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Northern Town Lot Histories of Fairfield, Pennsylvania

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Northern Town Lot Histories of Fairfield, Pennsylvania

Abstract
Each lot history give the original lot number, original owner, the current address, the owner of the lot in 1860, a description of the lot or dwelling in 1860, a recital of ownership with as much detail as is known, a comprehensive lot history, any known residents in 1860 (may be different than lot owner), and any family notes on any residents mentioned in the lot history. The research is comprehensive, but not necessarily exhaustive. Thorough information for all lots was not always available to the researcher.

Keywords
Adams County Historical Society, ACHS, Adams County, Pennsylvania History, Fairfield, Town Lots

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**Northeasterly Lot Histories**

**Town Lot #1N**: Rinehart and Sullivan’s Store. **Current Address**: 11 West Main Street. **1860 Owner**: Peter Shively. **Description**: One-story, stone, structure, still standing. **Recital**: William Miller, in 1801; James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Isaac A. Robinson, September 27, 1845; James Wilson, October 7, 1852; Peter Shively, November 8, 1856; Jacob J. Shoemaker, April 2, 1900.

**History of the Lot**: Lot 1N shares the same early history with Lots 1W and 2W (The Mansion House Property). The date of construction for the structure on this lot is not known, but its appearance suggests it was built at an early date. An 1841 sales notice describes it as “a stone store house, now occupied as a private dwelling.” An 1846 insurance docket refers to this structure as a “stone store house . . . 20 by 40 feet.” The building was used as a store for many years, operated by a variety of individuals or tenants. The 1858 wall map indicates this as the “store of Rinehart and Sullivan,” merchants. The owners of the establishment, at least through Stuart’s Raid in October 1862, were Evan Thomas Rinehart and Daniel Sullivan. An 1861
advertisement for the store described it as being on the corner of “Main and Mountain Sts.” At some point, the store became Sullivan & Sons. In the years following the war the store taken over by George W. Wortz and C. F. Hinkle, and then George W. Wortz and David R. Musselman. For many years this was the general store of G. M. Neely and later served as the Fairfield Post Office.

1860 Residents: Daniel Sullivan (February 27, 1807-October 6, 1891); Hannah Ogburn Sullivan (April 5, 1805-January 17, 1871); Susan Sullivan (March 11, 1838-March 18, 1916); Joseph T. Sullivan (June 1840 – November 16, 1921); John C. Sullivan (1843), clerk.

Family Notes: E. T. Rinehart was a merchant, who in the 1860 census is listed as residing at Shively’s Mansion House (current Fairfield Inn). In December 1860 he married Euphemia Knox, who in the 1860 census is shown at the residence of Maria Louden (Outlying Lot C). According to the Adams Sentinel, in June 1864 “Thomas E. Reinhart of Fairfield Adams County, has been appointed to a clearkship in the office of Capt. Humes, Brig. Quarter Master, at Washington.” Enumerated directly below the residents of the hotel are Daniel Sullivan and his family, who were renters in the town at the time. Although it is possible that they lived in the rear of the store, it is also possible that they rented a house somewhere else in town, and the census taker just happened to question Sullivan at his store, thus accounting for his being cited here. In 1864 Sullivan purchased the property of Isaac Robinson at Lot 4N and so by that time his family had moved to that location. (The Sullivans had moved to Fairfield from Maryland just a few years prior to the Civil War.) Daniel and his wife are today buried at the Friends Meeting House in Union Bridge, Maryland. It is also of some interest that in 1867 Daniel’s son, Joseph, married Peter Shively’s daughter, Laura.

Civil War Notes: There are several stories associated with the Rinehart and Sullivan’s Store during the Civil War. In 1861, Evan Thomas Rinehart was second lieutenant of the Fairfield Zouaves, a local militia unit of about 40 men commanded by a Captain Knox. Their uniforms were red and gray and in the Zouave style. Apparently, the guns of this unit were held in the storeroom of Rinehart and Sullivan. A story concerning these guns and J.E.B. Stuart’s Raid of October 11, 1862, was related by Fairfield historian Frank M. Moore.
in 1951: “The citizens of the town had planted a large flag-pole in
the space between the Swope and Marshall Houses [Lots 1E and 2E]
and when the Rebs clattered into town they saw the Stars and Stripes
waving at the top of the pole. Some of them dismounted and with
axes soon laid the flag on the ground. A hot-headed citizen watched
them from the window of a garret room over the Rinehart and Sullivan
store, now owned by G. M. Neely. When the flag touched the ground
this man seized one of a number of muskets stored in the room by
a company of home guards, trained it on one of the Johnnies and
was about to pull the trigger when Mr. Rinehart came upon him and
stopped him in the nick of time. We tremble yet to contemplate the
sure consequences of such a deed if it had been carried out. The town
would certainly have been burned.” In listing the losses of Fairfield
during the raid, the Gettysburg Star and Banner of October 16, 1862,
noted, “Sullivan’s of about $200 worth. They also took 30 stands of
arms from the armory of the Home Guard.” In a claim for damages
made by Daniel Sullivan to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the
guns are also mentioned but as being “broken.” But Stuart’s men did
more than take the guns of the home guard. Sullivan stated that “the
Rebels attacked my store” seizing and destroying about $140 worth
of merchandise. For more than an hour, Daniel, his son John, and
William Lewis McGlaughlin witnessed the “depredations” of Stuart’s
men. The store, was again looted during the Gettysburg Campaign,
this time, much more severely, with the retreating Confederates
hauling off the major portion of his stock in their wagons. The losses
to his “country store” were estimated at a staggering $3,494.70. Of
course, there is no evidence that Sullivan was compensated for his
losses.

Sources: ACDB K-269, T-454; C.V.M.P Insurance Company
Lien Docket 1844-1846, ACHS; Civil War Border Claims Files,
Sullivan and Sons, PHMC; “A Valuable Limestone Farm,” Compiler,
September 27, 1841; “Money Stolen—Arrest,” Compiler, February
14, 1859; “Still in the Union,” Compiler, April 8, 1861; Gettysburg
Compiler, September 2, 1861; “List of Merchants,” Adams Sentinel,
June 3, 1862; “Excitement in Gettysburg,” Star and Banner, October
16, 1862; “The Rebel Official Reports of the Raid of Stuart’s Cavalry,”
Valley Spirit, November 5, 1862; Adams Sentinel, June 14, 1864;
Frank M. Moore, “Southern Armies thrice were temporary visitors
as events of the Civil War engulfed Village,” *Gettysburg Times*, September 11, 1951; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area’s Past* (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee: 1976), 62.


**History of the Lot**: Roger Hart is indicated as the owner of this lot on the 1801 agreement between William Miller and the lot holders of Fairfield. But Hart does not appear with the property in the 1797 or 1802 tax list. From an examination of the early records, this appears to be the property of Thomas Craig who is shown in the 1802 and 1804 tax records with a house and lot valued at $150, and he is mentioned as a former adjoiner in an 1813 deed for Lot 4N. In 1805 Craig is listed with a house and lot valued at $80, so it seems that the property was reduced in value or he relocated to another lot. In 1807, William Miller sold this lot to Archibald Beard for $200, strongly suggesting that there was a structure already there at that time. In the deed, which refers to this as “lot number second northeasterly,” there is no reference to a previous owner. In the 1808 tax list, Beard (or Baird) was assessed with a house and lot valued at $150. In 1811, the value of the property was increased to $450. In 1812, Beard transferred the lot to Henry Sellinger (or Zollinger), and in 1822 the property was transferred, once again, to James and Joseph Scott. An 1844 sale noted that this lot was sold to raise money for children of Joseph Scott, late of Hamiltonban Township. The advertisement described a “Lot of Ground . . . on Main Street and bounded on the west by an alley, on the north by an alley, and on the east by a lot of William Johnson on which are erected a two-story weather-boarded house, a blacksmith shop, a log stable, with a well of water near the door.” This house and lot are shown as owned by Samuel Linah in the 1845 tax list, being valued at $400. It is shown but unlabeled on the 1858 wall map. The 1861 tax list indicates the transfer of a
house and lot valued at $400 from S. Linah to John B. Paxton, but the actual transaction probably took place earlier as the Paxtons are shown at this location in the 1860 census. The 1872 *Atlas* indicates this property; owned by “J. B. Paxton.” The structure at this site was removed in the 1960s; currently the property is a vacant lot associated with Saint John’s Lutheran Church.

**1860 Residents:** John Black Paxton (1814-October 14, 1891); Margaret White Paxton (August 23, 1827-April 20, 1895); Sallie S. Paxton (1858-March 9, 1872), John Paxton (May 1860-August 9, 1860); Robert Slemmons (1783- January 28, 1863); Elmira Reese (1840, domestic servant of Robert Slemmons).

**Civil War Notes:** John B. Paxton was a partner in Paxton and McCreary’s Store (Lot 6E) and the postmaster of Fairfield at the time of the Civil War. According to several accounts, the post office was located in the back of the store. In the fall of 1862, during Stuart’s Raid, Paxton became a pawn in the much larger dispute between the United States and Confederate States authorities. In retaliation for the actions of General John Pope and the Union army in Virginia during the summer of 1862, General Robert E. Lee sent Stuart the following orders: “should you meet with citizens of Pennsylvania holding State or Government offices, it will be desirable, if convenient, to bring them with you, that they may be used as hostages, or the means of exchange, for our citizens that have been carried off by the enemy. Such persons will of course, be treated with all the respect and consideration that circumstances will admit.” On the evening of October 11, 1862, Stuart’s column entered the town and had Paxton arrested. Others citizens taken from the area during the raid included Andrew Low, Alexander Benchoff, John C. Martin, Sandford Shroeder, John Hartman, and Andrew Hartman. (Several citizens were taken hostage from Franklin County during the raid as well.) According to Paxton himself in an 1890 letter, “I was captured by Gen. Stuart on his raid through our state and town and was held as a hostage and spent the winter of 1862-1863 in ‘Libby.’ I returned in shattered health and am not yet wholly restored.” A later version of the story relates that “After about six months in Libby Prison” the men were exchanged. “Paxton who had suffered severely from prison fare and confinement, felt he could not make the trip home. He begged
the others to go without him. But [John] Martin [of Fountaindale] refused, saying that he could die as easily on the way as in prison. John Martin carried Paxton most of the way on his back.” Robert Slemmons, one of the long-time residents of the town and an uncle of John B. Paxton, was living with the family in 1860, and passed away while Paxton was in prison.


**Town Lot #3N:** Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. **Current Address:** 15 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Trustees of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. **Description:** Large brick structure, built in 1854 and still standing. **Recital:** Henry Albright, by 1795; Andrew Topper, in 1801; William Miller to Alexander McGaughy, March 3, 1802; John Steen, February 25, 1805; Matthew Steen; 1806; Jacob Stover, September 6, 1806; Alexander Mack, April 1, 1813; John McWilliams, April 1, 1815; Ezra Blythe, June 30, 1818; William Johnson, November 17, 1839; John H. McClellan, January 29, 1845; Margaret White, January 14, 1846; Heirs of Margaret White, October 9, 1850; Trustees of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fairfield, April 8, 1854.

**History of the Lot:** The tax list of 1795 shows Henry Albright with two lots (Lots 3N and 4N) valued at 20 pounds, indicating a house on one of the lots by that time. The 1801 agreement lists Andrew Topper as the owner of lots 3N and 4N, and the 1802 tax list shows him with a house and two lots valued at $350. But Albright and Topper are not mentioned in the deed recital, which states that Miller sold the lot directly to McGaughy in 1802. In 1813, lots 3N and 4N were sold by Jacob Stover to Alexander Mack for $750. In 1814, the lots were divided, lot 3N described as a house and lot valued at $300. In 1815, the property was sold for $500. In 1817, the value was $400. An 1818 sheriff’s sale described the property of John McWilliams as “a lot of ground in the town aforesaid, and known on the general plan

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of said town by No. 3 — whereon is erected a good framed dwelling-
house and stable, also, a large and convenient black-smith shop.” The
property sold in 1818 for $600. In 1844, a sheriff’s sale described this
lot, the property of William Johnson, “as adjoining lot of James Scott
and the heirs of Joseph Scott on the west, and John McCleary on the
east, on which are erected a one-story frame weather-boarded house,
log shop and log stable.” The tax records for many years list this as
a house and lot valued at $200. In April 1854, the lot was transferred
to the trustees of the Lutheran congregation of Fairfield by the heirs
of Margaret White. A note in the 1855 tax list indicates this lot as
having been “transferred to trustees of church.” Shortly after the sale,
the dwelling house was removed and the cornerstone of the church
edifice was laid in 1854. The cost of construction of the new church
was said to have been $2,500. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in
Fairfield was officially organized on November 10, 1855. Among
the original members of the congregation were John Nunnemaker,
Barnabas Riley, John Musselman, Christian Musselman, Jacob
Musselman, Julia Ann Hoke, Michael Rugler, George Hull, Sr.,
William Culp, Rufus C. Swope, and Zephaniah Herbert. The church
was renovated in 1891, the bell tower being attached to the front
of the church at that time. Interestingly, a USGS benchmark (circa
1908) is attached to the tower which gives the elevation of the town
of Fairfield as 608 feet above sea level. The church has undergone
many renovations over the years, but the original structure is still
standing. The congregation merged with the United Church of Christ
Congregation (Fairfield’s original reformed congregation) and was
renamed St. John’s Lutheran Church in 1967. (Transcriptions of the
parish registers of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church [1853-1967]
are held in the collections of the Adams County Historical Society.)

**Civil War Notes:** At the time of the Battle of Gettysburg in
1863, the church was apparently without its own pastor, sharing one
with the Emmitsburg charge. On Sunday, June 28, 1863, services
were conducted by the Reverend Washington Van Buren Gotwald, a
student of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. There
was much anxiety, as the Confederate army had invaded Pennsylvania
and was known to be in the area. “Just after the morning service
was being concluded the Confederates dashed into the village. The
people did not wait for the benediction.” A detachment of perhaps
twenty Rebel artilleryman under the command of Lieutenant John H. Chamberlayne, were scouring the area for horses and came upon the church just as the service was concluded. According to a later account, “Lieut. Chamberlayne entered the building and held up the congregation at the point of the pistol, while his men unhitched the horses in the yard; that Lieut. Chamberlayne gave to each person relieved of his horse a receipt for the animal, stating that it would be paid for on the conclusion of a treaty of peace between the Confederate States.” Over the years, there has been much debate as to the exact location of the incident, but the Gettysburg Compiler of June 29, 1863, noted that “several gentlemen came into town last evening and reported that a squad of eighteen rebel cavalry had appeared at Fairfield, and had taken the horses of a number of persons whilst at church there.” The Confederate detachment hurried on, but encountered a squad of Union troops near Fountaindale and after a short skirmish; the horses were recaptured and returned to the citizens. The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was used as a hospital following the cavalry action east of town on July 3, 1863. A 1927 article spoke of the “Confederate and Federal soldiers who were taken into the Lutheran church to be cared for. The hospital established there was in charge of Doctor Price of the Confederate Army and Doctor Forwood, a federal surgeon. The Rebels were on the left of the aisle it is said.” Confirming the article is the fact that William Henry Forwood, assistant surgeon of the Sixth United States Cavalry, was captured in the battle of Fairfield. A church history related that “Strong Boards were placed across the backs of the pews and covered with blankets. Both Federal and Confederate soldiers received the same tender care . . . . It seemed very proper that the house of God should become a place of mercy as well as a house of worship.” According to the 1934 article, “The Lutheran Church . . . has a tablet attached to the outside as follows: General Field Hospital. The wounded of the Sixth United States and Sixth Virginia Cavalry were cared for here, July 3, 1863.” This tablet (or wooden sign) was probably attached to the church in 1903 at the same time other markers were placed in the town by the veterans of the Sixth United States Cavalry. Today that marker does not exist, but the War Department placed a metal itinerary marker in front of the building at some point.

**Town Lot #4N:** Isaac Robinson Residence. **Current Address:** 17 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Isaac Robinson. **Description:** Two-story, frame dwelling-house, with a one-story, frame back building. **Recital:** Henry Albright, by 1795; Andrew Topper, in 1801; William Miller to Alexander McGaughy, March 3, 1802; John Steen, February 25, 1805; Matthew Steen; 1806; Jacob Stover, September 6, 1806; Alexander Mack, April 1, 1813; Samuel Kittle, 1814; Samuel Hoover, 1818; Henry Myers in 1821; Heirs of Henry Myers; 1829; John McCleary, 1841; Thomas Hamilton, August 18, 1852; Daniel King, February 2, 1855; Isaac Robinson, March 13, 1857; Daniel Sullivan, October 24, 1864; Susan Sullivan, May 10, 1873; Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fairfield, September 29, 1909.

**History of the Lot:** The early History of Lot 4N was associated with Lot 3N and in 1813 the two were sold together for $700. In 1814 the lots were separated, Lot 4N being listed as a house and lot valued at $300. An 1821 sheriff’s sale of Samuel Hoover’s property described it as “a frame dwelling house, shop, stable, and lot of ground situate in Millerstown.” For many years this property was in possession of the heirs of Henry Myers and difficult to trace in the tax records. An 1846 sheriff’s sale described this as “a lot of ground situate in Millerstown . . . on which are erected a two-story, rough-cast dwelling house, with a one-story rough-cast back building, one-story log shop, frame stable, and a well of water . . . adjoining the
property of Jacob Kridler, dec’d. and Mary Ann White—seized and taken in execution as the estate of John McCleary.” McCleary does not appear with property in the tax records after the sale, but still must have retained some sort of ownership. It appears that Thaddeus Stevens may have purchased the property on his behalf. An 1852 sheriff’s sale described this as “a lot of ground situate in Fairfield . . . known on the general plan of the said town as lot no. 4, situate on the north side of York Street, bounded by lots of heirs of Jacob Kriedler and heirs of Margaret White, and extending from York St., north west to an alley, on which are erected a two-story rough cast house, with a one-story frame, rough cast back building—a log shop, a frame stable, and other out buildings. There is a well of water with a pump in it near the door. Seized and taken in execution as the property of John McCleary.” In 1846 the tax records described the property as a house and lot valued at $500, but in 1853 the value was reduced to $200. The 1857 tax records indicate the transfer of a house and lot valued at $200 from Daniel King to Isaac Robinson. The 1858 map shows this as “I. Robinson’s Res.” Daniel Sullivan purchased the property by 1864 and is shown as the owner of the property in the 1872 Atlas. Daniel Sullivan died in 1891, and his wife Susan sold the lot to the Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Fairfield in 1909. The current building at this site was built sometime thereafter and is owned by St. John’s Lutheran Church.

1860 Residents: Isaac Robinson (March 18, 1801- July 29, 1869); Agnes M. (Nancy) Wilson Robinson (January 22, 1800-May 21, 1882); Charles M. Robinson (November 10, 1836); James Wilson (April 28, 1779 - July 13, 1868); Elizabeth Crawford (1839), domestic servant.

Family Notes: Boyd’s Business Directory (1860) lists Isaac Robinson of Fairfield as a surveyor. Isaac was married to Agnes, the daughter of James Wilson, who was for many years the proprietor of Fairfield. For many years, Isaac operated the Mansion House or Fairfield Inn, and for a time (1845-1852) he owned the property. Isaac sold his Fairfield property in 1864 and moved to Gettysburg where he died in 1869. His obituary provides us with some insight into the prominent role that he had in local affairs. “Hon. Isaac Robinson, late an Associate Judge of this county, died at his residence, in this place,
at twenty minutes before 2 o’clock yesterday morning. He suffered excruciating pain for many months, the disease terminating in cancer of the bowels. Judge Robinson was born in Carroll’s Tract, on the 18th of March, 1801, making his age 68 years 4 months and 11 days. He occupied public positions of responsibility during many years of his life—County Surveyor, Justice of the Peace, Member of the Legislature, and Associate Judge—the duties of which he discharged with efficiency and fidelity. Always courteous, even tempered and warm hearted, and of unbending integrity, no one knew Isaac Robinson without respecting and admiring him. Among the county’s purest and most useful citizens, he died regretted by all its people.”

A family bible once owned by Agnes M. Wilson contains many birth and death dates of the Wilson, Reed, and Robinson families. A copy of pertinent pages can be seen at the Adams County Historical Society.

**Civil War Notes:** Isaac Robinson was one of those unfortunate citizens who lost a horse during Stuart’s Raid on October 11, 1862. Robinson described the horse as a sorrel mare, 6 years of age, valued at $125. It was taken from his stable, which, according to an affidavit by Peter Shively, stood “on an alley connecting with the road on which the Rebels passed.” James Wilson, the former proprietor of the town, lived with his daughter’s family at this location throughout the Civil War. In 1861 at the outbreak of the rebellion, he wrote a letter of encouragement to Charles H. Buehler of Gettysburg, the commander of Company E, Second Pennsylvania Infantry (a unit which included several Fairfield area citizens): “This war is not of our government’s choosing. It behooves all sound men to rally round its standard, and sustain its stars and stripes which is the cherished emblem of our glorious country. I would not that any should, for one moment, doubt the issue of this contest. We can and will damn the rebels like damnation, (this may [be] thought profanity, but it is only the effervescence of patriotism), and then dictate the terms of peace. Arouse then, my young countrymen; arouse. Go forth and avenge your country’s wrongs, for the aged cannot. I am now in the 83rd year of my life, and in the long course of it I have not known a time in which young men had so fair an opportunity of earning renown for themselves and their country. In the outset we may and probably will meet disaster, as we have heretofore in our wars. Don’t get discouraged at them. Up and at it again; avoid our former errors.
if defeat is attributed to our errors. When we get into the right hang of it, we can whip any equal number on God’s earth, having equal advantages, with Gen. Scott’s command and strategy. Our brave soldiers will soon learn that discipline and subordination is essential to the success in all armies. Without it the military arm would be but an armed rabble. Go-go-then, my brave boys, go-your country calls, and may heaven’s choicest gifts attend you now and hereafter. Excuse me. When I get on this war subject as my whole soul is in it, my pen runs off with me.”


Town Lot #5N: John Gelbach Residence. Current Address: 19 East Main Street. 1860 Owner: John Gelbach. Description: Two story, log, dwelling-house. Recital: William Miller to William Taylor; August 19, 1796; Thomas Dick, April 13, 1798; David McClellan, July 19, 1811; Heirs of David McClellan, September 15, 1813; Samuel Rife, April 2, 1814; [Gap in recital, 1815-1841] Heirs of Jacob Kreidler, July 5, 1842; John Gelbach, April 1, 1856; J. Upton Neely, June 15, 1885; Heirs of J. Upton Neely, 1917; Robert C. Neely, October 19, 1918.

History of the Lot: In 1796 William Miller sold to William Taylor three lots in “the town of Fairfield, otherwise Millerstown and known in the original plan of the town by numbers Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh North.” The lots sold for 7 pounds, 10 shillings, suggesting that there were no structures at the time of the sale. However, the 1795 tax list for Hamiltonban Township shows William Taylor with a house and three lots valued at 50 pounds, indicating that there was a house on at least one of the lots prior to the deed. This illustrates the basic problem in establishing the true construction dates for the houses in Fairfield:

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Lots were purchased, houses were built, and properties were sold and resold, prior to deeds being issued by Miller. The original Taylor house appears to be the one here on Lot 5N. In 1798 William Taylor sold the lots to Thomas Dick. Both William Taylor and Thomas Dick are shown as holding taverns licenses at this time, Taylor from 1795-1797 and Dick, 1797-1799. Lots 5N, 6N and 7N were still together in 1811 when they sold for $560 to David McClellan. A 1813 advertisement for the property described “two lots of ground in the town of Fairfield, or Millerstown, late the property of David M’Clellan, deceased, on which lots are the following buildings, a large convenient dwelling house, which was long occupied as a tavern, a hatters’ shop, stabling, a good garden near the kitchen, a good wood yard—the remainder of said lots under a good pale fence, and in a good state for cultivation.” A notice of public sale for the estate of Jacob Kreidler in 1855 described this property as a “two story log house and two lots of ground, Nos. 5 and 6 on the original plot of the town of Fairfield.” The tax records show this as a house and lot valued at $300. Records indicate that the property was purchased by John Gelbach, a farmer of Hamiltonban Township, on April 1, 1856. In 1857, tax records indicate that “house improvements” of $200 were made to the property. Starting in 1859, Gelbach’s house and lot was valued at $400. In 1871, Gelbach sold his farm in Hamiltonban Township to his son Joseph, and in 1874 the value of his house and lot in Fairfield was increased to $1,800. Gelbach died in 1879, his estate papers describing his property as “a house and lot in Fairfield, Adams County, Penna, bounded by lot of Daniel Sullivan on the west and Daniel Mickley on the east, on the south by an alley [sic] and on the north by Main Street [sic], improved with a two story brick dwelling house, stable and other buildings.” It seems likely, then, that the two-story brick section of the house standing today at 19 East Main Street was built between 1871 and 1873, most likely before 1872, as the atlas that year seems to suggest the same configuration of the current house. It is also likely that the rear of the current house is a portion of the original house. In 1917 the estate sale of J. Upton Neely described this property as being “located on the west side of Main Street, in Fairfield Borough. Double Lot with a frontage of 120 feet, and 240 ft. depth, improved with a house 30x60, containing large hall, eight rooms, bath and toilet, also a large kitchen and pantry.
attached. . . . on rear of lot is a fine new stable 22x32 with carriage house attached. Also wood shed; corn crib, buggy shed and chicken house, all in good condition. The property has a rear and side alley and is considered one of the most desirable properties in Fairfield.”

1860 Residents: John Gelbach (March 16, 1796--March 28, 1879), Mary E. Filgel Gelbach (February 14, 1794--December 25, 1884), Savilla King, (1845-), domestic servant.

Family Notes: According to the 1886 History of Adams County, John Gelbach “emigrated from Wittenberg, Germany in 1818, when twenty-two years old. When Prussia was at the feet of Napoleon, John Gelbach served in the army of the conqueror, but when his country asserted herself he was in her armies and was in the memorable battle of Waterloo, when but nineteen years old. His future wife accompanied him to this country, and they were married on landing at Baltimore. He worked as a blacksmith and his wife in the house of George Trostle, at Marsh Creek, for a year, to pay for their passage. Afterward they lived near the Monocacy until he bought a house and lot, one mile west of Fairfield, where he worked at his trade until 1839, at which time he bought a farm one mile east of Fairfield and built the house in which Joseph [his son] lives. Several years later he built a house in Fairfield, in which he and his wife passed a peaceful old age. He was a man of noted piety, identified with the Reformed Church from early life. He was born March 16, 1796 and died March 28, 1879. His wife, nee Maria E. Filgel, born in Prussia February 14, 1794, died December 25, 1884.” The 1886 History lists the couple as having had seven children: George, who died in 1883; John (1822-1844); Mary Ann (1824-1844); Elizabeth, wife of Peter Shively, Lot 1W; Joseph, born March 21, 1828; Samuel David (1830-1848); and Sarah Eliza (1837-1840). At the time of the Civil War, John Gelbach was also the owner of a farm just east of Fairfield (on which his son Joseph resided), which included a lime quarry, opened about 1860. A 1917 advertisement described this as the “Gelbach Lime Quarries.” Over the years the quarry expanded and is still in use today. John Gelbach and his wife are buried in Gettysburg’s Evergreen Cemetery.

Civil War Notes: In 1902 the Glen Rock Item recorded the reminiscences of John W. Gelbach, son of Joseph and grandson of John Gelbach: “Our genial townsman, Mr. John W. Gelbach recalled
to-day that 39 years ago he heard the cannon at Gettysburg boom, and interested a little party of friends by relating incidents of that great battle. Mr. Gelbach’s father at that time lived only seven miles from the battlefield and every pane of glass in the house was broken by the jars caused by the terrific shots. The retreating Confederate army passed by the Gelbach home and Generals Lee, Beauregard, Longstreet and Ewell dismounted and entered the house. Mr. Gelbach was then a small boy, but he remembers that General Lee took him in his arms and placed him upon his knee and asked him whether he thought he would like to be a soldier. Mr Gelbach thinks he replied that ‘he didn’t know.’ Soon after the distinguished generals had entered the house a Union battery opened fire upon the retreating soldiers, and they joined in the retreat. Mr. Gelbach remembers the great general that caressed him as a tall man with a kindly look, and very handsome.” The story of General Lee bouncing the boy on his knee is hard to believe, and of course, General P. G. T. Beauregard was nowhere near Pennsylvania during the Gettysburg Campaign. But the other details of the article are plausible. John W. Gelbach was eleven years old at the time and his family lived on the farm east of Fairfield owned by his grandfather. The Confederates did retreat past the family’s farm and on July 5, 1863, the Union Army did place artillery on a hill east of the house and shell the rearguard of the Rebel army. One can only imagine the sound created by the shells whistling over the house and exploding near the edge of town.


Town Lot #6N: Vacant Lot. Current Address: 21 East Main Street. 1860 Owner: John Gelbach. Description: Vacant Lot. Recital: William Miller to William Taylor; August 19, 1796; Thomas Dick, April 13, 1798; David McClellan, July 19, 1811; Heirs of David McClellan, September 15, 1813; Samuel Rife, April 2, 1814; [gap in
recital] Heirs of Jacob Kreidler, July 5, 1842; John Gelbach, April 1, 1856; J. Upton Neely, 1885; Heirs of J. Upton Neely, 1917; Robert C. Neely, October 19, 1918.

**History of the Lot:** Throughout its history, this lot is associated with Lot 5N. The map in the 1872 Atlas clearly indicates that this was a vacant lot at that time. This lot was still associated with Lot 5N in 1919 and apparently still vacant. **Sources:** YCDB 2N-465; ACDB F-467; G-108; V-453, 38-20, 139-66; Estate Papers of John Gelbach, ACHS; “Public Sale,” Adams Sentinel, February 25, 1856; “Fairfield Items,” Star and Banner, October 9, 1907; “Public Sale,” Gettysburg Times, October 5, 1917.

**Town Lot #7N:** Daniel Mickley Residence. **Current Address:** 23 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Daniel Mickley. **Description:** Two-story, brick, dwelling-house, no longer standing. **Recital:** William Miller to William Taylor, August 19, 1796; Thomas Dick, April 13, 1798; David McClellan, July 19, 1811; [gap in recital] Daniel Mickley, by 1844; Heirs of Daniel Mickley, January 9, 1899; Daniel D. Mickley.

**History of the Lot:** Daniel Mickley first appears in the tax records in 1844 with a house and lot valued at $600. An unlabeled dwelling is shown at this site on the 1858 map. The 1872 Atlas indicates this as the residence of Daniel Mickley. The structure no longer stands, apparently torn down in the 1960s. **1860 Residents:** Daniel Mickley (December 22, 1801-January 9, 1899); Eliza Mickley (January, 1835-January 15, 1899); Daniel D. Mickley (January 21, 1859-February 28, 1948).

**Family notes:** When he died in 1899 at the age of 97 years of age, Daniel Mickley was Fairfield’s oldest resident. He is buried in Fairfield Union Cemetery.

**Civil War Notes:** During Stuart’s Raid on October 11, 1862, Mickley was another of those unfortunate citizens to have a horse stolen. He described it as being a gray horse, 14 years old, and valued at $50. According to Mickley, “my horse was taken out of the stable saddled and bridled where I had left him for a few moments to give

https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol19/iss1/6 45
the alarm.” During the Gettysburg Campaign, he suffered additional losses on a farm that he owned, two miles from Fairfield in “Carroll’s Tract.”

**Sources:** YCDB 2N-465; ACDB G-108; Civil War Border Claims Files, Daniel Mickley, PHMC.

**Town Lot #8N:** Charles F. Hinkle Residence. **Current Address:** 25 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Charles F. Hinkle. **Description:** Two-story, log, weather-boarded, dwelling-house, with back building. **Recital:** Henry Ferguson, in 1796; William Miller to Archibald Beard, October 22, 1806; George Stallsmith, 1807; Jacob Heagy, 1810; Philip Slentz, 1816; John Paxton, by 1817; William Johnson, by 1844; Eliza Harper, 1845; Charles F. Hinkle, by 1861; George Andrew, 1873; John Peters; Sarah E. Peters, in 1919; Solomon A. Allison, by 1929; Clarence Wilson, January 1, 1959.

**History of the Lot:** Henry Ferguson is shown as the original owner of this lot, as an adjoiner in 1796 and on the 1801 agreement. The 1802 tax records list him with a house and lot valued at $300. But, as is the case with several Fairfield town lots, he must not have obtained clear title, for the lot was deeded by William Miller directly to Archibald Beard in 1806, when the deed states the property was sold for 50 shillings. Tax records indicate the transfer of the lot from Ferguson to Beard, without mention of Miller. Tax records also indicate the transfer of the lot from Beard to Stallsmith, and Stallsmith to Heagy, closely matching the known deeds. In 1813, Heagy’s evaluation is crossed out, and he is shown with a lot valued at $76. In 1814 he is shown with a house and lot valued at $600. This suggests that the original structure was destroyed or removed, and a new structure was built at that time, most likely the one standing today. An 1844 sheriff’s sale described the property of William Johnson as “adjoining Daniel Mickly on the west, Peter Wagner on the east, fronting on Main Street, and running back to an alley, on which are erected a two-story log weather-boarded dwelling house, with a back building attached thereto.” Eliza Harper (1803-1869), widow of Samuel Harper, is shown as the owner of this lot, valued at $400, starting in 1845. The structure is illustrated, but not labeled on the 1858 map. Tax records indicate that Charles F. Hinkle was the owner of the lot by 1861 and possibly purchased the property in
1860, as the census indicates that he owned property. *Boyd’s Business Directory* (1860) lists Charles F. Henckle [sic] of Fairfield as a boot and shoemaker. The 1872 *Atlas* indicates this site as “Shoe Shop, C. F. Hinkle.” The 1976 history of Fairfield relates the fact that “during the third quarter of the [last] century a split hickory chair and rocker factory was located at 25 East Main Street. The original log structure at this site is still standing being one of the oldest structures in the town.”

**1860 Residents:** Charles F. Hinkle (1835-April 27, 1899); Elizabeth J. Hinkle (1834 – November 16, 1877); Addison Hinkle (1857); Augustus Hinkle (November 24, 1858 – September 30, 1879); Mary Peters (1845); William Troxel (1839), shoemaker; William McIhenny (1839), shoemaker.

**Civil War Notes:** Several sources list Charles F. Hinkle as a shoemaker at the outbreak of the Civil War. Hinkle was also one of the Fairfield residents who filed a claim of damages with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania due to losses during Stuart’s Raid in October 1862. The claim stated that “three sides of upper leather,” 15 lbs of sole leather, one calf skin, one pair of new boots, and tools were taken “from my shop in Millerstown.” John W. Pryor, a journeyman of Hinkle’s at the time, stated that he “saw the Rebels on the 11th of Oct. take several pair of boots and a bundle of leather from Mr. Hinkel’s shop.” This shop was most likely located in a small building next to the house. Hinkle also served as an officer in the Union Army. In September of 1864, he enlisted in Company G, 209th Pennsylvania Infantry. Two months later, he was promoted to captain of the company, a position which he held until the end of the war, being discharged on May 31, 1865. Company G was raised in Adams County and many Fairfield lot owners (or future lot owners) were represented in the unit, including: Daniel Biesecker, George Hull, Thomas Winebrenner, Joshua Cease, Hiram Eshelman, William McGlaughlin, and John C. Shertzer. The 209th was originally assigned to the Army of the James but with other Pennsylvania regiments was transferred to the Army of the Potomac, which took an active role in the Petersburg Campaign. On March 25, 1865, the regiment was involved in the recapture of Fort Steadman, and on April 2, the 209th was one of the units which broke through the enemy’s entrenchments.
around Petersburg, forcing the withdrawal of the Southern army from
that city. Lee’s Army surrendered a week later. Although their losses
were not as heavy as other Adams County units, the 209th was among
the most productive units during the war.

Sources: ACDB C-421; D-451, 223-521; 599-1099; Civil War
Border Claims Files, Charles F. Hinkle, PHMC; “Sheriff’s Sales,”
Adams Sentinel, October 28, 1844; “Funeral Home Expansion Plan
hits snag in Fairfield,” Gettysburg Times, September 14, 2004; Richard
A. Sauers, Advance the Colors! Pennsylvania Civil War Battle Flags,
Vol. 2 (Capitol Preservation Committee, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,
1991), 513-514. Boyd’s Business Directory (Philadelphia, 1860);
Glimpses of Fairfield’s Past (Fairfield Bicentennial Committee,
1976).

Town Lot #9N: Michael Lawver Residence. Current Address:
27 East Main Street. 1860 Owner: Michael Lawver. Description:
Large stone-and-frame dwelling-house. Recital: William Miller
to William Roberts, August 19, 1796; John Topper, April 3, 1800;
Alexander Mack, April 28, 1806; John McClure, April 1, 1814; James
H. Miller and Ralph Lashell, March 27, 1815; Martin Hill, March 30,
1816; Zephaniah Herbert, May 28, 1817; Michael Lawver in 1843;
Peter Wagner, in 1844; Michael Lawver, by 1856.

History of the Lot: Lot 9 N is the site of another of Fairfield’s
eyearly taverns. In 1796, Lots 9N and 10N were sold by William Miller
to William Roberts for ten pounds, indicating, perhaps, that the lots
were vacant. In 1800 Lots 9N and 10N were sold to John Topper
for 200 pounds, so obviously something was standing by that time.
In 1806 Lots 9 and 10 sold for $700. In 1817 Zephaniah Herbert
purchased lots 9N and 10N for $3,000. The property was “bounded
and described together as follows (viz) beginning from number ‘Nine’
on York Street at the corner of number eight belonging to John Paxton
thence by the same two hundred and forty feet to a back alley—then by
said alley sixty feet to corner of number ‘ten’—thence for lot number
ten by said alley seven feet to lands of Reverend William Paxton,
then by the same two hundred and forty feet to York Street aforesaid
thence by the same for lot number ten eighty nine feet and for lot
number nine sixty feet to the beginning.” The original building no
longer stands. According to a 1951 article in the Gettysburg Times,
“one of the oldest houses in Fairfield was razed in 1940 and the stones from it were used for building the Allison funeral home. The exact date of building [or construction of] the old house is not known but it was some time before 1814.” According to article on the history of Fairfield in 1956 in the Times, “the exact erection date of the razed house, used at one time as an inn and known as the Temperance Inn, is not known. But a deed dated April 1, 1814, describes...on that date two lots, improved with a stone house, were sold by Alexander Mack to John McClure for 1,000 pounds.” The whereabouts of the deed mentioned in the article are unknown today, but that deed would certainly be of great interest, since it is said to describe the structure as being stone. In 1843 Michael Lawver encountered some kind of financial difficulty and his property was put up for public sale by assignees, Isaac Robinson and Zephaniah Herbert. It was described as “the real estate of Michael Lawver, consisting of two lots of ground, situate in Fairfield, Adams County, Pa., fronting on Main Street, bounded by an alley on two sides, and lot of William Johnson. The improvements are a large two-story roughcast dwelling house, two-story back building and kitchen, log-barn, threshing floor, with sheds, stables and other outbuildings; a good well of water in front. The property was for many years occupied as a tavern and more recently as a store, and is well calculated for either.” With no recorded deeds for this property dating from this period, the exact ownership of the lot is difficult to trace, but it appears that Michael Lawver was able retain (or reacquire) the property and owned it at the time of the Civil War. In 1940 the original structure at 27 East Main Street was razed, and in 1941 Mr. S. A. Allison opened a funeral parlor in the current building. William Wilson (known as Dutch), a son-in-law of Allison, purchased the parlor in 1959, continuing the family business for many years. Robert Monahan purchased the property in 1977, and it exists today as the Monahan Funeral Home. Lot 9N was divided in 1897. According to the Compiler in November of 1897, “Daniel C. Stoner has purchased a part of the Lawver property on Main Street, and expects to have a dwelling house on it ready for occupancy by the first of April.” No doubt, this refers to the dwelling house that stood for many years as 29 East Main Street. That house was removed in recent years.
1860 Residents: Michael Lawver (January 21, 1802-March 22, 1893); Sarah Lawver (1803); Eliz Lawver (1835); Alexander S. McCleaf (1825); Fanny McCleaf (1828); Sarah A. McCleaf (1849); Francis McCleaf (1851); Mary J. McCleaf (1855).

Family Notes: Boyd’s Business Directory, 1860, lists Michael Lawver of Fairfield as a mason. It is interesting that in 1845 Michael Lawver attempted to reopen the tavern that had been previously operated at that location for many years. He filed a petition for a tavern license, but an objection was filed shortly after by forty citizens of the area, claiming that “said Michael Lawver is not a man in repute for temperance, and that such a house for vending spirituous liquors would be productive of evil.” Lawver lived for 91 years. According to his death notice in 1893, “he has been identified with the history of Fairfield for a long time. He was a mason by trade and put up many of the buildings in this neighbor about sixty years ago.” It would be interesting to know what 1830s buildings he was involved in the constructed of.

Civil War Notes: A story relating to the Civil War was told of the Lawver House in a 1951 article in the Gettysburg Times: “On July 3rd, 1863, in the confusion of horses and riders in the village streets, a Yankee soldier, who found himself on foot, was pursued by a Confederate horseman and darted into the old Lawver house which in the years past was a roadhouse. The ‘Johnnie’ dashed up, quickly dismounted, threw the reins of his mount over a hitching post and followed into the house through the door the other man had entered. He expected to find his quarry hidden somewhere inside, but the pursued had not tarried, going out the back door. He came around to the front and, seeing the horse tethered up there, quickly mounted and galloped away. The Rebel came out just in time to see his horse disappearing around a bend, and no doubt muttered to himself, ‘just another Yankee trick.’” The source of the story is not given, but of course the escaping soldier was surely a member of the Sixth United States Cavalry.

Sources: YCDB 2M-170; ACDB C-292, C-325, H-256; 260-1190; 599-1107. “Assignees’ Sale,” Compiler, March 27, 1843; Death notice of Michael Lawver, Compiler, March 28, 1893; “Fairfield Items,” Compiler, November 2, 1897; “Yank Turned Tables, Stole

**Town Lot #10N:** Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 31-33 East Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Michael Lawver. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** William Miller to William Roberts, August 19, 1796; John Topper, April 3, 1800; Alexander Mack, April 28, 1806; John McClure, April 1, 1814; James H. Miller and Ralph Lashell, March 27, 1815; Martin Hill, March 30, 1816; Zephaniah Herbert, May 28, 1817; Michael Lawver, by 1843; Peter Wagner, in 1844; Michael Lawver, by 1856; George Hull, September 1, 1866.

**History of the Lot:** It is interesting to note that the eastern boundary of Lot 10 was also the original boundary of John Miller’s 247 acre tract of land, and that configuration of Lot 10 is reflected by that boundary. The 1796 deed from William Miller to William Roberts describes Lot 10N as fronting 89 feet on York Street but only 7 feet along the alley in rear of the lot. Perhaps as a result of its odd shape, Lot 10N was connected to and associated with Lot 9N throughout its early history. There is no house shown at this location on the 1858 map. Tax records indicate that George Hull purchased Lot 10N in 1864 from his father-in-law Michael Lawver, but a recorded deed does not show the transfer until 1866. Clearly, the 1860 census indicates that Hull lived somewhere else at that time. And since Hull was in the Union army in 1864-65, it seems likely that house was not built until after the war. But regardless of the existing evidence, the house at 33 East Main Street has a plaque denoting it as a “Civil War Building, July 1863.” At some point, prior to 1919, Lot 10N was divided and another house, still standing as 29 East Main Street, was constructed. As seen on modern tax maps, the boundaries of lot 9N and 10N were adjusted slightly when the lots were divided.

**Residents:** George Hull (October 30, 1835-January 8, 1914), Nancy C. Hull (May 3, 1840-October 29, 1916).
Family Notes: Even though it is clear that the Hulls were living elsewhere at the time of the 1860 census (perhaps on Lot 14S), they were the family first associated with the house at this site. George Hull was married to Nancy Lawver on August 3, 1859. Nancy was born and raised in Fairfield, the daughter of Michael and Sarah Lawver. So in essence, Michael was selling Lot 10N in 1866 to his daughter and son-in-law. The Hull family lived in the house for only a short time, moving to Illinois and eventually to Page County, Iowa, where George and Nancy spent their remaining days.

Civil War Notes: Along with other members of the Fairfield community, George Hull was a member of Company C, 165th Pennsylvania drafted militia in November 1862 to July 1863 and a member of Company G, 209th Pennsylvania, as corporal from September 1864 to May 1865.

Sources: YCDB 2M-170; ACDB Y-392, 419-20, 3061-263; Obituary of Mrs. Nancy C. Hull, Clarinda Herald, November 2, 1916.

Northwesterly Lot Histories

Town Lot #1W: Mansion House. Current Address: 15 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: Peter Shively Description: Large stone-and-frame complex, still standing. Recital: John Miller to William McMunn, February 22, 1787; David Hayes, October 19, 1789; William Miller, by 1801; James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Isaac A. Robinson, September 27, 1845; James Wilson, October 7, 1852; Peter Shively, November 8, 1856; Jacob J. Shoemaker, April 2, 1900.

History of the Lot: Over the years, much has been said and written concerning the early history of the structure known as the Fairfield Inn. Unfortunately, much of that is based entirely on speculation and unfounded inferences. As stated in the introduction, the date of 1757 that has been popularly assigned to the building is founded solely upon the assumption that this was the site of John Miller’s original homestead, a belief strengthened by the supposition that the Miller family retained this property throughout the process of laying out the town and the selling off of the other individual lots. But such is not the case. In York County Deed Book, 2F,194, there is a deed for the transfer of Lots 1W and 2 W from John Miller to William
McMunn. The transaction is dated February 22, 1787. According to the transaction dated February 22, 1787, McMunn paid five pounds for the property, and agreed to a ground rent per year of thirteen shillings and four pence. This suggests that there were no structures standing at that time. The property was described as two “lots of ground, situated lying and being in the Town of Fairfield, township and county aforesaid, bounded on the south by York Street, on the east by the main cross street, on the north by a fifteen feet alley, and on the west by Spring Alley and known on the general plan of the said town by the numbers one and two.” This description obviously predates the movement of the main cross street one lot further to the east. *York County Deed Books* also indicate that on October 19, 1789, William McMunn sold his Fairfield lots to David Hayes for 55 pounds. The increase in value seems to indicate that the property had some sort of improvement at the time of sale, constructed between 1787 and 1789. Most likely, this refers to the eastern stone portion of the current Fairfield Inn. The 1801 agreement between William Miller and the lot holders of Fairfield reveals that Miller owned lots 1W and 2W at that time, so the lots were reacquired by the family at some point, but existing tax records provide no clue as to the details of this transaction. A point of frustration in researching this property is the fact that Hamiltonban Township tax records do not list Miller’s properties separately, his Fairfield lots and nearby farm being lumped together throughout his ownership. As mentioned in the introduction, William Miller ran into financial difficulties and his properties were advertised for sale in 1823: The Sheriff’s notice describes “two lots of ground, in Millerstown, known and marked on the original plan of said town by Nos. 1 & 2, on which are erected a large stone dwelling house, and other buildings.” Miller’s other properties were described in detail, including his farm near Fairfield which was said to be “150 acres more or less on which [is] erected a large stone barn.” Also advertised were “the following lots of ground, 1, 2 and 3, south of Main St., and 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21; on the west side is lot No. 2, and one lot containing about 2 acres more or less.” Not mentioned in the advertisement is Lot 1N where the stone store house stood. This may have been an oversight. And the reference to lot 3, south of Main Street is curious, as Lot 3S was owned by the heirs of Barnabas Reily at the time. The Sheriff’s sale was supposed to be held on November 1, 1823, but it appears that James Wilson, husband
of one of William Miller’s nieces, made arrangements to purchase all of Miller’s holdings (including his ground rents) prior to the sale. Wilson and his family were the proprietors of the town and the owners of Lots 1W and 2W for the next thirty three years. At some point during Wilson’s ownership, the Mansion House property was greatly expanded and the large stone house with balconies was added to the original two story stone house. But again, as is the case with Miller, the tax assessment for Wilson’s holding is jumbled, making it difficult to place an exact date of construction to the western stone portion of the current Fairfield Inn.

The year of 1823 has often been given for the expansion, but that date is primarily based upon the fact that Wilson purchased the property at that time. It was also under James Wilson’s ownership that a tavern was first established at the site. Although it is true that William Miller held a tavern license for the year 1786, and the years 1795, 1796 and 1797, and that William Miller owned the property at this site in the 1801 agreement, the Millers laid out the entire town and records indicate that were three other Miller properties associated with early taverns. Miller could very well have operated the tavern at Lot 5E, for instance, as the initial sale of the property to John McGinley in 1800 was for 350 pounds, indicating that a substantial structure was already standing. The simple fact is that there is no evidence of a tavern being associated with the Fairfield Inn site at any point during William Miller’s ownership of the property. Rather, Isaac Robinson, son-in-law of James Wilson, first appears running a tavern at the site. In the archives of the Adams County Historical Society, he is listed with a license for the years 1830-1837, 1839-1850, and 1854-1856. And it is clear that Lots 1W and 2W are the site of this tavern. There are numerous mentions of the tavern at this site in newspapers of the day. Additionally, John Pollard held the license at this site in 1837-1838, and Peter Shively from 1851-1854. So the tavern at this site is known to have been in almost continuous operation since 1830.

In 1841 James Wilson advertised the sale of his holdings in the Compiler. The following description is for Lot 1W, Lot 2W, Lot 1N, Lot 1S, Lot 2S and for the farm, north of the town: “The improvements are, two large stone dwelling houses; one of them being three stories
high with a piazza to each story. One of the said houses is now and has been for a number of years occupied as a public house of entertainment, having connected with it a back building and other improvements that adapt it well for such a purpose. Connected with it is a stone store house, now occupied as a private dwelling. These houses are well finished and make delightful residences. Belonging to them are new bake, wood and ice houses; three wells of good water, with new pumps in them, within a few steps of the doors. Also a stone bank barn. 140 acres of the farm are under cultivation, enclosed with good fencing.” In 1845, Wilson sold his property, including the tavern property to his son-in-law, Isaac Robinson. It is fortunate that on December 11, 1846, Isaac Robinson filed an insurance policy on the Mansion House property, and that document has survived. At that time it was described as “a three story house, stone, 32 by 39 feet, a 2 story stone house adjoining 29 by 39 feet, with a frame dining room attached in the rear, 16 ½ by 20 feet, 2 stories high. Also a one story stone kitchen built across the end of said dining room 15 by 36 feet. Also stone bank barn 30 by 63 feet. Also stone store house on same lot, 20 by 40 feet. Also frame stable 26 by 40 feet, on same lot.”

In 1852 Isaac Robinson sold the property back to James Wilson, and in 1854 Wilson sold the farmland north of the town (along with the stone barn) to Henry Landis, and in 1856 Wilson sold the tavern property to Peter Shively. The 1856 deed described the property as “all those three lots of ground known on the original plan of the said town of Fairfield . . . . as numbers One N, One W, and Two W, on the north side of Main Street & on which are erected, a store house, a tavern house with extensive back building, a stone dwelling three stories high, a stone spring house, smoke house, oven and ash house, wood house, carriage house, out house, stable and other out houses, said lots each sixty feet front, and two hundred and forty feet to the back alley. Also the lot in front of the improvements above described and lying south of Main Street containing nearly one acre, upon which is an apple orchard, a spring, wash and milk house, said lot bounded on the east and south by lots of Rufus Swope.” Thus, the property appears as “P. Shively’s Mansion House” on the 1858 county wall map, and “P. Shively, Mansion House” on the 1872 Atlas. Over the years, the property passed between many owners and gradually deteriorated. During the 1970s James and Nancy Hammett
purchased the Fairfield Inn, and steps were immediately taken to restore the property was to its former glory. A 1972 article the *Gettysburg Times* gave a surprisingly accurate date for construction stating that the “section on the right [or east] was built between 1797 and 1801 and the porticoed structure on the left [or west] was added in 1823.” Shortly afterwards, the Hammetts filed a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, with a lengthy description of the five distinct sections of the Fairfield Inn. There was obviously an onsite inspection of the building, and its architecture, but very little research into the historical record. The reports states that the original stone section was built in 1757, with major additions added in 1801 and 1823. Beyond the dates of construction, other information concerning the building was added to the report, including the undocumented stories that Patrick Henry was a frequent visitor to the inn, that Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon stayed there while surveying the line between Maryland and Pennsylvania, and, that “the Mansion House as it was called, was supposed to have been a hiding place for slaves from the Underground Railroad.” The story was also told that “the mansion house was used as officers’ quarters, when General J.E.B. Stuart occupied Gettysburg and the surrounding area.” Unfortunately, because most people believe that national register nominations are well-researched documents, over years these tales have come to be accepted as fact. Here we could provide great detail disputing the various inaccuracies, but no amount of protest by historians will dissuade people from continuing to relate these fantasies. The Fairfield Inn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

**1860 Residents:** Peter Shively (July 16, 1819-August 21, 1898), hotel keeper; Elizabeth Gelbach Shively (April 23, 1826-March 23, 1909); Laura C. Shively (May 21, 1846); Mary Elizabeth Shively (December 12, 1849); George G. Shively (March 20, 1854); Evan Thomas Rinehart (1828), merchant; Benjamin A. Marshall (1816), farmer; Jacob Rinehart (1834), physician; Charles Breyman (1841), hostler; Mary Andrew (1830), domestic.

**Family Notes:** The *1886 History of Adams County* has an extensive biography of Peter Shively which is worth repeating: “Peter Shively, hotel keeper, Fairfield, is a native of Chambersburg, Franklin
Co., Penn. His grandfather, on his father’s side, was born in Perry County, and on his mother’s side his grandfather was a revolutionary soldier, who settled in Chambersburg after the war. His father, Daniel Shively, was born in Perry County, Penn., in 1780, and came to Chambersburg when a young man, living there until his death; he died in 1863 at the age of eighty three. Our subject’s mother, nee Elizabeth Hennaberger, born in Chambersburg in 1786, died there in 1861, aged seventy-five. They had nine children . . . . Peter Shively was born July 16, 1819, and in his youth learned the trade of saddler, which he worked at only a few years. In 1841 he came to Fairfield, and kept hotel for three years, then the hotel at Gettysburg known as the “Eagle Hotel,” for three years, and then he returned to Fairfield, and bought the “Mansion House” property, which he has ever since conducted. March 18, 1845, Mr. Shively was married to Elizabeth J. Gelbach, born April 23, 1826.” Peter Shively had two children who died in infancy. Their names were William M. Shively (May 22, 1852-November 21, 1859) and John Charles Shively (September 1, 1856-December 7, 1859).

Civil War Notes: Following the war Peter Shively filed a claim for damages for property “taken by the Rebel army during the Battle of Gettysburg, and on their retreat from said battle.” His loses included 250 pounds of lard, 70 bushels of oats and 20 bushels of corn, whiskey, brandy, wine, gin and rum, said to be valued at $278. Appearing as witnesses for Shively were Daniel Sullivan and Joshua Cease. Although it has been repeatedly stated that Shively’s Hotel was used as a hospital in July 1863, no one has produced evidence to support the claim. It has also been suggested that J.E.B. Stuart (in 1862) and Robert E. Lee (in 1863) visited the Mansion House, but again I have found no documentation for the claim, beyond the obvious fact that they did pass through Fairfield. Significantly, the National Register application also states that following the battle of Gettysburg, “General Robert E. Lee and thousands of his defeated troops poured into the town in driving rain and they were fed beansoup in the yard behind the Mansion House by the womenfolk of Fairfield.”

https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol19/iss1/6

View of the Mansion House or Fairfield Inn (lots 1W-2W), J. B. Waddle, c. 1910, ACHS.

Town Lot #2W: Mansion House. Current Address: 15 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: Peter Shively. Description: Large stone-and-frame complex. Recital: John Miller to William McMunn, February 22, 1787; David Hayes, October 19, 1789; William Miller, in 1801; James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Isaac A. Robinson,
September 27, 1845; James Wilson, October 7, 1852; Peter Shively, November 8, 1856; Jacob J. Shoemaker, April 2, 1900. **History of the Lot:** From the earliest known deed, Lot 2W has been associated with 1W and shares the same history and sources.

**Town Lot #3W:** Sanford Shroeder Tannery Property. **Current Address:** 17 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Sanford Shroeder. **Description:** Two-story, log, weather-boarded, dwelling-house, with a one-story, stone, back-building. **Recital:** Jacob McClellan, by 1801; Samuel MacFarlane, 1826; John McClain, 1837; John Marshall, 1839; Amos McGinley, 1851; Sanford Shroeder, 1856; John Bennett, August 20, 1862; Alexander Benchoff, April 11, 1863; Joshua Cease, April 2, 1866; Joseph Musselman, March 25, 1872; John M. Musselman, April 13, 1872; William L. Musselman, April 23, 1923.

**History of the Lot:** The early history of Lots 3W, 4W and 5W is identical, the lots being transferred together and described as one tract of land. Jacob McClellan is shown as the holder of these lots on the 1801 agreement. The 1802 tax records of Hamiltonban Township list Jacob McClellan as a tanner, indicating an early date for the establishment of that business at this location. An 1825 sheriff’s sale for the property of Jacob McClellan describes it as “3 adjoining lots of ground situated in Millerstown, Hamiltonban Township, containing in all one acre, more or less, bounded on the west by a lot of John Criswell, on the north and east by alleys, and fronting on the main street, on which is an excellent tanyard with 21 vats, a large frame bark shed and millhouse, log currying shop, log dwelling-house with a stone back building, stone springhouse, log barn &c.” In 1837, a sheriff’s sale for the property of Samuel McFarlane described it as “containing 1 acre, more or less adjoining John Cruswell [sic] and an alley—on which are, a two-story log dwelling house with a large stone kitchen, and a frame stable with a threshing floor to it. Also, on the same lot, a tanyard with thirty lay away vats, &c. a finishing shop, a bark house and mill, a slaughter house, a hog pen and other out houses, a quantity of fruit trees, and a good spring of water near the door.” The 1858 wall map shows this as the property of Sanford Shroeder, tanner & currier. When it was sold at a sheriff’s sale in July of 1862, Shroeder’s property was described as: “Three lots of ground,
situate in Fairfield . . . on the north side of York Street, and bounded east, west and north by allies, improved with a two-story log partly weatherboarded and partly plastered dwelling house, with a one-story stone back building, frame stable, hog pen, tanner shop, 2 bark sheds, 44 vats, 6 of which are under roof, slaughter house, two wells of water with pumps in them, &c. Seized and taken in execution as the property of Sandford Shroeder, with notice to Hamilton Diehl, tenant.” The 1858 wall map makes apparent that the two-story log house with stone back building was situated at the corner of York and West Streets on Lot 3W. This map also indicates that there was a tailor’s shop in the structure at that time. *Boyd’s Business Directory* (1860), lists both Sanford Shroeder and Hamilton Diehl of Fairfield as tanners. Hamilton Diehl is taxed with this property in the 1863 and 1864 tax lists (1 lot valued at $250 and a tan yard at $400), but deed records do not indicate that he ever held clear title. In 1872, the property was purchased by Joseph Musselman and was transferred to John M. Musselman shortly thereafter. It appears that the original two-story-log and-weatherboarded structure was removed at this point and replaced with the current two-story brick house. Also, the one story stone back building was likely expanded to a second story at this time. The current structure at 19 West Main Street is said to have been built as a store by John Musselman in 1888. “In 1897 he was joined in business by his young son, William.” On a 1908 list of the buildings in Fairfield this was shown as a frame structure, the clothing and grocery store of J. M. Musselman. “After Mr. John Musselman’s death in 1929, the business was continued by his son until his death in 1967.”

**1860 Residents**: Hamilton Diehl (July 2, 1831-February 8, 1917); Almira Ohler Diehl (1841-1931); William Diehl (1859). **Family Notes**: Jacob McClellan, the original owner of the tannery at this location, was an “old soldier of the Revolution.” He died in Fairfield in 1827 at the age of 93. Sanford Shroeder was the owner of this property in 1860, but lived outside of the town in Hamiltonban Township. Hamilton Diehl, listed as a tanner in the census, was the occupant at that time, along with his wife and young son. Following the war, he moved west and was laid to rest in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa.
Civil War Notes: Hamilton Diehl, who was the tenant of this property during the ownership of Sanford Shroeder, was one of the Fairfield residents who served in Company C, 165th Pennsylvania Drafted Militia, from November 1862 to July 1863 as a substitute for Isaac Hafleigh. Sanford Shroeder owned the tannery property at the outbreak of the Civil War, but resided on a farm outside of Fairfield. On October 11, 1862, during J.E.B. Stuart’s Raid, Shroeder was one of several unfortunate citizens who were taken captive by the Confederate Army. According to an article in the Waynesboro newspaper, published shortly afterwards, “in passing from Fairfield to Emmitsburg the Rebels fell upon a company of home guards drilling, capturing five or six of them. Mr. Sandford Shroder, son-in-law of Dr. Walker of this place, was met by them on the road between Fairfield and Emmitsburg and also captured. Mr. S. had his little son in the buggy with him, but succeeded in getting him released at Emmitsburg . . . . Mr. Shroder with the other prisoners were taken over the river.” John Bennett, who owned this property at time of Stuart’s Raid, was also taken prisoner by the Confederates, but according to his affidavit was held for only hours. Bennett did lose five horses to the Rebels, however.


Town Lot #4W: Sanford Shroeder Tannery Property. Current Address: 21 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: Sanford Shroeder. Description: Tannery office. Recital: Jacob McClellan, by 1801; Samuel MacFarlane, 1826; John McClain, 1837; John Marshall, 1839; Amos McGinley, 1851; Sanford Shroeder, 1856; John Bennett, August 20, 1862; Alexander Benchoff, April 11, 1863; Joshua Cease, April 2, 1866; Joseph Musselman, March 25, 1872; Joseph Creager, 1875; Heirs of Joseph Creager, 1916.
History of the Lot: The early history of the Lot 4W is associated with that of Lot 3W. The 1858 wall map indicates that the office of Sanford Shroeder, tanner and currier, was located on this lot. According to the 1872 tax list, Joshua Cease sold his “Tannery” to Joseph Musselman. However, there is no evidence that the tanning operation was continued there in subsequent years. The 1872 Atlas indicates that a structure sat on this lot, probably a remnant of the tannery business. Tax records show that in 1874, Joseph Musselman built the two-story frame dwelling house that stands at the site today. In 1875 he transferred this house and lot valued at $1,000 to Joseph H. Creager (1842-1916), a Civil War veteran from Thurmont, Maryland, who had married Joseph’s daughter Susan in 1869. A 1908 list of the structures in town at that time referred to a frame blacksmith and wagon shop owned by Creager. Joseph Creager and his family lived on this lot until Mr. Creager died in 1916. In his obituary, he is referred once again as a wagon maker. According to the 1919 tax list, the property was worth $800 and belonged to the heirs of Joseph Creager.

Civil War Notes: Joseph Creager moved to Fairfield following the war after serving in Company D, 6th Maryland Infantry, from August 1862 to June 1865.


Town Lot #5W: Sanford Shroeder Tannery Property. Current Address: 23 West Main Street 1860 Owner: Sanford Shroeder. Description: Vacant Lot. Recital: Jacob McClellan, by 1801; Samuel MacFarlane, 1826; John McClain, 1837; John Marshall, 1839; Amos McGinley, 1851; Sanford Shroeder, 1856; John Bennett, August 20, 1862; Alexander Benchoff, April 11, 1863; Joshua Cease, April 2, 1866; Joseph Musselman, March 25, 1872; Joseph Musselman, in 1919; Robert McNair in 1933.

History of the Lot: Lot 5W is associated with lots 3W and 4W and shares the same early history and sources. The 1858 wall map indicates that the majority of Sanford Shrooder’s tannery complex occupied this lot. However, the property is shown as vacant in the 1872 Atlas, indicating perhaps that there was no dwelling house on
the lot, but clearly there were structures here associated with the tannery business. Tax records strongly suggest that a dwelling house was built on this site by Joseph W. Musselman in 1873-1874. At that time, the lot is valued at $1,200. But the current structure does not appear in a 1908 photograph of this area, so it must have been built afterwards to replace the earlier dwelling that perhaps sat further back from the street.

**Town Lot #6W**: George Reed Residence. **Current Address**: 25-27 West Main Street. **1860 Owner**: George Reed. **Description**: Small dwelling-house, built about 1849, no longer standing. **Recital**: Jacob Ferree, by 1795; William Miller to John Criswell, April 2, 1810; James Wilson, May 8, 1843; George Reed, 1849; Calvin J. Seifert, by 1914.

**History of the Lot**: Jacob Ferree appears as the owner of this lot as an adjoiner to Lot 7W in a 1795 deed. He also appears as the holder of this lot on the 1801 agreement, and again as an adjoiner in an 1804 deed. But as is the case with several of the Fairfield lots, at some point, for some reason, it reverted back to Miller. An 1810 deed indicates that William Miller sold this lot to John Criswell for two pounds, ten shillings, the price giving strong evidence that there were no improvements on the lot at that time. In 1843 this was one of nine lots owned by Criswell that were reclaimed by James Wilson (for non-payment of ground rents). Wilson had acquired the ground rents (and for all intents and purposes became proprietor of the town) when he purchased Miller’s property in 1823. The 1849 tax list indicates the transfer of a house and lot valued at $175 from Wilson to George Reed, “colored.” This tax list also shows that lot 6W had been recently improved with a new house, the lot’s value being increased from $50 to $175. No structure is present at this location on the 1858 map, even though it is clear that George Reed lived there at the time in a small dwelling. The 1872 *Atlas* indicates two structures on this lot, the residence of “G. Reed” and what appears to be a store owned by “G. W. Harbaugh and Musselman.” In the estate papers of George Reed, the property is described as “a lot of ground situate in the borough of Fairfield, Adams Co. Pa., adjoining lot of Joseph Creager on the east and a public alley on the north, lot of Mrs. Boyd on the west and Main Street on the South, improved with a 1 ½ [story] frame
dwelling house...of the value of $300.’ obviously, the original 1840s
structure no longer stands on the lot today. In July 1914, the Adams
County News reported that “Calvin J. Seifert, our harness maker, is
preparing to build a new house on his lot beside the harness shop.”
Subsequent articles indicate that the two-story frame dwelling house
that stands today as 27 West Main Street was built at that time. The
estate of Calvin J. Seifert in 1933 described this as “a lot of ground situate
on the north side of Main Street in the borough of Fairfield, Adams County, Pennsylvania adjoining property of Robert McNair
on the east, and the McGlaughlin property on the west, improved
with a 2 ½ story frame house and harness shop.” The lot was valued
at $1,800 at this time. The 1976 history of Fairfield notes that a “fine
place to loaf and catch up with the news was the cobbler shop next to
27 West Main Street. Opening around 1900 and continuing to 1945,
it had two owners in that period, Mr. Calvin Seiferd and Mr. John
Myers. Both of the men could provide many interesting tales which
entertained both young and old.”

1860 Residents: George W. Reed (November 16, 1813-September
18, 1897); Ann E. Reed (January 8, 1821-February 12, 1901); Samuel
Asbury Reed (January 1, 1843-March 26, 1916); Mary Jane Reed
(1845); Margaret L. Reed (1848); George L. Reed (1853); James W.
Reed (1856); Lavina V. Reed (1859).

Family Notes: The Reeds were one of only two mulatto families
residing in the town of Fairfield at the outbreak of the Civil War.
As stated above, George Reed first appeared in the Hamiltonban
Township tax list of 1848 and first appeared owing this property in
1849. Interestingly enough, Adams County Deed Books indicate that
in 1822, James Wilson of Fairfield manumitted a slave by the name
of Daniel Reed. It is not known, however, if this Daniel was related
to George. It is also not known if the white Reeds of Fairfield are
related to the mulatto Reeds that later inhabited the town.
Civil War Notes: On February 29, 1864, Samuel Asbury Reed, son of George, enlisted in Company A, 43rd United States Colored Troops at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. His enlistment papers describe him as 5 feet 6 inches, with black eyes, black hair and a yellow complexion, suggesting that he was mulatto. The 43rd United States Colored Infantry was involved in the Petersburg Campaign, participating in the attack on the Crater. Reed “served faithfully until the close of the war” and was honorably discharged at Brownsville, Texas, on October 20, 1865. Today, Samuel’s grave is located in Gettysburg’s Lincoln Cemetery.


Town Lot #7W: Jeremiah Stem Residence. Current Address: 29-31 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: Jeremiah Stem. Description: Small dwelling-house. Recital: William Miller to Richard Porter, March 19, 1795; David McClellan; October 26, 1804; John Sheaffer; March 13, 1805; John Hoke, April 1, 1812; William Elgenfritz; George Miller, 1813; James Wilson, December 20, 1813; Catherine Frantz, by 1850; Heirs of Catherine Frantz; Jeremiah Stem; by 1861; Daniel King, by 1866; Ephraim W. Harbaugh, 1867; Peter Kready, 1871; Esther Musselman, 1875; William T. Harbaugh, 1879; Harriet Evanah Harbaugh, 1881; Joseph W. Kittinger, 1890; Mary A. Boyd, 1894; W. D. Clark Marshall, 1918; Heirs of W. D. Clark Marshall, 1926; Earle McGlaughlin, 1927; Earl W. McGlaughlin, November 16, 1949.

History of the Lot: Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10 were sold together by William Miller to Richard Porter in 1795 for 10 lbs. In about 1797, Richard Porter married Isabella Reed, granddaughter of John Miller, and niece of William. Lot 7 was sold in 1805 for $160, suggesting that a structure was there at the time. Tax records indicate the transfer
of a house and lot, valued at $180, from John Sheaffer to John Hoke in 1810. In 1813 the lot sold for $380. Catherine Frantz is clearly shown as the owner of this lot in an 1856 list of lot holders in the town. She first appears in 1850, but there is no clue as to when, or from whom, she obtained it. Possibly, it was Wilson who purchased the lot in 1813. A structure is shown at this location on the 1858 map but not labeled. The 1861 tax records indicate the transfer of a house and lot, valued at $150, from the heirs of Catherine Frantz to Jeremiah Stem. Most likely, the property was transferred in early 1860 as Jeremiah Stem is shown at this location in the census, and is listed as a property owner. *Boyd’s Business Directory* (1860), lists Jeremiah Stem of Fairfield as a butcher. The 1866 tax records imply that the lot, valued at $175, was transferred to Daniel King. In November of 1867, the *Compiler* announced that “Daniel King has sold two houses and lots in Fairfield, on Main Street—one to E. W. Harbaugh, for $400.” The 1869 tax records show a transfer of a lot valued at $125 from Daniel King to Mrs. A. E. Harbaugh, who is shown with that lot in 1870, but not in 1871. A. E. Harbaugh probably refers to the wife of Ephraim W. Harbaugh who operated a store in Fairfield from 1861 to 1869. Peter Kready first appears in the 1871 tax records with a lot valued at $600, and it is apparent that some improvements were made at this time, for 1872 *Atlas* shows two structures on this lot, labeled “P. Kready” and “Store.” In 1874, the property’s value increased to $1,100, indicating that another major improvement had been made. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to trace this lot through tax records, and early deeds have not yet been located. This being said, evidence suggests that Ester Musselman is taxed for the lot in 1875. Starting in 1879, William T. Harbaugh (1846-1891) and his wife Harriet Evannah Musselman Harbaugh (1856-1933) were owners of the property, which was valued at $1,200. A photograph of flooding on Main Street in Fairfield, taken on February 15, 1908, gives a good illustration of what the property looked like when it was owned by Mrs. Mary Boyd. As the value of the property remained relatively consistent in tax records from 1874 to 1908, this view reflects the 1870s improvements mentioned above. It is difficult to say whether the original building is incorporated into the current structure or if it was completely removed in the 1870s. There are two store structures east of the house in the 1908 view. One was incorporated in the residence when it was expanded at some point, and the other was
removed and eventually replaced by the Village Table Restaurant. In 1926 the property was described as part of the estate of W. D. C. Marshall as a “lot in the borough of Fairfield, Adams Co., Pa, fronting 60 feet on Main Street, running back 240 ft. to a public alley, adjoining lot on the east by Calvin Seifert, and on the west by public alley improved with a 2 1/2 story frame house, and small stable in the rear.”

1860 Residents: Jeremiah Stem (1829), hotel keeper; Harriet E. Stem (1830); Oregon L. Stem (1854); Francis N. Stem (1856); James Stem (1859); Sarah Seifert (1841), domestic.

Civil War Notes: The account book of Ephraim W. Harbaugh (who operated a store on this lot for a time) is now in the collections of the Adams County Historical Society. It is filled with extensive notes concerning his business activities, a record of his family and a page of specific events that occurred in Fairfield during the Gettysburg Campaign.


History of the Lot: Starting in 1805, Joseph McCleary (a shoemaker) is shown in the tax records with a lot valued at $150, indicating there was a structure on Lot 8W at that time. Over the years, Shertzer’s property increased in value until his death in 1840 when it was listed as a house and lot at $350. The first description is an 1840 sheriff’s sale which described this as “two lots of ground situate in

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the town of Fairfield . . . adjoining lots of Henry Hockensmith on the west, the main street on the south, and an alley on the north, on which are erected a two story stone house, a frame shop, and log stable, with a well of water near the door. Seized and taken in execution as the estate of Joseph McCleary, deceased.” Tax records indicate that the property was transferred soon after from McCleary to Johnson as a house and two lots valued at $250. An 1844 sheriff’s sale for the property of William Johnson once again described the tract as “two lots of ground, adjoining lot of Aaron Frame on the west, cross-street on the east, and fronting on Main Street, on which are erected a two-story stone dwelling house, a frame shop, and log stable; with a well of water near the door.” From 1854 to 1869, John Shertzer owned and occupied the house and two lots. Jacob Kready purchased the property in 1869, and the 1870 tax list reflects this transfer of the $300 lot. Kready is shown as the owner of Lots 8W and 9W in the 1872 atlas. In 1900, Catherine Kready sold off Lot 9W and the western 10 feet of Lot 8W to J. Jacob Reindollar and from that point on it became associated with Lot 9W, as is shown on the modern tax map. The original stone house on this lot still stands being of the best examples of early Fairfield architecture.

1860 Residents: John C. Shertzer (April 30, 1825-March 17, 1902); Maria E. Shulley Shertzer (1832—May 24, 1915); Mary J. Saylor (1843); Elizabeth Strickler (1849).

Family Notes: John C. Shertzer was born in Linglestown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Shertzer is listed on the 1860 census with his family, and also in Boyd’s Business Directory (1860), as a confectioner. Today, Shertzer and his wife are buried in Fairfield Union Cemetery.

Civil War Notes: John C. Shertzer was another of those citizens who lost a horse “worth sixty dollars, which was taken by the Rebles in a raid by Gen. Steward [sic].” Like other Fairfield citizens, John C. Shertzer served in Company C, 165th Pennsylvania Drafted Militia from November 1862 to July 1863, and Company G, 209th Pennsylvania from September 1864 to May 1865. According his record of service in the Fairfield GAR book, “the important events in the service were, 1st the capture of his colonel, Col. Kauffman in front of Bermuda One Hundred, near Dutch Gap which left them
without an experienced officer and about 100 of the men captured with several officers, among them Captain Henry Lee, 2nd the battle at Fort Steadman where they were taken by surprise at 3 o’clock A.M. while napping.”


**Town Lot #9W:** Vacant Lot. **Current Address:** 103-105 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** John C. Shertzer. **Description:** Vacant Lot. **Recital:** William Miller to Richard Porter, March 19, 1795; Richard Porter, in 1801; Joseph McCleary, by 1811; Heirs of Joseph McCleary, September 4, 1840; William Johnson, 1842; Thaddeus Stevens and James D. Paxton, 1844; Joseph Prim, August 12, 1846; Joseph Bowling, March 27, 1852; John C. Shertzer, March 16, 1854; Jacob Kready, April 3, 1869; Heirs of Jacob Kready, April 14, 1883; Catherine Kready, June 19, 1884; J. Jacob Reindollar, February 6, 1900.

**History of the Lot:** In 1860, this was a vacant lot associated with Lot 8W, of which it shares the same early history. It belonged to Joseph McCleary in 1811 as a lot valued at $35. This lot is shown as vacant on the 1858 map and in the 1872 *Atlas*. In 1900 J. Jacob Reindollar purchased Lot 9W for $175 indicating that it was still vacant at that time. According to the 1976 history of Fairfield, J. Jacob Reindollar moved to Fairfield from Frizzelburg, Maryland, in 1885 and “established the town’s first hardware store in the brick building located at 115-117 West Main Street . . . . In 1900, he built the present store property at 105 West Main Street.” According to the Gettysburg *Compiler* (May 8, 1900), “The carpenters began work on the erection of J. J. Reindollar’s large new store room and dwelling last Monday morning and by Saturday evening they had the building up, under roof and painted, which demonstrates the agility of our mechanics.” At “his death in 1919, the business was continued under the partnership of Robert S. and Carroll Reindollar, to 1924. Thereafter the business
was carried on by Robert S. Reindollar, enlarged and modernized the store to the point where it was one of the finest in the area. In 1968 Mr. Reindollar sold the business to Paul Metz. Mr. Metz also greatly enlarged and modernized it to more nearly meet the demands of the day.” Even though it is clear from multiple sources that this lot was vacant at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, and the current structure was built in 1900, today the building standing at 103 West Main Street has a “Civil War Building, July 1863” plaque on it. Several deed references describe there being an alley between lots 9W and 10W. The alley, however, does not appear on early maps.

**Sources:** YCDB 2K-510; ACDB 54-351; Heirs of Robert S. Reindollar to Elizabeth K. Reindollar, URD, ACHS; “Sheriff’s Sales,” *Adams Sentinel*, November 2, 1840; “Sheriff’s Sales,” *Adams Sentinel*, October 28, 1844; “From Fairfield,” *Compiler*, May 8, 1900; Obituary of Maria Schertzer, *Compiler*, May 29, 1915; *Glimpses of Fairfield Area’s Past* (Fairfield Area Bicentennial Committee: 1976), 66.

**Town Lot #10W:** Thomas Newman Residence. **Current Address:** 109 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Thomas Newman. **Description:** Two-story, log, weather-boarded, dwelling-house with a one-and-a-half-story back building. **Recital:** William Miller to Richard Porter, March 19, 1795; Richard Porter, in 1801; William Miller to Arthur Cloghersey, October 27, 1804; James Wilson, October 30, 1813; Fielding Donaldson, April 1, 1815; Henry Hockensmith, by 1840; Aaron Frame, April 28, 1843; Jesse D. Newman, December 15, 1848; Thomas Newman, March 22, 1855; Jacob Musselman, February 19, 1863; Samuel Smith, April 2, 1866; Mary Smith, May 2, 1866; J. J. Reindollar, in 1919.

**History of the Lot:** Lots 10, 11, and 12 sold together in 1813 for $300. An 1824 sheriff’s sale described the property as “a lot of ground situate in Millerstown . . . adjoining lot of Charles Donaldson on the west, Joseph McCleary on the east, and Main-Street, on which are erected a log dwelling-house, weatherboarded blacksmith shop, &c.—late the estate of Fielding Donaldson.” An 1843 sheriff’s sale describes this as “two lots of ground . . . on which are a two story log weatherboarded dwelling house, a one and half story log wagonmaker’s shop, a frame smithshop, a log stable . . . . Property
of Henry Hockensmith, adj. William Johnson on the east, the heirs of Charles Donelson on the west.” The 1843 sheriff’s deed further relates that the residential structure was “a two story log weatherboarded dwelling house, [with] a one and a half story back building.” The dwelling house, located on Lot 10W, is shown but unlabeled on the 1858 map. Jacob Musselman purchased Lots 10W and 11W from Newman in February of 1863, but it appears that Samuel Smith occupied the property at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg. Smith, who appears as a 23 year-old blacksmith apprentice in the 1860 census (working for Samuel Eiker in Hamiltonban Township), probably had some type of mortgage agreement with Musselman, as deeds indicate that the Smith family gained possession of the property in 1866. The 1867 tax list indicates the transfer of this lot, valued at $400, from Musselman to Smith. In 1874 the value increased to $1,000, suggesting that a substantial improvement was made at that time. This is probably the date of construction for the modern brick dwelling house at this site. The 1872 Atlas shows two structures on this property, one being the residence of “S. Smith.” On the 1897 survey of Fairfield, “S. Smith” was listed as the owner of the lot. Tax records indicate that the value of the property was $1,100 around that time. In 1908, a list of Fairfield structures included the brick dwelling house on this lot, owned at that time by Mary Smith. In September of 1909, the Star and Sentinel reported that “the desirable property of the late Mrs. Mary Smith was sold at public sale, Saturday afternoon to J. J. Reindollar, for $1,000.”

1860 Residents: Thomas Newman (1822), blacksmith; Catherine A. Newman (1828); Mary Newman (1848); David Newman (1851); Clara A. Newman (1855); Eliza V. Newman (1857); John C. S. Newman (1860); John Sites (1842), blacksmith’s apprentice. Notes: In the files at the Adams County Historical Society there is a handwritten note dated June 16, 1849, stating that James Wilson received from “Jesse Newman, twenty five dollars, it being in full of quitt rentz [sic] on two lots of ground in Fairfield or Millerstown, being the same two lots which he the said Newman purchased of Aaron Fream, releasing him, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assignees, from further payment on the same.”
Sources: YCDB 2K-510; ACDB 392; Francis Bream (Sheriff), to Aaron Fream, April 28, 1843, URD, ACHS; Jesse D. Newman to Thomas Newman, March 22, 1855, URD, ACHS; Thomas Newman to Jacob Musselman, February 19, 1863, URD, ACHS; Jacob Musselman to Samuel Smith, April 2, 1866, URD, ACHS; Samuel Smith to Mary Smith, May 2, 1866, URD, ACHS; Tariff of Rates of Adams County (Philadelphia: 1908), 50; “Sheriff’s Sales,” Compiler, July 14, 1824; “Sheriff’s Sales,” Compiler, March 20, 1843; “Sheriff’s Sales,” Adams Sentinel, March 27, 1843; “Fairfieled Items,” Star and Sentinel, Sept. 1, 1909.

Town Lot #11W: Current Address: 113 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: Thomas Newman. Description: One-and-a-half-story, log, wagon-maker’s shop and frame blacksmith shop. Recital: William Taylor, in 1801; William Miller to Arthur Cloghersey, October 26, 1804; James Wilson, October 30, 1813; Fielding Donaldson, April 1, 1815; Henry Hockensmith, by 1840; Aaron Frame, April 28, 1843; Jesse D. Newman, December 15, 1848; Thomas Newman, March 22, 1855; Jacob Musselman, February 19, 1863; Samuel Smith, April 2, 1866; D. B. Riley, April 1, 1874; H. Artzberger, in 1897; H. S. Wortz in 1919; Harry L. Wortz, in 1920.

History of the Lot: For much of its history Lot 11W was associated with 10W. As shown on the 1858 map and the 1872 Atlas, the one-and-a-half story log wagon-maker’s shop and “frame smithshop” were located on this lot. Boyd’s Business Directory (1860), lists Thomas Newman as a blacksmith in Fairfield. As mentioned in the history of Lot 10W, Jacob Musselman purchased Lot 11W in February 1863, and it appears that Samuel Smith occupied the blacksmith shop at this location. Following the war, Smith filed a claim for damages, stating “that on Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 5th of July A.D., 1863, a large Rebel Force, on retreat passed through and around Fairfield, and after using the shop for two days they took all of his smith tools and all the iron which he had . . . . making the total amount of loss of personal property, one hundred and ninety four dollars and ninety five cents ($194.95).” His losses were listed individually as two full sets of blacksmith’s tools worth $80.00; three screwplates worth $15.75; one blacksmith’s vice worth $7.00; three kegs of shoes worth $24.00; one hundred weight of nail rods worth $12.00; one set of
buggy harness worth $15.00; one saddle; one halter, one axe, and two chains worth $6.00; two scapes of bees (in patent hives), worth $20.00; two new single trees and one set of spread rods, worth $3.75; 60 pounds of blister steel worth $7.20; and 9 pounds of cast steel worth $4.25. Henry M. Landis who was said live “upon the farm adjoining Fairfield was a witness to the claim stating that “he had his shoeing done” at Smith’s blacksmith shop, “and that after the Rebel retreating force had passed pursued by Union forces all these things and the contents of his shop had been taken, and nothing remained when witness went to his shop & house after the enemy had gone.” Tax records indicate that this lot was valued at $100 and owned by Samuel Smith, starting in 1871. In 1874 the value increased to $300. At some point the shops were removed and a dwelling house was erected at this site. In 1920 the site was described as part of the estate of Harry L. Wortz, fronting 50 feet along Main Street and being 240 feet deep adjoining Michael Herring and Carroll Reindollar, and improved with a two-story dwelling.

Sources: ACDB F-392; Francis Bream (Sheriff), to Aaron Fream, April 28, 1843, URD, ACHS; Jesse D. Newman to Thomas Newman, March 22, 1855, URD, ACHS; Thomas Newman to Jacob Musselman, February 19, 1863, URD, ACHS; Jacob Musselman to Samuel Smith, April 2, 1866, URD, ACHS; Samuel Smith to Mary Smith, May 2, 1866, URD, ACHS; “Sheriff’s Sales,” Compiler, July 14, 1824; “Sheriff’s Sales,” Compiler, March 20, 1843; “Sheriff’s Sales,” Adams Sentinel, March 27, 1843; “Notice,” Compiler, June 19, 1920; Civil War Border Claims File for Samuel Smith, PHMC: Boyd’s Business Directory (Philadelphia, 1860).

Town Lot #12W: John Musselman Rental Property. Current Address: 117 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: John Musselman. Description: One-story, frame, dwelling-house. Recital: William Miller, in 1801; William Miller to Archibald Beard, September 5, 1807; Arthur Cloghersey, March 13, 1812; James Wilson, October 30, 1813; Fielding Donaldson, April 1, 1815; Charles Donaldson, April 12, 1828; Heirs of Charles Donaldson, October 1843; Catherine Donaldson, May 2, 1843; Heirs of Catherine Donaldson, 1849; Catherine Donaldson, in 1855; John Musselman, 1856; Maxwell P. Shields, in 1866; Lewis Wortz, 1884; George W. Wortz, in 1897; Michael Herring, in 1919.

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History of the Lot: An 1807 deed for this property specifically mentions that Archibald Beard was a carriage maker. At that time, the lot sold for just $25, indicating perhaps that it was vacant. A petition in the estate papers of Charles Donaldson dated January 23, 1843, describes this as “a certain lot of ground situate, lying and being in the town of Fairfield . . . at the west end of said town, on the north side of the main street, adjoining lots of Henry Hockensmith on the east; and Jesse Seabrooks on the west—fronting sixty feet on the street & running back to an alley—on which are erected a one story frame dwelling house.” An unlabeled dwelling is shown here on the 1858 map. During the early period of John Musselman’s ownership, the property was listed as a $100 lot, suggesting that the early house was not very large. It should be noted that Musselman owned other properties as well and did not live on this lot. The 1860 census appears to indicate that the family of Andrew Sanders resided there at the time. In 1861 the property’s value increased to $900, revealing that major improvements had been made. On November 8, 1860, Susan Musselman, daughter of John, was married to Maxwell P. Shields of Emmitsburg. Apparently, the couple moved into the new structure at this site shortly afterwards. According to the Gettysburg Compiler in April 1861, J. V. Danner and Maxwell Shields “have opened an entire new stock of goods at Fairfield, to which they invite the attention of the public. We are prepared to sell at extremely low rates for cash. All we ask is a call, and we will prove the truth of the above assertion.” As it turned out April of 1861 was not the best time to start a new business. By 1866, tax records indicate that John had transferred the lot to his daughter and son-in-law. In 1867 the interest of J. V. Danner in the business was purchased by Adam C. Musselman, brother-in-law of Maxwell Shields, and this became the establishment of “Shields and Musselman.” According to the directory in the 1872 Atlas of Adams County, these men were dealers in “dry goods, groceries, queensware, &c.” The 1872 Atlas also shows that the residence of “P. Shields” was located on the eastern side of the lot and that the store was located on the western side, presumably in the same building. In 1873, the property’s value jumped to $2,500, which indicates that major improvements were made at that time. Most likely, this reflects the construction of the building at this site today, or at least the expansion of the 1860 structure into its current...
appearance. On April 1, 1882, Musselman bought out the interest of Maxwell Shields and continued the business alone, eventually relocating to a new building across the street. The 1886 History of Adams County states that in 1885 Musselman “built a commodious store, rendered necessary by his increasing trade, the result of enterprise and integrity.” This is confirmed by newspapers of the day, which reported in November of 1885 that “the new store room of A. C. Musselman is about completed and he will occupy it in a few days.” This new store was probably the building later known as the I.O.O.F Hall, located across the street on Lot 11S, on property owned by Adam C. Musselman. At about the same time, Maxwell Shields and his family moved to Michigan, where they spent the remainder of their lives. In 1884, tax records indicate the transfer of the property to Lewis Wortz and brother. At that point, the store building on Lot 11W was apparently leased to another businessman. The 1976 history of Fairfield noted that “in 1885 J. Jacob Reindollar came from Frizzelburg, Md., and established the town’s first hardware store in the brick building located at 115-117 West Main Street . . . . In 1900, he built the present store property at 105 West Main Street.” A 1935 public sale listed this as the property of Michael Herring, deceased. A confused description notes its being “known on the plan of the said borough as Lot No. 12, being northwesterly bounded by Main Street (in front), westward by an alley, northwestward by an alley, and on northeast by Lot No. 11, containing in front, or on Main Street sixty feet, and in depth or back to the alley aforesaid two hundred and forty feet, improved with a two and one-half story brick dwelling house, stable and other outbuildings.”

1860 Residents: Andrew Sanders (1831); Jane Sanders (1832); Mary Sanders (1851); Virginia Sanders (1854); Hester C. Sanders (1856); Charles Sanders (1860).

Civil War Notes: “Danner and Shields” of Fairfield did file a claim for damages following the war, and their names appear in the index as suffering $727.00 of loss, but their claim was apparently not among those microfilmed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Town Lot #13W: Thomas J. Winebrenner Residence. Current Address: 119 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: Thomas J. Winebrenner. Description: Frame dwelling-house. Recital: William Miller to Jesse Seabrooks, April 23, 1812; James Wilson, October 15, 1846; Andrew Low, by 1853; William Winebrenner, 1861; Thomas J. Winebrenner, 1861; Heirs of Thomas J. Winebrenner, by 1899; William Dubbs, 1906.

History of the Lot: Lot 13W is the western-most lot that appears on William Miller’s 1801 agreement. Unfortunately, the original document is somewhat damaged and the name of the lot holder is illegible. In 1844 this is listed as the property of Jesse Seabrooks, valued at $275. The 1846 tax records indicate that the property was transferred to John Crimer. At the same time, the lot’s value increased to $450. However, this is the only time that Crimer’s name appears in tax records, so it would seem that the transfer never actually materialized. An 1846 deed recorded the sale of the property from Jesse Seabrooks to James Wilson and described the lot as follows: “a house and lot or parcel of ground No. 13--situate lying and being in the town of Fairfield (Alias Millerstown) Adams County & State of Pennsylvania and known on my plan of said town, by lot number thirteen, northwesterly beginning at York Street, thence by an alley on the east side, two hundred and forty feet, to a back alley thence by the said alley, sixty feet to lot number fourteen, belonging to James Wilson, thence by said lot, 240 feet to York Street aforesaid, thence by said street, or in front sixty feet to the beginning.” Andrew Low first appears with this property in 1853. At that time it was valued
The dwelling on this lot is shown on the 1858 map as belonging to “A. Low.” Low (also spelled Lowe) was a justice of the peace in Hamiltonban Township at the time of the Civil War and was one of those taken prisoner during J.E.B. Stuart’s Raid in October of 1862. The 1861 tax list indicates that the property was transferred to William Winebrenner and then quickly to Thomas Winebrenner, presumably his son. Thomas Winebrenner is shown at this location on the 1860 census, so the actual sale of the property may have been earlier. Winbrenner is also shown as the occupant of this lot in the 1872 Atlas. The current building appears to be the same configuration as shown on the map in the 1872 Atlas but its date of construction has not been established.

1860 Residents: Thomas J. Winebrenner (January 5, 1836-March 27, 1898); Annie Winebrenner (1835); Charles D. Winebrenner (1859); William Winebrenner (1797); Mary E. Winebrenner (1799).

Family Notes: Boyd’s Business Directory (1860), lists “Wm. & T. Winbrinner” of Fairfield as tinsmiths.

Civil War Notes: Thomas J. Winebrenner was another of Fairfield’s Civil War veterans. According to his record of service in the Fairfield GAR book, Thomas was born in Woodsboro, Frederick County, Maryland. He served as a musician in Company C, 165th Pennsylvania from October 1862 to July 1863. He enlisted again in September of 1864 in Company G, 209th Pennsylvania as a musician. Winebrenner was involved in the Petersburg Campaign, his most intimate comrades being “Daniel Biesecker, John Moser, Lewis McGlaughlin, George Hull, William Hoke, Peter Overdeir, Daniel Benchoff and William Boller. The most important event of his service was the beating of the long roll calling the men together to go into action.”


Town Lot #14W: James McIlhenny Residence. Current Address: 121-123 West Main Street. 1863 Owner: James McIlhenny. Description: Small dwelling-house and shop. Recital: William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Andrew McMaster, 1848;

https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol19/iss1/6
Reuben Carley, January 17, 1855; Daniel King, 1855; J. Musselman, by 1858; James McIlhenny by 1860; Barnabus Reily, 1870; Heirs of Barnabus Reily, December 7, 1880.

**History of the Lot:** Lot 14W is the first lot beyond the western boundary of Miller’s original plan of the town. It appears that this is one of the lots laid out and described in Miller’s 1810 advertisement. No early deeds for this lot have been discovered, but it appears that this is one of four lots purchased by Reuban Carley from Andrew McMaster in 1855 and then resold to Daniel King shortly after. The 1858 map indicates that this was the residence of J. Musselman. Tax records reveal that James McIlhenny owned this lot by 1860. Barnabus Reily later acquired the property, which was valued at $250 in 1870, the first time that he appears in tax lists associated with this lot. Two structures are shown at this location in the 1872 *Atlas*; “B. Riley” and “Harness Sh.” In 1874 the lot’s value increased to $1,300, indicating perhaps that a much more substantial home was constructed at that time. The 1880 estate papers of Barnabus Reily describe the property as including “the old house,” located on “a certain lot of ground in the town of Fairfield, fronting on Main Street, adjoining lot of Thomas Winebrenner on the east, and lot of Margaret Wilson on the West, improved with a two story frame dwelling with back building, a good frame stable and other improvements.” As Fairfield grew during the latter part of the nineteenth century, lots were divided and new houses sprung up. In 1881, the eastern half of lot 14W was purchased by William P. Nunemaker. The following recital shows subsequent owners after the division of the lot: William P. Nunemaker, April 8, 1881; Margaret McSherry, March 27, 1884; George W. Wertz, January 26, 1885; Henry Peters, February 14, 1887; James Peters, February 8, 1897; Lillie E. Harman, April 10, 1899; Margaret Patterson, October 17, 1901; E. E. King, 1908. In an 1899 deed, this section of the lot was described as “the eastern portion of lot known on the plot of the said borough as lot No. 14, bounded and described as follows, viz:--Fronting thirty-five feet more or less on Main Street, thence along lot now owned by John C. Shertzer, two hundred and forty feet to a public alley; then along said alley, thirty-five feet more or less to corner of lot of Mrs. Anna Winebrenner; thence along lot two hundred and forty feet to the beginning.” In 1899 this half-lot sold for $500. In 1901 it sold for $1,350 and was described as “a two and one half
story frame dwelling house, stable and other necessary outbuildings.” When E. E. King owned the property in 1919, its value was $1,400. The western half of lot 14W was owned by John C. Shertzer in 1899 and later by Margaret Wilson in 1905.

**1860 Residents:** James McIlhenny (1830); Ann McIlhenny (1833); Mary M. McIlhenny (1856); Emily I. McIlhenny (1859).

**Notes:** According to the 1860 census, James McIlhenny was a blacksmith. He and his entire family were born in Pennsylvania.

**Sources:** ACDB ZZ-525, 60-270, 90-106; “Town Lots for Sale,” Centinel, January 16, 1810.

**Town Lot #15W:** Hiram D. Eshelman Residence. **Current Address:** 125 West Main Street. **1860 Owner:** Hiram D. Eshelman. **Description:** Two-story, brick, dwelling-house, built in 1859 and still standing. **Recital:** William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Andrew McMaster, 1848; Reuben Carley, January 17, 1855; Daniel King, April 1855; Catherine Eshelman, December 7, 1858; Charles J. Sefton, April 3, 1883; Heirs of Charles J. Sefton, June 13, 1900; Mary Rowe, April 9, 1902; Jennie McCreary, March 31, 1905; H. B. Slonaker, March 26, 1917.

**History of the Lot:** The early history of this lot is confusing and difficult to trace in the tax records, but clearly this is one of four lots acquired by Reuben Carley from Andrew McMaster in 1855 and then quickly sold to Daniel King. The Compiler in April of 1859 reported that “Mr. Samuel King [actually Daniel King], during the past year, put up a neat brick house, at the west end of Fairfield, which he sold, recently, to Hiram Eshelman, for $700. Mr. King has since erected a two-story log house, a short distance from town.” The 1860 census clearly indicates that Eshelman lived here at that time. The 1872 Atlas shows this as the residence of “Hiram Shelman,” reflecting how Eshelman may have been pronounced at that time. The property was described 1901 as part of the estate of Charles J. Sefton, “fronting on Main Street and running back to an alley, adjoining lot of heirs of Philip Brown dec’d, on the west and J. C. Shertzer on the east improved with a two story brick house, frame shop and other outbuildings.” Another document refers to the smaller structure as an “implement shop.” Often the earliest recorded deed for a property

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is much more recent than one would expect. However, later deeds can be of great value if they provide a history of the lot or recital of the previous owners, sometimes referred to as a “begat” section. A 1905 deed describes this property as “two lots of ground situate lying and being in the Borough of Fairfield, County of Adams and State of Pennsylvania and known on the plan of said town as lots nos. 15 & 16 bounded and described as follows. Beginning at York or Main Street and corner of lot belonging to Margaret Wilson and known as part of lot no. 14, thence along York or Main Street west one hundred and twenty four feet to corner of lot no 17, now belonging to Mrs. H. Wintrode, thence along said lot two hundred and twenty feet to a back alley thence eastward with said alley one hundred and twenty feet to lot no 14, and Margaret Wilson thence along said lot two hundred and forty feet to York or Main Street, and place of beginning. Being two out of four lots of ground which Andrew McMaster and Eliza Ann his wife by their deed dated January 17th A.D. 1855 sold and conveyed to Reuben Carley and Eveline Carley wife of John Z. Carley and which Reuben Carley and Eveline Carley wife of John Z. Carley by their deed dated April A.D. 1855 sold and conveyed to Daniel King and which Daniel King and Mary his wife by their deed dated December 7th A. D. 1858 sold and conveyed to Catharine Eshelman and which Catherine Eshelman and Hiram her husband by their deed dated April 3rd 1883 sold and conveyed to Charles J. Sefton and which Virginia M. Sefton and Lillie M. Knox administrators of the estate of Charles J. Sefton deceased by their deed dated April 9th A.D. 1902, sold and conveyed to Mary J. Rowe, party hereto.” In 1905, the property sold for $1,250. Incidentally, Lot 15W still fronts 64 feet along Main Street today as shown on the modern tax map.

1860 Residents: Hiram Eshelman (January 20, 1823-October 12, 1903); Catharine Ann Shulley Eshelman (April 5, 1830-April 20, 1910); Mary Alice Eshelman (April 28, 1851-January 2, 1935); William David Eshelman (March 5, 1853-August 15, 1929); John Henry Eshelman (February 3, 1855-January 17, 1912); Sarah Catherine Eshelman (March 28, 1856-October 9, 1920); Frederick S. Eshelman (December 27, 1858-January 17, 1865).
Family Notes: Hiram Eshelman was born in Halifax, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania in 1823. In 1850 he married Catherine Shulley of Hamiltonban Township and is shown in the 1850 census living with his father-in-law. In 1859 they moved to Fairfield, where Hiram worked as a cabinet maker. In 1883 the Eshelman family moved west and settled in Sheffield, Bureau County, Illinois, where Hiram and his wife spent the remainder of their lives and are now buried. Catherine was the daughter of Frederick and Mary E. Shulley. She was also the sister of Maria Hester Shulley Shertzer (who lived on lot 8W). According to her obituary, “Mrs. Eshelman was born in Fairfield.”

Civil War Notes: In October of 1862, Hiram Eshelman was drafted and mustered in as a member of Company C, 165th Pennsylvania Drafted Militia, and served with that unit until its discharge on July 28, 1863. Of course, like many other fathers, husbands and sons of Adams County, he was away from his home during those terrifying days of the Confederate invasion. The Eshelman family history includes an account that relates to Mary Alice Eshelman, who was just thirteen years old at the time of the battle: “She saw the Confederate soldiers go by her father’s home in Emmetsburg [sic] on their way to Chambersburg after the battle of Gettysburg. The household consisted entirely of women . . . [who were] much frightened, especially when the soldiers stopped and came up to the door; but they merely asked very politely for water. All of at least one day the soldiers marched by, and they could hear the distant booming of the guns. The first intimation that the household had of the way the battle was going was the hurrying along the road and across the fields back of the house of ambulances and wounded men going south, some walking, some riding horses and mules, often two men to a steed, but all pressing on without pause, and then later the Union in pursuit.” On April 18, 1864, Catherine gave birth to another child, Moriah Virginia Eshelman. In September 1864, Hiram volunteered and mustered in as a member of Company G, 209th Pennsylvania Infantry, commanded by Captain Charles F. Hinkle, of Fairfield (see lot 8N). The 209th was involved in the heavy fighting at Petersburg, Virginia on April 2, 1865. Eshelman was discharged with his company on May 31, 1865. While he was away from home, a tragic incident occurred that seriously impacted the Eshelman family. The events of January 17, 1865 were related by the Gettysburg Star
and Banner: “We are called upon to record another sad and fatal accident from the careless use of fire-arms. On Tuesday week, two little boys, children of Hiram Eshelman, of Fairfield, were playing with the barrel of a gun, which had been picked up after the army left that place. The children, it seems, were in a room, and while the elder of the two placed the breech of the barrel in the stove, he called on his little brother to put his ear to the other end ‘to hear something,’ when the gun discharged, the contents passing through the head of the boy, and causing almost instant death. The lad was about 7 years old, and what adds to the sadness of the affair, is the fact that his father was absent in the army. --We do not know when we have been called upon to record an accident so distressing. It is another sad warning against the danger of handling shells and cast away guns, which are daily picked up on the battlefield.”


Town Lot #16W: Vacant Lot. Current Address: 129 West Main Street. 1860 Owner: Hiram Eshelman. Description: Vacant Lot. Recital: William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Andrew McMaster, 1848; Reuben Carley, January 17, 1855; Daniel King, April 1855; Catherine Eshelman, December 7, 1858; Charles J. Sefton, April 3, 1883; Heirs of Charles Sefton, June 13, 1900; Mary Rowe, April 9, 1902; Jennie McCreary, March 31, 1905.

History of the Lot: Lot 16W was associated with Lot 15W throughout the early years of Fairfield and shares the same history. The lot was vacant throughout the Civil War and appears as part of the Eshelman property on the map in the 1872 Atlas. In addition, deeds indicate that lots 15W and 16W were still together in 1905. In the 1919 tax records, this lot is described as the property of Harry W.
Cluck located on Main Street and adjoining the lots of H. B. Slonaker and the estate of Philip Brown. At that time, the lot was valued at $1,200, indicating that a structure had recently been built.

**Town Lot #17W**: Vacant Lot. **Current Address**: 131 West Main Street. **1860 Owner**: Unknown. **Description**: Vacant Lot. **Recital**: William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Andrew McMaster, 1848; Reuben Carley, January 17, 1855; Daniel King, April 1855; Heirs of Philip Brown, in 1900; Mrs. H. Wintrode, in 1905; Heirs of Philip Brown, in 1919.

**History of the Lot**: Again, this seems to have been one of the four lots purchased by Reuben Carley from Andrew McMaster in 1855 and then quickly sold to Daniel King. This lot is shown as vacant on the 1858 map and in the 1872 Atlas. Along with 15W and 16W, this may have been part of the Eshelman property, or Daniel King may have sold this property to someone else. In 1919 the property was described as a house and lot valued at $13,000, and owned by the heirs of Philip Brown, being on Main Street and adjoining Harry Cluck’s lot and an alley.

**Sources**: Estate Papers of Philip Brown, ACHS.

**Town Lot #18W**: Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church. **Current Address**: Today, this is a vacant lot with no address. **1860 Owner**: Trustees of the Fairfield Methodist Church. **Description**: Large church structure and cemetery. **Recital**: William Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; Trustees of the Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church, 1831; Fairfield School Board, July 30, 1934; Fairfield Shoe Company (L. E. Beaudin), 1942.

**History of the Lot**: The original Methodist church structure at this site is said to have been erected in 1831. The church and cemetery are indicated on the 1858 map as well as on the map in the 1872 Atlas. The original church was replaced by a larger more modern brick structure in 1895. According to the Compiler, “the structure is one of marked beauty of the gothic style of architecture, of brick with a slate roof, a graceful tower through which the building is entered, occupying one corner. The auditorium, with seating capacity of fully three hundred, has a class room addition which can
be thrown into the main room. The ceiling is of wood neatly paneled from which are suspended handsome reflecting chandeliers, making it one of the most attractive church edifices of the county.” During the 1920s, the structure was discontinued as a place of worship. The Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church made the decision to dispose of the property in 1933. On July 30, 1934, the church edifice was sold for $200 to the Fairfield School Board. According to the *Gettysburg Times* in August of 1934,
“following some repairs and alterations it will be used for various school activities.” In 1938 the Gettysburg Times reported that “the old Methodist Church in Fairfield, now used as a gymnasium, had a burial ground in the rear of the building. Twenty-five years ago the plot was full of grave markers, but now only a very few remain.” At some point the graves in the cemetery behind the church were moved to the Fairfield Union Cemetery. In 1942, the church was converted into a factory for the manufacturing of shoes. According to the 1976 history of Fairfield, “the largest employer in the community in recent years has been the shoe manufacturing business. In the early 1940’s Mr. L. E. Beaudin, using the old Methodist Church, built the first shoe factory on West Main Street. Mr. Beaudin sold the shoe factory in 1948 and the Fairfield Shoe Co. was formed in enlarged quarters with Mr. Carl Filsinger serving as superintendent.” In August of 1953, the factory burned to the ground “leaving 300 to 400 people unemployed. The shoe company rebuilt, but this time at the western edge of Gettysburg.” Later Carl Filsinger built another factory “at the extreme end of Balder Street, which eventually sold to the Kinney Shoe Company who manufactured and sold shoes all over the world.” Today, the Methodist Church lot is vacant, except for the large concrete slab that was once the floor of the shoe company building.


Town Lot #19W: Vacant Lot. Current Address: No current address. 1860 Owner: Unknown. Description: Vacant Lot. Recital: Daniel King; Jospeh Peters, 1869; John Peters, 1870; Margaret Reed, in 1919.
History of the Lot: There is no house shown at this location on the 1858 map. This was most likely a vacant lot at the time of the Civil War. Unfortunately, post-war tax lists are not particularly helpful in determining the ownership of this lot. A “J. Peters” is shown as the resident of this lot in the 1872 Atlas. In 1869, Joseph Peters appears with a lot valued at $250, transferred from Daniel King. In 1870, Joseph’s name is crossed out. John Peters first appears with a lot, valued at $50, in the 1870 tax list. In 1874 his lot increased in value to $200. An advertisement for this property (and also lot 20W) was published in the Compiler on September 14, 1904: “a lot of ground situate in the borough of Fairfield, Adams County, Pa., fronting 70 feet more or less, on Main Street, and containing 69 square feet, adjoining lots of Samuel Baum[actually Brown] on the west and the Methodist Church on the east, improved with two weatherboarded dwelling houses, with outkitchen and other improvements.” The 1919 Fairfield tax records describe this as the property of Margaret Reed valued at $400. Eventually, the house on 19W was torn down and the shoe factory expanded onto this lot. The lot is currently vacant.

Sources: Compiler, September 14, 1904.

Town Lot #20W: Vacant Lot. Current Address: 141 West Main Street. Recital: John F. Peters to Peter Dick, February 24, 1872; Heirs of Peter Dick; H. H. Wintrode, September 9, 1882; Mary E. Wintrode, June 2, 1888; Alice S. Spalding, March 9, 1892; Samuel Brown, March 17, 1897; Oliver Sanders, February 21, 1913; Cornelius Sanders, March 30, 1914. Description: Vacant Lot.

History of the Lot: This appears as a vacant lot on the 1858 Map and in the 1872 Atlas. The 1919 Fairfield tax list indicates that this was the property of Cornelius Sanders, valued at $1,100. Sanders purchased this property, perhaps along with 19W, in 1916, when his property was valued at $1,800. There is a house at this location today, and the same house appears in a photograph of a Memorial Day parade in Fairfield, about 1910.

Sources: ACDB 75-32; Fairfield Vertical File, ACHS.

Description: Small dwelling-house. Recital: James Miller to James Wilson, October 31, 1823; James H. Marshall, March 16, 1857; Anna Fanny McGlaughlin, February 13, 1867; Joanna McGlaughlin, April 8, 1892; Samuel Brown, May 2, 1904; Trustees of the Christian Church, March 18, 1912.

History of the Lot: The 1858 map shows a building on this lot owned by “J. H. Marshall.” However, it is clear that Robert McGlaughlin and his family lived on the property in the 1860 census. The McGlaughlins purchased the property in 1867. In 1903, the “Christian Church” built a church edifice at this site, and the original house may have been demolished at the same time. A 1908 list of the structures in Fairfield identifies the church as a frame building owned by the “Christian Congregation.” The 1919 Fairfield tax list refers to this as the “Disciples Church,” and places the value at $3,500. In 1927 a Mennonite congregation purchased the property, greatly improved the building, and established the Fairfield Mennonite Church which is still in existence today.

1860 Residents: Robert McGlaughlin (February 25, 1805-September 23, 1870); Anna Francis Ingram McGlaughlin (January 6, 1802-February 22, 1891); John Calvin McGlaughlin (January 1, 1841-September 1, 1933); Margaret Helen McGlaughlin (1841), married George Leisinger; Herbert McGlaughlin (1845-May 30, 1865); Adaline McGlaughlin (May 2, 1846-1927); William Lewis McGlaughlin (October 29, 1830- March 6, 1909); Anna Margaret Rider McGlaughlin (1834); Mary J. McGlaughlin (1855); Sarah E. McGlaughlin (1857); Rachel F. McGlaughlin (1860); Elizabeth Sanders (1857).

Family Notes: At some point Lewis McGlaughlin (son of Robert and Anna) and his family moved to the dwelling owned by Jonas Hemmons on Lot 11E and by 1866 McGlaughlin and his wife are listed as the owners of that lot.

Civil War Notes: Five sons of Robert and Anna Francis McGlaughlin are said to have served in the Union armies, one of whom, William Lewis McGlaughlin, was a lifelong resident of Fairfield. He served as a private in Company G, 209th from September 3, 1864 to May 31, 1865. According to his record service in the Fairfield GAR
book, “The first engagement in which he participated was at Fort Steadman and then again at front of Petersburg. He was wounded by a piece of a shell striking him at Fort Hell and was taken to the hospital at City Point and remained there until he recovered. His most intimate comrades in the service were Frederick Shulley, John Moser, Thomas Winebrener, Daniel Biesecker, John C. Shertzer and Charles F. Hinkle.” McGlaughlin died on March 6, 1909, and was buried in Fairfield Union Cemetery. John Calvin McGlaughlin, another son, served in the “Anderson Troop,” Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry. He enlisted on September 1, 1862. His brother Herbert McGlaughlin enlisted on October 16, 1862, as a substitute in Company C, 165th Pennsylvania Drafted Militia, a nine-month unit. On September 16, 1863, he enlisted again in Company I, Third Maryland Cavalry. Herbert died of Smallpox in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is buried there in Chalmette National Cemetery. Another brother, Ezra Blythe McGlaughlin (1838-1917), who was not living with the rest of the family in 1860, served in Company C, 165th Pennsylvania Drafted Militia. Finally, Andrew Thompson McGlaughlin, not living with the rest of the family in 1860, is also said to have served in the Union army. His unit is not known.