

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027 and Shawn Gipe Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



Abram G. Heisey (1853-1905)

A string of fires greatly damaged Elizabethtown property in the late nineteenth century. One of these fires happened to destroy Abram G. Heisey's tobacco warehouse on Bainbridge Street.¹

Abram G. Heisey led operations for the Elizabethtown Creamery in 1890, partnering with Isaac W. Hoffman. The aforementioned creamery, in addition to both men's residences, were located on South Market Street. Around this time, A.G Heisey was sold a one-acre tract with buildings by Samuel Eby, who had failed at his business ventures within the banking industry.² This tract included a former bank on 244 South Market Street, becoming the office of the Exchange Bank in 1887 and extending to Bainbridge Street.³ Within this tract, Heisey also built a three-story brick structure, with the architecture featuring ornamental designs and a corner turret. The third floor of this brick structure was named Heisey Hall and the first classes at the newly created Elizabethtown College, on November 16, 1900, were held. Along with these first classes, public meetings, other lectures, entertainment, and even Elizabethtown graduations were held within Heisey Hall.⁴

¹ Richard Kerwin MacMaster, *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries* (Morgantown, PA: Mastof Press, 1999), 141.

² MacMaster, 145.

³ Ibid., 145-147.

⁴ Ibid., 147.

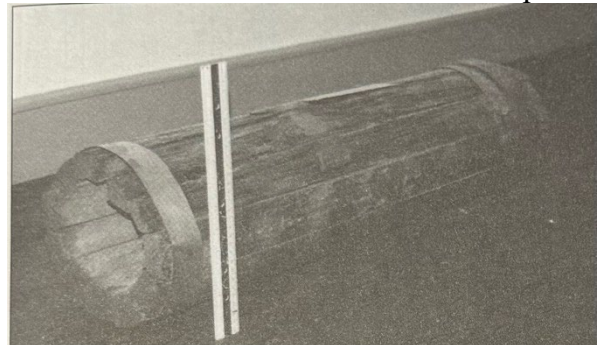
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“A.G. Heisey, Annie Nissley Heisey, and son Oliver in their yard at 244 South Market Street, ca. 1900. A.G. Heisey was a prominent borough businessperson.”⁵



“Heisey Building on the northwest corner of South Market and Bainbridge Streets in 1898. The first Elizabethtown college classes were held on the third floor of this building in 1899.”⁶

Note: the “corner turret” is shown in this photo



The Elizabethtown Water Company was formed in 1894 with A.G. Heisley as its treasurer. The company’s office was in the Elizabethtown Exchange Bank building at 244 South Market



Street, one of the locations within the one-acre tract deal and sold to A.G. Heisley by Samuel Eby. The Elizabethtown Water Company provided several improvements to Elizabethtown borough, such as erecting “modern water works” on West High Street at Conoy Street⁷

“Above: First building of the Elizabethtown

Water Works in 1895.”⁸

“A section of the original wood pipe of Elizabethtown Water Works on display at the Winters Heritage Museum on East High Street.”⁹

The 244 South Market Street location owned by A.G. Heisey was deemed insufficient for the Elizabethtown Exchange Bank. Therefore, a new bank’s construction was undertaken in the summer of 1916 and the Exchange Bank switched locations in 1917. Finding itself on the corner of Washington and South Market Streets, the bank was given a modern look and is known today as the Farmer’s First Bank.¹⁰

⁵ Ibid., 146.

⁶ Ibid., 148.; Aubrey G. Mitchell, “Heisey Hall and Treichler Masonic Lodge No. 682,” (Elizabethtown History Essay, Elizabethtown College, 2017) 1.; Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, “Elizabethtown College” (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 13.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid., 151.

⁹ Ibid., 151.

¹⁰ Ibid., 192.

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“The current Farmers First bank building at South Market and Washington Streets – formerly the Elizabethtown Trust Company.”¹¹

In 1911 Heisey’s Hall became popular when the Ontario “The Eternal City” was presented (I believe it is a play that was eventually turned into a movie in 1915?) under the direction of Mrs. Mary B. Funk. As mentioned, Heisey Hall is on the third floor of the Heisey building at Bainbridge and South Market Streets. On the first

floor, farmers displayed fruit and vegetables for sale at stalls they set up. The second level hosted musical events and evenings, with an auditorium within it acting as a stage.¹²

With World War I finally ending in 1918, there was a welcome home celebration and banquet held on September 9 and 8, 1919, by Elizabethtown, to welcome back returning soldiers. This celebration apparently hosted the largest parade in Etown history at the time. A.G. Heisey happened to be part of the executive committee for this welcome home celebration.¹³

When a pajama factory in West Bainbridge closed early in the Great Depression, the Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce encouraged Joseph Greenberg to open a garment factory in the same building. Joseph Greenberg leased this building from A.G. Heisey. Though, Greenberg’s company eventually moved locations in 1957 on North Popular Street.¹⁴

Rev Charles M. Fahl, the pastor of the Elizabethtown Church of God, strongly supported bible conferences and was under fire for his beliefs of eternal security of heaven for those who believe in God. Elizabethtown’s congregation voted to keep Fahl as the pastor, but ultimately it was decided that he would be transferred to different congregation where he could practice his own denomination. Elizabethtown Church of God members supported and were friendly to Fahl, however, they stayed in their own denominations. A.G. Heisey, the superintendent of the Elizabethtown Church of God, spoke on behalf of the denomination during the welcoming ceremony for Rev. C.W. Hiegers, the pastor to take Fahl's position in the Elizabethtown Church of God.¹⁵

¹¹ Ibid., 192.

¹² Ibid., 194.

¹³ Ibid., 206.

¹⁴ Ibid., 222.

¹⁵ Ibid., 232-233.

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Heisey Hall page information:

With interim classes beginning in Heisey Hall, the lessons started with chapel exercises and testing to see how much students already knew in the courses being taught. Falkenstein performed all the duties of principal. During this time, Falkenstein made it clear he wanted 75 students to be enrolled by the end of the year, but this would happen in the spring session of 1904. Despite the increase in students, this presented an issue with Heisey Hall, in which the capacity of students would likely be exceeded if the Hall continued being used for teaching. Due to this issue, a loan was acquired for \$9000 on January 8, 1901 from the Lancaster Trust Company in order to create a new building. While the new building was under construction, everyone within Heisey Hall carried furniture along with their books and loaded them onto Rider's two-horse hardware wagon, taking three trips in total. Although only a temporary fix to Etown's growing population,



the Rider House was much more spacious than Heisey Hall and allowed time for the construction of the new building to be completed. Upon the college's completion of the construction, the building was named College Hill, known as Alpha Hall in the current day.¹⁶

"Heisey Hall,' the site of the College's first classes on the corner of Bainbridge and South Market streets in Elizabethtown. It is believed that this photograph shows one of the three trips required in 'moving the College' from the Heisey building to Rider House while Alpha Hall was still under construction."¹⁷

¹⁶ Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 41-43.

¹⁷ Williamson, 174.

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Heisey Hall and Treichler Masonic Lodge No. 682: 256 South Market Street; Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



Abstract:

The Heisey Hall and Treichler Masonic Lodge No. 682 most distinguishing features include a Victorian inspired Queen Anne French turret, Georgian style windows, and Renaissance detail. Abraham Redsecker originally had possession of a larger plot of land that included this property. Eventually the property passed to A.G. Heisey, who built the building that stands today. In 1900, Simon Engle operated a grocery store on the first floor while the third acted as a public meeting hall. That same third floor was used as the Treichler Masonic Lodge, where a group of Masonic Brothers met until 1958. Since then, multiple generations of Heisey's owned the building until it was sold to the Young family in 1969. The Vekios Family currently uses the building to operate the restaurant Brothers Pizza.

Property Details:

Heisey Hall and Treichler Masonic Lodge, currently known as Brothers Pizza lies on the corner of South Market and Union Streets. The address for the property is located at 256 South Market Street, Elizabethtown PA, 17022 Lancaster County. The Lancaster County Property Tax Inquiry reports the lot having the dimensions 157 ft. x 67.4 ft. x 157 ft. x 81.9 ft.; total area of approximately 11,326 ft.¹

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.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 County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Property ID: 250-82931-0-0000, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://lancasterpa.devnetwedge.com/parcel/view/2508293100000/2017>.

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

³ 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.

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 Bezaillon (1662-1742) established a settlement between the Conoy and Conwego Creeks along the Susquehanna River.⁷ In 1719 Peter Bezaillon invited the Piscataway Indians to move from Maryland and settle with him along the Cony 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. In 1741, he legally owns the land, and he builds a stone house in 1745.⁹ Then, in 1745, he builds the Sign of the Bear Tavern, which is the first permanent structure in Elizabethtown.¹⁰

Online deed searches have confirmed that on 30 December, 1740, Thomas Harris sold multiple lots in Elizabethtown to Abraham Redsecker. Redsecker subsequently divided up the plots and distributed them to his heirs. It is plausible that the land connected to Heisey Hall was one of the plots distributed to Abraham Breneman and Mary Redsecker Breneman, son-in-law and daughter of Abraham Redsecker.¹¹ It is possible that sometime between 1840 to 1867 Abraham Breneman sold the property to James Marshall. Online deed searches have confirmed that James Marshall had possession of the property until March 1867.¹² Marshall sold the property to Abram Collins, who had possession of the property until he died on 14 December 1885.¹³ Abram Collins passed the property onto his descendants, the list of which is A.G. Heisey (14 December 1885 – 16 June 1938),¹⁴ Oliver N. Heisey (16 June 1938 – 26 October 1939),¹⁵ Ada R. Heisey Martin and Roy C. Martin (26 October 1939 – 3 October 1944),¹⁶ A Lewis Heisey and Ada R. Heisey (3 October 1944 – 15 February 1969),¹⁷ Anna S. and Mahlon E Young (15 February 1969 – 5 December 1972),¹⁸ Jay R and Irvin H Peifer (5 December 1972 – 30 December 1983),¹⁹ George N. and Nancy L. Vekios (30 December 1983 – Present).²⁰

Architectural Style Report:

The current Queen Anne style building on 256 South Market Street is composed of red brick with two rows of Georgian style multiple-pane windows on each side of the building.²¹ The current building was erected by Abraham (A.G.) Heisey shortly after another of Heisey's properties, the bank, became the office of the Exchange Bank in 1887.²² The structure itself emphasizes repetition and, uniformity, and symmetry.²³ The building possesses a focal point in the form of a cream colored Victorian inspired Queen Anne French turret located in the top right corner of the front of the building.²⁴ However it was not completely uncommon for a

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 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.

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 Socieity, 1999), 5.

¹⁰ Ibid., 8.

¹¹ Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Search Public Records, Online E-Film Reader, Document, Book: T6 , Page Number: 42-43, accessed April 25, 2017, <http://www.lancasterdeeds.com/onlineefilmreader/>.

¹² Book: K, Volume 71 , Page Number: 205.

¹³ Book: O, Volume 12 , Page Number: 551.

¹⁴ Book: Y, Volume 36 , Page Number: 00328

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Book: Q, Volume 58, Page Number: 392

¹⁹ Book: H, Volume 88, Page Number: 00557.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Will Jones, How to Read Houses: A crash course in domestic architecture (Brighton, U.K.: The Ivy Press Limited, 2008), 125.

²² MacMaster, 147.

²³ Jones, 35.

²⁴ Ibid., 61.

Georgian style home to have a turret as ornamentation, so the architect may have drawn inspiration from either.²⁵ The building sports a layered brick cornice that runs the along the building just below the roof.²⁶ In between the two rows of windows there is some renaissance detail in the form of a diamond pattern of brick.²⁷

Historical Context and Purpose:

Abram Collins was a wealthy mill owner who also owned real estate in Conoy Township. In 1869, Collins, a later resident of Elizabethtown, helped Mennonite Samuel Eby start the Farmers' Bank of Elizabethtown at 244 South Market Street.²⁸ The bank started with Collins as its president, who backed its first monetary ventures. Collins' daughter Elizabeth married Eby, for whom Collins acted as assignee on the deed to the Heisey building. On 14 December, 1885 Collins sold the property to A.G. Heisey after Eby failed in business and ruined the Farmer's Bank.²⁹ A.G. Heisey was also known to others as both Abram G. Heisey and Abraham G. Heisey. Heisey owned a tobacco warehouse on Bainbridge Street which was destroyed in one of multiple fires that led to the creation of the Friendship Fire Company.³⁰ In 1890, Heisey also operated the Elizabethtown Creamery with his business partner Isaac W. Hoffman.³¹ A short time after the property was sold to him, he built the three-story brick structure that stands there today.³² On 16 June, 1938 A.G. Heisey passed away and his heir inherited the property. On 6 April, 1937, Abram published his will and left the Heisey Building to his son Oliver N. Heisey who died shortly thereafter.³³ On 19 March, 1915 a group of Masonic Brothers gathered at the home of Harry Miller to discuss the possibility of forming a lodge at Elizabethtown as the previous one was moved to Marietta, Pennsylvania not four years after its opening. This group elected Richard H. Lawry, President and Henry T. Horst as Secretary. They agreed to pay a \$10.00 membership fee and if a warrant is obtained a membership fee for new Masons would be \$50.00. This Hall Association would be composed of all charter members and they then elected Henry U. Coble as treasurer. A second meeting of this group numbering twenty assembled at the Miller home. They agreed that if a Lodge is warranted they should then rent Heisey Hall at East Bainbridge and South Market Streets. With light, heat and water included, the building rent was \$180.00 per annum.³⁴ In 1926, the officers and members of Lodge No. 682 finally acted to name the Lodge in honor of the man whose name had been such an honored one at the time of constitution. Because of his longing and working for the warranting of a Lodge in Elizabethtown, a resolution was adopted to petition Grand Lodge to name Lodge No. 682 the "Abraham C. Treichler" Lodge. The petition was later approved and the Lodge named.³⁵ Until 1958, the Abraham C. Treichler Lodge continued to meet in the same Hall where it had been constituted. In that year the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania completed and dedicated the Masonic Temple of the Masonic Homes, where Lodge No. 682 was allowed to meet regularly.³⁶ On 6 April 1937, Abram published his will and left the Heisey Building to his son Oliver N. Heisey who died shortly thereafter.³⁷ In 1909, before he died, Oliver Heisey operated a grocery store in the same building at the corner of Bainbridge and South Market Streets.³⁸ On 25 October, 1939 Oliver died and willed the house to his widow and son, Ada R. Heisey and A. Lewis Heisey. Ada Heisey later remarried a man named Roy C. Martin and became Ada R. Martin. In 1963 Ada and her son A. Lewis Heisey served on the Elizabethtown Water Company board.³⁹

²⁵ Jones, 133.

²⁶ Ibid., 69.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ MacMaster, 121.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid., 141.

³¹ Ibid., 145.

³² Ibid., 147.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No 682. "Lodge History." Free and Accepted Masons. Accessed April 25, 2017.

<http://www.ETownMasons.org/our-lodge/lodge-history/>

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ MacMaster, 147.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid., 254.

In October, 1984 the borough of Elizabethtown bought the Elizabethtown Water Company, a venture it had been trying to accomplish for 20 years. Ownership of the company was transferred by Paul O. Shirk, President of the company and A. Lewis Heisey, the secretary-treasurer, for \$1,237,000.⁴⁰ The building was originally used as a residence but early on became a commercial retail space for Engle's grocery store and the Treichler Masonic, and is currently being used as Brothers Pizza.

⁴⁰ MacMaster, 283.

Appendix Historical and Current Photos:

