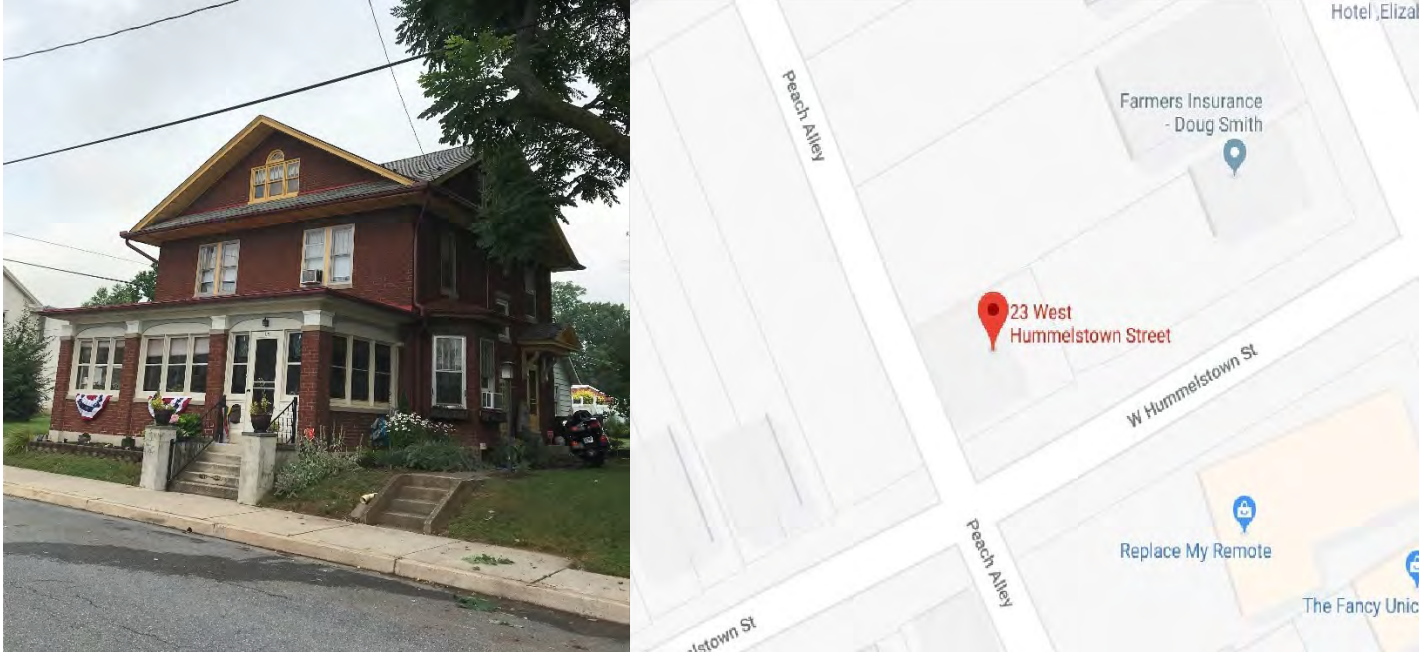


**Westafer Residence: 23 West Hummelstown Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania****Abstract:**

This brick Colonial Revival house was built in 1923 by George Washington Westafer (1873-1947) the owner, publisher, and editor of the newspaper the *Elizabethtown Chronicle*. The newspaper was established by his grandfather, John G. Westafer (1850-1920). The *Elizabethtown Chronicle* was established in 1869 and ran until 1982. The name of the newspaper was shortened to the *Chronicle* and published from 1982-1988. The newspaper regained its original title, *Elizabethtown Chronicle*, published from 1989-2009. The last publisher and editor was Ray Westafer (1906-1991). This newspaper was reintroduced as the *The Elizabethtown Advocate* in 2010 by veteran Associated Press journalist Dan Robrish. Robrish is the editor of this newspaper which since 2017 has become part of the LNP Media Group.

**Property Details:**

The Westafer residence, currently a residential property, lies at 23 West Hummelstown Street in Elizabethtown Pennsylvania. The property, built in 1923, is a single family home of 854 square feet on a 3,485 square foot lot. The house includes one full bath, one half bath, four bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, dining room, and two other rooms.<sup>2</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

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary research conducted by Aprille Mohn.

<sup>2</sup> "23 W Hummelstown Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022," Pitney Bowes Inc, Coldwellbankerhomes.com, November 18, 2014, [https://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/pa/elizabethtown/23-w-hummelstown-street/ pid\\_23140874/](https://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/pa/elizabethtown/23-w-hummelstown-street/ pid_23140874/).

New France with Jacques Cartier (1491-1557) as Viceroy in Quebec.<sup>3</sup> As early as 1615 Étienne Brûlé (1592-1633) explored the Susquehanna River and its tributaries in Lancaster County.<sup>4</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>5</sup> British King Charles, II (1630-1685) granted William Penn (1644-1718) the Province of Pennsylvania in 1681.<sup>6</sup> The French and British disputed control of Pennsylvania between 1688-1763.<sup>7</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>8</sup> In 1719 Peter Bezaillon invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Cony Creek and Susquehanna River.<sup>9</sup> Captain Thomas Harris (1695- 1801) settled in Pennsylvania in 1726. In 1730 he builds a log cabin along the Conoy Creek. In 1741 he legally owns the land, and he builds a stone house in 1745.<sup>10</sup> Then, in 1745, he builds the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which is the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.

Deeds to the property date all the way back to Jacob Coble, however an accurate date for original origin of the property is undetermined but the latest date of sale is on 1 April 1824.<sup>11</sup> The chain of ownership since includes Andrew Wade (1 April 1824 – 14 November 1857),<sup>12</sup> Henry A. Wade (14 November 1857 – 2 April 1884),<sup>13</sup> Martin G. Keller (2 April 1884 – 8 July 1892),<sup>14</sup> John G. Westafer (8 July 1892 – 20 April 1923),<sup>15</sup> Jenny L. Raffensperger (20 April 1923 – 14 May 1949),<sup>16</sup> Bertha A. Westafer (14 May 1949 – 16 December 1969),<sup>17</sup> Harry and Jeanette Olnick (16 December 1969 – 3 August 1987),<sup>18</sup> Debora S. Bilger (3 August 1987 – 15 May 2015),<sup>19</sup> and most recent Adam and Holly McGloshen.<sup>20</sup>

Deeds to the property 23 West Hummelstown date back to April 4, 1824, when Jacob Coble transferred ownership of the property to Andrew Wade for \$67.00.<sup>21</sup> Andrew Wade transferred ownership to Henry A. Wade on November 14, 1857.<sup>22</sup> On April 2nd 1884, Henry A. Wade transferred ownership to Martin G. Keller.<sup>23</sup> Martin G. Keller sold the property to John G. Westafer on July 8, 1892 for \$420.00.<sup>24</sup> John G. Westafer transferred the

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

<sup>4</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>5</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>6</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>7</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>8</sup> David L. Martin, A Clash of Cultures: Native Americans and Colonialism in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2010), 21-23.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1999), 5.

<sup>11</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: D, Volume: 5, Page Number: 487, accessed June 5, 2018, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

<sup>12</sup> Book: A, Volume: 9, Page Number: 34.

<sup>13</sup> Book: D, Volume: 12, Page Number: 108.

<sup>14</sup> Book: K, Volume: 14, Page Number: 300.

<sup>15</sup> Book: F, Volume: 26, Page Number: 338.

<sup>16</sup> Book: F, Volume: 40, Page Number: 231.

<sup>17</sup> Book: O, Volume: 59, Page Number: 763.

<sup>18</sup> Book Number: 2197; Page Number: 669.

<sup>19</sup> Instrument Number: 6203182.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Online E-Film Reader, Document, Book: D5, Page Number: 487, accessed April 23, 2018, <http://www.lancasterdeeds.com/onlineefilmreader/>.

<sup>22</sup> Book: A, Volume: 9, Page Number: 34.

<sup>23</sup> Book: D, Volume: 12, Page Number: 108.

<sup>24</sup> Book: K, Volume: 14, Page Number: 300.

property to his son George Washington Westafer on April 20, 1923.<sup>25</sup> In 1923, George W. Westafer constructed the structure which is presently at the address 23 West Hummelstown Street.<sup>26</sup> Prior to this, there was another structure, about which very little is known. Following this, there is a gap in the deed searches, but the property stayed under the name of Westafer until Bertha Westafer sold the property to Harry and Jeanette Olnick on December 12, 1969 for \$17,350.00.<sup>27</sup> August 3, 1987 the Olnicks sold the house to Debora S. Bilger for \$60,000.<sup>28</sup> On May 15, 2015, Bilger sold the property to Adam and Holly McGloshen for \$140,000. The McGloshens are the current residents and owners of 23 West Hummelstown Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.<sup>29</sup>

### **Architectural Style Report:**

This homestead is known as a Colonial Revival and the principle for this style was to establish a structure that held certain elements from styles of yesteryear such as the Federal and Georgian architecture during the founding of America. This movement to bring back the designs of the first American people were triggered by the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876 which celebrated the 100th birthday of the America.<sup>30</sup>

The Westafer residence is a two-story red brick Colonial Revival building constructed in 1923. The front of the house includes French double doors and large windows on either side, no longer visible from the street. A later addition to the structure included an enclosed sun porch with four red brick pilasters on the front.<sup>31</sup> In between the first and second and the second and third pilasters are three double hung windows. Between the third and fourth pilasters is a door with a large window, framed by thin two double hung windows. This offset door detracts from the symmetry of the property. A second addition to the property is a bay window on the right side of the house, at the house's original corner.<sup>32</sup> Although, the dates when the additions were added to the building is unknown.

There is a chimney centered on the back of the house, contributing to the symmetry of the Colonial Revival Style. The house has a multi pitched gable roof made of slate, and in addition to the house's two stories, the structure has a partially finished basement and an attic. The attic walls on the front and two sides feature Palladian windows which were extremely popular during the neoclassical period.<sup>33</sup>

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

The Present-day Moose Lodge building on North Market Street was once home to an early nineteenth-century tavern owned and operated by Jacob Coble. Coble applied for a tavern license in 1822.<sup>34</sup> In 1863, Jacob Coble was reported to serve as a painter.<sup>35</sup> In 1899, Coble donated altar furnishings for the centennial celebration of the St. Peter's Catholic Church.<sup>36</sup>

Andrew Wade was born in Elizabethtown in 1796 and he is the son to Charles and Mary Catherine Gross Wade. In his early years, Andrew Wade followed his father's trade as a shoemaker. In 1829, he was chosen as

<sup>25</sup> Book: F, Volume: 26, Page Number: 338.

<sup>26</sup> "23 W Hummelstown Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022."

<sup>27</sup> Book: O, Volume: 59, Page Number: 763.

<sup>28</sup> Book Number: 2197; Page Number: 669.

<sup>29</sup> Instrument Number: 6203182.

<sup>30</sup> "PHMC Colonial Revival Style 1880 - 1960." PHMC Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide. Accessed July 25, 2018.

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

<sup>31</sup> Carol Cragoe, How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008), 75.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, 187.

<sup>33</sup> Cragoe, How to Read Buildings: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles, 191.

<sup>34</sup> MacMaster, 63.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 117.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 161.

Justice of the Peace. In 1830, Andrew Wade was elected burgess.<sup>37</sup> 86: In 1834, railroad construction work began in Elizabethtown and Andrew Wade was one of the main principal contractors.<sup>38</sup> Wade served as Treasurer for the St. Peter's Catholic Church from 1832 to 1835.<sup>39</sup> In the 1840s, Andrew Wade was elected president of the Union Fire Company and continued to serve as president after the first reorganization of the company in November of 1843. Although, in 1858, Andrew Wade resigned from this position as president of the Union Fire Company to able a second reorganization of the firm to take place as well as the renaming of the company to the Friendship Fire Company. Colonel Abraham Greenawalt replaced him as president.<sup>40</sup> Andrew Wade was a marshal.<sup>41</sup> Julia Wade donated one of the stained glass windows in St. Peter's Catholic Church in memory of her husband Andrew Wade who died in 1864.<sup>42</sup>

Henry A. Wade was born in Elizabethtown in 1827 and he is the son of Andrew and Christiana Wealand Wade. He graduated from Georgetown College and Harvard Law School and later he was admitted to the bar in Lancaster in 1850 and lived there several years. In 1857, Andrew Wade, his father, sold the Bear Tavern to him as well as the house and farm located on the west side of North Market Street. Henry and his wife Maria Flynn Wade lived in the farmhouse at 130 North Market Street. In his later years, Henry Wade took a vital role in politics among Lancaster County.<sup>43</sup> Furthermore, Henry Wade was a part of a new committee in July of 1858, which comprised of Henry A. Wade and several others who reported in successfully obtaining the first fire engine in Elizabethtown.<sup>44</sup> Another, Henry Wade served as a Captain during the civil war.<sup>45</sup> After the civil war, reports state Henry Wade and Kirk Few won in a close election at the Elizabethtown school board as school directors.<sup>46</sup>

Prior to owning the historic Black Bear tavern, Martin G. Keller operated and managed a stockyard as well as bought and sold cattle, horses, and mules. In 1884, Keller bought the Black Bear Tavern, which was in poor condition at the time, as well as the multiple acres along the west side of North Market Street and the two-story dwelling at 130 North Market Street from Henry A. Wade.<sup>47</sup> Martin Keller, eventually, sold a few building lots along North Market Street.<sup>48</sup> Afterwards, on February 25, 1885, Keller served as a director for the Elizabethtown National Bank.<sup>49</sup>

In December of 1869, two men came to Elizabethtown to replace Benjamin H. Lehman's place who was in control of managing and producing the Elizabethtown newspapers. One of these men were nineteen-year-old John G. Westafer who previous worked with the Middletown journal and served as an apprentice in the newspaper business. The two men agreed to come together and combine forces to establish the Elizabethtown Chronicle, Volume I, Number 1.<sup>50</sup> John G. Westafer wrote about a variety of events, which took place in Elizabethtown such as the fall of the Farmers' bank of Elizabethtown in 1885.<sup>51</sup> In 1876, John G. Westafer served as the secretary of the Friendship Fire Company.<sup>52</sup> In 1909, Elizabethtown had two weekly newspapers in which John G. Westafer wrote and published the Elizabethtown Chronicle at 3 North Market Street, which was his printing office.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 83.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 86.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 104.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 88-89.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 106.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 161.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 110.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 113.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 114.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 117.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 136.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 149.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., 139.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., 119.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., 138.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 143.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 191.

The parcel of land at 23 West Hummelstown has only served as a residence, and the present home has been on the land since 1923 with other structures preceding the present dwelling. The property is historically significant due to the connections with the Westafer family. George W. Westafer built the present home in 1923 when he was transferred ownership of the property from his father, John G. Westafer who contributed even more to Elizabethtown.<sup>54</sup>

John G. Westafer, an apprentice at the Middletown Journal moved to Elizabethtown at the age of 19 in 1869. December of 1869, Westafer and Stuart McCord, a printer from Lebanon, established the Elizabethtown *Chronicle*, the same year the two moved into town.<sup>55</sup> Temporarily, after moving into town, both Westafer and McCord lived with shoemaker George F. Wagner in his home.<sup>56</sup>

The *Chronicle* was not Elizabethtown's first weekly paper. The *Trumpet* preceded the *Chronicle*, as one of the earliest dated Elizabethtown newspapers, after the paper was establishment in 1864 by Benjamin Lehman.<sup>57</sup> The *Trumpet* included "interesting events transpiring in the community" and editorials from "clergymen, teachers, medicinal man and all others."<sup>58</sup> Lehman changed the name from the *Trumpet* to the *Gazette* in 1866. After the name change, the *Gazette* only ran for three years before Lehman moved to Mount Union and started another newspaper there. In response to this void, Westafer and McCord, who do not appear to have worked together prior agreed to found the *Chronicle* together.

Three years after the paper's foundation, however, Westafer took out a loan and bought out McCord's shares if the paper. Two years later, in 1874, John G. Westafer married Esther Weaver.<sup>59</sup> Around this time, the newspaper reached 1,000 subscribers after Westafer changed the *Chronicle* format to an 8-column sheet of 26 by 40 inches.<sup>60</sup> Westafer was also an active member of the community. He was actively involved with Friendship Fire and Hose company No. 1 in 1876, and served as vice president in 1878.<sup>61</sup>

Westafer purchased real estate lot 18 on the borough plan from Maurice Roeting, tinsmith, for \$1,552 in 1884.<sup>62</sup> On lot 18, Roeting previously owned a home goods store; however, this building along with many on South Market Street was destroyed in what was called Elizabethtown's most destructive fire. On February 12, 1892, shortly after midnight a fire started when the stove in a nearby dentist's office was disturbed.<sup>63</sup> Several buildings were destroyed, and among the wreckage the following morning the teakettle sign for Roeting's home good store still hung, discernable.

The same year as the fire, Westafer purchased the property 23 West Hummelstown Street for his growing family to live. His wife Esther bore George Washington Westafer March 15, 1873 and bore Jenny Lind Westafer in 1876. Before his death, John G. Westafer worked with his son George W. Westafer on the *Chronicle*. George W. Westafer was said to have a conservative editorial style, but an aggressive business style, which allowed the *Chronicle* to flourish. The paper enjoyed a newfound stability, and was attributed to "John G. Westafer and son, Publishers."<sup>64</sup> John G. Westafer died on August 18, 1920 at the age of 70 years old, leaving the production of the *Chronicle* to his son George W. Westafer and his widow Esther.

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<sup>54</sup> Book number: F26, Page Number: 338.

<sup>55</sup> "Focus on Elizabethtown," *Chronicle*, (Elizabethtown, PA), Oct. 30, 1997

<sup>56</sup> MacMaster, 119.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> *Chronicle*, Oct. 30, 1997.

<sup>59</sup> *Chronicle*, March 12, 1948.

<sup>60</sup> *Chronicle*, Oct. 30, 1997.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*; MacMaster, 131.

<sup>63</sup> MacMaster, 141.

<sup>64</sup> *Chronicle*, January 1, 1970.

George W. Westafer married Daisy Angstadt; however, she died in the first year of their marriage, and following her previous wife's death, he married her sister-in-law Bertha Angstadt. Bertha Westafer bore George five children: Vera, Ruth, John, Ray, and Walter.<sup>65</sup> Of the five children, only Vera and Ray would get involved in the production of the *Chronicle*.<sup>66</sup> Ray showed especial dedication to the paper. Despite his initial lack of interest in the printing business when he graduated from Elizabethtown High School, the first Monday after his graduation his mother encouraged him to go into the print office and try printing since he was not up to anything. Ray agreed, and while there, his father gave him a piece of copy and told him to set the paper in type. The copy had to be set with individual letters in 8-point type, and this took Ray hours to set a few inches of type since he was unfamiliar with the arrangement of letters in the case.<sup>67</sup> After the type was set, George W. Westafer picked the paper off the composing stick and placed the paper in a gallery, but the paper was on display shortly after being removed and handed back to George. Yet, he had not showed him how to pick up the type tray properly, so all the letters fell out when Ray attempted to mimic his father. He spent the rest of the day fixing what he had spilled, but by the conclusion of tedious day Ray had decided printing was what he wanted to do with his life. Afterward, Ray learned to run the Linotype machine from his sister Vera, and became more involved in the paper for three years, until he moved away to Oakfield, NY and worked as a mechanical superintendent at a newspaper and printshop.<sup>68</sup>

In 1929, Ray Westafer returned to Elizabethtown and the *Chronicle*, where he worked as a Linotype operator, swept out the office, melted type, and did other odd jobs. Ray was able to become a skilled Linotype machine mechanic by watching technicians work on the machines and reading repair manuals. He was even able to go to other printing establishments and repair their Linotype machines. In 1947, George W. Westafer died of a heart attack, and Ray inherited the business. Prior to the death of George Westafer, Ray had helped his father keep the books, so he also had some understanding of the business aspect of printing as well as the technical portions. As the full time publisher and proprietor of the *Chronicle*, Ray would help in the shop during the day and take the books home to work on them at night.<sup>69</sup> His wife Hazel worked as his fulltime secretary, and was another integral part of the paper.<sup>70</sup> Unfortunately, Ray Westafer could not run the *Chronicle* indefinitely, and he lacked heirs willing to take on the burden. Ray Westafer sold the *Chronicle*, a family exclusive business, to the Lebanon News Company in February 1975, hoping the company would continue to produce high quality and family friendly news, the way the *Chronicle* had for over 100 years.<sup>71</sup> From this point, the *Chronicle* changed hands several times, and for a six-month period around 1981, the newspaper was not printed. Unfortunately, the paper went out of business in 2009, when the parent corporation at the time, Journal Register Co., went bankrupt.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> *Chronicle*, Oct. 30, 1997.

<sup>66</sup> *Chronicle*, April 5, 1979.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>70</sup> *Chronicle*, January 1, 1970.

<sup>71</sup> *Chronicle*, July 1994.

<sup>72</sup> Tom Knapp, "Elizabethtown Might Get Newspaper," *Lancaster Online*, Dec. 16, 2009.

Appendix Current Photos:

