mary Elizabeth Lutz (1974-2001),²⁵ East Shore Management Inc (2001-2014),²⁶ and the current owners, Desiday Properties LLC (2014-Present).²⁷

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Henry Meelchior 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.

⁷ David L. Martin, A Clash of Cultures: Native Americans and Colonialism in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2010), 21-23.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Socoeity, 1999), 5.

¹⁰ Ibid., 8.

¹¹ Ibid., IX.

¹² Ibid., 17.

¹³ Ibid., 26.

¹⁴ Ibid., 45.

¹⁵ Ibid., 49.

¹⁶ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Book: Q, Volume: 5, Page Number: 53, Accessed April 25, 2017. <https://searchdocs.lancasterdeeds.com/countyweb/disclaimer.do>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Infodex, Document, Book: A, Volume: 9, Page Number: 36, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>. This document gives reference to previous owners, but no deed is referenced for the ownership.

¹⁹ Book: A, Volume: 9, Page Number: 34, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁰ Book: D, Volume: 12, Page Number: 108, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²¹ Book: M, Volume: 23, Page Number: 350, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²² Book: K, Volume: 46, Page Number: 70, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²³ Book: G, Volume: 61, Page Number: 31, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁴ Book: E, Volume: 65, Page Number: 924, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁵ Instrument Number: 4400277, Recorded: May 23, 2012. Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Instrument Number: 6125605, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

Historical Context and Purpose:

Elizabethtown is located approximately eighteen miles from Lancaster and neighbors Harrisburg, the state capital; and York.²⁸ The trade routes that formed and the highways that replaced them made Elizabethtown a major rest stop for travelers coming from the port of Philadelphia to the Susquehanna river, from Lancaster to Harrisburg, and from Philadelphia to Carlisle.²⁹ Many Immigrants from Northern Ireland came to the area west of Lancaster County and called it Donegal Township after their homes in County Donegal, Ireland. One of these immigrants was Thomas Harris who, around 1730 or 1732, settled and built his cabin on the Conoy Creek.³⁰ Thomas Harris, like many other settlers in this area at the time, was interested in the Indian Trade and settled on a 230-acre tract for the present day Elizabethtown.³¹ In 1738 Harris received a license to sell cider and beer and own a public house known as the Sign of the Bear in Donegal. In addition to his public house, Harris was a storekeeper and owned several investments within the Indian Trade.³²

Harris and his family were Presbyterians and worshipped at Donegal Church, but later left with several other families and helped form the Mount Joy Presbyterian Church. With the new church established, the new revival-minded Presbyterians wanted a school of their own and helped to establish the College of New Jersey.³³

In 1751 Thomas Harris sold the Sign of the Bear Tavern to Lazarus Lowrey, owned the tavern for two years before selling the property in 1753 to Barnabas Hughes, who was leasing the property while Lowrey traveled to Ohio. Hughes was also active in the Indian Trade and established the Sign of the Bear Tavern as a starting point for packhorse trains and was a collection stop from travelers from Philadelphia. In 1754, the French and Indian War began and Elizabethtown was an important access to the frontier. Hughes used the location of present day Elizabethtown to help aid the British on their march to Fort Duquesne with supplies and gained a great deal of wealth from these transactions.³⁴ The victory at Fort Duquesne, forced the French out of the Ohio Valley, and allowed for the British to build Fort Pitt, which is now at the heart of Pittsburgh, Pa.

On October 2, 1763, Hughes and his wife provided deeds to buyers of several lots in his new town named after his wife, Elizabeth Hughes. Hughes is responsible for laying out the beginnings of the town starting with the central square, which was a common practice for new towns being established in Pennsylvania during this time period and gave the names to the streets which still remain today- Market Street, High Street, Rose Alley, Cherry Alley, and Peach Alley.³⁵

In 1775, the Battle of Lexington and Concord, one of the first battles of the American Revolution took place. Elizabethtown again, served an important role in the politics around this historical event and supplied the American troops. Samuel Hughes, the second son of Barnabus Hughes, started a business in iron works. Samuel was active in politics serving as a delegate to the Maryland Convention in 1776, and was a state senator. He then started to produce cannons from his iron works for Congress and eventually made significant profits from government contracts. With the money from the iron works, Samuel brought out his brother's share of their father's land in Pennsylvania.³⁶ Samuel Hughes sold Elizabethtown lots as freeholds, which allowed the buyer a clear title to the property. Over the course of several years, Samuel Hughes sold many lots, however the deeds to these properties were never recorded because it was not a requirement at the time by the state of Pennsylvania.³⁷

In 1790, Alexander Boggs purchased the Sign of the Bear Tavern from Hughes, along with 230 of the Harris patent. In 1800, Elizabethtown, with a growing population and economic advantages, allowed for it to be recognized as a central point for people to gather and hold their elections, specifically at the Sign of the Bear Tavern.³⁸ Starting in 1801, Alexander Boggs advertised the tavern for sale. For many years he was unable to

²⁸ MacMaster, IX.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid., 5.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid., 8.

³⁴ MacMaster, 25.

³⁵ Ibid., 26.

³⁶ Ibid., 48.

³⁷ Ibid., 50.

³⁸ Ibid., 59.

locate a buyer, but leased the tavern and the farm property to John Wolfey.³⁹ John Wolfey was one of many petitioners requesting additional roads be built from surrounding mills and communities to Elizabethtown.⁴⁰ Earlier in 1798 when the United States and France drifted towards an undeclared war, Congress authorized the recruitment for a standing army. Captain John Wolfey commanded the Elizabethtown company and in 1799 he was named Justice of Peace.⁴¹ Wolfey operated both a tannery, and a tavern located in Elizabethtown Square.⁴²

Then in 1809, George Wealand brought the Sign of the Bear Tavern, located on the corner of North Market and Hummelstown Streets.⁴³ In 1815, George Wealand built this house, 130 North Market Street for residential use. In 1809, Wealand began to survey the 238 acres of land and began to sell lots around the eastside of North Market Street. With such a large acreage, Wealand began to sell smaller lots, which eventually laid out the smaller lots you see in northwest Elizabethtown today.⁴⁴ Wealand died in 1816, and upon his death his property needed to be settled and valued. Much of his remaining 132 acre estate was passed to his oldest son at \$55 an acre.⁴⁵

Later in 1816, John Redsecker purchased the Sign of the Bear Tavern and then around 1857, Andrew Wade purchased the Sign of the Bear Tavern and used the property as a tenant house.⁴⁶ Wade was a native of Elizabethtown who was born in 1796, and grew up to follow in his father's footsteps as a shoemaker.⁴⁷ In 1829, Wade was appointed Justice of the Peace and in 1830 was elected Burgess. In 1831, the Pennsylvania Legislature considered dividing Lancaster County into a new county.⁴⁸ Wade served as secretary of a local committee to advocate against the proposal and Elizabethtown remained in Lancaster County.⁴⁹ From 1832-1835 Wade served as the treasurer of the St. Peter's Catholic Church in Elizabethtown. In 1834, Wade began construction as one of the principal contractors of the railroad that would travel from Lancaster, through Elizabethtown, up to Harrisburg.⁵⁰ These different means of transportation would become very important as the American Civil War heads closer and closer towards Elizabethtown. During this time period it is important to note that Elizabethtown experienced an increase in population because of the people fleeing the Confederate army at Gettysburg. Wade eventually became a leader in the local Whig Party and in 1849 was elected as a Whig member.⁵¹ He then resided in the Wealand house for over 27 years.⁵² In 1884, he transferred ownership to his son Henry A Wade, who in 1859, was the only practicing attorney in Elizabethtown.

Henry Wade was born in 1827 and was a graduate of Harvard Law School. In 1850 he was admitted to the bar in Lancaster where he resided for several years. Eventually, Henry and his family moved to the property on 130 North Market Street, while using the old Bear Tavern as a tenant house for George Harris, the Elizabethtown barber. Henry was very active in Lancaster County politics and attended a dinner hosted by Rev. Bernard Keenan for President-elect James Buchanan on the eve of his presidency.⁵³ In 1858, Henry Wade, served on the committee that was responsible for finding a fire engine for Elizabethtown. During this time period the American Civil War came closer and closer to Elizabethtown. The Elizabethtown state militia was mostly composed of the Friendship Fire Company men. In 1861, it was difficult to obtain men for the draft, until bounties were distributed to families of the men recruited for war were given out. In 1864, Elizabethtown gave \$375 per bounty and Wade was responsible for \$1,745 in order to find recruits in Elizabethtown. In 1862, when Robert E. Lee's Army came across the Potomac, Governor Curtin called every available militia group to counter the first northern invasion. On September 17 1862, Captain Henry Wade's company from

³⁹ Ibid., 60.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 50-51.

⁴¹ Ibid., 55.

⁴² Ibid., 55.

⁴³ Benowitz, *A Walking Tour*, 53.

⁴⁴ MacMaster, 68.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Benowitz, *A Walking Tour*, 53.

⁴⁷ MacMaster, 83.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 84.

⁴⁹ MacMaster., 85.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 86.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Book: G, Volume: 3, Page Number: 180, Accessed April 25, 2017.

⁵³ MacMaster, 110.

Elizabethtown was put into federal service as Company I, 16th Pennsylvania State Militia.⁵⁴ The unit mostly served guard duty a road the trains. They were honorably discharged in September, 1862.⁵⁵ Even with the war, Henry Wade served as a school director. Henry Wade also continued to layout and sell lots from his large farm property and Elizabethtown continued to grow.⁵⁶ In 1876, centennial celebrations to place all over the nation, and Henry Wade oversaw the ceremonies being held in Elizabethtown.⁵⁷

Then in 1884 Martin G. Keller and his wife purchased the property and resided there while operating their stockyard.⁵⁸ Livestock played an important role in the Elizabethtown economy, The Keller's brought and sold cattle, horses, and mules.⁵⁹ Keller served as a board of trustee member to the Elizabethtown National Bank, which was a response to the National Bank act of 1864 and to the closure of the Farmer's Bank of Elizabethtown, which crippled business in the area for a while.⁶⁰ In 1884, Keller purchased the old Bear Tavern and the rest of Henry A. Wade's farm, and then began to sell several lots of his land along North Market Street.⁶¹ Keller was also part of the Elizabethtown Business Men's Association.⁶² In 1941, the property was sold to Ella B. Rider who would eventually sell the property to Frank S. Miller who will transform the use of the old mansion into a funeral home.

Like many land owners in Elizabethtown, Keller rented several plots of his stockyard to prominent business owners like Frank Dissinger and Harry Garman. Originally thought to be located at the current day Groff's Meats store on 33 North Market Street, Martin G. Keller actually rented the lot now addressed 30 North Market Street which is right across from Groff's Meats and is currently Rita's Italian Ice. In 1908 Dissinger and Garman opened their general blacksmith shop which specialized in Horseshoeing. Elizabethtown saw many blacksmith shops during the 18th, 19th, and even through the 20th centuries because of its location between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Harrisburg. Business in this area would slowly decline as automobiles became more common in Elizabethtown.⁶³

Upon his father's death, Harrison Keller took ownership of the property and continued to operate the stockyard until his own death. In 1953 his widow, Bertha Keller, sold the property to Clarence and Ruth Lutz. Reverend Clarence E. Lutz, opened a gas station at this location after purchasing the property. Lutz also operated a fuel distribution from 250 West Bainbridge Street.⁶⁴ In 1938 Rev. Clarence Lutz was the pastor for the Elizabethtown Mennonite Church and was the bishop for the Mennonite Churches of Northwestern Lancaster County and Southwestern Dauphin County.⁶⁵ In 1929, the Elizabethtown Gospel Chorus was organized by Ezra O. Brubaker which performed only sacred songs. The group was formed primarily because the Mennonite Church did not allow choirs, quartets, or soloists during church services.⁶⁶ Upon Clarence's death, he left the property to the Elizabethtown Mennonite Church which would later be given to James and Elizabeth Lutz. The property became several different businesses renting from different companies. Today the property is used as a Rita's Italian Ice storefront and as Vinnie and Pat's food stand.

⁵⁴ Ibid., 115.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 116-117.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 125.

⁵⁸ Ray Westafer, Reflections on How it Was in E-town the Past 60 Years, *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, January 20, 1977.

⁵⁹ MacMaster, 136.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 139.

⁶¹ Ibid., 153.

⁶² Ibid., 177.

⁶³ Ibid., 187.

⁶⁴ Ibid., 188.

⁶⁵ Ibid., 234.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

Appendix Current Photos:

