

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



## **Horace E. Raffensperger (1901 - 1977)**

## **Elizabeth Raffensperger (1901-2003)**

On August 31, 1958, the Board of Trustees appointed Horace E. Raffensperger as the Chairman and advisor to the Development Program.<sup>1</sup> At the time of President Baugher's retirement, H.E. Raffensperger was part of the committee for planning proper ceremonies for the President.<sup>2</sup> During a testimonial dinner at the Penn Harris Hotel in Harrisburg on May 1, 1961, for recognizing President Baugher, Horace Raffensperger was the toastmaster at the event and announced the establishment at Elizabethtown College of the A.C. Baugher Lectureship in Science. Additionally, Baugher was given a lump sum of money from the Board of Trustees.<sup>3</sup>

A convocation was held on April 10, 11, and 13, 1964, for the launch of the Pathway to Fulfillment program. At this program, Horace E. Raffensperger acted as a Leadership Gifts Chairman.<sup>4</sup> During the inauguration of President Mays, Horace Raffensperger, at the time Secretary to the Board of Trustees, gave the "Charge to President Mays" section of the service. Additionally, during this service Raffensperger was in charge of the Presentation of Medallion to President Mays.<sup>5</sup> For the Board of Trustees in the year 1986, H.E. Raffensperger served as the

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Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 212.

<sup>2</sup> Schlosser, 221.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 222.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 245.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 286.

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Secretary.<sup>6</sup> H.E. Raffensperger's time on the Board of Trustees expired in 1971.<sup>7</sup>

When President Mays took up his duties on October 1, 1966, he appointed a committee to "review the basic commitment of Elizabethtown College and to suggest the future direction of the College along with major lines of its future development." This program was called EPIC-Elizabethtown Plots Its Course, and involved various

individuals and organizations concerned with the future of Elizabethtown College. As a member of the committee, H.E. Raffensperger acted as a trustee to the EPIC Co-ordinating Committee.<sup>8</sup> At the groundbreaking ceremonies of the new Alumni Physical Education Center on September 13, 1968, Horace E. Raffensperger, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, participated in the program.<sup>9</sup> Elizabethtown College: The First Three Centuries:

"College and community representatives developing the Five-Year Plan for Elizabethtown College; back row (left to right): Sam Parrett, Jack Hornafius, James L.M. Yeingst, Richard Berg, Lester Hitz, and Jacob Hershman; middle row (left to right): J.W. (Jap) Heisey, and Earl Kurtz; front row (left to right): Walter Dupes, Roy Cover, Horace Raffensperger, Roy McAuley (college president), and Vere Bishop."<sup>10</sup> The Continental Press's new firm and offices were behind Horace E. Raffensperger's House and employed six people in 1939. Additionally, Raffensperger expanded his own editorial offices into a modern industrial complex and employed between 90 and 100 people in 1968.<sup>11</sup>



In 1954, the congregation of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren broke ground for a new church building on South Mount Joy Street. Horace Raffensperger, chair of the building committee. The building was a Colonial-style architecture and the cornerstone was laid in 1955. H.E. Raffensperger was part of the building committee for this building and it was expected to

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 294.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 296.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 308.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 315.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 248.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 256.

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cost \$325,000.<sup>12</sup> Two years after the construction of the “Living Learning Center,” it was named Founder’s Hall, and the four wings were dedicated to men who had been instrumental in founding the College. The central lounge within founder’s is dedicated to Dr. And Mrs. Horace E. Raffensperger, as well as the alumni and founders of the Continental press.<sup>13</sup>

Find a Grave Information:

Find a Grave, database and images ([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/195581632/horace\\_e-raffensperger](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/195581632/horace_e-raffensperger): accessed June 28, 2024), memorial page for Horace E. Raffensperger (1901–1977), Find a Grave Memorial ID 195581632, citing Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Etta Lyons Buchwald (contributor 48374005).

Horace E. Raffensperger

BIRTH: 1901

DEATH: 1977 (aged 75–76)

BURIAL: Mount Tunnel Cemetery

Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA

MEMORIAL ID: 195581632

Parents: William Andrew "W. A." Raffensperger 1874–1947 and Elsie May Hoover Raffensperger 1882–1963

Spouse: Elizabeth Trimmer Raffensperger 1900–2003

Siblings: Evalyn Gertrude Raffensperger Eshelman 1908–1991

Children: Carl T. Raffensperger 1926–2006 and Joan Louise Raffensperger

1936–1937

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 260.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 262.

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Elizabeth Trimmer Raffensperger

Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/195581643/elizabeth-raffensperger>: accessed July 1, 2024), memorial page for Elizabeth Trimmer Raffensperger (1900–2003), Find a Grave Memorial ID 195581643, citing Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Etta Lyons Buchwald (contributor 48374005).

BIRTH: 1900

DEATH: 2003 (aged 102–103)

BURIAL: Mount Tunnel Cemetery Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA  
MEMORIAL ID: 195581643

Parents: Noah A. Trimmer 1875–1961 and Fannie V. Powell Trimmer 1876–1936

Spouse: Horace E. Raffensperger 1901–1977

Siblings: Morris A. Trimmer 1899–1990, Alfred Powell Trimmer 1902–1940 and Daniel Jacob Trimmer 1909–1909

Children: Carl T. Raffensperger 1926–2006 and Joan Louise Raffensperger 1936–1937

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