

Redsecker-Olweiler Residence: 216-218 South Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania**Abstract:**

This Queen Anne style house with Gothic Revival features was built by Philip Olweiler who was the director for the Farmer's and Mechanic's Mutual Insurance Company of Elizabethtown. A later descendant, F. L. Olweiler, started the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, was later owned by his sons, Jacob N. and J. Phillip Olweiler. Their uncle, Jacob N. Olweiler, opened a men's clothing store in 1893 at 8 South Market Street. He was a member of the Elizabethtown Business Men's Association and president of the Chamber of Commerce in the 1930s. In 1915 he was responsible for bringing the Liberty Bell to Elizabethtown.

Property Details:

This property is located at 216-218 South Market Street Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania 17022. The property measures 198 by 28.5 feet.² The property was likely built amidst 1850 and 1900.

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.³ As early as 1615, Étienne 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

¹ Preliminary research conducted by Caitlin M. Rossiter.

² Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: K, Volume 26, Page 472, accessed July 3, 2018, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

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 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.

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

Deeds to the property date all the way back to George Redsecker, however an accurate date for original origin of the property is undetermined but the latest date of sale is on 6 May 1838.¹² The chain of ownership since includes Samuel Redsecker (6 May 1838 – 8 March 1855),¹³ Abraham Redsecker (8 March 1855 – 16 August 1856),¹⁴ Margaret Curry (16 August 1856 – 6 November 1861),¹⁵ Matthias C. Brinser (6 November 1861 – 1 August 1871),¹⁶ Philip Olweiler (1 August 1871 – 10 April 1882),¹⁷ Kate Keener (10 April 1882 – 5 September 1888),¹⁸ I.N.S. Will (5 September 1888 – 23 March 1913),¹⁹ Lizzie S. Will (23 March 1913 – 18 December 1923),²⁰ Minnie A. Will (18 December 1923 - 23 April 1937),²¹ Francis L. Olweiler (23 April 1937 – 22 November 1943),²² Francis L. Olweiler (22 November 1943 – 1 March 1971),²³ Nancy M. Olweiler (1 March 1971 – 19 August 1991),²⁴ Nancy M. Olweiler (19 August 1991 – 15 March 2006),²⁵ and most recently Nancy and Kenneth Keefer.²⁶

Architectural Style:

Queen Anne style architecture and main principle for this style was to establish a structure, which held certain elements from styles of yesteryear, such as details from the earlier, parts of the Victorian and Romantic eras. Queen Anne architecture depict the combination of picturesque also known as the romantic movement of the 19th century. The premise of this architecture is for the decorative nature and variety embedded in the style and which that there was little attempt to stay true to any one particular style or historical detailing.²⁷

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 Society, 1999), 5.

¹¹ Macmaster, 8.

¹² Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: K, Volume: 26, Page Number: 470, accessed June 5, 2018

¹³ Book: C, Volume 9, Page 321.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Book: X, Volume 37, Page 350.

¹⁷ Book: X, Volume 37, Page 345.

¹⁸ Book: F, Volume 13, Page 43.

¹⁹ Book: S, Volume 30, Page 491.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Book: B, Volume 33, Page 539.

²² Book: T, Volume 37, Page 7.

²³ Book: T, Volume 60, Page 1020.

²⁴ Record Book: 3235, Page 61.

²⁵ Instrument Number: 5505716

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Carol Cragoe, How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008), 44.

The Architectural style for the building addressed 218 South Market Street has been established to be a Queen Anne based structure. One of the significance features, which can be seen on this structure who represent Queen Anne style, is the patterned shingled dormer located in the top central part of the structure.²⁸ A very interesting part of Queen Anne architecture is the large partial porch located on the left side of 218 South Market Street. Normally, this porch is placed in front of the building but with the main road so close, the porch had to be placed in a different location.²⁹ Another feature of Queen Anne architecture is the projecting bay windows located on both the first and second floors on the left side of 218 South Market Street.³⁰ Various of architectural elements relating to Queen Anne architecture is the columned porch supports and the asymmetrical façade.

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 popular styles within classical forms of ancient Greece and Rome. However, 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-nineteenth century. Gothic Revival architecture was highly within rural settings for the reason of the 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 of the Gothic Revival style.³¹

The Architectural style for the building addressed 216 South Market Street has been established to be a Gothic based structure. The one element, which represents Gothic architecture, is the porch located on the second floor of the structure.³²

Historical Context and Purpose:

George Redsecker served as a host for the Black Horse Tavern, which once stood on South Market Street, which was located on the parking lot of the Elizabethtown Church of God.³³ George Redsecker served as an innkeeper for the Black Horse Tavern who paid taxes in 1806 and 1807 and was the second of the name to run the Black Horse.³⁴ George Redsecker was the first lieutenant of Andrew Boggs who served as Captain for the 6th Company during the American Revolution.³⁵ In 1783, Redsecker received his license to own and operate a tavern.³⁶ Redsecker was the owner of various lots on the west side of Market Street.³⁷ Including the Black Horse Tavern, George Redsecker owned three properties, which were three log dwelling houses, according to the 1798 tax assessor. The first building was a two-story log structure measuring twenty-eight by twenty-five feet whom Redsecker had leased to Matthias Plugher. The second building was a two-story log building measuring thirty by twenty-five foot and was George Redsecker's home. The third building was a one-story log building, measuring twenty by eighteen feet, which was the Black Horse Tavern itself.³⁸ George Redsecker's inn served as an important meeting location for those who wanted to buy and sell shares. In 1835 Jacob Redsecker obtained the Black Horse from his father, George Redsecker.³⁹

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ "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>.

³² Ibid.

³³ MacMaster, 31.

³⁴ Ibid., 60.

³⁵ Ibid., 41.

³⁶ Ibid., 50.

³⁷ Ibid., 37.

³⁸ Ibid., 54.

³⁹ Ibid.

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 response, which would persuade legislation at a meeting on February 13, 1832 at John McLaughlin's tavern to separate Elizabethtown from Lancaster County.⁴⁰ In 1840, Samuel Redsecker bought a brick store building from George Shirr in 1840. Redsecker operated a general store at this location until 1852 when he sold his business. One of his descendants wrote a response about his store, "While he had his store, he imported fine landscape china, with his name, Samuel Redsecker, Importer, on the back of it." From 1840 to 1848, Samuel Redsecker served as Postmaster of Elizabethtown. During those years, the post office was located in his store. When John Lynch became postmaster after Redsecker in 1848, he moved the post office next door.⁴¹

When George Redsecker, Sr. passed away, he embedded in his will, his son Abraham Redsecker would receive his houses and lots on "the southeast corner of the Diamond Square," which was then occupied by John Bohn and operating as a tavern called the Sign of the Globe.⁴²

Philip Oldweiler served as a director for the Farmer's and Mechanic's Mutual Insurance Company of Elizabethtown.⁴³

On June 6, 1901, The A.S. Kreider shoe manufacturing company received their charter of incorporation. During a meeting in the office of I.N.S. Will in Elizabethtown, the board elected A.S. Kreider served as president; Tobias Bomberger served as vice president; Enos A. Fackler served as secretary; and I.N.S. Will served as treasurer.⁴⁴

Appendix Historical Photos:



⁴⁰ Ibid., 84.

⁴¹ Ibid., 92.

⁴² Ibid., 91.

⁴³ Ibid., 110.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 171.

Appendix: Current Photos:

