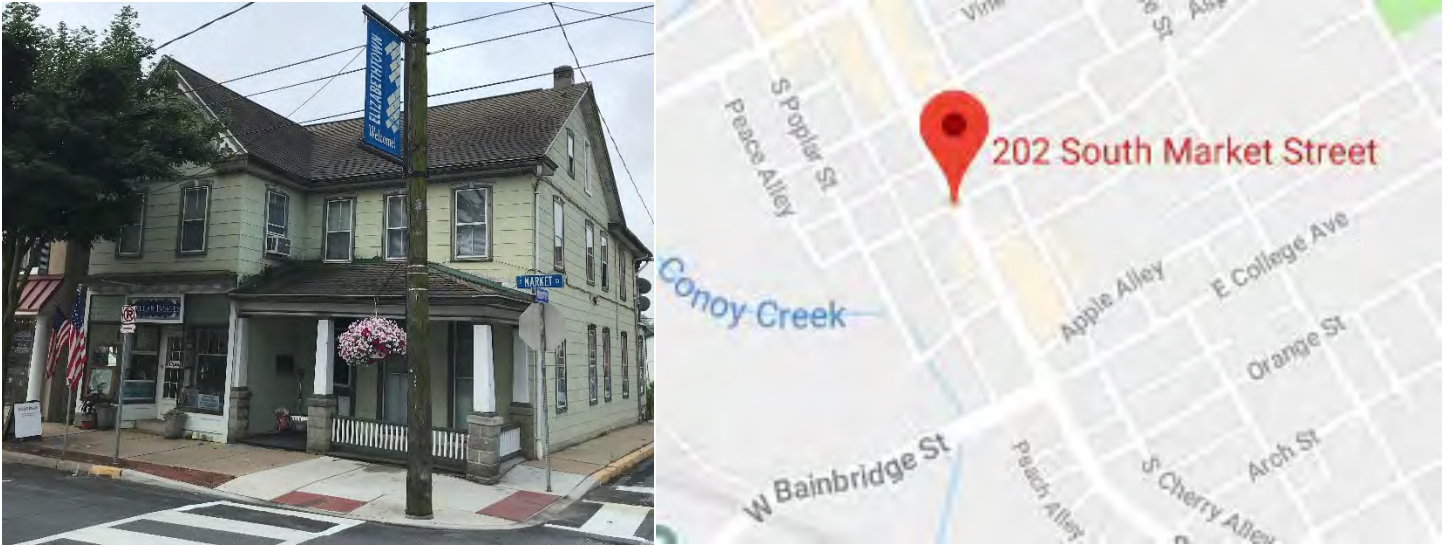


Redsecker, Keller, Olweiler Residence: 202 South Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania**Abstract:**

This Gothic style house was built by George Redsecker prior to 1879. The Redsecker family owned the Black Bear and Sign of the Globe Taverns. The home is most associated with Jacob N. and J. Phillip Olweiler. Their father was F. L. Olweiler, who started the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, later owned by the Olweiler brothers. 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:

Stellar Images is a commercial and residential building located on the corner of South Market Street and Washington Street in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The address for this property is 202 South Market Street, Elizabethtown. Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds reports the dimensions of the lot as being 36 ft. X 198 ft.; total area of approximately 7,524 square ft.²

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

¹ Preliminary research conducted by Megan E. Kuczma.

² Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Instrument Number: 5423358, accessed February 8, 2018, <https://searchdocs.lancasterdeeds.com/countyweb/disclaimer.do>.

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 of his Explorations of Pennsylvania and western New York: Also of the Province of Ontario* (Cleveland, OH: Herman-Taylor, 1898), 49-51.

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 Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River.⁹ Captain Thomas Harris (1695- 1801) settled in Pennsylvania in 1726. In 1730, he built a log cabin along the Conoy Creek and in 1741 he legally received the warrant to the land.¹⁰ Then, in 1745 he built the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which was the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.¹¹

Little is known about this property prior to 1879. Beginning in 1879, the owners of this property include George Redsecker (???? – 16 March 1879),¹² Robert S. Ross and Mary Schultz (16 March 1879 – 29 March 1895),¹³ Frank H. Keller (29 March 1895 – 2 March 1931),¹⁴ Robert R. Keller, Ross L. Keller, and Mary E. Keller Farmer (2 March 1931 – 18 September 1973),¹⁵ First Church of God Elizabethtown (18 September 1973 – 2 July 1975),¹⁶ Ronald L. Felty, Jacob N. Olweiler, and J. Phillip Olweiler (2 July 1975 – 31 July 1997),¹⁷ 222 South Market Street Associates (31 July 1997 – 22 September 2010),¹⁸ Katharina Matic (22 September 2010 – 21 July 2014),¹⁹ and Jerome A. Gottehrer and Pensco Trust Co.²⁰

Architectural Style:

Gothic Revival architecture derives from the mid-19th 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 of 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 popular 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.²¹

The Architectural style for the building addressed 202 South Market Street has been established to be a Gothic based structure. The first element of Gothic architecture presented on this structure is the decorative

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 Society, 1999), 5.

¹¹ Ibid., 8.

¹² Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Online Records, Infodex, Document, Book: B, Volume 21, Page Number: 65, accessed February 8, 2018, <https://www.searchiqs.com/palan/InfodexMainMP.aspx>.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Book: G, Volume 17, Page Number: 46.

¹⁵ Book: K, Volume 30, Page Number: 498.

¹⁶ Book: M, Volume 64, Page Number: 493.

¹⁷ Book: P, Volume 66, Page Number: 309.

¹⁸ Instrument Number: 5423358.

¹⁹ Instrument Number: 5885280.

²⁰ Instrument Number: 6157953.

²¹ "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>.

elements located over windows on both the first and second floors. Gothic Revival received the “Gothic” name from the ample usage of decorative wood elements which is placed on the exterior of the structure.²² One of the major elements seen from the façade of the structure is the front facing roof gable on the top left side with a decorative cross bracing.²³ The final element seen from this structure which represents Gothic Revival architecture is the porch with columns located on the right side of the building.²⁴

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.²⁵ 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.²⁶ George Redsecker was the first lieutenant of Andrew Boggs who served as Captain for the 6th Company during the American Revolution.²⁷ In 1783, Redsecker received his license to own and operate a tavern.²⁸ Redsecker was the owner of various lots on the west side of Market Street.²⁹ 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 feet 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.³⁰ 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.³¹ George Redsecker was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Elizabethtown Crescent club, and played in the Elizabethtown Cornet Band.^{32,33}

In 1862, Robert S. Ross installed and operated a drug store in the south side of 18-20 South Market Street, which would stay in function for 90 years. Robert Ross lived on the north side of the structure. Ross served as a postmaster for a short period of time, from 1890 until 1891.³⁴ In 1885, Frank H. Keller opened a grocery store at 96 South Market Street. As a part time job, he manufactured and produced cigars and he only did this for a few years.³⁵ Furthermore, Frank H. Keller assisted Elder Samuel R. Zug, on April 1899, by stated a case in front of the Elizabethtown town council to appoint a committee of ten to establish a location and to draft a constitution and by-laws for the new school.³⁶

In 1893, Jacob N. Olweiler opened a clothing and shoe store on South Market Street.³⁷ In 1891, Jacob N. Olweiler returned to Elizabethtown after studying at the Eastman Business School in Rochester, New York. When he returned he began working for Hertzler brothers and then later on opened his own men’s clothing store in 1893 in a building on South Market Street which now currently used as a shop for flowers.³⁸ Fortunately, Olweiler’s

²² Ibid.

²³ Will Jones, How to Read Houses: A Crash Course in Architectural Styles. (NY: Rizzoli International Publications Inc., 2008), 63.

²⁴ "PHMC Gothic Revival Style 1830 - 1860."

²⁵ MacMaster, 31.

²⁶ Ibid., 60.

²⁷ Ibid., 41.

²⁸ Ibid., 50.

²⁹ Ibid., 37.

³⁰ Ibid., 54.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Jean-Paul Benowitz, Historic Elizabethtown Pennsylvania: A Walking Tour (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown College, 2015), 61.

³³ Richard K. MacMaster, Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries (Elizabethtown, PA: Elizabethtown Historical Society, 1999), 144, 147.

³⁴ “Local Landmarks: 18-20 S. Market St,” Alethia White, *Elizabethtown Chronicle*.

³⁵ Jean-Paul Benowitz, Images of America: Elizabethtown (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 51.

³⁶ MacMaster, 133.

³⁷ Ibid., 132.

³⁸ Ibid., 135.

business went on for many generations. His store offered “ready-mades or made-to-measure suits or overcoats” at his men’s store which was located at 10 South Market Street.³⁹ In 1915, the Liberty Bell was taken on a tour during the fourth of July holiday and to be put on display along the Panama-Pacific Exposition and Jacob N. Olweiler arranged for the train to halt at Elizabethtown in order for the citizens of Elizabethtown and other local counties to visit and witness this Liberty Bell tour.⁴⁰ In 1916, the Crescent Club bought uniforms from J. N. Olweiler for a parade.⁴¹ Jacob N. Olweiler was a serious influence for the establishment of Boy Scout Troops No. 1 of Elizabethtown, which began as a youth project for the Christ Reformed Church. He had the idea of camping expeditions for boys enrolled in the Sunday School.⁴² Jacob N. Olweiler and several others served and formed an executive committee to welcome home returning servicemen and women at the end of the first world war and this committee established a celebration for September 8 and 9, 1919.⁴³ Olweiler became president of the Chamber of Commerce during the depression years of America. He developed projects to help bring moral to Elizabethtown by creating public parks.⁴⁴ In 1934, the Sunday School had a celebration for Jacob N. Olweiler who completed forty years as superintendent of the Reformed Church Sunday School.⁴⁵ Jacob N. Olweiler was Burgess of Elizabethtown in the 1945.⁴⁶

Appendix: Current Photos:



³⁹ Ibid., 188.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 184.

⁴¹ Ibid., 196.

⁴² Benowitz, *Images of America: Elizabethtown*, 117.

⁴³ MacMaster, 206.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 226.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 231.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 237.

