

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



David E. Brinser (1890 – 1972)

Sadie M. Brinser (1898 – 1972)

David E. Brinser was Born on December 17, 1890, and died on November 18, 1972, at age 81. was Born on December 17, 1890, and died on November 18, 1972, at age 81. Brinser's parents were Josiah Sellers Brinser (1851–1918) and Lovina Martin Ebersole Brinser (1851–1937). He was then buried at the Hillsdale Cemetery in Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, USA.¹ Sadie M. Brinser, the wife of David, was born in 1898 and died during 1972 (aged 73–74). Sadie was also buried at the Hillsdale Cemetery in Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, USA, in the same plot as David Brinser.²At seventeen years old, David Emerson Brinser started his career as a public-school teacher in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, and continued teaching in the system for forty-four years.³

¹ "David Emerson Brinser," Find a Grave, accessed July 8, 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24319845/david_emerson-brinser.

² "Sadie M Brinser," Find a Grave, accessed July 8, 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24319849/sadie_m-brinser.

³ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 255.

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When plans for erecting the West Wing of the Gible Science Hall were in motion during the 1950s at Elizabethtown College, Mr. And Mrs. Brinser from Middletown, Pennsylvania, paid for, in the form of a gift, a large lecture hall within the wing for Elizabethtown College.⁴ On September 24, 1958, the West Wing of the Gible Science Hall was dedicated, and a ceremony was held. At the end of the dedicatory program, both David E. Brinser and his wife, Sadie M. Brinser, were honorary degree, Doctor of Pedagogy.⁵

Additionally, David Brinser pledged \$50,000 to the Pathway to Fulfillment, a three-year fundraising program for the erection of three major buildings.⁶ The aim of this project was to construct an addition to the Zug Memorial Library, a classroom building, and a physical education building.⁷ Then, on May 8, 1963, the Executive Committee of the

Board of Trustees voted to file an application with the Housing Home Finance Agency for a loan of \$750,000 for the erection of a men's dormitory, hoping to house one hundred and forty students. The erection of the men's dormitory was seemingly made possible through David Brinser's donation.⁸



⁴ Schlosser, 197.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid., 246.

⁷ Ibid., 244.

⁸ Ibid., 254.

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President McAuley accepted Brinser's gift during a meeting of the leaders of the Pathway to Fulfillment, making this statement: "The gift is a generous and worthy demonstration of David E. Brinser's deep interest in Christian higher education."⁹ Brinser's Residence for men is a three-story brick structure, including a main lobby and student rooms with modern designs. The dedicatory services for this building were held on October 16, 1965, and J.W. Kettering, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, announced that the Board

had voted for the building to be named The David E. and Sadie M. Brinser Residence Hall for men.¹⁰ Just two years later in 1968, David Brinser would be listed as a Honorary Trustee to Elizabethtown College on the Board of Trustees.¹¹



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⁹ Ibid., 255.

¹⁰ Ibid.; Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, "Elizabethtown College" (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 20.

¹¹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 294.

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