

Lancaster County's Present Court House: A History of Its Construction 1852-1855

Fay Follet Kramer

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Fay Kramer

CHAPTER I

THE START OF IT ALL

Well over two hundred years ago an event occurred in Pennsylvania which generated excitement, pride, and no doubt some trepidation. However, in the complexities of the twentieth century living, if people were reminded of that historic and almost long-forgotten event their reaction would be one of neither excitement nor trepidation. But the pride remains, for traditions have grown and have become a part of a way of life. What, on May 10, 1729, became the fourth county to be established in Pennsylvania, known as Lancaster County, has developed into the "Garden Spot of America."¹ Lancastrians, whether native or adopted, pride themselves on a past steeped on heroic actions and of their forefathers' participation and contributions in the shaping and guiding of not only their county but of their state and nation. That auspicious day in May of 1729 begins this story.

Up until the 1720's, Penn's original three counties, Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester, had seemed adequate to meet the needs and demands for services imposed upon the young Commonwealth. However, by the 1720's, Pennsylvania began feeling growing pains. Diverse people had found Penn's Colony attractive, and they eagerly sought opportunities not available to them in their native lands. As early as 1709, Mennonites from Switzerland and the Palatinate had come into the area which, on May 10, 1729, officially became Lancaster County. These first settlers were followed closely afterwards by French Huguenots from Alsace and Lorraine. Pushing past the areas settled by the first two groups of settlers came the Scotch-Irish in 1715. English Quakers and Welsh Episcopalians arrived in the region nearly simultaneously with the Scotch-Irish. By the 1720's, settlements had increased and even spread across the Susquehanna River into much disputed land.

Almost equally as important as the scattered ethnic communities throughout the area (which was still under the jurisdiction of Chester County) were the "ordinaries" or taverns which served the ever-increasing needs of local residents, immigrants, and travelers on the move westward. Grist-mills supplemented the taverns as local meeting places where the settlers intermingled and discussed local problems. By 1728 a topic under much debate was the need for the formation of a new county which would serve the citizens in the western-most reaches of what was then Chester County. The inconveniences and hardships endured by these settlers moved them to action, for on February 6, 1729, a "Petition of ye Inhabitants of ye Upper Parts of Chester County" was presented to Governor Patrick Gordon in Philadelphia.²

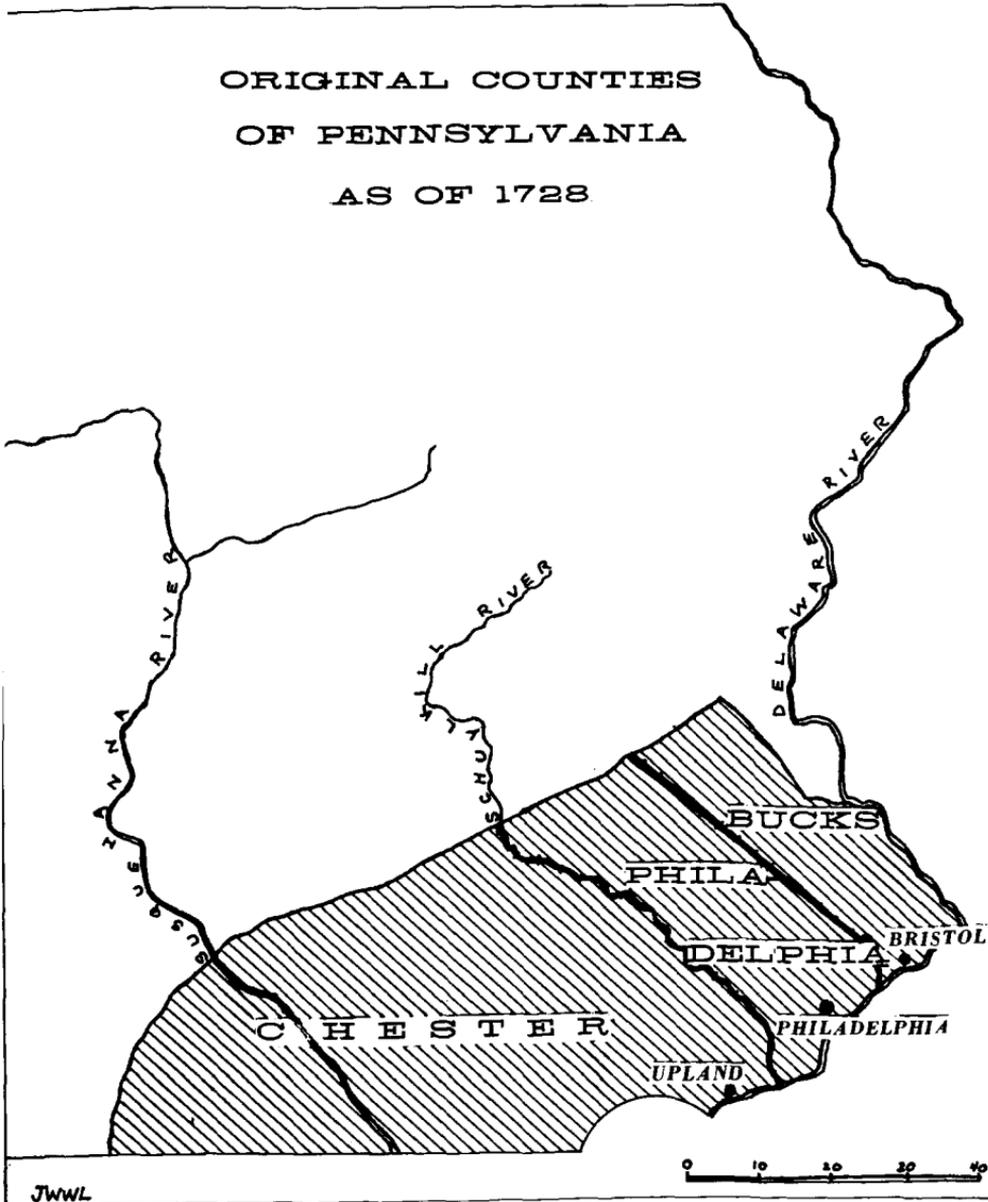


Postlethwait's Tavern as reconstructed by an artist in 1929.

Cited in this petition were the grievances of the settlers who disliked (and with good reason) having to travel one hundred miles to secure a writ in order to regain money owed them: they disliked the lack of officers to supervise care of roads, provide for necessary bridges, or establish townships when needed; and they were most annoyed at a lack of a "gaol" as it was apparent that "several Vag-abonds and other Dissolute people" thought themselves safe in a place so remote from justice.³

Their petition was favorably received, for on May 6, 1729, the Council approved the petition requesting formation of a new county.⁴ Four days later Governor Patrick Gordon gave his approval to the act which officially established a vast territory, which until 1749, embraced territory extending south and west as far as the limits of the province of Pennsylvania, into the fourth county to be formed in Pennsylvania. This new county acquired the name of Lancaster on the suggestion made by John Wright, Esquire, in honor of his native county, Lancashire, England.⁵

ORIGINAL COUNTIES
OF PENNSYLVANIA
AS OF 1728



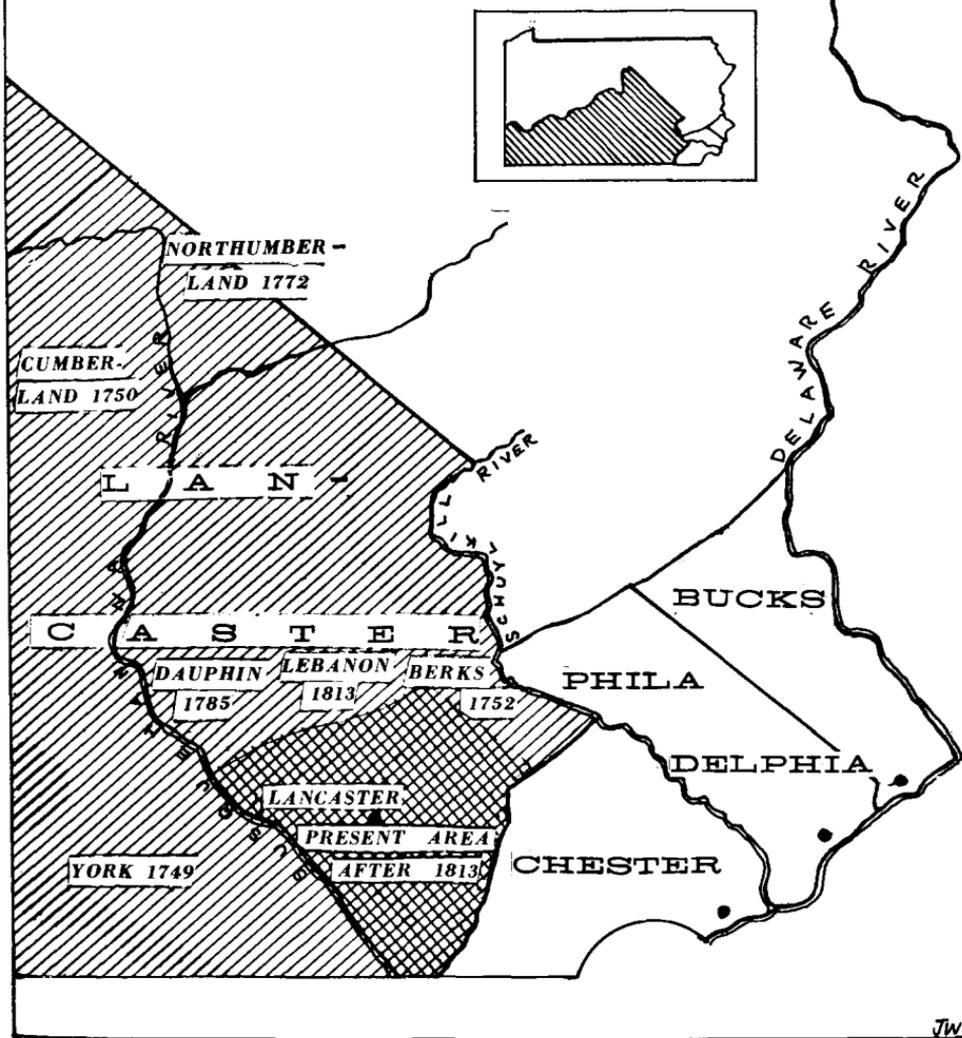
Original counties of Pennsylvania just before erection of Lancaster County in 1729.

Section V of the act which erected the county of Lancaster provided:

That it shall and may be lawful to and for Caleb Pierce, John Wright, Thomas Edwards, and James Mitchell, or any three of them to purchase, and take assurance of them and their Heirs, of a Piece of land situate [sic] in some convenient place in the said county, to be approved of by the Governor in Trust, and for the use of the said County, and thereon to erect and build, or cause to be erected and built, a Court House and Prison sufficient to accommodate [sic] the public service of the said County, for the ease and conveniency of the Inhabitants.⁶

After much haggling as to the best location for erection of a

EASTERN BOUNDARY OF
LANCASTER COUNTY 1729-1749



Eastern portion of Lancaster County as it appeared from 1729 to 1749. Entire extent of Lancaster County during that period is shown in insert map.

county-seat, purchasees selected John Postlethwait's Tavern as the site for the first court house of Lancaster County. Located in Conestoga Township, near Rockville and close to the Little Conestoga Creek, Postlethwait's ordinary was well-known since it was on one of the most travelled routes going west from the Octorara. Provisions were made in 1729 to loan three hundred pounds in bills of credit to the commissioners of the new county with an additional three hundred pounds to be loaned in 1730 for the erection of a court house and prison.⁷

The first session of a Lancaster County court was held at Postlethwait's on June 9, 1729. Temporary wooden quarters for both a court house and jail were provided, and courts were held at this location until August, 1730.⁸

Since much debate had existed prior to the selection of Postlethwait's Tavern, dissatisfaction with its choice apparently followed. On February 19, 1730, three of the commissioners (Edwards excepted) agreed in favor of a location in what soon became the town of Lancaster. Less than three months later, on May 15, 1730, the Centre Square, at the intersection of King and Queen Streets, was deeded by Andrew Hamilton and wife to the commissioners (Edwards included) in trust for the use of the people of Lancaster County.⁹

The first session of court to be held in Lancaster took place in November, 1730; however, there is nothing to show at what building in town it convened. Although courts were held regularly, it was not until November 3, 1737, that a reference of the building of a court house was noted:

The commissioners mett [sic] & Considered about getting ye Court House finished and Ordered ye Clerk to give Notice to Cornelius Verholts to atend [sic] at Lancaster on ye 11th of this instant to shew [sic] why he doeth not go on with s'd Work.¹⁰

The new court house must have been completed by May, 1739, as records showed John Young of Lancaster was charged with the duty of opening, closing, and cleaning the windows when needed, and he was to be remunerated two pounds, ten shillings for his services.¹¹

Located in the centre of the square, at the intersection of King and Queen Streets, this two-storied brick court house building was neither large nor commodious. The first floor was occupied by the brick-paved court room; three or four rooms filled the second floor. About 1748 or 1749 a bell was placed in the small steeple, and by 1750 a clock with faces fronting on North and South Queen Street had been added. After having been used as the seat of justice for Lancaster County for forty-five years, the building was destroyed by a fire of undetermined origin in 1784.¹²

Following the ruin of the first Centre Square court house, arrangements were made for erection of a new seat of justice to be built at the same site. The building was constructed sufficiently by September, 1786, so as to allow borough elections to be held in it. Court was being held in the new edifice by February, 1787.¹³

Occupying Centre Square, the second court house was also a two story brick structure. The corners of its four faces were of cut stone as were the lintels and window sills. Of Georgian design, the building had doors in the center of each front with the main entrance being the door which faced south to Queen Street. The North Queen Street door was never opened for it was just behind the judge's bench; the west door was used only when great crowds surged into the building for court sessions; and the east door was principally used by lawyers, court officers, and people having busi-



Lancaster County Court in Centre Square, showing north and west elevations. This structure was erected in 1786, and was razed in 1853 after 68 years of use.

ness in one of the second floor rooms. The first floor was occupied entirely by the court room. A circular stairway, just inside the east entrance to the main court room, led to the three rooms which composed the second floor. The largest of the three rooms was used for District and Orphan's Court while the two smaller rooms were employed for jury rooms, council meetings and the like.

From the center of the shingled roof rose a cupola in which was placed a clock made by John Eberman. Like the four gables of the roof, the Eberman clock had four dials, each facing the principal streets in the thriving city of Lancaster.

It was this second court house which was known as the "State House," for it not only was used by the county government but served as the state capital while Lancaster was the site of the capital of Pennsylvania.¹⁴

CHAPTER II

THE CITIZENRY SPEAKS

By 1850, Lancaster City's population had reached 12,369.¹ This was a far cry from the four thousand inhabitants who had lived in the town when General Edward Hand eagerly sought the location of the future capital of the United States for his community.

The County's population in the 1850 Census was 99,003. Productive establishments numbered 1,144 and 5,640 farms were recorded in the same census.² "The Busy Age" of the decade of the 1850's was too much for the court house of 1784 which had, like Lancaster, felt the growing pains of the community.³

Pennsylvania Public Law, #537, 1834, set the stage for action by City and County citizens concerned over the obsolete features of the court house being used in the 1850's:

It shall be lawful for the commissioners of any county, having obtained the approbation of "two successive grand juries", and of the court of quarter sessions of such county, to cause to be erected at the seat of justice thereof when occasion shall require such bldg. [sic] or bldgs. [sic] as may be necessary for the accommodating of the courts and of the several officers in the county, and for the reception and safe-keeping of the records and other papers, in charge of such officers, and also such other bldg. [sic] or bldgs. [sic] as may be necessary and proper for the purposes of a county jail and workhouse, and if need be to purchase ground for the erection of such bldgs. [sic].⁴

The first official presentment complying with Public Law #537 appeared August 27, 1851, when the Grand Jury stated:

It [the present court house] is not only too small for the present business of the county, but is so miserably arranged that there are but poor accommodations for the convenience of Jurors, parties, witnesses, or spectators. The "noise and confusion" consequent upon the large amount of business done in its immediate neighborhood, also make it an unfit location. These inconveniences should be removed whenever the finances of the county will justify it.⁵

The idea of a few people who believed that a new court house should be erected on the site of the first two thus was dispelled by the Grand Jury. Not only would the space allotted at the centre square location be inadequate, many citizens now envisioned the square unencumbered and left open to meet the needs of the ever increasing traffic flow.

The next (second successive) Grand Jury to handle the problem dealt with it in more forceful terms than had the first:

The Grand Inquest were most forcibly struck with the total insufficiency of the Court House:

The Court-room is inconvenient, unhealthy, and altogether inadequate for the transacting of the public business of the Courts. The present Court House was erected in 1784, when the population of the county was under 30,000, now increased to over 100,000 . . . The room is entirely too small to admit of any better arrangements, which suggests the urgent necessity of having a more roomy building with proper accommodations.

All persons attending court, either jurors, witnesses or spectators, without regard to age or sex, are promiscuously huddled together without a seat, and scarcely room to stand, occasioning an almost constant confusion and noise, often interrupting and delaying the business before the court.

The matter is in the hands of the County Commissioners, who no doubt will give it all due consideration and remedy the evil whenever the funds of the county will justify the expense.⁶

County Commissioners David Styer and Christian Hess voted for the resolution on January 12, 1852, which carried out the presentment of the August and November Grand Juries:

Therefore be it Resolved that with the approval of the Court of Quarter Sessions, this board deem it expedient and proper to erect a new Court House at such time and place as may hereafter be determined upon.⁷

The third Commissioner, Samuel Fry, opposed the resolution on the grounds that neither public funds nor opinion warranted the building of a new court house at the present time, although he readily admitted that he may favor such a project in the future.⁸

The crusading *Lancaster Examiner and Herald* did not wait to take action until the Commissioners' approval was given. Shortly after the second presentment by the November Jury, the *Examiner and Herald* admonished its readers:

It is perhaps not so generally known to the citizens of the county, as it ought to be, that the subject of the erection of a new Court House and Public Offices, agreeably to the recommendation of the two Grand Juries, is now the theme of considerable discussion in the City; and if reports regarding it be true, it is time the citizens of the County, as well as those of the city, should see to it that their Commissioners are on the right track and likely to give general satisfaction in its location.⁹

And in the same article, the ensuing controversy over where to locate such a new building was triggered off to a fiery start:

. . . justice and equity, as well as the interests and conveniences of the people of the County as well as the city, make it important that its location should be as central as possible and as near the present Court House as it is possible to procure a suitable spot at a moderate price, we think will be admitted by all who are unprejudiced . . .¹⁰

Going on a report in circulation that the Commissioners were entertaining an idea which would locate a new court house as much as two squares away from the present one, the article vehemently expressed its sentiments:

This would also be a gross act of injustice to a large portion of the business people of the city, who are owners of property at treble the price paid by those who are hard at work to have it removed near them.¹¹

Not to be outdone by its competitor, the weekly *Lancaster Intelligencer* entered the already mounting debate of where to locate such a new court house. It reported in the December 23, 1851 issue that the selection of a location was the principal topic of discussion in the city and that it was one which was causing much agitation throughout the county. Some, it said, favored the eastern part of town: some wanted it in the western section; still others preferred to see a new court house located in the neighborhood of the new

prison (East King Street):

What the County Commissioners will do in the matter we are not able to say; but we think unless it can be made appear that the public at large will be better accomodated [sic], they ought to consider well before they consent to remove it any great distance from its present location.¹²

Having expressed its location preference, the *Intelligencer* cited its reason as simply being the practice “. . . almost universally entertained over the entire State”, and that Lancaster should not be the exception to this general rule” . . . unless for good and sufficient cause”.¹³

Fervor continued to mount over the possibility that a location would be selected away from the hub of activity in downtown Lancaster. The January Grand Jury addressed a letter to “the Honorable Henry G. Long, Esquire, and Honorable Daniel B. Vondersmith, Esquire,” presiding judges [sic] of the Quarter Sessions Court, in which their concern over such possibility was quite evident:

It has come to the attention of Grand Jury that County Commissioners are being urged to select site for new Court House three blocks from present and “remote from the neighborhood of the public houses and established places of Business”. Has concerned members of Grand Jury since they come from all parts of county. For convenience of people at large and to remove places of holding courts, transacting business, etc. “would not only be unjust but unwise.”¹⁴

Having already inquired into the possibility of acquiring a central location at a reasonable price, the Grand Jury recommended the land, with 138 foot frontage on King Street then occupied by public offices and the Market House. This parcel of land was 245 feet deep, edged by a fourteen foot alley. Since unoccupied ground surrounded the plot, it would have sufficient light, air, and freedom from external disturbances. Water, thought to be an essential in a building which would house important documents, could be readily obtained.¹⁵

By February, 1852, the citizenry of Lancaster City and County had joined in voicing their sentiments as to the best possible location. The Commissioners, already beset by their own differences on the subject, received petitions, suggestions, and offers as to the most desirable site.

On January 17, 1852, nineteen members of the Lancaster Bar presented to the Commissioners a petition which requested consideration of inconveniences which would result from a location two or more blocks from Centre Square:

. . . The inconveniences and unfitness of such a change are so great and manifest, that the undersigned venture to hope the commissioners will not for a moment entertain the project.¹⁶

Their petition continued by elaborating on what the Bar members felt to be the best location:

The Market house property is so obviously the most suitable location for the contemplated buildings, that they will be greatly deceived, if the Commissioners shall hesitate in giving it the preference; as being beyond comparison the most convenient to the public in general—to all who have business with the public offices and Courts and to the members of the profession, nearly all of whose offices are in

the immediate vicinity; besides the powerful reason in favour of choosing that place, which ought to be conclusive, namely, that it would affect no man's property injuriously—Whereas to remove the Court House two or three Squares from the centre, would in addition to the general inconvenience to the people, inflict a grievous [sic] wrong upon numerous owners of properties, which have been purchased at very high prices, on account of the Court House and public offices being in the neighborhood.¹⁷

Backing the Bar Association's choice of the Market House property was a petition signed by leading citizens from different wards in Lancaster City:

The undersigned, Citizens of different wards in the City of Lancaster, respectfully request the Commissioners, who as they are informed, are now about selecting a site for the New Court House and Offices, to locate the same on the Market House lot.

They believe that situation will best accomodate [sic] the people at large of the County as well as the City, will give universal satisfaction, and cannot be objected to by any unprejudiced or disinterested persons.

Henry W. Hess
John H. Steinman
E. W. Carpenter
Geo. H. Krug
Wm. Heitshu
H. E. Muhlenberg
David Seblicher¹⁸

January 17, 1852

Five citizens who were distressed by the rumor that the North Duke and King Streets property was to be chosen as the new court house site presented a petition written on February 16, 1852, which admonished the Commissioners to thoughtfully bear in mind the Market House property:

. . . They further respectfully say that although in their humble opinion, a more central and convenient site has already been presented to the Commissioners in the Market House lot, they are willing to admit in order to put an end to this exciting question that no objections ought to be raised to the ground they have now adopted [sic].¹⁹

These Lancastrians then proceeded to clarify why the Market House location was the most desirable one: not only did the Market House property front on one of the first four business squares, but also the established business harmony of Lancaster would be adversely affected as would be property values.²⁰

Their petition asked the Commissioners to suspend negotiations on any site until

. . . The undersigned are permitted to exhibit to the Commissioners a site & [sic] plan which they have now in their hands & [sic] which they feel persuaded [sic] cannot fail to satisfy any unprejudiced mind, and give universal satisfaction to the people [sic] of the County and to those of the City too . . . The cost of this site to the County will in the opinion of the undersigned to be perhaps less than any yet presented to the notice of the Commissioners.²¹

In conclusion, the petition reminded the Commissioners of their desire for an interview:

The undersigned do not question that under the circumstances, in the

event named, the Commissioners will cheerfully grant the request of an interview and so Very respectfully

remain their

Obedient Servts [sic]

John Bear
A. L. Hayes
John Myer
H. Muhlenberg
C. Hager²²

February 16, 1852

The site of the county's just recently vacated prison at West King and North Prince Streets was highly recommended to the County Commissioners in an undated letter sent them:

Gentlemen:

The Undersigned committee citizens of the County of Lancaster, beg leave to present to your earnest consideration, and examination, the following Site for the proposed New Court House.

It is your own Jail Property, 148 feet on King Street by 151 feet on Prince Street. If these dimensions are not sufficient, we tender you the whole of Mr. Zahms property at the low price of \$2500. in addition to it.

Thus giving you 148 feet on King by 245 feet on Prince Street, These are three wide streets already open on three sides of it and on the remaining side a 14 feet alley, which can easily be made wider by adding . . . ground that can be well spared from the above dimensions. In short giving you a spot of ground 148 feet by 219 feet with wide streets on all sides.

. . . With a large quantity of excellent material worth to the County not less than \$2000 Dollars already on the spot which can be rendered available in the erection of a new building.

With the City Sewer adjoining on the west on Water Street you would be enabled to introduce all the modern improvements and keep the premises as sweet and clean as any private house in the County. In point of beauty of location, it stands unsurpassed by any other site in the City, At a slight elevation from the ground you have a favourable and expanded view of the Northern, Southern, and Western sections of the County.

But one square from the present Court House it would be entirely convenient to all who may have business at the courts or public offices and in our opinion do less injustice to property holders in the city than any other location spoken of. Gentlemen, we present to you this property confident in the belief that all things considered you have not had, nor can you have, any location offered you to be compared with it; Put aside sectional interest and sectional prejudices and we challenge the opinion of every candid man who keeps in view the comfort, rights, and interests of the whole people both of city and county to gainsay it . . .²³

Thus far, two locations, the Market House and the old prison site, have been highly recommended to the Commissioners. The turmoil which eventually surrounded the problem of a site location faced by the three astute Commissioners was by February, 1852, gaining in momentum. Apart from groups presenting suggestions, civic-minded individuals began to plague the Commissioners with their particular opinions as to the best possible new location.

One such letter, dated February 9, 1852, suggested a heretofore unmentioned location:

... It is located about 100 feet East of Lime Street in Orange: North Side; Consequently has a handsome Southern exposure, 99 or 100 feet front by 245 feet deep, beautifully located on high ground; adjoins property of Lewis Hurford on orange [sic] Street. Price \$3400. There is, should the above size not be sufficient, 36 feet along side of above with a large House and stable on it which could be got so that the whole cost would not exceed \$5500. The whole making 132 or 3 feet by 245 feet at a cost of \$5500.

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Svt. [sic]

A. W. Russell²⁴

A Mr. Carpenter proposed a tract of land on North Queen Street at what he believed was a most reasonable price:

... I herewith present to you a plot of a site on the east side of N. Queen Street in the first Square.

This Site can be had from \$15,000. to \$16,000. for that purpose.²⁵

Although a public sale might be necessary in order to gain the property, Mr. Carpenter wanted to prove the fairness of his suggested price.

In order to show you that the amt. [sic] named is very low for the property, I will cite a few sales made within a year in the vicinity, viz. Geo. D. Sprechers property immediately opposite—32 foot front brought \$14,000: the old Post Office property the same front sold at pub. [sic] sale for \$9,500. The property opposite Vankenons Tavern, bought by Doct. Waylan about 35 foot front brot. \$9,500. So that you will perceive that this property is offered for a site for a court House at a lower price than it could be purchased for any other purpose.²⁶

An offer of a cheap and desirable location was made by J. A. Kurtz on February 16, 1852:

As you are about selecting a site for a new Court House, and as a cheap and desirable one will be an object I will offer you the following one — viz. the South East corner of North Queen and Walnut Streets — 245 feet from N. Queen to an alley and 97 feet deep; on a high, dry and healthy location for the sum of \$5000.²⁷

Mr. Kurtz was indeed a truly civic-minded citizen for if his first offer was not acceptable, he made a second overture of “. . . one acre of ground three squares from the above on the Rank Road—gratis.”²⁸

Emanuel Shober, tavern and hotelkeeper, was willing to remove his stables in order to make room for a new court house which could be located just one block from the present building in Centre Square:

... I will give you 120 feet front on orange, [sic] and 130 feet back, at your price, and remove my stables, have none at all. This site will give a southern front, and is the most central part of the city, it adjoins a fourteen feet alley on the west, and no building on the east, which will make 134 feet clear front, & 100 feet back from North Queen, halfway between the Court House and said road. I hope you will look at my site before before [sic] you determine on another.²⁹

Emanuel Reigart, Attorney, voiced caution in the selection of a site in a letter to the Commissioners dated February 19, 1852. If they would hold their decision for a few days, he was sure that a

most desirable location (undisclosed) less than four hundred feet from the present court house could be had at a " . . . price as cannot fail to attract your attention and be satisfactory to a great majority of your constituents." 30

TURMOIL

The fervor surrounding selection of a location evidently led to furor. In addition to the offers received by the Commissioners, they were at odds with each other over varying site locations.

On Monday, February 9, 1852, Commissioners Styer, Fry, and Hess went out from their meeting to look over different sites recommended for the location of a new court house. Following their inspection tour, they returned to their office where a ballot was taken: Mr. Styer voted for the Sheaf's lot at East King and Lime Streets: Mr. Fry cast his ballot for the Market House location which had the favor of the Lancaster Bar Association and other interested groups: Mr. Hess voted for the Breneman lot at the corner of East Orange and Lime Streets. Injected into the picture at this time are two heretofore unmentioned (at least publicly) locations. However, not being able to agree on a site, the Commissioners adjourned to meet for the same purpose on Thursday, February 12, 1852.¹

At this point, confusion must have ruled supreme over the Commissioners. At the meeting on Monday, February 9, 1852, it was decided that a vote on the issue would be taken on Thursday next (February 12). However, the entry, which was incorrectly dated, "Thursday, February 13, 1852 (Thursday being the twelfth)," was precise in its briefness: "Adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock."²

The Commissioners convened on Friday, February 13, and introduced a location not previously nor openingly discussed. In fact, the following resolution was the first official mention of the location where the new court house was to be finally erected:

Resolved, That this Board will purchase David Longenecker's, I. N. Lightner's and twenty feet of James Evan's property . . . the North West corner of East King and Duke Streets, for the purpose of erecting a Court House thereon, provided the same can be purchased for the sum of Fifteen thousand dollars, clear of all incumbrances.³

Once again, on Wednesday, February 18, an effort was made to vote for a site for the new court house. As he did earlier, Mr. Styer cast his ballot for the Sheaf's lot at the corner of East King and Lime Streets: Mr. Hess voted again for the Breneman lot at the corner of East Orange and Lime Streets; and Mr. Fry refused to vote and presented the following protest:

The law providing for the erection of County Buildings having in the opinion of the undersigned not been compiled [sic] with, he now refuses to participate further in any action of this board relative to Building a Court House And Protests against all action on the subject at this time and asks that this be Entered on the minutes.⁴

Apparently hoping to remedy the grievances held by Mr. Fry, the Commissioners met again on the afternoon of the same day. Once more, a vote was taken producing the following results:

. . . Styer and Hess voted for the Breneman lot including George Kleckner's lot adjourning [sic] and fronting on Orange Street, Provided the whole can be purchased for the sum of Seven thousand dollars clear of all encumbrances . . .⁵

It will be noted that Mr. Styer changed his vote from that for the Sheaf's lot at East King and Lime Streets to Mr. Hess' original suggested lot at East Orange and North Lime Streets.

But what of the resolute Mr. Fry? He refused to vote: afternoon or morning, he was not to be a part of such illegal actions of the other two Commissioners:

The undersigned a commissioner of the County of Lancaster hereby Protest against the Resolution just passed by a majority of the Board selecting a location for a new Court House and also against all Resolutions and proceedings had heretofore by said Board resolved to building Because such selection of a location and the erection of a Court House under the proceedings had is and would be illegal and void, and the Auditors of the County would not, nor could they if objection was made, pass the order of their Board in the matter for the payment of monies.⁶

Exactly what was behind Mr. Fry's actions, other than what specifically said in the letter, is unclear. That he remained in a disturbed state over selection of a site is clear, for on Friday, February 20, the Commissioners met again to reconsider the proceedings of February 18. Mr. Fry moved to postpone further proceedings until Monday, February 23, to which the other Commissioners agreed.⁷

Tense nerves must have become even more taut as Monday, February 23, approached. The three Commissioners met; the first ballot was cast. Results were surprising. Commissioner Styer, who on last Wednesday's ballot had joined with Commissioner Hess in choosing the Breneman lot at East Orange and North Lime Streets, now voted for the lot west of and adjoining the new prison in the six hundred block of East King Street. Hence, another suggestion complicated the already chaotic scene. Commissioner Hess changed his vote from that of the Breneman lot location to that of the site of the old prison at West King and North Prince Streets. Like the vote of Mr. Styer on this day, Mr. Hess' vote injected officially into the Minutes another new location. And Commissioner Fry still refused to vote.⁸

Whether the first ballot taken on Monday, February 23, was a feeble—and futile—attempt in psychology to dissuade Mr. Fry remains to be seen, for on the second ballot, Messieurs Styer and Hess reverted to their old choices: Mr. Styer voted for the Sheaf's lot while Mr. Hess remained with the Breneman lot choice. Mr. Fry stood steadfast; he refused to vote. A third vote was taken and results were the same as on the second ballot. On the last try of the day, Commissioners Styer and Hess joined forces once again by voting for the Breneman lot, including George Kleckner's adjoining lot, as they had done on Wednesday, February 18. Mr. Fry is not recorded as having voted.⁹

Within the next two days, out of this tangled confusion somehow came word in both of the Lancaster papers that the Commissioners had selected a site for the new court house. The *Intelligencer* reported on February 24, 1852:

We understand the County Commissioners have selected as the site of the new Court House the ground known as "Breneman's Lot", at the corner of Orange and Lime Streets . . .¹⁰

Further remonstrances against this supposed selection were offered:

Although a handsome location, too far removed from the business part of town to be either convenient or desirable, as it's three blocks from the present Court House. The location . . . will be serious drawback to people attending Court, those having business to do in the Court House to say nothing of the inconveniences of Attornies [sic] and their clients.¹¹

Reminding its readers that several weeks ago the *Intelligencer* made its position clear on where the court house should be located, the paper was going to once more reiterate its viewpoint:

We are in favor of locating it in Market Square, or at farthest within one square of the old Court House.¹²

Of the Commissioners, the paper sarcastically offered these words:

But the Commissioners, it appears, have decided otherwise; and as they are, by law, constituted the guardians of the county, we suppose that they considered the interests and conveniences of the people would best be promoted by locating the building as near the suburbs of the city as possible. Of course, we must submit to their superior judgment in the matter, but nevertheless; we hear a great deal of complaint, since the site has been determined on, especially by citizens from the county.¹³

The following day, the *Examiner and Herald* saw fit to announce the Commissioners' selection of the vacant lot (Breneman) at the southwest corner of East Orange and North Lime Streets and noted that it would cost \$7,000 (the price which the Philadelphia *Sun* reported erroneously as the price tag of the new Court House itself¹⁴).¹⁵

While the Commissioners were haggling among themselves, the local newspapers continued to play the story for all its worth. Indignation over the selection of the Breneman lot was rising daily, according to the *Intelligencer* on March 2, 1852:

Seems to be engrossing subject among the citizenry since the purchase of the Breneman Lot. Remonstrances are being numerously signed against . . . and the State legislature is asked to interfere so as to leave the decision to a vote of the County. An injunction is also talked of to prevent action on part of the Commissioners. While all this is going on, we understand County Commissioners determined buildings shall be erected there and have already taken measures to begin operations as soon as spring season sets in:

It is an [sic] very exciting controversy as the thing now stands, and bids fair to become more and more interesting as the season for building approaches.

The whole situation could have been avoided by locating new Court House in Market Square. If had been done, presume little/no objection from any section of Co. [sic].

We realize County Commissioners have power to locate building where they please: all these efforts to change be of no use unless they, of own accord, change the location.¹⁶

If the newspapers and hence the general public only knew the turmoil besetting the Commissioners. At their meeting on Monday, March 8, 1852, Mr. Styer moved that the vote taken on February 23 be reconsidered. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fry. Mr. Fry then proceeded to withdraw his protests entered on the Minutes of February 18, and he further suggested that another ballot be taken in order to determine the site for the new court house.¹⁷

Voting for only the second time on the issue of where to locate the new court house, on Monday, March 8, Commissioner Fry aligned himself with Commissioner Styer in choosing the properties owned by Longenecker, Lightner, and Evans at the northwest corner of East King and North Duke Streets. Purchase price was set at \$18,000. Mr. Hess remained adamant in wanting the Breneman lot for the \$7,000. price affixed on it earlier.¹⁸

Reporting on what is not in the Minute Book, the *Examiner and Herald* told its readers on Wednesday, March 10, of the latest developments in this intriguing but confused site selection story. According to the newspaper report, the Commissioners had entered into negotiations to buy the Breneman lot; however, having proved unsuccessful, they then made an offer to purchase the plot at the northwest corner of East King and North Duke Streets, opposite from the Farmer's Bank. It was further understood that the offer for the ground was \$18,000., of which it was hoped that \$15,000. could be raised by private subscriptions.¹⁹

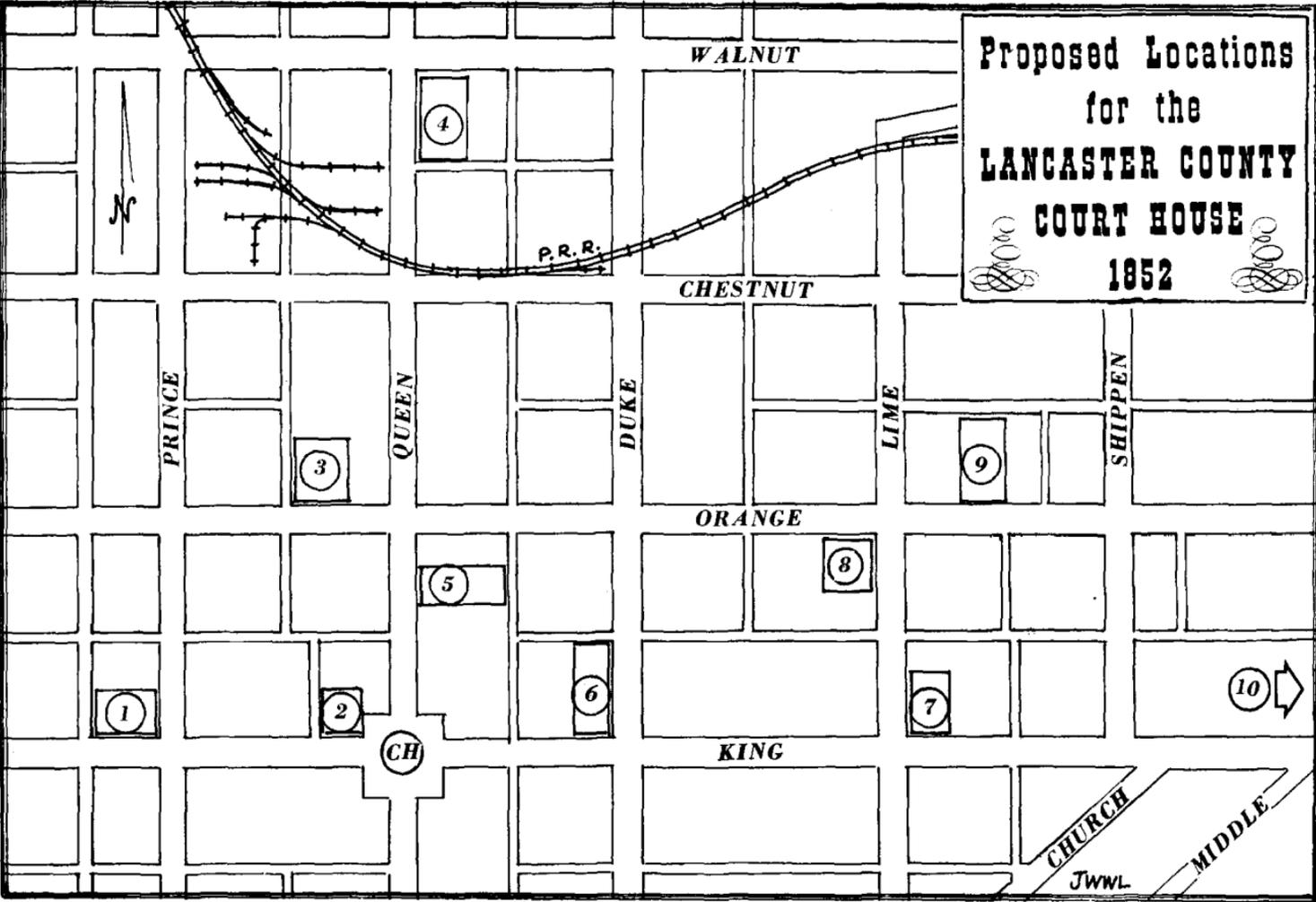
Incidentally, one of the first to contribute private funds for the acquisition of the East King and North Duke streets site was the Farmers Trust Company, located on the southwest corner of East King and South Duke Streets. Two days before an agreement was entered, on March 9, 1852, the Farmers Trust solicitor, Thomas E. Franklin, recommended to the Board the propriety of making a subscription for purchase of said site. The close proximity of the Bank would not only serve to bring additional business to the Bank but would increase its own property value. A subscription of \$1,000. was made to the County Commissioners.²⁰

Apparently somewhere between Monday, March 8, and Thursday, March 11, someone or something had prevailed to influence Mr. Hess from holding out for the Breneman lot. For on March 11, 1852, the Commissioners entered into an agreement with David Longenecker, I. N. Lightner, and James Evans for the purchase of

KEY TO MAP ON PAGE 19:

CH—Court House in Centre Square; (1) Old Prison Site, West King and North Prince streets; (2) Market House and City Hall Site; (3) Shober Site, West Orange and North Market streets; (4) Kurtz Site, North Queen and East Walnut streets; (5) William Carpenter Site, 47-49 North Queen Street; (6) Longenecker-Lightner-Evans Site, East King and North Duke streets; (7) Sheaf Lot Site, East King and North Lime streets; (8) Breneman Lot Site, East Orange and North Lime streets; (9) Russell-Maxwell Site, 215-221 East Orange Street; and (1) Lot west of the New Prison near East King and North Franklin streets. See also Appendix A.

Proposed Locations
for the
**LANCASTER COUNTY
COURT HOUSE**
1852



their properties in East King Street at the accumulated total price of \$18,000.²¹ (See Appendix A for summary of site locations and recommendations.)

The *Intelligencer* seemed relieved that the commissioners did not choose the suburban site over one in downtown Lancaster, for on Tuesday, March 16, the paper reported the contemplated purchase of the East King and North Duke Streets lot which it termed, "a beautiful one," and one which was centrally located for all useful purposes.²²

A week later the *Intelligencer* ended the saga of search for a court house site when it related that the Commissioners had purchased the East King and North Duke Streets properties for \$31,000., of which \$13,000. was to be raised by private subscription. The remaining balance of \$18,000. was the price which the Commissioners had agreed to pay from public funds.²³

The completion of this hectic struggle to locate the new court house was reached on Wednesday, April 14, when the acceptance of the deed to the properties was made by the three Commissioners:

A deed duly executed & [sic] acknowledged by David Longenecker Esquire was recieved [sic] by the Commissioners for certain houses & [sic] buildings and lot of Ground at the North west corner of East King & [sic] Duke Streets in the City of Lancaster, purchased for a scite [sic] for a new Court House. Also a deed duly acknowledged & [sic] executed by I. N. Lightner, Esq. for a three story house and lot of ground on the north side of East King Street, adjoining [sic] the above described property. Also a deed duly executed & [sic] acknowledged by James Evans, Esq. for part of his dwelling house and lot, to his middle wall adjoining [sic] the property purchased by I. N. Lightner Esq.²⁴

CHAPTER IV

PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS

With the location for the new court house finally determined, the actual work of construction of the edifice was soon to get underway. Unfortunately, much of the dickering that must have taken place for the selection of architect, supervisor, and contractors has not been recorded. The remainder of this story of the erection of the third Lancaster County Court House will be put together from information compiled from various sources which still survive.

Apparently relieved that the episode involving the site selection was completed, the *Intelligencer* reported on March 23, 1852, that:

. . . it's contemplated to begin operations on the new court house after property vacated April 1. After April Court, the old Court House is to be taken down so materials can be used in the erection of the new.¹

Some frame buildings on the newly acquired lots were offered for sale on March 22, 1852.² However, vacating the three properties at the northwest corner of East King and North Duke Streets was not an easy task. On May 25, 1852, the Commissioners directed a letter be sent to Emanuel Reigart, Thomas E. Franklin, Benjamin Champneys, and others:

Take notice that if you do not cause the tenants to be removed from the premises designed for the new Court House on or before Thursday next [May 27], the Commissioners of Lancaster County will adopt means to remove them and will hold you responsible for all damages according to your agreement to that effect.

P. G. Eberman,
Clerk³

Relieved that they were participating in the supposed last session of court to be held in the old Court House, the April Grand Jury pronounced its feelings strongly:

. . . As members of the Grand Jury, after a week's service, we speak from personal experience. On entering the court room to present bills acted upon, it can only be done in single file, and after wedging our way through an opening formed in the crowd, little wider than the diameter of the staff of the attending constable, we finally arrive at the curved benches appropriated as seats for the Grand Inquest of the Commonwealth of Pa. [sic] inquiring for the county of Lanc. [sic] which seats are yet well warmed by having been just vacated in obedience to the ever requisite order of the Court Cryer to "clear the Grand Jury box", and which afford such comfort only as is attained by keeping the body in a strictly perpendicular position, and not deviating from the rules of central gravity.⁴

Not only did this Grand Jury express their greivences on the inadequacies of the existing structure, but they gladly gave their

advice to the Commissioners on what to keep in mind in building a new court house:

We flatter ourselves from the acknowledged intelligence of our county commissioners and their comptency [sic] of judging in these matters that in deciding upon a plan for the new bldg. [sic] they will adopt one producing all the modern improvements of Court rooms, affording ample accomodations [sic] to all whose duty or pleasure it may be to attend our courts . . .⁵

The Board appointed on April 29, 1852, Samuel Sloan, Esquire, of Philadelphia, as architect for the erection of the new Court House. For his services, he was to receive two per cent of the cost of the building.⁶

Sloan's appointment appeared to be a well-received choice. The *Intelligencer* reported on May 11, 1852, that "Mr. Sloan is a master in his profession and the Commissioners could not have made a better selection."⁷

At the time of his appointment as architect for the new Court House of Lancaster County, Sloan was gaining fame with his so-called "Philadelphia Plan." His improved plans in the design of schools in the Philadelphia area were in many ways too far advanced for the system of teaching generally followed in the public schools at the time. While the exterior of his schools was plain, the interior design was far from simple. His ideas incorporated movable walls so that several classrooms could be included into a single area; he advocated maximum light in classrooms; and he aimed to improve upon internal circulation and maneuverability within the school building. Frequently he was criticized for using too many halls and stairways. By the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1851, Sloan had been commissioned to build seven Philadelphia schools.⁸

When engaged to draw plans for the Lancaster County Court House, Sloan was also busily engaged in designing the girls' Normal School and Central High School for Boys in Philadelphia. The exterior view of Central High bore resemblance to the Lancaster structure which he designed. Columns adorned both the boys' school in Philadelphia and the Court House in Lancaster, and both structures had many large windows. Simple honesty of design was evidenced in the two structures. All three of these buildings were completed in 1854, which was the time believed to be the height of Sloan's career as a school architect.⁹

On May 10, 1852, just 123 years to the day that Lancaster County had been formed, the Commissioners advertised for the first bids in the actual construction of the new Court House. Those persons interested in doing the excavation work for the cellar of the new Court House were to have bids in the Commissioner's hands by May 24.¹⁰ Proposals were received by the specified date; however, because of a misunderstanding as to whether clay was to be removed from the premises, bids were to be re-let. Deadline date was set as Monday, June 7.¹¹

The wheels of activity were humming smoothly by June of 1852. The "Busy Age" of Lancaster was in full swing. The current



Lightner House, formerly the Ross House, which stood on the new court house site. The doorway and other materials were salvaged to be incorporated into the new Lightner mansion at North Duke and East Lemon Streets. The original doorway is now in the Society Museum.

building season, according to the *Intelligencer*, appeared to be a promising one:

The Court House, German Reformed Church, Mr. Hager's Town (Fulton) Hall and numbers of new and beautiful store fronts are in construction . . . no less than 100 brick dwellings are to be erected in various parts of town, including some elegant ones.¹²

In addition, a new Catholic Church was being contemplated as were some needed buildings at Franklin and Market Streets.

Plans of the new Court House were substantially agreed upon by the County Commissioners by June 15 and were revealed to the public. These early plans called for the structure to have a seventy foot frontage on East King Street and 142 feet on North Duke Street. The lower—or office—level was to be of cut sandstone while the main story was to be brick, rough cast and marked in imitation of sandstone. Pilasters were to extend from the top of the basement story to the roof line with six pillars at each end and at the middle of the sides. The stylobate at the front and rear of the building was to extend out about ten feet. The first floor was to be about five feet above the intended pavement line. This lower level was to contain offices for the sheriff, prothonotary, register, recorder, clerk of the Orphans Court, clerk of the Quarter Sessions, county treasurer, and county commissioners. A court room with a sixteen foot ceiling was also to be located on the first floor.¹³

The second story was to contain the main court room, which was to be sixty-eight feet in depth and have a height of twenty-six feet. In the rear of this court room were rooms for the grand jury, two petit juries, witnesses, and the library.¹⁴

The building was to be capped by a beautiful dome, the top of which would be 132 feet from the pavement and in which a clock would be placed.¹⁵

The tempo of activity surrounding the erection of a new Court House increased markedly by the time the summer of 1852 had arrived. The Commissioners saw fit on June 7, 1852, to appoint James Crawford of Lancaster superintendent of construction, a job which paid \$1.50 per day.¹⁶ The appointment of Mr. Crawford was not made without the usual letters of recommendations. C. B. Grubb, Samuel H. and Henry E. Slaymaker sent their approval of James Crawford to the County Commissioners in a letter dated May 31, 1852. They recommended him not only because they knew him to be "... a practical and experienced mechanic" but he was familiar with the construction of all different kinds of buildings.¹⁷

An even more intriguing letter of recommendation was forwarded to the Commissioners on May 31, 1852. Many other awards were probably made for the reason stated in this letter as to why James Crawford should be appointed as superintendent of construction. However, because of the lapse of 114 years between then and now, the historian is left with only the opportunity for surmises since not enough sources are now available to justify the actual causes:

Gentlemen:

The undersigned respectfully recommend Mr. James Crawford for the appointment of Superintendent of the bldg. [sic] of the New Court House, because we know him to be a practical and competent mechanic and active and efficient Whig.

We respectfully submit that Whigs of equal merits should be preferred in the distribution of official patronage of every kind and desire the appointment of a Whig in this instance, both for the sake of the example and because we believe that it will produce an effect

on the vote of Lanc. [sic] City at the coming Presidential Election.
Lancaster, May 31, 1852.

John L. Benedict
John Fondersmith
M. Kirkpatrick
J. Huber
D. B. VonDerSmith
Solomon Sprecher
Lewis Sprecher
E. Reigart
G. Hiester¹⁸

However, the job of superintendent of construction did not go uncontested. J. W. Jack offered himself as a candidate for the position in a letter sent to the Commissioners dated May 31, 1852:

Being induced by a number of my friends to offer myself to you as a candidate for the office of Superintendent for the erection of a New Court House in our City, and if my humble petition should meet your approbation I promise to render you all satisfaction that office requires and carry out all your directions and plans to meet your views.¹⁹

Just in case the Commissioners had other applicants, Mr. Jack was prepared to offer his services in the capacity of carpenter, a position with which he was well acquainted (in fact he was the contractor who erected Saint Paul's Reformed Church at the southwest corner of North Duke and East Orange Street, Lancaster, in 1850²⁰):

In case their [sic] should be an applicant to whom you might prefer to myself for the above situation. I then yeald [sic] to that and stand before you for the doing of the Carpenter work and give you References as to my capability: Christian Moyer, B. Reinhold, D. H. Clast, D. Bear, Judge Long, Judge Vondersmith, G. Sprecher, D. Shultz, Wm. Beates, P. & J. Long, D. Longenecker, E. C. Riggart (no doubt Reigart), Thadius Stevens, J. L. Thompson, R. Rohrer, Doct. J. L. Atley (Atlee), Judge Hays, Rev. S. Bowman.²¹

It is interesting to note that in Jack's references he included two men (Judge Vondersmith and Attorney Reigart) who had personally endorsed James Crawford for the position of superintendent.

On the same day that Crawford was chosen as superintendent, the Commissioners awarded the contract to do the excavating for the cellar of the new building to John Barrack.²² His bid at eleven cents per square yard, was chosen over an erroneously dated March 2 (no doubt should have been May since at the March date a site was not yet officially selected) bid in which Peter Reilly ". . . proposed to do all the excavation necessary for foundations about the new Court House" at fourteen cents per cubic yard.²³

The Commissioners let the brickwork contract to William G. Kendrick on Monday, June 21, 1852.²⁴ From his proposal, the ingredients of the exterior of the Court House can be ascertained:

The Undersigned will do all the brickwork of the new Court House Building about to be erected in Lancaster City according to the plans and specifications now adopted furnishing Lime sand & [sic] scaffolding for the erection of said Building for the sum of Three 25/100 Dollars; said lime & [sic] to be of the Best quality now used for Building purposes in Lancaster City.²⁵

On the same day that Mr. Kendrick was selected for the brickwork contract, Mathias and Peter Brieday were chosen to do the

stone masonry work at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per perch.²⁶ From the letter of recommendation sent by eleven of Lancaster's leading citizens to the Commissioners, it appeared that Messieurs Brieday were quite busily engaged in pursuit of their profession. Their competency in their craft must speak for itself for when one considers that three of Lancaster's finest buildings standing in 1966 (First Reformed Church, Fulton Opera House and the Court House) had the masonry work done by these gentlemen in the early 1850's:

Having full knowledge of the competency of Mathias & [sic] Peter Brieday as Stone Masons: they having made the foundations Walls of the German Reformed Church now in progress of building—also of Mr. J. Lane's and the extensive buildings about being erected by Mr. C. Hager; and of several others in this City.

Take pleasure in recommending the said Brothers, as sober, honest, and industrious men, and feel assured, judging from the past, that there [sic] work as Stone Masons, cannot be excelled. Any engagement that may be entered into with them, will be by them performed, to the best of their abilities and to your entire satisfaction.

Geo. D. Sprecher
Jacob Zecher
Abm. W. Russell
William Garrett
John Sehner
I. Newton Lightner
John N. Lane &
Nephews
Christian Kieffer
Geo. M. Steinman
C. Hager
John Bomberger²⁷

One can only surmise the behind-the-scenes activity such as must have existed in an endeavor by many to become the one contractor for the various specified jobs. While much of the mystery will remain, it is obvious from original letters remaining that competition was keen and at times bitter.

Having failed in his bid to obtain the superintendency, J. W. Jack again reiterated his desire to have the carpentry contract:

I propose to Build the New Court hous [sic] now in compilation [sic] and find the Lumber, Locks, Hinges and Nails and spikes, and do the Carpenter work for the sum of Eighteen thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy five dollars.

Yours
J. W. Jack

N. B. Sirs. Should you see proper [sic] to wave [sic] the above bid to grant me the favor of the Job the matter is fully with you and remain so in Sillence [sic].

Respectfully,
J. W. Jack

N. B. This morning I have been informed by a friend that Mr. Kleiss had a full Bill of Lumber furnished him wich [sic] none of us got to See wich [sic] would give him the advantage over us considerable [sic] and also that the . . . bid at any price so as to get hold of the work and have it made up to him again. This is by information given to me this morning and I wish you to look at it by yourselves.²⁸

In turn, Mr. Kleiss' bid showed none of the information such as was suggested by Mr. Jack. In fact, George and John Kleiss' bid

was in itself an expression of vagueness in regards to certain specifications required:

We the undersigned offer the following proposal for the Carpentry, Lumber and Hardware for the new court house about to be erected—made in accordance with the specifications as generally given—exclusive of the detail and sectional drawings (of the latter we have seen none). The following estimate made under the above—amounts to thirteen thousand five hundred dollars—which is nearly at random in every part—it being the impossible to form a true calculation without the sections and items.

Or we will contract by measurement at forty off the dollar., Lancaster book of prices. Or by the day at one dollar - thirty seven and a half cents.²⁹

Perhaps what annoyed Mr. Jack most (had he known about it) was the influence exerted on behalf of the Kleiss' by four prominent Lancastrians. Emanuel Reigart, attorney, wrote to the Commissioners on June 14, 1852, that he had been acquainted with George Kleiss for many years and that he was an excellent mechanic: ". . . So far as my knowledge extends, have never heard his ability questioned by anyone"³⁰

Owner and operator of both the Saint Charles and Henry Clay Furnaces, C. B. Grubb was most flowery in his approval of the merits of the work of George Kleiss:

This is to certify my acquaintance with George Kleiss as competent for the construction of Buildings of public or private use to be equal if not superior to any workman I have known. his [sic] desire is to benefit his employer—not to finish his work to the disadvantage of the building and of sufficiently economical construction in point of labors to meet the wishes of any reasonable man.³¹

Lawyer William Whiteside highly recommended George Kleiss as the man to whom the carpentry contract should be awarded:

. . . Mr. Kleiss is a native of this City and is decidedly, [sic] one of the best and most skillful architects in the place, and as a workman is not surpassed.

From a long personal knowledge of Mr. Kleiss, I know him to be a gentleman of strict integrity and of sober and industrious habits, who will faithfully execute that important work if entrusted to his management.³²

In a letter written to the County Commissioners on June 19, 1852, George D. Sprecher echoed the same sentiments as to the abilities of one George Kleiss as did the three previous writers. In addition, Mr. Sprecher added (and one wonders why!):

. . . anything your bodys [sic] can do for Mr. Kleiss in the Erection of the new Court House will confer a particular favour on your humble servant.³³

In spite of the appeals for these two particular contractors, the Commissioners saw fit to award the carpentry contract to M. and D. Ehrisman on June 28, 1852, whose accepted bid amounted to \$15,985.00.³⁴

In addition to the carpentry decision on June 28, 1852, two other bids were let by the Board. William Diller, bidding on the iron work, said he would ". . . endeavor to do the work in the Best Manner—and give satisfaction."³⁵ He was awarded the iron work contract.³⁶ Diller's agreement called for him to do all the wrought

iron work, including iron doors and shutters at six and one half cents per pound.³⁷ Whether the names of well-known citizens of Lancaster, such as George M. Steinman, David Longenecker, W. L. Atlee, John P. Long, H. W. Baumgardner, C. Hager, and George D. Sprecher, which Mr. Diller submitted as references, helped his cause remains to be speculated.³⁸

The third contract awarded on June 28, 1852, went to William Kirkpatrick who, at \$2.87½ per one hundred pounds, was to make and deliver the castings to be used in construction of the new Court House.³⁹ His proposed bid to do the iron work at seven cents per pound was a half cent above Mr. Diller's rate and thus that portion of his bid was rejected.⁴⁰

[Editor's Note: The Board of County Commissioners was comprised of David Styer (1849-1852), Samuel Fry (1850-1853), and Christian Hess (1851-1854), all Whigs. Joshua W. Jack was a leading figure in the Native American, or "Know-Nothing," Party in Lancaster, as were George Kleiss, Abraham W. Russel, Emanuel Reigert, Jr., William Kirkpatrick, John Wise, and William G. Kendrick. The Native American Party in Lancaster was rent with feuding and reckless accusations against members thought to be spies. See W. U. Hensel, "A Withered Twig," *Historical Papers and Addresses of the Lancaster County Historical Society*, XIX (June, 1915), 174-181.]

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY

One wishes for the magical power to make himself present at the impressive ceremony which took place at the site of the construction of the third Lancaster County Court House on Monday afternoon at three o'clock, August 23, 1852. Amidst the proper fanfare, the cornerstone of the new Court House was placed in a position which, one hundred fourteen years later, is but known to those Lancastrians who witnessed the gala event, for in 1966, its exact location remains hidden somewhere within the confines of the building.

According to the Commissioners' Minutes, the laying of the cornerstone took place at the southeast corner of the building.¹ Since the building was remodeled in 1923 and again in 1926, the precise whereabouts of the cornerstone laid in August of 1852 has been shrouded in mystery.²

Nonetheless, the ceremony was an impressive one. Architect of the Court House, Samuel Sloan, and Superintendent of Construction, James Crawford, were given the honor of placing this intriguing stone in position. On hand to witness this history-making occasion were the County Commissioners, the Judges of the Court, the members of the Bar, and a large gathering of citizens from both the City and the County.³

Mementos enclosed in the cornerstone represented the usual type of items incorporated into such a ceremony:

The *Bible*, Almanac for 1852, a copy of each newspaper published in the county, the name of the President of the United States, Governor of Pennsylvania, Judges of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Courts of Lancaster County, Clerks of the several Courts of the County, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, County Commissioners, their Clerk and Solicitor, Architect and Supt [sic], Contractors, President Fillmore's Compromise message, and a list of the members of the Bar.⁴

Following the laying of the stone, the main address was delivered by David G. Eshleman, Esquire, Solicitor for the Commissioners. In his oration, Mr. Eshleman noted that this ceremony was an interesting one, not only for its novelty, but for the importance connected with the event:

. . . We are about to erect a Temple of Justice,—a building which, next to the Temples of God, must call forth our respect and veneration, because it is the seat of the highest earthly tribunal,—the point from which emanates that preventive and remedial justice which controls the actions of man towards his fellow man, and restrains him within the limits of right and propriety . . . ⁵

After a resume of the growth of Lancaster County and of its judicial institutions, Attorney Eshleman concluded his remarks by reflecting upon the progress made in the design of Lancaster's third Court House:

. . . when this building shall have been finished, with the elegance which its own importance and the condition of the county seem to demand, it will stand for ages as a proud monument of the skill of the Architect who designed it, and of the public spirit of the Commissioners who caused it to be erected.⁶

Entirely unexpectedly, Reah Frazier was called forth from the crowd to address those assembled for this historic event. Colonel Frazier remarked (rather interestingly in light of its unknown location) that the cornerstone will rest here for ages as a support and foundation of this Temple. Then extolling the fact that the administration of justice, impartial and exact, has been a tenet of Pennsylvania law since its founding days by William Penn, he hoped that this new building would serve the needs of Lancaster City and County in the continuation of carrying out faithfully respected and obeyed constitutional decrees.⁷

In eloquent and glowing terms, Colonel Frazier praised the people of Lancaster County in the days of the Revolution and he spoke highly ". . . of the great men whom our county has since produced . . . the father of John C. Calhoun, Fulton, Dr. Ramsey, and of the learned and pious Muhlenberg."⁸

He concluded his remarks by paying the homage due the architect and to the enterprising County Commissioners.⁹

Unfortunately the imposing ceremony conducted at East King and North Duke Streets on August 23 was not without a casualty, for Francis Lollard, one of the hands employed at the construction site, had the thumb on his left hand crushed in the cogs of a hoisting jack during the laying of the cornerstone.¹⁰

The August Grand Jury members visited the site of construction and were favorably impressed as were those who attended the cornerstone laying ceremony. A word of caution was offered to the Commissioners, however, for in the opinion of the Grand Jury members the mastic which was proposed for the outside walls was not durable. The members felt that, in the long run, some more enduring material could be used in order to make the building more economical and yet permanent and substantial: "True economy is not always promoted by saving in first cost".¹¹

CHAPTER VI

AND CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Once the imposing ceremony was concluded, the workmen resumed their respective duties. However, construction was finally halted the week of November 22 because of the onset of too wintry weather for such activities. Only the stone-cutters continued their work throughout the winter of 1852 and 1853.¹

By December, a new Commissioner replaced Mr. Styer. Mr. John M. Hiestand thus joined Commissioners Fry and Hess in following through on construction of Lancaster's third Court House. In a resolution passed on Monday, December 6, 1852, the three gentlemen terminated the services of the Superintendent of Construction James Crawford. No reason was given for the action and the only instructions were that his services were ". . . dispensed with until further orders."² Thinking of economy as the reason for Crawford's dismissal (because of the winter lay-off), one is then led to ask why he was not rehired when construction resumed in the spring. In his place, Haden Patrick Smith was appointed to the position on April 18, 1853. Moreover, thrift appeared to be ruled out as the reason for Crawford's removal since Smith was hired at \$2.00 a day, fifty cents more than the wage paid to the former superintendent.³

During the winter lull, talk of the new Court House continued even though the construction did not. Debate arose over whether City or County residents were being taxed too much. County residents claimed they were already paying for ". . . enormous sums expended" for a new jail house and the current construction of the Court House.⁴ In addition to concern over the Court House they did not understand why, if new legislation was passed, they should have to pay for the opening of city streets. The *Intelligencer* was quick to point out that since 1840 the city had paid \$8,040.00 into the County Treasury and had received only \$1,033.00 for city road construction and repair expenses.⁵

Another issue which generated some heat resulted from the advertisement appearing in the *Intelligencer*, March 1, 1853, which announced the public sale of the Court House in Centre Square. The *Intelligencer* saw fit to initiate its own campaign against what it found most distasteful (a note of added interest may be injected at this point: Editor of the *Intelligencer* at this time was George Sanderson, who was later elected Democratic Mayor of Lancaster from 1859 to 1868⁶):

From article in paper, see that Co. [sic] Commissioners plan to sell Old Court House next Tuesday. What do they Mean . . . To sell it to purchaser who will keep standing and convert into hotel, stores, shops or private residence: or do they plan to sell materials and take down building? If latter plan—OK [sic]: if former plan—protest against such an outrage. Surely Co. [sic] Commissioners too intelligent as to Commit such a blunder—to set defiance of the wishes of 19/20's of entire community.⁷

Much to the relief of the *Intelligencer* and others, the Commissioners adopted, on April 11, 1853, the resolution that the old court house should be taken down immediately following the April term of the Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas Court. The newest Commissioner, Mr. Hiestand, voted against this resolution for some unknown reason.⁸

In April, 1852, the Grand Jury members believed that they were attending what would be the last session of court to be held in the Centre Square Court House. However, it was not until a year later, on April 11, 1853, that the Commissioners made the arrangements for future courts to be held in Fulton Hall. It was agreed that Mr. (Christian) Hager was to be paid \$5.00 a day rental for his building when jury trials were being held and \$2.00 a day when argument courts were meeting. In addition, the County was to provide for the cost of fuel while Mr. Hager's part of the arrangement called for him to furnish sufficient lighting.⁹

By May, 1853, activity was humming on two fronts in downtown Lancaster. The old court house was in the process of being demolished. Joseph Eberman had been directed by the Board to take down the clock in the old court house and alter the works so that once installed in the new Court House the clock would show a minute hand on the four dials.¹⁰ The Commissioners agreed, on Thursday, May 5 (erroneously stated in *Minute Book* as Monday, "May 2"), ". . . with William Heinitsh that he take down dials from the old court house steiple [sic] and that he smalt or sand, and gild the same for the sum of \$30.00".¹¹

On the same day (May 5), M. and D. Ehrisman were appointed supervisors, at the wage of \$1.75 per day, of the dismantling of the old court house.¹²

Thus, as the old court house was gradually disappearing, the sentiments of many Lancastrians must have been keenly expressed as they read the *Intelligencer* of May tenth:

The venerable building, that has stood the storms of more than three-fourths of a century, has at length yielded to the spirit of improvement, and soon nothing will be left to mark the place it once occupied in Centre Square. We part with it reluctantly as with an old friend, and could almost wish that we were again privileged to look at the face of the old clock that, for sixty-eight years, pointed, with such unerring certainty the light of time to the inhabitants of the City and County of Lancaster.¹³

The death knell had sounded for the old court house by the end of May of 1853. Again the *Intelligencer* paid its fond adieus: This ancient and venerable building is no more. Nothing is now seen but the foundation walls, and in a few days, these will be no more.

The removal of the building—with its towering steeple and ancient looking clock face has caused a feeling of sadness to come over many a countenance . . . These ancient walls that so frequently resounded with legislative and forensic eloquent [sic]—where a Hopkins, a Jenkins, a Rogers, a Buchanan, an Ellmaker, a Montgomery, and their numerous compeers and successors, gained an immortality of fame—have yielded to the spirit of the age and nothing is left to mark the spot they once occupied but a mass of rubbish consequent upon taking down the building.¹⁴

Reminiscing on the illustrious past of the now demolished building, the *Intelligencer* continued:

The Court House, it is said, was erected in 1784, and has stood the wear and tear of sixty-nine years. For several years prior to 1812, Lancaster was the seat of government and the legislature of the Commonwealth held their sessions there: House of Representatives in the lower room and the Senate up stairs. Since removal of the legislature to Harrisburg, the lower room has been used for holding several Courts of the County and for public meetings. the upper floor for jury rooms, council and school board chambers. The building presented a somewhat antiquated appearance, in the approaches to it through the four different avenues of the city: but it was a substantial structure and would have stood for ages by keeping it well roofed and painted. It had its days, however, and we at least have regrets in seeing Centre Square relieved from the antiquated obstruction.¹⁵

As the old die way, the new are born. In the process of being born was the elegant structure which was slowly taking shape at the northwest corner of East King and North Duke Streets. Since early April workmen had resumed their duties left the last November before winter set-in.¹⁶ In charge of overseeing the construction was the newly-appointed superintendent, Haden Patrick Smith.¹⁷

With various contracts to be let, the Board was kept busy in reviewing the bids submitted. By mid-May of 1853, one of the most actively sought jobs was that of doing the Court House painting. Five different contractors submitted their bids (see Appendix B). From these bids, it can be ascertained that building specifications called for the interior of the new Court House to receive four coats of pure white lead paint with at least two weeks intervening between coats of paint. Painting (four coats) and sanding the exterior were also stipulations of the 1852 building specifications. Doors were to be grained, and bronzing was to be done to the balusters of the stairs.¹⁸

While each of the five men who sought the painting contract were generous with self-praise and reasons why they should be selected, a recommendation sent on behalf of Samuel Taylor was

[Editor's Note: The weather vane removed from the old court house steeple was re-erected on the bell steeple of the Millersville Academy in 1854. This structure became the nucleus of the Millersville State College "Old Main" complex. The weather vane was taken down in 1874 when a fourth floor was added.]

most impressive if only because of the number of prominent citizens who signed it. Fifty-two Lancastrians, including balloonist John Wise, endorsed Samuel W. Taylor:

... by Giving that work to him Samuel W. Taylor you will elect one by whom, it will be mechanically and speedily done to the satisfaction of yourselves and the public.¹⁹

The Commissioners received bids for tin roofing, plastering, painting, and plumbing on Monday, May 16, 1853, however, only the painting bids were studied. The lowest bidders were Jacob Franciscus and strangely enough, Samuel W. Taylor. But the Commissioner's *Minute Book* does not make a distinction as to who got what work:

Plain painting interior of new Court House	17 cents per sq. yd.
Painting/sanding exterior	33 cents " " "
Graining	30 cents " " "
Bronzing—using common bronze	23 cents " " "
Glazing 14" x 28" and finding all	42 cents per light ²⁰

An entry recorded in the Commissioners' Statement of Bills paid in 1852 indicated that Jacob Franciscus received \$25.00 for paint work done at the Court House.²¹ In 1853, he was paid \$38.87 in full for painting: Samuel W. Taylor was paid \$44.44 for painting terra cotta.²² However, the Commissioners' Statement of Bills paid for 1854 revealed nothing was paid to Jacob Franciscus while Samuel W. Taylor received \$3,987.81 on the account of painting done in the new Court House.²³ Therefore, it appears that Samuel Taylor's lengthy letter of recommendation paid off handsomely for him.

The Board awarded the roughcasting and plastering contract to Jacob Druckemiller and Samuel Benedict on May 23, 1853. In the same day's meeting, the plumbing contract was given to the lowest bidder, Jacob Geible.²⁴

Although there is no original accepted plumbing bid remaining, it can be surmised that Geible's bid was more suitable than either of at least two known bidders for that job. John and Jacob Weitzel proposed to do work at the following prices:

... to lay the $\frac{3}{4}$ inch strong lead pipe for the new Court House at 40 cents per foot and the $\frac{5}{8}$ strong lead pipe at 35 cents per foot. the 5" lead pipe we will agree to lay at 73 cents per foot we all so [sic] propose to furnish the Best brass lever spigots attached in the best manner of $\frac{5}{8}$ calibre for the sum of two dollars and fifty cents per peice [sic] all the above to be done in a workmanlike manner.²⁵

And Eleanor S. Getz presented the following plumbing proposal to the Commissioners:

... I purpose to furnish and place in a suitable and required position all the necessary Cash Iron pipe of Quick Calibre at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per foot, and all the Cash Iron pipe of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch Calibre at 35 cts. [sic] per foot, and all the Leaden pipes of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch Calibre at the rate of 34 cts. [sic] per foot—and to do and perform in a good and workmanlike manner, all other work that may be required in properly conducting and conveying the water into the different Departments of said Court House agreeably to the directions of the Hon: [sic] Commissioners.²⁶

Spirited competition prevailed in the roughcasting and plaster-

ing bid, which, like the plumbing bid, was also awarded on May 23. The gentlemen who received the job contract, Jacob Druckemiller and Samuel Benedict, came highly recommended to the Commissioners:

We the undersigned, take pleasure in recommending Druckamiller [sic] and Benedict of said City of Lancaster, (Plasterers,) [sic] as workmen who understand their business: Having done plastering immediately interested; and in all instances gave satisfaction; therefore do not hesitate to recommend to all and every person, who may have anything to do, in their line of business.

- Wm. G. Kendrick
- D. B. Vondersmith
- John N. Lane & Nephews
- C. Hager
- Geo. M. Steinman
- J. W. Hatz
- John Bear
- A. N. Breneman
- John Shroder
- Christian Widmyer²⁷

However, apparently on the request of the Commissioners, Superintendent of Construction Haden Patrick Smith, on May 30, 1853, submitted a comparison between the two bidders seeking the contract:

Messrs. DruckeMiller [sic] & S. Benedict		
3500 yards	Roughcasting @ 50 cents	\$1750.00
1,500 do	Inside plastering @ 15 do	975.00
1885	Superficial feet Cornice @ 15 do	282.75
		\$3064.00
Messrs. H. F. & John L. Benedict		
3500 yards	Roughcasting @ 45 cents	\$1575.00
1500 do	Inside plastering @ 16 cents	1040.00
1885	Superficial feet Cornice @ 15 do	282.75
		\$2897.75
	(Difference)	\$ 166.25 ²⁸

Therefore, one can only surmise the hidden—perhaps political—implications in the Commissioner's award of the contract to the higher bid, by \$166.25, to Messieurs Druckemiller and Samuel Benedict. It might be added that perhaps it was felt that the work done by the higher bidders was superior to the other contractor's work. There is no doubt that Druckemiller and S. Benedict did the specified work, for the Commissioners' Statement of Bills paid for 1854 indicated that these two men were paid \$2,950.00 for plastering of the new Court House.²⁹

According to specifications, the new Court House was to have a tin roof. Again, competition prevailed. Gable and Ihling submitted the following proposal on May 13, 1853:

The tin roof is to be of the best quality of 1 cross leaded tin and to be cleated Down roun [sic] with the best quality [sic] of copper nails the tin is to be painted as stated in speceefication [sic] phamphlet [sic] . . . can be put on in the best workman like way. So as to be secure and give satisfaction [sic] to all for 16 cts [sic] pr [sic] foot including the gutters and valleys that convey the warter [sic] to the cast iron conductor.

However, a cheaper bid was submitted by John Gemperling:

I will do the tin roofing at the new Court House at 14 cents per foot good one cross leaded tin. I will give you any security you ask for the performance of work.³¹

Somehow the *Intelligencer* was able to report on May 31, 1853, that John Gemperling was awarded the roofing contract.³² This fact was verified in the *Minute Book* on June 6, 1853, when it was noted that John Gemperling was given the tin roofing contract at the price of thirteen cents per square foot (as opposed to his letter which stated fourteen cents per square foot).³³ It will be noted that in this instance the Board accepted the lower bid.

With work on the new Court House proceeding smoothly, the *Intelligencer* took time to reflect on some interesting side-lights of the construction activity which were sure to fascinate the sidewalk supervisor. When the new Court House was completed, the paper reported that it would contain materials in the estimated quantities:

100 perches foundation stone, 4 feet long
800 do ordinary building stone
1,300,000 brick
7,300 feet roofing
6,500 yards inside plastering
30 tons wrought iron
40 do cast do.³⁴

Praise was given to Mr. G. M. Zahm, jeweler, for erecting a clock in the end window of the third story of the building at south-east corner of Centre Square. The bell, which struck the hours, was the one removed from the old court house cupola. Thus, the public, which was so accustomed to checking their timepieces from the old court house clock, was accommodated by Mr. Zahm's time-piece and by his public spiritedness.³⁵

How long the second court house bell remained in the possession of Mr. Zahm is unknown. Even today, one hears rumors of so-and-so who has the original bell of the second court house. Efforts to check out one of these rumors proved futile by this writer. Somehow, John P. Shaum, merchant, came upon possession of this bell. He stored the bell not being used in his stable on South Queen Street. On Wednesday, May 30, 1883, a fire of probably incendiary origin destroyed the building in which the bell was housed and it met its end by melting away to posterity.³⁶

CHAPTER VII

A SECOND IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY

Construction of the new Court House was moving along at a steady pace by June 1853. A reflection of the times was provided in a second impressive ceremony which took place on Monday, June 13, 1853. For on that date, Haden Patrick Smith, Superintendent of Construction, invited the citizens of the City and County an opportunity to partake in a historic event. As the last of four cast iron columns was to be set in place, the citizenry added their contributions to the new Court House.

At 5:20 P.M. the contents, having been carefully wrapped in paper and deposited in a strong canvas bag, were suspended in the center of the shaft and sealed by a flat stone placed on top of the column which supported the architrave. Just which one of the columns hide these precious mementos from us is unknown, but what a wealth of information might be had, when, in future time, the contents are once again viewed. Lowered in that mysterious column one hundred thirteen years ago were the following items:

- From H. P. Smith, 1st [sic] edition of Gibson's Land Surveying, printed in Dublin
- Storrow on Waterworks
- German Almanac, 1853
- English Almanac, 1853
- Traveller's Companion through the U. [sic] States, exhibiting railroads, river, lake and canal navigation routes
- 12 numbers of Farm Journal
- 2 Medals of General Scott
- 4 Irish coins — very ancient
- Map of the city of Philadelphia
- 7 Indian Flint Arrows, found on the "Old Indian Kittanning Path", near Hollidaysburg, Blain county
- 4 New York, 4 Philadelphia and 1 Baltimore newspaper
- From W. & J. Konigmacher — A full set of Stone Cutter's Tools
- From Daniel McCormack — A list of the names of all the stone cutters employed
- A handsome two foot rule
- From S. H. Slaymaker — One Bottle Brandy and one bottle old Madeira Wine — Reigart's very best
- From J. B. Markley — Package of superior Havana Segars [sic]
- 2 Packages of Hoyt's superior Fine Cut Tobacco
- 2 Pipes
- From H. Demuth—1 Package Snuff, 1 Package Segars [sic]
- From Edward McPherson—23 Numbers of the Lancaster *Inland Daily*
- From Henry A. Wade — One Package
- From J. R. Reigart — Reports of Treasurers and Commissioners of Lancaster County, in regard to building old Court House, published 1793
- From F. Lolar — A list of names of Laborers at Court House

- From a Student, (M. Baechtal) — A Package from Franklin and Marshall College
- From Hon. Thaddeus Stevens — Abstract of 7th Census, 1852, handsomely bound
- From County Commissioners — Specification of Court House
- From O. Kanes — Mechanics' Manual
- From Charles R. Frailey — Specimens of Penmanship and Drawing on enamelled cards, exceedingly well executed and truly beautiful
- From sundry persons — names unknown:
- A letter, "To the handsomest girl in Lancaster city, in care of the Mayor"
 - " " "To the best wife in Lancaster City, in care of the oldest bachelor."
 - " " "To the most consummate puppy in Lancaster, in care of the City Council"
 - " " "To the oldest female in Lancaster City"
 - " " "To the oldest male inhabitant in Lancaster City"
 - " " "To the oldest Medical Physician in Lancaster City"
 - " " "to the person who has the best regulated and best cultivated garden in Lancaster city, in care of city Councils"
 - " " "To the Editor of the oldest established Newspaper in Lancaster city"
- Description of Lancaster city
- 6 Packages, contents not known
- 6 Lancaster City Newspapers
- List of all the Churches in Lancaster city
- Internal Improvement Laws of Pennsylvania
- 4 Pamphlets¹

So as not to haunt the reader, it should be noted that care was taken to lower gingerly the wine and brandy, along with the stone cutter's tools, into the base of the column.²

CONSTRUCTION FROM MID-POINT ON—

While construction was continuing on the new Court House, Court was convened in Christian Hager's Fulton Hall!

Although the Commissioners' Minute Book contains a void of entries pertaining to the new Court House, activity must have been progressing at a feverish rate. Tiles imported from England for use in the new Court House had arrived in Philadelphia by the summer of 1853. S. A. Harrison notified the Commissioners of the extenuating conditions which necessitated procurement of these tiles from him as quickly as possible:

Enclosed I have your Statement of (unreadable) the last 24 Cusks are now unloading from Ship Grotto and will be sent up early in the week. I have had these delivered earlier than necessary but as we are liable to so many disappointments in getting goods from England I thought best to avoid any delay, and have them ready to put down at a days notice. I am now prepared to put them down at any time you say. I mentioned to Mr. Sloan that the Tiles were a cash article. I have to pay cash in England before they are shiped [sic] and freighted and duties of course are cash and at the price I have agreed to furnish them to the Court Court affords me but a very Small profit. I am anxious to get the outlay refunded as quickly as possible and therefore ask permission to call on you for something on a/c [sic]. The Tile now delivered and those on the way ammount [sic] to about \$2500—I would like to draw on a/c [sic] \$1000.00 and as Mr. Sloan expects to be in Lancaster on Monday I have requested him to ask for the above amt [sic]—

You will oblige me by complying with the request.²

Much excitement in Lancaster was caused on Saturday, November 12, 1853, by the arrival of the bell for the new Court House. Cast by Joseph Bernard and Company, 78 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia, the bell weighed 1,034 pounds. Until such time as it was to be put into its place in the dome of the new Court House, it was stored in the warehouse of Shirk and Baker, where, "the curious in such matters can see it . . ."³

The Board, on Monday, November 28 appointed Dr. William B. Fahenstock, John G. Fetter, and Joseph Eberman to inspect the bell. They reported that ". . . the same meets with our approval, as to sound, material, and workmanship."⁴ The *Examiner and Herald* reported that the bell ". . . was tried in the presence of a large number of persons Monday last (November 28). The tone of the bell is remarkably sweet and sonorous."⁵ For this pleasant sounding bell Joseph Bernard and Company received \$351.56.⁶

Sometime in 1853, William J. Konigmacher was chosen stone-cutter for the new building, for above the entrance to today's Court

Room Number One (then the only court room) is the engraved stone bearing the following inscription:

Erected

A.D. 1853

William J. Konigmacher, Stone Cutters⁷

For their work rendered in the construction of the Court House, William and Joseph Konigmacher received during the year of 1853, the sum of \$3,174.36 for sand stone work.⁸ By the end of 1854, they had been paid on their account the sum of \$14,759.97.⁹ In all, the Konigmachers received a total of \$36,523.13 for their work done in the construction of the new Court House.¹⁰ This makes them, by far, the highest paid contractor in the construction of the new Court House. One can also suppose that, for that price, they did the largest single share of work in the new edifice. The sums paid the Konigmachers did not include the sand and stone, for \$3,761.68 is recorded as having been paid to Mathias Brady in 1854 for that purpose.¹¹ Part of the work done by the Konigmachers did include the contract for the outside yard wall which was awarded them on November 28, 1853.¹²

By the end of 1853, construction of the new Court House was well beyond the halfway point. Other contracts, although no notation of them was made in the Minute Book, had been awarded: Carson and Kautz were paid \$4,112.73 in full for brick; William Kirkpatrick received \$2,063.38 for castings; Tolman Hathaway and Company were paid \$1,500.00 for terra cotta used in the new building; and bricklaying costs of \$2,800.00 were paid to William G. Kendrick.¹³ Now that there was something to be watched, Franklin T. Lollar, watchman, received \$206.00 for performance of his duties.¹⁴ Christian Hager was paid \$154.00 for use of his Fulton Hall during 1853 as the court site.¹⁵

The new year proved to be more exciting, as it was hoped that completion of the new building would be reached in 1854. Thus this auspicious year began with a new County Commissioner joining the ranks of Messieurs Hess and Hiestand. Philip Geist replaced Samuel Fry as a member of the Board. Of the three-man Commission, only Christian Hess remained as one of the original three who initiated the building of this new edifice.

For the third time, a new superintendent of construction was chosen. Why Haden Patrick Smith, who was paid \$595.00 for his services during the year of 1853, was released is unknown.¹⁶ However, taking his place, and doing so at a reduction of salary (\$1.50 per day compared to Smith's \$2.00 per day), was Daniel Ehrisman.¹⁷ Mr. Ehrisman did not remain on the scene for long, for on May 22, 1854, O. C. M. Cains was appointed the fourth superintendent. His appointment carried the wage of \$2.00 per day and the stipulation that he was allowed, ". . . one or two hours per day to attend to other business."¹⁸ (See Appendix C for information on Superintendents of Construction.)

While the construction was progressing, contracts were awarded by the Commissioners for sundry jobs. C. Kieffer was given the job of providing the cast iron railing for around the new Court House.¹⁹ Contract was made with Peter Reilly for excavating the foundation for the outer wall of the new Court House at fourteen cents per cubic yard.²⁰

One of the few mementoes brought to the new building from the second court house was the clock which originally had been made by John Eberman in 1785.²¹ Joseph Eberman remodeled the clock in 1854 and was paid in full for his work the amount of \$250.00.²² W. E. Heinitsh, charged with gilding and smalting the clock dials, received \$24.00 for his endeavors.²³ Therefore, sometime in 1854, the once familiar clock to Lancastrians was again counting their minutes and hours.

On Thursday, April 13, 1854, the capping of the new dome was completed when a beautifully carved statue representing "Justice" was lowered into place. Weighing over nine hundred pounds, the statue, which was carved in Philadelphia, by William P. Balton who received \$200.00 for his work, stood about ten feet in height.²⁴ Once the sword and scales were added to the statue, there could be no doubt it was truly the statue of the "Goddess of Justice," as opposed to the "Goddess of Liberty," which the paper had erroneously reported earlier.²⁵

The purchase of five lightning rods from I. C. Wilt was agreed to on May 15, 1854. Mr. Wilt was to also arrange for their erection.²⁶ For his services he received \$156.00 in full.²⁷

With the completion of the building appearing imminent, fervor over the new Court House was increasing. The *Intelligencer* informed its readers on June 6, 1854, that

After today, office "Intelligencer" will be found on Duke Street, 2 doors from East King Street and directly opposite the new court house so as to be convenient to business connected with county offices and court house.²⁸

With Commissioners Hess, Hiestand, and Geist present, the Board agreed on the rates for heat to be charged the various public offices tenanting the Court House. The Prothonotary, Register and Clerk of Quarter Sessions and Orphan Court officers were to pay \$25.00 for heat for the season; the Treasurer, Sheriff, and Recorder (apparently having smaller offices) were to be billed \$15.00 for the season.²⁹ However, the Treasurer's office rate for heating was later changed to \$25.00 per season.³⁰

As the occupancy date neared, the September Grand Jury visited the sparkling new edifice and presented its congratulations:

. . . to the Court and the citizens of the county, on the prospect of soon being in possession of one of the most spacious and convenient county buildings that there is in the State.³¹

The actual moving date to the new building is another one of the Court House mysteries hidden by time. The entry in the Commissioners' Minute Book under Thursday, September 7, 1854, was simple and to the point: "The Commissioners' Office was removed from Centre Square to the New Court House, corner of East King

and Duke Streets.”³² This notation was recorded at the bottom of a page which contained minutes for both Monday, September 4, and Monday, September 11. However, the handwriting in the entry of September seventh noting the removal of offices to the new building was quite different from either of the other two entries. This seems to indicate that the Commissioners went to special pains to have this momentous day particularly recorded for history. The *Intelligencer* further helped to strengthen September seventh as the moving date for on September twelfth there appeared a notice in the paper that *ALL* (italics mine) of the county offices have been moved to the new Court House.³³

Why all the mystery? Just this: on Monday, September eighteenth, the Minute Book clouds the scene with the following entry:

The Commissioners Office was *THIS* (italics mine) day removed from the Old State House buildings in Centre Square to the new office in the new court house.³⁴

One can surmise that moving chores from the old headquarters to the new could hardly have been completed in one day. Whether the Commissioners began their move on September seventh and completed it on Monday, September eighteenth, can only be speculated upon. Perhaps the various county offices did move on or by September seventh with the Commissioners only completing their transition on September eighteenth. However, both on September twelfth and eighteenth, the *Intelligencer* seemed adamant in its statements regarding the moving date. Albeit, the moving to the new Court House took place in mid-September of 1854 and occupancy had been assumed by September 18, 1854.

The usual small details of a construction job such as the one undertaken in the erection of such a fine building remained to be completed. A sewer running between the Court House and property of James Evans was to be constructed by McDonnell and Dunn.³⁵ Carson and Kautz agreed to furnish the brick for the sidewalk around the Court House, and John Dougherty was to haul the bricks to the site from the Poor House at the rate of thirty-five cents per cart load.³⁶

Although it was not until April of 1855 that all work was completed and the scaffolding was removed for the last time, the new home of justice for Lancaster City and County was about to begin a new chapter in the annals of local history in November, 1854.

CHAPTER IX

WITH TWENTY RINGS

Although now a familiar tone to many Lancastrians, those people in the neighborhood of East King and North Duke Streets heard a new but sonorous sound on Monday, November 20, 1854, for with the twenty rings of the new Bernard bell (a tradition believed to have originated on that day in 1854) the November term of Quarter Sessions Court and the first to be held in the new Court House was convened.

To witness this gala occasion, a large number of people gathered in the second floor court room to hear Judge Long preside over the historic opening session.¹ The Grand Jury, with Christian Bentz as foreman, listened attentively to the Judge's charge:

This day forms a new era in the judicial history of this county. We have assembled in this hall for the first time, for the purpose of administering the laws of our county; and this bldg. [sic] may hereafter be looked upon as a monument erected by the people of the county of Lanc [sic]; to the spirit of the laws, and as a manifestation of their high regard for the administration of justice . . .²

The Judge then discoursed on the history of Lancaster's three previous sites of justice and the ways by which they and the judicial processes have increased in scope and magnitude since 1729. Noting that many fond memories would remain with those who served in the most recent court house, he said:

That Court House will also be remembered as being the arena of some of the fiercest [sic] political contests that ever agitated this peaceful community, and where many a political aspirant received his quietus, and found a political grave.³

Expressing judicial wisdom, he concluded his remarks by recalling that the two houses of justice which stood in Centre Square had both served Lancastrians for about sixty years: it was his hope that, ". . . this coincidence will not fix the time of duration of the present one".⁴

The docket for this opening session in the new building was quite full; there were no less than twenty-eight indicated for petty theft cases, twelve rape cases, and several cases involving men and women who were charged with inciting to riot. Given the dubious distinction of having the first justice administered in the new Court House was one Samuel Marion. It seemed that Mr. Marion was identified as the chap who, on election night of 1854, threw a sharp-edged hatchet through the window of the Golden Horse Hotel. He pleaded guilty as charged, admitting that, although he was drunk at the time, he was sober enough to be unhappy with the election results.⁵

Glowering at the defendant, Judge Long issued the first sentence passed in the new edifice:

This court finds you guilty on plea of guilty and sentences you to pay a fine of one dollar, United States currency, plus the costs of this prosecution, and further sentences you to spend 30 days at solitary confinement in the Lancaster County Prison, from whence you came and to which you will be delivered again, to serve this sentence.⁶

Although Mr. Marion and a few others were probably not too impressed with the new house of justice, the November Grand Jury received the new headquarters most favorably; they took great pleasure in stating their approbation of the manner in which the building was erected for the purpose intended and they found the same convenient and suitable in every respect.⁷

Some work remained to be done even though the new Court House was already conducting business from its new location. Not until April, 1855, did Cornelius and Baker complete work on the gas fixtures which would supply the interior lighting. Made of bronze and wrought in a new pattern which exhibited a most artistic style were the following fixtures:

- 1—1 sixteen light chandelier; 20' height and having a spread of 6'
- 2—2 twelve light chandeliers, 20' long, and spreading 5'
- 3—18 smaller chandeliers
- 4—2 four light pillars
- 5—16 large brackets to match⁸

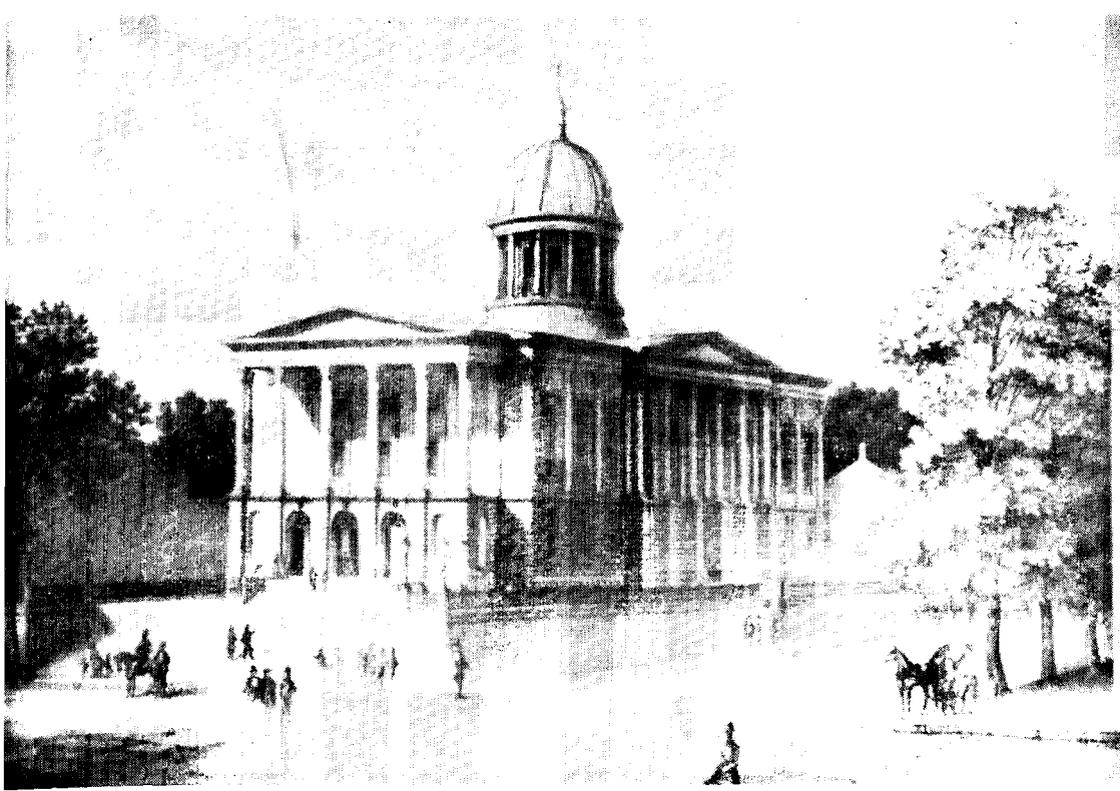
For these chandeliers and gas fixtures, Cornelius and Baker received \$1,945.50.⁹

Sometime in 1855, cast-iron lamps, with many frills and fancy-work, were placed in positions of prominence on both sides of the outside stairway leading to the main entrance of the Court House. They were made by C. Kieffer, the same man responsible for the outside cast-iron railing.¹⁰

However, since these lamps were equipped to accommodate neither gas nor electric lighting fixtures, once the era of coal-oil lamps passed they became a purely ornamental part of the Court House.¹¹

When the remodeling of the building began in 1926 the lamps made by Kieffer were removed and destined for the scrap pile. However, Colonel John Wickersham retrieved them from their less-than-noble fate. He placed two of the lamps at the entrance to his own driveway and two were placed at intervals along the road. Two were donated to the Lancaster County Historical Society but one of the lamps was broken beyond repair in the moving. The remaining two lamps Colonel Wickersham gave to a janitor at the Court House who remarked that he “. . . can hardly stand to see these things all broken up. I've been taking such good care of them for so many years that it don't [sic] seem possible I must stand by and see this happen.”¹²

In the early months of 1852, the problems over just where to locate the new Court House seemed insurmountable. Once that situation was resolved, the tedious task of selecting the architect,



The new Lancaster County Court House as it appeared after it was built in 1852-1855. East King Street is shown from left to right, foreground, with North Duke Street at right.

the superintendent of construction, and contractors to do the actual work was met, although not always without many a headache. But by April of 1855, these past difficulties grew faint and the magnificent new structure which rose in their stead was a testimony to the multitude of people who persevered in their respective tasks.

Although by 1966 no actual blueprints remain for us to closely examine and analyze, the specifics of the Court House unveiled in 1854 can best be viewed by observers who, in 1883, recorded its proportions and beauty:

The Lancaster court-house . . . is a massive structure of stone and brick, one hundred and sixty-four feet in length, seventy-two feet wide, and two stories high. The basement is of sandstone, the super-structure of brick, covered with a roughcast coating of mastic. A portico on the southern and another on the northern end of the building, also a pediment on its eastern side, are each supported by six fluted stone columns, with ornamental capitals of the composite order. The columns stand on buttresses raised to the height of the floor of the second story. From the centre of the roof rises a cupola, which is crowned by a statue of Justice holding the scales. In the cupola is a clock, which has four dials, facing north, south, east, and west. In the south end of the court-house is the main entrance, which is reached by a flight of stone steps (equal in length to the width of the building) rising from the East King Street sidewalk. The lower story is occupied by the several county offices. In the upper story is the courtroom, eighty-three feet long, sixty-six feet wide, and twenty-five feet high, handsomely frescoed and decorated. Adjoining this is a large

room devoted to the use of the law library. The courts and offices are well accommodated in this building, which, having now been in use for nearly thirty years, seems likely to fill the requirements of the county for half a century more.¹³

Also hidden by time are the many exquisite interior refinements which have been since altered or hidden by more recent improvements. However, the impression left on a visitor to the Court House when open house was held on April 6 and 7, 1855, affords us a glimpse into the awe-inspiring building:

. . . we think no part of our country can boast of a more spacious, well proportioned and magnificent hall of justice. The fresco and wall paintings, chandeliers, curtains, etc. exhibit the highest art and taste, and are in keeping with the magnificence of the hall; the painting about the Judge's seat, the bar, etc. has been executed by Mr. Taylor, in a manner that shows his excellent taste and perfection in the art. Altogether the new Court Room, as well as the new Court House, is highly creditable to the well known, world renowned county of Lancaster.¹⁴

By April 10, 1855, all the scaffolding was removed and for the first time the building's beautiful proportions were fully exposed to Lancastrians. All in all, it was doubted by most who saw this building that an equal of such a fine structure was to be found anywhere in the Union.¹⁵

One hundred eleven years have passed since the final phases of construction of Lancaster County's third Court House. It still stands, erect and proud, dispensing justice, recording deeds, marriages, births, deaths, and fulfilling the myriad of purposes for which it was intended. The tribute paid this fine edifice in 1855 holds true now as it did then: "It is certainly a credit to Lancaster County and to all concerned in the erection of it".¹⁶

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A native of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, Fay Follet Kramer attended the Philadelphia High School for Girls after which she enrolled at Millersville State College, being graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education degree. In 1966 she received a Master of Arts degree from Temple University, and was honored as the "Outstanding Graduate Student in American History" by the Society of Colonial Dames. She is a member of the professional education associations, the Organization of American Historians, National Council for the Social Studies, Pennsylvania and Southern Pennsylvania councils for the Social Studies, the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, and this Society. Last year Mrs. Kramer was cited in the publication, "Outstanding Young Women of America." She is married, and is an American History teacher at Penn Manor Junior High School.



One of the four known remaining lamp posts originally placed at Court House; now located at driveway entrance to the former estate of the late Colonel John Wickersham, near the junction of Routes 230-30 and 340, 4 miles east of Lancaster. The beautifully landscaped grounds and handsome Colonial mansion are to be destroyed shortly to become a commercial development.

NOTES

CHAPTER I (pp. 2-7)

¹H. M. J. Klein, *A History of Lancaster, Pennsylvania*, Vol. II (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1924), 659.

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⁹*Ibid.*

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¹³*Ibid.*

¹⁴*Examiner and Herald*, January 28, 1852.

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶Petition of lawyers, January 17, 1852.

¹⁷*Ibid.*

¹⁸Petition from citizens of different wards, January 17, 1852.

¹⁹Petition from five citizens, February 16, 1852.

²⁰*Ibid.*

²¹*Ibid.*

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²³Letter, undated, from committee of citizens, unsigned.

²⁴Letter from A. W. Russell, February 9, 1852.

²⁵Letter from M. Carpenter, February 9, 1852.

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²⁷Letter from J. A. Kurtz, February 16, 1852.

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²⁹Letter from Emanuel Shober, February 16, 1852.

³⁰Letter from Emanuel Reigart, February 19, 1852.

- ¹*Minute Book*, Monday, February 9, 1852.
- ²*Ibid.*, Thursday, February 13 (12), 1852.
- ³*Ibid.*, Friday, February 13, 1852.
- ⁴*Ibid.*, Wednesday, February 18, 1852.
- ⁵*Ibid.*
- ⁶*Ibid.*
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- ⁹*Ibid.*
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- ¹⁶*Intelligencer*, March 2, 1852.
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- ¹³*Ibid.*, June 15, 1852.
- ¹⁴*Ibid.*
- ¹⁵*Ibid.*
- ¹⁶*Minute Book*, Monday, June 7, 1852.
- ¹⁷Letter of recommendation for James Crawford from C. B. Grubb, Samuel H. and Henry E. Slaymaker, May 31, 1852.
- ¹⁸Letter of recommendation for James Crawford from Whigs in Lancaster City.
- ¹⁹Letter from J. W. Jack, for superintendent of construction position, May 31, 1852.
- ²⁰Ellis and Evans, *op. cit.*, p. 460.
- ²¹Letter from J. W. Jack, May 31, 1852.
- ²²*Minute Book*, Monday, June 7, 1852.
- ²³Letter from Peter Reilly to Commissioners of Lancaster County for excavation of cellar, March (May) 2, 1852.

- ²⁴*Minute Book*, Monday, June 21, 1852.
- ²⁵Letter from William G. Kendrick for brickwork, June 19, 1852.
- ²⁶*Minute Book*, Monday, June 21, 1852.
- ²⁷Letter from eleven citizens recommending Mathias and Peter Brieday, no date.
- ²⁸Letter from J. W. Jack on carpentry bid, June 21, 1852.
- ²⁹Letter from George and John Kleiss on carpentry bid, no date.
- ³⁰Letter of recommendation for George Kleiss from Emanuel Reigart, June 14, 1852.
- ³¹Letter of recommendation for George Kleiss from C. B. Grubb, June 18, 1852.
- ³²Letter of recommendation for George Kleiss from William Whiteside, no date.
- ³³Letter of recommendation for George Kleiss from George D. Sprecher, June 19, 1852.
- ³⁴*Minute Book*, Monday, June 28, 1852.
- ³⁵Letter from William Diller on wrought iron work bid, no date.
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- ³⁷Letter from William Diller, no date.
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- ⁴⁰Letter from William Kirkpatrick for castings and iron work, June 28, 1852.

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- ³*Minute Book*, Monday, August 23, 1852.
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- ²*Minute Book*, Monday, December 6, 1852.
- ³*Ibid.*, Monday, April 18, 1853.
- ⁴*Intelligencer*, February 22, 1853.
- ⁵*Ibid.*
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- ⁷*Intelligencer*, March 1, 1853.
- ⁸*Minute Book*, Monday, April 11, 1853.
- ⁹*Ibid.*
- ¹⁰*Minute Book*, Monday, May 2, 1853.
- ¹¹*Ibid.*, Thursday, May 5, 1853.
- ¹²*Ibid.*
- ¹³*Intelligencer*, May 10, 1853.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, May 31, 1853.

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶*Intelligencer*, April 5, 1853.

¹⁷*Minute Book*, Monday, April 18, 1853.

¹⁸Letter of painting bids from Samuel W. Taylor, Bateman and Hayes, Jacob Franciscus, Allen Richards, and Samuel W. Hollenbach, all dated May 16, 1853.

¹⁹Letter of recommendation for Samuel W. Taylor from fifty-two Lancastrians, May 16, 1853.

²⁰*Minute Book*, Monday, May 16, 1853.

²¹*Intelligencer*, February 1, 1853.

²²*Ibid.*, January 31, 1854.

²³*Ibid.*, January 23, 1855.

²⁴*Minute Book*, Monday, May 23, 1853.

²⁵Letter from Jacob Weitzel, Jr. and John Weitzel for plumbing bid, May 18, 1853.

²⁶Letter from Elleanor S. Getz for plumbing bid, May 16, 1853.

²⁷Letter of recommendation for Druckemiller and Benedict from ten Lancastrians, May 12, 1853.

²⁸Letter from Haden Patrick Smith showing comparison between Druckemiller and S. Benedict, and H. F. and John L. Benedict's bids for roughcasting, May 30, 1853.

²⁹*Intelligencer*, January 23, 1855.

³⁰Letter from Gable & Ihling for tin roofing bid, May 13, 1853.

³¹Letter from John Gemperling for tin roofing bid, May 23, 1853.

³²*Intelligencer*, May 31, 1853.

³³*Minute Book*, Monday, June 6, 1853.

³⁴*Intelligencer*, May 31, 1853.

³⁵*Ibid.*, June 7, 1853.

³⁶*The Weekly New Era* [Lancaster, Pennsylvania], June 2, 1883.

CHAPTER VII (pp. 37-38)

¹*Intelligencer*, June 14, 1853.

²*Ibid.*

CHAPTER VIII (pp. 39-42)

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²Letter regarding purchase of tiles from S. A. Harrison, July 2, 1853.

³*Examiner and Herald*, November 16, 1853.

⁴*Minute Book*, Monday, November 28, 1853.

⁵*Examiner and Herald*, November 30, 1853.

⁶*Intelligencer*, January 31, 1854.

⁷Noted from personal tour of Court House, June 16, 1965.

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⁹*Ibid.*, January 23, 1855.

¹⁰Computed from Commissioners' Statements of Bills Paid, *Intelligencer*, February 1, 1853; January 31, 1854; January 23, 1855; February 5, 1856; and February 3, 1857.

¹¹*Ibid.*, January 23, 1855.

¹²*Minute Book*, Monday, November 28, 1853.

¹³*Intelligencer*, January 31, 1854.

¹⁴*Ibid.*

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶*Ibid.*

¹⁷*Minute Book*, Monday, February 13, 1854.

¹⁸*Ibid.*, Monday, May 22, 1854.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, Monday, March 13, 1854.

²⁰*Ibid.*, Monday, April 10, 1854.

²¹Inscription noted on works of original clock in personal tour of Court House, June 16, 1965.

- ²²*Intelligencer*, January 23, 1855.
²³*Ibid.*
²⁴*Ibid.*, -April 18, 1854.
²⁵*Ibid.*, May 2, 1854.
²⁶*Minute Book*, Monday, May 15, 1854.
²⁷*Intelligencer*, January 23, 1855.
²⁸*Ibid.*, June 6, 1854.
²⁹*Minute Book*, Monday, August 21, 1854.
³⁰*Ibid.*, January 15, 1855.
³¹*Intelligencer*, September 5, 1854.
³²*Minute Book*, Thursday, September 7, 1854.
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³⁵*Ibid.*, Monday, October 2, 1854.
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²*The [Lancaster, Pennsylvania] Inland Weekly*, November 25, 1854.
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⁸*Ibid.*, April 7, 1855.
⁹*Intelligencer*, February 5, 1856.
¹⁰*Ibid.*
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¹²*Ibid.*
¹³Ellis and Evans, *op. cit.*, p. 207.
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¹⁵*Intelligencer*, April 10, 1855.
¹⁶*Ibid.*

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A. Primary Sources

Of distinct value in learning more about the hum of activity which surrounded the construction of Lancaster County's third Court House was the information gained from the *Minute Book*, Volume 8, 1845-1860, kept by the County Commissioners. Entries from this source were particularly helpful in giving an insight into the many details which surrounded the haggle over where to locate the new Court House. Once construction was underway, the *Minutes* from the years 1852 to late 1853 served as a guide to substantiate information acquired through other primary sources or secondary sources.

The most significant information used in this research came by the way of the many original letters, petitions, and bids which were re-discovered in the basement of the Lancaster County Historical Society in the summer of 1965. It appeared that Ellis and Evans, *History of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* had some of this information available to them in 1883 when their history of Lancaster County was published. However, through a thorough analysis of these varied letters, petitions, and bids it was discovered that in several ways Ellis and Evans stood to be corrected on their published information. These original documents made it possible to put together bits of information in order to arrive at a fact or facts. And from these valuable letters, petitions, and bids insight on the present Court House heretofore unknown was made known.

Also of value was the personally-escorted tour taken in the present Court House on June 16, 1965. This and four subsequent visits to the Court House enabled the writer a better opportunity to envision the building as it must have appeared about 1855.

B. Secondary Sources

Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, *History of Lancaster, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883), provided the means for an excellent approach to this research. Reportedly the most accurately portrayed history of Lancaster County, Ellis and Evans' work contained a fairly comprehensive picture of some phases of construction of the new Court House.

Local newspapers supplemented the original sources used by filling in voids left by the primary sources available. Of the newspapers used, the *Lancaster Examiner and Herald* seemed to present the most reliable, although at times partial, reports having to do with the new Court House. The *Lancaster Intelligencer* generally ran a week behind the *Examiner and Herald* with its news items having to do with the new Court House. However, the caution often voiced by the *Democratic Intelligencer* was not without its influence in the community.

The most comprehensive story dealing with the inauguration of service in the new Court House in November, 1854, was found in the *Inland Weekly*.

Other secondary sources which were used or consulted in this research were Frederic Shriver Klein's, *Lancaster County since 1851* (Lancaster, Pennsylvania: The Lancaster County National Bank, 1955), *Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated, Title 16, Counties, 3101 to 9100* (Philadelphia: George T. Bisel Company, 1956), Frank A. Diffenderfer's *A History of the Farmers Bank of Lancaster, The Farmers National Bank and The Farmers Trust Company of Lancaster* (Lancaster, 1910), and the *Inventory of the County Archives of Pennsylvania, Lancaster County* (Lancaster, Pennsylvania: The County Commissioners, 1941) compiled by the Works Projects Administration.

An article by Harold Cooledge on Samuel Sloan which appeared in the *Journal of Architectural Historians* (October, 1964) was helpful in learning more about the architect who designed the Lancaster County Court House.

APPENDIX A

Known Suggested Locations for Site of New Court House

Suggested Locations

- 1—Market House location just off Centre Square
- 2—Old Prison House site, West King and North Prince Streets
- 3—North side, East Orange just east of Lime Street
- 4—East side, North Queen Street, 1st block from Square
- 5—Southeast corner, North Queen and Walnut Streets
- 6—West Orange Street, just back from North Queen Street
- 7—Undisclosed location, less than 400 feet from 2nd Court House
- 8—East King and Lime Streets (Sheaf's lot)
- 9—Southwest corner, East Orange and North Lime Streets (Breneman lot)
- 10—Northwest corner, East King and North Duke Streets
- 11—Lot adjoining new Prison, 600 block East King Street

Recommended by

- a—January, 1852, Grand Jury members
- b—Lancaster Bar Association members petition, January 17, 1852
- c—Citizens of different wards petition, January 17, 1852
- d—Five citizens petition, February 16, 1852
- 2 Committee of citizens undated and unsigned letter
- 3 A. W. Russell letter, February 9, 1852
- 4 M. Carpenter letter, February 9, 1852
- 5 J. A. Kurtz letter, February 16, 1852
- 6 Emanuel Shober letter, February 16, 1852
- 7 Emanuel Reigart letter, February 19, 1852
- 8 Original vote for this location cast by Commissioner Styer, February 9, 1852
- 9 Original vote for this location cast by Commissioner Hess, February 9, 1852
- 10 Location introduced at Commissioner's meeting, February 13, 1852
- 11 Location introduced at Commissioner's meeting, February 23, 1852, by Commissioner Styer

APPENDIX B

Painting Bids Sent to County Commissioners, May 16, 1853

1—To paint
(4 coats)
To paint
outside

2—Painting
and sanding
3—Graining
4—Bronzing

5—Varnishing
6—Furnish
windows
7—Install
panes

Work to be done	By S. Taylor	Allen Richards	Jacob Franciscus	Bateman & Hayes	Samuel W. Hollenbach
1.	13c sq. yd.	25c per yd.	21c per yd.	16c sq. yd.	40c yd.
2.	13c sq. yd. 34c sq. yd.**	25c per yd. 35c per yd. 37½c yd.	32c per yd.* 21c per yd. 21c per yd.	26½c sq. yd. 37½c sq. yd.**	40c yd. (oak) 25c yd. \$22.00 per 100 ft.
3.	38c sq. yd. (oak)	25c yd. 12½c yd.	21c per yd. 14" x 28" —	30c sq. yd. 18c per sq. ft. of glass	
4.	70c sq. yd. (gold)	\$13.20 per 100 sqs.	43c per light or best Jackson patent, 33c per light		
5.	12c sq. yd.				
6.	13" x 24" — 35c per light or 14" x 28" — proport. higher				
7.	7c per light				

* plus \$95.00 for scaffolding

** will supply own scaffolding

*** includes varnishing

APPENDIX C

Superintendents of Construction

Name	Appointed on	Wage Paid
1—James Crawford	June 7, 1852	\$1.50 per day
2—Haden Patrick Smith	April 18, 1853	\$2.00 per day
3—Daniel Ehrisman	February 13, 1854	\$1.50 per day
4—O. C. M. Cains	May 22, 1854	\$2.00 per day

APPENDIX D

Commissioners' Statement on Bills Paid for 1852

The Lancaster [Pennsylvania] Intelligencer,

February 1, 1853

Paid to	Amount
New Court House	
Purchase of Lots for a Site	
I. N. Lightner, Esq. for House and Lot	\$ 8,129.03
James Evans, Esq., for House and Lot	2,903.23
David Longenecker, for House and Lot	6,967.74
	<hr/>
	\$18,000.00
Materials and Labor for New Court House	
C. Hager & Flinn, bill for stone	\$ 449.20
John Barrack, full for digging cellar	207.02
M. & P. Brieday, in full for mason work	2,600.75
M. & D. Ehrisman, on acct. of carpenter work	400.00
Carson & Kautz, on acct. of contract for brick	4,500.00
W. & J. Konigmacher, for sand stone	1,900.00
W. G. Kendrick, for mason work	2,600.00
Wm. Kirkpatrick, for castings	1,323.30
B. Reinhold, for lumber	95.00
Wm. Diller, for wrought iron work	300.00
Jacob Franciscus, for painting	25.00
James Crawford, Sup'ts [sic] bill for masonry	49.31
	<hr/>
	\$14,449.98
Expenses for taking down buildings, clearing grounds, piling brick, etc.	
Vincent Yeager, for emptying sink	\$ 40.00
C. Hager, bill for piling stone	9.00
J. C. Carpenter, for regulating lots	12.00
James Crawford, Supt.—salary	275.00
Samuel Sloan, Esq., Architect on acct.	400.00
Joshua Jack, for draught for New Court House	5.00
B. Bauman & J. Crawford, pay for laborers, etc.	2,633.59
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,375.09

APPENDIX D

Commissioners' Statement on Bills Paid for 1853

The Lancaster [Pennsylvania] Intelligencer,

January 31, 1854

I—For Old Court House

Paid to	Amount
M. Zahm for sundries	\$ 6.01
M. Zahm—care and keeping Court House	28.75
Joseph Eberman, winding town clock	8.00
John Barrick for labor in taking down Court House	10.96
Michael Erisman for taking down Court House	364.00
Samuel W. Taylor for glazing	1.42
John Swartz for hauling sand stone	54.75
John Herr for water cooler	1.75
Wm. E. Heinitsh for taking down dials	6.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 481.64

II—For New Court House

Laborer's pay	\$ 513.93
Norris Tasker & Company for castings	106.00
Samuel Sloan, Esquire, Architect, on account	800.00
James Crawford, Superintendent, in full	20.00
Wm. Kirkpatrick for castings	2,063.38
David Hartman for lumber	73.12
Carson and Kautz, in full for brick	4,112.73
Wm. & Jos. Konigmacher for sandstone	3,174.36
M. & D. Ehrisman, on account for carpentry	6,500.00
Tolman Hathway & Company, for Terra Cotta	1,500.00
Wm. Diller, on account of wrought iron work	1,850.00
Jesse H. Erb for hauling small slate	5.00
Franklin T. Lollar, watchman on account	206.00
A. E. & J. H. Reigart for lumber	11.82
Wm. G. Kendrick, on account of bricklaying	2,800.00
James Brady for hauling stone	29.12
Thomas Madden for hauling clay	12.76
Haden Patrick Smith, Superintendent in full	595.00
Jacob Franciscus, in full for painting	38.87
David Hook for wheelbarrow & repairs	5.62
Jacob Gable, on account of plumbing	128.44
S. A. Harrison on account of tile/furnaces	2,800.00
G. Calder for silver sand	6.00
M. & P. Breiday, masonry	53.00
J. C. Carpenter, regulating Court House lots	6.00
John D. Skiles for candles	6.23
Samuel W. Taylor for painting Terra Cotta	44.44
Kline & McClure for hose	11.75
Lancaster Gas Company for fire brick	14.64
H. Baumgardner, on account of painting	250.00
Joseph Bernard (Bernhardt) & Company for bell	351.56
John Gemperling, on account of tin work	500.00
John Swartz for hauling stone, etc.	48.09
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	\$28,337.87

Misc.

M. Zahm, crying sale of old Court House, old lumber, etc.	\$ 23.20
C. Hager, Esquire. rent for Fulton Hall	154.00

APPENDIX D

Commissioners' Statement on Bills Paid for 1854

The Lancaster [Pennsylvania] Intelligencer

January 23, 1855

Paid to	Amount
W. & J. Konigmacher on account for sand stone work	\$14,759.97
Carson & Kautz in full for bricks	774.98
William Kirkpatrick, in full for castings	600.00
Wm. G. Kendrick, in full for bricklaying	2,555.87
M. & D. Ehrisman on account for carpentry	5,750.00
William Diller, in full for wrought iron work	1,655.88
S. A. Harrison, in full for furnaces, terra cotta & tile	2,763.96
Tollman & Hathaway for terra cotta	300.00
Wm. P. Bolton, in full for figure of Justice	200.00
S. C. Wilt, in full for lightning rods	156.00
W. E. Heinitsh, gilding & smalting clock dials in full	24.00
G. Sehner, bill for lumber	8.85
G. M. Steinman for hardware, etc.	59.77
J. McIlwain for lime	154.85
S. Curtis for hauling stone	146.00
H. Brenber, for lime	31.50
C. Kieffer, on account of iron railing	1,500.00
Lancaster Gas Company for tar and rosin	26.00
J. G. Getz for lumber	29.50
D. Herr for lime	188.00
D. T. Sheaff for marble work	107.75
Jane Lloyd on account of German Flags	1,500.00
John Gemperling, on account for tin roofing, etc.	2,300.00
Jacob Gable for gas and water pipe	850.00
Peter Reilley for digging foundations for outer walls	277.61
Mathias Brady for sand and stone	3,761.68
Samuel W. Taylor (agent) on account of painting	3,987.81
Druckemiller & Benedict, on account of plastering	2,950.00
Ernest Verner in full for fresco work	801.00
Dennis Burgin for stone	8.50
D. Hartman for stone	51.06
G. D. Sprecher for hardware	32.89
Pinkerton & Slaymaker for sundries	6.96
F. Boyle & J. Dougherty for hauling sand	159.60
Laborer's pay	1,095.02
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	\$49,689.19
 Miscellaneous Items for Court House	
C. C. M. Cains, Supt. on acct.	\$ 455.00
Joseph Eberman in full for altering clock	250.00
James C. Carpenter for surveying	5.00
Henry Gast for spittoons [sic]	18.00
Samuel Sloan, Architect	900.00
F. T. Lollar, Watchman	278.85
H. P. Smith, in full, as Superintendent	136.42
John H. Skiles for Sundries	8.55
J. Boley for making curtain	.50
J. Albright. Bitner & other for freight	570.84
Dunn & McDonald for paving	219.95
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	\$ 2,843.11
 Misc.	
C. Hager, Esquire, rent for Fulton Hall	\$ 649.50

APPENDIX D

Commissioners' Statement on Bills Paid for 1855

The Lancaster [Pennsylvania] Intelligencer

February 5, 1856

Paid to	Amount
John Gemperling, in full, for tin work	\$ 873.39
Haley, Ware & Co., in full, for furniture	229.00
S. A. Harrison, for ventilating apparatus	95.99
Ollis Holmes & Co., for turning	230.77
Elias Herr, for lime	7.35
S. Kurtz & C. Pratt, cleaning Court Room	8.00
P. T. Sheaff, for stone work	6.28
Geo. M. Steinman, hardware	83.44
Chrn. Widmeyer, judges chairs and sundries	130.50
J. Rotharmel, for brushes	1.50
Lancaster County Prison, for carpets	222.30
Jacob Gable, for iron pipes and gas fitting	455.25
Bitner & Co., freight of flags [sic]	246.88
Carson & Koutz, for paving brick	73.85
Dunn & McDonald, for paving	78.35
William Diller, for iron doors	98.32
Jacob Foltz, for attending to Court House	18.62
M. Zahn, for sundries	6.61
Baker & Co., for gas burners	24.00
Laborer's pay	96.00
F. T. Lollar, Janitor	307.62
Jane Lloyd, for flags	2,734.00
Cornelius & Baker, chandeliers and gas fixtures	1,045.50
William McClure, for hardware	545.88
S. W. Taylor, agent, for painting and paints, oil, etc.	5,327.39
Lancaster Gas Company, for gas	91.15
Samuel Sloan, architect, for measuring work	1,700.00
Wm. & Jos. Konigmacher, in full for sand stone	16,691.80
O. C. M. Cains, supt., and measuring work	959.20
Benedict & Druckemiller, plastering	2,300.67
M. & D. Ehrisman, for carpentry	11,311.86
W. H. Carryl, for curtains and trimmings	863.69
George Mayer, hardware, etc.	630.60
Samuel Diller, for sand	31.83
C. Hiller, for dressing sand stone	11.00
C. Kieffer, iron railing, lamp posts, etc.	1,641.37
H. M. White, covering tables, desks and curtains	169.87
F. Boyle, for sand	153.05
Hager & Bros., for muslins, etc.	30.90
R. Moderwell, freight	16.61
James Barnes, for chairs	28.00
Lancaster Gas Company, gas bill	233.09
Mary Gagley, cleaning benches	.50

\$49,812.07

APPENDIX D
 Commissioners' Statement on Bills Paid for 1856
The Lancaster [Pennsylvania] Intelligencer
 February 3, 1857

Paid to	Amount
Samuel W. Taylor, for repairing dome	\$ 127.01
S. A. Harrison, for repairing furnaces	40.00
C. Widmeyer, for three Judges Chairs	85.00
H. P. Carson, bill for brick	3.40
C. Kieffers, bill for iron gates	8.25
H. M. White, for curtains and covering desks	38.93
Jacob Gable, for water pipes and sundries	15.77
M. & D. Ehrisman, Carpenter Work	45.76
John Gemperling, tin work	58.06
Joseph C. Snyder, bill for laborers and sundries	23.48
Lancaster Gas Company, for gas	75.24
William Diller, iron bolts and sundries	38.38
S. C. Wilt, for repairing lightning rods	7.00
M. Zahm, sundries for Court Room	2.60
George Lawrence, private watchman	1.50
Sam'l McDonald, relaying slabs in enclosure	167.75
L. C. Eshleman, one day's labor	1.25
John Ford, for 41 loads sand	22.02
Alonza Warner, for door spring	2.50
Arnold & Wilson, cleaning and repairing furnaces	17.25
Jacob Rotharmel, bill for brushes, etc.	8.94
Wm. Kirkpatrick, for castings	3.80
	\$793.89

APPENDIX E
 Alphabetical Listing of
 COURT HOUSE CONTRACTORS — THEIR WORK AND
 AMOUNTS PAID THEM, 1852 - 1856
 Compiled from *The Lancaster [Pennsylvania] Intelligencer*
 Statements of Bills Paid by County Commissioners,
 February 1, 1853; January 31, 1854; January 23, 1855;
 February 5, 1856 and February 3, 1857

Contractor	Work done & Amount Paid	Total Amount Paid
A		
Albright, J. & Bitner & others	freight \$ 570.84	\$ 570.84
B		
Baker & Co.	gas burners 24.00	24.00
Barnes, James	chairs 28.00	28.00
Barrick, John	digging cellar 207.02	
	taking down old Court House 10.96	217.98
Baumgardner, H.	painting 250.00	250.00
Bernard, Joseph & Co.	bell 351.56	351.56
Bitner & Brother	freight of flaggs 246.88	246.88
Boley, J.	making curtain .50	.50
Bolton, Wm. P.	figure of Justice 200.00	200.00
Boyle, F.	sand 153.05	153.05
Boyle, F. & J. Dougherty	hauling sand 169.60	159.60
Brady, James	hauling stone 29.12	29.12
Brady, Mathias	sand and stone 3,761.68	3,761.68
Breiday, M. & P.	masonry 2,600.75	
	masonry 53.00	2,653.75
Brenberger, H.	lime 31.50	31.50
Burgin, Dennis	stone 8.50	8.50

Cains, O. C. M.	Superintendent	455.00	
	" and measuring work	959.20	1,414.20
Calder, G.	silver sand	6.00	6.00
Carpenter, James C.	regulating lots	5.00	
	" "	6.00	
	surveying	5.00	16.00
Carson & Kautz	bricks	4,500.00	
	"	4,112.73	
	"	774.98	
	"	73.85	9,461.56
Caryl, W. H.	curtains, trimmings	863.69	863.69
	chandeliers, gas fixtures	1,045.50	1,045.50
	Supt.—masonry bill	49.31	
Cornelius & Baker	salary	275.00	
Crawford, James	salary in full	20.00	344.31
Curtis S.	hauling stone	146.00	146.00
	sand	31.83	31.83
D			
Diller, Samuel	iron work	300.00	
Diller, William	" "	1,850.00	
Druckemiller & Benedict	in full for iron work	1,655.88	
Dunn & McDonald	iron doors	98.32	
	iron bolts, sundries	38.38	3,942.58
	plastering	2,950.00	
	"	2,300.67	5,250.67
	paving	219.85	
	"	78.35	298.30
E			
Eberman, Joseph	winding town clock	8.00	
	in full, attending clock	250.00	258.00
Ehrisman, M. & D.	carpentry	400.00	
	"	6,500.00	
	"	5,750.00	
	"	11,311.86	
	"	45.76	24,007.62
Erb, Jesse	hauling slate	5.00	5.00
Evans, James	house and lot	2,903.23	2,903.23
F			
Foltz, Jacob	attending to Court House	18.62	18.62
Ford, John	41 loads sand	22.02	22.02
Franciscus, Jacob	painting	25.00	
	"	38.87	63.87
G			
Gable, Jacob	plumbing	128.44	
	water pipes	15.77	
	gas, water pipe	850.00	1,449.46
	iron pipes, fitting	455.25	
Gagley, Mary	cleaning benches	.50	.50
Gast, Henry	spitoons	18.00	18.00
Gemperling, John	tin work	500.00	
	" "	2,300.00	
	" "	58.06	3,731.45
	" "	873.39	
Getz, J. G.	lumber	29.50	29.50
H			
Hager and Brothers	muslin, etc.	30.90	30.90
Hager, C.	rent, Fulton Hall	154.00	
	" " "	649.50	803.50
Hager, Christian	piling stone	9.00	9.00
Hager & Flinn	stone	449.20	449.20

Haley, Ware & Co.	furniture	229.00	229.00
Harrison, S. A.	tiles, furnaces	2,800.00	
Hartman, D.	furnaces in full, tile		
Hartman, David	& terra cotta	2,763.96	
Heinitsh, Wm. E.	ventilating apparatus	95.99	
Herr, D.	repairing furnaces	40.00	5,699.95
Herr, Elias	stone	51.06	51.06
Herr, John	lumber	73.12	73.12
Hiller, C.	taking down dials from old		
Holmes, Ollis & Co.	Court House clock	6.00	
Hook, David	glazing, smalting dials	24.00	30.00
	lime	188.00	188.00
	lime	7.35	7.35
	water cooler	1.75	1.75
K			
Kendrick, Wm. G.	dressing sand stone	11.00	11.00
Kieffer, C.	turning	230.77	230.77
Kirkpatrick, Wm.	wheelbarrow repairs	5.62	5.62
Kline & McClure	bricklaying	2,600.00	7,955.87
Konigmacher, Wm. & Jos.	"	2,800.00	
	"	2,555.87	
	iron railing acct.	1,500.00	
	iron railing, lamp posts	1,641.37	
	iron gates	8.25	3,149.62
	castings	1,323.30	
	"	2,063.38	
	castings in full	600.00	
	castings	3.80	3,990.48
	hose	11.75	11.75
	sandstone	1,900.00	
	"	3,174.36	
	"	14,759.97	
	sandstone in full	16,691.80	36,526.13
Kurtz, S. & C. Pratt	cleaning Court Room	8.00	8.00
L			
Lancaser County Prison	carpets	222.30	222.30
Lancaster Gas Company	firebrick	14.64	
	tar, rosin	26.00	
	gas	91.15	
	"	233.09	
	"	75.24	440.12
Lightner, I. N.	house and lot	8,129.03	8,129.03
Lloyd, Jane	German flaggs [sic]	1,500.00	
	flags	2,734.00	4,234.00
Lollar, Franklin T.	watchman	206.00	
	"	278.85	
	janitor	307.62	792.47
Longenecker, David	house and lot	6,967.74	6,967.74
M			
Madden, Thomas	hauling clay	12.76	12.76
Mayer, George	hardware	630.60	630.60
McClure, William	hardware	545.88	545.88
McIlwain, J.	lime	154.85	154.85
Moderwell, R.	freight	16.61	16.61
P			
Pinkerton & Slaymaker	sundries	6.96	6.96
R			
Reigart, A. E. & J. H.	lumber	11.82	11.82
Reilley, Peter	digging foundations for		
	outer walls	277.61	277.61
Reinhold, B.	lumber	95.00	95.00
Rohrer, Elias	attending to Court House	12.62	12.62
Rotharmel, J.	brushes	1.50	1.50

S			
Sehner, G.	lumber	8.85	8.85
Sheaff, P. T.	marble work	107.75	107.75
Skiles, John D.	stone work	6.28	6.28
Skiles, John H.	candles	6.23	6.23
	sundries	8.55	8.55
Sloan, Samuel	Architect	400.00	
	"	800.00	
	"	900.00	
	"	1,700.00	3,800.00
Smith, Haden Patrick	Superintendent	595.00	
	"	136.42	731.42
Snyder, Joseph C.	laborers, sundries	23.48	23.48
Sprecher, George D.	hardware	32.89	32.89
Steinman, George M.	hardware	59.77	
	"	83.44	143.21
Swartz, John	hauling sandstone	54.75	54.75
T			
Taylor, Samuel W.	glazing	1.42	
	painting terra cotta	44.44	
	painting acct.	3,987.81	
	" "	5,327.39	
	repairing dome	127.01	9,488.07
V			
Verner, Ernest	fresco work	801.00	801.00
W			
White, H. M.	covering tables, desks and curtains	169.87	
	curtains, covering desks	38.93	208.80
Widmeyer, Christian	judges chairs, sundries	130.50	
	3 judges chairs	85.00	215.50
Wilt, S. C.	lightning rods	156.00	
	repairing rods	7.00	163.00
Z			
Zahm, M.	sundries	6.01	
	care, keeping old Court House	28.75	
	crying sale of old Court House, lumber	23.20	
	sundries	6.61	
	"	2.60	67.17

\$161,905.76