

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
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



Frank Milton Masters, Jr (1926-2018)

Frank Milton Masters Jr. was the son of Frank M. Masters and Margaret Wilson Masters.¹ His father was an engineer and a founder of the firm Modjeski and Masters. Frank M. Masters Jr. was born on January 23, 1926. He attended the Harrisburg Academy and graduated from the Mercersburg Academy. He attended Cornell University and graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in civil engineering.² He was the first person in his family to graduate from college.³

Early in his career, he worked with the Commonwealth's Department of Transportation before eventually beginning practice with his father's firm, Modjeski and Masters, where he became a partner. Frank's interests shifted from engineering into business when he began working for Newbold and Son before purchasing a swimming pool company which he renamed and grew, called Aqua Specialists. While his career path took a more business focus, he remained involved as an "expert witness in litigation and arbitration and served on the Board of the Harrisburg branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers."⁴

¹ "Frank M. Masters Obituary," Obituaries, PennLive, accessed July 2, 2024, <https://obits.pennlive.com/us/obituaries/pennlive/name/frank-masters-obituary?id=13708261>

² "Frank Milton Masters Jr.," Find a Grave, accessed July 2, 2024, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/187737008/frank_m-masters

³ "Frank M. Masters Jr.," Donor Impact Stories, Etown, accessed July 2, 2024, <https://giftplanning.etown.edu/j-g-francis-society/donor-impact-stories/frank-m-masters-jr>

⁴ PennLive n.d.; Find a Grave n.d.

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His second career was in philanthropy and community service. He sold his business, Aqua Specialists, and served “on the Boards of the Harrisburg Symphony, The Harrisburg Community Theater, The Harrisburg Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, The Harrisburg Art Association, WITF, Music at Gretna, The Friends of Jazz, The Harrisburg Academy, The Mercersburg Alumni Counsel, The

Country Club of Harrisburg and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.”⁵

In his obituary, published in the Patriot News from March 3 to March 4, 2018, they write:

“His lifelong interests included aviation, music, photography, ornithology, scuba diving, ham radio and mineralogy. He earned his pilot's license in 1951 and flew throughout the country. He considered ham radio to be the precursor of the internet and earned his Ham license, W3ABF, in 1954. He served as the president of the Harrisburg Amateur Radio Club and was the first president of the Central Pennsylvania Repeater Club. He received a special award from the City of Johnstown for the communication system that he set up and operated during the 1977 flood.”⁶

In 2006, Frank M. Masters Jr. made history with a contribution of \$4 million towards the construction of the Masters Center for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering, the single largest contribution in the College’s history.

An avid mineral collector, Frank Milton Masters Jr. donated his extensive mineral collection to the college. The collection is featured in The Masters Mineral Gallery in the lobby of the Masters Center. The gallery contains minerals collected by Masters from five different continents.

On March 1, 2018, Frank M. Masters Jr. passed away at his home at the age of 92. He is buried at the Hershey Cemetery in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.⁷



⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

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