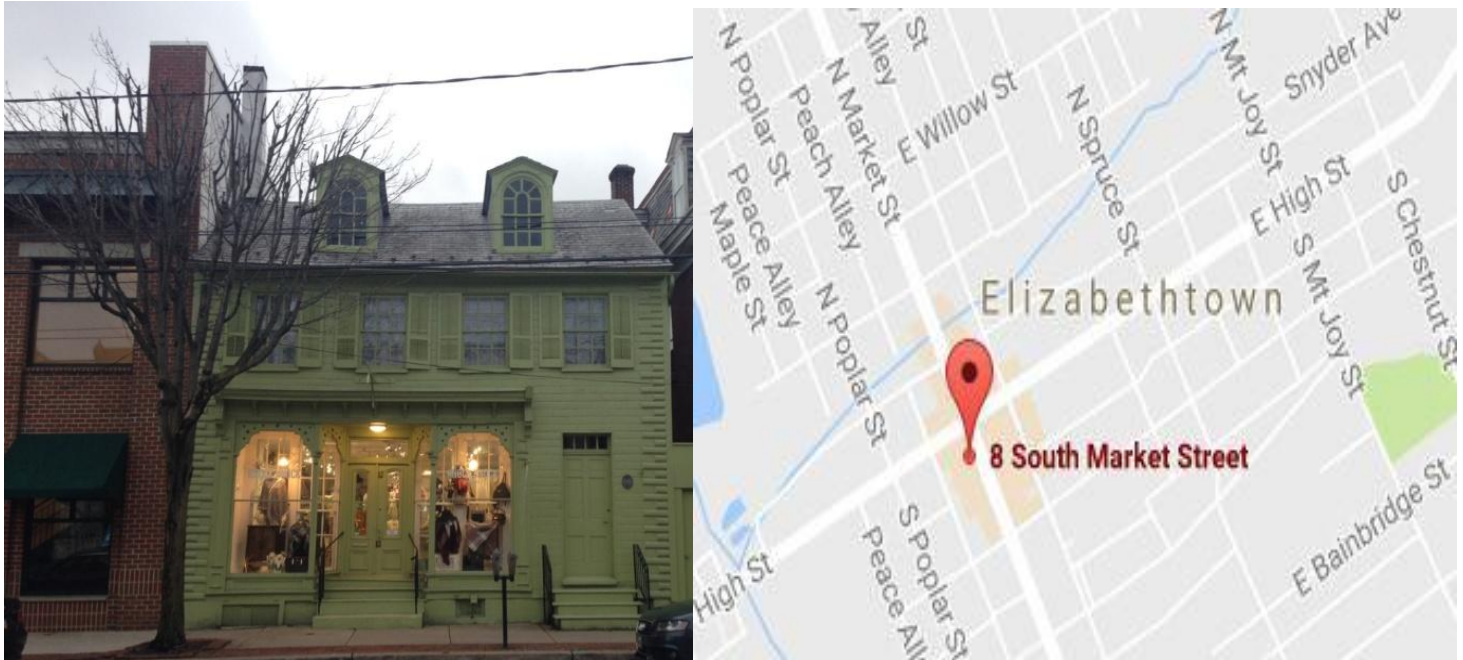


Olweiler-Needham Store: 8 South Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



Abstract:

The Olweiler-Needham Store, a commercial retail storefront, contains a Federal style, which over time, has been enhanced with a Victorian storefront. The wooden quoins to imitate rustic masonry, and of course the Victorian storefront are all unique to this property. In 1840, Dr. Sebastian Keller, a "powwow doctor" and practitioner of medicine owned the property. In 1878, J. C.S. Horst purchased the property and renovated it into what it looks like today. Then in 1893, Jacob N. Olweiler rented and would later purchase the property, 8 South Market Street, for his clothing storefront which introduced "ready-made or made to measure suits and overcoats" to Elizabethtown. Jacob's daughter, Anna Olweiler Needham, operated her business within Jacob's store and upon his death, transitioned the store into her business called, The Friendly Gift Shop.

Property Details:

The Olweiler-Needham Store, a commercial retail storefront, is located right along Market Street in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, just feet from the Center Square of Market Street and High Street. The address for the property is, 8 South Market Street, Elizabethtown, Pa, 17022. According to the US Realty Records, the dimensions of the lot is 30 ft. X 200.9 ft. with a total area of approx. 6,027 ft.¹ The building itself has roughly 3,004 square ft. of space.²

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.³ As early as 1615 Étienne

¹ "8 South Market Street Report," US Realty Report, accessed April 25, 2017, <https://usrealtyrecords.com/member/report?id=364760>

² Ibid.

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

Brûlé (1592-1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County.⁴ Pennsylvania was claimed by 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 between 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 Cony Creek and Susquehanna River.⁹ 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.¹⁰ Then, in 1745 he builds the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which is the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.¹¹

The date of the first deed could not be determined. Historical records do indicate the assumption that the first deed transaction was distributed by Barnabus Hughes, who sold lots around the square, calling the location Elizabeth Towne, named after his wife, Elizabeth Water Hughes.¹² This information can be confirmed through documentation in *Elizabethtown: First Three Centuries*, and correlates to the historical narrative of Elizabehtown and to the first deed on record of this property. On October 2, 1763, Hughes and his wife provided deeds to buyers of several large lots. 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.¹³ Assuming there was no other owner after Barnabus Hughes, the first recorded deed shows Benjamin Whisler (1766-1799) as the first owner of the property,¹⁴ then his son, George Whisler (1799-1843),¹⁵ Joseph Strause (1843-1848),¹⁶ Sebastian Keller (1848-1859),¹⁷ Anthony Harchenrader (1859-1878),¹⁸ J.C.S. Horst (1878-1903),¹⁹ Jacob N. Oweiler (1903-1964),²⁰ Anna Oweiler-Needham and Jacob Needham (1965-1990),²¹ Judy Richardson (1990-1992),²² Ronnie Jean Klim (1992-1995),²³ James V Flowers and Pollyann H Flowers (1995-2017)²⁴ and the current owner, David E Drobnock (2017-Present).²⁵

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.

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, 1983), 39-50.

⁷ 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.

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 Socieity, 1999), 5.

¹¹ Ibid., 8.

¹² MacMaster, 26.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Infodex, Document, Book: G, Volume: 3, Page Number: 180, Accessed April 25, 2017. <https://searchdocs.lancasterdeeds.com/countyweb/disclaimer.do>.

¹⁵ Book: X, Volume: 6, Page Number: 245, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹⁶ Book: T, Volume: 12, Page Number: 139, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹⁷ Book: W, Volume: 12, Page Number: 224, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹⁸ Book: E, Volume: 17, Page Number: 413, Accessed April 25, 2017.

¹⁹ Book: G, Page Number: 180, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁰ Book: C, Volume 55 Page Number: 00097, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Book: 2809, Page Number: 00323, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²³ Book: 28099, Page Number: 00323, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁴ Book: 4634, Page Number: 00122, Accessed April 25, 2017.

²⁵ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Instrument Number: 6320771. Recorded: March 6, 2017. Accessed April 25, 2017.

Architectural Style Report:

The builder and architect for the Olweiler-Needham Store, located on 8 South Market Street is unknown. In 1987, the Elizabethtown Historical Society began to present historical marker awards for properties being older than 75 years old, its historical significance, architectural integrity, and in good repair. The application for the Olweiler-Needham historic marker gives the following description of the property:

The structure has retained its Federal styling which has been enhanced with a Victorian storefront charmingly painted yellow and white and resembling a convection as delicious as those sold within.²⁶

It is important to note that this application was written by Anna Olweiler-Needham, daughter of Jacob N. Olweiler and owner of the Friendly Gift Shop. She continues by demonstrating the other architectural details:

The projecting dormer windows have a round arch and display old glass panes as do most of the other windows in the building. The roofline tells a tale of additions being made throughout the lifetime of the old structure. In the back area of the house, a large water pump surrounded by a brick patio, an ancient smokehouse, and other outbuildings call us back to an earlier time.

These Victorian elements include the disruption of symmetry for the storefront.²⁷ Other architectural features includes the decorative canopy over the doorway of the storefront which was installed between 1875-1895. Notice the bracketed cornice along the roofline of the property, this was an addition to the original frame structure to add a decorative style to the property. Additionally, the structure contains elements of wooden quoins to imitate rustic masonry. Some interior designs include:

Random width softwood floors, large box locks on the doors, original windows, structural remnants of an old kitchen fireplace or chimney corner, and a curving handrail and steps to the second floor.²⁸ The kitchen door is a type rarely found in contemporary Elizabethtown. It consists of a lower wooden panel and an upper glass-paned panel. A second lower wooden panel waits until danger threatens. At this time, with help, it will slide up over the glass and lock it into place.

Many of these interesting and unique characteristics like the wooden panel cover for the door, the wooden quoins to imitate rustic masonry, and of course the victorian storefront are all unique to this property which was why it received the Historic Plaque Award. This property in particular is the last residential residence in Elizabethtown to have the wooden quoins on the facade of the house. It was believed that many other properties, based off of historical photos, used to have this architectural style, but now this can only be seen on this property and the top of the post office in Elizabethtown.

Historical Context and Purpose:

Elizabethtown is located approximately eighteen miles from Lancaster and neighbors Harrisburg, the state capital; and York.²⁹ 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.³⁰ 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.³¹ 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.³² 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.³³

²⁶ Anna Oweiler Needham, "The Friendly Gift Shop," *Historical Marker Application*, (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1987), 1.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Anna Oweiler Needham, "The Friendly Gift Shop."

²⁹ MacMaster, IX.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid., 5.

³² Ibid.

³³ MacMaster, 5.

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.³⁴

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.³⁵ 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.³⁶

In 1766, Benjamin Whisler most likely purchased the patent to this 202-acre land from Barnabus Hughes and built his residence. It is unclear if the current structure on 8 South Market Street was built during the time period, but Benjamin Whisler, upon his death in 1799, lived on the property and then passed the ownership to his son, George Whisler who began to divide up the 202-acre land into smaller lots.

Later, in 1840, Dr. Sebastian Keller, a "powwow doctor" and practitioner of medicine owned the property after moving to Elizabethtown in 1837.³⁷ Keller was active in the Whig party and was a delegate who represented Lancaster County for the Harrison for President convention.³⁸ In addition to his political life, in 1845 the Elizabethtown Lodge, No. 128, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was established and Dr. Keller served as the treasurer of the organization.³⁹ The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was created with the purpose of giving aid to people who needed it and to benefit all of mankind.⁴⁰ Social organizations, such as this one, were prominent in Elizabethtown. Additionally, there were many different concert bands, and Dr. Keller formed the Elizabethtown Brass Band which would participate concerts and parades up until 1856.⁴¹

In 1859, Anthony Harchenrader, a man who was in the livestock business, purchased the property. Harchenrader was highly involved in community politics. From 1863-1865, he served as a member of the borough council and from 1876-1878 he served as the Burgess for Elizabethtown Borough.⁴² Harchenrader also served as the president of the Elizabethtown School Board. In 1870, the amount of school-aged students stretched the capacity of the Mechanic and Peach Alley schoolhouses. Thus a proposal was made to the borough council to lease the engine house as a place where students would have the ability to go to school. Then in 1873, the school board began constructing a new schoolhouse on Brubaker Street. The new high School on West High Street was the most adequate facility for school aged students in Elizabethtown. With the new school built, the Elizabethtown School Board decided to sell the Peach Alley School and Mechanic School. In 1847, as President, Harchenrader sold the Peach Alley Schoolhouse and engine house to George H. Boll.⁴³

In 1878, J. Horst purchased the property renovated it into what it looks like today. Between 1878 and 1895, Horst converted the down stairs area into a retail space.⁴⁴ Horst had no interest in using the frame

³⁴ Ibid., 8.

³⁵ Ibid., 25.

³⁶ Ibid., 26.

³⁷ Ibid., 101.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid., 100.

⁴⁰ "About Us," Independent Order of Odd Fellows, accessed April 25, 2017, http://www.ioof.org/IOOF/About_Us/IOOF/About.aspx?hkey=0a2032f6-b188-477c-a8c6-9a4afeb90d17

⁴¹ MacMaster, 100.

⁴² Ibid., 103.

⁴³ Ibid., 123-124.

⁴⁴ Jean-Paul Benowitz, *Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour* (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown College, 2015), 17.

building for himself, but he did use half of the lot to build the brick structure, Horst's Hall.⁴⁵ Horst was the proprietor of a restaurant in Elizabethtown and became very well known in the area for the success of his restaurant. The third floor of the building that he built was used as a gathering hall called Horst Hall. These privately owned venues hosted large social meeting groups like concert bands and several other social organizations. In 1881, a special meeting took place in Horst's Hall to discuss building a public library and in 1894 Horst was the first person in Elizabethtown to install electric lights in his restaurant to attract more customers.⁴⁶ Horst, in seeking income, rented the frame structure property to H. William Fletcher who lived in the original building and operated a dry goods store and shoe store.⁴⁷ Fletcher, in wanting to put on an elegant wedding for his daughter at the property, installed a special canopy over the doorway in which the bride, groom, and guests would enter through. This was an unheard of idea in Elizabethtown at this time.⁴⁸

Then in 1893, Jacob N. Olweiler rented the property, 8 South Market Street, for his clothing storefront which introduced "ready made or made to measure suits and overcoats" to Elizabethtown.⁴⁹ Before renting from Horst, Olweiler came back to Elizabethtown in 1891 to work for the Hertzler Brothers who operated a clothing, and eventually dry goods and groceries, queensware, boots and shoes, and read-made clothes.⁵⁰ Olweiler was formally educated at the Eastman Business school in Rochester, New York.⁵¹ The large lot was divided by Horst which then separated his property known as Horst Hall, and the Olweiler-Needham property. Jacob Olweiler worked for the Church of the Brethren firm Hertzler Brothers department store which was located right on the square close to this property.⁵² Olweiler later purchased the 8 South Market Street property in 1902 at a public sale and continued to operate his business from this location. He was an active member in the community and served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce in the 1930's. Olweiler was also a part of the Elizabethtown Business Men's Association.⁵³ During the Great Depression, organization provided Christmas food baskets to families in need for the holidays. In 1915, he wrote several letters to the office of the mayor in Philadelphia, where Charles Seger served as the chairman of the joint special committee of Philadelphia to have the Liberty Bell make its stop in Elizabethtown.⁵⁴ Many people in Elizabethtown traveled to the old Pennsylvania Railroad station to see the Liberty Bell, which was traveling from Independence Hall to the Panama-Pacific Exposition. In 1919 Olweiler was a member of the executive committee in charge of the Welcome Home Celebration in honor of the servicemen and women returning home from World War I.⁵⁵ In August of 1923, he began to lease the Peach Alley school to the school board because of the overcrowding school system in Elizabethtown.⁵⁶ He was also the superintendent of the Christ Reformed Church School for 53 years and helped establish the Boy Scout Alumni Association of Elizabethtown.⁵⁷ Additionally Olweiler hosted the Boy Scout meetings in the Peach Alley.⁵⁸ In 1928, The Chamber of Commerce of Elizabethtown, wanted to improve the infrastructure in and around Elizabethtown to make it a retail center and Olweiler with others was a key figure in forwarding the projects.⁵⁹ Jacob's daughter, Anna Olweiler Needham, operated her business within Jacob's store and upon his death, transitioned the store from her father's clothing store into her business called, The Friendly Gift Shop.

Many families within the Elizabethtown community can, in some way, find relations to each other. For example, the Keller family, is related to the Olweiler family because Catherine Keller is the mother of Anna

⁴⁵ Needham, "The Friendly Gift Shop," 1.

⁴⁶ MacMaster, 145.

⁴⁷ Alethia White, "Local Landmarks", *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, 1987.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Benowitz, *A Walking Tour*, 17.

⁵⁰ MacMaster, 133-134.

⁵¹ Ibid., 135.

⁵² Benowitz, *A Walking Tour*, 17.

⁵³ MacMaster, 177.

⁵⁴ Kathleen Forney, "History Hodgepodge: The Liberty Bell's stop in E-town," *Elizabethtown Chronicle*.

⁵⁵ MacMaster, 206.

⁵⁶ MacMaster, 186.

⁵⁷ Kathleen Forney, "History Hodgepodge," *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, September 1929

⁵⁸ MacMaster, 197.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 201.

Olweiler Needham.⁶⁰ The Friendly Gift Shop continued to operate in business until the 1980's. Anna, and her husband, Thomas, took great interest in historic preservation and after her father's death inherited all of his other properties. In 1971, Anna and her husband worked with the Kiwanis Club and the Elizabethtown Historical Society in order to restore the old Peach Alley School house. In 1992, Anna donated the Peach Alley Schoolhouse, located on 57 South Poplar Street, in Elizabethtown to the Elizabethtown Historical Society where they continue to meet and operate today.⁶¹ Additionally, Anna provided trust fund which enabled the Elizabethtown Historical Society to build an addition to the school house in 1998.⁶² On May 18, 1999, the Elizabethtown Historical Society held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the dedication of the Anna Olweiler Needham Memorial Hall, which was the addition completed by the Elizabethtown Historical Society.⁶³ Since the 1980s, the 8 South Market Street property has remained a storefront, with different stores operating out of it. Then in 1995, James V. Flowers opened his store front, Flowers in the Kitchen which later closed. After he closed up his shop he began to rent out the property throughout the 2000s and up until 2017. David E Drobnock and his daughter rented the property for several months before deciding to purchase the property from Flowers.⁶⁴ Currently, the building hosts the Knock Knock Boutique which features women's accessories. From their advertisement they write:

The Knock Knock provides an assortment of accessories, spanning from trending statement items to simple, classic pieces. Every time you visit Knock Knock, you will find something you just can't leave behind! Prices usually range from \$5-\$35. New items are introduced daily. Jewelry, accessories, skin care products and more can be found in Knock Knock!⁶⁵

It is important now more than ever to preserve these historical buildings and document the historic significance of areas like Elizabethtown so that the entire community can appreciate the history and understand the context in the development of these towns. With the completion of the Section 106 review on this property, we have been able to identify through deed searches, public records, and personal historical accounts of the dynamic changes throughout the history of Elizabethtown.

⁶⁰ MacMaster., 155.

⁶¹ Ibid., 266.

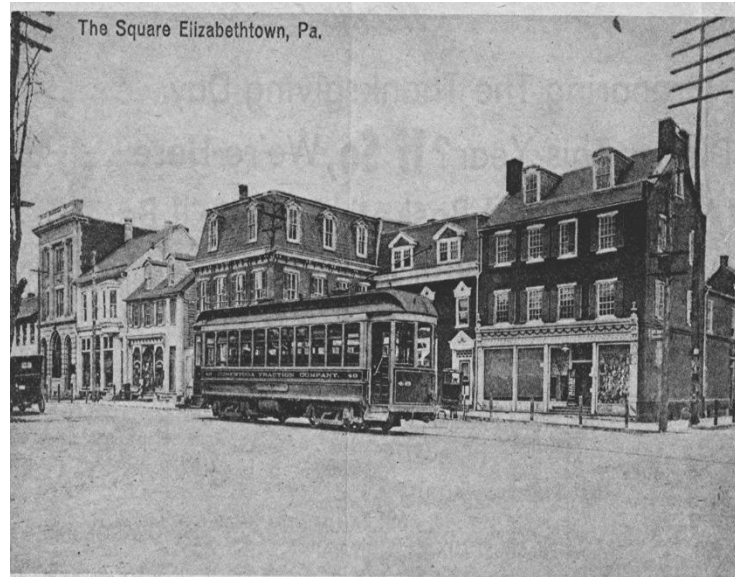
⁶² Ibid., 287-289.

⁶³ Ibid., 287-288.

⁶⁴ Instrument Number: 6320771. Recorded: March 6, 2017. Accessed April 25, 2017.

⁶⁵ "About Us," Shop Knock Knock Boutique, accessed April 25, 2017, <https://www.facebook.com/shopknockknock>

Appendix Historical Photos: *Photo Courtesy of the Elizabethtown Historical Society*



Appendix Current Photos:



