

Self-Guided History Walking Tour of the 400, 500, and 600 Blocks of Manor Street

Prepared by Jim Gerhart, fall 2021

***Using your smartphone or tablet as your guide,
take a stroll down Manor Street at your own
pace and discover the history behind some of
the old houses and other buildings on Manor
Street. Also, get to know some of the
interesting people responsible for the growth
of Manor Street and its various businesses in
the mid 1800s to early 1900s.***

Just scroll down to get started.....

The Walking Tour

If you are reading this, you have already accessed the PDF of the tour on SoWe's website. All you have to do is follow along on your smart phone or tablet, and proceed from one stop to the next. The tour will cover the 400, 500, and 600 blocks of Manor Street. It will start at Christ Lutheran Church and end at Laurel Street.

There are 40 stops on the tour. Each will have a page devoted to it, along with a photo or two. The text describing each house and building will give the name of the builder, the year of construction, brief architectural details, and key information about some of the early owners, residents, and businesses.

Memories of today's oldest residents usually only reach back 50-75 years, but there is much more to the history of Manor Street than that. I hope the people who take this walking tour come away with a feel for how deep the history is here, and an appreciation for the generations of working-class people who came before and made Manor Street and all of Cabbage Hill a unique place to live and work.

Be careful as you walk down Manor Street. Traffic can be heavy and fast and the sidewalk is very close to the driving lane on the southeast side of the street. You may want to stay on the northwest sidewalk beside the parked cars as much as possible. Cross the street with caution!

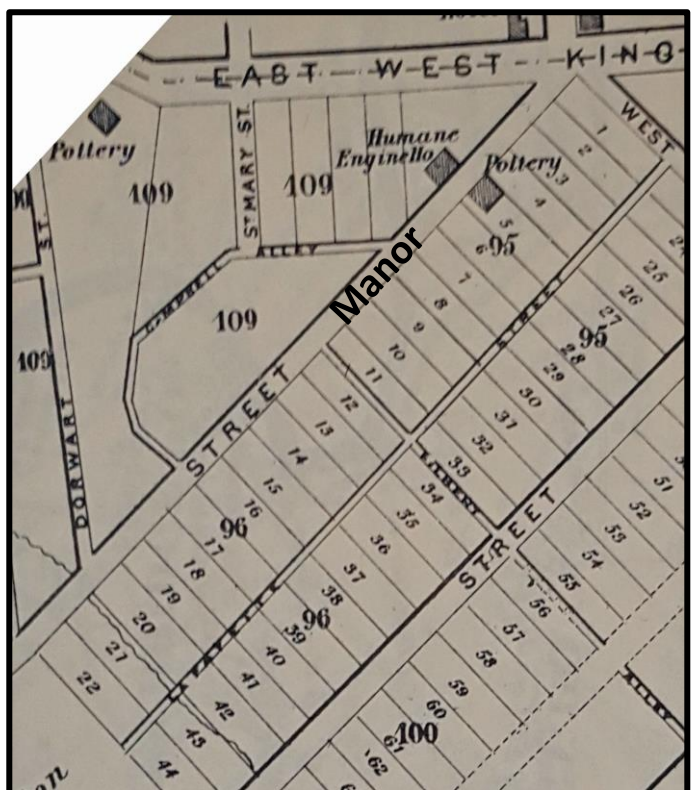
Introduction

Manor Street started in the early 1700s as a rough dirt path cut through dense forest from Lancaster to the Susquehanna. It was called Blue Rock Road, named after a large limestone rock in the river near Washington Boro, where an early ferry operated.

The northernmost stretch of Blue Rock Road near West King Street was the northwest boundary of a large tract of land patented by the William Penn family to two German immigrants in 1717. In the 1720s and 1730s, Samuel Bethel, an early Quaker settler, purchased 200 acres of that land. When Bethel died in 1739, his son Samuel, Jr. inherited the land.

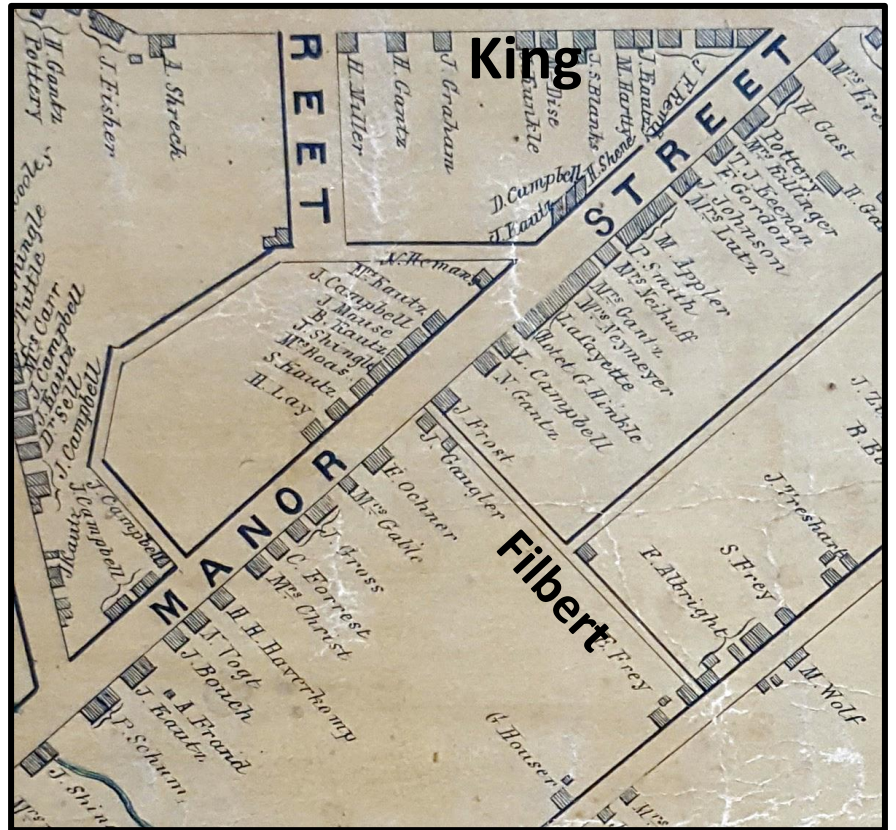
In 1762, Samuel Bethel, Jr. laid out 66 building lots on 25 acres of that land, naming the new neighborhood Bethelstown. Twenty-two of those building lots were along the southeast side of Blue Rock Road, and several small log houses began to appear along what would later be the 400 and 500 blocks of Manor Street. The 22 original building lots along the southeast side of Manor Street were 62 feet wide by about 240 feet deep, extending to an alley that would eventually become Lafayette Street.

An 1875 map showing the 22 building lots laid out in 1762 along the southeast side of Manor Street



Manor Street developed slowly. By 1800, there were only about a dozen small one-story log and frame houses on the southeast side of the 400 and 500 blocks of the street. By 1850, there were about 40 log, frame, and brick houses on the southeast side of the street, and about 15 houses on the northwest side.

An 1850 map showing the degree of development of the 400 and 500 blocks of Manor Street in 1850



Large waves of German Immigrants had started arriving in the 1840s, and with the opening of the nearby Conestoga Steam Cotton Mills and the founding of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Manor Street began to become rapidly built out. By the late 1800s, the 400, 500, and 600 blocks of Manor Street were almost completely built out.

Most of the houses on this walking tour were built between 1850 and 1920 to attract German immigrants. The boundaries of the lots are still based on the original 62 by 240 lot sizes, but the lots have been subdivided over the years into lots as little as 15 feet wide and 100 feet deep. Many of the houses on Manor today have replaced older log and frame houses that were built here in the late 1700s and early 1800s. None of the original houses built here in the first 75 years of Bethelstown has survived.

In the peak growth years between 1870 and 1920, Manor Street was a bustling street filled with large families and numerous businesses, many of which were owner-operated and located on the first floors of their owners' houses. The dominant language was German, and the social, cultural, and religious lives of the residents were also predominantly German. Even though German immigration declined after 1900, the German traditions passed on from one generation to the next would keep alive a strong German influence on Manor Street and on the rest of Cabbage Hill well into the mid 20th century. Today, the houses built by and for German immigrants are now homes for new immigrants of many nationalities.

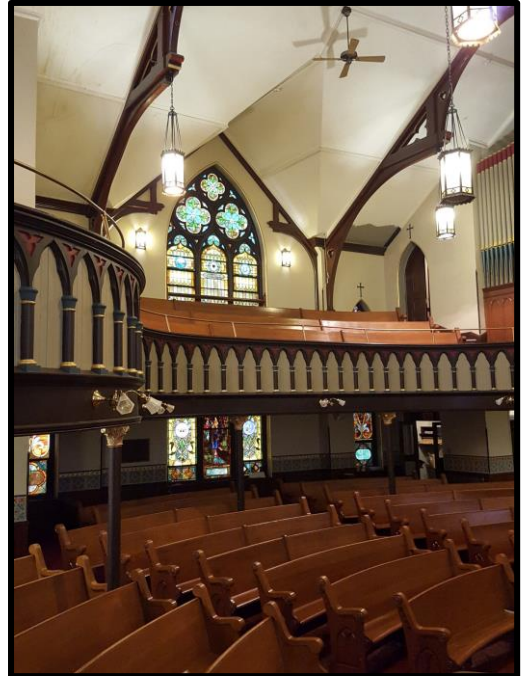
OK, let's get started with the tour.....

Christ Lutheran Church

Corner of Manor, West King, West Strawberry



1960s



2017

This congregation was established in 1867 by Trinity Lutheran Church, with the first church building being built a few doors down on West King in 1868. The marble cornerstone from the first church was incorporated into the far end of the brick wall of the present building on the West Strawberry side. The present church, which took about five years to finish (1890-1895), was designed by James Warner, the same architect who designed Central Market, and is constructed of brick with accents of Hummelstown brownstone. The church struggled to gain traction for several decades, but then went on to boast well over 1,000 members in the first half of the 20th century. As with many urban churches, the congregation has struggled to survive in recent decades, but thanks to a small, dedicated group of member volunteers, it has managed to keep going and has even accomplished an impressive renovation of much of the interior.

The Buehrle House and Parsonage 408-410 Manor (now gone)



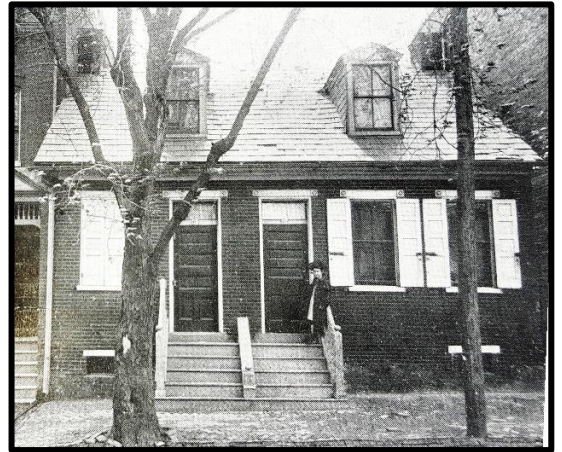
1960s

The grassy lot beside Christ Lutheran Church was once the site of a large, three-story, double, Victorian, brick house. The house was built in 1890 at the same time as the church was being built, and later torn down about 1970. The house was built on Bethelstown lot 2 by Dr. Robert Buehrle, and he and his wife Annie lived in the larger side at 408 while the smaller side at 410 served as the parsonage of the church. Buehrle was the Superintendent of Public Schools in Lancaster, as well as an influential leader at the church next door. He was a doctor by virtue of an honorary degree from F&M College, and was a highly respected German-immigrant scholar who spoke five languages, and was a sought-after lecturer on educational and historical topics. When Dr. Buehrle died in 1920, his niece, Anne Bowman, inherited 408. For many years, the church used 410 as a parsonage and then as the church office.

The Hartman-Buckius House 412-414 Manor



2017



1907

This asymmetrical, double, one-story, brick house is the oldest surviving house on Manor Street. It was built by George Hartman about 1842 on one-half of Bethelstown lot 3. Shortly after Hartman finished the house, it was seized by the Sheriff and sold at a public sale to pay Hartman's debts. In 1861, it was purchased by Henry and Mary Buckius, who raised a family in 414 while Henry ran his shoemaking business out of 412. The Buckius family lived here 50 years. In 1867, the house hosted the first Sunday school of what would become Christ Lutheran Church, with 64 children from the Hill somehow squeezing in. In the early 1900s, it was purchased by Robert Buehrle, who lived next door and who rented the house to various tenants. Both sides of the house have seen numerous owners and tenants over the last 100 years.

The Gast House and Pottery Factory 416-418 Manor



2019

Emma Gast, the widow of Henry Gast, built this double, three-story, brick, Victorian townhouse on one-half of Bethelstown lot 3 in 1895, after a fire destroyed the first residence on this site. Henry Gast, a German immigrant who learned the pottery trade when he came to America in 1819, and his first wife, Sophia, raised seven children in the first house here in the mid to late 1800s. Behind the house, all the way back to Lafayette, were his pottery sheds and kilns, as well as six small frame houses that he rented out. After Sophia died, Henry remarried to Emma, who built this double house and who lived on in 416 until her death in 1910, some 20 years after Henry died. Henry Gast, Jr. took over the pottery business after his father died in 1889, and the business continued until 1913. The houses were sold to Allan Herr in 1910.

The Bretz-Xakellis House and Restaurant 420-420-1/2 Manor



2021

Two older houses built here by next-door neighbor Henry Gast were torn down in the early 1900s to make room for this combination house and restaurant. The present building was built about 1925 on one-half of Bethelstown lot 4 by Lorenz Bretz, a real-estate investor. The longest running business here was the restaurant of Greek immigrants Chris and Lulu XaKellis from 1924 to 1956. The restaurant closed when Lulu died in 1956. Chris, who lived until 1986, also owned a gas station and a motel. From the late 1950s to the present, the building has been used as apartments.

The Humane Steam Fire Engine Company No. 6 About where 427 Manor is today (now gone)



2021



~1870

Cabbage Hill had its own volunteer fire company in the mid 1800s. The Humane Steam Fire Engine Company No. 6 was located just about where 427 Manor is today, across from 430 Manor. It was a two-story brick structure with a bell tower. It was built in 1853 and served the Hill until the late 1870s, when a new station house was built about a block away at 411 West King (now Station One Center for the Arts). The Humane was just a hose company until 1857 when it was able to purchase its first engine--a used hand-pumper. In 1867, it purchased a steam-powered engine. Shortly after the Humane moved to its new station house on West King, the city took over the numerous volunteer fire companies in the city and established the city fire department. The old Humane station house on Manor was razed in the early 1880s.

The Lutz-Gill House 434 Manor



2019

This is an excellent example of a 2-1/2-story, brick, Victorian house, and the vacant lot next to it provides a good view of the typical rear wing with a second-story covered porch. The house was built on part of Bethelstown lot 6 about 1870 by William Lutz, an accomplished engineer at the ore mines near Willow Street, and later at Lancaster Gas Light and Fuel Company near where Culliton Park is today. He also was the engineer for the Humane Fire Company. He was born on this site in 1831 in the house that the current house replaced. In 1898, John and Sarah Gill bought the house and lived here while taking in boarders. Gill was a foreman in the city's street cleaning department, and the owner of one of the earliest car-repair shops downtown. After John and Sarah Gill died, their daughter Gertrude continued living here into the 1960s.

The Tombaugh-Millichsock House 442 Manor (now gone)



~1960

The edge of the parking lot just uphill from 444 Manor was the site of one of the first houses to be built on Cabbage Hill. It was a one-story log house with weatherboarding that was torn down in 1964. The year in which it was built and by whom are not exactly known. At the time of its demolition, most local historians speculated that it was built by Frederick Tombaugh, who was the first owner of Bethelstown lot 7, putting its likely year of construction in the 1760s. A few speculated that it may have been built by Samuel Bethel himself, who was the owner of the large tract on which Bethelstown was laid out, which would put its year of construction as early as the 1720s. The first clear record of its ownership was in the 1798 Direct Tax when George Millichsock was listed as the owner, and it was described as a one-story log house, 21x27 feet, with 3 windows and 12 lights (panes), and a log stable, on a 62x242 lot, valued at \$190. It's a real loss to the history of Lancaster that it is no longer with us.

The Buehrle Houses and Stores 447-449 Manor



2019

Dr. Robert Buehrle, Superintendent of Lancaster Schools, who lived at 408 Manor, built these two houses for rental income about 1910. The houses are at an angle to Manor because they were built on the rear end of lots facing West King, which is not quite perpendicular to Manor. The storefronts were part of the original design, to attract local businesses to rent or buy the houses. The first tenant was Zook Bros. Fresh Fish and Fruit in the 1910s. Perhaps the most well known tenant was Ressler's Radio and Appliance Service, starting in the 1940s. It was this business that bought the old log house at 442 Manor and had it razed for parking for Ressler's customers. The light-colored, grout-like substance on the façade of 447 is the result of an incomplete attempt to apply form-stone.

The Miller Rowhouses

454-460 Manor



2019

Barnet Miller, a Russian immigrant who owned a couple dozen houses on the 400 block of Manor in the 1900s-1910s, built these four three-story, late Victorian, brick rowhouses about 1910. In order to do so, he tore down four smaller two-story brick houses, which had been built in the 1850s. Those four smaller houses had in turn been built on the site of the old Lafayette Hotel and Saloon run by Jacob F. Kautz in the 1840s, which had been built on Bethelstown lot 9. Barnet Miller lived just down the block at 504 Manor, where he and his wife Eva ran a clothing store. Miller built these houses to rent, and did so for several decades until his death in 1941. These houses are good example of mansard roofs and front porches common at the turn of the century. The houses now each have two to three apartments.

Stumpf's Hotel 464-466 Manor



2019

This large building was built about 1901 by John and Elizabeth Stumpf as a hotel and saloon. It replaced an older building, Schneider's Hotel and Saloon, which had been built in the 1870s on one-half of Bethelstown lot 10. John Stumpf was a sergeant in the Lancaster City police before he decided to become a hotel manager. He and Elizabeth and their five children lived here while he ran the hotel and saloon. The saloon was in 464, and the hotel and the Stumpf family living quarters were in 466. Stumpf's Hotel went out of business during the Great Depression, and for many years, the building was a series of bars with apartments upstairs. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was the Manor Bar, then the Manor Tavern in the 1980s-2000s, and most recently Cosmos Bar & Grill. It was sold in 2019 for \$415K, and it now has eleven apartments in its 5,400 square feet, with ten parking spots behind it.

The Henry Kieffer House

471 Manor



2019

This house was built by Henry (Harry) Kieffer for his mother, Henrietta, widow of Ignatz Kieffer, about 1894. It is a three-story, brick, Victorian house with a mansard roof and a two-story rear wing. It replaced a double, one-story, brick house which Henrietta Kieffer had bought in 1879. When Filbert Street was extended west across Manor in 1887, Henrietta received more than \$400 in compensation for a strip of her land that had to be taken for the building of the street. Henrietta lived here with her seven children for only about five years until her death in 1899. Her son Henry continued living here with four of his siblings. Henry, a foreman in a cigar factory, and his wife Matilda, lived here with their five children until Henry died in 1944. Since the 1940s, the house has been divided into several apartments.

The Miller Store and Apartments 474 Manor



2019

This corner building was built by Barnet Miller in 1922 as a store with an apartment above. Miller, who lived across Filbert at 504 Manor, was a Russian immigrant who bought many older houses in this vicinity, tore them down, and replaced them with houses he would rent or sell. Before this building was built, the lot, which was one-half of Bethelstown lot 11, had contained a one-story frame house since at least the 1840s. John and Margaret Trost, German immigrants, lived in the one-story house for many years, and then their son John lived there many more, with the Trost family calling the one-story house home for more than 70 years. The first tenant of the store in the 1920s was the Great A&P Tea Company, and then in the 1930s to 1950s, it was Metz's Grocery. Today it is P.B. Grocery with an apartment above.

The Miller House and Store 504 Manor



2019

This building was built in two phases. First, it was built as a house in the late 1880s by John Hoenninger. Then when it was sold to Barnet and Eva Miller in 1897, the first floor was converted to a store. Barnet and Eva Miller were Russian immigrants who ran a clothing store here and lived above the store for 40 years. They once owned more than 25 houses in this vicinity. Miller descendants lived in this house for another 40 years, into the late 1970s. The first house here on Bethelstown lot 12 was a one-story frame house where Jacob and Rebecca Gougler and their family lived from 1848 to 1877. Before Filbert Street got its name, it was known as Gougler's Alley. There is no 502 because it was torn down and the lot taken to widen Filbert in the late 1880s. In the 1980s, the Shelter for Abused Women was located here. Since then, the building has been apartments.

The Suter-Oakley House and Store 503 Manor



2019

Francis and Eva Suter, Swiss immigrants, built this house and store about 1872. In the 1860s, Suter operated a stage service to Safe Harbor, and then a carriage service between the railroad depots in the city. When he built this house and store, he switched careers and opened a grocery store here. He and Rosa raised five children here. After his death, Rosa sold the house and store to Henrietta Kieffer, her neighbor at 471, who then in 1902, sold it to Annie Oakley, who with her husband Frederick, ran a grocery store here for 20 years. In 1925, a car skidded on the wet road and crashed through the large glass window on the Filbert Street side, and damaged the brickwork there. Since the 1920s, the store has been home to a barber shop, a cleaning business, a women's wear store, a paint store, and Dombach's Furniture Upholstering. The store windows are now blocked off for apartments.

The Kieffer House and Store 514 Manor



2021

A one-story brick house on this site on Bethelstown lot 13 was replaced with this three-story brick house and store with a mansard roof sometime in the late 1910s by John Kieffer. In the 1860s, Christopher Oblender had a cigar shop in the one-story house. Henrietta Kieffer of 471 Manor bought the one-story house in 1886, and when she died, it was inherited by her son Rinehart. John Kieffer, another one of Henrietta Kieffer's sons, bought the one-story house in 1902 from his brother Rinehart, and replaced it with this house about 15 years later. John had a jewelry and watchmaking shop on the first floor for nearly 40 years, and he and his wife Annie and four children lived upstairs. After Kieffer died in 1941, his son John and wife Margaret continued living here until about 1993. John Kieffer, Jr. worked as printer at the Lancaster Intelligencer for nearly 50 years. Since the mid 1990s, the house has been apartments, and the storefront has been closed up.

The Campbell-Bopp/Schmidt Houses 515-517 Manor



2021

Levi Campbell bought property fronting 300 feet on the northwest side of Manor from Catharine Lutz in early 1850. John Campbell, a mason and Levi's brother, built this symmetrical pair of one-story, three-bay, brick houses shortly after 1850. As is typical of many of the early houses here, the first floors were raised a couple of feet above the street. The original dentil molding can be seen in the brickwork on 515. Campbell built these two houses as spec houses to sell, and sold them for about \$500 each, both to German immigrants. Adam Bopp, a gunsmith, and his wife Susan, bought 515, and George Schmidt, a mill worker, and his wife Margaret, bought 517. The Bopps and the Schmidts each raised several children in these houses. Descendants of the Schmidts eventually bought 515 and lived there into the 1940s.

The Otthofer House and Meat Market

519-519-1/2 Manor



2019

This unusual building was the long-time home of the Otthofer Meat Market, which operated here from 1859 To 1948—before the Civil War until after WWII. Jacob and Catharine Otthofer were German immigrants who built the main part (right side) of this building in the early 1870s, and then extended the second floor to the left about 1890, making a tunnel to the rear. The tunnel allowed access to the numerous back buildings that included the slaughterhouse, sausage factory, and wagon house. The door to the right (519) was the door to the upstairs living quarters, and the door to the left (519-1/2) was the door to the store. Jacob and Catharine raised seven children here. In 1907, after Jacob and Catharine had died, older son Charles took over the meat market until 1927 when he died, and then younger son John Adam took over until 1948. Walters Television Sales & Service was located here in the 1950s and since then the building has housed several apartments.

The Wagner Houses 518-522 Manor



2019

These four three-story, brick rowhouses with mansard roofs were built by German immigrants John and Rosina Wagner about 1898. The Wagners bought the property (Bethelstown lot 14) in 1867, just after they got married. They lived here in a one-story log and frame house for two years. Then they moved north for 20 years to Lock Haven and then Williamsport, where John worked as a cigarmaker. They returned to Lancaster about 1890 and moved into the one-story house at 518. John built a cigar factory on the back of his property, and then about 1898 he tore down the old one-story house and built this group of four three-story brick houses. He and Rosina and most of their 13 children lived in 522 and rented out the other three houses. After John and Rosina died, their unmarried daughters, Annie and Margaret, continued living in 522 until their deaths. In 1944, Robert and Louis Falk, butchers from St. Joseph Street, bought the properties for rental income. The four houses have been rental properties since the late 1940s.

The Campbell-Shindel House

527 Manor



2021

Levi Campbell, a bricklayer who had bought 300 feet of frontage on the west side of Manor in 1850, built this house in 1851. The house was originally part of a pair of symmetrical, one-story, three-bay, brick houses; the other side of the pair, 529, has been enlarged to two stories. George Shindel bought 527 in 1854 for his sister-in-law Susan to live in. In 1864, Nicholas Herzog, a Swiss-immigrant laborer, and his wife Mary, bought the house and rented it to Henry Erisman, a carpenter, and his wife Susan. Erisman soon bought the house, but within a couple years, Erisman became the proprietor of a hotel and saloon at 124 West Strawberry (where the vacated Strawberry Hill Restaurant is today). Erisman moved to the hotel and rented 527 out for about 20 years until he sold it to David Boudier. Boudier rented the house to Jane Powers, and Jane and her descendants lived here for 65 years until it was bought by one of her descendants, Henry Powers, in 1958.

The Fellman House

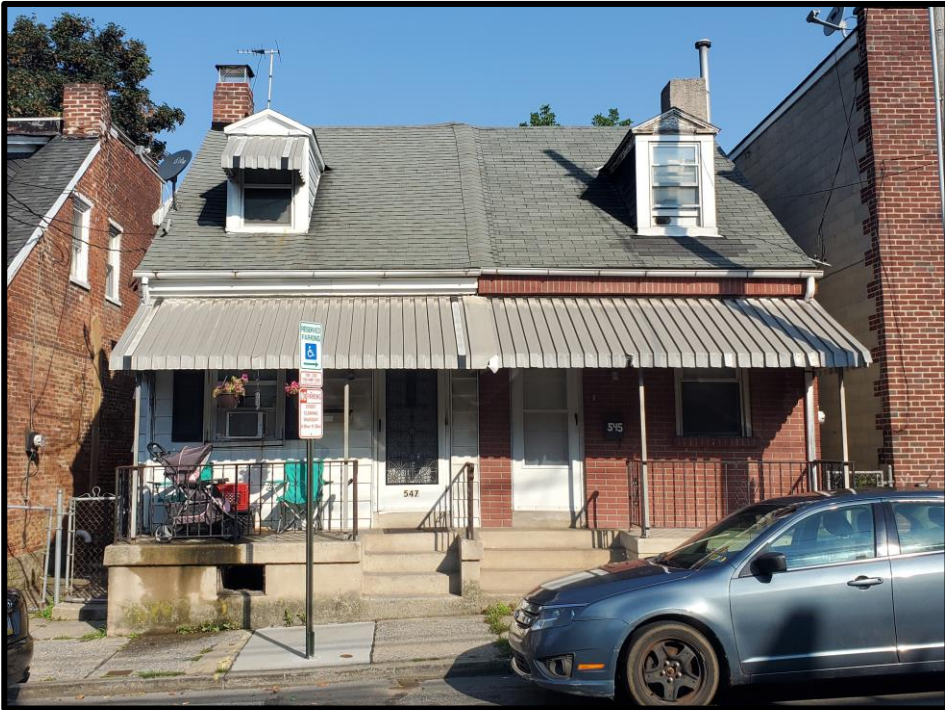
546 Manor



2019

Philip Fellman bought the one-story brick house that was on this site in 1927, razed it, and built this two-story brick house with a dormer and a covered porch about 1928. The house is built on one-quarter of Bethelstown lot 17. Fellman was a partner with his brother Louis in Fellman Bros. Hardware Store at 568 Manor in the 1910s and 1920s, and then opened a sheet-metal business in the extension of 568 along New Dorwart. Philip and his wife Mary had one child, and lived here until Philip died in 1950. The house was sold to Carl Mattern in 1951. For the last 50 years, it has been a rental property. The façade of the house was recently renovated as part of SoWe's façade-improvement program.

The Campbell-Shay/Feller Houses 545-547 Manor



2021

John Campbell, the mason who built 515-517 Manor, also built this symmetrical pair of houses on part of the 300-foot-wide property his brother Levi had purchased. These one-story, two-bay, brick houses were built in early 1850. Note the first floors of the houses are elevated about 3 feet above the street. Henry Shay, a bricklayer, and his wife Lydia, were early owners of 545, and their son Andrew lived here until the early 1900s. Catharine Feller, the elderly widow of Martin Feller, bought 547 as soon as it was finished in 1850. She had been born in 1787, the year the U.S. Constitution was signed, and died here during the Civil War. Several members of the Kirchoff family owned both these houses in the early 1900s, and Charles and Emma Kautz rented 545 from the Kirchoffs into the 1930s.

The Campbell-Kirchoff/Gastiger Houses 549-551 Manor



2020

This pair of symmetrical, one-story, two-bay, brick houses also was built by John Campbell, who completed them in early 1850, at the same time he completed 545-547. This pair is identical to the pair just uphill, including the fact that they are elevated several feet above street level. As with most of the older houses on Manor, these two have been extensively modified over time. Campbell seems to have rented 549 to several different tenants in the 1850s. Then, Philip Kirchoff, a German-immigrant bricklayer, and his wife Martha, bought 549 in 1860 for \$530. After Philip's death in 1884, Martha continued living here until her death in 1907, and then their daughter Mary lived here for another 20 years. Anthony Gastiger, another German immigrant and a stone mason, and his wife Magdalena, bought 551 in 1869 for \$650. The Gastiger family lived in 551 until 1906, when the house was sold to Jacob Scheid, a cigarmaker, and his wife Lydia for \$700. Today, the houses are rental properties.

The Eckert Rowhouses

548-554 Manor



2020

Built by John Eckert, a carpenter, in 1858-59, these four one-story, two-bay, brick houses are located on Bethelstown lot 18. To build these houses, Eckert had torn down an older one-story frame house which he had bought at a public sale in 1858. Eckert sold each of these four houses within a few years for about \$500. The lot for each house was 15-1/2 feet wide by 220 feet deep to Lafayette. The houses, which were built as a pair of symmetrical pairs, have been extensively modified over the years, but the original dentil molding can still be seen on 550 and 552. Chester Hubley and his wife Anna lived in 550. Hubley served in the Civil War in the 79th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was the oldest surviving member of the original Lancaster Fencibles when he died in 1901. Next door in 552 lived Bernhard Snyder, a German immigrant, and his wife Emma. Snyder was a cigarmaker, a policeman in the 8th Ward, and a member of the Humane Fire Company.

The Paulsen-Schlotzhauer House and Bakery

560 Manor



2019



1902

This house was built in 1892. It replaced a one-story Log house built on one-half of Bethelstown lot 19 that had been purchased by William Paulsen in 1884. Paulsen, a German-immigrant baker, and his wife Laura, tore down the old one-story house and built the current house, and lived here with their eleven children until 1930. Paulsen had a bakehouse in the backyard, and ran Paulsen's Bakery here, delivering bread, cakes, and pies with his horse-drawn bakery wagon, until his death in 1925. The house is a two-story, brick, Victorian house with a large attic level and a storefront where the bakery store was located. The builder of the house was Peter Wohlsen, the oldest of the Wohlsen brothers, who became well-known builders in Lancaster. After the Paulsens vacated the property, Karl Schlotzhauer bought the house and bakery in 1940 and operated his bakery here until the 1970s. Since then, the house has been divided into apartments.

The Hauser-Fawber House and Store 559-561 Manor



2021

Built in 1876 by John G. and Anna Hauser, German immigrants, this house and store is a three-story, brick, Victorian structure on an unusual triangular lot. The door on the right (559) was the door to the residential part of the house on the upper floors, and the door and show windows on the left (561) were for the store. The Hausers operated a grocery here from 1876 to 1887, and then their daughter Amelia married Albert Fawber, and the younger couple eventually took over for the Hausers and ran the grocery into the late 1920s. Numerous businesses have been located in the store over the years, with one of the longer-lasting being The Dog Shop from 1951 to 1986. In 2018, a building renovation began, exposing the show windows and other interesting features that had been covered to make a first-floor apartment. SoWe has assisted in the renovation of the façade. Plans for the building, once the renovation is complete, are for a first-floor business and three apartments upstairs.

The Schum-Finger House and Store

568 Manor



2019

This house was built by Philip and Anna Schum about 1852. Schum was a German-immigrant quiltmaker who opened a shop here in an old 1700s house on Bethelstown lot 20 in 1850. He bought the lot in 1852 and built this house. It was a two-story, brick, double house. Schum's business took off and he moved downtown, selling this house in 1857. (Unfortunately, Schum and his second wife were killed in 1880 when a train hit their carriage.) Adam Finger, another German immigrant, bought the house in 1860, and turned it into a grocery store that he operated here until 1902. Philip and Louis Fellman bought the property next and opened a hardware store while living in the house above. The Fellmans added a large extension in the rear for storage and a sheet-metal shop. In 1934, the Fellmans went bankrupt and the property was purchased by an investor who leased the store to various businesses and turned the rear extension into apartments. Today, the store is leased to Sunshine Markets and the upstairs and rear extension contain ten apartments.

The Run

New Dorwart Street



2019

As you go from the 500 block to the 600 block of Manor, look down New Dorwart. Before the street was built, a stream used to flow here. The Run, as it was sometimes called, originated in the rear of 601 and 603 Manor, and flowed along what is now New Dorwart until it reached a larger stream called Hoffman's Run where Water Street is today. Up until the 1880s, a bridge carried Manor over the stream here. As the Hill grew, eventually it was decided to channel the stream underground in a sewer, in order to construct New Dorwart Street. In the 1880s, a six-foot high, arched, brick sewer was installed to capture the stream, and the street was built over it. Once the sewer was in place, the Manor Street bridge was removed. As you look down New Dorwart, you can see how the path of the stream affected the route of the street, as New Dorwart jogs to the left at Lafayette and again at High.

The Dr. Shear House and Store 601-603 Manor



2019

Wolf Ansel, a wealthy businessman, built the two-story brick house and store at 601 in 1913 for his daughter, Rose, and her new husband, Lewis Shear. At the time, a two-story frame house (603) was already on the site. Dr. Shear, a Russian immigrant, was one of Cabbage Hill's very few physicians, and he had his practice and pharmacy in 601 until his death in 1948, after which Rose ran the pharmacy a while longer. By the 1930s, Shear had combined 601 and 603 into one large building. Shear also was very active in city government, serving as City Treasurer, City Commissioner, and School Director. The 603 side of the building was rented to various tenants until it was leased as a State Store from the 1930s to the 1960s. After the pharmacy closed, 601 was the site of Luckee's Elbow Room in the 1960s and 1970s. For the last 50 years, 601 and 603 have been occupied by apartments, with the large store windows now covered by wooden panels.

The Breiter House and Store 604 Manor



2019

This narrow house was squeezed in on the edge of Bethelstown lot 21 when its larger predecessor was torn down to make way for the construction of New Dorwart in the early 1880s. Henry Breiter had purchased the older house in 1870, and he replaced it with this one. Henry and his wife Anna were German immigrants, and they ran a cigar store on the first floor here and lived upstairs, with a small cigar factory attached to the back of the house. Henry Breiter also was the President of the Schutzen-Verein, a German shooting club, in the 1880s. When Henry and Anna died just after the turn of the century, Anna's younger brother, Lorenz Scheetz, took over the cigar factory and store. The store ended up staying in the extended Breiter family for 70 years. Later the store was Deluxe Cleaners for 20 years and today it is J.J. Mofongo Restaurant.

The Kuhn-Strand Theater 605-607 Manor (now gone)



2021



1962

The parking lot between 603 Manor and B&M Sunshine Laundromat was once the site of Cabbage Hill's only movie theater. The theater was built in 1911 by Adam Kuhn, to show primitive early moving pictures that were the forerunners of what would soon become the popular worldwide art form, the movies. The business struggled at first, and in the decade of the 1910s, the building was home to the Kuhn, then the Lancaster, and then the Manor Theater. In 1920, under the new ownership of George Bennethum of Philadelphia, it became the Strand Theater, which lasted on this site for more than 40 years. From 1928 to 1960, Harry Chertkoff owned the Strand, and oversaw its modernization, including its enlargement, wiring it for sound, new seats, and air conditioning. Through it all, The Strand boasted the lowest prices in the city, with a Saturday matinee that cost just a quarter in the early 1960s. The Strand closed in 1962 and was razed in 1964.

The Stier-Sattler House

618 Manor



2021

Just like 527 Manor, 618 Manor was once part of a pair of symmetrical, one-story, three-bay, brick houses, but the other half, 620, has been enlarged into a two-story house. George Stier, a laborer, built the pair of houses in 1851 after buying the lot from Conrad Brock for \$140. The original brick on the house at 618 is now sheathed in a brick-patterned form-stone, and the height of the first floor above street level is much lower than in previous one-story houses on this tour. Stier rented the house to tenants in the 1850s and then it changed hands twice for short periods in the 1860s. In 1870, Louis Sattler, a German immigrant, and his wife Margaret, bought the house for \$700. The Sattlers lived here with their six children until 1893, when they sold it after buying the house at 620 and moving next door. Peter McConomy, a wealthy businessman, bought 618 and died shortly afterward, leaving the house to his daughter Rebecca, who lived here until 1907, when she sold it to Jane McGrann, who bought it to use as a source of rental income.

The Goodhart House and Store

623-625 Manor



2019

Harry Goodhart built this three-story brick house and store in 1906. Goodhart and his wife Jeanette lived here and ran a general/grocery store and restaurant here until Harry's death in 1933. The Goodharts had lived across and just up the street at 628 Manor (now gone) where Harry had a confectionery, when they decided to buy the vacant lot where 623-625 is today, and build this house and store. Harry was a well-known, active member of the 8th Ward community, serving as a Democratic Councilman for the city. William Goodhart, their son, continued living here for some years after Harry's death, leasing the store out to various entities. In the 1960s, 625 was a real-estate office, and in the 1970s and 1980s, the American Cancer Society had its offices here. Since then, the building has been divided into multiple apartments.

The Viscuso Houses and Store 624-626 Manor



2019

Before Kunzler & Company began expanding along Manor in the 1910s and 1920s, there were 15 more houses similar to these uphill from 624-626 Manor. As it is, this pair of two-story brick houses with a store are now the last houses before Kunzler's. Dominick and Elizabeth Viscuso, Italian immigrants, built these houses about 1927. The Viscusos lived with their three children above Dominick's shoe-repair store in 624, while they rented out 626 to various tenants. They lived and worked here for 35 years. In the 1980s and 1990s, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 414 was headquartered here. The most recent business in 624 was Caroline Manor Antiques.

The Stark House and Shop

633 Manor



2019

This two-story brick house was built in 1872 by Jacob Frey, who owned 22 acres on this side of Manor. Almost as soon as the house was finished, in 1873, Louis Stark, a German immigrant blacksmith, and his wife Catharine purchased it. The property had on it a blacksmith shop, where Lancaster Musical Instrument Repair is today. The location was key to Stark's trade, as it was along one of the major routes into and out of the city, where travelers could get their horses shod before and after trips, on what was then the Millersville Turnpike just a couple blocks southwest. Louis and Catharine raised eight children here. After Louis's death, Catharine sold the property to the Brethren in Christ Church in 1908, who set up a mission in the house while planning and building a larger church. Then, in the 1920s and 1930s, Lewis Mohr ran a grocery store in 633. From the 1940s until today, the house has been a rental property.

The Kunzler House and Company

648-652 Manor



2019

Christian Kunzler, who emigrated from Germany in 1895, tore down an old one-story house to build a two-story brick house at 648 Manor in 1905. The twin dormers of the house can be seen poking up above the newer office façade. Before he built 648, he and his wife Mary lived in an older two-story brick house at 652 Manor, which they had purchased from William and Susan Leitz in 1901, and which came with a slaughterhouse that Christian promptly put to use. While Christian was rapidly growing his meat business, he and Mary raised five children here. His meat business soon became the largest such business in the city. In 1921, Christian incorporated the company, serving as its president. He moved out of the house at 648 Manor and into a new house in the city's west end. Today, Kunzler & Company has 500 employees and an annual income of \$120,000,000. Kunzler & Company now owns nearly all of the 600 blocks of Manor and Lafayette, and Christian's descendants are still involved in managing the company.

The White Horse Hotel

653-657 Manor



2019

The White Horse Hotel was built in the late 1870s. The large, two-story, brick building was first owned by Albert Kohlhaas, a German immigrant who ran a saloon on this block of Manor several years before he opened the hotel. He and his wife Annie and two children lived here while Albert ran the hotel and saloon for about 20 years. In 1899, Kohlhaas retired as a hotelkeeper and sold the White Horse Hotel to Frank Rieker, the owner of the Rieker Brewery on West King. Rieker hired John Kirchner to run the hotel for him, which he did for 20 years, and then Thomas Goodhart took over the hotel management for another 15 years. The hotel part of the business closed during the Great Depression, but the saloon part continued on into the 1980s under various names—Noden's Café, Bishop's Café, Bartnichak's Café, and O'Henry's. The building is now owned by Kunzler & Company, and is used as their corporate Office.

The Manor Street School

675-677 Manor



2019

This plain, cube-shaped, brick building was built in 1887 by the Lancaster City School District, which was under the direction of Superintendent Robert Buehrle, who we ran into at the beginning of the tour, as the owner of the three-story double house that used to stand on the grassy lot next to Christ Lutheran Church. From 1887 to the late 1930s, this building served as the Manor Street School. It was a public school for grades 1 through 8, and had four large classrooms and four teachers. Since the school closed, the building has been home to the offices of about 25 unions, and is known as Union Hall, or the Central Labor Union Building.

Follmer, Clogg & Co./Dodge Cork Co. Corner of Manor and Laurel (now gone)



2019

This building is part of Kunzler & Company's operation. However, that's only been for the last 25 years or so. About 1910, the Follmer, Clogg & Company, located at West King and South Mulberry, built a silk mill here. The company made umbrellas as well as parachutes, and they used the mill that was here to provide silk for the making of their products. The silk mill only operated until 1928. In 1945, the Dodge Cork Company built a large factory here, which was in operation for 50 years. In the 1990s, Kunzler & Company expanded onto this site and built the current building.

The Spidle House

706 Manor



2019

I know, this house is not in the 600 block of Manor, but it is a distinctive house with an interesting history. It was built about 1885 by John Spidle, after an old one-story house on the lot was removed for the widening of Laurel Street. If the house has a farmhouse feel to it, that's because Spidle was a farmer. His father Lorentz owned a farm of about 20 acres, with Manor and Laurel as two of its boundaries. Lorentz was killed when he was run over by a train in 1882, and John took over the farm and built the current house. At John's death in 1919, his son Frank continued on in the house. Frank Spidle opened a meat market across the street at 739-741 Manor in the mid 1920s. The house remained in the Spidle family until 2009, by which time it had been in the family more than 150 years. By the 1960s, it had been divided into two rental units, as it remains today.

That is the end of the tour. I hope you enjoyed learning about the history of Manor Street!